



Inside:



Beat the heat
page 3



The bulldozers are coming
page 5



Project Outlook at the COA
page 6

Somerville FY27 budget approved



The approved budget moves Somerville forward in a difficult fiscal year.

On Thursday, June 25, the Somerville City Council approved the city's Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget, a \$394 million spending plan designed to deliver results, strengthen core services, and uphold the city's values through action. The companion school budget fully funds the district's budget and marks the largest investment in Somerville Public Schools history, while adding new special ed teachers, interventionists, academic coaches, and an infusion of funds for substitute teaching staff.

"I'm so grateful to everyone who helped shape this budget, from the community to the City Council to all the folks on the schools and city teams who spent months and months on this work," said Mayor Wilson. "Despite the enormous fiscal challenges facing Massachusetts cities and towns this year, we still were able to make meaningful and sustainable new investments in our future, including the largest dollar increase in Somerville Public *Continued on page 4*

Robert Onjiko brings soccer to Somerville

By Christa Lee

Somerville now has its own homegrown soccer team. Soccer, being an international sport, is its own unifying language—a theme that Robert Onjiko, the coach, co-founder, and CEO of Somerville United FC, wants more of.

The all-men's team started playing in March of this year and is slated to play in both the United Premier Soccer League (UPSL) and American Premier Soccer League (APSL). Within the APSL, the team will play against other teams from the New England area.

Onjiko's soccer career is extensive, having played from high school days to playing professionally in his home country of Kenya. He arrived in the United States to be a medical researcher, for which he currently contributes to finding an effective malaria vaccine, when he noticed that playing soccer in the U.S. requires a pay-to-play format. *Continued on page 4*



Somerville United FC's Robert Onjiko is making soccer more accessible to the community.

WINTER HILL BANK
CustomServe Banking
Today

Happy 4th of July

Wishing you a safe, happy, and memorable day as we proudly celebrate 250 years of independence!



WINTER HILL BANK
CustomServe Lending
Today

HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT
5.99% APR* For the First 6 Months.

Call Rich Vernet, VP/Loan Origination NMLS #486312 at 978-500-4746 or apply online at www.winterhillbank.com NMLS #431641

*Annual Percentage Rate ("APR") is effective 6/12/2026. This offer is subject to credit approval and can change or be withdrawn without prior notice. APR of 5.99% is fixed for the first 6 months. After the introductory period, APR on outstanding balance is variable and based on the Prime Rate plus 0.00% (currently 6.75%), adjusted monthly. Min. APR is 3.99%, Max APR is 18%. The APR is a variable rate adjusted monthly equal to the highest Prime Rate listed in the Wall Street Journal on the last business day of each month and is subject to change. State required recording fees. Hazard and Title Insurance may be required. Flood insurance and Property Appraisal fee required where necessary. All Equity Lines subject to \$50.00 annual maintenance fee. Offer available on new lines on owner occupied 1-4 family properties. Maximum 80% combined loan-to-value. Other terms and conditions may apply. Consult your tax advisor.

T.J. SILLARI, INC. *Over 50 Years Experience*

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

Residential - Industrial - Commercial **625-9877**

Proud to be a Somerville resident Master Plmb. Lic. #6106



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

All city offices are closed for the **Independence Day holiday on Friday, July 3**. Trash and recycling pickup will be delayed by one day. All Somerville Public Library locations will be closed on **Saturday, July 4**, for Independence Day. Regular hours will resume on Sunday, July 5. We wish everyone a safe, Happy 4th!

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 first free movie screening (*Minecraft Movie*) will be held on **Thursday, July 9**, at the **Lincoln Park softball field** (290 Washington St.). The approximate start time is 8:30 p.m. Get the full schedule. 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).

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to our own **Doug Holder**. A good friend, poet, and a great guy. We hope he enjoys his day and spends it with great friends. Happy birthday to local realtor **Len Ferrari**. We wish him a great day. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Devon Moss, Richard Johnstin, Suzan Baltozer, Carlton Soohoo, Rose Nash, Joseph Amaral, Sr., Christine Dischino Leavitt, Tamara McAllister, Holly Dow, John Hughes, and Maureen Pirone**, a very *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of July 1 – July 7 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday July 1	Partly Cloudy	95°/74°	9%	3%	WSW 12 mph
Thursday July 2	Sunny	101°/80°	4%	2%	W 14 mph
Friday July 3	Sunny	99°/75°	20%	12%	WNW 12 mph
Saturday July 4	Thunderstorms	94°/72°	40%	25%	WNW 9 mph
Sunday July 5	Partly Cloudy	87°/67°	21%	14%	NW 7 mph
Monday July 6	Rain	78°/64°	31%	21%	ENE 9 mph
Tuesday July 7	Partly Cloudy	76°/60°	17%	11%	ENE 10 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Somerville boycott ordinance introduction

Dylan says:

The IDF are 100x worse than Hamas. When Shalom Somerville condemns them 99 times then we can get S4P to condemn Hamas. Once everyone is officially condemned we can all be happy. Also we should give Hamas an iron dome like the one we fund for Israel. Probably some F-16s as well. We want to be even-handed here.

Somervillians against hypocrisy says:

Dylan

Your own words – even though you are too clueless to realize it – are so “self-incriminating” that one can only wonder how you arrived at a point where you are very clearly siding with an organization that murders, rapes and kidnaps civiliansand you seem very proud of yourself for doing so! Go ahead have the last word -no point in expending any more time or energy on an intellectual and moral creep like you.

Dylan says:

You always feel the need to respond to me despite my moral and intellectual and moral creepiness. I don't side with any “organization that murders, rapes and kidnaps civilians”, especially the IDE, who does all those things in greater numbers than Hamas.

Your obsession with both side-ism is tiresome. When you next respond to me, please make different points.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138



Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

Editor – Jim Clark

Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner

Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Harry Kane,
and Cathleen Twardzik

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

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

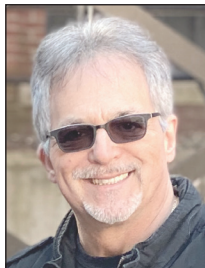
A proud member of the following newspaper organizations:



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.

Beat the heat



How do Somerville people cope with a heat wave? I asked them, and here's what they said.

"It used to be a bus, then hitch a ride to the Mystic Lakes.

Then a window fan or two in the 'parlor'!"

"Foss Park, then home with one AC unit in the parlor. We'd cover the room with a sheet to keep the cold air in!"

"It was never this hot in the 80s. Or the 90s. Or the 2000s. We used to get by with big box fans in our windows because there would be just a few days over 90 in early August, but the rest of the time it was manageable. We finally gave up and bought an AC during the 2-week July heat wave."

"Not to mention that thunderstorms were few and far between and were just thunderstorms. Nowadays, there isn't a normal thunderstorm ever. They all

turn into nasty storms, microbursts, or tornadoes."

We used to hit Foss Park and Dilboy pools or go to Sandy Beach down The Mystics in the old days. We'd also go to Breakheart Reservation. Of course, there was always the plastic backyard pool to dip your feet in. I also remember my dad squirting us with the hose on a hot day.

Being retired, I just sit in front of the TV with the A/C blasting. I use Insta Cart and Amazon, so I don't really have to



leave the house. Stay cool, Somerville.

Somerville declares heat emergency

The City of Somerville has declared a Heat Emergency, effective Wednesday-Saturday, July 1-4, due to the dangerously hot temperatures forecast for this week. Feels-like temperatures around 110 degrees are expected, and temperatures are not expected to cool down much overnight. The City is making bottled water free and available to anyone who needs it at City Hall and all Somerville Public Library locations during regular business hours on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday (while supplies last).

Those without air conditioning are encouraged to find a place to cool down. Consider City buildings, listed below, or staying with nearby family or friends who have air conditioning. Please be advised that although the Heat Warning is forecast to end Saturday evening, the weather is expected to remain hot through the holiday weekend. Heat safety tips and ways to keep cool in and around Somerville are below. Safety tips are also available in multiple languages on the City's website at somervillema.gov/keepcool.

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Wedding / Event
Photography & Videography

Harry Kane



Photo & Video Services
for events in
MA, CT, NY, RI

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



Are You Sitting
On A Fortune?

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

617-764-4342

699 Broadway Ave, Somerville, MA 02144



PSYCHIC READINGS

Insight. Guidance. Clarity.
The answers you seek are within reach.

Are you standing at a crossroads?
Want clarity on love, career, or your spiritual path?
Let the universe speak—and let me translate its message for you.

WHAT I OFFER

- Tarot Readings
- Past, Present & Future Insights
- Love & Relationship Guidance
- Personalized Spiritual Guidance
- Career & Life Direction Coaching

Ready for clarity?
Book your private reading today and uncover what your intuition has been trying to tell you.
Your journey toward truth begins now.

Running
DISCOUNTED
SPECIAL
ON ALL MY READINGS
Treat yourself to the clarity you deserve!

You are not here by accident.
The universe has a plan—let's uncover it together.



PSYCHIC RUBY
(617)-767-2573
Trusted. Compassionate. Accurate.
Walk in with questions. Leave with clarity.

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

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: What is the long-term capital gains tax rate, and how can it help me?

A: A capital gain generally occurs when you sell a capital asset—such as a stock, mutual fund, or investment property—for more than you paid for it.

To encourage long-term investing, Congress created special tax rates for many long-term capital gains. As a result, taxpayers who hold certain investments for more than one year may qualify for federal tax rates that are significantly lower than those that normally apply to wages and other ordinary income.

Apart from business investments, here are some of the most common situations where the long-term capital gains tax rates

may apply:

♦ **Stocks and mutual funds.**

Selling investments you've owned for more than one year may qualify for the lower long-term capital gains tax rates.

♦ **Investment real estate.**

Selling investment property after holding it for more than one year may qualify for long-term capital gains treatment, although other tax rules may also apply. The tax savings can be substantial.

As a very rough rule of thumb, many taxpayers who qualify for the long-term capital gains rates pay about 10 percentage points less in federal tax than they would if the same income were taxed as ordinary income. Even more surprising, many married couples filing jointly with taxable income of roughly \$100,000 or

less in 2026 may qualify for a 0% federal long-term capital gains tax rate, depending on their overall taxable income and filing status.

Bottom Line:

Before selling an investment that has increased in value, check how long you've owned it. Simply waiting until you've held it for more than one year may qualify you for the lower long-term capital gains tax rates and significantly reduce your federal tax bill.

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 con-



sidered legal, investment, or tax advice. Individual situations vary. Always consult a qualified professional for personalized guidance.

Somerville FY27 budget approved

CONT. FROM PG 1

Schools history. Now I'm looking forward to moving on from talking about how to fund the work to doing that work."

What Somerville's FY27 Budget Moves Forward

♦ **For residents who rely on core city services,** the budget strengthens the work people see and feel every day, from roads, sidewalks, trees, 311, and rodent control to emergency response improvements and enhanced access to City information.

♦ **For renters, homeowners, and people at risk of displacement,** the budget keeps housing affordability and stability at the center of the city's work, including affordable housing projects, tenant supports, legal protections, and anti-displacement strategies.

♦ **For students and families,** the budget fully funds the district's proposal and supports new special education teachers, academic intervention, substitute staffing,

equity funding to get investments to the schools that need it most, year-round student MBTA passes, and expanded youth programming.

♦ **For safer streets and more responsive public services,** the budget supports continued safe streets investments and the launch of a co-response pilot program, emergency signal technology for Fire and EMS routes, and the groundwork for civilian oversight and accountability.

♦ **For climate resilience and a healthier future,** the budget keeps Somerville moving on climate action through green building work, youth climate leadership, advocacy for fossil fuel-free buildings, and investments in tree planting and care, infrastructure, and public spaces that help make the city cooler, healthier, and more resilient.

♦ **For better access to City Hall,** the budget supports language and communi-

cations access, neighborhood-based outreach, permitting reform, and a stronger focus on bringing services directly to residents and small businesses where they are.

"This was one of the hardest budgets Somerville has faced in years, and the layoffs and reductions will have real impacts," said Councilor-at-Large Ben Wheeler, Chair of the Finance Committee. "I'm grateful we avoided cuts to our schools and larger cuts to city services. That was possible because of both the financial discipline of previous administrations, City Councils, and Finance Departments, along with the extraordinary work of current city staff and Councilors, who spent long nights reviewing this budget. We tried to be responsible stewards of every public dollar, and we welcome residents' feedback."

Moving from Budget Approval to Doing the Work

With the FY27 budget now approved,

the City will move from planning to implementation across the priorities funded in the budget, including schools, housing justice, core services, safe streets, public safety, climate resilience, permitting, and neighborhood-based outreach.

Residents are encouraged to stay engaged throughout the year by attending public meetings, following updates from City departments, sharing feedback with elected officials and staff, and tracking progress as new programs, service improvements, and investments move forward. For more information on the FY27 budget, visit somervillema.gov/budget.

To stay up to date on city events, services, and programs throughout the year, sign up for the City newsletter at somervillema.gov/newsletter, or follow the City of Somerville on Facebook, Instagram or Bluesky.

— City of Somerville

Robert Onjiko brings soccer to Somerville

CONT. FROM PG 1

"Most local clubs charge between \$1,700 and \$3,000 per season without guaranteeing playing time," Onjiko said by email. "In contrast, Somerville United FC is completely free of charge; no one pays to play." Even the uniform package is not mandated, and "players who cannot afford it can be sponsored by donors or participate without it."

His organization has grown to 45 volunteers in its sales and marketing functions. They are also partnering with the City of Somerville's Office of Immigrant Affairs to reach different communities.

But his dreams don't stop there. A women's team is in development at the moment, and he's considering offering free soccer training for youth after a successful event this past spring. The turnout was high enough to consider making it a regular occurrence—98 kids showed up. The training would include "how to practice safely, how to stretch, how to eat," and other basic training.

Giving back to the community and creating an inclusive team are important to Onjiko. "We just want to welcome people from all walks of life," he said.



Somerville United FC has upcoming games in Everett and Medford. To find out

more, go to <https://somervilleunitedfc.org/schedule>.

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.

The bulldozers are coming – and your city invited them

By William A. White, Jr.

A number of residents have contacted Denise Provost and me about the construction on the small lot next to her home, the status of her lawsuit against the City, and about how our City government has responded to the zoning amendments I introduced. As someone who has practiced land use and zoning law in Somerville for decades, I can tell you this is among the worst planning decisions in the City's history. Everyone should look closely at the accompanying photographs, because as of today, our entire City government is allowing this type of development to proceed unimpeded in our residential neighborhoods.

If you live in a residential district, this massive development can happen without any warning — the first time you learn about it is when the bulldozers show up next door to knock down the neighboring house. Because the City conducts a secret procedure, a 1,500-square-foot, three-story building can be constructed just three feet from your property line. If you are a tenant without a lease and your landlord wants to sell to a developer, there is no condominium conversion law to protect you from eviction. Instead, our City has created an incentive for landlords to evict tenants and sell to developers who make a fortune building four luxury condominiums. Do you want a mixed school system where children from different backgrounds grow up together? Forget about it.

A few years ago, we rezoned Somerville. That rezoning incorporated a consensus: dense development would be concentrated in certain districts, while neighborhoods of one-, two-, and three-family homes would be preserved. The City has now reneged on that understanding. It is a hell of a thing when residents must sue their own city to protect their rights — but here we are.

I have already filed a lawsuit in the Land Court to invalidate the City's lot split process and a motion for a summary disposition. The City's response is due by July 11. I have also filed a complaint with the Attorney General's Office alleging that the City's secret procedure is a violation of the

State's Open Meeting Law.

Consider the facts: Based on total dwelling units, Somerville has the highest percentage of condominiums in the state, the lowest percentage of single-family homes, and the smallest average lot size. We are the most densely populated city in Massachusetts. Fewer than 20% of residents have lived in their current residence for ten years or longer. In the face of all this, and without meaningful input from residents, the City has chosen policies that destroy one- and two-family homes — precisely the properties most likely to be purchased by first-time buyers — and replace them with three-story luxury condominiums with a 1,500-square-foot “backyard cottage” as a fourth unit. The City has also removed the affordable housing requirement for backyard cottages, subsidizing developers who give nothing back to the community. To my knowledge, no other community in Massachusetts allows this as of right in residential neighborhoods.

Backyard cottages were originally conceived as small, freestanding rental units. By permitting their use as luxury condominiums, the City eliminates any possibility of affordable backyard rentals. We should be crafting policies that foster a mixed, vibrant, and stable city — not handing Somerville's most valuable real estate to wealthy developers to make a fortune and contribute nothing. This cannot be blamed on gentrification. It is a direct consequence of the City's policies on lot splits and backyard luxury condominiums. The City is actively promoting gentrification — it is not a passive participant!

Thirty years ago, Somerville residents faced a similar crisis when Assembly Square was slated to become a massive strip mall. They organized, fought, and filed a lawsuit to help achieve a mixed-use community. Because of their efforts, we have Assembly Row today. The time has come to organize again.

I am troubled by the Mayor's silence. The developer became the lead party once the City issued the building permits. The Mayor could not settle the lawsuit even if he agreed with Denise, only the developer could do that. But the Mayor can protect



The front of Hudson St.

Somerville residents moving forward. Every day, tenants in our residential districts remain at risk of eviction for the next luxury condominium development. Every family thinking of buying a one- or two-family house will be outbid by a luxury developer. The winner of the next mayoral election will serve a four-year term for the first time. Four years under the wrong leadership that continues to promote this process could produce a demographic change this city may never recover from.

We have upcoming elections for state representative and state senate — question the candidates and make your endorsements known. Call the Mayor's office and demand to know where he stands. And if he intends to actively promote gentrification, prepare for next November.

Most Somerville residents wouldn't know who I am, so let me be brief. I grew up here during Somerville's most difficult years, studied government and economics at Harvard, and spent decades practicing land use and zoning law. One of

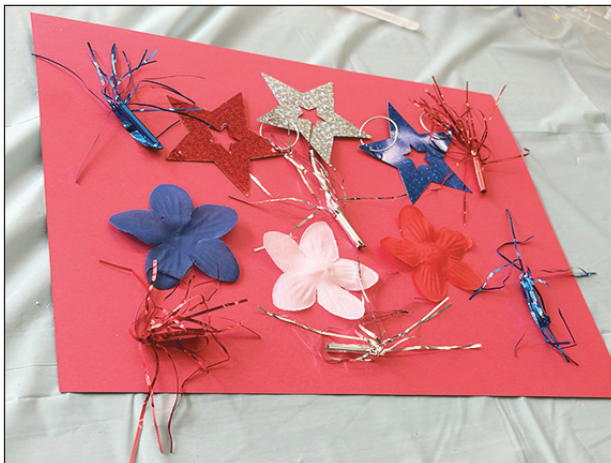
the reasons I ran for office was to ensure Somerville did not repeat past planning mistakes. I served 24 years on the City Council, six as President, and wrote a number of zoning ordinances. When I tell you that the City's current lot split and backyard cottage policy is among the worst planning decisions in Somerville's history, I am speaking as someone with more than 50 years of planning and zoning experience. It is a perverse abomination of planning.

The proposed zoning amendments will expire before the City Council acts on them and must be resubmitted. To do so, I need signatures from registered voters. If you are willing to sign or help collect signatures, please email me at councilorwhite@gmail.com. P.S. For any “democratic socialists” who support these gentrification policies that subsidize developers who eliminate affordable housing and return nothing to the community, I am certain Rosa Luxemburg is turning in her grave watching you.

COA's Project Outlook event

Last Thursday at Project Outlook's monthly meeting, seniors enjoyed making art and crafts for the 4th of July holiday. Project Outlook is organized by the Somerville Council on Aging. The group focuses on social connection, mutual support, and enjoying a meal together in a welcoming environment. They meet monthly, typically on the third Thursday of the month at the Council on Aging's Holland Street Center, 167 Holland Street.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



Somerville Mayor Jake Wilson's statement on the Supreme Court TPS decision affecting Haiti and Syria

"On Thursday, June 25, the Supreme Court cleared the way for the federal government to end Temporary Protected Status for people from Haiti and Syria — adding them to an already long list of countries whose residents have seen TPS protections revoked or put at risk.

"These are people who fled unsafe conditions, came here lawfully, and built lives here under lawful protection. As I've read the news, I keep thinking of Warsan Shire's poem Home, and the line: "No one would leave home unless home chased you to the shore."

"That line captures something we should never forget: migration is not a casual choice. People leave because staying has become impossible. They come here at enormous cost, with courage and hope, because they believe in the promise at the heart of this country.

"It is especially cruel to end protections for people from countries our own government says are too dangerous for U.S. citizens to visit. But the cruelty is the point.

"Ending that protection means families face the loss of lawful status, work authorization, and the ability to remain safely together. Here in Somerville, we know this will be felt deeply through our families, schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

"Somerville stands with TPS holders and with our immigrant communities. We'll do everything we can to help make sure everyone who wants to call Somerville home can continue to do just that.

"If you or your loved ones need support navigating this decision, please contact Somerville's Office of Immigrant Affairs by calling 311."

COMMENTARY

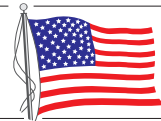
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Happy 250th, America!

Our View Of The Times



The Fourth of July holds a special significance in the hearts of truly patriotic Americans. Not only is it a time to celebrate the birth of our nation, but it also happens to fall at the best time of year to make good times happen, summer.

Who among us doesn't enjoy the occasion? Who can resist the warm glow of good fellowship between friends, neighbors, and families as the "birthday" of our

nation comes around?

Great memories for the future are made each year as we attend a patriotic gathering, watch some fireworks, or just take a quiet look around and realize that America is still the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave. There's nothing corny about these ideas. They are concepts that live and breathe as vitally today as they ever have.

We must never take these freedoms for

granted, nor minimize their importance in assuring that we Americans enjoy one of the finest standards of living among all nations of the world.

For whatever exists momentarily that may divide us, there are important times like these when we can unite together in the spirit of true patriotism and national pride to celebrate the great gift of being Americans, and commemorate the sacri-

fices of our forebears in bringing this nation to life. We owe it to their memories to take the time to pause and reflect on what their efforts mean to us today.

The city's Fourth of July celebration this week, complete with live entertainment and a spectacular fireworks display, helps to bring out the true patriot in many of us.

So happy 250th anniversary of the birth of our nation, and 250 more!

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Looking for children's summer activities? Summer Spot still has spaces available! Presented by Somerville Parks and Recreation in collaboration with Somer-Promise, Summer Spot offers a five-week adventure packed with excitement, exploration, and endless opportunities for fun and learning. Learn more and sign up today by visiting bit.ly/44utXil.

Somerville Media Center's out-of-school time programs provide young people with the opportunity to build important technical, media literacy, communication, cultural competency, teamwork, and collaboration skills. There are still spots for both summer vacation and fall after school. Browse programs for your aspiring young media maker and enroll here: https://app.amilia.com/store/en/smc/shop/programs/116306.

The World Cup is here. Celebrate with fellow fans in Somerville. Visit www.somervillema.gov/worldcup throughout the tournament to find upcoming match-

es and where to watch locally.

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

to 10 players) now through Friday, June 26, at www.somervillema.gov/worldcup.

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

Save the date for the 21st Annual What the Fluff? Festival, Saturday, September 19, 1 - 5 p.m. in Union Square. Are you interested in being Continued on page 9

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#1029

1. What is the official term for a 250th anniversary?
2. What is the Declaration of Independence written on?
3. How many delegates signed the Declaration of Independence?
4. How many times does the Liberty Bell ring on each Independence Day?
5. In what year were fireworks first used to celebrate July 4th?
6. In what year did "The Star-Spangled Banner" officially become the national anthem?
7. When was the first 4th of July celebration held at the White House?
8. What was the first state to make July 4th an official state holiday?
9. What is the largest 4th of July fireworks display in the U.S.?
10. What color is hardest to produce in pyrotechnics?
11. When was the start date of the Revolutionary War?
12. What was the first newspaper to run the Declaration of Independence in print?

Answers on page 11

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Marie Curie's 100-year-old belongings are still radioactive.
2. A dentist invented the electric chair.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

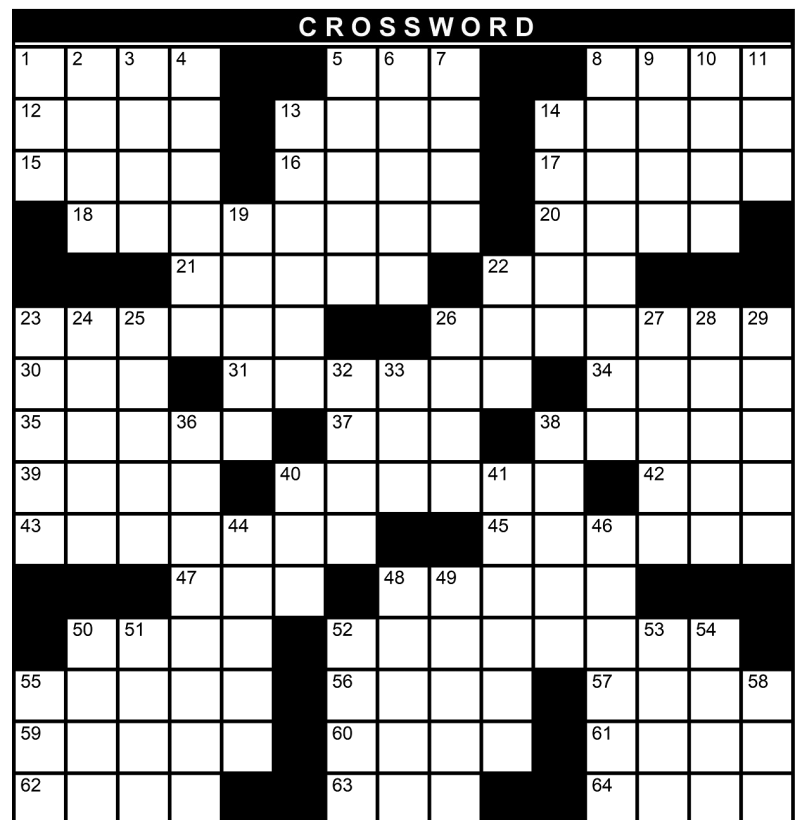
BEVERAGES

ACROSS

1. Every which way
5. Whole milk has about 8 grams of this per cup
8. Sound rebound
12. Not yet final, in law
13. Tibetan teacher
14. Twig of willow tree
15. Bad wishes
16. Like certain tradition
17. Separated
18. Fermented tea
20. Trampled
21. Hermey and Buddy, e.g.
22. Pronoun
23. Bee's favorite beverage
26. Like blabbermouth
30. Freud's concern
31. Becoming
34. Uncontrolled swerve
35. Type of heron
37. Unidentified John
38. Pocket change
39. Ding follower
40. Kenya's neighbor
42. "Five down" fighter pilot
43. Cuddle, romantically speaking
45. Eras
47. Film director's cry
48. Opinion
50. ____ Bora
52. Blended fruit beverage
55. Most-consumed beverage
56. Abbreviation, abbr.
57. Miniature whirlpool
59. The Brady Bunch, e.g.
60. Hanukkah gift
61. Came by horse
62. "For ____ the Bell Tolls"
63. Schiller's famous poem, e.g.
64. One-armed bandit

DOWN

1. "Wheel of Fortune" purchase
2. Most popular choice for official state beverage
3. Nobel Peace Prize capital
4. It's meant to be



SWITCH & GET \$25

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

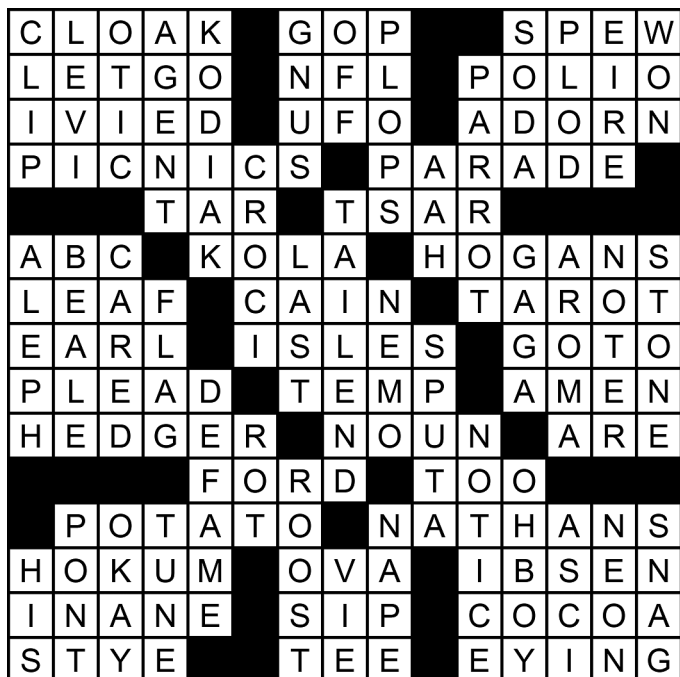
Consumer Cellular

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913

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

© StatePoint Media

Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



5. Travesty
6. Wet nurses
7. Samoan money
8. *Caffeinated "shot"
9. Bye, in Palermo
10. Group of bovine milk producers
11. Table scrap
13. Mona Lisa's home
14. Presidential promises, e.g.
19. Detonation
22. Plant-based "milk" choice
23. Must-haves
24. Encourage (2 words)
25. Cornua, sing.
26. Late country singer-songwriter Campbell
27. Relating to ilium
28. Popular party beverage
29. Affirmatives
32. Competitive advantage
33. New Zealand's bygone bird
36. Milk+carbonated water+syrup
38. Head of a body part, anatomically speaking
40. Preceding month
41. Send back to mother country
44. Road-crossing helper
46. Not these or those
48. Implant
49. Like duchess or count
50. Johann Sebastian of music fame
51. Sgt. Snorkel's dog
52. Palm starch
53. Object of worship
54. Starchy tuber
55. "Amazing!"
58. Thus far

Soultion in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



A Taste of Cuba

On a recent visit to Cuba I was lucky enough to travel with a group of 15 to a restaurant named Finca Agroecológica El Paraíso, located in Pinar del Rio overlooking the Viñales Valley, about a 3 1/2 hour drive west of Havana.

Finca Agroecológica El Paraíso has its own self-sustained terraced organic farm that supplies all the food for the restaurant. The extra fruits and vegetables the farm produces are donated to the surrounding community.

Upon our arrival we were greeted with a welcome drink consisting of fresh pineapple juice blended with basil and mint topped with cinnamon. Bottles of rum were also placed on the table to add to your drink if you chose to do so. And yes, I chose to do so! Cuba produces some of the best rum I ever tasted. While sipping away the views are a true feast for the eyes. The lush green countryside with beautiful flowers and rows upon rows of fresh fruits and vegetables were breathtaking.

For lunch we were treated to the traditional Cuban Christmas Eve dinner, crispy skinned and succulent

roast pig (lechón asado) with many sides. The suckling pig is prepared by butterflying it to make it flat for more even cooking, seasoned with salt and pepper, then secured between two grates that hold the pig securely in place. The grate is then placed in an aluminum lined roasting box. Once the meat is placed in the box a solid tray is then placed on top of the box where hot coals are spread evenly over the tray. Every hour or so, more coals are added to the tray, keeping a constant indirect heat even. For more information about a roasting box go to <http://www.lacajachina.com>.

The sides included a hearty vegetable soup, black beans and rice, guacamole, yucca, tostones (fried plantains), plantains shaped into small cups and fried that hold seasoned meat, green beans, sweet potato, fish hash and cucumbers with shredded cabbage salad. For dessert, flan and café con leche (coffee with milk).

My visit to Cuba will be remembered for years to come, not only for the food, but for the richness of their culture expressed through their love of creating art. That's why I included information below about some artists of Cuba.



The people of Cuba are very resourceful and are known to be great recyclers. The recycling is quite evident through technique and available supplies in the stunning artwork produced by its artists and displayed at the artists' homes as well as museums throughout Havana and beyond.

For more information about the artists, including a documentary on Cuban art called Alumbrones featuring these artists and more; Sandra Dooley,

Pedro Pablo Oliva and Isolina Limonta, see the links below.

<http://www.cubanartspace.net/SandraDooley/sandradooley.php>

www.pedropablooliva.com

<http://www.wbur.org/2013/01/14/cuban-art-in-boston>

<http://www.alumbrones.com/>. Available on iTunes.

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

a vendor at this year's Festival? Go here to find out more: unionsquare-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.somerville.com

 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/>.

 Save the date: **National Night Out! 2026** will take place on **Tuesday, Aug 4**, 5 – 8 p.m. Rain date: Wednesday, August 5. **Dilboy Stadium**, 110 Alewife Brook Parkway. Celebrate bringing police and community together.

 Get ready for **ArtBeat 2026** on **Saturday, July 18**, 12 – 9 p.m. in **Davis Sq.** This year's festival will feature approximately 60 vendors and community groups, a full lineup of performances across two stages, and a dance showcase. They'll have two stages of music and a dance showcase at the Somerville The-

ater. This year's ArtBeat theme is "**REVOLUTION.**" The streets will be vibrant with vendors and music from 12 noon to 7 p.m., and then music will continue in Seven Hills Park until 9 p.m.

 The **Powder House**, **Milk Row Cemetery** 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/>.

Be an **ARTivist! Hands-on Art-making Advocacy Workshops**, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., **Somerville Museum**. One Westwood Rd. For all ages, families too. Make your own advocacy postcards and campaign signs promoting the value of arts in Somerville. Work with artists from **Humphreys Street Studios** and **Central Street Studios** to express your creative ideas and support artists and artist workspaces. All materials supplied. No registration necessary, just drop in.

 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 "**OWAG.**" **July 18**, 3 – 5 p.m., 191 Highland Ave, Somerville (in The *Continued on page 13*

LEGAL NOTICES

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



**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, July 21, 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/webinar/register/WN_WtKJyX1URy6pceVa9-iv_A

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

9 Brastow Avenue Applicant: Artisans Homes and Renovations
Owner: Luo Jerome & Meosky Nell
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by rebuilding the existing rear deck in the same location, no changes to the existing configuration are proposed.

25 Atherton Street Applicant: Christine Strout- IRB Real Estate
Owner: Carr Schoolhouse Condo Trust
The Applicant seeks the reissuance of a previously granted Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by installing EV charging stations and a transformer in the parking lot.

46 Mount Vernon Street Applicant: William Kuang
Owner: William Kuang
The applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter a previously approved rear addition and add a new backyard cottage to a Local Historic District Property.

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

60 Medford Street Applicant: Paul O'Connell- Well Built Construction Inc.
Owner: P & P Carroll Realty Trust
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

64 Medford Street Applicant: Paul O'Connell- Well Built Construction Inc.
Owner: P & P Carroll Realty Trust
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

9 Norwood Avenue Applicant: Emery Boy Builders
Owner: Kevin Emery
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

Determinations of Preferably Preserved (STEP 2 IN THE DEMO REVIEW PROCESS)

282-284 McGrath Highway Applicant: Law Office of Michael LaRosa LLC on behalf of Properties by JD LLC
Owner: Walter Tauro, Trustee of Brant Realty Trust
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.

7/1/26 The Somerville Times

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

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

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

PARCEL ONE

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

PARCEL TWO

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

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

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

TERMS OF SALE:

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

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

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

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

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

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

6/24/26, 7/1/26 The Somerville Times

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

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

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

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

NORTHEASTERLY by said right of way, by two boundaries, sixty-three and 67/100 (63.67) feet and twenty-five and 54/100 (25.54) feet; SOUTHEASTERLY by said right of way, eight and 81/100 (8.81) feet; NORTHEASTERLY by said right of way, twenty-six and 71/100 (26.71) feet to land now or formerly of Maguire; SOUTHEASTERLY by said Maguire land, seventeen and 45/100 (17.45) feet; SOUTHWESTERLY by land now or formerly of Biller, one hundred and fourteen and 70/100 (114.70) feet to said Lowell Street; and NORTHWESTERLY by said Lowell Street, thirty (30.00) feet to the point of beginning.

Containing 3,514 square feet of land according to said plan. There is appurtenant to the above described premises the right of passing, repassing and using as a driveway in common with the owner of the land shown as William Lears, et al. their heirs, successors and assigns over the right of way shown on said plan which was created in a grant from William Lears, et al, to Max Jacobson and Jacob Marcus, dated August 14, 1922, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 4551, Page 288.

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

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

TERMS OF SALE:

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

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

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

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

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

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

6/24/26, 7/1/26 The Somerville Times

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



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week



Q: Can my apartment complex ban kids from playing outside?

A: The short answer is no. Children should generally be allowed to play in the common areas.

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.

Mbahs anniversary



Congratulations to Somerville City Councilor Will Mbah and his wife, Christelle, who celebrated their 11th wedding anniversary on June 27. We will wish them many more years of happiness.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Moon over rainbow house... — Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



If you cross a patriot and a dog with curly hair, what do you get? A Yankee Poodle.

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

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

On This Day in History

July 1

- 1543 – England and Scotland sign the Peace of Greenwich.
- 1777 – British troops depart from their base at the Bouquet River to head toward Ticonderoga, New York.
- 1838 – Charles Darwin presents a paper on his theory of evolution to the Linnean Society in London.
- 1863 – In the first day's fighting at Gettysburg, Federal forces retreat through the town and dig in at Cemetery Ridge and Cemetery Hill.
- 1867 – Canada becomes an independent dominion.
- 1898 – American troops take San Juan Hill and El Caney, Cuba, from the Spaniards.
- 1945 – The New York State Commission Against Discrimination is established.
- 1950 – American ground troops arrive in South Korea.
- 1963 – The U.S. postmaster introduces the ZIP code.
- 1966 – The U.S. Marines launch Operation Holt in an attempt to finish off a Vietcong battalion in Thua Thien Province in Vietnam.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 9

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 rain-forest-themed program includes Bible stories, music, creative activities, games, and free snacks each day. For more information or to register your child, see www.ILoveSCBC.org/events.

Connexion needs your support for a **new projector**. If you've been to an event at Connexion recently, you've probably noticed the projectors aren't doing well. They're dim, spotty, and there's a broken chip leaving a permanent blemish right in the middle of every image. After 12 years of faithful service, it's time for an upgrade. Connexion has received a **\$7,500 Together For Tomorrow grant**, and they need your help to match it. Every dol-

lar you give is doubled. Whether you've celebrated a birthday there, grabbed a meal at **Come to the Table**, or attended a community meeting – help them make Connexion shine for everyone who walks through the doors. <https://app.easytithes.com/app/giving/connexion>.

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

Friendly Caller Program. The **Somerville Council on Aging** has many wonderful volunteers who are waiting to give you a call. Whether you are looking

to make a new friend or would just like a friendly chat to look forward to every week, this program has you covered. Call **Natasha Naim** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317, to learn more about the program and to sign up.

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

The **Somerville Mobile Farmers Market** returns 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-mobilefarmersmarket.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** (No market on July 3). Each week, you'll be able to find goods from nearly 30 New England-based farmers and producers. Expect a great mix of seasonal produce, baked goods, dairy and eggs, meats and seafood, honey, jams, specialty foods, and more. It's the perfect place to stock up for the weekend, discover local favorites, or simply enjoy a fresh Friday visit to Assembly Row. <https://marketspread.com/market/37299/assembly-row-farmers-market/>.

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

The Somerville Times **BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

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

T. J. SILLARI, INC.

Over 50 Years Experience
Proud to be a Somerville Business Resident



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

Residential - Industrial - Commercial

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

The Law Offices of Richard G. Di Girolamo

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

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

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

TELEPHONE: (617) 666-8200

FAX: (617) 776-5435

EMAIL: digirolamolegal@verizon.net

424 BROADWAY, SOMERVILLE, MA 02145



Cleaning. Restoration. Construction.

SERVPRO® of Arlington, Somerville, Charlestown

617-629-5331

Independently owned and operated

LEARN TO DRAW AND PAINT

Artist and art teacher **Geoffrey Halverson**



www.geoffreyhalverson.com

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

Monica Calvo Realtor®

Real Estate Professional

Cell: 617-605-3308

Email: mcalvo@relocationnewengland.com

Web: remaxpartnersrelocation.com

RE/MAX
PARTNERS RELOCATION

44 Park ST
Andover MA 01810

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated



Meet **ELI** the **HANDYMAN**

No job too big
or too
small!

- Tufts Student Handy in Somerville!
\$40/hour rate. Schedule Me!
- ✓ Assembly
 - ✓ Install
 - ✓ Home Repair
 - ✓ Hauling
 - ✓ Yard-work
 - ✓ Tech Help
 - ✓ Dog-walking
 - ✓ Much more!



857-228-0925

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



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Review of 'The Only Song We Have' by Lawrence Kessenich

The Only Song We Have

By Lawrence Kessenich

Published by Pierian Springs Press

Sheridan Wyoming, 2026

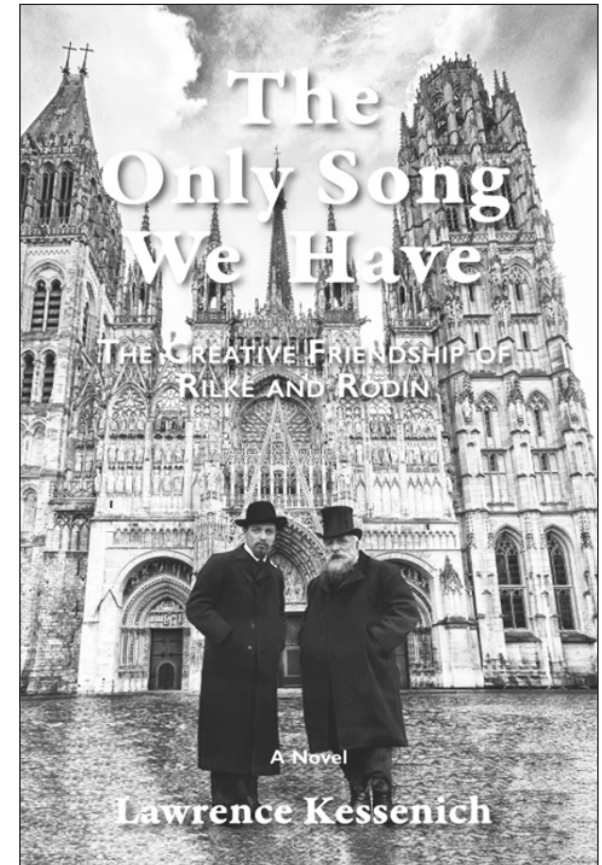
Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Marcus Breen

Creative lives offer insights into the human condition that are not replicated elsewhere. No one reads a biography of a business executive to discover insights about the meaning of life and relationships: at least I don't. Then again, if I was obsessed with learning the nefarious ways of making money by robbing the poor and enriching myself, then business biographies would take me to the ethically challenged world of all-money-all-the-time, or more technically "economism." Somewhat ironically, artists and creative people offer insights to the human condition because their work reaches the public through the commercial processes of business.

In contrast, this well-conceived short novel by Lawrence Kessenich illustrates the way in which artistic creativity takes a front seat among those artists who make outstanding contributions to the history of human development and knowledge, while necessarily accepting the less savory work of business. Without the business, it would be unlikely that much attention could be drawn to the artwork, leaving it unsold. This connection to the market, makes the artists' reputation, and often is the source of an income with which to manage the daily routines of life. Consequently, behind every great sculptor and poet is a committed business network, informed by someone who "gets" the work and commits to promoting and commercializing it.

Of course, as the wonderful, late Australian art critic Robert Hughes pointed out, sometimes the market is the most foolish force at work in bringing ideas to the public that amount to rubbish. Hughes's excoriating criticism of the "artist" Jeff Koons remains a touchstone for those interested in making distinctions between art as a response to the living world and commercial dross dedicated to decorating over-priced corporate offices.

No such dross is offered in Kessenich's writing about the relationship between the Austrian poet Rainer Maria Rilke and the French sculptor Auguste Rodin. Artistically, the story Kessenich lays out, offers imagined self-analysis by Rilke of the relationship between himself and Rodin, two very different men who became friends and colleagues between 1902 and 1907. They both worked with and were promoted by art dealers and publishers who saw the



brilliance of their work and brought it to the public. By the time Rilke met him in 1902, Rodin was well established, even a European celebrity as a sculptor.

This was an era in Europe when the world of art radiated in, around and from Paris. There was good reason for this, as Kessenich describes Paris in the mind of Rilke, as the magnetic force in European and western artistic creativity. There is good reason for this.

Paris was the foundation place of emancipatory politics, much of it grounded in revolt, committed to removing the feudal system of slavery and monarchical authoritarianism, replacing it with democratic systems of government that continue to resonate today. The political climate that fed Parisian creativity included *The Rights of Man* by Thomas Paine (1791-1792), a book that contributed to the foundational theory of French and American democratic ideology, published before the first mass working class effort to establish European communism in the Paris Commune (1871). In the latter case, Karl Marx was present through his journalism and his theory, while Fredric Engels's advocacy for popular government "by the people," reinforced the power of the revolutionary urge beyond Europe.

Although there is none of this radical political detail in *The Only Song We Sing*, there is a profound engagement with radical materialism, translated to artistic representation. This Continued on page 15

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Our poet writes: "My name is Lizzie Rutberg. I'm a local artist and sometimes-poet living in Somerville."



learning to jump into cold water

wherever poison ivy grows
you can find her antidote,
the bright jewelweed flower.
anywhere a meadow, a birdhouse.
anywhere a stoplight, a bouquet.
elegies thumbtacked to telephone
poles throughout the town.
the neighbor's corgi is named Toad.
every time I return to my house he
throws himself against the window and
tears down the blinds. his owner told
me he's a rescue. he's afraid of belts.
there was a rock on a high sloping
field, surrounded by goldenrod,
with a perfect view of the sunset
over the berkshires.
I had never seen anyone shine
the way ella shone
sitting on that rock
orange against the empty sky.

— Lizzie Rutberg

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

occurs through the sculpture of Auguste Rodin. In fact, Kessenich uses descriptions of Rodin's sculpture-making method to explore the way art makes meaning through the appeal to the material world Rodin experienced then brought to life in clay and bronze sculptures.

This sensibility of experience translated to static imagery, is what makes art either a creative act of resistance in reconceptualizing the human condition, or when it is missing, merely decorative dross. Kessenich describes the divergence between the two characters in this book by drawing on this comparison that drives the dynamic of the characters' relationship. Put schematically,

Rodin is the materialist, working with his hands to give the clay he molds the representational quality of his experiences. In contrast, Rilke is the idealist, writing poetry from the lofty perch of Germanic disengagement with experience. The book turns around these two philosophical modalities of art practice and theory: materialism and idealism.

As Kessenich has Rilke note in a personal reflection: "For years, I had ignored the physical world, living purely in the realm of thought and feeling and spirit."

This materialism has a sensuous elements. Rodin had intimate relations with many of the female models who posed for him, suggesting that he was a serial philanderer in a somewhat negative light. Kessenich offers a kind of American morality to this aspect of Rodin's story. This is aspect of Kessenich's interpretation of Rodin fails to fully comprehend the uninhibited instincts of the materialist Rodin. He was not married, and as a free man engaged in the realization of the erotic relationships translated into sculpture. There is a kind of puritanism at work here that rejects the urges of lust and desire by Rodin, however much it might be unpleasant to the modern moral mind.

Despite this the relationship between Rodin and Rilke is based on mutual admiration, colorfully traced in *The Only Song We Sing*. Indeed, the book offers a contemporary vision about the creative communion between two outstanding artists and how they navigated their lives, leading to the curious arrangement in which Rilke became Rodin's live-in administrator-secretary.

Rodin becomes something of a mensch for Rilke, because he encourages Rilke to write, and more importantly to work like he does, almost non-stop. Kessenich has Rilke ponder:

I was taken aback that the Master would speak about writing poetry, having never written any himself. It is one thing to reproduce or interpret things in clay, marble and bronze, to create something so boldly physical. It is quite

another to sift thoughts through the brain and put abstract words on a flat piece of paper. That act was so much more detached from the world, so much more fleeting, so much harder to "work" at, in my experience, because it was so ineffable. I wished I had the talent to form things with clay, to sculpt them from stone. It was so much more "real." Could I learn from him how to see the world anew? Would the poetry sing itself through me if I could truly see?

Written in the first person – as if Kessenich is Rilke – the story unfolds as the two artists meet and get to know and appreciate each other. It becomes increasingly apparent to Rilke that Rodin's work is created as an extension of the material world defined by his experiences, this seems to Rilke to be a revelation. The imagined conversations between Rilke and Rodin and Rilke and Rilke's companion Rose, among others, take place mostly in Rodin's home and studio in 1902 in Meudon, France, then in Rilke's mind during his retreats to Paris to write poetry, all while planning and collecting material through interviews and observations of Rodin for a biography.

The tension that emerges in Rilke the poet, as he grows to comprehend what Rodin "the Master" draws on for his inspiration, is effective, if at times unnerving. The material world is something Rilke learns to interpret, by watching the Master.

A serious quibble arises in the language: who these days would want to refer to a great person as "Master" as Rilke does? (For example, not even President Donald Trump's most ardent MAGA followers take on that disposition). More tellingly, the use of the word "Master," references the last days of feudal hierarchical relationships. Rilke is corrected to stop referring to Rodin as "Master," yet almost cannot help himself.

What is more telling for the philosophically inclined, is that the Master-servant relationship was a key aspect of the 1807 book, *The Phenomenology of Spirit* by the German idealist philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. His "invention" of modern ideas about contradictions as the dialectic, emerged from this study. It is difficult not to believe that Rilke was not playing a little with the idea, as Kessenich has Rilke use the word "Master," and as it transpires, Rilke becomes something of a slave in the sculpture's home.

Rilke's interest in Rodin was partly instrumental, a function of the need for the poet to make an independent living, rather than rely on funds from his father, so that he could write poetry. In fact, it was not as a poet, but

as a journalist biographer and commentator that turned Rilke's hand in a commission to write a Rodin profile that took him to Meudon. This proved to be a welcome turn in the poet's career, because the book he produced about Rodin became a best seller across Europe. It also became part of an elaborate series of artists profiles, known as Lives of the Artist Series (still available), with Rilke's Auguste Rodin one book in the series.

In effect, *The Only Song We Sing* serves as an introduction to Rilke's book, August Rodin. Certainly this was the case for me, as I sat out to write down this review.

Re-released in 2004 with a superb introduction, "Rilke's Rodin" written by William Gass, Rilke the writer is revealed with all of his elaborate language elocutions at work. He can be read as the man who Kessenich describes becoming worldly, and as such a materialist, or at least conscious of the value of the world of relationships, objects and contradictions. Here is Kessenich's Rilke:

You changed my life, Master. You made me learn to stop and truly see the world, to take it in, and reflect on the physical. And that is now being reflected in my poetry. It's much more grounded. My poems more often revolve around things in the world, instead of abstract ideas in my head. (66)

The end of the story is a testament to the generosity of Rodin towards Rilke. More than educating him about the "real world," which could then inform his poetry, Rodin showed Rilke a level of generosity and care that is wonderful to consider. After employing him as administrator and a kind of business partner in his home, paying him while encouraging him to continue to write poetry, Rodin then "fired" Rilke so that he could return fulltime to writing poetry. This is how Kessenich presents the story, suggesting that Kessenich too sees and admires the humanity of Rodin, when today, he might otherwise be considered less than remarkable because he employed Rilke to do his business.

For his part, in his book Auguste Rodin, Rilke refers to love. Rodin "learned to embrace this Life with ever more faithful love. It reveals itself to him as if he had been initiated, no longer concealing itself from him, beyond any sign of distrust." (83)

The collaborations bore incredible fruit for Rodin and Rilke. And now Lawrence Kessenich adds his wonderfully rich contribution.

Marcus Breen is a professor of communications at Boston College.

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.

A reminder that **yard waste pickup** began

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

We would like to take this opportunity

to thank our **Arts Editor, Doug Holder**, for setting up a **GoFundMe campaign** for *The Somerville Times*. With the cost of printing going up and a lack of businesses having the resources to advertise, free papers feel the effect. We sincerely thank all who have already contributed and thank any future contributors. If you are interested in helping, please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-somerville-times>. Or if anyone is interested in

advertising, please contact Bobbietoner@aol.com. We offer great discounts to help our advertisers be able to advertise. Thank you all so much for your support!

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.



TODAY'S BANK

for today's online mortgage applications

- Primary Residences • Second/Vacation Homes
- First Time Homebuyer Programs • Investment Properties
- Free Pre-Approvals • Home Equity Loans and Lines Of Credit

*Apply online at winterhillbank.com
Or visit our Loan Center at 337 Broadway, Somerville
for personalized service*



617-666-8600 | 800-444-4300 | winterhillbank.com

A Mutual Bank Serving the Community Since 1906

NMLS #431641

