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Arts at the Armory holds meeting to present its case to the public



A public meeting was held last week by the Arts at the Armory to provide information and to receive comments by the public concerning the city's "Armory Master Plan Process."

By Jim Clark

On Tuesday, August 15, the Center for Arts at the Armory (CAA) hosted a community meeting where they shared their perspective on the City of Somerville's "Armory Master Plan Process," educating their audience about their non-profit arts organization and provided opportunities for attendees to speak, ask questions, have the meeting recorded and a petition delivered to city government.

The meeting was held in the Performance Hall and was also streamed live via Zoom, with the support of Somerville Media Center.

Stephanie Scherpf, CAA Co-Director/CEO brought the meeting to order by welcoming everyone in attendance and online. Co-Director/COO Jess White introduced the CAA *Continued on page 13*

Girl God bringing its comedy chops to Arts at the Armory

Girl God, a comedy and writing duo featuring April Clark and Grace Freud, will be performing at Arts at the Armory's Performance Hall on Friday, August 25.

Girl God's live shows are surreal, interactive performances with jokes from their trans and queer perspective that are actually funny and not just looking for applause. With sold out shows in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles – not to mention sketches that have been viewed hundreds of thousands of times online – Girl God is the most popular trans comedy group performing today, if not ever.

Freud was a co-producer on season two of Netflix's *Inside Job*. Previously she was an executive story editor on the upcoming Mike Judge/Greg Daniels animated series *Bad Crimes*, a story editor on the Adult Swim series *XV-LIV* and *Continued on page 4*



Comedy duo Girl God will be performing at Arts at the Armory on Friday, August 25.

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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 **Annual Vintage Night Market at Bow**, 1 Bow Market Way, takes place on **Thursday, August 24**, from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m. Once a month, from now through October, Bow Market invites you to discover new vendors in our evening **Night Market Series**. Next up is **Vintage Night Market**, featuring dozens of new vintage vendors carrying the hottest vintage finds. You can expect to find 30 vendors showcasing their favorite treasures and there will be no shortage of clothing, jewelry, home décor, housewares, LPs, books, art, and even small pieces of furniture for you.








The **Central Auditorium** will host **Haunted History: Local Lore and Gore** on **Wednesday, August 23**, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., 79 Highland Ave. Come for a frightening evening of chills and thrills as we count down Massachusetts' most haunted places and events in horror-filled detail. Fans of the podcasts **Morbid and Lore** won't want to miss this. Presented by **Summer Scares 2023**. Register here: tinyurl.com/LocalGore.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy Birthday to our own **Bob "Monty" Doherty**, who is celebrating this week. You can enjoy his historical columns in our paper every other week. We wish him the best. Happy birthday to **State Representative Christine Barber**, who is also celebrating. We hope she has a great day. Happy Birthday to **Ward Seven City Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld**, who is also celebrating. We hope she

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of August 23 – August 29 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>August 23</i>	Sunny	77°/58°	4%	2%	ENE 7 mph
 Thursday <i>August 24</i>	Sunny	76°/63°	5%	2%	SE 9 mph
 Friday <i>August 25</i>	Rain	74°/66°	37%	21%	SW 13 mph
 Saturday <i>August 26</i>	Thunderstorms	70°/59°	55%	46%	SE 9 mph
 Sunday <i>August 27</i>	Rain	67°/59°	54%	44%	N 11 mph
 Monday <i>August 28</i>	Rain	70°/57°	33%	28%	NE 10 mph
 Tuesday <i>August 29</i>	Partly Cloudy	73°/59°	21%	16%	NE 11 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Rethinking retail in our Somerville plans

TheoNa says:

Politicians always miss the simple things so I'll keep it simple. Significant contributors to the decline in retail are:

1. Crime & Safety. Not just "reported" crime but also the public's perception of crime and safety.
2. Parking & Traffic. The elimination of parking is hurting lots of retailers. I encourage all of our local politicians to speak one-on-one with the business owners to get the direct facts on how their business has declined due to a reduction in parking availability.

Slaw says:

@theona

- 1) it is telling you have to appeal to the perception of crime because the actual reality is that Boston is one of the safest big cities in the country, crime has been declining for decades, and now is about the safest period we've ever had. If perception doesn't match that reality maybe the media should stop with the sensational stories and outright lies about crime waves instead of attempting to address a problem with policing that doesn't really exist.
- 2) the actual decline in parking is overstated. Very little parking has actually been removed in Somerville. It also absolutely was not the issue for K-mart, Bed bath and Beyond, or Christmas tree shop which are mentioned in the article as all of those had abundant parking (and if anything were hostile to those arriving by any means besides car). Meanwhile every actual study on the impacts of removing parking for separated bike infrastructure and/or expanded pedestrian infrastructure or pocket parks increases rather than reduces businesses. The "direct facts" aren't actually available for Somerville yet and the type of research you suggest isn't likely to produce them, instead it is likely to confirm existing biases. The ongoing study in Cambridge will probably give us a better proxy when it is done, and if it corresponds with the findings of every other study on this topic it is a lot more likely to contradict your claims of truth than verify them.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Howard Johnson's, Wellington Circle



This article first appeared in the February 5, 2014 edition of The Somerville Times.

Remember that bright orange roof? I think they made it bright orange so you could see it when you were coming home early in the morning from a bar...in a fog. Howard Johnson's at Wellington Circle was a very popular spot for after-hours meeting and eating.

It first opened in 1938. In the area at the time were lots of cool places like The Wellington Drive-in, Richardson's Car Hop, Child World, J.M. Fields, Zayre's and The Holiday Lanes Bowling Alley on Revere Beach Parkway.

Although they never had entertainment per say, all you had to do was look around any time after 1 a.m. to see some very comedic antics and alcohol-induced tomfoolery. I always got something called The Big Breakfast or The Big Breakfast Two. It was eggs, toast, sausage, home fries and coffee, and it really hit the spot. The mac and cheese, fried chicken and clam strips were also scrumptious. The Sunday morning buffet was a true crowd pleaser. Nothing better than a meal and a show!

Although it was in Medford (Meffa), lots of us Somerville kids made it our last stop after a night of partying and/or working. If you could make it safely from the Revere area, or from Route 1, past the

MDC cops, you could enjoy a delicious pit stop. You were bound to see someone you knew in there, too. A friend of mine worked there with forged working papers when she was only 14.

At HoJo's, they let you stay as long as you wanted as long as someone didn't need the table – and if you weren't raising a ruckus.

HoJo's was the best breakfast place you would hit coming from the beach (Revere). If you felt lucky, you could attempt a further jaunt up Route 16 to The Golden Egg on Mystic Ave. And if you really felt adventurous, you could move on to Kay and Chips in Somerville. HoJo's was the closest and the safest haven. My fellow musicians and I who had played at The Caravan, Sammy's Patio and The Excuse Me Lounge frequented HoJo's.

"One Saturday/Sunday morning, a food fight broke out. Someone called Kiss 108 and it was on air with Diana Steele as we were driving home." Good stuff! My cousin recalled a pleasant, very tall waiter who worked at HoJo's and then ended up at Bickford's in Somerville. Maybe George?

Unfortunately for Howard Johnson's, at those early hours and considering the condition of some of the patrons, it was the perfect place for the old "chew and screw" (when you eat and then take off without paying). The fact that it was crowded didn't help. At one time, they featured a kids' menu that could be made into a hat with an astronaut theme. I'm sure you re-



member the familiar Simple Simon, small boy and dog logo.

I know they had a fire at one point because a friend of mine was on her way there the night it burned. "We came over the hill one night and saw it was on fire. We watched it burn until the weathervane on the top collapsed."

My friend Rick seems to be pretty sure that the closing date was Dec. 31, 1998.

If I could go back in time, I would create a realty show called something like Morning Munchies. I would put cameras at HoJo's, The Golden Egg and Kay and Chips. Now that would be an entertaining show worth watching!

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ANNOUNCEMENT
315 Broadway, in conjunction with Micozzi Management
are pleased to announce an
Affordable Rental Open Waitlist Opportunity

The application period for a one-bedroom (1BR) Affordable Rental Waitlist
will begin on 8/28/2023 at 2pm and end on 9/28/2023 at 2pm.

The Household size must be no more than 2 people.

315 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02145
Located in the Winter Hill neighborhood of Somerville, the units offer open- concept floor plans and
modern features. Parking is available based on availability and for an additional fee.

Eligible households of 1 or 2 people whose income does not exceed the following:

Maximum Annual Income		
80% AMI	1 Person	2 Persons
Income	\$82,950	\$94,800

Eligibility Requirements

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

Applications will be available beginning on 8/28/2023 at 2pm.
To obtain an application, please contact Micozzi Management and reference "315 Broadway 80%"
Telephone: 617-254-5576 ex 112 or email: eburkart@micozzimanagement.com

Completed applications must be submitted to Micozzi Management at
eburkart@micozzimanagement.com
or mailed to 159 Cambridge Street, Suite 2, Allston, MA 02134 by 9/28/2023 at 2pm.
Applications received after the deadline will not be added to the waitlist. All qualified applications will
be ranked by date and time received. All mailed applications will receive a 7-day grace period.



THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Somerville Police Dept Crime Log 8/15 – 8/21

Assault:

23046571: On 8/16/23 at approximately 8:39 p.m., Somerville Police responded to 14 McGrath Hwy. for report of a vandalism. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was approached by a male party who smashed his headphones then shoved him.

23046328: On 8/15/23 at approximately 7:27 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Medford St. for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a male party attempted to punch him in the face. Officers identified the male suspect.

23046559: On 8/16/23 at approximately 7:46 p.m.M, Somerville Police responded to a business in Davis Sq. for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the reporting party who stated his juvenile son was kicked by a store employee. Officers identified the suspect.

23047237: On 8/20/23 at approximately 12:22 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Washington St. for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers observed a female party lying on the ground suffering from a head injury. Officers spoke with an employee who stated a male party punched the female then fled prior to police arrival.

23047053: On 8/19/23 at approximately 12:48 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Somerville Ave. for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with a witness who stated a security guard was punched by a female party.

Other Crimes: 2 MV Thefts; 8 Car break-ins; 3 Bike thefts; 3 Package thefts; 2 MV vandalisms.



Tony Harris sentenced to life in prison after being convicted of murder of Kevin Raymond

Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan and Somerville Chief of Police Charles Femino have announced that Tony Dyshaun Harris, 34, of Everett was sentenced today after he was convicted of murder and being an armed career criminal in connection with the 2017 murder of Kevin Raymond, 20, of Somerville.

On June 6, 2023, a Middlesex Superior Court jury found Harris guilty of murder, carrying a firearm without a license, possession of ammunition without a license and carrying a loaded firearm without a license. During a subsequent bench trial on July 27, Judge Cathleen Campbell found Harris guilty of being an

armed career criminal, based on 2007 convictions for armed assault to murder and assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon. Today, Judge Campbell sentenced Harris to life with the possibility of parole at 25 years on the charge of murder and five years to five years and one day concurrent with the murder and each other on the armed career criminal charges.

"We will not allow this kind of gun violence to go unchecked in Middlesex County. As Harris's conviction on all of these charges illustrates, we have an unswerving commitment to prosecuting these cases. We will pursue every avenue to hold those defendants,

such as Harris, who repeatedly engage in violence and threaten the safety of others, fully accountable," said District Attorney Ryan.

At approximately 3:40 a.m. on Saturday, October 14, 2017, the Somerville Police received 911 calls reporting gun shots in the area of Jacques Street. Officers responded and determined that the location of the gunshots was in the parking lot behind 20 Canal Lane, which is part of a housing development operated by the Somerville Housing Authority. In the parking lot police found a revolver and a gold chain, which were later determined to have Mr. Harris' DNA on them. The investigation revealed that

Raymond had been shot in that parking lot and then transported to CHA Hospital. He had sustained three gunshot wounds and was pronounced dead shortly after his arrival at the hospital.

Following Raymond's murder, investigators located multiple videos capturing Harris driving a vehicle that matched the suspect vehicle in and around the area of the murder both before and after the shooting. Investigators also were able to locate a video of Harris wearing a gold chain that matched a gold chain that was found in the parking lot behind 20 Canal Lane. Both that chain and a revolver found in that parking lot were later determined to

bear the Harris' DNA. Additionally, Raymond's blood was found in the vehicle Harris was driving that night.

He was arrested on November 3, 2017.

This case was investigated by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Massachusetts State Police Detectives assigned to the District Attorney's Office, Somerville Police, Massachusetts State Police, Cambridge Police, Boston Police, Everett Police, Medford Police and Medway Police. The prosecutors assigned to this case are Assistant District Attorneys Nicole Allain and Ashlee Mastrangelo. The Victim Witness Advocate is Joanne Szeto.

Girl God bringing its comedy chops to Arts at the Armory

CONT. FROM PG 1

a staff-writer on *Rick and Morty*. She has also consulted on *The Eric Andre Show*. She wrote an original comic for Marvel as part of their Pride Voices series and wrote the comic book, *Rick and Morty Presents: Jerryboree*. Prior to writing for television, Grace wrote for all of your favorite comedy websites, includ-

ing *ClickHole*, *The Onion* and *Funny or Die*.

Clark was a staff-writer for season two of the Broadway Video podcast *Hot White Heist*. Her sketches have been viewed millions of times across various platforms. She skipped high school, graduated college at 18, and is currently pursuing her PhD in

Women's and Gender Studies at SUNY Stony Brook. April thinks women should smile less, so they don't get wrinkles.

Catch Girl God at Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville. August 25, 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets: <https://www.ticketmaster.com/event/01005EEDCF036584>.



Somerville plans new fees for restaurants with outdoor dining

By Maile Blume

After three years of encouraging outdoor dining in response to the pandemic, the city is establishing new fees for businesses with outdoor seating areas.

The city did not charge any fees for outdoor dining from 2020 to 2022. However, in 2023, restaurants with outdoor seating on city property were required to hold outdoor dining licenses.

The fees associated with these licenses only covered the administrative costs of the licensing process itself, said Director of Economic Development for Somerville Rachel Nadkarni

during a public meeting on the new fee structure. She said that the goal of introducing additional fees for outdoor seating in 2024 is to account for the costs of outdoor dining to the city.

Nadkarni encouraged attendees at the meeting to provide feedback to help shape the new fee structure, adding that the city is working to ensure that the new fees are fair for everyone. “We want to see more outdoor seating in the years to come,” she said.

Costs to the city

Outdoor dining limits the city in several ways, said Nadkarni, the most costly being that it turns metered parking spaces into seat-

ing areas, eliminating the revenue that would otherwise be generated from these spaces. Outdoor seating also keeps public spaces from being used in other ways by the Somerville community, and prevents the city from upgrading sidewalks and roads.

Nadkarni asked attendees to consider how fees could respond to the diverse economic circumstances surrounding different local businesses, if fees should be applied per seat or per square footage, and how fees could be priced to continue to encourage outdoor dining.

While the city is looking at the fee structures

Continued on page 9



One of the reasons that the city is establishing new outdoor dining fees for restaurants is to account for the revenue lost by blocked parking meters. — Photos by Maile Blume

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COMMENTARY

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

The Somerville Condo Conversion Ordinance has been improved



By Will Mbah
Candidate for Somerville
City Councilor at Large

At the end of July the City Council approved a series of amendments to the Condominium Conversion Ordinance, which are designed both to conform to a recent court decision and strengthen the protections for tenants, facing displacement.

These actions are a further detailing of provisions that I and my council colleagues first adopted in 2019. I am, therefore, looking today at how the condo conversion process has been moving forward. Does it appear to be fulfilling its purposes of tenant protection?

The court ruling on the ordinance

The specific sections of the ordinance that the court has ruled improper have authorized the city to claim a second priority right to purchase any unit, proposed for conversion, if the leasehold tenant chooses not exercise his/her first right of refusal. The court has upheld the tenant's priority right to buy, but ruled that the city cannot claim the same right.

When we adopted this provision in 2019, we saw the city right to purchase as a way for the city to acquire the unit, impose an affordable housing deed restriction on it and then transfer it to an NGO to re-sell or re-lease to a low-income household.

In practical terms, the loss of this city purchase provision does not appear to be significant. The city has not attempted to buy any units since 2019. The ordinance has provided only a 120 day time period, which is insufficient for the city to claim the right, find funding, organize the purchase, and line up an NGO to receive the unit. Realistically, the city has other powers, such as urban renewal and the affordable housing trust, which allow it buy housing units of any types for transfer into affordable programs.

The improved details of tenant protection

Two of the changes in procedure that are now in the law are clarifications of the protections for elderly, disabled and low-income tenants, who face displacement by condo conversion. The ordinance has always required that these tenants be given (i) a longer period of time to relocate – up to five years; (ii) a higher compensation payment of \$10,000, rather than the \$6,000 due to any tenant; and (iii) the landlord's active assistance in finding a new apartment. But in some cases, landlords have contested the proofs of eligibility of tenants in these categories. To insure that the decision of the Condo Conversion Board is accurate in every case, the amended law now directs the Board to refer any application involving these tenants to the ADA Administrator, who will verify the status of the tenants.

A second clarification involves the exemption from protection of a non-rent paying occupant of a unit. These units have been treated as vacant units – which can convert without waiting a year and without providing tenant compensation. The intent was to recognize a roommate, long-term guest or temporary caretaker, whom the landlord has been allowing to live rent-free.

Council members have been concerned that this exemption might be granted incorrectly for a unit with a tenant, who has been withholding rent in a dispute with the landlord. The state housing law specifically allows for rent to be held in escrow in certain disputes. This situation should not be used to give an advantage to a landlord, who has applied to the Condo Board – in essence it would allow the conversion of units to be a retaliatory action against legitimate rent-striking tenants. New language in the ordinance makes clear that such lawful rent strikers would not lose protections under this “non-rent paying” category.

How have the condo conversion procedures been working overall?

The Condominium Conversion Board began in 1985

and up through 2019, it gave conversion permits for some 200-300 units per year. The high point was reached in FY2019 with 312 unit conversions approved. After we imposed the stronger protections and more careful procedures, the number of approved units dropped to 199 in FY2020 and fell further as COVID disrupted the real estate market. Post-COVID the volume of cases and approvals has returned to a level of 164 units approved in FY2022 and 142 units in FY2023.

More significant in the numbers after 2019, there has been a shift in the balance of the categories of (i) units with rent-paying tenants compared with (ii) owner-occupied and long-vacant units. In 2019, over 90% of the units approved for conversion had existing tenants, who left or bought their units after the year-long process. In FY 2020 this category of tenanted units has dropped to about 66%. If some landlords with tenants have been discouraged from pursuing conversion or they are waiting until tenants voluntarily leave before they bring the units forward for conversion as already-vacant units.

It must be kept in mind that these figures from the Condo Conversion Board do not represent the total growth of condos in the city. Some newly built buildings are being marketed as condo's from the start – they do not come before the board.

Finally, one trend that is likely to change the calculations is the jump in real estate interest rates, which has occurred since January 2023. Mortgage rates have climbed to about 7% from under 5% last year. As a result, market prices of condos and their profitability for landlords appear to be declining. Regional market reports indicate sluggish sales and Boston has measured a drop in its numbers of conversion applications.

In Somerville, the longer term trend is not yet clear because there remain a large number of cases, filed last year, still in the pipeline at the Condo Conversion Board.

If you want to learn more or support my campaign, please visit my website at willmbah.com.

Annual fire hydrant inspection and testing, August 21 to September 2

The Somerville Fire Department will conduct its annual inspection of all fire hydrants in Somerville between Monday, August 21, and Saturday, September 2. Testing will take place between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and, if necessary, in the evening between 6:15 and 8:15 p.m.

During inspections, water will be flushed from the hydrants and their mechanical operations will be checked. As a result, some sediment may be disturbed in the water mains, potentially causing temporary rusty water in homes or businesses.

Although water may appear discolored, it does not pose a health hazard, and this rusty condition should clear in a few hours. Rusty water can stain fabric, however, so laundry should be avoided until normal water conditions have been restored.

Please contact the Somerville Fire Department at 617-623-1700 with any questions.



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Kids are heading back to school soon, so let's be careful out there.

Our View Of The Times



Once again it is time to shift gears and power down a bit as we roll out of the high-octane frenzy of summer time and into the laid back breezy days of autumn and on into the winter months ahead.

We all need to become a bit more aware of what lies ahead of us on the road, and to be especially alert to activities near our schools and playgrounds as the kids are now back to their normal schedules.

Yeas, "normal" looks a bit different this year, what with the closures of certain schools for renovations and the subsequent re-routing of certain students to different schools for the time being.

Consequently, the need for exercising caution couldn't be greater, as students and their families become used to newer routes and modes of transportation.

Naturally, we hope that everyone drives

responsibly at all times, but we also like to put out a reminder at this time of year, just to try to help everyone to become a little more conscious of the fact that the kids are out there and that we should be looking out for them, rather than being a hazard for them to look out for.

Please observe and obey all traffic signals, stop signs, and especially the crossing guards who are out there providing an

essential service in helping to protect our little ones.

Many of you have kids of your own and would wish for this, too, no doubt. Let us all take a little time to spread the word whenever we can. Just a bit of friendly persuasion can make a large impact and help to make the streets a bit safer for everyone.

The kids, most of all, will appreciate the extra care taken in caring for them.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

enjoys her day. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Debbi Hession, Alicia Marie, Arthur Copeland, Bob Osborne, Kathleen Goss, Louise Cruz-Partee, Ellie Loder Chute, John McDermott and Cheryl Endicott-Ribeiro** 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.

The **Somerville Council on Aging** hosts **Tech Time with Tufts**, **Monday, August 28** at 1:00 p.m. in their **Holland Street Center**. Tufts University first year students will be joining the Tech Time

Drop-in Hours. Students will provide drop-in style individual help to answer your technology questions and frustrations. Please RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318.

The city is hosting a **Municipal Firefighter Exam registration event** at the **Somerville Fire Station** on **Thursday, August 24**, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Hear from the experts: Somerville Fire Department and Human Resources staff will be onsite to answer your questions and assist with applications, which are being accepted until **Tuesday, August 29**. A \$75 exam fee waiver is available for qualifying

candidates. Learn more and apply online at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/2023-municipal-firefighter-examination>.

Visit the **Somerville Flea**, **Sundays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., through October 29**. Four dozen local vintage and artisan vendors, farm stand, live music, and DJ, all in the heart of Davis Square. The best local vintage purveyors and artisans are back. Come on out and support them and what they do. Shop small and shop local. Explore and discover that special thing you never knew you even existed but can't live without. One hundred steps from the

Davis Square T stop.

A full sit-down **Senior Picnic** has been rescheduled for **Thursday, September 14**, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at **Trum Field**. For any questions and to get a new ticket, call the **Somerville Council on Aging** at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319.

The **Kinross Community Center** and **Aht Dept.** presents **The Summer Village Art & Music Festival**, a day of local food, music, artists, and more. **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave., 3:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. Enjoy the art and music, play some fun games, and

Continued on page 14

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's
Olio
#886

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. When is National Dog Day?

2. What animal turns it head upside down when it eats?

3. Who created *Winnie the Pooh*?

4. Acetic acid is the main compound in what?

5. When a question mark is combined with an exclamation mark, that is called what?

6. What nation's rugby team is nicknamed Pumas?
7. How many human polo players are there in a game?

8. What force affects compasses?

9. In which film did Paul Newman's character eat fifty hard boiled eggs?

10. What town had a 3-year-old mayor?

11. What is on the top floor of the U.S. Supreme Court Building?

12. In *Little Red Riding Hood*, who does the wolf dress up as?

Answers on page 13

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. The chicken and the ostrich are the closest living relatives of T-rex.
2. More than two-thirds of millennials sleep nude.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
FOOTBALL

- ACROSS
1. Brainchild

5. Gravestone wish

8. Paleozoic one

11. Pressing tool

12. Senegal's neighbor

13. Literary theme

15. Scissors sound

16. Final notice

17. Notre Dame's Fighting ____

18. Home of the first Super Bowl winners

20. National League Pennant series, acr.

21. Steer clear

22. "Glee" actress ____ Michele

23. Befuddled

26. One of 4 NFL teams sharing a home field

29. Fish story

30. Stockings

33. "Doggone it!"

35. Rand McNally book

37. Mozart's "L' ____ del Cairo"

38. Whiskey drinks?

39. Comedy act

40. Be more of a fox

42. Dead or Black, e.g.

43. Obliquely

45. Roof supporter

47. High or low card

48. Employer's good news

50. Hyperbolic tangent

52. College player not using eligibility

55. Beastly person

56. Double-reed instrument

57. Nike Pegasus 39

59. Smidgeons

60. Paddleboarding acronym, pl.

61. Seaside bird

62. Thirty- ____ teams in NFL

63. *Ravens' or Lions' time, acr.

64. *Rushing unit

- DOWN
1. " ____ Now or Never"

2. "Shoot!"

3. Arabian bigwig

4. Fund-raising letter

CROSSWORD

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293031323334

35363738

39404142

43444546

474849

5051525354

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596061

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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

M	C	A	T			M	A	P				L	E	I				
E	U	R	O			R	I	P	E			D	W	E	E	B		
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M	O	L	T	E	N				M	A	N	I	O	C	S			
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A	R	U	M	S					C	U	E	S			S	C	A	T
G	Y	M							O	P	T				E	A	S	Y

5. Torah teacher

6. Homer's famous poem

7. Feel for

8. Larger-than-life

9. A Supreme singer

10. Emerald ____ borer

12. Poet's death lament

13. Fungal skin infection

14. Home of the Citrus Bowl in Florida

19. Not odds

22. Lily, in French

23. Unfortunately, exclamation

24. a.k.a. Iron Mike

25. Charcuterie stores

26. Nibble away

27. Have faith

28. Rane's wrap

31. LummoX
32. Calendar abbr.

34. Russian autocrat

36. Home to College Football Hall of Fame

38. Secret supply

40. Extra point

41. Van Gogh flowers

44. Partners of pains

46. Spirited

48. Puzzle with pictures and letters

49. Take as one's own

50. Think, archaic

51. Grand theft target

52. The oldest college football Bowl

53. Actress Perlman

54. Millimeter of mercury

55. Took the bait

58. Defensive one
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Somerville plans new fees for restaurants with outdoor dining

CONT. FROM PG 5

of neighboring cities, Somerville has not yet come up with exact numbers for the fees that will be implemented in 2024. Nadkarni addressed the attendees, “To figure out how that translates into numbers, we need feedback from you.”

Concerns of business owners

Attendees at the public meeting raised several questions about the new regulations. Business owner Sergio Espinoza asked how the plumbing code for restaurants – which requires a certain number of toilets, hand washing stations, and garbage disposals per a certain number of seats – would be applied to outdoor seating, and if there would be any flexibility in these requirements.

Somerville’s Small Business Permitting Liaison Patricia Tenorio said that businesses with outdoor seating can apply to have a variance from the plumbing code, but that it is difficult for these variances to be approved at this time. “The chances are not very high,” Tenorio said.

Municipal governments throughout the Greater Boston area are currently advocating for flexibility with outdoor dining regulations – such as with the application of the plumbing code – considering the seasonal nature of outdoor dining, added Nadkarni. Union Square Main Streets Small Business Liaison Michael Robles said, “Thinking about how outdoor dining really works, realistically, past October no one is really sitting outside too much.”

In addition to addressing seasonal changes, the new fee structure could promote sustainability, Robles suggested. “You know, I would like to see something where there can be an environmental sustainability aspect of this – where if a restaurant were to use the same materials over



The city is considering if the outdoor dining fees will be applied per square footage or per seat, and is taking into account the seasonal nature of outdoor dining.

and over, and the same resources, the fee structure could incentivize some environmentally friendly practices,” he said.

Somerville could also consider a fee structure with different tiers that take into account a restaurant’s size, location, or how much revenue they bring in, he added, saying that for “smaller businesses or those located in a less trafficked area, there could be an incentive to pay lower fees.” Robles also said that the city could consider charging different fees for “on” and “off” peak dining hours, to help offset the parking meter revenue that the city is losing.

Nadkarni responded that the city is in the process of analyzing a recent curb study to determine how the city can best work with its current parking patterns. Then, it will establish steps forward in this area.

On the topic of creating a new fee structure, small business owner Paola Ibarra Deschamps asked for the city to make these regulations “timely, clear, and constant.” She said that it can be challenging for small businesses when the city’s licensing structure changes from year to year.

Nadkarni said that the city

is planning to have the new fee structure in place by Oct. 1 to allow businesses to budget accordingly, as they submit their license renewal forms for 2024.

She said that the city wants to continue to promote outdoor dining, even with the new fees in place. “The vibrancy is such a key part of why we all love outdoor dining so much — it really brings people to the squares and helps keep them exploring,” she said, adding, “When you’re sitting and having a cocktail or having dinner, you’re seeing all the other businesses around you, right? You’re living in the square, right? And it’s fantastic. So we do want to keep it going, and figure out a way that we can make these fees really work.”

Nadkarni encouraged members of the Somerville community to send any additional comments to economicdevelopment@somervillema.gov to help the city determine the new licensing fees. According to the city’s website, two more public meetings will be held on September 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., for the Somerville community to review a proposal of the new license fee structure.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #286

Freedom

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Happy Birthday Powder House! You are the most ancient, historic structure in Somerville and the most distinct antique ruin in Massachusetts. After standing on Quarry Hill for the last 320 years, the renowned Old Powder House has earned our respect. A forty-two-inch plaque on the northerly side of this ancient arsenal records:



“This Old Mill, built by John Mallet on a site purchased in 1703-04, was deeded in 1747 to the ‘Province of the Massachusetts Bay Colony of New England’ and for many years was used as a public Powder House. On Sept. 1, 1774, General Gage seized the 250 half-barrels of gunpowder stored within it and thereby provoked the great assembly of the following day on Cambridge Common, the first occasion on which our patriotic fore- Fathers met in arms to oppose the tyranny of King George III; in 1775 it became the magazine of the American army besieging Boston. This tablet was placed by the Massachusetts Society of Sons of the Revolution Sept. 1, 1892”

Oxford, Massachusetts lies in the southern part of Worcester County, one town away from the Connecticut border. As early as 1682, the Bay Colony offered land grants to this area for people who would colonize the then unbridled frontier land. In 1686, a group of forty French Huguenot families settled the territory and established a village. They had fled Europe to come to America for religious independence. Like the English pilgrims who formed a plantation at Plymouth, they formed a settlement in Oxford.

During the nine years of the Huguenot’s colonization, they had suffered kidnappings and chaos with renegade Indians ending with a family being massacred. After this tragic event and later a Deerfield Village attack which took over fifty lives, the settlement broke up. One of the fleeing Huguenots was Jean Mallet and his family. The Mallets helped build three mills before leaving Oxford. After arriving in Charlestown/Somerville, Continued on page 11

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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, September 5, 2023** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to historic@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2424212465884370267>

Webinar ID: 443-921-971

TO CALL IN

Phone Number: 1 (631) 992-3221

Access Code: 699-441-199

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT**Determinations of Historic Significance (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)****HPC.DMO 2023.17 – 58-60 Beacon Street**

Applicant: Niranjana Gawni
Owner: Samuel Perlman
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

Determinations Of Preferably Preserved (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)**HPC.DMO 2023.15 – 45 Alpine Street**

Applicant: David Kogan
Owner: Same as Applicant
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

8/16/23, 8/23/23 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on **9/13/2023** at 12:00PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Jose Vega unit #0621; Shantal Fury unit #1592; Cleston Jose Nunes/Orion Builders INC unit #368MZ. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

8/23/23 The Somerville Times



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
County of Middlesex
The Superior Court**

CA. No. 2381CV02315

RE:

ORDER OF NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: ResCap Liquidating Trust, successor in interest to Residential Capital, LLC and its subsidiary, GMAC MORTGAGE LLC s/b/m to GMAC MORTGAGE CORPORATION, its successors, assigns and/or any persons claiming by, through or under any of it

WHEREAS a civil action has been begun against you in our Superior Court by John F. Page, Personal Representative to the Estate of Timothy Page wherein they are seeking alternative service of process by publication in this quiet title and declaratory judgment action pertaining to the title to the real estate at 77 Liberty Avenue, Unit 6, Somerville, MA more particularly described in a deeds filed with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 31035, Page 342.

We COMMAND YOU if you intend to make any defense, that on **NOVEMBER 13th, 2023** (insert return date) or within such further time as the law allows you do cause your written pleading to be filed in the office of the Superior Court Clerk of Court at 200 Trade Center, 2nd Floor, Woburn, Massachusetts 01801, with a copy to Scott J. Clifford, Esquire, Law Offices of Lipsey Clifford, P.C., 1165 Washington Street, Hanover, MA 02339 and further that you defend against said suit according to law if you intend any defense, and that you do and receive what the Court shall order and adjudge therein.

Hereof fail not, at your peril, or as otherwise said suit may be adjudged and orders entered in your absence.

It appearing to this Court that no personal service of the Complaint has been made on the Defendant identified herein above that after diligent search Plaintiff can find no such persons upon whom they can lawfully make service, it is **ORDERED** that notice of this suit be given to the Defendant by publishing on 2 occasions in The Somerville Times, with said publication to be at least 20 days before the return date.

Dated at Woburn, Massachusetts this 15th day of AUGUST, 2023.

Sarrouf, Justice

Clerk of the Courts

By: Arthur Johns
Print:
Deputy Assistant Clerk
8/23/23 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFP # 24-14**

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

Somerville Pollinator Action Plan

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 23, 2023**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, September 13, 2023**. 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 Felisa Garate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

Felisa Garate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406

8/23/23 The Somerville Times

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING****Removal of Public Shade Trees****City of Somerville**

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 87, the City of Somerville will hold a **virtual public shade tree hearing on Thursday, August 31, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.** using GotoWebinar software to consider the removal of the following public shade tree(s):

- **51 Prospect Street on Newton Street**
 1. One Siberian elm- 9" in diameter, fair condition

Tree growing out of fence on property line is in conflict with a planned Eversource substation project.

The trees identified above have been posted for public inspection. In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 87, any objections to the removal of any of these trees must be submitted in writing to the Tree Warden prior to or at this public hearing. Documents may be sent via email to: trees@somervillema.gov, or mailed to: 1 Franey Rd., Somerville, MA. 02145.

Pursuant to Chapter Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this Public Shade Tree Hearing will be conducted via remote participation. A recording of this hearing will be available upon request to trees@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL: <https://tinyurl.com/5b2pa78s>

TO CALL IN

United States: +1 (415) 655-0052

Access code: 960-614-877

The Somerville Times 8/16, 8/23

8/16/23, 8/23/23 The Somerville Times



**City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, September 7, 2023**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/108482648579988822>
Webinar ID: 204-029-771

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (415) 655-0052

Access code: 670-295-869

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

45 Mystic Ave Mystic 45 Development LLC proposes a Master Plan for a Lab Building and a Pocket Plaza in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use District (ASMD), which requires a Special Permit.

394 McGrath Hwy Sugarloaf Development seeks a Major Amendment to a previously granted Site Plan Approval (P&Z 21-122) for an Apartment Building in the MR4 zoning district.

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

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

8/23/23 The Somerville Times

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday September 7th, 6:30 PM**. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

REGISTER ONLINE

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JmAeONSyQ-uhkqzt_2i8tw

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comments concerning the following:

- NRL WSC 200 Inner Belt Prop, LLC requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 200 Inner Belt Road from Commercial Industry (CI) to High-Rise (HR).
- Daniel C. and Lieba R. Savitt requesting an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Map to change the zoning district of 113 Prospect Street from Urban Residence (UR) to Neighborhood Residence (NR).
- David Einis requesting the adoption of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Map to change the zoning district of 0 White Street Place from Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) to Urban Residential (UR) and 14 White Street Place from Neighborhood Residential (NR) to UR.
- Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Wilson requesting an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Section 10.3, Development Standards, and Table 10.4.1. to include vegetated roofs.

Zoning amendments may be viewed online by searching the Somerville City Council's online meeting calendar:
<https://somervillema.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Final language of the above amendments may be modified by the City Council during the legislative process.

8/23/23 The Somerville Times



ADVERTISEMENT

The **Somerville Housing Authority** invites sealed bids from Vendors to supply and delivery of New Refrigerators and New Stoves to our Somerville, Massachusetts location/s, in accordance with the documents prepared by the Somerville Housing Authority Purchasing Department **Job No. P-R-92023**.

Description of Work:

Supply and deliver New Refrigerators and New Stoves to Somerville, MA address. Delivery price shall be included in the cost.

Term of contract is 1095 or 365 days from receipt of notice to proceed.

The work is estimated to cost **\$230,000.00** for 3-years or **\$80,000.00** for 1-year alternate.

Sealed Bids will be received until **11:00 A.M., on September 6, 2023**, opened forthwith.

If mailed, bids should be sent to Somerville Housing Authority, Purchasing Department, Attention Anthony Crespo, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145 no later than the time specified.

Bid Forms and Specification Documents will be available for download on the SHA's web site www.sha-web.org under our opportunities tab after **11:00 A.M., on August 23, 2023**. If bidding, you must register with Anthony Crespo at Tonyc@sha-web.org by email. If an email is received, you will receive confirmation of reception via reply to your email. Addendums will be posted on web site and shall be the bidder's responsibility to include in bid. The SHA, any of its employees or officers will not be held responsible for bids not received or received late.

All inquiries regarding this bid shall be directed to the Purchasing Department by email to Tonyc@sha-web.org within 7 days of bid opening date.

8/23/23 The Somerville Times

Play-it-safe tips to protect young athletes' feet and ankles

In today's competitive youth sports landscape, injuries are common, and when they do occur, young athletes are often pressured to play through the pain.

"The back-to-school season is prime time for foot and ankle injuries from fall sports like soccer, football and cross country," says Richard Baker, DPM, FACFAS, a foot and ankle surgeon and Fellow Member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS). "Fortunately, there are many steps parents, coaches and young athletes can take to prevent injuries from occurring in the first place and to discourage kids from playing through pain."

Here are eight play-it-safe tips from the foot and ankle surgeon members of ACFAS to help prevent injuries and to treat them properly when they do occur.

1. Get a pre-season checkup. A pre-season medical evaluation can help identify whether your child could possibly benefit from using an orthotic or wearing a supportive ankle brace while playing. This is especially important for those with previous sprains and injuries.

2. Start the season with new shoes. Old shoes can wear down and become uneven, causing the ankle to tilt. And, as your child's feet may have grown between seasons, their old shoes may not fit. The smart move is to replace athletic shoes at the start of each season. While children under 10 should wear all-purpose sports shoes, older youth athletes should wear sport-specific footwear.

3. Train for the season. It's important that your child's feet and ankles are accustomed to the level of activity required for the sport. Adequate conditioning in the off-season can help



maintain a player's ability to meet these demands, reducing their risk of injury and improving their performance during the season.

4. Encourage warmup exercises. Calf stretches and light jogging before competition help warm up ligaments and blood vessels, reducing injury risk.

5. Check fields for dips, divots and holes. Ninety percent of ankle sprains are due to poor playing conditions. That's why some surgeons recommend walking the field, especially in non-professional settings like public parks, looking for spots that could catch a player's foot. Alert coaching officials to any irregularities.

6. Watch their technique. A difference in the way your child is moving is often a tell-tale sign that something is wrong. Playing with pain is never a winning strategy so encourage kids to be honest about pain or discomfort.

7. Be mindful of other physical activities. Your child doesn't need to be involved in a formalized athletic program to be vulnerable to sports-related injuries. Foot and ankle surgeons

warn of common injuries like plantar fasciitis, bone spurs, fractures and Achilles tendonitis due to repetitive, forceful motions, which can occur in activities such as skateboarding. When skateboarding or engaged in other non-formal activities, always wear protective gear, including supportive shoes, and seek treatment when there is pain or injury.

8. Remember RICE. Often, an injured foot or ankle can be treated with rest, ice, compression and elevation. Those with foot or ankle pain should take a break from playing and allow time for recovery. If pain persists, something more serious may be happening, such as cartilage injuries or broken bones in the foot. Consult a foot and ankle surgeon for a complete evaluation, proper diagnosis and treatment plan. The sooner rehabilitation starts, the sooner your child can safely get back into the game.

For more information on pediatric foot care or to find a foot and ankle surgeon near you, visit FootHealthFacts.org, the patient education website of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons. (StatePoint)

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

Mallet applied what he knew by building a grist mill, which is today's historic Powder House.

The Somerville mill still proudly stands over 320 years later. It was protected by one of Ben Franklin's early lightning rods rising from its peak and is today the oldest

man-made stone structure in the state. On September 1, 1774, the site was attacked by British troops who captured the colonial gunpowder that was stored there. This was eight months before the Battle of Lexington, making it the dress rehearsal to the American

Revolution. The proud 320-year-old Somerville blue stone lady was born struggling for freedom in 1703 to 1704. Her freedom was tested again during the birth of our nation in 1774 and today still symbolizes freedom for all of us.

Tufts street transportation safety improvements community meeting



Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 1 City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin, and city staff invite you to a virtual community meeting about transportation safety improvements on Tufts Street.

The city is reconstructing Tufts Street and its sidewalks as part of the citywide Pavement and Sidewalk Management Program.

This presents an opportunity to redesign the street to make it safer for all users. Tufts Street is a residential street that serves as an important connection to the new East Somerville Green Line station. It's also designated as a Neighborway in the Somerville Bicycle Network Plan, so the new design will prioritize traffic-calming elements to reduce speeds and discourage cut-through traffic.

Join this community meeting to learn more, share your experiences using Tufts Street, and discuss what changes you'd like included in its redesign.

The city will continue community engagement through the fall, share a conceptual design for public feedback this winter, and present final designs next spring. Construction is expected to begin in mid-2024 and continue through 2025.

The meeting will take place Wednesday, August 30, at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. You can also take a 5-minute survey on the project website to help inform the street's redesign. Learn more, take the survey, and find the virtual meeting link at somervillema.gov/tuftsstreet.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



High summer sunflower... — Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris

What kind of school do surfers go to?
Boarding school.

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On This Day in History

August 23

1711 – A British attempt to invade Canada by sea fails.

1775 – King George III of England refuses the American colonies' offer of peace and declares them in open rebellion.

1900 – Booker T. Washington forms the National Negro Business League in Boston, Massachusetts.

1902 – Fanny Farmer, among the first to emphasize the relationship of diet to health, opens her School of Cookery in Boston, Massachusetts.

1914 – The Emperor of Japan declares war on Germany.

1926 - Italian film star Rudolph Valentino dies, causing world-wide hysteria and a number of suicides.

1966 – Lunar Orbiter 1 takes first photograph of Earth from the moon.

1990 – East and West Germany announce they will unite on Oct 3.

2011 – A 5.8 earthquake centered at Mineral, Virginia, damages the Washington Monument

Arts at the Armory holds meeting to present its case to the public

CONT. FROM PG 1

Board members and staff, thanking them for their support.

Scherpf followed up by reviewing the agenda for the meeting, consisting of introductions and presentation, a Q&A session between CAA and meeting participants, and finally testimonies and comments by meeting participants.

Scherpf mentioned that the meeting was being recorded and would be provided to the mayor, the Somerville City Council, the Somerville Armory Master Plan Advisory Committee, the Somerville Arts Council, and the Armory Master Plan consultant, Create Today.

Scherpf then went over the meeting's objectives, that is to provide CAA's perspective on the City of Somerville Armory Master Planning process and why it feels it has been a missed opportunity; to educate the community about their non-profit organization, their successes and lessons learned; to share what their experience has been as the anchor tenant in the Armory building with the city as a landlord for the past 2+ years; to provide a forum for the community to speak, and to ask questions and get answers; and to share with the community how it can have its voices heard by city government officials.

Next, Scherpf provided a timeline and overview of the CAA's history, starting with its incorporation as a 501c3 non-profit organization in 2005 and opened its doors in 2008. At that time the Armory building was under private ownership by Highland Armory Realty Trust (HART) and the Sater family, who purchased the building in 2004 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for \$2.6 million.

In 2008, HART opened the Armory as a newly renovated community arts center, and the CAA became the anchor tenant.

From 2005 to the present, CAA has had four different Executive Directors, and a variety of rent structures were tried between CAA and HART.

Scherpf emphasized the importance of people understanding that "The Armory" and "the Center for Arts at the Armory" are not one in the same. "There's an important distinction," said Scherpf. "While CAA has historically operated the largest amount of square footage in the building as the anchor tenant, we've also helped to manage the building in the past, it has never operated or owned the entire building."

Scherpf then covered changes in leadership and building owners, and touched on the effects of the global pandemic. CAA underwent a change in leadership in late 2019, and the COVID pandemic hit six months later. At that time, CAA HART and the Saters experienced financial pressure as the venue could no longer host events, which provided the organization with its primary source of income.

In June of 2021, the City of Somerville acquired the Armory building through eminent domain in order to preserve the building for arts uses.

White then explained that "a year into the ownership of the Armory building, the city basically instituted an Armory Master Planning Process and they hired a consultant team called Create Today, based out of New York to guide that process."

White continued, explaining that CAA offered support of and collaboration with the process and the city since the change of ownership. "We waited patiently for the Master Planning Process to play out," said White. "In addition, we've offered our guidance, our expertise, proposed plans regarding building maintenance and management. We've conducted extensive research on municipal arts buildings and how they function effectively."

White said the CAA was part of just three meetings with the consultant team. "Outside of those three meetings, we were regarded as just an interested party," said White. "And we were not engaged to share our experience,

any of our expertise, our business model, our assessment on how to best serve the community through the arts. Any ideas about fostering Armory building culture or any lessons we have learned over the years, including building management."

White then pointed out CAA's development that took place since 2019, including staff and budget changes, the hosting of many arts, cultural and community events, as well instituting their own signature programs. A major grant was also secured, funding capital improvement in the Performance Hall.

At the heart of CAA's present issues with the city is what they deem to be a dubious Use and Occupancy (U&O) agreement as a proxy for a lease. U&Os have included both a "base rent" amount and an amount to be paid based on a percentage of CAA's profits from event revenues. The city has not provided CAA with U&O agreements on a timely basis, and the terms of CAA's current U&O expired as of June 30. In addition, the city doubled CAA's rent midway through their last fiscal year.

CAA is now advocating that the city adopt a 3rd Party Operator Model and issue an RFP for entities interested in managing the building while the city would remain the property owner and be responsible for major capital projects.

Q&A and comments were then taken by attendees of the meeting.

Comments that have been made include:

"This is the soul of our city here. This is the soul, and of course the Media Center, too. You're the bookends of culture in this city." – Denise Provost, Former MA State Representative.

"I am also concerned about the lack of clarity and commitment from the city to the current Center for the Arts at the Armory and other arts tenants. It is so cognitively dissonant on so many levels, that it does boggle the mind that the city could even

contemplate any other scenario than to continue to promote and enhance what CAA is already doing so exceptionally well." – August 15 Community Meeting Participant.

"I attended the August 15 community meeting at the Armory to learn more about what is happening with the Armory. I have come to understand that the process the city started to determine the future of the facility was well intentioned but very poorly executed. I think the city did the right thing to take the Armory by eminent domain, but seems to be biting off more than it can chew in actually trying to operate it. I think it's pretty clear that the city doesn't have the bandwidth to manage this entity and should let another party do it." – Petition respondent.

"The Center for Arts at the Armory is a gem of the community. CAA's talented staff provide a diverse array of arts programming that is unmatched in its accessibility, affordability, and inclusivity. It is part of what makes Somerville a great place to live. Model 1 would send a message that the city doesn't recognize or value great arts programming, and would be a huge shame and loss for the community. Please do the right thing." – Petition respondent.

The online established by CAA

asks the city to do the following:

1) abandon the proposed Model 1 for the Armory building (city as owner and operator model, which would force current tenants out)

2) adopt a 3rd party operator model for the Armory building that would include developing and issuing an RFP (Request for Proposal) that 3rd party operators interested in managing the building would respond to

3) develop and issue an RFP (Request for Proposal) for prospective arts/culture tenants interested in securing a lease on a space inside the Armory building

4) work with a consultant contracted by the city and current Armory tenants to create a governance model and governance committee that would develop, issue, and respond to both RFPs above.

The petition is accessible at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLS-fCkLv9Ak9V_maJzh9zch3o-B9RCXW-668pZQ1Jk-J3Ky3rpZg/viewform

You do not have to live or work in Somerville to sign the petition. The deadline to sign the petition is September 10, 2023.

The full video of the meeting is available online at: <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/126561>.

Ms. Cam's

Olío

Answers

1. August 26

2. The flamingo

3. A. A. Milne

4. Vinegar

5. An interrobang

6. Argentina

7. Four

8. Electromagnetic

9. Cool Hand Luke

10. Dorset, Minnesota

11. Basketball court

12. The grandmother

Second Line Brass Band anniversary celebration

You are invited! Sunday, August 27, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Lou Ann David Park, 1060 Broadway, Somerville. Your friendly HONK! Festival founder and host, Second Line Social Aid and Pleasure Society Brass Band, is celebrating 20 years as a band by changing its name! They cordially invite you to celebrate with them. Enjoy a special public performance including band members past and present, a name-change ceremony and reveal, and cake for everyone!



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

scavenger hunt. Tickets: \$20 Advanced; \$25 At the Door. Visit the Armory's website <https://artsatthearmory.org/> or Aht Depahtment's Instagram to learn more.

Take a **Docent Tour** at any of three historic sites in Somerville. Docent tours of **Prospect Hill Tower** will take place every second Thursday 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.; except September and October 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and every third Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at 68 Munroe St. Docent Tour of **Old Powder House** will be every first Thursday: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.; except September and October 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and **Milk Row Cemetery**, 440 Somerville Ave., every third Thursday: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.; except September and October 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and first Sunday: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Inclement weather cancels any event. Call 311 (617-666-3311) for updates and check the city's calendar: <https://www.somervillema.gov/events>. Sponsored by the **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission** and the **Somerville Museum**, www.somervillema.gov/historicpreservation and <http://somervilmuseum.org>.

The **Somerville Fire Department** will conduct its **annual inspection of all fire hydrants** in Somerville **between Monday, August 21, and Saturday, September 2**. Testing will take place between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and, if necessary, in the evening between 6:15 and 8:15 p.m. Contact the Somerville Fire Department at 617-623-1700 with any questions.

The **Council on Aging** hosts **A Stroll Down Memory Lane**, **Wednesday, August 30** starting at 11:30 a.m. at the **Holland Street Center**. Join in for an afternoon of laughter and memories. The **COA DJ, Hank**, has created a memorable slide show highlighting our programs, events and adventures throughout the years. A special lunch will be served. \$5 per person. RSVP by call **Debby Higgins** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

It's time to fire things up with the **11th Annual Ignite Festival!** To celebrate Union Square's sizzling food landscape, the **Somerville Arts Council** is issuing an open call to artists working in various genres this year's Ignite Festival, an evening celebration of global culture and all things illuminated. The mission of Ignite is to showcase the depth and breadth of local talent through a global lens. They seek proposals for internationally themed performances and light installations/performances. Application Deadline: Sunday, August 27. Application: <https://forms.gle/TGiGsZpUZgB9qF5r6> Festival: Saturday, September 30, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. (Rain date: Sunday, October 1) Union Square, Somerville. Questions? Email: somartscalls@gmail.com.

The **Somerville 5K Road Race** returns for a 28th year on **Saturday, September 30** in **Davis Square**. Staff, clients, supporters, and local partners will come together once again to raise awareness and

support for our most underrepresented neighbors. Help in the fight to end homelessness, hunger, and eviction? Whether you want to run, jog, or walk alone or with a team, your support will help is needed to go the distance for our clients. Learn more and register here: <https://bit.ly/Somerville5KRoadRace>.

The **Row's** most anticipated event **Riverfest** returns on **September 16**. Celebrate the end of summer with a bang – literally – during a free, fun-filled day for the whole family, all culminating with a spectacular fireworks show over the Mystic River. With live music, kids activities, an artisan market and so much more, you won't want to miss our biggest event of the year. Visit their website for the full event details: <http://assemblyrow.com/visit/events/riverfest-2023/>.

On **Tuesday, September 19, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.**, **East Somerville Main Streets** invites you to **Broadway** to embark on a culinary journey around the world for the **12th annual Foodie Crawl**. They will highlight tastes from El Salvador, Brazil, Italy, France, Mexico, Portugal and more! Come experience the best that East Somerville has to offer and find a new favorite restaurant (or five!). This year, ticket sales will be on a sliding scale, starting at \$10 for children, \$20 for students and \$25 for adults. Purchase tickets here: <https://www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/foodiecrawl>.

Another event coming up is the **Somerville Greek Festival**. Enjoy delicious,

authentic Greek food and pastry, dance under the big tent to live music and enjoy a cold beer or wine while taking in the excitement at the largest Greek food festival in town. The festival will run **September 8 and 9** from 12:00 to 11:00 p.m. and **Sunday, September 10** from 12:00 to 9:00 p.m. Plenty of free parking. The menu will be posted ahead of this event, with plenty of vegetarian options. The Somerville Greek Festival is an annual event of the **Dormition of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church**, 29 Central St., Somerville. and open to the general public. It is a major fundraiser which allows the community of faithful to continue to serve the Somerville community through philanthropy, liturgical services, classes, youth ministries and much more. Visit dormition-church.org.

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

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville Artist Sam Fein: An artist who explores human relations, power structures with vivid art

According to Sam Fein's website, "Sam Fein is a contemporary painter who explores human relations and emotional conditions within social frameworks of power. Drawing upon her upbringing in the American Southwest, Fein fuses memory and imagination with present-day events."

I recently caught up with her to talk a bit about her life and work.

Doug Holder: First, how has it been for you living and working in Somerville?

Sam Fein: I have been part of the artist community at Joy Street Studios for the last 5 years. When I relocated to Boston, it was so important for me to find studio space in a shared building so that I could build my creative network and be a part of the local artist community. With all the development happening around us, many artists are concerned for the future viability of Somerville's creative community.

DH: According to your website you were brought up in the Southwest, and this informs your work. How so?

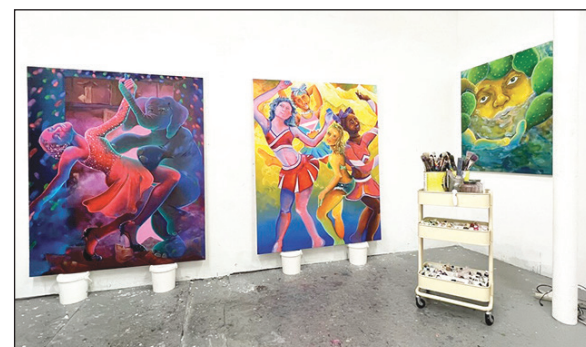
SF: I grew up in Southern Arizona, and oftentimes my artwork incorporates visual references unique to the Sonoran Desert. For example, my paintings incorporate desert creatures such as gila monsters and cacti that can only be found in the region. These images connect me with my upbringing. I also appreciate the metaphor of living beings needing a prickly exterior in order to survive harsh conditions.

DH: From the paintings I viewed it is clear that you use vivid colors, characters, and there is a lot of movement going on. There is also a very dark undercurrent going on, too. Explain.

SF: I create densely-layered narratives that fuse personal history and imagination with ongoing research and present-day events. The result is a form of visual storytelling that is both comedic and bizarre. I embrace paradox and complexity within the lived experience, and it is thus fitting that my narratives express abstract ideas in a nuanced, complex manner.

DH: Tell us a bit about some projects you have been working on.

SF: Last year I received a curatorial fellowship from ApexArt, and I have spent much of this last year creating the interdisciplinary art exhibit, *The Corrections*. *The Corrections* is directly inspired by my work as a grassroots organizer, and showcases artwork by survivors of institutional abuse. The participating artists draw upon their first-hand experiences to expose the inner workings of the mul-



tibillion-dollar behavioral modification industry known as the Troubled Teen Industry (TTI). The exhibition is a form of activism, empowering survivors to resist the institutions designed to silence them and celebrating their resiliency and dedication to fight this carceral system.

DH: Can you tell us a bit about your work as a community organizer and educator, and how it fits in to your creative life?

SF: As a grassroots organizer, I am passionate about disability justice, decarceration, and keeping vulnerable populations in their communities. I work with survivors of institutional abuse and educate and advocate for youth currently held in congregate care settings. The recurring themes in my work as an organizer oftentimes spill into my work as an artist. In my creative practice, I am interested in social frameworks of power, how they are expressed in relationships and embodied internally. My recent project *The Corrections* directly confronted some of these issues and included a protest at the Massachusetts State House to #StopTheShock. Activists of the #StopTheShock campaign are asking lawmakers to pass MA Bill H.180, legislation that would ban the use of physical pain in congregate care settings as well as other practices that deny a reasonable existence for people with disabilities. There will be another protest when Bill H.180 is brought to a hearing this fall.

DH: Why should we view your work?

SF: By design, so-called "corrective" institutions remove a person from society. My work challenges assumptions about how it is entitled to inhabit civil society and who "deserves" removal. I present uncomfortable truths about society's ongoing use of surveillance, confinement, and forced removal. I also give voice to experiences that are overlooked by mainstream society. My hope is that my work elicits feelings of compassion, understanding, and support for community-based alternatives.

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Max Heinegg is a Medford-based poet, singer-songwriter, and recording artist. His new collection of poems, *Going There*, will be released in September 2023 on Lily Poetry Press. His previous collection, *Good Harbor*, won the inaugural Paul Nemser Prize from Lily Poetry Press. As a singer-songwriter and guitarist, his last five records can be heard on Bandcamp, iTunes, Spotify, and YouTube. His latest record, *Through Traveler*, adapted 14 poems from the public domain into songs. Born in Cooperstown, NY, he lived in Schenectady, NY before moving to Medford, MA, where he has taught English in the Medford Public Schools since 1998 and is the co-founder and brewmaster of Medford Brewing Company. He is married with two daughters. Connect with him on the web at www.maxheinegg.com.



Singing in Cursive

My daughter mocks the radio—
the lover who drags his lyric
through the notes & leaves
no space between. The growling
bleeds into a weeping she
says is extra, each syllable's
showboat slink toward smooth
indecipherability. She says Halsey
mostly, but boys also make it
labor to interpret what might be
sidewalk pleas because no game,
resigned dreams or drunken well-
wishing after love's eviction. Maybe
anamnesis is the way a 14-year-old
could know sans experience that
losses are meant to be sung clearly,
in words that do not cling to brittle
melody, an air you do not want to hear
yourself, beautiful only to someone else.

— Max Heinegg

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