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## Public informed on details of supervised consumption sites



Fenway Health recently held a community meeting explaining the uses and benefits of a proposed supervised consumption site in Somerville.

By Luda Tang

The City of Somerville and Fenway Health held a community meeting concerning supervised consumption sites (SCSs) on Wednesday, June 1. Its aim was to inform Somerville residents on what a supervised consumption site is and how it could help with the fatal drug overdose situation in the community.

The event was hosted by Carl Sciortino, from Fenway Health, an organization that is missioned in serving the LGBTQ+ communities and other underserved communities, including people who use drugs. Since January, Fenway Health has served as the advisory committee to explore how supervised consumption sites can work in Somerville.

According to Somerville Mayor *Continued on page 4*

## 'Space Invaders' land at the Somerville Museum

By Michael McHugh

From June 3 to July 9, The Somerville Museum will be presenting Space Invaders, a collaborative community art project curated by audio-visual artist Rook Murao, aka SRCFLP, alongside artists Hayato Kawai (Supanoba), Ian Condry (Leftroman), Charles "Charlo" Choueiri (Mr. Improbable), and Mieko Murao.

This immersive art experience explores themes of cultural programming, language, xenophobia, unfamiliarity, and more through emerging audio-visual mediums such as projection mapping and spatial sound.

The showroom has been given a deliberately alien feeling environment, with the sounds of black hole sonifications playing through numerous purposefully placed speakers and colorful,

*Continued on page 14*



The Somerville Museum is hosting Space Invaders, a collaborative community art project exploring themes of alienation in its many forms. — Photos courtesy of the Somerville Museum

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Tonight, **June 8**, at 6:00 p.m. the city will hold a **FY23 Budget meeting** to discuss Exec. Admin, SomerStat, Arts, Elections, Sustainability, Comms, 311, SomerViva, PEG, IT. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of a **City Council Committee** will be conducted via remote participation. Copy & paste the following link into your internet browser to view this meeting live: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4684695113424439565>. View agenda, video stream, and minutes at [http://SomervilleCityMA.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail\\_Meeting.aspx?ID=3572](http://SomervilleCityMA.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=3572)

\*\*\*\*\*  
Join in for a free, outdoor dance party for all **LGBTQ individuals and allies** on **Saturday, June 11** (rain date June 18), 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., in **Union Sq. Plaza**. Celebrate **Pride Month** in Somerville with a **dance party** in Union Square. **Team DJ Live**, drag performances by **Amanda Playwith** and **Karisma Geneva Jackson-Tae**, photobooth with **Cindy Weisbart**, **LGBTQ+ organizations** will be tabling including **Respond Inc.** and **CHA**, **LGBTQ+ craft vendors** including **ART By Omayda**, **Colectiva Wellbeing** and more. This event is free and open to all **LGBTQ+ individuals and allies**.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Mayor **Katjana Ballantyne** has announced that **Karin Carroll, MPH**, has been hired as the **City of Somerville’s Director of Health and Human Services**. In addition to overseeing the ongoing work of the department, Carroll will be *Continued on page 9*

# Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of June 8 – June 14 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> <i>June 8</i>	Rain	81°/60°	70%	65%	SW 12 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> <i>June 9</i>	Rain	73°/56°	97%	74%	SE 16 mph
 <b>Friday</b> <i>June 10</i>	Partly Cloudy	77°/60°	5%	3%	WSW 12 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> <i>June 11</i>	Rain	73°/59°	33%	22%	SSE 11 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> <i>June 12</i>	Cloudy	75°/56°	22%	13%	E 10 mph
 <b>Monday</b> <i>June 13</i>	Rain	69°/57°	39%	27%	S 11 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> <i>June 14</i>	Partly Cloudy	71°/59°	25%	19%	NNE 9 mph

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

## TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

### Response to: Somerville’s housing crisis: How we can achieve housing stability for our community

LAN says:

I know rents are going up in our neighborhood because the city has done nothing to help with the massive flooding that has taken out all our heating systems and hot water systems (6 of them in my building alone) TWICE! No insurance coverage and had to put up our tenants in hotels. The taxes, water & sewer bills are through the roof. So yes the city is the cause of my tenants rent going up in our case.

Barb says:

Don’t forget the impact of homebuyers driving up prices using family wealth. Makes it impossible for local working families to compete against well-heeled folks moving in.

Courtney says:

Summer, Laurel St buildings were bought by the same family as Sherbourne Court Apartments on Broadway by the Grossmans. Yes, remember them Grossman Lumber. Yes, the rents have gone up atleast \$500 or more during the pandemic. All down hill since the sale. Old buildings now have pets no restrictions rottweilers, pits ect. You can hear everything every step, icy during the winters and of course the RATS. It’s a shame 55 years in Somerville and getting priced out.

BMac says:

The irony of those who didn’t think twice when they displaced people in the 90s, aughts and teens complaining about being displaced now is truly epic.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

# The Somerville Times

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Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

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Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner

Arts Editor – Doug Holder

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Photographer: Claudia Ferro

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Arrivadecci La Ronga



La Ronga Bakery has been gone for a while. Now the entire building is also gone. I've heard that they are building a 12-story research building in its place. I don't know if that's true or not but it still means we lost one of Somerville's most loved businesses, again.

La Contessa, Patsy's, Roma and now La Ronga are all former loved bakery's that



are now history. The following are comments and memories of La Ronga bakery via social media.

"Waiting in line for rolls for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Also, their lunch specials. Miss this place."

"Day old loaves of scali for a quarter."

"I remember my grandfather stopping there every Sunday to get a French bread. Also, getting French rolls every Thanksgiving!"

"The warm loaf of French bread we shared with the neighborhood kids walking home after going to the ice-skating rink on a Saturday morning."

"The aroma ahhhhhh."

"Near closing I'd stop in to get a couple slices of pizza. They would usually give me about four or what was left. As a young child when they first opened, my mother would send me there with 60 cents, six slices 10 cents each. Always friendly and looked forward to going in."

"I surely remember the LaRonga, but I remember when it was Parziale Bakery. My brother-in-law Richie's father was



the owner."

"Sometimes when I was young and we had pasta my dad would drive there to get a couple loaves of Italian bread. It was still warm and we would eat several slices before we even got home."

"As a kid playing at Conway Park, if we were hungry the bakery staff always gave us free hot rolls. I can still smell them. Awesome people making an awesome product."

"Junior High. Going skating every Friday night. Buying a warm loaf of French bread for a quarter before getting on the bus to get home. The whole night costed a dollar. Bus to and from, skating and the bread. Loved those Friday nights. And yes, now I feel very old. Lol."

"The delicious aroma. My grade school friend Linda G worked there for a number of years."

"Hot bread while waiting at the bus stop-after spending hours at the skating rink."

"It was 25 cents for a whole fresh hot loaf! Made waiting for the bus in the cold bearable."

"Had their rolls every Sunday, had to have my eggs over easy so I could dip a buttered French roll in the yolk. Oh, and I always got a free scali when I bought cold cuts over \$10."

I'd give anything to see that red "hot bread" sign at Roma bakery across from the old Bradlees on Somerville Avenue. Now La Ronga becomes just another tasty memory.



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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

# Beer can the weapon of choice

Somerville police officers were dispatched to a Broadway location last Friday afternoon on reports of an assault.

Dispatch advised the officers that a man with a beard and a backpack had thrown beer cans at another man and that the suspect had fled down Wheatland St.

Upon their arrival, the officers recognized the suspect as Chris Hicks, who they were familiar with from past interactions.

Hicks reportedly began arguing with the officers and eventually took off running down Wheatland Street.

The officers advised dispatch of this and made chase. They were able to catch Hicks, who then was taken to the ground after striking one of the officers in the chest, just below the throat with a closed fist.

During this struggle one of the officer's shoulders was pulled from the socket. Another officer deployed his pepper spray and they were able to handcuff Hicks. Medical aid was asked for Hicks and the assaulted officer. Water from the cruiser was retrieved to pour on Hicks' face as he was requesting it due to the pepper spray.

The victim of the initial assault stated that he had gotten out of the car in the Winter Hill Market parking lot and saw Hicks standing on the sidewalk and appeared to be "out of it."

The victim asked Hicks if he was okay and he noticed he was drinking a beer. He told Hicks that he should not be drinking out in public and walked towards the New Dragon Star Restaurant, then noticed Hicks following him.

When the victim exited the restaurant, Hicks reportedly threatened to kill him, and threw an open beer can at him, just missing and hitting the car, splashing him with beer.

When officers looked for the beer can it was not found, however the victim's shirt was wet and they could smell the beer on him.

Hicks was transported to Cambridge Hospital per his request and the injured officer was also transported there.

Hicks was subsequently booked on charges of resisting arrest, assault and battery on a public employee, assault with a dangerous weapon, and on warrant charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, indecent exposure, furnishing a false ID to arresting officer, assault and battery with a bodily substance, assault and battery on a disabled or person over 60, assault and battery, assault and battery on a correction officer, and assault.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

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## SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

<b>Arrests:</b>	charges of resisting arrest, assault and battery on a public employee, assault with a dangerous weapon, and on warrant charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, indecent exposure, furnishing a false ID to arresting officer, assault and battery with a bodily substance, assault and battery on a disabled or person over 60, assault and battery, assault and battery on a correction officer, and assault.
Chris Hicks, June 3, 12:56 p.m., arrested at Broadway on	

Public informed on details of supervised consumption sites

CONT. FROM PG 1

Katjana Ballantyne, the rates of drug overdoses in Somerville deserve the community's attention. "We lose anywhere from 15 to 20 people to fatal overdoses every year," the mayor said during the meeting. Based on a needs assessment and feasibility study in 2021, Matthew Mitchell, the Director of Prevention Services, also pointed out that Somerville overdose rates increased 5 percent between 2012 and 2018.

Moreover, even though Prevention Services launched and developed various activities on preventing drug overdoses, "the 2021 data from the state shows there were still 14 individuals in 2020 and at least four from the past month passed away from the overdose," Mitchell said.

The establishment of SCSs might be a solution for Mayor Ballantyne's new vision of comprehensive services, public health solutions, and a future with zero fatal overdoses.

Miriam Harris, the Assistant Professor at Boston University School of Medicine, and an addiction expert at the Boston Medical Center, conducted the introduction of the SCSs' function. She first explained the concept of harm reduction, whose practice has been applied a lot in daily life. For example, using sunscreen on hot days, and using condoms to control pregnancy or prevent other sexually transmitted diseases. Instead of the traditional way of policing drug users, harm reduction offers an alternative strategy that relies on showing respect, dignity, and compassion.

The design of supervised consumption sites is one concrete form of harm reduction. It provides a safe and stress-free space for people who use drugs to go to while maintaining a sense of dignity. There will also be access to professionals to educate them about the potential harms brought on by substance overuse, and prevent fatal overdose situations.

Some community members might be concerned about whether such sites actually encourage drug overuses. But this has not been the case. "In fact, it's really quite the opposite. They don't encourage young people or any other people to start using drugs," Dr. Harris said.

This program might be able to save lives and also gain opportunities to establish new relationships with people who are not accessing the current services.

Sam Reiver, the Executive Director of OnPoint NYC, also shared his view on what a safe consumption site is striving for. With the ongoing program in New York City, the first city to operate such sites, Reiver said the site is there to keep people alive. Considering the fact that most people who use drugs do so for self-medicated pain or mental health conditions, the site can greatly reduce the percentage of drug users who die due to the fatal overdose.

Reiver added that the site can provide laundry service and showers, which can mean a lot for homeless people. This kind of service corresponds to the concept of dignity and respect.

Carrie Richgels, from Fenway Health, shared the questions gathered from the community members to have genuine concerns and engaged in discussion at the end of the meeting. Residents are concerned about issues such as the staffing in supervised consumption sites, the possible location of the sites, how to make it equitable for neighbors, and whether there will be an increase in crime.

The final decision on the location of supervised consumption sites have not been made yet. But the city of Somerville and Fenway Health will listen to the voices from the community and include them in the project.

Richgels concluded the meeting by sharing what people can do to make the project work. "Share what you've learned tonight. Talk to your neighbors. I think the only way this will happen successfully is if the community has an active and open dialogue," Richgels said.



# Mayor Ballantyne’s first Pride flag raising as mayor

By Mina Rose Morales

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne raised the Pride Flag for the first time as mayor on Wednesday, June 1, at the City Hall Concourse. The mayor spoke about LGBTQ progress in Somerville. She reflected on how Somerville supports gender and sexuality alliance clubs in schools to create safe inclusive spaces. She also plans on expanding new existing programs and piloting new community-based initiatives. She plans on funding a full-time LGBTQ coordinator for the city.

“Oh, you know you want people to feel valued, you want residents to feel safe, and that their community supports them,” the mayor said when asked about the Somerville LGBTQ community.

After a brief pause, “Raising the Pride flag does that,” added Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

Despite the progress in Somerville, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne acknowledged more work needs to be done and the legislative attacks on LGBTQ individuals nationwide.

After the mayor finished her speech, host Jack Treanor introduced two K-8 teachers, Jenna

DiNovis and Kara Dodd. Both teachers are residents of Somerville. They spoke about how kids in the LGBTQ community are disproportionately affected by mental health.

“Fifty percent of gender queer students in Somerville reported that they thought about suicide while 25% attempted it,” said DiNovis and Dodd.

Host Jack Treanor, who is the LGBTQ liaison for the city, mentioned in a private interview that LGBTQ kids are still bullied in schools. “People have to remember that homophobia and transphobia are still very present in Somerville. We cannot stop fighting against it,” said Treanor.

Treanor’s position as the LGBTQ liaison for the city is currently part time. His position is one of the tasks Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is working to make a full-time position.

Willie Burnley, Jr., a City Councilor At-Large for Somerville who is also queer, hopes Treanor’s position becomes full time too. Burnley is one of three city councilors who is openly queer. “If we want to help the queer community, then we need to invest our money,” said Burnley Jr.



Mayor Katjana Ballantyne speaking at the Somerville Pride Flag Raising.

— Photos by Mina Rose Morales



City Councilor At-Large Willie Burnley, Jr. in the Somerville City Hall after the Pride flag raising event.



The Pride flag risen at the end of the Pride flag raising ceremony.

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# How to recognize elder self-neglect and provide help

By Susan Pacheco

Change is one of the few constants in life. But sometimes things change for the worse, when a friend or loved one seems to be neglecting their own needs and putting their well-being at-risk.

It's called self-neglect, and assistance is often available if you know the warning signs.

In Massachusetts, self-neglect is defined as older adults or adults with disabilities whose health, safety, or well-being is at-risk because they are not meeting their own essential physical, psychological, or social needs.

Common signs of self-neglect include insufficient food, clothing, shelter, health care, financial concerns, or unsafe housing. Issues like these are not always easy to spot from the outside, but these are common warning signs:

- Weight loss, poor hygiene, bedsores, inappropriate clothing
- Mismanagement of medications or frequent hospitalizations
- Home safety issues, hoarding behavior, lack of proper utilities, unsafe structures
- Eviction or foreclosure
- Wandering
- Unsafe behavior related to smoking, stove usage, or driving
- Unpaid bills or compulsive spending

Self-neglect is considered a form of elder abuse, and it is routinely the most common form of abuse that gets reported locally. Fortunately, there are ways to help.

What can I do to help?

• If you are concerned about someone you are close with, try talking to them to learn more about what is going on in their life. Listening without judgment and showing interest are good ways to start the conversation.

• If you think someone is in immediate danger, call 911 or the Police.

• If there is no immediate danger, but you are concerned about abuse or neglect, call the Mass Elder Abuse Hotline at 1-800-922-2275.

The confidential hotline is a gateway to your local Adult Protective Services program, which can help evaluate the situation and work with the older adult to help reduce risk factors. Adult Protective Services is a social work-based program that alleviates and reduces risk for people age 60 and over. Protective Service Workers work with elders, their family and community agencies to provide medical, mental health, legal and social services.

Elder Abuse Awareness Month June is Elder Abuse Aware-

ness Month. Each June Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) and the Cambridge Council on Aging (COA) work together to distribute information about elder abuse and local resources. We also distribute purple ribbons, which symbolize elder abuse awareness. Join us in spreading awareness by sharing information on social media and using the hashtag #KnowElderAbuse.

Did you know that at least 1 in 10 older adults has experienced some form of abuse, but only one in 14 cases are reported? Elder abuse is an action, or failure to act, that creates harm or significant risk of harm for someone age 60 or over. It can manifest as physical, emotional or sexual abuse as well as neglect or exploitation. Each case is unique, but these are common warning signs:

- Unexplained financial loss
- Unexplained bruises or injuries
- Isolation
- Verbal abuse
- Threats
- Changes in mood or behavior
- Rapid decline in health or mental status
- Sudden confusion
- Unexplained weight loss
- Neglecting Care Needs
- Hesitation to speak openly



Elder abuse is a silent epidemic that impacts older adults across all income levels, cultures, genders, and races. By knowing the signs of abuse and how to help, we can all do our part to help mitigate this silent epidemic.

Susan Pacheco is director of the Cambridge Council on Aging, which

works to promote the health and independence of local older adults by providing meaningful social and recreational options. Norah Al-Weitaid is Director of Adult Protective Services at Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services, a non-profit dedicated to supporting the independence and well-being of older adults, and people with disabilities.

## Local residents fighting against food insecurity

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

The COVID pandemic exacerbated food insecurity across the United States, deeply affecting communities like Somerville. According to a report from the Greater Boston Food Bank, in 2020, one in eight people in the area were expected to experience food insecurity due to the COVID pandemic.

Some locals decided to step up and help their community with community fridges and micro pantries. These refrigerators and pantries, typically located outdoors for easy access, allow people to donate food and take it for free.

Eric Haines and his wife Catherine,

residents of Somerville for the past eight years, are a key part of the Somerville Fridges and Micropantries database and Facebook group. In an email, Haines talked about his involvement with the project and his experiences.

"I love helping people directly share resources with one another," Haines said. "I learned about the community fridges in Somerville through Facebook, then searched around to find those in Cambridge."

Haines began his involvement in the beginning of 2021, while another Somerville resident Kami Ford maintained the database. Once Ford moved out of the city, Haines became the administrator of the site.

"There are certainly more of these boxes and fridges than before COVID hit," Haines said. "The pandemic disrupted normal large-scale food bank and pantry operations. The advantages of the fridges and micro pantries is that they're accessible at all times."

Looking towards the future, Haines hopes to keep community fridges and micro pantries stocked.

"My small contribution at this point is mostly getting information out. Beyond the map, there are about five boxes I can easily visit in the neighborhood and check their status, posting the contents to the public Facebook group," Haines said.

Anyone looking to donate or use their



Community fridges are helping people throughout the region in their struggles with food insecurity.

— Photo courtesy of Eric Haines

local fridges and micro pantries can find more information at <http://bit.ly/book-proj> and the Facebook group Somerville MA Community Fridges & Micropantries Public.







## 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.

## Public Safety Building



By Matthew McLaughlin  
City Council President

I received a lot of feedback on the proposed Public Safety Building (PSB) at 90 Washington Street. Here are a few quick points before I go into more detail:

- The design phase of the project is on hold to facilitate more community input
- That means any proposed designs or cost projections are speculative
- Any vote on the PSB may be years down the road
- All meetings are public and recorded and stored on the city's website here<sup>1</sup>

I consistently advocated to address this long blighted property since 2014, when Corcoran Jennison and Mullens, the owners of Cobble Hill, planned to build a mixed use development. I supported that development and the developers were given permission from the city to build. Mullens then sued Corcoran and Jenni-

son, which stalled the project for years. They still made time to evict all of the businesses at Cobble Hill, depriving seniors and the community of food and a social outlet. No one would have ever cared about their legal battles if they didn't evict the businesses and leave the lot to ruin.

I advocated to seize the long abandoned property by eminent domain for the purposes of building affordable housing, open space and a new food market for seniors. I created this video here<sup>2</sup> to outline every time I've spoken about 90 Washington Street. A written timeline of all my orders going back to 2014 can also be found here<sup>3</sup> as well as a letter I wrote to all Cobble Hill residents here<sup>4</sup>.

The city took 90 Washington Street by eminent domain in 2019, five years after the site was abandoned, for the purpose of building a new Public Safety Building. I led the city council in advocating for more uses than a simple PSB such as affordable housing, open space and a new food market. I also advocated with the council to ensure a public/private partnership that will offset the costs of any PSB and ensure other community needs are met. All of this can be seen in the video and every meeting documented on the subject.

Residents are now receiving fliers advocating to do all the things I've advocated for instead of a PSB, as opposed to the current plan to do it with a PSB. I believe the goal of this misinformation campaign, which is led by Corcoran Jennison's director of development, is to force another costly lawsuit, the third for this site, and obstruct any development of the site. If that happens there will be no PSB, nor will there be affordable housing, open space, a food market, a YMCA or any of the community benefits people are asking for. It will also mean an empty lot for an indefinite period of time. It is unclear to me if the people fliering the neighborhood with this misinformation are aware that they are being used as pawns for developers, but Corcoran Jennison certainly know what they're doing.

Corcoran Jennison already sued the city twice and they and Mullens have sued each other for decades. A judge in the lower court ruling between Corcoran Jennison and Mullens on 90 Washington Street, found here, stated in 2017 that "the principal business of these individuals and their related businesses has been to sue one another." Even after this ruling the Corcoran Jennison and Mullens could have

negotiated a compromise that would have benefited them and the community, but they spent two more years in litigation, taking their case all the way to the Supreme Court, who refused to hear their case. Given their track record I'm certain they will have no issue holding this property hostage in court if given the opportunity. I asked Corcoran directly at a recent meeting if they would sue us for a third time if we don't build a PSB and instead build affordable housing, open space, a YMCA and a public market. He refused to answer the question.

There are many concerns with the proposed PSB that are legitimate, such as the size and cost of the building, cutting down trees, parking, noise and more. I have consistently and publicly addressed them, as my reference links can attest to. There is an assumption among some that I am a guaranteed vote in favor of the PSB. I am not and my lengthy record backs that up. I do think a PSB is an essential city function that needs to happen. This side of the city in particular needs a fire station to respond to emergencies in a timely manner. Fire fighters at the current PSB live out of trailers. The building is in poor shape and is subject to flooding and black mold breakouts. Our

first responders deserve better. If a PSB doesn't happen at 90 Washington Street it could cost the city millions of dollars and years of effort to find another location. This decision is not as simple as yes or no. It will require scrutiny and advocacy, which I've consistently provided for a decade.

I will continue to use my position as Ward 1 Councilor to ensure the best deal for Ward 1 residents. I am open to many possibilities for the land and am committed to a through community process. The one thing I am not open to is acquiescing to bad faith actors who are not concerned about the community and our needs or the consequences of their own actions. Something must be done with this land. I would prefer it be used for the good of the community.

<sup>1</sup> [https://voice.somervillema.gov/90washington\\_redevelopment](https://voice.somervillema.gov/90washington_redevelopment)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4S-g\\_gg8xQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4S-g_gg8xQ)

<sup>3</sup> <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DI9ZMjdqSn-wjU7HGzodpPVprMOsX-IeBQGSHKbxVIVZk/edit>

<sup>4</sup> <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kmLpbXTBkX-n4iYRc45YtthC1i5a4fp9sVX-vt6bo9p9E/edit>

## SHS Class of 1960 scholarship awarded

By Diane (DiNitto)  
Suffredin

The Somerville High School Class of 2022 graduated last weekend and kudos to all for their accomplishments and enduring a tough couple of "pandemic years."

The Class of 1960 is also feeling quite proud: This is the third year

in a row that our class has awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$1960.00 to a deserving member of the graduating class

In 2020, our "60th year," we awarded THREE SCHOLARSHIPS in that amount, one last year and this year our scholarship went to a very deserving young lady, Nathalya Castillo-Salmeron.

Natalya is from a single-parent home and had maintained a 3.61 GPA, while working an after-school job and participating in school activities, which included Class Secretary for 2019-2022, and other volunteer projects. She plans to pursue an education in biology/genetics. We congratulate Natalya and wish her all the

best in the ensuing years.

The Class of 1960 is phenomenal in their generosity of donations towards our Scholarship Fund. There is still "a reserve" and we intend to keep awarding a "\$1960 Scholarship" until it runs out!

The Class of 1960 is still sending in their donations all year

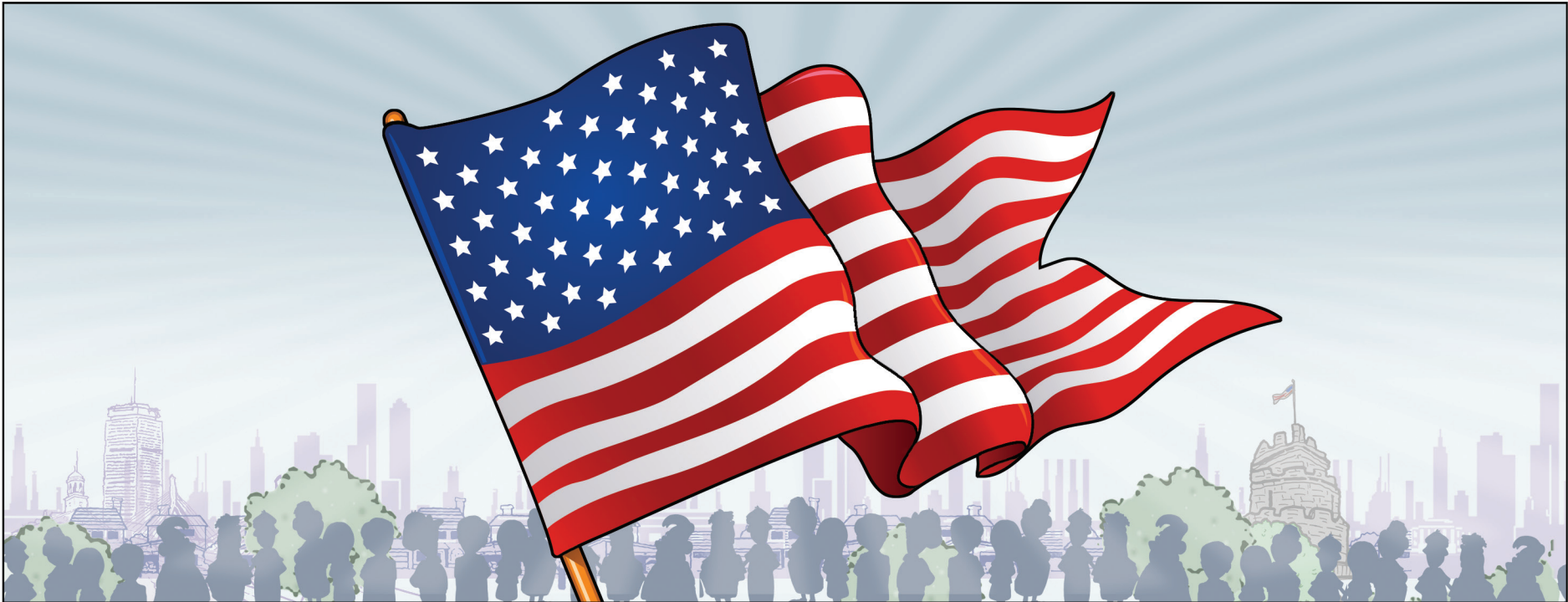
long which is very heart-warming so who knows when it will run out! We always remember the great education and guidance we received during our high school years and want to "pay it forward" with this Scholarship Fund. Here's hoping other past graduating classes may decide to "pick up the baton" and do the same.



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville honors the national flag’s special day.

Our View Of The Times



You won't get the day off from work or school or grocery shopping or ... anything, really. There'll be no three-day weekend or big picnic to mark the occasion. But for many, the significance of the day will ring loudly in their hearts and minds.

Flag Day is not an official federal or state holiday, but June 14 is the date designated by proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson back in 1916 as a day to official-

ly honor the stars and stripes that we solemnly revere today.

President Harry S. Truman signed a Congressional act into law in 1949 recommending a voluntary observance of Flag Week. This year, Flag Week falls on June 13–19.

Of course, as most locals know, the Colonial Army led by General George Washington was formed on January 1,

1776, and its first flag, The Grand Union Flag, was raised on Prospect Hill in what was then Charlestown, and is now part of Somerville.

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

our forebearers.

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

charged with expanding and reorganizing services to best serve the community and advance the Ballantyne administration's focus on equity. Visit the city's website to read more about Karin.

\*\*\*\*\*

Celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy birthday to **Carolyn Pedersen**, we wish Carolyn a great day. Happy birthday to **Suzanne Bremer**, of Prospect Hill. We hope she has a great birthday as well. Happy birthday to **Betty Casazza**, we wish her the best year ever. Happy birthday to **Beth Chamberlain**, we hope Beth has a great day. Finally, to former Councilor At-Large **Steph-**

**anie Hirsch**, we hope she has a great day as well. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Lori DePippo**, **Nicole Alves Bairos**, **Chris Argeropoulos**, **Elizabeth Rodrigues Fula**, **Charlie McCarthy**, **Gavin House**, **Len Tower**, **Kevin Tortorella**, **Rand Wilson**, **Al Sharpe**, **Amanda Esteves** and **Donna Amenta** 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Celia Taylor** will be hosting a "FUN" RAISER for **Kristen Strezo** will be held on **Sunday, June 12**, from 4:00

p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at **32 Vinal Ave.**, Somerville. This is a family event with activities and food for all. Suggested donation is \$25 per person and \$50 for a family. Please send a check or donate at <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/rainbowstrezo>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**10 AiR Artists** perform around Somerville as part of new residency program in groundbreaking move for regional dance scene. **AiR Performances** take place at **Arts at the Armory**, **ArtAssembled**, **Crystal Ballroom**, and **Blessing of the Bay**. Next performances will be held on **June 8**, **June 15**, and **June 19**. On **June**

**8** at 7:00 p.m. at the Armory join **Claire Lane** and **Caroline Bradburry (Detrius Dance)**, **Rebecca McGowen** and **Jackie O'Reilly**, and **Brand-i** in an evening where a contemporary exploration of Irish dance and music is adjacent to a new technique "Skin Out," and then triangulated by coming into womanhood via a Catholic upbringing lens. Tickets are available (pay what you can): <https://bit.ly/AiRArtAssembled>. For more info visit [somervilleartscouncil.org](http://somervilleartscouncil.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

The city's **Adopt-A-Tree** program has officially launched. Newly planted trees can be found around

Continued on page 21



FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's  
**Olio**  
#830

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. In what year was the Boston Celtics founded?

2. What is the name of the Boston Celtics mascot?

3. Which team was the first NBA franchise to draft a black player?

4. What NBA team has the most consecutive NBA titles?

5. On Sunday June 18, 1815, which famous battle took place?

6. Which golfer was world number 1 for a record 683 weeks?
7. How many times has Rafael Nadal won the French Open to date?

8. What is the national dish of Spain?

9. Which two countries share the longest international border?

10. Name the 1980 film based on the life of John Merrick?

11. What is the name of the main female character in *The Terminator*?

12. Where was the 1986 World Cup held?

Answers on page 13

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. *Mulan* has the highest kill-count of any Disney character.
2. 3.6 cans of Spam are consumed each second.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

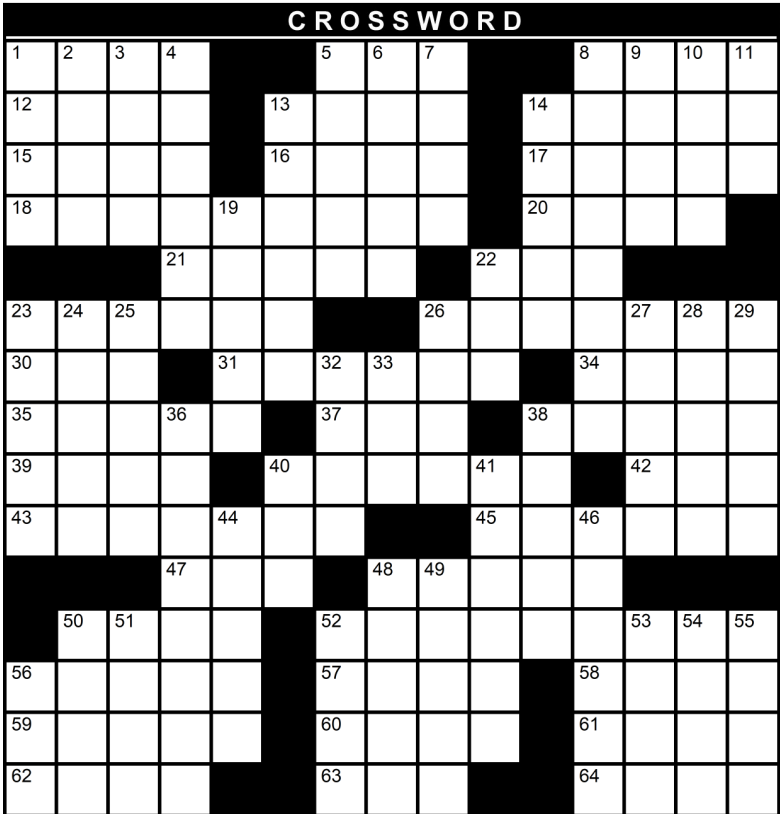
Winter Fun

ACROSS

1. Rope fiber
5. Mai \_\_\_\_\_
8. Russia's Terrible one, e.g.
12. "What \_\_\_\_\_ Happened to Baby Jane?"
13. Tattled
14. Actress Reed
15. Internet share-able
16. Inwardly
17. Black tropical hardwood
18. Winged impression in winter
20. Home of the Hawkeyes
21. Investigative report
22. Chicken or this?
23. Not dense
26. Early-day supercontinent
30. Afternoon shut-eye
31. Even though
34. Picture on a coat
35. Anti-seniors sentiment
37. Jean of Dadaism
38. Crewneck alternative
39. Half-man, half-goat
40. Arm cover
42. Victoria Beckham \_\_\_\_\_ Adams
43. Lacking sense of moral standards
45. Flying high
47. Often part of disguise
48. Queen-like
50. Wood file
52. \_\_\_\_\_ Plunge
56. Secret stash
57. Damien's prediction
58. Not at work
59. Opposite of cation
60. Abbreviated seconds
61. Precedes stated rank
62. Moon pull
63. Like toddy or cocoa
64. Trans-Siberian Railroad city

DOWN

1. Shortens pants
2. Like fair share
3. Short for memorandum
4. Antebellum



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© StatePoint Media

Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

5. Polynesian kingdom

6. Ten-pin establishment

7. Bucolic poem

8. Ride on runners

9. Winter building material

10. Tolstoy's Karenina

11. R&B Charles

13. Glittery decor

14. Condescend

19. Indian black tea

22. Nibble

23. Big mess

24. Like a Druid, e.g.

25. Celery, technically

26. Snowman's corn cob accessory

27. Are not

28. Wedding singer, e.g.

29. Questioned

32. Snow\_\_\_\_, ammunition
33. "But I heard him exclaim, \_\_\_\_\_ he drove out of sight..."

36. Winter walking aid

38. Type of consonant

40. Actors' grp.

41. a.k.a. strict vegetarians

44. Mature, as in fruit

46. Like Silas of "The Da Vinci Code"

48. Young Montague

49. Decide at the polls

50. Jasmine of "Aladdin"

51. Turns blue litmus red

52. #42 Across, once

53. Cheese from Netherlands

54. Contributions to the poor

55. Stink to high heaven

56. Arctic \_\_\_\_\_, snowmobile brand-Saints of Newark"

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.



# 2022 MassDems Convention selects endorsed candidates



The 2022 MassDems Convention was held in Worcester over the weekend. Some watched virtually and others attended in person. This convention was historic in many ways. This was their first hybrid convention, making it more accessible for all to attend. They also nominated one of the most diverse slates of candidates in the Party's history.

The endorsed candidates of the Massachusetts Democratic Party and results are as follows:

- Candidate for Governor: Maura Healey
- Candidate for Lt. Governor: Kim Driscoll
- Candidate for Secretary of the Commonwealth: Tanisha Sullivan
- Candidate for Attorney General: Quentin Palfrey
- Candidate for Treasurer: Deborah Goldberg
- Candidate for Auditor: Chris Dempsey

Former Somerville Alderman Bob McWatters attended the weekend convention. He is pictured below with Senator Diana Dizoglio, candidate for State Auditor, and former Boston City Council Andrea Campbell a candidate for Attorney General. As a delegate to the Massachusetts state convention elected in Ward 3 he pledged his support for both candidates in their bid to secure 15% to get on the ballot in the September primary. Both candidates received the necessary delegates and will be on the ballot in the primary.



## The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #255

### Charlestown

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

She is 225 years old this year and the pride of Charlestown, the United States Navy and America. The USS Constitution, also known as Old Ironsides or the Eagle of the Sea, is one of New England's main attractions.



Launched in 1797, the wooden navy frigate is the oldest floating commissioned war ship in the world. She fought in the first Tripolitan War and the War of 1812. She also won two domestic attempts to scuttle her. Today, she is a National Historic Landmark and has merited that distinction for over two centuries.



On June 17, 1775, at Charlestown's Bunker/Breed's Hill, the infant Colonial American Army lost its first major battle of the Revolution. They fought toe to toe against the British Army, the best trained in the world.

After opposing three assaults, inflicting terrible losses on the enemy and running out of gunpowder, the Americans were forced to withdraw to Winter Hill. At that time, General Washington was leery of leading the Colonials believing that Lexington and Concord were only skirmishes. Then, upon hearing of the appalling losses the New England militia inflicted on the British, he decided to lead these men.

Charlestown territory once stretched from the Charles River to the Merrimack River, mothering ten towns. It took 200 years to break up this historic old lady. Woburn was the first to break away in 1642, and Somerville was the last to leave in 1842.



What did these last two settlements   Continued on page 19



## LEGAL NOTICES

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

GEORGE J. PROAKIS, AICP  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)**

The **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, June 21, 2022 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 22 of the Acts of 2022, 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](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov).

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Registration URL:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8211252215595295500>

Webinar ID: 193-747-347

**TO CALL IN**

Phone Number: 1 (415) 930-5321

Access Code: 362-339-543

**ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT****Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties****HPC.ALT 2022.31 – 139 Central Street**

Applicant: Erik Kortz

Owner: Devin Griffin

*The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by replacing existing windows.*

**Determinations of Historic Significance (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)****HPC.DMO 2022.18 – 233 Tremont Street**

Applicant: John F. Reilly

Owner: John F. Reilly and Liese Reilly, Trustees of the Reilly Trust

*The Applicant seeks to demolish a principal structure constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.*

**HPC.DMO 2022.23 – 12 Woodbine Street**

Applicant: North America Development LLC, Bruna Rossetti

Owner: 12 Woodbine, LLC

*The Applicant seeks to demolish a principal structure constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.*

**HPC.DMO 2022.24 – 90 School Street**

Applicant: Ralph Malin

Owner: 90 School St Realty Trust

*The Applicant seeks to demolish a principal structure constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.*

**HPC.DMO 2022.25 – 156 Albion Street**

Applicant: 156 Albion St, LLC

Owner: Same as Applicant

*The Applicant seeks to demolish a principal structure constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.*

**Determinations of Preferably Preserved (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)****HPC.DMO 2022.17 – 229 Tremont Street**

Applicant: John F. Reilly

Owner: John F. Reilly and Liese Reilly, Trustees of the Reilly Trust

*The Applicant seeks to demolish a principal structure constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.*

*While City Hall continues to be closed in response to the COVID19 pandemic, 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](mailto: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](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) NO LATER THAN NOON one week prior to the meeting date. Email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) with inquiries.*

6/1/22, 6/8/22 The Somerville Times

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID**

**CAPEN COURT (667-1)  
HVAC CONTROLS REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at [www.biddocsonline.com](http://www.biddocsonline.com). Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online.**

**GENERAL BIDS**

The Somerville Housing Authority invites **HVAC Contractors** to submit Bid Proposals for the **HVAC Controls Replacement Project** at the **Capen Court (667-1) Senior Housing Development in Somerville, Massachusetts**. General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the **Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) category**. Bidders must include a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Update Statement.

The Project consists of: Removal and replacement of the existing control valve actuators for all control valves serving existing fan coil units and other specified areas of the building and replacement of an existing ductless split heat pump with new.

General Bids will be received until **2:00 PM**, (local legal time) Wednesday, **June 23, 2022** and publicly opened on-line, forthwith.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five percent (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount in the form of a bid bond, certified check, treasurer's check or cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority. The Bid Deposit shall be satisfactory to the Awarding Authority and conditioned upon the faithful performance by the principal of the agreements contained in the Bid.

**CONSTRUCTION COSTS**

Construction costs are estimated to be **\$225,170.00**.

**PRE-BID CONFERENCE**

A pre-bid walkthrough shall be held at the site located at Capen Court, Somerville, MA 02144 on Wednesday, **June 15, 2022 @ 10:00 AM**. Contractors shall meet at the site. Contractors shall meet all COVID-19 safety requirements.

**BID DOCUMENTS AND DEPOSIT**

All Bids shall be submitted electronically online at [www.BidDocsOnline.com](http://www.BidDocsOnline.com) no later than the date & time specified above. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at [www.BidDocsOnline.com](http://www.BidDocsOnline.com). Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the "Tutorial" tab at the bottom footer).

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up at [www.BidDocsOnline.com](http://www.BidDocsOnline.com) (may be viewed electronically and hardcopy requested) or at **Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167)**

There is a plan deposit of **\$50** per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to **BidDocs Online, Inc.**

Deposits must be a certified or cashier's check, or money order. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within thirty (30) days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise, the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority.

Additional sets may be purchased for **\$50.00**

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for **\$40.00** per set for UPS Ground (or **\$65.00** per set for UPS Overnight), payable to **BidDocs Online, Inc.** to cover mail handling costs.

Bids and the Contract are subject to: M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive, Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Equal Opportunity provisions of Executive Order 11246, Non-Discrimination provision of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Labor Standards of the Davis-Bacon Act and related acts and Contract Work Hours Standard Act, and prevailing wage determinations as issued by the U.S. Secretary of Labor. The work performed under this contract is funded in part through the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and is subject to all provisions and regulations issued pursuant to this act.

This project is covered by Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968.

All Bids for the project are subject to the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws (Ter. Ed.), Chapter 149, Sections 44A to 44L inclusive as amended.

**RIGHT OF THE AWARDING AUTHORITY TO REJECT BIDS**

The right is reserved by the Somerville Housing Authority to reject any or all Bids, if it be in their interest to do so.

**MINIMUM WAGE RATES**

Bids are subject to the Federal Davis-Bacon wage rates and Related Acts.

6/8/22 The Somerville Times

## Cozy Community Pop-Up

Come sing along with Max and friends and help make our community a welcoming place for everyone! This fun-filled event full of human and puppet characters speaks to themes of friendship, inclusion, and community. Activities include: a 40-minute sing-along puppet show followed by socially distanced craft activities, meet the puppet characters, the Book Nook quiet space, and take-home resources! For Family audiences, ages 3+.

Cozy Community Pop-Up is part of Cozy Arts' ongoing commitment to thoughtful family programming through its Signature Program, Cozy Corner. This newest offering is a series of free outdoor events for family audiences, taking place in parks and public spaces throughout the greater Boston area in Summer/Fall 2022. Cozy Arts' productions address social emotional growth, community-building, and are sensory friendly.

- Growing Center - June 12 (rain date June 18) from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. (performance at 1:45)
- West Branch Public Library - June 24 from 4 - 5:30 p.m. (performance at 4:15)



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CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
KATJANA BALLANTYNE  
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 16, 2022 at 6:30 pm**. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

REGISTER ONLINE

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2045118438886556172>

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

- City Councilor-At-Large Wilson Proposing an amendment to the Zoning Ordinances, Section 3.1.6.d, Residence District, to permit the Backyard Cottage accessory building type by right.
- Vivaldo Meneses Sr. requesting the adoption of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Map to change the zoning district of 82-84 Prospect Street from MR5 to UR.
- Three owners requesting the adoption of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Map to change the zoning district of 129R Highland Ave from UR to NR.
- Mayor Ballantyne Requesting a text amendment to the Somerville Zoning Ordinance to repeal all references to a Certificate of Zoning Compliance and replace with a requirement for the Building Official to conduct a zoning compliance review and maintain a public record of such reviews for all development.
- Thomas J. Cooke requesting the adoption of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Map to change the zoning district of 14 White Street Place from NR to MR4

Zoning amendments may be viewed online by searching the Somerville City Council's online meeting calendar for the address or item number.

Final language of the above amendments may be modified by the City Council during the legislative process. Persons unable to attend the hearing may provide comments by email to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

6/1/22, 6/8/22 The Somerville Times



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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 6:00pm** through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1057527199605395983>  
Webinar ID: 282-944-011

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (213) 929-4212  
Access code: 166-696-450

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

**16 & 20 Medford Street** Somerville Living, LLC proposes to develop a four (4)-story LEED Platinum general building and establish a Household Living principle use for 41 dwelling units in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) zoning district. This proposal requires Site Plan Approval and one (1) Special Permit.

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

Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

6/1/22, 6/8/22 The Somerville Times



LEGAL NOTICE

City of Somerville  
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)  
WFD-22

The City of Somerville, Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) invites sealed proposals for the Industry Specific Training Programs, and Community Benefits Agreement:

Workforce Development Grant Programs

**Workforce Development Grant Programs.** Proposals must be for programs that assist in the creation and maintenance of employment and career opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents of the City of Somerville. Funds for the Industry Specific Training Programs and Community Benefits Agreement Programs Grants are provided by the Job Creation and Retention Trust, City funds, and other available funds generated from development impact fees.

Bid Number **WFD-22**

Request for Proposal packages for both programs will be posted and available for download on the City of Somerville website beginning at **10:00AM, Wednesday June 8, 2022** at [www.somervillema.gov/wfd](http://www.somervillema.gov/wfd).  
Print copies available upon request to Staff Name at email [WFD@somervillema.gov](mailto:WFD@somervillema.gov).

An electronic PDF file should be emailed to email address and proposal packages must be submitted no later than **12:00 PM, Friday July 1, 2022** for responses to WFD-22 to the above email address.

**Please contact the City of Somerville's Workforce Development staff,** by email at [WFD@somervillema.gov](mailto:WFD@somervillema.gov), for information and proposal packages.

George Proakis, Executive Director  
617- 625-6600, x 2500

6/8/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
IFB #22-56

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

Clarendon Hill Infrastructure Improvements

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com), <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **06/07/2022**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **06/22/2022 12:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact PCS Department at [procurement@somervillema.gov](mailto:procurement@somervillema.gov) for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

**Andrea Caruth**  
Deputy Chief Procurement Officer  
617-625-6600 x3400

6/8/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES  
INVITATION FOR BIDS  
RFQ# 22-62

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

On-Call Engineering Services for Various Public Works Projects

The bid package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's electronic bidding platform at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Thursday, June 9, 2022**. Sealed bids will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, and 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Thursday, June30th, 2022**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all bids, 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](mailto:procurement@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Jordan T. Remy**  
Procurement Analyst  
617-625-6600 x3409

6/8/22 The Somerville Times

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from our website:  
[www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)

Ms. Cam's  
*Olio*  
Answers

From on page 10

- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. 1946                            | 6. Tiger Woods                  |
| 2. Lucky the Lepre-<br>chaun       | 7. 14                           |
| 3. Boston Celtics,<br>Chuck Cooper | 8. Paella                       |
| 4. Boston Celtics, 8               | 9. USA, Canada                  |
| 5. The Battle of<br>Waterloo       | 10. <i>The Elephant<br/>Man</i> |
|                                    | 11. Sarah Connor                |
|                                    | 12. Mexico City                 |

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# 'Space Invaders' land at the Somerville Museum

CONT. FROM PG 1

radiating projections lighting up  
the room.

A central theme of the exhibition is an exploration of the meaning of the word “alien” as a term often used to describe immigrants as well as the unfamiliar or disturbing. Through parody, absurdism, and impactful imagery, the show works to redefine and recontextualize the concept of “alien” as something to be celebrated and welcomed – it being that immigrants throughout history made the US what it is in the first place.

The messages of the show go along with its untraditional setup and use of immersive art mediums, provided through collaboration with the MIT Spatial Sound Lab, as a departure from the familiar art exhibit arrangement allows for a more accessible dialogue.

"I think the allure of immersive art is that it's accessible in the sense that we're unlike conven-

tional museums where they don't let you touch or in the sense that for the visually impaired [for instance] we give sound as another aspect of the art that they can experience, and it breaks down those barriers," explains Rook Murao. "So it's a message for accessibility, and perhaps even inclusivity."

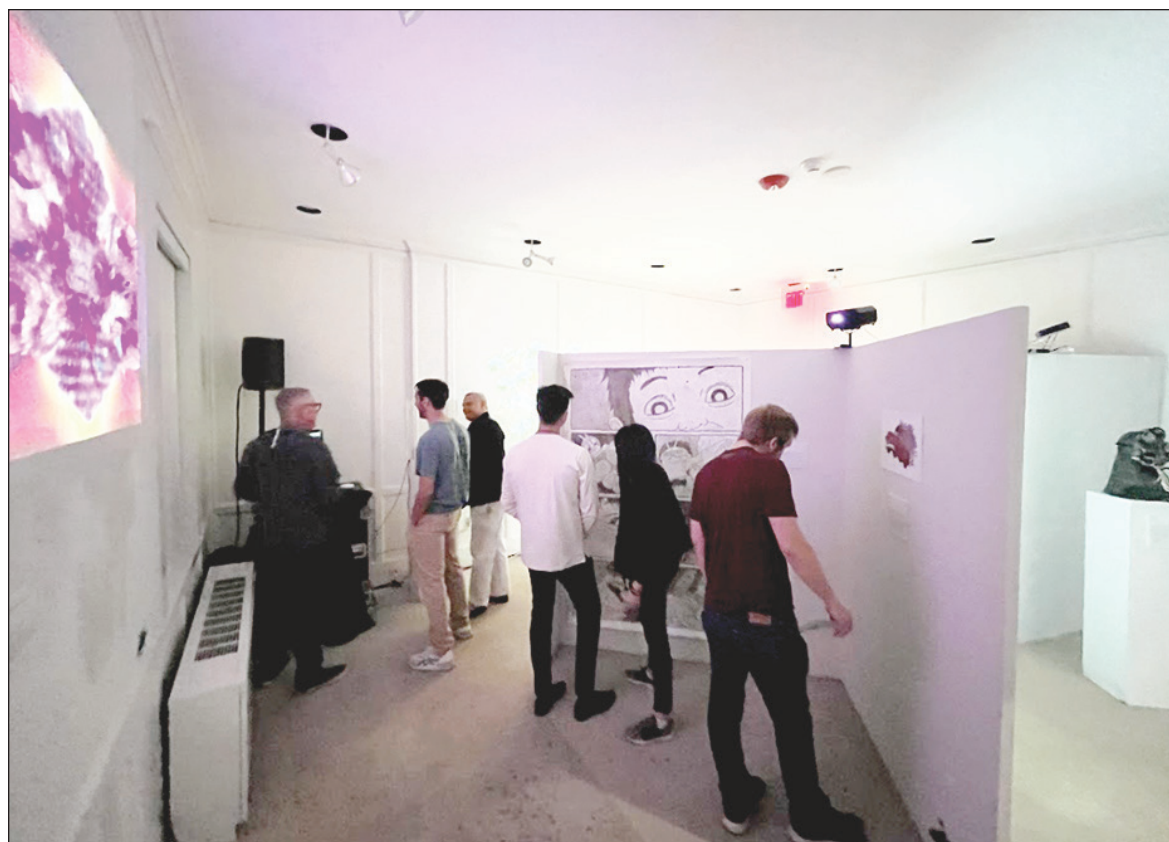
The show plays with the meaning of the term alien within the American lexicon, as well as the culture of humans vs. non-humans that its double-meaning creates. “We’re all humans who are just born into this system so far,” continued Murao, “And it’s up to us to remix it or just completely overhaul it. Questioning those meanings behind a word, I think gives us a tool or a way of looking at the world.”

Through their work, each artist contributes to this interdimensional theme celebrating multicultural America and its future. Mieke Murua's artwork

includes walls with intricate displays of flowers which are all native to countries outside of America, intended to inspire thinking of the country as a diverse ecosystem mirroring the flowers and exemplify the beauty of experimentation.

Hayato Kawai (Supanoba) provides a look into the upbringings of the Asian American community with his art that showcases a tapestry of personal heroes that the artist surveyed other Asian Americans to create, drawing upon the shared experience of being “dissed” or mocked at a young age for having their own ideas of who a hero should be.

Ian Condry (Leftroman), who launched the MIT Spatial Sound Lab, showcases some of the work that they do researching spatial sound by playing sounds including the aforementioned black hole soundscapes captured by NASA over 4, 8, and 16 speakers around the room, depending on



the day.

Charles “Charlo” Choueiri (Mr. Improbable) presents his Genii piece, a projected visual representation of a “genii or genius” a mythological guardian angel figure which in the art is portrayed as a mesmerizing light display that highlights the “unfamiliar” part of the term alien.

Rook Murao (SRCFLP), the curator of the exhibit, greatly contributes to this sense of unfamiliarity with his projections, sound work, as well as an abnormal mechanical mask, which he dons while performing as a musician, sitting as one of the first pieces you notice upon entering.

Part of the intention of the artists was to show that we are all active players in shaping society. By creating this art, they are play-

ing on, interrogating, and bringing new meaning to the term “alien,” while also highlighting its societal damages.

“A word is just the meaning we give to the sound. And these meanings are what really dictates our worldview,” explains Murao. “Art is just a tool to create discourse and dialogue, right? Just an interesting way to ask questions visually, sonically and in different senses. We’re just used to our way in society, our status quo, and our protocols that are appropriate and not see these other meanings that come into play. But art is a safe space where we can explore these questions.”

Learn more by going on line to <https://www.somerville-museum.org/calendar-events/space-invader-tfcke>.

## Somerville Community Growing Center spring programs

Enjoy meditation, learning about garden bugs, going on a pollinator safari, and much more by visiting and participating at the Somerville Community Growing Center this spring.

Find out about these and other fun and creative spring programs at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-SWkG5gcmt8XLHbr7WY-Qr3MV1rej1VX/view>.





# Mayor Ballantyne releases first budget: Foundations for Progress

On Tuesday, May 31, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne submitted Somerville's FY23 budget proposal, a \$309 million budget that makes key investments in public education, affordable housing, environmental sustainability, and quality of life issues in line with this year's budget theme of "A Foundation for Progress."

"This budget is the result of deep community engagement, collaboration with the City Council, and innovative thinking by City staff," said Mayor Ballantyne. "Equity is the cornerstone of this budget, and I could not be more proud of the proposal that we have put together. This budget invests in our youth, improves delivery of daily services to residents, and makes foundational investments in our city systems that will allow us to successfully tackle the most pressing issues facing residents."

## Somerville Public Schools and School Infrastructure

Mayor Ballantyne's FY23 budget proposes a historic \$8.4 million, or 10%, increase in funding for Somerville Public Schools (SPS). This is the largest single increase in the history of SPS. This investment will help ensure that all students, particularly low-income students, students of color, and students with disabilities, have access to a high-quality and well-rounded education. SPS will prioritize using funds for mental health supports for all students, special education, and pay equity for paraprofessionals.

In addition, the city will invest \$850,000 in improving school buildings, including the Brown School and Winter Hill School. Of these funds, \$550,000 will go toward a districtwide enrollment and space needs study to develop a capital investment plan. The other \$300,000 will fund new HVAC equipment and controls systems in schools across the city.

Opening the Union Square Branch of the MBTA Green Line Extension earlier this year was a transportation-justice milestone for residents of Somerville and across the region. To help ensure the city stays on the path of inclusive growth, this budget repurposes nearly \$8.3 million in funds previously allocated for the Green Line Extension to the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Fund for affordable housing acquisition and construction. The Green Line Extension came in under budget, and the current housing crisis calls for a significant investment in creating a substantial affordable housing stock in Somerville.

## New Office of Accountability, Transparency, and Access

To help the city increase transparency in local government, this budget includes a new Office of Accountability, Transparency, and Access (OATA). Civic engagement and participation is rapidly shifting in an increasingly digital landscape, and this office will help ensure transparent and responsive government. As its first step, OATA will conduct a needs assessment of accountability, transparency, and access across the city. This office will incorporate the key functions that create a transparent government and uphold ethical governance for the residents of Somerville.

## Participatory Budgeting

Another historic investment in this budget includes setting aside \$1 million for participatory budgeting. This investment will allow community members to propose and vote on priority projects for funding in future budgets. Residents and community-based organizations will have the opportunity to have their voices heard in a new way as part of the city's municipal budget process.

## Additional FY23 Budget Highlights



The FY23 budget also includes:

- \$100,000 for development of a pollinator action plan, which will aim to identify interventions that create the best habitat for Somerville-specific pollinators and wildlife

- More than \$400,000 for a mobility infrastructure maintenance crew within the Department of Public Works to maintain the City's growing mobility infrastructure, including community paths, quick-build bike infrastructure, neighborways, and permanent separated bike facilities

- Creation of a new Chief Administrative Officer position, who will increase the efficiency of internal systems that will allow City workers to focus on providing high-quality services

- Creation of an Arts Space Planner position within the Arts Council to strategically preserve existing arts spaces and generate new arts and cultural spaces across the city

- Creation of a Manager of Mental Health Services position, which will support frontline mental health staff

- A new Director of Youth Services role, which will support youth priorities and services

across City government

- Increasing funding for the City's LGBTQ+ Services Coordinator so that it is a full-time position

- Permanent funding for a SomerBaby Home Visitor role, who will connect families with new babies to key City services to support their children from day one

- \$60,000 for an expansion of SMART System Rodent Control to help mitigate rodent activity in Somerville

- \$75,000 for the development of a Zero Waste program to integrate conventional aspects of solid waste management with new program and statewide initiatives, including composting

- Funding for a Clean, Green Somerville initiative that will create an energy efficiency program to assist Somerville property owners make comprehensive energy-saving improvements to their properties

- New staff positions in the Office of Housing Stability that will help residents facing housing insecurity navigate and access resources to help them stay in their homes.

- Funding for a new Veterans Benefits Administrator, who will

help veterans access financial benefits, mental health supports, housing resources, and education and job opportunities

- A full-time Spanish-Speaking Case Manager in the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs to connect Spanish-speaking residents and business owners with financial assistance, housing assistance, food assistance, and other supports the City has to offer

- The creation of a Small Business Liaison in the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) to support small businesses as they apply for permits

- Three new positions in the Inspectional Services Department, including a liaison who will directly support residents and businesses in navigating the permitting process, in partnership with the OSPCD liaison role

The Mayor presented the FY23 budget to the City Council on Thursday, June 2. The City Council held a Budget Public Hearing on Monday, June 6. To see the proposed FY23 budget, watch the mayor's presentation, and participate in the public hearing, go to [somer villema.gov/fy23budget](http://somer villema.gov/fy23budget).



# Capital Projects shares Public Safety Building project updates

By Luda Tang

On June 1, the Public Safety Building Project Committee meeting concerning the Public Safety Building project (PSB) was held, hosted by Committee Chair and Director of Capital Projects at the City of Somerville Melissa Woods.

According to SomerVoice, the Public Safety Building will be a new home to police, fire administration, and Engine 3. It aims to provide a modern space that can change and adapt to policing and fire administration day-to-day operations, achieve Somerville's sustainability goals by being net zero ready, and designed to be welcoming to all Somerville residents.

Woods shared updates of the public safety building project. Capital Projects reached out to the Consensus Building Institute, a non-profit organization that is committed to solve socially, environmentally, and economically complex problems to ask for their

help in guiding the process. Ona Ferguson, the Senior Manager at the Consensus Building Institute, came on board and was responsible for conducting twelve interviews of stakeholders for their opinions on the project.

Each interview chiefly focused on what the public safety building project should focus on.

The organized interview notes from the stakeholders can be divided into three parts: themes related to process, siting and design. The stakeholders brought up some suggestions for each part for consideration.

In terms of the project process, the notes included clarifying the goal and rationale of why the city is choosing to build a public safety building right now, engaging more residents, designing and executing the public meeting more carefully, and being clearer and more transparent about the decision making.

Stakeholders also think the building's location should be



The latest developments concerning the Public Safety Building project were discussed at the recent meeting of the Building Project Committee.

suitable for the police and fire department, and the operations at 220 Washington Street should be relocated. It is also important to shed light on the legal requirements for using the sites.

It was also felt that the building's design should take into account factors such as having flexible spaces for reimagining ef-

forts, providing valuable services, protecting trees and outdoor greenspaces, and preventing negative impacts, like noises, traffic, among others.

In addition to the previous efforts made to public outreach, for instance, the May 25 meeting with 70 residents from Cobble Hill, Capital Projects plans to

host an in-person listening session at East Somerville Community School on June 21. In the following week, it will host virtual listening sessions on either June 28 or 29. But these dates are tentative now. Check out the website for more updated information: [https://voice.somervillema.gov/90washington\\_redevelopment](https://voice.somervillema.gov/90washington_redevelopment).

## City employees vie for promotions

By Kyle Dante

The activities of the Somerville City Council's Appointments and Personal Matters Committee meeting held on June 1 featured a variety of promotions. Several individuals were interviewed by the Committee for a variety of potential appointments.

Ten people appeared for the City Council, seven for the Council on Aging, one for the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change, one for the Fair Housing Commission (Somerville Housing Authority), and one for Police Lieutenant.

Police officer Kevin Shackleford is vying for the permanent role of Police Lieutenant following the retirement of the previous lieutenant.

Shackleford, a Somerville High School alumni and graduate of Western New England College,

has had varied training over the last twenty years. His education includes basic crime scene investigations, DEA, SWAT, and FBI leadership, among others. He is also an instructor in taser use.

Shackleford started as a patrol officer in 2003. Awarded the 2007 Police Officer of the Year, Shackleford has assisted the Somerville community with distinction. Not only has he helped the community but also his fellow officers. Promoted to a Field Training Officer in 2008, Shackleford has trained several officers at the Somerville Police Department. He has also stepped up as the temporary lieutenant, as of March 2021, whenever the Police Chief is unavailable.

The efforts Shackleford makes extend to the community. For example, he has led elementary schools through several pro-

grams. Activities conducted with Somerville Shape Up and the School District resulted in the Safe Routes to School Program, a safe-walking program involving the entire Somerville community. Shackleford's work has created a sense of collaboration and community between Somerville and its residents.

In the interview, members of the City Council asked Shackleford a few questions. These were the responses Shackleford provided during his interview:

**City Council:** Tell us what you most love about the city.

**Kevin Shackleford:** It is the diversity. My neighborhood is diverse. We love each other and got along. It is my home. I have always been part of the community.

**CC:** What is your biggest concern in the role?

**Shackleford:** Not much because I am comfortable doing the

job, and I know whom to go to for assistance.

**CC (Councilor Kelly):** If you get called to a staffing event and see a non-SPD abusing their rights, how would you respond at the moment and afterward?

**Shackleford:** I would intervene as fast as possible, get proper documentation, and then go to the appropriate assistance.

**CC (Councilor Kelly):** Folks experience different traumas and react differently. When we discuss trauma, what does the care look like that you provide?

**Shackleford:** We identify individuals going through crisis from appropriate training. We come down to a communication level to talk to them, give the proper assistance, and de-escalate comfortably.

**CC (Councilor Kelly):** The city is going through a public safety redo. With several programs,

for example, Kahoots. What do you see in the value of these programs?

**Shackleford:** A collaboration in mental health, police, and medical will provide the appropriate resources. We are responding as people, not law enforcement.

**CC (Councilor Kelly):** You will be a leader upon promotion. How will you develop respect and authority in maintaining the unarmed elements of the previous questions?

**Shackleford:** It is important to be an advocate. The police are changing. We need to be fluid. It is important to open communication.

The interviewees and Shackleford will receive a City Council private message concerning their potential hiring. For more information on Shackleford and other references, visit [somervillema.gov](https://somervillema.gov).



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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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**THE HOUSE AND SENATE.** There were no roll call votes in the House or Senate last week. This week, *Beacon Hill Roll Call* reports local senators’ roll call attendance records for the 2022 session through June 3.

The Senate has held 69 roll calls so far in the 2022 session. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* tabulates the number of roll calls on which each senator voted and then calculates that number as a percentage of the total roll call votes held. That percentage is the number referred to as the roll call attendance record.

Thirty-six of the 40 senators did not miss any roll calls and have 100 percent roll call attendance records. This high level of participation can likely be attributed to the fact that under emergency rules adopted because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the vast majority of the 40 senators are not in the Senate chamber during a session. Most are watching and listening to the session from their home, business or Senate office and casting their votes remotely.

Senators’ remote votes are communicated to Senate officials during the session or prior to the session if senators are informed in advance that there will be a roll call vote. If a member wants to speak on an issue under consideration, they do so on a separate “debate phone line” and their voice is then heard in the Senate chamber and by anyone watching the broadcast online.

The number of senators who had 100 percent roll call attendance records in the four years prior to the pandemic was lower than 2022 as follows: 28 in 2019; 20 in 2018; 24 in 2017; and 17 in 2016.

It’s a Senate tradition that the Senate president only votes occasionally. Current Senate President Karen Spilka follows that tradition and only voted on 21 (30.4 percent) of the 69 roll calls while not voting on 48 (69.6 percent) of them.

Only four senators, other than Spilka, missed any roll calls. Sens. Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington) and Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem) each missed three roll calls for a roll call attendance record of 95.6 percent. Sens. Sonia Chang Diaz (D-Boston) and Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) each missed only one roll and scored a roll call attendance record of 98.5 percent. Beacon Hill Roll Call contacted the four senators asking why they missed some roll calls.

Sen. Lovely responded, “I was prevented from engaging in three roll call votes while working remotely because my Internet connection was interrupted. I have participated in every other roll call vote this session and submitted a letter on how I would have voted to the Senate clerk.”

“The senator had some significant food allergies and suf-

fered an allergic reaction to lunch that day,” said DiZoglio aide Tom Arsenault. “However, she was grateful to have been able to get on the record with the clerk’s office regarding her position on that particular amendment and recover in time to vote in favor of the bill.”

Friedman and Chang-Diaz did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them for a statement.

**SENATORS’ 2022 ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE RECORDS THROUGH JUNE 3, 2022** The percentage listed next to the senator’s name is the percentage of roll call votes on which the senator voted. The number in parentheses represents the number of roll calls that he or she missed.

Sen. Patricia Jehlen 100 percent (0)

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**SHOOTING AT A HOUSE OR APARTMENT (H 1803)** – The House gave initial approval to a proposal that would impose up to a five-year prison sentence and/or \$10,000 fine on anyone who discharges an assault weapon, firearm, large capacity weapon, machine gun, rifle, sawed-off shotgun or shotgun into a dwelling. Under current law this crime is a misdemeanor punishable by up to a 30-day jail sentence and/or \$100 fine.

“I filed this legislation to create a criminal penalty for shooting into a house or building because at that time there was a string of shootings into houses in Lowell and I discovered that our police department did not have the necessary tools to enforce the law,” said co-sponsor Rep. Rady Mom (D-Lowell).

“I am very pleased that we are moving forward in making what was a misdemeanor, a felony,” said co-sponsor Rep. Colleen Gary (D-Lowell). Individuals firing guns at a residential home can kill the residents inside. It is not just shooting at an inanimate object. People should be able to feel safe in their own homes.”

Supporters also said that under current law the punishment is disproportionate to the severity of this type of incident. They noted this crime, primarily committed by gang members, is often used as an intimidation tactic without regard for the innocent people in the home.

**PREGNANT AND POST PARTUM MOTHERS (S 2731)** – Stuck in the House Ways and Means Committee for nearly three months, since March 7, is a measure, approved unanimously 40-0 by the Senate, designed to ensure that pregnant and postpartum mothers get necessary and potentially life-saving health care by extending MassHealth insurance coverage to 12 months after preg-

nancy. MassHealth is the state’s Medicaid program that provides health care for low-income and disabled persons.

“The Massachusetts Senate has taken another step to combat inequities in maternal health,” said sponsor Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem), when the Senate approved the bill in March. “By extending postpartum healthcare coverage to a full year, birthing individuals will be able to access vital physical and behavioral health resources that will decrease mortality and severe morbidity and improve the overall health of parent and child, especially for our minority populations.”

At the same time, Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) said, “The danger of dying during pregnancy or childbirth is still far too high in the United States, particularly for Black women. But the Senate is committed to continuing our efforts to ensure pregnant and postpartum mothers and people who give birth receive the critical care they need and deserve.”

**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 May 30-June 3 the House met for a total of one hour and 42 minutes and the Senate met for a total of one hour and two minutes.

Mon. May 30	No House session No Senate session.
Tues. May 31	House 11:04 a.m. to 11:51 a.m. Senate 11:05 a.m. to 11:11 a.m.
Wed. June 1	No House session No Senate session.
Thurs. June 2	House 11:10 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. Senate 11:09 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.
Fri. June 3	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at [bob@beaconhillrollcall.com](mailto:bob@beaconhillrollcall.com)



# McGrath Highway at Mystic Avenue project progress

By Gina Ingrando

This week a Zoom meeting discussing the construction of McGrath Highway (Route 28) at Mystic Avenue (Route 38) was held. This meeting covered two specific topics that Project Manager David Shedd announced at the beginning. The main topics of discussion were Targeted Safety Improvement Projects and a Federally Funded TIP Project.

This project had previously been presented to the public in December of 2020. Since then, “various parts of the project have been removed and fast tracked to construction using state funding to address safety issues in the project area,” according to Shedd.

Doing so has allowed improvements to the project while still staying within the allotted federal amount that had previously been budgeted. Advertisements for this project have been posted in The Somerville Times, the Boston Globe, the Somerville Journal, and the MassDOT website. A tragic crash with a pedestrian caused more urgency in this project for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

Under the topic of Targeted

Safety Improvement Projects, the first was the Blakeley and McGrath intersection. Before improvements to this area were made, there were no pedestrian accommodations, specifically no crosswalk to get across McGrath Highway. The improvements made allowed a crosswalk and signal to be installed for crossing McGrath. This project took about four months to complete.

The next area of focus for Improvement Projects was Kensington Crossing. One of the main hopes for this project was to reduce the speed of vehicles to reduce the likelihood of a pedestrian crash. The main feature to accommodate reducing speeds was adding raised crosswalks for pedestrians. Three raised crosswalks have been put in place to help reduce the pedestrian crashes in this area and there are still more improvements being made. This project started in August 2021 and will continue through the fall of 2022.

The third area of focus in this project was to evaluate the pedestrian infrastructure. This included looking at pedestrian crossings, curb ramps, sidewalks, and signal timings. The



Traffic safety issues, such as improvements to the Blakeley and McGrath intersection, were discussed during a recent meeting on this and other matters. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

recommendations being looked at were adding ADA compliant curb ramps and adding sidewalks where paths are. They are also looking to add flashing beacons to improve the visibility of a pedestrian crossing. This first part of this project started in October 2021 and finished in December 2021. The second

half of construction has started and will continue and be finished in the fall of 2022.

Tim McIntosh then took over the meeting to discuss details about the TIP Project and the next steps moving forward for this construction. He discussed how lane narrowing or elimination can produce improvements.

These improvements include shorter roadway crossing distances, reduced vehicle speeds, and providing space for curb extensions to be installed or to have larger sidewalks. The anticipated timeline to have these improvements made will start this Summer and continue through the fall of 2023.

## Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 11

have in common?

♦ The first Governor of Massachusetts, John Winthrop, lived in both the locales of Somerville’s



Ten Hills and Charlestown’s Winthrop Square.

♦ On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere began his famous ride that skirted both sides of Charlestown’s Neck, the narrow strip of acreage separating the two lands. In 1803, he copper-sheathed the USS Constitution’s hull.

♦ One year later, heroic Captain Richard Somers, spent his last day on this famous ship. He is thought to be the namesake of Somerville.

♦ In 1621, Myles Standish explored both lands for the pilgrims.

♦ Charles Taylor, father of the Boston Globe, the Boston Red Sox and Fenway Park, lived in both cities.

♦ The first telephone numbers

were issued in Somerville and Charlestown.

♦ The Powder House attack, the Battle of Bunker Hill, the Prospect Hill flag-raising and the burning of the Ursuline Convent happened in Charlestown/Somerville.

♦ The heart of the Bunker Hill battle was fought at its earthworks fort. Upon running out of gunpowder, they retreated toward the neck and the sanctuary of Winter and Prospect Hills. This is when General Joseph Warren was killed in Charlestown. It is thought that if he survived, he might have been our first president.

♦ Another of Charlestown’s historic gems was its 87-acre Navy Yard, one of the best known in



the country. Between opening its first berth in 1800 and its closing in 1974, its patriotic workers built more than 200 warships and overhauled and repaired

thousands of others.

Today, the Charlestown Navy Yard is part of Charlestown’s pride and is a National Park Service site.



## Somerville Kiwanis Club Award Eight Scholarships

On Thursday, June 2, The Somerville Kiwanis Club presented eight \$1500 scholarships to deserving Somerville High School seniors. The eight students receiving scholarships were among 117 students who competed for the annual awards.

The scholarship committee, headed by Distinguished Past President Dave O'Brien, who is a former SHS teacher, did an outstanding job selecting these students. Five of the recipients were present at the club's meeting at the Mount Vernon Restaurant. President Mernaysa Rivera-Bujosa congratulated the students for their hard work during these difficult years of studying with pandemic restrictions. Also receiving a \$1500 scholarship were Diana Mendoza-Bernal, Katlyn Silva and Jadrianis Vega who were unable to attend the meeting.

Pictured L to R: Club President Mernaysa Rivera-Bujosa, Students Charles Nadeau, Nathalya Costillo Salmeron, Giovanna Siquera, Samantha Eatough, Jacqueline Henriquez and DPP David O'Brien.



## Somerville will participate in regional gun buy back initiative 2022

The City of Somerville Police Department and the Middlesex Sheriff's Office will partner to host the Somerville gun buy back initiative Saturday, June 18, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Somerville Department of Public Works Yard located at 1 Franey Road. The regional initiative includes several communities in the Middlesex county over the past couple of years. The focus is on providing residents with a safe and secure way of removing unwanted firearms from their homes.

The Somerville Police Department and Middlesex Sheriff's Office ask that the following steps be taken for anyone interested in disposing their firearms at the event.

- Please bring firearms unloaded with the safety engaged in a bag, box or case.
- Leave the unloaded firearms inside the trunk of your vehicle upon arrival at the Somerville Department of Public Works Yard located at 1 Franey Rd.

Please note the following details for the event.

- Receive up to \$200 in gift cards per firearm.
- BB guns/Air Guns and ammunition do not qualify for gift cards but can be turned in for disposal.

The Middlesex Sheriff's Office and Massachusetts State Police will safely destroy all guns collected at the event.

The Somerville Police encourages residents to take advantage of this opportunity to help prevent accidents and injuries in our homes and community.

### BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What invention allows us to see through walls?  
Windows.

## On This Day in History

### June 8

0632 – Muhammad, the founder of Islam and unifier of Arabia, dies.

0793 – The Vikings raid the Northumbrian coast of England.

1861 – Tennessee votes to secede from the Union and join the Confederacy.

1863 – Residents of Vicksburg flee into caves as General Ulysses S. Grant's army begins shelling the town.

1953 – The Supreme Court rules against segregated lunch counters in Washington, D.C.

1968 – James Earl Ray, the alleged assassin of Martin Luther King, Jr., is captured at the London Airport.

1969 – President Richard Nixon meets with President Thieu of South Vietnam to tell him 25,000 U.S. troops will pull out by August.

1995 – U.S. Air Force pilot Captain Scott O'Grady is rescued by U.S. Marines in Bosnia.

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# SomerStreets: Carnaval

SomerStreets Carnaval returned to East Somerville on Sunday, June 5. The weather turned out to be perfect for the outdoor festival. Plenty of food, entertainment and activities, the streets were full with something for everyone to enjoy. SomerStreets is Somerville’s annual series of street festivals that close busy streets to cars and open them to the community. SomerStreets: Carnaval was hosted by the Somerville Arts Council and East Somerville Main Streets.

— Photos by Bobbie Toner



## Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 9

Somerville, and now they need your help. Look for the colorful “Adopt Me!” tags and scan the QR code or visit [tinyurl.com/somervilletree](https://tinyurl.com/somervilletree) to find a tree in your neighborhood and go through the steps to adopt it. Name it, water it and even receive an adoption certificate. For more information, visit [somervillema.gov/adoptatree](https://somervillema.gov/adoptatree).

\*\*\*\*\*  
Don’t forget to visit Somerville’s farmers markets. Every Wednesday through

November 23, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. visit the Davis Square Farmers Market, across from American Flatbread at 44 Day St. Visit: <https://www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis>. Every Saturday through Oct 29, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., the Union Square Farmers Market takes place at 66-70 Union Sq. visit: <https://www.unionsquaremain.org/2022-fmseason>. Every Sunday through November 20, the East Somerville Farmers Market takes place at 115 Broadway, 9:00 a.m. –

1:00 p.m. Visit <https://www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/market>. There is a \$15 SNAP match at all Farmers Markets across Somerville.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Annual Middle Grades Musical Production, June 9, 10, 11. All City Theatre of Somerville presents the musical HONK! Jr. based on the Hans Christian Andersen story The Ugly Duckling. The cast and crew are 6 – 8th grade students. This show is for everyone. Presented

with the support of Somerville Arts for Youth. June 9 and 10 at 7:00 p.m. and June 11 at 2:00 p.m. at the Centennial Auditorium at Somerville High School, 81 Highland Ave.

\*\*\*\*\*  
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

### Somerville's Rajiv Raman:

#### Transit Maps as a means to teach equality to children

I had the pleasure to speak with Rajiv Raman about his work, and his new children's book *Last Stop: A Story of Transit Equality*.

**Doug Holder:** As a sculptor and a digital artist, how has the Somerville experience been for you?

**Rajiv Raman:** I used to do more sculpture, mainly in wood and metal, but that's been a bit rough recently with the space constraints of living in Somerville (and having kids!). I still dabble in 3D occasionally, but my main artistic pursuits are in digital art now. Somerville has been a great place to grow as an artist. There's a vibrant artist community, as exhibited by the successful Open Studios event we just had! Almost 300 artists were showing! I've been a proud Open Studios volunteer for many years now. Unfortunately, our community is under threat primarily due to gentrification. Today's Somerville is very different from the one I first moved to in the '90s. Many artists have been able to adapt and I hope that this city can continue to be an interesting place for the arts.

**DH:** You describe your work as a kind of narrative that has a universal quality. Explain.

**RR:** My digital work which I call "Mapuccino's," resemble subway maps. They fall into two categories: edition prints and commissions. My edition prints cover a variety of topics from local cities and town to politics to the environment. My commissions tell a story about a particular person (or couple). Why subway maps? I've always been fascinated by them. The way that they distill complexity down to a simple bold geometry is mesmerizing. The story told through each map isn't immediately obvious at first glance. There's an element of surprise in my pieces that captivates viewers when they realize they aren't just looking at an "ordinary" subway map.

Recently, I've been doing a lot of "subway-style sketches" and posting them on Instagram ([www.instagram.com/rajivpraman](http://www.instagram.com/rajivpraman)). My sketches are usually narratives about current events. Trying to translate something as complex as the Ukraine conflict, for



example, into the language of subway maps is an immersive challenge for me.

**DH:** You have an interest in subways, particularly subway maps. And in fact you make personal subway maps for people. How do you determine what a person's map will look like? Has the new Union Square line inspired you?

**RR:** I call my commissions "interactive art" because the customer provides me with a list of places that are special to them. I'm just the composer! I take what they give me and build a beautiful subway map out of them. In that way, I'm more like a city planner! Every single commission is different and unique. They make great gifts for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, graduations ... you name it. I use basic tools of the trade like Adobe Illustrator. The final result is a signed digital print. They're easy to order and you can find out more about them at [www.mapuccino.com](http://www.mapuccino.com).

Before the Assembly stop was built, there hadn't been a new stop in Somerville in decades. Now Union Square is open and we have many more coming soon. These are exciting times! There's been a renewed interest in my work due to these popular transit projects. The downside of these projects is that they also spark gentrification and income inequality, which happen to be topics I cover in my work. Public transit has always had the power to be equalizer. People of all walks of life use it. But it has to be done right and that starts with making

*Continued on page 15*

Kentucky native CD Collins is the author of three books, a collection of short stories, *Blue Land* (Polyho Press), a poetry collection, *Self Portrait with Severed Head* (Ibbetson Street Press), and a novel, *Afterheat* (Empty City Press). Her fiction has appeared in numerous literary magazines including *StoryQuarterly*, *Phoebe*, *Salamander* and *The Pennsylvania Review*. Her work is represented in five compact discs, one of which won Best Spoken-Word album at the Boston Poetry Awards. More information at [www.cdcollins.com](http://www.cdcollins.com).



#### Miss Ludie

This woman with the mineral breath knows  
you still speak to the forest animals,  
that you once tried to make fireworks with flowers and precious sand,  
thought you could walk off the chicken coop and fly.

She will hold all of you tenderly in your little desks,  
Will free you as often as she can,  
because your body craves tearing through the playground,  
sliding onto third base, gathering as much dust as possible,  
because you thrive in the dirt you're made of.  
She knows you need to stride to the pencil sharpener  
just to relieve that spring inside you.

Her breath is silver with the frost of the mountain,  
she has climbed down from,  
to teach you letters and numbers,  
which sacks have seeds you can plant,  
which ones are too heavy a burden for your small bones to bear.  
She will teach you that it not important to count the polished dimes  
in the storm you got caught in,  
but to watch them flashing from the sky,  
under whatever shelter you can find.  
She will show you to decipher letters and words

so that you can learn the stories of other children,  
their small hands in the fur of the creatures that walk  
beside them.

Once, she dissolved a tiny square of paper in her mouth  
Ate breakfast at dawn in the diner,  
scented with the seductive oils of the Fryolater.  
Saw the towers spring up and down like accordions,  
The birds in the trees outside the library chattered  
excitedly;

she understood them.

And may divine you, too, if you allow her.  
Miss Ludie's eyes are the blue of the hyacinths  
she brought in one day,  
setting the vase on her oak table.  
Gaze into her eyes, that unfathomable blue.  
The color of the sea under a shimmering dome of sky.  
You've never seen a blue like that before.

— CD Collins



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Somerville Police investigate report of shots fired on Paulina St.

On Wednesday, June 1, at 9:44 p.m., the Somerville Police responded to 34 Paulina Street for a report of shots having been fired at the rear of the residence. On arrival, Officers learned the shooting incident occurred this same date between 5:00 a.m. – 5:15 a.m. Witnesses heard what sounded like four shots fired and soon after a fleeing vehicle but did not call the police at the time the shots were heard. There were no injuries reported.

The image here is of two unknown subjects who are considered persons of interest police at this time. Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to call the Somerville Police Department at 617.625.1600 ext.7226. This matter is a very active investigation.

— Somerville Police Dept.



Off The Shelf

CONT. FROM PG 14

sure new projects don't push longtime residents out.

**DH:** You have written a children's book, *The Last Stop*, that allows parents to explore with their children prejudice, through the "lens of transit and equality." You use subway maps here as well. How do you make the connection with transit maps to the issues with equality and equity?

**RR:** My book, available at [www.aRRtworks.com/last-stop](http://www.aRRtworks.com/last-stop), is illustrated in the style of subway maps. The story is about a neighborhood called Colorville that has been ignored for too long by city planners. The proud People of Colorville (pun intended) make a lot of noise and finally get the subway stop they've long desired. Only then do all of the other neighborhoods take notice in the beauty that Colorville has to offer. My book is meant to instill in children the idea that public transit is an equalizer that is meant for everyone. It provides the means to explore new places, meet new people, and build connections. Some

adults who've read my book have commented that it ends on a positive note and does not address the gentrification that often arises from a new subway stop. That's for a follow-up discussion between a parent and their child, or maybe a second book about gentrification! People sometimes get jaded about public transit planning because it's not always done right. In my opinion, there should've been massive affordable housing initiatives surrounding every new GLX stop. But that's a bigger discussion for another day.



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