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Somerville finalizes new contract with SEIU Chapter 3



A new union agreement has been reached between the City of Somerville and the Somerville School Custodians' union.

The City of Somerville is announcing a new union agreement that will raise pay and modernize benefits for Somerville School Custodians, represented by SEIU, Chapter 3 (NCFO 32BJ). The newly signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) covers Fiscal Years 2026 through 2028 and was ratified by the union and Mayor Wilson in June. It became effective following the Somerville City Council's appropriation of funds for the agreement at their July 9 meeting.

"Day in and day out, our school custodians keep our school buildings healthy, safe, and functioning so our educators and students can focus on what they are there to do: teach and learn," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "I'm grateful to SEIU Chapter 3 and our city team for negotiating the strong, fair contract that our custodians and families

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Join Somerville's Yart Sale on Saturday, August 8

Somerville porches, driveways, and front yards will once again transform into mini galleries and pop-up markets as Yart Sale returns on Saturday, August 8 (rain date: August 9), from noon to 6 p.m.

Find everything from original paintings and photography to handmade goods, band merch, art supplies, tools, vintage clothes, plants, frames, and more. Each purchase supports local artists and makers. With no two yards the same, you're in for a day filled with unexpected treasures, neighborhood connections, and artistic joy for all ages.

"YartSale is a great two-for-one. It celebrates Somerville's creativity while connecting neighbors with artists and their work. Last year I found a piece that is now proudly displayed in my home," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "I'm excited to explore what this year's event has to offer and

Continued on page 4



Residents are invited to this annual citywide yard sale for art.

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

Join #ARTSTAYSHERE for a special screening of the documentary short *A MATTER OF LIGHT* on the founding of Vernon Street Studios, the largest artist workspace community in Somerville, on **July 29**, 6 – 8 p.m. at the Somerville Museum, One Westwood Rd., followed by a discussion with **Anne Continelli**, the filmmaker, and the founders. This special event is part of #ARTSTAYSHERE's community curator exhibition **FACES, PLACES & SPACES**, on view **through August 23**. Go here to reserve your ticket for the film event: <https://AMatterofLight.eventbrite.com>. Go here to read the ArtScope feature on the exhibition: <https://bit.ly/artscopejulaug26>.

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

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Wishing a very happy birthday to **Natalia Potaris**. We wish her a very special day. To **Kaitlin Denk**, we wish her a very happy birthday. We hope she had a great day. Happy birthday to **Ron Newman**. We hope he enjoys his day. Happy birthday to a local guy, **Zach Zasloff**. We wish him a great day. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Gail Stoico**, **Mark Niedergang**, **Michael Delicato**, **Robert Carnes**, **Laura Pitone**, **Daniel M. Kimmel**, **Nancy Christine**, *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of July 29 – August 4 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>July 29</i>	Rain	70°/64°	95%	66%	E 14 mph
 Thursday <i>July 30</i>	Rain	69°/61°	60%	49%	NNE 14 mph
 Friday <i>July 31</i>	Partly Cloudy	78°/64°	22%	13%	NNE 9 mph
 Saturday <i>August 1</i>	Partly Cloudy	83°/67°	20%	11%	S 10 mph
 Sunday <i>August 2</i>	Cloudy	82°/65°	23%	12%	SSW 11 mph
 Monday <i>August 3</i>	Thunderstorms	80°/64°	53%	42%	W 11 mph
 Tuesday <i>August 4</i>	Partly Cloudy	82°/65°	14%	9%	WNW 9 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: Stop Gaslighting Us: Somerville residents deserve real answers and solutions regarding the future of schools

Jonathan Rameau says:

This whole thing is terribly thought out at every level. The real tragedy is that the past mayor wasted years that could have been didn't agree them because she was to cowardly and incompetent. The city council and still committee also clearly share a lot of blame here. Of course winter Hill and Brown families will end up paying for this with reduced opportunity throughout their lives.

What a crock says:

Brown School parents still fighting against going to school with The Poors, I see. I don't care if it's 2 million or 90 million, the state isn't paying anything to rebuild Brown. The state WILL pay for Winter Hill. This is a not a hard call. This group gives up the game on their website: in the Future of Somerville Schools page, they talk about how having the Brown is important for Somerville so people can send their kids to a small school "even if you don't have the money for private school". They want to keep the Brown as a cute little exclusionary school, and they want the city to pay for it out of pocket.

Response to: Louisa Gag Memorial

Neha Sharma says:

A touching tribute and a powerful call to action by Councilor Will Mbah! Turning grief into advocacy for safer streets is the best way to honor Louisa Gag's legacy. Huge gratitude to the Somerville community for riding together and continuing to push for real infrastructural progress and traffic safety!

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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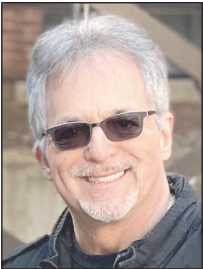
Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

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

I'll meet you at Harold's



As you all may know by now, I love reminiscing about Somerville in the old days, especially with my Facebook friends.

Not the 1900's, but the 1960's through the 1980's. The dates may not all be correct, but that's what comes with the aging process – a process I love as long as it continues for as long as humanly and coherently possible.

Today I am going to spend a fictitious day traveling through the Somerville of my youth. Again, chronologically I may be off, but in my mind, there are no dates, just memories. I can't help but once again go back for a visit to my favorite long-gone spots. Are you with me?

My day starts off with a hankering for a submarine sandwich. Where should I go? My two favorites are Bella Meos, in Powder House Square, and Todi's (pronounced Toddies) in Ball Square.

At Todi's you get to listen to the fast-paced, quick-witted wisecracks of Todi himself. That is like dinner and a show! Or maybe I should pop in Harold's Luncheonette at the corner of Rogers and Broadway. There's a show going on there also. The Anna show! I always get a warning when I go in there because I travel with a pack of St. Clements hooligans. But Butch keeps us in line. They have a wicked cool jukebox and a killer BLT.

Then maybe I'll head up to Teele Square to Duke's 5 & 10, and then Steen's Bakery for some great bread. Almost forgot to pick up that prescription for Dad at Fur-bush and Shute Drugstore.

In the winter we have to hit Harold's for hot chocolate after freezing our butt's off skating on the frozen-over Trum Field. After all, Dunkin Donuts isn't in Magoun Square yet.

Davis Square has tons of restaurants that cater to just about every taste, style, and preference. Back in the day, my favorite was The Venice Café. *Continued on page 15*



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Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: Why would a deceased person's estate have to file and pay income taxes?

A: An estate may have to file its own income-tax return when assets left behind continue earning income after the person's death. This is different from an estate tax, which is based on the value of the estate rather than the income it earns.

When someone dies, their tax world splits into two separate timelines:

• Before Death (Final Form 1040)

Income earned from January 1 through the date of death is generally reported on the deceased person's final individual income-tax return.

• After Death (Estate Income-Tax Return)

If someone dies on June 30, income earned through June 30 is generally reported on the person's final tax return. If the estate continues earning bank interest, dividends, rental income, or investment gains beginning July 1, that income is generally reported by the estate and may need to be reported on Form 1041 and, in Massachusetts, Form 2.

• Both the IRS and Massachusetts have filing requirements.

A federal Form 1041 is generally required if an estate has \$600 or more of gross income during its tax year. In Massachusetts, an estate generally must file Form 2 if it has more than \$100 of gross income. If income tax is due, it is generally paid from estate assets before the remaining assets

are distributed to heirs or beneficiaries.

Bottom Line: An estate may have to file and pay income taxes on income earned after a person's death. Those obligations generally should be addressed before the remaining assets are distributed to heirs or beneficiaries.

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

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



Somerville to host National Night Out for an evening of family-friendly fun

The Somerville Police Department and Somerville Recreation invite residents to a fun-filled evening of community connection at Somerville's annual National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 4, at Dilboy Stadium (110 Alewife Brook Parkway) from 5 to 8 p.m. (rain date: Wednesday, August 5). This free event will feature a diverse array of family-friendly activities and entertainment including:

• Bounce houses • Character meets • Dunk tank • Touch-a-truck • Pizza • Raffles (free to enter) • Lawn games • Local vendors and community resources

Additionally, the first 300 school-aged kids or teens to arrive will receive a free backpack and school supplies to get ready for the upcoming school year.

"As someone who loves both free pizza and community building, National Night Out is one of my favorite summer events," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "It's a great way for families to meet the officers who serve our communities. The more we get to know one another and look out for each other, the stronger our community becomes."

National Night Out is a nationwide initiative promoting police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer and more caring places to live.

"Good community policing starts with good community relationships – and you can't beat a dunk tank for relationship-building," said Councilor Matt McLaughlin. "National Night Out is always a great time, and I'm looking forward to catching up with neighbors, colleagues, and friends at Dilboy. Thanks to SPD for bringing us all together every summer."

For more information, please visit somervillema.gov/calendar.



Somerville finalizes new contract with SEIU Chapter 3

CONT. FROM PG 1

deserve, and to the City Council for their support."

Key provisions include:

• Wage adjustments in FY26 to achieve pay equity with City building custodians, followed by 2% cost of living adjustments for FY27 and FY28.

• Accelerated accrual rates for vacation time.

• Increased staffing flexibility to better support Somerville Public Schools operations, achieved through additional floater positions and the creation of new shifts to bridge the end of the school day and after-

school period.

"Custodians keep our school buildings clean, safe, and running. This contract gives them the fair wages, benefits, and worker protections they deserve," said Councilor-At-Large and Chair of the School Buildings Facilities and Maintenance

Committee, Jon Link. "Crucially, it also gives the city the staffing flexibility to put people where they're needed most, when they're needed most, which is exactly what parents and schools have been asking for. Good union contracts are proof that when workers win, we all do."

Join Somerville's Yart Sale on Saturday, August 8

CONT. FROM PG 1

encourage everyone to stop by to support our local artists."

Examples of things that can be part of the Yart Sale:

• Any art medium (paintings, photogra-

phy, collage, ceramics, etc.)

• Handmade objects (jewelry, pottery, quilts, knitted items, etc.)

• Collectible items (coins, postcards, baseball cards, instruments, magnets, etc.)

• Musician/band merchandise

• Art tools, supplies, equipment, and books

"There is something for everyone at Yart Sale," said Councilor Emily Hardt. "It is such a fun way to celebrate creativity, find

treasures, and connect with neighbors, all while supporting local artists."

For more information and to access exhibitor locations and times, visit: somervilleartsandculture.org/yart-sale.

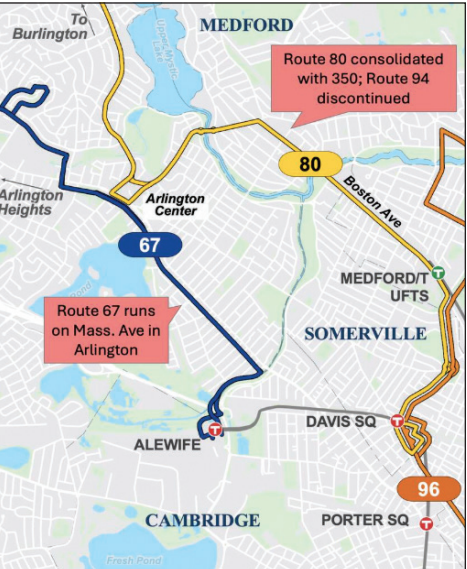
MBTA weighs options to improve Medford access

By Sean Perry

On Tuesday, July 21, the MBTA hosted a virtual meeting to discuss revisions to bus routes introduced by the Bus Network Re-design plan. The meeting allowed riders to share their thoughts and concerns about proposed changes to Routes 67, 80, 94, 96, and 350 throughout Medford, Cambridge, Somerville, and Arlington.

The hour-and-a-half-long meeting included a short presentation, several polls, and an audience Q&A section, all centered around getting audience feedback on various options relating to Proposal 2.

According to Becca Wolfson, the director of the Better Bus Network at the MBTA, The Bus Network Redesign plan aims to “increase frequent service throughout our bus network by creating designated more frequent bus routes.”



The future bus network, before proposed changes.
— Photo courtesy of the MBTA

“The Bus Network Redesign plan provides a pathway to increase our bus service by 25% across the network, with at least a 70% increase in weekend service. We’re about two-thirds of the way through implementation,” said Wolfson.

“For some background context, under a Bus Network Redesign, we plan to consolidate Route 80 with 350 and discontinue Route 94. However, we received many comments about frequency reductions on Boston Ave, Medford, and Somerville, and other network connectivity changes in the area,” Wolfson explained.

The team discussed three options for

improving Medford access with attendees, and got feedback regarding each package through polls. Options include extending Route 80 to Arlington Heights (Option A), retaining Route 94 (Option B), and re-routing the 96 bus to Mass Ave. (Option C).

Melissa Dullea, the Senior Director of Service Planning at MBTA, outlined the specific frequency of the different proposed options, potential trade-offs that would come with each option, and new or improved connections that each option would bring.

During the audience Q&A section, several attendees shared their concerns with how the proposed changes could potentially impact their day-to-day life.

“It’s upsetting that the proposed plans for Route 96 take away access to Cambridge on days like today when the red line service is suspended. The 96 is a key route,” said one attendee, Rich. “As a regular morning rider, anecdotal bus loads are typically high given businesses near Harvard Square. So this change for the 96 is negative and forces riders to add transfers, which increases travel time.”

Another attendee, Julia Forster, spoke about her issues with Option C. She explained, “I live in Medford, and I take the bus 96 every single day on George Street. And at times it’s not packed, but there are a lot of us. I do not want any of those stops taken away, because if you did, I would have to walk all the way up to Boston Ave, and I just turned 76.”



Three different proposals to improve the future bus network.



The MBTA recently held a virtual meeting to go over its Bus Network Redesign plan.
— Photo by Bobbie Toner

“There are a lot of us who are like me. And also some retired, etc. And we all depend on that bus Route 96,” she added.

The questions and concerns were received well by MBTA representatives. “That’s absolutely kind of the type of feedback that we’re looking for, and we’ll use that as we come to a decision on how to route the 96 through your neighborhood,” said Dullea.

“We’re undergoing this process to try to improve mobility and access, and your input really matters,” Wolfson echoed.

At the end of the meeting, Wolfson encouraged attendees to keep reaching out.

“You can take our survey [1], you can come to the open house [2] specifically for the changes for this area next Thursday. You can also email us or send us a letter in the mail. We have an address posted on the website, and we’ll be accepting comments through August 5,” Wolfson added.

- Links:**
[1] <http://mbta.com/projects/bus-network-redesign-proposed-updates#survey>
[2] <https://www.mbta.com/events/2026-07-30/open-house-bus-network-redesign-proposed-updates-improve-medford-access-person>

— Photo courtesy of the MBTA

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Matt McLaughlin: A Working-Class Voice Ready to Serve in the State Senate

At a time when it can feel like elected officials are out of touch with the people they represent, Matt McLaughlin offers something different: a life shaped by the very challenges facing many of the families he seeks to represent.

Matt understands the challenges faced by working people living paycheck to paycheck because they have been part of his everyday life. His experiences have shaped who he is, how he views government, and why he has dedicated his life to public service.

That connection to working families is what sets Matt apart in this race. It gives him something increasingly hard to come by in politics: authenticity and an understanding of the people government is supposed to serve, combined with the experience necessary to actually deliver results.

When people talk about lived experience, the conversation often focuses on identity, and those experiences matter. But lived experience is also shaped by class, economic hardship, family circumstances, neighborhood conditions, and the barriers people encounter when systems designed to help them feel distant or inaccessible.

For Matt, "lived experience" is not a slogan. It is the foundation of his approach to public service.

After losing his father at a young age, Matt was raised by a single mother who worked tirelessly to support five children. He grew up in a community where many families were struggling with addiction, violence, housing instability, and financial insecurity. He saw how those challenges affected individuals, families, and entire neighborhoods. He also saw the strength, resilience, and determination of people who continued to fight for a better future.

While many around him were pulled in the wrong directions, getting involved in drugs and crime, Matt chose a different path. He joined the Army, served his country in Iraq twice, and returned home with a commitment to serving others. He organized around issues affecting working families, put himself through Tufts University using the GI Bill, and later earned a master's degree in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School.

After years of fighting for affordable housing, workers' rights, and a stronger response to the opioid crisis, Matt decided to bring that advocacy directly into government by running for local office.

Matt entered local politics at a time when many people from neighborhoods like ours were rarely viewed as future elected officials. Today, he is the longest-serving member of the Somerville City Council and has served three times as Council President.

Throughout his years in public service, Matt has consistently recognized challenges before they became politically convenient to address. He advocated for expanded access to Narcan when many local politicians were still refusing to acknowledge the scale of the opioid crisis. He supported alternative approaches to public safety before those conversations became politically expedient. He spoke openly about the impacts of gentrification when many elected officials preferred to avoid the term "gentrification" altogether. Matt was driving those difficult conversations.

His tireless advocacy and hard-fought accomplishments are important. But just as important is the role he played in reshaping local politics. He inspired an entire wave of change.

Growing up, I never believed someone from the Somerville I knew could hold

elected office. Public service felt like something reserved for people with wealth, connections, or the right last name. Like many people from working-class neighborhoods, I assumed government was something done by other people, not something people like me could participate in.

Matt changed that.

He showed people from neighborhoods like ours that we belonged in government. He proved that someone who grew up facing real challenges could not only have a seat at the table, but could lead. He inspired a new generation of residents, including me, to believe that public service was possible.

For that, I will always be grateful.

But Matt's greatest strength is not simply where he came from. It is what he has done with those experiences.

Unlike candidates who entered elected office for the first time at the state level, Matt built his public service career by governing locally first. He learned government from the ground up, by listening to residents, solving problems, balancing competing priorities, and making difficult decisions that directly affected the people he represented.

That experience matters.

There is a difference between writing policy and understanding what happens when that policy reaches a neighborhood, a family, or a community.

Matt understands this.

He has more municipal government experience than any other candidate in this race. He also brings more local governing experience than the currently serving state-level elected officials seeking this office, who entered elected office directly at the state level without any previous government experience.

That distinction is important.

The State Senate needs people who understand how Beacon Hill connects to the communities it serves. Too often, state policy is developed without enough attention to how it will actually be implemented on the ground. Matt knows what happens after the vote. He knows what happens after the press conference. He knows what happens when policy meets reality. That perspective comes from years of doing the work.

He understands what happens when government gets it wrong and understands the difference government can make when it gets it right.

The Second Middlesex District does not simply need another legislator. It needs someone who understands the people he represents, not from a distance, but from personal experience. It needs someone who understands both the challenges facing our communities and the practical realities of governing.

In this race, Matt McLaughlin brings a unique combination of working-class roots, military service, advanced education, years of municipal leadership, and a proven commitment to public service.

Matt will not be beholden to State House leadership or the Democratic establishment, and he is willing to fight when he believes his district is being overlooked. At the same time, he understands that lasting progress requires building relationships and working with others. Most importantly, Matt is not someone who will have to learn how to address the needs of our communities after arriving at the State House.

He already knows.

I hope you will join me in voting for Matt McLaughlin on September 1.

Sincerely,
Jesse Clingan City Councilor, Ward 4

Robert B. Antonelli, President of the West Somerville Senior Citizens Housing Neighborhood, which includes the 240 residences in 4 buildings at 1 and 2 Capen Court, the Waterworks, and the

VNA. Mr. Antonelli's group is requesting a public meeting of the current owners of 501 Mystic Valley Parkway, Ward 7 City Councilor, the representatives of the DCR, Somerville Fire Department,

and Somerville Inspectional Services to discuss the future development plans for 501 Mystic Valley Parkway. This one-acre development will affect the abutting cities & towns of Cambridge, Medford,

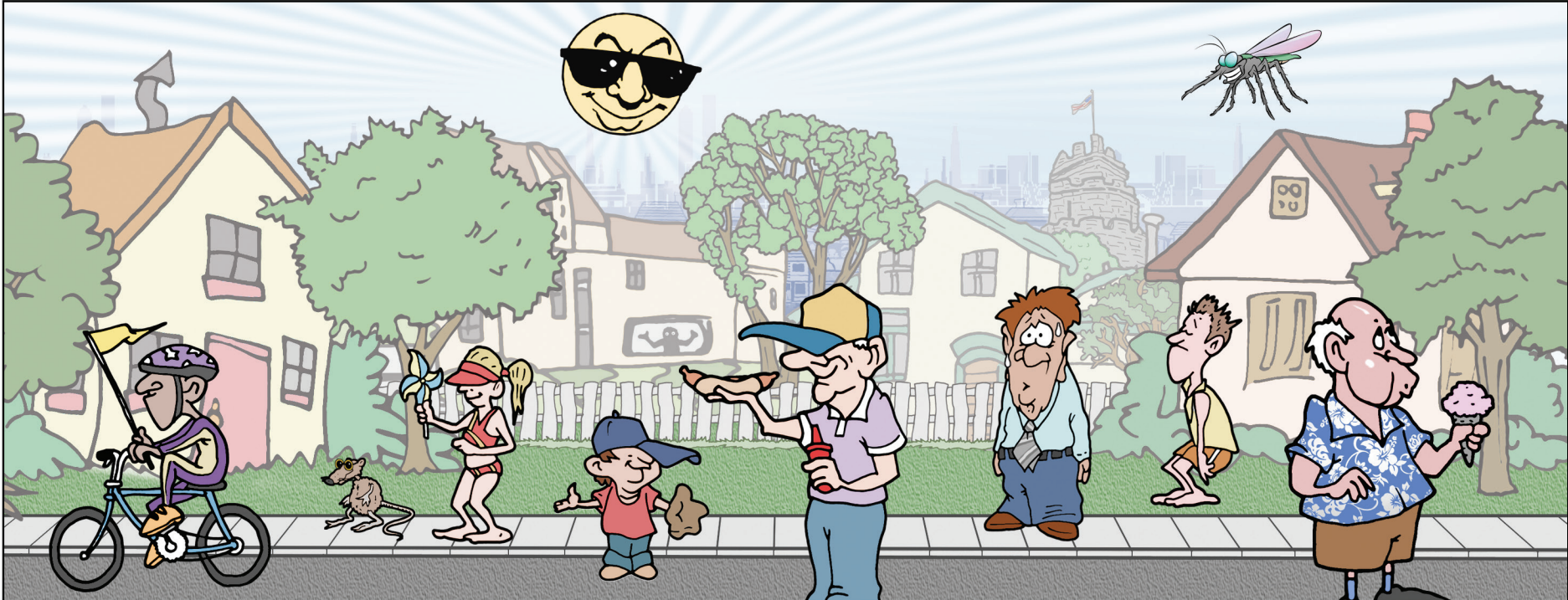
Arlington, and Belmont. Any representatives from any of those 4 cities & towns are invited to the meeting. Mr. Antonelli can be contacted at 617-623-0123. A date has yet to be determined.

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

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Summer has its good – and sometimes not so good – points.

Our View Of The Times



Who can honestly say that they don't have a special place in their heart for warm summer days where lingering in the sun, soaking it in, makes up for all the icy months we suffer through off-season?

Still, there are times when the heat gets a little too intense for our liking and for our health and wellbeing, as we've experienced this past week or so.

Anyone is welcome to visit the Somer-

ville Public Libraries during their regular hours, some of which are also open Saturday and/or Sunday. For locations and hours, visit somervillepubliclibrary.org.

Seniors are also welcome to visit Council on Aging Senior Centers, which offer a wide range of activities on weekdays. For locations, hours, and activity information, visit somervillema.gov/coa. As long as the strong heat continues, it is import-

ant to keep hydrated, watch your level of activity, and take special precautions in caring for kids, pets, elderly friends and family, etc., who may be dependent on our help and guidance.

Many Somerville city parks have water features that run from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Keep a sharp eye open as well for those pesky mosquitoes that may be harboring very serious viruses, such as the West Nile

variety. These creatures thrive very well during these conditions.

All in all, the good old summertime can remain a favorite occasion for us, as long as we bear in mind that certain steps need to be followed to ensure that we remain safe and happy. We hope it is so for you.

Go to <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/keeping-cool-hot-weather> for more information.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Stephen Able, Anthony Cataldo, Jason Banning, Karen D'Amato, Mike Morrison, Sharon Paglia Breen, Mike Morrison, Tori Antonino, Jane Sherrill, and Michele Oliphant Spinale, a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we also wish them a happy birthday.

On Thursday, July 30, at 7:30 p.m., visit the ROOTED Cafe for *Breaking: The Stigma*, a show focused on breaking the stigma of mental health. Acts include "Mirror: Inside Psychosis," a one-person play starring Lizzie Granata, and A Piece by Channing. More info available

on their website: <https://artsatthearmory.org/events/breaking-the-stigma/>.

Join CAAS and the Somerville Fair Housing Commission for a presentation on what fair housing discrimination is, who fair housing law protects, and what you can do if you or your neighbor has experienced discrimination in housing. Thursday, July 30, 5 p.m. www.tinyurl.com/fairhousingsomerville.

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

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

Experience the fabric of our community at the Somerville Community Growing Center, 22 Vinal Ave. Somerville Quipu, created by artist Leddy Saenz and on

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

Continued on page 21

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's
Olio
#1033

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. When is National Friendship Day?

2. When is Hawaii Flag Day?

3. When is International Blues Music Day?

4. *Unzipped*, a 1995 American documentary film, follows what fashion designer?

5. What is the national attire of Japan?

6. What American poet used the line "Good fences make good neighbors" in a poem?

7. Luminol is used at a crime scene to de-
- tect traces of what?

8. In the film *Pinocchio*, what character sings *When You Wish Upon A Star*?

9. What is the function of the Vagus nerve?

10. What is the hardest substance found in the human body?

11. What actress is known for her role as Olivia Walton in the TV series *The Waltons*?

12. In the TV show *M*A*S*H*, what is Radar's full name?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Ketchup was used medicinally in the early 1800s.
2. Every time you lick a stamp, you consume one-tenth of a calorie.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
HISTORY 101

- ACROSS
1. Charlie "Bird" Parker's sax

5. Mary _____, businesswoman extraordinaire

8. Downloadable smartphone purchase

11. In _____ of

12. Greek salad staple

13. Appraisal

15. Law school prerequisite, acr.

16. "Once _____ a Time in America"

17. Dictum, pl.

18. _____ press, Johannes Gutenberg's invention

20. "Sittin' On the Dock of the Bay" singer

21. In need of a muffler

22. Make a choice

23. Genghis Khan's _____ Empire

26. Intima, pl.

30. Fertility clinic stock

31. Tranquil

34. Famous Steeler coach, Chuck _____

35. Twisted cotton thread

37. Key next to spacebar

38. Like a gymnast

39. Naysayer's favorite prefix

40. Develop, as in story

42. _____-AFTRA

43. Famous fox of fable

45. Like a smell of soil

47. World's first 24-hour TV news network, acr.

48. Molten rock

50. Smoke plus fog

52. First Roman emperor

55. Part of foot, pl.

56. Chowder protein

57. Pelvic parts

59. Are not

60. Homesteader's purchase, sing.

61. "_____ the good die young"

62. Pres. during the Cuban Missile Crisis

63. It is

64. Fermented rice brew

- DOWN
1. Pledge of Allegiance ending

2. Talk like Daffy

3. Eye drop

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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43				44				45		46		
			47				48	49				
	50	51				52					53	54
55						56				57		58
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

4. Day trip

5. Flat-topped military caps

6. Lack of muscle tension

7. Opposite of yin

8. Mushroom spore sacs

9. Benatar and Morita, e.g.

10. Money in Myanmar

12. Pointless

13. Take as one's own

14. _____ Bull, Lakota's famous leader

19. Gallows' rope

22. World War _____, 1914-18

23. Wisdom tooth, e.g.

24. Sheep-like

25. Highly unpleasant

26. "He's Just Not That _____ You"

27. Damp

28. Islam's Supreme Being

29. Lament for the dead
32. Writer Ayn

33. Rudolph's friend Hermey, e.g.

36. One of Mount Rushmore presidents

38. First President in the White House

40. Cremation ashes container

41. Peanut or pea, e.g.

44. Emotional turmoil

46. 2:1 and 3:1, e.g.

48. Defraud

49. Petri dish jellies

50. Feudal lord's servant

51. Humble and docile

52. Frozen bowl berry

53. Arm bone

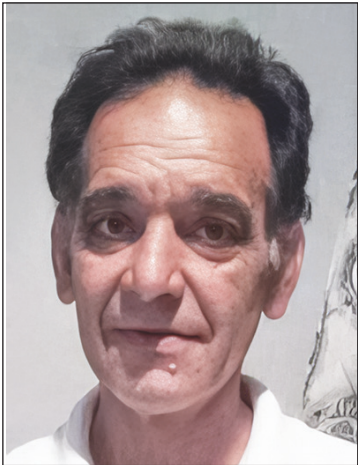
54. The _____ Road, ancient East-West trade route

55. Pilgrimage to Mecca

58. Pirate's "yes"
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

OBITUARY

João M. “John” De Medeiros



years working as a technician at the Winter Hill Portuguese Bakery in Somerville. He was known for his dependable nature, strong work ethic, and willingness to lend a helping hand. Whether at work or at home, John believed there was dignity in honest work and took great pride in providing for those he loved.

Above all else, John was a family man. He was the beloved husband of Louise (Spinucci) Medeiros, with whom he shared many years of marriage built on love, commitment, and partnership. Together they created a home centered around family traditions, laughter, and unconditional love.

He was the proud and devoted father of Amanda McLaughlin and Cristina Medeiros, and son-in-law Anthony McLaughlin. His greatest title, however, was “Vovô.” John adored his grandchildren, Manuel, Amilio, and Ollie, and treasured every moment spent with them.

John spent more than fifteen

Whether sharing stories, celebrating milestones, or simply enjoying their company, nothing brought him greater happiness than being surrounded by his grandchildren.

In addition to his wife, daughters, sons-in-law, and grandchildren, John is survived by his loving siblings, Odete, Álvaro, José, Lurdes, and Dina. He was predeceased by his brothers, Ruí and Carlos. He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, and lifelong friends who will miss him dearly.

Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend visiting hours on Sunday, August 2, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Cartwright Funeral Home, 845 Washington Street, Braintree.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday, August 3, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Michael Church, Avon, followed by burial at St. Michael Cemetery in Avon.

OPENAIR Circus performs this weekend



The OPENAIR Circus is celebrating its 41st year by heading out to the farm. Come see students of all ages (including a few adults) show off what they've learned this summer. This year's shows are at Prospect Hill Park (approximately 68 Munroe St). The shows are expected to be around 45 minutes long.

• Friday, July 31 at 6:30 • Saturday, August 1 at 2:30
• Sunday, Aug 2 at 2:30

Some chairs will be available, but people are welcome to bring their own chairs and/or a blanket to sit on. This is an outdoor event, so every performance is weather permitting. You can find out if a given performance is cancelled due to weather by checking our socials:

BlueSky: [openaircircus](https://bsky.app/profile/openaircircus.bsky.social) (<https://bsky.app/profile/openaircircus.bsky.social>)

Facebook: [OpenairCircus](https://www.facebook.com/384621681563043) (<https://www.facebook.com/384621681563043>) (updates can also be found on our website ([openaircircus.org](https://www.openaircircus.org)) in the right column)

Instagram: [openaircircus](https://www.instagram.com/openaircircus) (<https://www.instagram.com/openaircircus>)

Admission is free. Suggested donation is \$5.

For more information, visit www.openaircircus.org/performance.asp or write peter_jehlen@openaircircus.org.

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Gazpacho

Imagine, you just walked around for a couple of hours in 90 degree heat ducking in and out of the Monastery and multiple buildings on the premises on the mountainside of Montserrat just outside of Barcelona, Spain. You have taken in the breathtaking views and are certainly ready for some rest and relaxation.

At the end of the 40 minute drive to Oller del Mas, a vineyard, with a Medieval castle dating back to the 10th century welcomes you with spectacular views of the mountain range. You gather around a table where bottles of wines are waiting to be paired with this 7 course tasting menu. The first offering was the most incredible gazpacho I have ever tasted. Refreshing, well balanced

and packed full of flavor.

I was inspired to come up with my own version of this cold soup. It has great flavor and texture with a touch of heat. Enjoy!

6 Medium Vine Ripe Tomatoes, roughly chopped
3 Celery Ribs, fibrous strings removed and roughly chopped
1 European Cucumber, seeded, peeled and roughly chopped
1 Small Red Onion, peeled and roughly chopped
1 Garlic Clove, roughly chopped
1 Lime, juiced
1 Small Jalapeño, seeded and roughly chopped
1/2 Cup Fresh Parsley, roughly chopped
1/2 - 3/4 Cup Water
1/2 Teaspoon Pepper, freshly ground

3/4 Teaspoon Kosher Salt
2 Tablespoons Sherry Vinegar
1 Teaspoon Cumin
1 Teaspoon Smoked Paprika
Olive Oil and Parsley for garnish

In a blender, add the tomatoes, celery, cucumber, onion, garlic, jalapeño, lime juice, parsley and water. Pulse, then purée until well-blended. Add salt, pepper, vinegar, cumin and paprika and blend well. Chill for at least an hour, allowing the flavors to develop. Taste and adjust seasoning, if necessary. Pour into glasses of your choice and garnish with a drizzle of good olive oil and top with parsley leaves. *You may have to blend in two batches depending on the capacity of your blender. This recipe will yield approximately 7 cups. A food processor may also be used. I recommend 3 batches to eliminate overflow

of liquid.

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



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

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_o6YJQe-sRCKKoj9E7TQEjg

TO CALL IN

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

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

- 88 Winslow Avenue** Adam Dash, Esq. on behalf of Theodore W. Lanman and Elizabeth Ann Keller propose to expand a nonconformity for the roof line to add livable space of a two-family dwelling in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) zoning district, which requires a Section 6 finding.
- 17 Monmouth Street** The Law Office of Richard G. DiGirolamo seeks a Special Permit for a lot split on a property listed on the National Registers of Historic Places in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) zoning district as required by SZO 10.1.1.d.
- 22 Park Avenue** Kenneth Hurd is seeking relief of SZO 2.4.4.a.viii.b for a non-compliant rafter/wall intersection in excess of 2' from the finished first floor on the right rear portion of a building in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) zoning district, which requires a Hardship Variance.
- 74 Moreland Street** Brandon Rawnsley seeks a Hardship Variance to locate mechanical equipment within three (3) feet of the lot line in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) zoning district.
- 2 Carver Street** Athanasios Dousis seeks relief from SZO 2.4.4. regarding the roof rafter intersection height for a half story in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) zoning district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

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

7/22/26, 7/29/26 The Somerville Times



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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Tuesday, August 18, 2026**, at 6:45pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sEDM1_7nSEiY30n4CEpBw

TO CALL IN

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

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

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

- 46 Mount Vernon Street** Applicant: William Kuang
Owner: William Kuang
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by replacing 21 wood windows with aluminum clad windows

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

- 83 Wallace Street** Applicant: Adam Dash & Associates
Owner: Michael Bergman & Chien Chi Huang
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

7/29/26 The Somerville Times



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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, August 6, 2026**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_s310Yqf2QbyXrPGpFy8Cw

TO CALL IN

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

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

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

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

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFP # 27-04

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

Mass Notification System

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, July 29, 2026**. 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 19, 2026**.

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

Please email tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov for more information.

Thupten Chukhatsang
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

7/29/26 The Somerville Times



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

Invitation for Quotes

The **Somerville Housing Authority** is receiving quotes from Landscaping Companies to supply and install artificial turf to approximately 2600 square feet of land. Clear and perform all necessary preparations to receive artificial turf. Prevailing Wage Rates Apply. There will be a **site walkthrough on August 12th** at 30 Memorial Road Somerville, Ma 02145 at 10:30 AM. All Quotes are due on **August 27th by 3PM**. Interested parties need to email a request for documents to Brian Langton at BrianL@sha-web.org. beginning **August 5th**.

Brian Langton
Director of Modernization
Somerville Housing Authority
617 625 1152 ext.331

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Section 00 11 13
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID
MGL c.149 \$50K to \$150K

The **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Thermostat Replacement and Building Management System Modifications - Weston Manor at Weston Manor (31-7) in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **C.A. CROWLEY ENGINEERING, INC..**

The Project consists of but not limited to:
Replace existing thermostats with new thermostats in the building with new - total 163 thermostats. Backup existing BMS system points, schedules, and sequences and upgrade existing BMS to meet current standards as noted in the contract documents. Replacement of existing electric baseboard radiation with new in select locations (four).

The work is estimated to cost **\$110,000.00.**

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 08/17/2026 at 2:00PM EDT for general bids.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at www.biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.

General Bids will be received until **20 August 2026 at 2:00PM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates), and made payable to the **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at www.biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled
Date and Time: 08/11/2026 at 11:00AM EDT Address: 15 Weston Ave., Somerville, MA 02144
Instructions: Meet out in front of the building. Will tour the one of the units, the basement and review the existing BMS system.

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

Nashoba Blue Inc.
433 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
978-568-1167

7/29/26 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 6th, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** using Zoom software to consider the removal of the following public shade tree:

- 6 Bolton Street – One littleleaf linden (Tilia cordata): 14.23 inches in diameter, fair condition

Tree is proposed for removal to complete the development at 6 Bolton Street. More information on the project will be provided during the hearing.

The tree identified above has been posted for public inspection. **In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 87, any objections to the removal of this tree 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: David Jackson– Tree Warden, City of Somerville, 1 Franey Rd, Somerville, MA 02145.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, 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.

Registration URL:
https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_HTWtZGGRSoWnY_7NQvnmMw

Webinar ID: 815 4688 6569

7/29/26 The Somerville Times



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

Invitation for Quotes

The **Somerville Housing Authority** is receiving quotes from Landscaping Companies to supply and install sod to approximately 2600 square feet of land. Clear and prepare existing land to receive Sod. Perform minor sprinkler repairs to existing system. Prevailing Wage Rates Apply.
There will be a **site walkthrough on August 12th** at 30 Memorial Road Somerville, Ma 02145 at 10:00 AM.
All Quotes are due on **August 27th by 3PM**
Interested parties need to email a request for documents to Brian Langton at BrianL@sha-web.org. beginning **August 5th**.

Brian Langton
Director of Modernization
Somerville Housing Authority
617 625 1152 ext.331

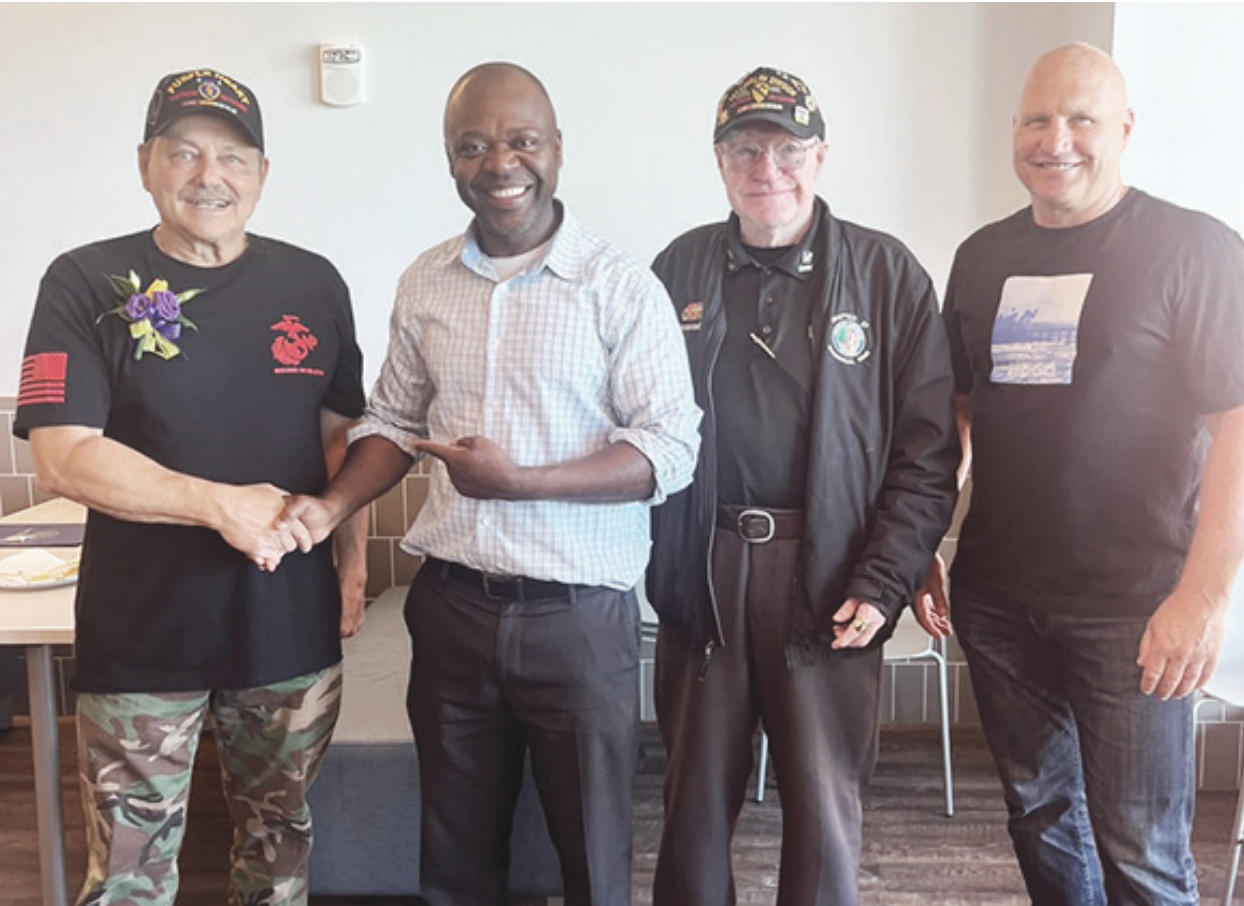
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Somerville’s Veterans Breakfast



Somerville’s Veterans Breakfast for Purple Heart Recipients took place on Thursday, July 23, at the Highlander Cafe at Somerville High School. The city’s Veterans Services Division, along with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Veterans Affairs, honored USMC Lou Sirignano, a Vietnam veteran, as a Purple Heart recipient. The event was attended by numerous veterans, community leaders, family, and friends. Pictured here (L to R): Lou Sirignano, Will Mbah, Tom White, and Tom Gorman.

Somerville sharing voting information for State Primary Election

On Tuesday, September 1, 2026, the State of Massachusetts will hold its Primary Election, which will narrow the candidate pool before the November Election on Tuesday, November 3.

The offices on the ballot for this election include:

- ✦ Senator in Congress
- ✦ Lieutenant Governor
- ✦ Attorney General
- ✦ District Attorney
- ✦ Secretary of State
- ✦ Treasurer
- ✦ Auditor
- ✦ Councilor
- ✦ Senator in General Court
- ✦ Representative in General Court
- ✦ Register of Probate

The primary election is open to all registered voters in Somerville. Somerville voters can vote one of three ways: by mail, early in person, or in person at your polling location on Primary Election Day. Register to Vote in the State Primary by Saturday, August 22

You can register one of three ways:

- ✦ Online at somervillema.gov/registertovote,
- ✦ In-person at Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.),
- ✦ Or by calling the Elections Department (617-625-6600 ext. 4200) and requesting a voter registration form. Or by calling 311 (617-666-3311), and they will connect you to Elections.

The registration deadline is Saturday, August 22 at midnight online or in person by 5 p.m. City Hall will be open on August 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You also may mail in your registration form, but it must be postmarked by August 22.

Vote Early at City Hall, August 22-28

Vote early in the Primary Election in the lower level of City Hall from Saturday, August 22, through Friday, August 28. The schedule is as follows:

- ✦ August 22 – Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ✦ August 23 – Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ✦ August 24-26 – Monday-Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- ✦ August 27 – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- ✦ August 28 – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

How to Vote in the State Primary Election by Mail

- ✦ Applications to vote by mail must be received (not postmarked) by 5 p.m., Tuesday, August 25 (applications are accepted based on receipt by the deadline, not by postmark date).

Download an application or fill it out online at somervillema.gov/votbymail, pick one up in the Elections office at City Hall, or request one be mailed to you by calling Elections at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200.

Eligible voters who submit valid applications will receive their ballot in the mail. Ballots must be completed, signed, sealed, and received by the City no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1. Voters can check the status of their ballot on the state's website.

Email or fax (for applications only): Completed applications can be emailed to vote@somervillema.gov or faxed to 617-625-5643. Ballots cannot be returned by email or fax.

How to return your application and ballot:

Drop boxes: Leave it in a drop box at one of the following locations:

City Hall Concourse, 93 Highland Ave.

East Somerville Community School, across from 66 Glen St.

- ✦ In front of the Argenziano School, 290 Washington St.
- ✦ In front of the Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave.
- ✦ Behind the Mystic Activity Center, 530 Mystic Ave.
- ✦ In front of Saint Catherine of Genoa Church parking lot, 182 Summer St.
- ✦ In front of the Armory, 191 Highland Ave.
- ✦ In front of Dilboy Post, 351 Summer St.
- ✦ In front of the Tufts Administrative Building, 167 Holland St.
- ✦ In front of the West Somerville Neighborhood School at 177 Powder House Blvd.

Elections office: Return directly to the Elections Department at City Hall

Mail: Send to the Elections Department, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143

For more information about voting in Somerville, go to somervillema.gov/elections.



Eat your way around the world at Nibble Kitchen this summer

The City of Somerville's Nibble Kitchen is serving up a rotating lineup of Peruvian, Guatemalan, and Ethiopian cuisine this summer at Bow Market in Union Square. The tiny space offers big rewards for diners – and chefs.

In this micro-restaurant not much larger than an apartment dining room, visitors order from a walk-up counter where they can watch the chef of the day prepare their meal and then dine at a small counter or outside under the trees in Bow Market's cozy courtyard. From this season's sweet potato empanadas to fresh-pressed mango juice and savory Ethiopian stews with tangy injera bread, most dishes hail from each cook's traditional cuisine. But there's more going on here than dining.

Nibble Kitchen is the restaurant and business incubator of the Nibble Culinary Entrepreneurship Program run by the City's Arts & Culture Division (formerly Arts Council). The program offers an opportunity for immigrant and women entrepreneurs to turn their culinary skills and traditions into growing food businesses. Participating chefs get professional kitchen access, business education, mentorship, vending opportunities, and ongoing technical assistance – and a chance to show off their best dishes at the Nibble Kitchen.

"My favorite thing about Nibble Kitchen is stepping into the restaurant, taking in the tantalizing aromas of delicious foods, and knowing the cuisines may come from across the globe but the spirit of the place is pure Somerville," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "In Somerville, investing in arts and culture includes the culinary arts and giving cooking talents in our community the tools they need to share their traditions and build something of their own. Everyone should check this amazing place out. How often do you get to support a neighbor's aspirations by treating yourself to an excellent meal?"

Each season, a changing roster of chefs serves up new foods on different days of the week at the restaurant. The small-scale pop-up restaurant approach allows for menus and treats from cuisines not always easy to find. Past offerings have ranged from spicy Bangladeshi kati rolls to seaweed-wrapped Japanese onigiri rice snacks and crispy Bolivian quinoa frit-

ters. Chefs also offer catering and cooking workshops during their tenure. Some cooks have spun off from Nibble into local favorite businesses like Carolicious, which now serves their popular Venezuelan arepas and more at three locations in Somerville and Cambridge.

"I'm using Nibble Kitchen as a test kitchen and an opportunity to explore what's next," said Nibble vendor Krysi Villón, who is offering Peruvian specialties this season. "I want to see how people respond to different dishes and concepts—

"I'm using Nibble Kitchen as a test kitchen and an opportunity to explore what's next"

as I continue building Chiqui's Kitchen. I'm trying to figure out how to live in my art, and this—food—is my art."

Summer 2026 at Nibble Kitchen Schedule Chiqui's Kitchen

♦ **Hours:** Wednesdays and Thursdays, 12 to 8 p.m.

♦ **About:** New Nibble Kitchen vendor Krysia Villón is serving Peruvian favorites, including pan con chicharrón with yuca frita and a variety of empanadas. Vegetarian options are always available, including roasted sweet potato empanadas and Chef Krysia's creation, Jalea de Champiñones, a tangy, succulent mushroom dish inspired by a Peruvian seafood classic.

La Todosantera Guatemalan & Mayan Cuisine

♦ **Hours:** Fridays and Saturdays, 12 to 9 p.m.

♦ **About:** Chef Benita Ramirez serves handmade tortillas alongside traditional dishes, including tamales, roasted chicken tacos, and huevos rancheros. Drinks include jugo de mango and limonada. Her naturally gluten-free menu is built almost entirely around ingredients indigenous to her hometown in Guatemala.

Zufan's Kitchen

♦ **Hours:** Sundays through August 16, 12 – 8 p.m. or until sold out.



Chicken Chuchitos by La Todosantera Guatemalan+Mayan Cuisine.

♦ **About:** Nibble Kitchen is welcoming Ethiopian chef Zufan Dirisa for a special Sunday pop-up series. The menu includes spiced lentil and beef sambusas, keye siga wot, misir wot, freshly made injera, and homemade baklava

Helping Local Chefs Build Sustainable Businesses

The Nibble Program's annual eight-week Culinary Entrepreneurship Workshop Series gives aspiring food entrepreneurs practical tools to turn recipes, skills, and culinary traditions into sustainable businesses.

Graduates continue to receive support through Nibble Kitchen, local festivals and markets, catering opportunities, and one-on-one business development assistance.

Following this year's workshop series, the Nibble Program has supported:

- ♦ Eight new food businesses led by immigrant and women entrepreneurs
- ♦ A new chef-in-residence at Nibble Kitchen
- ♦ The opening of two brick-and-mortar restaurants by Nibble alumni: Nagomi Bento by Chef Nagisa Ikemura and Dos

Manos Kitchen by Chef Edwin Orellana

- ♦ Continued growth for more than a dozen local catering, festival, market, and specialty food businesses

- ♦ More than 10 hands-on cultural cooking classes, including the return of Nibble's popular free Micro-Cooking Classes at ArtBeat

"The Nibble Culinary Entrepreneurship Program is all about creating access to opportunity and lowering the barriers to entry for aspiring food business owners and culinary storytellers," said Nibble Kitchen Manager Tony Baum. "Many of the chefs in the Nibble Program have cooked professionally for years but have never had the opportunity to cook their own food and tell their own stories. For us at Nibble, it is our mission to help our chef-partners become centers for their communities, both culturally and economically, and show that investment in culture and community is inextricably entwined with sustainable economic development."

Learn more about Nibble at nibble-somerville.com.

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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

1. July 30	8. Jiminy Cricket
2. July 31	9. It transmits information to or from the surface of the brain to tissues and organs elsewhere in the body
3. August 2	10. Enamel
4. Isaac Mizrahi	11. Michael Learned
5. Kimono	12. Corporal Walter Eugene O'Reilly
6. Robert Frost, <i>Mending Wall</i>	
7. Blood	

Somerville seeks community input on first-of-its-kind Cultural Trust

The City of Somerville is inviting residents, artists, cultural organizations, and creative businesses to help shape what could become the first Municipal Cultural Trust in Massachusetts, a new tool designed to protect affordable creative space and prevent artist displacement.

No Massachusetts municipality has established a Cultural Trust, and current state law does not expressly authorize municipalities to create one. State legislators are considering the Creative Space Act, which would establish a statewide framework for municipal cultural trusts. If that legislation does not pass, Somerville is prepared to explore its own local option.

"Somerville has always been home to artists, and we intend to keep it that way," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "A thriving creative ecosystem is a big part of why people want to live, work, and build a life here. A Cultural Trust can provide a lasting way to ensure the people who helped put Somerville on the map aren't the ones priced out of it."

What Is a Municipal Cultural Trust?

Modeled in part on Somerville's Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Job Creation and Retention Trust, a Municipal Cultural Trust could have the authority to:

- Raise and hold funds dedicated to arts and creative space
- Accept donations, grants, and development contributions
- Purchase or protect properties for long-term arts use
- Provide grants or investments to prevent artist displacement; and
- Support the creation and preservation

of affordable cultural space

The trust would be overseen by a dedicated board that could include city officials, artists, and community members, giving people directly affected by creative displacement a role in its decisions.

Community Meeting Series

The three-part public meeting series begins Wednesday, August 5. With additional meetings on Wednesday, August 12, and Tuesday, September 8. Each meeting will focus on a different stage of the Cultural Trust discussion.

1. Community Launch Session

• Date/Time: Wednesday, August 5, 6 p.m.

• Location: Somerville Central Library (79 Highland Ave.)

• Focus: City staff will explain what it could mean to establish a Municipal Cultural Trust, present findings from Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) initial research, gather early community feedback, and provide an opportunity for questions.

2. Cultural Trust 101 Panel hosted by #ARTSTAYSHERE

Date/Time: Wednesday, August 12, 6 p.m.

Location: Somerville Museum (1 Westwood Rd.)

• Focus: Panel discussion examining tools and models available for preserving creative space, including practical strategies that could be adapted to Somerville's needs. Panelists from: Somerville Arts & Culture, MASSCreative, MAPC & the Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston.



3. Shape the Trust

• Date/Time: Tuesday, September 8, 6 p.m.

• Location: Somerville Music Spaces (1060 Broadway C101B)

• Focus: A working session focused on how a Municipal Cultural Trust could function. Participants will be invited to consider the trust's structure, governance, funding priorities, and how artists and community members should participate in its decisions.

Why Somerville Is Exploring a Cultural Trust

The City has long used zoning, planning, funding, and other policy tools to help preserve its dense network of artist studios, performance venues, cultural organizations, and local creative businesses. However, several local and regional planning efforts have identified the need for an additional tool that would allow

Somerville to act more consistently and proactively.

In 2022, the city partnered with MAPC on the Somerville Art Space Risk Assessment, which recommended developing additional tools to preserve and expand affordable creative space. That same year, Somerville joined Boston and Cambridge in MAPC's regional Making Space for Art study, which identified the need for stronger municipal tools to finance, develop, and manage cultural spaces.

Somerville has successfully preserved important creative spaces, but those efforts have often required complicated, case-by-case interventions. A Municipal Cultural Trust could create a more consistent and replicable way to protect creative properties and keep them affordable over the long term.

To learn more or sign up for updates, visit somervilleartscouncil.org/cultural-trust.

I'll meet you at Harold's

CONT. FROM PG 3

I'm pretty sure it's where Orleans is now (unless Orleans is gone and another restaurant snuck in without me knowing). I have mentioned The Venice many times in this column. Maybe it's because I never want its memory to fade away.

Shall we stop by Joe's Spa on Bow Street or Izzy's on the corner of School Street? You never know who you will bump into in there. I wonder if he is any relation to Joe Izzy down on Glen Street?

I want to check out the newest 45 records at Bernie's in Porter Square. I also need a few of those little plastic things

to put in the holes. I'm pretty sure Bernie's brother runs the record shop in Davis Square. Are there any new guitars in Butler's Music Store? I'm saving up for a new one!

I hate waiting in lines, except at Steve's Ice Cream in Davis. That was before frozen yogurt and fat-free this and that. If we gained weight, we waddled down to Bradlees. I feel like one of those pickles in the big barrel at DiNittto's Market on the corner of Somerville Avenue and Merriam Street.

I am heading back home, which means

I will be walking through Davis Square. I have a choice of places to eat supper at. There's Frascatis, Speedy Pizza, Ming Toy, The Waldorf, or The Pine Tree Diner.

I have said it before, and I will say it again. I still picture the old stores exactly where they used to be. I still think of myself as a 15-year-old, full of energy and adventure.

My nuttiest stunt was performed in Davis Square on a sting ray bike. I drove my bike in the front door of Woolworth's. I then sped through the aisles, dodging customers and clerks. I bounced

down the small stairs near the pet section, and exited out the rear door on Herbert Street. My friends thought I was quite the man. I'll never forget the look on Mary's face. You remember her, don't you? She had jet black hair and bright red lipstick and worked there for as long as it was open. I later worked at "Woolies" in the stockroom and behind the luncheonette counter.

Somerville keeps changing and getting better. For me, I enjoy the updates, but still dwell in the past, with a smile and a chuckle.

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.

Turning Values Into Law: A Win for Reproductive Freedom

**By State Representative
Christine P. Barber**

Decisions about abortion care belong to a patient and their doctor. No one else. That conviction is why I filed H.5595, An Act Prioritizing Patient Access to Care.

On Wednesday, the Massachusetts House of Representatives passed my bill, reaffirming our commitment to the rights and health of every resident of the Commonwealth.

The federal government has attacked reproductive rights at every opening. The Supreme Court struck down *Roe v. Wade*. The Trump Administration has cut funding with devastating consequences. Even FDA-approved medications face constant legal volatility.

Through all of it, Massachusetts has answered. The ROE Act was the product of years of organizing, and when the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg put abortion rights in jeopardy, we were ready. I voted to pass the ROE Act in December 2020, codifying abortion into state law so that no matter what happened in Wash-

ington, the rights of Massachusetts residents would stand.

When the Dobbs decision came down on June 24, 2022, I organized legislators to speak on the House floor for the Shield Act, which protects providers and patients here and those traveling to Massachusetts for abortion care, and eliminated cost sharing for reproductive health care.

We recently marked four years since Dobbs. Four years later, the work is not finished. Patients and clinicians have told me directly that our laws still fail some of the people who need them most. Because of legal ambiguity in an exceptions-based framework, dozens of women in Massachusetts are denied care every year. Care their own doctor says they need.

When Kate Dineen's son suffered a catastrophic stroke in utero at 33 weeks, her doctor told her that she would only be able to explore termination if she had the ability to travel out of state. Because there was a chance her son would survive for some period of time, her case did not qualify for the "lethal" fetal anomaly exception in place at the time. Her doctor's hands were tied

by state law. Kate and her husband had to drive 1,000 miles and pay \$10,000 out of pocket to receive compassionate abortion care at a clinic in Maryland.

That should never happen in our Commonwealth. Pregnancy is complex, and no list of statutory exceptions written by legislators can anticipate every clinical reality. No one is more qualified to make a deeply personal medical decision than a patient and their doctor.

H.5595 replaces a narrow checklist of exceptions with a single standard: a physician's professional judgment. Doctors get to use their full training and expertise to determine what their patient needs, instead of measuring her circumstances against a fixed list written on Beacon Hill.

I filed this bill for the women still being denied care every year. The ones forced to travel a thousand miles while pregnant, far from the doctors who know them and the people who love them, paying costs most families cannot bear.

I filed it for the patients who cannot travel at all.

Plenty of people say they are pro-choice.



Saying it protects no one. A value that is not written into law does not help a patient in a hospital room being told her doctor cannot treat her. That is the difference. I don't just hold these values. I write them into law.

The bill now heads to the Senate, and I will keep fighting until it reaches the Governor's desk. In Massachusetts, you should be able to get the care your doctor recommends. That is what this vote delivered. And I am not done.

Join the Somerville Board of Elections Commissioners

The City of Somerville is seeking a new member to join the Somerville Board of Elections Commissioners. This vacancy is for a registered Republican. The Board consists of four people who represent each of the two leading political parties (Democrats and Republicans), as defined in Chapter 50, Section 1 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

What is the Somerville Board of Elections Commissioners?

The Board of Elections Commissioners supports all functions of the Elections Department and assumes nearly all responsibilities relating to primaries and elections in Somerville. Commissioners supervise all official elections and recounts, assist in testing voting equipment, and oversee the accurate tabulation of all voting machine results at the end of each election night. They also attend occasional meetings as needed.

Who Can Join?

Eligible applicants for the current vacancy must be registered to vote in Somerville and a registered Republican. Applicants cannot be a member of any other Somerville board or commission.

What is the Time Commitment?

Commissioners serve three-year terms and earn a monthly stipend of \$318.

What is the Appointment Process?

Members are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

How and Where Do I Apply?

To apply, please submit a statement of interest by Wednesday, August 5. Statements of interest can be sent via email or U.S. Mail to:

• Email: nsalerno@somervillema.gov

• Mail: Attn: Somerville Elections Department, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143

For questions or more information, contact Nicholas Salerno, Chairman of the Board of Elections Commissioners, at nsalerno@somervillema.gov or call 617-626-6600 ext. 4210.



COMMENTARY

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Jewish holy day calendar 2026-27

By Dennis Fischman

I find that even with the best of intentions, many non-Jewish employers, elected officials, etc., have trouble figuring out which days are Jewish holy days in any given year. Dear colleagues,

Here's a guide to scheduling around the Jewish holy days that I thought you might find useful. I didn't write it, only edited it slightly and updated it each year, but I vouch for its accuracy.

Category I. MOST JEWS PARTICIPATE. Please do not schedule meetings around these dates.

ROSH HASHANAH (Jewish New Year) begins at sunset Friday, September 11, 2026 and continues through sunset Sunday, September 13.

YOM KIPPUR (Day of Repentance) begins at sunset on Sunday, September 20, 2026 and continues through nightfall on Monday, September 21. While Yom Kippur is a fasting day, meals are prepared in advance for the breaking of the fast at the end of 27 hours.

Typically, even some of the least religiously observant members of the Jewish commu-

nity do not work on Yom Kippur or Rosh Hashanah. Please keep in mind that even though the holy day may begin at sunset, these are home ritual centered holy days, so a great deal of advance preparation is required. In other words, "Please don't schedule a meeting for the afternoon preceding the holiday because I will be cooking!"

PASSOVER (Celebration of Freedom from Slavery in Egypt) begins at sunset on Wednesday, April 21, 2027; continues through nightfall on Thursday, April 29.

THE FIRST TWO DAYS (through Friday evening, April 23, 2027) require refraining from work. LOTS of cooking and preparation before this holy day.

Category II. Many observant Jews refrain from work. I count myself as observant.

SUKKOT (Festival of Booths, or Tabernacles) begins at sunset Friday, September 25, 2026 and lasts through Friday, October 2. **THE FIRST TWO DAYS** (through Sunday, September 27) traditionally require abstaining from work.

SHMINI ATZERET (Eighth Day Assembly, ending Sukkot) begins at sunset on Friday, October 2, 2026 and lasts

through Saturday, October 3, immediately followed by...

SIMCHAT TORAH (Rejoicing with the Torah) begins at sunset on Saturday, October 3, 2026 and lasts through Sunday, October 4.

THE LAST TWO DAYS of PASSOVER begin at sunset Tuesday, April 27, 2027 and last through Thursday, April 29.

SHAVUOT (Festival of Weeks, or Pentecost to our Christian friends) begins at sunset on Thursday, June 10, 2027 and continues through Saturday, June 12.

TISHA B'AV (fast day marking the destruction of the ancient Temple in Jerusalem) begins at sunset on Wednesday night, August 11, 2027 and continues through Thursday, August 12.

Category III. Observance doesn't require refraining from work.

HANUKKAH (Festival of Lights) begins at sunset on Friday, December 4, 2026 and continues through nightfall Saturday, December 12. Every night, candles on the Hanukkiah (eight-armed candelabra, sometimes called "menorah") are lit. **PURIM** - Begins at sunset on Monday, March 22, 2027;

continues through Tuesday, March 23.

And a few other seasonal and historical holy days that I won't mention, because enough already! If you want to know the names of those days and when they fall, see <https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/>. If you want to know more about the meaning of all these holidays, you might consult www.jewfaq.org or either the book *Seasons of Our Joy*, by Arthur Waskow or *My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew*, by Abigail Pogrebin.

[Dennis] A final note which I thought worth adding from my own experience: Even if someone (who might be Jewish) tells you "It's no big deal" to schedule meetings and conferences on these days, doesn't mean that that's true for all Jews. People maintain various levels of observance, and a more secular Jew may work on a day when I would not. (We are both telling the truth.)

When in doubt, please ask! I can't speak for other Jewish consultants, staff, board members, volunteers, and interns, but I know I always prefer to be asked.

Thank you!

Somerville nonprofits announce grassroots campaign to fight displacement and build affordable housing

Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS) and Somerville Community Land Trust (SCLT) announced the launch of Rooted In Somerville, a first-of-its-kind volunteer-led fundraising campaign to promote neighborhood stability and dignified living in Somerville by reaching out directly to buyers and sellers of Somerville housing stock to support tenant education and outreach and the creation of permanently affordable housing in the city. A kickoff for Rooted in Somerville will be held Friday, July 31, at 6 p.m. at American Flatbread located at 45 Day Street, Somerville, MA 02144.

Somerville's real estate market is among the most active and expensive in Massachusetts. Every sale represents a moment of potential community change: a building that could be stabilized or lost, a family that could stay or be pushed out. CAAS and SCLT have seen firsthand how quick-

ly housing crises unfold and how critical early intervention can be.

This pilot campaign asks real estate buyers and sellers to consider donating 0.5% of the purchase price that can go directly toward keeping a family housed who would otherwise be priced out of our community.

Rooted In Somerville is powered by volunteers who monitor housing sales in Somerville and send letters to buyers and sellers inviting them to donate to the campaign. Proceeds are split evenly and directly support CAAS' tenant education and outreach and SCLT's development of housing that is permanently affordable, shielded from speculation, and accessible to working families who would otherwise be priced out.

"When a building sells, and tenants are pushed out, the harm goes far beyond losing homes. Families

Continued on page 19



Annual Somerville Fermentation Festival returns for its second year

Following last year's highly successful inaugural event, which drew over 2,000 attendees, the Somerville Fermentation Festival (SFF) is proud to return for its second annual celebration. Foodies, fermentation enthusiasts, and the curious public from across New England will gather once again at the Center for the Arts at the Armory, located at 191 Highland Ave. on Sunday, August 16, from 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

While general admission to the festival remains free of charge and open to the public, exciting new ticketed additions are available on Eventbrite this year, including an exclusive Early Access Hour with a complimentary swag bag and an educational Speaker Series.

The festival continues its mission to enrich the community's understanding of the microbial world, connect regional professional fermenters, and inspire participation in this ancient culinary craft. Over 20 professional exhibitors will be on-site to sample and sell locally-made fermented

delicacies alongside ready-to-eat food from beloved local establishments.

What's new and returning for 2026:

NEW! Ticketed events (available via Eventbrite)

♦ **Early Access Hour & Swag Bag:** Beat the crowds with exclusive early access from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Includes a curated festival swag bag. (\$35)

♦ **Speaker Series:** Expand your crafting and culinary knowledge with specialized panels and lectures led by fermentation experts. (\$16 each / \$12 early bird)

♦ **Tasting Series:** Explore the world of cheese, dive into some unique wines, or enjoy a tasting and discussion on incorporating brines into alcoholic drinks. (\$35-\$45)

♦ **NEW! Crafting Table and Book Swap:** Bring a food or craft book to trade at our new community swap, and unleash your creativity at the interactive crafting table.

♦ **EXPANDED! Outdoor Kraut Mob:** Weather permitting, our famous interactive setups are moving outside! Join the

Kraut Mob to chop, salt, and jar your own sauerkraut to take home.

♦ **Culture Sharing Table:** To exchange sourdough starters, kombucha SCOBYs, and more.

♦ **Fermentation Help Desk:** Bring your troubleshooting questions, active ferments, or general curiosity to our panel of seasoned experts ready to look, sniff, and advise.

♦ **Exhibitors:** Over 25 food purveyors and artists will be on hand to sample and sell their locally-made products from across New England, including chocolate, fresh bread, kombucha, pickles, miso, soy sauce, and more.

♦ **Live Music Program:** Acoustic and Americana music from a variety of acts.

Whether you are a seasoned fermenter managing complex active cultures at home or a novice looking to try your first sip of local kombucha, the second annual Somerville Fermentation Festival offers a unique opportunity to deepen your rela-



tionship with food, the environment, and the local community.

Connect with culture and community at the Somerville Fermentation Festival. For tickets, schedule updates, and the full vendor lineup, visit <https://www.somerville-fermfest.com>

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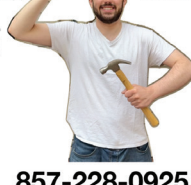
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Book review: ‘The Strange Case of the Alchemist’s Daughter’ by Theodora Goss

By Dennis Fischman

Who is killing the streetwalkers of Whitechapel and taking various parts of their bodies? And who is the person that the widow of the late Dr. Jekyll had been paying to have boarded in a home for reformed prostitutes, simply noted in her accounts as "Hyde"? These are the two mysteries that Mary Jekyll, the daughter, must solve (with the aid of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson!

The answers lead her deeper into a third mystery: the Alchemical Society that her father and several other notable fathers belonged to and its arcane purpose. They also lead her to create a new family of extraordinary women... one of whom is the putative au-

thor of this book.

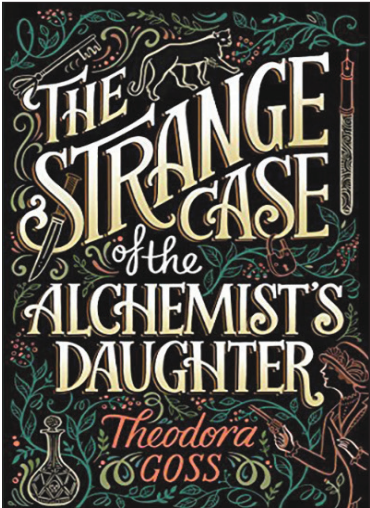
The murder mystery at the center of this story is worthy on its own. The true delight of the book, though, is the way Theodora Goss brings the fictional heroines (or daughters of main characters) in various horror stories together.

Each of them is true to her character in the novel or short story she first appeared in, or else she makes sense as the child of Jekyll, Hyde, or Frankenstein, for example. In this book, however (the first of a series!), each character expands into multiple dimensions, and their relationships enthrall the reader. Whether chatty, catty, or both, they are women you would know if you met them on the street (or at a formal tea).

It will add to your enjoyment if you have already read *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* [1], *Rappaccini's Daughter* [2], *The Island of Dr. Moreau* [3], *Frankenstein* [4], and *Dracula* [5]. You will get the references in more depth. This book makes sure to fill you in if you haven't, however, and at the same time, it introduces subtle twists to make the members of the Athena Club more plausible. So, don't feel like it's going to be an English literature class. It's a wonderful homage, and it's also a great read on its own. (It may even make you want to go back and read or reread those classics.)

Links:

[1] https://goodreads.com/book/show/51497.The_



The Strange Case of the Alchemist's Daughter by Theodora Goss. Saga Press, 2017.

[Strange_Case_of_Dr_Jekyll_and_Mr_Hyde_and_Other_Tales_of_Terror](https://goodreads.com/book/show/51497.The_Strange_Case_of_Dr_Jekyll_and_Mr_Hyde_and_Other_Tales_of_Terror)

[2] <https://www.owleyes.org/text/rappaccinis-daughter>

[3] https://goodreads.com/book/show/29981.The_Island_of_Dr_Moreau



Dennis Fischman is a member of the Somerville Public Library's Mystery Book Club and an inveterate reader.

[book/show/35031085.Frankenstein_The_1818_Text](https://goodreads.com/book/show/35031085.Frankenstein_The_1818_Text)

[4] <https://goodreads.com/book/show/17245.Dracula>

Vendor applications now open for the 2026-2027 Somerville Winter Farmers Market season

Vendor applications are now open from today, July 27 through next Monday, August 3 for the 2026-2027 Somerville Winter Farmers Market season.

Share your unique products with the local community from November through April.

Apply to be a vendor for the upcoming season here: <https://www.somwintermarket.org/apply-to-be-a-vendor>.



Somerville nonprofits announce grassroots campaign to fight displacement and build affordable housing

CONT. FROM PG 17

lose their support networks, their children change schools, leading to learning disruption, and they move away from networks who support them through hard times. The isolation that follows displacement is real and lasting and falls hardest on the people who were already most vulnerable. Somerville's housing market has become a vehicle for wealth extraction, and working families are paying the price. Rooted In Somerville is our way of turning that dynamic around by going directly to those participating in that market and asking them to invest in the community that makes Somerville worth being part of," said David Gibbs, Executive Director of CAAS.

The campaign is anchored by a recent success story. When six homes at 12 Pleasant Avenue in the Prospect Hill neighborhood of Somerville were listed for sale without prior notice to residents, families faced the real possibility of losing their homes. CAAS supported tenants as they mobilized to prevent their own displacement, which opened an opportunity for SCLT to purchase the building in 2024. Everyone stayed, rents were stabilized, and the building is scheduled to be renovated starting the summer of 2026, before the original residents have the first opportunity to purchase their homes at affordable prices and put down lasting

roots in Somerville.

"Somerville has always been a city where working people built lives, raised families, and put down roots, and that is worth fighting for. But right now, the people most affected by changes in our housing market are the ones with the least power to shape them. No one should spend every year wondering whether they can afford to stay, weighing a rent increase against putting food or moving. Everyone deserves housing they can plan a life around. Rooted In Somerville is about making sure that the people who call this city home, regardless of what they earn, have a real say in its future and a real place in it," said Benjamin

Baldwin, Executive Director of the SCLT.

Residents, neighbors, and supporters can donate at www.caasomerville.org/rooted or by mailing a check to CAAS, Attn: Rooted In Somerville, 66-70 Union Square, Suite 104, Somerville, MA 02143. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law and are split evenly between CAAS and SCLT (both of which are 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations).

Those interested in volunteering with the campaign's research and outreach can contact Andrés Bueno, SCLT Community Engagement Manager, at a.bueno@somervillecommunitylandtrust.org or by signing up as a volunteer here.



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week

Q: I want to increase the rent on a unit. What do I need to do?

A: If your tenant has a lease and you do not have an escalator clause in it, you must wait until the end of the lease and then may raise the rent by giving 30 days notice or signing a new lease. If your tenant is a tenant-at-will, you must give them at least 30 days notice before raising the rent.

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

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

To donate visit:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-somerville-times>

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By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Searching for partner... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

July 29

1588 – The Spanish Armada is sighted off the coast of England.

1603 – Bartholomew Gilbert is killed in Virginia by Indians, during a search for the missing Roanoke colonists.

1858 – Japan signs a treaty of commerce and friendship with the United States.

1915 – U.S. Marines land at Port-au-Prince to protect American interests in Haiti.

1921 – Adolf Hitler becomes the president of the Nationalist Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazis).

1981 – Prince Charles marries Lady Diana.

1990 – The Boston Red Sox hit 12 doubles in a game, setting a major league record.

1996 – A U.S. federal court strikes down the child protection portion of the 1996 Communications Decency Act, calling it too broad.

2005 – Astronomers announce the discovery of dwarf planet Eris, leading the International Astronomic Union to clarify the definition of a planet.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

by Padres Latinos families that continue to connect us all.

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

The city's annual **SomerMovie Fest** is set to return, bringing you exciting evenings of family-friendly films to be shown in parks around Somerville this summer. The next free movie screening, **Wayne's World** (PG-13), is held on **Thursday, July 30**, at **Seven Hills Park** in Davis Square. Approximate start time is 8:15 p.m. For more information, please visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/moviefest>. Persons with disabilities who need ADA accommodations to access this program, please contact ada@somervillema.gov or call 311 (617-666-3311).

Groundwork Somerville is partnering with **Gerly's Ice Cream** for a fundraising event on **August 19**. Join them for a **hands-on workshop** where they will make their own homemade ice cream from scratch with Gerly and her team. Every ticket includes two pints of ice cream to take home and a tasting of some of Gerly's signature flavors. August 19, 6 – 8 p.m. at **The Foundry**, 101 Rogers St, Cambridge, MA 02142. Adult Tickets: \$55 / Youth Tickets: \$35. Buy your ticket here: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/groundwork-somerville-gerlys-ice-cream-workshop-fundraiser>. Tickets are limited, and every registration for this event will go towards sustaining Groundwork Somerville's youth programs and bring them closer to achieving their mission of building a healthier, greener, more equitable community.

Join the **Somerville Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC)**, **Assembly Connect**, **Somerville Alliance for Safe Streets (SASS)**, and **neighbors** to assess how safe, accessible, and comfortable it is to walk in Somerville's **Assembly Square**. Assembly Square is surrounded by some of the most dangerous roads in Somerville. Our collective goal is to evaluate As-

sembly Square's current status, share feedback with relevant decision-makers, and inform future planning efforts in the neighborhood. **Tuesday, August 4**, 6 – 8 p.m. **The Lawn**, 301 Assembly Row, Somerville. Register at <https://www.facebook.com/somervilleptac>.

The risk of **West Nile Virus** has been raised to **Moderate** in Somerville. Community members are encouraged to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites and mosquito-borne diseases. For more tips and information, visit www.somervillema.gov/mosquito-advisory.

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

Somerville's annual **Water System Flushing Program** continues through **late October**. This program consists of flushing pipes at high velocities to clean water mains and maintain the highest possible water quality. Temporary drops in water pressure and/or discolored water can occur. In these cases, though the water may be discolored, it is safe to drink. Until the water runs clear, it is advisable to avoid washing laundry, especially white fabrics. To find out when your neighborhood will be affected and to learn more: somerville-ma.gov/hydrantflushing.

Hazardous Waste Drop-Off, Saturday, August 8: Next monthly Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day at DPW (1 Franey Rd.), 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

With the **hot weather** here to stay for a while, community members are encouraged to review ways to stay cool, healthy,

and safe. Tips are available in multiple languages at www.somervillema.gov/keepcool.

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

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

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

The **Powder House, Milk Row Cemetery** and **Prospect Hill Tower** will be open to the public on select dates and times through **October**, as part of **History on the Line**, a series of exhibitions and programs organized by the **Somerville Museum** and funded by the **Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tour-**

ism's MA250 initiative and the **City of Somerville**. History unlocked: Drop-in chat on **select Thursdays**, 6 – 8 p.m., and **select Saturdays**, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. For dates and more information, visit <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>.

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

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

Friendly Caller Program. The **Somerville Council on Aging** has many wonderful volunteers who are waiting to give you a call. Whether you are looking to make a new friend or would just like a friendly chat to look forward to every week, this program has you covered. Call **Natasha Naim** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317, to learn more about the program and to sign up.

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

The **Somerville Mobile Farmers Market** has returned for the 2026 season. The market brings fresh, affordable, local produce to four city locations **Thursdays through Saturdays** and *Continued on page 23*



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

A New England Archive of Jewish History revives the past for all of New England

While I was having my usual bagel at the Bagel Bin on Shirley Ave., City Councilman Ira Novosky told me about an event that was presented by the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center. The program was a presentation regarding Jewish life and history in the city of Revere.

The Center generously agreed to answer a few of my questions.

Doug Holder: You had an event this month that dealt with Jewish life in Revere. Why is Revere so important to Jewish history in New England?

Jewish Heritage Center: The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center (JHC) preserves several collections about families, synagogues, and businesses based in Revere in the early and mid-20th century. Revere had a strong Jewish community throughout the 20th century, and some descendants of those families still live there today. And many older Jewish Bostonians – who may have grown up in other cities and towns in the area – still recall their summers on Revere Beach with fondness and nostalgia; it was a beloved summer destination for Jews to gather, enjoy recreation, and escape urban life within a safe Jewish enclave.

DH: I am told Shirley Ave. in Revere was the epicenter of the Jewish community. Do you have a lot of materials in your archive concerning this vital avenue?

JHC: We have several collections documenting Jewish life in Revere, including the records of Congregation Tifereth Israel, which was located at the corner of Shirley and Nahant Avenues. There are also a number of specific mentions of Shirley Avenue in the oral histories collected for our "Jewish Neighborhood Voices."

DH: The center asks for archival donations, but it is limited to New England. Why?

JHC: The Jewish Heritage Center's archive is specifically focused on New England Jewish history and is the only archive of its kind.

As background: the JHC began as part of the American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) when it was located at Brandeis. When AJHS moved to New York in 2000, it made an agreement with a group of Boston-based supporters and board members for the New England collections to stay in Boston and to be known as the American Jewish Historical Society-New England Archive (AJHS-NEA). In 2009, AJHS-NEA began a collaboration with American Ancestors (then known as New England Historic Genealogical Society); this partnership was formalized in 2015 with the creation of the Jewish Heritage Center at American Ancestors, a vital center with a mission to preserve New England Jewish history,



support scholarly and genealogical research, and offer educational programming about Jewish history and heritage. It was renamed for the Wyner Family, longtime supporters, in 2018. The Jewish Heritage Center continues today to add new collections of Jewish families, businesses, institutions, and communities in New England.

Much of New England Jewish history reflects themes in the wider story of American Jewish life, but there are also unique stories to be told across the Jewish diaspora, including here in New England. American Jewish life and culture does not solely exist in New York or L.A., and we have the privileged opportunity to preserve the stories of families and institutions in Boston and beyond. Their stories matter.

DH: What other cities besides Revere had thriving Jewish communities. Are there such communities today? I can think of Coolidge Corner in Brookline.

JHC: Though Jews have had a presence in Boston for much longer, the largest influx of Jewish immigrants came to this area from Eastern Europe in the late-19th century and settled largely in the North End, West End, and Chelsea (with an honorable mention of Lynn). Chelsea, in particular, was densely populated with Jewish immigrant families in the early 20th century and had the second highest per capita Jewish population in the United States, after New York.

In the next generation, many families moved to Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan, where they built thriving Jewish communities anchored by synagogues and Jewish businesses. Toward the mid-20th century, many Jewish families on the North Shore with access to upward mobility moved to Swampscott and Marblehead, while many in Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan moved to Brookline and Newton – all of which still have thriving Jewish communities to this day.

The highest concentration of Jews in Greater Boston today is in Brookline, Newton, and Brighton; there are thriving Jewish

Continued on page 23

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Rachel Kushner writes poems, children's books, and research papers. The research papers and briefs focus on Boston's public pre-K programming. The poems and children's books are sick of hiding. She works for the Boston Public Schools Department of Early Childhood as a data analyst and research coordinator. Rachel lives in Union Square with her six housemates in an unofficial co-op. She really likes jumping on her mini trampoline.



But Hope—

that ill-flighted,
heaven-bound bird—
she is born,
feet first
breach, in Lenten rose
and run-on sentences.
She is corrected by March
and red Bic pens,
crops up again,
and close to every ending.
Like Solomon's songs, sending
wended in cotton anglaise
set for the picnic waiting game
she'll play
she'll brass band
she'll fiddle strike
the body of a hot skillet
wet and fight
a bruised and banter
roundabout
she is an army
she is a shout
she is a stain
they can't get out.

— Rachel Kushner

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

Doug Holder, 25 School St., Somerville, MA 02143. doughter@post.harvard.edu

Somerville renews with Cataldo: 49 Years and Counting

Service is proud to announce the renewal of our 911 ambulance and EMS contract with the City of Somerville, Massachusetts.

We have served Somerville continuously since September 1, 1977, marking 49 years of emergency response to the city’s residents, visitors, and businesses.

This August, Cataldo enters into its 50th year in business, making this renewal a particularly meaningful one.

We are grateful to the City of Somerville for its continued trust and partnership, and to our paramedics, EMTs, dispatchers, and support staff whose work has sustained this relationship for nearly five decades.

Here’s to the next chapter of serving Somerville.



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

runs through October 31. All produce is sourced from local farms and priced affordably to make healthy, fresh food accessible to all. The mobile market accepts cash, debit and credit cards, SNAP, Fresh Connect, WIC Farmers Market Coupons, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons. All are welcome. For the full schedule, weekly produce updates, and more information about programs and events, visit the market’s website at somerville-mobilefarmers-market.org.

Assembly Row Farmers Market is being held at **375 Assembly Row**, Somerville, on **Fridays, 3 – 7 p.m.** The market will run **from June 12 to October 9**. Each

week, you’ll be able to find goods from nearly 30 New England-based farmers and producers. Expect a great mix of seasonal produce, baked goods, dairy and eggs, meats and seafood, honey, jams, specialty foods, and more. It’s the perfect place to stock up for the weekend, discover local favorites, or simply enjoy a fresh Friday visit to Assembly Row. <https://marketspread.com/market/37299/assembly-row-farmers-market/>.

The **Davis Square Market** has opened for the 2026 Season. The market will run **every Wednesday** from 12 noon to 6 p.m., **through November 25**, at **44 Day St.**, Somerville. This long-running mar-

ket features over two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers offering a vibrant selection of delicious produce, protein, baked goods, and ready-to-eat meals, alongside a host of other locally made products. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match. Visit <https://www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis>.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our **Arts Editor, Doug Holder**, for setting up a **GoFundMe campaign** for *The Somerville Times*. With the cost of printing going up and a lack of businesses having the resources to advertise, free pa-

pers feel the effect. We sincerely thank all who have already contributed and thank any future contributors. If you are interested in helping, please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-somerville-times>. Or if anyone is interested in advertising, please contact Bobbietoner@aol.com. We offer great discounts to help our advertisers be able to advertise. Thank you all so much for your support!

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

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

communities within, and beyond, these three neighborhoods. The fabric and atmosphere of most of these communities look different than the tight-knit immigrant neighborhoods of 100 years ago, for many reasons, including acculturation.

The Jewish Heritage Center has many resources available to learn about the history of Greater Boston Jewish neighborhoods. One lively source is the JHC’s online exhibit, “Jewish Neighborhood Voices.” For researchers interested in studying the demographic and geographic shifts of the Greater Boston Jewish community from the mid-20th century onwards, CJP has conducted community surveys every decade since the 1960s; these can be found in the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston Records preserved in the JHC archives.

The Jewish Heritage Center continually seeks to add the history of more communities—both geographical and identity-based—to its archives, to further represent the rich diversity of the Jewish community in this region. We invite individuals, families, and organizations to consider donating materials representing the fullness of Jewish heritage, identity, and experience.

DH: Do you collaborate with other centers, such as the Yiddish Book Center in Western, Mass.?

JHC: We have many partnerships and collaborations

with other Jewish organizations. The “Jewish Stories of Revere Beach” event featured the following partners: Jewish Community Center of the North Shore, Congregation Shirat Hayam, Temple Emmanuel of Chelsea, Walnut Street Synagogue, and Temple Tiferet Shalom. We have had collaborative projects with the Yiddish Book Center, including recording oral history interviews in partnership with the Wexler Oral History Project. We are also part of the New England Jewish History Collaborative, a consortium of Jewish history and genealogy organizations from New England states, whose goal is to raise awareness of the history of Jewish New England and the resources available to study it.

In Greater Boston, the Walnut Street Shul and Temple Emmanuel in Chelsea are regular collaborators, as are educators at Jewish Day Schools like Epstein Hillel and Gann Academy. We hold institutional papers for many local institutions, including Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Jewish Community Relations Council, and the Worker’s Circle, and many synagogues.

We also have materials on loan at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the West End Museum. There will also be Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center materials on display in the new Holocaust Museum opening in 2027.

Other organizations we work with include Lehrhaus,

Mayyim Hayyim, Keshet, the Jewish Women’s Archive, and more. We are always excited to have opportunities to connect with local and national institutions on programming and archival projects!

DH: Why should a person visit your center? What will he or she take away from their visit?

JHC: There are many wonderful things to see and learn at the Jewish Heritage Center! We have materials on exhibit throughout the building, and our parent organization, American Ancestors, offers a “Family Heritage Experience” that introduces visitors to the exploration of family history and identity through interactive displays and exhibits. Visitors and researchers can also make an appointment to explore collections from the Jewish Heritage Center’s archives, which are filled with fascinating historical documents, photos, and artifacts about Jewish individuals, families, and institutions in New England. These tell the story of Jewish life in our area—and contribute to the larger story of the American Jewish experience. We also host events for the public throughout the year at our beautiful historic building on Newbury Street, along with online programs and educational presentations in day schools and synagogues.

Thanks to Sarah Quiat for arranging this interview.



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