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Elm-Beacon Connector safety improvements to start



The city will implement a new safer street design for high-crash streets.

At any time of the day and any day of the week, you'll see people walking, rolling, biking, driving, or catching the bus to travel along Elm Street in Somerville. All of these should be safe activities, but unfortunately, Elm Street, along with nearby Somerville Avenue and Beacon Street, are considered high-crash streets for people walking and riding bikes. The city's Elm-Beacon Connector project is designed to change that.

After over a year spent engaging community members, analyzing traffic patterns and signal options, testing emergency and public transit operations, and finalizing plans, the city is set to begin implementing a new, safer street design in early August. The majority of implementation is expected to be complete by November.

"I always say getting around *Continued on page 4*

Local event brings community and police together

By Keith Foster

On Tuesday, August 4, Somerville's annual National Night Out was held at Dilboy Stadium in Somerville. The goal of this fun-filled family event is to get the community, especially children, to trust the police and emergency personnel.

The fun-filled event featured:

- + Bouncy Houses
- + Concessions
- + Lawn games
- + Music
- + Character meet-and-greets
- + Opportunities for kids to "Touch a Truck"

The first 300 school-aged students who arrived received free supplies to get ready for the school year.

Lots of families came out on a *Continued on page 11*



National Night Out at Dilboy Stadium with games and local Somerville vendors.

— Photos by Keith Foster

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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.

The State of Massachusetts will hold its **Primary Election** on **Tuesday, September 1**. This election will narrow the candidate pool before the **November Election** on **Tuesday, November 3**. Offices on the ballot include: Governor, Senator in Congress, Representative in Congress, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, District Attorney, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor, Councilor, Senator in General Court, Representative in General Court, and Register of Probate. Eligible voters may vote one of three ways: on election day, via early voting, or vote by mail. Deadline to Register to Vote for the Primary Election is **Saturday, August 22**. More information for the State Primary Election is available at somerville-ma.gov/elections. You can also call 311 (617-666-3311) with questions.

Groundwork Somerville will be hosting **EXTRA** volunteer hours this week to finish one of their big summer projects, constructing a new **community garden** for the **Mystic Apartments**. Join them this **Thursday, August 13**, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the field behind 50 Memorial Road to finish filling the new beds with soil. Regular Wednesday volunteer hours on the farm are still scheduled as usual!

Happy birthday this week to several locals: A big Happy birthday to **Brandon Wilson**. We wish you a very special day relaxing and enjoying your family. Happy birthday to

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of August 12 – August 18 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday <i>August 12</i>	Partly Cloudy	80°/62°	25%	12%	NNW 7 mph
Thursday <i>August 13</i>	Sunny	85°/64°	26%	13%	W 9 mph
Friday <i>August 14</i>	Partly Cloudy	79°/62°	20%	11%	NW 12 mph
Saturday <i>August 15</i>	Sunny	82°/60°	2%	1%	NW 10 mph
Sunday <i>August 16</i>	Partly Cloudy	83°/67°	11%	6%	SW 12 mph
Monday <i>August 17</i>	Rain	78°/65°	72%	61%	SSW 15 mph
Tuesday <i>August 18</i>	Partly Cloudy	81°/65°	19%	10%	NE 10 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: *Lyrical Somerville – August 5*

Susan Tepper says:

Love these poems, highly original, appealing to both the mind and the stomach.

Martha Ellen says:

Thank you, poet.

It seems we both love a shunning debut ringed by a hippo’s debut.

I was there with you sharing the delicious treat.

Martha Ellen

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

hijab says:

Dennis Fischman’s review highlights how The Strange Case of the Alchemist’s Daughter seamlessly blends Sherlockian detective work with rich character development and sisterhood.

Renaii says:

I enjoyed this piece because it shows how much personality and history can be found in local stories. Sometimes the most interesting tales aren’t the ones making national headlines but the ones happening right in a community’s backyard. Articles like this remind me that every place has its own collection of characters, memories, and little mysteries waiting to be uncovered. It also makes me wonder how many fascinating stories are hiding in plain sight. What local story do you think deserves more attention?

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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and Cathleen Twardzik

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Photographer: Claudia Ferro

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

A proud member of the following newspaper organizations:



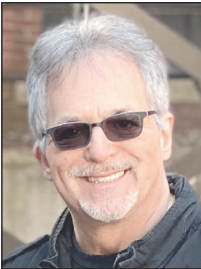
Life in the

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.

Service was Tip Top



The Tip Top Market, formerly at the corner of Walnut and 211 Pearl Street, pops up quite a bit when people reminisce about the old days in East Somerville. We still have lots of corner stores in Somerville, but those neighborhood grocery, variety stores, and meat markets of yesterday had a different feel. It was a warm, welcoming, and familiar feel. Back then, a cuff wasn't only on shirts and trousers. It was a way of getting by until payday.

I'll ask my fellow Somerville High School chum and great musician Bob G to start us off with his vivid memory of The Tip Top Market: "There was a bit of a rivalry between the stores (Tip Top Market and Mac's). Mac would call you out if he saw you going into the Tip Top Market. I would walk around the block and sneak into Tip Top when I had to go there for my mother."

"Mac would sell bologna and cheese on a bulkie for twenty-five cents. He would cut the meat and the cheese while he was talking to you. He knew everyone in the neighborhood, and underneath his gruff exterior was a heart of gold. That area of Walnut and Pearl had Mac's, Tip Top, Means Pharmacy, Pearl St. Cleaners, John the Barber, and a laundromat. It was a great neighborhood." Thanks, Bob.

Neil adds: "I worked at Tip-Top Market when I was 12 years old delivering groceries in the shopping cart." "We grew up at 234 Pearl! Tip Top and Mac's were our go-to stores!"

A former neighbor adds: "Never went into Tip Top. Would be a traitor to Mac. Mac was a wonderful man. One of the best ever!"

Another friend adds: "I lived on Walnut and can't imagine how often my mother would tell me to run down and pick something up. Sometimes snow was piled up taller than I was. Can you imagine sending children to the store today with cash? Shame, I don't think it would be possible



in our society today."

Here are some more memories of Tip Top Market: "I used to deliver groceries on Saturdays with my red wagon for tips sometimes. Also, there was a store across the street, and the guy used to cut meat there. Also, forget the name (Macs). "As a kid, I remember going in there. Sawdust always on the floor."

"Baloney and cheese Continued on page 10

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Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: Is there anything I can do now, in the middle of the year, to help with my taxes?

A: Absolutely. One of the simplest things you can do is keep good records as you go. Taxes largely operate on a “pay as you go” system. Your recordkeeping should work the same way: document as you go. Keeping records when transactions happen generally gives you more complete and accurate information than trying to reconstruct everything months – or years – later.

♦ **Home improvements are a great example.** If you own a home, keep receipts and records for significant improvements such as a new roof, windows, heating system, or

major renovations. Certain improvements may qualify for tax credits, while others may increase what you’ve invested in your home and potentially reduce taxable gain when you eventually sell it.

♦ **The same principle applies to everyday tax records.**

Even if you don’t own a home, keep records for expenses that could affect your taxes. For example, if you pay for qualifying child or dependent care so you can work, keeping payment records and provider information throughout the year can make it much easier to claim any credit you’re entitled to.

Bottom Line

Good tax planning doesn’t begin at tax

time. Document as you go. Keeping the right records throughout the year can help you claim available deductions and credits, properly calculate gains when you sell something, and avoid paying more tax than necessary.

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

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



Elm-Beacon Connector safety improvements to start

CONT. FROM PG 1

your city shouldn’t be a high-risk activity,” said Mayor Jake Wilson. “With the Elm-Beacon Connector, we’re set to increase safety for everyone on our streets. I want to thank everyone involved and acknowledge what it takes to make a project like this a reality—ongoing community advocacy and feedback, rigorous technical analysis and planning, and a deep commitment to our Vision Zero goals. None of that is easy, but it is lifesaving. Somerville has not seen a traffic death in years because these values inform all our efforts, and the Elm-Beacon Connector is an example of this commitment.”

The Elm-Beacon Connector is a quick-build project and does not involve major street reconstruction. Instead, the project will primarily use pavement markings, signage, flex posts, and traffic signal upgrades to implement a new design and make the street safer.

“Everyone in our city deserves to be able

to get around the city safely,” said Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen. “I’m thrilled to see the launch of our first street safety redesign being built under our Safe Streets Ordinance, and I’m incredibly grateful to everyone who took time to give the city feedback on this project over the past several years.”

Highlights of the new design include:

♦ Separated bike lanes on Elm Street, Somerville Avenue, and Beacon Street protected with a buffer and plastic flex posts.

♦ A new Neighborway on Mossland Street allowing north-and south-bound travel for people biking while dead-ending the section of Mossland Street at Elm Street for motor vehicles.

♦ Access will be maintained for emergency vehicles at both ends of the street.

♦ Clear Corners installation at all intersections to improve sight lines.

♦ New traffic signal equipment to allow smooth travel for all modes of transporta-

tion, including bus detection for more efficient public transit movement.

In addition to this year’s quick-build improvements, contractors will build a raised crosswalk across Elm Street at Cherry Street next to the Kennedy School next year. Regular updates on installation progress will be available on the project webpage at somervillema.gov/elmbeacon.

More About the Project and New Street Design

The Elm-Beacon Connector project area includes Elm Street between Russell Street and Somerville Avenue, Somerville Avenue between the City Line and Elm Street, and Beacon Street between Somerville Avenue and Oxford Street, as well as all of Mossland Street.

Making space for these safety improvements will require removing most parking on the south side of Elm Street as well as the removal of select spots on Somerville Avenue, Beacon Street, and

Mossland Street. Some new spaces will be added on Russell Street, Cutter Avenue, and Summer Street, and high-priority regulations such as accessible parking and loading zones will be added throughout the project area.

New dedicated pick-up and drop-off areas will be created on Cherry Street and Sartwell Avenue to facilitate school arrival and dismissal. A detailed outline of parking changes is available on the project webpage.

In addition to the community feedback, the design is informed by Somerville’s commitment to Vision Zero (a commitment to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injury) and the City’s Bicycle Network Plan (a roadmap for expanding bicycle safety and features across the city).

To learn more about the project, including details on the final design and feedback from the community process, please visit somervillema.gov/elmbeacon.

Somerville seeks standby polling place workers for State Primary Election

The City of Somerville is seeking standby polling place workers for the upcoming State Primary Election on Tuesday, September 1. Many poll workers are needed to support operations and conduct a successful election.

Standby poll workers must be ready to step in as needed on Election Day: Tuesday, September 1, 2026. The workday starts at 6:30 a.m. and ends after the polls close at 8 p.m., with a two-hour break. Poll workers would serve in the following role:

♦ **Inspector** - Check off names as voters check in, assist at the voting machine, or staff the demonstration table.

Inspectors also help set up and break down the precinct. The compensation is \$250 per day.

To apply, please email Human Resources at hadmin@somervillema.gov.

Applicants will be contacted and hired as needed up until Election Day.

To learn more, please contact the Elections Office at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200.



Somerville Mayor celebrates Organ Donation

New England Donor Services joined Mayor Jake Wilson, City Councilor Jon Link, Registry of Motor Vehicles leadership, and individuals touched by donation to celebrate organ donation and encourage people to register as a donor at the RMV when getting their license, ID, or REAL ID or online at www.mass.gov/OrganDonor. The Mayor and the City Councilor both displayed the hearts on their license during the event, showing pride in their decision to register as a donor.

Joe Kowalski, a heart transplant recipient, shared his transplant story to highlight the impact of organ donation. In 2023, just days after his wife suffered a stroke, Joe experienced an unexpected heart attack. After finding out heart surgery would likely be unsuccessful, Joe was added to the national transplant list. He received a successful heart transplant shortly after, re-turning home in early September 2023. Following six months of cardiac rehab, Joe was able to get back to doing the things he

loves, like kayaking on the Charles River and playing in his rock band. When Kathy O'Brien's husband, Shawn, passed away in 2023, he was not able to become an organ donor but donated tissue, including his cornea, enabling sight for an individual who had gone blind, a heart valve to a young person, and other tissues, ultimately benefiting nearly 100 people. Somerville resident Sage Hoffman shared how she is a living kidney donor to a man who later became her husband.

The Somerville event emphasized the ongoing need for organ donors, the importance of donor registration, and the meaningful difference donation can make for individuals and families. This event comes as NEDS achieved a record number of transplants last year. In 2025, NEDS coordinated organ donations from 640 deceased donors, resulting in 1,692 life-saving transplants. This record number of organ transplants represents the fifth consecutive year of growth and places NEDS among



Mayor Jake Wilson joined other community leaders in promoting organ donation on Tuesday.

the nation's top three organ procurement organizations (OPOs) by donor and transplant volume. Since 2020, NEDS has increased the number of life-saving organ transplants from New England organ donors by 65 percent. In addition, the organi-

zation's Aftercare team provided services to 3,390 new donor families last year. In 2025, NEDS also coordinated 1,628 donor family and recipient letters, and 1,426 individuals impacted by organ donation attended NEDS-sponsored events.



COMMENTARY

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

Democratic Civil War Has Working Class Casualties



By Matthew McLaughlin
Candidate for State Senate,
2nd Middlesex District

There is a civil war within the Democratic Party. The establishment is fighting off an insurgency for the soul of the party. As with any war, the victims are everyday working people, caught between factions who claim to fight for them but are in fact causing the suffering.

This is no different in the Second Middlesex District State Senate race. One candidate is backed by State House elites, the other uses working class rhetoric but is detached from their struggles. They represent two factions in the Democratic Party, but ultimately they are both part of the same elite class of politicians war-

ring for power over people who are walking away.

The working class is politically homeless [1]; refugees from factional wars they don't identify with. This is true even in solid blue Massachusetts, where 65 percent of voters are registered independent. Three percent of Massachusetts Democrats left [2] the party in 2024. Fifty percent of union households vote [3] Republican because they have come to believe that Republicans are fighting for their paychecks. Young people are not voting at all. The diverse, working class coalition Democrats depend on is fracturing, and most Democratic politicians are content to fight each other for the shattered remains of a shrinking electorate.

I am the working class candidate for State Senate. I mopped floors at MIT, joined the army and served two tours in Iraq, worked just about every job this community has to offer, and did everything I can to make ends meet for my family. I dedicated my life not to the Democratic Party, but to serving working

people. And I'm one of millions of people disillusioned by the Democratic Party. We are being squeezed out by two factions, two sides of the same coin, who view power as the end in itself, and not a means to improve the lives of working people. I would walk away, like so many have already, if I didn't truly believe I know the path to lead the Democratic Party out of the wilderness and back into a party of the People.

Every door I knock validates my belief that both factions have completely lost sight of who they serve. Most people in this district are not talking about Beacon Hill inside baseball, foreign affairs, or the culture war of Democratic politicians. They are talking about their wallets, their homes, and their families. They are concerned about their ability to afford to live in the Commonwealth. One in three Massachusetts residents say they think about leaving [4] the state due to the cost of living. I am fighting to keep those people here. I am fighting to make Massachusetts a place where they can afford to

stay, and they can afford to dream for something more.

Massachusetts, the State House, and the Democratic Party need something new. We need candidates that are truly OF the people and for the people. We need to fight to get the working class back, and the best way to do that is to run working class candidates for office who aren't concerned with Beacon Hill infighting and clubhouse politics. I am solely concerned with the well being of working people.

The working class does not want status quo politics, and they don't want to burn the system down. They want the government to work for them. I'm running for State Senate because I make the government accessible to the people. As a working class person, I fought for my family and my community. As a city councilor and a community leader, I provided pragmatic solutions to address working class issues. As an activist, I advocated for and created transformative change that has impacted the entire region.

There is another way forward,

through all the meandering and nonsense of the political elite. The people of the Democratic Party and the people of Massachusetts demand real change that radically improves the lives of working class people. I am laser focused on addressing the cost of living. I will not waiver when I get to the State House because these issues impact me and my community directly.

Links:

- [1] <https://theconversation.com/democrats-have-a-working-class-voter-problem-that-progressives-like-abdul-el-sayed-are-still-struggling-to-solve-289294>
- [2] https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AAOm-JIG6SDYOx8aT5Q_YrWm-057hB51Rr6NjD5LKIGEI/edit?gid=0#gid=0
- [3] <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2024/12/republicans-democrats-workers-unions-appeal/681103/>
- [4] <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2025/12/07/metro/massachusetts-voters-leaving-state-expensive-suffolk-poll/>

Scam alert for special permit applicants

Permit applicants in Somerville have recently received emails that appear to come from the City of Somerville requesting payment. Despite use of official logos, correct titles, and real staff names, these messages were fraudulent.

The city is sharing information on how you can stay protected against potential scams.

What to know:

- ✦ The City of Somerville will never ask you to send money via gift cards, peer-to-peer apps (like Venmo or Cash App), cryptocurrency, or wire transfers to unknown accounts.
- ✦ Official city emails come from @somervillema.gov addresses.
- ✦ Fees are requested only through the city's standard billing/invoice processes or our official online payment portals, such as Citizenserve.

How to protect yourself:

- ✦ Pause and verify. If you get a payment request you weren't expecting, don't click links or send funds.
- ✦ Check the sender. Confirm the full email address (not just the display name).
- ✦ Contact us directly. Forward suspicious messages regarding permit fees to planning@somervillema.gov and we'll confirm whether it's legitimate.
- ✦ Report it. If you believe you were targeted, let us know. You can also report phishing to your email provider – and if funds were sent, to local law enforcement.

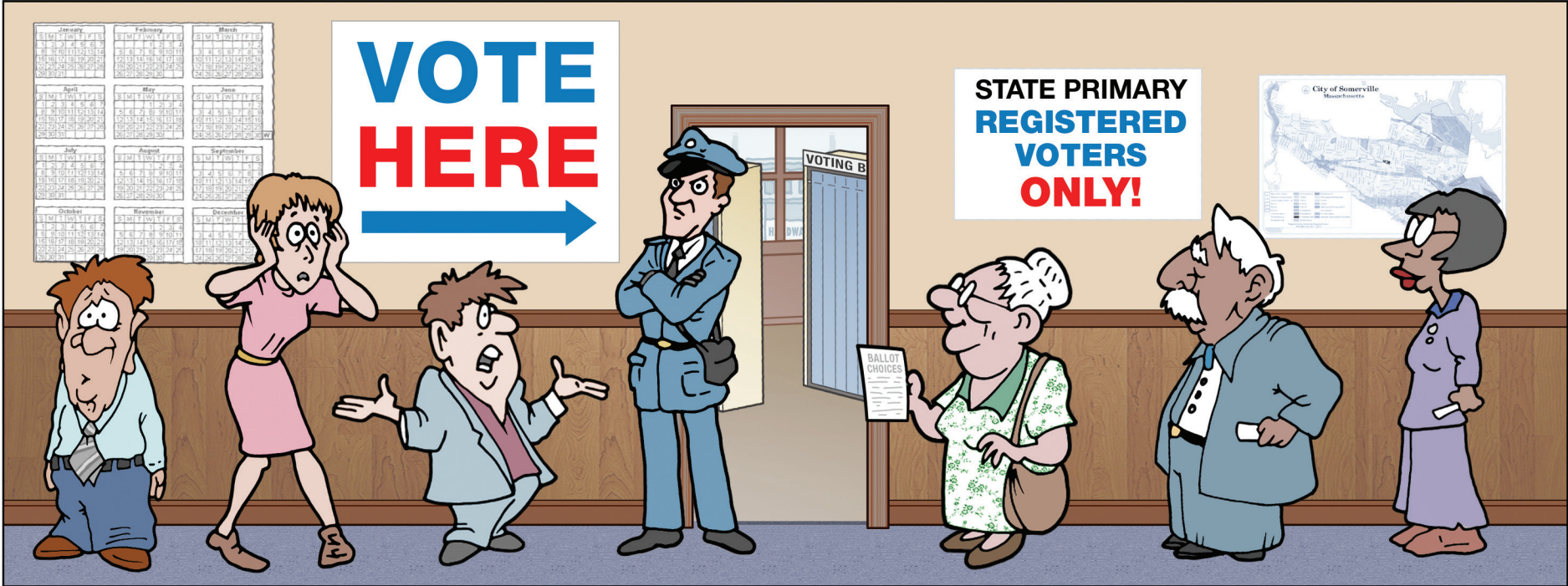
Quick scam telltales include urgent "pay now" demands, payment methods the city doesn't use, links to non-somervillema.gov sites, misspelled lookalike domains (for example, "somervi11e" with two capital I's or two numeral 1s), or invoices or fees you weren't previously notified about.



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Remember to register to vote by August 22.

Our View Of The Times

Those in public service to our state must be ready, willing, and able to rise to the occasion when called upon to do so. Each one of us, whoever we may be supporting in this year’s statewide election, is searching our hearts to determine whom we feel will best fill those roles.

Most of us seem to be very confident that our favored candidates are up to the task. Others bemoan a lack of integrity or

skills required to do the job well among those who are running.

Either way, if we feel passionate enough in our convictions, then it is clearly incumbent on each of us to do our part and make sure we make our voices heard by voting in the upcoming State Primary on September 1.

This means that we must have the foresight and capability to register to vote if

we have not already done so. The process is quick and easy, and is an absolute requirement for being allowed to cast a vote. There really is no excuse for not voting. Registration continues through August 22 via the usual means. Mail-in ballot request deadline is Tuesday, August 25, by 5 p.m. The early voting window is Saturday, August 22 to Friday, August 28. Specific info is available at www.somervillema.gov/

departments/elections.

Registered Democrats and Republicans must vote in their respective party primaries. Unenrolled voters (independents) can choose either party’s ballot at the polling place.

Let us hope that those elected will realize the potential they may have to become as great as others who have gone before them.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Courtney O’Keefe of Ward 5. We wish her a great birthday. Happy birthday, Jenny Bonham Carter. We wish Jenny a great day. Happy birthday to Cliff Clark. We wish him the very best. We wish all our celebrating Facebook friends, such as Savanna Payne, Elizabeth Roche, Victor Martins, Joseph Amaral Sr., Patricia Toner, Anna Rosella, and Roy Bertocchi, a very happy 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.

SAC & the Inside-Out gallery (CVS Davis Sq) present the "Power of Print"

Viva la Revolution! If you missed its debut during ArtBeat, you still have plenty of time to check out this prolific exhibit. This showcase features linoleum relief prints by 64 artists from our local community. To find out more, visit <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/events/power-of-print/>.

Join Mayor Jake Wilson and Somerville’s Council on Aging for the annual Mayor’s Senior Picnic at 11 a.m. at Trum Field on September 10. Call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319 for a free ticket by September 4. Enjoy good food, music, meeting new people, and catching up

with old friends.

The Somerville Bicycle Committee’s August Streetwise will be held on August 19 at 6 p.m. at Aeronaut Brewing Company, 14 Tyler St., featuring BCU Labs. From their website: "BCU Labs seeks to draw insight and tell stories from the wealth of biking data in Boston. Our mission is to leverage the power of data through creative experimentation, learn where Boston can improve its infrastructure ... and continue to empower BCU’s advocacy one pedal at a time."

End of Summer Reading Celebration

at East Branch Library, August 13. Join us to celebrate the end of SPL’s Summer Reading Program and meet and learn about various reptiles and mammals with Animal World Experience. This event will take place on Thursday, August 13, at East Branch Library (115 Broadway) from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

ESMS’s biggest fundraising event of the year is almost here. East Somerville’s Foodie Crawl 2026, Tuesday, September 15 (rain date: September 16), 6 – 8:30 p.m. Join them for an evening of delicious food, local discoveries, live music, and community

Continued on page 15

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's
Olio
#1034

Olio - (noun) A miscella-
neous mixture, hodgepodge

1. In what year did Italy invade Greece?

2. Who had a hit with the song *Livin' on a Prayer* in 1986?

3. What medical drama ran from '82 to '88?

4. Who played Alex P. Keaton in *Family Ties*?

5. Which ocean is the largest on Earth?

6. What city would you find the Ivy League Yale University?

7. Wallonia and Flanders are regions of which country famous
- for chocolates?

8. Poland's flag is red and which other color?

9. Which 20th U.S. President shares his name with a famous cartoon cat?

10. Complete this Hemingway classic title: A Farewell to _____

11. What do you call the practice of giving a family member a job they are totally unqualified for?

12. What's the name of Sherlock Holmes's trusty sidekick?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Cats can't taste sweet things because of a genetic defect.
2. A frigate bird can sleep while it flies.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
BACK TO SCHOOL

- ACROSS
1. Eye affliction

5. Mowgli to Raksha in "The Jungle Book"

8. Cured pork product, pl.

12. Every lap you run in gym class completes one

13. Ripped

14. Throw up

15. Mythological ship

16. Agitate

17. Like worthless promise

18. "Go to the ____'s office"

20. Hatchling's home

21. Wasted on the young?

22. "Amazing!"

23. ____ Core, academic standards

26. "Rock N'Roll High School" band

30. Be obliged

31. Orange ____ tea, pl.

34. Of low density

35. Earthenware pots

37. Farm layer

38. Bagpipes sound, in Scotland

39. Vessel's "spine"

40. Mary, Mary quite contrary" place

42. Radio knob, abbr.

43. Blended family family member

45. Trotters

47. Owned

48. San Diego baseballer

50. Castle defense

52. a.k.a. lunch room

56. " ____ little cubby all stuffed with fluff"

57. Knight's breastplate

58. Bit of smoke

59. Willow twig

60. Pub arrow

61. Popular street-lining trees

62. Post-deductions amount

63. Opposite of WSW

64. Somebody ____

- DOWN
1. Dueler's blow

2. Unit of pressure

3. Jellystone Park denizen

4. Amerigo to America

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

Y	A	M	S			S	K	I			S	O	B	S
A	L	O	E			O	W	E	N		T	U	B	A
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H	A	S	T	E				S	T	E	T		N	A
E	Y	E	S					P	Y	A			T	H

5. *Plagiarize, technically speaking

6. Heap of "David Copperfield"

7. School signaling device

8. Unwelcome load

9. Current unit, pl.

10. Catcher's catcher

11. Chester White's home

13. Three in one

14. Animal toxin

19. Poultry houses

22. "It ____ a dark and stormy night..."

23. Too many in the kitchen?

24. Baby owl

25. Free-for-all

26. Tear

27. Lacking guile

28. Baseball fielding mistake

29. She ____ sea shells..."

32. ____ Academy, online study aid
33. " ____ the land of the free..."

36. *Reading building blocks

38. Stall call

40. Character in Greek Mythology reading assignment

41. Firstborn

44. Nymph chaser

46. Diminutive

48. Like nature worshipping, e.g.

49. Flamb

50. Dante's Beatrice, e.g.

51. Passing mention

52. Relinquish

53. Small brook

54. Doctrines

55. Part of church

56. Unit in measurement and weight math lessons
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Vote-by-mail ballots on their way to Somerville voters for the State Primary Election

The City of Somerville Election Department has begun mailing Vote-by-Mail ballots to voters for the September 1 State Primary Election.

Ballots will continue to be mailed regularly as applications are received and processed. Voters are encouraged to return their completed ballots as soon as possible. Returning your ballot early allows the Election Department time to review the ballot envelope for completeness and contact you, if necessary, should any issue arise that could affect whether your ballot is eligible to be counted.

For added convenience, the city has 10 Official Election Drop Boxes located throughout Somerville. Voters are encouraged to use these secure drop boxes to return their signed and sealed Vote-by-Mail ballots, helping to ensure timely delivery while reducing demands on the postal system. The drop boxes may also be used for all Election Department correspondence.

Remember before returning your ballot:

- Complete your ballot.
- Place it in the ballot envelope.
- Sign the voter’s affidavit on the orange ballot envelope
- Return it as early as possible using an Official Election Drop Box or by mail.

The Somerville Election Department appreciates your participation in the democratic process and encourages all eligible voters to make a plan to vote in the September 1 State Primary by voting early by mail, early in person at City Hall, or in person at your polling location on Election Day.

Official Election Drop Box locations for the City of Somerville

- City Hall Concourse – 93 Highland Avenue • East Somerville Community School (Glen Street entrance) – Across from 66 Glen Street • Argenziano School – 290 Washington Street • SHA Mystic Activity Center (rear) – 530 Mystic Avenue • St. Catherine of Genoa Church parish parking lot – Near 182 Summer Street (corner of Spring Street) • Somerville Armory – 191 Highland Avenue • Somerville Community Baptist Church – 31 College Avenue
- Dilboy Post – Near 351 Summer Street • Tufts Administrative Building – 167 Holland Street • West Somerville Neighborhood School – 177 Powder House Boulevard



Dorothy’s Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Vegetable Ragu

Here’s a great recipe for meatless Monday. Packed with sweet and savory flavors that go well with spaghetti squash or pasta. The different textures will leave you truly satisfied with this vegetarian knock off of a meat filled ragu.

- 5-6 Large Portobello Mushrooms 1/2” Dice
- 3 Tablespoons Olive Oil, divided
- 1 Medium Sweet Onion, 1/4” dice
- 4 Celery Stalks, 1/4” dice
- 3 Medium or 2 Large Carrots, 1/4” dice
- 3 Medium Garlic Cloves, sliced
- 2 Tablespoons Tomato Paste
- 1/2 Teaspoon Dried Thyme
- 1/2 Teaspoon Dried Basil
- 1 Teaspoon Red Wine Vinegar
- 1/2 Cup Water
- 1/3 Cup Sun Dried Tomatoes in

- Olive Oil
- Salt & Pepper to Taste
- Pinch Red Hot Pepper Flakes, (optional)

Add 2 tablespoons olive oil to a heavy bottomed pot. Add the mushrooms and a pinch of salt. Cook on medium heat until, occasionally stirring the mushrooms until all the juices dry up and the mushrooms brown, about 15 minutes. Remove the mushrooms and set aside.

Add the other tablespoon of olive oil and add the onion, celery, and carrots along with a pinch of salt and sauté for 10 minutes on medium/low heat. Add the garlic and stir for 30 seconds. Stir in the tomato paste along with the dried herbs. Cook for about a minute and add the vinegar and stir.

Add the water and scrape the bits off the bottom of the pot. Add the sun dried tomatoes and pepper flakes and



cook down for an additional 5 minutes. Another option is to add in a can of 14oz, diced and fire roasted tomatoes. Be sure to taste as you go and season with additional salt and pepper.

Serve over pasta or spaghetti squash. Serves 4-5.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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



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

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, August 20, 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/join/wn_hkjuftmcsz67xqtelmu31g

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:

- 8 Medford Street**
The Law Offices of Richard G. DiGirolamo on behalf of Medford Properties, LLC proposes to establish a residential housing use in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) zoning district, which requires a Special Permit.
- 8 Medford Street**
The Law Offices of Richard G. DiGirolamo on behalf of Medford Properties, LLC proposes to develop a General Building in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) zoning district, which requires Site Plan Approval.

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

8/5/26, 8/12/26 The Somerville Times



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

The **Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Tuesday, September 1, 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/join/wn_r5B0mGmVSJ-Ukrnrgtanvw

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

- 52 Powderhouse Blvd**
Applicant: Vanita Wagner
Owner: Vanita Wagner
The applicant is requesting the replacement of 6 original wood windows on a Local Historic District (LHD) property.

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

- 3 Cameron Ave**
Applicant: Nirnanjan Gawli
Owner: Cameron Rei LLC
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

8/12/26 The Somerville Times



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

Invitation to Bid

The **Somerville Housing Authority**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from contractors for the SHA Job No. 2408: Mystic Development Window Replacement, for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville MA, in accordance with the documents prepared by EHA Design, Inc.

The Project consists of, but is not limited to: Furnish all labor, materials, equipment, and supervision necessary for the complete replacement of the specified windows at Mystic Development, located on #10-20-30, #40-50-60 & #70-80-90 River Road, and #500 Mystic Avenue, Somerville, MA 02145.

The work is estimated to cost: **\$1,450,000.00**.

All bidding "Requests For Information" (RFI's) shall be forwarded to dsmith@ehadesign.com by Friday, August 28, 2026 for general bids.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149. & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive and federal wage rates established by the Davis Bacon Wage Act and the Secretary of Labor, under the Provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations, as amended. The higher of the two rates shall be paid. The project is subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an online bidder. All bids shall be submitted online at www.biddocsonline.com, by the date and time specified.

General Bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) for the category of General Building Construction, and general bids must be accompanied by a DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and an Update Statement.

General Bids will be received electronically at www.biddocsonline.com until **2:00 p.m., on Thursday, September 3, 2026**, and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five percent (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the **Somerville Housing Authority**. A one hundred percent (100%) Performance and a one hundred percent (100%) Payment Bond will also be required.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at www.biddocsonline.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost) or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

A pre-bid conference / site visit will be held at the rear Modernization Office of the **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, Massachusetts 02145, on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 1:00pm**. It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders attend.

8/12/26 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFP # 27-05

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

CPA Historic Preservation Technical Assistance

A request for proposals (RFP) may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, August 12, 2026**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **3:00 pm, Wednesday, August 26, 2026**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Cameron Moriarty at cmoriarty@somervillema.gov for more information.

Cameron Moriarty
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3403

8/12/26 The Somerville Times

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CONTACT US BY 12 PM MONDAY PHONE: 857-488-5138

Service was Tip Top CONT. FROM PG 9

sandwich for a quarter. We could go there from the Prescott School to get our lunch.”

“Benny, Arnie, Mr. Weiner, Dot and Bee. Ice cream chest in the corner. You had to reach way down to get Popsicles (real two-stick ones) and almost fall in!”

“Doing weekly shopping on Saturdays with my mom as a child and thinking the store was big.”

“Food order being delivered by hand-pushed cart to our house.”

“I remember when I was a kid my grandmother would send me with a note to Tip Top to get cold cuts, and you didn’t need money. They would just put you on the list. Then my grandmother would pay at the end of

the week.”

I’d like to thank everyone that shared their memories with us.

A former neighborhood resident concludes: “I’ve gone through all the comments and have enjoyed them, and regret the loss to the community. There were so many wonderful small businesses.”

This story brought back memories of shopping with my mother. I recall the smell of fresh ground coffee in the Davis Square A&P, and I remember going into meat markets that had sawdust on the floor. Let’s support the small businesses of Somerville as we emerge from the pandemic and safely return to normal.

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from our website:
www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Local event brings community and police together

CONT. FROM PG 1

night where temperatures were in the 80s, but there was plenty of water on hand.

National Night Out is a Nationwide initiative. Held on the first Tuesday in August since 1984 by the National Association of Town Watch, it promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood trust in this day and age where trust is stable but remains low, according to Gallup.

A Somerville officer said, “It’s the best event we run all year. It’s also very important for us to connect with the community.”

A resident said, “It’s a great event. They do it every year, and it’s a great event to get kids to trust the police.”

At the Tufts University Police Department tent, they had Haley, the university police’s comfort dog, and she’s also trained in EOD (sniffing for bombs and explosives).

“It’s a good way for kids to have fun and play and interact with the cops,” one parent said.



Somerville Police Officers interacting with families at bouncy houses.



Emergency personnel vehicles parked outside of National Night Out.



Families lining up for “Touch a Truck.”



Police Officer playing with families at Tic Tac Toe basketball game.



Police Officer providing water at concession stand.



Kids dancing with Chase from Paw Patrol and Lego Police Officer.



Kids playing in foam at dunk tank.



Police Officer providing water at concession stand.



Kid planting a seed at “Planting Seeds of Kindness” table.

Somerville's Yart Sale 2026

Yart Sale returned last weekend. Somerville's porches, driveways, and front yards were transformed into mini galleries and pop-up markets. Artists displayed paintings, photography, handmade objects, jewelry, art supplies and tools, collectible items, plants, frames, vintage clothes, and more.



Charlotte Wirth, Naturally-dyed wool and handspun yarn.



McKenzie family Pokemon Cards, Art books, Gardening books.



Radical Clay, Organic hand-built ceramics.



Adam Vigil Photography Landscape and cityscape photography prints.



Mary C. Sullivan Art, Bird paintings.



Emma, Small paintings.



Radical Clay, Organic hand-built ceramics.



Allison Smith, hand marbled papers and paste papers.



Terry's pottery Relatively new potter.



Allison Smith, hand marbled papers and paste papers.



A display of Lego flower bouquets made by Milenka Alarcon.



Alejandra Culqui and Tatiana Carreno from Alelu Studio sell crochet and art handmade crafts.



A display of Fairy Garden Accessories made by Betsy Larkin.



Candles from Saggi Grossman's NeuroCrafty store.



Milva McDonald from Milva Pottery.



Kay Hathaway founder of Craftling Cottage.



Laura Mackil, pottery artist.



Painter Kaylee Bonilla.



Ben Johnson, illustrator.



Alex Klufas, a watercolor artist.



Rachel Shapiro's glass totem.



Alexander Silva's Wackdonalds.



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Answers

1. 1940	7. Belgium
2. Bon Jovi	8. White
3. St. Elsewhere	9. James Garfield
4. Michael J. Fox	10. Arms
5. Pacific Ocean	11. Nepotism
6. New Haven	12. Watson

Davis Square gets a ‘Glow Up’ this summer

This summer, you may have noticed that Davis Square has more color, a few more places to sit, and a lot more reason to stop and enjoy.

On Friday, August 21, the City of Somerville will celebrate Davis Square’s “summer glow up” with a ribbon-cutting from 4:30 to 5 p.m., directly before the Down in Davis: Alive at Five performance at Statue Park. The event will mark the completion of recent public space improvements in the square, including the activation of the Davis Square Slip Lane and new placemaking art at Statue Park.

Designed by the city’s Public Space and Urban Forestry team and installed with help from the Department of Public Works, the updates aim to make Davis Square more welcoming and comfortable for residents, visitors, workers, and shoppers. The effort is also designed to support the small businesses, restaurants, arts venues, and gathering places that make the square one of Somerville’s most active neighborhood centers. Residents and

business owners have worked to activate the area with musical performances, both planned and spontaneous.

“Davis Square has always had the ingredients that make a neighborhood feel alive: food, music, transit, public art, open space, small businesses, and people coming together,” said Mayor Wilson. “This project builds on that energy with more color, comfort, and places to gather. In this Year of the Neighbor, it’s a great example of how the city and community can work together to help an already beloved third space shine even brighter.”

What’s New at Slip Lane and Statue Park

The Slip Lane (in front of Mike’s restaurant) has been transformed into an inviting community space featuring a vibrant asphalt mural installed by Boston-based artist and muralist Massiel Grullón, enhanced seating options, native pollinator plants, and string lights to encourage use into the evening.

At Statue Park, the city is installing a new art piece fabricated by Somer-



New public art, seating, lighting, plantings, and gathering space bring more color and comfort to one of Somerville’s busiest neighborhood centers.



Davis Sq before the “Glow-Up” treatment.

ville-based Black Cat Labs to strengthen the identity of the square and provide photo opportunities to visitors. The area’s banners have also been updated to reflect the sense of place.

“Davis Square is, and always has been, a fantastic place to spend time, do your shopping, and bump into your neighbors for a quick chat,” said Ward Six City Councilor Lance Davis, who is also the City Council President. “I’m thrilled with these investments from both the city and our community to help keep Davis Square the vibrant heartbeat of our city.”

The project is part of Somerville’s ongoing work to improve public spaces, support neighborhood business districts, and create more inviting places for people to gather across the city.

“The glow up of Davis Square is about more than adding color,” said Luisa Oliveira, Director of Public Space and Urban Forestry. “It is about creating vibrant squares to gather, adding shade and comfort for people to do so, and helping people feel welcome in the square. Business owners, gardeners, artists, volunteer neighbors, and City staff all helped make this happen, and that community effort is what makes the project special.”

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

connection while supporting the work of East Somerville Main Streets. For more information, visit: <https://www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/foodie-crawl-2026>.

On Friday, August 21, the City of Somerville will celebrate Davis Square’s “summer glow up” with a ribbon-cut-

ting from 4:30 to 5 p.m., directly before the **Down in Davis: Alive at Five** performance at **Statue Park**. The event will mark the completion of recent public space improvements in the square, including the activation of the **Davis Square Slip Lane** and new placemaking art at Statue Park.

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. Enjoy **Zootopia 2**, the final film in the 2026 series, on **Thursday, August 13**, at **Seven Hills Park** in Davis Square. Approximate start time is 8:15 p.m. For more information, please visit [https://](https://www.somervillema.gov/moviefest)

www.somervillema.gov/moviefest. Persons with disabilities who need ADA accommodations to access this program, please contact ada@somervillema.gov or call 311 (617-666-3311).

Design the next **SomerStreets: Monster Mash** festival poster! Monster Mash is Somerville’s annual

Continued on page 19

Somerville to observe Overdose Awareness Day and Recovery Month

In recognition of Overdose Awareness Day and Recovery Month, the City of Somerville invites community members to a candlelight vigil and flag planting on August 27, as well as to overdose prevention training events throughout September.

The vigil and flag planting will take place Thursday, August 27, from 6 to 7 p.m. outside City Hall (93 Highland Ave.). Eleven purple flags will solemnly grace the City Hall lawn in memory of residents whose lives were lost to opioid-related overdose in 2025, with one large flag planted to represent those lost in prior years. Purple lights will also light up City Hall in recognition of Recovery Month. The flag and light displays will remain through September.

“This observance is never easy, but it serves as an important opportunity to remember those lost, support those grieving, and reaffirm our commitment to providing community resources and supports. Everyone is welcome to join the vigil or to take their own quiet moment in September to observe the flags and remember that each one represents a friend, loved one, and valued member of our community,” said Mayor Jake Wilson. “I’m grateful for the work our prevention staff does every day to support residents in need and for continuing to host prevention trainings to provide neighbors critical knowledge that could help save a life.”



In addition to the annual flag display and vigil, the city will observe recovery month with free Narcan (overdose-reversal medication) distribution and training events in August and September.

“I’m very grateful the city continues to recognize the terrible toll opioid addiction has brought on our community,” said Ward 1 Councilor Matt McLaughlin. “There was a time when people didn’t want to acknowledge it, but that did not hide the pain. The first step to recovery is to acknowledge we have a problem. The next step is to solve the problem.”

Free Narcan Distribution and Training Events

Somerville Prevention Services staff will host Narcan distribution events and trainings to distribute free overdose prevention information and harm reduction materials. These include the overdose-reversing nasal spray naloxone (often referred to as Narcan), Fentanyl test strips, CPR face shields, and syringe disposal boxes.

Dates and locations include:

- ♦ Overdose Awareness Vigil and Flag Planting
Thursday, August 27, 6 to 7 p.m.
City Hall lawn, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville
Narcan to be distributed
- ♦ Virtual (Online) Overdose Prevention Training
(held the first Tuesday of each month in partnership with Cambridge Public Health Dept.)
Tuesday, September 1, 3 to 4 p.m.
tinyurl.com/et5jbknw
- ♦ In-Person Overdose Prevention Trainings
Tuesday, September 8, 6 to 7 p.m.
Central Library Auditorium (79 Highland Ave.)
Thursday, September 24, 6 to 7 p.m.
East Branch Library (115 Broadway)
Monday, September 28, 6 to 7 p.m.
West Branch Library (40 College Ave.)

To learn more about the Somerville Office of Prevention and their year-round programming and services, visit somervillema.gov/prevention.

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com
Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

Book review: ‘Enigma of China’ by Qiu Xiaolong

By Dennis Fischman

One of the great things about reading a mystery that’s set in a different time and place is that it makes you learn, in an enjoyable way, what’s normal and expected then and there. Without knowing that, you wouldn’t be able to see what was out of place, and a clue! That is one of the pleasures of *Enigma of China*, by Qiu Xiaolong.

Qiu’s Inspector Chen Cao series began being published way back in 2000, long after the Mao era and even after the death of Chairman Deng Xiaoping, but it is set in the 1990’s, in a China that was still struggling to figure out its economic and political direction. That same struggle is reflected in the life of our hero. He’s a gifted poet, but he becomes a policeman out of duty and a sense of justice.

Those two qualities sometimes conflict.

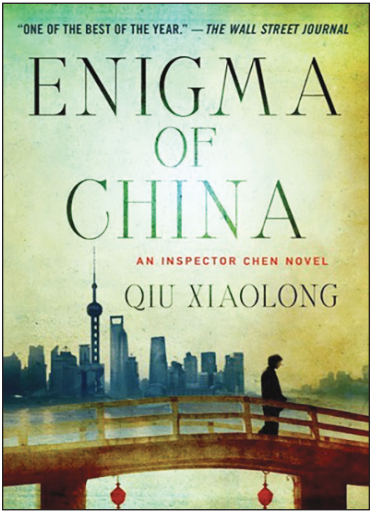
For instance, in the first book of the series, *Death of a Red Heroine* [1], Inspector Chen is assigned to investigate the case of a young woman who has been held up as a national example of a model worker and good Communist Party member. She turns up dead in a Shanghai canal. For his superiors, it is highly desirable that her death be ruled a suicide. For Chen, his conscience will not allow him to turn away from the truth. It’s a balancing act he has to pull off for the course of his career.

In *Enigma of China*, the eighth book in the long-running series, Chen’s investigative successes and his diplomatic skills have made him a rising cadre in the party, in line to take over the top political position in the police department, while being respect-

ed by his colleagues as well. But once again, he is being pressured to declare a death a suicide. He has his doubts.

Yes, the dead man had a dramatic fall from grace. The son of a leading Party member and the head of the Shanghai Housing Development Committee, Zhou Keng, died after his corrupt business dealings were publicly revealed on the Internet, no less! That might have been a reason for him to kill himself, true. But did he?

I think it was somehow fated that I read #9 before coming back to this one, because this really should be the end of the series. It’s a summation of what’s come before: Chen’s devotion to being an honest cop with the Confucian virtues increasingly conflicting with the demands of being a Party man. In this book, someone he respects gets killed



Enigma of China by Qiu Xiaolong. Minotaur Press, 2013.



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

because of his dogged detective work, and Chen seems to take some refuge from his moral dilemmas in poetry, fine food, and flirtation. Ultimately, however, he keeps the woman he’s beginning to have feelings for, safe. It is his own career and life he puts on the line.

This is one of the best books

in the series, and if it’s the last one I ever read, I will be content. But I recommend you start from the beginning. There are a dozen trips to China in store for you.

Link:
[1] https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/126606.Death_of_a_Red_Heroine

Somerville Recreation’s 2026 Fall Program Guide is here

Want to learn street hockey or archery as an adult? Join a free teen volleyball clinic and grab a Neighborhood Restaurant sandwich after practice. Explore a new adaptive arts-and-crafts program or enjoy a Friday teen night out with games, pizza, and friends?

Somerville’s 2026 Fall Program Guide is now available, featuring hundreds of ways for residents of all ages and abilities to move, learn, play, and connect this season.

“This fall, Somerville Rec is expanding its lineup, bringing back activities we haven’t offered in some time, and trying entirely new things,” said Mayor Wilson. “I’m delighted our lineup gives residents of all ages and abilities more ways to get active, connect with neighbors, and try something new.”

Residents can also explore youth sports and enrichment programs, adult fitness classes, aquatics and swim lessons, seasonal special events, community celebrations, and much more, including a range of new programs.

Highlights and new programs include:

- A free teen volleyball clinic at Assembly Row, complete with grab-and-go sandwiches from the Neighborhood Restaurant
- Adult learn-to-play street hockey and archery using wooden recurve bows
- Adaptive sports clinics for students in grades K–5 and 6–12
- Women’s pickup basketball and adult basketball, kickball, and softball leagues
- Free teen open gyms, art lounges, events, and other drop-in activities through the Teen Program Membership
- A new adaptive arts-and-crafts program
- A free Adaptive Teen Night Out with games, crafts, pizza, and time to socialize

The online guide will be updated throughout the season as new programs and information become available.

Residents can explore current offerings and register at somervillerec.com.

For registration assistance, email ParksRec@SomervilleMA.gov or call 617-625-6600 ext. 2980.

MAYOR JAKE WILSON
SOMERVILLE RECREATION



FALL GUIDE

SEPT.-NOV.

COOLER WEATHER MEANS IT'S THE PERFECT TIME TO GET OUTSIDE, TRY SOMETHING NEW, AND ENJOY A SEASON PACKED WITH EXCITING PROGRAMS, FAMILY FUN, AND ACTIVITIES FOR EVERY AGE AND ABILITY.

» PLUS INCLUDES A COLORING PAGE INSIDE!

2026

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FALL IS CALLING - AND SO IS THE FUN!

featuring our FALL FESTIVAL see page 8

Somerville sharing how to vote early or by mail in the State Primary Election

Don't let a busy schedule prevent you from exercising your right to vote. Somerville is reminding community members of important voting deadlines and how to vote early, by mail, or in person in the State Primary Election on Tuesday, September 1.

Vote Early

Early voting for the Primary Election will be held from Saturday, August 22, through Friday, August 28, in the lower level of City Hall (93 Highland Ave.).

Early Voting Hours:

Saturday, August 22: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, August 23: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday–Wednesday, August 24–26: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 27: 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Friday, August 28: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Vote-By-Mail

The City's Elections Department has begun mailing vote-by-mail ballots to voters for the September 1 State Primary Election. Ballots will continue to be mailed regularly as applications are received and processed.

Applications to vote by mail must be received by the Elections Office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25. You can apply online at somerillema.gov/votebymail, pick up an application at the office of the Elections Department at City Hall, or request that one be mailed to you by calling Elections at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200.

How to return your ballot:

Place your completed ballot in the orange ballot envelope and sign the voter's affidavit.

Return it as early as possible using an Official Election Drop Box, by mail, or to the Elections Office.

Drop off Your Completed Application or Ballot Citywide

To help make it more convenient to return completed applications or ballots, the Elections Department has placed blue drop boxes citywide, which are checked daily by staff.

Locations:

City Hall Concourse – 93 Highland Ave.

East Somerville Community School (Glen St. entrance) – across from 66 Glen St.

Argenziano School – 290 Washington St.

SHA Mystic Activity Center (rear) – 530 Mystic Ave.

St. Catherine of Genoa Church parish parking lot – near 182 Summer St. (corner of Spring St.)

Somerville Armory – 191 Highland Ave.

Somerville Community Baptist Church – 31 College Ave.

Dilboy Post – near 351 Summer St.

Tufts Administrative Building – 167 Holland St.

West Somerville Neighborhood School – 177 Powder House Blvd.

All drop boxes except the one at City Hall will close at 6 p.m. on Election Day. Only the City Hall drop box will remain open until 8 p.m.

Key Election Reminders

Election Day is Tuesday, September 1

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Find your polling location at somerillema.gov/mysomerville

Offices on the Ballot

Offices on the ballot include Governor, Senator in Congress, Representative in Congress, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, District Attorney, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor, Councillor, Senator in General Court, Representative in General Court, and Register of Probate.

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



Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Somerville Homeless Coalition ribbon-cutting ceremony

The Somerville Homeless Coalition held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 24 to celebrate the opening of their new Engagement Center and Offices at 362 Summer St. The new shelter is expanding its adult shelter from 16 to 26 beds to better serve the community. Presenting at the ribbon-cutting were Executive Director Michael Libby, President of the Board Sébastien Cimon Gagnon, and Somerville Mayor Jake Wilson. Former Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, First Church Somerville, SHC Board of Directors, local officials, community members, and local business supporters gathered to mark this significant milestone.



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 15

family-friendly Halloween celebration, featuring live music, family activities, local food vendors, and our beloved **Community Halloween Parade** led by the **School of Honk**. The **Somerville Arts Council** is looking for an artist who can create a fun, creative, and spooky design that welcomes Halloween lovers of all ages. Apply by **Sunday, August 23** at 11:59 p.m. For more information, visit <https://somer-villeartscouncil.org/somerstreets/monster-mash-poster/>

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

sion of building a healthier, greener, more equitable community.

Eat Your Way Around the World at **Nibble Kitchen** this summer. The City of Somerville's Nibble Kitchen is serving up a rotating lineup of Peruvian, Guatemalan, and Ethiopian cuisine this summer at Bow Market in Union Square. The tiny space offers big rewards for diners – and chefs. For more information and the complete schedule, visit nibblesomerville.com.

It's the **Year of the Neighbor** in Somerville, a reminder that looking out for one another is what makes our community stronger. If you see someone who appears to be in distress, needs support, or may be at risk of harming themselves or others, knowing how to respond can make a difference. Learn more at somer-ville-ma.gov/howtohelp.

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

Visit the **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave., on **Tuesday, August 25**, for **The Moth StorySLAM** with doors at 6:30 p.m. Listen to true stories or share your own at this open-mic storytelling competition. More info and tickets here: <https://www.themoth.org/tickets/serendipity-7>. This month's topic is **SERENDIPITY**: Prepare a five-minute story about the time an accident felt like fate. A wrong turn lands you at your new best friend's doorstep. The botched job interview that led you to your true calling. Losing your wallet – only for it to be found by a long-lost cousin. Coffee spilled on the shirt of your future soulmate. Happy accidents. Meet-cutes. Windfalls. Fortuitous flukes. Is it magic? Is it kismet? No ... it's pure serendipity.

Somerville Flea is back. Stop by **Sundays through October**, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., **52 Holland St.** Discover the area's best collection of artisan makers and vintage vendors. With 13 Sundays running from August through October, there'll always be something new to explore. Support local businesses, shop one-of-a-kind finds, and uncover that treasure you never knew you needed or even existed.

Looking for a creative summer activity for

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

Somerville's annual **Water System Flushing Program** continues **through late October**. This program consists of flushing pipes at high velocities to clean water mains and maintain the highest possible water quality. Temporary drops in water pressure and/or discolored water can occur. In these cases, though the water may be discolored, it is safe to drink. Until the water runs clear, it is advisable to avoid washing laundry, especially white fabrics. To find out *Continued on page 21*



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week

Q: I was reading the list of protected classes, and I wondered. What's the difference between "national origin" and "ancestry"?

A: "National origin" is where you come from. "Ancestry" is where your family came from. It is illegal to discriminate against you because you came from (for example) Ireland or Somalia last week. It is also illegal to discriminate against you because your parents or grandparents came from there.

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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and speak to the Assignment Editor

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Ouch!... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

August 12

- 30 – Cleopatra VII, Queen of Egypt, commits suicide.
- 1791 – Black slaves on the island of Santo Domingo rise up against their masters.
- 1863 – Confederate raider William Quantrill leads a massacre of 150 men and boys in Lawrence, Kansas.
- 1896 – Gold is discovered near Dawson City, Yukon Territory, Canada.
- 1908 – Henry Ford's first Model T rolls off the assembly line.
- 1935 – President Franklin Roosevelt signs the Social Security Bill.
- 1941 – France announces full collaboration with Nazi Germany.
- 1961 – The erection of the Berlin Wall begins, preventing access between East and West Germany.
- 1972 – As U.S. troops leave Vietnam, B-52's make their largest strike of the war.
- 1977 – Steven Biko, leader of the black movement in South Africa, is arrested.
- 1981 – Computer giant IBM introduces its first personal computer.

Mystic Valley Voters Forum to host candidate forum for 34th Middlesex District State Representative race

The second Mystic Valley Voters Forum (MVVF) will be hosted on Wednesday, August 19 at Bonsignore Hall in Medford Public Library from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

This event will feature Democratic candidates of the 34th Middlesex District State Representative race, including Somerville City Councilor At-Large Will Mbah, Chris Oates, and Medford School Committee Member Paul Ruseau. The candidates are contending for incumbent Rep. Christine Barber's seat.

The event will be a moderated, 90-minute roundtable discussion which will cover five topics: affordability, racial disparity, Palestine in local policies, immigration, and digital security. A public Q&A will follow the roundtable discussion, allowing voters to directly converse and question the candidates on their platforms or answers.

MVVF is a newly formed coalition of concerned constituents and cosponsoring organizations working together to bring transparency and accountability for public servants in elected office. This forum is cosponsored by the Mystic Valley Branch of the NAACP, Medford for Palestine, Our Revolution Medford, Mystic Mashup Indivisible, and SAFE Medford. You can preregister for the event [here](#).

For more information, please contact MVVF at mysticvalleyvotersforum@gmail.com.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 19

when your neighborhood will be affected and to learn more: somerville-ma.gov/hydrantflushing.

With the hot weather here to stay for a while, community members are encouraged to review ways to **stay cool, healthy, and safe**. Tips are available in multiple languages at www.somervillema.gov/keepcool.

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

Dilboy Pool and Stadium are now open to the public. Dilboy Pool has a swimming and wading pool for all ages, open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., with Lap Swim hours from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Admission is free. Dilboy Stadium is open Monday – Friday from 7 a.m.to 8:30 a.m. and 12 to 2 p.m. Only walking and running are permitted on the track. Admission is free.

More information can be found at www.somervillerec.com. For more information on all Somerville pools, visit somerville-ma.gov/pools.

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.somervillmuseum.org/>.

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

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

2317, to learn more about the program and to sign up.

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

The **Somerville Mobile Farmers Market** has returned for the 2026 season. The market brings fresh, affordable, local produce to four city locations **Thursdays through Saturdays** and 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 somer-villemobilefarmers-market.org.

Assembly Row Farmers Market is being held at **375 Assembly Row, Somerville**, on **Fridays, 3 – 7 p.m.** The market will run **from June 12 to October 9**. Each week, you'll be able to find goods from nearly 30 New England-based farmers and producers. Expect a great mix of seasonal produce, baked goods, dairy and eggs, meats and seafood, honey, jams, specialty foods, and more. It's the perfect place to stock up for the weekend, discover local favorites, or simply enjoy a fresh Friday visit to Assembly Row. [https://](https://marketspread.com/market/37299/assembly-row-farmers-market/)

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. 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

Poets Beth Rosenberg and Charles Levenstein explore 'secret cities'

I recently caught up with Somerville professor and poet Beth Rosenberg. Along with her mentor, Chuck Levenstein, they have written a book of poems about the workers in the nuclear industry.

From their website:

"The setting for this poetry collection is the *Secret Cities of the Manhattan Project*. It was written by two occupational health professors who were hired by the union to assess the working conditions of those who are trying to clean up and contain the radioactive and chemical detritus of the Cold War and nuclear weapons production. Workers' words are incorporated into the poems, so readers can see some of the ripple effects of work that is hidden from view."

Doug Holder: How has it been for you as an academic, writer and poet to live in Somerville?

Beth Rosenberg: I have loved living in the vibrant city of Somerville for 30 years. Most of my neighbors are creative and literate. I taught occupational and environmental health in the public health program at Tufts for most of that time, where I emphasized the importance of having a voice at work. Equally important to me is my work with a variety of unions to improve health and safety conditions. My mentor, Chuck Levenstein, has been writing poems for decades, so 5 years ago, inspired by him and our work with the United Steelworkers on former nuclear weapons production sites, I started to write poems. I don't quite consider myself a poet. We both wrote poems and edited each other's work. It was a wonderful collaboration, and it was a collaboration that started when I was a graduate student at the Work Environment Dept at UMass Lowell in 1989.

DH: This is an unusual subject for poems. Why did you pick this genre?

BR: Chuck had already been writing poems about our work, to capture ideas that did not go into reports to the union about working conditions and how to improve their excellent health and safety training program. I thought it was a great way to convey vignettes of people's lives – lives that most of us don't get to see. Poetry's pithiness appeals to me.

DH: I would think it would be difficult to bring "art" to a subject like this. So often political poetry tends to turn into a polemic. Your take?

BR: Studs Terkel's book *Working* was a powerful influence on me, as was the poet and activist Muriel Rukeyser, "The universe is made of stories, not of atoms." I want to capture people's words about work. I'm a reporter and an advocate. I let their words speak for themselves.

DH: When you were interviewing workers in the nuclear industry around the country, you wrote that you and your co-author were viewed as



strange Jewish birds. Did you experience any blatant, angry antisemitism?

BR: That's not exactly true. We were viewed as strangers, but we were hired by the union, so we came to these sites already vetted. We looked different and sounded different. We were two swarthy, hirsute Jews. I envied the hairless arms of those Appalachian men of Scots-Irish descent and the tall blond Mormons in Idaho Falls! I don't know that we were identified as Jews, but we were unquestionably foreign. We have Boston and New York accents, which were exotic in slow-talking Carlsbad, New Mexico, and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Even if we were identified as Jewish, there are many Jews in the labor movement - remember the union organizer in *Norma Rae*. Any suspicion due to our differences was quickly overcome by the realization that we were on their side, and we truly wanted to bring their ideas back to the union leadership to improve things.

DH: How did interviewing these workers change your perception of them – and yourself?

BR: I knew I'd meet smart people, but I didn't expect I'd like many of them so much. On the other hand, I learned that just because someone is active in the union and is working towards better working conditions doesn't mean they share all my political beliefs. Some were jerks. That seems obvious to me now, but it wasn't 20 years ago. Interviewing these workers broadened my circle of caring and gave me a more nuanced view of human

Continued on page 23

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder



Poet Doug Holder writes: "You know, I have taught Ray Bradbury's short story *There will come soft rains* for years now at Endicott College. The story is about the aftermath of a nuclear holocaust. The date for the piece is set on Aug. 4, 2026. And now with wars around the world ... I wrote this small poem that was inspired by Bradbury."

There will come soft rains

After the blinding flash
the damning
hellfire heat--
the sun blocked
by a bombastic cloud,
a mournful
drape of soot
our nuclear winter
of discontent
there will come
a davening
sea of soft rain
a benediction
for our infinite
pain.

— Doug Holder

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

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

Off The Shelf

CONT. FROM PG 22

behavior.
DH: Why should we read this book?
BR: This book is a weird combination of worker health and travel log. It will give you a glimpse of the people and the secret, Atomic Cities, where we built pieces of the bombs that incinerated Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Eighty years later, these places are contaminated, people have high cancer rates and nuclear energy has been rehabilitated. We didn't intend it as such, but it really is a quiet expose of contractor behavior. For those who think nuclear energy is clean, this book reveals how things work on the ground. Even if you believe the technology works, until you fix the management that cuts corners and harms workers and communities, it will be a mess. Now that some of these sites have been "cleaned up," the Dept. of Energy wants to build small nuclear reactors to power data centers. This book gives another view of work in the US.

Paducah 2007 Safety Systems

We met in a crowded, cluttered office. Desks facing walls, more chairs dragged in.

Lanky, laconic, local union Prez, Cherokee cheekbones.

Pert contractor safety manager. She extolled the benefits of Behavior

Based Safety, where "everyone watches out for each other." Your

brother's keeper, etc.

They got trinkets for noting bad behavior.

It was always the worker behavior, never the company behavior,

that was the problem.

Earlier, workers told us they were ordered to leave their radiation

badges "in the truck" when they worked, so high exposure wouldn't be

documented.

Companies get awards for low injury rates.

Teams of workers are bribed with monthly Lowe's gift cards

to not report injuries.

If someone does, they're threatened with days without pay, firing —

no one gets gift cards for the quarter.

In the office, we all listened politely.

Union Prez sat silently, his back to her, facing the wall.

— Beth Rosenberg

The SomervilleTimes

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