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# City Council now has authority over police presence at polling stations



How to best implement the state's Vote Act and whether deploying police officers at polling stations is advisable is a matter of discussion for the Somerville City Council.

By Mina Rose Morales

On Thursday 14, 2022, at roughly 7:00 p.m., Somerville City Councilors decided to implement the Votes Act for this year's primary election on September 6, but will discuss the new law thoroughly in committee before incorporating it for the elections after September.

The Votes Act made permanent in Massachusetts the pandemic-related voting reforms used last fall such as mail in voting, same day voting registration, enabling eligible incarcerated citizens to vote, and other reforms, according to the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts website. The bill, now numbered S.2554, also gives City Council members the authority to decide whether police should be stationed at polling centers, as

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## Somerville: The ice cream tour

By Molly Rains

It's midsummer in Somerville, and with temperatures in the high 90s and humidity to match, there's nothing better than a cone of ice cream to boost the spirits. We've got the scoop on local ice cream shops to satisfy your sweet tooth and keep you cool.

### Tipping Cow: Winter Hill

At 415 Medford St., visit what owners Gerly Adrien and David Lindsey describe as the only 100% peanut, tree nut, and sesame-free ice cream purveyor in all of New England. With classic flavors alongside funky cones like key lime and peach cobbler, this cozy shop has something for every sweet tooth. Open from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Sunday.

### Forge Baking Company and Ice Cream Bar: Spring Hill

Ice cream is an added bonus at Forge Baking Company, a bakery and café at 626

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Gracie's in Union Square is but one of several top-quality ice cream shops dotted throughout the city.  
— Photo by Molly Rains

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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.

Learn about the **local food system** at this monthly speaker series at the **Somerville Community Growing Center**. **Emily Reckard-Mota** will be speaking, **Wednesday July 20, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.** This first session will focus on household access to groceries and meals. All sessions will take place at the **Growing Center**, 22 Vinal Ave. All are invited to join the conversation and explore a range of perspectives on local and regional food access. Coordinated by the **City of Somerville Office of Food Access and Healthy Communities** and the **Friends of the Community Growing Center**.

\*\*\*\*\*








The **Green Line Extension** project is planning sporadic **overnight construction** activity within the rail right-of-way **between East Somerville Station and Medford Tufts Station through the end of the month**. Construction will involve heavy equipment which can produce elevated noise levels. Work is expected to move at a moderate pace—limiting the duration of noise impacts in specific areas. If you have questions or need assistance for a Green Line construction-related matter, please visit [mass.gov/glx](https://mass.gov/glx), email [info@glxinfo.com](mailto:info@glxinfo.com), or call MBTA customer support at 617-222-3200.

\*\*\*\*\*

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. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Joseph Cottier**, **Joanne Ruggiero Contaldi**, **Andre Green**, **Nancy** *Continued on page 9*

# Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of July 20 – July 26 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> <i>July 20</i>	Partly Cloudy	96°/75°	8%	5%	SW 8 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> <i>July 21</i>	Partly Cloudy	94°/70°	24%	17%	SSW 16 mph
 <b>Friday</b> <i>July 22</i>	Sunny	95°/72°	5%	2%	W 10 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> <i>July 23</i>	Sunny	96°/73°	9%	6%	WSW 12 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> <i>July 24</i>	Rain	93°/70°	32%	26%	SW 11 mph
 <b>Monday</b> <i>July 25</i>	Rain	88°/68°	47%	41%	WSW 10 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> <i>July 26</i>	Rain	84°/71°	36%	30%	NE 8 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: *Hoping some common sense will prevail*

matt c says:

Y'all know there is already a opioid treatment center in Davis... right? Column has been there for years now offering medication based treatment. My biggest concern with the safer consumption sites is that it isn't limited to Somerville, we want to take care of our community, but we don't want to become a destination. Anyone that has driven by Southampton St. in Boston knows exactly what we don't want to see. Limit it to residents, prove that it works and encourage other cities to follow our lead.

### Response to: *Somerville Junction Park expansion and renovation virtual meeting*

Barbara Smith says:

Why does this need to be discussed? The city should just do this.

### Response to: *The bigger they are...*

TheoNa says:

Thank you for a nice story.

### Response to: *Somerville's newest firefighters celebrate completion of probationary period*

Steve Keenan says:

Congratulations to all of you! You are members of a fine and dedicated firefighting and emergency service force. Rock on!

Log onto [TheSomervilleTimes.com](https://TheSomervilleTimes.com) to leave your own comments

# The Somerville Times

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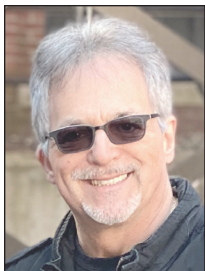
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Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Kay and Chips



*This article first ran in the April 16, 2011 edition of The Somerville Times.*

Long before there were lines to get into The Ball Square, they

were lining up to get into a Davis Square eatery called Kay and Chips. Anyone who is over the age of 40 probably has a memory of this historical restaurant. It was opened every day of the year except Christmas and Thanksgiving, but the weekends were when things really started moving and shaking.

Kay and Chips' diner was located on the corner of Highland and Cutter Avenues in Davis Square. Unlike the throngs of hungry people at those other places, the lines for Kay and Chips formed a lot later. You see, this place opened from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. on the weekends, and that's when the place really got cooking.

Bar flies hit Kay and Chips after the bars closed down and last call for alcohol

was history. They came from Faces Disco, Johnny D's, Aku Aku Chinese restaurant, The Powder House Pub, and every bar in Somerville and Cambridge. They came looking for food when they were all danced out.

Night owls, sometimes feeling no pain, flocked to Kay and Chips to feast on eggs, bacon, toast and home fries. The place was usually always packed and almost everyone showed up with a mean case of the munchies.

With that type of clientele, sometimes things got a little unruly. A former waitress referred to some of the patrons as "late night weirdos." I was one of the weirdos a few times, along with some of my friends. If a "misunderstanding" happened to break out, Chip might flash a bat to calm things down. There were usually a few police officers around to help keep the peace.

When it got really busy the cops would go into the kitchen and help wash the dishes or make toast. Once in a while "the boys from the North End" would come in and break bread with the Somerville



guys. The two things they all had in common were that they were usually "feeling good," and very hungry. Some former patrons admit that they don't remember that much about the diner because they rarely went to Kay and Chips sober. It was a wild and crazy place.

The Texas breakfast along with the hand cut steak and eggs had a lot of fans back then. Chip made a killer omelet and his homemade hash was famous. A former waitress remembers making gallons of milk shakes. The Greek salads were also a favorite. Chip's nephew started working at the restaurant when he was 13. He recalls making breakfast for former Mayor S. Lester Ralph.

Even though their town had The Golden Egg, on Mystic Ave., the Pewter Pot and Carroll's Diner in Medford Square and Howard Johnson's near Wellington, many Medford residents frequented Kay and Chips.

Check out this story: "We ordered eggs and home fries and were told they were out of home fries. We were very disappointed. The guy sitting next to my friend gets his order of eggs and home fries and

proceeds to pass out face down in his eggs. My friend says with a smile, he won't need these, and ate the home fries off of his plate. No one blinked an eye, especially the egg faced guy next to us!" People who lived near the restaurant remember how loud and rowdy the customers got in the wee hours of the morning.

Before it became Kay and Chips, Harry Fraser owned a variety store on the spot. Harry then sold it to Chip. This info came right from Harry's grandchildren.

Chip passed away in 1991. The family kept things going for a while longer but eventually sold the business. The diner ran under new management for a few years as "Dolly's." It just donned on me that we never mentioned "Kay." Stay tuned for an addendum.

A lot of Somerville people have lots of stories about the rocking days of Kay and Chips. There were a lot of laughs to be had in that place. Everyone speaks very highly of Chip because he was a great guy. A former patron referred to him as "salt of the earth." Kay and Chips was the place to go whether you had an appetite for good food, late night adventure, or both.

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# THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

## Police arrest two suspects in Somerville shooting investigation

On Wednesday, July 13, the Somerville Police and Cambridge Police Department, working collaboratively, served two search warrants at the homes of Ibrahim Barry, 18, Cambridge, and Craig Smith, 20, Cambridge, in furtherance of an investigation of a Somerville shooting incident that occurred on February 20, 2022 at 500 Mystic Avenue in Somerville.

Barry was arrested pursuant to a warrant issued by the Somerville District Court for armed assault with intent to murder, discharging a firearm within 500 feet of a dwelling, carrying a loaded firearm without a license, and assault and battery by means of a firearm. Smith was arrested and charged with possession of a firearm without a license, possession of a large capacity feeding device, failure to properly store a firearm and possession of ammunition. An illegal loaded Glock, 40 caliber handgun was recovered from his home.

Somerville Police Chief Charles Femino and Cambridge Police Commissioner Christine Elow are very pleased with the results of this collaborative effort. Gun violence, particularly violence involving youth in our two communities, has been an ongoing concern and priority for both agencies and we remain deeply committed to aggressively investigating and mitigating such harmful activity. — Somerville Police Dept.



## SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

<b>Arrests:</b>	on warrant charges of conspira-	breaking and entering.	warrant charges of carrying a	ft. of a building, armed assault to
Patrick Wiswall, July 12, 11:11	cy, malicious wanton defacement	Ibrahim Barry, of Cambridge,	firearm without a license, dis-	murder, and carrying a firearm
a.m., arrested at Washington St.	of property, and felony daytime	July 13, 8:23 a.m., arrested on	charge of a firearm within 500	with ammunition.

## City Council now has authority over police presence at polling stations

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stated under section 72 of the bill. “Section 72 shall not apply to this section; provided, however, that a city or town may detail a sufficient number of police officers or constables for each early voting site at the expense of the city or town to preserve order, protect local election officers and supervisors from any interference with their duties and aid in enforcing the laws relating to elections,” according to section 72 of Bill S. 2554.

The city’s Director of Elections, Nick Salerno, came to the City Council meeting to address the members’ new authority over police presence at election polls. Salerno stressed police do quite a bit during election days such as delivering the voting machines and uncast ballots. They also exercise crowd control when people become rowdy.

“So, when you go to a polling place and you see a police officer and you may think that police officer is just passing the time of day, they’re not. They’re in a very responsible situation and position. I don’t know what we would do without them. That’s just a matter of clarification,” said Salerno after explaining where he stands on the issue.

Willie Burnley, Jr., City Councilor at Large, had a different opinion. “As a Black person, my parents come from the south, both of them, and the tactic of saying there would be large police presence at polling locations is a historic tactic in this country that has been used by many different groups to repress the vote in certain communities,” said Burnley, Jr.

Burnley Jr., and other Council members agreed they wanted item 35 on the agenda to be discussed more thoroughly at the Legislative Matters Committee meeting when they return from their recess. The council members will take a recess for six weeks and return on August 22.

The Council members want to make sure they understand the Votes Act, specifically the language, before implementing it. Council member Charlotte Kelly believes they need to better understand what the word “shall” in the new law means.

However, the City Councilors “laid on the table” the request to approve police officer assignments at polling places on election day as required by the Votes Act. They decided to apply the law for this year’s primary election but will discuss the Votes Act more thoroughly in committee before implementing it to other elections.

“In a community like Somerville, I’m not concerned about a stealing of an election, there is better use of police officer’s time,” said Burnley Jr. during a private interview.

## Somerville: The ice cream tour

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Somerville Avenue serving up flavors including lychee sorbet, malted vanilla, and, fittingly, cold-brew coffee. Craving caffeine? Try a decadent affogato: two shots of espresso served over ice cream of your choosing. To get your hands on some Forge ice cream, order online at <https://www.forgebakingco.com/>. Open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day.

**Gracie’s Ice Cream: Union Square** At 22 Union Square, the crew at Gracie’s make small batches of ice cream right behind the counter. Choosing between fun and fresh flavors like sweet cream, grape nuts, salty whiskey, and devil dogs is tough, but you can’t go wrong! Order online at <https://icecreamgracies.com/> for pickup at the storefront in Union Square. Open from 2:00 to 9:00 p.m. every day.

**J.P. Licks: Davis Square** This vibrant shop in Davis Square is a great place to pick up fun flavors of ice cream, frozen yogurt, and shakes. J.P. stands for Jamaica Plain, where the company was founded in 1981. Today, 17 locations in Greater Boston ensure that you’re never too far from great ice cream, including a rotating selection of fun flavors as well as vegan and lactose-free options. Open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; 11:00 a.m. through 12:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

# Historic investments planned for youth, affordable housing, sustainability, and more

The City of Somerville is entering the new fiscal year with an ambitious slate of funding priorities for the next 12 months and beyond. In late June, the Somerville City Council passed a \$293 million Fiscal Year 2023 budget, delivering on Mayor Katjana Balantyne’s historic investment in Somerville Public Schools and transformative programs supporting youth, affordable housing, climate resilience, and quality of life improvements. The budget also seeks to improve city systems and services that undergird all municipal operations, laying a foundation for a more inclusive, accessible government and stronger, more equitable Somerville.

“This budget charts a course not just for the year ahead, but for long-term progress to improve the lives of all Somerville residents,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “We are putting our equity goals into practice, as reflected in our funding priorities and in our collaborative approach to budgeting this year and in the future. I’m grateful to my colleagues on the City Council for their partnership on this budget, their thoughtful questions, and their due diligence on behalf of our community. I’m excited to get this work started.”

**Historic investment in schools and youth**

The hallmark of this year’s budget is a record-high 10 percent increase in funding for public schools, students, and Somerville youth.

The city will invest an additional \$8.4 million in the Somerville Public Schools budget to ensure that all students, particularly low-income students, students of color, and students with disabilities, have access to a high-quality and well-rounded education. Funds will go toward urgent mental health and social-emotional wellness resources, special education, and pay equity for paraprofessionals. In addition, the city will invest \$850,000 to make critical improvements to school buildings, including the Brown School and Winter Hill School. The FY23 budget also nearly doubles funding for the Mayor’s Summer Jobs Program and creates a new Director of Youth Services position to oversee youth-focused policies and services across all departments.

**\$8.3 million for affordable housing**

Another cornerstone of this budget is affordable housing. Nearly \$8.3 million from the Green Line Extension (GLX) Stabilization Fund, no longer needed for GLX, has been reallocated to the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Fund for affordable housing acquisition. Typically, funds are committed by the Trust after properties have been purchased and development plans are underway, but this investment will enable affordable housing partners to buy land or buildings quickly in the

fast-moving Somerville market, then hold them while working to execute new affordable housing development on these sites.

**First ever investment in participatory budgeting**

For the first time in Somerville, a historic \$1 million has been dedicated for participatory budgeting. This investment will allow community members to propose and vote on priority projects for funding in future budgets. Residents and community-based organizations will have the opportunity to have their voices heard in a new way as part of the city’s municipal budget process. The bulk will be directly allocated by Somerville residents, with a small amount going toward setting up and administering the program.

Other major investments include:

**A clean, green Somerville**

- A total of \$1.25 million to expand and maintain Somerville’s tree canopy
- An infusion of \$300,000 to promote energy efficiency in city buildings
- \$100,000 for the creation of an Urban Pollinator Action Plan to support Somerville-specific pollinators and wildlife
- \$75,000 for the development of a Zero Waste Program to integrate conventional aspects of solid waste management with other initiatives, including composting
- A Program Manager to administer the new Clean Green Energy Efficiency Rehab Pro-



gram, which will assist eligible property owners in making comprehensive energy-saving improvements to their properties

- A Sustainability Planner, who will review new and renovated development under state and local codes
- An Ecosystem Restorative Planner, who will ensure that open spaces generated by private development contribute to city-wide ecosystem goals

**Improved city systems and services**

- A new Chief Administrative Officer, who will oversee day-to-day city operations, work to ensure efficient, high-quality services, and free up staff to focus on their core duties
- A new Web Services Division to improve the content, functionality, and accessibility of the city’s website, one of the most-used public resources
- Two IT Support Specialists

to strengthen underlying systems and better meet the daily needs of residents

- Two new Human Resources staff to support efficient, effective recruitment and implement modern HR software
- A Small Business Liaison to support small businesses as they apply for permits
- Software upgrades for Planning & Zoning to show zoning regulations on a parcel-by-parcel basis

**Equity at the core**

- Two new roles in the Office of Housing Stability to help residents facing housing insecurity navigate and obtain resources to help them stay in their homes
- A Racial and Social Justice Investigator, who will investigate concerns related to hate, bias, discrimination, and other injustices such as wage theft or intimidation
- A full-time

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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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**THE HOUSE AND SENATE.** *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records representatives’ and senators’ votes on roll calls from the week of July 11-15.

**\$4.2 BILLION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE AND TAX CUTS (H 5077)**

House 154-0, approved and sent to the Senate a \$4.2 billion economic development package. The bill provides \$500 million one-time tax rebates to an estimated 2 million eligible people. A \$250 rebate would go, by September 30, to individual taxpayers and a \$500 rebate to married taxpayers. Eligibility will be determined by annual income reported in 2021, with the minimum income required to be \$38,000, and the maximum \$100,000 for individual filers and \$150,000 for joint filers.

Beginning in 2023, several permanent tax reductions would take effect including increasing the Child and Dependent Care Credit from \$180 per child to \$310 per child, as well as eliminating the current cap of \$360 for two or more children; increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit from 30 percent to 40 percent of the federal credit; increasing the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit from \$750 to \$1,755; increasing the rental deduction cap from \$3,000 to \$4,000; and increasing the estate tax threshold from \$1 million to \$2 million.

The measure would break new ground for the Massachusetts Lottery by allowing it to sell some of its products online. Some of the revenue collected from online sales will go to fund an Early Education and Care Fund.

Other provisions include \$80 million for community health centers; \$30 million to support rest homes; \$15 million for grants to reproductive rights providers for security, workforce and educational needs; \$175 million for state parks and recreational facilities upgrades, with \$25 million for communities of color; \$100 million for the Clean Water Trust Fund; \$125 million for small businesses, with \$75 million for minority-owned businesses; \$50 million for broadband investments in underserved communities; and \$75 million in grants to hotels across the state who saw financial losses during the pandemic.

“Today, the House passed much needed relief for the citizens of the commonwealth,” said Rep. Mark Cusack (D-Braintree), House Chair of the Committee on Revenue. The one-time stimulus program we adopted, along with the Essential Premium Pay Program from earlier this year, means that nearly three million residents will have received direct payments totaling nearly \$1 billion this year. We are also making permanent changes to our tax system that will provide over \$500 million in relief every year going forward.”

“As Massachusetts residents continue to face severe infla-

tion and economic uncertainty, I’m proud of the action taken by the House today that will provide low and middle-class taxpayers with much needed financial relief,” said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). “Included in this legislation are several significant tax relief proposals, over \$2.5 billion worth of one-time industry targeted investments, economic relief rebates for qualifying taxpayers and a newly established source of revenue to fund the state’s early education and care system. These are vital forms of real, tangible economic relief.”

“This legislation will ensure Massachusetts continues its strong economic growth and puts us in solid footing to rebound from the pandemic,” said Rep. Jerry Parisella (D-Beverly), House Chair of the Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. “Some highlights include providing a boost to our local theaters, giving our academic institutions the ability to lead the nation in fields like artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, cyber security and robotics. And also provide funding to create thousands of units of housing throughout the commonwealth.

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill).

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Yes

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE (S 2996)**

Senate 40-0, approved a bill designed to further protect reproductive health care and those who perform abortions in the Bay State. The measure specifically declares that both reproductive health care and gender-affirming care are rights secured by the constitution or laws of Massachusetts and would shield providers of reproductive and gender-affirming care and their patients from out-of-state legal action.

Other provisions include preventing the state’s cooperation with anti-abortion and anti-gender-affirming care laws in other states; mandating health insurance coverage for abortion and abortion-related care with no cost-sharing; ensuring access to emergency contraception; and providing confidentiality to providers of reproductive and gender-affirming care.

“Passing this legislation is a monumental step forward in Massachusetts, as we are seeing increasingly more anti-abortion and anti-gender-affirming care legislation rise across the country,” said Sen. Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington), Senate Chair of the Committee on Health Care Financing and the sponsor of the bill. “We must do everything to protect the rights of our providers, patients and visitors to the commonwealth. As we further realize the impact of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision ... we will

continue to fight these attacks on reproductive and gender-affirming care with meaningful action.”

“A fundamental teaching of the Catholic faith is that an unborn child is a human person with the inalienable right to life and this life must be protected from conception to birth,” said a statement from the Massachusetts Catholic Conference. “It is in this light that the Catholic Bishops of Massachusetts have always strongly opposed abortion and all legislative efforts to expand the practice.”

“We cannot let other states threaten Massachusetts’ pregnant and transgender people, or the providers who take care of them,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “Massachusetts will not waiver in protecting our residents’ rights. The Legislature prepared for the end of Roe v. Wade by passing the ROE Act in 2020, which ensured the continuation of reproductive health-care services when we could no longer count on the federal government. Now, we must prepare our commonwealth for the potential further erosion of our rights and protections at the federal level.”

“The Legislature’s myopic pursuit of abortion and gender identity extremism is out of sync with the voters of Massachusetts, and seeks to undermine pro-life, pro-parental rights laws across the country,” said the president of the Massachusetts Family Institute Andrew Beckwith. “This bill also specifically grants Planned Parenthood the power to effectively re-write our commonwealth’s abortion laws through the regulatory process. When you combine that with the \$15 million giveaway to abortion activists in the proposed state budget, it is clear what this is really about: our elected officials handing over power and money to their political allies in the abortion industry.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill).

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes
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**\$10.9 BILLION TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE (S 2989)**

Senate 39-0, approved a nearly \$11 billion transportation and infrastructure package that includes \$1.375 billion for Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) modernization; \$400 million for MBTA safety projects; \$275 million for the East-West rail project; \$1.27 billion for non-federally aided roads and bridges; and a provision that directs the MBTA and allows Regional Transit Authorities across the state to create a low-income fare program. The House has approved a different version of the package and a House-Senate conference committee will likely hammer out a compromise version.

Other provisions include \$225 million for emissions reduction initiatives, including \$50

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million to support access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure; \$114 million for airport improvements; \$25 million for municipal road pavement improvements; and \$407.7 million for local and regional transportation projects.

ty for our residents, support local businesses, create jobs, and boost economies in all corners of our commonwealth,” said Rodrigues.

Of the more than 200 amendments filed by senators none came to a roll call vote. Many were simply approved or rejected one at a time on voice votes. To move things along even faster, the Senate also did its usual “bundling” of many amendments. Instead of acting on each amendment one at a time, dozens of the proposed amendments are bundled and put into two piles – one pile that will be approved and the other that will be rejected, without a roll call, on voice votes where it is impossible to tell which way a senator votes.

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

Senate President Karen Spilka, or the senator who is filling in for her at the podium, orchestrates the approval and rejection of the bundled amendments with a simple: “All those in favor say ‘aye,’ those opposed say ‘no.’ The ayes have it and the amendments are approved.” Or “All those in favor say ‘aye,’ those opposed say ‘no.’ The no’s have it and the amendments are rejected.” The outcome was predetermined earlier behind closed doors.

ty for our residents, support local businesses, create jobs, and boost economies in all corners of our commonwealth,” said Rodrigues.

“This transportation bond bill provides Massachusetts with the key to unlock once-in-a-generation federal funding from the bipartisan infrastructure law,” Sen. Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn), Senate Chair of the Committee on Transportation. “With these combined state and federal investments, we will be able to complete vital work on our highways, roads, bridges and public transportation systems, improving mobility for all residents of the commonwealth.”

ty for our residents, support local businesses, create jobs, and boost economies in all corners of our commonwealth,” said Rodrigues.

“While repairs to our transportation infrastructure will be beneficial to many communities across the commonwealth, this bill goes much further than merely repairing but will instead actively transform our infrastructure to be more modern, environmentally sustainable and regionally equitable,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “The support for electric vehicles, regional transportation authorities, low-income fares on public transit, expanded East-West connectivity and many other initiatives included in this bill will bring benefits to residents, visitors and businesses throughout Massachusetts.”

ty for our residents, support local businesses, create jobs, and boost economies in all corners of our commonwealth,” said Rodrigues.

“Today’s passage of this multi-pronged ... transportation infrastructure investment package builds on our longstanding commitment to ensure the commonwealth’s transportation system is more equitable, reliable, safe and modern,” said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “Going far beyond just roads and bridges, the Senate’s transportation bond bill will stimulate our economy, increase accessibility for our residents, support local businesses, create jobs, and boost economies in all corners of our commonwealth,” said Rodrigues.

ty for our residents, support local businesses, create jobs, and boost economies in all corners of our commonwealth,” said Rodrigues.

(A “Yes” vote is for the package).

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**ADOPT ANIMALS USED IN RESEARCH – “THE BEAGLE BILL” (S 2992)** – The Senate approved a bill that would require research labs to make every effort to offer healthy animals up for adoption by registered non-profit animal rescue organizations rather than euthanizing them when the research is done.

According to supporters, more than 60,000 dogs – almost all beagles – and nearly 20,000 cats, are used each year for animal experimentation in the United States to advance scientific research and to test cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and other household products. Currently, many research labs choose to automatically euthanize these cats and dogs once their experiments are over. The House has already approved a different version of the bill and the Senate version now goes to the House for consideration.

“I am proud the Massachusetts Senate passed legislation prioritizing the protection of animals across our commonwealth,” said Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem), Senate Chair of the Judiciary Committee. “The Beagle Bill will give research dogs and cats a second chance at life and bring Massachusetts in line with other states across our nation. We owe so much of human advancement to the service and sacrifice of these animals, and they deserve to be loved and cherished after a job well done.”

House sponsor Rep. Michelle DuBois (D-Brockton) said the bill will save dogs and cats from needlessly dying when their time in the testing lab comes to an end. “This national effort was brought to my attention by a constituent ... [and] provides a framework to provide an alternate ending in a loving home through places like the MSPCA,” DuBois said.

**PROTECT PUPPIES AND KITTENS (S 2994)** – The Senate approved and sent to the House legislation designed to protect the health and safety of puppies and kittens in cities and towns by addressing inhumane practices relating to the transfer of pets.

Provisions include prohibiting the sale of puppies and kittens under eight weeks of age; ending the sale of animals on roadsides, parking lots, flea markets or in other public spaces; and requiring the Department of Agricultural Resources to establish reasonable rules and regulations for the operation of breeding kennels and catteries

Continued on page 19

The Somerville Times

Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #258

The Magnificent Seven

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

As 2022 is unfolding, it appears to be a banner year for Somerville. She is welcoming seven new Green Line Extension train stations to her historic backyards. The Cambridge/Lechmere Station and Somerville’s Union Square Station opened on March 21. The East Somerville, Gilman, Magoun, Ball, and Medford/Tufts stations are scheduled to open by the end of this summer.



- They all have historical significance:
- Lechmere Station – On April 18, 1775, after crossing the Charles River, British soldiers disembarked and marched through Union Square and on to Lexington. This was the site of our country’s first monorail trials, The Meigs Elevated Railway.
  - Union Station – The site of the American Revolutionary Fort #3 and the base of Prospect Hill. On its summit, the citadel was the most formidable fort in the American lines during the siege of Boston. Also, General George Washington raised the first American Flag here.
  - East Somerville Station – This former Boston and Lowell Station was one of the first in the nation. In the winter of 1842, the year of Somerville’s birth, Charles Dickens, the legendary author of “A Christmas Carol,” stopped at this site. It was his first train stop on his American tour and his interest was to visit McLean Hospital, the forerunner of today’s Massachusetts General Hospital.
  - Gilman Square Station – This is the site of Central Hill, the city- owned territory between Highland Avenue, School, Medford, and Walnut Streets.

Continued on page 16

# Somerville City Council meeting brings some updates to the community

By Luda Tang

The regular Somerville city council meeting was called to order on July 14 by Ward One City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin, lasting three and a half hours. Nine City Councilors were present, and discussed different matters that influence residents' daily lives.

The Council commended Frank Wright, the former City Solicitor, and the former Assistant City Solicitor Eileen McGettigan's retirement for their extensive work and distinguished service at the Law Department of Somerville.

The Somerville Museum requested an appropriation of \$100,000 from the Community

Preservation Act Undesignated Fund for unanticipated cost increases for the Elevator and Collection Storage projects.

Roberta Cameron, the Community Preservation Act Administrator at the City of Somerville, explained that this appropriation is to complete the renovation of the ground floor and bring the historical collection back into the museum without paying more storage fees. More specifically, the renovation project entails waterproofing the entire ground floor, making the entire floor handicap accessible, and re-arranging the space. This item was approved.

Other items of note were sponsored by City Councilor At-Large Kristen Strezo. The first is for

the Director of Economic Development to discuss the ability of small businesses to access loading zones in heavy traffic areas while outdoor dining is present.

Strezo pointed out that even though people are back to their regular lives for the most part, some restaurants are still struggling to receive regular deliveries. According to Strezo, it is important to reassess and discuss the loading zone problems for small businesses. This item was approved.

The next order is for the Director of Health and Human Services to discuss the potential effects of the recent Supreme Court ruling on *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health* on Somerville women, pregnant women, and reproductive health.



ville women, pregnant women, and reproductive health.

Strezo initiated this order because she felt the ruling is an absolute assault on women and

reproductive justice, which is anti-women, anti-family, anti-choices, and anti-LGBTQ. The item must be sent to equity, and was approved as well.

## Public Health and Safety Committee recent agenda items

By Ryan DiLello

Somerville's Public Health and Safety Committee gathered for a virtual meeting on Tuesday, July 11 at 6:00 p.m. The summary below captures the discussions around each item raised during the meeting.

**That the Commissioner of Public Works replace the port-a-potties in and around Davis Square, including Seven Hills Park, regularly maintain them, and leave them in place regardless of complaints from neighbors.**

There is currently a port-a-potty in seven hills park that DPW placed there on June 27. Now, the contract on the port-a-potty is being transferred to the Department of Health and Human services. "We want to explore utilization, who's using [the port-a-potties], and what needs are there. They also have to be removed in December for snow removal and that's an important time for someone experiencing homelessness to have access." Director of Health and Human

Services Karin Carroll said. Under the current contract, the unit gets cleaned 3 times per week, which may not be sufficient, she added. DPW Commissioner Jill Lathan clarified that the port-a-potty would not be removed simply because of local complaints; "there is a process for that." She clarified.

**That the Director of Health and Human Services immediately secure space and open a warming/cooling center for people to seek shelter from the summer heat and winter cold.**

At the moment, HHS Director Karin Carroll is meeting with various teams including SOIA and Emergency Management to identify the state of the city's warming/cooling centers and services. "We pulled together a lot of players who maybe don't traditionally meet around this... we talked about who does what and cleaning that up into a procedure that we can work from. It was a great first discussion. There's also an urgency because we are about to hit summer. It's good to have a threshold to look for in terms

of temperature, humidity, days of sustained heat – all of these factor into the health effects... At this point, the cooling centers for the city are largely our existing buildings like the library but that may not work for everyone. We may want some more targeted efforts. I'd like to look at some of the data around heat-related illness calls to 911 and to see whether there's any hot spots around town." Director Carroll said.

Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Aneesh Sahni added that the city's Homeless Coalition received an ARPA grant to implement a similar program, opening more warming/cooling centers across the city.

Councilor Pineda Neufeld asked about a program to donate air conditioners to those in need. Director Carroll said the HHS would consider relaunching the program, but noted that very few air conditioners were donated in the past. The Director added that her team is examining the city's buildings for the elderly to be sure they have proper cooling.

A significant part of the city's

strategy lies within communication and education – raising awareness about current cooling zones and ensuring people know the risks and dangers associated with heat.

**That the Director of Health and Human Services move forward with an overdose prevention facility, using a mobile facility as an initial, immediate option until permanent brick and mortar locations can be opened.**

Director Sahni shared that the advisory group is meeting regularly to finalize a program and a report summarizing their findings. The group received \$500,000 in funding to continue their work. Director Sahni said, "it is absolutely a priority to make sure people are safely consuming, but we do not have a timeline yet on procuring a space."

"Our COVID listening sessions are still in progress. We've completed five sessions and have five more to go and are hoping to wrap them up in the fall. At this time we do not have a report summarizing, but in response to the board order, our SOIA team

has been running point at our sessions and will absolutely report to the council once we conclude our sessions."

Regarding the session materials, Director Sahni said, "It has been broad in terms of topics – we've heard from residents how they've been impacted by COVID and what they'd like to see from the city." Sahni indicated the listening session reports could produce some actionable items, but he was unsure of details at the time.

For residents interested in participating in a listening session, visit: [Somervillema.gov/listeningsessions](https://somervillema.gov/listeningsessions)

**That the ADA Coordinator discuss with this Council how the Administration is accommodating the needs of visually impaired residents through the use of braille in commissions and elsewhere.**

Director Sahni shared that the ADA is currently in the process of procuring a braille machine and that he will have more to share in a future meeting, once the braille machine is in place.

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Get ready for some night construction, Somerville - like it or not.

Our View Of The Times



The word is out that construction activities focused on the rail right-of-way between East Somerville Station and Medford Tufts Station will be taking place at night through the end of the month.

According to reports, the construction work will involve heavy equipment which can make a lot of noise. Work is expected to move at a moderate pace—limiting the duration of noise impacts in specific areas.

While the noise will only affect a small number of local residents, we feel for them and offer our sincerest sympathies.

And yet, even though a certain portion of the city may be somewhat inconvenienced for a certain period of time, it's kind of nice to know that the GLX is still chugging forward towards completion, however slowly yet surely it may be.

The city, state, and national govern-

ments have all sunk a fortune into the effort, while we ourselves have ducked and dodged and wheedled our way across the city and its surroundings through chopped up and wildly diverted roadways. We've all paid our fares and we're more than ready to climb aboard and enjoy the fruits of all this fortune and labor.

And as we contend with the lingering threat of the coronavirus and its variants,

inflation, political disputes and all the other annoyances we're contending with these days, it's also nice to know that this project that began long before these troubles arose is finally approaching its ultimate conclusion.

So maybe a little more inconvenience of this sort is not so hard to take after all. Especially considering everything else we're going through right now.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

McCarty, Susanne Sordillo, Cheryl Chaille Horan, Alice Galvin, Tommy Mcdaid, Frank Tello Jr, Erica Jones, Carol Powers, Joan Campo McKenna, Stephanie Ann and Justin Klekota a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

\*\*\*\*\*

The City of Somerville is hiring polling place workers for the upcoming 2022 election cycle. Hundreds of poll workers will be needed this year to conduct a successful election. The Elections Office is hosting two information sessions about

becoming a poll worker on **Thursday, July 28**, at City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, in the City Council Chambers on the second floor. The afternoon session is 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., and the evening session is 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Register to attend at [somervillema.gov/PollWorkerInfoSessions](https://somervillema.gov/PollWorkerInfoSessions). If you are interested in learning more but not able to attend an information session, please contact the Elections Office at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200.

\*\*\*\*\*

As of July 13, a new **Housing Stability Notification Act amendment** will require landlords to provide tenants with **information about their rights** and re-

sources at the start of all new housing rentals, rather than only when pursuing eviction. Anyone facing displacement or needing housing assistance is urged to contact the **Office of Housing Stability** at 617-625-6600 ext. 2581. For more information, visit [somervillema.gov/ohs](https://somervillema.gov/ohs)

\*\*\*\*\*

Hear proposed plans and give your feedback for **Somerville's Junction Park renovation** at the third virtual meeting on **Tuesday, July 26**, at 6:00 p.m. This project will repurpose parking space to expand the park along the new **Community Path extension**. To attend the event, visit [somervillema.gov/junctionpark](https://somervillema.gov/junctionpark). For additional ac-

commodations, call 311 (617-666-3311).

\*\*\*\*\*

**T(w)een Gardening Workshops with Green City Growers, Saturday, July 23**, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the **Somerville Public Library**. Join Green City Growers for two gardening workshops for teens and tweens ages 10–18. There is no registration necessary. Just wear comfortable clothes and come ready to get your hands dirty. These workshops are made possible with funding by the **Friends of the Somerville Public Library**. For more information, contact Kayla at [kcottingham@somervillema.gov](mailto:kcottingham@somervillema.gov).

Continued on page 12

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#836

1. What is the fear of mirrors called?

2. What is the official nickname of Massachusetts?

3. What is the highest peak point in Massachusetts?

4. What is the state reptile of Massachusetts?

5. In 1966, Pirate Radio Phoenix's first transmission launched in which city?

6. What living animal has the highest blood pressure?

7. What is the average lifespan of a human red blood cell?

8. In the animal kingdom, the word pride means?

9. Who invented the first-ever self-propelled vehicle?

10. There is a place called "Embarrass" in which US state?

11. Gregory's powder is a type of what?

12. A Chinese eunuch invented what in the second century?

Answers on page 15

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.

2. The U.S. Air Force introduced Bob Ross to painting.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD  
SUMMER DAYS

- ACROSS
- 1. Candy bar Baby
  - 5. New York baseball player
  - 8. \_\_\_\_ days of summer
  - 11. Southern cuisine pod
  - 12. Austin Powers' charm
  - 13. Phlegms
  - 15. Finish with plaster
  - 16. Balanced
  - 17. Shy
  - 18. Usually June 21
  - 20. Wood sorrels
  - 21. Between septet and nonet
  - 22. Stir fry pan
  - 23. "Out" for most kids in summer
  - 26. Popular white fish
  - 30. \_\_\_\_ Tsu
  - 31. Pavlov's conditioned \_\_\_\_
  - 34. Part of cathedral
  - 35. Dwelling
  - 37. It's often hot and muggy in summer
  - 38. Be in accord
  - 39. Physicist Niels \_\_\_\_
  - 40. Like some wedding cakes
  - 42. A Bobbsey twin
  - 43. Comparative of staid
  - 45. Like waterskier's dream lake surface
  - 47. Jean-Claude \_\_\_\_ Damme
  - 48. Not our
  - 50. Dangle them in the pool?
  - 52. Tossing around, pl.
  - 55. Drunkard
  - 56. Falling out
  - 57. Like one deserving of a Christmas gift
  - 59. On and on (2 words)
  - 60. Black tropical cuckoos
  - 61. Bob \_\_\_\_ of boxing industry
  - 62. JFK's brother
  - 63. "Owner of a Lonely Heart" band
  - 64. Typically 5 of these in a men's tennis match
- DOWN
- 1. "Arabian Nights" bird
  - 2. Luau strings
  - 3. Crosby, Stills and Nash, e.g.
  - 4. Attention-grabbing shout
  - 5. Summer blockbuster
  - 6. DVD player button
  - 7. Muscle quality
  - 8. Russian parliament
  - 9. "Sittin' On The Dock Of The Bay" singer
  - 10. Cowboy's heel prod
  - 12. Courage to carry on
  - 13. Counter seat
  - 14. Summer activity: berry \_\_\_\_
  - 19. Game status
  - 22. Car wash option
  - 23. Granite store units
  - 24. Explorer John \_\_\_\_, a.k.a. Giovanni Caboto
  - 25. Commotion
  - 26. German mister
  - 27. Farm structure, pl.
  - 28. Part of an eye, pl.
  - 29. \*Adjective for bikini?
  - 32. County event
  - 33. Tall tale
  - 36. #5 Down venue
  - 38. Improvise
  - 40. Sophomore's grade
  - 41. Antonym of ingests
  - 44. Old hat
  - 46. NBA venues
  - 48. Threesome
  - 49. No-distortion sound reproduction, pl.
  - 50. Arctic floater
  - 51. Augmented
  - 52. Brawl
  - 53. Republic of Ireland
  - 54. Hare's tail
  - 55. Uninvited picnic guest
  - 58. Ambulance squad, acr.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7			8	9	10
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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

L	U	S	H			L	A	O			P	R	E
O	G	E	E			B	E	L	L		S	K	E
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F	I	R	E	W	O	R	K	S			O	S	L
				T	O	N	N	E			J	U	S
R	E	S	O	R	T				M	A	T	I	S
A	L	A		M	E	A	G	E	R		N	A	P
S	A	U	C	Y		S	E	A			U	G	L
E	T	N	A			W	H	E	L	P	S		O
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# ArtBeat 2022 livens and enriches Davis Square

By Michael McHugh

Somerville’s 36th annual ArtBeat festival took place last Saturday, with artists of all kinds sharing their work with countless attendees. The day included a combination of live performances, music spanning several genres, interactive activities, culturally significant food, community outreach organizations, and much more.

Artists of all specialties were encouraged to take inspiration from this year’s theme centered around the word “Rise.” This theme was interpreted in countless ways, some artists such as the student performers from Esh Circus Arts viewed the idea of “rising” in a literal sense, by performing aerial silk acrobatics in the center of Davis Square. Others like the “Through the Realities” exhibit at the Somerville Arts Council Inside Out Gallery viewed the “rise” prompt as an opportunity to use poetry and photography to “rise” to address inequality prevalent within mass media. The members of Somerville Community Land Trust, a community organization fighting to create permanently affordable housing, in-

terpreted the theme through the lens of their work addressing the rising rents and increased levels of displacement in the city. “We can represent ‘rise’ similar to how we take these various different types of art and figure out all these different avenues that at first might not seem connected but can be joined in a way for them to live and work together,” explained Michael Talbot, the graphic designer whose work can be seen on the posters advertising the event and various other festival products.

As the past couple years have required a more subdued festival due to the pandemic, ArtBeat 2022 provided residents from Somerville and beyond the opportunity to enjoy activities that wouldn’t have been feasible not too long ago. “People are starved for good live music because of the pandemic, and I think going into crowded spaces is something that people are maybe still a little wary about,” explains the Somerville Arts Council’s cultural director Rachel Strutt. “So, I think that festival is just a tremendous opportunity to go check out so many bands, and if you were to



go see them at venues it would probably cost you hundreds of dollars. And I also think there’s a really good mix of genres, everything from reggaeton, to American folk music, to Indie, to pop from Mozambique.”

With over 65 different craft vendors lining the streets of Davis Square, it’s almost impossible that someone could leave without seeing at least one piece of art that caught their eye. Jewel-

ry, paintings, metalwork, artisan cooking utensils, and digital art were only a sampling of the types of art on sale during the festival. “I think a festival like this really speaks to the symbiotic relationship between arts and economy,” said Strutt. “And I think it’s about cultural tourism. When you draw so many people to a place on a day, they bring their wallets (...) I think it’s important to remember that art drives the economy

and it’s not something frivolous to support. Arts are an important part of the cultural and economic ecosystem.” Events like this showcase just how important the arts are to the diverse and complex culture of Somerville. “It’s such a cool mix of people here,” remarked artist Megan Stelzer of Stelzer Metalworks “They’re like the best of cities and the best of towns, right here in the people.”

— Photos by Michael McHugh



# Historic investments planned for youth, affordable housing, sustainability, and more

CONT. FROM PG 5

LGBTQ+ Coordinator role, expanded from its current part-time status, due in part to data showing the COVID-19 pandemic’s pronounced impact on members of Somerville’s LGBTQ+ community

- A Spanish-Speaking Case Manager, who will connect Spanish-speaking residents and business owners with city resources
- Expanded translation and interpretation services while the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs develops a comprehensive five-year Language Access Plan
- Funding for a strategic plan for the Somerville Commission on Women
- An Accessibility Study for 1 Franey Road, which houses

DPW and other departments, and continues to be an accessibility challenge

- As the city continues its journey and community engagement around reimagining public safety, the Mayor’s Office will return to the City Council with proposals and requests for additional funds.
- Public health and wellbeing
- New public health positions to continue to fight COVID-19 and plan for the pandemic’s long-term impacts
- An expanded Emergency Management department for emergency response and preparation
- A Manager of Mental Health Services to augment and support frontline mental health staff

- An additional \$500,000 earmarked for a supervised consumption site as the city awaits the results of a community engaged process and continues to plan and engage stakeholders
- A SomerBaby Home Visitor, who will connect families with new babies to key city services to support their children from Day One
- A Veterans Benefits Administrator, who will help veterans access financial benefits, mental health supports, housing resources, and education and job opportunities

**Livability and connected communities**

- \$1.8 million in stabilization funds for street reconstruction and traffic safety intervention to

advance the city’s Vision Zero Action Plan

- More than \$400,000 for a mobility infrastructure maintenance crew to maintain community paths, quick-build bike infrastructure, neighborways, and permanent separated bike facilities
- Continued funding to install protected bicycle facilities, accessible sidewalks, raised crosswalks, speed humps, refuge islands, and curb extensions on College Avenue, Holland Street, Pearl Street, Cross Street, Temple Street, Franklin Street, and other key locations across the city
- Expansion of the SMART System rodent control program
- An Arts Space Planner within the Arts Council to strategically

preserve existing arts spaces and generate new arts and cultural spaces across the city

- Three Inspectional Services positions, including a liaison to guide residents and businesses through the permitting process, an operations manager, and an electrical inspector
- Continued funding to advance infrastructure improvement projects to reduce flooding, mitigate combined sewer overflows, and improve water quality
- Enhancement of educational, social, and daily living programs to meet the needs of Somerville’s older adult population

To learn more about the budget and plans for the year ahead, go to [somervillema.gov/fy23budget](https://somervillema.gov/fy23budget).

## Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 9

Are you a **history buff** or just looking for a fun summer activity? Take a **free docent tour** of **Prospect Hill Tower**, the **Old Powder House**, or **Milk Row Cemetery**. Tours are held **weekly through October**, hosted by the **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission**. For tour dates and times, visit [somervillema.gov/events](https://somervillema.gov/events).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Somerville High School Class of 1964, 75th Birthday Celebration, Saturday, September 17, 1:00 p.m.** at the **George Dilboy VFW Post**, Davis Square. Donation: \$50 payable to **Kevin Estee**, 4 Charles Circle, Andover, MA 01810. Rooms available at the Holiday Inn, Washington St., Somerville. **RSVP by August 17** to Sandra Regan: [sanjonr21@gmail.com](mailto:sanjonr21@gmail.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Free summer meals for kids** under 19 years have begun. Visit the website for breakfast and lunch times and locations. <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/summer-meals>

\*\*\*\*\*

The **City of Somerville’s annual Somer-Movie Fest** returns this year with a series of seven family-friendly films being shown in parks around Somerville. Screenings begin at dusk and the schedule is as follows: **Sing 2**, July 21, **Lincoln Park** (Argenziano School); **Encanto**, July 28, **Lincoln Park** (Argenziano School); **Jumanji: The Next Level**, August 4, **Seven Hills Park**; **West Side Story**, August 11, **Seven Hills Park**; **Star Wars: The Force Awakens**, August 18, **Seven Hills Park**.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Joe the Salamander** book release party will take place **Saturday, July 23, 4:00 p.m.**, **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. Hosted by **Doug Holder**, with readings by **Charles Coe** and **DeWitt Henry**. It’s the long-awaited release of **Timothy Gager’s** novel, *Joe the Salamander*.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Homeless Coalition** needs snacks for their clients, and as the weather warms up, bottled water, sunscreen, and bug spray become essentials. All donations can be dropped off weekdays at the **1 Davis Square office** from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. for lunch. Visit their Facebook page to see a list of their client necessities: [www.facebook.com/SomervilleHomelessCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleHomelessCoalition).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Attention Somerville artists!** Showcase and sell artwork from the comfort of your yard at the **Somerville Arts Council’s Yart Sale** on **Saturday, August 13**. Sign-up by **Wednesday, August 3** to participate. Learn more at [somervilleartscouncil.org/yartsale](https://somervilleartscouncil.org/yartsale).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Groundwork Somerville** will be hosting a concert in partnership with **SomerFest** and **EventThem**. The concert will take place on **Thursday, August 4** at **South Street Farm**, just minutes away from the new Union Square T station and across the street from Boynton Yards. The fun starts at 5:00 p.m. Come check out RnB grooves from singer **Leah Parrett**, tanta-

lizing flow from rapper **Sur5ILL**, games, food and more. Free general admission. All ages are welcome. Donations are highly encouraged to support further programming. Visit the website for more info: <https://groundworksomerville.org/event/aug4/>

\*\*\*\*\*

This summer, the city is offering **three spaces just for teens** while efforts to identify a **permanent Teen Center location** continue. Temporary spaces include: **Somerville Public Library, Central Branch**, 79 Highland Ave.; **Edgerly Education Center**, 33 Cross St.; **Powderhouse Park**, 838 Broadway. Each space will provide activities, snacks, connections to services, and access to city social workers. For opening dates and more information, visit [somervillema.gov/teencenters](https://somervillema.gov/teencenters).

\*\*\*\*\*

The city’s **Adopt-A-Tree program** has officially launched. Newly planted trees can be found around Somerville, and now they need your help. Look for the colorful “Adopt Me!” tags and scan the QR code or visit [tinyurl.com/somervilletree](https://tinyurl.com/somervilletree) to find a tree in your neighborhood and go through the steps to adopt it. Name it, water it and even receive an adoption certificate. For more information, visit [somervillema.gov/adoptatree](https://somervillema.gov/adoptatree).

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Don’t forget to visit **Somerville’s farmers markets**. **Every Wednesday through November 23, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.** visit the **Davis Square Farmers Market**, across from American Flatbread at **44 Day St**. Visit: [kets.org/davis](https://www.massfarmersmar-</a></p></div><div><p><a href=). **Every Saturday through October 29, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, the **Union Square Farmers Market** takes place at **66-70 Union Sq.** visit: <https://www.unionsquaremain.org/2022-fmseason>. **Every Sunday through November 20**, the **East Somerville Farmers Market** takes place at **115 Broadway, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** Visit <https://www.east-somervillemainstreets.org/market>. There is a \$15 SNAP match at all Farmers Markets across Somerville.

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The **Somerville Mobile Farmers Market** is open for the season, selling fresh, local produce **through October 15**. The market schedule is as follows: **Fridays: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Council on Aging/SCALE** (167 Holland St.); **2:30 to 4:30 p.m.: East Somerville Community School** (50 Cross St.) **Saturdays: 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.: North Street Housing** (24 North St.); **1:30 to 3 p.m.: Mystic Housing** (Playground between 15B and 25B Memorial Rd.). The market accepts cash, debit, credit, SNAP, WIC Farmers Market Coupons, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons, and it offers an unlimited 50% discount for anyone who needs it. All are welcome. To learn more, visit: [somervillema.gov/farmersmarket](https://somervillema.gov/farmersmarket).

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# The gases that make us go:

## Periodic breathing at high altitude and in obstructive sleep apnea



By Dr. Ian Halim

Decades before Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary achieved the first known summit of Mount Everest, disused oxygen tanks began to litter its rarefied slopes. During a 1922 attempt, one intrepid duo tossed the empties down the mountain, recalling later how each canister would ring out, "like a church bell. There goes another 5 lbs. off our backs."

As mountaineers ascend, the air grows thinner and thinner. The air pressure drops. A breath drawn on the summit of Everest – at 29,032 feet – supplies just one-third of the oxygen found at sea level. As we climb, particularly above 10,000 feet or so, the oxygen level in our body starts to drop. We compensate by breathing faster. But as we climb higher, this isn't enough. Without supplemental oxygen, we can suffer headaches, weakness, confusion – even death.

Altitude sickness may seem like an obscure topic, but – as we'll see – it's a good starting point for understanding how breathing can get disrupted in sleep. When we sleep, our muscles become less active, including some of the muscles that help us breathe. The flaccid tongue can loll back in our throat, and the flesh around our necks can press down upon our airway. When our soft tissues collapse, the passage of air can get blocked up – a bit like fingers pressing on a plastic straw. This is called obstructive sleep apnea. If the soft tissue obstruction is bad

enough, our oxygen level dips. So, when some people go to sleep, it's almost as if they're up in the mountains.

Summitting Everest without supplemental oxygen is very dangerous. The final three thousand feet of the ascent is within the so-called Death Zone. Oxygen is so scarce here that humans can't survive for more than a short time without supplemental oxygen. In 1978, an Italian named Reinhold Andreas Messner and an Austrian, Peter Habeler, became the first to conquer Everest unaided by concentrated oxygen.

Similar perils face pilots. As an aviator rises in an open cockpit, temperature and air pressure drop. Oxygen makes up about 21% of the gas in our atmosphere, and nitrogen about 78%. But, as the air grows thinner with rising altitude, there is less and less total gas, and therefore less and less total oxygen, per unit of volume. Early fighter aircraft, like the World War II Royal Airforce plane, the Spitfire, were outfitted with oxygen tanks and masks. And modern jet liners have airtight pressurized cabins, allowing passengers to inhale thicker, more oxygen-rich air, mimicking the conditions at a much lower altitude, even as the plane climbs skyward.

An apnea (pronounced 'ap-nē-a, with the accent on "app") is a pause in one's breathing, from the Greek roots a- "not" and pneō "breathe" (from which we also get "pneumonia" and "pneumatic"). In obstructive sleep apnea, soft tissue collapse within the airway slows or arrests the stream of air again and again during a night's sleep. Apnea refers not just to the illness, but also to each such pause in our breathing. Too many apneas over the course of a night, and you may wake up feeling unrefreshed, with a headache, or both. It's easy to think of ox-

ygen dips, which occur during an apnea, as stimulating further breathing.

However, another gas is usually a more important signal telling our body that we must breathe. As we use oxygen to burn up carbon-rich fats and sugars for energy, we're constantly generating carbon dioxide as a kind of waste product – known to chemists as CO<sub>2</sub>. Each time we exhale, we "blow off" some of that carbon dioxide gas. And, since we're always making CO<sub>2</sub>, but also always exhaling it, its concentration in our blood usually stays fairly steady. CO<sub>2</sub> isn't just a waste product, though. It also acts as a signal telling us to breathe. When we stop breathing for some reason, our oxygen level not only dips, we also stop exhaling CO<sub>2</sub>. The level of CO<sub>2</sub> in our blood rises. Both these changes act like alarm bells – increasing our drive to breathe.

Carbon dioxide is so critical in this way that if we breathe too fast for too long, we can exhale so much CO<sub>2</sub>, and its level can drop so much, that we actually lose our drive to breathe. For some moments, we stop breathing. Anytime our brain doesn't tell us to breathe, such as because of low blood CO<sub>2</sub>, this is known as a central apnea (so called for the central nervous system, which includes the brain and spinal cord).

If all of this sounds a mite abstract, you can imagine carbon dioxide and oxygen as a pair of coxswains, positioned at the front of a racing shell, facing the athletes arrayed at their oars. They call out "breathe! breathe!" resounding across the open water. CO<sub>2</sub> is usually more important than oxygen in driving our breathing, so you can imagine that coxswain as larger and louder – with CO<sub>2</sub> emblazoned on her jersey.

We can use the image of the two coxswains to understand what happens in obstructive sleep ap-

nea. Each time our airway gets blocked, we stop inhaling. The level of oxygen in our blood falls, and the voice of the smaller coxswain gets louder. At the same time, we also stop exhaling, so CO<sub>2</sub> rises, and the voice of the larger coxswain gets louder, yelling, "Breathe! Breathe!" As a result of the two shouting coxswains, we work harder to breathe against the collapsed airway, and we may even be able to force it open again, restoring our blood oxygen level, and lowering our CO<sub>2</sub>.

But this system has a kind of loophole that can work against us during sleep or at high altitude. Sometimes, when the air is very thin at high altitude, or when a collapsing airway triggers a drop in oxygen, this can cause a series of rapid breaths. Although this can help restore blood oxygen, a person may also "blow off" so much carbon dioxide that they lose the drive to breathe entirely. If CO<sub>2</sub> drops too low, the voice of the bigger coxswain goes silent. The drive to breathe falters and our brain stops telling us to breathe – the central apnea we've already talked about.

Sometimes, this cycle can repeat over and over. Each time, low oxygen triggers a burst of rapid breaths, lowering CO<sub>2</sub> and causing a central pause in our breathing. During this pause, oxygen dips, and can trigger another series of rapid breaths. And so on. This is known as periodic breathing. It can be a complication of obstructive sleep apnea, or of heart failure. It's also common at high altitude, or it can be a primary genetic problem.

Obstructive sleep apnea with this kind of cyclical pattern of rapid breaths and central pauses in our breathing is a double hit. We stop breathing over and over again during the course of the night – sometimes when our

airway collapses, sometimes because our brain interprets dips in CO<sub>2</sub> as a signal to pause breathing. Both obstructive and central apneas awaken us partly or fully, and both degrade our sleep quality. Some people with obstructive sleep apnea say they wake up in the morning feeling worse than when they went to bed.

Thankfully, all is not lost. In fact, some of the management is similar for periodic breathing at high altitude and in obstructive sleep apnea. A medicine called acetazolamide helps prevent our body from interpreting low carbon dioxide as a signal not to breathe. This helps keep us from having central pauses, including the central apneas that punctuate cycles of rapid breaths in periodic breathing.

Another approach is to directly increase the level of carbon dioxide in the body. Dr. Robert Thomas at Beth Israel Deaconess's sleep medicine clinic (where I trained over the past year) has pioneered just such controlled delivery of carbon dioxide during sleep. This approach stabilizes and slightly increases the blood carbon dioxide, by allowing someone to inhale some of their own exhaled carbon dioxide. Or, in another approach, a small, controlled stream of carbon dioxide is actually channeled into a patient's inhalations from an external source. This helps nudge the larger coxswain to keep calling out, "Breathe! 2, 3 Breathe! 2, 3"

*Somerville Bagel Bards member and physician-humanist, Ian Halim, writes about how medicine relates to everything from ethics to botany—aiming to make science accessible to the widest possible audience. Ian earned his PhD in Greek & Latin literature and his MD at Columbia University in New York City and is now training at a hospital in Boston.*

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**City of Somerville  
PLANNING BOARD**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, August 4, 2022, at 6:00pm** through GoToWebinar.

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

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4239765639620849676>  
Webinar ID: 199-224-051

**TO CALL IN**

Phone number: 1 (914) 614-3221  
Access code: 213-423-670

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

- 10 Washington Street** Paradigm Direct Roland, LLC proposes to develop a four (4)-story LEED Platinum Commercial Building in the Commercial Industry (CI) zoning district, which requires Site Plan Approval and one (1) Special Permit.
- 50 Webster Avenue** US Union Square D3.1 Owner LLC seeks a subdivision in the HR zoning district, which requires Subdivision Plan Approval.
- 50 Webster Avenue** US Union Square D3.1 Owner LLC seeks to develop a nine (9) story, LEED Platinum Lab Building in the HR zoning district, which requires Site Plan Approval.
- 50 Webster Avenue** US Union Square D3.1 Owner LLC seeks to develop a thoroughfare in the HR zoning district, which requires Site Plan Approval.
- 50 Webster Avenue (62 Prospect Street)** US Union Square D3.1 Owner LLC seeks to develop a Central Plaza civic space type in the HR zoning district, which requires Site Plan Approval.
- 231-249 Elm Street and 6-8 & 12 Grove Street** Scape Davis Square, LLC proposes to develop a LEED Platinum four (4) story Lab Building in the Commercial Core 4 (CC4) district, which requires Site Plan Approval.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>. Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

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**Notice of Self Storage Sale**

Please take notice Midgard Self Storage - Statesboro located at 21150 Highway 80 E, Statesboro GA 30461 intends to hold a public sale to sell the property stored in the following units stored at the Facility. The public sale to the highest bidder will occur at an online auction via [www.storageauctions.com](http://www.storageauctions.com) on **8/10/2022** at 1:00pm. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Glennara Martin unit #A11, #A12 & #G05; Hunter Wise unit #B02; Ruth Beamon unit #F14; David Cribbs unit #JJ04; Dennis Hathorn unit #L04; Debra Oglesby unit #L10; Brittany Perkins unit #L11; Faith A Lastinger unit #U08. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

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**City of Somerville  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at 6:00pm** through GoToWebinar.

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

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7812765013520455440>  
Webinar ID: 122-838-555

**TO CALL IN**

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8422  
Access code: 474-038-784

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

- 120-132 Middlesex Ave** DWCH Assembly Row, LLC seeks relief from the Master Plan Standards that requires at least twenty-five (25%) percentage of a development site to be provided as a Civic Space in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use (ASMD) district, which requires a Hardship Variance.
- 9-11 Aldersey Street** 9-11 Aldersey Street, LLC seeks a Plan Revision to modify building elevations for the three buildings previously approved for this site under ZBA 2003-25.

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

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

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
IFB #23-06**

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

**Somerville Water Meter Installation**

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com), <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **07/21/2022**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **08/11/2022 2:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

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

5% Bid Deposit required.

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

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP# 23-03**

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

**Banking Services and Automated Teller Machines in City Buildings**

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, July 20th, 2022**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:30 PM, Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022**.

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

Please email [tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov](mailto:tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Thupten Chukhatsang**  
Senior Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3400

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP# 23-02**

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

**Legal Services for Tenants**

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, July 20th, 2022**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 PM, Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022**.

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

Please email [tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov](mailto:tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Thupten Chukhatsang**  
Senior Procurement Manager  
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REQUEST FOR DESIGN SERVICES (RFS)

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed proposals from registered Engineering firms to provide professional design and construction administration services to replace the Chiller System at our Capen Court development located in Somerville, MA 02144. The replacement will include evaluation and design of a new system sized for One Capen Court, a 95 unit elderly housing development.

The Award is subject to DHCD requirements and guidelines. A briefing and site inspection is scheduled for **10:00 AM on Thursday, July 28th, 2022**, at the Capen Court elderly facility located at One Capen Ct, Somerville, MA 02144.

Response to this RFS must be submitted no later than **2:00PM Thursday, August 4th, 2022**.

The RFS may be obtained after **11:00AM on Wednesday, July 20**, by contacting [BrianL@sha-web.org](mailto:BrianL@sha-web.org) or by phone at 617-625-1152 Ext.330.

Questions must be sent in writing to [BrianL@sha-web.org](mailto:BrianL@sha-web.org) no later than **Monday, August 1st, 2022**.

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The Somerville Mobile  
Farmers Market

The Somerville Mobile Farmers' Market sells fresh, local produce in Somerville, MA. All are welcome! Through October 15, 2022.



For schedule and more information and to see their weekly stock list, visit online at [bit.ly/tsmf](http://bit.ly/tsmf).

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

Ms. Cam's  
*Olíó*  
Answers

From on page 10

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Catoptrophobia | 7. Around 120 days       |
| 2. The Bay State  | 8. Group of lions        |
| 3. Mount Greylock | 9. Nicolas-Joseph Cugnot |
| 4. Garter snake   | 10. Minnesota            |
| 5. Worcester, MA  | 11. Laxative             |
| 6. Giraffe        | 12. Paper                |

Armory hosts Red  
Cross blood drive

By Molly Rains

On Wednesday, July 13, the American Red Cross blood drive returned to the Armory on Highland Avenue in Somerville. For the afternoon, the high-ceilinged performance hall transformed into a bustling donation center where Somerville residents rolled up their sleeves and provided critical donations to patients in need.

The Red Cross estimates that someone in the U.S. needs blood every two seconds. Traumatic injuries, surgeries, chronic illness, and even cancer treatment can all make blood transfusions a necessity. Sometimes, donated blood can be the difference between life and death.

Blood drives like Wednesday's are critical to the healthcare system. The American Red Cross relies entirely on donations to supply about 40% of the blood used by our nation's hospitals. Unfortunately, this is not always enough. The Red Cross experienced what they called the worst blood shortage in over a decade during the Omicron surge this past winter, and the blood supply has not entirely recovered.

Blood shortages put increased strain on hospitals already struggling to cope with the pandemic and make it difficult for patients to get the medical care they need. Low donor turnout is one of the main drivers of blood shortages. According to the Red Cross, in the U.S., only about three percent of those who are eligible donate blood every year.

Eligible donors can help combat this problem at the Somerville Armory, where blood drives are hosted on a monthly basis. Participants can expect an efficient and streamlined process on donation day. After checking in and providing a short medical history to verify eligibility, the donation itself begins, generally lasting fewer than ten minutes. Afterwards,



The Somerville Armory was built in 1903 and has served many purposes for the community. Today, it houses many community events – including a monthly Red Cross blood drive.  
— Photo by Molly Rains

with a fresh band-aid and a juice box, a donor can relax, rehydrate, and boost their blood sugar at the well-stocked snack table for ten to fifteen minutes before going on their way (or stopping at Rooted Café in the Armory to refuel further). The entire appointment typically takes well under an hour.

If you are considering becoming a blood donor, your choice could help save lives. The next blood drive at the Armory will take place on Wednesday, August 17, from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Visit the Red Cross website (<https://www.redcrossblood.org/>) or call them at 1-800-733-2767 to verify your eligibility and learn more

about donation. Appointments are available on the website about one week in advance of the drive.

On the day of your donation, bring your photo ID and consider filling out the Red Cross Rapid Pass questionnaire for blood donors (also available online) before leaving for your appointment. Make sure to drink plenty of water and eat a substantial, nutritious meal leading up to your donation.

Visit the Arts at the Armory website (<https://artsatthearmory.org/>) to learn more about future blood drives as well as the wide range of other community events hosted in this space.

Docent Tour of Milk Row Cemetery

Thursday, July 21, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Milk Row Cemetery, 439 Somerville Ave., Somerville, MA 02143  
Inclement weather cancels any event. Call 311 (617-666-3311) for updates and check the City's calendar: <https://www.somervillema.gov/events>. Sponsored by the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission & the Somerville Museum. [www.somervillema.gov/historicpreservation](http://www.somervillema.gov/historicpreservation) & <http://somervillmuseum.org>.

## Free 2022 farmers' market coupons are coming soon

The Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) Nutrition program is distributing free farmers' market coupons for eligible older adults in August. Available through the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, the \$25 coupon booklets can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at area farmers' markets.

Applicants must be Cambridge or Somerville residents 60 years or older or disabled and living in elderly housing with a congregate meal program. They must also meet the following income eligibility:

- One-person household with a monthly income at or less than \$2,096 per month
- Two-person household with a monthly income at or less than \$2,823 per month
- Three-person household with a monthly income at or less than \$3,551 per month
- Four-person household with a monthly income at or less than \$4,279 per month

Coupon booklets are limited to one per person, while supplies last.

Advance registration is open for coupon pickup at the SCES offices on the following date:

August 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the third floor at 61 Medford St. in Somerville. Call 617 628 2601 and ask for the nutrition department to sign up.

The below coupon pickup sites are walk-in and do not require registration. All parking is on-street.

August 9 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. at the Ralph and Jenny Senior Center (9 New Washington St., Somerville)

August 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Somerville Senior Center (167 Holland St., Somerville)

August 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Cambridge Senior Center (806 Mass Ave., Cambridge)

August 12 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the North Cambridge Senior Center (2050 Mass Ave., Cambridge)

Booklets must be picked up in person. Identification with proof of address and date of birth is required to receive the coupons. If the resident cannot come to a distribution site, they can send someone with a proxy form. Call 617 628 2601 and ask for the Nutrition Department if you need more information or a proxy form. SCES is an equal opportunity provider.

*Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is a non-profit agency that supports the independence and well-being of older people in Somerville and Cambridge. For free advice and guidance on challenges of aging, caregiving, or disability, contact the SCES Aging Information Center at [info@eldercare.org](mailto:info@eldercare.org) or call 617-628-2601.*



## Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 7

Situated here are Somerville City Hall, the Central Hill Park, the Public Library, and the new Somerville High School's buildings. While an employee, Charles E. Gilman sold the first ticket on the Boston and Lowell Railroad. Later, he was Somerville's town and city clerk for over forty years.

• Magoun Square Station – Created in 1880, this former Boston and Lowell station was named Somerville Junction. It spurred off the main track, ran

along today's bike path, went west through Davis square and on to Arlington and Lexington. Located in the center of the city, it serviced Magoun Square and Winter Hill residents. William "Willie" Nickerson, the co-founder of the Gillette Safety Razor Company lived nearby. Also, the nationally known Derby Desk Company and many others benefitted from it.

• Ball Square Station -- This area near the historic Old Pow-

der House is named after John N. Ball. He was born in Antrim, New Hampshire in 1835, coincidentally the same year the Boston and Lowell Railroad originated. As a young man, he kept a hotel for eight years in Nashua. He then travelled spending many years in New Orleans, two years of in the United States Custom Service and four years as Deputy Collector of Revenue. He then came to Somerville where he opened a successful pasted-shoe stock business, with a factory in North Somerville on Broadway. He was a member of the Somerville Common Council, Board of Aldermen, and a State Representative.

• Medford/Tufts Station – Tufts University is recognized as one of the leading schools of learning in the United States. It owes its name to a Somerville citizen, Charles Tufts, who donated 100 acres of his Walnut Hill



land. His vision was to put a light on its crown, which was achieved in the form of the college. This was the same year, 1852, that Somerville High School first opened its doors. Both schools of education celebrate their 170th anniversary this year.

This year the 125-year-old Green Line (the oldest in the country) extends its pathway through Somerville. It will al-

low 80,000 people a ten-minute access to her new "magnificent seven" stations.



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# SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friendly Caller Program** – Looking for a way to practice social distancing but still remain connected to other people? Look no further than the Somerville Council on Aging's Friendly Phone Caller program. We have 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.

**General Nutrition Classes** – In-person, Mondays at 12:30 p.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Virtual classes are offered Mondays at 11am via Zoom.

**Coffee & Conversation** – Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – At the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn.). Meet people from all over the world as we discuss a range of topics. No books – no test – just friendly conversation. Please contact Maureen Bastardi at MBastardi@Somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 to RSVP.

**Men's Group** – Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. New and returning members are welcome. Please RSVP to Norbert at ndemail@hotmail.com.

**Bowling** – Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Flatbreads Company / Sacco Bowl Haven in Davis Square. For more information or to sign up please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at DHiggins@Somervillema.gov. Face coverings are required.

**Yoga In Person** – Tuesday, July 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Easy-to-follow program lets you stretch and relax. Yoga provides modified, low-impact moves and easy-to-follow pacing for a healthy, active lifestyle. Please RSVP to Chris Kowaleski at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Chris at CKowaleski@Somervillema.gov.

**Movie Matinee & Pizza** – Wednesday, July 27 at 10:00 a.m. at the Ralph and Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn.) Showing will be: 9 to 5, starring Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton. Three female employees of a sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot find a way to turn the tables. Pizza will be served. \$2 per person Please RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or dhiggins@somervillema.gov Grab & Go Lunch will also be available.

**Left, Right, Center** – Friday, July 29 at our Holland Street Center. LRC (Left, Right, Center) is a fun, fast-paced dice game that you won't be able to put down! Players roll the dice to determine where they pass their chips. The last player with chips is the winner and wins the center pot. To

register please call Debby Higgins a 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email her at DHiggins@Somervillema.gov Grab and Go Lunch will be available after the program.

**Music & Movement Enrichment with Steve** – Thursday, July 21 at our Holland Street Center from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Join Steve as he plays guitar, sings and leads gentle movements. Just tapping your toe or singing along can help move your body in new ways. Being physically active is not just good for our bodies but it is also one of Mental Health America's 10 tools to building resiliency; or the ability to overcome obstacles and manage through tough times. This program is in person, pre-registration is required as space is limited. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins at dhiggins@Somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.

**July Boxed Lunch Pick Up** – Friday, July 22 at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn) starting at 10:30 a.m. We hope you can stop by. Please reserve your lunch by calling Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

**Chi Kung** – Fridays, July 22 and 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Easy to follow program performed seated or standing. Helps strengthen balance and reduce stress. Increases blood flow and energy. Please contact Chris Kowaleski at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315 or email ckowaleski@somervillema.gov with any questions or for additional information.

**July Boxed Lunch Pick Up** – Friday, July 22 at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn) starting at 10:30 a.m. We hope you can stop by. Please reserve your lunch by calling Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

**Brown Bag Supplemental Food Program** – PICK UP Thursday, July 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn.) For an application contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

**Game Hour** – Mondays from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn). July 25. Please join us as we play a wide variety of board and card games. Please RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

**Mindful Eating "Getting Back to Basics"** – A four week workshop. Classes will meet on Wednesdays July 27, August 3, August 10 and August 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This workshop will help us enjoy foods and reach satiety or the sensation of feeling full, while making healthy choices. Ditch the rules, use sound nutrition as a guideline and truly listen to what our bodies need. Class size is limited. Please RSVP by contacting Mary Marshall

at 617-625-6600, ext. 2316 or email Mary at Headtofitness10@yahoo.com

## EXERCISE

### Virtual FIT-4-LIFE SCHEDULE

Mondays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise

Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise

Thursdays 6:30 p.m. = LBT Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise

## Somerville City Cable

RCN = 13/Comcast = 22

The Fit-4-Life Exercise Show = Daily at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected via our Facebook page - often updated by Debby Higgins or Maureen Bastardi. Informative, entertaining, lots of photos and updates. Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCOA/>

## Follow the Somerville Council on Aging on

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

## JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive a virtual copy of our monthly newsletter, please contact Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen Bastardi at MBastardi@Somervillema.gov

If you would like to become part of our Google Group, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at DHiggins@Somervillema.gov.

## The Council on Aging's Senior Transportation Program Returns

The Council on Aging is excited to announce the return of our Senior Transportation Program. The COA will be offering free taxi rides to Somerville residents over the age of 60. Rides are available to go to the grocery store, farmer's market, pharmacy in Somerville and routine medical appointments in the surrounding communities. To best accommodate the needs of everyone in the City and to maximize the use of our funding, we will be capping the number of rides per week. To ensure the health and welfare of every resident of Somerville, exemptions will be made for chemotherapy and radiation appointments. To find out more information or to schedule your ride, please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319. All rides must be booked two business days in advance. This program is funded through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding.

Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 7

producing pets for the public as well as boarding kennels and daycare facilities for dogs and cats.

“Separating puppies and kittens at a critical stage from their mother and litter before the end of their primary socialization developmental stage can result in significant behavioral problems, including separation anxiety and aggression,” said Senate sponsor Sen. Harriette Chandler (D-Worcester). “This bill has the potential to truly protect the wellbeing of puppies and kittens in the commonwealth, who will otherwise suffer without clear, mandatory regulations on their purchase, storage and caretaking.”

“As the owner of a Labrador Retriever and a cat, and as a veteran who has observed the important work that animals do to assist the young and the old when we are in crisis and need, I know firsthand that our animal companions play a central role in our lives—and promoting their well-being protects both pets and people,” said House sponsor Rep. Linda Dean Campbell. “By ensuring kennels meet safety standards and preventing the dangerous sale of pets that are too young, we will reduce the risk of aggressive behavior that can put dogs, cats and people at risk.”

**POACHING (S 2993)** – The Senate approved and sent to the House a bill that would regulate poaching—the illegal hunting that harms or kills wildlife including fish, birds, mammals and endangered or threatened species. Other provisions elevate the fines and penalties for poaching; align Massachusetts poaching regulations with other states; and bring Massachusetts into the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, which helps states to work together to prevent illegal hunting across state lines.

“It has been nearly a century since many of the commonwealth’s anti-poaching laws were last updated,” said sponsor Sen. Michael Moore (D-Millbury). “The absence of action on anti-poaching laws has resulted in outdated penalties that result in no more than a slap on the wrist for offenders. This legislation finally brings our laws, fines and penalties in line with other states. It also brings Massachusetts into the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, a nationwide law enforcement network that allows our wildlife protection agencies to share information about poachers with other states. With the passage of this legislation, Massachusetts is making it clear that we will no longer be a safe haven for those who wish to do harm to our wildlife, marine life and ecosystems.”

**\$56 MILLION FOR FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF HOLYOKE SOLDIERS’ HOME (H 4932)** – The House and Senate gave final approval to and sent to Gov. Charlie Baker \$56 million in funding for the families of the victims of the COVID-19 outbreak at the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home.

Sen. John Velis (D-Holyoke), chair of the Veterans and Federal Affairs Committee said that these families have been through so much over the past two years. “No dollar figure will ever bring their loved ones back, but this resolution does end the painful process of litigation,” said Velis. “What happened at the home will forever leave a scar

on our commonwealth, especially Western Mass. Now we must continue to work to get much needed reforms for the home signed into law as well.”

**PROHIBIT REVOCATION OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSES IF A PERSON DEFAULTS ON A STUDENT LOAN (H 425)** – House gave initial approval to legislation that would repeal current state laws which created professional licensure consequences for anyone who defaults on their student loan. Under existing law, a borrower’s state-issued professional or occupational certificate, registration or license can be suspended, revoked or cancelled if the borrower is in default on an education loan.

“As a former seventh grade public school teacher and an education attorney for more than a decade, I’ve come to expect Massachusetts to be identified as a pioneer in a promising practice or out in front on an education issue,” said sponsor Rep. Kate Lipper-Garabedian (D-Melrose). “So I was quite surprised to find that Massachusetts is one of the only states that mandates the denial of professional licenses to student loan defaulters. This draconian approach prevents an individual from access to the profession for which he or she has trained and has the perverse result of furthering hindering their ability to earn a living and making it more difficult to make loan payments. And as families work to recover from the financial fallout of the pandemic, the last thing the state should do is deny them access to their professional pursuits because of student loan defaults.”

**“CROWN ACT” – FORBID DISCRIMINATION AGAINST A PERSON WITH A NATURAL HAIR-STYLE (H 5028)** – The House and Senate approved a new version of a bill that would prohibit any person or entity including educational institutions workplaces and public spaces from implementing any policy that would explicitly target someone who wears their natural hairstyle. The measure defines natural hairstyle as hair texture, hair type and protective hairstyles including braids, locks, twists and other formations. Only final Senate approval is needed prior to the measure going to Gov. Baker for his signature.

“Racial discrimination is unacceptable in all of its forms,” said bill sponsor Rep. Mike Day (D-Stoneham). “I was proud to join my House colleagues in unanimously advancing a bill which would ensure that Black students and workers won’t be told that their hair is unprofessional or be forced to cut it in order to participate in activities or go to work. I hope that the governor will join the Legislature in standing against discrimination by signing these protections into law.”

“On the long march toward justice, and especially racial justice, the Legislature’s passage of this legislation marks another step forward,” said Sen. Jason Lewis (D-Winchester), Senate Chair of the Committee on Education. “We would not be at this point without the great courage and strength of Mya and Deanna Cook, who as 15-year-old students faced discrimination and abuse from their high school for their hairstyles, and bravely stood up for

their rights and those of so many other black women.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Taxpayers are experiencing the largest inflation spike in 41 years and our Statehouse leaders have a pile of money they could give back to help taxpayers with these high costs. Instead, they are choosing to hold onto the vast majority of the money and they even have the nerve to continue to push for their graduated income tax surcharge amendment which will increase the state income tax by 80 percent on some high-income earners and small businesses.” — *Paul Craney, spokesman for the Mass Fiscal Alliance.*

“This legislation is critically important because despite the well-known hazards, Massachusetts law still permits schools and childcare centers to use toxic pesticides ... on playgrounds and playing fields. Shielding our communities and children from these damaging pesticides ought to be a public health priority.” — *From an open letter from several representatives and organizations to House Speaker Ron Mariano, supporting a bill that would improve pesticide protections for Massachusetts schoolchildren.*

“This train is leaving the station.” — *Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton) during debate on railway service.*

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

*Beacon Hill Roll Call* tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of July 11-15, the House met for a total of 15 hours and 16 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 14 hours and 46 minutes.

Mon. July 11	House 11:05 a.m.to 11:40 a.m. Senate 11:14 a.m. to 2:37 p.m.
Tues. July 12	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:07 a.m. No Senate session.
Wed. July 13	House 11:06 a.m. to 6:02 p.m Senate 1:13 p.m. to 5:32 p.m.
Thurs. July 14	House 1:02 p.m. to 9:43 p.m. Senate 11:23 a.m. to 6:27 p.m.
Fri. July 15	No House session No Senate session

*Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com*

# Help SCES deliver produce for homebound older adults

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is seeking volunteers to help deliver farm fresh produce to about 100 homebound older adults on Tuesday, July 26.

The produce is being delivered to the SCES offices through the USDA Farmers' Market Nutrition program. Volunteers with reliable transportation are needed to help with the distribution, which starts at 11:30 a.m. and is expected to run 3 or 4 hours.

Interested in taking on a delivery route to help with the distribution? Contact SCES Volunteer Coordinator Lindsey Smilack at [vol@eldercare.org](mailto:vol@eldercare.org) for more information.

All volunteers must have an SCES volunteer application and CORI check on file, as well as proof of COVID-19 vaccination. First-time volunteers are asked to apply online through the form on the Volunteer Opportunities page at [eldercare.org/join-us/](http://eldercare.org/join-us/)

*Pictured: Volunteer Joelle Rensstrom (left) helped Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) Dietitian Andrea Svartstrom (right) distribute fresh produce for homebound older adults in 2021. SCES is currently seeking volunteers for the 2022 distribution later this month.*



## Somerville Junction Park expansion and renovation virtual meeting

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 5 City Councilor Beatriz Gómez Mouakad, and city staff invite you to a virtual community meeting to discuss the expansion and renovation of Junction Park, located off of Central Street near the Community Path extension.

This project will combine the existing 0.6-acre park with an adjacent 0.8-acre city-owned lot that had been used for parking, creating valuable new green space in the city and a resting place along the Community Path. Potential new amenities may include seating and plantings, water features, and adult fitness equipment. Support is provided in part by the Commonwealth's Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant Program and City of Somerville Community Preservation Act funds.

At this meeting, city staff and consultants will discuss the design process to date, continue to define the spaces and materials within the park, and seek public feedback. Construction is expected to begin after the MBTA Green Line and Community Path extensions are completed later this year.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 26, at 6:00 p.m. Learn more and register to attend at [somervillema.gov/junctionpark](http://somervillema.gov/junctionpark).

### BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why did the football coach go to the bank?  
To get his quarter back

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## On This Day in History

### July 20

- 1402 – Tamerlane's Mongols defeat the Ottoman Turks at Angora.
- 1588 – The Spanish Armada sets sail from Corunna.
- 1715 – The Riot Act goes into effect in England.
- 1881 – Sioux chief Sitting Bull surrenders to the U.S. Army.
- 1942 – The U.S. Army Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) begins its first training class.
- 1944 – Adolf Hitler is wounded in an assassination attempt by German Army officers at Rastenburg.
- 1969 – Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin become the first men to walk on the moon.
- 1976 – The Viking spacecraft lands on Mars and begins taking soil samples.

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# OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

## 'This Close' Poems by Karen Klein

*This Close*  
By Karen Klein  
Ibbetson Street Press  
2022.  
77pp. \$16.00  
<http://www.ibbetsonpress.com>

Review by Off The Shelf Correspondent Ruth Hoberman

There's a deceptive simplicity to Karen Klein's poems. They ease into your mind, these imagistic depictions of experience (walking a bridge, listening to music, looking at art, raking the yard), and only gradually do you realize how strange and transformative they are. The book's first poem, *Journal 2017: Bilbao*, sets the tone:

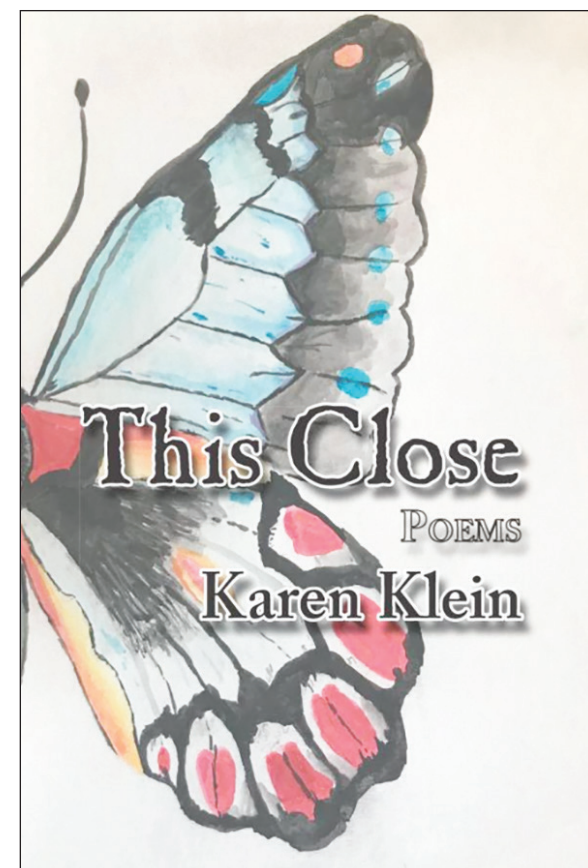
to walk on Santiago Calatrava's bridge  
is to walk on a wish  
to be free of rectangles  
is to honor the architect's desire  
to be a curve  
suspended in space

Klein's poems, like Calatrava's bridge, insist on the bodily component of experience. In that opening stanza there is no "I" to contemplate these sense impressions, no punctuation to contain them: only the bridge and the feel of being a "curve/suspended in space," which is also "a wish." Not until stanza two does a speaker surface: she remembers an analogous swinging, stretching "my legs way out/to pump/the excitement of reaching."

The "excitement of reaching" runs throughout *This Close*, Klein's first collection of poems. Giving voice to how life feels in sensory terms, the book has five sections, each titled by a line from a poem within in it. This first section, "the curvature of a line," suggests the way a line of poetry can bend and stretch to follow a line in space, as the body's own curves respond to what it sees.

The following two sections – "skin/has its own/vocabulary" and "use words to find my tribe" – give voice to experiences that tend not to find their way into poems. "We float in a lake of awkward," the speaker says of an early sexual encounter. In *Black Iris*, a young woman sees in Georgia O'Keefe's painting "the names/forbidden and unspoken/to the child I was"—words like cunt, labial, clitoral.

Other poems evoke the feel of dancing, skating, the pleasure of finally satisfying "our octopus arms" after the hygienic distance imposed by the pandemic. And in *Alphabet Soup*, letters become old lovers' initials, as the speaker, struck by the "wild cunt-brain connection," drifts toward sleep on the "memory soup/



of good sex."

The "wild cunt-brain connection": the phrase feels revolutionary – even now, almost a hundred years after the publication of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and more than fifty since Muriel Rukeyser asked "what would happen if one woman told the truth about her life?/The world would split open." A related phrase, "choreography of the mouth," in *Indigo*, links language to dance. Trace words to their origins in mouths, and they feel more sensual, more grounded in the physical world. *Marking Time* also explores this choreography, pointing out that "Words for wanting/contain 'L:/lonely/garrulous/old":

To make the sound  
your tongue touches  
the top of your palate  
leaving a little space beneath  
for moisture  
to pool  
like the still pools  
of water  
in hollow places  
after rain.

Structurally, *This Close* moves from a sense of discovery – of voice and community – into considerations of aging and mortality (the fourth section is entitled "They won't come back next year"), then concludes in "road to nowhere/and everywhere" with a sense of meditative indeterminacy. *Continued on page 23*

# Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Michael C. Keith is the author or coauthor of more than two dozen groundbreaking books on electronic media. Beyond that, he is the author of an acclaimed memoir (*The Next Better Place*, Algonquin Books), a young adult novel (*Life is Falling Sideways*), and 20 story collections. His latest is *Quiet Geography* from Cervena Barva Press. He has two new collections forthcoming from Scantic Books and Pelekinesis. He has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize several times, a Pen O. Henry Award, and was a finalist for the National Indie Excellence Award for short fiction anthology and a finalist for the International Book Award in the "Fiction Visionary" category.



### Lowered Education

Professor Pierce wasn't sure he was fully qualified to teach college students. He felt his knowledge of his subject was thin, if not superficial, and that he essentially taught the Cliff Notes version of his discipline to get through the semester. Consequently, he viewed himself as a bit of a fraud, although his student course evaluations were always among the highest in his department. Bringing cookies and pizza to class had been one of his better ideas.

### Office Hanky-Panky

Baker and Giselle came in from the field behind the insurance agency looking satisfied and disheveled, he with his fly down and she with her blouse hanging outside her skirt. When I pointed this out to them, they giggled and went to their respective cubicles.

### From a Lecture by the Professor of Thanatology

"It was common in the old days to lay out the deceased in the home, often on the kitchen or dining room table. At meal time the family of the recently departed would set plates and silverware around the corpse and place condiments on it if space was tight. This was especially the case if the dead person's body was large. Of course, this would sometimes result in relishes and sauces falling to the floor."

— Michael C. Keith

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:  
Doug Holder, 25 School St.; Somerville, MA 02143. [dougholder@post.harvard.edu](mailto:dougholder@post.harvard.edu)

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20		12:05am	Arbor Day Celebration	6:45pm	SPD Ride Along	11:30am	Fit-4-Life Video #4
6:00am	Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks	12:30am	Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant	7:00pm	Somerville Pride Flag Raising 2022	12:00pm	Senior Circuit: Older Adults & Mental Health
6:30am	Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy	1:00am	History of Your House & Family	7:30pm	Envisioning 90 Washington St.	1:00pm	Art Beat 2022
7:00am	Envisioning 90 Washington St.	2:00am	School Committee Meeting 6-27-22	8:35pm	Chair Yoga w Chris	3:00pm	Porchfest 2022
8:05am	Arbor Day Celebration	7:00am	Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy	9:30pm	Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7	4:30pm	Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7
8:30am	Senior Circuit: Older Adults & Mental Health	8:00am	City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr	10:00pm	Art Beat 2022	5:00pm	City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr
9:00am	Arbor Day Celebration	8:30am	Arbor Day Celebration	11:30pm	City Council Meeting 7-14-22	5:30pm	Envisioning 90 Washington St.
10:00am	Somerville Pride Flag Raising 2022	9:00am	Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant	SUNDAY, JULY 24		6:35pm	Assembly to E. Somerville Walking Tour
11:00am	Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7	9:30am	Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks	3:00am	Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant	8:00pm	Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant
12:00pm	City Council Meeting 7-14-22	10:00am	Assembly to E. Somerville Walking Tour	7:00am	Old Powder House Docent Tour	8:30pm 10:00pm	
3:30pm	Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant	11:30am	Jane's Walk	7:30am	School Committee Update: Sara Dion		
4:00pm	Chair Yoga w Chris	1:00pm	Envisioning 90 Washington St.	8:00am	School Committee Meeting 6-27-22	8:30pm 10:00pm	
4:30pm	Finance Committee: Budget FY23 6-21-22	2:30pm	Somerville Pride Flag Raising 2022	10:00am	Memorial Day Ceremony 2022		
8:30pm	Arbor Day Celebration	3:00pm	Art Beat 2022	11:00am	Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant	11:00pm	Art Beat 2022
9:00pm	Envisioning 90 Washington St.	4:30pm	Assembly to E. Somerville Walking Tour	11:30am	Conway Park Ribbon Cutting	TUESDAY, JULY 26	
10:05pm	Porchfest 2022	6:00pm	City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr	12:00pm	Porchfest 2022	12:00am	Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant
11:00pm	Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks	6:30pm	Arbor Day Celebration	1:00pm	Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks	12:30am	Art Beat 2022
11:30pm	City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr	7:00pm	Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant	1:30pm	Arbor Day Celebration	7:00am	Chair Yoga w/Janine Duffy
THURSDAY, JULY 21		7:30pm	Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks	2:00pm	School Committee Meeting 6-27-22	8:00am	City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr
12:00am	Assembly to E. Somerville Walking Tour	8:00pm	Assembly to E. Somerville Walking Tour	4:00pm	Art Beat 2022	8:30am	Arbor Day Celebration
1:30am	Arbor Day Celebration	9:30pm	Jane's Walk	5:30pm	City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr	9:00am	Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant
7:00am	City Council Meeting 7-14-22	11:00pm	Envisioning 90 Washington St.	6:00pm	Old Powder House Docent Tour	9:30am	
10:30am	Old Powder House Docent Tour	SATURDAY, JULY 23		6:30pm	School Committee Update: Sara Dion		
11:00am	Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks	12:30am	Somerville Pride Flag Raising 2022	7:00pm	School Committee Meeting 6-27-22	10:00am	Assembly to E. Somerville Walking Tour
11:30am	City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr	1:00am	Art Beat 2022	9:00pm	Memorial Day Ceremony 2022	11:30am	Jane's Walk
12:00pm	Envisioning 90 Washington St.	2:30am	Assembly to E. Somerville Walking Tour	10:00pm	Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant	1:00pm	Envisioning 90 Washington St.
2:00pm	Arbor Day Celebration	7:00am	Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II	11:00pm	Conway Park Ribbon Cutting	2:30pm	Somerville Pride Flag Raising 2022
2:30pm	Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant	8:00am	History of Your House & Family	MONDAY, JULY 25		3:00pm	Art Beat 2022
3:00pm	History of Your House & Family	8:45am	SPD Ride Along	12:00am	Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks	4:30pm	Assembly to E. Somerville Walking Tour
4:00pm	School Committee Meeting 6-27-22	9:00am	Somerville Pride Flag Raising 2022	12:30am	Arbor Day Celebration	6:00pm	City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr
6:00pm	City Council Meeting 7-14-22	9:30am	Envisioning 90 Washington St.	1:00am	Art Beat 2022	6:30pm	Arbor Day Celebration
9:30pm	Old Powder House Docent Tour	10:35am	Chair Yoga w Chris	7:00am	Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV	7:00pm	Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant
10:00pm	Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks	11:30am	Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7	8:00am	Three Paths to Italy	7:30pm	
10:30pm	City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr	12:00pm	Art Beat 2022	9:00am	Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant		
11:00pm	Envisioning 90 Washington St.	1:30pm	City Council Meeting 7-14-22	9:30am	History of Your House & Family	8:00pm	Assembly to E. Somerville Walking Tour
FRIDAY, JULY 22		5:00pm	Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant	10:30am	Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy	9:30pm	Jane's Walk
		6:00pm	Arbor Day Celebration	11:00am	Chair Yoga w Chris	11:00pm	Envisioning 90 Washington St.
						12:05am	Art Beat 2022

Off The ShelfCONT. FROM PG 22

There’s a wry humor – incontinence as “gut knowledge/ the meaning/of old” – but also a sense of foreboding and loss. In *Wild Swans at Waquoit*, global warming and anti-Semitic violence interrupt the speaker’s contemplation of wild swans, who become fewer and “no longer in repose”: “Their necks/elongated periscopes/strain to see what’s coming.” Finally the Yeatsian wild swans are displaced by a hint of his “Second Coming”: at the poem’s end the swans are replaced by “a massive/funnel of tree swallows that widens/into a ceaselessly moving circle/ and disappears.”

But if we’re “this close” to chaos and loss, we’re also “this close” to nature and its surprises. The “swamp plants” in “Planted” “won’t come up next year,” but in *October Rose*, the speaker tells the flower: “ah, your color still eyeshocks us breathless”:

its pointed tip thrust directly up  
defiant middle finger message

whenever anything’s over  
it’s never really ever  
over

“Eyeshocks”: the wonderful verb reminds me of Ginsberg’s “eyeball kicks,” linked by commentators (Michael Dylan Welch, Alex Danchev) to both haiku and the im-

pact of Cézanne’s color juxtapositions on the eye. Klein writes in her acknowledgments that haikus have been crucial to her development as a poet. Certainly, the precision of her images, the way juxtaposed images are left to speak for themselves, the scarcity of punctuation, the way extra space sometimes separates words within a single line, forcing a contemplative pause – all feel haiku-like. Also evident is Klein’s experience as dancer, visual artist, and (until her retirement) English professor. These poems are steeped in movement and in cultural history (Stravinsky, Shostakovich, Beethoven, and Kollwitz as well as Calatrava, Brancusi, O’Keefe, Yeats, and Thomas are among those invoked).

Most haiku-like of all is the book’s final section, “road to nowhere/and everywhere,” with its embrace of contraries – movement and return; winter and spring; death and rebirth. *When We Could Still Go Home* describes “barren/ snow-dotted farmers’ fields/leaching out the/loneliness/ so deep you can’t bear it” but at home maybe a “fire/on the hearth”:

going home  
the rusted metal  
of old bridges

What is it about those final lines I find so poignant? Maybe it’s the tenuousness of those “old bridges” – en-

hanced by the space around the short lines – bridges that connect us even as they draw attention to the void below, to the gap between here and there – their rust a reminder of our own precarity, “this close” to arriving and “this close” to a fall.

The book’s final poem, *the green fuse*, is similarly attentive to precarity. Dylan Thomas’s “The force that through the green fuse drives the flower” depicts an abstract energy driving birth and death; Klein’s “green fuse” refers to actual hosta shoots – perky but vulnerable as the speaker starts to rake the dead leaves matting them down. Recognizing their fragility, she uses her hand instead:

...my forearm the rake’s handle  
my fingers its tines carefully scoop dead leaves

inadvertently brush hosta spears  
startled by their powerful thrust  
the mutual shock of something live.

In Klein’s poems, the body isn’t just something we live in and lose (“at my sheet goes the same crooked worm,” Thomas’s poem concludes) but a means of engagement, full of nerve endings and expressiveness. That “mutual shock” suggests an uncanny encounter with otherness that pulls us out of our minds, into the physicality we share with the natural world.

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