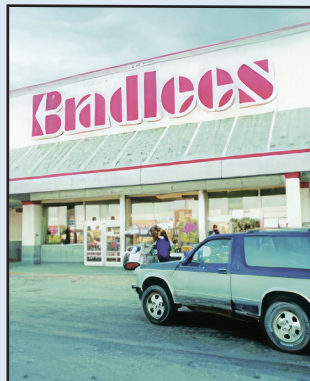




## Inside:



**Old school, new clothes**

page 3



**Stars in Harvard Square**

page 13



**City Hall swings wide open**

page 17

## City awards grant to Teen Empowerment and The Dojo @ Somernova



The \$100,000 grant from the City of Somerville is intended to help The Dojo @ Somernova continue its valuable programs benefiting local youth.

Teen Time @ The Dojo, a partnership between The Center for Teen Empowerment and The Dojo @ Somernova, a free youth-driven community space on Somernova's innovation campus, has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the City of Somerville's Department of Health and Human Services.

The grant will allow The Dojo to serve more Somerville teens by offering consistent, weekly, year-round programming, mentorship and leadership opportunities, and a dependable after-school gathering place where young people can drop in and spend time with friends in a safe and welcoming environment.

No two days at Teen Time will look alike. Teens will have opportunities to participate in visual, literary, and performing arts projects; STEAM, robotics, and climate-tech education; *Continued on page 4*

## A fresh ray of hope guides Vernon Street Studio artists to a brighter future

By Mina Rose Morales

While filming her documentary *A Matter of Light*, Anne Continelli uncovered a hidden truth that changed the film's original storyline: Artists face economic displacement.

"These people are being priced out," said Continelli.

Continelli intended to "tell the genesis" of Vernon Street Studios. When Maud Morgan, the founder, spotted the property, she invited others – Karen Moss, Clara Wainwright, Flora Natapoff, and Bill Jacobson– to join her in renovating the space, which began in 1974. The building was originally one of Rogers Foam Corporation's factory warehouses. Rogers Foam is still part of the building. Many credit Vernon with starting the migration of artists into Somerville. It transformed

*Continued on page 5*



Anne Continelli's documentary, *A Matter of Light*, tells the story of Vernon Street Studios' beginnings.

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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.

In recognition of **Overdose Awareness Day and Recovery Month**, the **City of Somerville** invites community members to a **candle-light vigil and flag planting** on **Thursday, August 27**, from 6 to 7 p.m. at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.) in memory of residents whose lives were lost to opioid-related overdose in 2025 and years prior. **Somerville Prevention Services** staff will host events and trainings to distribute free overdose prevention information and harm reduction materials such as nasal spray naloxone (Narcan), Fentanyl test strips, CPR face shields, and syringe disposal boxes. To register for an in-person training, visit the SPL website <https://somervillepubliclibrary.org/>. For more information on the vigil and flag planting, visit [somervillema.gov/news](https://somervillema.gov/news).

\*\*\*\*\*

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. More information for the State Primary Election is available at [somervillema.gov/elections](https://somervillema.gov/elections). You can also call 311 (617-666-3311) with questions. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Find *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of August 26 – September 1 as provided by the National Weather Service

| DAY                                                                                                                       | CONDITIONS    | HIGH/LOW | PRECIPITATION | HUMIDITY | WIND       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|------------|
|  <b>Wednesday</b><br><i>August 26</i>   | Sunny         | 80°/61°  | 7%            | 3%       | W 10 mph   |
|  <b>Thursday</b><br><i>August 27</i>    | Partly Cloudy | 85°/70°  | 18%           | 11%      | W 6 mph    |
|  <b>Friday</b><br><i>August 28</i>      | Rain          | 81°/64°  | 55%           | 31%      | SW 9 mph   |
|  <b>Saturday</b><br><i>August 29</i>    | Partly Cloudy | 78°/59°  | 8%            | 4%       | NE 6 mph   |
|  <b>Sunday</b><br><i>August 30</i>      | Sunny         | 83°/67°  | 4%            | 1%       | WSW 10 mph |
|  <b>Monday</b><br><i>August 31</i>     | Partly Cloudy | 84°/69°  | 23%           | 9%       | W 9 mph    |
|  <b>Tuesday</b><br><i>September 1</i> | Thunderstorms | 80°/65°  | 32%           | 13%      | SE 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: Somerville’s longest-running bakery to change locations

Amy Bauman says:

Please please continue with the sign! Seeing that bit of signage makes me feel like Somerville respects its history.

Marcia P. says:

Too bad the parking is almost non existent. This city has been ruined by people who think this is a city with overwhelming amounts of real estate and can come up with all these ridiculous ideas like taking away parking and putting in bike and bus lanes. Bicyclists don’t follow the rules of the road and when was the last time you saw a bus every 10 minutes come down Broadway?? And don’t even mention the widened sidewalks..... I’m surprised (but thankful) that Lyndells is still here and in business. It has been my family’s go to bakery for as long as I can remember. I’m looking forward to moving away from here. It’s too bad.....I was proud to say I was born and raised here....not anymore.

Santo says:

Marcia, as I disabled senior who has lived my entire life in Somerville... I for one appreciate the city’s efforts to become more accessible to those who cannot drive. Such as myself. One of the small pleasures of retirement is my weekly walk to Lyndell’s for a sweet treat.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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# Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

**Q: Tax deductions and tax credits – what's the difference, and how can they save me money?**

**A:** Both can lower your taxes, but they work in very different ways.

• **A deduction reduces the amount of income that gets taxed.**

For example, if you have a \$1,000 deduction and your tax rate is 20%, that deduction could save you about \$200 in taxes.

• **A tax credit reduces the tax itself – and generally has a bigger impact.**

A \$1,000 tax credit can reduce your tax

bill by the full \$1,000, assuming the credit is fully available to you. That's why credits are often described as reducing taxes "dollar for dollar."

• **But you don't get to choose.**

Tax law determines whether something qualifies as a deduction, a credit, or neither. For example, certain business expenses and mortgage interest may qualify as deductions, while the Child Tax Credit and certain energy-related incentives are tax credits. Both individuals and businesses may qualify for deductions and credits depending on their circumstances.

**Bottom Line:** Both deductions and credits

can save you money on taxes, but credits generally provide a bigger benefit dollar for dollar. A deduction reduces the income that gets taxed; a credit directly reduces the tax itself.

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

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



## City awards grant to Teen Empowerment and The Dojo @ Somernova

CONT. FROM PG 1

civic engagement; leadership development; workforce-readiness workshops; financial literacy and life-skills development; as well as a host of fun activities from bingo and trivia to DJing and summertime water wars.

Teen Time advances the City of Somerville's commitment to expanding accessible, high-quality out-of-school opportunities. Books of Hope will join Teen Empowerment and The Dojo @ Somernova in delivering programming that reflects the strengths of each organization, such as open mic nights and more.

"Having attended countless great events at the DoJo, I'm excited to see this expansion of programming and looking forward to seeing where it goes. This will deliver exactly the kind of creative gathering space that our youth have been calling for more of -- and that the city is seeking to grow," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "From flexing their creative minds,

to building skills, or just having a welcoming place to hang out, play games, and make friends, our teens will now have more opportunities to connect and learn in their free time. I want to thank our outstanding local youth providers, Teen Empowerment and the DoJo, for working together to deliver that."

While Somernova is known for bringing together groundbreaking climate and technology companies, the campus has long invested in creating spaces that serve the broader Somerville community. The Dojo reflects that commitment by ensuring young people have access to the culture of creativity, innovation, and opportunity that defines the campus.

"The Dojo was created to be a place where every young person feels like they belong," said Kristin Phelan, Vice President of Real Estate Development & External Affairs for Rafi, owner and operator



of Somernova. "This investment in Teen Time reflects what Somernova believes: innovation begins by investing in people. We're committed to creating opportunities for young people to discover new interests, build confidence, and see themselves as the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, artists, and leaders. We're grateful to the City of Somerville for making that vision possible."

"The Center for Teen Empowerment has spent more than two decades working alongside Somerville's young people to help them develop their voices, leadership skills, and confidence," said Abigail Forrester, CEO, Center for Teen Empowerment. "Teen Time @ The Dojo creates another powerful opportunity for youth to get the support they need to thrive. We're excited to partner with Somernova to make this vision a reality."

For Somerville teens, Teen Time provides something that's been hard to find: free, consistent programming designed specifically for older teens

Bazel Towne, a Teen Empowerment

Youth Organizer, said, "Teen spaces like the Dojo are what drive young people like me to find themselves. Social connections form identity and belonging, which are two of the most important aspects of youth. The community that Teen Empowerment Youth Organizers are building at the Dojo will be youth-led, impactful, and most of all fun!"

DJ Freeman, a recent Somerville High School graduate now attending Salem State University, added: "I've been in Somerville for 10+ years, and I've never seen a program for older teens like Teen Time. They have the best gaming, snacks, and always have something going on every week without signing up for anything."

Teen Time @ The Dojo will be open to all Somerville youth ages 14-19, with intentional outreach to immigrant youth, youth experiencing housing insecurity, and others facing barriers to enrichment opportunities.

For more information about The Dojo and Teen Time programming, visit TheDojo at <https://www.dojosomernova.com>.





A fresh ray of hope guides Vernon Street Studio artists to a brighter future

CONT. FROM PG 1

Somerville from a sort of industrial-run-down town to a vibrant one, according to Continelli.

For years, Vernon Street Studios remained hidden in plain sight as onlookers only noticed the famous Rogers Foam factory. Thanks to Somerville Open Studios, a free annual arts event and day when artists showcase their work throughout Somerville, the community noticed the arts building.

“And then when Open Studios happened, all these people who lived down the street would come in and marvel that this jewel was right in the middle of their neighborhood, and they didn’t know what went on here,” said Clara Wainwright in the documentary.

The Somerville Museum screened the documentary on Wednesday, July 29. Con-

tinelli interviewed many artists who explained the importance of art and creative workspaces. The creatives also explained the difficulties artists face economically due to escalating costs.

*“I try to sell all the time, but it’s hard”*

It gives it cachet. It gives it class. It gives it importance. And art is crucial to the spirit,” said early artist Adele Travisano.

Steven Cabral is part of one of the fresh waves of artists at Vernon and deeply enjoys its community. Like many, he doesn’t know where artists will go if they’re displaced. Most art studios are very expensive, according to Cabral.

Nationally, more than 57% of artists reported that they are worried about living expenses such as housing, food, utilities, or medical care, according to the Mellon Foundation’s National Survey of Artists. About 22% of artists expressed concerns about not having enough to eat, while 32% worried about covering medical costs.

“I try to sell all the time, but it’s hard. Art is expensive, and people can’t just plunk down the amount of money that it costs to buy something,” said early artist Jane Sherril.

Continelli believes there’s hope for the future. She offered a possible solution: The city should continue to help protect artists. She also believes people’s choices can keep housing affordable. If she sells her home, she plans to pass it on to first-time homeowners instead of to a developer.



Anne Continelli, director and producer of *A Matter of Light*. — Photo courtesy of Anne Continelli

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# Open Door Chats: Urban Forestry

By Harry Kane

Planting more trees and expanding the canopy cover in Somerville was the focus of a recent episode of Open Door Chats hosted by Mayor Jake Wilson.

The mayor sat down with the city's Senior Urban Forestry and Landscape Planner, Dr. Vanessa Boukili, to learn about the work that is being done to increase the canopy cover, which in 2018 was 14.6 percent. The city's goal is to increase the canopy cover to 16 percent, explained Boukili.

"We have to remember we're the densest city in New England, so we are limited to where trees can go," said Boukili. "We think this is a reasonable and attainable goal that will increase the spread of our urban forest canopy cover."

Boukili, an ecologist and certified arborist, has been with the city almost 10 years now, and she leads the three-person team, referenced by The Boston Globe as the "Tree Amigos," who work collaboratively to manage Somerville's urban forest.

New data collected in 2024 provides the public with the species, location, and size of each tree, she said.

When looking at a map of trees, it becomes clear that there is a "tree equity gap" from one neighborhood to the next.

Ward 1 has an 8 percent canopy cover while Wards 6 and 7 have a 20 percent canopy cover. "So, there is a huge disparity," she said. And finding places to plant trees

in East Somerville has been challenging.

Boukili said climate change is another factor affecting tree health, which may be creating "stressful conditions" for trees in the city.

As well, pests and invasive species, such as the emerald ash borer, found in 2018, had a major impact on all ash trees. "We've been proactively treating our healthy ash trees to keep them around."

## Survive and Thrive

The team plants at least 350 trees per year and divides the planting into two different seasons, spring and fall.

"We want to put the right tree in that can survive in the long run and thrive," said Boukili.

Planting contractors will plant and maintain the tree for two years. The most important thing for new trees is to get enough water. Green irrigation bags that hold 20 gallons of water with holes at the bottom provide a deep soak to the soil at the base of the new trees.

"Filling up the gator bag one time a week from a resident can really make or break the tree's health," said Boukili. "We do have the tree watering for two years from our contractors, but after that they're kind of on their own, so we encourage people to water."

Weeds growing out of tree wells can be competing for water resources that are already limited for the tree, so if residents want to help by weeding tree wells, that would be much appreciated, she explained,



Mayor Jake Wilson welcomed Senior Urban Forestry and Landscape Planner, Dr. Vanessa Boukili, to a recent episode of "Open Door Chats" to discuss Somerville's canopy cover.

but the team wants residents to make sure intentional plants aren't weeded out.

Residents can sign up to adopt a tree officially through the city's adopt a tree program that the urban forestry committee designed.

## Building Biodiversity

The Callery pear tree is the most common species just after the Norway maple.

"We definitely work to increase the species diversity across the city and within each street," said Boukili.

An urban forestry rule, explained Boukili, is never to plant more than 10 percent

of any one species, 20 percent of any one genus, and 30 percent of any one family. "That sort of gives you some resiliency if there is an issue."

The city aims to plant a diversity of species with 20 to 30 different species every planting season.

Boukili's favorite tree right now is the Kentucky coffeetree. It grows large and provides a lot of shade. But in the colder months, she said, "It looks kind of weird and gangly in the winter when it loses its leaves. It looks kind of like a Dr. Seuss tree, especially when it's young."

## Somerville Annual Senior Picnic September 10

Savor the final days of summer during a festive afternoon of food, music, and community. Somerville seniors are invited to the City's annual Senior Picnic on Thursday, September 10, at Trum Field (541 Broadway) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Meet or catch up with neighbors, chat with Mayor Jake Wilson and City Councilors, and enjoy lunch and music from a live band and DJ. City staff from Health and Human Services, Recreation, Somerville Police, Mobility, and more will be on-site sharing resources.

"The senior picnic is a cherished tradition in Somerville, giving seniors an opportunity to enjoy a meal with their neighbors and access to important city resources," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "Thank you to the Council on Aging and City staff for continuing to support and celebrate our older residents through community connection."

Admission to the picnic is free, but tickets are required. To reserve a spot, contact the Council on Aging at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319 by Friday, September 4. City-supported transportation to the picnic is limited and must be requested through the Council on Aging by September 1.

"Nothing beats our senior picnic. I love coming together to celebrate community and make new memories," said Councilor-At-Large Kristen Strezo. "If you or a loved one hasn't experienced the picnic yet, I hope you'll come this year. This is a great way to learn about the Council on Aging and City services, and is a way to make new friends."

For questions or more information, please call the Council on Aging at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319.





COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville salutes its dedicated workforce this coming Labor Day.

Our View Of The Times



On the first Monday of September, Labor Day is celebrated to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the work and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements in the United States.

It is also a time to show appreciation for all the everyday workers of today who help keep our economy strong and serve the needs of everyone.

Beginning in the late 19th century, as the trade union and labor movements grew, trade unionists proposed that a day be set aside to celebrate labor. “Labor Day” was promoted by the Central Labor Union and the Knights of Labor, which organized the first parade in New York City. In 1887, Oregon was the first state of the United States to make it an official public holiday. By the time it became an official federal

holiday in 1894, thirty states in the U.S. officially celebrated Labor Day.

Labor Day is called the “unofficial end of summer” because it marks the end of our culture’s nominal summer season.

Of the 7% of Americans who take two-week vacations, many take their vacations during the two weeks ending Labor Day weekend. Many fall activities, such as school and sports – particularly football –

begin about this time.

To take advantage of large numbers of potential customers with time to shop, Labor Day has become an important weekend for discounts and allowances by many retailers in the United States, especially for back-to-school sales.

So, enjoy the long weekend. Take time to relax or enjoy some outdoor activities. You work hard, you deserve it.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

your polling location at [somervillema.gov/mysomerville](https://somervillema.gov/mysomerville).

\*\*\*\*\*

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. Rep. Christine Barber is also celebrating this week. We wish her a great day. Happy birthday to former City Councilor Judy P Neufeld. We wish her a great day. Happy birthday to Marilyn Publicover, the sister of our former publisher, who is celebrating this week. We wish her the very best. We

wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Kathleen Goss, Louise Cruz-Partee, Ellie Loder Chute, John McDermott, Bob Baxter, Cheryl Endicott-Ribeiro, Michael Madden, Leesette Bengar, Isabel Mercauto, Donna M Morabito, Thomas B Mercier, and Andreza S. Moon, 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 Strummerville Ukulele Club meets every 4th Wednesday from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Rooted Café inside Arts at the Armory. Whether you just picked up a

uke or you’ve been strumming for years, all levels are welcome. Come for the music, stay for the community. This month’s event is August 26, 6 – 9 p.m., Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave.

\*\*\*\*\*

Somerville Arts and Culture invites community members to apply as panelists for the 2027 LCC Grant cycle. Panelists review grant applications, learn how the local funding process works, and help support artists and cultural projects across our community. Whether you’re an artist, educator, cultural organizer, or community member who cares about arts and culture, we’d love to hear from you.

Apply by October 1. <https://somervilleartsandculture.org/lcc/lcc-panelist-application/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Orange Line service will be suspended between Oak Grove and Back Bay for infrastructure upgrades from Thursday, August 20 through Sunday, August 30. Riders can use shuttles between Oak Grove and North Station, and the Green Line between North Station and Copley/Back Bay. MBTA.com/OrangeLine. Bluebikes riders can get a free\$10 credit to help get around during the planned MBTA Orange Line closure. Just enter code

*Continued on page 19*



FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#1036

1. In AKC dog shows, what group would a Rottweiler be in?

2. What three crops, when planted together, are known as the "Three Sisters"??

3. In Major League Baseball, how far is it from the pitcher's mound to home plate?

4. A 401(k) account is designed to help you save for what?

5. What is the last name of the business tycoon behind the "No. 5" perfume?

6. DTI, stands for

what in real-estate parlance?

7. What is Route 66 famously known as?

8. What is the official currency of Japan?

9. How many states does the Appalachian trail cover?

10. What is the only sport to have been played on the moon?

11. Who founded Motown Records?

12. How old was Tiger Woods when he first won the Masters?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. The most common name in the world is Mohammed.

2. Women hiccup less than men.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

EMMYS

ACROSS

1. Cut off
6. "Be quiet!"
9. Yellowjacket
13. Brunch offering
14. Lawyers' org.
15. Capital of Vietnam
16. Without illumination
17. Harland David Sanders' title, abbr.
18. Abhorrence
19. \_\_\_\_ Theater, Emmys venue
21. 2026 Emmy Awards host
23. Fah follower
24. Like a certain eagle
25. Grill master's acronym
28. Aussie's neighbor
30. Kick the bucket
35. Look angry
37. Opposite of riches
39. Holiday spirit spreader
40. Soprano's song
41. Introduction
43. Flocculant, for short
44. Queen Elizabeth's favorite dog breed
46. Dog command
47. \_\_\_\_ show, like nominated "Jimmy Kimmel Live!"
48. Works dough
50. Highest volcano in Europe
52. "I agree"
53. Winter woe
55. Publisher's revenue source, pl.
57. "Euphoria" Lead Actress nominee
61. Most nominated series for 2026 Emmys (two words)
65. Love, in Paris
66. Don't waste
68. Ottoman Empire VIP
69. Carried a torch
70. Biochemistry acr.
71. Scrabble pieces
72. Editor's "let it stand"
73. " \_\_\_\_ or nothing"
74. Kind of peak

DOWN

1. Fish a.k.a. porgy
2. European sea eagle
3. Velum, pl.
4. "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey," e.g.

CROSSWORD

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| 72 |    |    |    |    |    | 73 |    |    | 74 |    |    |    |    |

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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

5. Did the test again

6. Quarterback's downfall

7. Network/streamer with most nominations for 2026 Emmys

8. Chinese Checkers predecessor

9. Dry riverbed

10. Type of cuckoos

11. Middle Eastern market

12. Type of cotton fiber

15. Vast multitudes

20. Bird sound

22. Matterhorn, e.g.

24. Biased

25. Nominee Jason Bateman's " \_\_\_\_ Rabbit"

26. B on Mendeleev's table

27. One-twentieth of a ream

29. W in VFW.

31. Huck Finn's escape

32. Embedded design

33. Fur shawl
34. Jean Smart's nominated comedy

36. Sitar music

38. Assigned spot in #19 Across

42. Myna, alt. sp.

45. Driver's license alternative (2 words)

49. Sushi sauce

51. Experts

54. "Little House on the Prairie" protagonist

56. "The rain in \_\_\_\_ falls mainly on the plain"

57. Nukes

58. What exhaust pipes do

59. Opposite of all

60. Simon and Gurfunkel, e.g.

61. Bluish green

62. Robinson Crusoe's turf

63. Short for Theodora

64. \*Nominated Mark Ruffalo's drama series

67. \*Connor Storrle's nominated show, acr.
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.



Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Roasted Patty Pan  
Squash & Tomatoes  
Two Ways

This recipe was inspired by what was available at the local farmers market. I stock up on produce, cook it for the week, and use the produce in various dishes. I usually purchase what looks really good, and at times I don't always have a specific dish in mind. This particular dish has different textures, concentrated flavors, fresh components, and a nice balance of acidity from the balsamic glaze. It certainly tastes as good as it looks!

- 1-1/2 Pints Cherry Tomatoes,  
multi-colored (divided 1 pint-1/2  
pint), all cut in half, lengthwise
- 2 Tablespoons Olive Oil, divided
- 1 Medium Shallot, sliced thin
- 1 Garlic Clove, minced
- 2 Patty Pan Squash, each cut into 8

- wedged pieces
- 1/4 Cup Pesto
- Salt & Pepper
- Balsamic Glaze
- Basil leaves for garnish

Preheat skillet, add 1 tablespoon olive oil, add shallot, turn heat to medium/low and sweat for approximately 5 minutes until translucent. Add 1 pint of tomatoes, garlic, a pinch of salt & pepper. Give it a good stir and cook down until almost all of the liquid is absorbed. Put aside. Meanwhile, toss the squash with the remaining olive oil and a pinch of salt & pepper. This can either be pan-roasted or placed on a lined sheet pan and placed in a 375° oven and roasted for about 20 minutes. Toss the remaining 1/2 pint of tomatoes with the pesto and coat well. This dish can be assembled and served immediately, or at room temperature. As always, taste and adjust seasoning if needed. Place the cooked tomato mix-



ture in the middle of the plate and top with the pesto-coated tomatoes on top and around the cooked tomatoes. Place the squash in each corner of the plate and drizzle with balsamic reduc-

tion and garnish with basil. Serves 3-4 as a side.

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

Join Somerville's Nepali  
Street Food Festival



Celebrate the rich flavors and vibrant culture of Nepal at the Somerville Nepali Street Food Festival on Saturday, September 5, from 2 to 8 p.m. at Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave). The rain date is Sunday, September 6.

Community members are invited to enjoy food from Nepali vendors, along with live cultural music and dance performances throughout the day. A DJ from Nepal will keep the celebration going with music into the evening.

The festival is led by the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs and the Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) NCC USA Massachusetts Chapter, in collaboration with the Somerville Arts and Culture Division.



JOIN OUR  
COMMUNITY  
MEETING ON ONE  
UNION SQUARE

You're invited to share your ideas for creating vibrant new housing and green space in the Union Square neighborhood.

 Tuesday August 25, 2026

 6:00 - 8:00 PM

 Urban Axes: 2 Union Square, Somerville, MA

- Learn about the One Union Square site
- Share ideas for the space
- Connect with community members on the future of housing in Somerville



## LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://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, September 3, 2026**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_F1z60LZbR065RDKIAIDuow](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_F1z60LZbR065RDKIAIDuow)

**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:

- 365 Somerville Ave** Adam Dash, Esq. on behalf of Somerville Family Dental PC requesting a removal of conditions from Special Permit DRA#2020-0125 in the Mid-Rise 5 (MR5) zoning district.
- 369 Somerville Ave** Adam Dash, Esq. on behalf of Somerville Family Dental PC requesting a removal of conditions from Special Permit DRA#2020-0125 in the Mid-Rise 5 (MR5) zoning district.

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

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>. Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to [PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov](mailto:PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov).

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

8/19/26, 8/26/26 The Somerville Times



**City of Somerville  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, September 2, 2026**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_BKqmcmeRAaJ32V0rPXwfw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BKqmcmeRAaJ32V0rPXwfw)

**TO CALL IN**

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

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

- 180 Somerville Ave** Seth Anderson seeks to expand the existing formula business into the neighboring vacant storefront, which requires a Special Permit for the expansion of a pre-existing nonconforming formula business.

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

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>. Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to [ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov](mailto:ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov).

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

8/19/26, 8/26/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
JAKE WILSON  
MAYOR**

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Somerville City Council's **Legislative Matters Committee** will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, September 8, 2026** at 6:00 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

**REGISTER ONLINE**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89890502420>

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. Enter the link exactly as it appears into your internet browser. You will then be asked to register for the meeting.
2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to [publiccomments@somervillema.gov](mailto:publiccomments@somervillema.gov), or send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143. Your comments must arrive no later than 4:00 PM on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council for inclusion with the Hearing testimony.

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

- 89 registered voters submitting a petition requesting a public hearing regarding Police Body-Worn Cameras, pursuant to Section 2-11 of the City Charter.
- Davis Square Neighborhood Council submitting comments re: formal recognition by this Council as a neighborhood council under Chapter 7, Article IX of the Code of Ordinances.
- 74 registered voters submitting a petition requesting a public hearing regarding the proposed ethical procurement ordinance, pursuant to Section 2-11 of the City Charter.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

COURTNEY HENDERSON  
CITY CLERK

8/19/26, 8/26/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
RFA#27-08**

Somerville's DPW, through the Procurement Department, is seeking contractors to provide snow plowing services for the city:

**SNOW PLOWING 2026-2028**

Interested vendors may obtain a Request for Application (RFA) packet from the Procurement Department by downloading from our webpage: **Procurement webpage:**

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/procurement-and-contracting-services> or request by email: [Lcarroll@somervillema.gov](mailto:Lcarroll@somervillema.gov)

**Vendors must return their completed RFA packet to [Lcarroll@somervillema.gov](mailto:Lcarroll@somervillema.gov)**

**Return completed package by Thursday  
September 17, 2026, by 3:00 pm**

**By Email or Deliver To:  
Department of Procurement & Contracting Services  
1st floor, Somerville City Hall  
91 Highland Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02143**

8/26/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
INVITATION FOR BIDS  
IFB #27-09**

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, Invites Sealed Bids For:

**Ready Mix Concrete**

A bid package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, August 26th, 2026**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Thursday, September 10th, 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 Logan Carroll [Lcarroll@somervillema.gov](mailto:Lcarroll@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Logan Carroll  
Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3407**

8/26/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
IFB #27-07**

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

**On-Call Fleet Repairs: Light Duty/Non-Commercial**

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at [www.bidexpress.com](http://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 **08/26/2026**. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **09/09/2026 by 2 PM EST**. 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 contact Logan Carroll at [Lcarroll@somervillema.gov](mailto:Lcarroll@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Logan Carroll  
Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3407**

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



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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 15, 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\\_wzfdxgnoRGCutE2dnLOxgA](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/wn_wzfdxgnoRGCutE2dnLOxgA)

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.

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

**333 Highland Avenue** Applicant: Fan Wang  
Owner: Fan Wang  
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

**83 Wallace Street** Applicant: Adam Dash & Associates  
Owner: Michael Bergman & Chien Chi Huang  
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

8/26/26 The Somerville Times

TO PLACE LEGAL  
ADVERTISEMENTS  
IN THE  
SOMERVILLE TIMES,  
CONTACT US  
BY 12 PM MONDAY  
PH: 857-488-5138

Somerville inclusionary homeownership opportunity at One Inman Square

Applications are now open for the sale of six deed-restricted condominiums at One Inman Square (121 Prospect St.) to eligible, first-time homebuyers. Units will be sold at below-market price through the City of Somerville’s Inclusionary Housing Program.

One-, two-, and three-bedroom units are available and will be offered to households with a yearly gross income at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) at price tier P1, to households between 80% and 110% AMI at price tier P2, and to households between 110% and 140% AMI at price tier P3.

| Unit Number and Tier:                            | Sale Price:                                           | Minimum 3% Down Payment:                                  | Estimated Initial Condo Fee: |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 121 Prospect #102<br>(1-Bedroom at 80% AMI)      | \$210,093                                             | \$6,302.79                                                | \$133.58                     |
| 121 Prospect #107<br>(2-Bedroom at 80% AMI)      | \$256,244                                             | \$7,687.32                                                | \$239.13                     |
| 121 Prospect #103<br>(3-Bedroom at 80% AMI)      | \$297,830<br>(with parking)<br>\$247,830 (no parking) | \$8,934.90<br>(with parking)<br>\$7,434.90 (no parking)   | \$265.52                     |
| 121 Prospect #205<br>(1-Bedroom at 80%-110% AMI) | \$311,857                                             | \$9,355.71                                                | \$212.74                     |
| 121 Prospect #303<br>(3-Bedroom at 80-110% AMI)  | \$400,855 (incl. parking)<br>\$350,855 (no parking)   | \$12,025.65<br>(with parking)<br>\$10,525.65 (no parking) | \$277.06                     |
| 121 Prospect #207<br>(2-Bedroom at 110-140% AMI) | \$467,297 (incl. parking)<br>\$417,297 (no parking)   | \$14,018.91<br>(with parking)<br>\$12,518.91 (no parking) | \$239.13                     |

| Annual Gross Income Limits | 1 person    | 2 persons   | 3 persons   | 4 persons   | 5 persons   |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Tier P1 (maximums)         | \$96,000    | \$109,700   | \$123,400   | \$137,100   | \$148,100   |
| 80% AMI:                   |             |             |             |             |             |
| Tier P2                    | \$96,001 -  | \$109,701 - | \$123,401 - | \$137,101 - | \$148,101 - |
| 80%-110% AMI:              | \$131,978   | \$150,832   | \$169,686   | \$188,540   | \$203,623   |
| Tier P3                    | \$131,979 - | \$150,833 - | \$169,687 - | \$188,541 - | \$203,624 - |
| 110%-140% AMI              | \$167,972   | \$191,968   | \$215,964   | \$239,960   | \$259,157   |

How to Apply:

Apply now through 5 p.m. on Monday, September 14.

Pre-lottery applications are available online at [somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing](http://somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing) or apply now at [maloneyaffordable.com/condominiums/one-inman-square/](http://maloneyaffordable.com/condominiums/one-inman-square/)

Completed applications can be emailed to [oneinmansquare@maloneyproperties.com](mailto:oneinmansquare@maloneyproperties.com), or mailed or delivered to Maloney Properties, Inc. Attn: One Inman Square Lottery, 27 Mica Lane, Wellesley, MA 02481.

For more information on the City’s Inclusionary Housing Program, visit [somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing](http://somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing).

More About One Inman Square:

One Inman Square is a mixed-income development located in Somerville, MA, consisting of 32 condominiums. Six units will be designated as income-restricted. Affordable units will not have any difference in finishes from the market-rate units. Each kitchen shall be equipped with a refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, and microwave. In addition, all units will have an electric washer and dryer in the unit. Owners will be responsible for all utilities, which include electricity (heating/cooling, hot water, cooking and general). Cable & Internet are optional utilities at this property. Buyers of Inclusionary units 103, 207, and 303 shall have a right of first refusal to purchase a parking space at a reduced cost. This development also includes six bicycle spaces that will be reserved for Inclusionary households.

Be sure to visit us online at [www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)



# Somerville hosting 'Until Help Arrives' emergency response and overdose prevention trainings

You don't need to be a medical professional to help someone in an emergency. Sometimes, knowing who to call and what to do in the first few minutes can make an important difference.

This September, the City of Somerville is offering six community workshops where residents can learn practical ways to respond to a range of emergencies, including injury or possible overdose. The workshops are designed for community members, and no previous training or experience is required.

"Knowing the simple but important skills taught in these workshops can help you be a good neighbor in an emergency – and they just may make the difference for you or a loved one at some point too. So I hope to see strong turnout for these free trainings," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "Basic techniques like knowing how to stop bleeding until first responders arrive or knowing what information to have ready for 911 are vital tools any of us can have at the ready to help when needed. Somerville is full of people who care about each other, and this is a critical way to put that into action."

Presented as part of Somerville's Year of the Neighbor initiative and in recognition of National Recovery Month, the workshops will be held at Somerville Public Library locations across the city.

"Wanting to help is part of our character as good neighbors; knowing how to help

in a crisis is a learned skill," said Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott. "Good luck is the intersection of preparedness and opportunity. 'We Keep Us Safe' starts with caring but only takes on significance when we reach out to learn how to turn that desire into action. These trainings aim to provide the skills to allow any of us to be just the right resource needed for a neighbor in crisis."

## Until Help Arrives Trainings

These workshops are designed to prepare people without professional medical training to take lifesaving action during the critical minutes before first responders arrive. No prior training or experience is required. The series is presented by the Somerville Office of Emergency Management and is an initiative supported by FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency).

Participants will learn how to:

- stay safe in dangerous situations,
- stop life-threatening bleeding,
- provide comfort and support,
- safely position an injured person, and
- call 911 effectively.

Trainings will be held:

- Thursday, September 17, 5:30 – 8 p.m.

at the East Branch Library

Join at: [bit.ly/untilhelp917](https://bit.ly/untilhelp917)

- Monday, September 21, 5:30 – 8 p.m.

at the West Branch Library

Join at: [bit.ly/untilhelp921](https://bit.ly/untilhelp921)

- Wednesday, September 30, 5:30 – 8

p.m. at the Central Library



Register at: [bit.ly/untilhelp930](https://bit.ly/untilhelp930)

The workshops complement the city's "Be a Good Neighbor: Calling Is Caring" campaign, which helps community members understand who to contact when they see someone experiencing a medical emergency, mental health crisis, or possible overdose – or when they need to report another community concern. Learn more at [somervillema.gov/howtohelp](https://somervillema.gov/howtohelp).

## Overdose Prevention Trainings

Presented by the Somerville Department of Health and Human Services, these trainings will help participants learn how to recognize and respond to a possible overdose.

Trainings will be held:

- Tuesday, September 8, 6 – 7 p.m. at the Central Library

Join at: [bit.ly/preventionSept8](https://bit.ly/preventionSept8)

- Thursday, September 24, 6 – 7 p.m. at the East Branch Library

Join at: [bit.ly/preventionSept24](https://bit.ly/preventionSept24)

- Monday, September 28, 6 – 7 p.m. at the West Branch Library

Join at: [bit.ly/preventionSept28](https://bit.ly/preventionSept28)

For questions about the Until Help Arrives trainings, contact Lauren Mahoney at [lmahoney@somervillema.gov](mailto:lmahoney@somervillema.gov). For questions about the Overdose Prevention trainings, contact Jake Savage at [jsavage@somervillema.gov](mailto:jsavage@somervillema.gov). To learn more about Year of the Neighbor, visit [somervillema.gov/neighbor](https://somervillema.gov/neighbor).

## Somerville to celebrate Brazilian Independence with flag raising at City Hall

The Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA), in proud partnership with the Brazilian Women's Group, invites community members to celebrate 204 years of Brazilian independence at the fourth annual Brazilian flag raising on Thursday, September 10, at 3 p.m. on the Somerville City Hall concourse (93 Highland Ave). The rain date is Monday, September 14.

"Somerville's Brazilian community has helped shape our city through its culture, leadership, local businesses, and deep commitment to community," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "I'm proud to join the Brazilian Women's Group and neighbors from across Somerville in celebrating Brazil's independence and recognizing the many contributions of our Brazilian community."

The event will feature remarks from Mayor Jake Wilson, the Consulate General of Brazil in Boston, representatives of the Brazilian Women's Group, and SOIA staff. Attendees will enjoy live music and performances of the national anthems of Brazil and the United States, followed by the ceremonial raising of the Brazilian flag. Light refreshments and resources from local Brazilian organizations will also be available.

"We are so grateful that in Somerville, the chosen home of so many Brazilians, we are able to celebrate our Brazilian roots, history and culture," said Rafael Peruzzo, Portuguese Services Coordinator for SOIA. "We look forward to sharing some delicious 'pão de queijo' (baked cheese rolls) and 'brigadeiro' (chocolate sweet), staples of Brazilian cuisine."





# A French absurdist play hits Harvard with big stars

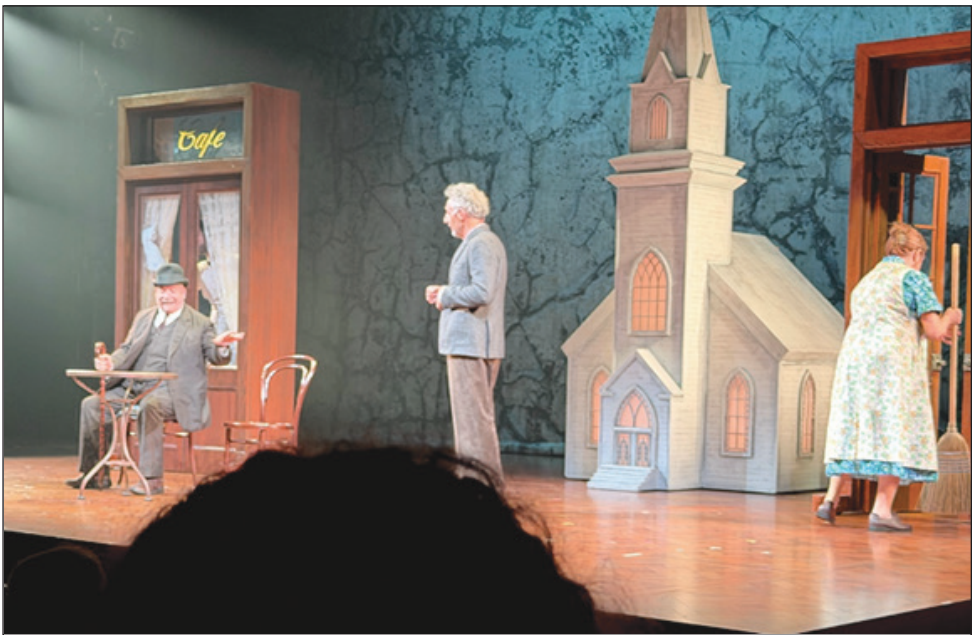
By Keith Foster

The latest play featured at the American Repertory Theater in Harvard Square is the absurdist comedy stage play *Rhinoceros* by French playwright Eugene Ionesco, translated into English by Derek Prouse. The play's engagement from August 14 to September 27 features the Hollywood elites Paul Giamatti and John Turturro. Giamatti plays Jean, and Turturro plays Berenger.

The play was written by Ionesco when he was a young man living in Romania, experiencing the rise of fascism in the

1930s. He watched as friends and family near and dear slowly joined the Iron Guard – the Roman Naziism. The Iron Guard was a violent, far-right fascist movement in Romania active from 1927 through 1941. Founded by Corneliu Zelea Codreanu, it blended intense nationalism, strict anti-communism, and extreme antisemitism with Romanian Orthodox Christian mysticism, according to Study.com.

Berenger witnesses everyone around him turning into rhinoceroses, including Giamatti's Jean. In the end, everyone became rhinoceroses except Berenger, who



Paul Giamatti as Jean and John Turturro as Berenger in Eugene Ionesco's "Rhinoceros".  
— Photos by Keith Foster



Sign for "Rhinoceros" outside the American Repertory Theatre in Harvard Square.

was our hero. He did not want to give in to this form of fascism. The play has an ambiguous ending where we see Berenger beginning the fight against the rhinoceroses, then fade to black.

The play was stellar. I've always been familiar with Turturro and Giamatti, and having them both here in this famous play was a thrill. The other players were great as well. The third famous actor in this play is Canadian actress Tatiana Maslany, from the show *Orphan Black* and movies like *The Monkey* and *Stronger*, who played Daisy,

Berenger's co-worker and love interest. This play was directed for the A.R.T by Diane Paulus and will be her final production since joining as an undergraduate at Harvard in 1987.

This play came from the Theatre of the Absurd that began in the 1950s as a form of escapism after the events of World War 2. It rejects realism instead of just having comedic plays, because why laugh after Hitler almost took over the world? Come out to see *Rhinoceros* now playing through September 27.

## SomerStreets: Gilman Square Arts & Music Festival

From kid's music and a Honk band to interactive circus activities and pumpkin painting, there's free fun for the whole family at the upcoming SomerStreets: Gilman Square Arts & Music Festival.

Held on Saturday, September 12, from noon to 5 p.m. (rain date Sunday, September 13), this edition of the City's SomerStreets series is co-hosted by the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council and the City of Somerville Arts and Culture Division. All events will take place at Edward Leathers Park (108 Walnut St.).

### Festival highlights:

Interactive performances by Esh Circus • Entertainment from Cate the Great • Pumpkin painting with Neighborhood Produce • Local artists and makers • Food from Nibble Kitchen vendors and local favorites • A beer garden hosted by Winter Hill Brewing Company • Family-friendly activities and more

### Music Lineup:

- 12–12:45 p.m.: Matt Heaton (kid's music)
- 1– 1:45 p.m.: Pink Slip (ska punk)
- 2– 2:45 p.m.: Dom the Composer (R&B, gospel, folk)
- 3– 3:45 p.m.: Emperor Norton's Stationary Marching Band (Balkan-Klezmer-funk-Honk)
- 4– 4:45 p.m.: FM Collective (Latin, hip-hop, jazz)



The event is free and open to all. For updates and the complete entertainment schedule, visit [sommervilleartscouncil.org/events/gilman-sq-fest](https://sommervilleartscouncil.org/events/gilman-sq-fest).  
2026 Location Update: Edward Leathers Park

Due to ongoing construction along Pearl Street, this year's festival will temporarily move to Edward L. Leathers Community Park and portions of Walnut Street. To make room for the festivities, Walnut Street will be closed between Pearl and Medford streets, and Skilton Avenue will also be closed.



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Ms. Cam's

Olío

Answers

1. Working group

2. Corn, beans, and squash

3. 60 feet, 6 inches

4. Retirement

5. Chanel

6. Debt to Income

7. The Mother Road

8. The Japanese Yen

9. 14, Georgia to Maine

10. Golf

11. Berry Gordy

12. 21



# San Diego summer



Former Alderman Bob McWatters enjoys an end of summer trip to San Diego.

## Back to School Fair visitors



Mayor Jake Wilson and City Councilor Will Mbah stopped by the Back to School Fair at Somerville High School on Tuesday, August 25. The Fair was for all Somerville Public Schools students, PreK – Grade 12, and their families to attend.

## CITY OF SOMERVILLE EARLY VOTING

at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

- Aug. 22-23: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m
- Aug. 24-26: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Aug. 27: 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Aug. 28: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

[somervillema.gov/elections](https://somervillema.gov/elections)

Early voting for the State Primary Election runs through Friday, August 28 at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.). Have a vote-by-mail ballot? Ballots must be received by the Elections Department by 8 p.m. on Election Day (Tuesday, September 1). Learn more at [somervillema.gov/elections](https://somervillema.gov/elections)



# 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](https://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](https://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](https://somerillema.gov/elections).



Visit us online at [www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](https://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)



# Somerville City Hall swings open its doors for Civic Day

Community members are invited to attend Somerville's fourth Civic Day event on Thursday, September 10, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., with activities taking place inside City Hall (93 Highland Ave.) and on the City Hall concourse.

"The best way to learn about your local government is to interact with it. You ask questions, share stories, learn names, make lasting connections, and build real knowledge," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "Civic Day is one-stop shopping for City services, with fun activities for the whole family. Whether you want to pick up a pollinator plant for your garden or register to vote, we've got you covered."

Civic Day offers an array of family-friendly ways to learn about your local government and how it can serve you.

## Planned Activities Include

- 311 scavenger hunts
- Somerville Police (SPD) K9 meet and greet
- Photo opportunities with SPD motorcycle and Somerville Fire truck
- Library card sign-ups
- City Hall tours
- Porous pavement demonstration

At 7 p.m., attendees are encouraged to head to the Council Chamber on the second floor of City Hall to attend the Somerville City Council meeting and ob-

serve local government in action.

"I'm excited that this year we'll have the live City Council meeting as a headline event for Civic Day," said Ward Six Councilor and City Council President Lance Davis. "I hope folks will join us in the Council Chambers to see their legislators in action."

City Hall will be open for the entirety of Civic Day for regular city business (like registering to vote or getting that expiring parking permit renewed), so be sure to walk around City Hall and say hello.

## Logistics, Accessibility, Language Access, and Rain Location

The City Hall concourse will be closed to vehicular traffic. Temporary handicap parking will be available along Highland Avenue near the concourse. In the event of inclement weather, all outdoor activities will be moved inside to Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)

Multilingual staff from the Language and Communications Access division (formerly the Office of Immigrant Affairs) will be present to offer language support for residents who may need assistance connecting with city departments.

For more information, please contact 311 (617-666-3311) or visit [somerville-ma.gov/civiceday](http://somerville-ma.gov/civiceday).

— City of Somerville



## PICK UP! Somerville Museum calling – A cocktail fund-raver

The phone rang and the world changed. That call, made in 1877 to the home of Charles Williams Jr in East Somerville was the world's first phone call to a residence.

This year, that "first" is the inspiration for the Somerville Museum's annual fundraiser PICK UP! on Thursday, September 10 from 6 to 8 pm at the Crystal Ballroom in Davis Square.

Somerville's own Jimmy Tingle (pun intended!) will entertain and emcee the evening, Brazilian Dance Ensemble, Sambaviva, will dance to a series of telephone "numbers", and TJ the DJ will keep the lines open with music throughout the evening. Enjoy cocktails, appetizers, interactive telephone exhibits, and lots of opportunities to connect with old friends and make some new.

Proceeds will support the Somerville Museum, the city's non-profit, membership-supported museum located on Central Street at Westwood Rd. The museum highlights the city's art, history, people and neighborhoods with a year-round program of workshops, exhibitions and special events. The Museum's annual fundraiser celebrates the work of the past year using the telephone to highlight our connection to the past and present, culminating in "Let Freedom Ring," a public art project featuring Somerville stories of freedom across 250 years of American history.



To learn more about the museum, its ongoing events, and to buy tickets please go to the website [somervillmuseum.org](http://somervillmuseum.org). Pick up your phone to invite your friends to join you for a fun evening to support an important Somerville institution!



## Somerville organizations awarded funding from MassCEC

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced \$27.2 million in tax incentives through the Mass Clean Energy Center's Climatetech Tax Incentives Program (CTIP). The funding will help 18 Massachusetts-based climatetech companies grow, create jobs, and accelerate the development and deployment of technologies that strengthen the state's position as a global leader in clean energy solutions that lower costs, reduce pollution, and protect public health.

"Climatetech is creating new opportunities for workers and communities across Massachusetts," said Governor Maura Healey. "These investments will help companies expand their facilities, hire more workers and grow right here in our state. That means more good jobs, more private investment and more economic growth in communities across Massachusetts."

"Massachusetts has the talent, ideas and innovation to lead the next generation of climatetech," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We're making sure companies have the support they need to take their ideas to the next level and stay here as they grow. That strengthens our economy and creates new opportunities for people and communities across Massachusetts."

The Climatetech Tax Incentives Program was launched under the Mass Leads Act and builds on MassCEC's Climatetech Economic Development Strategy and Implementation Plan, a 10-year roadmap to ensure that Massachusetts remains a global climatetech leader. The plan calls for strategic investments in testing and demonstration assets, physical and programmatic support for startups and researchers, and stronger coordination across the ecosystem.

"Massachusetts companies are developing the technologies that will shape the future of energy – from long-duration storage to geothermal and hydrogen," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "These incentives will help bring in those technologies to help scale and strengthen the state's energy system, lower costs, and speed up clean energy solutions."

"These companies are doing more than growing our economy. They're tackling some of our toughest climate and energy challenges and showing why Massachusetts is the best place for this type of innovation," said Economic Development Secretary Eric Paley. "These incentives help companies leading the next generation of climatetech to continue to tap into our talent ecosystem to grow and build here."

"Massachusetts is producing the solutions to the biggest challenges in climate, energy and affordability. These awardees are all proof of it," said Ben Downing, Mass Clean Energy Center CEO. "This funding helps them invest in our communities, creating the jobs and technologies that will drive our economy forward while advancing ground-breaking climate solutions."

The inaugural awards will support 18 companies working across a range of technologies, including energy storage, advanced manufacturing, geothermal energy, clean hydrogen, fusion energy, sustainable aviation fuel, building technologies, and clean transportation. These investments are expected to leverage additional private capital and support the expansion of facilities, research and development, and manufacturing capacity in Massachusetts.

Recipients are located in communities across Massachusetts, from New Bedford and Sunderland to Greater Boston and Devens, underscoring the statewide reach of the state's growing climatetech sector.

The recipients are:

AeroShield Materials (Waltham, MA): \$140,000 – Manufactures aerogel insulation to improve window energy efficiency and reduce HVAC costs.

BT2 Energy (Roxbury, MA): \$100,000 – Turnkey developer for EV charging, energy efficiency, and electrification.

Daqus Energy (Woburn, MA): \$100,000 – Develops high-energy, low-cost battery cathode materials for next-generation energy storage.

Eden Geopower (Somerville, MA): \$100,000 – Uses electric pulse drilling technology to make geothermal energy development faster and more affordable.

Florrent (Sunderland, MA): \$120,000 – Produces high-density supercapacitors from biomass waste to support clean energy storage.

Luminous Robotics (Boston, MA): \$400,000 – Designs autonomous robotic systems that accelerate solar farm construction and deployment.

Mantel Capture (Cambridge, MA): \$100,000 – Develops carbon capture technology for high-temperature industrial boilers, kilns, and furnaces.

Orpheus Ocean (New Bedford, MA): \$100,000 – Builds autonomous underwater vehicles that improve seafloor monitoring and data collection.

Pascal Technologies (Cambridge, MA): \$100,000 – Develops solid refrigerant cooling systems that reduce cooling costs and improve energy efficiency.

Reframe Systems (Andover, MA): \$800,000 – Operates technology-enabled microfactories that produce homes while reducing waste and shortening construction timelines.

REON Technology (Chelmsford, MA): \$100,000 – Optimizes the management and performance of battery and solar energy systems to extend their usable life.

Vertical Semiconductor (Somerville, MA): \$120,000 – Engineers vertical gallium nitride (GaN) transistors that enable high-efficiency power conversion for AI data centers.

Commonwealth Fusion Systems (Devens, MA): \$7,500,000 – Develops high-temperature superconducting magnets that make lower-cost tokamak fusion systems possible.

Electric Hydrogen (Devens, MA): \$7,500,000 – Manufactures electrolyzer plants designed to enable low-cost clean hydrogen production at scale.

Electrified Thermal Solutions (Charlestown, MA): \$954,000 – Delivers zero-carbon industrial heat using electrically conductive thermal storage "firebricks."

Form Energy (Somerville, MA): \$5,677,258 – Produces grid-scale iron-air batteries capable of providing up to 100 hours of cost-effective energy storage.

Fourth Power (Bedford, MA): \$1,546,830 – Creates ultra-high-temperature graphite thermal batteries that convert surplus electricity into long-duration, grid-scale energy storage.

Lydian Labs (Charlestown, MA): \$1,784,570 – Converts carbon dioxide and hydrogen into sustainable aviation fuel through a process powered by renewable electricity.

"Energy costs are hitting families hard. That's why investing in industries of the future isn't optional, it's essential," said State Senator Barry Finegold, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies (D-Andover). "By making a significant commitment to Climatech companies across the Commonwealth, the Mass Leads Act continues to strengthen our state's push to diversify energy sources and address rising energy costs."

"These \$27.2 million in climatetech tax incentives will help 18 companies bring cutting-edge technologies to the marketplace, all while strengthening our economy and advancing the Commonwealth's clean energy goals," said State Representative Carole Fiola, House Chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies (D-Fall River). "I'm proud to see the investments we made through the 2024 Mass Leads Act deliver meaningful support to companies across Massachusetts, from startups to some of our more promising large-scale clean energy innovators. By continuing to invest strategically in climatetech, we can help keep Massachusetts as a leader in a sector that is critical to our economic competitiveness and our clean energy future." For more information on the Climatetech Tax Incentives Program, visit [masscec.com/program/climatetech-tax-incentives-program](https://masscec.com/program/climatetech-tax-incentives-program).

— Mass Clean Energy Center



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Visit our tab on our website, “Campaign Releases.” Go there to see the latest endorsements and campaign info for this year’s election candidates.

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://somer villeartscouncil.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.

This year’s Gilman Square Arts & Music Festival is Saturday, September 12. This annual neighborhood celebration will feature local art, food vendors, acrobatic performances, children’s activities, plus live music and a beer garden. The festival will take place at Ed Leathers Park, from 12 to 5 p.m., and it’s completely free to attend. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, hang out, and enjoy some tunes.

Early Bird Registration for SHC’s Somerville 5k is still open. Every step taken on October 3 supports the community’s most vulnerable, helping raise the critical funds needed to tackle housing and food insecurity. Lock in the early bird price for SHC’s 31st annual 5k Road Race by midnight on 8/31. Register today to run and claim your race t-shirt. For more information, visit https://somer villehomelesscoalition.org/.

Intercambio Fall 2026 applications are now open. Looking for a welcoming space to practice English or Spanish, meet new people, and connect across cultures? Join in for eight weeks of conversation, cultural exchange, interactive activities, and community. At Intercambio, everyone

has something to learn – and something to share. Applications are open through September 21 at noon. Learn more and apply through the link here: https://somer villeartscouncil.org/intercambio/intercambio-fall-2026/.

Moving season is here, and the City of Somerville is welcoming new and returning residents with a guide to getting settled, finding city services, and becoming part of the community (it is the Year of the Neighbor https://www.somer villema.gov/departments/office-may-or-jake-wilson/year-neighbor after all). Have a question about city services and aren’t sure where to begin? Start with 311 (617-666-3311), available 24/7 to answer city-related questions, address service requests, or to connect you with the right department. Find the full guide to get additional information on moving permits, trash and recycling schedules, signing up for city alerts, and more: https://www.somer villema.gov/news/new-somer ville-start-here.

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

This fall, Somerville Recreation is offering all that and more. Residents can 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. www.somer villerec.com.

On August 27, stop by for another secret title 16mm film screening at Ed Leathers Park. *Mutant Fish Men*, an ecological disaster, with Doug McClure, and this happens to be one of only a handful of 1980s horror movies directed by a woman. Runtime is about 84 minutes. Killer score by an Academy Award-winning composer. 8 p.m., bring a chair or a blanket. (Some chairs are available). The film is 84 minutes long, suitable for audiences PG13+.

Somerville Firefighters Local 76 an-

nounced their annual Davy Fitz Memorial Golf Tournament Fundraiser on Monday, September 14, at Hillview Golf Course in North Reading, MA. Registration is due by September 1. Players can sign up as a foursome or individual golfer. For any interest in playing and/or sponsorship opportunities, contact VP Jay Kenney at 266 Broadway, Somerville. Enjoy a great day of golf, a catered function, raffles/ prizes, and help support Somerville Firefighters.

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 somerville-ma.gov/howtohelp.

PICK UP! Somerville Museum Calling fundraiser, September 10, 6 p.m., Crystal Ballroom at Somerville Theatre. Inspired by Somerville’s role as the site of the world’s first residential telephone call, and the Somerville Museum’s “Let Freedom Ring” public art project for America’s 250th, this year’s fundraising event celebrates connection between the past and the future and to one another. Jimmy Tingle (pun intended) will entertain us with his comedy and emcee the program. Sambaviva Brazilian dance ensemble will perform a medley of telephone-themed favorites. TJ the DJ will keep the music going throughout the evening. Mix and mingle over passed appetizers while exploring interactive telephone exhibits! For tickets and more information, visit: https://www.somer villemuseum.org/.

The Mission Church of Christ, 130 Highland Ave., will be hosting a free health fair for the community on September 19, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. with many vendors. Contact MC Allied Health & Professionals Group at mcahpg130@

gmail.com.

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.

Somerville’s Elm-Beacon Connector Project is underway. 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 has begun the Elm-Beacon Connector project to implement a new, safer street design. Installation should be mostly complete by November. Regular updates on installation progress will be available on the project webpage at somervillema.gov/elmbeacon, or get even more details by signing up for the city’s Construction e-newsletter at somervillema.gov/subscribe.

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 when your neighborhood will be affected and to learn more: www.somer villema.gov/hydrantflushing.

Somerville Firefighters Local 76 will be hosting a UDS Cancer Screening Event at the Dante Club on September 8, 9, and 10. Cancer continues to be one of the greatest threats facing firefighters, killing far too many of our brothers and sisters. Early detection is one of our best weapons in the fight against this devastating disease. Dante Club, 5 Dante Ter., Somerville. For questions, call 646-553-5803.

Raise a glass to Union Square as What the Fluff? turns 21! This year’s theme – Legally Fluff: A Toast to Union Square – is an ode to 21 years Continued on page 21





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

**Q:** How long after moving out should I expect my security deposit back?

**A:** Upon your moving out, your landlord should do an inspection of your unit. If there are any damages beyond normal wear and tear, he/she will get an estimate of the cost of repair. Within 30 days of the date you moved out or the last day of your lease, whichever is later, the landlord must send you a check for the full security deposit plus interest minus the cost of repairs, along with a receipt for any repairs. If they do not do so, you may sue them in Small Claims Court for up to three times the original security deposit. The Small Claims Advisory Service can also help you file your claim if you choose to do so (617-497-5690). Contact the Housing Division at 617-625-6600 x2564 for more information.

*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.*



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**Somerville through the eyes of Denise**



Happy Toad... — Photo by Denise Provost

**On This Day in History**  
**August 26**

1429 – Joan of Arc makes a triumphant entry into Paris.

1789 – The Constituent Assembly in Versailles, France, approves the final version of the Declaration of Human Rights.

1862 – Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson seizes Manassas Junction, Virginia.

1883 – The Indonesian island of Krakatoa erupts in the largest explosion recorded.

1920 – The 19th Amendment is officially ratified, giving women the right to vote.

1943 – The United States recognizes the French Committee of National Liberation.

1957 – Ford Motor Company reveals the Edsel, its latest luxury car.

1966 – South African Defense Force troops attack a People's Liberation Army of Namibia at Omugulugwombashe

1970 – A nationwide Women's Strike for Equality on the 50th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment calls attention to inequalities in America.



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 19

of fluff-filled fun for all ages. Put on the party hats, blow up the balloons, grab a bubbly bev, and celebrate Somerville's signature sweet spread in style. The 21st Annual What the Fluff? Festival, **Saturday, September 19**, 1 – 5 p.m. in Union Square.

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

Join **Union Square Main Streets** and 60+ of your favorite local food producers for the **22nd Annual Union Square Farmers Market**. Shop local **Saturdays through October 31**, except July 4 and

**September 19**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the **Union Square Plaza**. They continue to offer our SNAP matches. Check the market webpage for the latest info and to see which vendors accept SNAP. To get the latest updates about the Union Square Farmers Market, visit [www.unionsquare-main.org/2026-season](http://www.unionsquare-main.org/2026-season).

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 [somervillemobilefarmers-market.org](http://somervillemobilefarmers-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://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 cou-

pons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match. Visit <https://www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis>.

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

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## OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

## Memoirist Brittany Perham: Pens a poetic memoir that meets the demands of memory

Recently, I caught up with Brittany Perham, the author of the memoir *Executrix*. Brittany is an associate professor of English at Endicott College in Beverly, MA. She is an accomplished poet, and as she told me this memoir is very much a poet's memoir. It is written in an original style, and exhibits the sensibility of a poet. Her publisher writes of the book:

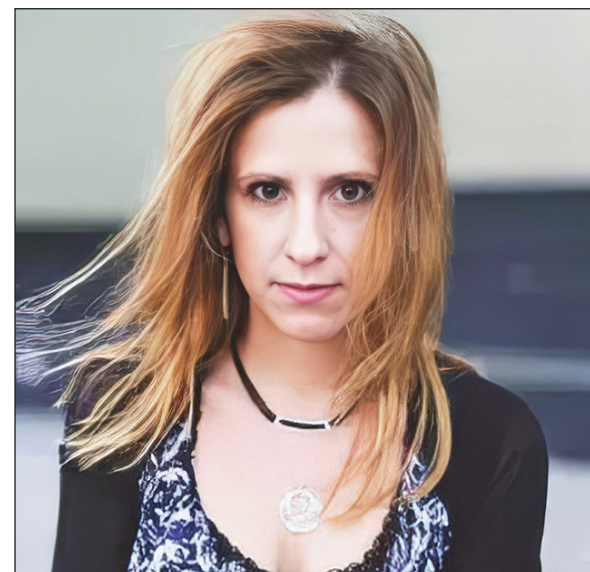
"*Executrix* begins with a mystery: Why would the author's father, from whom she had been estranged for more than a decade, change his will in the weeks before his death to make her the executor of his estate? *Executrix* charts the process of sorting out the business of this indebted estate using the language of real estate foreclosure, income tax audits, and medical records. The executor transforms the disjointed details of a life into a tidy financial narrative that meets the demands of claimants; the writer transforms the disjointed details of a life into a story that meets the demands of memory. Through this twin accounting, Perham asks the big questions: What are the implications of being the child of an alcoholic? How do we reconcile memories that are fragmented, elided, or nonexistent?"

From her website:

"Brittany Perham is the author of *Double Portrait* (W.W. Norton), which was selected by Claudia Rankine for the Barnard Women Poets Prize; *The Curiosities* (Free Verse Editions); and, with Kim Addonizio, the collaborative word/art project *The Night Could Go in Either Direction* (SHP). Her writing has received support from the Civitella Ranieri Foundation, the Hemingway House, the James Merrill House Foundation, Vermont Studio Center, the Wallace Stegner Fellowship Program, and Yaddo."

**Doug Holder:** What do you think your sober father's reaction to this memoir would be? How would the drunk one respond?

**Brittany Perham:** Good question, and I don't have a good answer. This is because the sober/not sober distinction is difficult when it comes to someone who has a substance use disorder. The disorder is so much a part of the person whether he's drunk or sober that his unpredictability becomes the only kind of predictability. So, even insofar as I can imagine my father, it's hard for me to imagine two different reactions. But I can say what I'd hope: If my father could read the book, I hope we'd begin some conversations about what happened between us. I'd like to hear about what he remembered, especially if and how he remembered some of the events that I wrote about. Because, of course, our memories would be very different. The book enacts a conversation between my



narrator and a cast of imagined fathers. I've wished many times that my real father and I could have had such conversations, so the book is probably trying to correct the fact that this was never possible. I have very few stories of my father's, and I'd like to have more.

**DH:** It seems in this memoir that you are in conflict with your brain. The brain tries to create a neat narrative that you are not satisfied with. Your take?

**BP:** Yes, the book is absolutely concerned with questions about narrative: Why are we driven to create personal narratives about our pasts? What can those narratives teach us? In what ways are they unreliable and in what ways are they entirely reliable? The nonfiction I like best is the nonfiction that tries to reckon with these questions, even though that means narrative can't be presented as an unassailable reality. (And as readers, we often crave the solid, unassailable realities books can present!) I'll never know with certainty what "really happened" in my childhood, but what I can investigate are the stories I've told myself about my past at different points in my life. I have access to those stories; I know how they've changed over time, and I know how my feelings about them have changed. So that's my material. And that material is, to me, the reason to write nonfiction.

**DH:** Do you trust the reader? I ask that because you send out sort of provisos for he or she to remember. It seems you think people will get the wrong impression of what you are writing. Do you trust yourself?

I trust the reader entirely. Absolute trust is required for me to ask the reader to stand side by side with my narrator because in *Executrix* the reader isn't witnessing what happened to the narrator so much as they are witnessing what the narrator is thinking. That's a very intimate place to be, *Continued on page 23*

# Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Richard Wilhelm is a Somerville resident. He is an artist and poet. He was one of the founders of the Ibbetson Street Press in Somerville, MA.

### THE TESTIMONY NO REPUBLICANS COULD FACE

On the 3rd of February, a joint committee hearing, chaired by Senator Blumenthal and Representative Garcia met to hear testimony from witnesses shot and/or abused by officers of ICE and Border Patrol. Not one Republican was present when they called the roll.

Renee Good and Alex Pretti were only two among others shot to death by their own government, their murders financed by their own tax dollars. And like others, they were killed for no reason, so officers invented lies about how officers felt threatened, how the victim tried to run them down with her car, a lie they use multiple times, as if they've been previously coached. And because Republicans share in the blame, no Republican came.

Some ICE agents told Renee to drive away, others told her to stop. Agent Jonathan Ross made her stop—with three bullets to her head. She was merely trying to drive away. Her two brothers told the committee of her kindness and largeness of heart. Perhaps too embarrassed or burdened with shame, no Republicans came.

Alex Pretti tried to help up a woman pushed to the ground by the masked thugs our tax dollars pay. Border Patrol grabbed him, took him down, hit him a few times in the head, and then while he was held to the ground, shot him ten times in the back. And these agents took pride in their unspeakable crime. And while anyone else would feel revulsion and shame, Trump and Vance, Miller, and Noem spewed despicable lies. It was to be a joint committee, but no Republicans came.



*Continued on page 23*

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

Doug Holder, 25 School St., Somerville, MA 02143. [dougholder@post.harvard.edu](mailto:dougholder@post.harvard.edu)



Off The Shelf

CONT. FROM PG 22

a very intimate position from which to read a book. The reader must be on board with that type of close encounter very early on or they won't continue reading, which is why, I hope, the form of each essay helps the reader accrue experience that allows them to feel their way into the next essay. My hope is that, through recurrence and repetition, the reader can access a brainstate that mirrors my own thinking process, at least as far as I can make an analogue for it in language. It's a kind of obsessive thinking, one in which I return to a premise (usually a memory) and try to think clearly about the possibilities that follow from that premise. So the cues to "remember," for example, often signaled with anaphora, aren't directed at the reader so much as they are an invitation for the reader to be participatory in my thinking process as a writer. Executrix has the feeling of being a dialogue not only between the narrator and the chorus of father characters, but between the narrator and herself.

**DH:** Philip Roth wrote, "You have to be willing to insult your mother, if need be, to write honestly." How hard was it for you to be so candid about your family—this is not some white picket fence sort of approach.

**BP:** I disagree with Roth: The writer must not insult anyone. As soon as the reader feels that the author is trashing a character – failing to have empathy for them, using them as a tool to achieve a certain outcome or, worse, to make the main character look better – the reader is going to turn against the writer. Good writing is built on empathy, which is why it has the capacity to produce empathy in us. It doesn't mean the characters can't do heinous things. Great literature is built around bad behavior. But the writer must work to understand each character, even the terrifying or terrorizing ones. Insult is the opposite of understanding; there's no depth to an insult. So if you're insulting someone in your writing, you're either writing dishonestly or for revenge, or both. I do agree with Roth that you must write honestly, in memoir, and in fiction

and poetry too. And that's hard. Insults and superiority are much easier.

In memoir, to write honestly, you have to look at yourself first. Your narrator is your primary subject. You must be clear-eyed when it comes to that narrator, to their faults and failures—and you must also maintain your empathy for them. The narrator, that surrogated part of yourself, can be the hardest character of all to sustain empathy for. For example, the narrator can, and very well may, insult other characters, and can do much worse to them besides. But the writer cannot: The writer must be both disinterested (as in, not on anyone's side) and interested (as in, invested in seeing as much as they can about everyone and everything that appears in their field of vision). This is why it helps to write toward our questions instead of our certainties. When we are genuinely investigating something or someone, when we have no or few preconceived ideas about what we'll find, we have a better chance of revealing some truth.

To answer your question about my own family, yes, it was hard to write about them. I worried that I was not being generous enough toward my father, that I might be making up things I remembered about him. My fear about failing to tell, or even to know, the truth of my own experience is one of Executrix's storylines, and the narrator expresses that fear all the way through. I worried differently, but just as intensely, about writing characters drawn from living people, my mother and my brother. I do a lot of work in the book to remind the reader that the characters are my inventions, because this is the number one fundamental truth of memoir. Characters are created things, a matter of artifice just like everything else in writing. And this is true even of memoirs that don't treat this fact explicitly. But in the end, I trust the reader to understand the difference between real people and created characters. And, if I've done my job, the reader will have empathy for and understanding of each of the characters

and, by extension, their real-life counterparts. One lucky thing for me is that I trust my mother and my brother to understand the difference too, which tells you something about my relationship with them. This doesn't mean they don't have feelings about encountering the characters who bear their names, and it doesn't mean there isn't difficulty for all of us in navigating this process.

**DH:** It is interesting to me after reading your book that you chose to come back to teach at Endicott College in your hometown of Beverley, MA. Tell me, how does this feel?

**BP:** It's very strange to be launching this book from Beverly, as much of the book takes place in this town. I didn't know if I'd ever return to this part of the world. This is my first year living back on the North Shore and it still feels to me more like a time than a place. That is, the place still feels like childhood. So much so that it's sometimes hard to feel like, or even remember, my grown-up self, who lived her adult life elsewhere for the last twenty-odd years.

**DH:** This book is a lyrical memoir. You are an accomplished poet, but why not write separate poems ... this is sort of one long poem.

**BP:** I got interested in sentences instead of lines. I wanted to see what the sentence could do. What it was capable of. I'm a formalist; all my decisions are formal decisions. From the time I wrote the first sentence, I knew this book wasn't poetry. It had to be written in prose.

**DH:** At times your book is like a chant, a lot of repetition. I remember reading about your father. You have a Ginsberg Howl-like chant about him. Is Ginsberg an influence?

**BP:** Ginsberg's a lurking intermediary. I go right back to Whitman's inciting barbaric yawp. What my work has in common with both of theirs is that it's a highly patterned expression built to transmit the force of spontaneous thought. Whitman was the Big Bang; the rest of us live in his spacetime.

Lyrical Somerville

CONT. FROM PG 22

A 30-year-old Montessori teacher, Marimar Martinez, was driving to her church to drop off a donation of clothing when she spotted an SUV carrying federal immigration agents. She shouted "la Migra" to warn her neighbors, prompting the agents in the SUV to side-swipe her car. An agent got out and fired five bullets into her, two of which passed through limbs to hit other parts of her, creating seven bullet holes in her body. Yet, she was able to drive away and call 911. Medics arrived, took her to a hospital; she was discharged three hours later. FBI agents then arrested her and charged her with domestic terrorism. The shooter was proud he put seven holes in her with only five bullets. Seven for five and no charges filed. Indeed, after Martinez had been shot, Gregory Bovino, Border Patrol chief, told Charles Exum, the shooter, that he did excellent work, and there was much left to do, and he should postpone his retirement. She was lucky to have survived, to only have been maimed, though traumatized by Trump's terrorists. She told her story with terror in her eyes. And no Republicans came.

Aliya Rahman, a citizen, driving to an appointment with her doctor, was stopped by ICE agents. She told them she was autistic and suffered a prior brain injury. She told them it takes time for her to process auditory commands. Yet the video shows agents screaming at her before dragging her out of her car. An agent pulled out his combat knife to cut the seat belt that still restrained her, adding to her terror. She hit the ground face first,

whereupon an agent leaned on her back causing severe pain. That George Floyd was killed by police only four blocks away ran through her mind at that moment. She was taken to a federal building where detainees were held. She was never told she was under arrest, was never charged with a crime. Nor was she given a medical screening; never given a phone call nor access to a lawyer. Shortly thereafter, she began to lose the ability to speak and eventually blacked out. She told the committee she woke up in a hospital and was told she had had a concussion. Congressman Garcia reminded the committee that Congress has the right to intervene when Constitutional rights are being violated. Would it have to be done by Democrats alone, because no Republican could bother to come?

Martin Daniel Rascon, a 23 -year-old fork-lift driver from San Bernadino, who recently earned a certificate to be a dental assistant, was riding in a truck with two family members when a group of masked men shot at their truck multiple times. The driver, Francisco Longoria, was accused of assaulting officers with his truck, a suspiciously familiar charge, which was dropped a month later. But two weeks after the incident, federal agents came to Mr. Rascon's home at 4 AM, broke the locks on his door, barged in, and pointed a gun at his then-pregnant girlfriend. Mr. Rascon held back tears as he told the committee that he no longer feels safe, even in his own home. Any American hearing this would of course feel angry and ashamed. Perhaps the absent Republicans know their cowardice is largely to blame. Their cowardice and their moral rot are the reasons no Republicans came.





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