

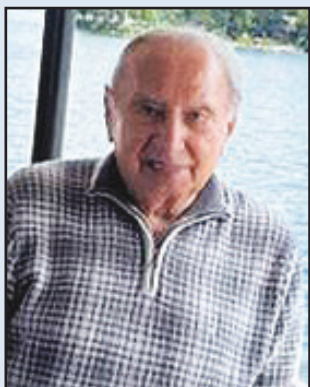


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City Council votes to recognize July as Disability Pride Month



The City of Somerville has officially designated the month of July as Disability Pride Month, along with July 26 as Americans with Disabilities Act Day.

By Parker Garlough

The City Council voted Thursday to recognize July as Disability Pride Month, and July 26 as Americans with Disabilities Act Day. Somerville will continue to honor these days annually.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which was passed on July 26, 1990, requires that people with disabilities be provided with equal access to employment, government services, public transportation, public-facing businesses, and telecommunications.

"I remember the excitement in the early [Somerville] Commission [for People with Disabilities] when the ADA was passed," Commissioner Helen Corrigan said. "The passage of this law was a culmination of years of advocacy by

Continued on page 4

ArtBeat 2024: Things will be getting 'Wild'

ArtBeat, Somerville's annual multicultural arts showcase, returns to Davis Square on Saturday, July 13, featuring an eclectic mix of music, dance, theater, food, performance, and activities.

This year's festival will feature approximately 100 vendors and community groups, two stages of music, and a dance showcase at the Somerville Theater, all inspired by this year's theme: Wild.

ArtBeat kicks off at 11:00 a.m. If you are interested in being a volunteer visit the Somerville Arts Council website to sign up.

For the performance schedule and more information visit <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/artbeat/2024>.

Are you interested in volunteering for ArtBeat? If so, go to the website to access the ArtBeat 2024 Volunteer form.



ArtBeat 2024 takes place on Saturday, July 13.

— Artwork by Sarah Gay

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

All city offices are closed on Independence Day, July 4. Trash and recycling pickup will be delayed by one day. We wish everyone a safe Happy 4th!

As you plan your next barbecue, picnic, or pool day, let's work together to keep our community rat-resistant and maintain a clean and safe environment for everyone. Visit www.somervillema.gov/rodentsaway for more information. To report trash overflow and rodent issues/sightings, please call 311 (617-666-3311).








The city is gearing up to release the updated Brickbottom Neighborhood Plan, an outlined vision for future housing, civic spaces, and commercial development possibilities. Attend a presentation of the updated Brickbottom Neighborhood Plan on Monday, July 8, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in-person at the Cafe at 100 Chestnut St. or online via Zoom. Learn more at www.voice.somervillema.gov/brick.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to our great friend and poet Doug Holder, a great guy. We hope he enjoys his day and spends it with great friends. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Carlton Soohoo, Rose Nash, Christine Dischino Leavitt, Tamara McAllister, Holly Dow, John Hughes, Maureen Pirone and Charles Zammuto a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. We hope

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of July 3 – July 9 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday July 3	Partly Cloudy	82°/65°	2%	1%	SW 14 mph
 Thursday July 4	Cloudy	84°/70°	19%	12%	W 12 mph
 Friday July 5	Partly Cloudy	86°/70°	20%	13%	S 10 mph
 Saturday July 6	Cloudy	85°/71°	24%	16%	S 14 mph
 Sunday July 7	Partly Cloudy	89°/69°	23%	14%	WSW 10 mph
 Monday July 8	Partly Cloudy	87°/70°	11%	7%	SW 10 mph
 Tuesday July 9	Thunderstorms	83°/70°	51%	41%	SSW 12 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: Grief Touched the Sky at Night – Poems by Gloria Mindock

Susan Tepper says:

It's no wonder Gloria won about a dozen awards for this book. Her poems are lyrical pain that point up a ghastly war during our life time. The interview is spot on perfect.

Response to: Tufts Street reconstruction community open house

SomervilleTom says:

The city should find a new name for this street as well. It is about as far away from Tufts as it could be and still be in Somerville, and has nothing to do with Tufts University (unless through some long-lost accident of history).

Response to: Plastics!

TheoNa says:

Adding a 10 cent "tax" for each recycled paper bag is a tone deaf response to the average person these days when one of their top concerns is inflation and the high cost of groceries. As for the "allocated to environmental protection measures." Let's be real, it's going to wind up in the general fund

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Life in the

Massachusetts

VILLE

The Spirit of America

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Pleasure Island



When we were kids, we had a nice choice of fun places to go for family fun. We had Revere Beach, Whalom Park, and Paragon Park with a variety of rides and amusements. There was always Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire, and of course up north a bit further, Old Orchard Beach. But there was another fun spot that existed for a short time in the greater Boston area. It was called Pleasure Island and it was off Rte. 128 in Wakefield. The area today is The Edgewater Office Park located off Audubon Rd in Wakefield.

Pleasure Island was nicknamed the “Disneyland of the north,” although it was only in existence for a short time. Pleasure Island existed between 1959 and 1969. If you were lucky enough to visit, you have some great memories. I know that the Stop 'N Shop company and many other businesses had picnics and outings there.

A friend notes, “When I was in the first grade, we went there for our field trip.” Someone else added, “My grandparents used to take us there. We would ride the burros.”

Some of the attractions at Pleasure Island were Animal Land, Old Smokey Railroad, Space Rocket, The Burro Trail, Christmas Wonderland, Friend's Baked Beanery, Covered Wagon, Indian Village, Pirate Ride and many more.

Guest celebrity appearances were made by Jerry Mathers, who played Beaver Cleaver, and his rock band appeared

there. Other stars to take the spotlight at Pleasure Island were Ricky Nelson, Cesar Romero, The Lone Ranger (Clayton Moore), and Michael Landon, to name a few. Some remember Rex Trailer arriving for an appearance in a helicopter. The Three Stooges with Curly Joe De Rita were probably the most exciting act to appear at Pleasure Island.

The most memorable ride when I was there was the boat ride where the big white whale came out of the water, spouting water out of its fake blow hole. I remember figuring out that the whale was actually made out of a huge oil tank. The whale seems to be what visitors remember most about the park.

There’s a group called the friends of Pleasure Island who gather for walking tours of the old amusement park site.

A reader shares this, “I worked at that office park for nine years and they say at certain points in the park you can still see the whale in one of ponds.” I don't know if the whale is still actually in the water around the area but it sure would be cool to see it popping out it the water.

There is still a sign on Rte. 128 South exit 42 named Pleasure Island Rd.

Most of us have fond memories of family outings at amusement parks. If you want to get a taste of what it was like years ago, take a trip up to Old Orchard beach in Maine. Palace Playland has many of the rides, attractions and games formerly found at a lot of now defunct parks. And the best part of visiting Old Orchard Beach is that you have a very good chance of bumping into another Somerville resident.



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COMMENTARY

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

Somerville's FY25 Budget



By Chris Dwan

I've been writing about the city budget for at least five years now. Even with that context, the eight hours of budget meetings I sat through last week at city hall — the final spasm in a three week slog — were remarkable. The conversations ranged from inspiring to cringeworthy, with nuance and compromise competing with bullying and petty interpersonal grudges. In the end, after some rather wild swings, the council passed the Mayor's proposed budget essentially unchanged — just like they do every year.

How wild were those swings?

On Tuesday's "cut night," nine out of eleven Councilors voted to defund the Chief Administrative Officer. Usually the Mayor responds to the council's cuts with an updated budget taking their cuts into account. Mayor Ballantyne instead brought two budgets to Thursday's meeting. The first

one ignored the cuts. The other included them. After assuring the council that this was within the rules (though not entirely normal), Council President Ben Ewen-Campen explained that — at the Mayor's request — the council was going to re-deliberate the budget and only if it failed a second time would they would take up a budget that respected the cuts they made just two days prior.

But first, the administration wanted to share an update on negotiations with the unions in "executive session" — out of the public eye. That left a room full of civil servants (plus me) to sit in the steamy council chambers wondering what was being shared and hoping that the recently restored air conditioning would keep working.

Once the council returned, we were audience to a frankly brutal airing of dysfunction and frustration. And then the council passed the original budget — restoring funds for the CAO — by exactly the same nine to two margin that had cut it just two days prior. And then, in a weird and surreal punch line, the CAO announced her candidacy for the Rhode Island Senate on social media.

Dozens of members of the Somerville Municipal Employees Association (SMEA) were in the chambers on Tuesday to advocate for an updated contract. SMEA's contract expired in 2021 and the city's workers have seen only nominal pay increases ever since. SMEA posted a letter they had sent to the council on social media on Tuesday that asked the council to "Freeze Upper Management raises for this upcoming budget of FY25 until all members of the Somerville Municipal Employees Association successfully ratify a very good competitive contract for the workers that keep the city running."

Ward 2 Councilor JT Scott proposed exactly that at the beginning of Tuesday's meeting — moving \$300k in cuts to the salaries line in the Mayor's Office of Executive Administration and leaving the details of distributing that haircut — less than a tenth of a percent of the overall budget — to the city's finance team. He urged the administration to do the detailed work of putting the right cuts in the right places, taking circumstances and specific roles into account, out of the public eye. He did this, "to spare us the grotesque spectacle of the

council taking up each department head and member of the senior staff in turn."

After supportive comments from Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan and At-Large Councilor Willie Burnley, plus respectful opposition from Ewen-Campen, Ward 1 Councilor Matt McLaughlin opened up on Scott with a nasty series of personal attacks. He questioned Scott's motives and standing to speak on the idea of cutting salaries given his prior support for increasing the City Council's pay. The statement quickly turned into a harangue, with McLaughlin calling it "silly" for Scott to talk about shared suffering or solidarity and claiming that "nobody around this horseshoe is feeling the pain." At that point somebody — perhaps Councilor At-Large Burnley — began to harumph into their microphone. McLaughlin demanded "silence while I speak" and ended his statement by saying "the antics that we just saw [speak] to why I'm not in favor."

The deliberation went back and forth for a long time, with everybody at pains to talk about their support for the unions even as it became obvious that Scott's motion ... implementing the exact

temporary freeze that the unions had asked for ... had no chance of passing. There were some frankly disingenuous arguments about what exactly the union might have meant by "senior" management ... all with the union AND said management sitting right there in the room.

A grotesque spectacle indeed.

Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan, after pointedly saying that he had not supported pay increases for the council, shared that neighboring cities have given their unions level pay increases and cost of living adjustments under similar conditions. He called it a "slap in the face" that Somerville has chosen to not do something similar and closed with a ringing, "no contract, no peace." The room — half of it at least — burst into applause, leaving Chair Wilson to bang the gavel and gesture curtly for silence.

And after all that, the motion failed on a 5 to 6 vote and the council went after the CAO ... but then took it back with a hug and a handshake just two days later ... before she all but quit on Facebook.

Tuesday's stated reasons for cutting the CAO had a lot to do with the

Continued on page 9

City Council votes to recognize July as Disability Pride Month CONT. FROM PG 1

local, state, and national groups. The person leading this work — getting it through Congress — was our own Massachusetts senator Ted Kennedy."

Since then, several cities have celebrated Disability Pride Month with parades, flag raisings, and other events. Somerville is officially joining them for the first time. The celebratory events will begin with a flag-raising ceremony on July 11 at 5:00 pm.

Though this may be the first year the City Council commemorated Pride Month, it is not Somerville's first recognition of the obstacles disabled people face.

Former Mayor Eugene Brune described speaking to a group of senior citizens and inviting them to speak to him in his office

to discuss concerns. "A man in the back of the room — I'll never forget this — said, 'Mr. Mayor, I have never seen the inside of City Hall, and I will never see the inside of City Hall, because I'm in a wheelchair, and even if I could get through the front door, I could never get to your office,'" Brune said. He responded by asking the Department of Public Works Commissioner to construct ramps that would increase the physical accessibility of City Hall, and creating the Commission for People with Disabilities.

The Commission's work is ongoing. In addition to planning events for Pride Month, they work year-round to review legislation (such as the recently-passed Safe Streets Or-

dinance), provide education opportunities for the public, and discuss the physical accessibility of new and renovated buildings.

Another of their recent goals is to install accessible swings in every playground, which they had been hoping to achieve by the first day of July.

Chairperson Holly Simone introduced Carly, a 4-year-old girl with a disability that prevents her from using most swings. "This little girl has been dying for a swing since last August," Simone said. "Her sweet mom tried every way to get a swing in a park, just one new swing, so when she turned four, she could use a swing that would work for her."

The Commission intends to achieve

this goal, Simone said, "regardless of how many more months we're going to have to work for Carly so that she and her friends will have a place to swing together."

Ward Four Councilor Jesse Clingan affirmed the City Council's commitment to continue working with the Commission to promote disability justice.

"There is still a lot of work to be done," Clingan said. "We must continue to create an environment where individuals with disabilities can thrive and reach their full potential. This means improving physical accessibility, proven accessible transportation options, and ensuring that our public spaces, institutions, and events are fully inclusive"

Book review – The Key Lime Crime, by Lucy Burdette

By Dennis Fischman

Are you going on vacation this summer? Why not do what I do, and read a murder mystery set in that location before heading out?

Back in 2017, my wife and I were planning to meet some old friends of hers in the wonderful island of Key West, Florida. To get the feel of the place, I did read some serious fiction – Hemingway not only wrote about Key West, he had a house there which is now run for the benefit of the descendants of his pet cats! – and some travel books. Nothing whetted my appetite for my vacation more, however, than Lucy Burdette’s Key West Food Critic Mysteries.

Hayley Snow is our heroine, and the cutesy name gives you a clue to the climate of the books. They’re apparently bright and sunny, like the play on words in her name, but with just enough

rough weather to make the mysteries worth reading.

In *An Appetite for Murder: Key West Food Critic Mystery #1*, Hayley was a young woman when she followed her boyfriend to Key West, but they broke up nearly immediately when she found him in bed with another woman. To stay in town, she applied to be a food critic at a local magazine – which she then found out was owned by the other woman! And when the new boss is killed (by a poisoned key lime pie!), Hayley is the prime suspect. She has to turn detective to clear her name.

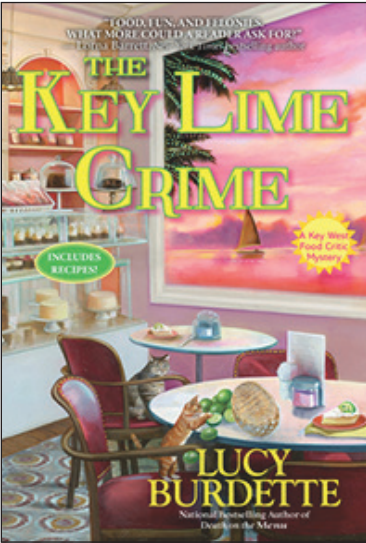
You get the picture. Classic cozy [1] tropes, with silly humor and a fairly immature young woman who’s spunky enough not to get chased back to the mainland by a little thing like being a suspected criminal. The mystery in the first book is slight, and most of them remain that way throughout. But

from the first book on, I was making notes about actual Key West restaurants to try and food to eat.

I also got wind of the sunset show by the harbor with the acrobatic cats. Yes, that is real!

The most recent book in Hayley Snow series that I’ve read is *The Key Lime Crime*. Set between Christmas and New Year, it features a pie-baking contest, the “Key Lime Key to the City,” that turns deadly when one of the contestants shows up dead among the palm trees. What’s worse, Hayley’s new mother-in-law is there when they discover the body. She already seems a little dubious about the woman her son, the cop, has married. What will she think when she sees this food reporter turn investigator? Can this marriage be saved?

I originally read this book in the dark days of early January 2021, when both the White House and



The Key Lime Crime, by Lucy Burdette. Crooked Lane Books, 2020, 320 pages.

the nation’s health were under attack. It was the perfect distraction back then. Now, if you are looking for a confection that’s dark on top and sweet all the way down, you might want to pick it up.

This summer, I am not going back to Key West, but I may go back to the Food Critic Myster-



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

ies. Two more books have been published since this one, and they’d make a fine palate cleanser after some Nordic noir [2].

Links:
[1] <https://www.thesomerville-times.com/archives/131574>
[2] <https://www.thesomerville-times.com/archives/132883>

City of Somerville Honoring 2024 Disability Pride Month

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Commission for Persons With Disabilities (SCPD) are announcing a series of events throughout July to recognize and celebrate Disability Pride Month. This month-long celebration will feature a variety of activities designed to raise awareness, celebrate the contributions of individuals with disabilities, and foster an inclusive community spirit.

“We are very thankful to Mayor Ballantyne and the Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) who have supported us in facilitating these events as we celebrate Disability Pride Month this July,” shared Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities Chair Holly Simone. “We are excited to embrace the diversity and rich contributions of people with disabilities and have fun learning together.”

All residents are invited to participate and join in celebrating the diverse abilities and achievements of our community members.

Schedule of Events:

Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities Monthly Public Meeting
Date/Time: Tuesday, July 9, 7 – 9 p.m.
Location: Tufts Administration Building Conference Room (2nd floor, Room 203M), 167 Holland St. For more information about the monthly meetings, visit the SCPD website.
About: Join the monthly public SCPD meeting where accessible recreation and parking will be discussed. The commission welcomes you to join our meeting – we value input from Somerville residents.

“How to Train Your Dragon” Screening
Date/Time: Wednesday, July 10, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Location: West Library Branch (40 College Ave)
About: Enjoy a screening of “How to Train Your Dragon” with treats and prizes. Space is limited and registration is required in advance. RSVP at: <https://form.jotform.com/241755793144160>

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Waterworks II New Waiting List Opportunity Notice

Elderly (62+) and Non-Elderly Disabled Rental Housing located at 485 Mystic Valley Parkway. Adjacent to SHA’s Waterworks I, Capen Court and the Visiting Nurse Facility. This development is located close to MBTA transportation and shopping.

A new SHA Section 8 Project Based Voucher (PBV) Site-Based Waiting list will be open effective on July 1, 2024, for the Waterworks II project. If you have an active application for any of the SHA’s other Waiting Lists, including the Section 8 Tenant-Based wait list(s), the SHA invites you, should you qualify, to also apply for SHA’s PBV waiting list for Waterworks II.

Income limit (50% of AMI, Very Low): 1 person: \$57,000. 2 persons: \$65,300

New applicants may apply for the SHA PVB wait list beginning July 1, 2024, and may apply to any other open and available SHA wait lists at any time.

Applications are available online at www.sha-web.org or at SHA, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145. The SHA offices are wheelchair accessible and large print Information is available upon request. Assistance with completing the application including sign language and interpreters available upon request.

For Waterworks II: Seventy percent (70%) of the units will be subject to the Local Residency Preference. The Local Residency Preference will be applied at initial lease up only; following initial lease up, no Local Residency Preference will be applied.

Applications for people with disabilities will be mailed or sent electronically upon request made to the SHA. Failure to apply for this new PBV list will have *no effect* on current selections for any other SHA wait list.

Important Notice: If you and/or any member of your household is/are a person(s) with a disability according to federal or state laws and you believe that you and/or your household member needs assistance with the PBV wait list application process, you may request a reasonable accommodation by contacting the SHA. If you and/or a member of your household is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking and need certain circumstances considered or reviewed as mitigating circumstances relating to your application you will have the opportunity to inform the SHA.

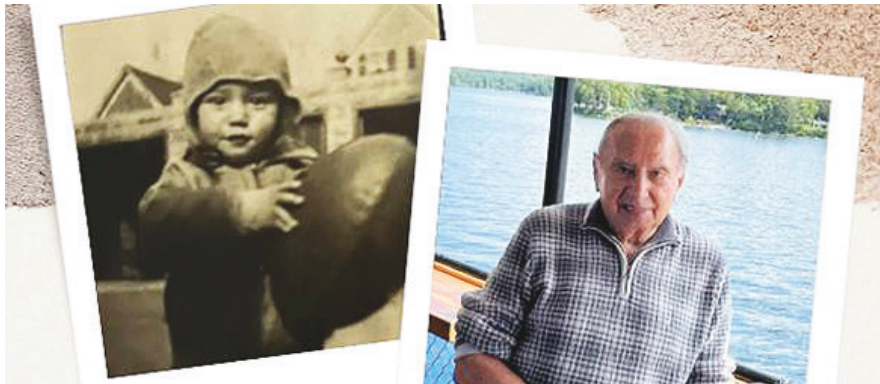
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It's time to recognize an extraordinary man



Gene Brune will be turning 95 years young on July 12 and there are at least 95 reasons to celebrate the amazing Gene Brune!

The Somerville Museum has always been special to Gene – they intend to honor his commitment and contributions with your help. Please join them in donating \$95 to the Somerville Museum in Gene’s name and send them at least one of the many reasons to honor and love him.

On July 12, the day of Gene’s 95th birthday, they will use the words that you send them in a birthday card to Gene and will make a special announcement regarding how they intend to honor and recognize him for his many contributions to the Museum over the past five decades, both as a Trustee and before that in public office. They hope that you will join us in recognizing this special man and true son of Somerville on his 95th birthday.

So, here’s what to do: Send theSomerville Museum the one word that you think best describes Gene, either by return email, by email to laidy@somervillemuseum.org or by including it on a note with your donation below, and Make your donation online using the link below <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/checkout/donate...>(with “Gene 95 for 95” noted) or send a check payable to the Somerville Museum (with “Gene 95 for 95” noted in the memo line) to the Somerville Museum, One Westwood Road, Somerville, MA 02143.

(Your contribution qualifies as a tax-deductible charitable donation to a 501c3 organization.)

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Say yes to love... — Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



How do you know the American flag is highly rated?
It has 50 stars.

On This Day in History July 3

- 1775 – George Washington takes command of the Continental Army.
- 1790 – In Paris, the Marquis de Condorcet proposes granting civil rights to women.
- 1863 – Confederate forces attack the center of the Union line at Gettysburg, but fail to break it.
- 1878 – John Wise flies the first dirigible in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- 1901 – The Wild Bunch, led by Butch Cassidy, commits its last American robbery near Wagner, Montana, taking \$65,000 from a Great Northern train.
- 1903 – The first cable across the Pacific Ocean is spliced between Honolulu, Midway, Guam and Manila.
- 1944 – The U.S. First Army opens a general offensive to break out of the hedgerow area of Normandy, France.
- 1954 – Food rationing ends in Great Britain almost nine years after the end of WWII.
- 1962 – Jackie Robinson becomes the first African American to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

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COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



It's officially summer now.

Our View Of The Times



What is more delicious to the young mind than that savory and unrivaled treat, summer vacation? A well-deserved reward for all the hard work and irreplaceable time invested in the previous school year.

As adults, we can look back fondly on those golden days with a warm sense of nostalgia and a longing to return to the carefree days that linger now only in our memories. And yet, we can live

those times again vicariously as we engage with the present younger generation who will be making its own special memories.

Parents need to take as much time as they can to help make the summer break special and meaningful for their kids. Planning and taking a family vacation, even a simple weekend camping trip, can forge stronger bonds and

create everlasting memories that could never be bought or traded with gadgets, games, or videos. Simple day-to-day family activities are valuable, too, in making vacation time a rich and rewarding experience for all.

Likewise, we should encourage our youngsters to seek out those activities, on their own, that keep them engaged and active. Whether it is sports, arts activities,

taking up a new hobby, or any number of other options that kids are able to enjoy. They should be made aware of how precious this time is and urged to make the most of it.

It may be nearly impossible to convince them of how important this is, but it is still our duty to try to do so nonetheless. They will, without question, thank us for it in the years to come later.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

The Red Cross's regular blood drive returns to the Armory, 191 Highland Ave. **Wednesday, July 10**, at 9:00 am – 2:00 p.m. Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting www.RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Attend the **Tufts Street Community Open House**. Over several months, the

city's Mobility Division has been collecting community feedback for a redesign effort of transportation and safety improvements on Tufts Street to make it safer for all users. Now, an updated design is here. **Mayor Katjana Ballantyne**, **Ward 1 Councilor Matthew McLaughlin**, and **City of Somerville staff** invite you to a community open house on **Wednesday, July 10**, at **Glen Park Playground** from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The outdoor open house will feature multiple stations describing different aspects of the street reconstruction project, including an upcoming wall mural.

Join the **Arts at the Armory** for their monthly **Café events**. Upcoming events include: **Songwriters in the Round**, **Wednesday, July 3** and **July 17** at 7:00 p.m., **Tunefoolery Coffee House**, **Wednesday, July 10**, at 7:00 p.m., **Pub Sing**, **Thursday, July 11**, at 7:00 p.m. More info available for each event on their website: www.artsatthearmory.org.

Applications are now available for an income-restricted homeownership lottery for one 3-bedroom affordable condominium unit through the city's **Inclusionary Housing Program** at **9 Avon Place #9** in East Somerville. Applications should

be submitted by **Tuesday, July 9**, at noon. Learn more and apply at www.somerville-ma.gov/inclusionary.

ArtBeat, Somerville's annual multicultural arts showcase, returns on **Saturday, July 13**. For this year's theme, explore all that is 'wild' – the festival will feature 100 vendors and community groups, music, dance, theater, food, and much more. This event kicks off at 11:00 a.m. in **Davis Square**. For more information, visit the **Somerville Arts Council's** website at www.somervilleartscouncil.org.

On **Saturday, July 6**

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#930

1. Which city hosted the first official Independence Day celebration on July 4, 1777?

2. When was the first 4th of July celebration held at the White House?

3. How many times does the Liberty Bell ring on each Independence Day?

4. What is the location of the nation's oldest 4th of July parade?

5. Which three U.S. presidents died on the 4th of July?

6. What were the first
- battles of the American Revolution?

7. What is the national anthem of the United States?

8. How many original copies of the Declaration of Independence are believed to have been printed?

9. What group sang the song *Zombie*?

10. Who wrote the song *Cry Cry Cry*?

11. What do you call a group of flamingos?

12. What U.S. state is home to Acadia National Park?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. The infinity sign is called a lemniscate.
2. No word in the English language rhymes with "MONTH."

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THE 1910s

ACROSS

1. UPS competitor
5. Banking convenience
8. Shape with an axe
11. Arctic floater
12. Court bargain
13. Dashboard window
15. Claude Monet's "Water Lilies," e.g.
16. Petri dish gel
17. Noble gas
18. Post-1919 drinking establishment
20. Not hit
21. More than a scuffle
22. "That is to say"
23. Jewish village
26. One's full DNA sequence, pl.
30. Interesting person, acr.
31. Cord made from animal intestines
34. Type of tide
35. No such thing as a free one?
37. Credit card rate
38. Boatload
39. St. Louis' Gateway, e.g.
40. Cast-off skin
42. U.N. working-conditions agcy.
43. "Unsinkable"?
45. Violent protester
47. Golfer's goal
48. Puts behind bars
50. Samoan money
52. Armed conflict (3 words)
56. Famous Bolshevik
57. Storm centers
58. Bob ____ of boxing world
59. Neural transmitters
60. High school breakout
61. Speech defect
62. 1968 hit "Harper Valley ____"
63. Grassland
64. Trousers

DOWN

1. They're often described as disc-shaped
2. Freudian error
3. Roald Amundsen's southern destination
4. The Muppets' street
5. Lake scum

CROSSWORD									
1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8
11					12				13
15					16				17
18				19					20
			21					22	
23	24	25					26		27
30				31		32	33		34
35			36			37			38
39					40			41	42
43				44				45	46
				47			48	49	
	50	51				52			53
56						57			58
59						60			61
62						63			64

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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

6. Razz

7. ____ Pickford, "America's Sweetheart" of silent film era

8. Comforting gestures

9. Prima donna problems

10. Skin cyst

12. Saffron-flavored rice dish

13. Street urchin

14. 48th State

19. Sailing vessel with two masts

22. Animal doctor, for shor

23. Water balloon sound

24. Alluring maiden

25. Add a touch of color

26. Spiritual leader

27. Boy Scout's ____ badge

28. Two under par on a hole

29. Animal trail

32. After-bath powder
33. General Post Office

36. "Little Tramp" portrayer

38. Chef Julia ____

40. Address for a man

41. Salmon at a certain stage

44. Indian breads

46. Lee Harvey ____

48. "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" author James ____

49. Circus venue

50. Modern message

51. Dwarf buffalo

52. Lash mark

53. "Dulcin e!" of Massenet's "Don Quichotte," e.g.

54. Dry biscuit

55. Mischievous sprites

56. Spot for luxury?

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

USS Constitution to go underway in honor of Independence Day

USS Constitution is scheduled to go underway from Charlestown Navy Yard, 22 Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown, MA, on Thursday, July 4, at 10:00 a.m.

USS Constitution will be closed in the morning and reopen to the public for tours following the underway from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The underway will celebrate the United States' 248th birthday and will include a 21-gun salute viewable from Fort Independence on Castle Island at approximately 11:30 a.m.

USS Constitution will fire an additional 17-gun salute as she passes the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Boston, the former site of Edmund Hartt's Shipyard, where USS Constitution was built and launched on Oct. 21, 1797.

USS Constitution's cruise will be viewable from the Boston Harborwalk, Castle Island, and Charlestown Navy Yard.

USS Constitution is open Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for public visitation.

USS Constitution is the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat and America's Ship of State.

She played a crucial role in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, actively defending sea lanes from 1797 to 1855. The active-duty Sailors stationed aboard USS Constitution provide free tours and offer public visitation as they support the ship's mission of promoting the Navy's history and maritime heritage and raising awareness of the importance of a sustained naval presence.

USS Constitution was undefeated in 33 at sea engagements with opponents. The ship earned the nickname of Old Ironsides during the War of 1812 when British cannonballs were seen bouncing off the ship's wooden hull.

— USS Constitution Public Affairs Office



Somerville's FY25 Budget CONT. FROM PG 4

administration's lack of attention on issues important to the council. On Thursday, it got more personal — with councilors complaining about being brushed off by liaisons, told to not ask directors or other staff for information, and complaining that they felt like their opinion and vote didn't matter. There was also justifiable bitterness over the Mayor's yearlong delay in reviewing proposed changes to the city's charter.

There was more, but ... potentially agreeing with the Mayor here ... who has time for that sort of negativity? She was busy relocating a school full of students and ... and like ... a lot of other stuff.


Watching the government bicker and spar with itself was awkward. It was like watching your date's parents fight over a dinner that you didn't want to be at anyway. There were high points — impassioned speeches by the Mayor, her Chief of Staff, and the CAO herself — as well as some downright statesman-like language from councilors — but in retrospect I have to remember that the net result was the same as if the council had done nothing on Tuesday. Plus, the CAO all but resigned the very next day, which would probably have happened anyway, right?

I started this piece by mentioning the years that I've been watching and writing about city budgets. I published 'A Quick Coat of Paint,' a couple of weeks ago. I intended that as a refresher on how incredibly constrained both the Council and the Mayor are in setting a budget. Going further back, my exhortation to the council from 2021 is a bit flowery, but it still rings true: "Most of the days of a person's life proceed according to the patterns they set down in prior days and weeks. Budgeting like this is how our institutions continue to house institutional violence, racism, and sexism, despite all of our good intentions." My pair of pieces from 2020 were also about constraints and the need for decisive action if the council wants to have any impact at all. Prior to that, I would have to consult my notes ... but the theme of frustration and pointless bickering is consistent.

In the end, I can only agree with Ward 6's Councilor Lance Davis in his opening statement on Thursday's meeting:

"This sucks."

LEGAL NOTICE



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, July 17, 2024**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_WcQoNIVTQkqEsvFWJlewpw
Webinar ID: 861 1687 6438

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:

10 Bedford Street Dmitry Vasilyev and Patrycja Missiuro seek an administrative appeal of (1) the Building Official's issuance of a Building Permit, B23-001151, and (2) the Building Official's denial of a Request for Enforcement.

35 McGrath Hwy 35 McGrath Highway Realty Trust seeks zoning relief from the curb setback requirement of the High Rise (HR) district, which require 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.

7/3/24 The Somerville Times

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Vegetable Slaw

With the Fourth of July here, I thought I would share this recipe for those of you who love a good coleslaw. This is not a traditional coleslaw, but delicious all the same.

Not everyone has a food processor to shred your own cabbage or vegetables,

so it is quite acceptable to use your favorite pre shredded product. I do!

This is a simple recipe that can be made in about five minutes, a huge time saver.

12 oz broccoli slaw
3/4 cup mayonnaise
1/8 cup seasoned rice vinegar

1 tablespoon sugar
1/4 tsp salt and 1/2 tsp pepper
1/2 cup dried cranberries
1/2 cup walnut pieces

In a medium bowl, add the mayonnaise, vinegar, sugar, salt and pepper and mix well. Add the remaining ingredients and gently toss until

well incorporated. Place in the refrigerator for about 1/2 hour prior to serving.

**Please note, this recipe was adapted from the Trader Joe's Broccoli Slaw package*

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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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, July 16, 2024** 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 2023, 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/register/WN_fzN5AM2mTqHISP5XOK2QA
Webinar ID: 839 3156 4747

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

HP24-000020 - 76 Highland Avenue

Applicant: Li Liu
Owner: Same as Applicant
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by removing the rear chimney.

HP24-000049- 33 Bow Street

Applicant: Joy Street Design, Inc
Owner: The Somerville Community Corporation, Inc
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by replacing windows and doors.

DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HP24-000045 - 33 Vinal Avenue

Applicant: Niranjana Gauri
Owner: Thomas E. McAllister
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building that is at least 75 years of age.

HP24-000047- 60 Bonair Street

Applicant: LaCourt Holdings LLC
Owner: Mouhab Rizkallah
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.

6/26/24, 7/3/24 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, July 16, 2024**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of Wine and Malt License, Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices Indoors, Sunday Hours and Outdoor Private Patio Seating for MamaAna Inc d/b/a MamaAna Inc at 60 Middlesex Avenue.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_ur7AYNwDTv6FK55skuxWTA

You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

7/3/24 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, July 16, 2024**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of All Forms Alcohol, Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices and Patrons Indoors, and Sunday Hours for Good Time Golf LLC d/b/a Good Time Golf at 470 Revolution Drive.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
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7/3/24 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, July 16, 2024**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of All Forms Alcohol, Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices Indoors, and Sunday Hours for Dog Child Enterprises LLC d/b/a Mimi's Chuka Diner at 14 Tyler Street.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, July 16, 2024**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of All Forms Alcohol, Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices Indoors, Outdoor Parklet Patio Seating, and Sunday Hours for Atelier PRB LLC d/b/a PRB Boulangerie at 120 Beacon Street.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

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7/3/24 The Somerville Times

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, July 16, 2024**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of All Forms Alcohol, Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices Indoors and Outdoors and Outdoor Private Patio Seating for Company Picnic LLC d/b/a Field & Vine at 7-9 Sanborn Court.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

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7/3/24 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, July 16, 2024**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of All Forms Alcohol, Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices, Performers, and Patrons, and Sunday Hours for Anthony's Function Too Inc d/b/a Anthony's at 156 Highland Avenue.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
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7/3/24 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, July 16, 2024**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices Indoors, and Outdoor Public Sidewalk Seating for Old and New Hospitality dba True Grounds Cafe at 717 Broadway.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
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7/3/24 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, July 16, 2024**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices Indoors for Skull & Bones LLC d/b/a Taco Party at 711 Broadway.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
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7/3/24 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, July 16, 2024**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Parklet Patio Seating for Soba Ya LLC d/b/a Sugidama at 234 Elm Street.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

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7/3/24 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, July 18, 2024**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, 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/webinar/register/WN_qnvAEHxQUOZYsZFWfDozg
Webinar ID: 811 4342 0315

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:

71-72 Union Square Walter Sullivan seeks a Major Amendment to a previously issued Special Permit for Cannabis Retail (CZC#2020-00039) for in the Commercial Core 4 (CC4) zoning district.

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.

7/3/24 The Somerville Times

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Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m., join the **Arts at the Armory for Select Markets' Summer Vintage Pop Up Clothing Market**. This free public event includes 40+ vendors, tooth gems, tats, live DJs, free yerba, and more. @select.markets was founded by two Northeastern students with a passion for clothing and music. Their mission is to create a vibrant event full of fashion-forward individuals, where you can buy clothes and meet new people! Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave.

Container Gardening Workshop with **Green City Growers** takes place at the **Central Library, Monday, July 29, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.** 79 Highland Ave. In this workshop, learn everything you need to know to get started with container gardening. Topics will include how to determine how much light your location gets and how that impacts what you can grow; types of containers; soil and fertilizers; when and how much to water; plant spacing; as well as determining whether to direct seed or buy transplants. Stop by with questions and leave with a small container and plant.

Gallery @ SPL Presents: Boston Street Photography with Troy D. Minkowsky. During the month of July the Gallery @ SPL will display the work of local photographer, Troy D. Minkowsky. This exhibit focuses on Boston street photography captured during the pandemic. Join the celebratory reception. This event will be held on Saturday, July 13, at Somerville Public Library Central Branch (79 Highland Ave.) from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars for **August 10** for the **Somerville Arts Council's** annual citywide **Yart Sale**. Explore an entire city's worth of front yards, driveways, and porches transformed into mini art galleries and bustling markets. Here's what you can expect: paintings, photography, hand-made objects, band merch, art supplies, art tools, collectible items, plants, art supplies, frames, vintage clothes, etc. Your purchases help support the vibrant local art community. This citywide event is fun for all ages, we highly encourage you to bring your friends and family. Interested in registering as an art vendor? Check out <https://somer villeartscouncil.org/yartsale>.

Historic Somerville stickers are available. Collect all of the Historic Somer-

ville Stickers. You can pick them up at local businesses, including **Mudflat** in East Somerville, 81 Broadway.

The **Somerville Arts Council** is calling all local arts vendors, volunteers, businesses and community organizations for **SomerStreets** events. For information on how to table please visit: somer villeartscouncil.org/somerstreets. **SomerStreets** is an annual series that takes place one Sunday per month in the months of June through October. It's the **City of Somerville's** take on the internationally-renowned **Open Streets** concept, closing busy city streets to vehicles, and opening them up for cycling, walking, dancing, running, and arts programing.

Join **Boston Lindy Hops** on **Wednesday, July 17, 608 Somerville Ave.** for **Somerville Stomp**. They will kick things off from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. with a **Community Hour**, hosted by **Alexander Graber-Tilton**. Come share a meal with fellow dancers, maybe grab someone to practice a few moves with. From there, they will have three hours of DJ-ed music with lots of space for dancing, and the opportunity to enjoy bar grub, spirited drinks, and good company.

Somerville Recreation is gearing up for a summer packed with weekly programming for local teens. There's something for everyone – programs include pick-up soccer, volleyball and basketball clinics, pick-up flag football, open gym, and Friday crafting at the Powderhouse. Programming began on July 1, is free, and open to Somerville teen ages 12-18. The whole family can join the fun during scheduled events like **National Night Out** on **Tuesday, August 6**. Get the full **Teen Summer Guide** to sign up for a specific program or learn more about all programs and events <https://somer villema.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>.

The **Somerville Public Library** is encouraging our community to connect with nature and their collections. While previous adult summer reading challenges at the SPL have been bingo cards, this year, they are offering a **raffle**. With challenges like "Read outside," and "Read a book about a particular animal," you can live out this year's theme through the library. Additionally, you can check out our curated book displays at the **Central Library**, or their booklists online for some inspira-

tion. For more information visit <https://www.somer villepubliclibrary.org/>.

Attention **all artists, makers, and more** in the greater Somerville area! **Somerville Public Library's Comix Con** returns this July and they are looking for local artists to sell their pins, prints, unique art objects and more. They are celebrating fandoms of all types and want you to be a part of their Con. Please fill out this form to be considered for a spot in their Artists Alley: ti-nyurl.com/splccvapp.

A reminder that **yard waste pickup** has begun. Yard waste should be put out with your trash and recycling on your normal pickup day and be in either a paper bag or a trash barrel with a "Yard Waste Only" sticker. Get stickers free of charge at the **DPW Building** (1 Franey Rd.), at the entrance desk at **City Hall** (93 Highland Ave.), or by emailing 311updates@somer villema.gov. **Hazardous Waste Drop-Off, Saturday, July 13:** Next monthly Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day at DPW (1 Franey Rd., 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

The 2024 **street sweeping season** has resumed and will continue **through December 31**. Check signs in your neighborhood for sweeping days. Visit somer villema.gov/sweeping for a full schedule and to sign up for complimentary street sweeping reminders by text, email, or phone. For more information on street sweeping procedures, visit parksomer ville.com.

Join **Union Square Main Streets** and **50+ of your favorite local food producers** for the **20th Annual Union Square Farmers Market, 66-70 Union Square**. Shop local on **Saturdays through October 26**, except September 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the Union Square Plaza. The market provides visitors and residents with top-quality, fresh, and local produce at fair prices; encourages active lifestyle values; educates consumers about farming and locally sourced foods; and gives customers opportunities to interact directly with farmers. For more information about the Union Square Farmers Market, visit unionsquaremain.org/2024-fmseason. SNAP customers get \$1 for \$1 match up to \$15. See the Market Manager tent for more info.

Davis Square Farmers Market is now open. **Every Wednesday through No-**

vember 22, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. visit the Davis Square Farmers Market, across from American Flatbread at 44 Day St. Visit: www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis. This long-running market features over two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers offering a vibrant selection of delicious produce, protein, baked goods, ready-to-eat meals, alongside a host of other locally made products. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match.

The COA is offering **free taxi rides** to Somerville residents over the age of 60. Rides are available to go to the grocery store, farmer's market, and pharmacy in Somerville and routine medical appointments in the surrounding communities. To best accommodate the needs of everyone in the city and to maximize the use of our funding, they will be capping the number of rides per week. To ensure the health and welfare of every resident of Somerville, exemptions will be made for chemotherapy and radiation appointments. To find out more information or to schedule your ride, please call **Connie Lorenti** at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319. All rides must be booked two business days in advance. This program is funded through ARPA (**American Rescue Plan Act**) **Funding**.

Through the generosity of the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**, and from the direction of **Mayor Ballantyne**, the **Council on Aging** is now able to 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 Chairs, Bath Benches, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies and Transport Wheelchairs (wheelchairs are intended for transport and are not self-propelling or self-breaking.) For additional information, or for an application, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

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

Somerville’s annual Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration

The Somerville community celebrated Fourth of July Thursday night at Trum Field. The celebration included entertainment by DJ Philip Tan and funk band Search Party, Somerville High School graduate Britney Flores sang the Star-Spangled Banner to lead into the fireworks countdown by Mayor Ballantyne. See more photos from the event on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



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Answers

1. Philadelphia

2. July 4, 1801, when Thomas Jefferson was president

3. 13 times

4. Bristol, Rhode Island

5. John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe

6. The battles of Lexington and Concord

7. The Star-Spangled Banner

8. 200

9. The Cranberries

10. Johnny Cash

11. A flamboyance

12. Maine



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

A chat with poet Gail Mazur-
winner of the Golden Rose Award

Recently, the New England Poetry Club awarded poet Gail Mazur its Golden Rose Award. The Golden Rose, one of America's oldest literary prizes, is awarded annually to a poet who has done the most for poetry during a lifetime. Gail Mazur, besides being a celebrated poet, and teacher, is the founder of the famed Blacksmith House Poetry Series. Founded in 1973, the award-winning Blacksmith House Poetry Series brings established and emerging writers of poetry and fiction to Harvard Square. I got a chance to chat with Mazur, shortly after she received the award.

Doug Holder: Gail, when you started the Blacksmith House Series in 1973, were you connected with the poetry scene or was this an entry point for you?

Gail Mazur: I had moved to Cambridge with my husband, Michael, and our two children, Dan and Kathe, a few years before. The first place my oldest friend, Elsa Dorfman, introduced me to was the Grolier Bookshop. A whole (little) book store devoted only to poetry. I spent many hours there talking with Gordon Cairnie (the already elderly owner – he'd begun it in the late '20s) By then it had become an institution. I loved being there, being able to browse and chat with Gordon. When Gordon died in 1972, I thought the "poetry world" of Cambridge was over, so I got the idea to run some readings. (And of course, the poetry world wouldn't have ended, but that bookstore's hominess was gone. Now fortunately it's been rescued and that little poetry haven should be there a long time.

DH: You have stated in an interview that Robert Lowell was one of your earliest influences. Lowell was part of the "Confessional" school of poets. Do you feel your work is confessional? Isn't all poetry confessional in some sense?

GM: I guess I think of it as autobiographical! But no, a lot of poetry couldn't possible be called confessional, unless you mean that we're revealed somehow



in every poems we write! Lowell experienced many episodes of illness and he wrote about the world of it, inner and outer, with brilliant craft and humanity.
DH: You have had a long teaching career. When you teach novice poets, what books do you suggest that they cut their teeth on? This could mean on craft or poetry books themselves.

GM: It varies. It's such a pleasure to introduce students to poems and poets they don't know. To discuss the craft of poems. If I look at my shelves, now hundreds of books of poems – well, some days, some students, some weather – different poets!

DH: At the Golden Rose Reading the audience often crackled with laughter. Do you have fun writing poetry, is there a sense of play? I often use humor in my own work, even with poems with the darkest themes.

GM: Sure, sometimes! When it comes through, fun.

DH: Finally, you have had a very accomplished career, with many accolades, awards, books, etc. What does getting the Golden Rose mean to you?

GM: This award surprises and delights me, our community of poets in this area is so varied, we all bring our own stuff to it. As my grandfather would say, also our own mishegas (you can look it up!). I work alone, like all of us, and being in the room with so many writers I admire to receive the Golden Rose just pleases me so much.

Somerville Poet Dianne Robitaille passed away from cancer about three years ago. She was a co-founder of the *Ibbetson Street Press*, secretary of the New England Poetry Club, and a well-published poet. She was also my beloved wife. I miss her.



Celebrate

My bald head and
me are free!
Liberation rings!
Flags sweep high
in waves of
breeze!
Today, a day
of brisk air.
Inhaling a cool,
snappy Canadian
front
exhaling a
cleansing breath.
I pass my hand
over my head
thinking I still
have hair, then
laugh to find
my scalp so
small and bare!
A darling of a
head, no hiding,
no fluff,
No longer
dictated by
hairs
coercive
needs!

— Dianne Robitaille

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

Somerville invited to Brickbottom
Neighborhood Plan public meeting

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the city's Planning, Preservation, and Zoning Department invite Somerville community members to a public meeting to help inform the final draft of the Brickbottom Neighborhood Plan. City staff will present the most current version of the plan and will answer questions from the community.

The meeting will be hybrid, taking place both in-person and via Zoom. Date: Monday, July 8. Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. In-Person Meeting Location: Cafe space at 100 Chestnut St.

Zoom information: Meeting ID: 861 0313 3834 Registration Link: bit.ly/JulyBrick

Visit voice.somervillema.gov/brick for more information.

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