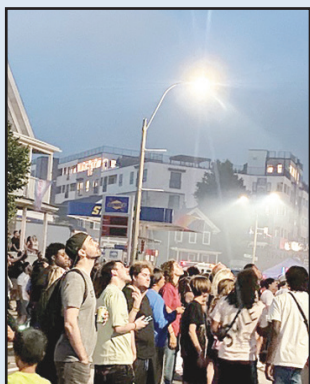


Inside:



Summer Ville

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Board of Health discusses the possibility of tobacco license to limit access



Licensing of tobacco sales in the City of Somerville is being proposed by the Board of Health.

By Beatriz Leite

At the latest Somerville Board of Health meeting on June 29, the Board, Brian Green, Karin Carroll, and Bonny Carroll opened the webinar with a proposal to limit tobacco access in the city of Somerville. According to them, tobacco sellers all around the city could benefit, by making their product less accessible, therefore more valuable.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services established that nicotine can be as addictive as cocaine or heroin and causes cancer, respiratory and cardiac diseases, and irritations to the eyes, nose, and throat. Along with the proven adverse consequences for brain development in adolescents, who are accessing nicotine easily due to no ID verification in some smoke shops.

In this meeting, a case of a 16- *Continued on page 4*

Free farmers' market coupons return in July

The Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) Nutrition program is distributing free farmers' market coupons for eligible older adults in July. Available through the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, the coupon booklets can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at area farmers' markets.

The booklets normally have \$25 of coupons, but that has been increased to \$50 for 2023 and 2024 through a generous grant.

Applicants must be Cambridge or Somerville residents who are age 60 or older, or disabled and living in elderly housing with a congregate meal program. They must also meet the following income eligibility:

Household of 1, income less than or equal to \$2,248 per month/\$26,973 per year

Household of 2, income less *Continued on page 15*



Older adults in Somerville meeting certain requirements will be eligible for free farmers market coupons in July.

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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.








Above and Beyond: The Remarkable Life of Somerville Olympian Phil Reavis, an exhibit at the Somerville Museum, will hold its closing reception, **Saturday, July 8, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.** *Above and Beyond* showcases the life of Phil Reavis, a Somerville native, Olympic athlete, long-time educator, and one of the first people of color in Somerville with a public space named in his honor. Reavis broke records as high jumper, appeared on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* magazine, coached Vietnam's 1964 Olympic track and field team, and enjoyed a long career as a teacher, coach, and musician. A world traveler, Reavis now divides his time between Somerville and Macau, China. The Somerville High School's athletic field will be named The Philip Reavis, Sr. Field. Somerville Museum, One Westwood Road, \$5 admission fee; free to Museum members. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Visit www.somervillemuseum.org.

Green Line train service between Lechmere and Union Square stations will be suspended for 42 days from July 18 to August 28. This service change is due to critical repair work by MassDOT on the Squire Bridge, which crosses over tracks near Union Square Station. Alternate travel options can be found on the MBTA's web-site: www.mbta.com/.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to our great friend and poet **Doug Holder**, a great guy. *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of July 5 – July 11 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday July 5	Partly Cloudy	85°/70°	16%	3%	E 8 mph
 Thursday July 6	Sunny	85°/69°	20%	12%	SE 10 mph
 Friday July 7	Partly Cloudy	84°/68°	25%	16%	S 11 mph
 Saturday July 8	Thunderstorms	83°/67°	59%	19%	SE 9 mph
 Sunday July 9	Rain	80°/69°	32%	44%	E 11 mph
 Monday July 10	Rain	76°/66°	48%	41%	ESE 9 mph
 Tuesday July 11	Thunderstorms	76°/67°	60%	39%	SE 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: Tree hugging

Chris Dwan says:

The city's Urban Forestry Committee (I'm a member and former chair) is a great resource for anybody who, like the author of this piece, is curious about the "strange rules" that govern our management of the trees.

The committee was established by the city council, appointed by the Mayor, and includes staff from Public Works (who are responsible for tree safety and maintenance, Public Space and Urban Forestry (who are responsible for planning and planting), and residents with both scientific and industry expertise.

We meet at 4pm on the third Thursday of every month. Agendas and minutes are published on the city website, and the public is always welcome. Ever since the committee started more than four years ago, we have started with an agenda item for "resident concerns." Over the years, dozens of residents have showed up with questions, concerns, suggestions, or just enthusiasm for our city's urban canopy.

There are also substantial resources available at the committee's website (<https://somervillema.gov/ufc>) and the Public Space and Urban Forestry website (<https://somervillema.gov/psuf>). We have a tree inventory, a master plan, a species guide for residents, and much more.

If you want to do better than a quick question to your friends on social media – please feel free to attend a meeting and talk to the people who can probably give you a real answer.

Response to: Update on the closing of the Somerville Boxing Club

Maureen Bastardi says:

Thank you Bruce for the letter. Thank you to you and all the people that made it possible including former Mayor Curtatone and all the guys that volunteered their time and sweat to keep the club going. It still makes me sad to think we may not be back in the same place. Where will we go?

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138



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Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

Editor – Jim Clark

Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner

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Writers: Jim Clark, Molly Rains, Fernando Cervantes Jr.,
Ryan DiLellio, Kyle Dante

Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte, Dorothy Dimarzo,
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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Summer Ville



Here we are at the beginning of another summer. In the old days we did day camps and playground activities. One year we built a cool buggy. That was a fun summer back around 1967. Summers mean no school and fun.

I asked my social media friends what they remember most about the summers when they were growing up in the 60s and 70s and 80s in Somerville. Each new commenters in quotations.

“So many things. Always with my best friend since I was 8 yrs. We would take long walks to see her cousins in Cambridge, go to Foss Park pool, dance in the rain, lay in the sun, and get into all kinds of Shenanigans. The best times even doing nothing as long as we were together kindred spirits forever. Still best friends 47 yrs. later.”

“I worked at the Museum of Science and rode my bike every day to work!”

I loved watching the Sunsetters perform on the street where I lived. Alston Street off of Cross Street. And I am reminded of music class and your mom (Mary Carafotes) obviously was our instructor. She was very good at her chosen profession. I think this was 1974. What I love about this memory is how your mom put us in groups according to our voice tones. I am an alto. We performed patriotic songs for a Memorial Day concert. It was so awesome how she instructed and she was proud of our performance.”

“The summer of 1957, when I was 11, I spent practically every weekday playing pickup baseball on the sanctified dirt at

Trum Field. I’d walk the tracks from Ball Square, Boston Ave right after breakfast and stay until lights out at 9:30 after the softball games were done. I loved playing ball and the kids there. You’d think I would be better than I was for all that time but I really loved the sport and still do.

“Project Star and Sunsetters.”

I signed up my brother Paul Carafotes, sisters Victoria Macrokanis, and Margo Carafotes Popken along with neighborhood friend Linda Spence Christman. We performed in Fiddler on the Roof, ToyLand, and HMS Pinafore. Also, those years my brother Paul Carafotes starred in You Can’t Take It With You and Of Thee I Sing. We all enjoyed singing, acting and dancing. It was really a wonderfully organized 6 or 8 weeks of fun and a great educational experience of Summer Theater Arts and Recreation.”

“Took music classes with one of the founders of STAR, the infamous Andy J. Smith and the sweet voice teacher Mrs. Scott. Both her sons were in it too David and Ralph Scott. Who could forget the artistic scenery designer with Donna Wade and Richie Senessi, and costume making with Amy Parrish? But one of my favorite classes was with dance instructor Al Cremmins. He and his sister Ann would teach us a new dance in no time at all. We went on field trips to the North Shore Music Theater where we met Rita Moreno.”

“Played baseball every summer and of course the Mystic Lakes for a swim. My best summer was when the Babe Ruth team that I coached won the State Championship. Was a very good summer. Hey but wait every summer ended with the best track meet in the country at Trum



Field. I still imagine those thousands that were in the stands.”

“After that summer, I worked every one as a helper to one of my uncles’ trades or businesses. It was invaluable experience just not as much fun as playing the unstructured, self-ruled baseball games.”

“I remember going to the YMCA day

camp and visit in Hoods Cherry Hill farm. We had a blast on the bus up and back. I still remember the bologna sandwiches my mother packed for me.”

I was also in the epic summer theatre Project STAR.

You can still have a lot of summer fun in the city unless you have to park your car.



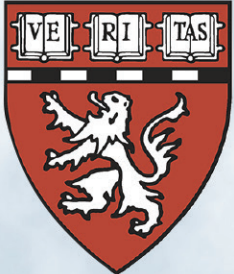
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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Alleged bicycle thief preferred moped

On Monday, June 19, Somerville Police officers were dispatched to the Super Stop and Shop store on McGrath Hwy. on reports of a stolen moped.

Upon arrival, the officers were met by the victim, who stated that he came out of Stop and Shop to find his motor scooter stolen. He provided a photo of the moped to the officers. He then pointed out another man who stated that he witnessed the incident and could provide a description of the suspect.

The witness reportedly saw the suspect pull up to the front of the Stop and Shop with a bicycle. He left the bicycle and sat on the scooter. He then began walking away, pushing the moped, towards McGrath Hwy.

While I was on scene at Stop and Shop gathering information, they learned that other officers were dispatched to a Bailey Road location for a report of a bicycle that had just been stolen. The dispatcher stated that the suspect headed towards Stop and Shop with the bicycle. The description of this suspect matched that of the moped theft suspect.

The officers sent a picture of the bicycle that was abandoned at Stop and Shop and it was confirmed to be the stolen one.

The stolen bicycle victim told police that she was sitting on her back patio on the second floor and she looked down and saw an unknown white male walking in to the first floor back patio. The first floor back patio is an enclosed pa-

tio with a door. She yelled down at him and he took off with the bicycle out of the driveway. Once he got out of the driveway, he got on the bicycle and rode it away. She saw him head in the direction of Stop and Shop.

The stolen bicycle victim immediately got in her vehicle and tried to catch up and follow him. By the time she got to Stop and Shop, she saw the suspect but he was no longer with her bicycle, he was with a moped, pushing it outside of Stop and Shop. She witnessed him fall down with the scooter while pushing it.

She then continued to follow him and when she caught up with him on McGrath Hwy., she started recording him. In the video, the suspect, later identified

as Mark Bourglas, can be seen pushing the moped up McGrath Hwy., passing Otis St.

While Officers were searching the area for Bourglas, other officers doing a directed patrol on the Community Path extension reported that they had witnessed a man abandon his moped on the bike path. These officers were informed that it could possibly be the stolen moped and to stop the suspect.

Bourglas was stopped on the path between Joy St. and Fitchburg St. The moped was confirmed to be the one stolen from the victim.

Bourglas was placed under arrest on charges of larceny over \$1200, larceny from a building and defacing property.

According to police, Bourglas stated multiple times, "This is a flim-flam case, nothing's going to happen over this." He also stated that he has been arrested for way worse than this many times.

While conducting a search of Bourglas, it was noticed that he had a security tag on his jeans, from Burlington, as well as a pair of sneakers he was carrying with a Burlington tag on them. He stated that he knows that they are stolen but that he didn't steal them, he bought them from someone that sells stolen goods. He then stated the same about the bicycle and the motor scooter.

Bourglas was transported to the station by the prisoner transport wagon and booked on the above stated charges.

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tip 411

Board of Health discusses the possibility of tobacco license to limit access

CONT. FROM PG 1

year-old adolescent girl that purchased nicotine products at Davis Square Smoke Shop was discussed due to an appeal by the store owner, Shivam Patel, to a cease-and-desist order.

The teenager was able to walk into the store and purchase the nicotine product, only authorized for adults above the age of 21. That incident happened because the seller did not ask for any form of age verification and simply sold the product.

Patel appealed to the Board asking not to order the closure of the business for three days because the employee that sold the product had already been fired and they will now check for ID verification. The board did not approve and also informed the owner that minors cannot even enter the store, therefore he should purchase an ID scanner and have an employee at the door to check everyone's ID, no matter the apparent age.

To prevent incidents like that from happening and to also reduce tobacco access the board is proposing a new tobacco license that will work like a liquor license for establishments, making it harder for just anyone to sell. The Somerville Board of Health would give out the permits to establishments.

The law would regulate who is allowed to sell nicotine products, what quantity, packaging, and age. It should be an establishment

that does not share space with another business, that has a separate entrance, that does not sell food, beverages, or alcohol, that does not have a restaurant license or lottery license, and whose only purpose is to sell or offer for retail sale tobacco products. More details are stated in the Regulation of the Somerville Board of Health Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products and Smoke Accessories document.

Board members argued that

the bill would be beneficial to the vendors too and that most are pleased with it because it makes the business more exclusive considering only a few can be allocated in a certain area and shall meet all prerequisites.

Although the Board of Health seems firm about this permit, no final decisions about when it will be put into action have been made. The next meeting will be held in September, with updates on this matter.

Fair Housing Commission discusses anti-displacement efforts

By Maile Blume

Somerville’s Anti-Displacement Task Force is holding ongoing meetings to assess how sustainable housing models in other cities might be applied to Somerville, said Commissioner Rona Fischman, during the Fair Housing Commission monthly meeting.

The task force’s focus group on residential displacement read about sustainable housing models in Minnesota and California. Then, they looked into proposals that are taking place in Massachusetts around rent stabilization. Some of the questions that the group is exploring are whether new housing policies in the city should label tenants in terms of income level, and under what circumstances a landlord can raise the rent of a property.

The committee is considering, “What makes sense for Somerville?” said Rona Fischman. The task force will hold two public meetings in July to gather input from the Somerville community: one on July 20 for landlords, and one on July 27 for tenants. The biggest barrier to residents joining the task force is the time commitment, said Hanalei Steinhart, a program specialist who researched the subject.

The application materials should also be written at an eighth-grade level to make them more easily translated for people who speak other languages, said Commissioner Dennis Fischman. He added that

ideally the task force would also offer participants a stipend to compensate them for their time.

As the task force is under way, the commission’s annual report is also being drafted, said Steinhart. The report will detail the complaints that the commission received from July 2021 to June 2022, as well as the outcomes of those complaints. The report will be published online shortly for the public, Steinhart said. Most of the complaints of discrimination had to do with source of income, involving landlords discriminating against potential tenants because those tenants receive Section 8 vouchers (federal housing assistance), said the commission.

In addition to the annual report, the commissioners reviewed the new ordinance passed by the city in March that protects residents from being discriminated against for their family structure or relationship status. This ordinance includes protection from discrimination when families are being considered for rental units or loans, and came out of discussions on the city council about expanding protections for polyamorous families.

As Somerville faces upcoming elections, the commission is also preparing a questionnaire for mayoral and city council candidates. The goal of the questionnaire is to help residents meet the candidates and to have candidates share their insights on housing, said Commissioner Patrice Faulkner.



Finally, the commission planned for a community discussion of *The Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein for this coming April. The event will come after the Somerville Public Library encourages residents to read the book of the year, *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds, in October and November. Both texts dis-

cuss how the government has promoted racial discrimination in housing, and will contribute to discussions about racial justice in the city.

For more information and updates on upcoming Commission meetings, go to their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleFairHousing-Commission>



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ANNOUNCEMENT

Beacon Apartments LLC, in conjunction with Jet Realty are pleased to announce an

Affordable Rental Open Waitlist Opportunity

The application period for a two-bedroom (2BR) Affordable Rental Waitlist will begin on 7/10/2023 at 2pm and end on 8/10/2023 at 2pm.

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

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

Eligibility Requirements

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

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

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

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





Beacon Hill Roll Call

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

HORMONAL BIRTH CONTROL (S 3)

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would allow pharmacists to evaluate patients and, without a prescription from a doctor, prescribe and dispense hormonal contraceptive patches and self-administered oral hormonal contraceptives. The pharmacists would be required to complete a training program on hormonal contraception.

“Hormonal birth control is one of the safest and most effective ways to prevent unplanned pregnancy and support family planning, but many women find this critical medication difficult to obtain here in Massachusetts,” said sponsor Sen. Mike Moore (D-Millbury). “This amendment ... will allow local pharmacists to evaluate patients and prescribe hormonal contraceptives when appropriate – something 27 states and D.C. already allow in some form. This is a great step toward lowering barriers that prevent women from getting the birth control they need and addressing disparities in contraceptive access for those in historically underserved areas.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

\$500,000 FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY GRANTS TO CITIES AND TOWNS (S 3)

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment increasing by \$500,000 (from \$12.3 million to \$12.8 million) the funding for the Sen. Charles Shannon Community Safety Initiative grant program which funds partnerships between local law enforcement and community-based organizations to prevent gang and youth violence in cities and towns.

“I am proud to secure this Shannon Community Safety Initiative grant to combat gang violence, youth violence and substance through multi-disciplinary efforts,” said sponsor Sen. Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett). “By offering social intervention programs for at-risk youth, as well as education, training and employment programs for gang-involved and high-risk young adults, [these grants] play a vital role in keeping our communities safe.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$500,000.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

\$1 MILLION FOR MASSACHUSETTS EMER-

GENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (S 3)

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment increasing by \$1 million (from \$35 million to \$36 million) the funding for the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program which provides food for the Bay State’s four regional food banks which supply most local food banks in the state.

“I am happy to share that I secured an additional \$1 million through the amendment process for a total of \$36 million allocated for the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program in the Senate budget,” said sponsor Sen. Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett). “[This] is a critical program, as food prices are rising, for ensuring our most vulnerable residents can access food and supporting food suppliers across the state.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$1 million.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

BAN SEX OFFENDERS FROM STATE-SUBSIDIZED PUBLIC HOUSING (H 1342)

The Housing Committee held a hearing on legislation that would prohibit Level 2 and Level 3 sex offenders from being placed in public housing in Massachusetts. The bill is similar to a 1998 federal law that bans some sex offenders from federally subsidized housing.

“[The bill] is common-sense legislation that would extend the same protections that are currently in place for residents of federally-subsidized public housing to tenants living in state-subsidized public housing,” said sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading).

BULLYING IN PUBLIC HOUSING (S 887) – Another measure before the Housing Committee is designed to protect tenants from being bullied in public subsidized housing. Provisions include creating resource lists for residents and developing regulations requiring managers and owners of residences to report bullying to the appropriate authorities with the intent of preventing this type of abusive behavior and potential retaliation. In addition, all owners of these properties would be required to create a bullying prevention plan and to train staff and residents in bullying prevention.

“Massachusetts residents, namely low-income, elderly and disabled individuals, are among some of our most vulnerable,” said sponsor Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem). “They deserve to feel safe and secure at home. I am proud to file [the bill] to protect individuals and families from bullying in public housing to safeguard their peace of mind and quality of life.”

EDUCATOR DIVERSITY (H 549) – The Education Committee held a hearing on a proposal that would create a 5-year pilot program to develop a process for granting educator certification as an alternative to the current testing requirements to be a teacher in public schools. The alternative certification method would be limited to schools and districts that demonstrate a demographic dispiriting between educators and students, a shortage of teachers who serve English language learners or a similar critical need.

The alternative certification must be limited to schools and districts that demonstrate a demographic dispiriting between educators and students, a shortage of teachers who serve English language learners or a similar critical need. Other provisions would require district and charter school to establish a diversity plan and have either a DEI officer or team – to advise the school committee or board of trustees on matters related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in the district.

Supporters say research consistently shows that students learn better when their educators reflect the diversity of the communities in which they live. They note it is crucial that students from diverse backgrounds are taught by educators who reflect their experiences and are reflective of the communities in which they grow up.

“While it’s true that Massachusetts remains a leader in educational outcomes, we know that we need a much more diverse educator workforce to match the diversity of our students,” said sponsor Rep. Alice Peisch (D-Wellesley). “The Massachusetts Legislature has shown its clear commitment to educator diversity, as we saw with new budget allocations in fiscal year 2023 and progress on the Educator Diversity Act. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to get the bill passed.”

MENTAL HEALTH GRANTS TO SCHOOLS (H 3573)

Another bill before the Education Committee would establish a school mental health professional grant program to increase the number of mental health professionals employed by school districts to provide mental health support to students.

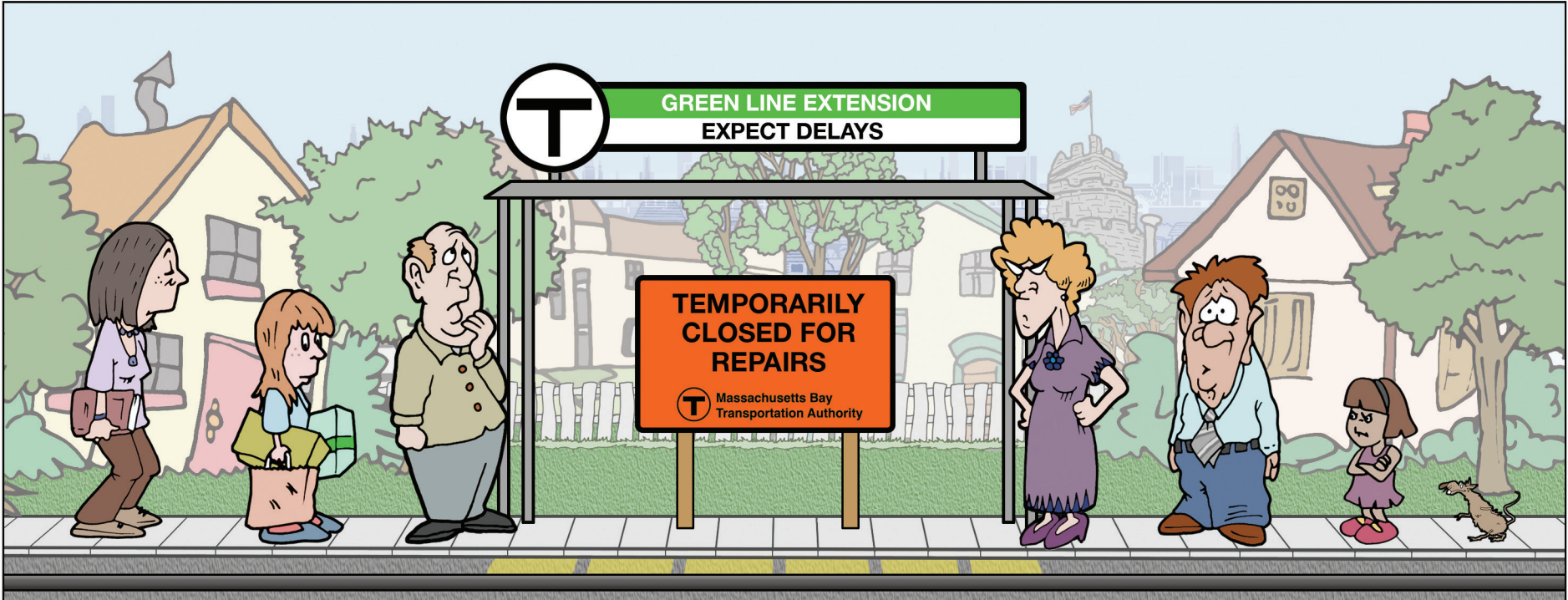
“I firmly believe that the establishment of a school mental health professional grant program is of utmost importance for the betterment of our educational system and the overall welfare of our students,” said sponsor Rep. Marcus Vaughn (R-Wrentham). “By providing access to mental health support for students, we can proactively address their emotional and psychological needs, fostering a conducive learning environment and ensuring their long-term success.”

Continued on page 21

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Just when we were getting used to it.

Our View Of The Times



It was sure fun while it lasted. Not that it's gone forever, but a temporary suspension of service will put a temporary end to the Green Line Extension service between Lechmere and Union Square Stations that we have come to love and, in some cases, depend on.

According to the MBTA, the suspension is necessary in order to make repairs on the Squire Bridge, which crosses over

tracks near Union Square Station. Of course, alternative travel options have been set up involving a combination of bus lines and other connecting branch lines.

We get it, though. Ensuring passenger safety and efficiency of the system is of paramount importance. We have already witnessed a number of near disastrous breakdowns and annoying closures throughout the system in recent months.

It is far better to play it safe now than to find ourselves sorry later.

But if it isn't tough enough already, add into the mix the full Sumner Tunnel closure taking place through the end of August, and then on weekends on into November in order to complete planned renovations.

And to top it off, there are further intermittent repair closures scheduled for the

Red, Orange, Kingston, Middleborough, Greenbush, and Worcester lines in the weeks and months to come.

A complete list of changes here: <https://www.mbta.com/news/2023-06-29/july-service-changes-will-allow-crews-continue-track-improvement-work-across-mbta>.

Again, we appreciate the need for maintenance of our light rail system. But with a measured sigh of tempered exasperation.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

We hope he enjoys his day and spends it with great friends. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Tamara McAllister, Holly Dow, John Hughes, Maureen Pirone, Charles Zammuto, Michael Terrio, Barbara Passero and David Figueiredo** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

The Mayor's Annual Senior Picnic is back on **Tuesday, August 8, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Trum Field (541 Broadway)**. There will be music, lunch and entertain-

ment. To attend please call **Connie Lorenti** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319 for your free ticket by August 1.

Green Open Somerville is planning a one-day, citywide **invasive weed pulling party** to remove the black swallowwort, knotweed, bittersweet, garlic mustard, and tree of heaven that take over gardens and harm pollinators. Join on **Saturday, July 8, 10:00 a.m. to noon**, at locations across the city. For locations and more information visit their facebook page www.facebook.com/greenandopensomerville/ or email greenopensomerville@gmail.com.

Dilboy Pool, 110 Alewife Brook Parkway, is now open for the summer season. Dilboy Pool hours are Monday – Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 6:45 p.m., Saturday – Sunday, 11:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. Pool admission: Children -\$1. Adults \$2.

There are three sessions of **free swim lessons** offered by the DCR at the **Latta Brothers Memorial Pool** (in Foss Park) this summer. Visit the website to learn more, find registration dates and other locations also available www.mass.gov/info-details/dcr-learn-to-swim-2023.

Ginny Smithers Pool at the **Kennedy School**, 5 Cherry St., summer hours Monday – Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Resident registration for summer swimming lessons opened on **July 3**. Non-resident opened on **July 5** at 8:00 a.m. Limited spots are available. Visit somervillema.myrec.com

COA's Blood Pressure Screening, Monday, July 10 from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. **Celeste Gearhart, RN** from the **Public Health Nursing Department** will be visiting the **Holland St. Center** to conduct blood pressure screenings. She will be taking blood pressure

Continued on page 13

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#880

1. In which U.S. city can you find South Beach?

2. Is there a such thing as a seagull?

3. In what year was the Corvette introduced?

4. Which American author wrote *Salem's Lot*?

5. Neville Longbottom appears in which book series?

6. When someone is "envious" they are said to be what color?

7. What is the perfect
- score in a game of ten pin bowling?

8. What sport is Jocky Wilson associated with?

9. What James Bond theme song was sung by Louis Armstrong?

10. Who was the first to use the term "battery"?

11. What NASA Space Shuttles have been destroyed in disasters?

12. Who was assassinated on February 21, 1965?
- Answers on page 10

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. "Go" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.
2. Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

MOVIE ANIMALS

- ACROSS
1. Deli side

5. "Breakfast at Tiffany's" animal

8. Songs for one

12. What formica and biochemical have in common

13. Prefix for partly

14. Dark

15. Crew equipment, pl.

16. Steinbeck's "East of ____"

17. Golf shirt

18. "Marmaduke" animal

20. "Away & Back" animal

21. Game "field"

22. Slightly insane

23. Casual top

26. Vending machine

30. Rocks, to a bartender

31. Bowling prop

34. Lush

35. Trots and canters

37. Broadcasting medium

38. Inflammatory swelling

39. Highland tongue

40. Sock pattern

42. Bring into play

43. Go back over

45. Theater passages

47. Part of a cheer

48. Lump of anything

50. Milo and Otis, e.g.

52. "Dunston Checks In" animal

56. Wheel on a spur

57. CISC alternative

58. Private theater box

59. Resembling wings

60. MacFarlane or Rogen

61. Go-____

62. Bullseye, Hamm and Lotso Bear, e.g.

63. Lyric poem

64. Immediately, doctor's jargon
- DOWN
1. Air quality concern

2. Fibber

3. Farm measure

4. Sushi condiment

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19					20			
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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

5. Natural moth repellent

6. To change, as in the U.S. Constitution

7. Fork prong

8. "Harry Potter" animal (2 words)

9. Earthenware pot

10. "Born Free" animal

11. I in T.G.I.F.

13. Administer diazepam

14. When Cinderella wins

19. Civil wrongs

22. "Some Nights" band

23. "Life of Pi" animal

24. Close call

25. Bank job

26. Gossamer

27. Cry like #5 Across

28. Liquorice flavored herb

29. Hues

32. Backgammon predecessor
33. "Babe" animal

36. "Anchorman" and "The Wizard of Oz" animals

38. Kundera's "Unbearable Lightness of ____"

40. "That feels good!" exclamation

41. Set in motion

44. Like a go-getter bird

46. Lies in ambush

48. Wept

49. It makes waste?

50. Singular of #17 Across

51. Home versus ____ game

52. Guesstimate phrase (2 words)

53. To perfection (3 words)

54. Taj Mahal city

55. As opposed to gross

56. "Willard" animal
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Winter Hill Community Innovation School informational meeting

By Ana Celerier Salcedo

Somerville Public Schools recently held an informational meeting for families and students regarding updates about the Winter Hill School. In attendance was Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, incoming Superintendent Dr. Rubén Carmona, Principal Courtney Gosselin, the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management Richard Raiche, and various members of the public.

Most of the meeting duration was reserved for questions and answers from families. However, building and school year 2023-2024 planning updates were provided before that.

Mayor Ballantyne commented that the city has been sparing no resources regarding Winter Hill, bringing in outside resources and making every possible funding source available in preparation for the upcoming school year and building process.

“We have more than 12 million dollars in building and stabilization funds which is available to us to ensure that the Edgerly and the Capuano are ready and welcoming to our students in the fall.” Said Mayor Ballantyne. She

added that in that funding, an allocated 1.3 million dollars would be used to carry out a feasibility study on the Winter Hill and Brown School.

The mayor additionally noted that in the city budget proposal that passed last week, she included a new position in capital projects to focus on the building plans for the Winter Hill and Brown schools. Superintendent Carmona also provided updates on plans for the 2023-2024 school year. Carmona stated that due to the ongoing assessments at the Winter Hill school that are foreseen to continue through the next month, the district, in partnership with the city, determined that the best option is to plan for classes for the upcoming school year to be held offsite. Grades 1-8 will be relocated to the Edgerly building, and Pre-K and Kindergarten students will be relocated to the Capuano school.

“We can assure you that we looked collectively with the city at various options in terms of where we could put our Winter Hill school in terms of keeping the school together, and unfortunately, there was no available space that really met all of our

needs,” said Prinipal Gosselin.

Director Raiche provided insight regarding the long-term planning for Winter Hill and the short-term move. Director Raiche stated that additional investigations into Winter Hill were conducted to understand what happened. “At this point in time, there are no immediate concerns that the concrete that fell was not structural in nature. There is no fear that the building is going to fall down, and we do not see any evidence of cracks or any non-structural concrete that would mean that another piece is likely to fall in the near term.”

“We haven't found the smoking gun to understand exactly why that piece of concrete fell. Of course, that concrete was behind acoustic paneling, so we didn't have eyes on it to see exactly what those conditions were before,” Raiche added.

Director Raiche said that the best decision for relocation for grades 1-8 was the Edgerly building based on a limited timeframe. He commented that the city has begun moving forward with some improvements to the Edgerly building. “That building also has some water intrusion issues,



An informational meeting was held to update the public on the status of the Winter Hill School.

so we are doing some envelope work, some brickwork, and some window cocking work at that building. We are also realigning some of the interior spaces.”

As part of the question-and-answer portion of the meeting, concerns were raised regarding transportation support for families with two different drop-offs and pickups and students who live further away from these new locations. The city currently doesn't have the exact details on what will happen regarding that issue; however, the city commented that they are working with fam-

ilies in that situation to develop a plan to support them best.

Furthermore, concerns about recreational space for students at the Edgerly building were brought up. The plan as of now is to close off the parking lot at the Edgerly as an area for recess and work with the East Somerville Community School to ensure some time using their play structure for relocated Winter Hill students.

Carmona acknowledged that in terms of long-term planning regarding the situation at Winter Hill, there was

Continued on page 13

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Grilled Zucchini, Zá atar and Pomegranate Molasses

While you're grilling chicken, fish or steak for your next meal, you may want to consider this side dish. It only takes a minute to prepare and is grilled for 5-6 minutes resulting in a nice smoky, charred flavor that is sure to go perfect with any grilled protein of your choice.

- 4 Medium Zucchini
- 2 Tablespoons Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 2 Teaspoons Za'taar, plus additional for garnish
- 1/2 Teaspoon Kosher Salt
- Pomegranate Molasses, enough to drizzle

Cut the zucchini lengthwise into halves. Then cut the halves into halves again. Place into a bowl and toss with the oil, Zá atar and salt. Grill for 5-6 minutes. Remove from grill and plate, adding additional Zá atar seasoning and drizzle the pomegranate molasses




over the top. Serves 4.

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

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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 19, 2023**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER
Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9136661683517539935>
Webinar ID: 422-058-763

TO CALL IN
Phone number: 1 (415) 930-5321
Access code: 581-636-316


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

36 Radcliffe Road	Lidia Szydłowska proposes modifications to a Detached Triple Decker in the Urban Residence district, which requires a Special Permit.
34 Allen Street	Chris Ulrich seeks to establish a Veterinarian principal use in a pre-existing nonconforming commercial building in the Neighborhood Residence District, which requires a Special Permit.
391-395 Somerville Ave	Isaiahs and Victor Martins seek to extend the validity of a previously approved Special Permit with Site Plan Review (ZBA 2019-37) in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) district for a period of one (1) year.
120-132 Middlesex Ave	DWCH Assembly Row, LLC seeks to extend the validity of a previously approved Hardship Variance (P&Z 22-056) in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use (ASMD) district.
29 Lake Street	Esther Silberstein and David Mlaver seek relief from the required sum of setbacks in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) district, which requires a Hardship Variance.
27 Fountain Ave	Andrea Traviglia & Andre Pelletier seek relief from the required sum of setbacks in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) district, which requires a Hardship Variance.
118 Rogers Ave	Valerie Humblet seeks to further extend the existing nonconformity for the required rear setback in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) district, which requires a Special Permit Finding.

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

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

7/5/23 The Somerville Times



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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
INTERIM 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 18, 2023** 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 107 of the Acts of 2022, 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://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3338042967213693016>
Webinar ID: 257-512-131

TO CALL IN
Phone Number: 1 (213) 929-4212
Access Code: 389-960-161

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

HPC.ALT 2023.32 – 77 Perkins Street
Applicant: Shane and Ryan Sullivan
Owner: Same as Applicant
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace wood windows.


Determinations of Preferably Preserved (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HPC.DMO 2023.10 – 25 Warwick Street
Applicant: Alec Charles Peralta Scheerer
Owner: Alec Charles Peralta Scheerer & Ann WC Peralta
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

HPC.DMO 2023.11 – 246 Broadway
Applicant: Amineni Construction LLC
Owner: Same as Applicant
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.*

6/28/23, 7/5/23 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 20, 2023**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available by using the registration link once the meeting has concluded.

TO USE A COMPUTER
Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4278346410886983007>
Webinar ID: 382-297-531

TO CALL IN
Phone number: 1 (415) 655-0052
Access code: 189-631-606

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

366 Broadway	366 Broadway Somerville, LLC proposes to develop a four (4)-story LEED Gold and Net-Zero Ready apartment building and establish a Household Living principle use for 58 dwelling units in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) zoning district. This proposal requires Site Plan Approval and one (1) Special Permit for Household Living.
32/40/44 White Street	SGL Development, Inc. proposes to develop a four (4)-story Commercial Building in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) district. The proposal requires Site Plan Approval and one (1) Special Permit for relief from the roof-mounted mechanical equipment and screening height.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>. Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

7/5/23 The Somerville Times

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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From on page 8

1. Miami	7. 300 points
2. No, the correct term is gulls – they do not only live by the sea	8. Darts
3. 1953	9. We Have All the Time in the World
4. Stephen King	10. Benjamin Franklin
5. Harry Potter	11. Challenger and Columbia
6. Green	12. Malcolm X

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, July 17, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of a Transfer of a Wine and Malt Package License and a Change of Location, from Himgirl Enterprises Inc. d/b/a K-2 Beer and Wine, 500 Medford St. to Vatika Corporation d/b/a 350 Food Mart, 350 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 GoToWebinar 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 GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4587549967141085529>. 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.

LORI JEAN BATZEK, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
[LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:licensing@somervillema.gov)

7/5/23 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, July 17, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of a Wine & Malt 7 Day Restaurant License, Chapter 142, Acts of 2016, Enhancement Area, a Common Victualler License, an Entertainment by Devices Indoors License, and a Sunday Hours License for Haisol, LLC d/b/a Buk Kyung, 9A Union Sq.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar 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 **Monday, July 17, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of a Transfer of an All Forms Package Store License from Bargain Spot Warehouse Liquor Inc. d/b/a Downtown Wine & Spirits at 225-231 Elm St. to Mahantguru Corporation d/b/a Liquor World at 225-231 Elm St. and a Pledge of License and a Pledge of Inventory.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar 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 **Monday, July 17, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Parklet Seating, for Out of the Blue Restaurant Inc. d/b/a Out of the Blue, 215 Elm St.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar 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 **Monday, July 17, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Private Patio Seating, for Thirsty Scholar Barroom LLC d/b/a Thirsty Scholar Pub, 70 Beacon St.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar 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 **Monday, July 17, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Parklet Seating, for Peticos Inc. d/b/a La Posada, 505 Medford St.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar 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 **Monday, July 17, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Parklet Seating, for Annex TW Inc. d/b/a Bronwyn, 255 Washington St.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar 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 GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4587549967141085529>. 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.

LORI JEAN BATZEK, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

7/5/23 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, July 17, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Private Patio Seating, for Olive, Viola, and Will Inc. d/b/a Dragon Pizza, 233 Elm St.

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

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, July 17, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of a Common Victualler License and Entertainment by Devices Indoors License, for Antojitos CG Corporation d/b/a Antojitos, 507 Medford St.

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

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, July 17, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of an Entertainment by Devices Indoors License, for Maprang Inc. d/b/a Maprang Bakery & Cafe, 51 Union Sq.

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

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, July 17, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Sidewalk Seating, for Galwegan Inc. d/b/a The Burren, 247 Elm St.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar 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 **Monday, July 17, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of an Entertainment by Devices Indoors License, Kaizen Corp IV d/b/a Anna's Taqueria, 236 Elm St.

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

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, July 17, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of a Pub Brewery with an All Forms 7 Day Alcohol License Chapter 142, Acts of 2016, Enhancement Area, a Common Victualler License, an Entertainment by Devices and Performers Indoors and Outdoors License, an Outdoor Private Patio and a Sunday Hours License for Remnant Brewing LLC d/b/a Remnant Brewing, 337 Somerville Ave.

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

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Winter Hill Community Innovation School in-

formational meeting

CONT. FROM PG 9

a lot to discuss and that families and the community would continue to be kept up to date on these matters. In addition, he commented that any ongoing updates had been made available to the public at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/alert, and plans for a new project website are soon to come.

The day following this meeting, Wednesday, June 28, the School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee met and discussed the Winter Hill School situation.

Ward 5 City Councilor Beatriz Gomez Mouakad stated that the administration for the City of Somerville is proceeding with the enrollment study and proceeding with everything required not only for the Massachusetts School Building Authority eligibility but also for having a comprehensive strategy for building a new building.

“We don't want to build a building that becomes obsolete the day we do it. Once we are investing in a new building, we need to be able to have a building that responds to district needs overall,” said Gomez Mouakad.



The Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management, Richard Raiche, noted that a senior project manager position into this year's budget and that the city and several different parties have been meeting to ensure whatever happens they are addressing the needs of everyone. Director Raiche stated that the situation has the attention of those at the highest levels, and while they are moving quickly, they want to ensure they are doing everything correctly.

Councilor Gomez Mouakad wanted to comment that the rumors that may have been spreading regarding building sites are unconfirmed as the city is not there yet. At the moment, everyone is gathering data to help

shape the understanding of what requirements need to be met, and then the city will begin looking at site and building options from there, but at the moment, she made it clear that information is still being gathered; therefore, no building site has even been selected yet.

Director Raiche added to this by saying that once the initial planning and data analytics are finished, and we have a better understanding of the scope of the problems, that's the point where they could start the process of community engagement. Director Raiche commented that the city wants to bring all the options and facts to the community once they are all gathered.

Newstalk

CONT. FROM PG 7

and handing out educational materials on heart health. Stop by to get your blood pressure taken, meet with Celeste, and ask her any questions you might have.

The City of Somerville's annual **Somer-MovieFest** returns this year with a series of seven **family-friendly films** being shown in parks around Somerville. Screenings begin at dusk and the next screening will be *Footloose*, **Thursday, July 6**, 8:58 p.m. at Lincoln Park (290 Washington St.).

Enjoy **free outdoor movies**, popcorn, candy, and fun at **The Block at Boynton Yards**, all summer long. **Friday Flicks Outdoor Movie Nights at Boynton Yards** will start at 7:00 p.m. with yard games and fun, followed by candy, popcorn, and movies once the sun sets. Bring a blanket and get ready for a fun-filled evening, **July 14: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles**, **August 11: Raiders of the Lost Ark** and **September 15: The Little Mermaid** (1995 version). Boynton Yards, 110 South Street.

Somerville Public Library offers video game hangouts for teens and tweens (ages 10-18) at the **Central Library**, 79 Highland Ave, all through the summer from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Hangouts will take place **July 10, 17, 24**, and again **August 7 and 21**.

In partnership with **CAAS Community Action Agency of Somerville**, the city is distributing **500 fully subsidized MBTA passes** to low-income Somerville households. This program aims to fill a critical gap for low-income residents who don't qualify for other transit benefit programs. Learn more and apply at: <https://www.caasomerville.org/transit-program-form>. For assistance by phone, call CAAS at 617-599-4185.

As of **Monday, June 26**, contractors will institute an **eastbound traffic detour on Highland Avenue between Central Street and Hamlet Street** to install utilities as part of the ongoing **Spring Hill Sewer Separation project**. For more information, visit: [\[ma.gov/springhillsewer\]\(http://ma.gov/springhillsewer\).

There has been a concerning **shortfall in blood donations** in recent weeks. The **Red Cross** is looking for donors of all blood types, especially those with type B negative or O negative blood as well as platelet donors. By scheduling and keeping appointments right now, donors can help ensure patients relying on blood donations also get to enjoy their summer. To schedule an appointment to donate, download the **Red Cross Blood Donor App**, visit \[RedCrossBlood.org\]\(http://RedCrossBlood.org\) or call 1-800-RED CROSS \(1-800-733-2767\).

Join **Somerville Prevention and Repair the World** at an upcoming **Narcan distribution event**. Each will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. **over four Saturdays in July**. Available resources include Narcan, fentanyl test strips, CPR face shields for rescue breathing, and syringe disposal containers. A brief overdose prevention training will also be available. For a list of places visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/>. Next event is](https://voice.somerville-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

July 8, East Somerville (165 Broadway near Project Soup)

With hot summer days ahead, the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is looking for essential supplies to help keep those without a home safe and cool. Whether it's sunscreen or juice boxes, they have compiled an Amazon wish list with key summer items for clients. If you are interested in donating you can do so through the link provided or by dropping items off at their **Engagement Center** located at **1 Davis Square between Monday and Friday** from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. for lunch). https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2S0DQD-B857065?ref=wl_share&fbclid=IwAR-1ZHXC1YJnbbt36ZicxPnsR7pAEJ4d-P1rODG5sNovyNzGE68py31ENo

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COMMENTARY

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Out of School Time and Summer Programs for Our Kids



By Will Mbah
Candidate for Somerville
City Councilor at Large
willmbah.com

This week, many Somerville kids are starting summer camp and other programs of learning, sports, arts and play. These are among the most valued services that city provides for families and our leaders have properly made commitments to improve their quality and ensure that all kids can take part.

How are the Out of School Time (OST) programs working?

In May the School Committee received an update report on the OST programs, which described how the in-school programs have grown from four in 2018 to nine in 2023 and now engage over 1,800 students at all grade levels. This is 38% of the total of 4,900 students in all grades K through 12. The budget for OST will be \$3,861,000 in FY2024.

Demand from kids and parents is high and the programs cannot enroll all those that apply. For example, the Community Schools program provides the after-school clubs and activities for K-6 students at all the elementary schools. It has grown from 632 participants in 2018 to 706 in 2023 and its capacity will increase to 768 in the fall. But in March 2023, when parents filed applications, all the slots were quickly filled and 110 more eligible students were placed on the waiting list and advised to seek alternatives.

Some other problems have been identified in the School Department on-line survey last winter. Many parents reported having difficulty filling out the enrollment forms, especially parents who are non-English speaking. The time schedules of the afterschool programs do not accommodate the families, whose parents work later hours. Children with disabilities are encountering problems in joining and taking part in after school activities. The school department is also finding it difficult to reach families, who have just moved to Somerville, so their children miss out on opportunities.

What steps is the city now taking to improve and expand OST?

As would be expected, the ideal of matching every child with the best learning experiences outside the classroom is complicated work. Kids have a great variety of interests and the educators and providers offer many learning models and methods to choose from.

Parents need assistance from the schools and the city: (i) to learn about what programs are available, (ii) to help get their children enrolled; (iii) to help meet fees and costs; and (iv) to access support services -- like transportation from school to program and program to home. In order to help parents, the city has organized three administrative units.

First, within the School Department, the office of OST has five professionals, who supervise the outreach and direct the program providers. At each school there is an OST director and assistant, who supervise and coordinate the particular programs.

Second, the office of Somer Promise in the Department of Health and Human Services is a small staff of social services professionals, who work to insure that every child in the city has access to healthcare, education, and social support, matched with his/her needs. This includes opportunities for enrichment and fun. Somer Promise is the connecting point between families and the all the public, private and non-profit programs that are available. The budget for Somer Promise will be \$766,000 for FY 2024.

Third, the website SomervilleHub.org is the primary communications tool for families to get information about the OST programs. The Hub has application forms, enrollment instructions, and forms for parents to request financial assistance and support services.

What are some of the OST programs that kids can join at their schools?

Among the nine programs that are operated in-schools, the El Sistema Music Education has taught 80-85 students each year since 2018, and the Calculus Project has helped 60-70 students with strong interest in math and sciences.

Two new projects that are helping teens to build self-esteem are Becoming a Man (with 137 boys enrolled) and Working on Womanhood (with 58 girls). Soccer without

Borders is another new program, begun last year at the Winter Hill School. Its 59 participants are immigrant children and non-English speakers, who find the familiar activity of soccer as a way to integrate in school and neighborhood life.

The city assists kids to join activities of non-school organizations

The SomervilleHub.org directs parents and kids to dozens of other activities that are run by the Parks and Recreation Department, the libraries, non-profit and for-profit organizations. The city has partnership arrangements with these organizations so that Somerville kids can enroll. For some, the city contracts for a full class or training program at the provider's facility. For others, the city may reserve a certain number places for Somerville students and helps their parents make the arrangements, with low-income families getting reduced fees or vouchers.

Three examples of these away from school programs are the athletics, learning and fun programs of the YMCA, the youth media programs of Somerville Media Center and the afterschool and summer programs at Elizabeth Peabody House. Altogether, the SY23-24 Budget has allocated \$1.9 million to provide the subsidies for Somerville kids to access these programs.

What do we still need to do?

The challenge for the city in the coming year will be how to manage and fund the continuation, improvement and expansion of all of these programs and keep bringing more kids into the activities. Three difficulties can be foreseen: hiring enough staff, finding space, and replacing the funding from COVID Emergency and ARPA accounts, which will finish in FY2025.

Already this year, some of the grant-funded salaries and procurement lines have been shifted into regular city budget lines and stabilization accounts, but a large portion of the total still must be re-organized for future years.

In practical operations, the city will be improving the SomerHub website and the School Department OST communications, in order to allow parents to get better information and more closely monitor access to programs.

For us parents and Somerville citizens, we will need to stay active and be ready to support the work of the city agencies and kids programs.

Free farmers' market coupons return in July CONT. FROM PG 1

than or equal to \$3,041 per month/ \$36,482 per year	July 10 – 9:30-1:30 at SCES, 61 Medford Street, Somerville; sign up required	come, first serve	Mass Ave in Cambridge;	and ask for the Nutrition Department. If the resident cannot come to a distribution site, they can send someone with a proxy form. Contact the SCES Nutrition Department for more information or a proxy form. SCES is an equal opportunity provider.
Income is self-declared, do not bring proof of income	July 11- 11:30-1:00 – 9 New Washington Street, Somerville; first come, first serve	July 13: 9:00-11:00 at SCES, 61 Medford Street, Somerville; sign up required	Booklets must be picked up in person. Identification with proof of address and date of birth is required to receive the coupons.	
Coupon booklets are limited to one per person, while supplies last. Coupons are available on the following dates:	July 12 9:30-12:30 – 167 Holland Street, Somerville; first	July 14 9:00-11:00 at 806 Mass Ave in Cambridge; first come, first serve	To sign up for the SCES coupon distribution email nutrition@elder-care.org or call 617-628-2601	
		July 14: 1:00-3:00 at 2050		

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Upcoming events:

The Mayor's Annual Senior Picnic is back! – Tuesday, August 8th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Trum Field (541 Broadway) - There will be music, lunch and entertainment. To attend please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319 for your free ticket by August 1, 2023.

Blood Pressure Screening - Monday, July 10th from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Celeste Gearhart, RN from the Public Health Nursing Department will be visiting the Holland St. Center to conduct blood pressure screenings. She will be taking blood pressures and handing out educational materials on heart health. Stop by to get your blood pressure taken, meet with Celeste, and ask her any questions you might have.

Sleep Health 101 - Wednesday, July 19th from 11:00am-12:00pm at the Holland Street Center Sleep Health 101 will do anything but put you to sleep! Have you ever wondered how much sleep you should be getting or how you can achieve better quality sleep? Join us at Sleep Health 101. Hosted by The Cambridge Health Alliance. To RSVP, please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or nnaim@somervillema.gov Grab & Go lunch available.

The Retro Polatin Duo – Thursday, July 20th starting at 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. The Petro Polatin Duo is an exciting 50's and 60's band specializing in playing Vintage Rock and Roll and Classic Pop Hits, with soaring vocals and an infectious sense of fun. The duo is made up of a singer and guitarist. They will help us return to our roots, playing music such as "Dream Lover", "Sea Cruise", and "Rock Around the Clock." Lunch will be served after the performance, \$5 per person. Please call Debby Higgins to RSVP at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Intergenerational Game Time with the Mystic Learning Center – Monday, July 31st starting at 11:00 a.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center. Spend some time playing cards, boards game and coloring with students from the Mystic Learning Center. We will have pizza for lunch. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or dhiggins@somervillema.gov

LCR Game Day - Friday, July 21st 10:00 a.m. at the Holland St. Center. LCR-Left Center Right is a fun, fast-paced dice game that you won't be able to put down! Players roll the dice to determine where they pass their chips. The last player with chips is the winner and wins the center pot. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov Grab & Go lunch available.

Farmer's Market Coupons - provided by Somerville Cambridge Elders Services, will be

available for pick up on: Tuesday, July 11th from 11:30am - 1:00pm at the Ralph & Jenny Center Wednesday, July 12th from 9:30am-12:30pm at the Holland St. Center. For more information please call SCES at 617-628-2601.

Lockboxes for Seniors – The Free Lockboxes for Seniors Program is intended to provide Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) access to your residence in the event of an emergency where you are unable to open the door. A key to your residence will be stored in a secure metal storage device, like a realtor's lockbox, at your residence. The access code to the lockbox will only be available to Police, Fire or EMS personnel and used only during an emergency. The program is targeted towards Somerville residents who live alone and are aged 65+, or those who are disabled and/or suffer from major medical issues at any age. Individuals living in apartment complexes or other facilities with maintenance staff are not eligible for this program. For more information, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Bingo – Tuesdays at the Ralph & Jenny Center starting at 10:00 a.m. July 11th, July 18th & July 25th, Lunch available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Bingo – Thursdays at our Holland Street Center starting at 10:00 a.m. July 6th, July 13th & July 27th . Lunch available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Veteran's Group – Meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, July 25th at the Holland Street Center starting at 11:00 a.m. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Tech Open Hours – Mondays, July 10th, July 17th, July 24th & July 31st starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. Bring your phones, computers, and tablets or borrow one from the COA. This is a drop-in style individual help to answer your technology questions and frustrations. RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 781-823-9210 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov

Movie Day – Friday, July 14th , 10:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. This month's film is A Tourist's Guide to Love-After an unexpected breakup, a travel executive accepts an assignment to go under cover and learn about the tourist industry in Vietnam. Along the way, she finds adventure and romance with her Vietnamese expat tour guide. Rated PG. Pizza will be served after the movie; \$2 per person. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@

somervillema.gov

Project Outlook, Low Vision Group – (NEW TIME) Meets the 4th Thursday of each month (July 27th) starting at 2:00 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. Project Outlook is a group of residents with low or no vision who enjoy getting together for camaraderie and socialization. Project Outlook has been active for over 30 years. Come join in the conversation, we look forward to meeting you. Please note day and time changes. For more information, please contact Claudia Ferro at 857-237-1801.

Game Hour – Mondays from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center. July 10th, July 17th & July 24th Please join us as we play a wide variety of board and card games. Please RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov .

Coffee & Conversation – Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – At the Ralph & Jenny Center. This month we are meeting on July 10th, July 17th & July 24th. Join us as we discuss a range of topics. No books – no test – just friendly conversation. Please contact Maureen Bastardi at mabastardi@Somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 to RSVP.

LGBTQIA+ and Allies Social Group – Thursday, July 13th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street in the Atrium. Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month. LGBTQIA+ and allies are welcome. Come and join us for this social gathering. Meet and mingle with new people. Light dinner will be served. RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at mbastardi@Somervillema.gov

Book Club – Meets the 3rd Friday of each month (July 21st) starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland St. Center. Do you love books and want to discuss your love of reading with others? Consider joining Book Club. Group meets in person and concurrently via Zoom. Please RSVP by calling Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov as space is limited.

Music & Munch Program – IN PERSON – Wednesday, July 12th at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. This 45- minute session will treat you to a playlist of diverse musical offerings: a little jazz, some "oldies but goodies," a smidgen of classical, a dip into barbershop, a trip to Broadway. The music is taped but the experience is live. Your guide is Somerville Resident, Laura Zoll, trained as a medieval musicologist and with a life-long love of all things musical. Learn a little, sing-along, relax and enjoy some Music while you Munch. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Somerville passes FY24 budget with major investments in affordability, youth and infrastructure

On June 22, 2023, the Somerville City Council passed the Ballantyne administration's proposed \$337.4 million Fiscal Year 2024 budget, delivering on Mayor Katjana Ballantyne's key investments in city services, programs, and the advancement of community priorities. The budget prioritizes investments in core services such as schools, rodent control, traffic safety, and ADA compliance, as well as in resources needed to advance the community's ambitious goals, from supporting youth, seniors, and vulnerable residents to advancing affordability, taking on infrastructure challenges, developing equity across all functions, and pursuing climate action goals.

A key new innovation funded in the budget includes a number of mobile initiatives that bring services out into the community directly to constituents, including a new Community Health Worker program, funding for a walking Equity Outreach Team, two jail diversion clinicians working in the community, and a social worker at the Somerville Public Library, as well as continued and greater support for two neighborhood-based teen centers.

The final budget passed with minor changes to the mayor's proposal, shared on May 26. Based on City Council resolutions, additional funds were put into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and in the Office of Housing Stability budget, and a new staff position was created to support planning around affordable housing through zoning. The city also amended the proposal during the budget process to add a position to support school infrastructure projects, primarily the Winter Hill and Brown schools.

"This budget charts a course not just for the year ahead, but for long-term progress to improve the lives of all Somerville residents," said Mayor Ballan-

tyne. "We are putting our equity goals into practice, as reflected in our funding priorities and in our collaborative approach to budgeting this year and in the future. I'm grateful to my colleagues on the City Council for their partnership on this budget, their thoughtful questions, and their due diligence on behalf of our community. I'm excited to get this work started."

The FY24 budget was developed through inclusive engagement with the community and City Council. The Administration evaluated all new investments based on four criteria: equity, sustainability, responsive government, and recommendations from the Work Better Task Force, an internal task force aimed at improving the work environment for staff as well as the productivity of the organization to ultimately best serve residents. This systematic review helped to ensure those values are incorporated across departments and investments.

Investing in Our People

The FY24 budget builds on last year's historic 10% increase in the Somerville Public Schools budget with a 7.8% increase for the schools this year, including \$500,000 for out-of-school-time programming by both the schools and the city. It also includes \$240,000 to continue running the city's two teen centers launched in 2022, as well as two new full-time staff positions to support teen center programming and operations.

To better serve Somerville's most vulnerable residents, several investments will bring essential services out of City Hall and into the community. A \$150,000 investment will establish a new Community Health group within Health & Human Services, with initial funding for three community health workers who will work in local neighborhoods to improve health outcomes.

A \$120,000 investment will permanently fund a multilingual walking Equity Support Team within the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs to assist all departments citywide in connecting residents across Somerville to information and services. Funding is also included for two permanent staff positions in the Council on Aging and expanded programming for older adults in technology, health, and wellness. The budget is also complemented by continued ARPA funding to expand on this year's successful overnight warming center for unhoused persons during extreme winter weather.

The FY24 budget also invests in programs and services focused on affordability, particularly for underserved communities and artists. Two new staff positions in the Office of Housing Stability will expand case management and outreach capacity, and a new Housing Counsel legal position will support affordable housing programs and investment. A new Food Access Coordinator will advance food-security initiatives across the city. Arts space to rehearse and produce is also an urgent need. This budget includes funding to open a new dance/movement facility and to permanently fund a Space Coordinator within the Arts Council to help connect artists with space to work, practice, and perform.

Addressing Legacy Infrastructure Challenges

From City buildings and schools to roads and underground systems, Somerville's infrastructure suffers from decades of deferred investment. This budget addresses legacy challenges and prepares for the future by supporting the delivery of healthy, sustainable facilities and expanding systems for proactive maintenance. Among other investments, \$200,000 will support vital Infrastructure and Asset Management systems, to support

both long-term projects and improved maintenance procedures. A new Building Systems Manager will oversee preventative maintenance of all facility and utility systems, refrigeration, HVAC, plumbing, emergency generators, fire protection, and electrical systems. A new Traffic Engineer will expand capacity for roadway reconstruction and safety improvements. This budget also includes \$375,000 for interim paving of the eastern portion of Highland Avenue, one of Somerville's most traveled roadways that has long been in disrepair as the city continues work on the long-term future of the corridor. A new ADA Field Associate will also add technical expertise to oversee Americans with Disabilities Act compliance across the city.

Supporting Climate Action and a Healthy, Resilient Environment

This budget embeds sustainability across services to advance the city's climate action efforts. A new Sustainability Planner will support citywide resiliency and building-decarbonization efforts and co-chair a new Resiliency Task Force. Another \$100,000 is allocated for two climate action feasibility studies. The first will help identify viable sites for a first-of-its-kind pilot project with Eversource to bridge the gap in electric capacity connection between the electric grid and buildings. The second study will identify viable sites for geothermal projects. This budget also funds a new Environmental Health position to support rodent control efforts and biosafety. With the Green Line Extension fully operational, this budget also includes \$500,000 to provide yearlong MBTA passes for all city and schools staff, supporting sustainable, equitable transit. (Further T-pass programs for Somerville Public School students, parents, and guardians, as well as low-income residents, are funded via the schools budget and ARPA.)

Scaling City Services

To deliver on Somerville's ambitious goals and provide excellent core services, this year's budget makes a number of investments in the staffing resources needed to advance this work. A number of new deputy and project management positions will advance critical projects and improve service and program delivery. A critical \$364,000 investment will support a suite of Information Technology upgrades that will increase efficiency. To expand and improve language access and accessibility across city services, increased funding is dedicated to ASL and CART services for public meetings, language and interpretation services, and a new Language Justice Specialist position to advance the city's language justice plan.

Additional Investments

Among other investments, the budget also includes new funding for the following:

- + An Emergency Management Director and Emergency Communications Officer
- + Design of a Miyawaki Forest behind Somerville High School
- + A pilot program to provide free personal sanitary products at city buildings
- + A youth-focused needs assessment
- + A pilot program to offer summer Sunday hours at the Somerville Public Library East Branch
- + A Human Resources Employee Engagement Specialist position
- + Bike lane markings and traffic signal redesign
- + A Senior Traffic Engineer position
- + Adding closed captioning to GovTV and EdTV programming
- + Sensitivity training for city staff
- + Additional capacity within the 311 Constituent Services Center to meet growing demand for service
- + A Senior GIS Manager position

For more information, go to somervillema.gov/fy24budget.

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5			Ribbon-Cutting			Washington			9:00 AM Public Safety For All InfoSeries Session 1 - May 10, 2023		
7:00 AM	Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I		11:00 PM	Juneteenth Flag Raising		9:01 PM	Community Path Extension		9:30 AM	Finance Committee Meeting 6-27-23	
7:35 AM	ECSA Park Ribbon Cutting		FRIDAY, JULY 7			10:00 PM	Independence Day Celebration & Firework 2023		12:00 PM	Juneteenth Flag Raising	
8:00 AM	An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington		12:00 AM	Senior Circuit - Climate Change		11:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis		1:00 PM	An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington	
9:31 AM	Finance Committee Meeting 6-27-23		12:30 AM	Juneteenth Flag Raising		SUNDAY, JULY 9			2:31 PM	Spanish All Ward Spring Community Meeting	
12:00 PM	Community Path Extension		1:30 AM	Ward 1 Spring Community Meeting		12:00 AM	Spanish All Ward Spring Community Meeting		4:30 PM	Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2	
Ribbon-Cutting			5-9-23			2:00 AM	Jane's Walk: Boynton Yards		5:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 6-26-23	
1:00 PM	City Council Meeting 6-22-23		7:00 AM	Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy		7:00 AM	Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2		7:31 PM	Pride Flag Raising 2023	
5:00 PM	Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2		7:30 AM	An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington		7:30 AM	SomerViva - Kreyol		7:50 PM	City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis	
5:30 PM	Haitian Flag Day 2023		9:01 AM	SomerViva - Kreyol		8:00 AM	Pride Flag Raising 2023		8:21 PM	Independence Day Celebration & Firework 2023	
6:00 PM	SomerViva - Kreyol		9:30 AM	Juneteenth Flag Raising		8:30 AM	City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis		10:00 PM	City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo	
6:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis		10:30 AM	ECSA Park Ribbon Cutting		9:00 AM	Community Path Extension		10:30 PM	An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington	
7:00 PM	ECSA Park Ribbon Cutting		11:00 AM	Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony 2023		Ribbon-Cutting			TUESDAY, JULY 11		
7:30 PM	Community Path Extension		12:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting 6-27-23		10:00 AM	Ward 4 Spring Community Meeting		12:01 AM	Driver's License Info Session em	
Ribbon-Cutting			3:30 PM	Driver's License Info Session em		5-16-23			Portugues		
8:30 PM	Independence Day Celebration & Firework 2023		Portugues			12:00 PM	Senior Circuit - Climate Change		1:30 AM	SomerViva - Kreyol	
10:00 PM	Public Safety For All InfoSeries Session 1 - May 10, 2023		5:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis		12:30 PM	Public Safety For All InfoSeries Session 1 - May 10, 2023		2:00 AM	Spring Hill Walking Tour 2023	
10:30 PM	Community Path Extension		6:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 6-26-23		1:00 PM	Ward 5 Spring Community Meeting		7:00 AM	Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy	
Ribbon-Cutting			9:00 PM	Driver's License Info Session em		4-26-23			7:30 AM	COHR and SPD: Discussion Panel	
11:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo		Portugues			3:00 PM	SomerViva - Kreyol		9:00 AM	Community Path Extension	
THURSDAY, JULY 6			11:00 PM	SomerViva - Kreyol		4:00 PM	Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #1		Ribbon-Cutting		
12:00 AM	City Council Meeting 6-22-23		11:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo		4:30 PM	Independence Day Celebration & Firework 2023		10:00 AM	Ward 7 Spring Community Meeting	
6:30 AM	Spanish All Ward Spring Community Meeting		SATURDAY, JULY 8			6:00 PM	Jane's Walk: Boynton Yards		5-18-23		
8:30 AM	City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo		12:00 AM	Public Safety For All InfoSeries Session 1 - May 10, 2023		7:30 PM	Senior Circuit - Climate Change		12:15 PM	ECSA Park Ribbon Cutting	
9:00 AM	Finance Committee of the Whole		12:30 AM	Community Path Extension		8:00 PM	Community Path Extension		12:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis	
6-21-23			Ribbon-Cutting			Ribbon-Cutting			1:00 PM	City Council Meeting 6-22-23	
11:30 AM	City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis		1:30 AM	Finance Committee Meeting 6-27-23		9:00 PM	Driver's License Info Session em		5:00 PM	An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington	
12:00 PM	Senior Circuit - Climate Change		7:00 AM	Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice III		Portugues			6:31 PM	Public Safety For All InfoSeries Session 1 - May 10, 2023	
12:30 PM	Driver's License Info Session em		8:00 AM	Juneteenth Flag Raising		10:35 PM	COHR and SPD: Discussion Panel		7:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 6-26-23	
Portugues			9:00 AM	Public Safety For All InfoSeries Session 1 - May 10, 2023		11:45 PM	SPD Ride Along		9:31 PM	City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo	
2:30 PM	An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington		9:30 AM	SomerViva - Kreyol		MONDAY, JULY 10			10:00 PM	Community Path Extension	
4:01 PM	Independence Day Celebration & Firework 2023		10:00 AM	Ward 2 Spring Community Meeting		12:00 AM	Independence Day Celebration & Firework 2023		Ribbon-Cutting		
5:30 PM	Ward 2 Spring Community Meeting		5-15-23			1:30 AM	Public Safety For All InfoSeries Session 1 - May 10, 2023		11:00 PM	Juneteenth Flag Raising	
5-15-23			12:15 PM	ECSA Park Ribbon Cutting		2:00 AM	An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington		WEDNESDAY, JULY 12		
7:45 PM	ECSA Park Ribbon Cutting		12:30 PM	Community Path Extension		7:00 AM	Independence Day Celebration & Firework 2023		12:00 AM	Senior Circuit - Climate Change	
8:00 PM	An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington		Ribbon-Cutting			8:30 AM	City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis		12:30 AM	Independence Day Celebration & Firework 2023	
9:31 PM	SomerViva - Kreyol		1:30 PM	SomerViva - Kreyol					2:00 AM	Driver's License Info Session em	
10:00 PM	Community Path Extension		2:00 PM	Driver's License Info Session em					Portugues		

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5		11:30 PM Argenziano pre K-4 Spring Concert		7:00 PM El Sistema Somerville June Concert		12:30 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Exhibition	
8:00 AM	ESCS Moving On Ceremony	FRIDAY, JULY 7		7:30 PM	Pride Flag Raising 2023	2:30 PM	Full Circle Graduation
9:30 AM	El Sistema Somerville June Concert	12:00 AM	WSNS K-8 Spring Concert	8:00 PM	SCALE Graduation & Awards Night	4:00 PM	Next Wave Graduation 2023
10:00 AM	SCALE Graduation & Awards Night	1:30 AM	SHS Baseball vs Marblehead	9:02 PM	WHCIS Moving On Ceremony	5:00 PM	Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony
11:02 AM	WHCIS Moving On Ceremony	4:00 AM	Intramural Boys' Basketball	10:05 PM	Intramural Girls' Basketball	6:00 PM	SHS Baseball vs Cambridge
12:04 PM	Pride Flag Raising 2023	Championship		Championship		7:30 PM	SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English
12:30 PM	WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising 2023	5:00 AM	Intramural Girls' Basketball	11:00 PM	Intramural Boys' Basketball	9:00 PM	SHS Softball vs Chelsea 5-25-23
1:21 PM	Intramural Girls' Basketball	Championship		Championship		10:30 PM	SHS Spring Concert & Art Exhibition
2:08 PM	Intramural Boys' Basketball	8:00 AM	SHS Class Day 2023	SUNDAY, JULY 9		TUESDAY, JULY 11	
Championship		9:30 AM	SHS 2023 Graduation	12:00 AM	SHS Chamber Concert	12:30 AM	Full Circle Graduation
3:00 PM	SHS Chamber Concert	11:00 AM	Kennedy 4-8 Spring Concert	1:00 AM	Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony	2:00 AM	Next Wave Graduation 2023
4:00 PM	Healey 5-8 Spring Concert 6-1-23	12:00 PM	SHS Softball vs Chelsea 5-25-23	2:00 AM	Brown School Moving On Ceremony	3:00 AM	Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony
4:30 PM	Kennedy 4-8 Spring Concert	1:30 PM	Spring String Fling	3:00 AM	Kennedy K-3 Spring Concert	8:00 AM	El Sistema Somerville June Concert
5:30 PM	Kennedy K-3 Spring Concert	2:00 PM	SHS Boys' LAX vs Salem	3:30 AM	Argenziano pre K-4 Spring Concert	8:30 AM	WHCIS Moving On Ceremony
6:00 PM	ESCS Moving On Ceremony	3:30 PM	Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony	8:00 AM	SHS Chamber Concert	10:00 AM	Full Circle Graduation
7:30 PM	El Sistema Somerville June Concert	4:25 PM	WSNS Moving On Ceremony	9:00 AM	SHS Spring Concert & Art Exhibition	11:30 AM	Argenziano 5-8 Spring Concert
8:00 PM	SCALE Graduation & Awards Night	5:01 PM	SHS Class Day 2023	11:00 AM	Intramural Boys' Basketball	12:00 PM	SHS 2023 Graduation
9:02 PM	WHCIS Moving On Ceremony	6:30 PM	SHS 2023 Graduation	Championship		1:30 PM	Kennedy K-3 Spring Concert
10:04 PM	WSNS Moving On Ceremony	8:00 PM	Kennedy 4-8 Spring Concert	12:00 PM	Intramural Girls' Basketball	2:00 PM	WHCIS K-3 Spring Concert
11:00 PM	WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising 2023	9:00 PM	SHS Softball vs Chelsea 5-25-23	Championship		2:30 PM	WHCIS Gr 4-8 Spring Concert
THURSDAY, JULY 6		10:30 PM	Spring String Fling	1:00 PM	Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony	3:30 PM	Spring String Fling
12:00 AM	Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony	11:00 PM	SHS Boys' LAX vs Salem	2:00 PM	WSNS Moving On Ceremony	4:00 PM	SHS Boys' LAX vs Salem
1:00 AM	Brown School Moving On Ceremony	SATURDAY, JULY 8		3:00 PM	Brown School Moving On Ceremony	5:30 PM	ESCS Spring Concert
2:00 AM	Healey School Moving On Ceremony	12:30 AM	Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony	4:00 PM	WSNS K-8 Spring Concert	6:30 PM	WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising 2023
8:00 AM	Brown School Moving On Ceremony	1:25 AM	WSNS Moving On Ceremony	5:30 PM	Argenziano 5-8 Spring Concert	7:00 PM	El Sistema Somerville June Concert
9:00 AM	Healey School Moving On Ceremony	8:00 AM	ESCS Moving On Ceremony	6:00 PM	SHS Chamber Concert	7:30 PM	WHCIS Moving On Ceremony
10:00 AM	Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony	9:00 AM	El Sistema Somerville June Concert	7:00 PM	SHS Spring Concert & Art Exhibition	9:00 PM	Full Circle Graduation
11:00 AM	Full Circle Graduation	9:30 AM	Pride Flag Raising 2023	9:00 PM	Intramural Boys' Basketball	10:30 PM	Argenziano 5-8 Spring Concert
12:30 PM	Argenziano pre K-4 Spring Concert	10:00 AM	SCALE Graduation & Awards Night	Championship		11:00 PM	SHS 2023 Graduation
1:00 PM	WSNS K-8 Spring Concert	11:02 AM	WHCIS Moving On Ceremony	10:00 PM	Intramural Girls' Basketball	WEDNESDAY, JULY 12	
2:30 PM	SHS Baseball vs Marblehead	12:05 PM	Intramural Girls' Basketball	Championship		12:30 AM	Kennedy K-3 Spring Concert
5:00 PM	Intramural Boys' Basketball	Championship		11:00 PM	Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony	1:00 AM	WHCIS K-3 Spring Concert
Championship		1:00 PM	Intramural Boys' Basketball	MONDAY, JULY 10		1:30 AM	WHCIS Gr 4-8 Spring Concert
6:00 PM	Intramural Girls' Basketball	Championship		12:00 AM	WSNS Moving On Ceremony	2:30 AM	Spring String Fling
Championship		2:00 PM	SHS Chamber Concert	1:00 AM	Brown School Moving On Ceremony	3:00 AM	SHS Boys' LAX vs Salem
7:00 PM	Brown School Moving On Ceremony	3:00 PM	Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony	2:00 AM	WSNS K-8 Spring Concert	4:30 AM	ESCS Spring Concert
8:00 PM	Healey School Moving On Ceremony	4:00 PM	Brown School Moving On Ceremony	3:30 AM	Argenziano 5-8 Spring Concert	5:30 AM	WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising 2023
9:00 PM	Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony	5:00 PM	Kennedy K-3 Spring Concert	8:00 AM	SHS Baseball vs Cambridge		
10:00 PM	Full Circle Graduation	5:30 PM	Argenziano pre K-4 Spring Concert	9:30 AM	SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English		
		6:00 PM	ESCS Moving On Ceremony	11:00 AM	SHS Softball vs Chelsea 5-25-23		

Somerville's Fourth of July fireworks celebration

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville hosted the annual Fourth of July fireworks celebration at Trum Field on Thursday, June 29. A crowd of all ages enjoyed a night of entertainment by DJ Philip Tan, a live performance by local funk band Midnight Motion followed by a display of fireworks. — Photos by Bobbie Toner



Medford Police investigating assault of woman out for a walk



Medford Police Department is investigating a report that a Medford woman in her 20s was physically assaulted in the area of Main Street and Royall Street while out on an evening walk around 10:45 p.m. on Sunday, July 2. The woman noticed the male suspect first near the intersection of Boston Avenue and College Avenue and realized he was following her. When she made it to the end of Royall Street at Main Street, the man ran up to her, grabbed her from behind and struck her several times. After a brief struggle in which the woman was fighting back and screaming loudly, the suspect fled back down Royall Street toward College Avenue. The woman suffered apparent minor injuries and was transported to the hospital by Armstrong Ambulance.

The suspect is described as a male, 5'8-5'10", 18-30 years old, slim build, medium to dark complexion, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt with white writing, dark jeans and black and white sneakers.

As part of our investigation, we are seeking any surveillance footage from residents or businesses from the Ball Square, Somerville area, Boston Ave and College Avenue to Royall Street at Main Street, Medford.

Medford Police have been and will continue to provide enhanced attention to the area, particularly during the evening and early morning hours. We ask you to be careful when traveling alone at night and stay vigilant of your surroundings. If you notice anything suspicious, please do not hesitate to call 911.

If anyone has any information related to this incident, or can identify the suspect in the photos below, they are encouraged to call the Medford Police at 781-391-6767 or 911 in the event of an emergency. — Medford Police Dept.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Happy garden... — Photo by Denise Provost

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By Bobbygeorge Potaris

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On This Day in History

July 5

- 1776 – The Declaration of Independence is first printed by John Dunlop in Philadelphia.
- 1806 – A Spanish army repels the British during their attempt to retake Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 1814 – U.S. troops under Jacob Brown defeat a superior British force at Chippewa, Canada.
- 1863 – Federal troops occupy Vicksburg, Mississippi and distribute supplies to the citizens.
- 1892 – Andrew Beard is issued a patent for the rotary engine.
- 1940 – The Vichy government breaks off diplomatic relations with Great Britain.
- 1941 – German troops reach the Dnieper River in the Soviet Union.
- 1943 – The Battle of Kursk, the largest tank battle in history, begins.
- 1950 – American forces engage the North Koreans for the first time at Osan, South Korea.

Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"To see a person who's quite, in my perspective, quite visibly dead all of a sudden, in a few moments, sit upright and then with assistance stand up, and then they talk, it's truly incredible. Having it [Naloxone] as readily available as possible is something that we should absolutely guarantee." — *Sen. John Keenan (D-Quincy) at a gathering of legislators, legislative staffers and advocates to learn about how to administer Naloxone, a life-saving medication that reverses overdoses.*

"Our audits serve as a tool for state agencies to help ensure greater transparency, accountability and equity. It is unacceptable that due to a lack of appropriate oversight by MassHealth, nearly \$85 million in overpayments went to managed care organizations for out-of-state residents who were concurrently enrolled in another state's health-care program. Taxpayers deserve better and I strongly urge MassHealth to adopt this audit's recommendations." — *State Auditor Diana DiZoglio after releasing an audit*

that showed that MassHealth did not take sufficient steps to ensure that Medicaid recipients resided in Massachusetts – resulting in MassHealth overpaying \$85 million to managed care organizations for individuals residing out of state.

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 June 26-30, the House met for a total of one hour and four minutes while the Senate met for a total of 49 minutes.

Mon. June 26	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:57 a.m. Senate 11:09 a.m. to 11:53 a.m.
Tues. June 27	No House session No Senate session
Wed. June 28	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. June 29	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:09 a.m. Senate 11:21 a.m. to 11:26 a.m.
Fri. June 30	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com


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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Michael Todd Steffen is the author of two books of poetry, most recently *On Earth As It Is* (Cervena Barva Press, 2022). He is the recipient of a Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship and an Ibbetson Street Press Poetry Award. His poems have appeared in journals including *The Boston Globe*, *Constellations*, *Synchronized Chaos*, *The Lyric*, *The Dark Horse*, and *The Poetry Porch*.



Homelessness

An embarrassment of panda bears wears
black lachrymose eye patches of worry
and weariness on their masked mugs—
little facing up at first
in denial the first phase of grief
over the loss of their home
in the Minshan and Qinling mountain forests.

A troubling of goldfish swishes
to a frenzied thrashing on the small mirror
of the surface of the murky
fishbowl they have made of their world
in anger the second phase of grief
over their inability ever to possess
an idea of home. So as homelessness sets in

a bloat of hippopotamuses muses
vaguely in the waking sky over the river

where a raft of otters ought to
but they don't—
webbed in their reaches
to swim, these virtual players
curious with a stone held like a cell phone
in a laid-back pose
of bargaining—the fourth step of grief.

Recently, I caught up with writer Shir Lovett-Graff, a new Somerville resident who is attending Harvard Divinity School.

Lovett-Graff is a writer, community organizer, and divinity school student based in Somerville, MA. Originally from New Haven, CT, their work has been published in numerous literary magazines and journals, most recently in *EcoTheo Review*, *West Trestle Review*, and *The Bangalore Review*. They are currently working on a chapbook about trans erotic poetics and climate change.

Doug Holder: How has it been for you as a writer in Somerville? I know you are from New Haven—is it a different atmosphere there?

Shir Lovett-Graff My growth as a writer has taken place primarily in the literary communities of Philadelphia and New Haven – I attended short story reading series, helped found a literary journal, and co-led spiritual writing workshops. My father is a book editor, and my mother is a public librarian, so I grew up immersed in libraries and literary arts. As a new resident of Somerville, I am searching for a writing community that engages generative practice, diverse voices, and cross-genre collaboration. This summer, I am looking forward to exploring local readings at The Press Room @ Oxford Street, the Grolier Poetry Book Shop, and Cantab Lounge.

DH: You are very much steeped in the Jewish tradition. Does your writing address things that might need to change in Jewish ritual, etc., or shed light on assumptions we make about Jewish practice?

SLG: Yes, to all the above. My work contains love letters, open criticisms, and self-deprecating satire directed towards traditional Jewish practice, political ideologies, and cultural norms. I use poetry as a space to play with radical imagination, whether through creating visions of anti-assimilationist Jewish practice or drawing beauty out of centuries of grief and trauma. I am drawn to the idea of translating the untranslatable and writing the impossible. I write as a spiritual practice, and is one of the ways



I express, grapple with, and devote myself to a relationship with divinity and ancestry.

DH: Why did you decide to continue your studies at Harvard Divinity?

SLG: I initially entered the Master of Theological Studies program at Harvard Divinity School to study religion and politics in a multifaith environment. My interests lie at the intersection of conflict transformation and spiritual care, and over the past two years I have been fortunate to study queer liberation theology, multifaith chaplaincy, decolonial theory and civil resistance.

I could not have anticipated that creative writing would play a part in my studies, but to my surprise, I found poetry woven through my essays and readings. I wrote final papers about decolonial Palestinian poetry, explored queer poetics and liberation theology, and have found a community of artists trying to figure out how writing and faith intersect.

DH: In your bio it states that you are a community activist – how does that play out? *Continued on page 23*

The bloat of hippos goes on posing.

A flamboyance of flamingos in a key marsh?
A mischief of mice in the walls?

I never thought of this
grumbles one final flicker

from an aurora of polar bears
adrift on a receding ice floe
into a noble streak across the sky with its echo—
I just never thought of this as anything else
but my home.

— Michael Todd Steffen

GLX Community Path ribbon cutting ceremony

On Wednesday, June 28 a ribbon cutting ceremony took place to celebrate the recently opened GLX Community Path Extension. The celebration included Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, representatives from MassDOT and the MBTA, state and city elected officials, past and present and local Community Path advocates.

— Photos by Bobbie Toner and Denise Provost



Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

Have any of your efforts been in Somerville?

SLG: My core organizing work supports incarcerated people across the U.S. and Canada with Jewish resources and penpal connections. Although we work remotely across two countries and seven states, it has

been beautiful to connect with Massachusetts-based organizers and activists since moving here. I also run a project collecting oral histories from prison chaplains, and in the next iteration, I hope to interview prison chaplains in the Boston area.

DH: Why should we read your work?

SLG: One of the things I find most surprising about myself as a writer is that I am funny. I use humor (and eroticism) as tools to grapple with concepts – climate change, antisemitism, and settler colonialism – I find heartbreaking and heavy. I cannot say whether you should read my work, but I

think – I hope – my work serves as a balm to despair and a reminder that creative expression is our blueprint for creating a better world.

For more info: <https://www.shoshanalovertgraff.com/publications>



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