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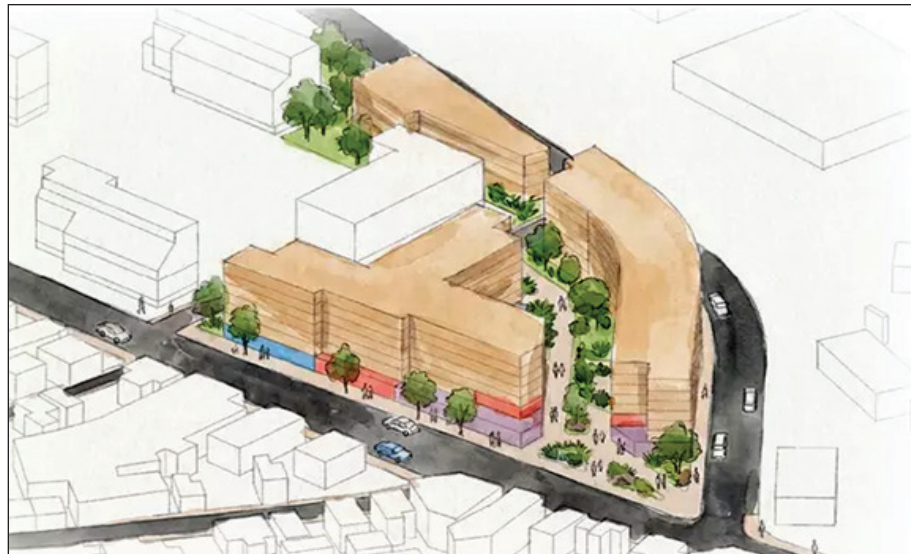
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Breaking ground on Broadway

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Somerville Redevelopment Authority approves development partner



Wood Partners has been selected by the Somerville Redevelopment Authority to serve as developers of the 90 Washington Street property.
— Rendering courtesy of Wood Partners

By Regina Arana

The Somerville Redevelopment Authority (SRA) voted Monday night to move forward with Wood Partners for 90 Washington Street. That's the four-acre parcel near the East Somerville MBTA station that's been up for grabs since January.

However, it was not a done deal walking in. Wood Partners was one of two firms in the running. The other one, North River Partners, dropped out at the end of June, saying they could not meet the project's goals while still delivering the returns their investors wanted. So, by the time the SRA board took it up, Wood Partners was the only proposal left on the table.

"Certainly, I'm disappointed that they did not have two to choose from," said Ben Demer, a Senior Planner with the city's Economic
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First SomerCup held at Dilboy Stadium

By Christa Lee

If you've been watching the FIFA World Cup and wanting to score a goal like a pro player, you're not alone. The SomerCup hosted three one-day tournaments at Dilboy Stadium that ended on July 17. There was a kids' division, kindergarten to 18 years old, and an adults' division, 18 years old and over. The tournament was preceded by a training session with the New England Revolution.

"This is the first one that we've been doing," said Ohemeng Kyeremateng, Director of Parks and Recreation. "We'll look to do more maybe every year."

Kyeremateng developed the event "inspired by the World Cup" in the hopes of bringing "different communities and different parts of our neighborhood all into one event." There were between 12 and 15 players signed up on each team. On the first day of the tournament, there were 12
Continued on page 4



The SomerCup event at Dilboy stadium was inspired by the World Cup events this year.

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

The public is invited to attend a virtual special meeting of the **City Council** and public hearing on body-worn cameras. The meeting and hearing, initiated by **Mayor Jake Wilson**, will take place virtually on **Monday, July 27**, at 6:30 p.m. All community members are invited to provide public comment during the hearing portion. https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_2ZKBx-EsFSVmU_6EqGI2h3g#/registration. If you are unable to attend the hearing but wish to be heard, submit public comments by 12 p.m. on July 27 to the **City Clerk** at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143 or by email to publiccomments@somervillema.gov.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to our good friend **Jimmy Del Ponte**. We wish him a special day. Happy birthday to former Ward 5 Councilor **Mark Niedergang**, who is also celebrating this week. We hope he has a great birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Nancy** *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of July 22 – July 28 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday July 22	Thunderstorms	83°/60°	40%	32%	SW 13 mph
 Thursday July 23	Sunny	80°/59°	3%	1%	NNW 9 mph
 Friday July 24	Sunny	81°/61°	9%	3%	ENE 10 mph
 Saturday July 25	Partly Cloudy	77°/60°	11%	4%	NE 12 mph
 Sunday July 26	Partly Cloudy	77°/65°	25%	16%	ENE 11 mph
 Monday July 27	Thunderstorms	78°/64°	32%	19%	SW 10 mph
 Tuesday July 28	Partly Cloudy	79°/67°	24%	12%	SW 9 mph

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

‘A Matter of Light’ short film on the founding of Vernon St. Studios

As part of #ARTSTAYSHERE’s Faces, Places & Spaces exhibition at Somerville Museum this summer, join in Wednesday, July 29, from 6 to 8 p.m. for a screening of the documentary short and panel discussion about the founding of Somerville’s Vernon Street Studios by Anne Continelli.

Can a small group of artists transform a former industrial city into a culturally rich, vibrant community? In Somerville, MA, in 1974, a handful of artists rolled up their sleeves and converted one floor of a run-down warehouse into artist studios.



Composed mostly of women, this group had to learn construction and renovation. The subsequent studio space, known as Vernon Street Studios, started an artist migration into the formerly industrial city that recast it into a multicultural, desirable greater Boston community.

Today, artists are facing displacement due to skyrocketing costs. Interviews with some of the original artists and current artists tell the story, combined with verité footage of Open Studios today, stock footage, and Creative Commons archival educational videos used to recreate past events.

Anne Continelli is a freelance video producer and editor whose documentaries include the rescue of Brookline’s beloved Coolidge Corner Theater. Learn more here: annemcontinelli.com.

For tickets: <https://AMatterofLight.eventbrite.com>.

Tickets for this event are \$10, which will be charged at the door. If anyone has a hardship, #ARTSTAYSHERE will pay \$5 toward the ticket. RSVP here to reserve your spot.

The Somerville Times

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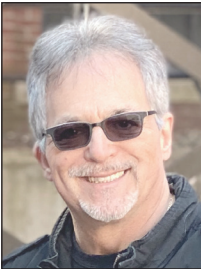
Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

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

Thrills in the Ville



There are lots of things I did as an adventurous Somerville youth in the 1960s and 70s. As I look back now, some were very dangerous and careless. As I have said many times before, I am glad my kids don't read my articles. Here are three stories of daring, crazy, and silly episodes in the life of a Somerville boy growing up in the era of Vietnam, hippies, and long hair.

By the year 1969, I was a full-fledged hippie. My hair was long, and I wore beads and sandals. I had started hanging around with a few anti-war protesters from Harvard Square. The weekend of May 1, 1971, there was to be a huge anti-war rally in Washington, D.C.

I still don't remember what fib I told my parents, but I took off for the entire weekend. My belief in the anti-war movement was so strong that I was willing to take the punishment that my par-ents had waiting

for me when I returned.

We piled into a Volkswagen bus driven by an older hippie named Bob. He had a full beard, headband, and wore tie-dyed shirts. On the long ride to Washington, all I remember was eating homemade natural peanut butter. We arrived at the area around the Washington Monument, and I had never seen so many people who looked like me in one place before. Every time a news camera was pointed my way, I turned my back. It would have been just my luck that my father would see me on TV and freak out. He referred to hippies as "dirty, filthy pigs."

I felt like I had really done something meaningful after attending that rally. I was grounded for two weeks, but it was worth it.

Back around the winter of 1970, my friends Richard, Lynda and I were rabble-rousers at Somerville High School. We had started a group called The Committee of Concerned Students, and put out a bootleg school newspaper called The Inside Agitator.

It was very cold, and the Ski club was planning a trip up to North Conway, New Hampshire. If my memory serves me correctly, the place they were going to stay at was called The Iron Mountain Lodge. Well, we had our duffel bags packed with Bud and Ripple, and snuck onto the bus. We got bagged and were tossed off.

We yelled obscenities as the bus pulled away. We then headed for Route 93 and stuck out our thumbs. We got rides right away. I think the reason we were picked up so quickly was that we all had shoulder-length hair and we looked like three girls. Anyway, one lady who picked us up actually took us for pizza.

We got back on the road, and this part is great. The three of us were actually sitting on the steps of the Iron Mountain Lodge as the Somerville High School Ski Club bus pulled up. I will never forget the look of anger and disgust on the teacher's face. It was one of the best week-ends of my life.

The trains running through Davis Square were both thrilling and very dan-



gerous. We hung around down off Cedar Street near the old International Paper Company. I had a friend who convinced me that we should "hop a freight." Like a nut, I agreed.

He had done it before, so he gave me a quick lesson on the fundamentals of freight car hop-ping. The train approached, and it was going pretty slowly. My friend, who was in front of me, ran alongside an open box car and grabbed on and pulled himself aboard.

I did the same thing. We gave each other a high five and sat in the train watching the scenery go by. All of a sudden, the train started to increase

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Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: What is an estate, and what happens to it when someone dies?

A: During life, a person's "estate" can broadly mean everything they own. After that person dies, their estate consists of the assets, debts, and other financial matters that must be settled before the remaining property is transferred to the appropriate beneficiaries.

An estate is not something that applies only to wealthy families. Anyone who dies owning property, holding financial accounts, or owing debts may leave behind financial matters that must be handled.

• **Someone must manage the estate.**

A personal representative — sometimes called an executor or administrator — is responsible for identifying the assets, paying valid debts and expenses, handling required tax filings, and distributing what remains to the beneficiaries.

• **Probate may be required.**

Probate is the court process used to transfer certain assets after someone dies. For example, a bank account owned only by the deceased person may need to go through probate, while a life insurance policy with a named beneficiary generally passes directly to that beneficiary.

• **Federal and state requirements may apply.** An estate may need to file federal Form 1041 if it earns income after the person's

death. States also have their own probate and tax rules. For example, a Massachusetts estate may need to file a Massachusetts fiduciary income-tax return.

Bottom Line:

Understanding how an estate works — and which assets pass through probate — can help ensure that a person's wishes are followed, beneficiaries receive what they are entitled to, and unnecessary delays, legal fees, and stress are reduced during an already difficult time.

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



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

Somerville Redevelopment Authority approves development partner

CONT. FROM PG 1

Development Division, describing the reaction from the 90 Washington Street Civic Advisory Committee.

Still, there was plenty to like in Wood Partners' updated plan. They bumped the unit count from 324 to 418 and cut parking nearly in half, down from 398 above-ground spaces to 244 underground. They also shifted retail toward a plaza on the northwest side of the site and kept access open to the western side of Cobble Hill Apartments' Building 84, which residents there rely on for fire and trash access.

But not everyone is satisfied. All 418 units are rentals, with no ownership units, which some committee members wanted. Others are questioning the roughly 20,000 square feet set aside for residential amenities, wondering if some of that ground-floor space should go to retail or community use instead.

The City Council had its own gripes when it reviewed the plan last Thursday. Ward One Councilor Matthew McLaughlin, whose district covers the site, asked for more greenery along the Cobble Hill border and flagged concerns about

Building 2, the smaller piece of the project that sits close to the Jaclyn Cusick Apartments. Ward Two City Councilor J.T. Scott wanted the opposite: more height and density overall.

SRA board member Ben Wheeler, who sat in on the council meeting, told the board the mood there was more negative than he expected. He traced a lot of it back to losing a competing proposal that included a housing tower, plus lingering questions about whether the original RFP should have made clear from the start that high-rise development would be welcome on the site.

Residents showed up to the meeting too. Jacqueline Pilitary, who lives on Mansfield Street, asked the board to rethink a plan detail that would clear mature pine trees for an access road. She pointed to the trees' role in filtering air pollution from nearby McGrath Highway, especially for Cobble Hill residents, and called out the irony: the city hands out grants elsewhere in East Somerville to rip up pavement and add green space, then approves a project doing the exact opposite.



Board Chair Phil Ergolini admitted the process hasn't been smooth, pointing to how few developers even showed interest in the site to begin with. He also made clear that Monday's vote is not the finish line.

"This is not the last touch point," Demer told the board. Now that Wood Partners is designated, both sides negotiate for 90 days on formal agreements, and the devel-

oper puts down an initial \$50,000 deposit. After that, the city and Wood Partners still have to work out a land disposition agreement — which needs its own City Council vote before rezoning and permitting can even start. Board members said they'll keep chipping away at issues like the Building 2 footprint and the Cobble Hill greenery during that stretch, working closely with the ward councilor.

First SomerCup held at Dilboy Stadium

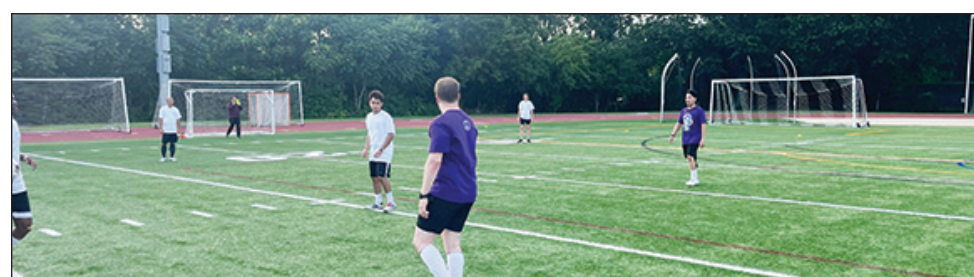
CONT. FROM PG 1

different teams competing against each other.

There was additional training provided for those who signed up. "We had about four or five Revolution academy coaches who led them through drills," said Connor Davis, Corporate Relationship Executive

for the New England Revolution. "They worked on passing drills, dribbling skills, shooting, and then a little scrimmage."

"I've been in recreation for over a decade, and this has been one of the most fun, enjoyable community-building events I've ever been a part of," said Kyeremateng.



Advisory: Somerville mosquitoes test positive for West Nile Virus

Somerville Health and Human Services is sharing that testing by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has detected West Nile Virus (WNV) in mosquitoes collected from Somerville. Somerville remains at a “Low” risk level for WNV. The first WNV-positive mosquitoes in the state this year were collected on June 16, and 21 mosquito samples have now tested positive for WNV. There have been no animal or human cases of WNV reported in the state so far this season.

WNV is usually transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe infection. Although Somerville’s risk is low, community members are still encouraged to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites and mosquito-borne diseases. MDPH recommends the following safety measures:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

• **Use insect repellent when you go outdoors.** Products with DEET may be used on skin but should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Use permethrin prod-

ucts on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets, and camping gear. Permethrin should not be applied to skin. Other repellents, such as picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR 3535 have also been found to provide protection against mosquitos. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. More information on choosing and safely using repellents can be found at mass.gov/info-details/mosquito-repellents.

• **If weather permits**, wear long sleeves, long pants, and socks outdoors to help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

• If you can, schedule outdoor activities to avoid the hours from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are most active. If you cannot schedule activities around these times, take steps to avoid being bitten by moving indoors, wearing protective clothing, or using repellent.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

• **Drain standing water** from around your home. Many mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or getting rid of items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains, empty unused flower-



pots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.

• **Install tightly fitting window and door screens** or repair damaged screens to help keep mosquitoes outside.

Mosquito-borne Illnesses

Both WNV and Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) are usually transmitted to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. Only a small number of mosquitoes are infected at any given time, so

being bitten by a mosquito does not mean you will get sick. For more information on preventing mosquito-borne diseases, visit mass.gov/mosquito-borne-diseases.

The state does seasonal testing for WNV and EEE and updates town-specific risk levels where WNV- or EEE-positive mosquitoes are found. You can check risk maps throughout the summer at mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-arbovirus-update.

Senate acts to bring oversight to Massachusetts’ unregulated home care industry

The Senate passed legislation to help older adults age in place in Massachusetts by requiring home care agencies to be licensed and meet standards for screening, training, and supervision.

The bill also creates a commission to make recommendations for social insurance for long-term care.

“Everyone – consumers and workers – will be safer with home care licensure,” said Senator Patricia D. Jehlen (D-Somerville), Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Aging and Independence and lead Senate sponsor of the legislation. “If you qualify for state-paid home care, the agency that sends you workers is required to train and supervise them and meet other standards. But if you’re paying privately, there are a large and growing number of agencies, many for-profit. They send care workers

who come into your home and help with grocery shopping and even intimate help with showering. We don’t even know how many such agencies there are. And they don’t have to meet any standards. The bill is supported by home care organizations, SEIU 1199, and consumer groups.”

Regarding the long-term care commission, Jehlen said, “Most of us will need long-term care at some point, and many will find it very hard to afford. The long-term services and supports commission will take the next step toward creating social insurance for long-term care, recommending models with variables such as the required contribution and the amount or duration of benefits. Establishing social insurance for long-term care will make it possible for many more people to age with financial security.”

The House already passed home care li-



censure. The redrafted bill, now including a long-term care insurance commission,

returns to the House for consideration.
— Office of Senator Patricia D. Jehlen

COMMENTARY

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

Stop Gaslighting Us: Somerville residents deserve real answers and solutions regarding the future of schools

By the Somerville Neighborhood School Advocacy Group

Somerville is pushing to build a new, significantly larger 925-child K-8 school that would consolidate the Benjamin G. Brown School with the Winter Hill Community Innovation School instead of just focusing on rebuilding the Winter Hill Community School. More than 1,200 residents have emailed inquiries [1] about this centralized model for education, citing concerns about its impact on walkability, traffic, school choice, neighborhood access, the loss of the city's two smallest elementary schools, and lack of seats for children on the west side of Somerville.

Despite those concerns, the city is moving toward committing to the project before studying many of the impacts that residents have been asking about for months.

On June 22, Mayor Wilson, Dr. Ruben Carmona (Superintendent for Somerville School District), and Darryl Nash (Chief Communication Officer for the Somerville School District) met with concerned parents.

Parents had prepared a list of seven questions ahead of time, briefly summarized: 1) catchments/redistricting, 2) capacity on western side of Somerville, 3) traffic and parking impact, 4) school choice/lottery impact, 5) small school options within the public school system, 6) plans for the Brown building, and 7) holistic cost comparison of the two options.

Nash promised via email: "We expect to cover each and every one of your questions, but there will also be plenty of time for follow-up questions, clarifications, dialogue, and feedback."

The answers, though, were disappointing at best and non-answers at worst.

What will the impact of consolidation be on walkability? Traffic? School choice? All of these questions and more were answered with a nod to using the MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) process. But the city is not on track to answer questions about the impact of centralizing elementary schools until after the MSBA requires a decision from them about school building size at the end of the summer. For instance, the city is convening a committee to look at school choice, but it won't finish reviewing until next year - well after the city has already made its decision. This makes no sense. Something is very, very wrong about this sequence.

At this June 22 meeting, we learned that Mayor Wilson - one of only two elected officials on the School Building Committee - is working from incorrect information on costs of renovating the Brown School. He repeatedly stated \$90 million as the cost for ADA compliance. This is actually the cost for a larger project involving adding a cafeteria plus a gymnasium plus ADA compliance according to a report from 2025 by the IAM and Finance Departments for School Construction Advisory Group (CAG) on slide 10 [2]. Mayor Wilson also repeatedly stated that Rich Raiche, Somerville's infrastructure planning director, was also working from this information about ADA compliance. Raiche wasn't present, but if that's the case, that's also very concerning. The 2022 initial plan for the Brown [3], then estimated at \$43 million including an addition with gym & cafeteria - see page 16 for sketch and page 26 for price, but just ADA compliance and repairs of the Brown School, according to slide 25 of this plan looks like it's closer to \$2 million a significantly smaller number.

Mayor Wilson repeated the misleading statement [4] that this plan was supported by the CAG. The CAG also voted in majority that the school committee needed to follow the existing process to consider whether closing the Brown was appropriate. (Yes, the CAG also voted unanimously to build at Sycamore and in majority to build a 925-student school - thus producing a self-contradictory recommendation!) The School Committee has not followed the process [5] to consider whether closing the Brown is appropriate. Somerville is committing to a decision long before it follows the process for studying that decision. The CAG's full report [6] has 3 parts, all 3 simultaneously endorsed by the School Committee, and the Mayor consistently chooses only to discuss the first 2, which is not an accurate description of the CAG's conclusion.

Dr. Carmona stated to us at the meeting that he believes the school will have four classrooms per grade at the 925 student size, but the plans as presented to the MSBA show five to six classrooms per grade, see page 420 [7] of the Preliminary Design Program Report document. It is surprising and concerning that our superintendent's plans for the school do not match the plans that the project architect has, which have already been presented to the state as part of the MSBA funding process.

No serious updates have been given on any of these topics, as of this writing, and now the MSBA has requested by email on July 1, 2026, that the city respond directly to certain of these concerns.

If Mayor Wilson doesn't understand at the very broadest level what is being bought with the city's money under the

two plans - who does? If the MSBA educational plan doesn't align with Dr. Carmona's understanding - why not? Where is the School Committee, and why aren't they asking these questions? Somerville is neglecting its responsibility to our kids' education, and to responsibly spending our citizens' tax dollars, and to our Vision Zero plan for safety and our climate goals, in the service of chasing the largest possible building.

Links:

- [1] <https://rallystarter.com/rally/2941/690-students-at-sycamore-ave>
- [2] <chrome-extension://efaidnbmn-nnibpcajpcgclcfndmkaj/https://s3.amazonaws.com/somervillema-live/s3fs-public/2025-09/construction-advisory-20250908-presentation-iam.pdf>
- [3] <chrome-extension://efaidnbmn-nnibpcajpcgclcfndmkaj/https://s3.amazonaws.com/somervillema-live/s3fs-public/cos-bmp-brown-01-bbb-brown-final-report-vol-1-2022-03-25.pdf>
- [4] https://archive.org/details/School_Building_Project_Community_Forum_-_March_3_2026
- [5] chrome-extension://efaidnbmn-nnibpcajpcgclcfndmkaj/https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1189511/File_FCB_Retirement_of_Facilities.pdf
- [6] <chrome-extension://efaidnbmn-nnibpcajpcgclcfndmkaj/https://s3.amazonaws.com/somervillema-live/s3fs-public/somerville-CAG-final-report-20251231.pdf>
- [7] <chrome-extension://efaidnbmn-nnibpcajpcgclcfndmkaj/https://s3.amazonaws.com/somervillema-live/s3fs-public/whcis-preliminary-design-program-20260407-2.pdf>

Thrills in the Ville

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speed. My pal said we should get the hell off in a hurry or we would end up in Bangor, Maine. He told me to watch carefully as he got off the rolling train. He lowered himself down and ran alongside for a few seconds and then let go. He ended up

standing. I wasn't so lucky.

I lowered myself so my feet were ground level, ran alongside for a few seconds, and then let go. I hit the ground in a somersault and continued bouncing and rolling in the gravel and dirt for about 20 seconds. I was

cut and bruised from my head to my toes. My friend ran over to me and said, "You didn't do it right, man!" I said, "Ya think?"

These three tales of youthful foolishness are just the tip of the crazy iceberg. I am sure you all have some thrilling stories of

those wacky days when you were growing up in this awesome city.

Today, the most daring thing I do is try to cross College Ave. to mail a letter. But I will always have those great memories of my crazy days.

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville loves its farmers markets.

Our View Of The Times



It seems as though we cannot get enough of the farmers market scene in Somerville. They have become time-honored traditions and perennial mainstays of alternative commerce in the city.

There is something special about shopping for fresh produce, discovering unique arts and crafts vendors, and enjoying live entertainment in the open air. We feel a sense of camaraderie, too, as we gather to

take in the sights, sounds, flavors, and aromas that permeate each market site.

The major markets are in full operation now – with the exception, of course, of the Winter Farmers Market, which serves our needs during the off-season – and there is no better time to experience what they have to offer than in the high summer months.

The Union Square Farmers Market,

operated by Union Square Main Streets, takes place every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at 66-70 Union Sq., and will run until October 31.

Groundwork Somerville's Mobile Farmers Market is underway, bringing fresh produce and other delights to various locations throughout the city. Go to somervillemobilefarmersmarket.wordpress.com for up-to-date info on loca-

tions they are serving.

The Davis Square Farmers Market is there for us, too, at the Intersection of Day St. and Herbert St. every Wednesday, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m., ongoing until November 25.

So you see, there is no shortage of good, old-fashioned style trading available for all of us here in the city. Be sure to check them out and enjoy the feeling.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

McCarty, Susanne Sordillo, Cheryl Chaille Horan, Alice Galvin, Tommy McDaid, Frank Tello Jr, Carol Powers, Joan Campo McKenna, Stephanie Ann, Erika Uytterhoeven, Justin Klekota, Peter McIsaac, and Cynthia Finn, 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.

Train playground Pizza Parents present, Somerville Legislative Candidate Meet & Greet on Wednesday, July 29, 5:30 – 7 p.m. at Hoyt-Sullivan Playground. Get to know the candidate running for

State Representative and State Senator representing Somerville.

Join the Somerville Public Library for its annual Comix Con, a fan-themed day with programs inspired by your favorite fandoms, local vendors, cosplaying, and more. This event will take place on Saturday, July 25, at the Central Library (79 Highland Ave.) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Red Line will be suspended between Alewife and Park Street, July 21 – 30. This work is part of the MBTA's regular, planned renewal and revitalization work, which is ongoing and continuous. Riders

can find complete information at MBTA.com/RedLine. Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between these stations. Riders are also encouraged to utilize existing Bus Routes 69, 87, 88, 89, 91, and 109 from Davis Square, Harvard Square, and Central Square to connect with the Green Line's Medford/Tufts and Union Square branches as an alternative way to travel to Park Street.

Aeronaut Brewing Co., 14 Tyler St, is bringing live music to Somerville this summer with *Patiopalooza*, a free outdoor concert series featuring some of New England's most exciting emerging and estab-

lished bands. This Saturday, July 25, the popular **Ballroom Thieves** are playing for free in Somerville. Enjoy an afternoon of free live music, local food vendors, and craft beer on the patio at Aeronaut Brewing's **Somernova** location. Music Schedule: 2 p.m. – **Midnight Motion**, 3:30 p.m. – **Autumn Hollow**, 5:00 p.m. – **Ballroom Thieves**. Admission: Free (registration encouraged). Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1990980784121>.

Experience the fabric of our community at the **Somerville Community Growing Center**, 22 Vinal Ave. Somerville Quipus, created by artist

Continued on page 21

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's
Olio
#1032

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. When was the first FIFA World Cup held?

2. Lionel Messi?

3. How many goals in soccer does a hat-trick require?

4. Which country has qualified for every single FIFA World Cup?

5. Who currently stands as the all-time leading scorer in World Cup history?

6. What is a "brace" in soccer terminology?

7. When did Apol-
- lo 11 land on the Moon?

8. Who was the first human to walk on the moon

9. What celebrity had her children's drawings on her wedding dress?

10. What film set was Brandon Lee accidentally mortally wounded on?

11. What is astraphobia a fear of?

12. What band has the same name as the inventor of the seed drill

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. 35% of those who use ads for dating are already married.
2. In old Christian art, good angels were red and Satan was blue.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
CAMPING

- ACROSS
1. Soapy enemy

5. Architect's software, acr.

8. Professional number cruncher, acr.

11. Through, to a poet

12. Z, NATO phonetic alphabet

13. Garden pest

15. Chinese monetary unit

16. Sportscaster Andrews

17. Certain water birds

18. Luxury camping

20. Scratch's target

21. Same as coho

22. DNA transmitter

23. Explanation backed by evidence

26. Gottfried _____, calculus co-creator

30. R in rpm

31. Er on Periodic table

34. Bowling ball path

35. Arabic VIPs

37. .0000001 joule

38. Financial woes

39. Cecum, pl.

40. "Et tu, Brute?" speaker

42. Food morsel

43. Siren, e.g.

45. _____ camping, or camping without shelter

47. Siesta

48. "There it is," in Paris

50. Gold or frankincense or myrrh, e.g.

52. Fire starter

55. American chameleon

56. Antioxidant-rich berry

57. New Mexico art colony

59. Nymph chaser

60. Nonclerical

61. Poet Pound

62. High school parent org.

63. Be off base

64. Ready for picking

- DOWN

1. Eye infection

2. College party chant

3. Russia's _____ Mountains

4. Western European city-state

5. Collectible in a cabinet

6. Skirt shape

7. Animal waste

8. Chocolate candy, to a Brit

9. Essence

10. Marketing creations

12. Gentle breeze

13. Raspberry drupelets

14. Like drinking water

19. Customs and conventions

22. "Losing My Religion" band

23. Leave no _____

24. Egyptian falcon god

25. Put out on a curb

26. Totes or tugs

27. Orient's bigwig

28. Preface, e.g.

29. Piquant

32. _____ bag or _____ canister

33. Rage

36. Waterproof cover (2 words)

38. Funny

40. Large edible mushroom

41. Of low pH

44. Serve food at events

46. Restaurant staff member

48. "The _____ of Wakefield"

49. On the radio (2 words)

50. Annoying biting fly

51. Tiny quantity

52. Leafy green

53. Like Hitler's Germany

54. Good Ol' Raisins and Peanuts

55. Venomous snake

58. Greek letters on campus

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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Meet and Greet for DA Marian Ryan at Sally O'Brien's



A meet and greet for DA Marian Ryan was held Monday night at Sally O'Brien's, and it was well attended. Seen here are (L to R) Registrar of Deeds Maria Curtatone, former Alderman Bob McWatters, District Attorney Marian Ryan, and Everett Firefighter Andrew Philbin in attendance at the fundraiser to help reelect Marian Ryan as District Attorney for Middlesex County.

Celebration of the life of Robert Dabenigno



Family and friends gathered together on Saturday to celebrate and remember the life of Robert Dabenigno at Belmont Park, on the 20th anniversary of his death. Many of his friends from Somerville traveled across the country to honor his memory and to celebrate his life.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #359

This article first appeared in the February 8, 2017, edition of The Somerville Times.

Meadows to Metropolis

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Before the European settlement of what is now Somerville's Mystic River waterfront, nature ruled the shore. Rich green meadows of grass that were as tall as the observer first caught the explorers' eye.



At that time, there were mammals and birds that are today seldom seen east of Route 495. Because of extinction, we will never again see some like the Great Auk, which was a large, penguin-related bird, the Grey Wolf, and clouds of Passenger Pigeons which once flew above. Early Massachusetts Governor Dudley, when writing overseas, would claim that these migrating flocks would black out the sun for hours.

The Mystic's riverside at that time was a land of the small animal: the otter, the weasel, the porcupine, the beaver, and the mink. It was also a land of large animals, such as the moose, the deer, the wolf, and the bear. The area was abundant with marine life. Whales were hunted in nearby Massachusetts Bay, while lobsters were trapped offshore and shellfish were easily harvested along the Mystic's shoreline.



Mostly, this was the land of the "sacred cod." This fish was so plentiful that it would become the settlers' mainstay. It fed them, fertilized their crops, and later became the colony's respected symbol. It was here, at the present Wellington Bridge's entrance to Assembly Square, that our first Governor, John Winthrop, launched the first ship built in New England in 1631. It took place on a foretelling patriotic date, the Fourth of July. Christened the Blessing of the Bay, it was the forerunner of today's Coast Guard and Navy.

For many years, the marsh put gold in the hands of many by means of her clay deposits. At one time, Somerville's Mystic Avenue, from Medford to the

Continued on page 23

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_V-Gx5xJbQgq5vyodKU77HQ

TO CALL IN

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

The Historic Preservation Commission will consider the following pursuant to the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

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

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

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

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

7/15/26, 7/22/26 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #27-02

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

On-Call Asbestos Abatement

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **07/22/2026**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **08/5/2026 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 at Lcarroll@somervillema.gov for more information.

Logan Carroll
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3406

7/22/26 The Somerville Times



NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT and NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Date of Publication: July 22, 2026
City of Somerville
Strategy and Development Department
167 Holland St
Somerville, MA 02144
Telephone # 617-625-6600

Request for Release of Funds

On or about August 7th, 2026 the City of Somerville will submit a request to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of the following funds: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to undertake a project to be known as ArtFarm located at 10 Poplar St. in Somerville, MA. The project to be undertaken is the creation of a 1.33 acre park on the site of a former waste transfer station which was demolished in 2013. The site will hold both the park and vital stormwater management infrastructure (Poplar Street Pump Station), the construction of which is underway and anticipated to be completed in 2027. ArtFarm will provide vital green space in Somerville's Brickbottom neighborhood. Once completed, ArtFarm will be one of the city's largest parks with trees and other immersive native plantings, flexible play spaces, shade and cooling features, a walking loop, community agriculture, an outdoor performance space with seating, a plaza for festivals and events, and art installation opportunities. It will provide a unique and vital space for nature, the arts, and community engagement. The project has been awarded 250,000 in CDBG funds from the City of Somerville. The total estimated project cost is approximately \$4,000,000 dollars.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The City of Somerville has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is available upon request. Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Somerville, Strategy and Development Department, 167 Holland St. Somerville, MA. ERR may be examined copied during normal business hours; Mon, Tues, and Wed, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Thurs. 8:30 AM–7:30 PM and Friday 8:30 AM to 12:30PM.

Public Comments

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on this activity may submit written comments to the city at the address indicated above. All comments received by August 7th will be considered prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which notice and proposed project they are addressing.

Environmental Certification

The City of Somerville certifies to HUD that Jake Wilson, in his capacity as Mayor of the City of Somerville, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Somerville to use HUD program funds.

Objections to Release of Funds

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of Somerville's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City or EOHLC; (b) the City or EOHLC has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at the following email address: CPDRROFBOS@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Jake Wilson, Mayor of Somerville, Certifying Officer

7/22/26 The Somerville Times



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 5**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_o6YJQe-sRCCKoj9E7TQEq

TO CALL IN

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

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

88 Winslow Avenue Adam Dash, Esq. on behalf of Theodore W. Lanman and Elizabeth Ann Keller propose to expand a nonconformity for the roof line to add livable space of a two-family dwelling in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) zoning district, which requires a Section 6 finding.

17 Monmouth Street The Law Office of Richard G. DiGirolamo seeks a Special Permit for a lot split on a property listed on the National Registers of Historic Places in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) zoning district as required by SZO 10.1.1.d.

22 Park Avenue Kenneth Hurd is seeking relief of SZO 2.4.4.a.viii.b for a non-compliant rafter/wall intersection in excess of 2' from the finished first floor on the right rear portion of a building in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) zoning district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

74 Moreland Street Brandon Rawnsley seeks a Hardship Variance to locate mechanical equipment within three (3) feet of the lot line in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) zoning district.

2 Carver Street Athanasios Dousis seeks relief from SZO 2.4.4. regarding the roof rafter intersection height for a half story in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) zoning district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

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 email to ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.

Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should contact the ADA Coordinator in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or ADA@somervillema.gov.

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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 6, 2026**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/join?pwd=Zm50YzQyQm9yXrPGpFy8Cw>

TO CALL IN

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

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

- 6 Wheatland Street**
- Adam Dash, Esq. on behalf of Nelson Group Construction Corp. proposes to develop an Apartment Building in the Mid-Rise (MR3) zoning district, which requires Site Plan Approval.
- 6 Wheatland Street**
- Adam Dash, Esq. on behalf of Nelson Group Construction Corp. proposes to establish residential housing in the Mid-Rise (MR3) zoning district, which requires Special Permit.

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

7/22/26 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #27-01

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

77 Broadway Sub Station Renovation

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **7/22/2026**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all bids if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Filed Sub-Bids with certifications for the DCAMM category of Electrical Work are due by **8/5/2026 at 3:00pm**.

Sealed General Bids with DCAMM certification in General Building Construction are due by **8/12/2026 at 3:00pm**.

5% Bid Deposit required. Prevailing wages apply.

Please email fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

Felisa Gárate
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3406

7/22/26 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
30 Memorial Road
Somerville, Massachusetts 02145
Telephone (617) 625-1152 Fax (617) 628-7057
TDD (617) 628-8889

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REQUEST FOR DESIGN SERVICES (RFS)

SHA Job 2608

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

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

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

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

7/15/26, 7/22/26 The Somerville Times

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www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Louisa Gag Memorial

Last week, I joined neighbors, advocates, and friends @librarianical, @votejivan, @stevengoesbigtime, @goldman.laurie, Makayla, Austin, and many others for a bike ride from Inman Square to Boston City Hall and back in honor of Louisa Gag and in support of safer streets for everyone.

I'm grateful to live in a community where residents organize, advocate, and hold government accountable every day to make it safer for people to walk, bike, and get around. Real progress happens when community voices are heard and acted upon. Let's honor Louisa's memory by turning grief into action.

Stay engaged, speak up, and support efforts to build streets that are safe for everyone. Every life is worth protecting.

— Somerville City Councilor Will Mbah

Crystal Ballroom
movie trivia night

Put your cinematic knowledge to the test at the Crystal Ballroom movie trivia night, 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m, free admission, all ages. Movie trivia night takes place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Your movie trivia hosts every evening are Billy Thegenus of The Brattle, Coolidge Corner, IFF-Boston, and Creative Mornings, Ian Brownell of the Somerville Theatre, ScreenBoston, and The Brattle Film Podcast. As well as special guests rounds. Put your team together (max 6 players per team) or join up with folks you've never met. Win the glory of victory as well as prizes! There's a full bar, movie concessions, plus hotdogs and pizza by the slice.

Crystal Ballroom at Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square, Somerville, MA 02144



ArtBeat 2026: REVolution

ArtBeat 2026: REVolution took place on Saturday, July 18, in Davis Square. The festival featured over 70 craft vendors, multiple food vendors, two performance stages showcasing a dynamic mix of music, dance, theater, literary readings, and interactive activities, all highlighting Somerville’s diverse and vibrant arts scene.





Photos by Bobbie Toner



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Ms. Cam's

Olío

Answers

1. 1930 in Uruguay

2. Lionel Messi

3. 3

4. Brazil

5. Kylian Mbappe

6. Two goals scored by one player in a match

7. July 20, 1969

8. Neil Armstrong

9. Angelina Jolie

10. The Crow (1994)

11. Fear of thunder and lightning

12. Jethro Tull

Groundbreaking on Broadway

On Thursday, July 16, the Somerville community was invited to a groundbreaking ceremony marking the long-vacant former Star Market site's transformation into 319 new homes, including 136 affordable units. City officials joined residents in the ceremony, and free refreshments were enjoyed by all.

— Photos by Bobbie Toner



New mix of arts and culture tenants selected for Somerville Armory

The City of Somerville is announcing the inaugural group of artists, organizations, and creative businesses that will call the Somerville Armory home in its new formation as the city's first publicly owned arts and culture center.

"This is a big step forward for the Armory and for Somerville's arts community," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "The Armory means so much to so many people, and this next chapter will help bring new energy and activity into the building while staying grounded in the long-term vision our community helped build. I'm especially grateful to the Armory Advisory Board for volunteering their time, expertise, and care throughout this process."

The selected awardees, which applied through a formal process, include a mix of arts organizations, creative businesses, independent artists, educators, and cultural space operators. Together, they will help build on long-standing arts uses as well as bring new activity, programming, and creative energy into the Armory while supporting the building's role as an important community asset.

The selected awardees are:

- ♦ **Acoustic Strings of New England** provides expert advice and resources for customers seeking to rent, own, repair, and learn to play violin, viola, cello, and double bass.

- ♦ **BADD Architect** produces spatial art and sculptural installations and will use the Armory as an incubator for conceptual design and physical assembly.

- ♦ **Birch Lo** creates immersive artistic experiences that bring poetry to new and unique physical modalities.

- ♦ **The Center for Arts at the Armory** hosts arts and cultural events of all sorts and serves as a local hub bringing people together and promoting the creative

economy.

- ♦ **Dead Moon Audio** supports the music production process from incubation to presentation, helping local artists reach their audiences.

- ♦ **LARP Adventure Program** combines theater and acting instruction, movement-based performance, narrative development work, and more to create novel and exciting youth programming.

- ♦ **Luke Nonas-Hunter** is creating an accessible tap dance studio.

- ♦ **ReCreate** will open an accessible community makerspace dedicated to repair, upcycling, and skill-building in the Armory, with an added focus on serving artists' unique repair needs.

"Much gratitude to the Armory Advisory Board for volunteering their time. Huge thanks to city staff for working with me throughout this process," said Ward 5 City Councilor Naima Sait. "Congratulations to all the awardees. This is a significant step forward for the Armory and the Somerville arts community. The leases will ensure stability and success for both existing tenants and new tenants."

"We're excited about the new energy coming to the Armory and look forward to supporting its next chapter as a vital home for arts, culture, and community in Somerville," said the Armory Advisory Board in a group statement.

Next Steps

The city will now move into the next phase of the process, including finalizing lease agreements and planning move-ins with selected awardees. Any future programming or use of remaining vacant spaces will be considered only after all possible awards through the current process have been completed.

The city and the Armory Advisory Board look forward to working with ten-



ants and the broader community to shape future programming in the building, including opportunities such as artist residencies, collaborative projects, and other initiatives that strengthen the Armory's role as a vibrant center for creativity and community for all ages.

"This marks an exciting milestone in implementing the Armory Master Plan and ensuring the building serves as a thriving center for arts, culture, and community," said Somerville Arts & Culture Interim Director Rachel Strutt. "As the Armory continues to evolve, we're committed to supporting the many artists, dancers, and creative communities that make this space so special, including continuing our work with those who participated in the Arts and Culture Division's interim programming while we planned for this next phase."

The Armory Master Plan

Established as a cultural arts center by a private owner in 2008, the city spared

the Armory building from permanent closure during the pandemic by acquiring the building in 2021 and providing COVID recovery grants to eligible tenants.

The purchase launched a broad public process leading to plans to transform the private space into a thriving, publicly secured arts hub – the City's first public cultural space. Welcoming this set of tenants – including a mix of former and new – is the culmination of that work.

The awards follow a public request for proposals (RFP) process guided by the Armory Master Plan and the procurement requirements for use of the city-owned building. Proposals were reviewed according to the criteria included in the RFP, including alignment with the Armory Master Plan, facility limitations, financial feasibility, public benefit, and contribution to the building's overall arts and community ecosystem.

To learn more, visit voice.somervillema.gov/armory-master-plan.

Somerville Winter Farmers Market: Calling all vendors!

Calling all vendors! We are excited to announce that vendor applications for the 2026-27 Somerville Winter Farmers market will be open from July 27th to August 3rd.

An application link will be available on our social media and website.

If you have any questions, please email swfm@artsatthearmory.org.

We look forward to another great season.



Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

World Cup final screening in Union Square

By Christa Lee

The FIFA World Cup final was screened live at Union Square on Sunday, led by Somerville's Chamber of Commerce and in collaboration with other businesses, including Nossa Rádio, EventThem, and local food vendors. A large crowd in high spirits was gathered in front of the outdoor TV screen to root for either Spain's or Argentina's national teams.

Jennifer Lawrence, chair and director of Somerville's Chamber of Commerce, sat

side-by-side with colleague Joanna Haley, office manager of the Chamber, at the entrance checking in customers and distributing flags to wave around and add to the festive atmosphere.

"I just think it shows how great it can be when you work together, and they call it the people's game for a reason. People come together," said Lawrence. "It just shows how wonderful an international event like this can be. You come together as a community, you talk to one another, and you celebrate."



Hundreds attended the outdoor screening of the FIFA World Cup final in Union Square.

— Photos by Christa Lee

El Sonorens, Crêpe du Jour, and Just Ice Tea had booths to sell food and beverages. If you craved something else, any one of the neighboring businesses would do.

The event was a collaboration across multiple businesses. "The City of Somerville was a huge partner," said Lawrence. "The Goods in Davis Square was a big partner. Somerville Foundation partnered on that one as well. And then we had East

Somerville, Main Street, and East Somerville. It was a major effort."

At the halftime break, there were 560 people at the event, but more were expected by the end since about 1,000 people had registered to attend. Many of the crowd cheered when the referees called the final over, resulting in Spain's national team being dubbed the winner of this year's World Cup.

Arts at the Armory presents the fourth annual Feet Keep the Beat Festival

Arts at the Armory's fourth annual Feet Keep the Beat Festival returns July 30–August 1, bringing together acclaimed percussive dancers and musicians for three days of performance, participatory events, and workshops celebrating rhythm, movement, and cultural traditions from around the world.

The centerpiece of this year's festival is **ROOTS & WINGS: The Next Generation**, a newly commissioned evening-length work created by six percussive dancers and five musicians.

Premiering on Friday, July 31 in the Arts at Armory Performance Hall, the performance is made possible through lead program funding support from Valentine Talland and Nagesh Mahanthappa.

As the featured artists tell the story of how feet have been keeping the beat across time, cultures, and geographies, they deepen their collaboration by sharing the stage with the next generation.

Some perform alongside their children, while others are joined by their students, creating a powerful celebration of artistic inheritance, mentorship, and renewal.

West African dance dynamo Joh Camara will have three of his children joining him—two daughters in dance, and his son, Tiemoko, on percussion. A young student of tapper Ryan Casey will make an Arts at the Armory debut, alongside a talented niece of Step dancer Lekisha Limage.

Honoring the roots that ground us and the wings that help us soar, **ROOTS & WINGS: The Next Generation** explores how rhythm, movement, and cultural traditions are passed from one generation to the next—taking flight in new directions while remaining grounded in the traditions from which they emerged.

The Center for Arts at the Armory is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143.

To learn more please visit their website, <https://artsatthearmory.org/>, their Facebook page, and follow them on Instagram at @ArtsattheArmory.



Special meeting and public hearing on the implementation of body-worn cameras by the SPD

The public is invited to attend a virtual special meeting of the City Council and public hearing on body-worn cameras. The meeting and hearing, initiated by Mayor Jake Wilson, will take place virtually on Monday, July 27 at 6:30 p.m. All community members are invited to provide public comment during the hearing portion.

The meeting and hearing provide an opportunity for the public to provide feedback on body-worn cameras as the City Council considers an immediate opportunity to accept time-limited grant funding for this purpose.

Background

Local Actions

After the death of George Floyd in 2020, the city committed to a ten-point plan to address systemic racism. The plan included achieving the goal (first launched in 2015) for police officers to deploy body-worn cameras for the safety and protection of both the public and officers. In March 2021, the City Council unanimously backed a proposed 2020 resolution in support of deploying body-worn cameras. Also in March 2021, after several years of negotiations, the City of Somerville and the Somerville Police Employees Association (SPEA) union reached an agreement to implement body-worn cameras. In 2022, the City's Department of Racial and Social Justice launched the Public

Safety for All Task Force, which, among other recommendations, called for the implementation of body-worn cameras in its final report issued in 2025.

State Grant

In October 2025, the Massachusetts Office of Grants and Research announced a grant opportunity available to municipalities to support body-worn cameras with an application deadline of December 2025. The City of Somerville won a \$231,635 grant through this process and initiated a request for approval of the grant by the Council after receiving word of the award in early 2026. The city must expend and receive related body camera equipment by August 31, 2026, in order to retain access to the funding.

Public Hearing

In June 2026, 89 community members submitted a request to the Council for a public hearing on body-worn cameras, and the Council is responsible for scheduling that meeting in accordance with the City Charter. Because the funding opportunity will expire, and the mayor heard from the Council that they wanted to hear from the public before voting, the mayor called for a special meeting and a hearing (not to preempt but in addition to the requested hearing). The July hearing will provide an opportunity for any interested community members to also



comment in time for consideration as the Council debates whether to accept the grant funding.

How to join the virtual hearing or submit written comment:

To join the Public Hearing, enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_2ZKBxEsFSVmU_6EqGI2h3g. The meeting agenda will be posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

If you are unable to attend the July 27 hearing but wish to be heard, submit

public comments to the City Clerk at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143 or by email to publiccomments@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 p.m. on July 27 in order to be conveyed to the City Council for the public hearing.

The Council is currently out of session and will be returning for this special meeting. For the full schedule of Council meetings resuming in August, please visit <https://somervillema.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. Council meetings can be streamed at youtube.com/somervillecitytv.

June's Somerville Service Award winner: Thupten Chukhatsang

Thupten was nominated by one of his colleagues from the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs for his ability to help their department navigate the process of trying to identify and procure the language access services that allow Somerville residents to fully participate in their city.

Procurement is not always visible to the public, but Thupten's efforts, knowledge, and collaboration are what ultimately ensure that Somerville gets the best services, though his tireless work to assist other departments.

Remember, nominations are open to the public, if you would like to nominate a City of Somerville employee for the Somerville Service Award please follow the link on the website. <https://www.somervillema.gov/mayor>

Congratulations Thupten and thank you for helping make Somerville the greatest City in the Commonwealth.



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Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

Apply now for four rent-restricted studio rental units in Union Square

Applications are now open for four rent-restricted studio units at Prospect Union Square (20-50 Prospect Street) in the Union Square neighborhood through the City of Somerville's Inclusionary Housing Program. Units are available to all households making between 81% and 110% of the Area Median Income and to households with mobile vouchers making between 0% and 110% of the Area Median Income.

Property managers are now offering a lowered rental rate of \$2,238/month, with one month free. This is a first-come, first-served opportunity.

How to Apply:

Find additional information in multiple languages at somer ville.ma.gov/inclusionaryhousing or apply now at maloneyaffordable.com/rental-properties/prospect-union-square/. Completed applications

can be emailed to prospect@maloney-properties.com, mailed or delivered to Maloney Properties, Inc., Attn: Prospect Lottery, 27 Mica Lane, Wellesley, MA 02481.

For more information on the City's Inclusionary Housing Program, visit somer ville.ma.gov/inclusionaryhousing.

More About Prospect Union Square:

All units feature modern kitchens with stainless steel appliances and dishwashers, as well as in-unit laundry and air-conditioning. The building features a fitness center with a yoga studio and private training rooms, a business lounge with private workrooms, a pool and outdoor terrace with daybeds and chaise lounges, a game room, an interior dog run, a pet washing station, a parking garage, and bike storage. For more information on unit layouts and features, contact Property Management at 877-958-9776.



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Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week

Q: What are some things a landlord can't do when renting to tenants?

A: Landlords and tenants should consider their rights and responsibilities when creating or signing onto a lease, as well as laws, regulations, and issues related to renting and leasing an apartment. Here's a good set of examples: The Attorney General's Guide to Landlord and Tenant Rights | Mass.gov: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/the-attorney-generals-guide-to-landlord-and-tenant-rights>

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

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

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By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Getting ready for the World Cup Watch... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

July 22

1298 – King Edward I defeats the Scots under William Wallace at Falkirk.

1515 – Emperor Maximilian and Vladislav of Bohemia forge an alliance between the Hapsburg and Jagiello dynasties in Vienna.

1789 – Thomas Jefferson becomes the first head of the U.S. Department of Foreign Affairs.

1814 – Five Indian tribes in Ohio make peace with the U.S. and declare war on Britain.

1894 – The first automobile race takes place between Paris and Rouen, France.

1934 – American gangster John Dillinger is shot dead by FBI officers outside a Chicago cinema.

1938 – The Third Reich issues special identity cards for Jewish Germans.

1943 – Palermo, Sicily surrenders to General George S. Patton's Seventh Army.

1966 – B-52 bombers hit the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Vietnam for the first time.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Leddy Saenz and on view at the Growing Center, is inspired by the ancient **Andean quipu** – a sophisticated system of knotted cords used throughout the Andes to record knowledge, tell stories, and preserve history. The colorful cords that make up the installation were handcrafted by **Padres Latinos families**, each representing shared experiences, memories, and cultural heritage. Together, they create a living artwork that honors migration, resilience, belonging, and the strength of community. Visit the Somerville Community Growing Center through August 31 to experience this evolving community installation and discover the stories woven by Padres Latinos families that continue to connect us all.

Are you a **local musician or duo** looking to perform? **East Somerville Main Streets** is seeking talented local artists to perform at this year's **Foodie Crawl**, an evening celebrating our incredible local restaurants, community, and culture. Solo artists and duos welcome. Application deadline: **August 3**. For more information visit: <https://www.eastsomerville-mainstreets.org/foodie-crawl-2026>.

The city's annual **SomerMovie Fest** is set to return, bringing you exciting evenings of family-friendly films to be shown in parks around Somerville this summer. The next free movie screening, **Mean Girls** (PG-13), is held on **Thursday, July 23**, at the **Lincoln Park softball field** (290 Washington St.). The approximate start time is 8:15 p.m. For more information, please visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/moviefest>. Persons with disabilities who need ADA accommodations to access this program, please contact ada@somervillema.gov or call 311 (617-666-3311).

As part of the implementation of the **Somerville Bicycle Network Plan**, the city aims to increase safety and enhance mobility for people travelling on **Washington Street** between Tufts Street and the Boston city line. A community meeting was held on June 17 to introduce the project, and the Mobility team is still seeking feedback. Learn more at <https://voice.somervillema.gov/eastwashington> and complete the survey by **July 24** to share your ideas for the project.

Summer Film Night: Power to the Pedals takes place **Thursday, July 23**, 8

– 9:15 p.m., at the **Somerville Growing Center**, 22 Vinal Ave. Come check out **Power to the Pedals: Wenzday Jane and the Culture of Change**, with filmmaker Bob Nesson and a lively discussion with special topical guests in a garden setting. Contact: **Maddie** at madeleinecmorgan@gmail.com.

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

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

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

Hazardous Waste Drop-Off, Saturday, August 8: Next monthly Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day at DPW (1 Franey

Rd.), 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

Save the date for the **21st Annual What the Fluff? Festival, Saturday, September 19**, 1 – 5 p.m. in Union Square. Are you interested in being a vendor at this year's Festival? Go here to find out more: unionsquare-main.org/fluffvendors. Applications for community groups at What the Fluff? A Tribute to Union Square Innovation are live and filling up fast. Are you a non-profit or community group looking to get the word out about your work? Fill out the **Fluff Fest Community Group Application**: <https://form.jotform.com/261824906044154> What the Fluff? A Tribute to Union Square Innovation will reserve up to fifteen (15) complimentary 10'x10' spaces within the festival footprint for Community Groups. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

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

Somerville's **Yart Sale** returns **August 8**. Somerville's porches, driveways, and front yards will transform into mini galleries and pop-up markets as Yart Sale returns on Saturday, August 8, (rain date: August 9) from noon to 6 p.m. Expect to find paintings, photography, handmade objects, jewelry, art supplies and tools, collectible items, plants, frames, vintage clothes, and more. For full event guidelines, visit: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/yart-sale/>.

The **Powder House, Milk Row Cemetery and Prospect Hill Tower** will be open to the public on select dates and

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

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

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

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

Friendly Caller Program. The **Somerville Council on Aging** has many wonderful volunteers who are waiting to give you a call. Whether you are looking to make a new friend or would just like a friendly chat to look forward to every week, this program has

Continued on page 23



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'A Midsummer Night's Dream' presides for Boston's Commonwealth Shakespeare Company's 30th-Year Presentation

By Michael Todd Steffen

Shakespeare's wonderful fantasy comedy of otherwise and elsewhere, all about the confusion of young lovers and the curative transformations brought about by the woodland fairies – *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is back, for its third performance in the 30-year life of Shakespeare on the (Boston) Common, directed by Steven Maler.

The pending marriage at the opening between Theseus and Hyppolyta polarize the two source conflicts of the play: Hermia's refusal to obey her father Egeus and accept Demetrius's suit for her hand in marriage; and the quarrel in the realm of the woodland fairies between Oberon and Titania over the possession of an Indian boy left orphan by one of Titania's devotees.

Viewers of the play retain the memorable scene of Hermia arguing with her father against the arranged marriage. We remember the two sets of lovers running off and falling prey to the fairies' interventions and confusion in the woods outside Athens.

The cover of my Folgers Library pocketbook version of the play shows the fairy queen

Titania holding the ass's head to her bosom, gently embracing and kissing its elongated muzzle. Of the dozens of other versions of paperbacks, CDs, Blu-rays and DVDs available on my library network, about 4 out of 5 of them present a similar image, as do the majority of posters I've seen for live performances staged here and there. In abstract: the ass's ears, the goddess's tiara, stardust, woodland greenery, the delicate mesh of dragonfly wings with the bodies of fairies... This is from Act 4 Scene 1, where Titania dotes on Bottom:

TITANIA

Come, sit thee down upon this flow'ry bed,
While I thy amiable cheeks do coy,
And stick muskroses in thy sleek smooth head,
And kiss thy fair large ears, my gentle joy.

We are less apt to remember the waste land the world of the play is depicted as, in a speech by Hyppolyta recalling to Oberon the wide catastrophic effects the quarrels of Heaven cause simple mortals on earth, natural environments, farmland and even their fun time:

But with thy brawls thou has disturbed our sport.
Therefore the winds, piping to us in vain,
As in revenge, have sucked up from the sea
Contagious fogs; which falling in the land



Hath every pelting river made so proud
That they have overborne their continents.
The ox hath therefore stretched his yoke in vain,
The ploughman lost his sweat, and the green corn
Hath rotted ere his youth attained a beard;
The fold stands empty in the drowned field,
And crows are fatted with the murrion flock;
The nine men's morris is filled up with mud,
And the quaint mazes in the wanton green
For lack of tread are undistinguishable.

Some of this is literaria from Shakespeare's many classical sources. Some of it, though, does hit home to those who have studied the period, especially aware of the wave of Plague in and around London in 1593.

More specifically, political deaths were in the air in 1595 when the play was first staged. These deaths touched the playwright and actors:

Threats against French, Dutch and Belgian immigrants had been pasted or nailed on the streets. On 5 May [1593] a bitterly xenophobic poem of fifty-three lines had been placed on the walls of the Dutch churchyard. It had been signed "Tamburlaine." Not unnaturally, perhaps, these attacks were considered to be the work of professional writers ... [who] were to be arrested and examined ... One of the first arrested was the author of *The Spanish Tragedy*, Thomas Kyd, who was duly put to the torture. He named Christopher Marlowe himself ... Ten days later [Marlowe] was dead, stabbed through the eye as a result of an apparent brawl in Deptford. Kyd himself died in the following year.

It is hard to overestimate the impact of these events on the fraternity of the players ... Continued on page 23

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Zvi A. Sesling, Poet Laureate of Brookline, MA., 2017-2020, has published poetry and flash fiction nationally and internationally. He won First Prize in the Reuben Rose International Poetry Competition held in Israel and was featured at the 2010 and 2019 Jewish Poetry Festivals. He edited *Muddy River Poetry Review* and edits *10x10 Flash Fiction*. He reviews for *The Boston Small Press and Poetry Scene*. He is a five-time poetry Pushcart Prize nominee. His flash fiction story also nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Sesling authored the poetry books *Simple Game* and *Ghosts of Fenway, Baseball Poems; War Zones* which was nominated for the Mass Center for the Book Poetry Award, *The Lynching of Leo Frank, Jewish Poems* which was nominated for both the National Jewish Poetry Book Award and the Mass Center for the Book Poetry Award, *Fire Tongue*, and *King of the Jungle*, both nominated for the Massachusetts Poetry Book Award. He has two poetry chapbooks, *Love Poems from Hell* and *Across Stones of Bad Dreams*. His flash fiction books are *Wheels, Secret Behind The Gate* and *Forty Stories* (with Paul Beckman). A Vietnam Era Navy Veteran, he has a BS in Journalism from Boston University and a JD from Suffolk University Law School. Sesling taught at Suffolk University, Emerson College and Boston University. He lives in Chestnut Hill, MA with his wife Susan J. Dechter.



The Cell

I visited the place where my father was
a prisoner, where the British had taken
over a Crusader castle in Acco to hold the Jews
they thought were resisting the king's rule.
My sister, seven years older, recalls seeing
him behind the bars now polished like a
pistol barrel, he then like an animal in a zoo
the cell now sterile, whitewashed and cleansed
of the past: the dirt, the straw on the floor, the
food served on a metal tray, no dishes and while
he sat there reading the classics, the resistance
went on, humpty dumpty against all the king's men.

— Zvi A. Sesling
Photo by Susan J. Dechter

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

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Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 9

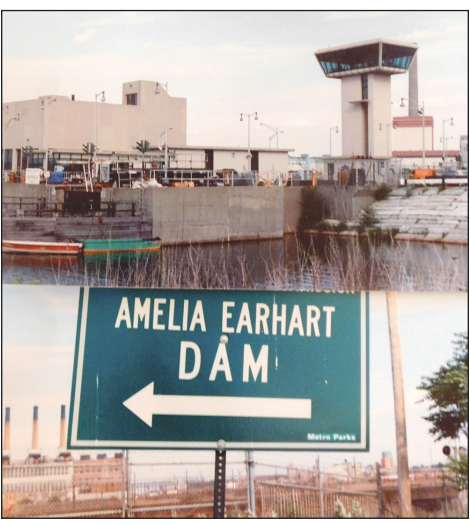
Boston line, had over a dozen brick-making companies.

One hundred and nine years ago, in 1917, designs were drawn up for a ship to be built on the Mystic River in Somerville. This was the same site as the Blessing of the Bay’s launching almost three centuries earlier. The idea was to revive the shipbuilding industry on the Mystic, which had died out in Medford 47 years earlier. The timing was off, and financing was difficult because of World War I.

The building of the “Tremont,” as she was christened, dragged on for three years. The 204-foot, four-masted trade schooner was capable of carrying 1,600 tons. The day she was launched was declared a children’s holiday from school in Somerville and Medford. She took to the waters under the view of over 5,000 excited onlookers. Tremont was the second and last trade vessel ever built in Somerville. This was almost three centuries after her sister, the Blessing.

The shipbuilding revival was not to be. Wooden ships and iron men became a thing of the past. From 1926 to 1927,

the marsh and meadows became the home of two industrial giants, First National Stores and the Ford Motor Company Assembly Plant, for approximately forty years, along with a handful of other smaller companies. This industrial site became the Assembly Square Mall in 1981. Sixteen years later, in 1997, the area experienced a sharp decline. After this up-and-down history, Assembly Square has been revived once again. Today Somerville’s ancient shore has become a booming, small metropolis ... a true Blessing of the Bay!



Off The Shelf

CONT. FROM PG 22

It was a series of shocking events, of which no one could see the outcome. The uncertainty and anxiety were intense, the fearfulness rendered even worse by the prevalence of the plague and the closure of the theatres. [Peter Ackroyd, *Shakespeare: The Biography*, Doubleday, New York, 2005, 202]

In the congenial disguise of the witty mechanicals, staging the play within a play, to be performed at the Theseus’ and Hyppolyta’s nuptials, artistic fear of violent censorship is playfully evoked in an arresting question as to the fright Snug as Lion might give the ladies in the audience: “and that were enough to hang us all.” The fear of the players being hanged, and elaborate measures in the way of apologetic addenda to the play’s script in order to avoid scaring the audience, are repeated in this scene and in Act 3 Scene 2. There the players reconvene and Bottom is transformed. Indeed, the contemporary audience could gather nuances of much more immediate danger than we might pick up on these 430+ years later, inclined as we are to enjoy the comical elements as being “pure.” Especially in

the repetition of the “hanging” notion, we can detect these elements might not have been so innocently written order claimed. The gallows especially fixates Bottom, underscoring the less than evident terror of the transformation he is to undergo.

George Bernard Shaw famously said, “Hamlet’s experience simply could not have happened to a plumber.” The range of Shakespeare’s characters, in different registers of society, high and low, would challenge the witty Shaw observation. A vital and guiding world beyond, be it the ghost of a slain king, or the benighted queen of the woodland fairies, is indeed concerned with and apt to reveal itself to prince and “rude mechanical” alike. It is a truth so intimate, so tailored, so personal. Only the centuries-long upholding of a genuine companion to the imagination in its great, generous range could possibly wit-ness to the experience’s validity, up and down the social scales. Why is Shakespeare still so widely appreciated? Because the mirrors he used to reveal the strangest yet most persistent missteps of our lives are still powerfully at work, reflect-

ing our world, with its willful, dark, dangerous sometimes absurd center stage, as well as its shrugging yet willing survivors closer to the general, vulnerable, yet all the more humored and fluent proverbial bottom of the barrel.

To note in this year’s Commonwealth Shakespeare Company’s production, eight of the principle characters will be played by four actors doing double duty, underscoring the “mirroring” aspect of the Athens and woodland scenarios in the play. De’lon Grant will embody Theseus and Oberon; Nora Eschenheimer doubles as Hyppolyta/Titania; Nick Cearly: Puck/Philostrate; and Brook Reeves as Egeus and Starveling; with Meghan Carey as Hermia; Annika Burley playing Helena; Jaime José Hernández as Lysander and Jack Greenberg as Demetrius.

Presentations of Shakespeare on the Common are free and open to the public. Staged at the Parkman Bandstand on the Boston Common, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* runs from July 22 to August 9. For more information, specific dates and times, chair rentals, etc., visit <https://commonshakes.org/production/dream26/>

Newstalk

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you covered. Call **Natasha Naim** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317, to learn more about the program and to sign up.

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

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

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

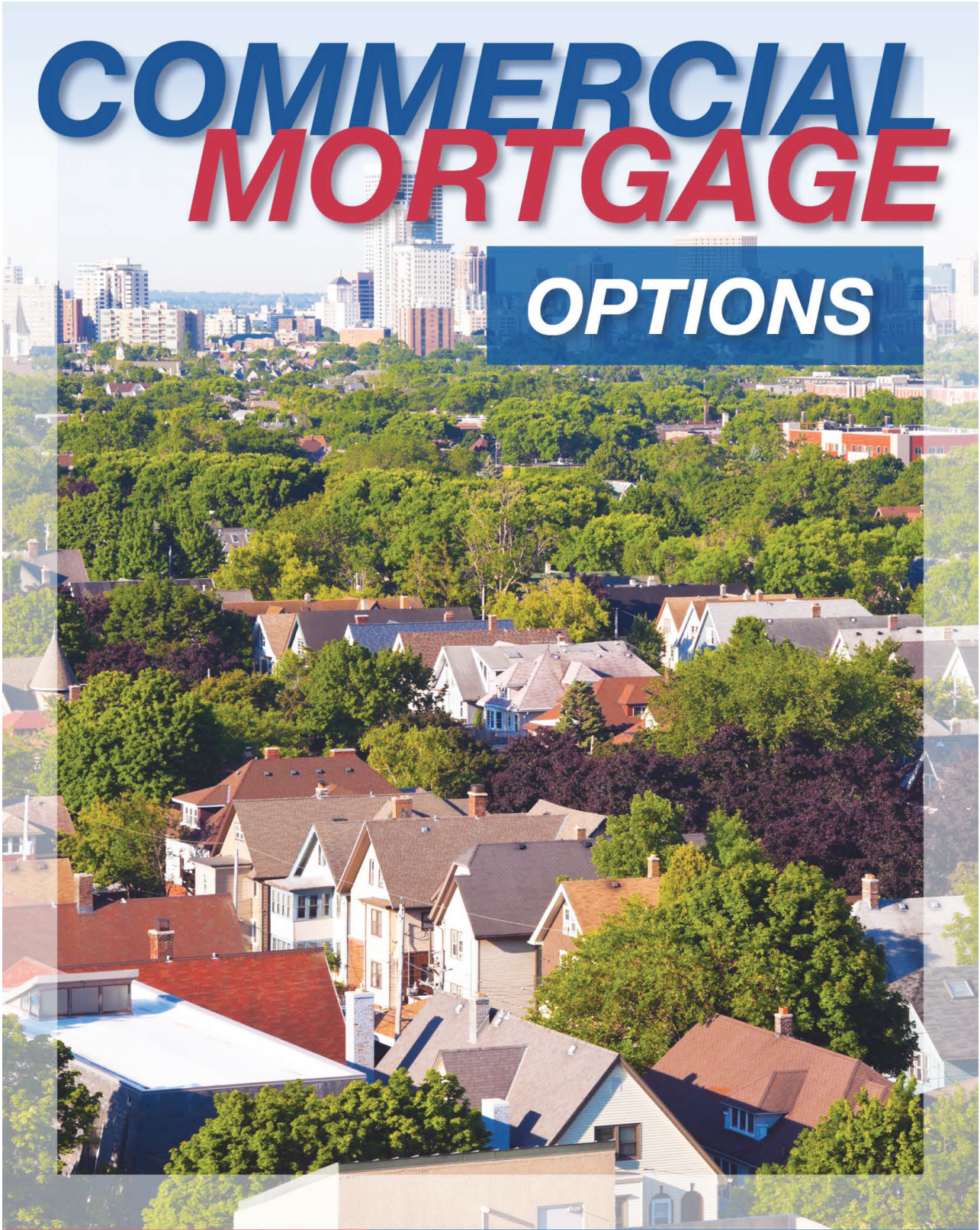
marketspread.com/market/37299/assembly-row-farmers-market/.

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

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our **Arts Editor, Doug Holder**,

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

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