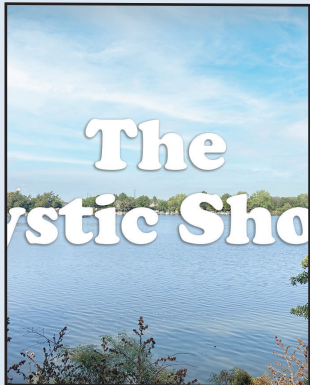




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The Mystic Shore
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Community Path temporary detours begin this week



Portions of the Community Path will be temporarily detoured to accommodate repair operations between Lowell Street and Somerville's Junction Park.

Mayor Ballantyne and the City of Somerville's Engineering Division would like to share an important announcement about an upcoming detour on the Somerville Community Path so residents can plan their travel accordingly.

Beginning on Monday, July 28, or soon after, people walking, wheeling, or cycling on the Community Path between Lowell Street and Somerville's Junction Park will be detoured.

This temporary detour (approximately one week, weather permitting) will enable contractors to repair a section of damaged concrete along the path between Lowell Street and Somerville's Junction Park.

Once the detour is in place, it will be in effect 24 hours a day. Community path users and community members are reminded to please *Continued on page 4*

Comicazi in Davis Square: Two and a half decades of entertaining the public

By Angelina Parrillo

On a warm summer day, Comicazi is one of the coolest destinations for comics and collectibles in Davis Square. The storefront beckons passersby with a promise to entertain, displaying action figures and toys for sale by the bunch and an ever-present offer of free comic books.

Inside the store is a sprawling collection of items stacked to the ceiling, all for sale. Shelves and boxes throughout the center of the shop contain multitudes of literature; anything from decades-old superhero stories to new comic editions released weekly. At any time of day, the winding aisles are filled with customers of all ages and interests, first-time visitors and seasoned regulars alike, poring over the unique inventory.

Continued on page 19



Comicazi offers the public a great place to buy, trade, or sell comic books and various collectibles, and participate in special events. — Photos courtesy of Jill Carter

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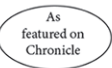
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Somer Fest, the city's flagship festival celebrating **BIPOC** (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) artists, creators, and small businesses, is back for the first time since 2022 on **Saturday, August 2**, at **Seven Hills Park** from 3 to 5:30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

Beginning on **Monday, July 28**, or soon after, people walking, wheeling, or cycling on the **Community Path** between Lowell Street and Central Street will be detoured. This temporary detour (approximately one week, weather permitting) will enable contractors to repair a section of damaged concrete along the path between Lowell Street and Somerville's Junction Park. Once the detour is in place, it will be in effect 24 hours a day. Community path users and community members are reminded to please use caution while traveling along detour streets in residential neighborhoods. For more information, please visit www.somervillema.gov/communitypath.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of July 30 – August 5 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday <i>July 30</i>	Partly Cloudy	90°/67°	22%	16%	SW 10 mph
Thursday <i>July 31</i>	Rain	75°/62°	29%	19%	ENE 11 mph
Friday <i>August 1</i>	Partly Cloudy	71°/59°	21%	13%	NE 12 mph
Saturday <i>August 2</i>	Sunny	79°/58°	3%	2%	NE 9 mph
Sunday <i>August 3</i>	Sunny	83°/61°	2%	1%	S 11 mph
Monday <i>August 4</i>	Partly Cloudy	84°/64°	6%	3%	SW 11 mph
Tuesday <i>August 5</i>	Partly Cloudy	79°/65°	14%	8%	SW 11 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: *Somerville Jews for Willie*

A proud and pained American Jew says:

As a proud American Jew and as someone who has always felt a strong connection to Israel, reading about and watching the news from Gaza has been an extremely painful experience for me. Blocking food and medicine to a population of approx. 2 million people is a war crime of vast proportions. And by killing scores of desperate Palestinians as they are trying to gain access to food in order to survive, Israel's actions have further horrified people of conscience throughout the world. However the self-identified Jews who signed this letter in support of Willie Burnley Jr's campaign for mayor of Somerville are being deliberately deceitful in failing to address – or even mention – that Burnley Jr, refuses to support Israel's very right to exist, nor has he – to the best of my knowledge – ever explicitly condemned Hamas nor its proudly stated declaration to destroy Israel.

Questions from an undecided voter says:

2 questions from me, a long-time Somerville resident and undecided voter in the upcoming Mayoral election:

1. Does Willie support what happened on October 7, 2023?
2. How many of these 20 authors support or are affiliated with the Democratic Socialists of America? Thanks

Daniel M Kimmel says:

Indeed. Burnley's agenda is painfully obvious. He's not calling for boycotts of China or Russia. He's only obsessed with Jews.

I am not a supporter of Netanyahu, but his desire to attack Israel while being blase about the genocide committed by Hamas, China, and Russia tells me all I need to know about him.

Maeve Whitty says:

Thanks for this timely and important article.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

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www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138



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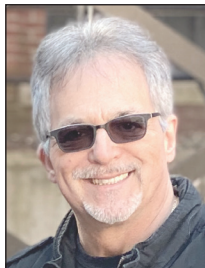
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Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

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.

The Mystic Shore



Do you know who Snooki and Pauly D are? How about some dude known simply as The Situation? They are the supposedly real-life characters on the

MTV smash hit, *Jersey Shore*.

Of course, *Happy Days*' Arthur Fonzarelli was the first one to come up with a nickname beginning with "the." Give me The Fonz over The Situation any day. The Fonz never removed his leather jacket and flaunted his abs. They never had to bleep The Fonz out.

These so-called real-life shows seem as fake as the dumb names they call each other. How many *Real Housewives* shows are out there? Too many.

They should do a show called *The Cranky Old Guys of Somerville*, or just *The Mystic Shore*. I would watch that show. I could be one of the characters. Yeah, a show about me and my day-to-day goings on.

The action would take place in my cluttered house. But first, I would have to have a nickname, like The Situation. I need a name that captures who I am. How about The Recliner? That suits me to a T.

The show would be about a grumpy guy in his late 50s who is raising two teenage sons. It shows the lead character, The Recliner (me), tripping over sneakers that have been left in the middle of the living room floor. Cut to a shot of the truck pulling into the driveway after a trip to that Sonic burger joint in Peabody, where the boys have just been treated to burgers.

The Recliner mentions that the dog

has to be taken out, and a huge argument starts between the two sons over whose turn it is. I end up walking the dog. Sloppy J and D-Lazy spend the next three minutes fighting over who gets the computer first. There are two computers, but one has a larger screen, and that's the one they both want. Meanwhile, The Recliner's ex-wife, Ali-Mommy, calls to remind him that the orthodontist bill is due. Like The Situation, The Recliner has a very fit physique, if you compare it to that of his buddy, Chunk Master Grey.

The action would take place in my cluttered house. But first, I would have to have a nickname, like The Situation. I need a name that captures who I am. How about The Recliner? That suits me to a T

Some of the dramatic scenes involve the monthly paying of the bills, finding a matching pair of dress socks, and making sure we don't run out of Kraft Mac and Cheese. In one episode, we find The Recliner in a life-threatening predicament. One of the kids erased all his recordings of The Three Stooges to make room for eight episodes of *Ghost Hunters*. "Sloppy J" has lost his iPod and his phone charger ... again.



D-Lazy is up until 3:30 a.m. texting his friends and killing zombies on the computer. The Recliner comes home for lunch at 12:30, and both boys are still in bed. The Recliner has to get up for work, so he goes to bed at 9:30 with a clean, empty kitchen sink. When he gets up, there are dirty plates piled all over the kitchen, and half-full cups on the coffee table. The boys make fun of The Recliner because he never gets anything right. He still calls Tedeschi's and Rite-Aid in Davis Square, The Quick Shop, and Oscos.

The Recliner still gets together with the old gang of friends now and then. He bumps into one of his pals in the waiting room of the Mount Auburn Hospital, where they both were awaiting colonoscopies. He meets another one of his friends while picking up cholesterol and high blood pressure medicine at CVS.

Some daily chores are keeping the show-

er drain clear of hair, changing light bulbs, and buying dog food.

The cast of the *Jersey Shore* party at various nightclubs, complete with flashing lights and dancing. The Recliner and his friends drive golf carts around at the campsite they all enjoy on the weekends. Some play very exerting games of horseshoes and bingo.

Most of the action on *The Mystic Shore* is happy. Real Somerville people are grateful for the simple things. The only real drama that occurs is when The Recliner nods out in his chair. The few seconds when he awakens, trying to figure out what day it is, what time it is, and what he was supposed to be doing, can be very traumatic.

It also just so happens that Henry Winkler, who played The Fonz, is my true-life Emerson College fraternity brother. "Hey!"



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Somerville Police Dept Crime Log July 15 – 21

Shots Fired

25043372: On 7/22/25 at approximately 9:30 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Grand Union Blvd. in Assembly Row for a report of shots fired. Officers spoke with a male party who stated his vehicle was struck by multiple rounds of gunfire. Numerous shell casings were recovered. No injuries were reported.

Shots Fired

25042069: On 7/18/25 at approximately 12:28 a.m., Somerville Police responded to 40 River Rd. for a report of multiple shots fired and a vehicle fleeing the area. On the scene, officers recovered 34 shell casings consisting of three different calibers. No injuries were reported.

Commercial Breaking and Entering

25041449: On 7/15/25 at approximately 11:20 PM, Somerville Police responded to a business on Somerville Ave. for a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers observed the front window shattered and numerous merchandise products scattered along the street.

Assault

25041512: On 7/16/25 at approximately 8:04 a.m., Somerville Police took a report from a male party regarding a past assault. He stated that around 7:30 a.m., he got involved in a traffic altercation with a bicyclist. During the altercation, the bicyclist brandished a knife at him.

Assault

25041319: On 7/15/25 at approximately 12:45 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Holland St. for report of a fight. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was approached by a male party who began to yell profanities at him then pushed him.

Residential Breaking and Entering

25043174: On 7/22/25 at approximately 8:05 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Broadway for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated the house is under construction and a fridge was stolen.

Assault

25043208: On 7/22/25 at approximately 9:39 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a business in Davis Sq. for a dispute. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she got into an altercation with a female party. During the altercation, the female punched her in the face. Officers identified the suspect.

Other Crimes: 4 Bike thefts + 3 MV vandalisms + 8 Car breaks + 3 MV thefts

— Somerville Police Department



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Community Path temporary detours begin this week

CONT. FROM PG 1

use caution while traveling along detour streets in residential neighborhoods.

People biking will be detoured via Central Street and Vernon Street before reconnecting with the path via the accessible ramp at Lowell Street. Pedestrians can use this same detour or choose to travel via Central Street and Albion be-

fore reconnecting with the path at Lowell Street. Detour signage will be posted along the route.

For details, including a full detour map, please visit somervillema.gov/community-path.

About the Community Path

The Somerville Community Path is

an approximately 3.2-mile off-street multi-use path that runs from Alewife Linear Park at the Cambridge city line to East Cambridge by the Lechmere MBTA station.

The original Somerville Community Path was constructed in 1985 in the former Fitchburg Cutoff Rail Bed and ran

approximately 1.3 miles from Massachusetts Avenue to Lowell Street via Davis Square. The Community Path Extension, part of the MBTA's Green Line Extension project, opened in June 2023 and extended the path from its previous terminus at Lowell Street to East Cambridge near the MBTA's Lechmere Station.

Červená Barva Press celebrates twenty years

In April, Červená Barva Press celebrated its 20th anniversary. To mark this milestone, editor and publisher Gloria Mindock recorded many of her authors reading poems or short excerpts from their fiction for a special video series, now available on YouTube. In addition to authors, several friends of the press—long-time supporters of its work—also contributed readings from their own writing. The series currently includes eight videos, each featuring approximately ten readers. Gloria plans to record two more groups before shifting to other celebratory events.

To date, the press has published approximately 270 books of poetry, fiction, and translations by writers from around the world. One of the press's founding goals was to publish translated works and help bridge cultural divides between countries. Community has always been central to Červená Barva's mission—64 writers from Massachusetts have been published, many from the Somerville and Cambridge area, some multiple times.

Over its two decades, Červená Barva

Press has offered a wide range of programming, including: Červená Barva Press Reading Series, Portrait of an Artist & Poet, Monologue Mondays, Poetry Roundtables, Translation Roundtables, Book Trailers, Behind the Book YouTube Interview Series, International Reading Series, Read America Read—a program that, since 2015, has distributed approximately 3,000 free books at various locations across the U.S., and monthly newsletters. The press has also participated in numerous global social activism efforts.

In 2023, the press launched the Dissident Award, named in honor of its first recipient, Svetoslav Nahum of Belgium. Svet has risked his life advocating for democracy and freedom for Ukraine, and has faced threats from Putin's agents, including the threat of Novichok poisoning—the same chemical weapon used on Navalny. He and his family have recently faced renewed threats and are currently in hiding. In 2024, the award was given to Mbizo Chirasha of Zimbabwe, who spent time in



Červená Barva Press editor and publisher Gloria Mindock.

hiding but is now active again. The 2025 recipient will be announced soon.

Červená Barva Press will host its third Literary Summit on October 17, 18, and 19. All workshops and talks will be recorded and made available on YouTube for paid attendees, who can choose to watch them on a scheduled timeline or at their own pace.

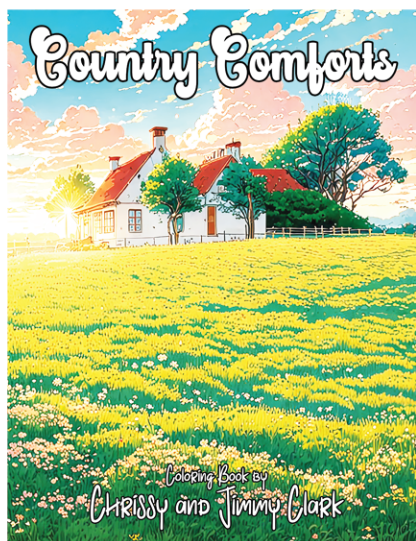
This year's confirmed lineup includes Andrey Gritsman, Mark Pawlak, Mary Bonina, Joyce Wilson, George Kalamaras,

Lawrence Kessenich, John C. Mannone, Dorothy Nelson, J. Kates, Pamela Laskin, Irina Mashinski, and Miriam Levine, with more names to be announced soon.

A Special Thank You from Gloria

I'd like to express my deepest gratitude to the staff—past and present—who have helped Červená Barva Press thrive, to my interns, to the wonderful community I live in, and to the many writers and authors worldwide whom I've published and had the pleasure of getting to know.

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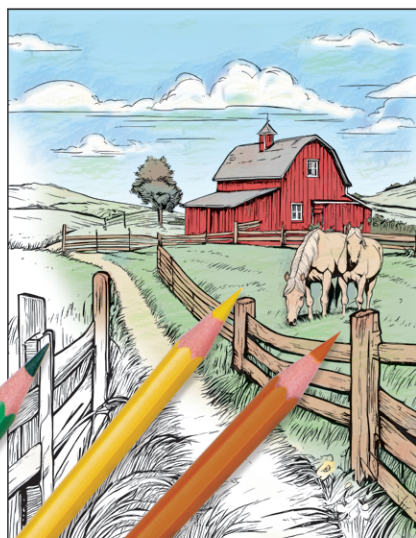
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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' and senators' votes on roll calls from the week of July 21-25.

\$300 MILLION FOR LOCAL ROADS AND BRIDGES (H 4307)

House 157-0, approved and sent to the Senate a \$1.2 billion transportation bond bill that includes authorizing \$300 million in one-time funding for the maintenance and repair of local roads and bridges in cities and towns across the state -- a 50 percent increase over last year's funding. The measure provides that \$200 million be distributed to all cities and towns based on the standard Chapter 90 Program distribution formula while \$100 million would be distributed to all municipalities based solely on road mileage.

The \$1.2 billion package also includes \$885 million for other transportation-related projects including \$500 million for the Lifecycle Asset Management Program which supports non-federally aided roads and targets the Bay State pavement and bridges that are in the worst condition; \$200 million for a culvert and small bridge repair program to aid municipalities for local culverts and small bridges under 20 feet that are in a state of disrepair or require replacement; and \$185 million for capital projects to reduce congestion hotspots, funding that will be available for a myriad of projects such as shared use paths, intersection improvements, railroad grade crossings and sidewalks.

"The federal funding uncertainty from Washington, D.C. is very real," said Rep. James Arciero (D-Westford), House Chair of the Committee on Transportation. "The House is proceeding with caution while balancing the significant transportation needs of our cities and towns. This bill leverages the Legislature's increased appropriations to the Commonwealth Transportation Fund. These strategic appropriations expanded our borrowing capacity to allow for additional transportation funding for cities and towns."

"This legislation strikes a balance between increasing funding for municipal roadways and transportation-related projects while maintaining outstanding fiscal responsibility," said Rep. Michael Finn (D-West Springfield), House Chair of the Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets. "Our decision to continue giving the governor the authority to utilize either general or special obligation bonds enables us to capitalize on competitive interest rates, save money long term and preserve general obligation bond capacity for the commonwealth's most pressing needs."

"Providing funding for critical infrastructure projects

through investments in the commonwealth's public transportation, roads and bridges is one of the most important responsibilities that we have as members of the Legislature," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "I'm proud of the support for local infrastructure repairs that this legislation provides, and of the funding that it allocates for projects that will address congestion hotspots across the commonwealth."

"The Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) and local leaders across the state are deeply grateful that legislators appreciate the importance of this program to the quality of life and economic development in our communities," said MMA Executive Director Adam Chapdelaine. "Chapter 90 is a program that benefits all 351 cities and towns in the state, and a 50 percent increase in funding would have a substantial impact in all corners of the commonwealth."

Chapdelaine declined to respond to a *Beacon Hill Roll Call* request asking him whether the MMA wanted more than the \$350 million funding and if it wanted a 2-year commitment of funds instead of a 1-year one.

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

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

CHANGE ARCHAIC LANGUAGE REFERRING TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (S 2563)

Senate 40-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that would modernize and remove archaic language in state laws to reflect the evolution of terminology relating to persons with disabilities.

Changes include replacing "handicapped persons" with "persons with disabilities," replacing "the mentally retarded" with "persons with an intellectual disability," replacing "retarded children" with "children with an intellectual disability" and replacing "disabled American veterans" with "American veterans with disabilities."

"Words are important," said Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville), chief sponsor of the bill. "Language changes. We should use language that respects the people it refers to and listen to them. Fifteen years ago, a friend told Rep. Denise Provost and me how disrespected she felt being called 'handicapped.' We filed a bill to remove ten sections of the general laws that used that word. Over the years, we have found nearly 400 sections with offensive words, including the r-word."

Melissa Reilly, an advocate for people with disabilities and

former policy advisor to Sen. Jamie Eldridge (D-Marlborough), said the bill is really important because all people with disabilities should be treated well and respected by others and not mocked or judged or bullied by others for their disabilities. "We are all unique and deserve respect, we do not want to be known as the 'r-word,'" said Reilly.

Maura Sullivan, CEO of the Arc of Massachusetts, said the bill has been a long-time priority for The Arc and its community. "Today's vote sends a clear message in an important moment—such language has no place in our laws or in our society," said Sullivan. "At this moment when disability rights are being threatened, we must show up every day to reaffirm our commitment to uplifting and valuing this community. This bill does just that."

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

REPEAL ARCHAIC LAWS (S 2564)

Senate 40-0, approved and sent to the House legislation that would abolish some archaic laws that are still on the books in Massachusetts. These laws include prohibiting adultery, sodomy, blasphemy, "common nightwalking" and being a vagabond.

The measure also establishes a Permanent Law Revision Commission to examine the state's laws and judicial decisions; identify defects and anachronisms in the law; and recommend needed reforms to align with modern conditions.

"When dusty and dangerous relics of a bygone era darken our laws, it creates the potential for real harm to residents today," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "We are on a path to making our laws better represent who we are in 21st-century Massachusetts. With a White House that glorifies— and seemingly longs for—the days when many Americans were discriminated against because of who they are, now is the time to make sure our state laws respect and support the rights and dignity of our residents."

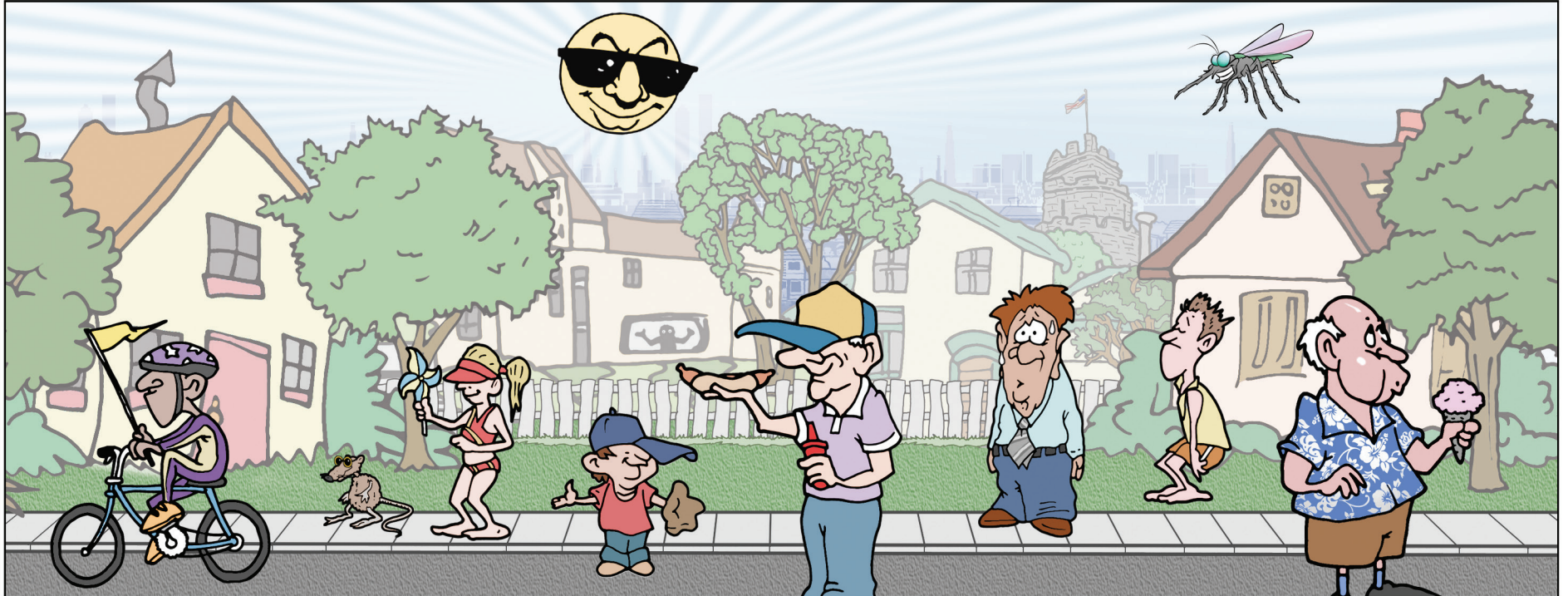
Chief sponsor Sen. Will Brownsberger (D-Belmont) said the bill would bring Bay State laws into the 21st century and align them with the fundamental principles of freedom built into our Constitution. "The bill would remove archaic laws that intrude on an individual's privacy regarding sexual activity," said Brownsberger. "[It] would remove existing statutes that criminalize sodomy and so-called 'unnatural' acts between consenting adults and make Massachusetts laws more inclusive of individuals who are LGBTQIA+. In some cases, the language that this bill would strike from the General

Continued on page 18

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.

If you don't have air conditioning, you

can seek relief from the heat in air-conditioned city buildings.

Anyone is welcome to visit the Somerville 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 important 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.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

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 **Michael Delicato**, **Robert Carnes**, **Laura Pitone**, **Daniel M. Kimmel**, **Nancy Christine**, **Stephen Able**, **Anthony Cataldo**, **Jason Banning**, **Karen D'Amato**, **Mike Morrison**, **Sharon Paglia Breen**, **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.

We have a **new tab** on our website, "**Campaign Releases**." Go there to see the latest endorsements, campaign info for this year's election candidates.

Feet Keep the Beat Performance Showcase: LINEAGE, Friday, August 1, 7 – 10 p.m., Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave. As the artists featured in the showcase performance perform a story of how feet have been keeping the beat over time, and across cultures

and geographies, they will also deepen their collaboration this year by paying homage to their teachers, gurus, mentors, and those who opened the path for them. Visit <https://artsatthearmory.org/events/feet-keep-the-beat-performance-showcase-lineage/>.

Art gallery opening for **P'alante: Stories Moving Somerville Forward**, August 4. Join the city at a gallery opening for local photographer **Mario Quiroz** and his project that celebrates Somerville's immigrant communities. This event will be held on **Monday, August 6**, at **West Branch Library**, 40 College

Ave., from 6 to 8 p.m.

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

SomerMovie Fest has returned. The movies begin at dusk, and showtimes are approximate. Arrive early to grab a good spot, get comfortable, and enjoy the summer evening with *Continued on page 21*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio #982

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

- Ozzy Osbourne has a cameo in what Adam Sandler film?
- What was the title of Ozzy Osbourne's first solo record?
- Where did the original members of Black Sabbath play when they reunited in 1997?
- What ballad did Ozzy Osbourne sing with Lita Ford?
- In what year did apollo 11 land on the moon?
- What was the name of Carroll O'Connor's character in the TV series *All in the Family*?
- In what year did the Chicago heatwave cause over 700 deaths?
- When is World Lung Cancer Day?
- When is Big Forehead Day?
- Former Red Sox player Wade Boggs had a superstition of eating what before every game?
- What President awarded Fred Rogers (Mister Rogers) the Presidential Medal of Freedom?
- Where is the Ice Cream Capital Of The World?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- Rainbows were called "bows of promise" in Victorian English.
- The lint in the bottom of your pocket has a name, gnurr.

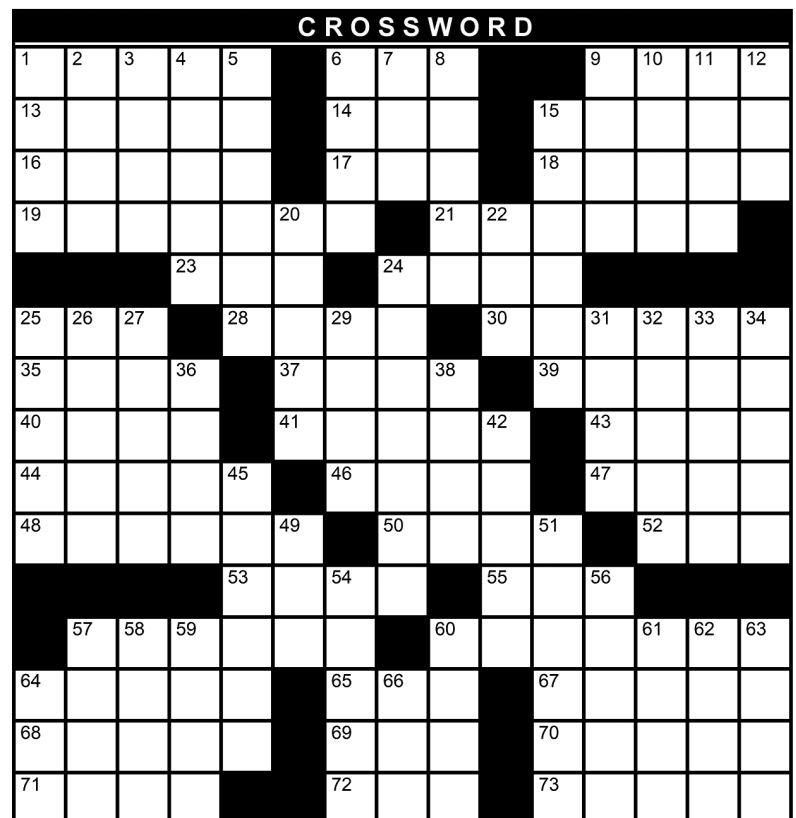
STATEPOINT CROSSWORD AMERICAN FICTION

ACROSS

- Mythical air spirit
- Water glider
- Opposite of eve
- Artfully shyly
- X
- Move a plant
- Saintly glows
- Industrious insect
- Inundated
- "An American Tragedy" author Theodore ____
- Ignatius J. Reilly, "A Confederacy of Dunces" protagonist
- Neither's partner
- Flipside of pros
- What hernias do
- Snowman's corn cob
- 1970s dancing venues
- Home to China
- Biceps exercise
- W.E.B Du Bois's org.
- Clays or mucks
- Quetzalcoat worshiper
- Viracocha worshipper
- Muse of love poetry
- The Hippocratic one
- High in decibels
- Orthopedic device
- Egyptian goddess of fertility
- Before, before
- Kitten's plaything
- Between Cancer and Virgo
- Beatrice Belden's nickname
- American Library Association's medal for children's literature
- C in CSI
- To boot
- #61 Down plus E
- Altar's location, pl.
- Fled
- Indian cuisine dip
- Give an impression
- Mining product
- See-through

DOWN

- Common tropical marine fish
- Part of BYO
- Orpheus' instrument
- Patricia MacLachlan's "Sarah, ____ and Tall"
- Medicinal herb
- ____ anise, chai tea spice
- ____ Kelsey's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"
- Foreword
- Whimper
- Milky-white gem
- Like certain people's glasses
- Greatest possible
- Ex grape
- "Fear of Flying" author ____ Jong
- Finish line, e.g.
- Not doubting
- Percival Everett's reimagining of "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"
- Steal a throne
- Type of wave
- "The Godfather" author Mario ____
- Go yachting
- Birch bark vessel
- Come to pass



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



- Dashiell Hammett's hardboiled detective Sam ____
- ____ Spumante
- Classic game show "____ Make a Deal"
- Argentina's western neighbor
- December birthstone, pl.
- "Mai" follower
- Paris' underground tourist attraction
- Yesteryear style
- West African religious practice
- Genealogical plant
- Winter window design
- Allah's cleric
- Opposite of all
- Huron's neighbor
- Baptism or shiva, e.g.
- 2025, e.g.
- "The Young and the Restless" network, acr.
- Boat propeller

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

OPENAIR Circus performances August 1–3



Stilting Unicorns, baton twirling Purple People Eaters, juggling werewolves, and hula hooping elves are among the “Mythical Creatures” expected to appear at Nunziato Park near Union Square in Somerville this weekend.

The OPENAIR Circus presents “Mythical Creatures,” where students of circus arts show off what they’ve learned in summer classes.

You’re invited to watch the show on Friday, August 1, at 6:30 pm, and on Saturday and Sunday, August 2 and 3, at 2:30 pm. There is no admission fee, but donations are welcome.

Since the performance will be in the open park, blankets and folding chairs are encouraged. For 40 years, children, youth, and adults have enjoyed OPENAIR summer classes and shows, as well as parades and festivals.

For more on the OPENAIR Circus, visit www.openaircircus.org.

OPENAIR Circus is a Somerville Parks & Recreation partnership program. COVID-19/Infectious Disease Precautions: OPENAIR Circus is committed to supporting the health and safety needs of all members of our community and has chosen to maintain a level of vigilance about contagious diseases that is higher than the legal minimums. We will be wearing masks, and we request but don’t require audience members to wear them. Masks will be available. Thank you in advance for respecting our community’s policy.

Voices in Motion: Poetry & Performance

Flor Delgado’s painting forms with Jamaal Eversley’s poetry. The audience members respond to prompts read by Jamaal and Flor Delgado, and they will use your words to create paintings through dance movements.

With poetry from Jamaal Eversley, Yvette Modestin, Pinar Banu Yasar, and Ravjot Mehek Singh, join this wonderful community gathering and see words, dance, and visual art come together in a collective vision. This gathering is part of the exhibition, Kaleidoscope, that explores the themes of home, community, neighborhood, and belonging – celebrating the ways our shared experiences shape our sense of place.



July 31, 7 – 8:30 p.m. at the Somerville Museum, 1 Westwood Road, Somerville, MA 02143. Free for members. \$10 for non-members. For more info and tickets, visit www.somervillemuseum.org.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #334

This article first appeared in the August 7, 2013, edition of *The Somerville Times*.

‘Casey at the Bat’

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

*Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright;
The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light,
And somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout;
But there is no joy in Mudville — mighty Casey has struck out.*



So goes the last stanza of the fictitious poem Casey at the Bat. It is regarded by many as the most famous baseball poem ever written. August 14, 2013, is the 150th anniversary of the birth of the poem’s author, said to be Ernest Lawrence Thayer.

Born in Lawrence, MA, the son of a wealthy mill owner, Thayer attended Harvard University. After graduating, he traveled west to work for his college friend, William Randolph Hearst’s San Francisco newspaper. Thayer later returned east to run his father’s Worcester woolen mill. This is where it is said, he wrote the poem and then sent it and other articles to Hearst. Casey at the Bat was published in June of 1888.

As far as the poem is concerned, Somerville has an intimate relationship. Many newspapers and authors have claimed authorship of the poem, but a Somerville man named George Whitfield Dvys was the longest-lasting claimant, until the contesting stopped after many years. According to Dvys (Somerville city records list his occupation as a writer and correspondent), *Continued on page 11*

LEGAL NOTICES

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



**City of Somerville
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, August 6, 2025**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?pwd=JTW1sVETf-3Q69ruyHufA>
Webinar ID: 895 4132 8615

TO CALL IN

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

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

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

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

Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.

7/23/25, 7/30/25 The Somerville Times



**City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, August 7, 2025**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?pwd=JTW1sVETf-3Q69ruyHufA>
Webinar ID: 833 0874 3380

TO CALL IN

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

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

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

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

7/23/25, 7/30/25 The Somerville Times

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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, August 19, 2025** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?pwd=JTW1sVETf-3Q69ruyHufA>
Webinar ID: 860 2692 7742

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

DETERMINATIONS OF PREFERABLY PERSERVED (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HP25-000051 - 80 Irving Street
Applicant: Daniel A. Casparriello
Owner: Daniel A. Casparriello and Amanda A. Casparriello
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

7/30/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #26-04**

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

On-call Electrical Repairs for the Municipal Buildings

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **7/30/2025**. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **8/14/2025 2:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

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

5% Bid Deposit required.

Logan Carroll
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617-625-6600 x3407

7/30/25 The Somerville Times

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Ye Olde Comix Con at Somerville Public Library

By Norah Doyle

Somerville Public Library hosted its annual ComixCon with a medieval twist on Saturday, July 26.

The library, decorated with fantasy character cardboard cutouts like Luke Skywalker, Tyrion Lanister, and even Wonder Woman, was bursting with enthusiastic attendees. To enter the building, guests would pass by knight training sessions on the front lawn and children scurrying around on hobby horses.

These are just a few of the highlights from Somerville Public Library's 2025 Comix Con, "Ye Olde Comix Con."

Comix Con is a space for children and adults with a childlike sense of wonder to come together and celebrate their interests. This year, the event was spread throughout the entire library with activities for children, tweens, teens, and adults.

A royal guest even came to read the children of Somerville a story, *Sleeping Beauty!*

Kerry O'Donnell, head of adult services at the library, was ecstatic for the library to host another Comix Con, after having to take a break for a few years due to COVID.

"We are celebrating the idea of fandom with Comix Cons. Every year we have different things, like last year, we had somebody who did a cosplay demonstration. This year, our theme is 'Ye Olde Comix Con,' focused more on knights and dragons and princesses, a bit of a medieval theme," said O'Donnell.

"It's the idea of celebrating comics, graphic novelists, graphic art, and sort of sharing that with the public. Maybe exposing others to stuff they have never heard of before while also celebrating the things that they love."

All age-inclusive activities varied from DND miniature figurines paint stations, face paint with Arti Mari, dragon trivia, intro to stage combat, to Disney singalong karaoke style.

For older Somerville children and teens, activities such as LARP games and a Super Smash Bros tournament were offered specifically for them. Children ages 6 to 10 were encouraged to join Saber Guild Padawan training on the front lawn to learn the art of being a Jedi.

Niki Vavar, one of the librarians running the event, had the important task of training knights, old and young, outside.

"Our knight prospects come and they show their control over a hobby horse, and then they attack the three paper target enemies on the tree, and then they knock down two castles with the ancient Nerf bowling balls," said Vavar.

If newly ordained knights were hungry after all of their training, they could grab a cheesy bite to eat from the Melt food truck, which offered a variety of grilled



Niki Vavar and the knight training obstacle course.

—Photos by Norah Doyle

cheese sandwiches.

Comix Con not only provided a space for people to share their interests, but also a space for local artists and small businesses to share their creations as vendors.

Some of the vendors this year included Boston Comic Arts Foundation, CMYKennedy Designs, The Friends of the Somerville Public Library, Kestrop Studio, One More Chapter Candle Company, Pan & Scan Illustration, Scarlett Creates, Side Quest Books & Games, Seek Ultra, and PomPoison.

"I specialize in all things nostalgic, inspired by the 80s through the 2000s. I sell handmade items, upcycled items, vintage collectibles, a little bit of everything, but all of it will make you go, 'oh, my God, I remember that,'" said Marissa Kennedy, owner of CMYKennedy.

"I love getting to interact with kids at

Comix Con. I'm definitely a kid at heart, so it's really fun for me to get to kind of like nerd out with all of the kids that come."

Comix Con also held a raffle ticket contest, of which prizes included plushies, books, Legos, and more.



Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 9

he was inspired to write the poem while at a ballgame with friends at Franklin Park in Boston. He returned to his Somerville home on Houghton Street and wrote eight stanzas, the last eight stanzas of the existing poem. Other people later added five more. He then sent a copy to the *New York Sporting News*, which printed the poem, changing only two words: (1) Casey to Kelly, and (2) Mudville to Boston. This alteration was in reference to the popular King Kelly, the Boston baseball superstar at that time.

It was only a poem written obscurely in a newspaper until the right person noticed it. After taking in a baseball game at the

Polo Grounds on August 14, 1888, William DeWolf Hopper, a New York Opera Company actor, came across the poem through a friend. He performed a reading of it at the Broadway Opera House in New York City, and it was a booming success. Hopper was born to narrate that poem, and he proved it by reciting it, in his own estimation, over 10,000 times during the following twelve years. Casey at the Bat made the actor Hopper famous, and Hopper made Casey famous.

Through the years, that poem has become and remains a classic. It was made into an American silent movie in 1927 featuring Wallace Berry, a Disney film

in 1946, Shelley Duvall's 1986 movie *American Tales and Legends* starring Elliot Gould, and, in 1994, Garrison Keillor, of *Prairie Home Companion* and *Lake Wobegon* fame, engaged a parody of it. New York had its Casey Stengel, baseball player and coach. L.A. has its Casey Kasem, the Top American 40 disc jockey, and Cambridge has the memory of Crusher Casey, the world-champion wrestler.

What is Somerville's kinship with the poem? Somerville has its Mudville Pottery Studios at Pearl Street and McGrath Highway. On Broadway in East Somerville, you will find Casey's Irish Tavern

with its colorful Casey at the Bat logo on its marquee. Also, Somerville boasts another "Casey," famous actor, Casey Affleck, brother of actor/director Ben Affleck.

Thayer and Dvys each claimed to have written the poem. Writers, lawyers, readers, and fans took their sides, some thinking it was a David and Goliath, rich man/poor man contest, while others thought it was more of a rags-to-riches "wannabee." Either way, the next time you're driving down Broadway in Somerville past Casey's Tavern, with its colorful Casey at the Bat logo on its marquee, it will leave you thinking: which team (author) really won?

'Kaleidoscope: Reflecting the Moment' at the Somerville Museum

By The Times Staff

Step into a reflection of our reality during the summer exhibition at the Somerville Museum, going on now until August 23.

The immersive, multi-sensory exhibition invites visitors to experience and explore shifting concepts in the community during a time of transformation.

"This summer, we wanted the Museum to serve as a contemplative community space," said Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Executive Director of the Somerville Museum.

The Kaleidoscope exhibition presents participatory installations that reflect a multitude of feelings and emotions that community members are experiencing in a rapidly changing world. The show started on June 5, and the general admission is \$8.

"Immersed in shifting color and light, visitors encounter words drawn from interviews with Somerville residents – an invitation to reflect on how language and perception shift in a rapidly changing and divided world, and how we might return to what grounds us and reconnects us with one another," explained Marlin-Curiel.

The exhibition is curated by Flor Delgadillo, a multidisciplinary artist, who created the multi-sensory art experience to explore home, community, memory, and transformation, and provide opportunities for quiet reflection with moments of participation and co-creation.

"When we were talking about how rapidly things were changing from December to the opening of the reception, we were trying to find a way to really highlight

the change in a way...with all the hardness and difficulty that is happening," said Delgadillo.

Delgadillo is an "artist" who relocated from California to Boston, where she has become a vital voice for inclusive and community-centered art.

An alum of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts (SMFA) at Tufts University, Delgadillo facilitates hands-on workshops integrating artistic practice with engineering concepts and leads public art activations across the region.

Her work explores material culture and aims to elevate underrepresented narratives through collaborative expression and public engagement.

One of the many interesting parts of the exhibition stems from a collection of bones she's amassed as a result of a dish her aunt made for her. "I have a series called bone kisses," says Delgadillo. "I collect these bones from a traditional dish called Birria."

The exhibition delves into histories of resilience, displacement, and reclamation, using vibrant materials and participatory installations to encourage connection and insight. Visitors are invited to listen, observe, reflect, and contribute their own stories and perspectives to an evolving community chorus.

"Kaleidoscope: Reflecting the Moment invites the audience into a space where light transforms, sound evokes memory, and art becomes a shared moment of pause and creation," says Delgadillo.

The Museum added three dynamic public programs to accompany and com-



The Kaleidoscope: Reflecting the Moment exhibition at the Somerville Museum runs now through August 23. — Photos courtesy of Stephanie Marlin-Curiel

plement Delgadillo's exhibition. On July 24, the Museum held its first of three interactive complements, Sounding Her Voice: The Kalliope Reed Trio Celebrates Women Composers, a trio concert featuring saxophone, clarinet, and bassoon, the Kalliope Reed Trio highlights contemporary works by Mexican and American women composers – alongside a rare piece by French composer Claude Arrieu.

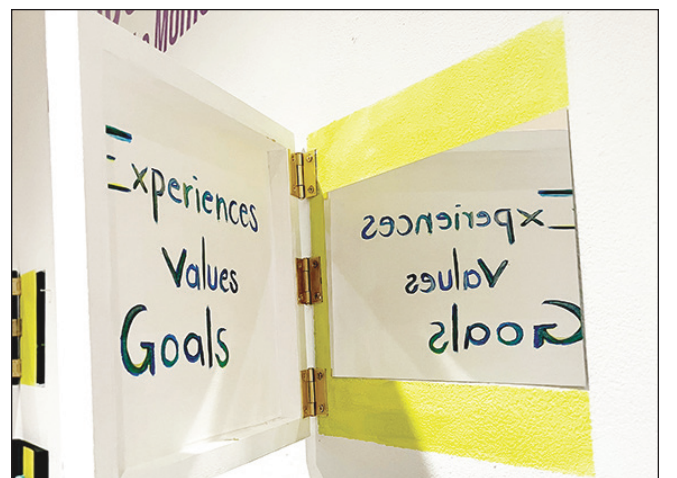
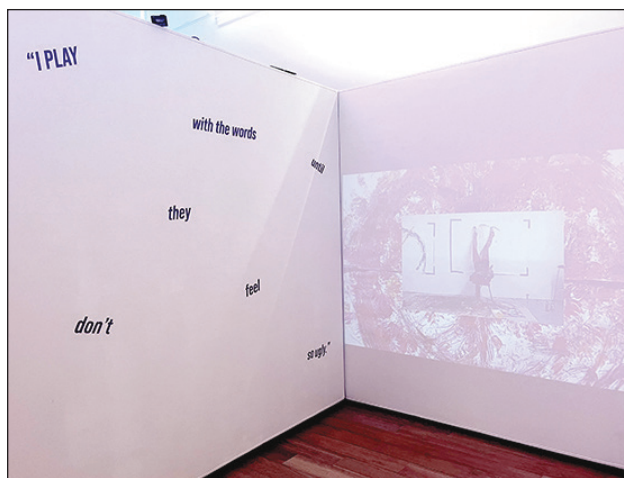
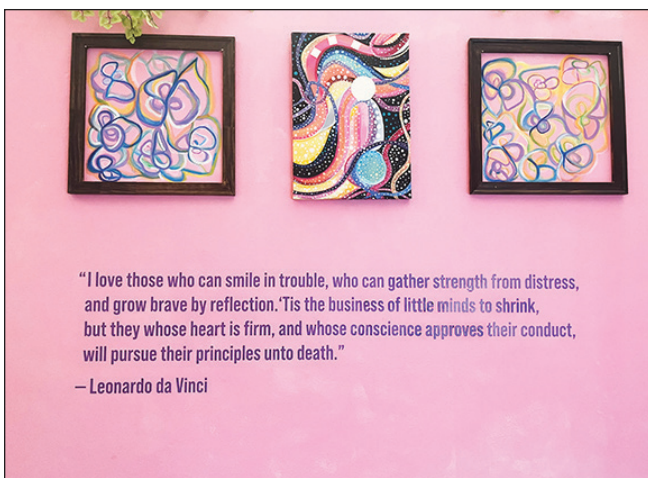
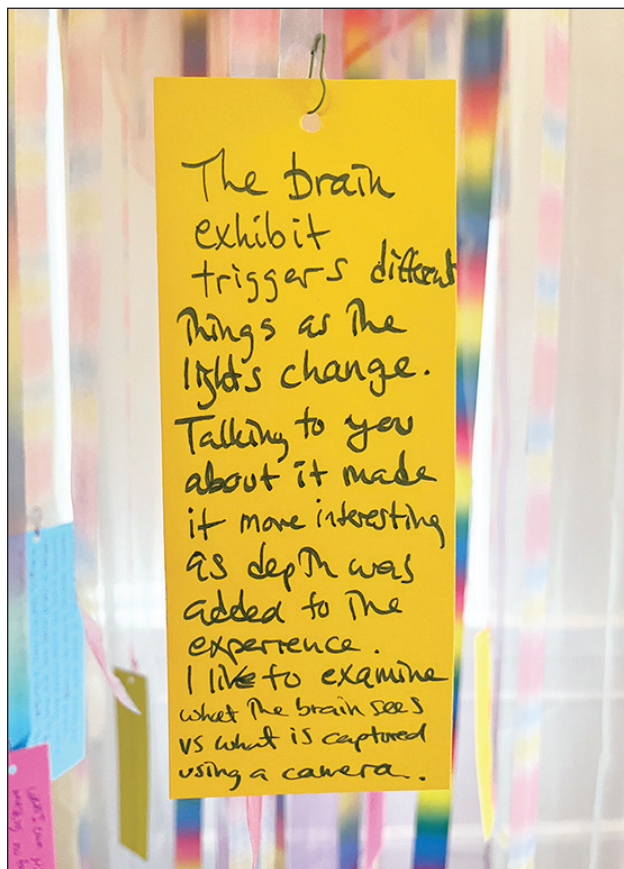
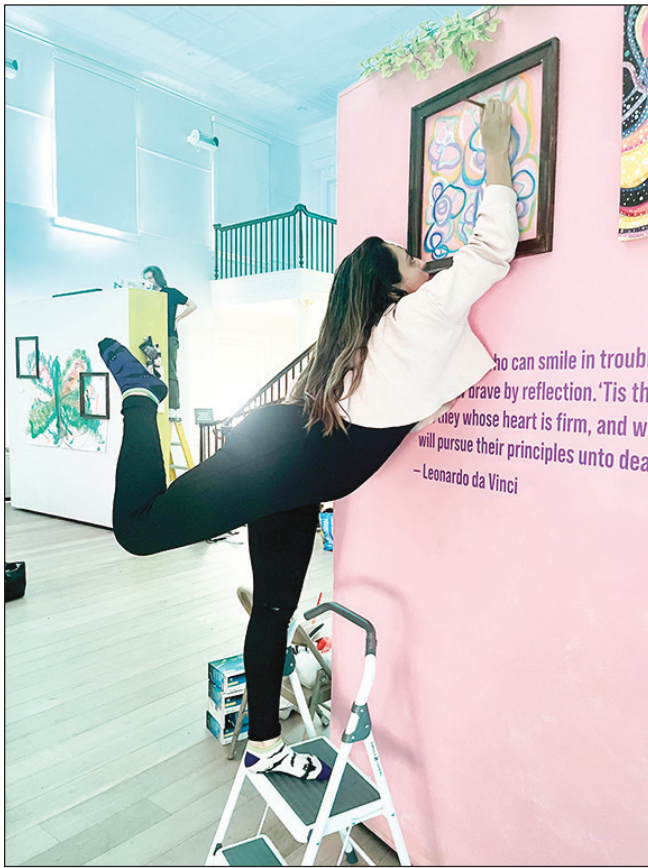
This coming Thursday, July 31, there will be an interactive dance-and-painting performance, where audience-submitted words become a real-time visual expression as Delgadillo moves and paints live. The Voice in Motion: Painting & Perfor-

mance event will introduce an innovative fusion of language, movement, and art, embodying Kaleidoscope's exploration of community-generated creativity.

The Glow Within: Meditative Self-Portraits in Watercolor is the third installment of interactive reflection on Saturday, August 2, that combines a family-friendly, meditative watercolor workshop using vibrant – and glow-in-the-dark – paints to create self-portraits that reflect mood, memory, and inner light. Participants will explore art as a form of self-care and communal reflection.

This exhibition was supported in part by a Tufts University Community Grant.





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Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Little Nicky | 7. 1995 |
| 2. Blizzard of Ozz | 8. August 1 |
| 3. NEC (Birmingham) | 9. August 3 |
| 4. Close My Eyes Forever | 10. Chicken |
| 5. 1969 | 11. George W Bush, 2002 |
| 6. Archie Bunker | 12. Le Mars, Iowa |

'P'alante: Stories Moving Somerville Forward' gallery opening

Community members are invited to attend the gallery opening for the upcoming P'alante: Stories Moving Somerville Forward photo and video project. Opening at the West Branch Library, this community-centered project was led by local photographer Mario Quiroz, in collaboration with the Somerville Media Center and the Community Action Agency of Somerville, with support from the Ballantyne administration including Somerville Public Library, the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs, the Department of Racial and Social Justice, SomerPromise, and the Somerville Arts Council with support from the Mass Cultural Council.

Mario Quiroz, the lead photographer, describes the project as "a celebration of the many wonderful things that make up our immigrant communities in Somerville. Our personal, family, and collective history is based on resilience." He added that "We believe that now, more than ever, it's worth it to create visual records and to celebrate

those who are taking steps ahead. Small entrepreneurs, new homeowners, old-time renters, recent graduates, young families... these are some of the examples of going further, going P'alante."

The gallery opening event with music and refreshments will take place on Monday, August 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the West Branch Library, 40 College Ave. The gallery opening is free to attend and open to all ages. Attendees will be able to explore photos and stories from the project, view the project video for the first time, and hear from the artist. Entertainment includes DJ Mike Fire and a live performance by drum ensemble Grooversity! Light refreshments will be provided.

Photographs from the project will be on display from August 1 to September 30 at the East and West Branches of the library, and from August 1 to August 30 in the Central Library Auditorium.

For more information, please contact Jake Savage, Somerville Public Library Social Worker, at jsavage@somervillema.gov.



Local photographer Mario Quiroz's P'alante: Stories Moving Somerville Forward gallery opening will take place on Monday, August 4, at the West Branch Library.

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: What is Six Sigma—and can I use it to help my personal finances?

A: Six Sigma is a method used by businesses to reduce errors and make processes more efficient. And yes—this kind of "gold standard" thinking can definitely help your money habits, too!

The idea is simple: cut out the little mistakes and missed steps that quietly cost you over time. Instead of making the same corrections month after month, build a system that runs more smoothly—automatically.

Here are a few simple ways to bring Six Sigma thinking into your personal finances:

- Automate your savings – Set up scheduled transfers so you save without thinking— and reduce the chance of skipping a month.
- Use alerts to stay ahead – Get notifications from your bank or credit card when balances are low, payments are due, or spending jumps.

- Set up automatic bill pay – Eliminate late fees and missed payments by taking human error out of the equation.

- Use your calendar like a CFO – Schedule monthly check-ins to cancel unused subscriptions, check in on goals, or plan for upcoming bills.

Bottom line: The fewer decisions you have to make in the moment, the more consistent your financial system becomes. Smooth processes lead to stronger results— and fewer "oops" moments down the line!

Any questions? I'd be happy to help.
I'm Vincent Hicks, CPA, based in Somerville with over 20 years of experience. Reach out at vchicksconnect@gmail.com or (859) 553-0788.

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



Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Blessing of the Bay event brings overlooked histories to shore in Somerville

By The Times Staff

Blessing of the Bay: Three Voices, One Shore, the newest installment in Somerville Museum's History in the Park series, offered a powerful and multivocal reflection on the area historically known as Ten Hills Farm last Saturday. Held on the banks of the Mystic River, the event brought together Indigenous, Black, and colonial narratives to reframe the city's oldest settlement.

Since being contracted by the City of Somerville to produce public history programs formerly run by the city, the Museum has been expanding these events to include a richer range of perspectives. Blessing of the Bay joins a lineup of site-specific programs, including a commemoration of the Powder Alarm at the Old Powder House, The First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill, Paul Revere's Ride at Foss Park, and Ghosts of Somerville at Milk Row Cemetery.

"This event was the first of its kind, making it both exciting and challenging to plan. I am proud of the outcome," said Anna-Celestria Carr, Historic Events Manager of the Somerville Museum.

At Blessing of the Bay, audiences experienced a dynamic mix of storytelling, song, and dance that honored the complexity of the past and the resilience of the communities that shaped it.

Performed by Aimee Ledwell, Indigenous Storyteller, the United Native Cul-

tural Center, Morningstar Singers, De Ama Battle's Art of Black Dance and Music, and Anna-Celestria Carr, the event centered often-overlooked histories of Indigenous and African descended people who inhabited this area.

The event took its name from the Blessing of the Bay, the second seafaring vessel built in colonial America and the first in New England-commissioned by Governor John Winthrop in 1631, while highlighting additional narratives often left untold.

The performance presented Winthrop's legacy as also tied to the codification of slavery in the North and his eventual enslavement of both Indigenous and African people, a practice which continued through subsequent generations of owners at Ten Hills Farm.

The performance also acknowledged the legacy of the Indigenous leader Sachem of Mistick, whose diplomatic decisions under colonial pressure reflected strength and survival. More about this history can be learned at the History on the Line exhibition at the Somerville Museum.

Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Executive Director of the Somerville Museum, reflected on the event's emotional and communal power: "Today's event felt like a reclamation of history and of place while opening a space of welcome to all. By inviting the audience to join in singing and dancing, and with the beat of the drum resonating in our ears, we were one, while acknowledging our separate but inter-



Indigenous, Black, and colonial narratives highlighted the Blessing of the Bay: Three Voices, One Shore event held this past weekend. — Photos courtesy of Yuris Mangolds

twined histories."

Through music, traditional dances, land acknowledgements, and a striking metaphor involving a "borrowed" water bottle, the program called on attendees to reflect not just on the past, but on the strength and survival of the Indigenous and Black communities and the work left to be done today. While these truths are difficult, the Blessing of the Bay event allowed space for grief, connection, and celebration.

"Sharing my cultural traditions through song and dance with the Somerville com-

munity was a meaningful experience for me. I look forward to planning this event again next year; it will only improve and grow. I hope to see everyone at our upcoming History in the Park events or Drop-In Chats," said Carr, who is also a professional indigenous dancer and member of the Morningstar Singers.

Blessing of the Bay was made possible through the support of the City of Somerville's Department of Racial and Social Justice, Department of Public Works, and the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism.





Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

Laws dates back into the 1800s.”

“This legislation is about respect and dignity—plain and simple,” said Sen. Robyn Kennedy (D-Worcester), Senate Chair of the Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. “Removing archaic language and striking outdated laws sends a powerful message that Massachusetts stands with and uplifts people of all abilities, and all those who have been marginalized by harmful language and policies. Our laws should reflect our values. Today we took an important step toward justice and our committee knows there is more work to be done.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

AUTISM AND POLICE STOPS (S 2565)

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill designed to improve interactions between police officers and persons with autism spectrum disorder during traffic stops. The measure, dubbed the “Blue Envelope Bill” would create a program giving people with the disorder the option to be given a special blue envelope that holds the person’s driver’s license, vehicle registration and insurance cards. On the outside of the envelope there would be specific instructions for police officers on the driver’s diagnosis, impairments, triggers, emergency contact information and best practices for communicating. The bill is designed to enable the driver to quickly and easily hand the envelope to a police officer during a traffic stop.

“The Blue Envelope Bill makes our commonwealth a safer place for people who are neurodiverse,” said Senate sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). “It moves us closer to equal opportunity and access for people of all abilities.”

“The Blue Envelope Bill would be a game changer for our family and for so many Massachusetts residents,” said Ilyse Levine-Kanji, an Executive Committee member of Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts. “Like many people with autism, my 27-year-old son Sam does not have any physical characteristics that indicate he has autism. In a stressful situation, where split second decisions must be made, I’m relieved that a police officer could see a blue envelope in Sam’s car and immediately understand that any unusual behavior or speech pattern is a result of his autism. This bill could thereby dramatically decrease the possibility of a tragic misunderstanding.”

“Massachusetts police officers conduct thousands of traffic stops each year,” said Tyrone Parham, UMass Amherst Chief of Police. “While most of these interactions are relatively routine, officers do not know who they are interacting with before the traffic stop so they proceed with caution. Each driver reacts differently when they are pulled over by the police. As a number of communities across the commonwealth have already rolled out the current voluntary Blue Envelope Program, I’ve heard nothing but

successes from both the police and motorists. The early rollout prior to the law being in effect shows the commitment and importance of this initiative, and the passage of this legislation is instrumental to continuing to bridge the communication gap for both motorists and police officers.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

TRAIN POLICE OFFICERS ON THE BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM (S 2565)

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would require all police officers in Massachusetts to complete training every five years on the Blue Envelope Program.

“People on the autism spectrum can face unique challenges during stressful situations, such as traffic stops,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Mike Moore (D-Millbury). “The Blue Envelope program will help officers instantly understand if a driver might require a different approach, and my amendment will ensure that all law enforcement officials in the commonwealth have the training they need to better understand these individuals and how to keep everyone safer on the road with training refreshers every five years.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

YELLOW ENVELOPE PROGRAM (S 2565)

Senate 5-34, rejected an amendment that would create a “Yellow Envelope Program,” that would give drivers 62 and older, who have a chronic illness, the option to be given a special yellow envelope that holds a recent photograph, the driver’s name, emergency contact information, physicians’ names and contact information, medical conditions, recent surgeries, allergies, medications and any other information the Registrar decides is relevant information to emergency responders in the case of emergency.

Amendment supporters say that this program would be in addition to the Blue Envelope Program and would be helpful in many situations. They note that 22 other states have this program.

Sen. Bruce Tarr (D-Gloucester), the sponsor of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call to comment on his amendment. Beacon Hill Roll Call also did not receive a response from any of the other four senators who voted for the amendment: Sens. Kelly Dooner (R-Taunton), Peter Durant (R-Spencer), Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) and Patrick O’Connor (R-Weymouth).

Amendment opponents say that the bill should not be attached as an amendment to the Blue Envelope Bill but rather should be considered on its own at a public hearing,

Sen. Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn), the Senate chair of the Transportation Committee, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* to comment on his opposition to the amendment.

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

soring this legislation to help do my part to ensure our state government is not complicit in Israel’s illegal occupation of Palestine and crimes against humanity in Gaza.”

Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven (D-Somerville), the chief sponsor of the bill did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking her to explain why she filed the bill. Two other co-sponsors, Reps. Natalie Higgins (D-Leominster) and Samantha Montano (D-Boston) did not respond to the same request.

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts.

Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session.

During the week of July 21-25, the House met for a total of three hours and 51 minutes while the Senate met for a total of two hours and 50 minutes.

Mon. July 14 House 11:00 a.m. to 11:46 a.m.
Senate 11:39 a.m. to 11:59 a.m.

Tues. July 15 No House session
No Senate session

Wed. July 16 House 11:01 a.m. to 1:59 p.m.
No Senate session

Thurs. July 17 House 11:01 a.m. to 11:08 a.m.
Senate 12:11 p.m. to 2:41 p.m.

Fri. July 18 No House session
No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Comicazi in Davis Square: Two and a half decades of entertaining the public

CONT. FROM PG 1

The back of the store features rows of folding tables, often populated by special guests or attendees of after-hours events. The Somerville Times met with Tom Majkut, director of operations for Comicazi, and Jill Carter, store manager since 2016, at one of these tables ahead of a busy workday.

While preparing to sort through a robust new collection delivery, the pair offered insight on the effort behind the store's daily operations and the history that has heralded 25 years of business and the 2017 Will Eisner Spirit of Comics Retailer Award, also called "one of the absolute highest honors in the industry," by Majkut.

Founded in 2000 by co-owners Michael Burke and Robert Butman, Comicazi began its journey on Highland Avenue in Somerville, located just up the street from its current address at 407 Highland Ave. After gradual relocations, expansions, and a satellite store in Arlington, Comicazi sits firmly established in the small business landscape of Davis Square. Embracing its role in the community, Comicazi often works with other local companies and organizations to, according to Majkut, "produce community events for the sake of producing community events that enrich the cultural atmosphere of Somerville and bring people

together from all over the country."

The store's annual CaziCon, which took place on June 1st this year, is held at the Somerville Armory. Described as a "home-grown" convention, CaziCon spotlights marginalized voices and identities in the industry with programming that encourages literacy and celebrates diversity. Comicazi also hosts several charity events throughout the year, such as "Battle of the Comic Shop All-Stars" and "Cookie Clash," two challenge-based events benefiting Boston Partners in Education.

"We're really fortunate in that people want to participate," said Carter. In May of this year, Comicazi hosted an estimated 400 customers for a signing event with Fall Out Boy's Joe Trohman, one of many celebrity visits in the store's history. For large and small creators alike, Comicazi strives to hold space for collaboration. "People reach out to us a lot to work with us. We do whatever we can make work," emphasized Carter.

While crowds gather almost nightly for book clubs, tournaments, performances, and more, the business has learned how to adapt and succeed through industry and world changes. Since the 2020 COVID-19 lockdowns, Comicazi has harnessed growth in its book subscrip-



tions and online selling platform, as well as its in-house comic publisher Bad Kids Press. Carter explained, "We have a diverse way that we source things from collections or from different distributors, and I think that really helped us."

Furthering its expansion in the present day, Majkut announced that Comicazi will soon be launching an online store. For the first time, customers will be able to access inventory from anywhere, offering an opportunity to sort through the shop's vast

collections and find items that may have been missed in person.

The store remains open seven days a week for customers to shop or sell their own collections. Fans can stay tuned for upcoming events like Boston ToyCon, held in collaboration with Nick's Comic Strip, as well as the 25th Annual Comicazi Halloweeniversary, both scheduled for October. Weekly events and other information can be found on Comicazi's website www.comicazi.com.



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



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week



Q: My landlord is refusing to fix the back stairway. Is there anything I can do about that?

A: Possibly! You didn't mention whether the back stairway is the second exit that's required for safety purposes. If it is, the landlord HAS to keep it in good order, and the City's inspectional services could fine him and force him to fix it. And there are laws saying he can't retaliate against you.

Or it could be a Fair Housing issue. Did you recently start living with someone else, and is that person a member of a protected class? Or are you living with someone you're not married to and your landlord objects? Or did you recently have a child? If you suspect you're being discriminated against, call the City's Housing Department, 617-625-6600 ext. 2584 for advice.

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.

District-wide Back to School Fair

August 20, 4 – 6 p.m. Last year, over 1000 people attended this event, which included representatives from all our schools and departments and featured 25 community partners.

You are invited to enjoy this popular event to learn about our schools, participate in fun activities and win swag. This event is for families and their students from preschool through grade 12. To be held at Somerville High School.



BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



When does red mean "go" and green mean "stop"?
When you're eating a watermelon.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Sidewalk lace... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

July 30

- 1619 – The House of Burgesses convenes for the first time at Jamestown, Va.
- 1919 – Federal troops are called out to put down Chicago race riots.
- 1938 – George Eastman demonstrates his color motion picture process.
- 1945 – After delivering parts of the first atomic bomb to the island of Tinian, the U.S.S. Indianapolis is sunk by a Japanese submarine.
- 1960 – Over 60,000 Buddhists march in protest against the Diem government in South Vietnam.
- 1965 – President Lyndon Johnson signs the Medicare Bill into law.
- 1967 – General William Westmoreland claims that he is winning the war in Vietnam, but needs more men.
- 1975 – Teamster leader Jimmy Hoffa disappears, last seen coming out of a restaurant in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.
- 2003 – The last of the uniquely shaped "old style" Volkswagen Beetles rolls off the assembly line in Mexico.

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Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

neighbors and friends. This week's movie is *Wayne's World*, on **Thursday, July 31**, at approximately 8:15 p.m. at **Statue Park** in Davis Square. For more information, please visit www.somervillema.gov/moviefest.

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

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

Applications are now available for one (1) **resale studio income-restricted homeownership unit** through the **City of Somerville Inclusionary Housing Program** at **411 Norfolk St.**, Somerville, near the Cobble Hill neighborhood. More information at www.somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing.

Join the **Somerville Arts Council** for **24 Hours of Culture**, a free community party celebrating art, music, food, and joy as a strategy for liberation. **Saturday, August 16, 4 – 10 p.m.** (rain date August 17, same times). In **Union Square Plaza**. Expect live performances, hands-on art workshops, games, and delicious food from local **BIPOC** ven-

dors. All are welcome.

Save the Date: **What the Fluff? A Tribute to Union Square Innovation** is a madcap festival honoring the invention of **Marshmallow Fluff**. It celebrates Somerville's long-standing tradition of innovation with live music, fluffalicious feasts, sticky games, and so much more happening **Saturday, September 20**, from 2 to 6 p.m. in Union Square (severe weather date Sunday, September 21). Interested in becoming a vendor at this year's What the Fluff? A Tribute to Union Square Innovation? The Fluff vendor application is live: www.unionsquaremain.org/fluffvendors. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until spots are filled.

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

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

The **Somerville Health Foundation's 2025-2026 grant funding cycle** is now open. The Foundation plans to distribute approximately \$30,000 and is accepting requests between \$10,000 and \$15,000 **through August 18 at 11:59 p.m.** More information can be found under the "Community Engagement" title here: www.challiance.org/community-health.

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

The **Somerville Mobile Farmers Mar-**

ket has returned for the 2025 season. The market will be open **Thursdays through Saturdays**, and will run **through November 1**. All produce is sourced from local farms and priced affordably to make healthy, fresh food accessible to all. The mobile market accepts cash, debit, and credit cards, SNAP, Fresh Connect, WIC Farmers Market Coupons, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons. For locations and the full schedule, weekly produce updates, and more information about programs and events, visit the market's website at www.somervillemobilefarmersmarket.org.

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

Somerville High School Class of 1980 Reunion Social is taking place **Saturday, October 4**, from 7 to 10 p.m., **230 Mishawum Rd., Woburn, MA**. Checks should be made out to SHS Class of 1980, c/o **Mary Ellen Melaragni**, 9 Churchhill Circle, Winchester, MA 01890, wasmith1492@gmail.com.

The **Powder House, Milk Row Cemetery**, and **Prospect Hill Tower** will be open to the public on select dates and times **through October** as part of **History On The Line**, a series of exhibitions and programs organized by the **Somerville Museum** and funded by the **Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism's MA250 initiative** and the **City of Somerville**. Next date will be: **The Powder House on Thursday, August 7**.

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

information, visit: <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>.

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

The **Ginny Smithers Pool**, 5 Cherry St., is officially back open. For more information on pool hours for Swim Lessons, Water Exercise, Lap Swim, Family Swim, and Open Swim. Please visit their website, <https://www.somervillema.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>, or email aquatics@somervillema.gov.

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

The **Davis Square Market** is open for the 2025 Season. The market will run **every Wednesday** from 12 noon to 6 p.m., **through November 26**, at **44 Day St.**, Somerville. This long-running market features over two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers offering a vibrant selection of delicious produce, protein, baked goods, ready-to-eat meals, a longside a host of other locally made products. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards, and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match. Visit <https://www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis>.

Street sweeping in Somerville resumed on **Tuesday, April 1**. Somerville's street cleaning program is an essential public works program that not only keeps our city cleaner but also



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'I Ain't Gonna Wait For Godot No More' by Doug Holder

I Ain't Gonna Wait For Godot, No More

by Doug Holder

Wilderness House Press

145 Foster St.

Littleton, MA

ISBN: 978-1-300-07796-1

29 Pages

<https://tinyurl.com/2tarkbnb>

Review by Dennis Daly

Doug Holder doesn't beat around the bush. His poetry grabs you with its pent-up gusto and bohemian worldview. Maddening at times. Falling-down funny. Sad, beyond troubling. Ravenous. A direct poetic descendant of Ginsberg, Corso, and Huncke, this poet today stands alone in his alternate universe with his off-kilter, gritty observations. In his new collection, *I Ain't Gonna Wait For Godot No More*, Holder wanders over the creaking floorboards of his poetic offerings, confronting existential questions and supplying make-do answers. Mortality and meaning lurk between his insistent lines.

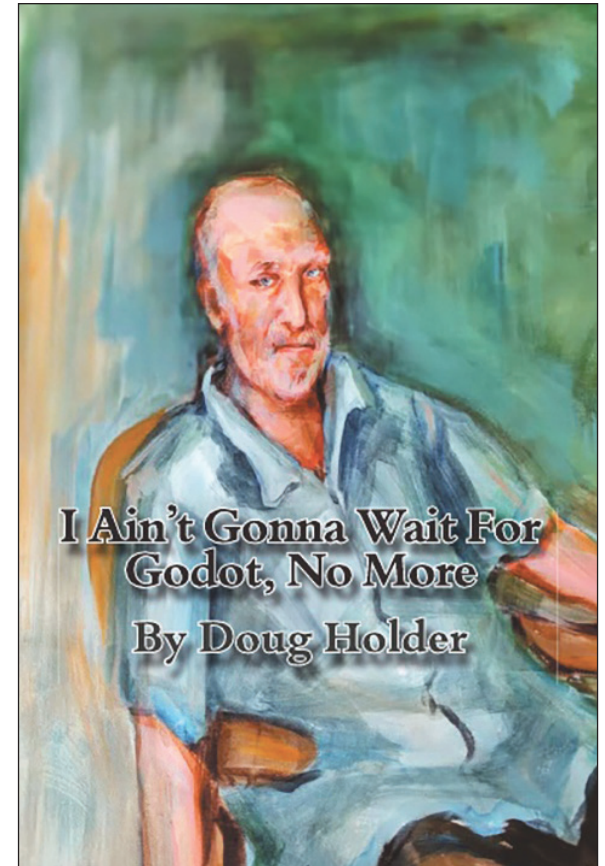
The title poem, *I Ain't Gonna Wait for Godot No More*, doubles as the opening poem and is the perfect thematic lead-in. The allusion, of course, is to Samuel Beckett's tragicomedy *Waiting For Godot*. "We always find something, eh Didi, to give us the impression we exist?" says Estragon to Vladimir, the other main character in that play. "Yes, yes, we're magicians..." replies Vladimir. With lyrical exasperation and hopeful enthusiasm, Holder suggests a complementary strategy of life building on Beckett's stage reality: art, companionship, bestial attention, management of pain, the love of food, and procrastination. Here is the poet's compressed manifesto,

I'll be gone...

I will sport my battered bowler
I will do a sprightly. Vaudevillian shuffle
and continue to stumble
on this earthly floor.

I will take comfort with friends
the golden stare of my ginger cat
a wet lick of a chocolate truffle
and take my time going
to that so distant shore...

In his poem *Hamlet at the Yiddish Theatre*, Holder draws a bead on Shakespeare's most complex characterization by giving that protagonist Jewish parents. The results are predictable and pretty funny. They – the parents – admonish Hamlet to get real and forewarn him of the comeuppance he's headed



for. Holder obviously has some subject-experience in these matters. The poet's concocted parents begin to confront Hamlet here,

"Such tsuris!
"Enough already!"
At his dramatic angst
"You think you
Had it hard!"
"To Be or not to Be"
"If that is the question
Then make a decision,"
They say with derision.

A father,
might have yelled
as mine did to me,
"You'll be a drifter!"

And, a bit further on, here,

Some mother
might have responded
a maternal cliché
"You are 30 years old
you have your
whole life ahead of you."

Mortality becomes less of an issue in a world that does not solidify around you. If *Continued on page 23*

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Kymm Coveney (Boston, 1959) lives in Barcelona and spends summers in Jamaica Plain. *History of Milk*, her translation of award-winning novelist Mónica Ojeda's poetry collection, will be published by Coffee House Press in 2026/27. Poems from this collection have been published in *Poesía en acción*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Latin American Literature Today*, *The Georgia Review*, and two are forthcoming in *World Literature Today*. Another was awarded Honorable Mention in the 2022 New England Poetry Club's Diana Der-Hovanessian Prize for translation, a prize she will be judging this year. Kymm's poetry has been included most recently in *California Quarterly* and *Molecule*: a tiny lit mag in the US, as well as *Atrium Poetry* and various anthologies in the UK. More at <https://betterlies.blogspot.com/> (Photo by Cesc Anadón)



Ways of Translating a Poem

Hum its words to the tune of a favorite song
maybe *The River* or *Let's Stay Together*.

Recite each poem in the voice of a blackbird.

Learn to speak with your beak. Less tongue.

Wrap each word around your finger. Give it a tickle.

Take care when overstepping boundaries.

Gargle unwilling phrases but use only filtered water.

Mouthwash is bad for prepositions in any language.

Try changing the color of a verb. You may have to
engage in trickery as verbs are not salamanders.

Unscrew the caps of wayward pronouns found in a rut
though the rut be flooded with crocodile tears.

Lick the occasional stanza to help straighten out rogue lines.
Especially those twisty ones on the road to the sea.

— Kymm Coveney

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

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

Join Somerville's National Night Out for an evening of family-friendly fun

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the Somerville Police Department, and Somerville Parks and Recreation invite Somerville residents to a fun-filled evening of community connection at Somerville's annual National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 5, at Dilboy Stadium (110 Alewife Brook Parkway) from 5 to 8 p.m.

The free event will feature a diverse array of family-friendly activities and entertainment including: Bounce houses • Obstacle course • Face painting • Dunk tank • Touch-a-truck • DJ • Pizza • Raffles (free to enter) • Lawn games • Local vendors and community resources

"It's always a pleasure to see such a great turnout by our community at National Night Out," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "This event is a wonderful way to get together, meet members of our Police Department, enjoy fun activities, and check out local vendors and 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. National Night Out is a nationwide initiative promoting police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

reduces the risk of flooding and icing due to clogged storm drains. The street sweeping season runs from April 1 until December 31 each year. On designated street sweeping days, vehicles must be moved from the side of the street being swept, as noted on signs posted on each street. The penalty for not complying with street sweeping parking regulations is a \$50 fine. Check the signs on the streets where you park and visit www.somervillema.gov/sweeper for more information.

SCES is teaming up with **City Fresh Foods** to offer a five-pack of **frozen home-delivered meals**. This new meal delivery option is ideal for consumers who want the convenience of home-delivered meals but are not able to be at home each weekday to receive deliveries. Meal recipients can choose which weekday they would like to receive the frozen meals, with up to five meals in each bulk delivery. Each meal comes with bread, milk, and a dessert. Current SCES clients who are interested in receiving meals should call

their office at 617-628-2601 or contact their case manager for more information.

Through the generosity of the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** and under the direction of **Mayor Ballantyne**, the **Council on Aging** can provide **Durable Medical Equipment** at no cost to Somerville residents. Residents with a documented need for medical equipment must be over the age of 60 or have a permanent disability, and must be otherwise unable to afford or access needed medical equipment. They

currently have available: Commodes, Bath Benches, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies, and Transport Wheelchairs. For additional information or for an application, please contact **Debby Higgins** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

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Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

reality is questionable, as it becomes in Holder's piece entitled *My Computer Wants To "Verify If I Am Human,"* then all boundaries fade, especially the border between life and death. The poet reacts to his computer's abrupt challenge with an ontological meditation. Then, after a Pentecost of sorts, Holder double checks his status,

Sometimes during
my dark night
of the soul
I wonder
if I am embodied
or an ethereal ghost
But the morning light
Streams in my faith
From the bedroom window
yet again.

The computer has
a nefarious rotating circle
that surrounds my visual plane...

I check my pulse
I feel the flesh and blood,
the flashing synapses
of my brain,
the crooked life lines
that are traced on my hands.

Tragic Cardigan, Holder's ode to the invisibility of old

age, questions not the fact of senescence, but humanity's resistance to it. The poet uses his grandfather's comfortable sweater (named after British general Lord Cardigan, who led the charge of the Light Brigade during the Crimean War and who expelled his Irish tenants into the tender mercies of nature's wrath – just saying) as a jacket-like refuge from worldly discomfort. His self-evaluation follows a daily routine,

You are febrile
In your frumpiness.

You try to muffle
The invective
In your head,
"Old Man—shake a leg!"
And you would
If it wasn't so
Painful.

Now put enough pens—
Perhaps a pipe or two
The overdue phone bill
Gnarled pencils in its
Deep, sagging pockets

Perhaps sip a well-timed
Scotch
And disappear

Counterculture attitudes and artistic sympathies often derive their impetus from family dynamics. The "beat" perspective exhibits this propensity in spades. Holder's wonderfully revelatory piece, *My Father with Jack Dempsey*, catches his dad's business relationship with the world's heavyweight boxing champion and iconic celebrity of his day and freezes it in the form of a photo. The elder Holder was one of the legendary advertising madmen operating out of New York. The poet details one relationship of a PR man and client that leads to another relationship of father and son in these lines,

Dad's narrow black tie
his jet black hair
tamed by an oil slick of Vitalis
his left hand clenched in a fist
a pugilist meeting another pugilist.
Dempsey pretends to yell something in my dad's ear
Like Ali to Cosell, a graceful athlete
To the Jewish Ed Sullivan posture of my PR man father.
My father did not seem to be living in the moment
He was always not here and nowhere.

On the contrary, Holder's poetry, expressive and down-to-earth, is always here, always rooted in his askew stagecraft and always accessible in the most absurd way. Like Beckett's *Estragon*, Holder agrees to go, puts on his hat, and then sits and waits with the rest of us.

For more info about Dennis Daly go to: <https://denisfdaly.blogspot.com/>

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