



Inside:



The Motorcycle
page 3



Getting off easy
page 5



A very NICE market
page 21

Property owners share thoughts on rent stabilization in Somerville



Somerville's Anti-Displacement Task Force held the first of two listening sessions on rent stabilization last Thursday.
— Photos by Maile Blume

By Maile Blume

Somerville has joined Cambridge and Boston in considering rent stabilization to prevent displacement of the city's residents. Last Thursday, the Somerville Anti-Displacement Task Force held a listening session for property owners, to inform an upcoming draft of rent stabilization laws for the city. Another listening session for tenants will also be held this Thursday to inform the upcoming legislation.

According to the city's website, rent stabilization legislation could include "laws that prevent rents from rising too quickly and laws that offer protection against wrongful evictions." The new laws will consider which types of buildings will qualify for rent stabilization, as well as the circumstances under which a unit that once qualified for rent stabilization could be exempted from those restrictions. *Continued on page 4*

The boom box painter: Interview with Andrew Fish

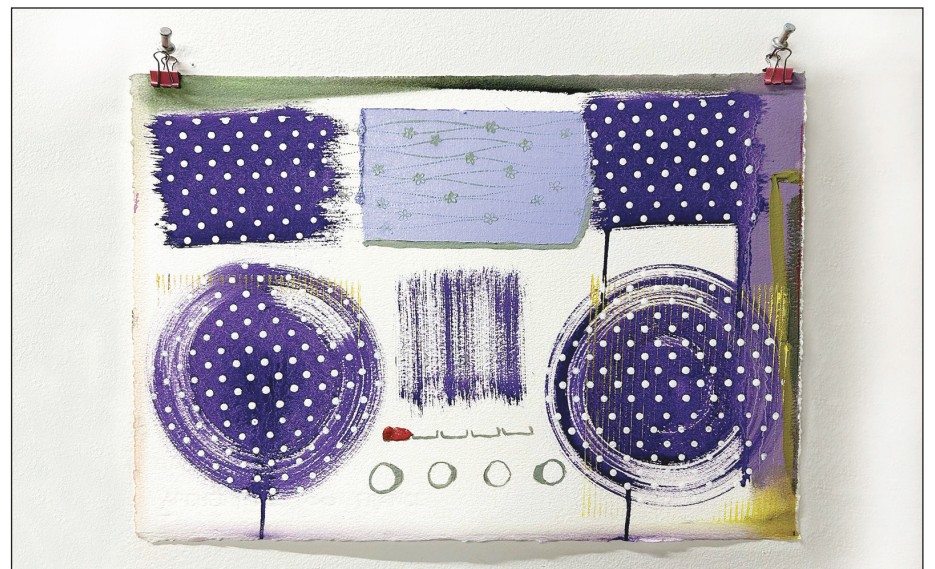
By Beatriz Leite

Somerville-based artist Andrew Fish, talks about his inspiration behind the boom boxes and how it connects to this year's ArtBeat theme. The Boom boxes are at the Inside-Out Gallery, in 1 Davis Square (CVS Davis Square).

The Somerville Arts Council is hosting an exposition where various artists showcase their work related to the theme: Pulse. The art council intends to explore everything that vibrates, pulses, and suggests life. All things that pulse, like hearts, cities, and drums.

Fish, as one of the chosen artists, opted to showcase his collection of boom boxes that he has been painting throughout the past few years.

"I did this show in 2021, and it *Continued on page 14*



Somerville artist Andrew Fish's take on boom boxes is currently on display at the Inside-Out Gallery in Davis Square.
— Photos courtesy of Andrew Fisher

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The **Somerville Mobile Farmers Market** is open for the season, selling fresh, local produce **through October 28**. The market schedule is as follows: **Thursdays:** 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.: Clarendon Hill Towers (1372 Broadway), **Fridays:** 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Council on Aging/SCALE (167 Holland St.), 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.: East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.). **Saturdays:** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.: Mystic Housing Development (25B Memorial Rd., at the playground). The market accepts cash, debit, credit, SNAP, WIC Farmers Market Coupons, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons. All are welcome. To learn more, visit: somer-villema.gov/farmersmarket.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville invite community members to provide public comments about **rent stabilization** at an upcoming **listening session**. As part of ongoing efforts to continue to reduce displacement and increase housing affordability, the city's **Anti-Displacement Task Force (ADTF)** is drafting a rent stabilization law, and community members are invited to share their input on what should be included. The first listening session, for property owners and their advocates took place **Thursday, July 20**. The second session, for renters and their advocates, is **Thursday, July 27**, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Both listening sessions will be hosted in a hybrid format, with the opportunity to participate in person at the Armory or remotely on Zoom. Both sessions will be recorded and posted on voice.somervillema.gov/ *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of July 26 – August 1 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>July 26</i>	Sunny	90°/69°	10%	7%	WSW 9 mph
 Thursday <i>July 27</i>	Thunderstorms	89°/74°	35%	31%	S 12 mph
 Friday <i>July 28</i>	Partly Cloudy	92°/75°	22%	16%	SW 11 mph
 Saturday <i>July 29</i>	Partly Cloudy	87°/67°	23%	17%	W 10 mph
 Sunday <i>July 30</i>	Thunderstorms	80°/64°	40%	33%	NNW 11 mph
 Monday <i>July 31</i>	Sunny	77°/62°	9%	5%	N 9 mph
 Tuesday <i>August 1</i>	Sunny	78°/59°	12%	8%	SE 10 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: *Lyrical Somerville – July 19*

Bridget Seley Galway says:

Wonderful full of deep feeling poems.
Jack tugs at the heart a bit. The human sees their own wanting, need to temper, delight and what has been taken, through their love of Jack. Your love for Jack.
They are our little Angel's reminding.

Response to: *Spicy Potato Salad*

Alicia Collins says:

This looks super delish!! I'm trying it today!

Response to: *Department of Racial and Social Justice discusses alternative emergency response models*

Jim G. says:

This seems like a good step forward. I would be interested in seeing where this goes in the long term.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

The motorcycle



When we were growing up in the Somerville of the 60's, 70's and 80's we were fearless. We left the house at nine and didn't come home until it was dark. Then we would go out all night. We did a lot of foolish things back then, both dangerous and very risky. None was more dangerous than hopping freight cars. It always seemed like we were tempting fate.

Around 1984, a lot of my friends had motorcycles. I didn't have one. A friend of mine was selling a Honda 305 and I was interested, even though I had no license or learners permit or anything. Actually, I have had never driven a motorcycle in my life until the day that I took it to give it a test drive with my friends.

There were five of us. I taught myself how to go through the gears along with a little grinding, but soon I was shifting the right way and keeping up with their Harleys. Now remember I had no learners permit and no license and I was

still getting used to the bike as we headed through Ball Square, on our way to Breakheart Reservation.

When we were leaving, I was on Kidder Avenue and I was about to cross College Ave. Everyone stopped but me. The bike went across College Ave. without me on it. I went and picked it up and caught up with the boys. I was lucky I didn't get hurt.

I used to get nervous when I took my bike on the street, thinking my father would catch me, and that was the same feeling I had riding the motorcycle, especially every time we went by cops.

I was doing pretty good keeping up with the Harleys. I was good at riding the bike, it was just stopping that was giving me a hard time. I actually fell off the bike five more times before we reached Breakheart Reservation and rode around inside there.

Funny, but I haven't had the urge to get on a motorcycle since then. We were either foolishly lucky or just plain foolish. It was a good time.

Today, I may get lucky flicking through the channels to find a show to watch but I try not to take silly chances.



ANNOUNCEMENT
Beacon Apartments LLC, in conjunction with Jet Realty are pleased to announce an
Affordable Rental Open Waitlist Opportunity
The application period for a two-bedroom (2BR) Affordable Rental Waitlist will begin on 7/10/2023 at 2pm and end on 8/10/2023 at 2pm.

Eligible households of 2 or more people whose income does not exceed the following "Maximum Annual Income":

80% AMI	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person
Income	\$94,800	\$106,650	\$118,450

- Eligibility Requirements**
- The rental unit must be used as the renters' primary residence.
 - Income and residency restrictions will apply throughout tenancy. Income eligibility will be reviewed annually.
 - Head of households claiming full-time student status are not eligible.
 - Total Household Liquid Assets cannot exceed \$75,000

175 Beacon Street, Somerville, MA 02145

Applications will be available beginning on 7/10/2023 at 2pm. To obtain an application, please contact **Jet Realty** and reference "175 Beacon 80%"
Telephone: 617-666-5697 or email: jetrealty@mac.com

Completed applications must be submitted to Jet Realty at jetrealty@mac.com or mailed to **P.O. Box 45014, Somerville MA 02145** by **8/10/2023 at 2pm.**

Applications received after the deadline will not be added to the waitlist. All qualified applications will be ranked by date and time received. All mailed applications will receive a 7-day grace period.



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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Car battering woman sidelined by police

On Monday, July 17, at approximately 7:03 p.m., Somerville Police officers were dispatched to the intersection of Myrtle St. and Pearl St. on reports of a suspicious person. The reporting party was stating that an older woman wearing a sundress and black scarf was punching cars as they were driving by.

While en route, Somerville police dispatch updated the officers that the woman was going to be on Myrtle St. walking towards Washington St. They also said that the reporting party would be standing by at this location.

As the officers arrived on scene, they saw a woman matching the description provided walking in the area of Myrtle St. The officers attempted to speak with the woman, but she continued walking until they

eventually caught up with her on the corner of Myrtle St. and Washington St.

The woman, later identified as Nadine Buckley, was intoxicated and belligerent, according to police. She immediately began yelling at officers to leave her alone and was reportedly very hostile towards them.

The officers asked Buckley if she punched vehicles driving by. She reportedly replied, "Yeah so what? They speed down my street and kill all the bunnies, so they deserve it."

Buckley reportedly continued yelling at the officers, using racial epithets and walking towards them in an aggressive manner.

The officers attempted to place Buckley under arrest. She reportedly began pulling her arms away while simultaneously attempting

to spit on the officers.

Buckley had a small brace on her right wrist making it very difficult to handcuff her. The officers determined that it was necessary to attach two sets of handcuffs in order to properly and effectively place her under arrest.

Buckley reportedly continued to resist, thrashing her body back and forth and pulling her arms away, continuously yelling at the officers.

Once Buckley was successfully handcuffed, the officers tried sitting her on the curb in an attempt to stop her tumultuous behavior, at which time Buckley began to kick at their legs.

Buckley continued hurling insults at officers and attempting to spit in their direction. She told an officer several times that she was going to "have Bob

take care of you" and that she was going to "have you and your family killed."

The officers spoke with the several witnesses that were now gathered at the scene.

The reporting party said he was traveling north on Myrtle St. when Buckley punched his vehicle. When asked if there was any damage on his vehicle, he stated that there was not. He only called because he was concerned about Buckley's behavior.

A resident of Myrtle St. said she witnessed Buckley punch several vehicles as they were traveling up the street. She also said she has surveillance cameras outside of her home that would capture Buckley's behavior and would provide police with a copy.

Another witness said he was

attempting to drive up Myrtle St. but noticed there was a traffic jam. He then saw a female standing in the middle of the street and punching the vehicles that were stopped. The witness began recording on his cell phone and captured Buckley punching his driver side mirror. There was no damage to his vehicle. He provided police with a minute and a half video that he took of this incident.

Buckley suffered some minor scrapes and scratches during her arrest. EMS was requested and arrived on scene and medically cleared Buckley.

Police transported Buckley to Somerville Police headquarters where she was booked on charges of assault and battery on a police officer, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest.

Property owners share their thoughts on rent stabilization in Somerville

CONT. FROM PG 1

Several property owners at the listening session voiced support for rent stabilization. Others expressed concerns about how to keep up with the rising costs of utilities and the maintenance of their properties, as well as how rent stabilization could curb development.

Property owner Derrick Rice expressed his support for the stabilization of rents, and said that he has seen many friends leave Somerville due to the lack of rental units or houses they could afford. "I benefitted from a system that lets people with wealth accumulate more wealth," Rice said. "I'm afraid I won't be able to stay – not because my house will become too expensive, but because there will be nothing and no one to stay for," Rice added.

Other attendees echoed Rice's

concerns about how rising rents have affected the Somerville community. "The instability that comes with the type of rent increases that we're seeing over the last 20 years is just a generational catastrophe," said property owner Malcolm Cummings. Cummings added that he wants his young son to grow up to be able to "build deep roots and connections with people" in Somerville. Cummings was among several property owners who asked for the strongest possible version of rent stabilization for the city.

Other property owners raised questions about how rent stabilization could affect properties that are already offered to tenants at below market rates. "My apartments are at least \$500 a month under market, and the two stores are \$1,000 at least below mar-

ket so that I could have artists in those stores," said property owner Ellen Tan. Tan asked how the new legislation will determine base rents. "If those base rents start where my rents are now, I'll be in serious, serious financial trouble if we go through another period of economic inflation periods as we have," Tan added.

Another question raised at the listening session is what role the city could play in supporting landlords. "My tenants are living in my apartment over five or six years because my rental is very reasonable," said property owner Sonia Song. Song said that in recent years, labor costs, property tax, and the water bill for the property have all increased. "If city government can control this so that we don't have inflation, we don't have labor and the construc-



Property owners expressed concerns about the displacement of residents due to rising rents, as well as about how to keep up with the increasing costs for maintaining their properties.

tion increase, and we don't pay increased property tax, I think this problem would be solved. I think government should also help the landlords," Song added.

Several property owners also

shared concerns that rent stabilization could reduce construction and development in the city, while others mentioned their dependence on their incomes from their properties

Continued on page 5

Easing of traffic regulations for cyclists under consideration by city

By Ana Celerier Salcedo

On Thursday, July 13, The Somerville City Council met to discuss various pending issues.

An item taken up at the council meeting was the de-prioritization of enforcement against cyclists who view stop signs as yield signs and red lights as stop signs.

It was noted that in past months the police department had accepted a grant and is engaging in targeted enforcement with warnings and tickets to cyclists who continue to travel through red lights. According to one council member, the federal government has concluded that the Idaho stop actually leads to increased safety and reduced injuries.

They indicated that they found no increased risk for pedestrians, people who use mobility devices or for vehicles. Instead, they found an increase in road safety and a decrease in injuries, and the basic idea is that intersections are hazardous places for cyclists as well as for pedestrians and vehicles, and that by allowing cyclists when it is safe to do so to get a head start to be more visible. This leads to a decrease and not an increase in reckless behavior that endangers pedestrians.

Rent stabilization

to keep themselves afloat financially.

Property owner Wheeler DeAngelis addressed those in the session who expressed concerns about not being able to raise low rents, saying, “The regulations are not for you, the regulations are to stop predatory practices.” DeAngelis added, “Rent stabilization will allow you to raise your rents according to inflation and tax raises.”

The next listening session, for tenants,

The Chair of Somerville's Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee, Alessandra Seiter, was in attendance and spoke at the Council meeting. “I'm here to voice my really strong support for this resolution. There's a recent precedent in Somerville for a resolution like this. A few months ago, we effectively decriminalized jaywalking, and in 2021, this Council called on the SPD to de-prioritize drug use and possession enforcement,” said Seiter. “These actions acknowledge that certain behaviors are technically illegal under our current laws but pose little risk to our community.”

Following this, Mark Chase, a lecturer in transportation planning at Tufts University, added his opinion. “If a cyclist approaches a red light or a stop sign, and there is no one there, and they proceed safely, I think it is a waste of resources to pull them over,” Chase said.

After hearing all comments regarding the item, the City Council moved to refer the item to the Committee on Traffic and Parking for further review.

Following this resolution, Ward 1 Councilor McLaughlin made a motion to have the City Council declare Somerville a Purple Heart Community and recognize August 7 annually as Purple Heart Day.



A resolution to de-prioritization of enforcement of traffic rules for cyclists is currently under consideration by the city.

McLaughlin introduced Ted Louis Jacques Somerville, veteran service coordinator, who brought up the idea to commemorate August 7 as a day to remember people who made sacrifices for this country.

Jacques said, “I'm just hoping that there

is an agreement that this is time that we make it happen again in our community for this recognition and for those who have served.” The Council moved to approve the resolution and recognize August 7 annually as Purple Heart Day.



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5		\$80,150
6		\$86,120

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300 Somerville Ave. #6	2	\$1,290	N/A	1,509
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* Min. income requirements are waived for households with rental subsidies through mobile housing vouchers such as Section 8, MRVP, VASH etc.

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Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact the ADA Coordinator, Adrienne Pomeroy, at 617-625-6600 x2259 or apomeroy@somerillema.gov.



Beacon Hill Roll Call

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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators’ votes on roll calls from the recent debate on the Senate’s version of a \$55.9 billion fiscal 2024 state budget.

Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham) filed and gained approval for several amendments in the Senate budget. “I secured these amendments to further bolster the demonstrated commitment to our shared values built into the base budget that came to the floor,” said Rausch. “Whether in health care, education or otherwise, my amendments advance justice, fairness and equity.”

Here are three of her amendments:

\$300,000 FOR WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE CELEBRATION IN BAY STATE (S 3)

Senate 39-0, approved \$300,000 to fund the Women’s Suffrage Celebration.

Amendment supporters say the celebration will honor the history of women’s activism and contributions to civics and democracy in Massachusetts. They note the funds will help create the Massachusetts Women’s History Center and Massachusetts Women’s Hall of Fame -- inspiring generations of women and girls to pursue their passions and paths forward.

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

\$350,000 FOR MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY REVIEW COMMITTEE (S 3)

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment funding \$350,000 for the operation of and hiring of additional personnel for the Massachusetts Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee to enhance the committee’s ability to comprehensively review deaths and complications that occur during or within one year of pregnancy.

Amendment supporters say that maternal morbidity and mortality remain serious issues in Massachusetts and note that significant inequities in maternal health persist. They argue that one of the best tools to improve maternal health outcomes is to strengthen and empower the committee and make advances in efforts to improve pregnancy care access, quality, outcomes and equity.

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

\$150,000 FOR HOPE AND COMFORT TO ADDRESS HYGIENE INSECURITY (S 3)

Senate 39-0, approved \$150,000 to fund Hope and Com-

fort – the state’s largest organization that addresses hygiene insecurity by providing low-income people with soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant and other personal hygiene items.

Amendment supporters say that last year, Hope and Comfort provided people with more than 2 million hygiene products. They note that this is still not enough, especially because these basic hygiene items are not covered by government support programs like SNAP or WIC.

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

The Education Committee held a hearing on several bills including:

FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM (S 243/H 558) - Would establish a grant program for eligible public schools and licensed childcare programs to purchase ingredients grown and produced on Massachusetts farms, prepare scratch-cooked meals and educate students about the food system.

“Offering fresh local-grown food in Massachusetts schools benefits children and their families who learn more about healthy food choices,” wrote co-sponsors Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton) and Rep. Smitty Pignatelli (D-Lenox) in testimony to the committee. “These programs will encourage increased consumption of fruits and vegetables. Particularly for families struggling to afford fresh food, the Farm to School grants can expand the availability of nourishing meals for vulnerable students. The grant program will also yield economic benefits to the agricultural sector, increasing demand for locally produced products and strengthening our farm communities”.

SUNSCREEN LOTION (S 258) – Would allow any person, including students, parents and school personnel to possess and use a topical sunscreen product without a physician’s note or prescription while on school property or at a school-related event or activity to avoid overexposure to the sun. The product must be one that is regulated by the Federal Food and Drug Administration for over-the-counter use.

“Routine application of sunscreen is essential to promoting health and reducing the risk of melanoma, the most commonly diagnosed cancer in children,” said sponsor Sen. Julian Cyr (D-Truro). “I filed [the bill] to ensure students have the ability to use sunscreen during the school day without a physician’s prescription.”

AIR TEMPERATURES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS (S 322) - Would create a 15-member special commission to study the regulation of minimum and maximum allowable air temperatures in public school classrooms and facilities. The commission would gather any relevant statistics on the number of air-conditioned public schools in Massachusetts; the impact of indoor air quality on children, including children with respiratory conditions or special needs; and the state’s funding and bidding processes for installing air conditioning and heating upgrades in public schools.

“This bill was filed after several constituents in the educational field brought this issue to our attention,” said sponsor Sen. Patrick O’Connor (R-Weymouth). “In particular, the very beginning and very end of each school year is frequently accompanied by stifling classrooms, while the winter months can see frigid temperatures. Not only do these extreme temperatures create a distraction for both teachers and students, but this study aims to look at the potential health impacts that could result from failing to address this issue. This study will give the Legislature a complete picture of this topic and allow for more effective future policy.”

UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS (S 261) – Would indefinitely provide free breakfast and lunch to every child in a Massachusetts K-12 school.

Supporters noted that schools across the state provided Universal School Meals during the pandemic because the costs for this program were temporarily funded by the federal government. They said that in 2022, however, federal support for the program was cut off, but funding was secured in last year’s state budget to continue funding free school meals. They noted the bill would continue the program indefinitely without having to reauthorize it each year.

“We have heard time and again from educators, advocates and parents, that kids cannot learn when they are hungry,” said sponsor Sen. Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett). “Providing free breakfast and lunch in schools will empower all our students to study, focus and live up to their full potential. It is past time, in the year 2023, that we finally pass my commonsense bill into law and ensure no child will ever go hungry in a Massachusetts school again.”

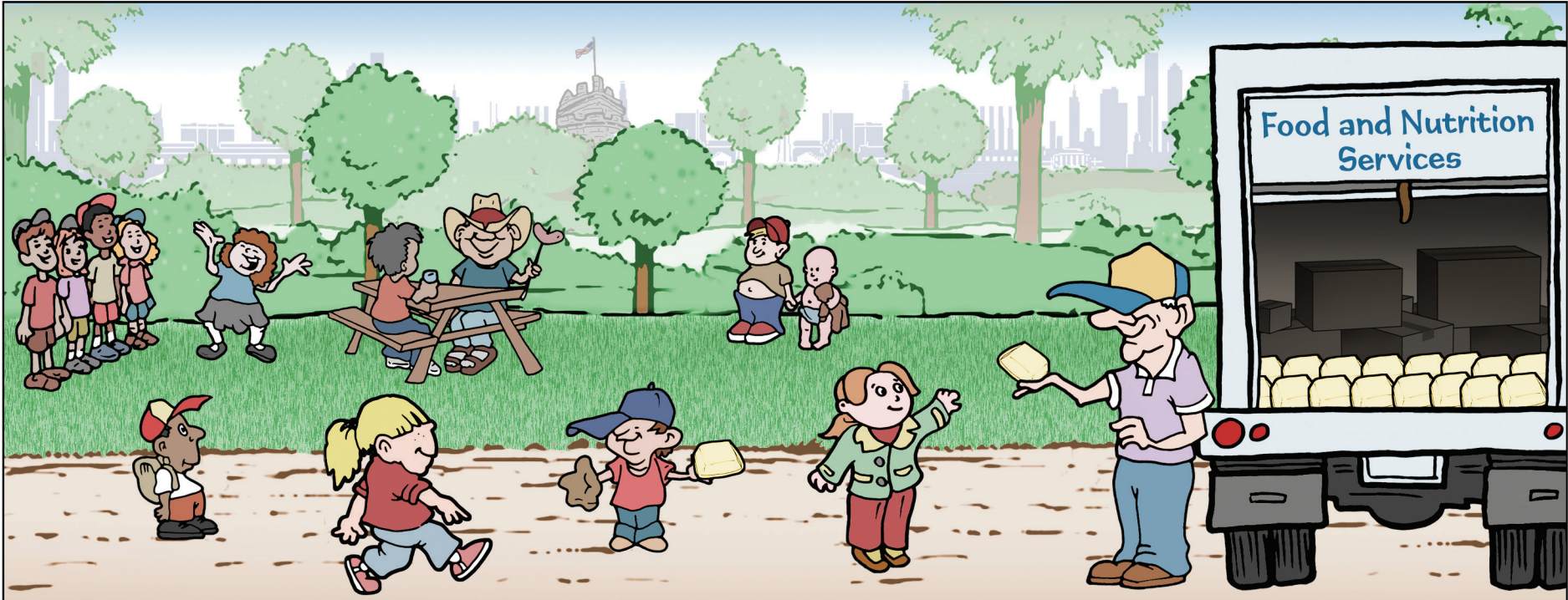
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN SCHOOLS (H 494) – Would require each public school district to appoint one or more full time school psychologists and one or more full time school social workers to provide mental health services to all students in grades K-12.

“Coming out of the pandemic, it is clear that our students need greater mental health resources,” *Continued on page 17*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Making sure our kids are well fed this summer is a nice thing to do.

Our View Of The Times



The city is once again engaged in its annual summer meals for Somerville youth program. Kids 18 or younger can get free meals at various locations throughout the city from now through August 11.

It's a great way of making sure that the city's youth get the nutritional support they need, regardless of financial or social standing.

The importance of getting fully nutri-

tious meals to our kids, especially throughout the summer months while they are out of school and engaged in lively summer activities, cannot be overly emphasized.

Certain kids in the city may not have the same opportunities for getting well-balanced meals that others have, and this program helps to assure that the playing field is fully leveled and that all are equally equipped with the nutrition they need to

properly develop and thrive throughout the summer months.

Breakfast:

Argenziano Playground, 290 Washington St.: 9:15 – 9:30 a.m.

North Street Playground: 9:45 – 10:10 a.m.

Lunch:

Dilboy Stadium, 324 Alewife Brook Pkwy.: 10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Blessing of the Bay Boathouse, 32 Shore

Dr.: 10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Mystic Housing, 30 Mystic Ave.: 11:15 – 12:00 p.m.

North Street Playground: 12:15 – 12:45 p.m.

Foss Park Playground and Pool, McGrath and Broadway: 1:15 – 2:00 p.m.

It goes without saying that we all wish the best for our kids and will go the extra mile to provide their basic needs.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

adtf. For more info visit the city's website www.somervillema.gov

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 great 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 **Justin Klekota**, **Peter McIsaac**, **Joanne Tibbetts**, **Gail Stoico**, **Michael Delicato**, **Robert Carnes**, **Laura Pitone**, **Daniel M. Kim-**

mel, **Anthony Cataldo**, **Nancy O'Meara Pino** and **Cathy Driscoll-Kinnon** 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.

Join **Boynton Yards** and **Once Somerville** for two free **block parties** filled with live music, games, crafts, vendors, food trucks and cold drinks on **July 29** and **August 19**. Sip, nosh, shop, play, craft, and rock out with delicious food, talented vendors, and incredible artists from around the world. To RSVP for your free ticket, visit www.oncesomerville.com.

Yart Sale is back, **Saturday, August 12** from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m., (rain date 08/13) citywide. To participate, check out this link: <https://forms.gle/VFFjx-SW96QscihMy5>. This year's poster was designed by Somerville artist **Stephanie Vecellio**.

Somerville Council on Aging Brown Bag Supplemental Food Program pick up will be held **Thursday, July 27** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the **Ralph and Jenny Center** located at 9 New Washington Street. For an application contact **Natasha Naim** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

East Somerville's Summer Carnival Block Party Series kicked off last Sunday. These block parties will be at **115 Broadway** (East Somerville Public Library) and on **Illinois Ave.** on **Sunday evenings** once a month. Enjoy live music, food, and activities for the whole family. The next block parties take place **August 20** and **September 10**.

Be advised that the **Somerville Police Dept.** received a report of a **door-to-door magazine subscription scam** that occurred in the area of **Prichard Ave.** and **Kidder Ave.** Residents

Continued on page 23

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#883

1. Who was the first president to appear on television?

2. Originally, Amazon only sold what kind of product?

3. Who was the first woman pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic?

4. In which city did the film *Lady Bird* took place?

5. What was the coffee shop named in the TV show *Friends*?

6. What is a giga (roller) coaster?

7. Bonnie Franklin played a mom on what
- TV series?

8. On the TV show *Cheers*, what did Sam Malone carry with him for good luck and remind him not to drink?

9. What Beatles song did Joe Cocker have a hit with?

10. What battle marked the end of the Napoleonic Wars?

11. In horse racing, what is the bet called when you bet the finish of 1st, 2nd and 3rd, place in exact order?

12. In what group is Michael Stipe the singer?
- Answers on page 11

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. There are 32 muscles in a cat's ear.
2. A giraffe can clean its ears with its 21-inch tongue.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
FINISH THE LYRICS

- ACROSS
1. "Back in ____ I hit the sack"

6. Lavatory, abbr.

9. Arctic floater

13. Revered Hindu

14. Three, to Caesar

15. Poison ampules, e.g.

16. Neckwear option

17. "Sometimes it's hard to be a woman, giving ____ your love to just one man"

18. Most populous country

19. "It's going down, I'm yelling ____"

21. "Sugarpie honeybunch, you know that I ____"

23. Act on IOU

24. Spanish sparkling wine

25. Mel ____, Giant Hall-of-Famer

28. Garbage in, garbage out, acr.

30. "If everybody had an ocean ____ the U.S.A., then everybody'd be surfing"

35. Less than average tide

37. All's opposite

39. ____, Wind & Fire

40. Gas station brand

41. Bottom-ranking employee

43. "The future's not ours to see, que ____"

44. ____ Coffee, whisky drink

46. African river

47. Part of a sweatshirt, sometimes

48. ____-____-tat, drum roll sound

50. Please get back to me, acr.

52. 007, for one

53. Impulse

55. Consume food

57. "I'm going to ____, I'm gonna mess around"

61. "And I will ____ love you"

64. Do penance

65. Melvin Purvis' org.

67. High school balls

69. Goes with shaker

70. Cardinal, color

71. Lock horns

72. Eurasian duck

73. Pop-ups, e.g.

74. Earp of the Wild West

- DOWN
1. Undergarment

2. Catalog

3. Fungal spore sacs

4. "____ at the bit"

5. Soldier's knapsack

6. Pinocchio, e.g.

7. Be unwell

8. Pancho's last name

9. Like certain print

10. "Here's a story of a lovely ____"

11. Assortment

12. Genesis twin

15. Fast and lively, in music

20. Giving a once-over

22. Spermatozoa counterparts

24. Reassert

25. "Believe it or not, I'm walking ____"

26. Sailor's cry: "____ firma!"

27. Like an implied agreement

29. "You're here, there's nothing I fear, and I know that my heart will ____"

31. Possible allergy symptom

32. Black and white treats

33. Leather razor sharpener

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
	19				20			21	22					
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64						65	66			67				68
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

34. "Will the real Slim ____ please stand up"

36. Well-mannered Emily

38. Adult elvers

42. Live it up

45. Mooring rope

49. Though, shortened

51. Another name for papaw

54. Below, prefix

56. Be a slowpoke

57. Jellies' seeded cousins

58. A-bomb particle

59. Sheltered nook

60. Was aware of

61. Gives a hand

62. Lotus position discipline

63. Censor's target

66. "I'm friends with the monster that's under my ____"

68. Salon offering
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

A message from Arts at the Armory

Dear friends and supporters of Arts at the Armory,

The Center for Arts at the Armory needs your support. Please join us for an important community meeting on August 15, 2023 at 7pm in the Performance Hall. This meeting is an opportunity for us, the Center for Arts at the Armory, to present ourselves to our community—our mission, leadership, business plan, events, programs, services and successes. We want to educate our community about what our organization does and what the community would lose if our organization dissolves. Ultimately, we want you, our community members, to decide for yourselves how you believe you will best be served by the Armory. We will also be presenting ways in which you can engage with this process and make your voice heard. Thank you for your ongoing support and your engagement with our organization at this critical juncture.

A year into its ownership of the Armory building, the city instituted an Armory Master Planning Process and hired a consultant team, Create Today, based out of New York, to guide this process. With the Master Planning Process now underway for over a year, the City and Create Today recently presented just two models that are being considered for the future of the Armory building. Model 1 proposes “the city as owner and operator” of the Armory building, giving the City full control of the building and its programming. In this model, the Center for Arts at the Armory would be dissolved, and other current Armory tenants would also need to vacate. Model 2 is dubbed “Multiple Tenants,” which proposes the city as the building manager that rents spaces to chosen artists or arts organizations/business, and is similar to how the Armory has existed for nearly 20 years, with the exception that the city would choose who can occupy the building to fill their chosen arts mandate. While we do not support either model proposed to go forward in the Armory Master Plan Process, the second model at least does not make us obsolete, but still leaves our future in question. Our only hope of survival is the rejection of Model 1—the “City as owner and operator” and we need everyone’s support on this.

The Center for Arts at the Armory is an independent, non-profit organization that resides in a historic Armory building, serving Somerville and the Greater Boston community through arts, cultural and community performances, events, exhibitions, markets, classes and more.

The mission of Arts at the Armory is to provide an inclusive and accessible venue that creates opportunities for artists and cultural workers, brings diverse audiences together, enriches and transforms lives, and promotes the creative economy. In addition to the many events that CAA hosts that are produced independently of CAA, CAA has five signature programs: The Spotlight Series, The Performance Opportunity Program (POP), The Somerville Winter Farmers Market, The Feet Keep the Beat Festival and ROOTED Armory Cafe Visual Arts Exhibitions.

The repurposed Armory opened its doors as a community arts center in 2008, and Arts at the Armory became the anchor tenant in the building, operating the Performance Hall and Cafe. Arts at the Armory hosts 750+ events each year in disciplines including music, dance, theater, literary arts, visual arts, film, circus, comedy and more. Arts at the Armory provides free and accessibly priced venues to performing arts, cultural and community groups of Greater Boston. The Arts at the Armory Performance Hall and Cafe also provide a vast and inspiring panorama of arts and cultural events to audiences throughout the year. Arts at the Armory hosts dozens of markets each year, including our own Somerville Winter Farmers Market, which promote the creative economy, local businesses and community economic development. Both the Cafe and the Hall are available for private rentals.

The Armory was purchased by Joseph and Nabil Sater, in collaboration with Highland Armory Realty Trust (HART), from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for \$2.6 million in April 2004. The Saters brought the building up to code and preserved the historical details, and reopened the building as an arts and community center in 2008, with the Center for Arts at the Armory as the anchor tenant. Due to financial pressures and other factors during the pandemic, some Armory tenants left the building and the building owner sought to rent the Performance Hall to a commercial entity. In May of 2021, the City of Somerville acquired the Armory building by eminent domain to preserve the building for arts uses.

Stephanie Scherpf, Co-Director / CEO
Jess White, Co-Director / COO
Hathalee Higgs, Board President
Neil Berman, Board Member
Ruth Faris, Board Member
Ivan Abarca, Board Member
Stephond Goler, Board Member
Amanda Klein, Board Member



The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #284

Cooperstown

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

No one knows exactly who or where baseball was created. The spirit of the game really goes back to our own backyards. Colonial New Englanders mixed Cricket, a game played with a bat or striker, and Rounders, a British children’s game, which gradually evolved into the American sport. Through the years, the interest in the game has varied between fair-weather fans, die-hards, traditionalists and collecting fanatics.



One of the many legends is that Civil War hero, General Abner Doubleday, invented the game while attending school in Cooperstown, New York in 1839. Today, the debate still goes on (185 years later), with claimant Fire-chief Alexander Cartwright in the proverbial lead.

Another ghost of a chance for baseball’s origin is James Fenimore Cooper (*The Last of The Mohicans*), America’s first novelist and the son of the founder of Cooperstown. During his prolific career, he wrote *The History of the United States Navy*, the first history of Cooperstown, and thirty-four novels, one of which describes early ballplaying. He also wrote many naval biographies, one including *The Life of Captain Richard Somers*, the namesake of our city.



For a small American city, four miles by two miles, Somerville’s mark in the history of baseball soars from its eagle-shaped border to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum at Cooperstown.

Continued on page 15

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 2, 2023**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planning@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8827579069719012187>
Webinar ID: 821-354-475

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (631) 992-3221
Access code: 297-167-832

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

27 Fountain Ave Andrea Traviglia & Andre Pelletier seek relief from the required sum of setbacks and minimum landing projection for a new stoop in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) district, which requires two (2) Hardship Variances.

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

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

7/19/23, 7/26/23 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP# 24-02**

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

Public Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Siting Strategy Report

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Monday, July 24, 2023**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, August 23, 2023**.

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

Please email jremy@somervillema.gov for more information.

Thupten Chukhatsang
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

7/26/23 The Somerville Times



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Removal of Public Shade Trees

City of Somerville

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 87, the City of Somerville will hold a **virtual public shade tree hearing on Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** using GotoWebinar software to consider the removal of the following public shade tree(s):

- 267 Alewife Brook Parkway
1. Two (2) red maples- 9" and 10" in diameter, fair condition

Trees are in conflict with planned sewer replacement by Somerville Engineering. Replacement trees will be replanted in the area.

- 18 Loring Street
1. Two (2) London plane trees- 18" and 20" in diameter, good condition

Trees are proposed for removal at request of homeowner due to documented structural damage from roots.

The trees identified above have been posted for public inspection. In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 87, any objections to the removal of any of these trees must be submitted in writing to the Tree Warden prior to or at this public hearing. Documents may be sent via email to: trees@somervilleMA.gov, or mailed to: 1 Franey Rd., Somerville, MA. 02145.

Pursuant to Chapter Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this Public Shade Tree Hearing will be conducted via remote participation. A recording of this hearing will be available upon request to trees@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL: <https://tinyurl.com/ycka438x>

TO CALL IN

United States: +1 (213) 929-4212
Access code: 208-357-973

7/26/23 The Somerville Times

**NOTICE OF PARTIAL and CONFIRMATORY PARTIAL TERMINATION OF
ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION**

**Eastern and Northern Portions of New Lot 3
Somerville, Massachusetts 02143
3-15887**

A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has occurred at this location, which is a disposal site as defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, § 2 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. On July 19, 2023, Residences at Innerbelt, LLP recorded with the Middlesex County South District and Suffolk County Registry of Deeds a **PARTIAL and CONFIRMATORY PARTIAL TERMINATION of a NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION** on the disposal site, pursuant to 310 CMR 40.1080 through 40.1084. The **NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION** was originally recorded and/or registered on **January 29, 1998** and amended on **April 9, 2002**.

Any person interested in obtaining additional information about the **NOTICE OF PARTIAL and CONFIRMATORY PARTIAL TERMINATION OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION** may contact **Richard Stromberg, LSP, Boston Environmental Corp., 203 Spark Street, Brockton, Massachusetts 02302, (508) 897-8051**.

The **Partial and Confirmatory Partial Terminations of Activity and Use Limitation** and the disposal site file can be reviewed at MassDEP website using Release Tracking Number (RTN) 3-15887 at <https://eeonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#/search/wastesite> or at MassDEP, Northeast Regional Office, 205B Lowell Street, Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887, (978) 694-3200.

7/26/23 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB #24-04**

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

Fire Alarm Systems Maintenance and Repairs

A bid package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, July 26th, 2023**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, August 16th, 2023**.

The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact PCS Department at procurement@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid deposit required.
DCAMM Certification and Update Statement required for
Fire Alarm Systems

Thupten Chukhatsang
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

7/26/23 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB #24-05**

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

Sprinkler Systems Maintenance and Repairs

A bid package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, July 26th, 2023**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **3:00 pm, Wednesday, August 16th, 2023**.

The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact PCS Department at procurement@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid deposit required.
DCAMM Certification and Update Statement required for Fire
Protection Sprinkler Systems

Thupten Chukhatsang
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

7/26/23 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 8/9/2023 at 12:00PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Nina Fury unit #354MZ; Michael Peterson unit #355MZ. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

7/19/23, 7/26/23 The Somerville Times

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and follow us on Twitter at [@somervilletimes](https://twitter.com/somervilletimes)

LEGAL NOTICES

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Advertising

The **Somerville Housing Authority** is seeking competitive sealed Request for Responses (RFR) for Section 8 Housing Choice Home Inspection Services, **SHA Job No. P-SEC8INSPECT-2** in accordance with the specifications prepared by the SHA Purchasing Department.

The Term is for One (1) year with a Two (1) year options at the SHA's sole discretion.

Documents will be posted at **11:00 A.M., July 26, 2023.**

Responses will be received until **11:00 A.M., August 9, 2023.**

The work is estimated to cost **\$86,00.00** for 3 years.

Download of RFR Documents will be available for download on SHA's Web site, www.sha-web.org, under our Bid opportunities tab at **11:00 a.m., July 26, 2023.** If bidding, you must contact Anthony Crespo by email at Tonyc@sha-web.org and register/leave contact information including an email. You will receive a reply that your email has been received. Proposers are responsible for ensuring that their email and bids are received. Addendum's will be posted on the website and shall be the bidder's responsibility to include in bid.

7/26/23 The Somerville Times

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Ms. Cam's
Olio
Answers

From on page 8

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Franklin Roosevelt | 7. One Day at a Time |
| 2. Books | 8. The bottle cap from the last beer he ever drank |
| 3. Amelia Earhart | |
| 4. Sacramento, CA | 9. With a Little Help from My Friends |
| 5. Central Perk | 10. Battle of Waterloo |
| 6. A roller coaster with a height or drop of at least 300 feet | 11. Trifecta |
| | 12. REM |

Review of ‘Paradise Disentangled’
– Art showcase by Kelly Bishop

By Yoko Zhu

The Art House in Somerville, which hosts emerging artists, is currently featuring artist Kelly Bishop's first solo exhibition, *Paradise Disentangled*, now through July 29.

Paradise Disentangled showcases ten oil paintings, all depicting meditative settings that invite viewers to retreat into. The majority of the paintings include familiar objects, a swing set, a swimming pool, a chair, a cup of tea, a disco ball. These objects, indicators of the scene, are centered amidst the swath of lines of shapes.

There's a sense of fragmentation in Bishop's work, though this doesn't distort the cohesion. Rather, the fragmentation adds depth, contributing to the prismatic visuals. The brushstrokes are mostly visible to the viewer's eye. In most of Bishop's paintings, the colorful gradients have discernable paint strokes. Bishop, wearing a blue-and-white toile patterned set, nicknamed her paintings her "mind palaces."

In most of Bishop's paintings, there are spherical orbs present. In *LIGHT/COLOR/SOUNDBATH*, they are bathing in a swimming pool. In *The Generator Room*, the orbs are in a conference room. Bishop's personification of these circular shapes adds an additional dimension to the paintings, only if the viewer is willing to imagine the orbs as fluid, animated entities.

There were pieces I gravitated towards more than others. My favorite painting, *Sabbatical in a Tropical Space*, which Bishop remarked was



LIGHT/COLOR/SOUNDBATH by Kelly Bishop.

a crowd favorite, conjured mental images of a Floridian vacation. The bright pinks are playful. The blues are serene. The purples feel serendipitous. The little chair, teacup, and umbrella are symbols of respite. Perhaps, it is my favorite because I can visualize myself there the easiest.

Eschaton for Two is also an invitation for insertion. The orbs are present again, having a picnic. A bottle of wine is spilled on the checkered blanket. They appear in the middle of something. "Eschaton," a Greek word for "the final event in a divine plan, the end of the world" provides insight into Bishop's painting. Bishop's titles are brilliant and, in some cases,

provide a piece to the puzzle. Out of Bishop's paintings, I'm the least drawn to *The Generator Room*. This innate preference is based on the visuals. The colors, which are more toned down, are less eye-catching. This, in itself, is not a bad thing. *The Generator Room* simply falls last in my *Paradise Disentangled* line-up.

To me, the core of Bishop's artistry is not her ability to make her paintings feel real, rather her ability to make them feel alive.

Chase Young Gallery, The Art House, 862 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. Hours: Friday - Saturday 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

<http://www.chaseyounggallery.com/the-art-house>



Eschaton for Two.



The Generator Room

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.

Open letter to Mayor Ballantyne

Dear Mayor Ballantyne,

I am an everyday cyclist and pedestrian living and voting in Prospect Hill Somerville and my family has had several near-death experiences that could be easily solved by better road design. Although I have been pleasantly surprised with some of the commitment to bike safety and recent improvement, I am writing to let you know that I am deeply disappointed to hear about the recent decision to not include a protected bike lane on Highland Ave. this year. More tragedies will happen under your watch until this is fixed.

I thought you ought to hear my story - quite a scary story - of biking and walking around Somerville with our young children and especially Highland Avenue. I hope it can have an impact in changing this decision.

Two years ago I wrote a letter when the Sewer Separation Project started to urge the city to add a separated bike lane in the redesign of Highland Avenue (link to the full letter [1] - partially published in WickedLocal [2]). In that letter I said "Every minute spent biking on Highland Street currently I am fearing for my children's life, mine and the one of my husband." Unfortunately, that fear became reality three months ago, when my husband nearly lost his life in a bike accident caused by a car dangerously cutting traffic on Highland Avenue.

This is a picture of my daughter, Soraya, showing me the bits of road that "are missing because they went into daddy's head". The day of the accident, my husband was coming back from dropping her at the Summer Street Preschool. Thankfully Soraya wasn't on the bicycle - she would not have survived the accident.

This is my husband when I joined him at the hospital. The kids were afraid of him for a couple days. I took the second picture the moment my youngest daughter dared to approach him again. He has large scars on his face that he will keep for life. He was wearing a helmet, which probably saved his life. The new design for Highland Ave includes a separated bike lane, which would have prevented the circumstances that caused the accident.

Sadly there is more, one year ago, one block away on Highland Ave. (at the crossing with Putnam) a car drove into our stroller, taking the front wheel off. (Ben Ewan Campen witnessed the incident and shared about it in his newsletter at the time). Thankfully it was empty because we were coming back from preschool, our kids could have been seriously injured or killed. The raised crosswalks in the safer Highland Ave. design would have prevented the driver from speeding through that stop sign.

I'm so grateful my daughter wasn't on the bike that day. I'm so grateful my kids

weren't in the stroller that other day. Every day I make the choice to bike the streets of Somerville or walk around with my family. I am putting myself and my family at risk. We should not have to risk our life just because we decide to not drive a car for environmental, health, community, or financial reasons. Change has to happen - and it should happen now.

Somerville is growing rapidly, that means construction is everywhere and traffic is more dangerous than ever for cyclists and pedestrians. On the day my husband was hit, there was ongoing construction blocking Somerville Ave and Summer Avenue, forcing him to ride on Highland Avenue even though we know it is such a dangerous road. Construction also meant there was a patch of gravel on the road that contributed to the accident.

Improving the bike infrastructure is no longer a slow overall improvement that you can choose to grant when time and budget allow it. It is an absolute need for the safety of your citizens. What I am asking is:

Create a temporary design, as soon as possible, similar to the pilot project on Washington street, that include a protected bike lane.

When Highland is repaved towards the end of this year, include the protected bike lane as previously promised.

I believe that change CAN happen quickly, I am pretty sure that if my daugh-

ter had been killed on the bike that day, Highland Ave. would have protected bike lanes by now. Too often, this is how bike safety works, and I'm asking you to not wait and make things right before another life is lost (remember the recent death of Stephen Conley [3]).

I think you already have a lot of data that confirms that protected bike lanes on Highland Ave. are the right thing to do and that it is what your citizens want. Additionally, this reddit thread that circulated around my husband's accident [4] is a good reminder of public opinions on the matter. Thank you for reading, and I am looking forward to hearing back from you,

Lise Capet

Munroe Street, Somerville

[1] https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hcg_-8CPnN2auj1MtOkln1x-dq1TcfbN2Mm-bmv69os/edit?pli=1

[2] <https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/somerville-journal/2021/02/16/letter-prioritize-protected-bike-lanes-highland-avenue/6763189002/>

[3] <https://www.cambridgeday.com/2022/09/02/somerville-mayor-will-add-protected-bicycle-lanes-on-holland-street-after-death-of-a-rider-in-august/>

[4] https://www.reddit.com/r/Somerville/comments/125p1ax/bicyclist_with_kid_trailer_hit_on_highland/

Somerville Human Rights Commission discusses recruitment plans for new members

By Khoa Tong

The Somerville Human Rights Commission (HRC) discussed plans to recruit new members to the group in their monthly meeting held on Wednesday, July 19. The meeting was attended by members Christopher Spicer Hankle, Lara Ver-

sari as well as Latoya Saulters, Commission Coordinator for the city's Racial and Social Justice Department.

The recruitment plan, presented by Saulters, aims to explain the aims of the Commission to the community by holding various events and putting up flyers throughout the city.

The overall goal set by the plan aims to recruit at least 10 new members to the Commission. HRC is hoping to find members with a range of skills in project management, technology, social media and various others in order to increase their ability to deliver and advocate for human rights in the community.

The Commission has already received letters of interest as well as more attendance at their monthly meetings, but with the plan, members would like to see more residents reach out.

No exact plans are established yet but members are beginning to reach out at local events and spaces to set up meet and greets,

brochures and flyers to reach out to the community.

To read more about the commission, visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/office-somerville-commissions/human-rights-commission>, or email Latoya Saulters with your questions or comments at lsaulters@somervillema.gov.

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

'Feet Keep the Beat' festival to debut in early August

The Center for Arts at the Armory (CAA) heats up the stage this summer with Feet Keep the Beat, a new annual multicultural percussive dance festival that CAA is both producing and presenting. CAA is thrilled to bring together vibrant and diverse communities of Flamenco, Irish, Tap, Kathak, Body Percussion and other flavors of percussive dance from around the world.

The August 4 Feet Keep the Beat Festival Showcase Performance (doors at 7:00 p.m., show at 8:00 p.m.) will include Ariaki Dandawate (Kathak), DrumatiX (tap, body percussion, drumming), Fourth Dimension (tap), Khalid Hill (tap), Yosi Karahashi (flamenco), Anjali Nath (Kathak), and Jackie O'Riley and Rebecca McGowan (Irish). Performers and companies will dance a 15-minute set in their own percussive style, and the show will conclude with an inter-cultural grand finale jam with all of the artists.



Kathak artist Anjali Nath. — Photo by Brooke Duthie

This will be the Boston area's first ever festival of this type, and will include four days of classes and jams, culminating with the exciting Showcase Performance on August 4. Classes will be taught by the performing artists and companies participating in the August 4 Showcase, as well as Ian Berg (tap and musicality) and Anastasia Yendiki (flamenco). There will be two free jams in the Armory Café, an Irish Jam on August 1 and a Flamenco Tablao on August 2.

"Our goals are to bring people of all backgrounds and all ages with a love of dance, music, and percussion to the same space, produce high-caliber work, enrich our participants' lives through enthralling performances, provide platforms for cultural dance that is not as widely recognized or appreciated, provide chances to learn and participate in workshops, build community, and support the growing performing arts scene in Greater Boston,"



Tap, body percussion, drumming group DrumatiX will be part of the "Feet Keep the Beat" festival taking place in August at the Center for Arts at the Armory.

says Stephanie Scherpf, Arts at the Armory Co-Director/CEO, who also conceived of the festival and is playing a leading role in producing it.

"I saw the Brooklyn, NY-based percussive trio Soles of Duende perform as part of CrashFest at House of Blues several years ago, and I thought, we have the same percussive dance communities represented by Soles of Duende in the Boston area, we just need to bring them together," says Scherpf. "While we work on improving the Armory Performance Hall to better host dance, I think that we can do percussive dance well. I formed a group of the Boston-based percussive dance artists that I know and we started planning. We defined percussive dance as 'dance that uses the feet or another body part to make percussive rhythms.' In addition to Flamenco, Kathak, Irish, Tap, and Body Percussion, we also wanted to include Step, Gumboot and Flatfooting. The artists in those forms who we are in touch with were not available this year but we are hoping to be able to include them in the future."

Tickets and class registrations are available on the Feet Keep the Beat event platform: [https://give.artsatthearmory.org/event/feet-](https://give.artsatthearmory.org/event/feet-keep-the-beat/e471294)

[keep-the-beat/e471294](https://give.artsatthearmory.org/event/feet-keep-the-beat/e471294). The Center for Arts at the Armory is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143.



Flamenco dancer Yosi Karahashi.

Protect yourself from mosquitoes this summer

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has detected West Nile virus (WNV) in Massachusetts for the first time this year in mosquito samples from Brookline and Worcester. Although no human or animal cases of WNV or Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) have been reported, Somerville residents should take steps to protect themselves from mosquitoes and mosquito-borne illnesses.

While WNV and EEE can infect people of all ages, people over 50 are at higher risk for severe WNV, and people under 15 are particularly vulnerable to EEE. WNV and EEE symptoms tend to include fever and flu-like illness.

DPH recommends the following precautions:

Avoid mosquito bites

- ♦ Apply insect repellent when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), IR3535 or oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under 2 months old and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under 3 years old. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets, and camping gear and should not be applied to skin.
- ♦ Clothing can help reduce mosquito bites. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long sleeves, long pants, and socks outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- ♦ Be aware of peak mosquito hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. When risk increases, consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during the evening or early morning. If you are outdoors and notice mosquitoes around you, take steps to avoid being bitten by moving indoors, covering up, and/or wearing repellent.

Mosquito-proof your home

- ♦ Drain standing water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding items holding water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and frequently change the water in birdbaths.
- ♦ Install or repair screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly fitting screens on your windows and doors.

Protect your animals

- ♦ Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas.
- ♦ Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for animal use and vaccinations to prevent WNV and EEE.
- ♦ If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to the Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795, and to the Department of Public Health by calling 617-983-6800.

For more information, go to mass.gov/dph/mosquito or call the Massachusetts DPH Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800.



The boom box painter: Interview with Andrew Fisher CONT. FROM PG 1

was about being a GenX and the ideas of pop culture and technology, science, and all these different things that were happening in society," Fish explains.

"The boom box was a natural part of that landscape because the boombox was portable music and it was a novelty at the time you could bring your radio out on the street and people would dance there or skateboard or roller skate or just break dancing revolved around the boombox," Fish says.

Knowing what the ArtBeat theme was, it seemed natural to the artists to revisit the boom boxes, in a new creative way.

"I've been making them steady-

ly all along, there are even more that are actually in the windows right now, and I'll probably keep making them until I get saturated or bored with it," says Fish with a smile.

All of Fish's boom boxes have different looks, unlike the industrialized ones, as the painter highlighted, and he explains how they are created.

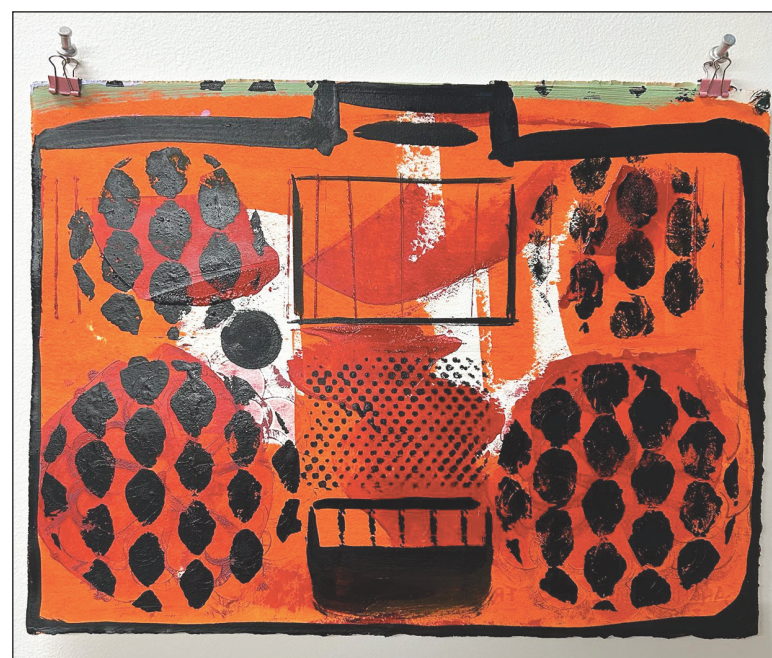
"They have their personalities, so they start out as these abstractions and there is a lot of play with form and color and gesture," Fish explains. "And then they start to take on personalities, so then each one becomes a unique object," he explains.

"I like to think of them as people, each boom box is like a per-

son. They have their own beauty, their own quirks, their own aesthetic, and their own attitude, so I see a character in each one of them. I get quite fond of them," says Fish.

Fish does not associate the boom boxes with people who are familiar to him. He sees them as strangers and hopes that viewers will do the same. According to him, they create a feeling of empathy, the way someone feels about a color or a texture will give them a different idea and feeling.

He highlights that he works on focusing in different series as a conceptual underpinning that will launch him into another series of paintings that relate to



the initial concept. Another collection highlighting his youth is

Limelight, which is available on his website www.andrewfish.us.

COMMENTARY

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

The City Charter Revision – What’s the Next Step?



By Will Mbah
Candidate for Somerville
City Councilor at Large

At the very end of May, the Special Subcommittee of the City Council on Charter Revision finished its work and sent to the Mayor the draft Amended City Charter. This text was based on the earlier draft that the Charter Review Committee of citizens and city officers had prepared during 2021 and 2022.

The completion of this important work at the Council did not get the attention it deserved, because the city budget review for FY2024 was about to start and the same week, the ceiling fell at Winter Hill School and the Mayor and Council had to respond with emergency actions.

Now that the immediate crisis has been brought under control, it seems appropriate to check back on the progress of the Charter. The Mayor’s office has been responsible at this stage to make final adjustments and then transmit the draft to the state legislature as a Home Rule petition.

What changes are in the revised Charter?

This draft revised Charter has fulfilled two of the purposes that were originally set as goals: First, all of its sections have been re-written in modern language, incorporating gender-neutral terms and the vocabulary of contemporary municipal law, finance and management. Second, there are over 30 detailed changes that improve or clarify structures and process. These include the following:

- A more clear City Council role in approving the appointments of department heads and members of boards and commissions;
- A similar City Council role in filling vacancies of department heads, members of boards and commissions

and members of the School Board, with provisions allowing the Council to petition the Mayor if he/she leaves positions open or with temporary officers for too long;

- Clarification of City’s Administrative Code as the regulations to define the structure and powers of all city agencies (without the need for Home Rule petitions to change or create a new department);
- Budget details – changes in the dates for presentation of preliminary budget documents, and the new presentation of City Council budget priorities before the Mayor’s budget proposal in April;
- Adjustments in the dates on which the capital improvement plan is presented to the City Council and the public;
- Transferring to the City Council the power to appoint the City Auditor;
- Authorizing the hiring of a City Chief Administrative Officer;
- Requiring a review of the Charter every ten years, and more frequent periodic review of all city ordinances and the structures of municipal boards and commissions.

What proposed changes were left out of the draft Charter?

Several fundamental changes that were proposed by citizens and groups were not included in the draft, even though they had support among members of the Charter Revision Committee and City Councilors. The decision was made in the end to omit them because their inclusion raised questions of possible non-compliance with state laws and appeared to merit further work on details of structure and process. The final report of the Charter revision Committee had recommended that these issues be referred to study committees to work out the details, find consensus and present more clear proposals in future years. The issues are:

- **rank-choice voting** in municipal elections;
- a stronger **City Council role in the budget process**, which could allow the Council to add funds to specific lines,

instead of just cutting the amounts proposed by the Mayor;

- a mechanism for **public financing of municipal campaigns**.
- **16-17 year old voting** and
- **voting for non-citizen residents** in municipal elections.

Another proposal to **increase the term of the Mayor to four years** was recommended by the Charter Review Committee in its August 2022 draft, but was subsequently removed by the City Council sub-committee.

Finally, the city has already created an experimental program of **participatory budgeting**, and if it proves successful, it could also be added in a future Charter amendment.

Have we lost an opportunity to make meaningful change?

I was disappointed by the outcome of the Charter Revision process at the end of May because it failed to deal clearly with the primary questions – that is, how to re-balance the authorities of the Mayor and the City Council in the context of a city, where we are trying to increase the variety and scope of services we offer to citizens and broaden opportunities for citizens to be active participants. The weak outcome of all this work does not offer confidence that the city will follow through with the tasks it has left undone.

The Mayor should act without more delay to finish the review and initiate whatever next steps are required. More important, there needs to be a clear timetable, strategy and assignment of responsibilities to the agencies, working with the Council, to undertake the agenda of reforms.

I noted this week the reports from our neighbors in Boston, who have begun to review the outcome of their first year, using a new budget process with stronger Council powers. They were willing to act and now their practical experience should give us guidance.

If you want to learn more or support my campaign, please visit my website at willmbah.com.

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

- Fenway Park, home of the Red Sox and the 111-year-old shrine to Major League Baseball, is the oldest in the nation. Charles Taylor, founder of The Boston Globe newspaper, was a Somerville Alderman who raised his family on Belmont Street and built the famous stadium.
- John Taylor, Charles’ son, didn’t like the name of his father’s team, so he changed it from the Boston Puritans to the Boston Red Sox. The reason for the odd spelling of Sox is that he did not want to completely plagiarize the name of his favorite team, the Cincinnati Red Stockings.
- In 1914, Somerville’s Brother Gilbert Cairns, a graduate of St. Joseph’s High School in Union Square, discovered Babe Ruth, the future “Sultan of Swat” and one of Cooperstown’s first entries into its Baseball Hall of Fame.
- Daniel “Danny” MacFayden played baseball for Somerville High School. This spectacled baseball pitcher with horn-rimmed glasses tossed for both Boston and New York. He once struck out Hall of Famers Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig back-to-back.
- In 1910, baseball fan Presi-

dent William Howard Taft was the first Commander in Chief to throw out the first pitch in baseball. The tradition still exists today, and the ball he threw is at Cooperstown. Taft also originated the “Seventh Inning Stretch” during the same game. Two months later, Somerville honored him with a Fourth of July parade and a city-wide tour.

- Timothy Keefe was one of the most impressive pitchers in early professional baseball. He was enshrined into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1964. He was born on Somerville’s Springfield

Street on New Year’s Day in 1857. He lived a tale of two cities, living also in Cambridge where he is buried and honored by Tim Keefe Square.

- Somerville’s, Harold “Pie” Traynor learned to play ball at Trum Field, often playing bare-handed. He was inducted into Cooperstown’s Baseball Hall of Fame in 1948, the first third baseman so honored. He was a manager, scout and radio broadcaster, but more importantly, the best player at that position for ten years straight.

Cooperstown has an acclaimed

statue honoring one of the most famous poems about baseball, Casey at the Bat. The poem, 125 years old this year, had two possible authors. One was Ernest Lawrence Thayer, a Harvard-educated wealthy mill owner. The other was Somerville’s George Whitefield D’vys, a Houghton Street writer and correspondent. D’vys was the longest claimant until after many years when the disputing finally stopped. Whatever side you take, either the David and Goliath or the Rags to Riches wannabe side, the poem triumphs in Cooperstown.

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II
8:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
8:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
9:00 AM SomerViva - Ekip k'ap Sipòte Komite Ayisyèn
9:30 AM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting
10:30 AM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
11:06 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #1
11:30 AM Public Safety For All InfoSeries Session 1
12:00 PM ArtBeat 2023
1:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting 6-27-23
3:30 PM Ward 4 Spring Community Meeting 5-16-23
5:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
6:00 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
7:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
7:30 PM SomerViva - Ekip k'ap Sipòte Komite Ayisyèn
8:00 PM ArtBeat 2023
9:00 PM City Council Meeting 7-13-23
11:31 PM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo

THURSDAY, JULY 27

12:00 AM Public Safety For All InfoSeries Session 1
12:30 AM ArtBeat 2023
1:30 AM Spring Hill Walking Tour 2023
7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I
7:35 AM ECSA Park Ribbon Cutting
8:00 AM Juneteenth Flag Raising
9:00 AM History of Your House & Family
9:45 AM ECSA Park Ribbon Cutting
10:00 AM Ward 4 Spring Community Meeting 5-16-23
12:00 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
1:00 PM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting
2:00 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
3:00 PM Spanish All Ward Spring Community Meeting
5:00 PM School Committee Meeting 6-26-23

7:31 PM ArtBeat 2023
8:30 PM Driver's License Info Session em Portugues
10:00 PM Public Safety For All InfoSeries Session 1
10:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
11:00 PM History of Your House & Family

FRIDAY, JULY 28

12:00 AM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting
1:00 AM City Council Meeting 7-13-23
7:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #1
7:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
8:00 AM Juneteenth Flag Raising
9:00 AM Jane's Walk: Boynton Yards
10:30 AM Spanish All Ward Spring Community Meeting
12:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
1:00 PM An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington
2:31 PM ArtBeat 2023
4:00 PM Driver's License Info Session em Portugues
5:30 PM Finance Committee of the Whole 6-21-23
7:45 PM ECSA Park Ribbon Cutting
8:00 PM School Committee Meeting 6-26-23
10:31 PM Juneteenth Flag Raising
11:30 PM SomerViva - Ekip k'ap Sipòte Komite Ayisyèn

SATURDAY, JULY 29

12:00 AM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
1:00 AM An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington
7:00 AM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
7:36 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #1
8:00 AM History of Your House & Family
9:00 AM COHR and SPD: Discussion Panel
10:30 AM Ward 2 Spring Community Meeting 5-15-23
1:00 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
2:00 PM SomerViva - Ekip k'ap Sipòte Komite Ayisyèn
3:00 PM City Council Meeting 7-13-23
5:31 PM Pride Flag Raising 2023

6:00 PM Driver's License Info Session em Portugues
7:30 PM An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington
9:01 PM Ward 6 Spring Community Meeting 5-4-23
11:10 PM ECSA Park Ribbon Cutting
11:30 PM SomerViva - Kreyol

SUNDAY, JULY 30

12:00 AM City Council Meeting 7-13-23
2:31 AM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting
7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice III
7:45 AM COHR and SPD: Discussion Panel
9:00 AM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting
10:00 AM Driver's License Info Session em Portugues
11:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
12:00 PM Senior Circuit - Climate Change
12:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting 6-27-23
3:00 PM ArtBeat 2023
4:00 PM Ward 7 Spring Community Meeting 5-18-23
6:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
7:00 PM Senior Circuit - Climate Change
7:30 PM SomerViva - Ekip k'ap Sipòte Komite Ayisyèn
8:00 PM ArtBeat 2023
9:00 PM Public Safety For All InfoSeries Session 1
9:30 PM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting
10:30 PM Spring Hill Walking Tour 2023

MONDAY, JULY 31

12:00 AM Driver's License Info Session em Portugues
1:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
2:00 AM History of Your House & Family
7:00 AM Ward 4 Spring Community Meeting 5-16-23
9:00 AM ArtBeat 2023
9:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
10:00 AM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
11:00 AM History of Your House & Family
12:00 PM SomerViva - Ekip k'ap Sipòte Komite Ayisyèn

12:30 PM School Committee Meeting 6-26-23
3:01 PM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting
4:00 PM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
4:30 PM ArtBeat 2023
5:00 PM Driver's License Info Session em Portugues
6:30 PM Juneteenth Flag Raising
7:30 PM SomerViva - Ekip k'ap Sipòte Komite Ayisyèn
8:00 PM City Council Meeting 7-13-23
10:31 PM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
11:01 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
11:40 PM SPD Ride Along

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

12:00 AM Spanish All Ward Spring Community Meeting
2:00 AM Jane's Walk: Boynton Yards
7:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
7:30 AM An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington
9:01 AM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting
10:00 AM ArtBeat 2023
10:30 AM Driver's License Info Session em Portugues
12:00 PM Senior Circuit - Climate Change
12:30 PM An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington
2:01 PM Ward 7 Spring Community Meeting 5-18-23
4:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
5:00 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
6:00 PM Three Paths to Italy
7:00 PM Senior Circuit - Climate Change
7:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
8:00 PM An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington
9:31 PM Jane's Walk: Boynton Yards
11:00 PM History of Your House & Family

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

12:00 AM Senior Circuit - Climate Change
12:30 AM Finance Committee Meeting 6-27-23

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

8:00 AM Next Wave Graduation 2023
9:00 AM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
10:02 AM SHS Spring Concert & Art Exhibition
12:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Revere
1:30 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising 2023
2:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Minnechaug
4:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Medford
6:00 PM Next Wave Graduation 2023
7:00 PM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
8:02 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Exhibition
10:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Revere
11:30 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising 2023

THURSDAY, JULY 27

12:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Minnechaug
2:00 AM S HS Volleyball vs Medford
8:00 AM Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony
9:00 AM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
10:00 AM SHS Girls' LAX vs Everett
11:00 AM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
12:30 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs LC
2:00 PM Brown School Moving On Ceremony
3:00 PM GBL 2022 XC Championship
4:00 PM ESCS Moving On Ceremony
5:00 PM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
5:30 PM Argenziano 5-8 Spring Concert
6:00 PM Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony
7:00 PM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
8:00 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Everett
9:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
10:30 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs LC

FRIDAY, JULY 28

12:00 AM Full Circle Graduation
1:30 AM Next Wave Graduation 2023
2:30 AM Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony
7:00 AM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising 2023
7:30 AM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
8:00 AM WHCIS Moving On Ceremony
9:30 AM Full Circle Graduation

11:00 AM Argenziano 5-8 Spring Concert
11:30 AM SHS 2023 Graduation
1:00 PM Kennedy K-3 Spring Concert
1:30 PM WHCIS K-3 Spring Concert
2:00 PM WHCIS Gr 4-8 Spring Concert
3:00 PM Spring String Fling
3:30 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Salem
5:00 PM ESCS Spring Concert
6:00 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising 2023
6:30 PM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
7:00 PM WHCIS Moving On Ceremony
8:30 PM Full Circle Graduation
10:00 PM Argenziano 5-8 Spring Concert
10:30 PM SHS 2023 Graduation

SATURDAY, JULY 29

12:00 AM Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony
12:55 AM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
7:30 AM ESCS Moving On Ceremony
8:30 AM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
9:00 AM Pride Flag Raising 2023
9:30 AM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
10:32 AM WHCIS Moving On Ceremony
11:35 AM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
12:30 PM Intramural Boys' Basketball Championship
1:30 PM SHS Chamber Concert
2:30 PM Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony
3:30 PM Brown School Moving On Ceremony
4:30 PM Kennedy K-3 Spring Concert
5:00 PM Argenziano pre K-4 Spring Concert
5:30 PM ESCS Moving On Ceremony
6:30 PM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
7:00 PM Pride Flag Raising 2023
7:30 PM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
8:32 PM WHCIS Moving On Ceremony
9:35 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship

10:30 PM Intramural Boys' Basketball Championship

SUNDAY, JULY 30

12:00 AM Full Circle Graduation
1:30 AM Next Wave Graduation 2023
2:30 AM Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony
7:30 AM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
8:00 AM WHCIS Moving On Ceremony
9:30 AM Full Circle Graduation
11:00 AM Argenziano 5-8 Spring Concert
11:30 AM SHS 2023 Graduation
1:00 PM Kennedy K-3 Spring Concert
1:30 PM WHCIS K-3 Spring Concert
2:00 PM WHCIS Gr 4-8 Spring Concert
3:00 PM Spring String Fling
3:30 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Salem
5:00 PM ESCS Spring Concert
6:00 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising 2023
6:30 PM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
7:00 PM WHCIS Moving On Ceremony
8:30 PM Full Circle Graduation
10:00 PM Argenziano 5-8 Spring Concert
10:30 PM SHS 2023 Graduation

MONDAY, JULY 31

12:00 AM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
1:00 AM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
2:00 AM SHS Class Day 2023
8:00 AM Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony
9:00 AM Brown School Moving On Ceremony
10:00 AM ESCS Moving On Ceremony
11:00 AM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
12:00 PM Argenziano 5-8 Spring Concert
12:30 PM Argenziano pre K-4 Spring Concert
1:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
2:00 PM Intramural Boys' Basketball Championship
3:00 PM SHS Chamber Concert
4:00 PM SHS 2023 Graduation

5:30 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising 2023
6:00 PM Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony
7:00 PM Brown School Moving On Ceremony
8:00 PM ESCS Moving On Ceremony
9:00 PM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
10:00 PM Argenziano 5-8 Spring Concert
10:30 PM Argenziano pre K-4 Spring Concert
11:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

12:00 AM Intramural Boys' Basketball Championship
1:00 AM SHS Chamber Concert
2:00 AM SHS 2023 Graduation
3:30 AM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising 2023
8:00 AM Brown School Moving On Ceremony
9:00 AM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
10:00 AM Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony
11:00 AM Full Circle Graduation
12:30 PM Argenziano pre K-4 Spring Concert
1:00 PM WSNS K-8 Spring Concert
2:30 PM SHS Baseball vs Marblehead
5:00 PM Intramural Boys' Basketball Championship
6:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
7:00 PM Brown School Moving On Ceremony
8:00 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
9:00 PM Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony
10:00 PM Full Circle Graduation
11:30 PM Argenziano pre K-4 Spring Concert

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

12:00 A M Intramural Boys' Basketball Championship
1:00 AM SHS Chamber Concert
2:00 AM Healey 5-8 Spring Concert 6-1-23
2:30 AM Kennedy 4-8 Spring Concert
3:30 AM Kennedy K-3 Spring Concert

City of Somerville 2023 Happiness Survey now open to all

How’s it going, Somerville? We want to know! As of, July 21, the city’s biennial Happiness Survey, mailed to a random sample of 5,000 Somerville residents in June, is now open for everyone to complete online. The survey will close on Tuesday, August 15, 2023. The survey is available online in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Nepali, Traditional Chinese, and Simplified Chinese here: somervillema.gov/HappinessSurvey. The site also provides background information about the survey, along with data and results from 2011-2021 surveys.

Somerville Happiness Survey Frequently Asked Questions:

Can multiple people from my household respond?

Please have only one person from your household complete the survey.

I have just moved to Somerville and can’t speak to everything – should I still participate?

Yes! All perspectives are welcome.

Can I take the survey if I don’t live in Somerville?

Yes! We also welcome responses from people who work in Somerville, have children who attend a Somerville Public School, or have another strong connection to Somerville.

How will my information be used? Will I be identified from my response?

Your demographic information will be used to ensure that the survey is representative but will not be used to identify you. Your responses will be combined with other residents’ responses to help inform decisions that support and enhance well being in Somerville. Results will be anonymous.



Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

said sponsor Rep. Brian Hamilton (D-Methuen). "Ensuring all students, regardless of their zip code or background, can access a mental health professional through school is critical to the health and well-being of our youth," "By prioritizing access to care now, we can help foster positive socio-emotional skills and psychological development before students enter the workforce and adulthood."

REQUIRE FOOD ALLERGY PLAN IN SCHOOLS (S 250) – Would require every school district that enrolls a student with a life-threatening food allergy to develop and implement a Food Allergy Management and Prevention Plan. The plan would include food allergy safety and training, including epinephrine administration protocols; identifying students with known food allergies; and developing strategies for reducing exposure to allergens and treating allergic reactions.. Current law does not require, but rather recommends, that schools establish these programs.

"With diagnoses on the rise, it is increasingly important to ensure that schools are ready to provide safe learning environments for children with food allergies," said sponsor Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton). "This bill would help ensure that Massachusetts kids are safe from allergens at school, both in the classroom and in the cafeteria."

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"We’ve been deeply moved by the devastating impacts we’ve seen and heartbreaking stories we’ve heard. We’re grateful to our philanthropic and private partners for quickly answering the call to action and creating this fund to deliver relief directly to farmers. This is about Team Massachusetts – where we come together to support farmers and their livelihoods, build resilience for our farms and food supply, strengthen our economy and create

a stronger future for our children and families." — Gov. Maura Healey unveiling the Massachusetts Farm Resiliency Fund, a partnership between philanthropic organizations and private foundations intended to support farms impacted by recent flooding.

"Taxpayer advocates have a true champion in [New Hampshire] Gov. Chris Sununu. He showed other aspiring elected officials what it looks like to be a successful fiscal conservative in New England. Gov. Sununu laid out the blueprint for how a Republican can get elected in New England while both staying true to their fiscally conservative principles and bringing success to likeminded, down ballot lawmakers." — Paul Craney, spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance on Sununu’s announcement that he will not seek re-election.

"This [proposed] law is a win-win for Massachusetts, saving residents and businesses money while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the risk of toxic mercury exposure and contamination." — Rep. Josh Cutler (D-Duxbury) on his bill to phase out fluorescent light bulbs transitioning to efficient LED bulbs.

"College should not be an economic burden on students and families, and yet for too long it has been exactly that. President Biden and Vice President Harris have persisted in their pursuit of bringing debt relief to Americans in spite of the best attempts by MAGA Republicans to block them. Thanks to the Biden-Harris Administration, thousands of borrowers here in Massachusetts are now eligible for loan forgiveness." — Massachusetts Democratic Party Chair Steve Kerrigan on the Biden-Harris administration’s announcement that 12,530 borrowers in Massachusetts are eligible for a total of \$592 million in automatic student loan relief.

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 17-21, the House met for a total of 25 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 13 minutes.

Mon. July 17	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. Senate 11:13 a.m. to 11:17 a.m.
Tues. July 18	No House session No Senate session
Wed. July 19	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. July 20	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:17 a.m. Senate 11:11 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.
Fri. — July 21	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

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Buy fresh, affordable local produce at the City of Somerville Mobile Farmers Market



The Somerville Mobile Farmers Market is back for its 13th season, now selling fresh produce across the city on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays through October 28. All produce is sourced from local farms and priced low to make good food affordable and accessible for all. The Mobile Market accepts cash, credit, debit, SNAP, P-EBT, and Farmers Market Coupons for payment. All are welcome. Here's where you can find the Mobile Market this summer and fall:

- Thursday afternoons, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.: Clarendon Hill Towers, 1366 Broadway
- Friday mornings, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Council on Aging, 167 Holland St.
- Friday afternoons, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.: East Somerville Community School, 50 Cross St.
- Saturday mornings, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Mystic Housing (new time)

For more information and to see what's in stock each week, visit the market website at bit.ly/tsmfm.

The Davis Square and Union Square farmers markets also offer a match of up to \$15 for customers paying with SNAP and P-EBT. Visit the Davis Square Farmers Market on Wednesdays between noon and 6:00 p.m. in the parking lot at Herbert and Day streets, and the Union Square Farmers Market at 66-70 Union Square on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Pensive lady wonders what's ahead...

— Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why should you never brush your teeth with your left hand? Because a toothbrush works better.

On This Day in History

July 26

0657 – Mu'awiya defeats Caliph Ali in the Battle of Siffin in Mesopotamia.

1526 – Lucas Vazquez de Ayllon and colonists leave Santo Domingo for Florida.

1529 – Francisco Pizarro receives a royal warrant to "discover and conquer" Peru.

1759 – The French relinquish Fort Ticonderoga in New York to the British under General Jeffrey Amherst.

1775 – The Continental Congress establishes a postal system for the colonies with Benjamin Franklin as the first postmaster general.

1790 – An attempt at a counter-revolution in France is put down by the National Guard at Lyons.

1847 – Liberia becomes the first African colony to become an independent state.

1948 – In an Executive Order, President Harry Truman calls for the end of discrimination and segregation in the U.S. armed forces.

2005 – The shuttle Discovery launches on mission STS-114, marking a return to space after the shuttle Columbia crash of 2003.

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A really NICE vendor market

NICE, a Vendor Market, took place this past weekend in Statue Park, Davis Square. A wide array of amazing brands, makers and sellers took part in the market offering label merch, used vinyl, second-hand clothes, free goodies and more. The Crystal Ballroom at the Somerville Theatre and The Rockwell played dual hosts for the third annual NICE, a fest, all ages concert event featuring over 70 musical acts, mostly from the Greater Boston area, spread out through the weekend at the two hosting venues.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro





OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Walt Whitman and the Making of Jewish American Poetry'

By Dara Barnat

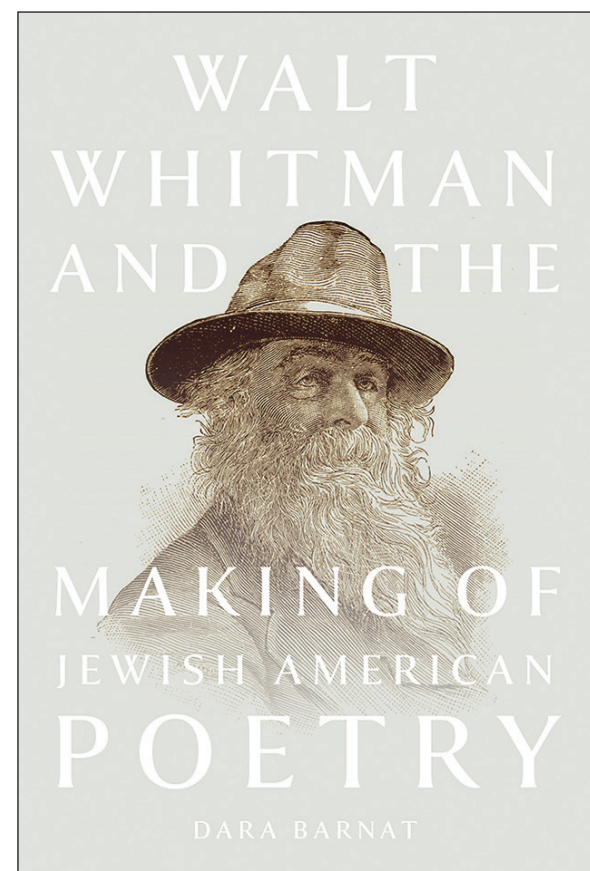
Interview by New England Poetry Club Co-President Doug Holder

In (2007) when I was running workshops for the Voices of Israel organization based in Israel, one of the workshop members was a young poet, Dara Barnat. Well, since then she has become a distinguished academic at Tel Aviv University, and has come out with a fascinating piece of scholarship. I caught up with her recently to talk about her new book *Walt Whitman and the Making of Jewish American Poetry*.

Doug Holder: In a sense, Whitman looked rabbinical with his long, white flowing beard, so even visually he could be construed as a Jew. Was he ever mistaken for one during his life?

Dana Barnat: Doug, first, thank you for these thoughtful questions and your interest in *Walt Whitman and the Making of Jewish American Poetry*, which is set to come out with the University of Iowa Press (Iowa Whitman Series). I'll do my best to give some thoughtful answers. Though I've been asked a few times whether Whitman was actually Jewish (he wasn't), I haven't read anything about him being mistaken for a Jewish person. However, in 1842, Whitman wrote a journalistic article called *Doings at the Synagogue*, about visiting a service in a synagogue on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. That article by Whitman was for me a natural starting point for discussing the numerous Jewish American poets that would come to react to, adopt, embrace, and argue with Whitman. Certainly, in many iconic photographs of Whitman, like those in later editions of *Leaves of Grass*, Whitman has that long grandfatherly beard. I believe it was a brilliant choice by the cover designer Ashley Muehlbauer to use a photo of Whitman that was taken in 1878 by the photographer Napoleon Sarony. This photo can be found at The Walt Whitman Archive (whitmanarchive.org) along with a myriad of other Whitman-related poems, texts, manuscripts, images, and criticism. To me, the image deeply resonates with the topic of the book and adds layers of meaning in the Jewish context by evoking a rabbinical Whitman. Here's the link to the photo: <https://whitmanarchive.org/multimedia/zzz.00067.html>.

DH: Whitman fits the image of the Wandering Jew, who in legend was condemned by Jesus to wander the earth until the Second Coming. Whitman was an Adonis of wandering, and on his travels, he took in everything he saw and used it in his flowing free verse.



DB: That's an interesting association and I agree about Whitman's free verse form. In Whitman's poetry, there doesn't seem to be any person, place, or thing too small or insignificant to bring into a poem. I might not say that Whitman was "condemned" to walk eternally, like in the myth of the Wandering Jew. Often in Whitman, walking (whether in the city or in nature) is depicted as a joyful and exuberant act, like in lines from section eight of the 1891-92 version of *Song of Myself*, "Pleasantly and well-suited I walk, / Wither I walk I cannot define, but I know it is good, / The whole universe indicates that it is good." This walking, witnessing, and recording in poetry what one sees is later reflected in the work of various Jewish American poets, each with different styles and ways of doing so, like Charles Reznikoff and Allen Ginsberg. The poetry of Gerald Stern has this quality, as does Muriel Rukeyser's (though again, in distinct fashions). A commonality between all these poets is that the trope of walking is essentially democratic – a way for the poet to honor everything and everyone, and to bring those on the margins and the sidelines into the center.

DH: Matt Miller opined in a blurb for the book that you show how Jewish poets redefined Whitman. How so?

DB: I believe that Matt Miller's remark here relates to Whitman's legacy, and

Continued on page 23

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Rusty Barnes lives in Revere, MA, with his family and a herd of cats. His work appears widely. He is the author of the poetry chapbook *Dear So and So* and the co-editor of *Live Nude Poems*.



Hey Hey Mama

is the vocal intro to the trippingest
rock and roll signature riff I know,
how the blues rock pentatonics
roll off the guitar like wet thunder,
and Robert Plant's keening call
makes me wanna slap my mama
myself. If you know what I mean
and I think you do. I can only
imagine 1970 in dribblets from
other people's memories
and Lord I know if my woman
presented herself to me in those
terms I'd know she's teasing me
but I would answer that call
with one of my own and try to
tease her back by slinging
a Les Paul down past my crotch
and letting loose with my repertoire
of licks which alas are not like
Jimmy Page's but heartfelt just
the same and in heaven or hell
whoever's in charge will wink.
Allow me to do what I want:
shake em on down. Please.
Shake for me girl.

— Rusty Barnes

To have your work considered for the *Lyrical* send it to:
Doug Holder, 25 School St., Somerville, MA 02143. dougholder@post.harvard.edu

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

are advised to be wary of all unsolicited offers and to research the company / service before providing any form of payment. Residents are also advised not to share any personal or financial information nor let unknown salespersons into their homes. Note that door-to-door solicitors are required by city ordinance to register with the **Somerville Police Department's Records Division** and should have documentation of such. You may confirm a solicitor's registration by calling the SPD Records Division at 617-625-1600 x 7244.

The **Somerville Council on Aging** will hold **tech open hours, Monday, July 31** starting at 10:00 a.m. at the **Holland Street Center**. Bring your phones, computers, and tablets or borrow one from the COA. This is a drop-in style individual help to answer your technology questions and frustrations. RSVP to **Molly Pagliuca** at 781-823-9210 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

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The **Mayor's Annual Senior Picnic** is back on **Tuesday, August 8**, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at **Trum Field** (541 Broadway). There will be music, lunch and entertainment. To attend please call **Connie Lorenti** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319 for your free ticket by **August 1**.

The **Somerville Police Dept.** is happy to announce the return of the **Junior Police Academy for Somerville Youth Grades 5, 6, 7, 8**. The program will run **August 7 – 11** and feature a variety of training situations in which all cadets will be required to participate in. The program will include, but not limited to classroom training, hand on police tactics, and physical training, Travel days to special events and more. To sign up, please go to the **Somerville Recreation** page: <https://bit.ly/3JZbZun>.

Dilboy Pool, 110 Alewife Brook Parkway, is now open for the summer season. Pool hours are Monday – Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 6:45 p.m., Saturday – Sunday, 11:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. Pool admission: Children – \$1. Adults – \$2. **Ginny Smithers Pool** at the Kennedy School, 5 Cherry St., summer hours Monday – Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Resident registration for **summer swimming lessons** opened on **July 3**. **Non-resident** opened on **July 5** at 8:00 a.m. Limited spots are available.

Visit somervillema.myrec.com.
The **City of Somerville's annual Summer-MovieFest** returns this year with a series of seven family-friendly films being shown in parks around Somerville. Screenings begin at dusk. The next screening will be **Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory, Thursday, July 27**, 8:42 p.m., **Seven Hills Park** (Somerville Community Path and Buena Vista Rd.).

Enjoy **free outdoor movies, popcorn, candy, and fun** at **The Block at Boynton Yards**, all summer long. **Friday Flicks Outdoor Movie Nights at Boynton Yards** will start at 7:00 p.m. with yard games and fun, followed by candy, popcorn, and movies once the sun sets. Bring a blanket and get ready for a fun-filled evening. **August 11: Raiders of the Lost Ark** and **September 15: The Little Mermaid** (1995 version). Boynton Yards, 110 South Street.

In partnership with **CAAS Community Action Agency of Somerville**, the city is distributing **500 fully subsidized MBTA passes to low-income Somerville households**. This program aims to fill a critical gap for low-income residents who don't qualify for other transit benefit programs. Learn more and apply at: <https://www.caasomerville.org/transit-program-form>.

For assistance by phone, call CAAS at 617-599-4185.
For updates and detours connected to **Spring Hill Sewer Separation project**, visit: <https://voice.somervillema.gov/springhillsewer>.

With hot summer days ahead, the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is looking for essential supplies to help keep those without a home safe and cool. Whether it's sunscreen or juice boxes, they have compiled an Amazon wish list with key summer items for clients. If you are interested in donating you can do so through the link provided or by dropping items off at their **Engagement Center** located at 1 Davis Square between Monday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. for lunch). https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2S-0DQDB857065?ref_=wl_share&fbclid=IwAR1ZHXC1YJnbbt36Zicx-PnsR7pAEJ4dP1rODG5sNovyNzGE-68py31ENo.

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Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

how it is shaped by the poets, writers, and critics that respond to him. In the case of this book, I specifically examine the tradition of Jewish American poets (and primarily English-language poets, with the fascinating turn to Whitman by Yiddish-language Jewish poets discussed, but largely beyond the scope of my project). I've long been drawn to issues of critical reception – how perceptions of Whitman as an iconic poet change radically according to literary, historical, cultural, and political shifts. I trace interpretations of Whitman in Jewish American poetry, prose, and interviews from the mid-19th century, through the 20th, to the contemporary moment. These responses by Jewish American poets have lent themselves to Whitman's reputation as the paradigmatic American poet today (while also not a straightforward matter in terms of some of Whitman's writings about race). I'll add that questions about Whitman's reception are in no way limited to the Jewish and/or American literary framework. Responses to Whitman have been analyzed by scholars of many literatures and in many languages across the world. This body of critical work has served as a vital foundation for my own research. One major reason I've stayed curious about this topic is due to its nuanced, ever-evolving nature.

DH: What did the wandering New York City poet

Charles Reznikoff have to say about Whitman? He seemed like Ginsberg and others to be heavily influenced by Whitman's work.

DB: Yes and yes! If Charles Reznikoff and the group known as the Jewish Objectivists are of interest, chapter one focuses on Reznikoff and this milieu of the High Modernist period. The poetic adoption of Whitman displayed in Reznikoff's poetry is a lot subtler than in Ginsberg's, and there are sources where Reznikoff says he doesn't even like Whitman that much. Yet Reznikoff's poetry is found to be pretty steeped in Whitman's poetics, not only thematically, but formalistically. And Ginsberg later expresses appreciation not just for Whitman, but for Reznikoff, which challenges an assumption that Ginsberg was the primary Jewish American poet to turn to Whitman. Reflecting for a moment on my research process, back when I was working on this project in dissertation form, I intentionally chose to leave Ginsberg out and look at Whitman in lesser-recognized Jewish American poets. When I was developing the manuscript for this book, I realized that I had to do new research and re-situate Ginsberg vis-à-vis this wider genealogy.

DH: You are a poet. What attracted you to Whitman's work?

DB: I would say first the music. The rhythms that resonate as prayer-like to me. Empathy. Inclusiveness. Compassion for the self and the other. Life and death. If I may, in 2016 I did an interview with Jessica Mason for the wonderful journal *Poet Lore*. I hope it's okay if I link to it, since we had a delightful discussion (over email) pertaining to Whitman as an influence in a creative and poetic sense.

http://thewriterscenter.blogspot.com/2016/07/uncovering-whitman-with-dara-barnat_28.html

DH: Why should we read this book?

DB: If Walt Whitman, American poetry, Jewish American literature and poetry, outsider identity, democracy, intersections of poetry, politics, and culture, and critical reception are of any interest, I extend an open invitation to do so. I'm honored for the book to be part of the Iowa Whitman Series, together with scholarship on Whitman from a multitude of orientations, which can't but evoke the famous quote in *Song of Myself*, "I contain multitudes." There are a multitude of ways to approach Whitman, and this book is one contribution to the enduring and dynamic conversation around Whitman. And Doug, again, thank you for taking the time to pose these questions!



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