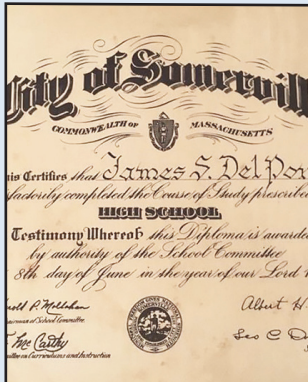




Inside:



Graduation day 1971

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Hong Kong Festival

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Block party at the Dojo

page 19

City Council supports Somerville Workers United



City Councilors approved a resolution in support of voluntary recognition for Somerville Workers United.

By Harry Kane

The Somerville City Council proclaimed its approval of labor unions, saying they are "critical to workplace and economic justice" in a resolution that supports the voluntary recognition of Somerville Workers United (SWU).

Following a slew of layoffs intended to close a municipal deficit, city workers are pushing for union representation.

"I know that this round of layoffs has just been incredibly difficult," said Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen during the May 28 City Council meeting. "It has brought a real sense of urgency to the work that they do and this organizing in particular."

City Councilors strongly support the right for all City of Somerville employees to *Continued on page 4*

#ART STAYS HERE: Faces, Spaces & Places

Faces, Spaces & Places is a visual exhibition exploring the causes, impact, and potential solutions to end artist displacement, offering a spatial justice view of the overlooked value of affordable artist workspaces across Massachusetts. Through photographs, maps, testimony, and community engagements, The #ARTSTAYSHERE Coalition shares insights into what's caused artist displacement over time and how their volunteer advocacy organization, in partnership with community and other stakeholders, has turned the displacement trajectory around.

About The #ARTSTAYSHERE Coalition

#ARTSTAYSHERE (ASH), is a volunteer non-profit solely committed to preventing artist displacement, creating more inventory of affordable artist workspaces, and helping to create policies and protections for artist workspace was born from the community advocacy work done to prevent the displacement of Dorchester's *Continued on page 2*



The Faces, Spaces & Places exhibition runs from June 5 to August 23 at the Somerville Museum, with an opening reception on Friday, June 5.

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

The city's **Health and Human Services Department** will kick off **Pride Month** with the annual **Pride Flag Raising ceremony** on **Thursday, June 4**, at 5 p.m. on the **City Hall concourse** (93 Highland Ave.). Hear remarks from **Mayor Wilson**, the **LGBTQ+ Services Division**, and youth representatives from Somerville's **LGBTQ+ community**. This year, the city will also welcome **former Mayor Dorothy Kelly Gay**, who raised City Hall's first Pride Flag.

Join **Somerville Media Center** in honoring **former Mayor Joe Curtatone** with their **Public Service Award** on **Thursday, June 4**, from 7 to 9 p.m. at **Arts at the Armory**, 119 Highland Ave, in Somerville. The celebratory evening will feature cheeses and specialty bites provided by **Formaggio Kitchen** and more, tasty drinks from Arts at the Armory, live music by **Revolutionary Snake Ensemble**, raffles, and a special presentation honoring Joe Curtatone's longstanding advocacy for community media and Somerville Media Center. Proceeds from the event will directly support SMC programs. Tickets are available online: <https://tinyurl.com/joe-curtatone>. Get your tickets in advance for this great event because they will cost more at the door. Advance ticket sales end on June 3.

Celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy birthday to **Carolyn Pedersen**. We wish Carolyn a great day. Happy birthday to **Suzanne Bremer**. We hope she enjoys her day. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Mike Connolly**, *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of June 3 – June 9 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday <i>June 3</i>	Sunny	82°/58°	2%	1%	N 9 mph
Thursday <i>June 4</i>	Sunny	88°/60°	2%	1%	WSW 10 mph
Friday <i>June 5</i>	Partly Cloudy	86°/66°	1%	0%	WNW 7 mph
Saturday <i>June 6</i>	Cloudy	87°/65°	22%	14%	WSW 12 mph
Sunday <i>June 7</i>	Thunderstorms	72°/53°	75%	62%	N 12 mph
Monday <i>June 1</i>	Partly Cloudy	64°/52°	23%	12%	NNE 13 mph
Tuesday <i>June 9</i>	Partly Cloudy	71°/54°	13%	7%	NE 12 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: Rooftop fire at Assembly Row

Steve Keenan says:

A great effort by great firefighters.

Response to: Somerville honoring Pride Month and celebrating Queer Community

Izzy Starr says:

Hi, just letting you know that the link is to last year's BGDP. Here is the link to this years: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/events/big-gay-dance-party-3/>

Log onto *TheSomervilleTimes.com* to leave your own comments

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#ART STAYS HERE: Faces, Spaces & Places

CONT. FROM PG 1

Humphreys Street Studios. Since then, ASH has helped preserve additional artist workspace communities in Massachusetts, including the Brighton Sound Museum, Charlestown Rehearsal Studios, and Somerville's Central Street Studios. #ART-STAYSHERE creates advocacy campaigns, holds community convenings, and hosts the Culture Crisis Conversations podcast series. www.artstayshere.org. Follow #Art Stays Here:

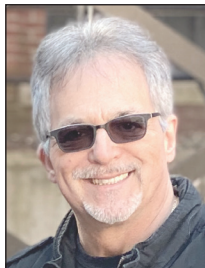
https://www.instagram.com/art_stays_here/
<https://www.facebook.com/people/Artstays-here-Coalition/100081750108332>
Faces, Spaces & Places, June 5 - August 23.
Opening reception: Friday, June 5, 6-8 p.m.
Somerville Museum, One Westwood Road, Somerville.
Admission is free. Reserve a spot at: <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

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.

Graduation day 1971



I graduated from Somerville High School in 1971. Graduation day was an epic time. My best friend Charlie and I walked from Ball Square all the way to Dilboy Stadium. Things were different back then, so we got buzzed while we walked.

We entered the packed stadium and sat in our designated seats. I said a quick hello to my par-ents, who were in the audience. On stage were the principal and vice principal to pass out the diplomas. Of course, they passed them out in alphabetical order. As soon as they got around to the D's, I got anxious. But it soon turned to anxiety when they passed over my name. All I could think of was the horror going through my parents' minds. They probably said, "I knew he wasn't going to graduate!"

I was known as a rabble-rouser in high school. I was at the hippie brewing

through. I was at the helm of the walkouts for the dress code for no heat, and they knew my face, and they knew me. I figured this was a good way for them to get back at me for being a troublemaker in my three years at the high school.

My mother and father had to sit through the entire alphabet. When they finally got through the W's, I was ready to slap someone silly. As soon as they got through the rest of the students' names, they called my name last. I stormed up to the stage and ripped the diploma out of the vice principal's hand. I gave them the proper thank you with an Italian swear! (it rhymes with Kung Fu)

I had a lot of fun at Somerville High. I was in almost every music class that they had to offer with fantastic teachers such as Mrs. Mary Carafotes, Andy Smith, and Connie Limberakis.

Despite the lackluster graduation ceremony, my high school years were full of bell-bottoms, long hair, and peace signs.

Oh, one more thing. My last name was spelled wrong on my diploma.



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Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: What is a fiduciary — and how can it help me with my finances?

A: A fiduciary is a person who is legally required to put your interests ahead of their own when providing advice or making recommendations.

This can be especially important when making major financial decisions.

♦ **Investments and retirement planning.**

Investment options can involve different fees, commissions, and risks. A fiduciary is generally required to focus on what is in your best interest.

♦ **Insurance and financial products.**

Coverage options and costs can vary widely. A fiduciary is expected to evaluate your needs before recommending a product.

Why does this matter?

The fiduciary standard exists to help ensure that advice begins with your goals and needs—not with a product to sell.

In many cases, that means first asking whether a product is needed at all and whether lower-cost alternatives exist.

Bottom Line:

When seeking financial advice, consider whether the advisor is a CFP® (Certified Financial Planner™) professional. CFP® certification requires the professional to place the client's interests first when pro-

viding financial advice. The concept isn't unique to financial advisors. Similar client-first obligations also apply to other professionals, including attorneys and CPAs.

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

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



City Council supports Somerville Workers United

CONT. FROM PG 1

unionize with SWU and urged the administration to engage with SWU and their affiliates at the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 93.

The City Council's resolution says that union representation for more than 200 city employees will establish a bargaining unit to negotiate working conditions and compensation. The resolution states that union representation will "help address conditions that have led to significant employee turnover in multiple critical departments."

Back in April, labor leader Steven A. Tolman was hired as Somerville's Senior Labor Advisor to help negotiate contracts.

The city eliminated 29 municipal positions from the city budget, according to a

May 22 staffing update from Mayor Wilson. The cuts will help close a projected \$5.4 million budget shortfall.

At the City Council meeting, Ewen-Campen sponsored three speakers to help delineate the reasons why the union will be mutually beneficial for workers and for the Wilson administration.

Luis Quizhpe, who was a Strategic Planning & Equity Manager with OSPCD, spoke first. His position was eliminated. He said that "recognizing and respecting the collective bargaining process is critical to the work of creating a Somerville where everyone belongs and can thrive."

Benjamin Wyner, the Inclusionary Housing Program Manager within Somerville's Housing Division, spoke

next. "We came together as a union because we believe in the work we do for this city," said Wyner. "I personally joined this movement to organize because we need to ensure our work is sustainable, and that staff do not burn out trying to constantly do more with less."

The third speaker, Kate Bossingham, works as the Environmental Policy Manager in the Office of Sustainability and Environment. She said, "I saw organizing as an opportunity to improve our workplace and provide better service for the Somerville public."

After the speakers, City Councilor-at-Large Wilfred N. Mbah spoke about another resolution that he submitted, requesting that the Wilson administration

share all the municipal positions that were cut from the FY 2027 budget and their departments, and explain how the cuts align with Mayor Wilson's equity agenda.

"I'm hoping that this resolution also seeks to ensure that budget decisions align with the administration's publicly stated equity goals," said Mbah.

He's also asking the administration to present its organizational restructuring plans before the City Council to promote transparency into how organizational and staffing changes may affect service delivery across the community.

"I'm hoping that we have a robust conversation, and this discussion will help us ensure that any restructuring advances," said Mbah.

Riverside is hosting a free community baby shower on June 10

Expectant mothers in Cambridge, Somerville, and Medford are invited to Riverside Early Head Start's free community baby shower on Wednesday, June 10,

Riverside's Early Head Start (EHS) program prepares children to successfully enter preschool and helps families learn important parenting skills. To introduce families to the program, we are holding a free community baby shower on Wednesday, June 10, at 474 Broadway, Somerville, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Pregnant women and parents with infants up to three months old are invited to this unique event where they can form connections with other parents and community service agencies. Attendees will receive important resources, enjoy snacks, develop new parenting skills, and celebrate this transformative time in their lives. Everyone at the baby shower will leave with a goodie bag designed to support newborns. Call 781-516-2922 or text "SHOWER" to register today.

The Early Head Start program promotes healthy child development by assisting families before and after a child is born. Services provided by Riverside Early Head Start include:

- ♦ Weekly home visits focused on child development and wellness
 - ♦ Parent-child playgroups and socialization activities
 - ♦ Health, safety, and nutrition education
 - ♦ Pre-natal information and support
 - ♦ Parent workshops and training
- ♦ Community events, including annual baby showers

Early Head Start is a free home-visiting program for income-eligible families in Cambridge, Somerville, and Medford. Visit our website to learn more: <https://www.riversidecc.org/child-family-services/early-childhood/>

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Somerville awarded \$50,000 Youth Climate Action grant

Composting, tree planting, solar phone charging stations, and more – these are the types of hyper-local climate action initiatives youth globally are advancing with microgrants from Bloomberg Philanthropies, and soon Somerville youth will have an opportunity to join in.

Bloomberg Philanthropies has awarded the City of Somerville \$50,000 from its Youth Climate Action Fund to support the mobilization of young residents ages 15 to 24 to design and deliver solutions that align with the city's climate goals. Somerville was among 300 cities selected to receive the award to launch a youth climate action microgrant program.

With the awarded funds, Somerville will leverage change-making spaces, such as Somerville Public Schools (SPS)'s Community Design Lab, to create a cutting-edge, youth-led climate and civic action hub that advances Somerville's community climate action plan, Climate Forward. The hub will serve as a catalyst for the microgrant program for youth-led projects that will strengthen Somerville's climate resiliency.

"Participation from our younger residents is critical for climate work because they're already living with the consequences of today's decisions and will inherit the responsibility for shaping what comes next," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "I was thrilled when I learned about this grant opportunity in December and immediately contacted our Grants Development

folks about it. I was even more thrilled when we were able to apply quickly and receive it. It's vital that Somerville has this opportunity to bring our youth's ideas to the forefront, and I look forward to seeing the creativity this initiative inspires."

Rollout of the microgrant program is anticipated for Fall 2026. The city's Office of Sustainability and Environment will lead the effort in strong collaboration with the Somerville Public Schools. Partnerships with higher education institutions, local nonprofits, and industry partners will increase opportunities for project collaboration and support for youth grant recipients.

"If we want to reach Somerville's ambitious climate goals, it's imperative that we help create the next generation of climate leaders," said Steven Nutter, Director of Somerville's Office of Sustainability and Environment. "This grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies will help us expand opportunities for the City's youth to learn, collaborate, and get inspired."

Information on the program and how to apply will be shared widely through city channels, including the website (somer villema.gov), social media, the Somerville Schools, city e-newsletter, and more.

To learn more about Somerville's Climate Forward action plan, visit somer villema.gov/climateforward.

More About the Youth Climate Action Fund:

To date, more than 300,000 young peo-



ple across five continents have taken part in the Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action Fund – working with their city halls to create over 1,600 green spaces, plant over 1.8 million plants and 235,000 trees, develop nearly 5,000 gardens, launch 268 composting stations, and collect more than 405,000 pounds of trash and recyclables – producing visible improvements in their communities and bettering quality of life for residents worldwide. As part of Bloomberg Philanthropies' longstanding work to strengthen local state capacity through its Government Innovation program, the Fund also provides municipalities and their mayors with a model that extends beyond climate – galvanizing partnership with stakeholders citywide to advance

progress on pressing problems—and opportunities – for the people they serve.

About Bloomberg Philanthropies:

Bloomberg Philanthropies invests in 700 cities and 150 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on creating lasting change in five key areas: the Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation, and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's giving, including his foundation, corporate, and personal philanthropy, as well as Bloomberg Associates, a philanthropic consultancy that advises cities around the world. In 2025, Bloomberg Philanthropies distributed \$4.3 billion.

Somerville's FY27 Public Budget Hearing on Wednesday, June 10

Budget season for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) has arrived and community members are invited to a Public Hearing where comment will be accepted on Wednesday, June 10. The annual budget outlines funding for essential city functions including schools, public safety, infrastructure, human services, and more.

Mayor Jake Wilson will submit the proposed FY27 budget at the June 4 City Council meeting at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.) at 7 p.m. The public may attend or watch his presentation to the Council and all FY27 budget hearings.

city-hall.jpg Then on Wednesday, June 10, Somerville residents will have an opportunity to provide public comment during the Finance Committee's virtual public hearing at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

To join the Public Hearing, visit somer villema.legistar.com/calendar and select the Zoom link under 'Finance Committee.' The meeting agenda will be posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

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

Get the full schedule of Council meetings at somer villema.gov/council and stream meetings at youtube.com/somervillecitytv.

For more information on the FY27 budget, visit somer villema.gov/budget.



COMMENTARY

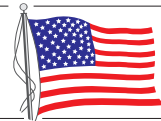
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Congratulations to our graduates of 2026!

Our View Of The Times



Another year passes, and we pause at this time to congratulate and honor the hard-working students who achieved their goal of successfully completing their courses of study at their respective high schools and colleges.

It takes a lot of dedication and commitment to follow through to completion in this world, which is filled with so many challenges and distractions. It

is no small feat to take one's education to completion, and these moments represent important milestones along the path to success in life.

We should lavish these kids with praise for their accomplishments and encourage them to take it to the next level. To constantly strive to better themselves, be it moving on to college or grad school, professional or vocational schooling. Going

yet another step further shows ambition and a sense of belief in oneself that can propel one to success unimagined by those who fall short of the mark.

It can be said that one's life is a never-ending process of discovery and learning. That we are always in school, in some sense. Still, achieving the goal of completing a set course of study is especially satisfying and sets the stage for even bigger

accomplishments.

In spite of the many social and political divisions that exist in today's world, there are still limitless opportunities for growth and success, given the willingness to relentlessly pursue one's goals

And so we applaud the achievements of the class of 2026. May they go on to know great success in their professional and personal lives. They so clearly deserve it.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Richard DiPinto, Dell E. Fisher, Paul Harvey, Roz Cummins, Nicole Alves Bairos, Lori DePippo, Charlie McCarthy, Elizabeth Rodrigues Fula, and Chris Argeropoulos 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.

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Steven MacEachern, who passed away on May 30, 2026. Steve worked for years at Somerville's DPW.

SomerStreets: Carnaval is returning to East Somerville to kick off the 2026 SomerStreets season. The festival will take place on Sunday, June 7, from 2-6 p.m. (rain date: Sunday, June 14) and will once again transform Broadway into a vibrant, walkable celebration of community and culture. The festival will stretch along Broadway, from McGrath Highway to Pennsylvania Avenue, creating a welcoming space for everyone to enjoy. <https://www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/carnaval2026>.

Tie-Dye with Pride, June 6. Shirts avail-

able in various sizes are available to be tie-dyed while supplies last, or you can bring your own item. Dye is permanent - please wear clothing you don't mind getting stained. This event will be held on Saturday, June 6, at Central Library (79 Highland Ave.) from 2 to 4 p.m.

Somerville's Elections Department recently sent its second round of census forms to residents. Annual participation in the census is essential for keeping an accurate population count, and it updates or maintains your status as an active voter for upcoming elections. Completed

census forms can be returned via the postage-paid return envelope included in the mailing, by scanning the form and emailing it to census@somervillema.gov, or in person at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.). Please call 311 (617-666-3311) with questions.

Are you an artist, musician or creative in Somerville? Join our Community Arts Forum on Monday, June 15 at Warehouse XI. Talk about what's working, what you're concerned about, and more. Community partners include Union Square Neighborhood

Continued on page 21

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#1025

1. Where do most meteor showers originate from?
2. What causes a meteor shower?
3. Which meteor shower occurs every August?
4. What renowned English tennis tournament runs through June?
5. When was the first Indy 500 held?
6. How many syllables are in the word "Mississippi"?
7. Which glass slipper did Cinderella leave behind at the ball?
8. What TV series included the phrase "Go where no man has gone before" in its title sequence?
9. What type of house cat with tri-color fur is almost exclusively female?
10. What is the smallest unit of memory in a computer called?
11. Which company developed the first commercially available computer mouse?
12. Aquaman is from which city under the sea?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Apple seeds contain cyanide.
2. The cheesiest pizza ever included 154 varieties of cheese.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

GREETINGS

ACROSS

1. Shapeless masses
6. RFK's brother
9. German card game
13. "The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing" author
14. Ancient Chinese dynasty
15. Top of a steeple
16. Ice house
17. Not outs
18. Gustatory sensation
19. What's cooking, good ____?"
21. Greeting aimed at a king
23. Like a fox
24. Easy run
25. "Harper Valley ____"
28. Off-limits
30. Daryl Hannah/Tom Hanks movie
35. Snaky swimmers
37. Coal unit
39. Vigorous fight
40. Done before dealing
41. Walk leisurely
43. Like certain food trend
44. Raccoon's South American cousin
46. Dano or Rudd, e.g.
47. Deep-red variety of chalcedony
48. Straying, as in baseball
50. FBI agent, slangily
52. It's the limit?
53. Alex Honnold's "Free ____"
55. Long Island iced ____
57. Military greeting
60. ____ greetings, in December
64. Last test
65. Had a meal
67. Ilya Rozanov to Shane Hollander, e.g.
68. Take puppy from a pound
69. Hemingway's "____ Whom the Bell Tolls"
70. Bodily swelling
71. Hibernation stations
72. Pampering spot
73. Extend subscription

DOWN

1. Leave without farewell, slangily
2. Kids' construction set
3. Capital of Norway

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
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4. Amazon offerings, originally
5. Spoiled, in U.K.
6. Nest material
7. Even, poetically
8. 70s dance joint
9. Capone's shoe cover
10. Twice-done greeting move, in Italy
11. Creative
12. PGA peg
15. Bacterial throat infections
20. Spiral-horned antelope
22. FedEx competitor
24. Lower back pain, in the olden days
25. Salaam, in English
26. Operatic voice
27. Hitching post?
29. Bro fist motion
31. Smaller in amount
32. Road-tripping guide
33. Baby carrier?
34. Cowboy's greeting
36. Bristle
38. Little Jack Horner's treat
42. Fill with happy spirit
45. Injury's painful partner
49. Toddler
51. Closer
54. Toronto Maple ____
56. Comment to the audience
57. Fries, e.g.
58. At another time, to Romeo or Juliet
59. Swimming lengths
60. Doris Day's "Que ____..."
61. Kitchen appliance
62. Given at birth
63. Cabbage dish
64. Temporary craze
66. " ____ of the morning!"

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

S	O	F	A			H	U	M			L	I	M	E					
E	V	I	L			M	A	N	A		M	I	T	E	S				
T	A	L	C			O	D	I	N		E	C	L	A	T				
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S	I	C	K			E	N	Z	Y	M	E		S	E	T				
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H	I	R	E	S						L	A	I	R			A	I	D	S
E	G	O	S							A	N	T				R	O	O	T

OBITUARY

Steven M. MacEachern



Meehan of Malden and a dear uncle to Brad, Jay, Kristen, Jordyn, and Jenna.

Steve was an avid Boston sports fan and a longtime admirer of sports cars, especially his Mustangs. He was a proud member of the Mustang Club of Massachusetts. Professionally, Steve dedicated many years to working for the MWRA and the Somerville and Malden D.P.W.

Steven M. MacEachern of Somerville passed away on May 31, 2026. He was the beloved husband of Sheila (Meehan) MacEachern and a loving father to Julia Wingate and her husband Thomas of Somerville. Steven was the cherished grandfather of Jake and Viviana. He was the son of the late Harold and Sandra MacEachern and brother to Babette Mello of Chelmsford. He was predeceased by Babette's late husband, James. Steven was also a brother-in-law to Eric

Calling hours will be held, Wednesday June 10th from 4:00 - 7:00

A funeral procession will be held from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, on June 11th at 9AM, followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Catherine Church, Somerville at 10:00, relatives and friends invited.

Calling hours will be held, Wednesday June 10th from 4:00 - 7:00

Somerville Police issue PSA: Scam Alert

The Somerville Police Department has recently received reports of a scam targeting residents.

Victims receive a phone call from someone claiming to represent a credit card company, such as American Express or CitiBank, and are told that a credit card opened in their name has been linked to criminal activity. The caller then transfers the victim to a supposed law enforcement agency, where an individual posing as a police officer requests that they file a report through a video platform such as Webex.

During the call, victims are asked to provide personal information, including their driver's license, Social Security number, financial information, and details about family members.

Residents should be aware that legitimate law enforcement agencies will never ask for sensitive personal information through video conferencing platforms, nor will they take official statements through apps such as WhatsApp, Teams, or similar services.

If you receive such a call, do not provide any personal information. Hang up immediately and contact the organization directly using a verified phone number.

If you believe you have been targeted by this scam, please contact the Somerville Police Department.



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

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Greek Salad

I absolutely love salads during the summer months. We have a small garden in our yard and usually just grow tomatoes and herbs. But this year, we added zucchini and cucumbers to the mix. Needless to say, we had an abundance of great vegetables. About 50 tomatoes, some picked already, and some still growing on the vines. Many zucchinis, I was able to make zucchini bread and zucchini meatballs, all meatless of course.

So, with all this goodness picked from the garden, I thought I would share one of my go to salads. Serves 2 as a side, or 1 as an entrée.

1 cucumber, ends trimmed and quartered lengthwise, cut into large chunks
2 tomatoes, cut in half, each half cut

into 8 slices
1/4 red onion, thinly sliced
1/2 cup Kalamata olives
4 oz. feta, sliced
1/4 cup fresh mint leaves, thinly sliced, plus whole leaves for garnish
2 tablespoons of red wine vinegar
2-3 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil
Freshly ground black pepper, about 5 turns of the mill
Generous pinch of Maldon Sea Salt Flakes

Place the cucumber, tomatoes, onion, and olives onto a shallow plate. Drizzle the vinegar over the vegetables along with two tablespoons of the olive oil. Add the mint and feta. Drizzle the remaining olive oil over the feta and season with the salt and pepper. Garnish with the mint leaves. If you have some lettuce you would



like to add, I recommend chopped romaine hearts. Or whatever other lettuce you like. Serve right away.

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

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

LEGAL NOTICES

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



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
JAKE WILSON
MAYOR

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, June 18th, 2026** at 6:30 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

REGISTER ONLINE

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_qFtvv6-zQLiIBdyIXqoHOA

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. Enter the link exactly as it appears into your internet browser. You will then be asked to register for the meeting.
2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to publiccomments@somervillema.gov, or send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143. Your comments must arrive no later than 4:00 PM on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council and Planning Board for inclusion with the Hearing testimony.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comments concerning the following:

- Requesting approval of the Urban Center Housing Tax Increment Financing (UCH-TIF) Zone, Plan, and Form of Agreement for Assembly Square and East Somerville.
- Proposing an amendment to Section 2.1.1 of the Zoning Ordinance regarding Homeless Shelters

Zoning amendments may be viewed online by searching the Somerville City Council's [online meeting calendar](#) for the meeting or request information.

Final language of the above amendments may be modified by the City Council during the legislative process. The Chair(s) may opt to extend the period for written comments, in which case additional comments will be accepted until the date indicated. This information can be found in the minutes of the meeting.

6/3/26 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on **Tuesday, June 16, 2026**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of All Forms Alcohol License, Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices, Performers, and Patrons, and Private Outdoor Dining for Parlor Bird Inc d/b/a Parlor Bird at 151 Cedar Street.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_RuoC4D_wTZCrZzZ5_z6vGA

You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

6/3/26 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on **Tuesday, June 16, 2026**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices for Glasser Coffee LLC d/b/a Kima Cafe at 75 Bow Street.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_RuoC4D_wTZCrZzZ5_z6vGA

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6/3/26 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on **Tuesday, June 16, 2026**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of Alteration of Premises for MCKD LLC d/b/a Liars at 1153 Broadway.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_RuoC4D_wTZCrZzZ5_z6vGA

You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

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LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

6/3/26 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on **Tuesday, June 16, 2026**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of Outdoor Dining for Leone's Donut Shop Inc d/b/a Dunkin Donuts at 76 Middlesex Avenue.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_RuoC4D_wTZCrZzZ5_z6vGA

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LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on **Tuesday, June 16, 2026**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of All Forms Alcohol License for Los Tacos Hermanos LLC d/b/a Los Tacos Hermanos at 253 Washington Street.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_RuoC4D_wTZCrZzZ5_z6vGA

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LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

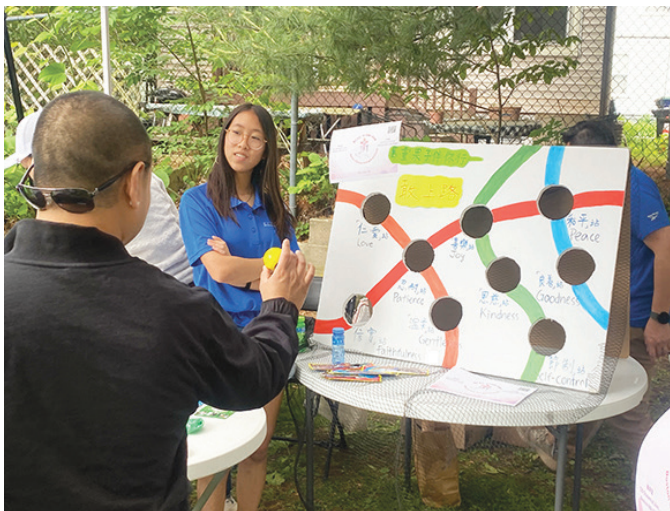
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New England Hong Kong Festival

The third annual New England Hong Kong Festival took place on Saturday, May 30, at Seven Hills Park in Somerville to celebrate the culture, food, and creativity of the Hong Kong community across the region. Hosted during Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Month, this year's festival brought together 40 local vendors, artists, and community groups offering food, gifts, and interactive activities.





Photos by Bobbie Toner



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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. Comets | 6. Four |
| 2. Earth passing through debris left by a comet | 7. Left |
| 3. Perseids meteor shower | 8. <i>Star Trek</i> |
| 4. Wimbledon | 9. Calico |
| 5. May 30, 1911 | 10. A bit |
| | 11. Xerox |
| | 12. Atlantis |

OBITUARIES

William 'Bill' J. Gilligan – July 29, 1941 - February 16, 2026



William "Bill" Joseph Gilligan, age 84 of Somerville, passed away peacefully on Monday, February 16th, 2026, at the Aberjona Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Winchester. He was the beloved husband of the late David G. Sholl, with whom he shared many wonderful years together prior to his passing in 2011.

Born in Astoria, NY on July 29, 1941, he was one of five children to the late Francis J. and Florence C. (Wheelehan) Gilligan. Bill was raised in Ridgefield Park and Westfield, NJ. He was a proud graduate of Holy Trinity High School in Westfield NJ, graduating in 1959 and ran track. Following, Bill attended and then graduated from the Maryknoll College Seminary in Glen Ellyn, Illinois in 1963. He went on to continue his post graduate studies at the Maryknoll Novitiate in Bedford, MA in 1964. He obtained his first master's degree in pastoral coun-

seling during his novitiate studies. Bill was ordained a Maryknoll Catholic priest in 1968 and then was assigned and served many years as a Catholic missionary in Tanzania, East Africa. During his years as missionary, through his work with the tribal people of Tanzania, Bill learned and spoke fluent Swahili. He often told stories about meeting people who were surprised that he could speak with them in their own language. Making connections was always an important part of Bill's missionary work and beyond. Bill enjoyed telling stories about the delights and the challenges of work in Africa. A favorite tale he shared with many was about his motorcycle rides into remote Tanzanian villages to say Mass, while carrying all his liturgical supplies. One day he forgot the bread and wine, but the villagers and Bill decided to do Eucharist in the context of their shared meal. During his time in Africa, Bill often said, "I felt at home. The work I did was worthwhile." Bill kept in touch with many of his Maryknoll brothers throughout his life.

Upon return to the US from his missionary work in the early 1980's, Bill was transferred to Brookline and Cambridge, MA as a Maryknoll recruitment specialist. Bill left the priesthood in the early 1990's and went on to

obtain a second master's degree in social work. Bill spent his second career continuing to help the people in need around him. He was a devoted social worker who worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in the Department of Children and Families unit as an adoption counselor for the families. Upon his retirement in 2003, Bill continued his teachings and became an adjunct professor at the University of Massachusetts-Boston where he taught courses in social work and addiction for several years.

Bill was an active member of Dignity Boston, a progressive and inclusive organization for the LGBTQIA+ Catholic community, along with their family, friends, and supporters in the greater Boston area. As a long-time member of Dignity Boston, Bill served on the Executive Board, as a reader and Eucharistic minister, lay presider, and a founding member of the Men's Spirituality Group. He also served on several national conference committees for Dignity.

In his free time, Bill enjoyed frequently swimming, hiking, biking, enjoying watching and reading about old Hollywood movies and their performers, many said Bill was also a great dancer. Bill always enjoyed hosting his large circle of friends at house parties and barbecues

both in Boston and at his and Dave's summer residence in New Durham, New Hampshire. One of his greatest joys was gardening and taking long walks in the countryside in New Hampshire alongside with his beloved dog, Cleveland.

Bill was the dear brother of the late James F. Gilligan and Michael Gilligan and brother-in-law to the late Patrick Keegan.

Surviving Bill are his two loving sisters, Ann C. Keegan of Hobe Sound, FL, and Julie M. Gilligan of Lawrenceville, NJ; along with his cherished sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews as well as his large extended family of Tony Armelin, Erik Sachs, Bill and Jane Murphy, Kevin Merry, Michael Curran, Andrea Basso, Dave Houle, Jon Schum, Ron Lacro, Regina Gavin, Philip Sardella, Leo Thibault, along with many other dear relatives and friends.

Donations in Bill's memory can be sent to Dignity Boston, Post Office Box 262, Belmont, MA 02478, or to their national organization, DignityUSA at dignityusa.org.

Services – Saturday, June 13 and Sunday, June 14, 2026

A two-part celebration of life and remembrance for Bill

Saturday, June 13, 2026 - Reflection and memory sharing of Bill

Gather: 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Sharing memories of Bill to begin 4:00 p.m.

EDWARD V. SULLIVAN FUNERAL HOME

43 Winn Street
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781-272-0050

<https://sullivanfuneralhome.net/MapsandDirections>

Sunday, June 14, 2026 - Church service in remembrance of Bill followed by a reception and refreshments

Gather: 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.
Service begins at 5:00 p.m.

Reception and refreshments begin at 6:00 p.m.

Dignity Boston LGBTQIA+ Catholics

SAINT STEPHEN'S CHURCH

419 Shawmut Avenue
Boston, MA

Located in Boston's South End neighborhood.

The church is located in Boston's South End neighborhood - 1 block off of Washington Street. From I-93 northbound use - exit 15B (Mass Avenue-Roxbury-Frontage Road) - from I-93 southbound use exit 14 (Columbia Road-Dorchester-South Boston)

Church parking: Sunday parking is allowed and free at any metered spaces. Choose a space on nearby Washington Street or West Brookline Street, or on Shawmut Avenue where the church is located.

Explore Upgrades to Quincy Street Pocket Park at June 9 Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

All community members are invited to join a ribbon cutting ceremony for Quincy Street Park (14 Quincy St.) on Tuesday, June 9, at 2 p.m. The ribbon cutting celebrates modern updates to the almost 15-year-old park that will help it continue to serve as an oasis for its community.

Somerville's Parks and Urban Forestry Division (PSUF) worked with landscape architects to upgrade the park to better serve community needs - including replacing the park's wooden boardwalk with a custom concrete path and removing three invasive maple trees to make way for native tree plantings.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held Wednesday, June 10, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Renovations funded by Somerville's Community Preservation Act (CPA), which provides \$7 million in funding each year to support open space, recreation, historic preservation, and affordable housing projects. To learn more, visit somervillema.gov/cpa.

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

Winter Hill Bank CEO Sandra L. McGoldrick to retire; Thomas P. Sullivan Jr. named successor

Winter Hill Bank announces that President and CEO Sandra L. McGoldrick will retire after more than three decades of leadership, and that Executive Vice President and Chief Lending Officer Thomas P. Sullivan Jr. has been named her successor.

McGoldrick, who has served as President and CEO since 1992, has guided the bank through decades of change while preserving its identity as a community institution. A lifelong Somerville resident, she has remained deeply engaged in civic, nonprofit, and business organi-



Succeeding Winter Hill Bank CEO Thomas P. Sullivan Jr.

zations throughout the region. Following a wonderful celebration with colleagues, customers, community partners, and friends, Winter Hill Bank is honored to recognize McGoldrick as she retires as President and CEO after many years of dedicated service.

"Serving Winter Hill Bank has been one of the greatest honors of my life," McGoldrick said. "I am deeply grateful to our customers, our board, our employees, and our community partners for the trust and support they have shown me throughout the years. Winter Hill Bank has always been about relationships, service, and community, and I know that strong foundation will continue well into the future."

The bank also announced that Sullivan will succeed McGoldrick. He brings more than 30 years of experience to the role, with expertise in lending compliance, operations, product development, policy, reporting, and management. Sullivan has served Winter Hill Bank since 1992, advancing through a series of lending and operational leadership roles. Most recently, he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Lending Officer.

"Tom's experience, judgment, and deep knowledge of Winter Hill Bank make him the right person to lead the bank into its next chapter," McGoldrick said. "He un-

derstands what makes this institution special, and I have every confidence in his ability to build on our legacy of service and community commitment."

"I am honored to succeed Sandra and to lead Winter Hill Bank," Sullivan said. "Her leadership has left a meaningful mark on this institution and on the communities it serves. Having spent much of my career here, I understand the values that define the bank and look forward to building on that foundation while continuing to serve our customers and community."

Sullivan holds bachelor's and associate degrees in business administration and management studies from the New England College of Finance, graduating summa cum laude and cum laude, respectively. He is a member of the Eastern Massachusetts Compliance Network and the Massachusetts Bankers Association, and has participated in community efforts, including the Lowell Transitional Living Center, the Tewksbury Community Pantry, and fundraising for Multiple Sclerosis research.

Founded in 1906, Winter Hill Bank has built its reputation on personal service, strong local relationships, and a commitment to the communities it serves. The bank recently earned its seventh consecutive "Outstanding" rating



Retiring Winter Hill Bank CEO Sandra L. McGoldrick.

under the Community Reinvestment Act, reflecting its continued support for community development lending, affordable housing finance, and accessible banking services.

About Winter Hill Bank

Winter Hill Bank is a community bank headquartered in Somerville, Massachusetts. Since 1906, the bank has remained committed to providing personal service, trusted financial solutions, and support for the individuals, families, businesses, and organizations it serves.

East Washington Safety Improvements Project kickoff meeting

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

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

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

Where? The meeting will be held virtually on Zoom. Visit somervillema.gov/eastwashington to attend.

At this meeting, city staff will introduce the project and provide residents with the

opportunity to ask questions and share their experiences.

Project Overview and Timeline

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

The East Washington Street Safety Improvements project is a "quick-build project," which means that all of the work can be done without digging or making major structural changes to the street (such as moving sidewalk curbs or changing the height of the road).

Instead, the city will use materials that are quicker to install, like signs, vertical plastic posts, and paint markings on the street. This approach allows us to deliver safety improvements faster and more affordably than full street reconstruction.

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

How to Get Involved

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

- + Online and in-person surveys
- + Street outreach with neighborhood pop-ups and tabling at community events
- + Direct outreach to local businesses

+ Local stakeholder meetings with residents of Cobble Hill Apartments, seniors at the Ralph and Jenny Center, among other local community groups and businesses.

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

Questions and comments can be submitted at any point by emailing transportation@somervillema.gov and by calling 311 (617-666-3311).

Visit somervillema.gov/eastwashington to learn more about the project and stay up to date.

Water and Sewer rates to increase for residents

By Harry Kane

Water and sewer rates are rising across Massachusetts as a result of EPA-mandated infrastructure upgrades and operational costs. In the City of Somerville, both water and sewer rates are likely to increase by 15 percent this fiscal year.

A public hearing was held on May 28 to present the FY 2027 water and sewer rate proposal and discuss the impending impact on Somerville's system.

"This is critical work that our field teams deliver," said Michael Richards, Director of Finance and Administration for the Department of Infrastructure and Asset Management.

A 15 percent increase to water and sewer volumetric usage charges is determined on actual consumption, but the base charges will remain the same static rate. Those charges are calculated by meter size.

At the hearing, Richards talked about the dedicated teams for both water and sewer, who are in the field attending to calls from constituents and monitoring water samples for contaminants. Their mission is to provide vital life-sustaining services that include delivering safe drinking water, safely handling sewage and stormwater,

and providing on-demand fire protection.

There are 116 miles of water mains, 183 miles of sewer mains, 4,800+ manholes, 3,600+ catch basins, 1,600+ fire hydrants, and 29,000+ water and sewer connections.

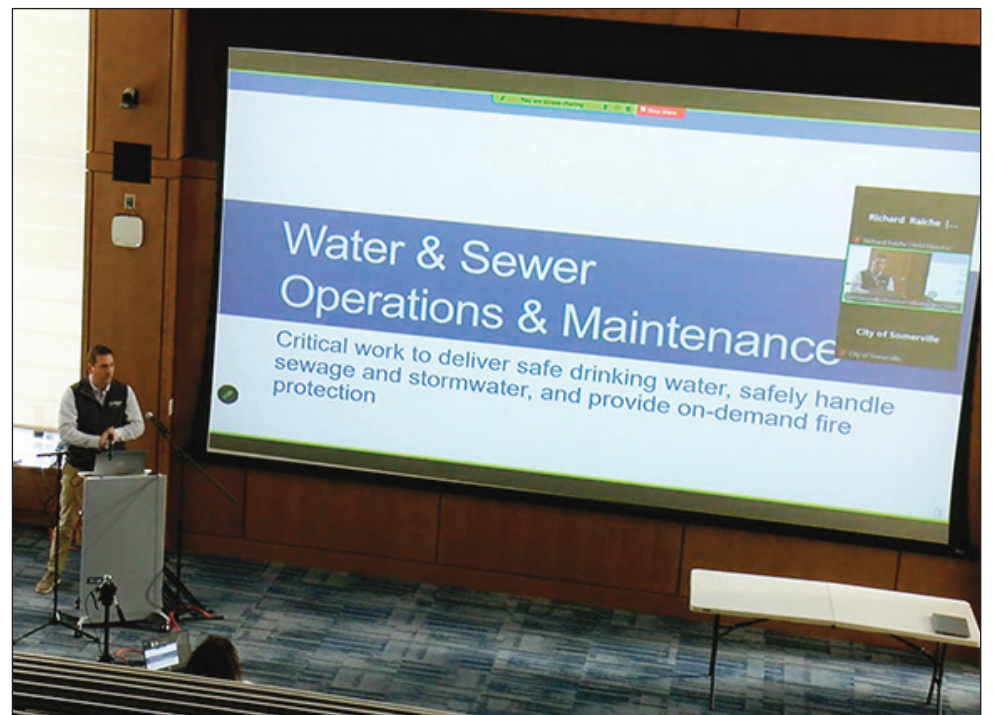
Richards said a "substantial" part of Somerville's sewer infrastructure is very old, which is resulting in rising maintenance and material costs.

After the initial presentation, Richard Raiche, Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management, spoke about the city's capital investment plan, which is the primary driver for future rate increases.

About 90 percent of the pipes are over 50 years old and 70 percent are over 100 years old, he explained. "That gives rise to a couple different problems," said Raiche.

Many of these old pipes pose a risk, he said, and with an outdated system, the city would fail to achieve regulatory and service goals. Addressing these concerns is now crucial to fulfilling regulatory requirements, improving the level of service, mitigating flooding, and reducing risk.

The city's goal is to stabilize rates and make them predictable for ratepayers, he explained. Capital projects and the resulting debt service have become the primary driver for these rate hikes.



Water and sewer rates in the city are expected to be raised by 15 percent in the coming fiscal year.

The debt service coverage ratio and the debt service-to-revenue ratio are closely monitored core financial metrics. "As we project out what our capital projects are, we have to keep those metrics within certain parameters for us to keep our bond rating," said Raiche.

EPA-mandated infrastructure upgrades will aim to eliminate combined sewer overflows in order to protect waterways.

The combined sewer overflow (CSO) control plan will cost an estimated \$1.29 billion, according to the city. The large-scale infrastructure overhaul will include sewer separation, new storage tanks, and upgraded conveyance systems.

"The combined sewer overflow is going to be the biggest driver for sewer rates for essentially the next generation," said Raiche.

Explore designs for Somerville Ave. safety improvements open house

Curious about the city's plans to address travel safety concerns on Somerville Ave.? Join the Mobility Division on Tuesday, June 9, for an open house sharing early designs to deliver a safer travel environment on Somerville Ave between Elm and Bow Streets.

When? Tuesday, June 9, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. (Inclement weather date: Wednesday, June 10)

Where? Conway Park, 550 Somerville Ave.

Community input on safety concerns and transportation priorities was gathered last summer through public meetings, street outreach pop-ups, feedback surveys, visits with local businesses, and more.

At the open house, community members can explore different stations describing aspects of the design and talk directly to the project team about their questions and comments.

If community members cannot attend, there will be multiple other ways to share feedback such as through an online feedback survey, virtual office hours, street outreach pop-ups and more.

Visit sommervillema.gov/sommervilleavenue for more details.

More About the Project

The Somerville Avenue Quick Build Safety Improvements project will bring a range of safety improvements to Somerville Avenue (between Elm Street and Bow Street) including but not limited to:

- + Crosswalk Improvements + Protected Bike Lanes + Bus Stop Improvements + Parking regulation changes

It is a quick-build project and does not involve street reconstruction. Instead, the street will be redesigned and safety improved through the use of painted pavement markings, signage, and flex posts, among other potential materials.

In addition to the community feedback and data gathered, this effort is informed by Somerville's commitment to Vision Zero (a commitment to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injury) and the City's Bicycle Network Plan (a roadmap to expanding bicycle safety and features across the city).



Somerville Police launch Co-Response Pilot Program

This week, the Somerville Police Department (SPD) launched its Co-Response Pilot Program. The initiative will provide a proactive, real-time co-response by police and a public health professional for calls involving individuals who may be experiencing a mental or behavioral health crisis.

“The launch of this pilot is the result of years of intense community and cross-departmental work that identified a need and sought to address it,” said Mayor Jake Wilson. “At the root of the program is a desire to make sure our community members are safe and connected to the care they need.”

How the Co-Response Pilot Works

The co-responder, currently a staff member with the Community Outreach Help & Recovery (COHR) program, will be on duty to respond with SPD officers during two four-hour blocks each week. The co-responder will be dispatched with an officer when certain pre-determined 911 call types are received, which might involve mental health, substance use, welfare checks, and various conflicts or disturbances.

During co-response hours, the public health professional can also be requested to respond at the discretion of any SPD officer who determines it would be beneficial upon evaluating a scene.

While the co-responder is not on duty, SPD officers will continue to rely on crisis intervention and de-escalation training to inform responses involving mental or behavioral health crises. As is standard prac-

tice, COHR may follow up after the initial response, and officers can also directly refer an individual to COHR to receive wraparound services.

Connecting to Ongoing Support

After the SPD officer determines that the scene is safe, the co-responder may provide assistance by accompanying the officer to talk to the person in crisis, gathering details to help inform next steps, and/or coordinating immediate care if needed.

For those responses where addiction or behavioral health challenges are present, the co-responder will work with COHR and other partners to provide follow-up and aftercare, with the ultimate goal of creating a robust continuum of care for the person in need.

“The implementation of the co-response pilot is a direct response to our community’s recommendation to advance alternative responses to mental health crises,” said SPD Chief Shumeane Benford. “This initiative builds on COHR’s work, as well as SPD’s Crisis Intervention Training, to help us continue growing our department’s ability to plan safe, impactful response options.”

Implementing Public Safety for All Recommendations

The Co-Response Pilot Program builds on recommendations from the City’s Public Safety for All process, a multi-year initiative led by the Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) to reimagine public safety in Somerville. The initiative also builds on COHR’s long-standing jail



Pilot builds on ongoing follow-up and outreach work to provide direct co-response in real time.

diversion program, which embeds social workers and public health professionals within SPD.

As the pilot program proceeds under initial limited hours, SPD and COHR will collect data about co-response utilization in the city. This data will then help inform a potential permanent, and expanded, co-response program.

“I’m excited to move this to the next phase swiftly and smartly,” said Mayor Wilson. “The point here is to test, learn, get our responders familiar with new systems, and then deliver more fully on this

long-held community goal. There is a real hunger to bring this approach to our city and like many in our community I’m extremely eager to see this happen here.”

Additional Crisis Services: Anyone can receive mental health support by calling or texting 988. 988 is free, confidential, and available 24/7, 365 days a year. Community Behavioral Health Centers (CBHCs) are available across Massachusetts and are open daily for crisis care. CBHC’s also offer 24/7 Mobile Crisis Intervention services, which can be accessed by calling 877-382-1609 any time.

Join the Somerville Arts Council Board

The City of Somerville is seeking two new members representing the genres of literature and visual art, including those with experience in public art, to join the Somerville Arts Council Board. If you’re passionate about literature, visual art, or public art, this is a great opportunity to make an impact.

What is the Somerville Arts Council Board?

The Somerville Arts Council Board plays a crucial role in cultivating and celebrating the creative expressions of the Somerville community. The Board provides guidance on the City’s arts community, advises on the work and policies of the Arts Council, and engages in networking. From September through December, members participate in the adjudication process for a local grant-making program to support arts and culture initiatives within the community.

Who Can Join?

At this time we are specifically seeking artists or members of the general public with a background in literature, visual art, or public art.

What is the Time Commitment?

The Board meets in person on the second Wednesday of each month. Board members help form and run LCC grant juries; this takes additional time in the Fall when there are also two additional meetings concerning the grant program. Members serve a term of up to three years in a volunteer capacity.

What is the Appointment Process?

Members are appointed by the Mayor of Somerville.

How Do I Apply?

Please submit a brief statement of interest explaining why you would like to join the Board and how you feel you can contribute to its work by Wednesday, July 15. We welcome applications from all Somerville residents with diverse experiences, skills, and perspectives.

Where to Apply:

Letters of interest may be submitted via email to Rachel Strutt, Interim Director of the Somerville Arts Council, at rstrutt@somervillema.gov. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis, and must be received by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15, 2026.

The Center for Arts at the Armory awarded \$75,000 Cummings Grant

The Center for Arts at the Armory has been selected as one of 150 nonprofits to receive funding through Cummings Foundation's annual grant program, which awarded \$35 million this year. Chosen through a competitive review process that drew a record 959 applicants, the Somerville-based organization will receive \$75,000 over three years.

The Cummings' grant will support the Somerville Winter Farmers Market (SWFM) [1], one of Arts at the Armory's five signature programs. The SWFM addresses barriers to healthy food access for vulnerable populations in Somerville by providing a SNAP match and accepting SNAP benefits. "Our Farmers Market is a beacon in the community during the winter months and ensures that healthy, locally produced food is available to all regardless of economic status," says Stephanie Scherpf, CEO of Arts at the Armory. "We are fortunate that our market is so well-supported—the Cummings grant is well-timed as we will be cycling out of a 3-year maximum award from The Somerville Health Foundation for SWFM this year."

This year, the Woburn-based Cummings Foundation increased its annual grant program from \$30 million to \$35 million and shifted to fully unrestricted funding, allowing recipients to direct grant dollars where they are needed most.

Foundation executive director and trustee Joyce Vyriotes noted that the changes reflect growing concerns among Greater Boston nonprofits about rising costs, increased demand for services, and sustained uncertainty around public funding.

"Nonprofit professionals are closest to the challenges facing their communities, making them best positioned to determine where and how new funds will drive the greatest impact," said Vyriotes. "By providing increased, flexible funding, we hope to strengthen organizations' long-term stability and help them respond to evolving community needs."

This year's grant recipients represent a wide range of causes, including housing and food insecurity, education, workforce development, healthcare, mental health services, social justice, immigrant support, and youth programming.

The annual grant program supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties, as well as Brookline, Dedham, Milton, Needham, Quincy, and Wellesley.

Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation reinvests in the areas where it owns commercial real estate. Its buildings are all managed at no cost to the Foundation by its affiliate, Cummings Properties, a Woburn-based commercial developer that leases and manages 11 million square feet of debt-free space. All rental profits support the Foundation.

Since its founding, Cummings Foundation has awarded more than \$650 million to Greater Boston nonprofits. The complete list of this year's grant recipients, along with additional information about the Foundation and its grant programs, is available at CummingsFoundation.org.

About The Center for Arts at the Armory
The Center for Arts at the Armory




(CAA) is a non-profit organization that resides in a historic Armory building, serving Somerville and the Greater Boston community through arts, cultural, and community events, exhibitions, markets, classes, and more. The mission of Arts at the Armory is to provide an inclusive and accessible venue that creates opportunities for artists and cultural workers, brings diverse audiences together, enriches and transforms lives, and promotes the creative economy. In addition to the many events that CAA hosts that are produced independently of CAA, CAA has five signature programs: The Spotlight Series, The Performance Opportunity Program (POP), The Feet Keep the Beat Percussive Dance Festival, The Somerville

Winter Farmers Market, and ROOTED Armory Cafe Visual Arts Exhibitions. About Cummings Foundation
Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings of Winchester, Mass., and has grown to become one of the largest private foundations in New England. In addition to its annual grant program, the Foundation directly operates two not-for-profit retirement communities: New Horizons at Marlborough and New Horizons at Choate, in Woburn. Additional information is available at CummingsFoundation.org.
The Center for Arts at the Armory is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143.

Dojo @ SOMERNOVA block party

The Dojo @ SOMERNOVA brought the city together for a community block party on May 29 at 24 Dane St. – The Alley. They got the whole block active with a bouncy house, video game truck, ice cream truck, music and live performances, community speeches, resource tables, and prizes. It was a celebration of community, connection, culture, and good vibes all in one place.





Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week

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

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

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


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

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

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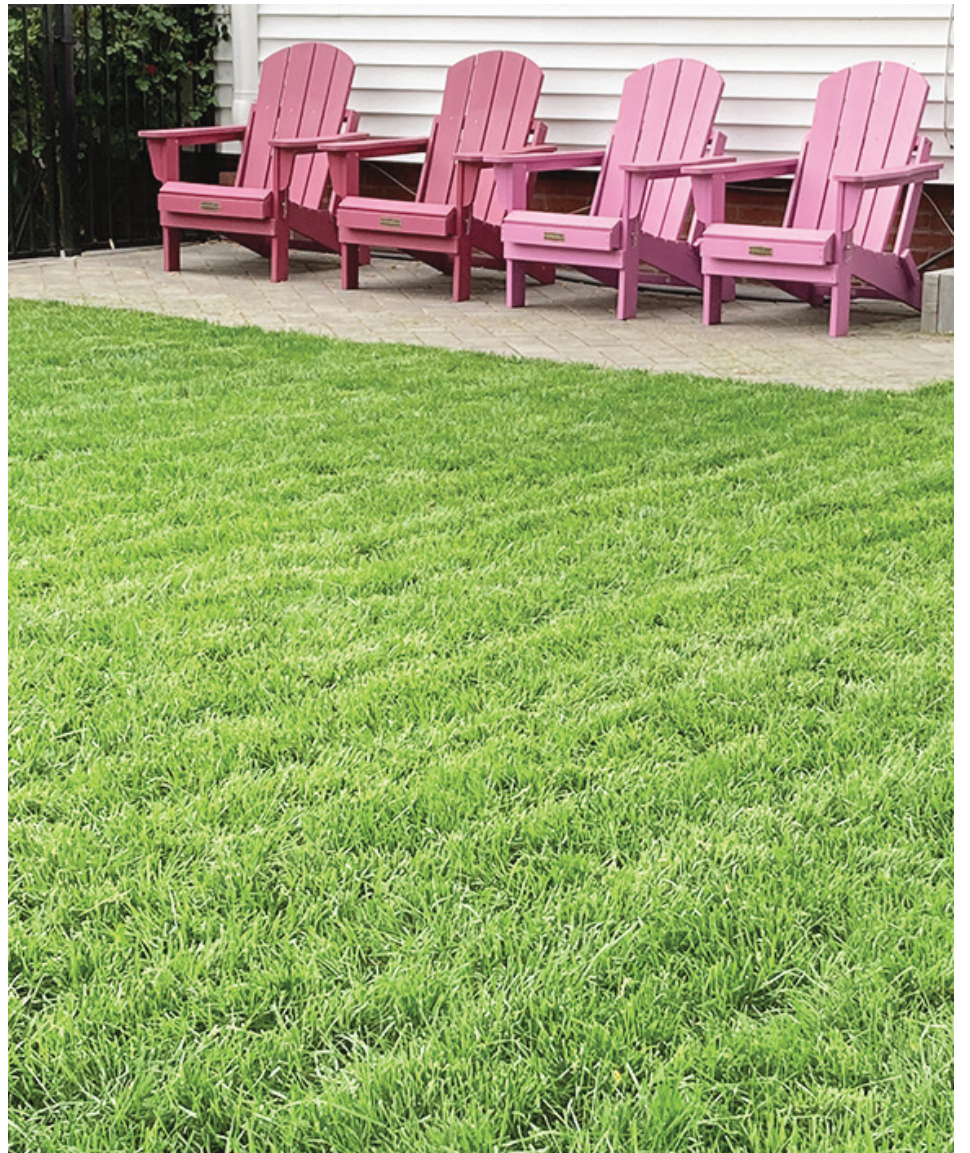
BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER 
By Bobbygeorge Potaris

How do astronomers find asteroids headed toward earth? With a collide-o-scope.

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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



The Somerville Riviera... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

June 3

- 1098 – Christian Crusaders of the First Crusade seize Antioch, Turkey.
- 1539 – Hernando De Soto claims Florida for Spain.
- 1864 – Some 7,000 Union troops are killed within 30 minutes during the Battle of Cold Harbor in Virginia.
- 1888 – The classic baseball poem *Casey at the Bat*, written by Ernest L. Thayer, is published in the *San Francisco Examiner*.
- 1918 – The Finnish Parliament ratifies a treaty with Germany.
- 1923 – In Italy, dictator Benito Mussolini grants women the right to vote.
- 1928 – Manchurian warlord Zhang Zuolin dies as a result of a bomb blast set off by the Japanese.
- 1938 – The German Third Reich votes to confiscate so-called “degenerate art.”
- 1965 – Astronaut Edward White becomes the first American to walk in space.
- 1974 – Charles Colson, an aide to President Richard Nixon, pleads guilty to obstruction of justice.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Council, Community Action Agency of Somerville, Somerville Community Corporation, Somerville Community Land Trust, Mystic Learning Center, and Green & Open Somerville. #ARTSTAYSHERE. Free w/RSVP: https://somervillecommunityartsforum.eventbrite.com.

Veterans Coffee Hour, June 17. Local veterans, their families, and community members are invited to come together to connect, share stories, and access veteran resources, all over a cup of coffee. This event will take place on Wednesday, June 17, from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m., at Central Library (79 Highland Ave.).

Somerville's annual Water System Flushing Program began Monday, May 18, and continues through late October. This program consists of flushing pipes at high velocities to clean water mains and maintain the highest possible water quality. Flushing will take place on Mondays and Thursdays between 6 p.m. and midnight to minimize potential disruptions to water service. Temporary drops in water pressure and/or discolored water can occur. In these cases, though the water may be discolored, it is safe to drink. Until the water runs clear, it is advisable to avoid washing laundry, especially white fabrics. Learn more at: somervillema.gov/hydrantflushing.

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

Taste of Somerville, one of the region's signature community food festivals, returns on Wednesday, June 10, bringing together more than 50 restaurants, breweries, bakeries, beverage makers, and local food businesses for an evening celebrating Somerville's food scene. Taste of Somerville 2026, featuring 50+ restaurants, breweries, bakeries, beverage

makers, and local food businesses. 5 – 8 p.m., Boynton Yards, Somerville. For more information and tickets, visit www.tasteofsomerville.org.

The Gilman Square Neighborhood Council has announced that Somerville Mayor Jake Wilson will be coming to Gilman Square next month to share his vision for the Homans Site. This is the empty city-owned lot at the T stop, at 352 Medford Street. Come hear about plans for development, bring your questions for the mayor about his vision for the site, and enjoy some early evening refreshments with your neighbors. The GSNC continues to advocate with the city for development of the site, so please feel free to reach out to the board with any feedback you would like included at board@gilmansquarenc.org. Monday, June 8, 5:30 p.m. at the Homans Site, 352 Medford St. Pizza Provided.

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

The Council on Aging Cultural Series Event takes place on Thursday, June 4, 11 a.m., 167 Holland St. John Clark and his Great American Music Experience presents State Songs of the USA. Many state songs are barely known by the residents of that state. But most of this program's state songs will be familiar to everyone in the room. Believe me, you'll learn a lot about the history of many of our states and of our great country from the back stories of the writing of these tunes. So come on along and celebrate our nation's 250th birthday. And sing or

hum along if the mood strikes you or the spirit moves. \$2 per person. Lunch will be served after the performance.

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

Somerville community members are invited to the "Slice of the City" spring meet-up series. This new series of family-friendly pizza parties in the park offers attendees a new way to connect and engage with city leaders and staff, local elected officials, as well as neighbors, all while enjoying Somerville's parks. The series continues on Wednesday, June 3, in Ward 3 at Prospect Hill Park (68 Munroe St.) from 5 to 7 p.m. Ward 3 includes northern Union Square, Prospect Hill, Spring Hill, Central Hill, and more. For more information, visit www.somervillema.gov/slice. The Ward 2 Slice of the City has been rescheduled to Wednesday, June 24.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Poet Michael T. Steffen sees his own life flash before his eyes

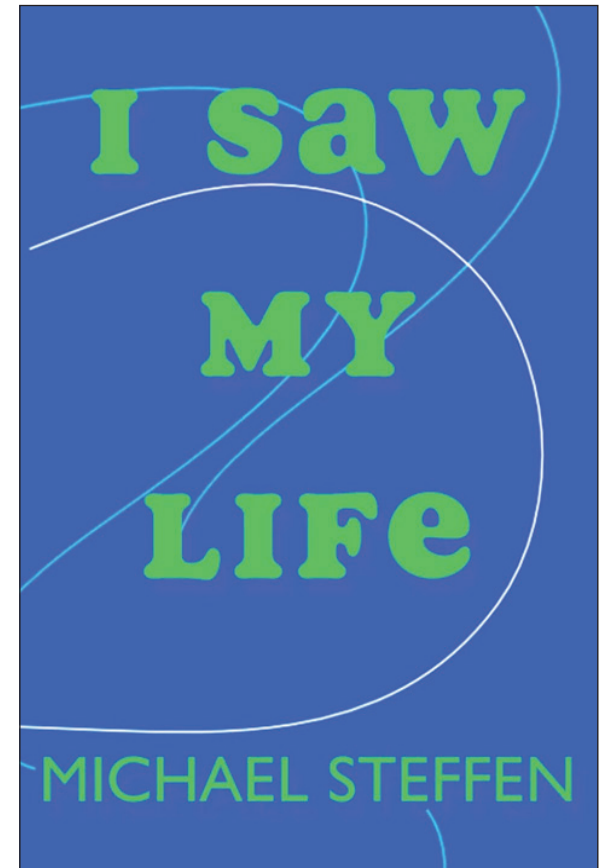
I had the privilege of interviewing the accomplished poet and respected Boston/Cambridge/Somerville literary figure, Michael T. Steffen. Steffen has a new collection out titled *I Saw My Life*. His publisher (Lily Poetry Review Press) writes of this collection:

"From the saying I saw my life flash before my eyes, the book's title announces thresholds, things and moments of arrest and luminosity, resplendent, but also shocking as a near-death experience might be, and fleeting as any flash may be. The stars in their constellations at night glimpsed up through leaves of a tree, the drama of a scull tipped in a powerful mid-river current, a woven shopping handbag, such objects in their places and handling evoke the weights and sensations revisiting the body in reflective memory, at the heart of poetry's deeply personal yet widely shared and recognized expressions."

Doug Holder: In *The Bell Jar*, Sylvia Plath writes, "I saw my life branching out before me like the green fig tree in the story. From the tip of every branch, like a fat purple fig, a wonderful future beckoned and winked." Your book is titled *I Saw My Life*. How would you respond to Plath's quote in the context of your own collection?

Michael T. Steffen: The title for my new book comes more generally from the saying "I saw my life flash before my eyes." The narrator utters that at one point in the poem, about the heart attack he has suffered. At other points in the poem the meditation shifts to a different meaning of a near death experience and comes to the consolation that all of life is lived near death. That is what being mortal means. On a lighter level, the poem wanders with a father in the wake of his daughter's leaving for college, and she plays the little twist on her parents of paying an unannounced visit home that weekend. The narrator and his wife are also preparing to leave the apartment they've lived in since the girl was very young. So it's a coming-to-middle-age scenario, revisiting a world that is slipping through my fingers. You with your current huge life move from Somerville out to Revere might sympathize a good deal.

The Sylvia Plath quote is pertinent, I do really admire her poetry. Figuratively, when she talks about the ramifying fig branch, I think it speaks to the method of my writing, how the meditation of the sections of the long poem proceed to constellate and affirm the vital diversity of correspondences in the weft of the author's love, his life, his relationships as wells as his orientation in his home town. There is a narrative movement, in the poem, from crisis to acceptance, that I'd like to underscore here, in my belief that the "narrative" speaking voice and all that unfolds from a sequence of events in a narrative poem or short story



or novel provide a rich source of feeling and personal revelation. I think that element has been underplayed or shoved to the back of the Modern long poem, in our preferences intellectual confidence in Cubism or Dada, the simultaneity of all time— an expression from Joyce – in post-Modern times.

DH: In your poem *Atlases* it seems you feel like Atlas to a Zeus-like father. From speaking to you over the years it seems you and your father have very different sensibilities. In most father/son relationships there is a love/hate component. Your take?

MTH: There is no hate in my relationship with my father. As a well-provided for son in every material and educational respect, there was a petty filial want to blame him for everything in my life that turned south. But I'm way over that now. We enjoy talking about sports, he was a true athlete, a good football player through college, a Golden Gloves Midwest welter-weight champion in boxing, and on the U.S. Army boxing team in Germany, then had a short semi-pro boxing career before the boss (my mother) made him hang up his gloves and stick to his job as a salesman in residential and then industrial glass.

The poem *Atlases* evokes his keen interest in Atlas maps, of the United States for when he and my mother began traveling, long before the Internet and GPS, and then abroad. They were large floppy bound print maps that spread easily over a living room coffee table. When I left for England to do my Masters degree, he started collecting maps *Continued on page 23*

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Susan Tepper is a widely published poet, and an accomplished playwright.

PULSING

Under imaginary stars
all starlight gone missing
The sky a sweep
of black ceiling
under which you weep
Is it just a matter of time
When is the prescient
moment to drop
according to the stove clock
Is there actually a stove
with red numbers pulsing
You look out a window
covered in soot
and the next and
all the windows.
If there were stars
you could get a rag
cleaning off the black powder



— Susan Tepper
— Photo by Glenn Bowie

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:

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Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

of Great Britain and then Europe, when I moved to France, as a way I guess of orienting himself in some geographical way to where I was living. I used to think my undertaking in poetry yoked me to an immense disciplinary burden, but now I see it more as any long-term commitment, a relationship, a career, kids, home. The Greek myths often were both poignant and widely relevant. We all might feel like we've been condemned to hold up the weight of the world.

DH: We are often told not to assume the speaker of a poem is the poet itself. At this stage in time did you feel the need to cover the waterfront of your life, so to speak?

MTH: It's the poem of my young life's most intense losses. I worked on it for a long time and it underwent many mutations. In its original form, the manuscript reached over 200 pages. David Ferry read one of those Ur-texts for me and we talked extensively over the next few years about it. There really could have been nobody but David Ferry to dedicate this collection to. I miss his generous attention. I miss him.

Finally, I decided today's readership might feel stretched

with such a grand presentation all in one cover, and the original text splintered into three separate long poems. At the end of the long poem in this book, allusions are made to an uncle of mine and his participation in the D-Day battle at Normandy. I did go on from England to teach in Normandy and then closer to Paris for a good ten years before returning to the States to write. At this point I just feel a deep gratitude to Eileen Cleary and Michael McInnis at Lily Poetry Review Press for publishing this book. It helps me think the other two longer poems – which are more in the way of historical narratives– may attract interest and notice and that one day – the long vision of my journey in poetry– will see the publication of the trilogy.

DH: What do you hope is the cumulative effect of this book on a prospective reader?

MTH: My simple hope is that readers will enjoy the language and the moments of the poem, maybe appreciate the dilemmas the writer finds himself struggling with. Poetry and literature have helped me feel less alone on the journey of my life. I'm prone to inwardness and solitude. Books and the voices I find in them keep the interior con-

versation lively and relevant. They help me belong.

from *I Saw My Life*, section 26

The men arrived and took the furniture
out of the living room, leaving the space
an emptiness of eggshell,
of abandoned
walls with their reach up to the lofty ceiling.
They'd taped up curtains of translucent plastic,
themselves becoming shadows with the tools
that tapped and scraped. A power sander whined.
A powder of old surfaces was kept
from the adjacent kitchen as it fell
and drifted onto the plastic, onto the paper
taped on the hardwood floors as I imagined
a soul being emptied of its residues—

— Michael T. Steffen

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