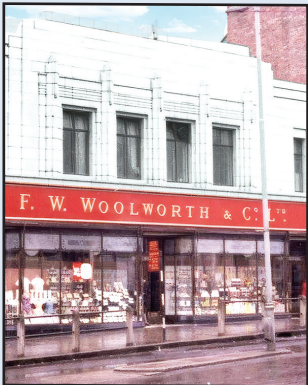




Inside:



The Five and Dime in '69

page 3



A Senior Multi-Cultural event

page 12



The Big Gay Dance Party

page 13

Plans for the transformation of Founders Memorial Skating Rink put on ice



Earlier this year, at the City Council meeting on March 27, the Somerville Youth Hockey Association presented their case for restoring the winter ice sheet for skating activities at Founders Memorial Skating Rink.

By Harry Kane

City Councilors rejected a plan from the Ballantyne administration that would transform the ice rink into a multi-purpose recreation hub that eliminates the winter ice sheet.

The fate of Founders Rink hangs in the balance as the city weighs its options following the refusal of a \$160,000 appropriation for floorboards that would end ice activities at the skating rink.

"I was really disappointed with what the administration came up with and presented," said Ward 2 City Councilor Lance L. Davis at the City Council meeting on June 12. "I found it to be a very well-constructed restatement of the exact same thing we had heard before."

Founders Rink caters to hockey *Continued on page 4*

Somerville Mobile Farmers Market returns Thursday, July 10

Get your recipes ready, the Somerville Mobile Farmers Market returns on Thursday, July 10, for the 2025 season. The market will be open Thursdays through Saturdays, and will run through November 1.

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.

Here's where you can find the mobile market this summer and fall:

- Thursdays, 4–6 p.m.
Clarendon Hill Towers, 1366 Broadway
- Fridays, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Council on Aging, 167 Holland Street
- Fridays, 2:30–4:30 p.m.



Continued on page 2 The Somerville Mobile Farmers Market will be roaring back into action beginning next month.

Bring business back to your business!

Reach out to local customers who want to support local businesses. We can help you do that with our **bring back business ad specials.**

email **Bobbie** to learn about this advertising special!

bobbie@thesomervilletimes.com

Bay State Skating School

LEARN TO SKATE CLASSES for Recreational • Figure • Hockey Skating Skills

As featured on Chronicle **Over 50 Years Experience** Children (4-18 years)



The safety of our customers and staff is our #1 priority!
Cambridge, Brookline, Cleveland Circle, Medford, Newton-Brighton, Quincy, Somerville, Waltham, West Roxbury, Weymouth

781-890-8480 • www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org



T.J. SILLARI, INC.

Over 50 Years Experience

Plumbing • Heating • Gas Fitting • Industrial Work • Water Heater Replacement • Complete Drain Service

Residential - Industrial - Commercial

625-9877

Proud to be a Somerville resident

Master Plmb. Lic. #6106



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

The City of Somerville's Fireworks Celebration will be held tonight, **June 25**, at **Trum Field** (inclement weather date is scheduled for Friday, June 27). In collaboration with the **Somerville Museum** and the **Somerville Arts Council**, this year's annual "What to the slave is the 4th of July" reading will take place during the Somerville July 4th fireworks celebration. Join the annual public **Reading of Frederick Douglass** with event scholar and musician John Hughes. Stay for a conversation afterwards. 5:30– 6:30 p.m. at the corner of Cedar and Broadway. Festivities will continue at 6:30 p.m. and will feature music by **DJ Desy** and funk band **Search Party**. Food vendors this year include **Italian Wizard**, **Dos Manos Kitchen**, and more. At approximately 9 p.m., **Mayor Ballantyne** will welcome and address the crowd and then start the countdown to the fireworks show. Please visit www.somervilleartscouncil.org/fireworks for details on the event, road closures, and parking restrictions.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to our former mayor, **Joe Curtatone**. We hope he has a great birthday. We wish all our Facebook friends, such as **Hugo A Volpe**, **John O'Rourke**, **Mike Bonanno**, **Diane Dee-Dee Smith**, **Mark Anthony Anderson**, **Dave Bertocchi**, and **Peter Tsairidie**, 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.

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of June 25 – July 1 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday <i>June 25</i>	Partly Cloudy	92°/67°	19%	10%	NE 10 mph
Thursday <i>June 26</i>	Cloudy	71°/60°	22%	17%	ENE 10 mph
Friday <i>June 27</i>	Cloudy	68°/60°	21%	14%	E 12 mph
Saturday <i>June 28</i>	Rain	76°/66°	45%	32%	SE 9 mph
Sunday <i>June 29</i>	Partly Cloudy	75°/64°	22%	16%	NE 11 mph
Monday <i>June 30</i>	Partly Cloudy	85°/70°	10%	4%	SW 11 mph
Tuesday <i>July 1</i>	Thunderstorms	85°/71°	42%	36%	SW 13 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Rep. Christine Barber appointed Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Ken Brociner says:

No doubt, Christine will do a great job – as she always does. Massachusetts and Somerville – are very fortunate to have such a thoughtful progressive always fighting the good fight!

Response to: Somer-Songs

Steve Keenan says:

Great music and memories, Jimmy.

Response to: CBA Passes with 71% of the Vote

Franklin D. says:

The liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerated the growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than the democratic state itself. That in its essence is fascism: ownership of government by an individual, by a group, or any controlling private power.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

Somerville Mobile Farmers Market returns Thursday, July 10

CONT. FROM PG 1

Somerville Public Library – East Branch, 115 Broadway
 • Saturdays, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
 Mystic Housing Development, 25B Memorial Rd.

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

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138



Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

Editor – Jim Clark

Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner

Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Harry Kane, Jeffrey Shwom and Cathleen Twardzik

Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte, Dorothy Dimarzo, Bob Doherty
 Photographer: Claudia Ferro

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

A proud member of the following newspaper organizations:

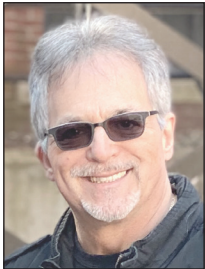


© 2025 The Somerville Times except where noted. All rights reserved.

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 Five and Dime in '69



In the summer of 1969, when I had just turned 16, *Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid* and *True Grit* was at the movies. *I Dream of Jeanie*, *Star Trek*, and *Gomer Pyle* were on TV (Golly!).

Some of my friends were making plans to drive to New York for a huge rock festival in Woodstock. I couldn't go because I had to work at F.W. Woolworth's Five and Ten Store in Davis Square.

I was busy replacing all my albums with new high-tech cassettes, and I was saving up money to buy a sweet Craig stereo cassette player. In '69, we listened to lots of Zeppelin, tons of Beatles, and *Crimson and Clover* ... over and over.

The song *In the Year 2525* came out in 1969. I remember thinking, "It's only 1969, and 2525 will never get here."

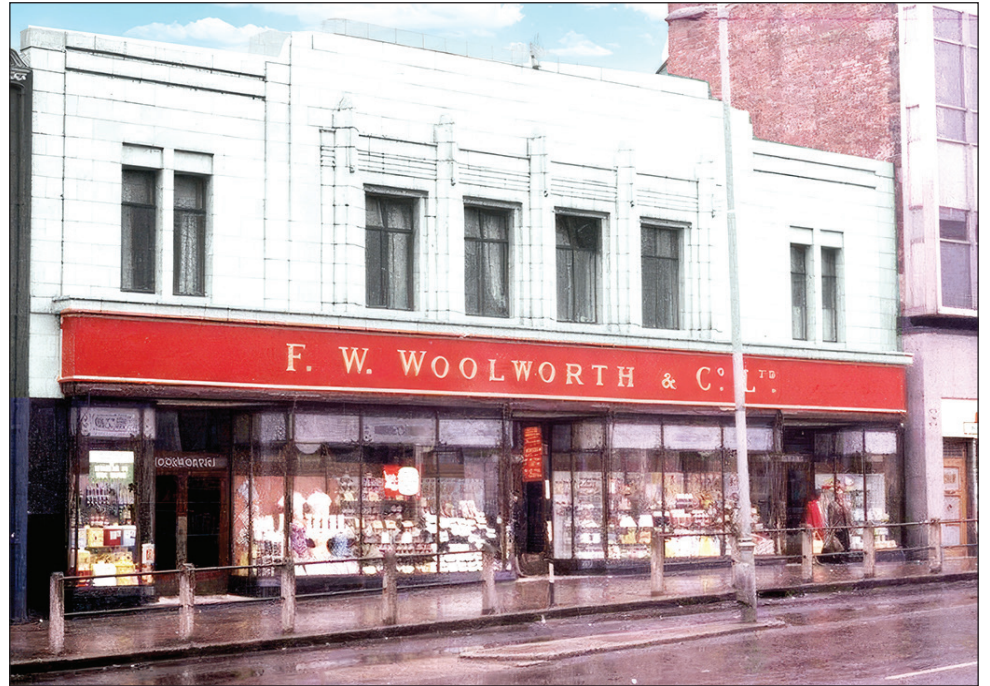
While most of my friends were having *Hot Fun in The Summertime*, I was working at "Woolies" as we called it.

Gas cost 35 cents a gallon, a loaf of bread cost about 25 cents, and a postage stamp was 6 cents.

At Woolworths, I had started as a stock boy. On my first day, the punk veteran stock boy who was supposed to be showing me the ropes tried to wrestle me into the pile of boxes on the floor. He was very upset that he couldn't throw me to the ground after 10 minutes of trying. I just wouldn't give in to him. He was a couple of years older than me and just another idiot bully that I ran into during my youth.

I stood my ground and eventually escaped the stock room and started working behind the luncheon counter, or should I say the "luncheonette counter?"

There was nothing like the taste of a slightly greasy but yummy Woolworths grilled cheese, or a delicious Woolies



frankfurter with a grilled bun. I was one of the guys behind the counter for a couple of months. Needless to say, the grilled chees-

I remember people were excited because we were getting ready to start a new decade! The 70s! No one was more excited than I. 16 years old, and *Continued on page 13*

Cheers to 30 years!

ASK ABOUT anniversary SPECIALS

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

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

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

LA POSADA RESTAURANT & TEQUILA BAR

617-776-2049

505 Medford St, Somerville, MA 02145

[laposadasomerville](https://www.laposadasomerville.com)

• Craft margaritas • Taco Tuesday special • Mexican cuisine

MGH 1811

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR A STUDY ON MEMORY

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IF YOU:

- are age 70 to 85,
- are right-handed,
- speak English,
- do not have metal in your body,
- did not undergo cataract surgery.

THIS RESEARCH STUDY INVOLVES:

Up to 15 visits to the MGH-Charlestown (Boston) Research Center over 6 months. Evaluations including memory tests, blood draws and brain scans.

YOU WILL RECEIVE:

Up to \$1,100 for total study (\$50-\$100 paid per visit). Dedicated relationships with research doctors and study team members.

For more information, please call or email the study staff at **617-724-9593** or wallestudy@mgh.harvard.edu

All information is kept completely confidential.

Somerville Police Dept Crime Log June 10 – 16

Assault

25032638: On 6/11/25 at approximately 2:06 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Statue Park for an assault. Upon arrival, officer spoke with the victim who stated he was sitting on a bench and was punched in the face.

Assault

25033851: On 6/16/25 at approximately 9:10 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Perkins St. for a check condition. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim, who stated he was walking home and was sprayed with mace by an individual known to him.

Assault

25033689: On 6/16/25 at approximately 9:41 a.m., Somerville Police responded to Hudson St. for a road rage incident. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim, who stated he was involved in a traffic altercation with a male party. During the altercation, the male party began punching the victim, then tried to drive off while the victim was on his vehicle. The victim suffered injuries to his leg and neck. Officers identified the suspect.

Other Crimes: 5 Bike thefts + 1 Vandalism + 5 Car breaks + 1 Package theft + 2 MV vandalisms + 2 MV thefts

— Somerville Police Department



Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

Text-A-Tip

Text a Tip to the SPD from anywhere!

- 100% completely anonymous • Easy and secure
- Text messages can be sent from anywhere at any time

Simply text the phone number "TIP411" (847411) and put "617spd" at the beginning of your text message. If your message requires an emergency response PLEASE DO NOT TEXT and instead call 9-1-1.

Powered by:



Plans for the transformation of Founders Memorial Skating Rink put on ice

CONT. FROM PG 1

players, free skating, figure skating, learn to skate programs, and other activities like curling. In recent years, girls' hockey has become more popular, but without the ice sheet at Founders Rink, programming would be limited.

"It was a very beautifully packaged presentation on using this ice rink for something that is not an ice rink," said Councilor Davis.

The plan moving forward is to figure out how to best use Founders Rink during the non-winter months while still enabling the space to continue to be used as an ice rink during the wintertime.

"Let me be clear, I have absolutely no objection to using this facility or any other facility for uses for non-winter months," said Councilor Davis.

Founders Memorial Skating Rink, located at 8 Garden Court, has served as a practice area for a variety of skating programs for all ages since September 2012.

On October 26, 2013, the rink was officially dedicated to five veterans who founded the Somerville Youth Hockey Association in the 1960s. Raymond Deeran, John Doncaster, George Hughes, Joseph

Guidi, and James Papaluka were the recipients of that dedication.

Now, just over a decade later, skaters are asking to save the ice sheet for wintertime activities. This past winter, the rink was dark and empty.

"At the end of the day, this is an ice rink. This is what it was built for," said Councilor Davis. "I don't feel that this is a plan that makes the best use of the resource that we have, a resource that the taxpayers invested significant money in, not too many years ago."

The only other ice rink in Somerville is the Veterans Memorial Rink. Shutting down Founder's Rink would effectively delete half of the ice-skating usage times in the city.

Last winter, the ice sheet wasn't laid down due to the "high costs and effort involved in preparing and maintaining the rink, making it financially unfeasible," according to Feb. 11 meeting minutes with DPW Commissioner Jill Lathan.

"We should just continue to put pressure on the administration to open that facility back up for what it was built for," said Councilor Davis. "We've heard time

and time again how many folks have benefited from that in many different ways as a recreational facility."

Olga Fridman was a sponsored speaker at the June 12 City Council meeting. She expressed her frustration that the ice rink would not be accessible for skaters. Fridman would like Founders Rink to be returned to operational status.

"I strongly believe that Somerville can totally do it, that it can be a multi-recreational facility during 12 months. It can be like TD Garden," said Fridman.

In the past, Founders Rink has been used for other purposes in the warmer months. In the spring of 2016, the Recreation Department temporarily transformed the rink into an indoor turf field for the spring and summer seasons, accommodating sports, free play, and private events.

"I'm not going to vote to shut down 50 percent of the ice in Somerville," said Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen. "We want this ice rink to exist in the future."

City Councilor-At-Large Jake Wilson said that he hoped there would be a plan to use this facility year-round. "We have precious few indoor facilities in this city

for recreation. The idea of intentionally choosing to shutter one for a chunk of the year, it boggles the mind."

Councilor Wilson said that the idea of putting flooring down to make "optimal use" of the rink makes sense in the warmer months.

Ward 1 City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin said that "there is a better way forward." As mentioned, an indoor turf field was used in prior years during the non-winter months, which Councilor McLaughlin said makes sense. That would, unfortunately, cancel pickleball. "If all we lose is pickleball, this is a big win," said Councilor McLaughlin.

Ward 4 City Councilor Jesse Clingan said that the rink would be needed if girls' hockey programming were to be added. "If we are going to be trying to increase availability and accessibility of hockey, then we need to make sure we are maintaining the spaces for that specific use."

Councilor Clingan said he grew up playing hockey in Somerville and that the ice rink is important to the people living in the city. "Somerville is a hockey town. It always has been, and I hope it always will be."

Freedom Day: A reminder of the darkest chapter of American history and the fear of more dark times ahead

By The Times Staff

While Juneteenth celebrates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans, it is also a day to reflect on the values of our society and nation in the effort to protect our rights as Americans.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville raised the flag of freedom on the City Hall concourse on June 16, with local residents and advocates delivering remarks in commemoration of the holiday for the third year in the city.

“This flag-raising symbolizes our commitment to fighting for a just and equitable society,” said Amanda Nagim-Williams, director of the Department of Racial & Social Justice. “It symbolizes that freedom and justice are for everyone, and it’s a reminder that we must continue to preserve history and truth.”

President Joe Biden signed the bill into law, making Juneteenth the 12th federal holiday back on June 18, 2021. Now, 160 years after the end of the Civil War, citi-

zens of Somerville reflect on the darkest chapter of American history.

“Juneteenth is a celebration of freedom,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “But it’s also a reminder that freedom has always had to be fought for, that justice has never been handed out, and that real equity is something we must demand and build together.”

Mayor Ballantyne explained the need to protect our freedoms as we enter into a new era.

“We are witnessing efforts to rewrite history, literally and figuratively,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “Political figures are proposing to name military bases after Confederate generals, book bans are targeting black authors, and dog whistles of racism and division are being blasted through megaphones.”

Councilor Willie Burnley Jr. delivered an impassioned speech, emphasizing as he did last year, that nobody is free unless everybody is free.

“In that centuries-long battle for the soul of this nation, Juneteenth stands as a watershed moment,” said City Councilor Burnley, Jr.

Councilor Burnley Jr. read from the 14th Amendment about the freedoms we have as citizens of the United States.

“We see our fascist in chief challenging the very foundations of birthright citizenship,” said Councilor Burnley Jr. “If we cannot stand up for each other in this moment and ensure that everybody receives their rights and especially their due process, this will no longer be a nation of laws, it will be a rogue state.”

Three more speakers (Henry Parker, Katherine Nakato, Leonor Galindo) delivered remarks and then the flag was raised to the song, “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”



Councilor Willie Burnley, Jr. delivers a speech at the flag-raising Juneteenth event.

Gerly’s serves up ice cream at Juneteenth flag-raising ceremony

Ice Cream was served following the Juneteenth flag-raising ceremony on June 16. Gerly’s Ice Cream makes homemade, nut-free ice cream. The business was for-

merly called Tipping Cow Ice Cream until last year.

“I love the business,” says Owner Gerly Adrien, a former City Councilor from Everett. “Because I love ice cream.” Adrien is a Somerville native and *Continued on page 16*



Gerly’s ice cream is located at 415 Medford St. in Somerville. — Photo courtesy of Gerly Adrien

union square main streets presents

GOOD FOOD FOR ALL

June 21 thru 28

sustaining a more inclusive farmers market

learn more or donate at unionsquaremain.org

donations help make these outcomes at the Union Square Farmers Market possible:

- \$15 = one SNAP match for one family
- \$60 = SNAP match for one family for one month
- \$150 = one SNAP match for ten families
- \$800 = all the SNAP match funds needed for a typical Saturday farmers market
- \$3,200 = SNAP match funds for one month

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>

Share with your friends and neighbors!
Let’s keep local news alive, together.

And to advertise in The Times, call **857-488-5138**

Beacon Hill Roll Call



Volume 50 - Report No. 25 • June 16-20, 2025 • Copyright © 2025 Beacon Hill Roll Call. All Rights Reserved. By Bob Katzen

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

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' and senators' votes on roll calls from the week of June 16-20.

\$1.3 BILLION FOR TRANSPORTATION AND EDUCATION (H 4227)

House 150-3, then 148-4, Senate 40-0, approved and sent to Gov. Maura Healey the conference committee version of a \$1.3 billion fiscal 2025 supplemental budget that uses funds generated from the surtax imposed on taxpayers' earnings of more than \$1 million annually, to fund \$593 million for education-related projects and \$716 million for transportation-related ones. The House and Senate had approved different versions of the bill and the conference committee drafted this compromise version.

The surtax was created by voters in November 2022 when they voted for a constitutional amendment, dubbed by supporters as the "Fair Share Amendment," that allows a graduated income tax in Massachusetts and imposes an additional 4 percent income tax, in addition to the flat 5 percent one, on taxpayers' earnings of more than \$1 million annually. Language in the constitutional amendment requires that "subject to appropriation, the revenue will go to fund quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges and public transportation."

A total of \$535 million of the \$716 million for transportation will be used for various MBTA projects. Other provisions include \$80 million for Chapter 90 aid to ensure every city and town receives funding to maintain local roads and bridges; \$16.4 million for municipally owned small bridges and culverts; \$7 million for the improvement and maintenance of unpaved roads; and \$5 million for transportation improvements associated with the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The \$593 million for education includes \$248 million for special education; \$115 million for public higher education infrastructure investments; \$25 million for tutoring to support accelerated literacy growth and success for students in kindergarten through grade 3; \$10 million for English Language Learning Programs; \$10 million to support the Holocaust Museum in Boston; and \$10 million for grants to eligible local school districts for clean energy infrastructure improvements and upgrades.

"Ensuring that every Massachusetts resident has access to a safe and reliable public transportation system, and that every student in the commonwealth receives a high-quality education, are two of the most fundamental responsibilities that we have as elected officials," said House

Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "The investments being made in this supplemental budget are representative of the Legislature's continued focus on meeting those responsibilities."

"In a time of national turbulence and damaging federal cuts, the conference committee has delivered a meaningful compromise that honors the will of Massachusetts voters and invests Fair Share funds equitably across Massachusetts," said Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton), Vice Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. "This supplemental budget reflects a Senate commitment to regional equity—providing meaningful support for K-12 schools grappling with strained budgets, addressing long-overdue maintenance on public higher education campuses and delivering much-needed transportation solutions for communities across the commonwealth."

"As a member of the joint conference committee, I'm proud to have played a significant role in the process that reflects the values and priorities of communities, such as those on the South Shore that I represent," said Sen. Patrick O'Connor (R-Weymouth), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. "This legislation directs historic and groundbreaking Fair Share investments toward career and technical education, local infrastructure and regional transportation, which directly benefits our schools, our roads and our economy."

Reps. Ken Swezey (R-Duxbury) and Alyson Sullivan Almeida (R-Abington) cast the only two votes against the budget. They issued a joint press release citing the conference committee's decision to withhold \$80 million in Chapter 90 road funding from municipalities deemed noncompliant with the MBTA Communities Act's zoning mandates, as the reason they voted against the budget.

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

Swezey, whose district includes several non-compliant towns said, "Three of my [district's] towns - Marshfield, Halifax and Hanson - are being penalized for standing by their local planning boards and residents. The conference committee claims it wants to support our communities, yet it is holding critical transportation funds hostage.

That is simply not acceptable."

"I was fully prepared to support the final compromise," said Sullivan-Almeida. "Unfortunately, the conference committee inserted a last-minute stipulation to punish non-compliant towns. This kind of maneuvering doesn't belong in a budget that is supposed to help all our cities and towns."

Both legislators emphasized their support for the provisions in the supplemental budget that increase funding for education including regional transportation, career technical training and special education as well as provisions for public transit. However, they were clear that they could not support a bill that "leverages essential local funding to coerce compliance with a controversial zoning mandate."

(A "Yes" vote is for the budget. A "No" vote is against it. The House voted twice on this bill so there are two votes listed for each representative.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes/Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes/Yes
Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven	Yes/Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

\$532 MILLION FISCAL 2025 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET (S 2529)

Senate 38-2, approved a \$532 million fiscal 2025 supplemental budget that includes \$174 million for fiscally strained acute care hospitals and \$35 million for community health centers facing financial challenges. The House has already approved a different version of the bill and a House-Senate conference committee will eventually draft a compromise version.

Other provisions in the Senate version include \$134 million for the Medical Assistance Trust Fund; \$400,000 for Women Infants and Children Program Manufacturer Rebates; \$60 million for Home Care Services; \$35 million for payments to fiscally strained community health centers; \$42.9 million for Residential Assistance for Families in Transition; \$4.2 million for the State Police Crime Laboratory; and \$60 million for Home Care Services.

"Massachusetts has a healthcare ecosystem that is the envy of other states, and that doesn't happen by accident," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "Supporting every resident is part of what it means to be a leader in healthcare access. This funding will help our hospitals and community health centers provide high-quality care in every region, no matter a patient's insurance status, as well as provide critical services to our

Continued on page 19

COMMENTARY

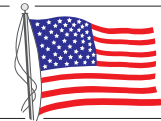
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville's water features are making a splash during this extremely hot weather.

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 the 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. Too much of a good thing can quickly turn bad.

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>.

- Water feature information is available in multiple languages under the "Stay Cool Outside" section of the city's Keep Cool webpage at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/keeping-cool-hot-weather>.

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 if we play it smart.

The series kicks off with *The Wild Robot* on Thursday, July 10, at approximately 8:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Park Softball Field. For more information, please visit [somervillema.gov/moviefest](https://www.somervillema.gov/moviefest).

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the City of Somerville's Public Space and Urban Forestry Division, and the Urban Forestry Committee invite you to celebrate Arbor Day in Somerville. Enjoy kid-friendly activities, welcome a newly planted tree, get tree planting tips, and more. This year's event is Thursday, June 26, at West Branch Library (40 College Ave.) from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

For the 8th year, Union Square Main Streets and local businesses (<https://www.unionsquaremain.org/good-food-for-all>) proudly present Good Food for All, June 21 – June 28, a week-long

community campaign to raise awareness and funds for the Union Square Farmers Market's local SNAP match. SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, previously Food Stamps) recipients often find fresh, local food at farmers markets inaccessible, yet these foods are vital for strong and healthy

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Arts Editor, Doug Holder, for setting up a GoFundMe campaign for The Somerville Times. With the cost of printing going up and a lack of businesses having the resources to advertise, free papers feel the effect. We sincerely

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

SomerMovie Fest returns July 10. Movies begin at dusk, and showtimes are approximate. Arrive early to grab a good spot, get comfortable, and enjoy the summer evening with neighbors and friends.

Join Green City Growers for an all-ages gardening workshop. Learn how to plant, maintain, fertilize, and harvest successful crops. This event will be held on Saturday, June 28, at Central Branch Library (79 Highland Ave.) from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Future workshop dates are listed online. Learn more and register at <https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/>.

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#978

- When is "National Ice Cream" month?
- When is National Watermelon Day?
- What flavor of ice cream sounds like an unpaved street?
- Who is credited for inventing the ice cream cone?
- Which sport is known as the "king of sports"?
- In which country did the first season of *Survivor* take place?
- Which NBA coach was known for lighting up a victory cigar after every win?
- What country is the sitcom *Schitt's Creek* from?
- What is considered to be the oldest vegetable?
- What 1980s girl band sang *Cruel Summer*?
- What was the first public beach in the U.S.?
- What U.S. city is South Beach in?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- A dentist invented the electric chair..
- The inventor of Pringles is buried in a Pringles can.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

HUMAN BODY

ACROSS

- Composer Joplin's first name
- Stomach pain-causing acronym
- Boxing practice
- Horatio ____ of "Ragged Dick" fame
- Not cooked
- This and desist
- Torso, pl.
- Wrath
- DNA half
- Body part, not Elvis
- Part of blood, not type of TV
- Lung filler
- Same as on top
- Seth MacFarlane's bear
- Helps
- Genus, pl.
- Paper unit
- Comme ci, comme Áa
- Burdened
- Egg on
- Pumps blood, not tires
- Type of nuclear missile, acr.
- River in West Africa
- Fraternity recruitment season
- Purse to go with evening gown
- "Annie Hall" star
- Urban myth, e.g.
- Kenan Thompson's TV show, acr.

- Target of a joke
- Cemetery jar
- Fingers, not numbers
- Muscle, not skeletal or cardiac
- Enticed (2 words)
- ____ Baba
- Scary movie consequence
- "____ came a spider..."
- Old towel, e.g.
- Nail salon file
- Gallbladder contents
- ____ of Sam
- Poet ____ Alighieri

DOWN

- Fri follower
- Hoofbeat sound
- Princess Fiona, by night
- Unit of magnetic flux density

CROSSWORD													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13					14			15					
16					17			18					
	19				20		21	22					
			23			24							
25	26	27		28		29		30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37		38		39				
40					41			42		43			
44				45		46				47			
48					49		50		51		52		
				53		54		55		56			
	57	58	59					60			61	62	
63					64	65			66				67
68					69				70				
71					72				73				



SWITCH & GET
\$25

Off First Month of New Service!
USE PROMO CODE: **GZ590**



Consumer Cellular

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR **888-804-0913**

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

© StatePoint Media

Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

- Ken Jennings' forte
- Part of an eye, not a flower
- "Cheers," e.g.
- Moved under the rug
- Witnesses
- Part of a hand, not a tree
- Continent
- Tyrannosaurus follower
- "____ of Love" by The Dixie Cups
- Like one from Dublin
- Lincoln lumber
- Battery's partner
- Torso, not part of a tree
- Fear-inspiring
- Cannabis, in South Africa
- Not talker?
- Umberto Eco's "The ____ of the Rose"
- Marks on a manuscript
- Old episode
- Part of an ear, not blacksmith's block
- Swimming competition
- Guesstimate phrase (2 words)
- Monotonous hum
- Dressing a priest, e.g.
- Bolt's partner
- Washed away
- Nicholas I and Alexander III
- Marilyn Monroe's original name
- Cold cuts shop
- Graven image
- Departed
- Manual communication gesture
- Thirteen-year-old, e.g.
- Wagner or Powers in a TV classic
- Chemist's office
- Burmese neighbor
- Yellow #5, e.g.

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Dilboy Pool, Latta Pool, and citywide water features open in Somerville

With summer temperatures here, it's a good time to plan ahead for ways to stay cool. Somerville's pools, spray decks, and other water features are now open or opening soon, and they offer great options to beat the heat while enjoying the outdoors safely.

Local Pools

Dilboy Pool (110 Alewife Brook Pkwy.)

Spray deck open

The pool opened for the season as of Friday, June 20

Hours:

All Swim: Daily 11 a.m. -7 p.m.

Lap Swim Only: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9 to 11 a.m.

Spray deck: Daily 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Admission free

More information at somervillema.myrec.com

Dilboy is a state-owned pool managed by the City of Somerville.

Latta Brothers Memorial Pool at Foss Park (235 Broadway)

Spray deck open

The pool opened for the season on Saturday, June 21

Hours:

Pool: Daily 11:15 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Spray Deck: Daily 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Admission is free for Massachusetts residents.

More information at mass.gov/swimming
Latta Pool is a state-owned pool managed by the state.

Somerville Parks with Water Features

All Somerville splash pads are currently open with the exception of Conway Park and Dickerson Playground.

Hours:

Water features are open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The water sprays are on timers and stop for 20 minutes between cycles.

Water feature information is available in multiple languages under the "Stay Cool Outside" section of the City's Keeping Cool webpage at somervillema.gov/KeepCool.

For more heat safety tips and information, visit somervillema.gov/keepcool.



Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Gazpacho

Imagine, you just walked around for a couple of hours in 90 degree heat ducking in and out of the Monastery and multiple buildings on the premises on the mountainside of Montserrat just outside of Barcelona, Spain. You have taken in the breathtaking views and are certainly ready for some rest and relaxation.

At the end of the 40 minute drive to Oller del Mas, a vineyard, with a Medieval castle dating back to the 10th century welcomes you with spectacular views of the mountain range. You gather around a table where bottles of wines are waiting to be paired with this 7 course tasting menu. The first offering was the most incredible gazpacho I have ever tasted. Refreshing, well balanced and packed full of flavor.

I was inspired to come up with my own version of this cold soup. It has great flavor and texture with a touch of heat. Enjoy!

- 6 Medium Vine Ripe Tomatoes, roughly chopped
- 3 Celery Ribs, fibrous strings removed and roughly chopped
- 1 European Cucumber, seeded, peeled and roughly chopped
- 1 Small Red Onion, peeled and roughly chopped
- 1 Garlic Clove, roughly chopped
- 1 Lime, juiced
- 1 Small Jalapeño, seeded and roughly chopped
- 1/2 Cup Fresh Parsley, roughly chopped
- 1/2 - 3/4 Cup Water
- 1/2 Teaspoon Pepper, freshly ground

- 3/4 Teaspoon Kosher Salt
- 2 Tablespoons Sherry Vinegar
- 1 Teaspoon Cumin
- 1 Teaspoon Smoked Paprika
- Olive Oil and Parsley for garnish

In a blender, add the tomatoes, celery, cucumber, onion, garlic, jalapeño, lime juice, parsley and water. Pulse, then purée until well-blended. Add salt, pepper, vinegar, cumin and paprika and blend well. Chill for at least an hour, allowing the flavors to develop. Taste and adjust seasoning, if necessary. Pour into glasses of your choice and garnish with a drizzle of good olive oil and top with parsley leaves. *You may have to blend in two batches depending on the capacity of your blender. This recipe will yield approximately 7 cups. A food processor may also be used. I recom-



mend 3 batches to eliminate overflow of liquid.

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

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

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com

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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, July 15, 2025** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_izwoq003RLmyBx8yp0v5fv
Webinar ID: 814 6558 0498

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HP25-000051 - 80 Irving Street

Applicant: Daniel A. Casparriello
Owner: Daniel A. Casparriello and Amanda A. Casparriello
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

HP25-000013 - 294 Lowell Street

Applicant: Adam Dash and Associates – Adam Dash
Owner: Yangqing Xu
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

6/25/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP# 25-78

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites proposals for:

Drupal 10 & 11 Website Managed Hosting and Development

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, June 25th, 2025**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:30 pm, Wednesday, July 16th, 2025**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any minor informality in the RFP process, and accept the proposal(s) deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.

Please email tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov for more information.

Thupten Chukhatsang
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

6/25/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP# 25-82

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites proposals for:

On-Call Consultant for Facilitation and Mediation Services

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Monday, June 23, 2025**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, July 16, 2025**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any minor informality in the RFP process, and accept the proposal(s) deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.

Please email procurement@somervillema.gov for more information.

Jordan Remy
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

6/25/25 The Somerville Times

Somerville youth leader honored as 2025 Commonwealth Heroine

Somerville Positive Forces (SPF), in partnership with the City of Somerville's Prevention Services, is proud to announce that Bhavika Kalia, a dedicated and inspiring SPF youth leader, has been named a 2025 Commonwealth Heroine by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW).

Each year, MCSW partners with state legislators to identify women who make outstanding contributions to their organizations and communities. Elected officials are encouraged to nominate one woman from their district to be recognized for her invaluable service and extraordinary impact. Massachusetts State Representative Christine Barber proudly nominated Bhavika for her leadership and advocacy with SPF. A member of the SPF youth leadership program since sixth grade, Bhavika has dedicated years to promoting youth health and well-being, championing social justice, and creating meaningful change in Somerville and beyond.

"Her recognition as a Commonwealth Heroine underscores the incredible impact that young people can have when given the tools and support to lead," said Lovelee Heller-Bottari, SPF Advisor and Program Director of Somerville Cares About Prevention (SCAP). "Bhavika is a leader among leaders and a true gem in our community. Her dedication and drive to create positive change are truly inspiring. Her voice is powerful, her presence is impactful, and it's no surprise that leaders across the state are taking notice as she continues to shine."

"Working in prevention alongside such incredible leaders has given me the invaluable opportunity to drive real social change. I'm deeply honored and forever grateful to be recognized as a Commonwealth Heroine for my work. I want to thank everyone who has supported me on this journey, especially SCAP Program Director Lovelee Heller-Bottari and MA State Representative Christine Barber, for their continuous guidance and encouragement," said Bhavika Kalia, award recipient.

Bhavika will be honored alongside more than 125 other exceptional women from across the Commonwealth at the 22nd Annual Commonwealth Heroines Celebration on Thursday, June 26, 2025, in the Gardner Auditorium at the Massachusetts State House. For more information about the 2025 Commonwealth Heroines Celebration, contact the MCSW at (617) 626-6520 or email mcswprograms@mass.gov. For more information about Somerville Positive Forces and Somerville Cares About Prevention, please contact: Lovelee Heller-Bottari, CPS, Program Director, Somerville Cares About Prevention at (617) 625-6600 x4322 or email: lheller@somervillema.gov.



2025 Commonwealth Heroine
Bhavika Kalia.

**TO PLACE LEGAL
ADVERTISEMENTS
IN THE
SOMERVILLE TIMES,
CONTACT US
BY 12 PM MONDAY
PH: 857-488-5138**

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.

Somerville High School explores ideas for expanding climate education

By Liam Beretsky-Jewell

Note: This is the second of a series of articles exploring climate change education in Somerville Public Schools. The first article can be found at: <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/139749#more-139749>

There's currently a large discrepancy between Somerville High School (SHS) students' interest in learning about climate science and the actual number of students who choose to enroll in climate-related courses. Although a recent survey [1] issued to over 100 SHS students revealed that a majority are interested in receiving more, enrollment numbers in the environmental science classes offered by the school continue to drop. To address this gap, some district faculty have discussed making climate education mandatory in some way – either through additional course requirements or integration into currently required courses. The high school does not currently require students to take any courses in which climate change is a central theme. This may come as somewhat of a surprise -- Massachusetts has some of the nation's most ambitious climate and energy goals, which include reaching "at least net-zero statewide greenhouse gas emissions" by the year 2050, according to the state's Clean Energy and Climate Plan [2].

Because of class scheduling constraints, many faculty and students believe it is impractical to make the high school's standalone environmental science classes mandatory. Currently, these classes only count for science credits. However, some have raised the idea of creating multidisciplinary classes with a focus on the environment that extend beyond science and can be taken for other kinds of credits.

"The next steps are to [think] about how we can put more of this content within

the core science classes so that students are getting exposed to it that way, but we're also really interested in partnering with other departments in the school ... [climate] is a very broad topic" explained Marianna Hosking, the SHS Science Department chair.

Six years ago, SHS offered an environmental history course, which was co-taught by a social studies teacher, Kara Carpenter, and a science teacher, Maureen Quigley. "Four or five people were taking it for history credit. When we did like subject-specific things, [the history students] went with Ms. Carpenter to a different space, and I did science-specific things, like experiments and labs [with the students taking the class for science credit]. Then we came back together and shared our results," explained Quigley, adding that the experience was powerful and interesting.

However, this interdisciplinary course also had its challenges. "A lot of colleges and universities didn't understand what environmental history was as a class, so they didn't know how to deal with it in terms of credits and transcripts," she explained. "When you make a change like that, you just have to persist and educate colleagues that we're doing something kind of innovative and new." Additionally, this class generated less interest than teachers had hoped. When Quigley tried to reinstate the class following the COVID-19 pandemic, she was told that SHS "[didn't] have the budget to pay two teachers to be in the same room at the same time," given the low number of students enrolled in the class. Department chair Hosking explained that she is open to exploring other multi-department electives, which would hopefully generate more interest than environmental history: "We tried, but I'm not done trying yet."

Another Somerville Public Schools (SPS) admin, Jason Behrens, agreed about the importance of teaching climate education across multiple disciplines: "Scientists are often the ones who are publishing papers ... but you're going to need a whole range of skills in order to address the problem." He envisions climate as a topic that could follow students from class to class.

Behrens has led a climate committee composed of SPS teachers and administrators to assess the current status of climate education within the district and explore opportunities to increase its integration into curricula. The committee plans to share its findings with the school committee this summer. Their work includes issuing surveys to teachers about their role in pushing climate education and reviewing the state's curriculum frameworks through a climate lens, with the goal of eventually piloting a climate curriculum at SPS.

At the state level, curriculum frameworks are developed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the agency responsible for establishing learning standards for public school students. Frameworks outline these standards on a subject-by-subject basis and generally haven't made climate change a central or explicit focus of the K-12 curriculum, with very few projects or activities that focus on the topic. For instance, the Science and Technology/Engineering Framework--a 197-page document last updated in 2016--mentions the term "climate change" 14 times. By comparison, the term "radiation" is mentioned 14 times, "molecules" is mentioned 40 times, and "magnetic" 30 times.

Since the state's standards don't emphasize climate change, it would largely be up to the district and individual teachers to supplement these documents on their own. This could include train-

ing teachers to incorporate climate topics into their lesson plans. Quigley, the SHS environmental science teacher, was open to helping "[lead] a group of other educators to try to integrate climate science ... I could at least help coach them along the way to what would work for them in their classes." However, she acknowledged that "there's not a ton of wiggle room" in existing curricula, given the length of existing DESE frameworks. Additionally, "a lot of teachers, especially the newer teachers ... tend to feel a little overwhelmed, and if you're consistently asked to add more, it can get to be too much." However, she believes this could be partially mitigated "if there was somebody there to help... to refine what you already are [teaching] and give it a climate angle or climate connections as opposed to reinventing the wheel." This could include providing climate access points in the curriculum teachers already use, modifying open-response questions, or adding an occasional data point or graph to lessons. "Every subject has potential connections to climate and the environment," she explained.

In recent years, SPS has had success piloting a home-grown climate curriculum in some middle school classrooms throughout the city and facilitating discussion among teachers from different subjects surrounding climate. Eventually, these initiatives could make their way to the high school level, but doing so may be more challenging. *The reasons for this will be explored in the next article, featuring Assistant Superintendent Jessica Boston Davis.*

Links:

[1] <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/139749>

[2] <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-clean-energy-and-climate-plan-for-2050>

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

COA Multi-Cultural Event

The Somerville Council on Aging held its monthly Multi-Cultural Event on Tuesday, June 17, at Dilboy Post. Seniors enjoyed lunch, dancing, and singing as Tim Van Egmond, folksinger and storyteller, presented: Hats off to Seniors, celebrating their wit, wisdom, and spirit. — Photos by Claudia Ferro



McWatters in Greenville

Former Alderman Bob McWatters recently traveled to Greenville, South Carolina, and visited the Red Sox Single A team, the Greenville Drive, while vacationing to visit family.



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

Big Gay Dance Party in Union Square celebrates community and LGBTQ+ Pride

By Angelina Parrillo

Halloween arrived early in Somerville on Saturday, June 21, as partygoers convened in Union Square for the annual “Big Gay Dance Party,” hosted by the Somerville Arts Council and Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

A marked tradition in Somerville’s Pride Month events lineup, the Big Gay Dance Party celebrated its 11th year of spotlighting “Love, diversity, and inclusivity, welcoming LGBTQ+ individuals and allies,” according to the official Somerville Arts Council website.

This year’s theme, “Halloween in June,” called on guests to take on the outrageous and arrive costumed in something glamorous, ghoulish, or anything in between.

According to Izzy Starr, LGBTQ+ services coordinator for the City of Somerville, Big Gay Dance Party themes are often suggested by previous attendees of the event. “Halloween is gay Christmas,” they explained, and added that Halloween is also a “Great excuse to reuse stuff from past years.”

Inflatable aliens and dinosaurs from previous years’ celebrations mixed with new spooky art displays created by local artist Nathaniel Devarie to create an all-around festive atmosphere.

Partygoers also brought a Halloween’s Eve

thrill to the warm summer night. First-time event-goers Katie Nickerson and Joseph Nickerson arrived dressed as Glinda Upland from the popular Broadway musical, *Wicked*, and a racecar driver. Joseph Nickerson said he wanted to “show support for the community” by attending the event.

Somerville resident Ellie Medal also attended the Big Gay Dance Party for the first time this year. With plans to take part in other Pride Month events in Boston, Medal stated, “I wanted to come to a Pride [event] nearby.”

According to Starr, “Somerville is really working to show support for the LGBTQ+ community,” and promote “Joy in the face of terror.” Starr and Iaritza Menjivar, events manager for the Somerville Arts Council, estimated a turnout of 1,000 guests throughout the evening.

Vendors also lifted spirits by giving out candy and materials related to the night’s cause of community wellness and LGBTQ+ support. Groups in attendance featured Cambridge Health Alliance, RESPOND Inc., the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs, the City of Somerville Health and Human Services Department, and more. Somerville-based small businesses All She Wrote Books and Queer Little Bird Designs also tabled the event with merchandise for purchase.



Somerville’s Big Gay Dance Party took place last Saturday in Union Square Plaza.

— Photos by Angelina Parrillo

The night culminated in a drag show by Boston-based performers Tommy Boss, Amanda Playwith, and Lilly Rose Valore. Tommy Boss charmed with retro songs, including the Classic Neil Diamond hit *Sweet Caroline*. Lilly Rose Valore kept the crowd alive doing various cartwheels and splits, all while wearing towering stiletto shoes. And host Amanda Playwith brought humor and pride month anthems like Chappell Roan’s *Pink Pony Club*. The final act was a

crossover of all three performers, dancing to Lady Gaga’s *Born This Way*.

The crowd, already energized by DJ Live’s earlier set, jubilated through the show, with some even forming a conga line with Lilly Rose Valore. As the performances came to an end, DJ Live came back to finish the night strong. The crowd joined back on the dance floor and celebrated until sunset with enough pride to fill many future Big Gay Dance Parties.



The Five and Dime in ‘69

CONT. FROM PG 3

king of the lunch counter! King? Yes!

Not only was I helping behind the counter, I was in charge of putting the different price tags in the balloons. You’d break a balloon and pay between 10 cents and 99 cents for a banana split. I was only supposed to put lower prices in a few bal-

loons. On my last day at Woolworths, I put 10-cent price tags on ALL the balloons. It was a banana split sale of the century! My going-away gift to everyone.

If you were lucky enough to have tasted a grilled frankfurter or grilled cheese from Woolworths lunch counter, you my friend,

have lived!

My friend Pat and some other friends went to Woodstock and their stories are priceless, but not as priceless as those banana splits!

Yet to come was the heart-numbing Beatles breakup (somehow we survived!), the moon landing, and the start of my new

job at Lyndells Bakery in Ball Square.

1969 also gave us Sweet Caroline, which was appropriate because for this 16-year-old, the good times (and the frankfurters) never seemed so good. But wait until you hear about my overstuffed, monstrous jelly donut-filling days at Lyndells!

CLASSIFIEDS

Place your classified ad today – only \$1 per word! E-mail: ads@thesomervilletimes.com

AUTOS WANTED

CASH FOR CARS! We buy all cars! Junk, high-end, totaled-it doesn't matter! Get free towing and same day cash! **NEWER MODELS** too! Call 1-866-258-6720

FINANCIAL

WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free Consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 855-428-7954

FOR SALE

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

HEALTH & FITNESS

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Generic Pills SPECIAL \$99.00. 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 888-445-5928 Hablamos Español

HOME SERVICES

Ageing Roof? New Homeowner? Got Storm Damage? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-878-9091

Water damage cleanup & restoration: A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold growth in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-888-872-2809

MISCELLANEOUS

4G LTE HOME INTERNET Now Available! Get GotW3 with lightning fast speeds

plus take your service with you when you travel! As low as \$109.99/mo!

CARING FOR AN AGING LOVED ONE? Wondering about options like senior-living communities and in-home care? Caring.com's Family Advisors are here to help take the guesswork out of senior care for you and your family. Call for your FREE, no-obligation consultation: 1-844-556-4158

DISH NETWORK \$59.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100. Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR.

DISHTV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some Restrictions Apply. Promo Expires 01/31/2024. 1-877-494-7039

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-723-0883

FREE HIGH SPEED INTERNET for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping and handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-877-559-8698

HUGHESNET SATELLITE INTERNET Finally, no hard data limits! Call Today for speeds up to 25mbps as low as \$59.99/mo! \$75 gift card, terms apply. 1-877-459-1615

SAFE STEP North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime

warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available.

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase* Call 1-855-948-6176

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 855-761-1725

HughesNet - Finally, super-fast internet no matter where you live. 25 Mbps just \$59.99/mo! Unlimited Data is Here. Stream Video. Bundle TV & Internet.

Become a published author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing trusted since 1920. Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Call for free author's guide 1-877-729-4998 or visit dorranceinfo.com/ads

DISHTV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 12/31/24.

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-in tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our free shower package & \$1600 off - limited time!

Free high speed internet if qualified. Govt. pgm for recipients of select pgms incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet. Android tablet free w/one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking

gutter protection. Schedule free LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase.

Bath & shower updates in as little as 1 day! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & military discounts available. 1-877-543-9189

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-in tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our free shower package & \$1600 off - limited time! Financing available.

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get free info package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971

DIRECTV Stream - Carries the most local MLB Games! Choice Package \$89.99/mo for 12 mos Stream on 20 devices at once. HBO Max included for 3 mos (w/ Choice Package or higher.)

No contract or hidden fees! Some restrictions apply.

Reader Advisory: The National Trade Association we belong to has purchased the above classifieds. Determining the value of their service or product is advised by this publication. In order to avoid misunderstandings, some advertisers do not offer employment but rather supply the readers with manuals, directories and other materials designed to help their clients establish mail order selling and other businesses at home. Under NO circumstance should you send any money in advance or give the client your checking, license ID, or credit card numbers. Also beware of ads that claim to guarantee loans regardless of credit and note that if a credit repair company does business only over the phone it is illegal to request any money before delivering its service. All funds are based in US dollars. Toll free numbers may or may not reach Canada.

Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. July | 7. Red Auerbach |
| 2. July 24 | 8. Canada |
| 3. Rocky Road | 9. Peas |
| 4. Italo Marchiony | 10. Bananarama |
| 5. Cricket | 11. Revere Beach, Massachusetts |
| 6. Malaysia | 12. Miami |

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

Union Square election letter

June 17, 2025

Dear Elected Officials,

We are Somerville voters and taxpayers writing to protest the June 4th election held at St. Anthony's School. The balloting on the Somernova CBA was run in a misleading manner, with highly irregular rules. We ask that you disregard its outcome and not allow it to influence your deliberations about changes to Somerville's Zoning Ordinance.

We do not cast blame for this badly flawed voting process on members of the Union Square Neighborhood Council. We respect USNC's hard work to achieve good outcomes for their neighborhood. On the contrary, we feel that USNC was put in a tough spot.

Who – and why - USNC asked to negotiate with Rafi Investments-Somerville, LLC?

Residents around Central Somerville Avenue did not request or elect USNC to negotiate with Rafi on our behalf. Did Rafi make that request, or was it the City of Somerville? It seems very odd that Somerville would delegate the tasks of negotiating a deal with a real estate firm and running an election to USNC, without giving its guidance and support.

The City of Somerville did not inform neighbors about the CBA process.

Until recently, few of us had heard of USNC or Rafi. Only those of us who attended earlier meetings knew about the city's "Central Somerville Avenue" planning process or the "Somernova CBA." The city did not explain the CBA's connection to Rafi's development plans and to its proposed changes to Somerville's Zoning Ordinance. **Unconventional eligibility rules distorted voter turnout and the election's outcome.**

In regular Somerville elections, residents register beforehand to get on the city's voter list. Polling places are organized by ward and precinct. The Somerville Elections Department oversees the balloting process, and voters know what to expect.

Voting rights in the June 4th election were confined to an area mapped around Union Square. A small "expanded catchment area" was later added, but residents in this new area received little notice about voting. Other registered Somerville voters believed they were eligible to vote but were denied ballots when they went to the polls.

Meanwhile, Rafi's social media urged "youth and community workers (ages 16+)" to vote. One of Rafi's flyers said: "Anyone who lives, works, volunteers or owns property in the USNC catchment area" could vote: another Rafi flyer said eligibility extended to "Somerville's Union

Square, Inman Square, and Spring Hill."

The loose end of these rules enfranchised non-resident workers and "volunteers" from Union Square, Boynton Yards, and Grand Junction. On the restrictive side, people living near the Somernova site but outside the map could not. We believe that these rules functioned as a kind of gerrymandering.

Rafi's outreach to voters misrepresented the election's consequences.

Details of the CBA were announced on May 21st. Days before the June 4th election, Rafi Investments distributed flyers equating a YES vote with good outcomes and a No vote with bad outcomes. Voters were not informed about the proposed zoning package; non-insiders were baffled about what the voting was for and why it was needed.

The June 4th balloting had the markings of a City of Somerville election.

At the polling place, approved voters were given ballots to mark in privacy booths and directed to put them in a ballot box labeled CITY OF SOMERVILLE. Poll workers gave out the familiar "I Voted" stickers with American flags on them. These features confirmed the belief of many people that they were voting in a Somerville referendum or special election.

The City of Somerville has exerted improper influence on the June 4th voting.

On June 3, the Somerville Arts Council sent an email saying: "YOUR VOTE MATTERS! A YES vote = more arts space in Somerville." It displays Somerville's city seal, and the logos of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and the Somerville Arts Council, a municipal agency of the City of Somerville. Finally, it bears the name of Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. Was it proper for the City of Somerville to endorse a YES vote in this election?

The Somerville City Council should disregard the improper June 4th CBA vote.

The Somernova CBA is conditioned on approval of zonings changes that benefit Rafi. While the CBA does not bind the council, it raises certain expectations. Please resist untoward pressures and base your Somernova zoning votes solely on good land use principles.

Respectfully yours,
Jane Bestor, Ibbetson Street
Kirk Etherton, School Street
Paula Garbarino, Ivaloo Street
David Guss, Properzi Way
Lucile Holstedt, School Street
David Myers, School Street
Michael Raskin, Ivaloo Street
Kate Lila Weaver, Properzi Way
Patricia Wild, School Street
Victoria Wolfson, Elm Place
Stuart Dash
Robin Dash

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: I'm thinking about doing a debt repair or debt relief plan. Should I?

A: Be careful. Some programs help, but many do more harm than good. Watch out for:

- + Credit damage – Some ask you to stop payments, wrecking your credit score.
- + Tax bills – Forgiven debt may be taxable.
- + High fees – Many charge upfront but deliver little.
- + False promises – No one can erase accurate negative items from your credit report. Legit programs share these traits:

- + Nonprofit or accredited – Look for agencies certified by groups like the National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC) or Financial Counseling Association of America (FCAA).
- + focus on education – Help you build last-

- ing habits, not just quick fixes.
 - + Transparent – No upfront fees or bold promises.
 - + You stay involved – Full control and clear communication throughout.
- Bottom line:** Real credit repair takes time and solid advice—not shortcuts. Talk to a nonprofit credit counselor or financial pro before signing anything.

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

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



Somerville Community Health Worker Division Achieves Program of the Year award

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are honored to announce that the City's Community Health Worker (CHW) Division has been named the 2025 Community Health Worker Program of the Year by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers.

Presented annually at the Community Health Worker Conference, the award honors exceptional programs that improve community wellbeing through trust-build-

ing, innovation, and direct service.

"This is a well-earned recognition for a team that brings compassion, persistence, and deep community knowledge to every aspect of their work," said Mayor Ballantyne. "Our Community Health Workers are helping connect residents with life-saving resources and support. They are transforming public health in Somerville from the ground up."

The award follows a comprehensive review of the CHW Division's policies, practices, and impact, including testimonials from residents and Mayor Ballantyne.



This year's honorees include CHWs Han Hogan-Rigg, Cynthia Bonilla, Emmanuel L. Charles, Larissa Loschiavo, and CHW Manager Andria Benvenuto.

Honoring Community Health Workers

On Tuesday, June 24, Mayor Ballantyne signed a proclamation honoring the week of June 15 – 21 as CHW Awareness and Appreciation Week in Somerville.

About Somerville's Community Health Worker Division

Launched in 2023, the City's CHW Division is housed within the Health and Human Services Department and serves as a critical link between the city, community-based organizations, and residents. CHWs provide harm reduction education and services to community members and businesses, support clinics at the Somerville Homeless Coalition, help residents enroll in public benefits, and offer referrals to social and health services.

Freedom Day: A reminder of the darkest chapter of American history and the fear of more dark times ahead

CONT. FROM PG 5

wanted to contribute to the Juneteenth flag-raising ceremony by providing ice cream to attendees.

The business is a female Black-owned ice cream establishment that serves an array of 30-40 flavors. Dairy and vegan flavors were available at the event.

"I really like to try and make unique flavors," Adrien says. "Right now, we have a sweet olive oil and honey, we have a fig & goat cheese, which is really popular."

Their slogan: scoops of joy, made with love. The ice cream shop alternates the flavors every two weeks, but there are always the same classic flavors available. The most

popular flavor is cookies & cream. Their smallest cone and cups are \$4, a pint is \$8, and a quart is \$13.

Gerly's offers ice cream-making workshops on the weekends to create homemade ice cream from scratch in two hours.

"I do that at the Foundry in Cambridge," Adrien says. "I teach people how to make ice cream."

There are ten openings for interested students in each class to learn how to make everything from chocolate to bubble gum flavored ice cream. Adult tickets cost \$60 and child tickets cost \$45, and can be reserved through Eventbrite.



Mayor Ballantyne and Gerly Adrien at the flag-raising ceremony.

Somerville Police Department achieves third consecutive MA Police Accreditation award

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville Police Chief Shumeane Benford are honored to announce that the Somerville Police Department (SPD) this month has earned its third consecutive Accreditation award from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC), following an in-depth and detailed assessment process. Accreditation is a self-initiated process by which police agencies voluntarily strive to meet and maintain standards on best practices that have been established for the law enforcement profession.

"I'm grateful for our Police Department's unwavering commitment to best serving our community, and I want to congratulate SPD on this meaningful recognition," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

Achieving Accreditation status indicates that the agency is committed to meeting professional standards, is willing to be regularly assessed to confirm compliance, and agrees to correct any deficiencies discovered during the process to establish or re-establish compliance with the program standards.

To achieve Reaccreditation, SPD was required to meet all 274 of the program's

mandatory standards and 78 optional standards. SPD exceeded this requirement, meeting 85 of the optional standards. Many of the standards aim to verify that the agency has specific, written policies, procedures, or directives covering various aspects of its operations, including police services to the public, internal administration and organization, training and development, facilities, equipment, and more.

The process, overseen by SPD Accreditation Manager Sgt. Marc DiFava included a self-assessment by the department and a multi-day, on-site assessment by a trained team of Commission-appointed assessors. Assessors visited Somerville in January 2025 to evaluate the agency's compliance with MPAC standards. Following the visit, the Commission voted to approve SPD's Reaccreditation. Accreditation awards are granted for three-year periods, and SPD will be due for Reaccreditation once again in 2028.

"Achieving Reaccreditation is a major milestone for our department and the community members we serve. Our team, led by Sgt. DiFava worked extremely hard to ensure we met and exceeded each stan-



dard in the process," said Chief Benford. "The designation recognizes our commitment to the highest industry standards and the importance of our policies and practices in upholding the values of our community through equitable, fair, and accountable police practice."

SPD first received Accreditation in 2019

and was reaccredited in 2022. The department previously earned MPAC Certification in 2017, which is typically attained by agencies prior to Accreditation.

Somerville is one of 121 agencies currently accredited by MPAC. To learn more about the Commission, Accreditation, and its benefits, visit masspoliceaccred.net.

Rep. Christine Barber appointed Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Rep. Christine Barber of Somerville and Medford has been appointed House Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources for the 194th legislative session at the Massachusetts State House. The Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources considers environmental issues that impact the Commonwealth, including parks, conservation, clean air and water, noise pollution, hunting and fishing, solid waste disposal, and more.

"In a time of chaos, when the federal government is actively rolling back protections and damaging the environment, Massachusetts can continue to be a leader in protecting the environment and ensuring clean air and clean water. I am particularly focused on environmental justice and standing up for communities most burdened by pollution and climate change," said Rep. Barber. "I look forward to working with residents, advocates, and others to ensure Massachusetts stands up for our climate and environment."



Blockbusters and Blankets: SomerMovie Fest Returns Thursday, July 10

Katjana Ballantyne is inviting the Somerville community to break out the picnic blankets and popcorn, as SomerMovie Fest 2025 is bringing six free outdoor films to City parks this summer. From robot adventures and '90s cult classics to Oscar winners and pink-powered blockbusters, there's a movie night for everyone. Movies begin at dusk, and showtimes are approximate. Arrive early to grab a good spot, get comfortable, and enjoy the summer evening with neighbors and friends.

2025 SomerMovie Fest Schedule: All times are approximate • *The Wild Robot*, Thursday, July 10, 8:30 p.m., Lincoln Park Softball Field (290 Washington St.) • *The Outsiders*, Thursday, July 17, 8:30 p.m., Lincoln Park Softball Field (290 Washington St.) • *Lion King* (2019), Thursday, July 24, 8:30 p.m., Lincoln Park Softball Field (290 Washington St.) • *Wayne's World*, Thursday, July 31, 8:15 p.m., Statue Park in Davis Sq. • *Hidden Figures*, Thursday, August 7, 8 p.m., Statue Park in Davis Sq. • *Barbie*, Thursday, August 14, 7:45 p.m., Statue Park in Davis Sq.

For more information, please visit somervillema.gov/moviefest.

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Technology Workshop – The Council on Aging continues to strive to close the technology gap by partnering with Somerville Cambridge Elder Services to bring technology workshops to the COA. Each session will focus on different topics related to internet use and safety. Sessions are from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center.
 Monday, June 30th – Gestures: Ever wonder if you are using gestures correctly on your device? In this workshop we will show you how to swipe and more. If you have any questions or to RSVP contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

General Exercise / Holland Street Center – Every Monday in June, except for the 30th starting at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and every Wednesday in June at 9:00 a.m. Join Michelle as she leads a general exercise program. All levels of participants are welcome to attend. RSVP to Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

General Exercise / Ralph & Jenny Center – Every Monday in June with the exception of the 30th starting at 3:00 p.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center. Join Michelle as she leads a general exercise program. All levels of participants are welcome to attend. RSVP to Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

Virtual General Exercise Class – Every Wednesday & Thursday in June except for the 19th starting at 1:00 p.m. Please email Michelle Deutsch at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov for the Zoom link.

Yoga with Louise – Every Tuesday in June starting at 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Easy-to-follow programs let you stretch and relax. Yoga provides modified, low-impact moves and easy-to-follow pacing for a healthy, active lifestyle! RSVP by calling Michelle Deutsch 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

Walking Club – Every Thursday in June with the exception of the 19th weather permitting- the group will meet at the Holland Street Entrance at 9:00 a.m. Walks average about an hour in length at a moderate pace. RSVP by calling Michelle Deutsch 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

Virtual Exercise Strength & Balance – Every Monday in June except for the 30th starting at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. Email John at jrpecchia@gmail.com for the Zoom Link.

Zumba – Every Wednesday in June starting at 11:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. RSVP by calling Michelle Deutsch 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

Balletone Fitness – Every Friday in June starting at 9:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. RSVP by calling Michelle Deutsch 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

MEAL PROGRAM

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services Meal Program. All are welcome! Registration is required. You will need to register on a weekly basis. Each week, on Monday or Tuesday call the COA Reservation line on 617-625-6600, ext. 2323, to reserve your spot for the following week. Please leave your name, phone number and the day/days you would like to attend for the upcoming week. We will return your call to confirm your reservation by Wednesday afternoon. Lunches are provided by Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services. Congregate Meal Program and catered by City Fresh. A suggested \$3 donation for lunches. Menu Subject to Change. Meals served at Noon.

Looking for a location to chat with your friends?

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

Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

veterans, seniors and municipalities.”

“The Senate took action today on reconciling deficiencies of \$532 million in the fiscal year 2025 budget, most notably providing \$209 million in critical assistance to fiscally strained acute care hospitals and community health centers,” said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “The bill also allocates \$134 million to the Medical Assistance Trust Fund, with the remaining \$189 million to responsible bill-paying obligations across a broad range of state agencies and programs. We’re fortunate that the commonwealth is in strong financial condition to meet these responsibilities, never more important than now in these continuing uncertain times.”

“My primary reason for voting no on this supplemental budget is that it includes a policy initiative allowing electric utility providers to increase rates to seemingly expand electric charging stations, and does so without requiring a response from the Department of Public Utility which oversees these rate hikes,” said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). “When the final bill is negotiated, I hope this is removed, thus allowing me to support it. Rate payers are being hit every which way, and I simply will not support more cost increases on families for higher electric rates, or subsidies for electric vehicle infrastructure when the market doesn’t support it.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$532 million supplemental budget. A “No” vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

UTILITY RATE INCREASES (S 2529)

Senate 6-33, rejected an amendment that would strike a section of the supplemental budget that would allow any rate increases proposed by utility companies to take effect in 60 days, if the proposed increase is not reviewed and acted upon by the Department of Public Utilities (DPU).

Co-sponsor of the amendment to strike the section, Sen. Kelley Dooner (D-Taunton), said it is not good government for rate hikes to take effect without a full review by DPU and that this would undermine regulatory oversight and expose ratepayers once again to even higher increases. She argued that the Senate should be strengthening oversight, not making it easier for utilities to raise their rates behind closed doors.

“An increase in utility rates for the purpose of expanding electric charging stations at a time when families in the commonwealth are struggling to pay utility bills at their current rates is detrimental and unnecessary,” said amendment co-sponsor Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) who voted to strike the section.

Sen. Mike Barrett (D-Lexington), the chief opponent of the amendment, did not respond to several e-mails from *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking him why he opposed the amendment.

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment that would prohibit the increase from taking effect without DPU approval. A “No” vote is for allowing the rate increase to take effect without DPU approval.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

BAN USE OF CELL PHONES IN SCHOOLS (S 381) – The Education Committee held a hearing on several bills which would ban student use of cell phones during classes except when expressly directed by a teacher.

“An increasing number of countries, states and municipalities have banned mobile phones in schools,” said Sen. John Keenan (D-Quincy) who filed one of the proposals. He noted that he filed the measure, to ensure that the commonwealth protects children in classrooms and optimizes the learning environment for students.”

PROHIBIT USE OF NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS (S 312) – Another bill heard by the Education Committee would prohibit public schools from using an athletic team name, logo or mascot which is associated with Native Americans. The bill bans the current and future use of any of these mascots. Any school that does not comply with this law would not be eligible for discretionary state education grants.

“This bill is long overdue,” said Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). “Native Americans are sovereign peoples—not mascots, not caricatures. The continued use of Native imagery in school mascots is dehumanizing. It perpetuates harmful stereotypes and has been shown to cause psychological harm, especially for Native youth.”

In 2024, a similar bill was approved by the Education Committee and was sent to the House Ways and Means Committee where it died from lack of further action.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Juneteenth, which was celebrated last week on June 19th, commemorates more than 250,000 slaves in Texas learning of their freedom on June 19, 1865. The date came more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth became a federal holiday in 2021, the same year it was celebrated as a state holiday for the first time in Massachusetts. Former Gov. Charlie Baker signed the holiday into law in July 2020. — *The Massachusetts Legislature’s Black and Latino Legislative Caucus celebrated the holiday at the Statehouse. Here are some of the quotes from the event:*

“We have come a long way, and it’s our turn at this point to have the baton in our hand. And if we don’t, and we don’t use the power we have today, after all the sacrifices that were made in the past, shame on us.” — *Rep. Russell Holmes (D-Boston), the longest-serving member of the Mas-*

sachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus.

“When our values are attacked and our communities are disrespected, we will stand up and say loudly and proudly: ‘We believe in diversity, we believe in equity, we believe with every fiber of our being that the Black community belongs at the table, in the boardroom, in our colleges, running our businesses and leading our government.’” — *Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll.*

“One of the great things Trump is going to give us is the urgency to keep fighting, to keep pressing, to not lay down when he makes these inane comments that make no sense, when he starts threatening taking funding. We will do the best we can to make sure no one is left behind.” — *House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy).*

“We know that the path is stormy ahead. But we know, too, that we have to celebrate days like today to make sure that our voices are heard all the way to Washington, D.C., that diversity, equity and inclusion are important. DEI is a Massachusetts value that will never, ever change.” — *Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland).*

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 16-20, the House met for a total of three hours and 49 minutes while the Senate met for a total of four hours and 12 minutes.

Mon. June 16	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:04 a.m. Senate 11:05 a.m. to 11:09 a.m.
Tues. June 17	No House session. No Senate session.
Wed. June 18	House 11:02 a.m. to 2:48 p.m. Senate 1:21 p.m. to 5:29 p.m.
Thurs. June 19	No House session. No Senate session.
Fri. June 20	No House session. No Senate session.

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week



Q: I was reading the list of protected classes, and I wondered. What's the difference between "national origin" and "ancestry"?

A: "National origin" is where you come from. "Ancestry" is where your family came from. It is illegal to discriminate against you because you came from (for example) Ireland or Somalia last week. It is also illegal to discriminate against you because your parents or grandparents came from there.

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.



Are You Sitting On A Fortune?

Call Our Team at CRG To See What Your Home Is Worth.

617-764-4342

699 Broadway Ave, Somerville, MA 02144



Want to write local Somerville stories?

Call 857-488-5138

and speak to the Assignment Editor

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What do you call a patriotic ghost?
The Spirit of '76!

The "Original"
All Types Vent Cleaning
Restaurant Hood Cleaning
Dryer Vent/ HVAC Cleaning
Power Washing
Licensed and Insured
in Massachusetts
We travel all over
Massachusetts
Call today to find out
our weekly specials!
Call Jimmy 857-366-3761

To advertise in
The
Somerville
Times
call
Bobbie Toner
857-488-5138

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Prospect Hill Solstice... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

June 25

- 0841 – Charles the Bald and Louis the German defeat Lothar at Fontenay.
- 1767 – Mexican Indians riot as Jesuit priests are ordered home.
- 1857 – Gustave Flaubert goes on trial for public immorality regarding his novel, *Madame Bovary*.
- 1876 – General George A. Custer and over 260 men of the Seventh Cavalry are wiped out by Sioux and Cheyenne Indians at Little Bighorn in Montana.
- 1903 – Marie Curie announces her discovery of radium.
- 1941 – Finland declares war on the Soviet Union.
- 1946 – Ho Chi Minh travels to France for talks on Vietnamese independence.
- 1950 – North Korea invades South Korea, beginning the Korean War.
- 1962 – The U.S. Supreme Court bans official prayers in public schools.
- 1973 – White House Counsel John Dean admits President Richard Nixon took part in the Watergate cover-up.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

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

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

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

On Wednesday, July 9, 6 – 8 p.m., SMC will host an opening reception along with a member mixer at 29 Properzi Way. They invite you to join them for an evening of lively conversation, where new and longtime members alike will gather in the spirit of art and community. Meet their newest Gallery artists, Valerie Prosper Imperato and Flor Delgadillo. Light refreshments will be served.

Ye Olde Comix Con at Somerville Public Library, 79 Highland Ave, July 26, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Join the Somerville Public Library for their fifth annual all-day fan-themed event, with programming from your favorite fandoms, stalls with local artists and vendors, cosplaying, and more. Go here to find out more and register for reminders: https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/comix-con.

Summer is here, and so is the heat. Visit

the city's website at somervillema.gov/keepcool for heat safety tips and ways to keep cool in and around Somerville are below. Safety tips are also available in multiple languages.

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

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

The City of Somerville is reminding residents that the season of growth is also the season of pollinators. As you shop for plants to fill garden pots or garden beds, you can play a role in feeding and sheltering the insects that keep our global ecosystem functioning. Somerville's Pollinator Action Plan is your go-to guide for planting a beautiful garden and protecting the creatures that keep our environment blooming. Whether you're a homeowner, renter, seasoned gardener, or total beginner, the Plan is full of practical steps and inspiring ideas to help create a vital habitat right here in the city. Check out the full Pollinator Action Plan at: www.voice.somervillema.gov/somerville-pollinator-action-plan.

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

indoors to Founders Memorial Rink (8 Garden Court). There will be fun for kids of all ages, including bounce houses, face painting, games, music, arts and crafts, and more. To learn more, please visit www.somervillerec.com or call 617-625-6600 ext 2980.

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

The Ginny Smithers Pool, 5 Cherry St., is officially back open. For more information on spring pool hours for Swim Lessons, Water Exercise, Lap Swim, Family Swim, and Open Swim. Please visit their website, https://somervillema.myrec.com/info/default.aspx, or email aquatic@somervillema.gov.

The Davis Square Market is open for the 2025 Season. The market will run every Wednesday from 12 noon to 6 p.m., from May 21 through November 26, at 44 Day St., Somerville. This long-running market features over two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers offering a vibrant selection of delicious produce, protein, baked goods, ready-to-eat meals, alongside a host of other locally made products. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match. Visit https://www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis.

The Council On Aging's Walking Club meets every Thursday at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the entrance of Holland Street Center, 167 Holland St. Weather permitting,

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

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

one-somerville-resources.

Street sweeping in Somerville resumed on Tuesday, April 1. Somerville's street cleaning program is an essential public works program that not only keeps our city cleaner but also reduces the risk of flooding and icing due to clogged storm drains. The street sweeping season runs from April 1 until December 31 each year. On designated street sweeping days, vehicles must be moved from the side of the street being swept, as noted on signs posted on each street. The penalty for not complying with street sweeping parking regulations is a \$50 fine. Check the signs on the streets where you park and visit www.somervillema.gov/sweeper for more information.

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

Through the generosity of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and under the direction of Mayor Ballantyne, the Council on Aging can provide Durable Medical Equipment at no cost to Somerville residents. Residents with a documented need for medical equipment must be over the age of 60 or have a permanent disability, and must be otherwise unable to afford or access needed medical equipment. They currently have available: Commodes, Bath Benches, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies, and Transport Wheelchairs. For additional information or for an application, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

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



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Hard Up' by M.P. Carver

Hard Up
By M.P. Carver
Lily Poetry Review Books
223 Winter Street
Whitman, MA
ISBN: 978-1-957755-50-2
25 Pages

Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Dennis Daly

Calliope rules the world of heroic poetry. Even collections of short heroic poetry motivated by injustice. Whatever the intent of the poet, this muse waits for her opportunity to intervene, to alter, to charm. When reading M.P. Carver's latest chapbook, *Hard Up*, one delights in the counterpoint between musical expression and poetical grievance. Carver's (and her muse's) ability to transcend down-and-out situations with humor and the necessary concomitant irony inspires. It inspires so much that the political point of her art becomes secondary to her admirable persona and descriptive magic.

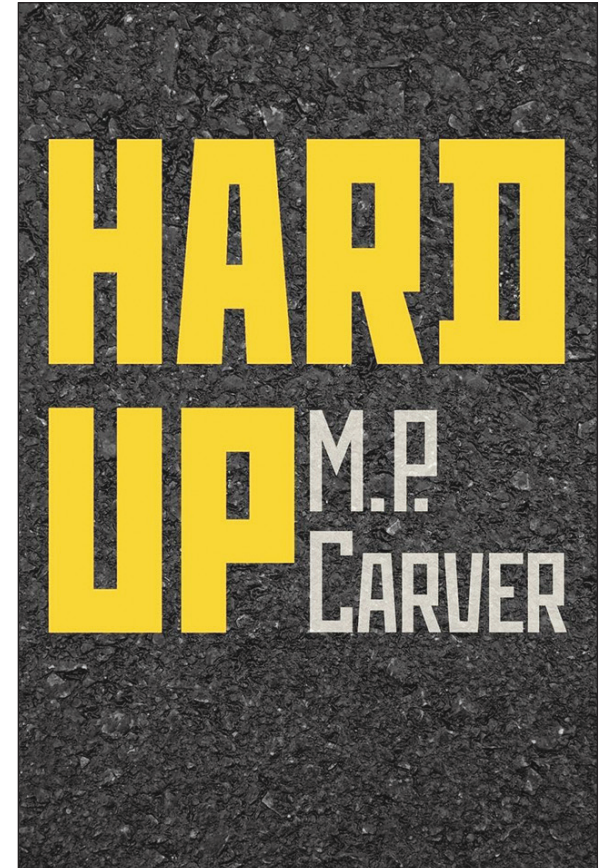
Carver's opening poem, *At the Public Housing Complex, or, It Wasn't All Bad Until We Ran Out of Sky*, picks out moments of joy and possible goodness in a smelly, derelict environment infested with mosquitoes and bats. Her detailed attention to reality and blunted expectations impress. Even Carver's tone evinces complexity by mitigating its sarcasm with conflicting facts. Consider these telling lines,

I remember the landlord
would come rolling in
for a visit in a shiny car
each Sunday and park it
in our rusting sea
of jalopies. He didn't kick
anyone out for paying
late and got broken
appliances fixed right
away by his son-in-law
who came quick to hit
on all our single moms.

Show the molecules how they can become a shape
that's new.

We're marching on to Gilead.
Our faith could not be more strong.
God is on our side, and so,
The works of our hands cannot be wrong.

To survive an ICE age requires Arctic insulation.



In her poem *Why Do Teenage Girls Travel In Groups of 3, 5, or 7?*, Carver conjures up the magical phenomenon of mall rat. The poet's mnemonic shopping mall appears as it originally was, exuding wonder, brightness, and promise. Its starling-like denizens, the teens, commanded respect as they assembled, disassembled, and assembled again in concert, all the time avoiding their nemesis, the mall cop. In time, of course, the underside of this brave new capitalist world would wreak havoc on these innocents, a fate the poet duly notes,

...We were little gods of our
well-appointed domain. We didn't have money,
but we could bum around and be swept up
in our tidy, colorful, shopping world just the same
as everyone else. Better, we knew every corner.
Knew, too, the old men, 20s and 30s, even 40s,
who hung around too long, trying to find the girl
whose home was worst, trying to

Continued on page 23

That's why when bodies gain weight,
The powers above proclaim that it's not right.
But then,
A sturdy lock will always offend a thief who moves
at night.

— Lizzy Co

(first published through www.thelizzycoshow.com)

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Lizzy Co grew up in rural Vermont within a monoculture that did not have room for her. Poetry was a life-line and a means of connection for her throughout her childhood. She has published one poetry collection, *Give It A Home*, and posts new poetry weekly on her website, www.thelizzycoshow.com. Currently, Lizzy lives in the Boston area, where she enjoys a healthy life with her lovely chosen family.



ICE AGE

Shall I describe
The ICE Age of 2025?
The glaciers over the land are black,
Packed with close-cropped heads
Under bandannas
And backwards baseball caps.

We're coming for you.
You think you have your rights,
But we have our guns,
And once you're zip-tied, you can't fight.

The bright mountains are reshaped into something crushed
and round.
What sharp features will we miss once the glaciers melt away?
What silence will replace sound?

Should we lock you in a van,
Or should we stow you in a plane?
Just when you start to learn them,
We change the rules to our game.

I tiptoe with steaming kettle to sabotage in the night:
I sneak to the base of the glacier and pour out my rage,
Destabilize the wall before me, melt a tunnel through,

Ward 4 finally gets their Slice of the City event after weather delay

On Tuesday, June 17, Somerville Ward 4 finally got its “Slice of the City” after being rescheduled from its original May date due to bad weather.

Ward 4 has had bad luck with the weather since it rained on the rescheduled date. However, this didn’t stop Ward 4 from having their “Slice of the City,” and the event was moved into the Arthur D. Healey Elementary School cafeteria.

It’s important that all wards get their “Slice of the City” – whether outdoors or indoors – because it provides community outreach between city council members and Somerville residents, with an emphasis on casual conversations.

“We wanted to focus on something where conversation could be at the heart of the event,” said Victoria MacGregor, the public information officer for the city’s communications department, who had a large part in getting this event on its feet.

MacGregor explained that “Slice of the City” stemmed from city hall community meetings, but became its own entity since those are very structured and presentation-heavy.

“It’s an opportunity to meet your neighbors, the mayor, city staff, learn about the work they do – and enjoy the parks, weather permitting – and have pizza,” MacGregor said.



Some of Somerville’s littlest residents playing with chalk and balloons at the event.



The cafeteria was packed from the large turnout and impromptu move indoors.

Residents of all ages attended the event, filling the cafeteria with lively conversation and community spirit. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Ward 4 City Councilor Jesse Clingan were in attendance.

Some of the issues brought up to Clingan included safety concerns around speeding in Ten Hills, property taxes rising due to renovations, and feedback on the new bike lane on Central Street. Along with Clingan and Mayor Ballantyne, Councilors at Large Jake Wilson and Willie Burnley Jr. were also at the event.



Mayor Katjana Ballantyne finishing up a conversation with a resident.

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

look cool to an unwise young rebel. This was before we got minimum wage jobs like our parents, learned what it meant to be broke and care...

The eye-catching centerpiece of this jewel-encrusted collection, *My Friend’s Mom is CFO of Some Private Equity Holding Company; My Mom sells Rings at the Mall*, says a lot about a daughter’s admiration for her mother. Carver describes the retail process, as her mother practices it, more like a dance or dalliance. She, in effect, translates capitalism into humanity, a novel alchemy without question. The poem concludes this way,

My mom makes the sale seem
like some half-remembered dream.
Not the dream about falling through the ice,
but the dream pulled out and fussed over,
‘til it’s so warm it shines.

Oddly, but wonderfully, Carver teleports Mencius, an ancient Confusion philosopher, into her poem entitled *Welfare*. Mencius, it seems, believed that people were essentially good. Now there’s a thought. His proof for this

insight entailed his belief that even a common criminal would go out of his way to save a baby perched on the rim of a well. Carver points out that today’s criminal, schooled in our twenty-first century culture, might consider conditional implications. The poet, tongue in cheek compares the two eras,

... You could save a baby then, without
everyone asking What the hell? Who are you
to save that baby? There’s paperwork associated
with that baby. Do you know how much that baby
is worth? Mencius’s criminal lived in the Warring
States period, a good well-defined time for folks.
Criminals were criminals, peasants were peasants,
the rich were rich, yes, even then, and anyone
could just walk around thoughtlessly saving babies.

F. Scott Fitzgerald once famously said, “Let me tell you about the very rich. They are different from you and me.” Carver ruminates on the ability of these very wealthy types to book future rocket ship flights to Mars aboard Elon Musk’s SpaceX in her piece *Safe Travels*. Her gentle and full-smile sarcasm strikes home again and again. I

find this poem strangely comforting. The poet notes how even her actions mimic the behavior of upper class when among them. She says,

I won’t make it to Mars,
but after a poetry reading
at the BPL the other day
I found myself in the IN crowd
at the afterparty at the Copley,
where a waiter brought me pillows
of pretzel skewered on plastic sticks
and I didn’t even look at him,
though he could have been
my best friend, my student,
or my mom who used to cater
weddings at Spinelli’s, at the head
table with the biggest tips.

Carver’s poetic grievances, despite their earnest and valid points, have no hard edges. Whatever you consider your station or caste in life, everything about this accessible, mini-book charms. Invest your time in reading *Hard Up*. Believe me, it’s (pardon the expression) worth its weight in gold.

The Somerville Times

To advertise in our Business Directory,
call 857-488-5138.

Let your customers find you in
Somerville's most widely read newspaper!

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

LEARN TO DRAW AND PAINT
Artist and art teacher Geoffrey Halverson



www.geoffreyhalverson.com

Flexible Schedule - 2 hour classes
Perfect for beginners and intermediate students
Location of classes in North Cambridge (Huron Village)
Call: 617-501-6217 • halverson12g@yahoo.com

Monica Calvo Realtor®
Real Estate Professional
Cell: 617-605-3308



Email: mcalvo@relocationnewengland.com
Web: remaxpartnersrelocation.com

RE/MAX
PARTNERS RELOCATION
44 Park ST
Andover MA 01810
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

Wedding & Event
Photo & Video
— Harry Kane —



KANE FILMS
www.KaneFilms.net
860-840-3737
HarryKaneFilms@gmail.com

T. J. SILLARI, INC.

Over 50 Years Experience
Proud to be a Somerville Business Resident



- Plumbing • Heating
- Gas Fitting • Industrial Work
- Water Heater Replacement
- Complete Drain Service

Residential - Industrial - Commercial

Master Plmb. Lic. #6106 **625-9877**



ENCOMPASS
PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

BUY - SELL - JOIN

CALL US FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS!

BOBBIE TONER
REAL ESTATE CONSULTANT
BOBBIETONER@AOL.COM
857-488-5138

JOHN RAPOSO
BROKER
JOHN@ENCOMPASSPROPS.COM
617-665-8866



WWW.ENCOMPASSPROPS.COM
ENCOMPASSPROPS

The Law Offices of Richard G. Di Girolamo

Richard G. Di Girolamo, Esquire
Anne M. Vigorito, Esquire
Breanna L. Rolland, Esquire

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

Real Estate Law
Zoning
Civil Litigation
Criminal Defense
Family Law
Personal Injury

TELEPHONE: (617) 666-8200
FAX: (617) 776-5435
EMAIL: digirolamolegal@verizon.net
424 BROADWAY, SOMERVILLE, MA 02145

Telephone: (617) 625-2244
(617) 625-4344

Fax: (617) 625-4350

EDWIN J. SMITH
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
RUMERY & SMITH

403 HIGHLAND AVENUE
SOMERVILLE, MA 02144

edsmithlaw@gmail.com



Cleaning. Restoration. Construction.

SERVPRO® of Arlington, Somerville, Charlestown

617-629-5331

Independently owned and operated




BRENEVILLE
LAW OFFICES, LLC

FREDLER BRENEVILLE, Esq.
Attorney at Law

Immigration • Accident-Injury
Family Law • Estate Planning
Landlord-Tenant

Nou pale Kreyol
Nous parlons Français **(617) 448-6037**

INFO@BRENEVILLELAWOFFICES.COM
500 N. MAIN ST. STE. A 2ND FL., RANDOLPH
55 BROADWAY, SOMERVILLE
BRENEVILLELAWOFFICES.COM



Alibrandi's Barber Shop
Men & Boys Haircuts
"Best Somerville Barber"

194 Holland St, Somerville, MA 02144
617-628-4282 Closed Wednesday



clarkarts
PUBLISHING

COLORING BOOKS • QUIZ BOOKS • MORE
www.clarkarts.net