



**Inside:**



**Let's all go to the drive-in**  
page 3

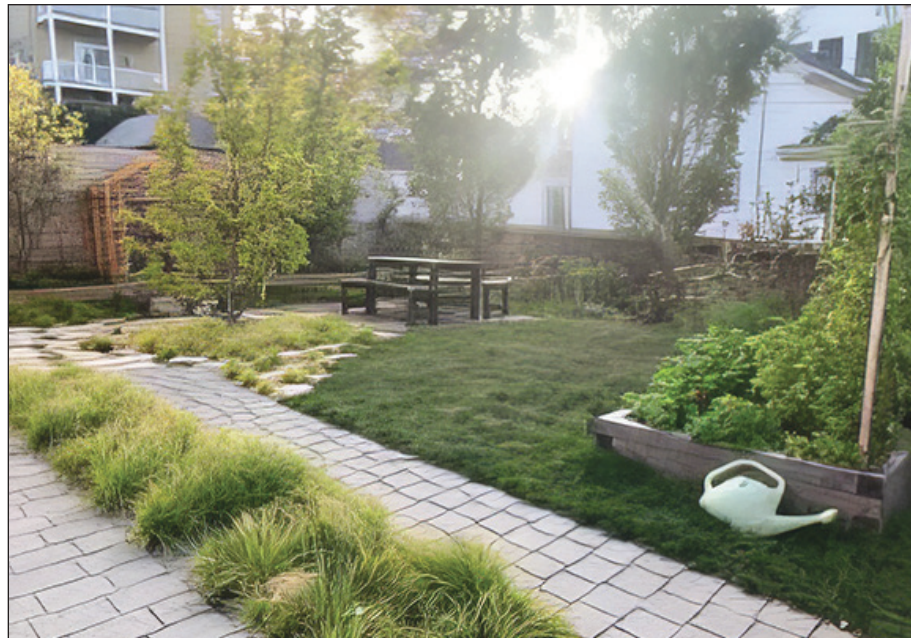


**Happy birthday, Doug!**  
page 9



**Annual fireworks celebration**  
pages 16 – 17

## Trading pavement for plants



The city is offering funds for residents to help cool their outdoor spaces by replacing hard surfaces with plants.

The City of Somerville's Sustainability and Environment Division (SED) is now accepting applications for Cooling East Somerville, offering eligible East Somerville residents up to \$5,000 to remove pavement from their property and replace it with shade trees, plants, and other cooling landscape improvements.

"Extreme heat is not just uncomfortable. It's a real public health risk, and we know that heavily paved areas feel that risk more intensely," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "This program gives East Somerville residents a practical way to cool their homes and yards, add more greenery, and help make the neighborhood more resilient summer by summer."

**How the Program Works**

East Somerville residents with a paved driveway, paved yard, or similar paved area on their property are encouraged to reach out to the city to apply for the program and schedule an *Continued on page 4*

## Pride Month signs off with the Big Gay Dance Party

By Christa Lee

Pride Month went out with a bang at the Big Gay Dance Party the last week of June in Union Square Plaza. It was free and included vendors, a live DJ, drag performers, and plenty of dancing, with an extra hour added this year.

"It's a party where we want to celebrate the LGBTQ community," said Iaritza Menjivar, senior events manager of the Somerville Arts and Culture Division. The theme was "Gender Euphoria," where the public was encouraged "to come dressed as whatever felt the most like them."

Drag artists Amanda Playwith and Andi van Dyke performed at the event. "It's honestly one of my favorite pride events to do," said drag queen Amanda Playwith, who has been *Continued on page 4*



Union Square Plaza set the scene for the 2026 edition of the Big Gay Dance Party.

— Photos by Megan Senturk

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

All community members are invited to celebrate **Disability Pride Month** in Somerville this July with free, accessible events for all ages. Join the **Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities, community members, the mayor, city councilors, and elected officials** to raise the **Disability Pride flag** at **City Hall** in recognition of Disability Pride Month. **Thursday, July 9, 4 – 5 p.m.** (rain date **Thursday, July 16, 4 p.m.**), **City Hall Concourse, 93 Highland Ave.**

\*\*\*\*\*








The **World Cup** delivers a once-in-a-lifetime soundtrack: roaring anthems, jubilant cheers, and plenty of music. Inspired by the energy of the ongoing tournament, Somerville invites all to **Global Grooves: Rhythms of the Game**, a celebration of music, culture, and community, on **Saturday, July 11**, from 12 to 4 p.m., on the **City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave.)**. Rain date is **Sunday, July 12**. For a full line-up, visit [www.somervilleartscouncil.org/events/global-grooves](http://www.somervilleartscouncil.org/events/global-grooves).

\*\*\*\*\*

Celebrating their birthdays this week: A very Happy birthday to lifelong resident and former mayor, **Gene Brune**. We wish him the very best. He is an amazing person. We wish him many more birthdays to come. We wish all our Facebook friends, such as **Charles Zammuto, Barbara Passero, David Figueiredo, William Tauro, Rebecca McLaughlin, Tom Fitzgerald, Linda Sauer McSorley, and Janeen Mobilia Dowling**, a very happy *Continued on page 7*

## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of July 8 – July 14 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> July 8	Sunny	82°/66°	14%	3%	ENE 8 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> July 9	Partly Cloudy	90°/71°	6%	2%	SW 11 mph
 <b>Friday</b> July 10	Thunderstorms	85°/67°	70%	51%	W 10 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> July 11	Sunny	80°/65°	12%	4%	NE 9 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> July 12	Partly Cloudy	84°/67°	19%	6%	ENE 9 mph
 <b>Monday</b> July 13	Partly Cloudy	86°/68°	22%	11%	SW 10 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> July 14	Partly Cloudy	87°/70°	25%	9%	W 13 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: *The bulldozers are coming – and your city invited them*

Real Somerville says:

Author is a complete moron NIMBY, one of way too many. If you don't want to live in a city then move and let the rest of us do what we want with our property.

Bill White says:

Hello "Real Somerville" Anyone using the term NIMBY is, I am sure, not a true Somerville resident as I envision the term. I suspect you grew up in some pampered community, living in your parents basement playing video games. I suspect that you have no understanding of the value of community and the impact of gentrification. Instead, you derive meaning for your life through virtue signaling, based on your claptrap understanding of economics with no background in elementary land use principles. I am sure you never walked a picket line with union members, volunteered for civil rights causes or did any work for any civic or social organization to help folks. Be that as it may, I look forward to a public debate on this issue with those of your ilk. I will not, however, post anymore in response to anonymous buffoonery.

Christopher Beland says:

As I was riding my bike around Somerville today, I noticed that we actually already have 6-foot alleys between some of our residential buildings, which seem to have been there decades if not more than a century. They are a lot less common than full driveways, but the near sides of those houses seem like a good place to put rooms that don't need windows – stairwells, bathrooms, and TV rooms – or bedrooms that want fresh air but not direct sun. It's a bit odd that people think this practice has suddenly become a source of moral indignation and economic ruin.

Log onto [TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://TheSomervilleTimes.com) to leave your own comments

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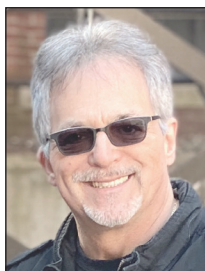
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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

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

# Let's all go to the drive-in



I felt the need to go back and talk about the drive-in theaters that were such a big part of our childhoods. I did a story back in 2008, so I figured I'd toss the subject out there again, seeing how the summer is winding down. So put on your PJs and let's hit the drive-in!

In 1972, there were 83 operating drive-ins in Massachusetts. The ones nearest to us here in Somerville were: Fresh Pond, Suffolk Downs, Saugus, Revere, Neponset, and, of course, the two in Medford.

One was The Meadow Glen Twin, and the other was The Wellington. I don't think I have to tell you what now stands on the sites of these two iconic entertainment centers. Some (not me) snuck in six packs of Schlitz. The concession stand sold "rubber hot dogs and greasy egg rolls." There was something special about the popcorn that was sold at the drive-in. I re-

member Dad picking kernels off the seats for days after our drive-in outing. I recall a large trough in the restroom.

The best memories were when the whole family piled into the big old 53 Chevy and headed out for a night at the drive-in movies.

Some of the movies we saw at the drive-in were classics! *The Blob*, *007*, *It's A Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World*, *A Hard Day's Night*, *Grease*, *Goldfinger*, *Zebra in the Kitchen*, *Night of the Living Dead*, *Bride of Frankenstein*, *The Birds*, *The Warriors*, *Towering Inferno*, *Blazing Saddles*, *Monty Python and The Holy Grail*, and *The Love Bug*.

We went over to the Big S restaurant to get onion rings and fries before hitting the drive-in because theirs were tastier (and cheaper). Speaking of cheap, remember having three kids in the front, four in the back, and three in the trunk? That was in later years when we had our driver's licenses.

How about that bumpy ride over those little hills, trying to find the right spot with



a speaker that worked? How many times did those big old clunky speakers scratch the car window? We were all glad when the sound system changed to a spot on the AM radio dial.

Someone said they once got twelve people in an old Ford Galaxy 500! Ah, those wonderful old bench seats! Sometimes we would end up at the drive-in after a day at Revere Beach riding the amusements. Talk about a day made in heaven.

In our younger days, Mom and Dad let us watch the first kids' feature, and then we would go to sleep in the back seat. I remember how big of a deal it was when it was drive-in night with the family. It was a part of Americana that will never be repeated. I feel lucky to have so many great memories.

What happened at the drive-in stayed at the drive-in. Don't forget the lounge chairs, the cooler, and the bug spray.

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## Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

**Q: If someone gives me money as a gift, do I have to pay income tax on it?**

**A:** Generally, no.

One of the most common tax misconceptions is that receiving money as a gift automatically creates taxable income. In most cases, it doesn't.

Here are a few important points:

♦ **Gifts are generally not earned income.**

Because a true gift isn't payment for work or services, the recipient generally does not owe federal income tax simply because they received it.

♦ **The same principle generally applies to**

**inheritances.**

Money or property inherited from a family member or friend is also generally not taxable income to the recipient, although other tax rules may apply in certain situations.

♦ **Not every payment is a gift.**

If money is received because you performed work, provided services, or met certain requirements, it is generally not treated as a gift and may be taxable. In other words, what matters isn't what the payment is called—it's why you received it.

**Bottom Line:**

If someone gives you money simply out of generosity—for example, for a birthday, wedding, graduation, or to help during

a difficult time—the recipient generally does not owe federal income tax on that gift. Questions about whether the person giving the gift has any reporting requirements are a separate issue and will be the subject of a future Money Map Tip.

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

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



## Trading pavement for plants CONT. FROM PG 1

initial site visit.

If a property is eligible and conditionally accepted, Green & Open Somerville will work with the resident to remove the pavement. Green and Open Somerville will coordinate volunteers, dumpster permits and fees, and food for volunteers. Residents will then work with City staff to decide what to plant in the new garden area. After planting, residents may receive reimbursement for eligible garden costs, up to \$5,000.

Go to [voice.somervillema.gov/cooling-east-somerville](http://voice.somervillema.gov/cooling-east-somerville) to learn more and apply. Interested residents can also contact Elyse Belarge at [ebelarge@somervillema.gov](mailto:ebelarge@somervillema.gov) or 781-823-9332.

**About the Cooling East Somerville Project**

Paved surfaces like concrete and asphalt

can be up to 10 degrees Fahrenheit hotter than nearby unpaved, vegetated areas. Removing pavement and adding trees and plants can help provide shade, reduce heat around homes, improve air quality, support birds and pollinators, and create more attractive outdoor space. Through the Cooling East Somerville project, SED is helping residents reduce heat on their properties, create more usable green space, and support a cooler, healthier neighborhood.

Cooling East Somerville is funded by the Barr Foundation and led by Cambridge Health Alliance, CultureHouse, and the City of Somerville. The program uses a multi-tiered approach to address heat risks at the individual, community, and built environment levels so residents can stay safer during summer heat.



## Pride Month signs off with the Big Gay Dance Party CONT. FROM PG 1

performing at Big Gay Dance Party since its start about ten years ago. She works together with Menjivar months in advance and has a personal connection to it. When asked about what makes this event unique, she said, "I was born and raised in Somerville and still live in Somerville. To me, the place I grew up is celebrating the person that I am."

For those who missed it, she performed a *This is Me/Born This Way* medley and a *Mamma Mia* mix. Andi van Dyke, a drag king for four years, performed *Holding Out for a Hero* and *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

"It was so wonderful to get to perform for people of all ages," said Andi van Dyke.

"Especially when you see little kids lighting up and coming up and talking to you, or their parents trying to get pictures with the two of you because their kid is queer and they haven't interacted with a queer person who's wearing as much makeup as we are."

Fifteen vendors set up shop, including businesses such as Reimagym and Fairly Reckless. "What we hope is that this event is also a place for LGBTQ based communities to be able to showcase what they offer to the community," said Menjivar. The event wasn't as big as it is now when it first started. At the time, there were only a few vendors, and it ran for a shorter pe-

riod of time. "We were lucky if we got like 50 people," said Amanda Playwith. "And it was family and friends that I knew, or the people who were running it were inviting people. And every year it just grows and grows."

Menjivar hopes the Big Gay Dance Party "continues to support the LGBTQ community" and to make it more community-run by including more partners and input. It just needs more funding.

"There's a lot of hatred in the world and people who are against drag," said Amanda Playwith. "We just want to entertain everyone and let people forget about what's going on in the world for 5 minutes."



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# 2nd Middlesex State Senate candidates forum

Several community groups will jointly host a multi-community forum for the 2nd Middlesex State Senate candidates on July 16, from 7 to 9 p.m., at Somerville High School, 81 Highland Ave. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

This public forum is designed to inform the citizens of Cambridge, Medford, Somerville, and Winchester about the vision and policies of the five candidates running for the seat being vacated by Sen. Pat Jehlen. The event will give residents, businesses and community groups the opportunity to review each candidate's platform, submit questions in advance to moderators, and hear insights into local and national issues before the primary vote in September.

The forum features all five candidates: Burhan Azeem of Cambridge, Christine Barber of Somerville, Tom Hopcroft of Winchester, Matt McLaughlin of Somerville, and Erika Uytterhoeven of Somerville. Each candidate will deliver a short opening presentation and closing remarks. Moderators will ask questions submitted pre-forum by community groups, residents, and businesses.

Community members from all four municipalities are encouraged to attend. To submit a question in advance and register for the event for either an in-person or virtual event, attendees can fill out the forms on the Neighbors in Action Forum Page: <https://www.neighbors-in-action.org/forum> or the Union Square Neighborhood Council Forum Page: <https://sites.google.com/view/usnc/middlesex-second-forum>.

"We are committed to providing residents within the 2nd Middlesex area with information so they can make an informed decision when voting in the upcoming primary," said two of the organizers, Emily Baillieul of the Union Square Neighbors Council and Cheryl Hirshman of Neighbors in Action in a joint statement. "This multi-community forum is an essential opportunity for residents to hear the various perspectives of

the candidates and to ensure that voices within the community are heard."

The hosting organizations represent a diverse collection of community members sharing a common goal of an inclusive and thriving district: Neighbors in Action, Union Square Neighborhood Council, Gilman Square Neighborhood Council, Davis Square Neighborhood Council, Somerville Community Corporation, Somerville Stands Together, and the Somerville Community Land Trust.

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middlesex-second-forum.

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## COMMENTARY

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## Affordability Builds Community



By **Matthew McLaughlin**  
Ward 1 City Councilor

The house my grandmother bought in 1948 is still there on Spencer Ave in Somerville. Back then, a single mother with a union job at the Hostess Cupcake factory earned enough to buy a home and raise three kids, not far from Davis Square. She had an extra apartment, a garden in the yard, and all of her needs were a short walk away.

But when it came time for my wife and me to find our own place in Somerville, we could only dream of a home. We kept getting beaten out by speculators paying above market in all-cash deals. We looked at housing that should have been condemned, but even that was out of reach. The experience became so emotionally draining that I gave up on my dream. I told my wife to keep searching if she likes, but don't tell me about it. But my community matters to me. This is my home. It's where I was raised, and it's where I want to raise my son.

Then, one day, she pulled out a bottle of champagne to celebrate our purchase: a one-floor condo with a view of I-93, the Encore casino, and the Everett smokestacks from our rotting back porch.

It was one of the happiest days of my life.

But this isn't a story about houses, it's about community. People talk about the olden days when "times were tough, but you could always count on your neighbor for a cup of sugar." We had that. People outside mocked us as "Slummerville," but rent was low, home ownership was possible, and your neighbors were family. My father died when I was 12, and my grandmother's house became our safety net, catching my mother and four siblings. That house is the only reason we remained in the city. It's also one of the reasons we are all still alive and did not go down the same path as many of our peers.

All of my siblings dedicated their lives to public service, but none can afford to live here. It's their hometown, but not their home. They all live close by, but being forced outside of their community while still serving it is heartbreaking.

The same is true of my childhood friends; they all moved long ago. I made new friends, but they also got pushed out. Over the years, I lived in six dif-

ferent apartments, all in Somerville. I slept on couches. I rented four-bedroom boxes with strangers. I really should have left a long time ago for my own financial well-being, but I refuse to be forced out.

Despite these hardships, I feel fortunate. I achieved my dream. Others are not so lucky. From Medford to Montana, Americans find owning or renting homes to be the primary financial burden in their lives. The average Boston-area renter spends nearly half their income on rent. Smart Asset reports that a family of four needs \$301,184 [1] per year to live comfortably in Massachusetts, the highest cost in the nation. The cost increases to \$352,000 for the Boston area.

People with good jobs and bright futures don't even consider owning a home or having a family. As one resident told me "I'm just starting my career in Mass, and by the look of things I'm going to have to win the lottery in the next ten years if I have any hope of raising a family around here."

Most people I know have given up on living here, regardless of how successful they've been. Some friends moved from place to place, never unpacking their boxes. This uncertainty led to others giving in to despair, becoming victims of crime and the opioid epidemic. I stopped counting the number of people

I personally know who succumbed to addiction long ago. When I got out of the Army in 2008, Massachusetts lost more people to substance abuse than all US casualties in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan combined. The problem has only gotten worse since then. I regularly see familiar faces living on the street, begging for change, still reminiscing about the way things used to be.

That's why one out of three Massachusetts residents [2] considers leaving the state entirely. This loss of people is a loss of income, talent, and tax base. If that isn't enough to concern the political establishment, the loss of representation in Congress should shock them to attention. Massachusetts has lost three House seats since 1980 due to slow population growth. Fewer voices in Congress means less federal support when we need it.

But more importantly, for those of us still here, it's a loss of community.

Everyone is aware of the problem, but the battle over solutions has mired us in inactivity. Monied interests fight with community groups, and community groups fight with themselves. Meanwhile the government's response is tepid. The inaction has reached a breaking point: voters are now floating a ballot question demanding rent control, some-

thing considered a non-starter decades ago.

The problem seems insurmountable, but ultimately, we made it, and we can unmake it. No single problem caused this crisis, and no single solution will get us out of it. Our elected officials need the courage to put everything on the table.

We need both market-driven solutions and tenant protections. We need to allow more housing to be built and protect the current residents from profiteers. We need to expand social housing solutions that promise affordable housing for everyone. Most of all, we need money. We need our government to make the most basic human need, shelter, a priority.

This is all possible and all within reach, not just for Somerville, but for all of Massachusetts. It's up to the voters to decide that the problem is important enough to solve.

### Links:

[1] <https://smartasset.com/data-studies/state-salary-living-comfortably-2025>

[2] <https://massopportunity.org/content/blog/fact-check-boston-globe-poll-finds-high-costs-are-driving-residents-out/>

*Matt McLaughlin is a City Councilor in Somerville and a candidate for State Senate in the Second Middlesex district.*

## Somerville DPW to launch MassDEP Recycling IQ Program

Beginning the week of July 6, Mayor's Summer Jobs Program interns and Public Works staff are bringing MassDEP's Recycling IQ program to Somerville. We will be conducting recycle bin checks in neighborhoods across the city to identify common recycling mistakes and share information with residents on proper disposal.

Items not allowed in recycling bins include: plastic bags or wraps (including plastic bagged recyclables), clothing and linens, tangles (i.e. cords, hoses, or electronics), hazardous or big items (i.e. wood, metal, styrofoam, batteries, or sharps), and food or liquids.

Bundled cardboard not in a cart will no longer be picked up for Business-Category City Recycling Recipients. This includes commercial establishments, nonprofit establishments, or residential buildings with 7 and more units.

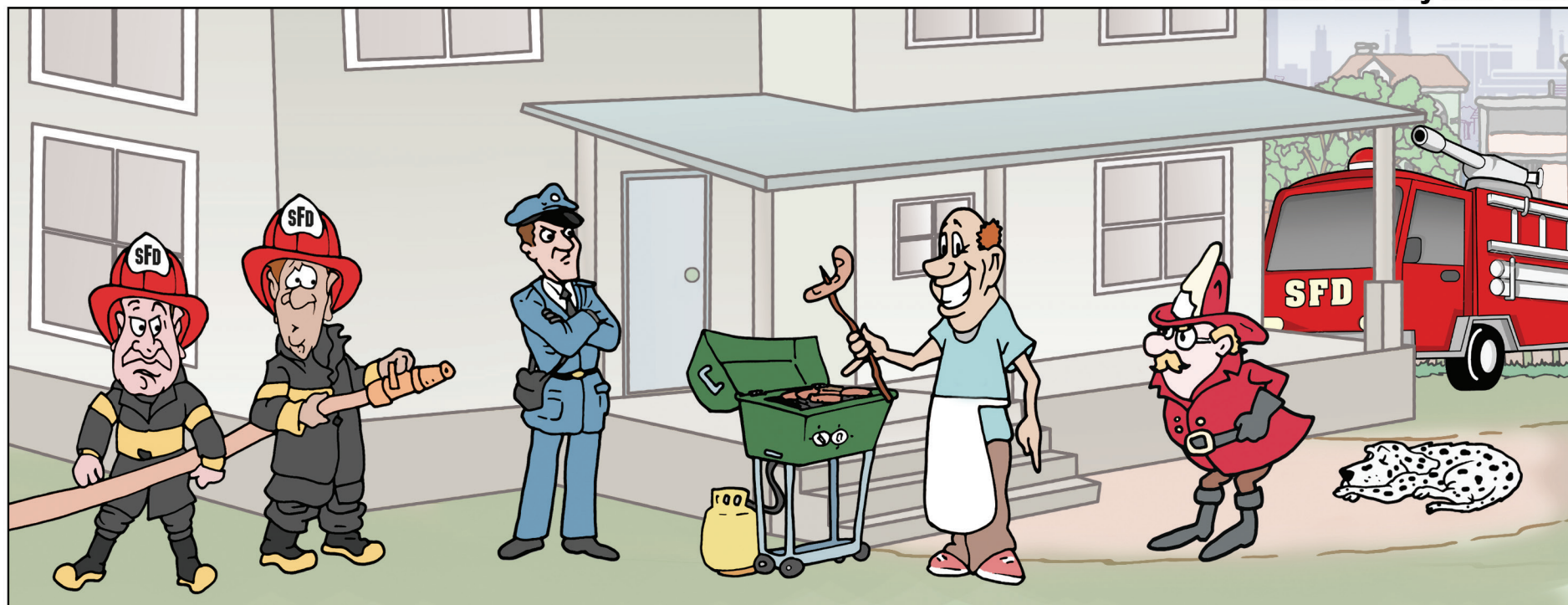
For recycling tips and information, visit [somervillema.gov/recycling](http://somervillema.gov/recycling).



# COMMENTARY

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Let's all be careful with that outdoor grilling.

## Our View Of The Times



Summertime is a great time for outdoor gatherings and celebrations. Part of the fun is indulging in the pleasures of grilling and sharing good food and drink with family and friends.

But certain safety measures must be followed to make sure that these grand epicurean hoedowns don't end in catastrophic property – and personal – damage caused by fire gone out of control.

It is important to remember that charcoal, wood, electric, and propane grills are not allowed on porches, balconies, fire escapes, or roofs. Also, propane tanks are not allowed to be stored in or on any residential building at any time.

Fire control professionals advise us that grills should be kept clean to prevent grease fires. Grilling should be done on ground level, ten feet away from any com-

bustible walls or structures, and it should not be used under any overhangs.

And it goes without saying that a grill should never be left burning unattended.

Also, outdoor fireplaces, fire pits, and chimineas are prohibited in the City of Somerville, which is a densely populated city with an older housing stock predominantly constructed of wood-frame dwellings that are built closely together.

With this density of houses, it is imperative that all outside burning and fires are prohibited to prevent fires from starting and spreading to multiple houses. All fires used for cooking should be on a charcoal briquette grill or a propane gas grill.

It's very easy to do this safely without losing any of the enjoyment of cooking those burgers, hot dogs, and ears of corn, making summertime the yummiest time.

### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

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

\*\*\*\*\*

The city's annual **SomerMovie Fest** is set to return, bringing you exciting evenings of family-friendly films to be shown in parks around Somerville this summer. The first free movie screening (*Minecraft Movie*) will be held on **Thursday, July 9**, at the **Lincoln Park softball field** (290 Washington St.). The approximate start time is 8:30 p.m. Get the full schedule. For more information, please visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/moviefest>

est. Persons with disabilities who need ADA accommodations to access this program, please contact [ada@somervillema.gov](mailto:ada@somervillema.gov) or call 311 (617-666-3311).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Aspiring gardeners** of all ages are invited to workshops led by **Green City Growers**. Learn when and what to plant and how to maintain, fertilize, and harvest successful crops. This event will take place on **Saturday, July 11**, at **Central Library** (79 Highland Ave.) from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Learn more and register: <https://somervillepubliclibrary.org/> Additional workshop dates can be found on the SPL calendar.

\*\*\*\*\*

Take a survey on **Bilingual Education in Somerville**. **Somerville Public Schools (SPS)** is gathering information to better understand community perspectives on bilingual education opportunities. All families with children currently enrolled or with the potential to enroll in SPS are invited to take a brief, 10-question survey, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F76SD5N>. The data gathered is for informational purposes only and will help inform future planning. All responses are voluntary and confidential.

\*\*\*\*\*

Several community groups will joint-

ly host a **multi-community forum** for the **2nd Middlesex State Senate candidates** on **July 16**, from 7 to 9 p.m., at **Somerville High School**, 81 Highland Ave. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. The forum features all five candidates: **Burhan Azeem** of Cambridge, **Christine Barber** of Somerville, **Tom Hopcroft** of Winchester, **Matt McLaughlin** of Somerville, and **Erika Uyterhoeven** of Somerville. Each candidate will deliver A short opening presentation and closing remarks. Moderators will ask questions submitted pre-forum by community groups, residents, and businesses. Community members from all four *Continued on page 21*

# FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

# Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#1030

1. What is the oldest still-commissioned warship in the world still afloat?
2. When did the USS Constitution first sail?
3. Which notorious pirate was the captain of the ship called "Queen Anne's Revenge"?
4. What is the oldest existing lighthouse in the world?
5. Which shipwreck was discovered off the coast of North Carolina in 1996?
6. Who is the American author of the novel *Life on the Mississippi*?
7. What Broadway musical was centered around gamblers and illegal crap games?
8. What *Happy Days* character had a phobia of eating liver?
9. What does a milliner do?
10. What nut is used to make Texas Pralines?
11. Who had the 80's hit song *Hip to be Square*?
12. What kind of waterspouts move over water, or move from land to water?

Answers on page 14

## The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts.
2. The inventor of Pringles is buried in a Pringles can.

### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

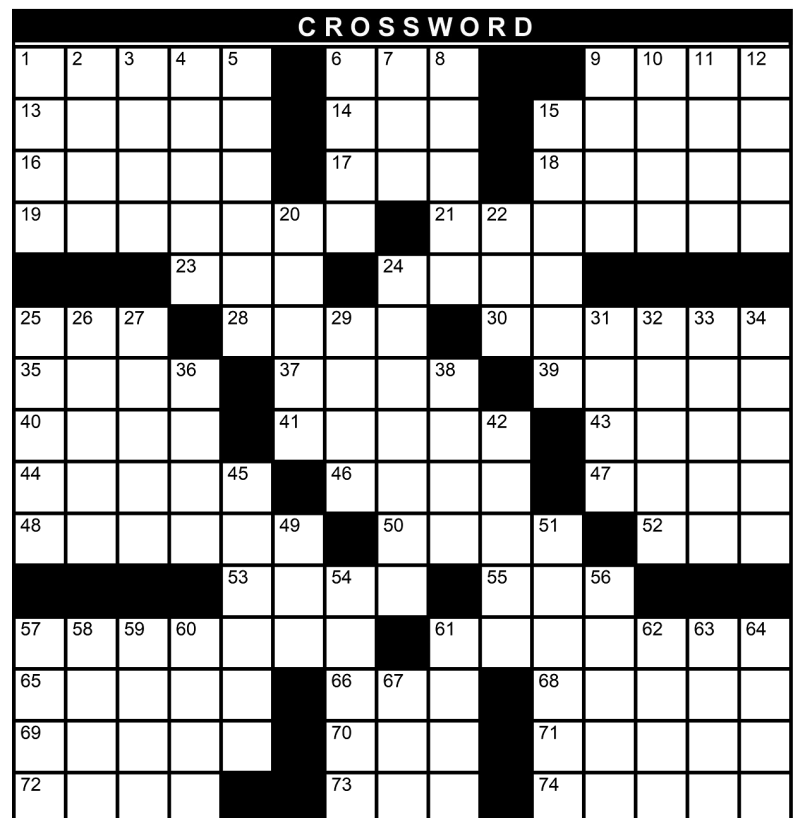
ROM-COMS

#### ACROSS

1. Anti-seniors sentiment
6. Ingested
9. "Lights out" tune
13. "Sweet" villa (2025)
14. Leo, in Moscow
15. Mood disorder
16. Blooming bulb
17. It happened on how many nights? (1934)
18. Follow up on (2 words)
19. Sleepless where? (1993)
21. Certain London Hill (1999)
23. " \_\_\_\_ Te Ching"
24. Future J.D.'s hurdle, acr.
25. Chips accompaniment
28. Tibetan monk
30. Celebrity
35. Please do not delay, acr.
37. S.A.T. section
39. Polynesian island country
40. Scarlet O'Hara's home
41. Singing femme fatale
43. Rig or truck
44. Artist's support
46. Italian money, 1861-2002
47. Petri dish gel
48. Like a longer route?
50. \_\_\_\_ Scotia
52. RNs' org.
53. Morally reprehensible
55. Ensign, for short
57. Not a wedding (1994)
61. They were reaping benefits (2011)
65. Silly
66. Gone by
68. Generational divide
69. Oodles
70. Each one for himself?
71. Ouzo flavor
72. A whole lot
73. Pertinent
74. Not rights

#### DOWN

1. Without further \_\_\_\_, pl.
2. Departed
3. Hip bones
4. Actor Foley of #13 Across
5. Kind of block
6. Healing gel producing plant
7. How many days to lose a guy? (2003)
8. 0 and 2, e.g.
9. Diplomat's forte
10. \_\_\_\_-perspirant
11. One quark plus one antiquark
12. Spilled the beans
15. Dull surfaces
20. Fertile topsoil, pl.
22. Boat propeller
24. Army bathroom
25. Fifty of these, to jog her memory (2004)
26. Newton of science
27. Dissect
29. AOL delivery (1998)
31. Org. with a mission
32. Last letter, to Homer
33. Pretty one (1990)
34. Nigerian money
36. Part of a hammerhead
38. Villain's rival
42. When has she been kissed? (1999)
45. Books, in Paris
49. Langley, VA org.
51. Fauna member
54. Peruvian beast of burden
56. Rive Droite and Rive Gauche separator
57. Hand-to-hand combat weapon
58. Unconstitutional and uncommon have it in common
59. Indian flatbread
60. Odds' partners
61. Arial, e.g.
62. Naive, alt. spelling
63. Olden days "do", second person singular
64. Files suit
67. Fall into it



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### Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

## Happy birthday, Doug!



The Somerville Times Arts Editor Doug Holder and friends at his birthday party.

— Photo by Bobbie Toner

## Happy 4th from South Carolina!



Former Alderman Bob McWatters and Mary Cronin enjoyed the birthday of the United States in Greenville, South Carolina.

## The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



### Eagle feathers #358

This article first appeared in the September 20, 2017, edition of The Somerville Times.

### The Fourth Day of July

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

It was one hundred and nine years ago this past spring that Americans began arriving in Paris to help their French allies in the war against Germany. In a symbolic salute, General John Pershing presented an American flag at a Frenchman's tomb. It was the grave of the Marquis de Lafayette, who had greatly aided us during our revolution. The French and American patriot so loved America that he was buried in soil dug from Bunker Hill. At the presentation, the Americans announced, "Lafayette, we are here."



The date was the 4th of July in 1917.

The celebration of this date in Somerville predates its first American flag raising, the signing of the Constitution, and the Revolutionary War. For 213 years until 1842, Somerville was part of Charlestown and, as such, was part of her history. The most accurate account of early writers places the arrival of a Charlestown Engineer and City Planner, Thomas Graves, from England, as the date of Charlestown's founding. She was born on the fourth of July, and the year was 1629.



The first ship built in Massachusetts was the "Blessing of the Bay." It was built at Ten Hills on the Mystic River by the first governor of Massachusetts, John Winthrop, and was launched on the 4th of July in 1631. Who knew the day of the launch would be so significant in American history? The Blessing was used for exploration, commerce, and expansion of the Bay State. Other Massachusetts-built ships later followed her, and when pirates *Continued on page 12*

## LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)



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

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a virtual public hearing on **Tuesday, July 21, 2026**, at 6:45pm through Zoom.

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

## TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_WtKJyX1URy6pceVa9-iv\\_A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WtKJyX1URy6pceVa9-iv_A)

## TO CALL IN

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

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

**Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties**

**9 Brastow Avenue** Applicant: Artisans Homes and Renovations  
Owner: Luo Jerome & Meosky Nell  
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by rebuilding the existing rear deck in the same location, no changes to the existing configuration are proposed.

**25 Atherton Street** Applicant: Christine Strout- IRB Real Estate  
Owner: Carr Schoolhouse Condo Trust  
The Applicant seeks the reissuance of a previously granted Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by installing EV charging stations and a transformer in the parking lot.

**46 Mount Vernon Street** Applicant: William Kuang  
Owner: William Kuang  
The applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter a previously approved rear addition and add a new backyard cottage to a Local Historic District Property.

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

**60 Medford Street** Applicant: Paul O'Connell- Well Built Construction Inc.  
Owner: P & P Carroll Realty Trust  
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

**64 Medford Street** Applicant: Paul O'Connell- Well Built Construction Inc.  
Owner: P & P Carroll Realty Trust  
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

**9 Norwood Avenue** Applicant: Emery Boy Builders  
Owner: Kevin Emery  
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

**282-284 McGrath Highway** Applicant: Law Office of Michael LaRosa LLC on behalf of Properties by JD LLC  
Owner: Walter Tauro, Trustee of Brant Realty Trust  
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Historic Preservation Commission at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov).

Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should contact the ADA Coordinator in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or [ADA@somervillema.gov](mailto:ADA@somervillema.gov).

7/1/26, 7/8/26 The Somerville Times



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 15, 2026**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

## TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_KBXqh9qzTF2DPyF6bsVDKA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KBXqh9qzTF2DPyF6bsVDKA)

## TO CALL IN

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

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

**6 Wheatland Street** Adam Dash, Esq. on behalf of Nelson Group Construction Corp. seeks relief from SZO 4.1.7.c, to build a primary front facade of 74.7% where 80% is the minimum per SZO 4.1.7.c in the Mid-Rise 3 (MR3) zoning district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

**6 Wheatland Street** Adam Dash, Esq. on behalf of Nelson Group Construction Corp. seeks relief from SZO 10.3.6.a.i, to build a new three (3) story apartment building that does not meet the landscape buffer requirements in the Mid-Rise 3 (MR3) zoning district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

**75 Myrtle Street** Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless proposes the installation of a building-mounted wireless communication facility in the Urban Residence (UR) zoning district which requires a Special Permit.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to [ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov](mailto:ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov).

Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should contact the ADA Coordinator in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or [ADA@somervillema.gov](mailto:ADA@somervillema.gov).

7/1/26, 7/8/26 The Somerville Times

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF COBB COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

BLUE SKY ADVANCE LLC,  
Plaintiff,  
v.

UNLOCK STAYS LLC and SHANTE DAVIS,  
Defendants.  
Civil Case No.: 26CV00923

To Unlock Stays LLC and Shante Davis, 1 College Avenue, Somerville, MA 02144, 3343 Peachtree Rd. NE. Ste. 145-1482, Atlanta, GA 30326, and 110 Stanley Oaks Place, Fayetteville, GA 30214, You are hereby notified that the above-styled action, A Complaint for Breach of Contract, Unjust Enrichment, and Attorney's Fees, seeking judgement in the amount of \$16,114.25 and \$17,200.72 was filed in the Superior Court of Cobb County, State of Georgia, on February 4, 2026, by the Plaintiff, Blue Sky Advance LLC, Service of the Summons, Complaint, and Affidavit of Damages upon you has been authorized by Order of the Court dated June 4, 2026, pursuant to O.C.G.A. §9-11-4(f)(1)(A) due to Plaintiff's demonstrated inability to serve you personally after diligent efforts, You are required to file with the Clerk of the Superior Court of Cobb County, 70 Hayes Street, Marietta, Georgia 30090 and to Serve upon Plaintiff's Counsel, Melissa Barrett, Esq., M Barrett Law, 225 N. Jeff Davis Drive, Fayetteville, Georgia 30214, an Answer in writing within sixty (60) days of the date of the first publication of this notice. Failure to respond will result in a judgement by default being entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

6/17/26, 6/24/26, 7/1/26, 7/8/26 The Somerville Times



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

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville Planning Board (PB) will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, July 16, 2026**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

## TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_7VGJiF-5SjSpMSqDtPL2KA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7VGJiF-5SjSpMSqDtPL2KA)

## TO CALL IN

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

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

**32-40 White Street** 32-40 White St LLC/Kinvarra Capital proposes to develop an Apartment Building in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) zoning district, which requires Site Plan Approval.

**32-40 White Street** 332-40 White St LLC/Kinvarra Capital proposes to establish residential housing in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) zoning district, which requires a Special Permit.

**32-40 White Street** 32-40 White St LLC/Kinvarra Capital seeks to construct a mechanical penthouse that exceeds the maximum height in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) zoning district, which requires a Special Permit.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to [PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov](mailto:PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov).

Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should contact the ADA Coordinator in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or [ADA@somervillema.gov](mailto:ADA@somervillema.gov).

7/1/26, 7/8/26 The Somerville Times

**NOTICE OF COMMUNITY MEETING**

Please join Licensed Original LLC for a Community Outreach Meeting as we share our plans for a proposed Marijuana Establishment. The proposed Adult-Use Marijuana Retailer is anticipated to be located at 67 Broadway in Somerville, Massachusetts 02145.

In this meeting, we will discuss security, diversion prevention, community involvement and planning, and general operating information for the proposed facility. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions.

**WHO:** LICENSED ORIGINAL LLC.

**WHAT:** COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING TO DISCUSS A PROPOSED ADULT-USE MARIJUANA RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT

**WHEN:** MONDAY, JULY 27 AT 6:00 PM

**WHERE:** SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY AUDITORIUM  
79 HIGHLAND AVE  
SOMERVILLE, MA 02143

7/8/26 The Somerville Times

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from our website:  
[www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)

**MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by 453 Somerville NT LLC to Crowd Lending Fund One, LLC, dated June 20, 2024 and recorded at Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds on June 20, 2024, in Book No. 82911, at Page 494, assigned to CC REIT SUB II, LLC by Assignment of Mortgage dated July 8, 2024 and recorded with said Deeds on July 19, 2024 in Book No. 83022, at Page 71, and assigned to CC REIT SUB II, LLC by Assignment of Mortgage dated March 16, 2026 and recorded with said Deeds on March 18, 2026 in Book No. 85355, at Page 289, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder CC REIT SUB II, LLC, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at public auction at 10:00 AM, on July 21, 2026 on the mortgaged premises being known as 453-453A Somerville Avenue, Somerville, MA, being all and singular the premises described in said mortgage to wit:

Two contiguous parcels of land with the buildings thereon situated in Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, being numbered 453 Somerville Avenue and 453A Somerville Avenue, respectively, and bounded and described as follows:

**PARCEL ONE**

SOUTHWESTERLY: by Somerville Avenue, 41.85 feet; NORTHWESTERLY: by land of Breen heirs or devisees, 80.00 feet; NORTHEASTERLY: by Lot 30, as shown on the plan hereinafter referred to, 48.07 feet; SOUTHEASTERLY: by land of Sumares and Sumares, 80.22 feet. Containing 3597 square feet and being Lot No. 31 on a Plan of "Building Lots In Somerville, belonging to the Estate of Osgood Dane, deceased," by Charles D. Elliot, Engineer, dated June 9, 1880 and recorded with Middlesex South District Deeds, Plan Book 35, Plan 34.

**PARCEL TWO**

Starting at a point on the northwesterly side of the lot 63.28 feet southwesterly from Knapp Street, as shown on the Plan hereinafter mentioned, thence running southwesterly 28.72 feet; thence running southeasterly on Lot 31 hereinbefore described, 48.07 feet; thence turning and running northeasterly on land of Ireland, 25.27 feet; thence running northwesterly 49.71 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 1315 square feet of land more or less and being part of Lot No. 30 as shown on said Plan.

Being the same premises as conveyed to the mortgagor by deed of Jack Saade, dated June 20, 2024, recorded at Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book No. 82911, at Page 491.

The above described premises will be sold **SUBJECT TO** and with the benefit of all restrictions, easements, covenants, conditions, building and zoning laws, to any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, water and sewer charges, municipal or other public taxes, assessments or liens, rights of tenants and parties in possession, if any.

**TERMS OF SALE:**

A deposit of \$7,500.00 DOLLARS shall be required to be made to the mortgagee in cash, by certified or by cashier's check at the time and place of the sale as a deposit. The successful bidder will be required to execute an Auction Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, by certified check, by cashier's check, or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney within thirty (30) days thereafter at the offices of BARSH AND COHEN, P.C., Attorneys for the Mortgagee, 500 Turnpike Street Suite 201, Canton, MA 02021, in exchange for which and at such time and place, the deed shall be delivered to the purchaser for recording.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to amend the foregoing terms of sale by written or oral announcement made before the auction sale, during the sale thereof or at the commencement of or during any postponed sale, the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, and to postpone the sale up until the time the property is declared sold by the auctioneer.

The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in the Notice of Mortgagee's Sale or its publication.

**OTHER TERMS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE SALE.**

Dated: June 9, 2026 (signed:) CC REIT SUB II, LLC Present Holder of said Mortgage By its Attorneys, Barsh and Cohen, P.C.  
Neil S. Cohen, Esquire Attorney for the Mortgagee 500 Turnpike Street Suite 201, Canton, MA 02021 (617) 332-4700

6/24/26, 7/1/26, 7/8/26 The Somerville Times

**MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by 359 Lowell NT LLC to CC REIT SUB II, LLC, dated January 30, 2025 and recorded at Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds on January 31, 2025, in Book No. 83730, at Page 171, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder CC REIT SUB II, LLC, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at public auction at 9:00 AM, on July 21, 2026 on the mortgaged premises being known as 359 Lowell Street, Somerville, MA, being all and singular the premises described in said mortgage to wit:

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon, situated in Somerville, Middlesex County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being a part of the land shown on a plan entitled, "Plan of Land in Somerville, Mass., owned by William Lears, et al," Charles Elliot, Engineer and Surveyor, dated August 5, 1922, and recorded with Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on August 12, 1922, in Plan Book 310, Plan 13, said parcel being bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the Northeasterly comer of said parcel on Lowell Street, in the Westerly side of the right of way shown on said plan; thence bounded NORTHEASTERLY by said right of way, by two boundaries, sixty-three and 67/100 (63.67) feet and twenty-five and 54/100 (25.54) feet; SOUTHEASTERLY by said right of way, eight and 81/100 (8.81) feet; NORTHEASTERLY by said right of way, twenty-six and 71/100 (26.71) feet to land now or formerly of Maguire; SOUTHEASTERLY by said Maguire land, seventeen and 45/100 (17.45) feet; SOUTHWESTERLY by land now or formerly of Biller, one hundred and fourteen and 70/100 (114.70) feet to said Lowell Street; and NORTHWESTERLY by said Lowell Street, thirty (30.00) feet to the point of beginning. Containing 3,514 square feet of land according to said plan. There is appurtenant to the above described premises the right of passing, repassing and using as a driveway in common with the owner of the land shown as William Lears, et al. their heirs, successors and assigns over the right of way shown on said plan which was created in a grant from William Lears, et al, to Max Jacobson and Jacob Marcus, dated August 14, 1922, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 4551, Page 288.

Being the same premises as conveyed to the mortgagor by deed of Magoun Square Development LLC, dated January 31, 2025, recorded at Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book No. 83730, at Page 166.

The above described premises will be sold **SUBJECT TO** and with the benefit of all restrictions, easements, covenants, conditions, building and zoning laws, to any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, water and sewer charges, municipal or other public taxes, assessments or liens, rights of tenants and parties in possession, if any.

**TERMS OF SALE:**

A deposit of \$7,500.00 DOLLARS shall be required to be made to the mortgagee in cash, by certified or by cashier's check at the time and place of the sale as a deposit. The successful bidder will be required to execute an Auction Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, by certified check, by cashier's check, or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney within thirty (30) days thereafter at the offices of BARSH AND COHEN, P.C., Attorneys for the Mortgagee, 500 Turnpike Street Suite 201, Canton, MA 02021, in exchange for which and at such time and place, the deed shall be delivered to the purchaser for recording.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to amend the foregoing terms of sale by written or oral announcement made before the auction sale, during the sale thereof or at the commencement of or during any postponed sale, the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, and to postpone the sale up until the time the property is declared sold by the auctioneer.

The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in the Notice of Mortgagee's Sale or its publication.

**OTHER TERMS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE SALE.**

Dated: June 9, 2026 (signed:) CC REIT SUB II, LLC Present Holder of said Mortgage By its Attorneys, Barsh and Cohen, P.C.  
Neil S. Cohen, Esquire Attorney for the Mortgagee 500 Turnpike Street Suite 201, Canton, MA 02021 (617) 332-4700

6/24/26, 7/1/26, 7/8/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, July 21, 2026**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of Wine and Malt Alcohol License and Sunday Hours for La Cosecha Corp d/b/a La Cosecha at 85B Broadway.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_05J7Dx80SlmGc5t-smjWJw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_05J7Dx80SlmGc5t-smjWJw)

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](mailto:licensing@somervillema.gov). Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

**THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.**

**ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**  
[LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV)

7/8/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, July 21, 2026**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of Outdoor Dining License for Thai J&J LLC d/b/a Siam Ginger Thai Cuisine at 22 Bow Street.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_05J7Dx80SlmGc5t-smjWJw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_05J7Dx80SlmGc5t-smjWJw)

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](mailto:licensing@somervillema.gov). Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

**THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.**

**ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**  
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### CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, July 21, 2026**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices License for Rey Nutrition LLC d/b/a Rey Nutrition at 271 Broadway.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_05J7Dx80SlmGc5t-smjVJw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_05J7Dx80SlmGc5t-smjVJw)

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.

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## Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

attacked those ships, the Blessing was armed and sent out to protect them. Thus, she became the first Coast Guard vessel and the progenitor of the United States Navy.

The American Civil War, the conflict that almost split our nation apart, was decided in the little town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The battle, fought over three days, resulted in more losses than any other during the four-year war. There were over 50,000 casualties. By the third day, on July 3, the soldiers of both the North and the South were dressed in woolen uniforms and fought in temperatures that had risen to almost 90 de-grees. General Robert E. Lee lost thirty percent of his army and had to retreat the following day. The same day, the fortress of Vicksburg, Mississippi, fell to the Union's General Ulysses S. Grant. When the cannons went silent, it was the fourth day of July ... a glorious day for the Union.

## Somerville hosting local World Cup events



The first weeks of the World Cup have been a whirlwind of celebration, community, and, of course, kilts. Head to Somerville as the festivities continue. Below find upcoming World Cup events happening around the city, with opportunities for fans, athletes, and neighbors to celebrate together.

For all World Cup event information, visit [somervillema.gov/worldcup](http://somervillema.gov/worldcup).

### SomerCup 2026

Showcase your skills as a player or come cheer the teams on. All are invited to join us for a free, all-ages soccer tournament at Dilboy Stadium (110 Alewife Brook Parkway). Schedule is as follows. Spectators are welcome to just show up):

- Sunday, July 12, 12 to 5 p.m.: Kindergarten to Grade 4
- Monday, July 13, 5 to 10 p.m.: Adults (ages 18 and up)
- Friday, July 17, 1:30 to 5 p.m.: Grades 5 to 8 and 9 to 12

Players of all skill levels are welcome to participate. Register individually or as a team (8 to 10 players) at: [bit.ly/somercup](http://bit.ly/somercup).

### July 12 Soccer Clinic with New England Revolution

On July 12, join us at Dilboy before the tournament from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for a soccer clinic led by coaches of the New England Revolution. This event is intended for ages 8 to 13. Register at [somervillema.gov/worldcup](http://somervillema.gov/worldcup).

Watch Local: Support Somerville small businesses and shorten your game commute

Between June 11 and July 19, a number of currently licensed Somerville bars, cafes, and restaurants are extending operating hours so patrons have more time to enjoy the games. Find participating businesses at [somervillema.gov/worldcup](http://somervillema.gov/worldcup).

### Attend a local watch party

Join fellow fans and attend a local watch party organized by the Somerville Chamber of Commerce. Broadcasts of games will be shown in multiple languages. Schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, July 7, 3 to 7 p.m.  
Where: Capuano School, Glen Field, 150 Glen St.
- Thursday, July 9, 3 to 7 p.m.  
Where: Davis Square Plaza
- Sunday, July 19, 2 to 7 p.m.  
Where: Union Square Plaza

Watch parties are free to attend, but space is limited. Reserve your spot at [somervillechamber.org](http://somervillechamber.org).

# Book review: 'How to Solve Your Own Murder' by Kristen Perrin

By Dennis Fischman

To most young children, it comes as a shock to learn that before they were born, their parents had a life of their own. Once they realize it, some try as hard as they can to ignore it. Others start looking at their parents' friends, brothers and sisters in a different way, and from overheard conversations or actual storytelling, they try to piece together the past.

In *How to Solve Your Own Murder* [1], Annie Adams, a young American woman, knows a little about her mother and nothing about her father. Then a great-aunt, Frances, whom she has hardly heard of, calls her to England for an important conversation. When Annie shows up at her estate, however, Frances is dead—fulfilling a fortuneteller's prediction from long ago that she would one day be murdered.

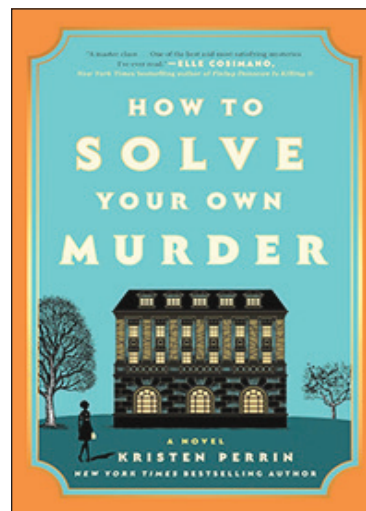
Annie sets about to solve the murder, not only because that's a condition for her inheriting the estate but because she feels a kinship with her late relative that transcends the decades and continents. But Frances' later life (Annie finds) was consumed with gathering information about all the people around her in the village of Castle Knoll. In collecting their secrets, did Frances provoke the murder she feared?

What I liked about the book was, first, our hero. Annie Adams rang true to me and was endearing. She was neither impossibly sweet nor totally unselfish: she certainly wanted the house for her mother and the inheritance for herself, but also, to make sure the locals weren't displaced by a for-profit developer. That's a mix of motives that seem genuine. Her own skills as a mystery writer did

not make her a super-sleuth: just a person who could (with a little help from her friends) ask the right questions, at least eventually.

I also liked the way Kristen Perrin included many of the tropes of the cozy mystery [2] but combined them in an unusual way. The young woman is called to a small town for family reasons, only to discover a murder, and have to solve it; the people and relationships there that everyone else knows but she has to find out; the secrets of a previous generation coming to light; the policeman as a romantic interest; the best female friend; the question of who is actually descended from whom and how. Add to that a challenge worthy of *The Westing Game*, [3], and you have a plot that engaged me all the way through.

Sadly, I did not think much of the murder victim, Great Aunt



*How to Solve Your Own Murder* by Kristen Perrin, Dutton, 2024.

Frances Adams. I did not see why her girlfriends envied her and tried to imitate her in their teens, and I could not really sympathize with her superstitious belief in a fortuneteller's prophecy. It seems to me that she did not make much out of her life. She should have married John. But then, this story could never have happened!



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

**Links:**

- [1] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/201338502-how-to-solve-your-own-murder>
- [2] <https://www.thesomerville-times.com/archives/131574>
- [3] [https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/902.The\\_Westing\\_Game?from\\_search=true&from\\_srp=true&qid=rflhk5Ytst-M&rank=1](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/902.The_Westing_Game?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=rflhk5Ytst-M&rank=1)

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Ms. Cam's

*Olio*

Answers

From page 8

- |                                     |                             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. USS Constitution                 | 7. <i>Guys and Dolls</i>    |
| 2. July 22, 1798 from Boston Harbor | 8. Fonzie                   |
| 3. Blackbeard                       | 9. Makes and sells hats     |
| 4. The Tower of Hercules, in Spain  | 10. Pecans                  |
| 5. Queen Anne's Revenge             | 11. Huey Lewis and the News |
| 6. Mark Twain                       | 12. Tornadic waterspout     |

## Somerville Celebrates Disability Pride Month

All community members are invited to celebrate Disability Pride Month in Somerville this July with free, accessible events for all ages starting on Wednesday, July 8. Join the annual Disability Pride Flag Raising on July 9, take part in a family-friendly celebration at the library, attend a commission meeting, or stop by the commission's table at ArtBeat for free books, crafts, and information.

"Disability Pride Month is a celebration of community, advocacy, and the simple truth that everyone should be able to participate fully in civic life," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "I'm grateful to the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities for their leadership and continued advocacy. Accessibility is not just a legal requirement. It is part of how we build a city where every person can move through the community with dignity, independence, and belonging."

In addition to advocacy, initiatives, and events throughout the year, the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) hosts annual activities in July to celebrate Disability Pride Month and to raise awareness of ways to get involved in the work ahead. Recent successes include collaborating with the City on installing accessible swings in City parks, supporting the development of the City's ADA Transition Plan, and expanding attendance at the annual Red Sox Disability Pride Celebration, the commission's annual accessible trip to a game at Fenway Park.

"The Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities greatly appreciates the Wilson Administration's commitment to advancing accessibility and inclusion. During his inauguration, Mayor Jake Wilson stated that 'the ADA is the floor, not the ceiling,' reflecting the understanding that true accessibility means going beyond minimum legal compliance to create a community where every resident can participate with dignity, independence, and belonging," said SCPD Chair Holly Simone. "The Commission also appreciates the Mayor's vision of placing residents at the top of the City's organizational chart and looks forward to continuing to work together to make that vision a reality."

### Disability Pride Month 2026 Programming

#### **Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities Monthly Public Meeting**

Date/Time: Wednesday, July 8, 6 p.m. Location: West Branch Library, 40 College Ave. or online via Zoom: visit [somervillema.gov/scpd](https://somervillema.gov/scpd) or [somervillema.gov/calendar](https://somervillema.gov/calendar) closer to the date for a link.

About: Meet members of the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities, learn about the Commission's ongoing work, and find out how to get involved.

#### **Disability Pride Flag Raising**

Date/Time: Thursday, July 9, 4-5 p.m. (rain date Thursday, July 16, 4 p.m.) Location: City Hall Concourse, 93 Highland Ave.

About: Join the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities, community members, and the Mayor, Councilors, and Elected Officials, to raise the Disability Pride flag at City Hall in recognition of Disability Pride Month.

#### **Family-Friendly Celebration of Disability Pride**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 11, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Location: West Branch Library, 40 College Ave.

About: All are welcome to join this family-friendly celebration featuring book readings, an art project, and opportunities to connect with neighbors.

#### **SCPD ArtBeat Table**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 18. Location: ArtBeat, Davis Square

About: Visit the SCPD table at ArtBeat for crafts, free books, and information about how to join the SCPD as an Associate Resident Member.

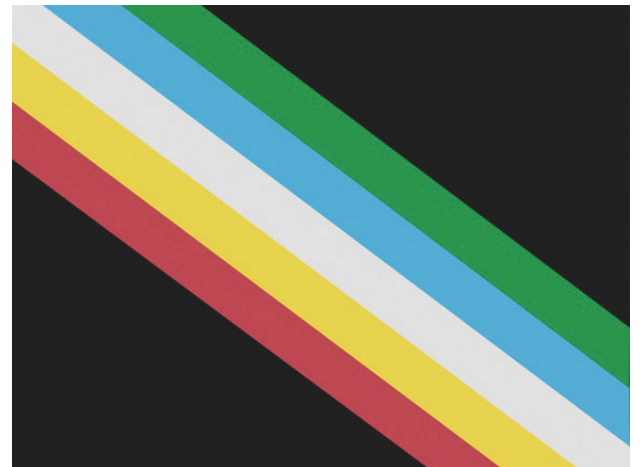
Disability Pride Month commemorates the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26, 1990, a landmark civil rights law that affirmed the right of people with disabilities to fully participate in American life. Along with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board regulations (521 CMR), and Massachusetts anti-discrimination laws, these protections recognize that people with disabilities have the same right to live, learn, work, play, worship, travel, and participate in their communities as every other person.

For questions about SCPD Disability Pride Month activities, please contact [ADAcommission@gmail.com](mailto:ADAcommission@gmail.com).

#### **Join the SCPD**

The Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities advises and assists City officials and staff on issues affecting people with disabilities and works to support accessibility, inclusion, and full participation in City programs, services, and community life.

Community members are also encouraged to learn more about joining the SCPD. The Commission is currently seeking Associate Resident Members. Residents interested in disability advocacy, accessibility, and community engagement are welcome to connect with SCPD members at upcoming events or contact [ADAcommission@gmail.com](mailto:ADAcommission@gmail.com) for more accessible events throughout July will celebrate disability pride, community, advocacy, and belonging



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of *The Somerville Times* do not reflect the views and opinions of *The Somerville Times*, its publishers or staff. Readers are invited to send letters to the editor to *The Somerville Times*. Please email your letters to [News@TheSomervilleTimes.com](mailto:News@TheSomervilleTimes.com) or mail them to 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. *The Somerville Times* Reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and length. All letters must include a name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

I'm writing my input about the city that is called Somerville, which we should now call Condo-ville. We have a new migration of the younger youthville coming

in, and the senior population is not being respected.

We are also losing the beauty and history of our city.

Let us go back in time when the people in the city were heard and stood together.

We don't need city programs that rule

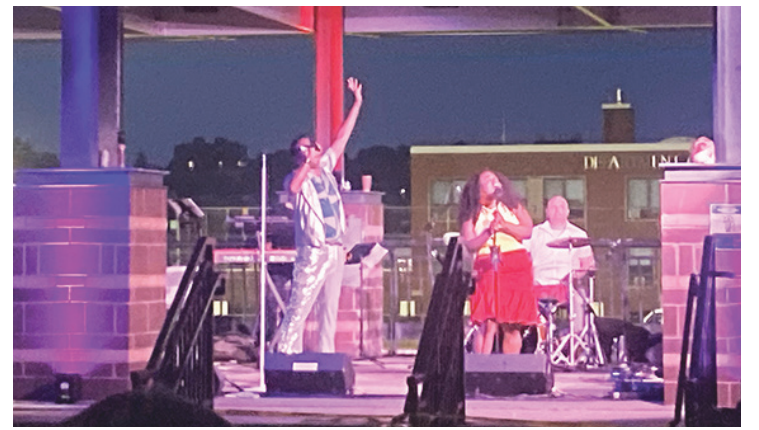
over us without being properly informed about their pas-sage.

*Somerville senior*

# Somerville's Annual Fireworks Celebration

The City of Somerville's Annual Fireworks Celebration took place on Tuesday, June 30, at Trum Field. Attendees enjoyed an evening of music, community, food vendors, and fireworks. An opening performance by Pluto's Return was followed by DJ Live spinning tunes and emceeding the evening. A live performance by Search Party was followed by remarks by Mayor Wilson, the National Anthem sung by Britney Flores, and a fireworks countdown. A special reading of the Declaration of Independence was done by First Lieutenant Robert V. Collins of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts in recognition of Independence Day.





Photos by Bobbie Toner



## SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

## EVENTS:

**Movie Day** – Wednesday, July 8, starting at noon at our Holland Street Center. Showing this July is Remarkably Bright Creatures. Starring: Sally Field, Lewis Pullman, and Colm Meaney. Through unlikely bonds formed during night shifts at a local aquarium, Tova, an elderly widow, learns of a life-changing discovery that may bring her joy and wonder once again. Rated PG-13 with a running time of 1 hour 51 minutes. Pizza will be served during the movie, \$2 per person. To register, call Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

**Senior Safety** – Friday, July 10, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. Come join us for a presentation from the Somerville Fire Department. They will be discussing tips on cooking, smoking, and electrical safety. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

**Adaptation Club** – Tuesday, July 14, starting at 1:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Which did you like better, the book or the movie? This is a common question when thinking about how a piece of literature is adapted. Come share your thoughts and opinions at our first Adaptation Club meeting. This month, we are discussing both the book and the film Remarkably Bright Creatures. For more information or to sign up, contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

**Spanish Senior Coffee Social** – Tuesday, July 14 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Somerville Growing Center on Vinal Avenue. Free to all. This group is in Spanish. For more information, please contact Francia Reyes at 617-366-7796.

**Music & Munch** – Tuesday, July 14, at our Holland Street Center starting at noon to 1 p.m. This one-hour 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 barber-shop, 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 lifelong love of all things musical. Learn a little, sing-along, relax, and enjoy some Music while you Munch. Grab & Go Lunch available upon request. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321, or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Men's Group** – Tuesday, July 14, at 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. A confidential space where men are free to speak openly and honestly about their lives and to support each other. New and returning members are welcome. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Arts & Crafts** – Thursday, July 16, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. We will be making Diamond Art Bookmarks. Diamond Art uses

an applicator tool to place thousands of tiny, flat-backed resin "diamonds" onto a pre-coded, adhesive canvas to create a shimmering, mosaic-style masterpiece. Free of charge. Space is very limited; preference will be given to Somerville residents. Please RSVP to Maureen Bastardi by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

**Book Club** – Friday, July 17, from 10 to 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Join the book club this month. Looking to talk about your love of books or hoping to meet more people who enjoy reading? Look no further than the Book Club at SCOA. July's selection is Horse by Geraldine Brooks. You can attend in person at 167 Holland Street or via Zoom. Free of Charge. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317, or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

**Drum Workshop for Seniors** – Friday, July 17, starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. Participants are immersed in music and rhythm from West Africa and beyond via hands-on drumming. Session includes basic instruction in drum sound production, simple rhythm, songs, stories, and movement. Join in with a variety of hand percussion instruments and by clapping, singing, and moving, or simply by listening and sharing energies. RSVP IS REQUIRED; preference given to Somerville residents as space is limited. Please RSVP to Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315 to reserve your spot in this class.

**Portuguese Senior Coffee Social** – Tuesday, July 21 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Come, drink coffee, see friends, and talk to our staff. Free to all. This group is in Portuguese. For more information, please contact Rafael Peruzzo by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2123.

**Music & Movement** – Tuesday, July 21, starting 1 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Join Steve as he plays guitar, sings, and leads gentle movements. Just tapping your toe or singing along can help move your body in new ways. More entertaining than exercise. More energizing than a performance. Come join for an energetic combination of live music, chair-based movement, music history, trivia, and community. Participation is encouraged, but all are welcome to just sit and enjoy! With a backdrop of Sinatra, Elvis, and showtunes to the Great American Songbook, country, and 1960s pop, you'll leave feeling invigorated, with lifted spirits. Steve Gintz is a professional musician, board-certified music therapist, and mental health counselor. He is the founder of Instrumental Health, providing enriching arts programming for older adults in and around Boston. RSVP by calling Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315, or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

**Orchid 101** – Wednesday, July 22, from 12:30 p.m.

to 1:30 p.m. at our Holland Street Center with Alexandra. Orchids are beautiful and lovely plants that come in a variety of colors. However, orchids can prove to be a challenge even to the most experienced of plant owners. If you are curious about how to care for an orchid, please consider joining us. RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

**Pottery Class** – Wednesday, July 22, starting at 2 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. The COA welcomes Fern, owner of Commonwealth Clayworks. During class, we will glaze premade cups. Cups will be fired and returned in two weeks. Free of charge. Space is very limited; preference will be given to Somerville residents. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

**Brown Bag Supplemental Food Program PICK UP** – Thursday, July 23, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. For an application, contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317, or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

**Project Outlook** – Thursday, July 23, at our Holland Street Center from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Project Outlook is a group for low-vision and blind seniors to gather, socialize, and enjoy a meal together. Please contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318, or at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov for more information or to register.

**Veterans Group** – Tuesday, July 23, starting at 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. This group allows veterans to connect with their peers, discuss personal challenges, and provide support. All Veterans are welcome. Coffee & refreshments will be served. Free of Charge. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321, or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected via our Facebook page - Informative, entertaining, lots of photos and updates. Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCOA/>.

Follow the Somerville Council on Aging on Instagram! You can find us under the Instagram handle: somervillecouncilonaging If you have any questions or need help following us, contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email her at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

## JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive a virtual copy of our monthly newsletter, please contact Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen Bastardi at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

If you would like to become part of our Google Group, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of *The Somerville Times* do not reflect the views and opinions of *The Somerville Times*, its publishers or staff. Readers are invited to send letters to the editor to *The Somerville Times*. Please email your letters to [News@TheSomervilleTimes.com](mailto:News@TheSomervilleTimes.com) or mail them to 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. *The Somerville Times* Reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and length. All letters must include a name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

### Letter to the Editor: 90 Washington Street Redevelopment

Dear Members of the Somerville City Council,

Many residents of Cobble Hill Apartments will gather at 50 Washington Street to watch Tuesday's Zoom meeting to decide the path forward for the redevelopment of 90 Washington Street.

Many of us have followed this project closely for the past seven years. Sadly, some of our neighbors who began this journey with us are no longer here. Their hopes for Cobble Hill, however, live on in the residents who now call this community their home and who are equally committed to preserving meaningful green space and protecting the emergency access behind 84

Washington Street. To all of us, tonight's meeting at 5:30 PM represents the final significant public milestone in determining the future of a development that will directly affect our neighborhood for generations.

When the City acquired 90 Washington Street in 2019 through the Demonstration Plan process, Cobble Hill residents had no opportunity to influence that decision. Because the Demonstration Plan process did not require public engagement, the concerns of this Environmental Justice community—including the loss of green space, neighborhood parking, and the open areas that have long served as a buffer between Cobble Hill and the surrounding development—were never fully considered.

Since the court decision, we believe the

development now allows some opportunity to correct past mistakes and do better. It is our sincere hope that tonight's discussion reflects the concerns and aspirations that Cobble Hill residents have consistently shared throughout this process. Please note, they also mirror many of the views of the 90 Washington Street CAC which are to preserve meaningful green space, protect the emergency access behind 84 Washington Street, reduce (not add to) heat islands in East Somerville, and ensure that the redevelopment of 90 Washington Street enhances the quality of life for the commuters and neighbors who work and live in the community every day.

As you consider the recommendations before you, there is much at stake. Tonight's discussion likely represents our

community's last meaningful opportunity to help shape the future of this site. We respectfully ask that you seize this opportunity to transform a difficult chapter into a lasting public benefit. If this redevelopment leaves Cobble Hill with stronger environmental protections, preserved open space, safer neighborhood access, and a more livable environment than existed before, it will stand as a lasting example that thoughtful planning, environmental justice, and respect for existing communities can truly go hand in hand.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and for your continued service to the residents of Somerville.

Respectfully,

*The Residents of Cobble Hill Apartments*

## Abundant Housing MA endorses Mike Connolly, Will Mbah, and Ben Ewen-Campen in State House Races

Abundant Housing Massachusetts (AHMA) has announced its endorsement of Representative Mike Connolly for reelection to the State House representing the 26th Middlesex District, Somerville City Councilor Will Mbah for state representative in the 34th Middlesex District, and Somerville City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen for state representative in the 27th Middlesex District.

Founded in 2020 to advocate for the creation of abundant housing for all, AHMA works to develop and support a network of grassroots, pro-housing groups and activists across Massachusetts. As part of its mission, AHMA surveys candidates in local races statewide and supports those who share its commitment to building more homes in their communities.

"We need to build more housing, and that's why I'm grateful for AHMA's support and recognition," said Representative Mike Connolly. "From the MBTA Communities Act to the Affordable Homes Act, we've made real strides in recent years, but there's still so much more to do. I look forward to continuing to work with AHMA to end exclusionary zoning practices, allow more multifamily housing statewide, advance the concept of social housing, and push for stronger tenant protections."

"I am honored to receive AHMA's endorsement," said Councilor Will Mbah. "As an immigrant from Cameroon, I know firsthand how important housing stability is. I moved five times in six years because of rising housing costs, and that experience has driven my commitment to expanding affordable housing and protecting working families. I'm grateful for AHMA's support and look forward to continuing the fight to ensure everyone has a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home."

"The housing affordability crisis is the single biggest issue facing people in Massachusetts, and I'm thrilled to work alongside Abundant Housing to tackle it head on," said Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen.

"As founder and co-chair of the Housing for All Caucus, a co-sponsor of the YIMBY Bill, and a key advocate for the Affordable Homes Act, Rep. Connolly has consistently championed reforms that expand housing production while strengthening tenant protections. We look forward to supporting him in his re-election campaign," said Jesse Kanson-Benav, executive director of Abundant Housing Massachusetts.

"Councilor Mbah's track record while serving the City of Somerville is exactly the kind of leader that AHMA is proud to support," said Kanson-Benav. "Councilor Mbah was an integral part of creating the Somerville Office of Housing Stability, and has supported transit-oriented development, eliminating parking minimums, and expanding affordable housing investment. We are proud to endorse Councilor Mbah for State Representative for the 34th Middlesex district."

"AHMA supports candidates that we believe will make a difference in Massachusetts, and that is exactly what we know Councilor Ewen-Campen can do," said Kanson-Benav. "He sponsored the Affordable Housing Overlay District, was at the forefront of the successful effort to legalize triple-deckers citywide, and has recently championed single-stair construction. We know that if elected, Ewen-Campen will bring the same hard-working, results-oriented attitude he has at City Hall to the State House."

— Abundant Housing Massachusetts

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**Somerville Fair Housing Commission**  
*Question of the week*

**Q:** My landlord has agreed to let me sublet my apartment. Do the Fair Housing laws apply to me?

**A:** Yes! You're "the landlord" now, so you're bound by all the laws that apply to landlords, including fair housing laws. When advertising your sublease, adhere to fair housing laws that apply to landlords.

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


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

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

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Let's keep local news alive, together.

And to advertise in **The Times**, call **857-488-5138**

**Want to write local Somerville stories?**  
Call **857-488-5138**  
and speak to the Assignment Editor

**BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER** 

By Bobbygeorge Potaris

Why did the GPS go crazy?  
It couldn't handle all the detours.

The "Original"  
**All Types Vent Cleaning**  
Restaurant Hood Cleaning  
Dryer Vent/ HVAC Cleaning  
Power Washing  
Licensed and Insured  
in Massachusetts  
We travel all over  
Massachusetts  
Call today to find out  
our weekly specials!  
Call Jimmy 857-366-3761

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**The Somerville Times**  
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# Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Awaiting delivery of cooler weather... — Photo by Denise Provost

## On This Day in History

### July 8

- 1099 – Christian Crusaders march around Jerusalem as Muslims watch from within the city.
- 1608 – The first French settlement at Quebec is established by Samuel de Champlain.
- 1663 – The British crown grants Rhode Island freedom of worship.
- 1758 – The British attack on Fort Carillon at Ticonderoga, NY, is foiled by the French.
- 1822 – 29-year old poet Percy Bysshe Shelley drowns while sailing in Italy.
- 1879 – The first ship to use electric lights departs from San Francisco, California.
- 1905 – The mutinous crew of the battleship Potemkin surrenders to authorities.
- 1918 – Ernest Hemingway is wounded in Italy while working as an ambulance driver for the American Red Cross.
- 1941 – 20 B-17s fly in their first mission with the Royal Air Force over Germany.
- 1943 – American B-24 bombers strike Japanese-held Wake Island for the first time.
- 1960 – The Soviet Union charges American pilot Francis Gary Powers with espionage.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

municipalities are encouraged to attend. To submit a question in advance and register for the event for either an in-person or virtual event, attendees can fill out the forms on the **Neighbors in Action Forum Page**: <https://www.neighborsaction.org/forum> or the **Union Square Neighborhood Council Forum Page**: <https://sites.google.com/view/usnc/middlesex-second-forum>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **World Cup** is here. Celebrate with fellow fans in Somerville. Visit [www.somervillema.gov/worldcup](http://www.somervillema.gov/worldcup) throughout the tournament to find upcoming matches and where to watch locally.

\*\*\*\*\*

Next **Hazardous Waste Drop-Off, Saturday, July 11** at DPW (1 Franey Rd., 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Friends of District Attorney Marian Ryan** will be holding a meet-and-greet and a fundraiser on **July 20** at **Sally O'Brien's**, 335 Somerville Ave., from 5 – 7 p.m. Seniors can attend for free. Suggested donations: \$100, \$250, and \$500. All are welcome to attend to meet the District Attorney.

\*\*\*\*\*

Enjoy a **free family movie** on the lawn: **Babe**, **Wednesday, July 15**, 7:30 – 9 p.m. **Central Library Lawn**, 79 Highland Ave. The movie will start as soon as it's dark enough. In case of bad weather, they'll show the movie in the auditorium.

\*\*\*\*\*

Save the date for the **21st Annual What the Fluff? Festival, Saturday, September 19**, 1 – 5 p.m. in **Union Square**. Are you interested in being a vendor at this year's Festival? Go here to find out more: [union-square-main.org/fluffvendors](http://union-square-main.org/fluffvendors).

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Applications for **Yart Sale** are live. On **Saturday, August 8**, porches, driveways, and yards across Somerville will transform into pop-up markets fea-

turing artwork, crafts, collectibles, and more. Join in on the fun and apply to participate by 11:59 p.m. **Monday, July 20**. Rain date: August 9. For full event guidelines, visit: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/yart-sale/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Powder House, Milk Row Cemetery and Prospect Hill Tower** will be open to the public on select dates and times **through October**, as part of **History on the Line**, a series of exhibitions and programs organized by the **Somerville Museum** and funded by the **Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism's MA250 initiative** and the **City of Somerville**. History unlocked: Drop-in chat on select Thursdays, 6 – 8 p.m., and select Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. For dates and more information, visit <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Be an ARTivist! **Hands-on Art-making Advocacy Workshops, Saturday, July 11**, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., **Somerville Museum**, One Westwood Rd. For all ages, families too. Make your own advocacy postcards and campaign signs promoting the value of arts in Somerville. Work with artists from **Humphreys Street Studios** and **Central Street Studios** to express your creative ideas and support artists and artist workspaces. All materials supplied. No registration necessary, just drop in.

\*\*\*\*\*

Join the **Arts at the Armory** to celebrate the work of long-term collaborative partners **Samuel D. Bondi** and **Holly Megan Sverdrup Hoyer**. They will be displaying solo works as well as pieces from their ongoing collaborative project "**OWÄG**." **July 18**, 3 – 5 p.m., 191 Highland Ave, Somerville (in **The ROOTED Cafe @ Arts at the Armory**).

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Community Baptist Church**, 31 College Avenue near Davis Square, will present a free **Vacation Bible School from Monday, August 10, through Friday, August 14**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All children, from age 4 up to the 5th grade, are welcome to attend. This rain-forest-themed program includes Bible stories, music, creative activities, games, and free snacks each day. For more information or to register your child, see [www.ILoveSCBC.org/events](http://www.ILoveSCBC.org/events).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Somergloom Festival** returns for year 6 at **Crystal Ballroom, August 6, 7, 8, 9**.

Somergloom is an underground heavy music and arts festival based in Somerville, Massachusetts, in the Greater Boston area. Unencumbered by genre, Somergloom showcases and celebrates the richness of today's heavy music scene, centered around music that is introspective, creatively ambitious, evoking a melancholic quality that we like to call "gloom". Limited-Time Ticket Sale Tuesday 7/7/26-7/10/26. For lineup details, visit [Somergloom.com](http://Somergloom.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Mobile Farmers Market** returns on **Thursday, July 9**, for the 2026 season. The market brings fresh, affordable, local produce to four city locations **Thursdays through Saturdays** and runs **through October 31**. All produce is sourced from local farms and priced affordably to make healthy, fresh food accessible to all. The mobile market accepts cash, debit and credit cards, SNAP, Fresh Connect, WIC Farmers Market Coupons, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons. All are welcome. For the full schedule, weekly produce updates, and more

information about programs and events, visit the market's website at [somerville-mobilefarmersmarket.org](http://somerville-mobilefarmersmarket.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Assembly Row Farmers Market** is being held at **375 Assembly Row**, Somerville, on **Fridays, 3 – 7 p.m.** The market will run **from June 12 to October 9** (No market on July 3). Each week, you'll be able to find goods from nearly 30 New England-based farmers and producers. Expect a great mix of seasonal produce, baked goods, dairy and eggs, meats and seafood, honey, jams, specialty foods, and more. It's the perfect place to stock up for the weekend, discover local favorites, or simply enjoy a fresh Friday visit to Assembly Row. <https://marketspread.com/market/37299/assembly-row-farmers-market/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Davis Square Market** has opened for the 2026 Season. The market will run **every Wednesday** from 12 noon to 6 p.m., through November 25, at **44 Day St.**, Somerville. This long-running market features over two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers offering a vibrant selection of delicious produce, protein, baked goods, and ready-to-eat meals, alongside a host of other locally made products. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match. Visit <https://www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis>.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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



## OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

## Poet Lisa J. Sullivan has a 'Theory of Impact'

I caught up with New England Poetry Club poet Lisa J. Sullivan about her debut collection of poetry, *Theory of Impact*.

Lisa J. Sullivan is a New England native who holds an MFA in Poetry from the Solstice MFA in Creative Writing Program, where she was a Kurt Brown Memorial Fellow. Her poems and book reviews have appeared in *The Comstock Review*, *Burningword Literary Journal*, *The Arts Fuse*, *Evening Street Review*, *Third Wednesday*, and elsewhere. She was the United States winner of The Poetry Project-Ireland in collaboration with the Academy of American Poets and was an Adrian Tinsley Program Creative Grant recipient. Lisa is the Art Editor for *Lily Poetry Review* and a Poetry Editor for *Pink Panther Magazine*. Her debut poetry collection, *Theory of Impact*, was published in 2026 by Lily Poetry Review Books.

**Doug Holder:** It seems that so many of the poets I read are from broken homes. Your book deals with yours. They say great pain can bring great art. Do you agree?

**Lisa J. Sullivan:** I do agree that pain can bring great art, although I will leave it up to the reader to decide whether that is true for *Theory of Impact*. I'm sure great joy, in its own way, also can bring great art, but perhaps joy and pain tap into different parts of the creative brain. I personally feel the poems that affect me most, poems that I remember long after reading them, often deal with some sort of traumatic event. *Theory of Impact* was indeed born from the trauma of a broken home and its impact on the trajectory of the speaker's adult life.

**DH:** You told me that your poem *My father drew maps* was a signature poem. Your father was disabled, this was an escape for him. Could this be the theme of the whole book?

**LJS:** "Escape" is definitely a recurrent theme, and not just as it relates to my father, but I wouldn't say it is the theme of the entire book. Love, loss, death, pain, grief, hope, and forgiveness all make appearances. One could argue the writing of the book was an attempt at an "escape" of sorts. But I will say, my father's military disability (and its devastating effects on our family) was the impetus for *Theory of*



*Impact*. I tried to present the poems in a non-judgmental way, sometimes through the eyes of a child confused by her father's alternating violent and tender behavior. One of my goals was to bear witness to the complex suffering of a disabled veteran, while also acknowledging those who suffered because of his actions (e.g. the poem *Late Rose*). It was a difficult balancing act, as I wanted to maintain the dignity of all parties involved.

**DH:** I quote Stanley Kunitz, "In a murderous time the heart breaks and breaks and lives by breaking." What is your take on this, in relation to your collection, your life?

**LJS:** My take is that Kunitz was a wise poet. Sometimes heartbreak begets heartbreak until it is all that one knows. That is sort of what I was getting at in my poem *-ectomy*: after the surgery, I grieved – / grieved for the lost part of me, / until it became, / again, part of me." While *Theory of Impact* does contain some profoundly heartbreaking experiences, it is also a story of survival and forgiveness, or at the very least, acceptance and understanding. I think the serious subject matter is tempered *Continued on page 23*

# Lyrical

## SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder



*Temporal* by Nancy Wood – nancy-wood.com.

Tom Driscoll is a poet and essayist who lives and works in Lowell, Massachusetts. His poetry has appeared in *Abraxas Review*, *Rock Salt Journal*, *Scapegoat Review*, *The Worcester Review*, *Oddball Magazine*, *Carcosa Magazine*, *The Ekphrastic Review*, *Decadent Review*, *Drawn To The Light*, *What Rough Beast* and *Second Coming* from Indolent Books and in several Moonstone Arts Center's Poetry Anthologies. Tom's poem *Leave Home* won the Robert P. Collén Poetry Prize in 2017. *Notes on Demolition* was selected as an Editor's Choice for the Allen Ginsberg Prize and *This isn't the first time* received Third Place in The Frank O'Hara Prize, both in 2021. *Upon Stealing Smithsonian Folkways from Franklin Library*, *Summer 1974* won The Letter Review Poetry prize in 2024. His most recent book is *Echoes, A Collection of Ekphrastic Poems*.

### Temporal

after "Temporal" by Nancy Wood

Oak branches bound with waxed linen  
to hold the limbs in tension and bent away  
from their memory —to form another shape.

You might carry this like a bundle of brittle  
bone or maybe it's some delicate creature  
that you should care for, cradle and save.

The word —temporal— can refer to time  
but It also describes earthly things, mere  
daily business, as in —temporal concerns—

It could be what spans between these two  
meanings of the word that interested the artist.

What falls with time and what's found, salvaged;

each piece worked in hand that might as easily  
have become kindling for a fire, wisps of smoke.

— Tom Driscoll

## Three special events at the Somerville Museum

Currently on view: *Faces, Spaces & Places*, an exhibition exploring artist displacement, advocacy, and the importance of preserving creative spaces. There will be three upcoming events related to the exhibition.

**Be an ARTivist! Hands-on Art-making Advocacy Workshop** – Saturday, July 11, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
A free, drop-in workshop for all ages! Create advocacy postcards and campaign signs with artists from Humphreys Street Studios and Central Street Studios. All materials provided.

**A Narrative History of Somerville's Brickbottom Neighborhood** – Tuesday, July 14, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Brickbottom artist Randal Thurston will give a talk on the history of Somerville's Union Square. Tickets available via Eventbrite.

**A Matter of Light – Documentary Screening** – Wednesday, July 29, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Documentary by Anne Continelli that tells the story of how the founding of Vernon Street Studios in 1974 helped transform Somerville into a thriving arts community while reflecting on the ongoing challenge of artist displacement.

For more information visit <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>  
Somerville Museum, One Westwood Rd.



## Update on SPD activity at Somerville fireworks event

The Somerville Police Department is aware of concerns and conversations circulating in the community and on social media about police activity at Somerville's annual fireworks display on Tuesday, June 30.

While the vast majority of attendees enjoyed the event safely and respectfully, Somerville Police responded to several disruptive incidents and conflicts in the area of Trum Field. Numerous SPD officers, who were in place throughout the event, were able to quickly respond to these incidents to assess each situation, ensure the safety of guests in the area, and minimize further disruption.

Police did receive a report of a possible firearm; however, upon investigation, this was unsubstantiated. No firearm was located, and no shots were fired.

Three people were arrested in total: two juveniles and one adult. Charges included possession of a dangerous weapon, disturbing the peace, threats to commit a crime, and a person under 21 in possession of liquor. Two of the three individuals arrested are not Somerville residents.

We understand that the chaotic nature of disturbances like these can be scary and unsettling. Please know that the SPD diligently plans and prepares for large events like the annual fireworks, with the number one priority being the safety of residents and guests.

— Somerville Police Dept.



## Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

by some gorgeous nature imagery and settings. Perhaps nature is my coping mechanism. I didn't fully notice its prominence in the poems until they were compiled.

**DH:** Was writing this collection cathartic for you? Writing is used as an expressive therapy. Was it in any way therapeutic?

**LJS:** I have to be honest. At least in the beginning, writing *Theory of Impact* was, for lack of a better word, traumatizing. I know that sounds dramatic, but earlier versions of the manuscript were grittier and more detailed. It took years to distill the poems down to a level that felt emotionally safer, and several more years to gather up the courage to put them out there. It helped to have the encouragement of a supportive and empathetic editor, the brilliant Eileen Cleary of Lily Poetry Review Books. However, now that the book is done, I do feel a measure of relief.

**DH:** Why should we read this book?

**LJS:** As you stated in your first question, "...so many of the poets I read are from broken homes." Broken homes are not an uncommon thing; neither are the other subjects in *Theory of Impact*: disability, abuse, divorce, new

love, childlessness, forgiveness, etc. Because of that, I believe my book will resonate with a wide audience and is worth reading, as it offers insight into those experiences with an undertone of resilience.

### Excerpt from *Parts of a Letter*

Twenty-seven years after his death, I receive my father's letters--

home from the Marine Corps (1961-63).

Envelopes:

Decomposed elastic still clings  
to the stacks,  
more than sixty years old --

some bordered in slashes of red,

white, and blue,

still strong  
against aging cream --

others, watermarked ashen-slate with that famous photo

—  
U.S. Marines raising our Flag  
atop Iwo Jima in World War II.

So this is what time smells like: Musk  
and ivory.

Dad inked his parents' address in blue.  
We print the same Rs -- the same Ws and Ts.

Red and white stamps on the upper right --  
U.S. Air Mail -- seven cents,

postmarked:

*Pray for Peace.*

— Lisa J. Sullivan



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