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Somerville breaking ground on 299 Broadway and 15 Temple Street



The community is invited to the groundbreaking ceremony with free refreshments on Thursday, July 16.
— Photo courtesy of City of Somerville

When you wish upon a star (market), dreams really do come true. On Thursday, July 16, the Somerville community is invited to a groundbreaking ceremony marking the long-vacant former Star Market site's transformation into 319 new homes, including 136 affordable units.

"The 299 Broadway and 15 Temple Street project sets the standard for what we should be building more of in Somerville. Well over 100 of the homes here will be affordable, more than double the City's requirement," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "This shows what's possible when the City, the Commonwealth, private developers, and residents work together. I want to thank the previous administration, our partners, and the development team for the work that got us here. The making of

Continued on page 4

Somerville ArtBeat Festival to fill Davis Sq. with crafts, food and performance

Community members are invited to "ArtBeat 2026: REVolution" on Saturday, July 18, from 12 to 9 p.m. in Davis Square (rain date: Sunday, July 19). Admission is free and open to all.

Now in its 40th year, ArtBeat is one of Somerville's largest festivals, transforming Davis Square into a bustling celebration of creativity and community. The festival will feature over 70 craft vendors, multiple food vendors, two performance stages showcasing a dynamic mix of music, dance, theater, literary readings, and interactive activities – all highlighting Somerville's diverse and vibrant arts scene.

This year's theme, "REVolution," honors the 250th anniversary of the United States while inviting artists and attendees to creatively explore the spirit of transformation and challenging the status quo. Streets will be hopping with

Continued on page 4



ArtBeat 2026: REVolution takes place in Davis Square on Saturday, July 18.

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

Several community groups will jointly host a **multi-community forum for the 2nd Middlesex State Senate candidates** on July 16, from 7 to 9 p.m., at Somerville High School, 81 Highland Ave. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. The forum features all five candidates: **Burhan Azeem** of Cambridge, **Christine Barber** of Somerville, **Tom Hopcroft** of Winchester, **Matt McLaughlin** of Somerville, and **Erika Uytterhoeven** of Somerville. Each candidate will deliver a short opening presentation and closing remarks. Moderators will ask questions submitted pre-forum by community groups, residents, and businesses. Community members from all four municipalities are encouraged to attend. To submit a question in advance and register for the event for either an in-person or virtual event, attendees can fill out the forms on the **Neighbors in Action Forum Page**: <https://www.neighborsinaction.org/forum> or the **Union Square Neighborhood Council Forum Page**: <https://sites.google.com/view/usnc/middlesex-second-forum>.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **Leeann Rollins**. We wish her the very best for her birthday. Happy birthday to **Richard Nilsson**. We wish him a very happy birthday. Happy Birthday to Ward 4 Somerville School Committee member, **Andre Green**. We wish him a great birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Corinne Brune Dellanno**, **Joanne Parziale**, **Paul Burke**, **Michael Dunn**, **Joey Sainato**, **Christine Desrochers-Broderick**, **Richard Spinosa** and *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of July 15 – July 21 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday July 15	Partly Cloudy	92°/67°	22%	11%	WNW 14 mph
Thursday July 16	Partly Cloudy	90°/66°	1%	1%	W 15 mph
Friday July 17	Sunny	85°/65°	2%	1%	W 10 mph
Saturday July 18	Rain	75°/65°	62%	53%	W 9 mph
Sunday July 19	Rain	83°/67°	50%	44%	NW 10 mph
Monday July 20	Partly Cloudy	86°/70°	19%	12%	SW 10 mph
Tuesday July 21	Rain	83°/66°	36%	24%	SSW 13 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com
Comments of the Week

Response to: Affordability Builds Community

Bill Shelton says:

It takes much more than affordability to build community, but gentrification has been the force destroying it. Our city is under siege by developers whose only goal is profit maximization. They build homes that are too expensive for people who already live here to rent or own, occupied by people who are disproportionately uninvolved in community life.

They will exploit any zoning or enforcement opportunity, and Somerville is profligate in providing these. So this column offers no solutions.

There isn't really any conflict among "community groups" as suggested (see <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/144803>) except for Somerville YIMBYs. So here are some questions that policy makers who say they support affordable housing must answer:

Is there any amount of market-rate housing that could be built in Somerville that would lower housing prices within the city? When?

Why should we incur net city fiscal losses on housing Cambridge and Boston workers while those cities realize net gains on our residents' workplaces?

Should we accelerate Somerville's declining economic diversity and decreasing presence of families and children by pursuing our current policies?

If we zone our small amount of remaining developable land for no- or low-city-income-producing residential uses, how can we meet our fiscal challenges without raising residential tax and water rates so high that they will make all Somerville housing unaffordable?

If commercial property remains only 18.8% of our tax base, how will we pay for replacing our infrastructure, every class of which is "at the end of its useful life," much less paying for affordable housing?"

Ben Wheeler says:

Matt, I love the clarity in how you connect what you've seen our community go through, with policies we need to improve things. And I appreciate your emphasizing the need for multiple components in that improvement:: spending money on subsidized housing, allowing more market-rate housing to be produced, and capping rent increases to prevent radical rent hikes.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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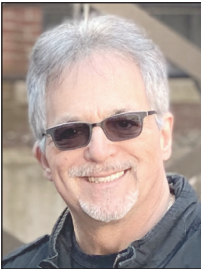
Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

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

The Whip



"Wow! Nobody believes me when I tell them about this truck!"

A hot summer's night, many years ago. People are sitting on their front porches. Kids with popsicles and the sound of fans in windows. A truck pulls up, and all the kids run over to it, but it's not the ice cream man. After stopping and getting money from their parents, the kids line up for a ride on The Whip! Along with the frenzied kids, what I remember most was the sound of the motor and the smell of exhaust. But boy was it a blast!

In the photo, one of the trucks says Uncle Sam. Now here comes the Somerville connection. When they saw the photo on Facebook, this was the reaction:

"My wife's Uncle! Slamming Sam Pino, Boston University Football Hall of Fame! Running Back, Drafted and played for the Green Bay Packers with Bart Starr."

More memories started pouring in, reacting to the photo. "I remember this truck coming to Albion St., and it cost 10 cents. Trying to explain this to others is almost impossible for anyone to comprehend if you never heard of it before." Indeed! A truck that went from neighborhood to neighborhood that had a fun-filled amusement park ride? It's no wonder that the memories of The Whip were so numerous.

"Omg! I remember this coming to Magnus Ave. We always rode more than once. I told my kids about this, and they thought I was crazy. Now I can show them it was real."

"I still remember the excitement of seeing it come down the street (Montrose). And, weren't we always outside, playing on the street?"

"We used to yell faster, faster, and it seemed like it did go faster ... the driver could throttle up the engine to make it go faster!"

My friend Phil recalls, "I remember my sister Linda giving me a dime to ride it. She became my hero then."

"I remember going to the Star Market



parking lot back in 1971. That was part of the small carnival they set up every year. Kids would be wearing neck braces the next day. No one sued."

Can you imagine if The Whip truck came around today? There are probably new safety rules and restrictions in place.

I'll go out on a limb here and say that we kids took a lot of chances back in the day. We played on the railroad tracks and

right in the middle of the street. We also gathered in city parks and played sports! Remember leaving my house around 8:30 a.m. and not getting home until after dark? We were thrilled when the traveling carnivals set up for a few days. We made a bee-line for the ice cream truck, but when The Whip came around, it was special.

It's no wonder that a friend made this comment: "One of my all-time favorite memories!"

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Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: If I give someone money as a gift, is it taxable?

A: Generally not to the person receiving it—but for the giver, larger gifts can create reporting requirements and eventually tax consequences.

The federal gift tax system works somewhat like a lifetime ledger. In many cases, giving a large gift means reporting it to the IRS—not immediately writing a tax check.

Here's how it generally works:

- The first \$19,000 is generally excluded each year.

For 2026, you can generally give up to

\$19,000 to each recipient without using any of your lifetime gift and estate tax exclusion.

- Larger gifts usually use your lifetime exclusion first.

If a gift exceeds the annual exclusion, the excess may need to be reported on Form 709 and generally reduces your lifetime gift and estate tax exclusion. For 2026, that exclusion is \$15 million per person.

For example: If you give your daughter \$100,000 in 2026, the first \$19,000 qualifies for the annual exclusion. The remaining \$81,000 generally uses part of your \$15 million lifetime exclusion. In other words, you would usually report the gift, but owe no immediate gift tax.

- Gift tax generally becomes an issue only after the lifetime exclusion is used.

Once the lifetime exclusion has been exhausted, federal gift tax rates generally range from 18% to 40%, depending on the amount of taxable gifts.

Bottom Line:

Giving more than \$19,000 to someone does not automatically mean you owe gift tax. For most people, the first issue is reporting the gift and tracking how much of the lifetime exclusion has been used. Think of it as a lifetime ledger: in many cases, the IRS is keeping track of the gift before it is collecting tax on it..

Any questions? I'm Vincent Hicks, a CPA based in the Cambridge–Somerville area.



Reach out at vincent@hickscpasolutions.com or (859) 553-0788.

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

Somerville breaking ground on 299 Broadway and 15 Temple Street

CONT. FROM PG 1

this project spans three administrations, and I especially want to thank former Mayor Ballantyne for her pivotal role in keeping it whole and our community for envisioning a project that raises the bar.”

Ceremony Details

- When: Thursday, July 16, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- Where: 299 Broadway

- What: Short speaking program and ceremonial groundbreaking with free refreshments.

“This project is exactly the kind of thoughtful, community-led development Somerville needs,” said Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan. “It transforms a long-vacant site into much-needed housing, with an extraordinary commitment to affordability. Given that the abandoned Star Market has been the number-one issue raised by residents over the years, this is a major win for our community. I’m proud

to have played a role in bringing this important project to Ward 4 and the City of Somerville.”

About 299 Broadway and 15 Temple Street

The development is being led by Mark Development, Beacon Communities, RISE Together, and Samuels & Associates, in partnership with the City of Somerville and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The project reflects years of planning, collaboration, and community input to bring new housing and investment to a key neighborhood site.

At 15 Temple Street, Beacon Communities and RISE Together will create 115 affordable apartments, including homes for households earning at or below 60% of Area Median Income and at or below 30% of Area Median Income. At 299 Broadway, Samuels & Associates and Mark Development will create 204 apartments, including

21 affordable units, along with neighborhood-serving retail and resident amenities.

“As we celebrate the start of vertical construction, it’s rewarding to see the City of Somerville’s long-planned vision for this site take shape above ground,” said Dara Kovel, CEO, Beacon Communities. “We’re deeply appreciative of the creativity, collaboration, and investment from our development partners at Mark Development and Samuels & Associates, and from City officials and staff, that have helped move this complex and transformative project forward. Together, we are revitalizing a long-vacant property, strengthening the Winter Hill neighborhood, and advancing a model for expanding much-needed mixed-income housing in communities throughout the Commonwealth.”

“This project is the result of sustained collaboration with the City of Somerville

on how to best revitalize a long-dormant site and a shared commitment to listening to the community as the project evolved,” said Robert Korff, Chief Executive Officer of Mark Development. “Together with our partners, we’ve created a development that expands housing opportunities while delivering the public spaces, sustainability, and neighborhood investments residents told us they wanted.”

“This groundbreaking marks the beginning of a new chapter for Winter Hill that will create homes, welcome new businesses, and invest in a neighborhood in ways that will benefit Somerville residents for generations,” said Damien Chaviano, Co-President and Principal at Samuels & Associates.

Construction is underway, with 15 Temple Street expected to welcome residents in late 2027 and 299 Broadway expected to be completed in early 2028.

Somerville ArtBeat Festival to fill Davis Sq. with crafts, food and performance

CONT. FROM PG 1

vendors, roaming performers (even a town crier!), and music from 12 to 7 p.m. At 5 p.m., a REvolutionary parade will lead attendees from the Elm Street stage to Seven Hills Park, where music will continue until 9 p.m. Keep cool throughout by filling up your water bottle at the water buggy in Davis Sq., set up your umbrella on the Seven Hills Park lawn, or visit a shade tent near the Elm St. Stage, in Seven Hills Park, and near the main traffic island in Davis Square.

“This summer is chock-full of celebrating the people, places, and connections that make Somerville unique, and the return of ArtBeat makes it all the more special,” said Mayor Jake Wilson. “I can’t wait to experience the talent of our local creatives and their interpretations of where we’ve been and where we’re headed.”

The event takes place throughout Davis Square, including Seven Hills Park, Elm Street, and Holland Street, which will be

closed to traffic. Find photos, descriptions, and start times for all ArtBeat performers at: bit.ly/artbeat2026.

More Information

For all ArtBeat information, please visit: bit.ly/artbeat2026.

MBTA Bus Information

MBTA Buses Routes: 87, 88, 89, 90, 94, and 96 will be rerouted from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Please see mbta.com for full detour information.



Nurses return to work

By Christa Lee

Two Mass General Brigham (MGB) health care workers, Shannon Viera and Karen Estey, spoke at the City Council meeting on July 9, bringing further attention to the negotiations between the Brigham and Women's Hospital nurses and Mass General Brigham.

Shannon, a nurse for MGB for 12 years and chair of the MGB Home Care Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA) Bargaining Committee, spoke about the precarious position that nurses are in with the pay and workload given to them. "Currently, we take home two, three, four hours of work with us every night, depending on our caseloads," said Viera. "We're looking for caseload limits related to how many patients we can safely care for. These patients need to be seen two to three times a week, usually. It's unmanageable in a 40-hour work week."

Karen, a speech therapist with MGB Home Care and secretary of the union, broke down the disparity in pay. "We haven't been able to have even cost-of-living increases," said Estey. "We get a standard

raise every year and, meanwhile, our CEO has had her pay increased by 40%. In four years, ours have increased 2.5% every year." Boston.com reported that the CEO and President of MGB, Anne Klibanski, earned \$8.4 million in 2024.

Most of the city councilors made remarks in support of the strike at that meeting. Matthew McLaughlin, Ward One City Councilor, spoke about the city bringing in Partners Healthcare to Assembly Row as renters instead of owners. This meant that the city of Somerville "ended up missing out on a big bonus." And now that Mass General Brigham is "not paying their nurses," the organization is "operating as a Fortune 500 company with a non-profit status".

"This organization would not exist were it not for nurses," said McLaughlin. "So I expect them to treat their nurses the way that they should and pay them what they deserve."

The Council passed a resolution in support of the striking nurses.

The nurses returned to work on Monday after being locked out for four days after a one-day strike.



MGB health care workers Shannon Viera and Karen Estey addressed the City Council at their latest meeting, discussing issues related to the recent nurses strike.

Councilor Will Mbah canvass launch

On Saturday, July 11, Mayor Jake Wilson and Councilor Jesse Clingan hosted City Councilor Will Mbah for the launch of his State Rep door-knocking campaign.



Mayor Wilson selected for Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative

By The Times Staff

Somerville Mayor Jake Wilson has been selected to join the tenth class of the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative. Mayor Wilson is one of just 46 mayors chosen from 15 countries to participate in this nine-month program.

Established with Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Business School, and housed at the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard, the Initiative is designed to help city leaders strengthen local government and better address residents' top priorities. With the tenth class, the Initiative will have now served 447 mayors – including eight in ten of America's big-city mayors and nine of England's mayoral strategic authorities – alongside over 3,000 municipal chiefs.

As part of the program, Mayor Wilson and senior officials from Somerville will learn from Harvard faculty, policy experts, and fellow mayors to tackle pressing challenges such as affordable housing. The program kicks off this week with an in-person convening in New York City.

Mayor Wilson is one of just 46 mayors chosen from 15 countries to participate in the 10th class of the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative.

Through the nine-month professional management program, Mayor Wilson, alongside two top Somerville officials who will begin in August, will gain strategies to improve how local government works and moves residents' chief priorities forward.

The flagship Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative is at the center of more than 10 years of work led by Bloomberg Philanthropies through its Government Innovation program to strengthen mayoral leadership and local government across the globe. Today, it is where the world's mayors come to learn and to lead. Mayor Wilson will join them.

Established with Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Business School, and housed at the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard, the Initiative will have

now served 447 mayors, including eight in ten of America's big-city mayors and nine of England's mayoral strategic authorities, alongside over 3,000 municipal chiefs.

"Mayors sit at the first and last mile of every major problem we face, and we built the Government Innovation program to ensure they have the capacity required to lead," said James Anderson, who leads the Government Innovation program at Bloomberg Philanthropies. "The Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative is at its center, and in a moment that demands more from public leadership than ever, this class will have that world of support behind them. We look forward to these mayors putting it to work, and all that their city halls will do."

Through the Initiative, Mayor Wilson will work alongside Harvard faculty, policy experts, veteran managers, and fellow mayors – in classrooms, virtual sessions, and in the field – beginning with a multi-day convening in New York City this week. Participants learn to organize teams around outcomes, ground decisions in evidence, and collaborate across departments and sectors, applying lessons directly to the issues at home, from housing and affordability to economic growth, public safety, and emergency response.

Once the coursework ends, Somerville remains eligible for more: professional education for senior officials in economic development, human resources, procurement, and civic engagement; a Bloomberg Harvard City Hall Fellow, placed for up to two years on a priority the mayor sets; and research and instructional material developed across the program's first decade.

Through the program, Somerville is seeking to make it easier for residents, businesses, and developers to navigate city services.

Alumni of the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative include Pete Buttigieg, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation and mayor of South Bend, IN; Keisha Lance Bottoms, former Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement and mayor of Atlanta, GA;



Somerville Mayor Jake Wilson has been selected to take part in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative.

Mayor Muriel Bowser of the District of Columbia; Andy Burnham, Member of Parliament for Makerfield and former Mayor of Greater Manchester, UK; Mayor Misty Buscher of Springfield, IL; Mayor William Cogswell of Charleston, SC; Uruguay Vice President Carolina Cosse and former mayor of Montevideo, Uruguay; Mayor Patrick Farrell of Huntington, WV; John Giles, former mayor of Mesa, AZ; Claudia López, former mayor of Bogotá, Colombia; Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell of Cedar Rapids, IA; Mayor Brandon Scott of Baltimore, MD; and Mayor Paul TenHaken of Sioux Falls, SD.

Through these leadership programs, Somerville enters Bloomberg Philanthropies' broader Government Innovation portfolio and global community of practice, tens of thousands of mayors and municipal officials strong, who draw on each other's work to better the lives of the hundreds of millions of residents they collectively serve.

The Bloomberg Philanthropies Government Innovation program was built around a fundamental question: not what

local governments should do, but whether they have the ability to do it. Michael R. Bloomberg spent three terms as mayor of New York City. He knew what the job demands, the opportunity to improve lives it holds, and what the system fails to provide. The philanthropic bet on Government Innovation he wagered was not on policy. It was on capacity.

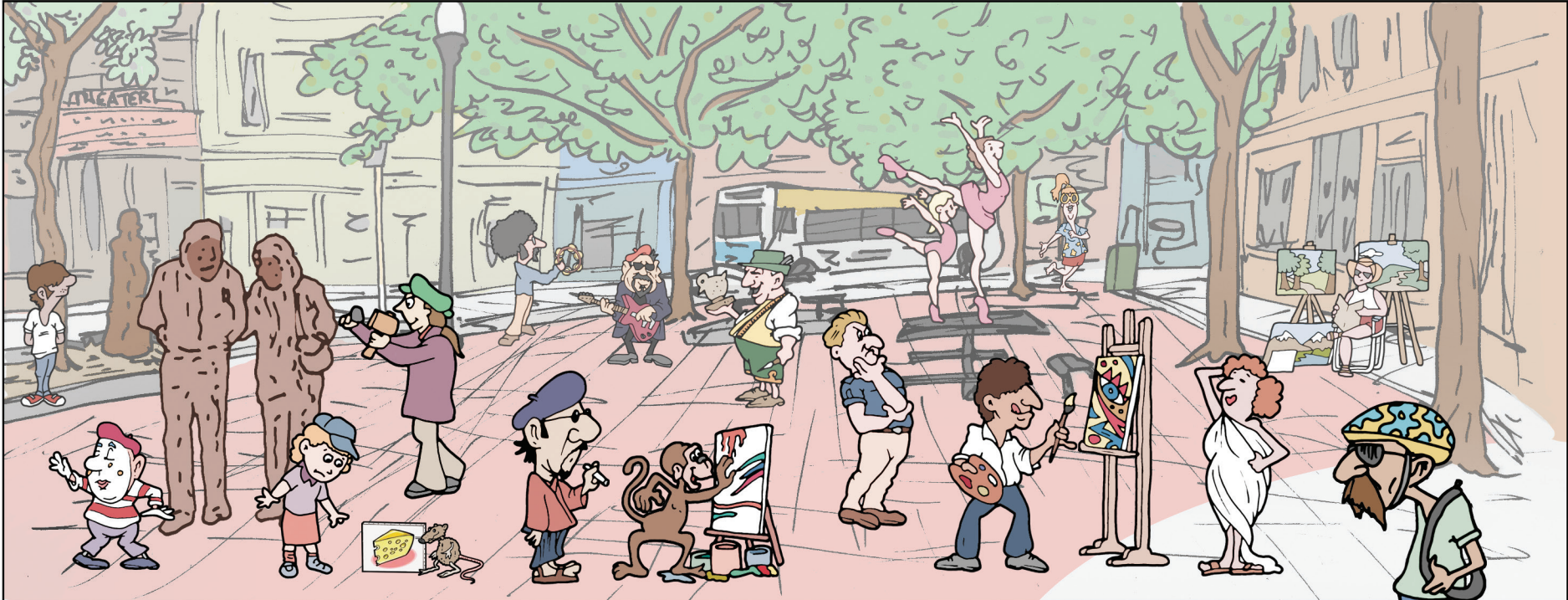
These Government Innovation efforts provide municipalities with issue-agnostic capacity-building: strong leadership and management training, organizational muscle to produce results, investment in new ideas, peers to learn from, and the science to evidence-back their work. Today, that includes a deliberate range: executive development for mayors and the senior officials who run city hall's core; stronger data, digital, and AI capabilities to improve how government serves; innovation talent and teams working across sectors and departments; capital and technical support to develop, test, implement, scale, and spread bold ideas and organizational practices that work; and the peer learning network and field of research that underpins it all.

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COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



ArtBeat is back, pumping up the pulse of Somerville.

Our View Of The Times



The Somerville Arts Council’s ArtBeat festival has become a much-beloved annual tradition here in the city for many.

One thing can be said for certain: it brings to the fore some of the most imaginative and unique creations one could ever wish to see, hear, and – sometimes – even feel.

During the heat of summer (held on the third weekend in July), artists and festival

goers converge on Davis Square, transforming it into one of the area’s largest and most innovative arts festivals. Each year, they develop a theme that serves as a launching point for artists and the community to express themselves.

This year’s theme, “REvolution,” honors the 250th anniversary of the United States while inviting artists and attendees to creatively explore the spirit of transformation

and challenge the status quo.

Music performances on Saturday will occur simultaneously on the Seven Hills and Elm Street stages. During the organized performances, all day long, patrons can visit over 70 vendors. Additional events will take place at Statue Park and Day Street.

We salute SAC’s efforts to present the best our artistic community has to offer

to the larger world around us, and eagerly look forward to the next imaginative plot the organization may be hatching for us a year from now.

Admission is free and open to all.

So come out this Saturday, 12:00 – 9:00 p.m., and join in on all the REvolutionary fun. For more info, go to the SCA website: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/events/artbeat-2026-revolution/>

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Joseph Cottiera 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.

Enjoy a **free family movie on the lawn: Babe**, **Wednesday, July 15**, 7:30 – 9 p.m. **Central Library Lawn**, 79 Highland Ave. The movie will start as soon as it’s dark enough. In case of bad weather, they’ll show the movie in the auditorium.

Aeronaut Brewing Co., 14 Tyler St, is bringing live music to Somerville this summer with **Patiopalooza**, a free outdoor concert series featuring some of

New England’s most exciting emerging and established bands. On **Saturday, July 18**, they’ll host Somerville favorites, 2 p.m., **Clifford**, 4 p.m., **Tiberius Wright**, and 5:30 p.m., **Makeout Palace**. Admission is free.

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

Community members are invited to “**ArtBeat 2026: REvolution**” on **Saturday, July 18**, from 12 to 9 p.m. in **Davis Square**

(rain date: Sunday, July 19). Admission is free and open to all. The festival will feature over 70 craft vendors, multiple food vendors, two performance stages showcasing a dynamic mix of music, dance, theater, literary readings, and interactive activities, all highlighting Somerville’s diverse and vibrant arts scene. The event takes place throughout Davis Square, including Seven Hills Park, Elm Street, and Holland Street, which will be closed to traffic. Find photos, descriptions, and start times for all ArtBeat performers at: bit.ly/artbeat2026.

July is **Disability Pride Month**, a time

to celebrate the diversity, strength, and achievements of individuals with disabilities. Visit the SCPD table at ArtBeat, Davis Square, for crafts, free books, and information about how to join the SCPD as an Associate Resident Member on July 18. For questions about SCPD Disability Pride Month activities, please contact ADAcommission@gmail.com.

Friends of District Attorney Marian Ryan will be holding a **meet-and-greet and a fundraiser** on **Thursday, July 20**, at **Sally O’Brien’s**, 335 Somerville Ave., from 5 – 7 p.m. Seniors can attend for free. Suggested donations: *Continued on page 13*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#1031

1. Which yacht race is the oldest trophy in international sport dating back to 1851?

2. What is the name of the famous music festival held in the California desert each spring and summer?

3. The Maritime Silk Road was primarily used to transport which valuable commodity?

4. In Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, what is the name of Captain Ahab's ship?

5. Which city was the destination of the RMS Titanic's ill-fated maiden voyage?

6. How much water is

in a watermelon?

7. What does the Australian slang word "barbie" stand for?

8. Which popular French summer dish is also the title of a Disney movie?

9. What alcohol is in a Margarita?

10. Which two herbs are in a Tabbouleh?

11. In *How I Met Your Mother*, which fruit does Ted find on his bedside table?

12. Which rock band released a song called Tequila Sunrise in the 70s?

Answers on page 10

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Sweat doesn't smell bad.

2. The only domestic animal not mentioned in the Bible is the cat.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
KIDS' CLASSICS

- ACROSS
- 1. Capital of Ghana
 - 6. Pilot's announcement
 - 9. Bog deposit
 - 13. Banned aerosol propellant
 - 14. Lake, in France
 - 15. ____ firma
 - 16. Source of chocolate
 - 17. Sensitive subject?
 - 18. Twig of a willow tree
 - 19. Certain secret spot
 - 21. Beezus' little sister
 - 23. Half a dozen
 - 24. Final notice
 - 25. CEO's deg.
 - 28. Spew profanities
 - 30. Swamp
 - 35. Gateway ____
 - 37. Boisterous play
 - 39. "All for one and one for all," to Musketeers
 - 40. Steak preference
 - 41. Flower's peak
 - 43. Butter ____, Hogsmeade beverage
 - 44. Like some East Coast universities
 - 46. Archipelago unit
 - 47. Plaintiff
 - 48. Loads
 - 50. Tiny bit
 - 52. Snoop
 - 53. Bruce and Spike, e.g.
 - 55. Ovine mom
 - 57. Pocketful
 - 60. Cat's ____
 - 63. Lemony Snicket, to Daniel Handler
 - 64. Shel Silverstein's "A Boy Named ____"
 - 66. The company one ____
 - 68. Peanut butter and jelly sandwich to a kid
 - 69. Lt.'s subordinate
 - 70. Snail mail replacement
 - 71. Says "What?"
 - 72. As opposed to yeses
 - 73. *Mystery solve

- DOWN
- 1. Half of NFL
 - 2. Rugged rock
 - 3. Cecum, pl.
 - 4. Lion sounds
 - 5. Relating to anode
 - 6. Dashing style
 - 7. "It" game
 - 8. Sour
 - 9. 100 centavos, in Mexico
 - 10. Actress Moriarty
 - 11. Equals 1/2 b x h
 - 12. Smoker's lung residue
 - 15. Double drum
 - 20. Beyond suburb
 - 22. Heart to Cupid
 - 24. Reverse one, in the kitchen
 - 25. Super Bro.
 - 26. "Music to my ears!"
 - 27. Like thick smoke
 - 29. Same as solos
 - 31. Schneider and Reiner, e.g.
 - 32. Consumed (2 words)
 - 33. Ranch grazer
 - 34. Game of apologies
 - 36. Achilles' weakness
 - 38. Ralph Lauren's inspiration
 - 42. Same as metre
 - 45. Yummy
 - 49. " ____ Spot Run"
 - 51. Rouse
 - 54. Ruhr's industrial center
 - 56. Swelling
 - 57. Arithmetic operation
 - 58. Piglet sound
 - 59. Cul de ____, pl.
 - 60. ____pool or ____pit
 - 61. Like hard times
 - 62. "The Iliad," e.g.
 - 63. Pie ____ mode
 - 65. Shedding-type card game
 - 67. Like Aesop's fox

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
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71						72				73			

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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

A	G	I	S	M		A	T	E			T	A	P	S
D	O	L	C	E		L	E	V			M	A	N	I
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S	E	A	T	T	L	E			N	O	T	T	I	N
			T	A	O		L	S	A	T				
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E	A	S	E	L		L	I	R	E		A	G	A	R
S	C	E	N	I	C		N	O	V	A		A	N	A
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I	N	A	N	E		A	G	O		M	I	A	O	U
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T	O	N	S			A	P	T		L	E	F	T	S

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Free summer meals are back!

School may be out, but nutritious meals are still on the menu! The City of Somerville is offering free summer meals for all children and teens ages 18 and under from July 6 to August 14. No registration, ID, income verification, or proof of residency is required – just stop by during meal service. This program is open to everyone and helps ensure kids stay fueled all summer long.

Meal Sites and Times (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.):

- ♦ Argenziano - Lincoln Park, 290 Washington St., Monday-Friday
- ♦ Blessing of the Bay Boathouse, 32 Shore Dr., Monday-Friday
- ♦ Dilboy Stadium, 110 Alewife Brook Pkwy, Monday-Friday
- ♦ Powderhouse Park, Broadway and College Ave, 850 Broadway, Monday-Thursday
- ♦ The Dojo @ Somernova, 15 Properzi Way, Monday-Friday

Meals are available to everyone aged 18 and younger.

No application or sign-up is needed.

The program is part of the statewide Summer Eats initiative, helping ensure children have access to healthy meals while school is out.

Learn more, view all locations, and find additional resources here:

somervillema.gov/freesummermeals



Dorothy's Corner BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Ciao

A group of friends made plans for a get-together, and we discussed getting pizza for our evening. The question was, what style of pizza did our group prefer? The consensus, Neapolitan style. I said, I know just the place!

Located just steps from the Ball Square T stop, this hole-in-the-wall pizza and pasta restaurant is serving up Neapolitan-style pizza and hand-made pastas. I tried three pizzas. First off, the crust was pillowy soft, but stood up to the toppings and had a fantastic wood-flavored char and a great chew. All must-haves in this style of pizza. I consider myself a traditionalist when it comes to pizza; my preference is the Margherita. However, the Salsicca with the house-made fennel sausage, mozzarella, and Calabrian chilies had a hint of sweetness and a spicy kick. The Burrata was similar to the Margherita but was covered with fire-roasted cherry tomatoes and creamy burrata, which was a nice touch. Everyone was very happy and raved about how great the pizza was, especially the Prosciutto di Parma;

the whole top of the pie was completely covered with prosciutto and had a salty, sweet flavor with fig jam, peppery from the arugula, and an earthy flavor profile with the Gorgonzola.

The next week, I decided to try the pasta. Let's just say it did not disappoint. I tried the bucatini all'Amatriciana. The pasta was cooked perfectly, al dente. The tomato sauce was rich with pieces of guanciale scattered through, giving a smoky, salty bite. I also tried the Milanese chicken pasta dish, spaghetti aglio olio in a rich broth with roasted cherry tomatoes. The chicken was lightly breaded and fried, and was crispy on the outside and juicy on the inside. Last, but not least, the Caesar salad was fresh, crisp, and was tossed in enough dressing so as not to compromise the integrity of the romaine. Topping it all off were small, perfect-sized, crispy, and quite flavorful croutons. For the record, they also have paninis and desserts. Beer, wine, and coffee are also available. I look forward to trying more items on the menu in the near future. Please see the webpage for additional information,



along with online ordering.
Ciao
688 Broadway
Somerville, MA 02144
617-764-1108
Mon-Thurs 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Fri 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Sat 12 – 10 p.m.
Sun 12 – 9 p.m.
\$12– \$28
ciao-somerville.com

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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City of Somerville
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a virtual public hearing on **Tuesday, August 4, 2026**, at 6:45pm through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. A recording of these proceedings can be found online here: [Agendas, Minutes, & More](#).

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/WN_V-Gx5xJbQgq5vyodKU77H0

TO CALL IN

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

The Historic Preservation Commission will consider the following pursuant to 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.

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

21 College Hill Road Applicant: Ferrante Construction
Owner: Jonathan Nyberg
The applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to add a new backyard cottage to a Local Historic District Property.

Determinations of Historic Significance (STEP 1 IN THE DEMO REVIEW PROCESS)

23 Hinckley Street Applicant: W.O.M. Construction
Owner: 23 Hinckley St Somerville LLC
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Interested persons may provide comments to the Historic Preservation Commission at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to historic@somervillema.gov. Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should contact the ADA Coordinator in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or ADA@somervillema.gov.

7/15/26 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
JAKE WILSON
MAYOR

SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing regarding the use and implementation of body worn cameras by the Somerville Police Department on **Monday, July 27th, 2026, at 6:30PM**.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting will be held by remote participation.

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. Virtually through the Zoom platform.
Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/WN_2ZKBxEsFSVmU_6Eq6I2h3g
2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to publiccomments@somervillema.gov, or send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143. **Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing**, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

7/15/26 The Somerville Times



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REQUEST FOR DESIGN SERVICES (RFS)

SHA Job 2608

The **Somerville Housing Authority**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed proposals from registered Engineering firms to provide professional design and construction administration services to replace two of the existing elevators at our Hagan Manor development located in Somerville, MA 02143. The replacements will include evaluation and design of new elevator sized for Hagan Manor, 4 story elderly housing development.

A briefing and site inspection is scheduled for **10:00 AM on Wednesday, July 29th, 2026**, at the Hagan Manor elderly facility located at 268 Washington Street, Somerville, MA 02143.

Response to this RFS must be submitted no later than **2:00 Wednesday, August 5th, 2026**.

The RFS may be obtained after **8:00AM on Thursday, July 16th, 2026**, by contacting ryanc@sha-web.org or by phone at 617-625-1152 Ext.331. Questions must be sent in writing to ryanc@sha-web.org no later than Monday, August 3rd, 2026.

7/15//26 The Somerville Times

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www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

ESMS July Community Hero: Mary Cassesso

This month, East Somerville Main Streets is proud to recognize Mary Cassesso as their Community Hero! As an East Somerville native, Mary continues to be one of the neighborhood's biggest champions.

Every Wednesday, you'll find her volunteering at Connexion's weekly meal, greeting neighbors with kindness and helping serve dinner. Each week, she also distributes lunches to neighbors experiencing homelessness in East Somerville, offering not just food, but great conversation and genuine care.

Mary is a fierce advocate for East Somerville's small businesses, a dedicated supporter of East Somerville Main Streets, and serves on the boards of several Somerville nonprofit organizations. She leads with generosity and an unwavering commitment to making Somerville a more connected and caring place.

Mary, thank you for the time, energy, and heart you pour into this community. East Somerville is stronger because of you.
— East Somerville Main Streets



Ms. Cam's *From on page 8*
Olio
Answers

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The America's Cup | 7. Barbecue |
| 2. Coachella | 8. Ratatouille |
| 3. Silk | 9. Tequila |
| 4. The Pequod | 10. Mint and parsley |
| 5. New York City | 11. A pineapple |
| 6. Approximately 92% water | 12. The Eagles |

Call for What the Fluff? vendors

Don't miss your opportunity to be part of this year's What the Fluff? A Tribute to Union Square Innovation!

What the Fluff? A Tribute to Union Square Innovation is currently accepting applications for Food and Craft vendors ... but not for long! Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until spots are filled— and spots are filling up quickly

Don't delay! Head to unionsquaremain.org/fluffvendors to submit your application today! Community and Non-profit application will be available soon



Somerville sharing tips to help prevent mosquito and tick bites

As summer gets fully underway, the City of Somerville is reminding residents to stay vigilant against bug bites. Mosquitoes and ticks are both extremely common in Massachusetts and may carry or spread viruses and bacteria that can make you sick.

Help Avoid Mosquito and Tick Bites

- Use insect repellent when outdoors.
- When weather permits, wear long sleeves, long pants, and socks outdoors to help keep mosquitoes and ticks away from your skin. Tuck your pants into your socks for better protection against ticks.
- If you can, schedule outdoor activities to avoid the hours from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are most active. If you cannot schedule activities around these times, take extra care to use repellent and wear protective clothing.
- Stick to main pathways and the center of trails. Ticks are most commonly found in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas, so brushing against tall grass and bushes increases your risk of exposure to ticks. Ticks only attach when you come into direct contact with them — they cannot jump or fly.

Steps to Help Keep Mosquitoes and Ticks Away from Your Home

- Drain standing water from around your home, like rain gutters, drains,

and unused flowerpots. This helps limit places around your home for mosquitoes to breed.

- Install window and door screens or repair damaged screens to help keep mosquitoes outside.
- Keep grass cut short and remove leaves and brush to help reduce any ticks around your home.

Check for Ticks

- After spending time outside in potentially tick-infested areas, check yourself, children, pets, and clothing for ticks. Ticks are tiny, so look for new “freckles.” Ticks may be on areas between the toes, back of the knees, groin, armpits, and neck, along the hairline, and behind the ears.

- If you find a tick attached to your skin, don’t panic and carefully remove it as soon as possible. Use fine point tweezers to grip the tick as close to your skin as possible and pull straight out with steady pressure. Then, thoroughly clean the bite area.

Mosquito- and Tick-borne Illnesses

Both West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) are usually transmitted to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. Only a small number of mosquitoes are infected at any given time, so being bitten by a mosquito does not mean you will get sick.

The State does seasonal testing for



WNV and EEE and updates town-specific risk levels where WNV- or EEE-positive mosquitoes are found. Five samples of WNV-positive mosquitoes have been found so far this summer. No human or animal cases of WNV have been detected so far this year. No evidence of EEE has been found so far this year. Somerville is currently at Low risk for both WNV and EEE. You can check risk maps throughout the summer at: mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-arbovirus-update.

Different kinds of ticks can bite you

and spread diseases. In Massachusetts, ticks can spread more common diseases like Lyme Disease, Babesiosis, and Anaplasmosis, as well as rarer diseases like Tularemia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Borrelia miyamotoi, and Powassan virus. If you remove a tick from your skin, note the date and where on your body the tick was removed. Talk to your doctor if you develop a rash or other signs of illness following a tick bite.

For more information on mosquitoes and ticks, visit: mass.gov/mosquitoes-and-ticks.

Somerville hosts local World Cup events

On July 12, the city held a soccer clinic with the New England Revolution at Dilboy before the SomerCup 2026 tournament. The clinic was led by coaches of the New England Revolution.

As part of SomerCup 2026, residents were invited to showcase their skills at three free soccer tournaments at Dilboy Stadium (110 Alewife Brook Parkway). The final tournament will take place on Friday, July 17, from 1:30 to 5 p.m.: Grades 5 to 8 and 9 to 12.

Watch the games locally and support Somerville’s small businesses.

Between June 11 and July 19, a number of currently licensed Somerville bars, cafes, and restaurants extended operating hours so patrons have more time to enjoy the games. Find participating businesses at www.somervillema.gov/worldcup.

Join fellow fans and attend a local watch party organized by the Somerville Chamber of Commerce. Broadcasts of games will be shown in multiple languages. Remaining schedule is as follows: Sunday, July 19, 2 to 7 p.m., Union Square Plaza. Watch parties are free to attend, but space is limited. Reserve your spot at somervillechamber.org.





Somerville Fair Housing Commission *Question of the week*

Q: I'm moving out of my apartment. How can I ensure I get my full security deposit back?

A: When you move in, walk through the unit with the landlord and make a note of any damages already in the unit. This document is called a "Statement of Condition." When you are preparing to move out, do another walk-through, comparing lists. If there are any damages, you can repair these yourself before moving out, or the landlord will be able to deduct the cost of repair from your security deposit. Clean the unit thoroughly; all rooms should be swept and vacuumed, trash taken out and all items removed.

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

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

To donate visit:

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

Share with your friends and neighbors!
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Want to write local Somerville stories?

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and speak to the Assignment Editor

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why couldn't the pirate play cards?
Because he was standing on the deck.

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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Foxglove... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

July 15

1099 – Jerusalem falls to the Crusaders.

1410 – Poles and Lithuanians defeat the Teutonic knights at Tannenberg, Prussia.

1789 – The electors of Paris set up a "Commune" to live without the authority of the government.

1806 – Lt. Zebulon Pike begins his western expedition from Fort Belle Fontaine.

1834 – Lord Napier of England arrives at Macao, China, as the first chief superintendent of trade.

1863 – Confederate raider Bill Anderson and his Bushwhackers attack Huntsville, Missouri, stealing \$45,000 from the local bank.

1901 – Over 74,000 Pittsburgh steel workers go on strike.

1942 – The first supply flight from India to China over the "Hump" is flown.

1958 – President Dwight Eisenhower sends 5,000 Marines to Lebanon to keep the peace.

1960 – John F. Kennedy accepts the Democratic nomination for president.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

\$100, \$250, and \$500. All are welcome to attend to meet the District Attorney.

The city's annual **SomerMovie Fest** is set to return, bringing you exciting evenings of family-friendly films to be shown in parks around Somerville this summer. The next free movie screening, **School of Rock** (PG-13), is held on **Thursday, July 16**, at the **Lincoln Park softball field** (290 Washington St.). The approximate start time is 8:30 p.m. For more information, please visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/moviefest>. Persons with disabilities who need ADA accommodations to access this program, please contact ada@somervillema.gov or call 311 (617-666-3311).

Somerville's **Veterans Breakfast for Purple Heart Recipients** takes place on **Thursday, July 23**. The city's **Veterans Services Division** is hosting a breakfast for local veterans and their families. Ahead of **National Purple Heart Day** on **August 7**, this breakfast will honor Purple Heart medal recipients. This event will take place at the **Highlander Cafe** at **Somerville High School** (81 Highland Ave.) at 9 a.m. Register to attend by emailing veterans@somervillema.gov.

The City of Somerville's **Sustainability and Environment Division (SED)** is now accepting applications for **Cooling East Somerville**, offering eligible East Somerville residents up to \$5,000 to remove pavement from their property and replace it with shade trees, plants, and other cooling landscape improvements. Go to www.voice.somervillema.gov/cooling-east-somerville to learn more and apply. Interested residents can also contact **Elyse Belarge** at ebelarge@somervillema.gov or 781-823-9332.

Take a survey on **Bilingual Education in Somerville**. **Somerville Public Schools (SPS)** is gathering information to better understand community perspectives on bilingual education opportunities. All families with children currently enrolled or with the potential to enroll in SPS are invited to take a brief, 10-question survey, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F76SD5N>. The data gathered is for informational purposes only and will help inform future planning. All responses are voluntary and confidential.

Looking for a creative summer activi-

ty for your child? Join the **Somerville Museum** for the **Somerville Museum Vacation Arts Program**, a week of hands-on artmaking designed for ages 7–11. **From August 17 to 21**, young artists will explore a new mix of creative workshops each day, including beads and books, terrariums, mosaics, rhythm, printmaking, corn husk doll making, crochet, shell etching, clothing upcycling, and stuffed animal making. All materials and daily snacks are provided. 9 a.m.–12 p.m., Somerville Museum, 1 Westwood Road, \$60 per day or \$250 for the full week. Discounts available for siblings, Somerville Museum members, and EBT cardholders. Space is limited, register through Eventbrite. <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/vacationarts>.

With the hot weather here to stay for a while, community members are encouraged to review ways to stay cool, healthy, and safe. Tips are available in multiple languages at www.somervillema.gov/keepcool.

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

Dilboy Pool and Stadium are now open to the public. Dilboy Pool has a swimming and wading pool for all ages, open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., with **Lap Swim hours** from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on **Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays**. Admission is free. Dilboy Stadium is open Monday – Friday from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Only walking and running are permitted on the track. Admission is free. More information can be found at www.somervillerec.com. For more information on all Somerville pools, visit somervillema.gov/pools.

Applications for **Yart Sale** are live. On **Saturday, August 8**, porches, driveways, and yards across Somerville will transform into pop-up markets featuring artwork, crafts, collectibles, and more. Join in on the fun and apply to participate by 11:59 p.m., **Monday, July 20**. Rain date: August 9. For full event guidelines, visit: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/yart-sale/>.

The Powder House, Milk Row Cem-

etry and Prospect Hill Tower will be open to the public on select dates and times **through October**, as part of **History on the Line**, a series of exhibitions and programs organized by the **Somerville Museum** and funded by the **Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism's MA250 initiative** and the **City of Somerville**. **History unlocked: Drop-in chat** on select Thursdays, 6 – 8 p.m., and select Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. For dates and more information, visit <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>.

Join the **Arts at the Armory** to celebrate the work of long-term collaborative partners **Samuel D. Bondi** and **Holly Megan Sverdrup Hoyer**. They will be displaying solo works as well as pieces from their ongoing collaborative project "**OWÄG**." **July 18**, 3 – 5 p.m., 191 Highland Ave, Somerville (in **The ROOTED Cafe @ Arts at the Armory**).

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

Somergloom Festival returns for year 6 at **Crystal Ballroom, August 6, 7, 8, 9**. Somergloom is an underground heavy music and arts festival based in Somerville, Massachusetts, in the Greater Boston area. Unencumbered by genre, Somergloom showcases and celebrates the richness of today's heavy music scene, centered around music that is introspective, creatively ambitious, evoking a melancholic quality that we like to call "gloom". Limited-Time Ticket Sale Tuesday 7/7/26-7/10/26. For lineup details, visit Somergloom.com

Join **Union Square Main Streets** and 60+ of your favorite local food producers for the **22nd Annual Union Square Farmers Market**. Shop local **Saturdays through October 31**, except July 4 and September 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the **Union Square Plaza**. They continue to offer our SNAP matches. Check the market webpage for the latest info and to

see which vendors accept SNAP. To get the latest updates about the Union Square Farmers Market, visit www.unionsquare-main.org/2026-season.

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

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

The **Somerville Mobile Farmers Market** returned on **Thursday, July 9**, for the 2026 season. The market brings fresh, affordable, local produce to four city locations **Thursdays through Saturdays and runs through October 31**. All produce is sourced from local farms and priced affordably to make healthy, fresh food accessible to all. The mobile market accepts cash, debit and credit cards, SNAP, Fresh Connect, WIC Farmers Market Coupons, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons. All are welcome. For the full schedule, weekly produce updates, and more information about programs and events, visit the market's website at somerville-mobilefarmers-market.org.

Assembly Row Farmers Market is being held at **375 Assembly Row**, Somerville, on **Fridays, 3 – 7 p.m.** The market will run **from June 12 to October 9**. Each week, you'll be able to find goods from nearly 30 New England-based farmers and producers. Expect a great mix of seasonal produce, baked goods, dairy and eggs, meats and seafood, honey, jams, specialty foods, and more. It's the perfect place to stock up for the weekend, discover local favorites, or simply enjoy a fresh Friday visit to Assembly Row. <https://marketspread.com/market/37299/assembly-row-farmers-market/>.

The **Davis Square Market** has opened for the 2026 Season. *Continued on page 15*



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Steve Ratiner: Mastermind of WE (too) THE PEOPLE series at the Longfellow House in Cambridge

Steve Ratiner is the president of the New England Poetry Club. I talked with him about the WE (too) THE PEOPLE poetry series at the Longfellow House in Cambridge this summer. On July 12, the club hosts Tracy K. Smith, the former U.S. Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner. There will be readings throughout the summer.

Doug Holder: What was the germ of the idea for the WE (too) THE PEOPLE series at the Longfellow House in Cambridge?

Steve Ratiner: As you know, the New England Poetry Club is one of the oldest literary associations in the US, begun in 1915 by the signature New England poets Amy Lowell, Robert Frost, and Conrad Aiken. Among several reading series we hold in various venues, we have a long-standing partnership with the Longfellow Historical House in Cambridge, and the Friends of the Longfellow House (who help support its programming). Each summer, we put on a program of five poetry readings, usually modest affairs featuring interesting regional poets, with one very special event: The Golden Rose reading, to honor one acclaimed poet with the Club's highest prize.

I was a newly appointed Club president in 2024 when I went with David Miller, my Director of Programs, to plan the following summer's Longfellow events. But I'd been troubled, as have most of us, by the increasing discord in our country, and especially by an effort from certain circles to sanitize American history and to portray ours as a kind of monoculture. I share the belief that a diversity of voices and visions is essential to the vitality of our society, and waking that morning to some particularly upsetting headline, I felt we needed to offer a counterargument. The administration at the Longfellow House had expressed their desire to do something quite special to celebrate America's 250th anniversary, and I realized this might offer an opportunity to do just that.

I thought of the sweetest poetic phrase in all of American democracy: "We the People." History reminds us that, from the very beginning, the founders set the nation on a path of ongoing development, aiming toward "a more perfect union." But I dubbed this series, WE (too) THE PEOPLE, reflecting on the legacy of America's founding documents, but adding that parenthetical "too" in order to acknowledge those omitted from the framers' original vision of liberty, who may be overlooked even today. The American story is composed by so many people from such a vast range of backgrounds, who have together profoundly shaped and enriched the democratic



journey across generations. The people at Longfellow House shared that belief that today's diverse and vibrant culture offers a lens through which to reflect on the nation's progress toward that dream.

For the first time, we added a musical component to our summer offerings. If you look at the roster of stellar poets and musicians who performed in 2025, or are scheduled for this summer in 2026, I think you will find a portrait of our nation's vibrant cultural community. We will present two former US Poet Laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners, Massachusetts' first state Poet Laureate, and a variety of dynamic voices representing who we are as a people.

DH: Who are the headliners for the event?

SR: We have a marvelous array of talents reading for this summer's WE (too) ... programs at Longfellow House:

July 12 – Tracy K. Smith

July 26 – Lloyd Schwartz and Regie Gibson

August 2 – Major Jackson and Kirun Kapur

August 9 – The season will conclude with the 2026 Golden Rose Award for Marie Howe. She will read from her Pulitzer Prize-winning *New and Selected Poems*.

All of these events are presented on the back lawn of the Longfellow House and are free and open to the public. As I mentioned, each program will begin with a 15-minute performance by a variety of marvelous musical talents, beginning at 2:45 p.m. At 3 p.m. we'll begin the formal introductions, and then call back the musical guest for a brief spotlight performance focusing on some traditional or popular musical number, reinterpreted through a 21st century perspective. Last summer, the songs included "America, the Beautiful," "God Bless the Child," "Summertime," and "Ashokan Farewell."

DH: Some perceive the New England Poetry Club as an old school organization. How does this event change this perception?

SR: I'm sure there have been times in NEPC's long history when we seemed more of an inward-facing organization, focused on our poetry competitions and readings series, but I don't think that's been the case for quite a while now. I think *Continued on page 15*

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Gary Metras's 10th poetry book, *Counting Bricks*, was just published by Dos Madres Press. His essays, reviews, and chiefly poems have appeared in hundreds of periodicals since the 1970s, including *Chiron Review*, *English Journal*, *Ibbetson Street*, *Poetry*, *Poetry East*, and *Yankee*. He has worked as tobacco picker, short order cook, mason tender, air traffic controller (U.S. Air Force), book store manager, high school English teacher, and college writing instructor. He fly fishes the rivers and streams of western Massachusetts for recreation and inspiration.



FOR THE BIRDS

A house sparrow sits atop
the wooden cross bar of the clothesline pole
where a wren house is attached.
The wren house is empty.
The sparrow sits there under the sun, the clouds, the rain.
The sparrow sits there, songless, alone, all this month, waiting.
He flies to the house gutter, sits there a while.
Flies atop the metal shepherd's hook by the deck
where hangs a hummingbird feeder.
Sometimes the sparrow watches a hummingbird feed.
Sometimes the sparrow chases away the hummingbird,
the way he fought the wrens for the wren house.
The sparrow tried, again and again,
to enter the wren house, but doesn't fit in the door.
Now the sparrow just sits there, waiting.
Some days a wren song fills the distance.
The sparrow doesn't sing anymore. He sits there, alone.
Perhaps the wren house should be removed,
placed on a shelf in the storage shed to wait another year.

— Gary Metras

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

Doug Holder, 25 School St., Somerville, MA 02143. dougholder@post.harvard.edu

Off The Shelf

CONT. FROM PG 14

I am following in the footsteps of a number of fine leaders who have expanded our membership, rein-vigorated programming, offered new and innovative workshops, and expanded our geographical reach. I hope my work has added to that effort and begun an outreach to make sure that younger generations of poets feel they, too, have a place in this literary community. Beginning in the fall, we'll start offering additional readings/craft talks, open to members and visitors, from acclaimed poets who will help enhance any poet's writing practice. And we are planning a U35 series to highlight the work of poets at earlier stages in their careers, and to feature some of the new developments in the art form. I'd encourage anyone to visit our website <https://nepoetryclub.org/> to learn more about our programming--and to <https://nepoetryclub.org/we-too-the-people/> for additional details about the WE (too) events or to view videos from the 2025 performances. I feel certain they will find NEPC is still an important voice for the literary community at-large.

Newstalk

CONT. FROM PG 13

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

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

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