



Inside:



Old Wives' Tales
page 3



ArtBeat 2025
pages 12-13



Dancing at the COA
page 15

Court hearing held on sanctuary cities' challenge to funding threats



Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez held a press briefing outside the federal courthouse last week with updates on their preliminary injunction filing.

Two sanctuary cities in Massachusetts – Somerville and Chelsea – had their first hearing in federal court on Thursday, July 17, on the filing of a preliminary injunction asking a federal court to block the Trump Administration's attempts to strip them of federal funding because they refuse to be coerced into participating in the Administration's mass deportation efforts.

Represented by Lawyers for Civil Rights, the cities filed a motion for a preliminary injunction on June 3, closely following a formal notice issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), designating both cities as jurisdictions that must change their policies "immediately" or face consequences.

"The President cannot use federal funding as a weapon to force local governments to undermine public safety and participate in

Continued on page 4

History in the Baking: Chef Juan G. Perez

By Norah Doyle



Posto executive chef Juan G. Perez is considered to be among the top pizza chefs worldwide. — Photo by Duvan Rojas

Juan G. Perez, executive chef of Somerville restaurant Posto, has been named one of the top 100 pizza chefs in the world.

Somerville residents and visitors alike adore Posto, ranking the restaurant 4 out of 5 stars on most popular review sites, but how much do they know about the man behind the pizza?

The Best Pizza Awards is an online ranking dedicated to highlighting the craftsmanship and innovation of pizza chefs worldwide, powered by The Best Chef Awards.

Perez has placed 54th in The Best Pizza Award's 2025 Top 100 Pizza Chefs in the World, the only pizza chef in New England on the list. With such an accomplishment, it's hard not to

wonder how this local chef baked his way to global recognition.

Perez didn't start his cooking journey in Boston. He was born and raised in Colombia and moved to Boston when he was just 19 years old.

"I grew up surrounded by food, family, and a culture that values sharing meals. That environment planted the early seeds for my love of cooking," said Perez.

When Perez first arrived in Boston, he worked as a dishwasher at California Pizza Kitchen. While there, he found himself wondering how such a simple dish like pizza could be so expensive and technical. Perez began learning about and observing the craft of pizza making.

"One day, someone didn't show up to work. The kitchen manager had

Continued on page 23

Bring business back to your business!

Reach out to local customers who want to support local businesses. We can help you do that with our **bring back business ad specials.**

email **Bobbie** to learn about this advertising special!

bobbie@thesomervilletimes.com

Bay State Skating School

LEARN TO SKATE CLASSES for Recreational • Figure • Hockey Skating Skills



Over 50 Years Experience Children (4-18 years)



The safety of our customers and staff is our #1 priority! Cambridge, Brookline, Cleveland Circle, Medford, Newton-Brighton, Quincy, Somerville, Waltham, West Roxbury, Weymouth

781-890-8480 • www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org



T.J. SILLARI, INC.

Over 50 Years Experience

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

Residential - Industrial - Commercial

625-9877

Proud to be a Somerville resident

Master Plmb. Lic. #6106



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

July is **Disability Pride Month**, a time to celebrate the diversity, strength, and achievements of individuals with disabilities. On **Thursday, July 24, 5 p.m.**, 93 Highland Ave., join **Mayor Ballantyne, City Council members, the SPCD, and RSJ** to raise the **Disability Pride flag** above Somerville's **City Hall**. Families are encouraged to join in to hoist the flag together. For more information, visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/news/honoring-disability-pride-month-somerville>.

Vintage, Vinyl & Art Night Market takes place this **Friday, July 25, 5 – 10 p.m.**, **Crystal Ballroom**, Davis Square. Join them for a summer night market packed with style, sound, and serious finds. Over 25 vendors will be bringing the best in vintage fashion, original artwork, rare vinyl, and more – plus **DJ Studebaker Hawk** will be spinning all night. No entry fee, ever. Just good music, good people, and great stuff to discover.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to our good friend **Jimmy Del Ponte**. Many in Somerville and beyond look forward to his column here each week. 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 **Alice Galvin, Christine Lyons, Tommy Mcdaid, Frank Tello Jr., Carol Powers, Joan Campo McKenna, Stephanie Ann**, *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of July 23 – July 29 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday July 23	Sunny	83°/67°	5%	2%	SW 10 mph
Thursday July 24	Partly Cloudy	90°/74°	4%	1%	SW 14 mph
Friday July 25	Sunny	95°/73°	22%	13%	SW 11 mph
Saturday July 26	Partly Cloudy	80°/65°	22%	11%	NE 9 mph
Sunday July 27	Cloudy	80°/68°	23%	11%	SE 11 mph
Monday July 28	Partly Cloudy	86°/69°	25%	12%	S 11 mph
Tuesday July 29	Partly Cloudy	83°/66°	24%	14%	ESE 11 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: *Who is a good Jew?*

Slaw says:

The ADL is a hate group that constantly defames Palestinians, Muslims, and those in solidarity with them, while literally defending siege heils. The ADL is also known for labeling Jews who don't support genocide as "self hating Jews." The ADL is a propaganda organ for a foreign state committing genocide, not a defender of American Jews.

This article is profoundly ironic and shameful.

"he ADL, now being "bad Jews" for saying that calls for the eradication of the Jewish state are antisemitic (but not criticisms of Israeli policy) cannot be permitted to say what antisemitism is."

The ADL supports, and pushes the adoption of at public and private institutions, the IHRA definition of Antisemitism which explicitly equates criticism of Israel with antisemitism. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/may/15/adl-lobby-antisemitism-definition> This is is outright deceptive.

This was put in quotes but wasn't said: "sucking the blood of the planet and destroying it" Equating Jews with that would be antisemitic but no one said that. Claiming they did is blatant slander or shall we say, 'defamation'?

Daniel M Kimmel says:

There is nothing antisemitic about criticizing the Israeli government. Israelis do it all the time.

There IS something antisemitic when declaring the Jewish state itself has no right to exist. The comments attacking the ADL rather prove the original author's point.

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

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138



@somervilletimes



www.facebook.com/
thesomervilletimes

Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

Editor – Jim Clark

Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner

Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Harry Kane, Jeffrey Shwom
and Cathleen Twardzik

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

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

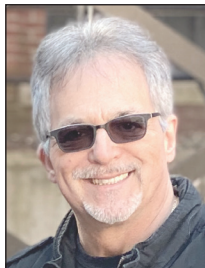
A proud member of the following newspaper organizations:



Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

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

Old wives' tales?



I grew up in Somerville with second-generation Italian parents. My friends were of many different ethnicities, and most of our grandparents were, as they said, "Off the boat," a term I never liked.

We were pretty close to our grandparents, both location-wise and emotionally. My mother could speak Italian, but my dad was fluent. Dad was the first one in the family to be born in America, shortly after the family arrived. I heard a lot of strange stories about customs, traditions, and superstitions.

Whenever I got a new car, my Aunt Olga would put quarters under the floor mats. This is one of the traditions or old wives' tales that have been passed down.

Some more Italian beliefs are never put shoes on a table, never throw away bread

or olive oil, never give an odd amount of roses, never put hats on the bed, and always put money in a purse if it's a gift. Whoever finds a baby's first tooth has to buy the first pair of walking shoes. And the Grand No-no of them all, hanging red peppers on your door to protect the home, from Malocchio, or the curse and the evil eye.

I asked my Somerville friends with Italian families to share some old wives' tales that they grew up with. Below is a blend of those memories.

Never put coats on a bed. Don't ever have birds as pets, and if a bird comes through your window, it means death.

It's bad luck to change the calendar to the new month before the first day.

If a fork falls on the kitchen floor, a lady will come to visit. If a spoon falls, it means a man will visit. Biting your hand shows disapproval, along with the usual universal hand signs, and if you spill salt, you have to



toss some over your left shoulder.

Never put the bread on the table, good side down. A friend's aunt would put an extra pair of comfortable shoes in the basket for them to change into in Heaven. Don't pass a baby over the table. Sprinkle salt on the doorway before entering a new home. Never pick up a new car on a Friday. Yes, can't have pictures of birds on playing cards or pictures, we call it red sauce, never gravy, and garlic everywhere!

To wrap it up, this is from a lady I graduated High school with: "My nonno hung a horseshoe over the door and hung a string of garlic to keep away the evil eye. Thanks to my pisans for chiming in.

Auntie Olga put the quarters under the mats of our 2003 SUV when we bought it new. My kids, their friends, my aunts, and three different bands were all chauffeured

around in that SUV for 16 years. We put almost 200,000 miles on it, and thank God we were kept safe.

Since Auntie isn't around anymore, her daughter, my cousin Carol, will do the honors and place the quarters under the mats of my son's first car.

Do I believe in old wives tales? Some of them. One piece of folklore I don't mess with is the aforementioned Malocchio (mal-bad, occhio-eye), or the evil eye. It's the most serious of all Italian customs and curses that can cause physical pain and misfortune. I have a disturbing story about a real Italian curse that actually happened. If I get the guts, I'll share it another time. Meanwhile, I'm going to hang some fresh garlic on the front door because I used what was there for sauce last Sunday.



Are You Sitting On A Fortune?

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

617-764-4342

699 Broadway Ave, Somerville, MA 02144





LA POSADA RESTAURANT & TEQUILA BAR

617-776-2049

505 Medford St, Somerville, MA 02145

laposadasomerville




• Craft margaritas • Taco Tuesday special • Mexican cuisine

Somerville Police Dept Crime Log July 8 – 14

Residential Breaking and Entering

25040107: On 7/10/25 at approximately 11:06 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Grove St. for a report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, the officer spoke with the victim, who stated she left her home and when she returned, noticed the back door ajar and items in the bathroom were displaced. The victim also reported that cash was stolen.

Residential Breaking and Entering

25040457: On 7/12/25 at approximately 4:58 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Aberdeen St. for a report of a suspicious person. Upon arrival, officers spoke with a neighbor who stated he observed a male party entering a property that is under construction, then leaving in a vehicle full of items. Officers canvassed the area, located the vehicle, and identified the suspect.

Arrest

25040783: On 7/13/25 at approximately 11:28 a.m., Somerville Police responded to Washington St. for a report of a stabbing. Upon arrival, officers observed a male party suffering from a non-life-threatening stab wound to his stomach. He stated he got into an altercation with a male party, then noticed he was stabbed. The male suspect fled the area in a vehicle and later came into the station, where he was placed under arrest.

Assault

25041165: On 7/14/25 at approximately 8:27 p.m., Somerville Police took a report from a male party involving a road rage incident. He stated that around 2:10 a.m., he got involved in a traffic altercation at a parking lot on McGrath Hwy. During the altercation, a passenger from the other vehicle slammed her car door against the victim's car then punched him.

Other Crimes: 1 MV vandalism + 2 MV thefts + 2 Bike thefts + 4 Package thefts + 4 Car breaks

— Somerville Police Department



Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

Text-A-Tip

Text a Tip to the SPD from anywhere!

- 100% completely anonymous • Easy and secure
- Text messages can be sent from anywhere at any time

Simply text the phone number "TIP411" (847411) and put "617spd" at the beginning of your text message. If your message requires an emergency response PLEASE DO NOT TEXT and instead call 9-1-1.

Powered by:



Court hearing held on sanctuary cities' challenge to funding threats

CONT. FROM PG 1

his mass deportation efforts," said Oren Sellstrom, Litigation Director of Lawyers for Civil Rights. "By today's preliminary injunction motion, we seek to protect sanctuary and welcoming cities, so they can continue to make public safety decisions that are in the best interests of their residents."

"Today's hearing was an important step, and I will continue to stand up for our community, for our rights, our safety, and our shared wellbeing," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "When critical funding is at risk by unlawful means, it's not just about dollars, it's about the services, support, and the future our residents deserve, as well as the fundamental, constitutional rights of all."

"Through this injunction, we're asking the court to stop unlawful threats before

they do more harm, and not just to our city budgets, but to the lives of the people who call Chelsea home," said Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez. "This hearing is a potential turning point in our fight to protect the values and safety of our community."

About the lawsuit

The cities filed their lawsuit with the pro bono support of Lawyers for Civil Rights in February 2025, asserting that the Administration's heavy-handed tactics – threatening to "de-fund" and prosecute them for failing to bend to the President's will – violate their Constitutional rights. The June 3 motion asks the court to enjoin any such attempts while the lawsuit proceeds.

Somerville and Chelsea have identified as welcoming/sanctuary cities since 1987 and 2007, respectively, recognizing

that victims and witnesses are less likely to report crimes if they know that local police are working in concert with federal immigration authorities. By avoiding that entanglement, sanctuary cities improve public safety and quality of life not just for immigrant residents, but for all residents and community members.

Since his inauguration, President Trump has issued a series of Executive Orders threatening to cut off federal funds to sanctuary cities; the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has warned of criminal and civil prosecutions against them while purporting to freeze all DOJ funding; and the Department of Transportation (DOT) has said it will de-prioritize transportation funding to sanctuary cities, among other actions taken by the Administration. Most recently, on May 29, 2025, DHS published

a list of jurisdictions, including Chelsea and Somerville, that it claims "obstruct the enforcement of Federal immigration laws" and warned that they must "immediately review and revise their policies" or face consequences.

Somerville received approximately \$19.4 million in federal funds to support a variety of community and public safety services in fiscal year 2024, including roadway safety initiatives, homelessness prevention services, and efforts to address and reduce youth tobacco usage and alcohol consumption. During that same fiscal year, Chelsea received approximately \$14.5 million in federal funding, including for education and a downtown reconstruction project.

The case is City of Chelsea and City of Somerville v. Trump et al., 1:25-cv-10442 (D. Mass.).

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.

Somerville Jews for Willie

We write as a group of Jewish Somerville residents who are alarmed by the way that support for Palestinian lives has been falsely conflated in public discourse with antisemitism. We also write specifically as Jewish residents who have been excited, inspired, and impressed by At-Large Councilor Willie Burnley Jr's campaign for Mayor of Somerville.

We have known Willie for many years in different capacities; some of us as fellow candidates for public office, some as coworkers, some as fellow organizers in IfNotNow, Jewish Voice for Peace, and other movements for justice, and many as friends. We have all been supported by Willie as constituents, and grown as people through knowing him.

Each of us carries our Jewish histories with us, through lessons that we were raised with, stories of our ancestors escaping pogroms, family members who did not make it through the Shoah, and antisemitism that we have experienced firsthand. We take seriously the real and legitimate threat of antisemitism. We know Willie takes it seriously, too, from our conversations with him and how he has acted on his steadfast commitment to safety for all people. Willie has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with us at protests that tie Jewish safety to the safety of all people, including Palestinians. In his time as a journalist, Willie covered the 2017 vandalism of the Holocaust Memorial and why it is essential for all

people to stand against antisemitism [1]. He also helped chase actual neo-Nazis [2] out of Boston in 2019 after they did a series of Sieg Heils, as captured by a *Boston Herald* photographer.

Despite Willie's lifetime of fighting for social, economic, and racial justice, there are those who seek to smear him for speaking out against the Israel's ongoing genocide of Palestinians and the institutions that defend it. We know that conflation of antisemitism and anti-Zionism is a dangerous distraction. Unfortunately, many institutions still weaponize antisemitism to include any criticism of the state of Israel. Recently, the National Educators Association (NEA), the largest teachers union in the country, voted to not use, endorse, or publicize materials from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) for this very reason. Much of the ADL's day-to-day functions seems to be to provide cover for human rights abuses against Palestinians and excuse the actions of right-wing antisemites like President Trump so long as they are sufficiently pro-Israel. We applaud this decision by the NEA; an organization that excuses far-right fascists like Elon Musk for performing Sieg Heils [3] is not representative of our values and does not take issues of bigotry seriously.

Our taxes fund the Israeli war machine currently starving, shooting, and bombing Palestinian men, women, children, and ba-

bies. We believe that governments at every level must address their complicity in this tragedy. We were proud to support the Somerville City Council's resolution for a ceasefire in January 2024 [4], just as we are proud to support the ongoing efforts by Somerville for Palestine [5] to direct local leaders to cut ties with companies invested in human rights violations. Economic divestment was a key element in the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa, and we support the same tactic to dismantle modern apartheid in Israel.

We believe all Somerville residents should be free from hate, and that our community is strongest when we build together, through having honest conversations about how best to live our values. Those honest conversations are impossible to have if supporting the freedom and safety of Palestinians is treated as a form of racism instead of an act of tikkun olam, "repairing the world."

We believe in liberty, safety, and dignity for all people. We believe that, as Mayor, Willie Burnley Jr. will fight for these essential Somerville values. That is what we have witnessed him doing for many years, and that - along with his extensive platform for housing justice, support for local artists, and transparency - is why we support him now.

Signed,
Rebecca Miller

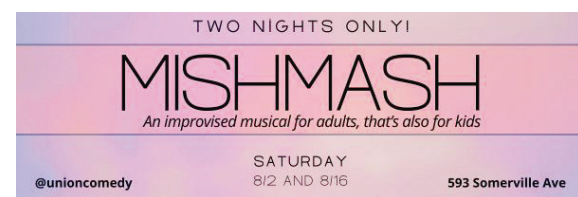
Ben Silverman
Ariel DiOrio
Amanda Zimmerman
Ryan Black
Sam Alterman
Dani Vernick
Miles Meth
Emily Isaac
Nicholas Wilton
Eve Seitchik
Gillian Daniels
Vika Zafrin
Maya Harel
Crystal M. Huff
Gabriel Colton
Naomi Roswell
Martha Schnee
Nora Bond
Matthew Taylor

Links:

- [1] <https://archive.attn.com/stories/18692/why-fighting-anti-semitism-goes-hand-hand-fighting-racism>
- [2] <https://www.bostonherald.com/2019/08/04/protesters-go-head-to-head-during-immigration-rally/>
- [3] https://www.bendthearc.us/adl_elon_musk_nazi_salute
- [4] <https://somervillema.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6492886&GUID=313B-D19E-B2A6-41FA-B6B2-3E827A-1C4A1F&FullText=1>
- [5] <https://linktr.ee/somervilleforpalestine>

Union Comedy Debuts MISHMASH

Union Comedy is thrilled to debut MISHMASH: an improvised musical, a bold, charming, and hilarious fully-improvised show for all ages. The theater's first show that's appropriate for everyone, from little kids to modest grown-ups. MISHMASH combines rich characters, live musical improv, and audience interaction to create a fully improvised musical, every single time. Guided by a narrator (and plenty of help from you in the crowd), the cast brings alive an entire world on the spot. Plot twists and original songs included. It's part musical, part fairy tale, part fever dream. All ages. All made up. Whether you're a kid, a theater nerd, or just someone looking to laugh, MISHMASH delivers big laughs, catchy choruses, and unforgettable plot twists. Show Dates: Saturday, August 2 at 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, August 16 at 4:00 PM
Location: Union Comedy, 593 Somerville Ave, Somerville, MA. Tickets and more information available at: <https://www.crowdwork.com/e/mishmash>



Senior Living with Outstanding Value



Center Communities of Brookline
Hebrew SeniorLife

617-363-8100 | www.centercommunities.org

Beacon Hill Roll Call



Volume 50 - Report No. 29 • July 14-18, 2025 • Copyright © 2025 Beacon Hill Roll Call. All Rights Reserved. By Bob Katzen

Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' and senators' votes on roll calls from the week of July 14-18.

REPRODUCTIVE AND TRANSGENDER CARE PROTECTIONS – THE SHIELD ACT (H 4271)

House 130-29, approved legislation, dubbed by sponsors as the Shield Act, that supporters say would strengthen health care protections in the Bay State. The bill is designed to fortify protections for people seeking and providing reproductive and transgender care. The Senate has already approved a different version of the proposal and a House-Senate conference committee will eventually hammer out a compromise version of the measure.

The measure would prohibit state agencies, employees and law enforcement from cooperating with investigations by other states or the federal government, into reproductive or gender affirming health care that is legally protected in Massachusetts. It also would restrict businesses that manage electronic health records from sharing patient data connected to these services.

Other provisions empower the Department of Public Health to remove drugs prescribed in connection with reproductive or gender affirming health care from the prescription monitoring program; prohibit the state's Center for Health Information and Analysis and the Health Connector from providing information to other entities, states or the federal government regarding legally protected health care activities in Massachusetts; forbid entities working with these agencies from using data collected to target patients or providers; protect attorneys licensed in Massachusetts from removal or discipline for advising or representing clients on the topics of reproductive or transgender health care services; and forbid insurance companies from discriminating against or penalizing nonprofits who offer reproductive and gender affirming health care services.

"As the Trump Administration and Republicans across the country continue to target individuals for exercising their right to make their own health care decisions in consultation with their doctor, this legislation is representative of the House's commitment to preserving that fundamental right," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "The Shield Act builds on the commonwealth's proud history of preserving and expanding access to reproductive and gender-affirming care by establishing new safeguards around patient data and by protecting health care professionals who provide that vital care."

"When patients and doctors engage in legal healthcare

activities here in Massachusetts, they will have the peace of mind that their personal information will remain private and that their constitutional rights remain protected rights," said Rep. Michael Day (D-Stoneham), House Chair of the Committee on the Judiciary. "Massachusetts will always protect and preserve the constitutional and civil rights of our people to make their own health-care decisions, especially in the face of political crusades of the federal government and the misguided efforts of other states seeking to interfere with those decisions made here."

"Those who voted in favor of [the bill] have not only encouraged Massachusetts physicians to break abortion laws in other states but have approved protecting their illegal activities as well," said Myrna Maloney Flynn President of Mass Citizens for Life which opposed the measure. "Going forward, Massachusetts abortionists who prescribe mifepristone to women in areas where it is outlawed have more ways to hide their crimes and conceal their identities. The bill goes far beyond protecting unethical doctors though. It all but assures the inability to hold accountable those physicians whose actions result in serious injuries to women who consume the abortion pill without any medical oversight. We look forward to the likely federal response in the coming weeks."

"No Massachusetts resident, through the administration of so-called telehealth abortions or through the shipment of mifepristone to other states, has the right to impede the laws of those states," said bill opponent Catholic Action League Executive Director C.J. Doyle. "By prohibiting Massachusetts law enforcement from cooperating with federal and out of state authorities, and by authorizing Massachusetts residents and officials to ignore subpoenas, refuse to execute warrants and reject records requests, this legislation essentially immunizes Bay State residents from the consequences of breaking the laws of other states."

Doyle continued, "It represents a repudiation of both the letter and the spirit of the 'full faith and credit' clause of the U.S. Constitution. This divisive and supremacist measure, aimed at nullifying laws which Bay State legislators find objectionable, creates a dangerous precedent and establishes a slippery slope. Do other states then retaliate by refusing to extradite criminals to Massachusetts? Do states, with differing positions on abortion and gender dysphoria end up imposing sanctions and boycotts upon one another?"

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes

Rep. Mike Connolly Yes

Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes

EXPAND PRIVACY PROTECTION (H 4271)

House 30-129, rejected an amendment that would expand current law which provides privacy protection for people receiving reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care. The amendment would expand current law by also protecting the privacy of the "refusal by any person to obtain reproductive health care services, gender-affirming health care services or any other preventative medical care on behalf of themselves or their minor children."

"I supported [the amendment] because the original bill ... while vital for safeguarding sensitive medical information, primarily focused its privacy protections on the provision of reproductive and gender-affirming health-care services," said amendment sponsor Rep. Mike Soter (R-Bellingham). "To truly ensure equitable and comprehensive medical privacy for all residents in the commonwealth, this amendment extends those same robust protections to individuals who make deeply personal decisions to refuse reproductive health care services, gender-affirming health care services or any other preventative medical care for themselves or their minor children. This amendment is not about allowing people to refuse this care for their children, it is about addressing the inconsistency where stronger privacy safeguards were offered for some medical information but not for others, solely based on the type of care involved."

"I opposed this amendment because it undercuts the very protections the bill seeks to amplify and is contrary to our current consent laws for abortions for minors," said Rep. Adrienne Ramos (D-North Andover). "This amendment creates a proactive right of a parent to refuse a broad spectrum of care for their minor children, without exceptions, which means through age 18. It carves out no language to allow courts to weigh in if the parents are not married or are separated. In essence, it gives one parent the ability to interrupt or prevent even common reproductive care such as birth control and gender-affirming care such as hormones. It was an underhanded attempt by Republicans to take control over the bodily decisions of others and could not be condoned as the privacy protecting amendment it was portrayed to be."

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber No

Rep. Mike Connolly No

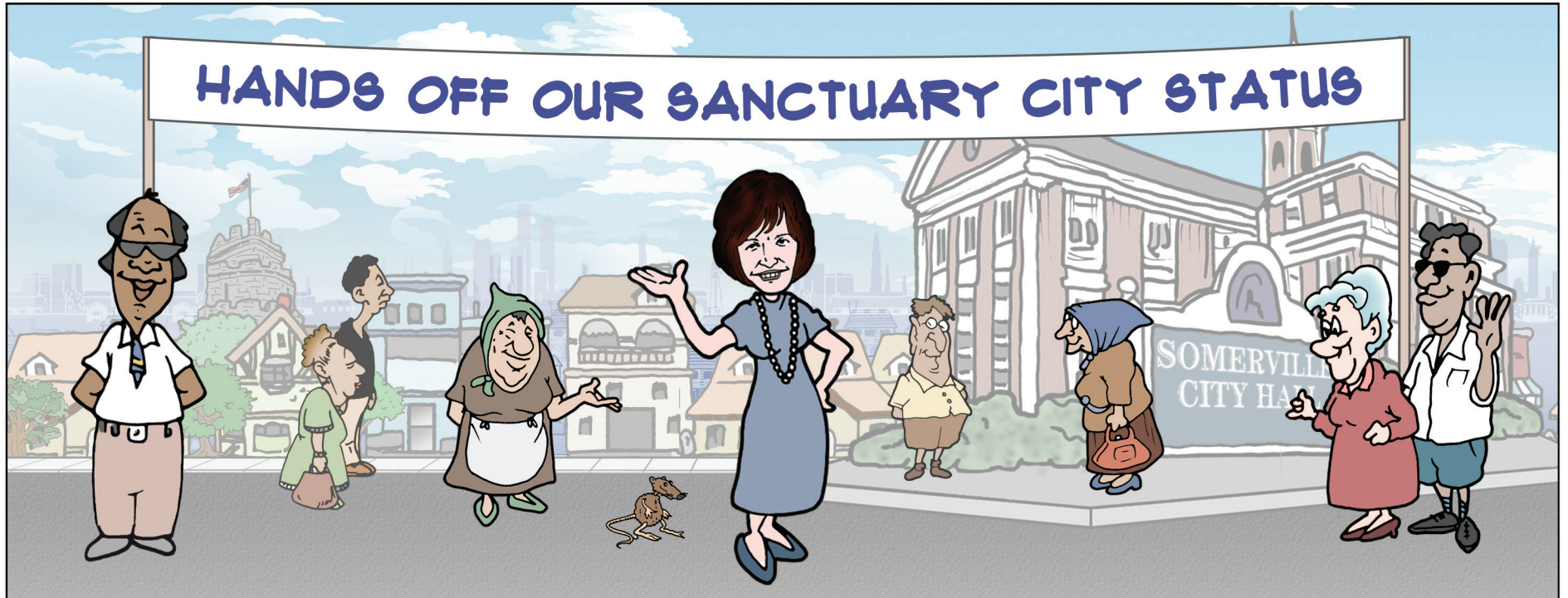
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven No

Continued on page 16

COMMENTARY

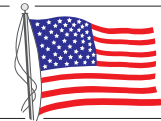
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Local mayors are standing up for their Sanctuary City rights.

Our View Of The Times



For some, it's a clear-cut case of following the law or breaking the law. For others, human compassion overrides these concerns, and there seems to be no other way than to aid and protect those who are in the most need of help.

The sanctuary city issue has come to a head with the federal government's new policy of these cities going along with its mass deportation efforts or else lose fed-

eral funding.

Recently, the mayors of both Chelsea and Somerville filed a preliminary injunction to curtail this policy, on the grounds that it violates the city's Constitutional rights.

It's not as if we hadn't had enough divisive rhetoric thrust upon us during the recent political campaigns. Now it seems as though the divisions just keep widening as issues such as this one keep tensions

and suspicions at never-before-seen levels of intensity.

Reasonable fears exist among those who would prefer not to take the risks that go along with letting undocumented immigrants settle in the community. Most of us want to live peaceful and secure lives without the need to look over our shoulders or wonder who among those we pass on the street may or may not be worthy of our trust.

On the other hand, a case can be made for having faith and putting ourselves on the line for the sake of humanitarian generosity and kindness. After all, America has always been a refuge for those seeking safety and a chance at prosperity.

The steadfast resolve of our local leaders is noteworthy. However one feels about the issue, their dedication to the human factor must be applauded.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Erika Uytterhoeven, Justin Klekota, Peter Mcisaac, Joanne Tibbetts, and Gail Stoico 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.

High heat and humidity are expected during the summer; these weather conditions can cause heat illness if precautions are not taken. Visit www.somervillema.gov/keepcool for heat safety tips, which are also available in multiple languages, and more ways to keep cool in and around Somerville this summer.

SomerMovie Fest has returned. The movies begin at dusk, and showtimes are approximate. Arrive early to grab a good spot, get comfortable, and enjoy the summer evening with neighbors and friends. This week's movie is *Lion King* (2019) on Thursday, July 24, at approximately 8:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Park Softball Field, 290 Washington St. For more information, please visit www.somervillema.gov/moviefest.

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 you 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!

Volunteers Wanted: The Holly Simione Campaign for Somerville City Council

At Large is holding neighborhood door knocking on Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., on July 26, July 27, August 2, and August 3. You can go and be teamed up with a campaign volunteer, or bring a friend and knock on your own neighborhood. Direct and personal contact is the best way to get Holly's message of change and reform-minded good government directly to the voting electorate. There are also ongoing phone banks during the week. Contact the Simone Campaign at (617) 684- 5672, or hollyforsomerville@gmail.com for more information and to get involved.

Continued on page 21

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#981

1. What is a giga (roller) coaster?
2. Bonnie Franklin played a mom on what TV series?
3. Who played Ron Burgundy in the film *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy*?
4. On the show *Cheers* what did Sam Malone carry with him for good luck and remind him not to drink?
5. What Beatles song did Joe Cocker have a hit with?
6. In golf, who was first native-born American to win the British Open?
7. What battle marked the end of the Napoleonic Wars?
8. In horse racing what is the bet called when you bet the finish of 1st, 2nd and 3rd, place in exact order?
9. What band was Michael Stipe the singer of?
10. What kind of animal is a Komodo dragon?
11. What is a Cabbage White?
12. What musician played all 27 instruments on his debut album?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Sleeping through summer is called "estivation."
2. A group of hippos is called a "bloat."

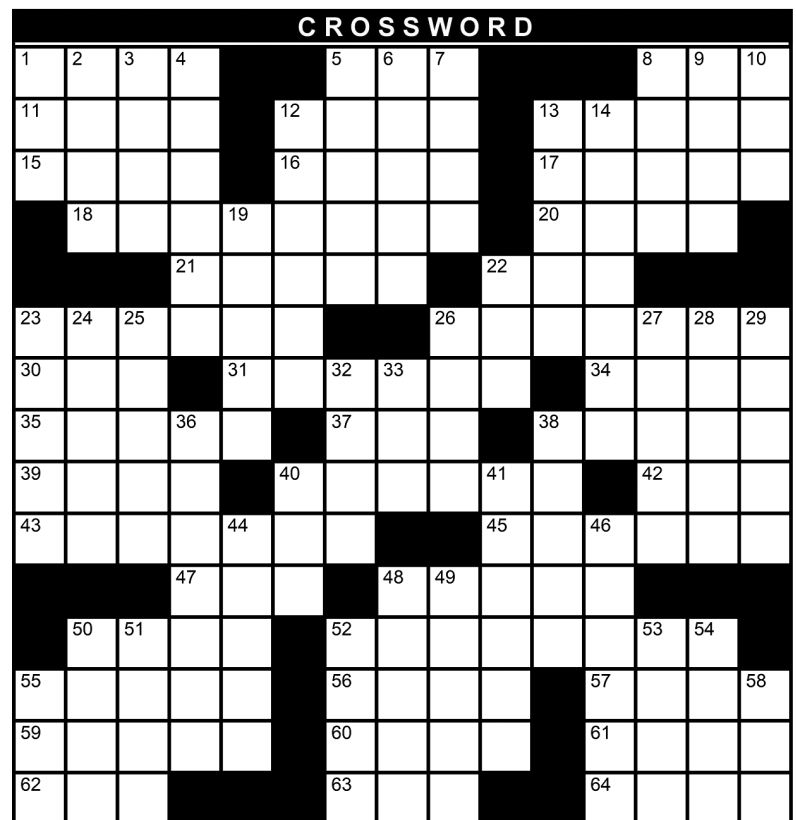
STATEPOINT CROSSWORD IN THE KITCHEN

ACROSS

1. Basilica feature
5. Cameron, to friends
8. ____ and flow
11. One of the Bridges
12. Have the blues
13. Op-ed piece
15. Blondie's hit "____ Me"
16. Certain something
17. Granny Smith
18. Broth-making container
20. Big name in mapmaking
21. Inexperienced
22. Group of dishes or pots
23. Deprived of ovaries
26. Medusae
30. Got an Oscar, e.g.
31. Kind of license
34. Crescent
35. Description for twins
37. "____ the season!"
38. Orthodox Judaism adherent
39. Class roster item
40. Between lights and action
42. Source of pork
43. Shredding devices
45. Bear-like
47. Florida key
48. French farewell
50. Physicist Niels ____
52. Kitchen hand protector (2 words)
55. Holey confection
56. Track event
57. ____ of the trade, sing.
59. 1st letter of Hebrew alphabet
60. Charlie Parker's nickname
61. Shrek or Fiona, e.g.
62. Word of compliance
63. Actor Stallone
64. Spice ____ or pot ____

DOWN

1. Beginning of the alphabet
2. Often go with carrots
3. NaCl
4. Speech at a funeral



SWITCH & GET \$25

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

Consumer Cellular

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR **888-804-0913**

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

© StatePoint Media

5. Flute alternative
6. Cook's garb
7. Veal or venison, e.g.
8. Sport spectator's TV acronym
9. Like white-headed eagle
10. "Farewell" to Birdie
12. Manage (2 words)
13. Like cornstalks
14. Flat-edged utensil
19. Flapjack alternative
22. Blink of an eye, abbr.
23. Swing, ____, swung
24. Like Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station location
25. Carl Jung's inner self
26. ____ en place
27. Seaweed-wrapped dish
28. Opposite of cation
29. Swamp plant
32. Estimated arrival times, acr.
33. Timothy, to friends
36. Popular condiment
38. Sheik's bevy
40. Alan Paton's novel "____, The Beloved Country"
41. Broken, e.g.
44. Third planet from the sun
46. Bachelor on "The Bachelorette," e.g.
48. Be of use
49. Condemn
50. Bantu language
51. Change for a five
52. Globes and eyeballs, e.g.
53. "Animal House" garb
54. Rigid necklace
55. Calendar square
58. Albanian money

Solution in the next edition of *The Somerville Times*.

Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



OBITUARY

Lillian J. DiFraia-Alves



DiFraia.

A graduate of Somerville High School, she received her hairdressing license and also served as a nanny in child care for many years.

Lillian is survived by her brothers; James DiFraia and his wife Patti of Somerville, Michael DiFraia and his wife Susan of Malden and her longtime partner and friend, John Fraser of Wellesley. She was the loving aunt of John DiFraia, Julia DiFraia and her fiancé Jeremy Applewhite and Elizabeth DiFraia, great-aunt of Hadley and Cole Applewhite. Also survived by many cousins.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Lillian's memory to St Catherine of Genoa Church, 185 Summer St, Somerville, MA 02143.

December 11, 1958 – July 14, 2025

Lillian J. DiFraia-Alves, of Wellesley; and a former long-time Somerville resident, passed away suddenly at home on July 14, 2025, she was 66. Born in Boston and raised in Somerville, Lillian was the cherished daughter of the late Lillian J. (Ivester) and Ralph

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

Somerville sharing updated Community Choice Electricity program rates

The City of Somerville is pleased to announce that the Community Choice Electricity (CCE) program continues to offer competitive and stable rates for residents and businesses. As of August 1, 2025, Eversource's basic residential electricity rate will increase to 14.884 cents per kilowatt-hour (¢/kWh), slightly higher than the city's default CCE Local Green rate of 14.840 ¢/kWh.

While Eversource updates its rates every six months, Somerville has secured its CCE rates through January 2028, offering long-term price stability and ongoing support for renewable energy. The Local Green rate, which includes additional investment in regional renewable energy sources, remains the program's default product. Participants may also choose from other CCE options, including the Somerville Basic, which offers the lowest price, and Somerville 100% Green, which offers the most renewable energy.

Through the CCE program, renters and homeowners alike can participate in the transition to cleaner energy. Enrollment is automatic for most electricity customers in Somerville, but anyone can check their enrollment status or opt in at cce.somervillema.gov. Participants can also switch between CCE products at any time with no fees or penalties.

For more information about how the program works and how to make the switch, visit cce.somervillema.gov.

Please note: While current CCE rates are lower than Eversource's, future savings are not guaranteed.



Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Hawaiian Staples

On a recent trip to Kauai, Hawaii, I purposely ventured out to try some traditional dishes of Hawaii.

My first stop was Pono Market in Kapaa. The market was a busy little hole in the wall packed with assorted drinks, and other premade, quick grab and go items. They also gave the option of combination plates which included a variety of main dishes like, fried chicken, kalua pork, chicken curry, pork lau lau, chicken lau lau, teri meatloaf, and side dishes like different types of poke, Korean tako, spicy ahi, Shoyu ahi, rice, potato mac salad, cucumber kimchee, and rice pudding, just to name a few.

The one item I was most interested to try was the pork lau lau. The lau lau is actually a Polynesian dish consisting of pork, salted butterfish, chicken, or even a combination of ingredients, wrapped in taro leaves, and steamed on

the stovetop. Originally, lau lau were cooked in an imu. The imu is an underground oven that is lined with hot stones and vegetation such as banana and taro leaves. The lau lau or the infamous kalua pig is then placed on the leaves along with more hot stones, covered with burlap and a tarp, then dirt is placed on top and around the edges of the tarp to seal in the heat.

It is important to make note the taro leaf is poisonous in its raw state due to its high levels of oxalates. It can cause severe pain and swelling of the throat, and may cause breathing difficulties. However, when cooked properly, there are many health benefits as described in the following link: <https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/taro-leaves>

I ordered the combination plate with pork lau lau, chicken lau lau, rice, potato mac salad, and for good measure, I ordered an additional side of cucumber

kimchee. Although not the fanciest of meals, I absolutely loved it! The pork cubes in the lau lau were tender, succulent nuggets of flavor. The taro leaves tasted like spinach on steroids.

The chicken lau lau was really flavorful, especially with the dark meat. The potato mac was basically dressed with mayonnaise, but enjoyable nonetheless. With all the rich food, the cucumber kimchee was a nice addition to cut through the richness of the dish. If you find yourself in Kauai, I highly recommend Pono Market for a true culinary experience of local food. <https://www.ponomarketkauai.com>

As an added bonus, making a trip to the Passion Bakery Cafe in Kapaa, for their malasadas, Portuguese fried donuts, are a must. On Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday you get can fresh, fried either coated in cinnamon sugar, or filled with a variety of flavors. I think they have 15 flavors to



choose from. The guava and lilikoi fillings are outstanding. It's definitely best to place your order the day before as they sell out fast. <https://www.passionbakeries.com>.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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



**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 6, 2025**, 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. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?meetingid=98541328615>
Webinar ID: 895 4132 8615

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:

- 7 Louisburg Place** 7-9 Louisburg Place LLC seeks to expand an existing nonconformity for the width of the main massing in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) district, which requires a Special Permit Finding.
- 14 McGrath Highway** Liquor Junction is proposing to expand their alcohol sales business in the Commercial Business (CB) district, which will require a Special Permit under SZO 4.3.13. 'Permitted Uses.'
- 14 McGrath Highway** Liquor Junction is proposing to increase the leasable floor area of their business's use to more than 10,000sqft, in the Commercial Business (CB) district requiring a Special Permit per SZO 9.1.7.c.i.
- 379 Somerville Ave** Brickstone Builders Corp seeks relief from requirements for one or more ground story commercial spaces fronting the primary façade on a Pedestrian street for 100% of the total width as required in SZO 2.4.5.b.ii.a. in the Mid Rise 5 (MR5) district, which requires a Hardship Variance.
- 379 Somerville Ave** Brickstone Builders Corp seeks relief from SZO 2.4.3.d.v. which states mechanical units, in this case a transformer, are prohibited in the frontage area in the Mid Rise 5 (MR5) district, which requires a Hardship Variance.
- 379 Somerville Ave** Brickstone Builders Corp seeks relief from ground story fenestration requirements of a 70% minimum on the primary façade, as required in SZO 4.3.8.d., which requires a Hardship Variance.
- 379 Somerville Ave** Brickstone Builders Corp seeks relief from the maximum front ground story setback allowed of 15 ft in the Mid Rise 5 (MR5) district as required by SZO 4.3.8.b, 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.

7/23/25 The Somerville Times



**City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, August 7, 2025**, 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. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planningboard@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?meetingid=83308743380>
Webinar ID: 833 0874 3380

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:

- 181 Pearl Street** 181 Pearl St. LLC. seeks to develop an Apartment Building in the MR3 zoning district, which requires Site Plan Approval.
- 181 Pearl Street** 181 Pearl St. LLC. seeks to establish a residential housing use in the MR3 zoning district, which requires a Special Permit.
- 199 Elm Street** Picker Construction seeks to develop a General Building in the MR4 zoning district, which requires Site Plan Approval.
- 199 Elm Street** Picker Construction seeks to include residential development in the MR4 zoning district, which requires a Special Permit.
- 199 Elm Street** Picker Construction seeks to construct a mechanical penthouse that exceeds the maximum height in the MR4 District, which requires a Special Permit.
- 59 Bow Street** 59-61 Bow Street LLC seeks a Major Amendment to a previously issued Site Plan Approval (P&Z 21-017) in the MR5 zoning district.
- 59 Bow Street** 59-61 Bow Street LLC seeks a Major Amendment to a previously issued Special Permit (P&Z 21-017) in the MR5 zoning district.
- 379 Somerville Ave** Brickstone Builders Corp proposes a Major Amendment to previously approved plans (CZC20-000104) to construct an Apartment Building in the MR5 zoning district, which requires Site Plan Approval.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>. Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov.

7/23/25 The Somerville Times

Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website: www.TheSomervilleTimes.com



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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, August 5, 2025** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to historic@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?meetingid=81079966819>
Webinar ID: 810 7996 6819

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.

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

HP25-000051 - 53 Columbus Avenue

Applicant: Kristen Driscoll
Owner: Mildred Gambale
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by replacing the front door.

*Case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email historic@somervillema.gov to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email historic@somervillema.gov with inquiries.*

7/16/25, 7/23/25 The Somerville Times

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

**Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com
Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1
and follow us on X/Twitter at [@somervilletimes](https://twitter.com/somervilletimes)**

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.

Jewish safety begins with solidarity

Last week, the Somerville Times published the commentary, “Who is a good Jew?” In the commentary, a Somerville resident defended the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) as essential to combating antisemitism and criticized the National Education Association’s (NEA) decision to cut ties with the ADL. While the author’s personal experiences of antisemitism are valid and critical for all to hear, the author misses the mark in his defense of a powerful organization like the ADL. Jewish safety doesn’t come from gatekeeping or aligning with power; it comes from solidarity.

The ADL has aggressively pushed for a definition of antisemitism that equates nearly any criticism of Israel with hatred of Jews. This effort by the ADL is intellectually dishonest and enormously dangerous. To reduce our identities to un-critical Zionism is to erase our culture’s diverse history.

This definition pushed by the ADL has been used to silence pro-Palestinian activism and has been seized upon by the Trump administration. The Trump administration is leveraging perceptions

that criticism of Israel’s actions is antisemitic or constitutes terrorism. Make no mistake, the Trump administration has no interest in protecting Jews from antisemitism. We are being used as pawns in their quest to suppress dissent and solidify authoritarian power.

While the Trump administration continues to exploit this broad and dangerous definition of antisemitism, the ADL has been extremely weak in their criticism of the Trump administration. This is the same administration that mainstreamed QAnon, empowered white nationalists, and implied that Jews who don’t support Trump are disloyal. While the ADL has been silent in the face of this right-wing authoritarian rise to power, they somehow found time to defend Elon Musk amid his open promotion of antisemitic conspiracies.

Instead of standing up to the Trump administration, the ADL has focused their criticism on progressive Jewish organization like Jewish Voice for Peace, IfNotNow, and Jews for Racial and Economic Justice. The ADL pretends to be a voice for American Jews, but instead engages in

gatekeeping of Judaism from progressive Jewish organizations.

This kind of selective outrage and strategic alignment with right wing power feeds into some of the most dangerous antisemitic myths: that Jews are aligned with state power, that we control the narrative, or that we silence criticism. Ironically, by partnering with far-right interests and attempting to police discourse, the ADL reinforces the very stereotypes it claims to combat.

We must reject this approach. The way to fight antisemitism is not by isolating ourselves or aligning with authoritarian forces. It is by building bonds with other oppressed communities who live under threat. True safety comes from solidarity with Palestinians, with immigrants, with Black and brown communities, with Muslims, and with all people fighting for liberation.

Furthermore, the author unfairly labels mayoral candidate Willie Burnley Jr. as antisemitic simply for sharing criticism of the ADL. This kind of accusation is not only baseless – it’s irresponsible. Conflating legitimate critique of a political organization

with antisemitism dilutes the meaning of the term and undermines real efforts to confront hate. I am ecstatic to have a progressive mayoral candidate in Somerville like Burnley Jr. that is willing to speak truth to powerful and dangerous organizations like the ADL.

While I appreciate the author’s right to speak up for Jews in an op-ed article, I hope they recognize that it is a right not afforded to everyone in Somerville. Rümeyssa Öztürk returned home recently after she was disappeared, in our backyard, by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) simply because she wrote an op-ed critical of Israel’s actions. We as Jews cannot stand for the unlawful detention of Öztürk in the name of combatting a distorted version of antisemitism. The ADL’s efforts to equate criticism of Israel with antisemitism play directly into the suppression of speech and empowers America’s right wing, authoritarian government. We must reject this and expect better from the institutions that purport to protect us.

Mike H
Somerville Resident

Response to Michael T.

July 20, 2025

Michael T. ironically editorializes, “... we don’t need the ... ADL [Anti-Defamation League]. to tell us what antisemitism is...,” in criticizing the National Education Association (“NEA”) for rejecting the ADL’s definition of antisemitism. If we don’t need it, why is it antisemitic to decline to adopt it?

I decline to adopt it (that is the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (“IHRA”) definition, “a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews,” because it is so vague as to defy interpretation, and thusly permits anyone to call any statement about Israel or Zionism other than unqualified support for their decades of violations of in-

ternational law “antisemitic.”

In fact, the vague ADL definition is defined by eleven examples, some of which are fair statements of opinion or fact, and not hateful of Jews. For a few examples:

1. It may be that some if not many “Jewish citizens are more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.” Even if it were not true, positing that fact is certainly not antisemitic; indeed, it could be considered complimentary, suggesting that while they love their country, they are capable of seeing other people as well.

2. The statement, supported by Amnesty International after extensively examining the question, that Israel is an apartheid state, that is, “racist” is also fair game.

3. As is “drawing comparisons of con-

temporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.” A comparison does not even suggest there is an identity between the two. But even the World Court believes that it is a fair argument that what Israel is effectuating (see details below) is genocidal.

The definition essentially characterizes virtually all of the population of the world, including a large percentage of Jews in the United States, as antisemitic. The chief purpose of the redefinition of antisemitism is to deter, and failing that, punish people, including Jews such as myself, who exercise freedom of speech on three subjects in particular:

(1) the crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Israeli government including (a) the killing of more than 56,000 noncombatants effectively because they

are Palestinian; (b) the disappearing of unknown numbers of Palestinians; and (c) the deprivation of food and water from the remainder of the two million Palestinians living in Gaza; and (2) the unlawful expropriation of Palestinian land by settlers protected by the Israeli police and military.

By speaking out, I am neither a good or a bad Jew; but under the ADL definition, I am the latter. I find the definition offensive, discriminatory, and applaud its rejection by the NEA. Furthermore, by characterizing most of the world as “anti-Semitic,” the ADL ironically only promotes an exponential spread of antisemitism.

Mark S.
Somerville

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

ArtBeat 2025

This year's ArtBeat festival took place in Davis Square on Saturday, July 19. This year's theme was FREEZE – bringing snowflakes, frozen moments, and glacial vibes on the hottest day of the year. Approximately 100 craft and food vendors, community organizations, and general talent artists were on the street, with two stages of music and a dance showcase at the Somerville Theater.





Photos by Bobbie Toner



CLASSIFIEDS

Place your classified ad today – only \$1 per word! E-mail: ads@thesomervilletimes.com

AUTOS WANTED

CASH FOR CARS! We buy all cars! Junk, high-end, totaled-it doesn't matter! Get free towing and same day cash! **NEWER MODELS** too! Call 1-866-258-6720

FINANCIAL

WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free Consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 855-428-7954

FOR SALE

YOU'LL WANT TO USE THIS TIMESHARE. Orange Lake, Florida. Near Disney. Weeks 8 & 9 (February) One floor living with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, full kitchen, laundry. Purchase both for \$19,000. Call 978.371.2442 or email carol@actionunlimited.com

HEALTH & FITNESS

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Generic Pills SPECIAL \$99.00. 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 888-445-5928 Hablamos Español

HOME SERVICES

Ageing Roof? New Homeowner? Got Storm Damage? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-878-9091

Water damage cleanup & restoration: A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold growth in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-888-872-2809

MISCELLANEOUS

4G LTE HOME INTERNET Now Available! Get GotW3 with lightning fast speeds

plus take your service with you when you travel! As low as \$109.99/mo!

CARING FOR AN AGING LOVED ONE? Wondering about options like senior-living communities and in-home care? Caring.com's Family Advisors are here to help take the guesswork out of senior care for you and your family. Call for your FREE, no-obligation consultation: 1-844-556-4158

DISH NETWORK \$59.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100. Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR.

DISHTV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some Restrictions Apply. Promo Expires 01/31/2024. 1-877-494-7039

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-723-0883

FREE HIGH SPEED INTERNET for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping and handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-877-559-8698

HUGHESNET SATELLITE INTERNET Finally, no hard data limits! Call Today for speeds up to 25mbps as low as \$59.99/mo! \$75 gift card, terms apply. 1-877-459-1615

SAFE STEP North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime

warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available.

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase* Call 1-855-948-6176

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 855-761-1725

HughesNet - Finally, super-fast internet no matter where you live. 25 Mbps just \$59.99/mo! Unlimited Data is Here. Stream Video. Bundle TV & Internet.

Become a published author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing trusted since 1920. Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Call for free author's guide 1-877-729-4998 or visit dorranceinfo.com/ads

DISHTV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply.

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-in tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our free shower package & \$1600 off - limited time!

Free high speed internet if qualified. Govt. pgm for recipients of select pgms incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet. Android tablet free w/one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Sched-

ule free LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase.

Bath & shower updates in as little as 1 day! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & military discounts available. 1-877-543-9189

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-in tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our free shower package & \$1600 off

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get free info package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971

DIRECTV Stream - Carries the most local MLB Games! Choice Package \$89.99/mo for 12 mos Stream on 20 devices at once. HBO Max included for 3 mos (w/Choice Package or higher.)

No contract or hidden fees! Some restrictions apply.

Reader Advisory: The National Trade Association we belong to has purchased the above classifieds. Determining the value of their service or product is advised by this publication. In order to avoid misunderstandings, some advertisers do not offer employment but rather supply the readers with manuals, directories and other materials designed to help their clients establish mail order selling and other businesses at home. Under NO circumstance should you send any money in advance or give the client your checking, license ID, or credit card numbers. Also beware of ads that claim to guarantee loans regardless of credit and note that if a credit repair company does business only over the phone it is illegal to request any money before delivering its service. All funds are based in US dollars. Toll free numbers may or may not reach Canada.

Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. A roller coaster with a height or drop of at least 300 feet | 6. Walter Hagen |
| 2. <i>One Day at a Time</i> | 7. Battle of Waterloo |
| 3. Will Ferrell | 8. Trifecta |
| 4. The bottle cap from the last beer he ever drank | 9. REM |
| 5. <i>With a Little Help From My Friends</i> | 10. Lizard |
| | 11. Butterfly |
| | 12. Prince, For You |

COA Country Line Dancing event

Seniors enjoyed The Council on Aging's Country Line Dancing this past Thursday, July 17. Many dusted off their dancing shoes for a fun morning of dancing, followed by lunch of BBQ chicken, mac and cheese, and cornbread.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

DEBT COLLECTION (S 2537)

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that supporters said would protect consumers and keep people from being pushed into financial ruin if they are sued for financial debt. They said the new law would make debt collection practices fairer, protect wages and make clear that no person can be imprisoned for unpaid consumer debt.

Provisions include expanding the amount of an individual's paycheck that is shielded from wage garnishment; establishing a 5-year statute of limitations on debt collection; and reducing from 12 percent to 3 percent the maximum interest rate that can be imposed on judgments on consumer debt.

"Those caught in the grip of a debt cycle know all too well the often-predatory practices used by debt collectors, and the crippling reality of staring down a ballooning debt that seems insurmountable," said Sen. Paul Feeney (D-Foxborough), Chair of the Committee on Financial Services. "While the Debt Collection Fairness Act will not eliminate debt or an obligation to pay, the bill does provide a lifeline and opportunity for hope for those caught in the deepest depths of this spiral so that families have some room to breathe, to move forward and break this debilitating cycle."

"President Trump is dismantling federal government agencies dedicated to protecting consumers," said sponsor Sen. Jamie Eldridge (D-Marlborough). "Here in Massachusetts, I am proud that the state Senate is voting on my bill—the Debt Collection Fairness Act—to provide protections from the predatory practices of debt collectors for working class families."

"I'm pleased the Senate has passed this commonsense consumer protection measure," said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. "This long overdue legislation will protect individuals from being pushed over a financial cliff due to unsavory debt collectors who prey upon people experiencing financial hardship, with marginalized communities often being disproportionately affected. It's more important than ever for the commonwealth to stand up and protect these basic consumer rights in the wake of protections disappearing at the federal level."

The bill was approved by the Senate in the 2023-2024 session but died in the House Ways and Means Committee and never reached the House floor for debate and a vote.

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

CHILD CUSTODY CASES (S 2550)

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that would align Massachusetts with the other 49 states by

adopting the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA).

Supporters said the bill addresses longstanding issues under current Massachusetts law, which uniquely relinquishes jurisdiction over custody orders once the custodial parent has lived out of state for six months. They noted the legislation reflects years of work and collaboration with legal experts and domestic violence advocates and has broad support from the state's family law community.

"I filed this bill to align Massachusetts with every other state in the nation," said sponsor Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton). "The current law places an undue burden on non-custodial parents by forcing them to travel out-of-state for custody proceedings and opens the door to forum shopping and unnecessary multistate litigation. By adopting the UCCJEA, we bring clarity, consistency and fairness to our custody laws, just like every other state has already done."

"Every day, our members who practice family law witness the real and lasting harm caused by the commonwealth being the only state that has not joined the UCCJEA," said Boston Bar Association President Matthew V.P. McTygue. "This bill is about protecting children, stabilizing families and ensuring that survivors of domestic violence are not forced to relitigate custody across state lines. Without this law, a custody order from a Massachusetts judge can be cast aside after a parent moves to a new state. That's unacceptable, and this legislation will finally fix it."

The legislation was approved by the Senate in the 2023-2024 session but died in the House Ways and Means Committee and never reached the House floor for debate and a vote.

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

DON'T MISS THIS FORUM ON THE FUTURE OF CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE BAY STATE

Federal policy shifts are testing protections for immigrants, reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities and others—even in states like Massachusetts. As fundamental rights face new threats, what can be done at all levels of government to safeguard vulnerable communities? Join advocates, experts and leaders for a timely forum on the future of civil rights in Massachusetts hosted by MASSterList and the State House News Service on July 28 at the MCLE Conference Center in Boston. Doors open for networking and refreshments at 8 a.m. The program will run from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Register at: <https://events.humanitix.com/civil-rights-ma>.

TAX ON ENCLOSED SHOPPING MALLS WITH SUBSTANTIAL AND PERSISTENT VACAN-

CIES (H 3240) – The Revenue Committee held a hearing on legislation that would allow cities and towns to implement a local option tax on owners of enclosed shopping malls that have less than 67 percent occupancy in their retail spaces for a continuous period of at least nine months and fails to convert a proportion of its property to other specified uses, to be determined by the city or town, for lease or sale. The measure also allows the city or town to determine the amount of any new tax.

"This legislation grants municipalities the freedom to use tax incentives to push commercial landlords toward reinvestment and renewal of their rental properties by finding new tenants or converting to other uses the municipality deems desirable, such as housing, civic spaces or mixed-use developments based on their community's needs and planning objectives," said sponsor Rep. Adam Scanlon (D-North Attleborough). "This bill would provide another tool to our cities and towns to address excessively vacant properties that otherwise would continue to go unused and therefore lead to non-maintenance and deterioration."

Scanlon continued, "Throughout Massachusetts, numerous traditional shopping malls are facing prolonged decline due to various consumer and economic trends. Vacant stores and underused commercial properties lead to decreased property values in the vicinity, strain municipal services and diminish once-bustling centers of local economic activity. When mall owners permit these vacancies to continue without reinvestment or redevelopment efforts, the surrounding communities suffer through lost tax revenue and neighborhood stagnation."

PROHIBIT AGE DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS (H 662)

– A bill heard by the Education Committee would prohibit any person admitted to any public school from being discriminated against, based on age, in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study in that school.

"[My bill] would help strengthen the Massachusetts School system," said sponsor Rep. Kelly Pease (R-Westfield). "This bill would allow students to be placed at the grade level that matches their ability to learn and not by artificial age requirements. By allowing students to meet their full potential, it would keep children from being bored and remain engaged in the learning process."

JUNIOR OPERATOR'S LICENSE (JOL) FUND (S 2415)

– A bill that would establish a JOL Fund to provide financial assistance to students from disadvantaged backgrounds who cannot afford to pay for driver education courses was heard by the Transportation Committee. The fund, which would be managed by the Registry of Motor vehicles, would be supported financially through various sources, including grants and public and private gifts. Eligibility for assistance will be based on participation in programs such as free or reduced lunch, Mass-Health, the Supplemental Nutrition

Continued on page 17

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 16

Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition Program (RAFT).

The measure also would also allow junior operators to travel with passengers under 18 after 90 days – replacing current law which allows it after six months.

“The cost of driver’s education programs in Massachusetts is high, which can disenfranchise low- to moderate-income families who may need a licensed teenager in the home to transport family members, and teenagers themselves who may require a license to get to and from work, school or activities,” said sponsor Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem).

DRINK SPIKING (S 293) – The Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure held a hearing on a proposal that would require establishments that serve alcohol to be consumed on the premises to, upon request, provide a lid with a customer’s drink. The measure also requires the establishment to post a notice, in a prominent and conspicuous location, informing patrons that lids are available.

“Drink spiking continues to be an alarming risk for people going out, especially as drugs are increasingly easy to administer undetected and many victims are often unable to remember what happened to them until hours later, if at all,” said sponsor Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield). “It is imperative that we do all we can to prevent these terrible incidents and ensure that establishments are providing drink covers and making patrons aware is an important step in the right direction.”

SUSPEND LICENSES OF RENTAL BROKERS WHO DISCRIMINATE (S 245) – Another bill heard by the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure would streamline the process of suspending the license of a rental broker determined by Mass Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) or the Board of Registration of Real Estate Brokers to have engaged in discriminatory rental practices. The measure also would mandate fair housing training for real estate brokers and salespeople. “Housing discrimination remains a painful reality in Massachusetts, particularly for Black

renters and families who rely on housing vouchers,” said sponsor Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield). “Despite existing laws, the protections we’ve promised too often fall short in practice. [This bill] is about changing that. This legislation creates real accountability by ensuring that discrimination has consequences, and it strengthens the systems meant to uphold fairness in our housing market. Everyone deserves a fair chance at a safe, stable home—and this bill moves us closer to making that a reality.”

BAN SMOKING IN CARS WITH CHILDREN (H 2443) – The Public Health Committee held a hearing on a measure that would prohibit smoking in any motor vehicle in which there is a child who is required to be in a child passenger restraint. Under Massachusetts law, children must use a restraint until they are at least eight years old or at least 57 inches tall. The measure imposes a \$100 fine on drivers who violate the smoking ban.

The proposal also prohibits a police officer from searching a motor vehicle, its contents, the driver or a passenger solely because of a violation of this law. It also prohibits the violation from being used as evidence of contributory negligence by the driver in any civil action and requires officers, for 90 days after the new law is in effect, to give only a warning and not a citation to a driver who violates this law.

Supporters say that second-hand smoke causes respiratory problems, ear infections and mental health disorders including depression. They note it can also make a child’s asthma worse. They argue that the only effective way to fully protect non-smokers from harm is to eliminate smoking in enclosed spaces including homes, worksites, public spaces and vehicles.

“I filed this because we need to protect young children who are the most vulnerable to second-hand smoke,” said sponsor Rep. Jim Hawkins (D-Attleboro). “It’s interesting that in the middle schools I have visited that students have chosen this for their civics projects. Even though I have not gotten it through in previous sessions I think it’s important so I will keep pushing it.”

BAN NEW FOR-PROFIT HOSPITALS (S 1526) – Another measure before the Public Health Committee

would prohibit any new for-profit acute-care hospitals from being established or licensed in the Bay State.

“I filed legislation to ban for-profit hospitals because of the innumerable harms to public health caused by Steward Health Care,” said sponsor Sen. Jamie Eldridge (D-Marlborough). “The profit motive has no place in a healthcare system that truly serves patients.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Early education and care programs play a vital role in supporting the foundation for infant and child mental health that will serve our students throughout their lives. We are pleased to provide this funding so that our early educators can access the resources they need to help young children learn about and manage their feelings, supporting healthy social and emotional development in their classroom and beyond.” — Lt. Gov Kim Driscoll, announcing that the state is awarding \$5 million in Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Grants to organizations that support the social-emotional development and behavioral health of children in early education and care programs across Massachusetts.

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of July 14-18, the House met for a total of six hours and 10 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 3 hours and 4 minutes.

Mon. July 14 House 11:00 a.m. to 12:37 p.m.
Senate 11:18 a.m. to 12:34 p.m.

Tues. July 15 No House session
No Senate session

Wed. July 16 House 11:00 a.m. to 3:26 p.m.
No Senate session

Thurs. July 17 House 11:05 a.m. to 11:12 a.m.
Senate 12:05 p.m. to 1:53 p.m.

Fri. July 18 No House session
No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Free Summer Meals

Summer Meals is a program that provides free meals to all kids and teens, ages 19 and under, at different locations in Somerville during the summer months. To pick up your free meal visit these locations at the following times, Monday-Friday:

- Trum Field: 9:15 to 9:30 a.m. (breakfast and lunch foods served)
- Powderhouse Park: 9:30 to 9:45 a.m. (breakfast and lunch foods served)
- Dilboy Stadium : 9:45 to 10 a.m. (lunch foods served)
- Blessing of the Bay Boathouse: 10:00 to 10:15 a.m. (lunch foods served)
- Founder’s Rink: 10:15 to 10:30 a.m. (breakfast and lunch foods served)
- Argenziano Playground: 10:30 to 10:45 a.m. (breakfast and lunch foods served)
- Foss Park: 10:45 to 11:30 a.m. (lunch foods served)

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

AARP Homefit Workshop: Modify Your Home for Safety & Comfort – Friday, July 25, starting at 9:00 a.m. This workshop provides information to participants on how to decide what type of home modifications are needed to stay in their home as they age. You can find additional resources at www.aarp.org/homefit. RSVP by contacting Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318, or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov. Free. Grab-n-Go lunch available upon request.

Farmers Market Coupons – Thursday, July 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Eligible participants receive \$25 free vouchers to be used at local farmers' markets to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. Applicants must be a Cambridge or Somerville resident who are 60 years old or older or disabled under 60 years old living in elderly housing with a congregate meal program. You must also meet the following monthly income eligibility:

Household of 1 - \$2,413.

Household of 2 - \$3,261.

Household of 3 - \$4,109.

Household of 4 - \$4,957.

Income is self-declared. You do not have to bring proof of income. Proof of residency is required. Please bring an identification with proof of address and date of birth. Booklets must be picked up in person. If eligible participants cannot come in person, they can send a proxy with a proxy form. Limited one per person, while supplies last. First-come first-served basis. Contact Somerville Cambridge Elder Services with your questions and concerns by calling 617-628-2601.

Blood Pressure Screening – Thursday, July 24 and August 28 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at our Holland Street Center Conference Room. Celeste Gearhart, Director of Public Health Nursing, along with Ella Fernando, Public Health Nurse, will be at the SCOA on the last Thursday of the month to take your blood pressure.

Technology Workshops – The Council on Aging continues to strive to close the technology gap by partnering with Somerville Cambridge Elder Services to bring technology workshops to the COA. Each session will focus on different topics related to internet use and safety. Sessions are from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Free.

Monday, July 7: Paying with your phone. Ever see someone paying for things on their phone and want to do it? During this class, we'll walk you through the steps to pay using your phone.

Monday, July 28: Connecting to your Community. We'll show you how to use technology to engage with your local community and the global community. If you have any questions or to RSVP, contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318, or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Technology Open Hours – Every Tuesday in July from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Free. RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-

6600, ext. 2318, or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Knitting with Natasha – Every Tuesday in July from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Have you always wanted to learn how to knit, or are you a knitter looking to find other friends who knit? Look no further than knitting with Natasha. Join a supportive and fun group as we learn more about knitting while knitting together! Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317, or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

Movie Day – Wednesday, July 23, starting at 1:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. This month's movie is *Nonnas*, starring Vince Vaughn and Susan Sarandon. After losing his beloved mother, a man risks everything to honor her by opening an Italian restaurant with actual grandmothers as the chefs. Running time is 1 hour and 51 minutes. \$2 per person for a pizza lunch served during the movie. Grab-n-Go lunch available upon request. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321, or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Coffee & Conversation Group – Monday, July 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. And every Thursday in July, with the exception of the 3rd, at the Holland Street Center from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Join us for this staff-led discussion group, which covers a range of topics thought up by participants. This is a friendly group where all topics are discussed respectfully. Grab-n-Go lunch is available upon request. Grab-n-Go lunch NOT available on the 17th. RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335, or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

Looking for a location to chat with your friends? Come to the COA on Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The senior center is open, and the coffee is on as we wait for the start of Bingo.

Bingo – Every Tuesday in July at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street starting at 10:00 a.m. Lunch is available following Bingo. \$1. per bingo card. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323, or emailing Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Bingo – Thursday, July 24, starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Lunch is available following Bingo. \$1. per bingo card. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323, or emailing Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

General Nutrition Class – Monday, July 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. via Zoom. Monday, July 28, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in person at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Every Wednesday in July at your Holland Street Center from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. RSVP to Mary Marshall by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2316, or

email Mary at Headtofitness10@yahoo.com.

Project Outlook – Thursday, July 24, at our Holland Street Center from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Project Outlook is a group for low vision and blind seniors to gather, socialize, and enjoy dinner together. This month, a representative from the Massachusetts Equipment Distribution Program will present specialized telephone options for people living with permanent disabilities. Free! RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318, or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Bowling – Every Wednesday in July at Flatbread Company/Sacco Bowl Haven in Davis Square at 45 Day Street from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. - Free - RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

LGBTQIA+ Allies Social – Friday, July 25, from 11:00 a.m. to noon at our Holland Street Center. RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335, or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

COA Free Little Library – Check out our little library at our Holland Street Center, located in our conference room. We have many titles and genres to pick for your summertime reading. These books are free to take and do not need to be returned. A special thank you to COA Board Member, Daisy Monsalve, for organizing and maintaining the library.

General Exercise / Holland Street Center – Every Monday in July at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., and Wednesday, July 30, starting at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Join Michelle as she leads a general exercise program. All levels of participants are welcome to attend. RSVP to Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315, or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected via our Facebook page – Informative, entertaining, lots of photos and updates. Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCOA/>.

Follow the Somerville Council on Aging on Instagram – You can find us under the Instagram handle: [somervillecouncilonaging](https://www.instagram.com/somervillecouncilonaging). If you have any questions or need help following us, contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email her at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

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

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

7:00 AM COA: General Seated Exercise #3
 7:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley Jr.
 8:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 7-8-25
 9:15 AM Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Automotive
 9:31 AM SomerViva en Español
 10:00 AM Construction Advisory Group Meeting
 12:00 PM School Building Committee Meeting
 1:01 PM 4th of July Celebration & Fireworks 2025
 2:00 PM Mental Health Matters: LGBTQ
 2:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Judy Pineda
 Neufeld
 3:00 PM City Council Meeting 7-10-25
 6:40 PM Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial
 Groundbreaking
 7:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait
 7:30 PM School Building Committee Meeting
 8:31 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 9:00 PM Haitian Flag Raising Celebration 2025
 10:01 PM Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology
 10:30 PM Mental Health Matters: LGBTQ
 11:00 PM 4th of July Celebration & Fireworks 2025

THURSDAY, JULY 24

12:00 AM School Committee Meeting 6-16-25
 1:00 AM School Committee Update: Leiran Biton
 1:30 AM Porchfest 2025
 7:00 AM COA: Eastern Flow Workout
 7:30 AM Chair Pilates & Cardio Throwback
 8:00 AM School Committee Meeting 6-16-25
 9:00 AM Construction Advisory Group Meeting
 7-14-25
 11:00 AM Porchfest 2025
 12:00 PM Juneteenth Flag Raising 2025
 12:40 PM Vietnam & Korean War Veterans
 Memorial
 Groundbreaking
 1:00 PM City Council Meeting 7-10-25
 5:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Judy Pineda
 Neufeld
 5:30 PM COA: General Seated Exercise #3
 6:00 PM Porchfest 2025
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Digital Equity
 7:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait
 8:00 PM Art Beat 2025
 9:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Judy Pineda
 Neufeld
 10:00 PM Finance - Committee of the Whole
 6-24-25
 11:00 PM SomerViva en Español
 11:30 PM Mental Health Matters: LGBTQ

FRIDAY, JULY 25

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Digital Equity
 12:30 AM Art Beat 2025
 1:30 AM Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial
 Groundbreaking
 2:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Judy Pineda
 Neufeld
 7:00 AM COA: Function Junction Workout
 7:30 AM School Committee Update: Leiran Biton
 8:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 8:30 AM Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial
 Groundbreaking
 9:00 AM Art Beat 2025
 10:00 AM Senior Circuit: Digital Equity
 10:30 AM Finance Committee Meeting 7-8-25
 12:00 PM Juneteenth Flag Raising 2025
 1:00 PM Finance - Committee of the Whole 6-24-25
 2:00 PM SomerViva em Português
 2:30 PM School Committee Meeting 6-16-25
 3:30 PM School Committee Update: Leiran Biton
 4:00 PM Haitian Flag Raising Celebration 2025
 5:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 5:30 PM Construction Advisory Group Meeting
 7-14-25
 7:30 PM 4th of July Celebration & Fireworks 2025
 8:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Judy Pineda
 Neufeld
 9:00 PM Art Beat 2025
 10:00 PM Pride Flag Raising 2025
 10:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Judy Pineda
 Neufeld
 11:00 PM Hong Kong Festival 2025
 11:30 PM SomerViva: Know Your Rights - Nepal

FRIDAY, JULY 25

12:00 AM Sanctuary Cities/Federal Challenge
 Announcement
 12:40 AM Vietnam & Korean War Veterans
 Memorial
 Groundbreaking
 1:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 7-8-25
 2:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 7:00 AM Chair Pilates & Cardio Throwback
 7:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 8:00 AM School Committee Meeting 6-16-25
 9:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Judy Pineda
 Neufeld
 9:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait
 10:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley Jr.
 10:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Ben
 Ewen-Campen
 11:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
 11:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
 12:30 PM City Council Spotlight: JT Scott

1:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Jake Wilson
 1:30 PM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 2:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 2:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 3:00 PM City Council Meeting 7-10-25
 7:00 PM SomerViva em Português
 7:30 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 9:00 PM Art Beat 2025
 10:00 PM Juneteenth Flag Raising 2025
 11:00 PM 4th of July Celebration & Fireworks 2025

SUNDAY, JULY 27

12:00 AM City Council Meeting 7-10-25
 7:00 AM Chair Pilates & Cardio Throwback
 7:30 AM Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial
 Groundbreaking
 8:00 AM SomerViva 2025
 9:00 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 9:30 AM Construction Advisory Group Meeting
 7-14-25
 11:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Digital Equity
 12:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Judy Pineda
 Neufeld
 1:00 PM Finance - Committee of the Whole 6-24-25
 2:00 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 3:30 PM SomerViva em Português
 4:00 PM School Building Committee Meeting
 5:01 PM School Committee Update: Leiran Biton
 5:31 PM SomerViva en Español
 6:00 PM School Committee Meeting 6-16-25
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Digital Equity
 7:30 PM SomerViva en Espanol
 8:00 PM Art Beat 2025
 9:00 PM Construction Advisory Group Meeting
 11:00 PM Pride Flag Raising 2025
 11:30 PM Mental Health Matters: LGBTQ

MONDAY, JULY 28

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Digital Equity
 12:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait
 1:00 AM Art Beat 2025
 2:00 AM SomerViva: Know Your Rights - Nepal
 7:00 AM COA: General Seated Exercise #2
 7:30 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 8:00 AM Haitian Flag Raising Celebration 2025
 9:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 9:30 AM Pride Flag Raising 2025
 10:00 AM Porchfest 2025
 11:00 AM Art Beat 2025
 12:00 PM City Council Meeting 7-10-25
 4:00 PM 4th of July Celebration & Fireworks 2025
 5:35 PM Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial

6:00 PM School Committee Meeting 6-16-25
 7:00 PM SomerViva - Nepali
 7:30 PM Mental Health Matters: LGBTQ
 8:00 PM Disability Pride Flag Raising 2025
 8:30 PM SomerViva en Espanol
 9:00 PM Senior Circuit: Digital Equity
 9:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting 7-8-25
 11:00 PM Art Beat 2025

TUESDAY, JULY 29

12:00 AM Disability Pride Flag Raising 2025
 12:30 AM Pride Flag Raising 2025
 1:00 AM Mental Health Matters: LGBTQ
 1:30 AM 4th of July Celebration & Fireworks
 7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 7:30 AM School Building Committee Meeting
 8:31 AM SomerViva em Português
 9:01 AM Mental Health Matters: LGBTQ
 9:30 AM Pride Flag Raising 2025
 10:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait
 10:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 11:00 AM 4th of July Celebration & Fireworks 2025
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Digital Equity
 12:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Judy Pineda
 Neufeld
 1:00 PM Disability Pride Flag Raising 2025
 1:30 PM SomerViva en Espanol
 2:00 PM Juneteenth Flag Raising 2025
 3:00 PM Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Automotive
 3:30 PM Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial
 Groundbreaking
 4:00 PM SomerViva em Português
 4:30 PM Art Beat 2025
 5:30 PM Finance - Committee of the Whole 6-24-25
 6:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Judy Pineda
 Neufeld
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Digital Equity
 7:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 8:00 PM Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial
 Groundbreaking
 8:30 PM Pride Flag Raising 2025
 9:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 9:30 PM Haitian Flag Raising Celebration 2025
 10:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait
 11:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley Jr.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Digital Equity
 12:30 AM Finance Committee Meeting 7-8-25
 2:00 AM Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial
 Groundbreaking
 2:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Digital Equity
 12:30 AM Finance Committee Meeting 7-8-25
 2:00 AM Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial
 Groundbreaking
 2:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Digital Equity
 12:30 AM Finance Committee Meeting 7-8-25
 2:00 AM Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial
 Groundbreaking
 2:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

8:00 AM Girls' Intramural Basketball Championship
 9:00 AM Boys' Intramural Basketball Championship
 10:00 AM SHS Graduation
 11:30 AM SHS Class Day 2025
 1:30 PM Capuano Kindergarten Moving On
 2:30 PM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
 4:00 PM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 5:00 PM Kennedy Moving On
 6:30 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Ceremony
 7:00 PM Girls' Intramural Basketball Championship
 8:00 PM Boys' Intramural Basketball Championship
 9:00 PM SHS Graduation
 10:30 PM SHS Class Day 2025

THURSDAY, JULY 10

12:30 AM Capuano Kindergarten Moving On
 1:30 AM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
 3:00 AM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 4:00 AM Kennedy Moving On
 8:00 AM SCALE Graduation and Awards Night
 9:30 AM SHS Art Exhibition
 10:00 AM Kennedy Moving On
 11:30 AM Capuano Kindergarten Moving On
 12:00 PM East Somerville Moving On
 1:30 PM Healey Moving On
 3:00 PM Boys' Intramural Basketball Championship
 4:00 PM Girls' Intramural Basketball Championship
 5:00 PM SHS Varsity Swim vs Medford
 6:00 PM SCALE Graduation and Awards Night
 7:30 PM SHS Art Exhibition
 8:00 PM Kennedy Moving On
 9:30 PM Capuano Kindergarten Moving On
 10:00 PM East Somerville Moving On
 11:30 PM Healey Moving On

FRIDAY, JULY 11

1:00 AM Boys' Intramural Basketball Championship
 2:00 AM Girls' Intramural Basketball Championship
 3:00 AM SHS Varsity Swim vs Medford
 8:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English
 9:30 AM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game
 11:00 AM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Framingham
 12:30 PM Brown School Moving On
 1:00 PM Brown School Moving On
 1:30 PM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
 3:00 PM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
 4:30 PM Boys' Intramural Basketball Championship
 5:30 PM Girls' Intramural Basketball Championship
 6:30 PM Brown School Moving On
 7:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English
 8:30 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game
 10:00 PM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Framingham
 11:30 PM Brown School Moving On

SATURDAY, JULY 12

12:00 AM Brown School Moving On
 12:30 AM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
 2:00 AM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
 3:30 AM Boys' Intramural Basketball Championship
 4:30 AM Girls' Intramural Basketball Championship
 8:00 AM Healey Moving On
 9:30 AM Capuano Kindergarten Moving On
 10:00 AM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 11:00 AM West Somerville Spring Concert
 12:00 PM Argenziano Ensembles Spring Concert
 1:00 PM ESCS Pre-K-Gr 6 Spring Concert
 2:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Lynn English
 4:00 PM SHS Spring Concert
 5:00 PM Kennedy Moving On
 6:30 PM SHS Art Exhibition

7:00 PM Healey Moving On
 8:30 PM Capuano Kindergarten Moving On
 9:00 PM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 10:00 PM West Somerville Spring Concert
 11:00 PM Argenziano Ensembles Spring Concert

SUNDAY, JULY 13

12:00 AM SHS Graduation
 1:30 AM SHS Class Day 2025
 8:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English
 9:30 AM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game
 11:00 AM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Framingham
 12:30 PM Brown School Moving On
 1:00 PM Brown School Moving On
 1:30 PM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
 3:00 PM Healey School K-2 Spring Concert
 3:30 PM Next Wave 8th Grade Graduation
 4:30 PM Boys' Intramural Basketball Championship
 5:30 PM Girls' Intramural Basketball Championship
 6:30 PM Brown School Moving On
 7:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English
 8:30 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game
 10:00 PM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Framingham
 11:30 PM Brown School Moving On

MONDAY, JULY 14

12:00 AM Brown School Moving On
 12:30 AM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
 2:00 AM Boys' Intramural Basketball Championship
 3:00 AM Girls' Intramural Basketball Championship
 8:00 AM SHS Ring of Honor - Jerry Knight
 8:30 AM East Somerville Moving On
 10:00 AM Healey Moving On
 11:30 AM Healey School K-2 Spring Concert
 12:00 PM El Sistema Spring Concert
 1:00 PM SHS Class Day 2025

3:00 PM Next Wave 8th Grade Graduation
 3:30 PM SHS Graduation
 5:00 PM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 6:00 PM SHS Ring of Honor - Jerry Knight
 6:30 PM East Somerville Moving On
 8:00 PM Healey Moving On
 9:30 PM Healey School K-2 Spring Concert
 10:00 PM El Sistema Spring Concert
 11:00 PM SHS Class Day 2025

TUESDAY, JULY 15

1:00 AM Next Wave 8th Grade Graduation
 1:30 AM SHS Graduation
 3:00 AM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 8:00 AM SPS Jazz and Chamber Ensembles
 9:00 AM ESCS Pre-K-Gr 6 Spring Concert
 10:00 AM ESCS Upper Grades Ensembles Spring
 Concert
 11:00 AM Brown School Spring Concert
 12:30 PM ESCS Upper Grades Ensembles Spring
 Concert
 1:30 PM Next Wave 8th Grade Graduation
 2:00 PM Full Circle Graduation
 4:00 PM SHS Community Scholarship Awards
 6:00 PM SPS Jazz and Chamber Ensembles
 7:00 PM ESCS Pre-K-Gr 6 Spring Concert
 8:00 PM ESCS Upper Grades Ensembles Spring
 Concert
 9:00 PM Brown School Spring Concert
 10:30 PM ESCS Upper Grades Ensembles Spring
 Concert
 11:30 PM Next Wave 8th Grade Graduation
WEDNESDAY, JULY 16
 12:00 AM Full Circle Graduation
 2:00 AM SHS Community Scholarship Awards



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week



Q: Fair Housing means no discrimination. What kinds of action count as discrimination?

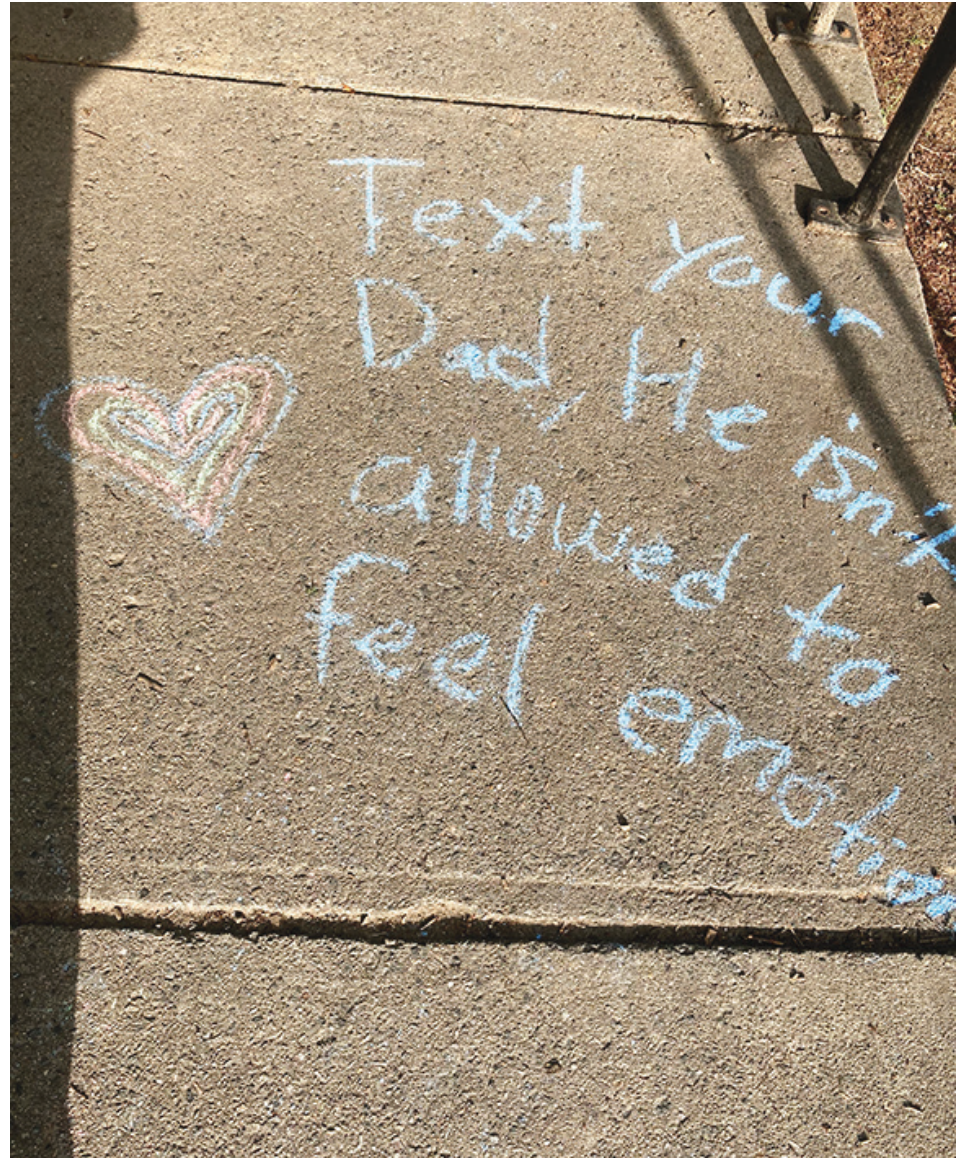
A: You may file a complaint if you are a member of a protected class and someone has denied you housing in any of the following ways:

- Refuses to rent, lease or sell housing.
- Discriminates in the terms, conditions, and/or privileges of housing.
- Makes any inquiry or record of the person seeking to rent, lease or buy housing pertaining to that person being a member of any of the protected classes.
- Falsely denies that housing is available.
- Blockbusts--causes person(s) to sell or rent by telling them that members of a minority group are moving into the area.
- Discriminates in financing housing (bank, savings and loan, or other business).
- Denies membership or participation in brokerage, multiple listing or other real estate services.
- Interferes, coerces, threatens or intimidates to keep a person from obtaining the full benefits of the Federal Fair Housing Law and/or filing a complaint.
- Discriminates in advertising (both oral statements and written material).

To file a complaint, call Hanalei Steinhart at 617-625-6600 x2587.

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.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Sidewalk Advice... — Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



I told my wife she was drawing her eyebrows too high.
She looked surprised.

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

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

On This Day in History

July 23

- 1637 – King Charles of England hands over the American colony of Massachusetts to Sir Ferdinando Gorges, one of the founders of the Council of New England.
- 1664 – Wealthy, non-church members in Massachusetts are given the right to vote.
- 1829 – William A. Burt patents his “typographer,” an early typewriter.
- 1865 – William Booth founds the Salvation Army.
- 1868 – The 14th Amendment is ratified, granting citizenship to African Americans.
- 1885 – Ulysses S. Grant dies of throat cancer at the age of 63.
- 1894 – Japanese troops take over the Korean imperial palace.
- 1903 – The Ford Motor Company sells its first automobile, the Model A.
- 1944 – Soviet troops take Lublin, Poland as the German army retreats.
- 1962 – The Geneva Conference on Laos forbids the U.S. to invade eastern Laos.
- 1995 – Two astronomers, Alan Hale in New Mexico and Thomas Bopp in Arizona, almost simultaneously discover a comet.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

The Somerville Museum will hold **Blessing of the Bay, Saturday, July 26, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**, 32 Shore Drive, Somerville. Experience a unique celebration that intertwines the rich histories of three distinct cultures. The Blessing of the Bay honors the legacy of the innovative Blessing of the Bay ship and Massachusetts's first Governor, John Winthrop, while acknowledging the complex narratives of Indigenous peoples and Black Africans impacted by historical events.

Somer Fest, the city's flagship festival celebrating **BIPOC** (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) artists, creators, and small businesses, is back for the first time since 2022 on **Saturday, August 2**, at **Seven Hills Park** from 3 to 5:30 p.m. The 2025 event features a dynamic lineup of performers, including hip-hop artist **Bille**, soulful sounds from **Mada Silva**, and more. Attendees can enjoy a curated artisan market, food from **Dos Manos Kitchen**, and interactive experiences and activities for all ages. Produced by the **Somerville Arts Council** in collaboration with **Citixen Joy**, this open-air festival is designed to uplift local creativity, spark connection, and build an inclusive cultural experience for all.

Save the Date: What the Fluff? A Tribute to Union Square Innovation is a madcap festival honoring the invention of Marshmallow Fluff. It celebrates Somerville's long-standing tradition of innovation with live music, fluffalicious feasts, sticky games, and so much more happening **Saturday, September 20**, from 2 – 6 p.m. in **Union Square** (severe weather date Sunday, September 21).

Yart Sale is back. Somerville's citywide creative yard sale returns this summer, and applications are now open. Whether you're selling art, vintage finds, art supplies, tools, frames, zines, or handmade crafts, this is your chance to be part of this Yart Sale. Deadline to apply by: **August 1** at 11:59 p.m. Event date is **Saturday, August 9**, 12 – 6 p.m. Visit <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/>

Save the date for the second annual **Get Ready for School Fair**, open to all SPS students and families. **August 20**, from 4 to 6:00 p.m., followed by a **Welcome to High School event** from 6–8:00 p.m. Both events take place at **Somerville High School**.

On **September 13**, the **Gilman Square Arts & Music Festival** will be back to highlight local artists, makers, performers, and food vendors. This event is supported by the **Somerville Arts Council** and is made possible by an LCC grant, the generous support of local businesses, and volunteers from the **Gilman Square Neighborhood Council**. Rain-date, Sunday 9/14.

The **Somerville Mobile Farmers Market** has returned for the 2025 season. The market will be open **Thursdays through Saturdays**, and will run **through November 1**. 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. For locations and the full schedule, weekly produce updates, and more information about programs and events, visit the market's website at somervillemobilefarmersmarket.org.

Amit Shah is reading from his collection **Revisiting the Mines: Essays and Excavations**, a love letter to the transportative power of memory, on **Friday, August 15**, at **Rooted Cafe, Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave., 6 – 8 p.m. The moderator for the Q&A will be Somerville poet and writer, **Elizabeth Merrick**.

Medicare Savings Program Enrollment Workshop, Friday, July 18, starting at 10 a.m. at the **Holland Street Center**, 167 Holland St. Join **Minuteman Senior Services SHINE Program** for an information session on the Medicare Savings Program. The program is aimed at individuals who earn up to \$2824 per month and married couples who earn up to \$3833 per month. If you have any questions or to RSVP, contact **Molly Pagliuca** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318, or email [Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov](mailto:mpagliuca@somervillema.gov).

Ye Olde Comix Con at Somerville Public Library, 79 Highland Ave., July 26, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Join the Somerville Public Library for their fifth annual all-day fan-themed event, with programming from your favorite fandoms, stalls with local artists and vendors, cosplaying, and more. Go here to find out more and register for

reminders: <https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/comix-con>.

Movie Day at the Council on Aging, 167 Holland Street, **Wednesday, July 23**, 1 p.m. This month's movie is **Nonnas**, starring **Vince Vaughn** and **Susan Sarandon**. Pizza lunch will be served during the movie.

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**. Next dates will be: **The Powder House on Thursday, August 7**, 6 p.m., **Milk Row Cemetery, Saturday, July 26**, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The **Somerville Museum** presents **Kaleidoscope: Reflecting the Moment through August 23**. *Kaleidoscope: Reflecting the Moment* is an immersive, multi-sensory exhibition by multidisciplinary artist **Flor Delgadillo** that invites us to reflect on shifting ideas of home, family, neighbors, and community in a rapidly changing world. Blending opportunities for pause and reflection with moments of interaction and creation, *Kaleidoscope* explores how light transforms space, how sound carries memory, and how collective experience deepens our sense of belonging, connection, and resilience. For more information, visit: <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>.

National Night Out is back again. Celebrate bringing police and community together with fun activities for the whole family. Join in on **Tuesday, August 5**, at **Dilboy Stadium**, 110 Alewife Brook Parkway, from 5 to 8 p.m., for a fun night. Attendees will get to enjoy music, games, pizza, family-friendly activities; including bouncy houses, face painting, and obstacle courses; plus meet local Somerville officers. Additionally, the first 300 attendees to arrive will receive a free backpack and school supplies to help get ready for the upcoming school year.

The **Ginny Smithers Pool**, 5 Cherry St., is officially back open. For more information on pool hours for Swim Lessons,

Water Exercise, Lap Swim, Family Swim, and Open Swim. Please visit their website, <https://somervillema.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>, or email aquatics@somervillema.gov.

Join **Union Square Main Streets** and 60+ of your favorite local food producers for the **21st Annual Union Square Farmers Market**. Shop local **Saturdays through October 25**, except September 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Union Square Plaza. Thanks to their partnership with the **City of Somerville** and the **Somerville Farmers Market Coalition**, they are proud to continue to offer our SNAP match. For more info, visit unionsquaremain.org/2025-season.

The **Davis Square Market** is open for the 2025 Season. The market will run **every Wednesday** from 12 noon to 6 p.m., **through November 26**, 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, 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>.

Street sweeping in Somerville resumed on Tuesday, April 1. Somerville's street cleaning program is an essential public works program that not only keeps our city cleaner but also reduces the risk of flooding and icing due to clogged storm drains. The street sweeping season runs **from April 1 until December 31** each year. On designated street sweeping days, vehicles must be moved from the side of the street being swept, as noted on signs posted on each street. The penalty for not complying with street sweeping parking regulations is a \$50 fine. Check the signs on the streets where you park and visit www.somervillema.gov/sweeper for more information.

SCES is teaming up with **City Fresh Foods** to offer a five-pack of **frozen home-delivered meals**. This new meal delivery option is ideal for consumers who want the convenience of home-delivered meals but are not able to be at home each weekday to receive deliveries. Meal recipients can choose

Continued on page 23



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

The Organizing Music in Robert Pinsky's poem 'Branca'

A Handpicked Poem

By Off the Shelf Correspondent Michael Todd Steffen

Who the heck is Ralph Branca? Well, as baseball fans (and there are poets among this group) may know, Branca was a not bad, not bad at all pitcher in the Major Leagues between 1944 and 1956, with the Brooklyn Dodgers, the Detroit Tigers, and finally with the New York Yankees. The specific moment of Branca's career that still registers with us is that he gave up the game-winning homerun to Bobby Thompson of the New York Giants in a 1951 playoff game, and that hit became known as The Miracle of Coogan's Bluff, and also as The Shot Heard Around the World.

The poem is not merely about defeat and failure, it's about widely-witnessed and soul-crushing defeat and failure.

After he gave up the most famous homerun ever, back in the clubhouse Branca lay weeping, face down.

The poem appears in Pinsky's most recent collection *Proverbs of Limbo*, published last June (2024) by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

It is a poem typically rife with subjects for discussion. I just wanted to make this one note about the stunning topical variety of the poem and how its immediate appearance of random organization, which keeps us on the edge of our seats as we read, still maintains our trust with its rhythmical consistency. Life is crazy, we need something to hang onto. Kids prepare to confront crazy love and mortality with poetry:

Ring around the rosies,
Pocket full of posies,
Ashes, ashes, we all fall down.

Similarly the poem *Branca* conjures life's falls, with a dazzling variety of facts about Ralph Branca, importantly as to his identity as a human being associated with so much more than that moment of failure which has been etched in history, or baseball lore. The poet will also take the opportunity to make statements about himself in the ramble of his data:

His father was an immigrant from Calabria.

These words are those of Robert Pinsky. Speaking,

A song of peace

They sang
the song of liberty
with the ravenous whirlwind.

But I sang

with the gentle mountain breeze—
a song of
universal peace.

— Bhuwan Thapaliya

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

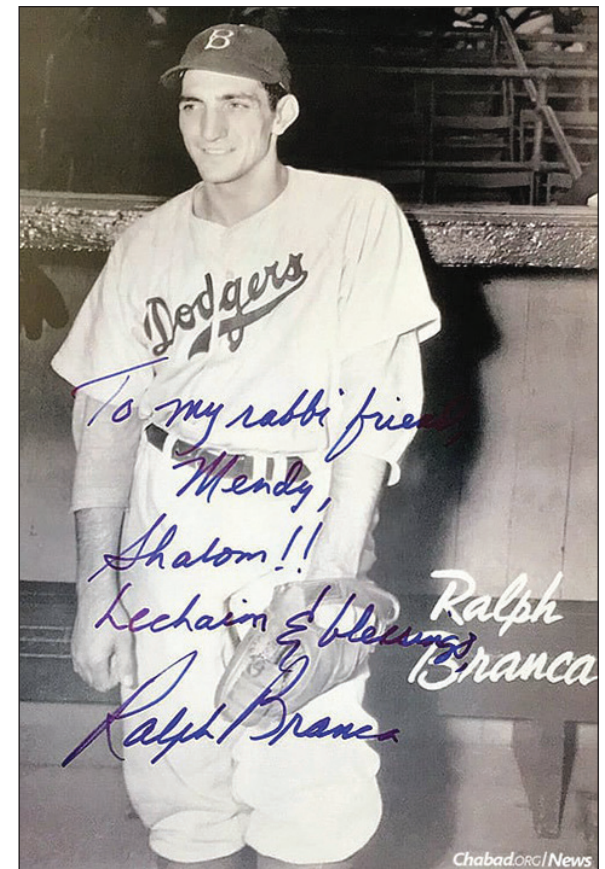
Bhuwan Thapaliya is a poet from Kathmandu, Nepal. He is the author of five poetry collections, including *Safa Tempo: Poems New and Selected* (Nirala Publications, New Delhi) and *Slipping into Another World* (Ukiyoto Publishing). His work has received international recognition, appearing in esteemed literary journals and global anthologies. His poetry has been featured in *Life in Quarantine: Witnessing Global Pandemic Initiative* – a project supported by the Poetic Media Lab and the Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis at Stanford University – as well as in the *International Human Rights Art Festival and Poetry and Covid*, an initiative funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council in collaboration with the University of Plymouth and Nottingham Trent University. He has read his work and participated in literary seminars across South Korea, India, the United States, Thailand, Cambodia, and Nepal.



Silver songs

The trails are tricky and frail,
winding like whispered mantras
through the stillness of the hills,
with the Annapurna peaks
looming like ancient sentinels in the distance.

Trees drip with moss,
their limbs bowed by time,
and at night—
a sky full of stars,
spilling silver songs
into the earth's quiet bowl.



Why these two pieces of information are joined in the same couplet? Seemingly for no reason at all, and there's a great indulgence these days of being unburdened by reason or coherence. However, the two do go quite profoundly together, as they each evoke origin of the man, his father of the biological Ralph Branca, Robert Pinsky as another, different source of Ralph Branca in the poem itself which will extend and expand on the pitcher's living repute as a man, in details, much more than just the notorious baseball pitcher, otherwise diminished to a needle of failure in the haystack of historical addenda.

When we read through the poem, we notice an end-line or "heroic" based versification, with the little hiccup, in most of the lines, of a dactyl or anapest (however you score it)—

Branca wore Dodger uniform number 13.
Speaking is the punchline of a Jewish joke.
Some Romans call Calabrians "Africani."

Continued on page 23

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: I've been trying to get better with my money, but I'm not seeing big results yet. What should I focus on?

A: Focus on your leading indicators – the habits and choices you control today. These are the early signals that you're on the right path– even before your bank account shows it!

Here are 5 high-impact financial habits that act as powerful leading indicators:

- + Tracking your spending at least once a week – Builds awareness and helps curb impulsive costs.

- + Setting and reviewing a monthly budget – Gives your money direction and prevents drift.

- + Automatically saving or investing each month – Even small amounts build powerful momentum.

- + Paying bills or debt on time – Protects your credit and prevents late fees from piling up.

- + Checking your account balances regularly – Keeps you engaged and helps you catch issues early.

These habits may feel small, but they compound—just like interest. And over time, they tend to translate into classic lagging indicators like:

- + Higher credit scores
- + Lower debt
- + A growing savings account
- + Improved net worth

Bottom line: Don't wait to feel successful—act successful. Focus on the small things you can control now, and the results will follow.

Any questions? I'd be happy to help.

I'm Vincent Hicks, CPA, based in Somerville with over 20 years of experience. Reach out at vhicksconnect@gmail.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.

History in the Baking: Chef Juan G. Perez

CONT. FROM PG 1

noticed my interest and offered me a shift on the pizza station," said Perez. "The following week, I officially got my shot. I called my mom right away! I was so happy. Once I started making pizza, I never looked back."

Perez has worked as a pizza maker at Posto Boston since 2010, becoming Executive Chef in 2016, which means he has been professionally making pizzas for over 15 years now.

"Even today, I'm still learning something new all the time," said Perez.

To say Perez is dedicated to his craft may be an understatement. He has learned all his skills through real-life experience and has worked under amazing mentors. Eventually, Perez studied traditional Nea-

polititan techniques, which makes his pizzas stand out in the Boston area today.

"It's been a mix of passion, discipline, and a little obsession, honestly," said Perez.

With all his hard work and dedication, it's no surprise that he was recognized as one of the top 100 pizza chefs this year, an honor for which Perez is incredibly thankful.

"To be recognized among the best in the world is a huge honor, not just for me, but for the entire team at Posto and the community that supports us. It reminded me why I started and inspired me to keep pushing boundaries," said Perez.

Perez enjoys making traditional AVPN-style Neapolitan pizzas because "the attention to detail in fermentation and technique makes it pure art." When it comes to eating

pizza, though, Perez enjoys a simple margherita made with high-quality ingredients.

"But when I'm feeling creative, I love something a bit different, like peach and prosciutto," said Perez.

Perez loves creating moments through food, watching people take their first bite, and light up. He also expressed that it's incredibly rewarding to lead a team and "help them grow into better chefs and stronger professionals."

What makes Perez's pizzas stand out from others is perhaps his mix of innovation and tradition.

"I respect the roots of Neapolitan pizza, but I'm not afraid to experiment, whether that's modern techniques or bold global flavor inspirations. Every pizza I make is driv-

en by intention and technique," said Perez.

Posto is known in the area for stepping outside the box, using unexpected or untraditional topping combos that make for a delicious mix.

With all of his success, Perez remains humble and leaves young aspiring chefs with the following: "Be patient. Be obsessed with the craft. Never stop learning. Don't chase trends, chase excellence. Don't try to be someone else. Get inspired, but focus on building your own path. And always surround yourself with people who push you to be better."

Posto, 400 Assembly Row
Somerville, MA 02145
<https://www.postoboston.com/>

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

which weekday they would like to receive the frozen meals, with up to five meals in each bulk delivery. Each meal comes with bread, milk, and a dessert. Current SCES clients who are interested in receiving meals should call their office at 617-628-2601 or contact their case manager for more information.

Through the generosity of the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** and under the direction of **Mayor Ballantyne**, the **Council on Aging** can provide **Durable Medical Equipment** at no cost to Somerville residents. Residents with a documented need for medical equipment must be over the

age of 60 or have a permanent disability, and must be otherwise unable to afford or access needed medical equipment. They currently have available: Commodes, Bath Benches, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies, and Transport Wheelchairs. For additional information or for an application, please contact **Debby Higgins** at

617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Don't forget, if you would like to subscribe to receive a **digital** edition of our paper, go directly online to our website, over to the right side, and fill out your email address to receive a free, full PDF copy of the paper.

Off The Shelf

CONT. FROM PG 22

Brooklyn has its own daily, the Brooklyn Eagle.

At eighty-five Branca learned about his mother.

He was twenty-one when Robinson joined the Dodgers...

That versification holds the very remote and difficult associations between the two lines of each couplet stable, so to speak, and keeps us going along with it even as we're wondering, perhaps squirming, about the sense of the organization or logic of the poem, however our nature to just swallow language. Again, as poets and readers of po-

etry, it can be a gimme to revel in madness. But if folks are going to start talking about the poem, that is if the poem is to stand a chance to stay with us, in memory, as Branca himself somewhat obscurely has, we need to find sense in it. The editors of *The New Yorker* found sense enough to publish it in March 2017.

The music or prosody of the Greek-ish lines begins to work on us subconsciously as a sort of coherence. When we look closer, associations emerge: unlucky number 13 and the (mortal) laugh in a joke; a Roman colloquialism

and a town's daily journal both vehicles of hearsay or facts; late in life "At eighty-five" balanced with early career "He was twenty-one"...

The poem will be the challenge and subject of this week's poetry discussion forum *Let's Talk About a Poem* hosted by Somerville Poet Laureate Lloyd Schwartz via Zoom, on Saturday, April 12 at 11a.m. Robert Pinsky will be "there" to read 'Branca' and take part in the discussion. For more information and a link to join, contact Marita Coombs at maldencirc@gmail.com.

The Somerville Times

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

Let your customers find you in
Somerville's most widely read newspaper!

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

LEARN TO DRAW AND PAINT

Artist and art teacher Geoffrey Halverson



www.geoffreyhalverson.com

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

Monica Calvo Realtor®

Real Estate Professional
Cell: 617-605-3308



Email: mcalvo@relocationnewengland.com
Web: remaxpartnersrelocation.com

RE/MAX
PARTNERS RELOCATION
44 Park ST
Andover MA 01810
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated



ENCOMPASS
PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

BUY - SELL - JOIN

CALL US FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS!

BOBBIE TONER

REAL ESTATE CONSULTANT

✉ BOBBIETONER@AOL.COM
☎ 857-488-5138

JOHN RAPOSO

BROKER

✉ JOHN@ENCOMPASSPROPS.COM
☎ 617-665-8866



WWW.ENCOMPASSPROPS.COM
ENCOMPASSPROPS



Cleaning. Restoration. Construction.

SERVPRO® of Arlington,
Somerville, Charlestown

617-629-5331

Independently owned and operated



BRENEVILLE
LAW OFFICES, LLC

FREDLER BRENEVILLE, Esq.

Attorney at Law



Immigration • Accident-Injury
Family Law • Estate Planning
Landlord-Tenant

Nou pale Kreyol
Nous parlons Français

(617) 448-6037

INFO@BRENEVILLELAWOFFICES.COM
500 N. MAIN ST. STE. A 2ND FL., RANDOLPH
55 BROADWAY, SOMERVILLE
BRENEVILLELAWOFFICES.COM

Wedding & Event Photo & Video

— Harry Kane —



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

The Law Offices of Richard G. Di Girolamo

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

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

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

TELEPHONE: (617) 666-8200
FAX: (617) 776-5435
EMAIL: digirolamolegal@verizon.net
424 BROADWAY, SOMERVILLE, MA 02145

Alibrandi's Barber Shop

Men & Boys Haircuts

"Best Somerville Barber"



194 Holland St, Somerville, MA 02144
617-628-4282 Closed Wednesday

T. J. SILLARI, INC.

Over 50 Years Experience
Proud to be a Somerville Business Resident



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

Residential - Industrial - Commercial

Master Plmb. Lic. #6106

625-9877

Telephone:
(617) 625-2244
(617) 625-4344

Fax:
(617) 625-4350

EDWIN J. SMITH
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
RUMERY & SMITH

403 HIGHLAND AVENUE
SOMERVILLE, MA 02144

edsmithlaw@gmail.com

clarkarts
PUBLISHING
COLORING BOOKS • QUIZ BOOKS • MORE
www.clarkarts.net