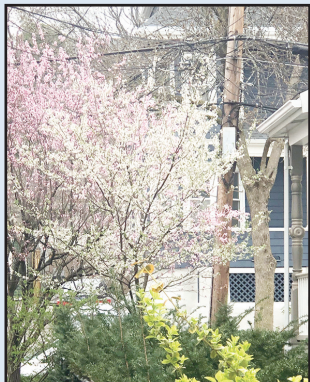


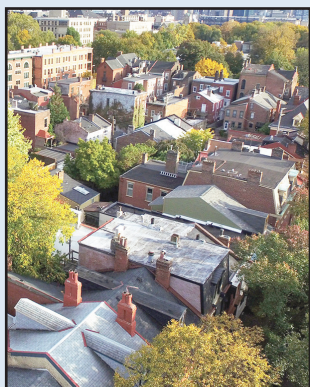


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Proposed redevelopment of 28-44 Broadway discussed



A neighborhood meeting was recently held concerning new developments in the 28-44 Broadway project.
— Photo by Bobbie Toner

By Ana Celerier

On Monday, July 24, a neighborhood meeting was held to present new developments in the 28-44 Broadway project. The lead permitting council for the developer of this project, Jennifer Schultz, took the lead on the meeting.

The project, in summary, is a residential area with the ground floor of the building being a retail space. According to Schultz, in the last 12 months, the project was initially approved for 81 units of multifamily housing and a 9000 square foot ground floor retail space. The reason that the developer has come back to the city for an amendment to what has already been approved was reportedly an order to add three more residential units to the project but do so without changing the building envelope in any manner.

Continued on page 4

Somerville kids join Save The Harbor/Save The Bay on free cruise to Georges Island

47 kids and teens from the Mystic Learning Center in Somerville set sail for Georges Island last month on Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's free All Access Boston Harbor Cruises.

"There's no better way to beat this summer's record-breaking heat than to spend the day out on the harbor and the islands," said Save the Harbor Executive Director Chris Mancini. "Swimming in the clean waters off Spectacle Island and exploring the 'Dark Tunnel' in Fort Warren are two of the best places to be during a heatwave."

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 300-500 kids from around the region meet at the Leader Bank Pavilion or Fan Pier where Harbor Historian David Coffin tells them how Spectacle Island went from a landfill on fire to the beautiful park it is today. "It's one of my favorite stories

Continued on page 4



Kids from the Mystic Learning Center in Somerville at Fan Pier Marina before their day on Georges Island.

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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.








Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott invite you to a virtual community meeting about a new park planned for 217 Somerville Ave. The city is transforming the site, currently a vacant lot at the corner of Somerville Avenue and Rossmore Street, into a pocket park, which will add approximately .15 acres to Somerville’s open space network. Join this meeting to learn more about potential design elements and share ideas for the park. This is the first of several meetings that will take place in the coming months to gather input from the community. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 2, at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. To learn more and attend, go to voice.somervillema.gov/217-somerville-ave.

Do you know a Purple Heart recipient or family member? Community members are invited to attend a designation ceremony at noon on Monday, August 7, at Dilboy Post 529, (351 Summer St.) to commemorate National Purple Heart Day and to mark Somerville as a designated Purple Heart City and part of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Trail. For more information, contact the Somerville Veterans’ Office at veterans@somerville-ma.gov or call (617)625-6600 x4700.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to a local guy, Zach Zasloff. We wish him a great day. Happy birthday to Maria Mancini, we hope she enjoyed her day. Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of August 2 – August 8 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday August 2	Sunny	76°/60°	5%	2%	ENE 9 mph
 Thursday August 3	Partly Cloudy	79°/66°	9%	6%	SSW 13 mph
 Friday August 4	Thunderstorms	76°/62°	56%	47%	S 13 mph
 Saturday August 5	Rain	80°/62°	44%	34%	NW 10 mph
 Sunday August 6	Partly Cloudy	81°/61°	7%	5%	NNW 10 mph
 Monday August 7	Rain	82°/70°	30%	26%	SE 12 mph
 Tuesday August 8	Thunderstorms	80°/65°	42%	35%	SW 12 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: Open letter to Mayor Ballantyne

Slaw says:

Thank you for writing this. Hopefully the city reverses its shortsighted decision and build the bike lanes.

Philip Mitza says:

Personally, I have never felt as if my life was in danger when walking around Somerville. Even 20 years ago, before bicycles became the “in” thing to do, I still felt safe.

I do agree that mass-construction all throughout Somerville has become a hazard.

Marian says:

I biked everywhere in Somerville for 25 years. At that time the streets were paved. Now the pot-holes and construction are the biggest dangers to everybody. Both cars and bikes have to swerve or detour continually, and unexpectedly get in each other’s way. Leaving the major streets unpaved until this big project is launched is irresponsible. When paved, they will instantly become safer. Then the attempt to eliminate risk altogether can be designed and attempted.

Response to: Easing of traffic regulations for cyclists
considered by city

Slaw says:

The city already recognizes that bikes being ahead of cars in intersections makes them safer. That is why the city puts bike boxes all over the place. It makes no sense to undermine that physical improvement by ticketing people on bikes who take advantage of the improved ability to cross that these provide. Legalizing the Idaho stop is a logical continuation of what the city is already doing to improve bicycle safety. It makes no sense to spend tax payer resources enforcing rules that make people less safe.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

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Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Molly Rains, Fernando Cervantes Jr.,
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Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte, Dorothy Dimarzo,
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Life in the

Massachusetts

VILLE

The Spirit of America

by Jimmy Del Ponte

My sister's tree



The tree my sister had planted next to the house had gotten too big and we had to have it removed. My sister passed away in 1992 and my boys and I planted a tree where her other tree was. It was around 1999.

Recently, the tree had developed a fungus that's going to destroy it so we had to call professionals and the tree will be removed. Another tree will be planted in its place. They are coming today to remove the once beautifully blooming tree. It will be emotional watching them take our tree away. Eventually we will plant another tree in its place.

I anticipated the tree removal folks all morning until they arrived about noon. I went outside and looked at the tree a few times before the workers arrived. I was trying to imagine what it would look like with the tree gone.

It was very emotional watching them cut the tree down. The thought of putting another tree there helped me with my emotions. Every spring the tree would bloom beautifully and we would all think of my

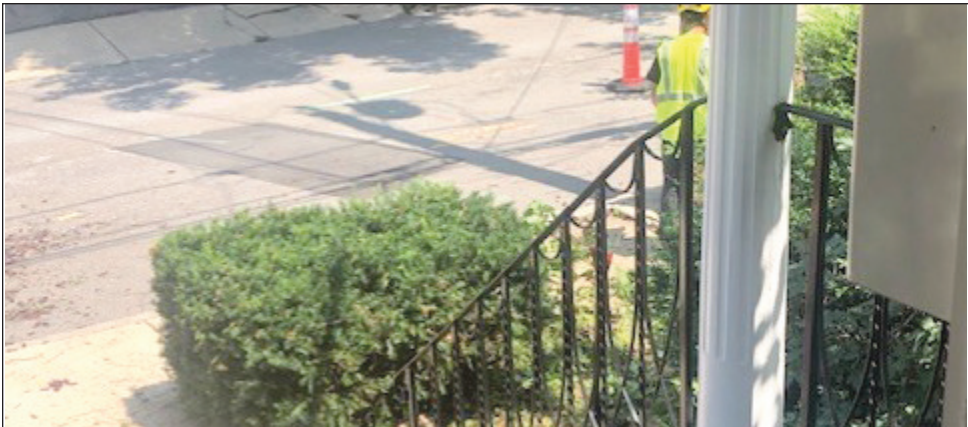
sister. So having the tree cut down was going to leave a void in my heart. The tree was a constant memory of my late sister. I felt her spiritual presence whenever I looked at it.

For years I would get on a ladder and carefully trim the branches. I took very good care of that tree for almost 25 years and I was starting to get nervous about it being cut down. How would I feel about it? I must say that the thought of putting the new tree help me feel better about it but seeing the empty spot out front is very emotional.

Separation anxiety has set in every time I see the bare spot. All I have to do now is wait for the new tree to be planted. I'm not sure when that will be but I'm sure I'll feel very happy when it's in the ground. I'll look forward to seeing it bloom every year and think about my sister every time I see it.

The tree was right at the end of the front stairs so not only did it frame the house it was the first thing you saw coming and going. I'll be happy when they plant the new tree. We will always think of my sister when we see that tree, especially when it's in bloom.

I cut a small twig off of the tree to save for a precious keepsake.



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Somerville kids join Save The Harbor/Save The Bay on free cruise to Georges Island

CONT. FROM PG 1

to share with the kids," said Cofin, "And it emphasizes the importance of the park's carry-in, carry-out policy. They take that experience home with them and become the next generation of environmental stewards."

The trips are organized and run by Boston Public School students in Save the Harbor's Youth Jobs Program. Once on the island, they lead fun, STEAM-based education activities like Fishing 101, the Treasures of Spectacle Island archaeology exploration, and hikes through Fort Warren on Georges or to the top of Spectacle's drumlins for a great view of the Boston Skyline and the outer harbor.

"We're particularly proud to have added guided audio tours and information in six languages

this year," said Deputy Director Kristen Barry. "This way, native speakers in Mandarin, Spanish, Cape Verdean Creole, Vietnamese, and Haitian Creole can more easily participate in our programs."

"All of these free cruises are only made possible with leadership support and partnership from Cronin Development, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Massachusetts Office of Environmental Protection, Bay State Cruise Company, and Mass Bay Lines," said Mancini.

Mancini went on to thank partners and funders for their sustained support, including the Healey/Driscoll Administration, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Champions Liberty Mutual Foundation,



Kids enjoying the beach on Spectacle Island.



The Save The Harbor/Save The Bay Youth Staff leading fishing on Spectacle Island.

Coca-Cola Company, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Eastern Salt Company, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, JetBlue, John Hancock Financial Services, Massport, the Mass Cultural Council, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the National Grid Foundation, and the hundreds of individual donors who support the organization.

They also thanked Alexandria, Amazon, Bay State Cruise Company, BXP - Atlantic Wharf, City of Boston Department of Youth Engagement and Employment, Boston Consulting Group, the

Comcast Foundation, Constellation Generation, the Cronin Group, Hood Park, HYM Investment Group, Income Research and Management Charitable Trust, Leader Bank Pavilion/Live Nation, Massachusetts Bay Lines, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, National Development, Nutter, P & G Gillette, Pembroke Real Estate, Lawrence J. and Anne Rubenstein Charitable Foundation, RWE Clean Energy, William E. Schrafft & Bertha E. Schrafft Charitable Trust, Clinton H. & Wilma T. Shattuck Charitable Trust, Copeland Family Foundation, Equinor, Lovett Wood-

sum Foundation, Mass Marine Trades Education Trust, Pabis Foundation, Rockland Trust, Ms. Wallace M. Leonard Foundation, and Vertex.

All Access trips will continue weekly until August 24th and are free and open to all to join through Save the Harbor's website, along with evening and weekend Share the Harbor tours.

To learn more about Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's free All Access Boston Harbor excursions or upcoming free events on the waterfront or your favorite beach, visit their website at www.savetheharbor.org and follow @savetheharbor on social media.

Proposed redevelopment of 28-44 Broadway discussed

CONT. FROM PG 1

The project's architect, Matt Marotta, attended the meeting and presented all the proposed amendments. Marotta mentioned that the site is positioned along Broadway, Mount Vernon, to George Street. The changes compromise an additional three housing units, a reduction in the commercial square footage from around 9400 to 8900 square feet.

Parking spaces will change from 26 to 21, and bike parking will increase from 96 to 100. Ma-

rotta cited that the reason for the smaller ground level was discussions with their utility companies resulting in the need to eat up a little bit more ground floor square footage.

"Originally, on the second and third floor, we did illustrate a three-bedroom corner unit, whereas now we are turning those that stack of units into an A1 bedroom and a studio, and then again, that's only on the second and third floor." Commented

Marotta. He also emphasized that the landscaping has remained the same, and they will still meet their green scores.

Following the presentation segment of the neighborhood meeting, there was time for a few inquiries from the public. A few questions arose from members of the public, the first being the motivation behind making the changes.

According to Marotta, the reason for the change is "we can get

higher rents on a per square foot basis for the smaller units. In addition, the city lacks studios and one-bedrooms. The three bedrooms are not as marketable as the smaller units."

There were also inquiries about the project's timeline, estimated to be about 18 to 20 months for construction duration.

There were many public inquiries regarding why the number of parking spaces was decreasing, to which project

representatives replied that recently there has been an extensive discussion all over the city of Somerville and throughout the Commonwealth, and the primary directive from the Somerville Mobility Department and the Planning Board has been to "reduce parking aggressively."

After a brief question session, the meeting adjourned. The developer plans to go before the Somerville Planning Board soon.

Somerville tenants voice support for rent stabilization

By Maile Blume

Somerville tenants advocated for rent stabilization legislation that is stronger than that of Boston, during the second of two listening sessions on rent stabilization held by the Somerville Anti-Displacement Task Force last Thursday. The goal of the listening session was to inform a draft of rent stabilization laws for the city.

During the listening session, tenants asked the task force to implement rent stabilization measures to address the ongoing displacement of the Somerville community.

Ronel Remy, a statewide organizer with City Life / Viva Urbana, a grassroots organization that fights for racial, social, and economic justice, said he was forced to move six times in about seven years due to uncontrolled rent increases. “Somerville embraced me. I thought I made it. That was my American dream. I was very happy here, until we lost rent

control,” he said. Remy said that his landlord doubled his rent, after rent control was ended in Massachusetts in 1994. “I got pushed away because we lost rent control. And I’m thinking, it’s not just rent control, we need a box of tools that could remedy what’s going on,” he said. “It’s just not fair that those who have a lot, you know, can dictate everything that we do,” he added.

Educator Naima Sait said that she has seen many families leave Somerville due to rent increases. Sait worked with many Haitian families and families from French-speaking parts of Africa, as a French teacher at Somerville High School.

“After we went back to in-person, my student body completely changed,” she said. “So many of the families that I worked with over the years had to move out of Somerville,” said Sait. She added that many of her senior students had to commute from other cities

to finish up the school year. **Capping annual rent increases**

Almost every speaker at the listening session asked for rent increases to be limited to the rate of inflation, and capped at 5% per year or below.

“The vast majority of the renters I work with can barely afford an annual rent increase of 2%,” said Community Organizer Samatha Wolfe, who works with Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS), an organization that fights to end poverty in Somerville.

Wolfe said that in order to stop the displacement of low-income tenants, especially those belonging to communities of color and immigrant communities, the city needs to cap rent increases at 2% per year. Many speakers also voiced support for rent rollbacks for current tenants, to prevent further displacement.

On the question of whether certain types of buildings should be exempted from rent stabili-



Tenant speakers expressed concerns about the ongoing displacement of Somerville residents, at the listening session on rent stabilization held last Thursday. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

zation, many speakers said there should be no exemptions. “A third of housing in Somerville is owner-occupied, and we know that most of those homes are not single family, so exempting all of those multi-family buildings from rent stabilization means that thousands of tenants will remain unprotected and at risk of displacement from their homes,”

said Wolfe. Speakers also suggested that the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) established by Social Security could be used instead of the rate of inflation as a measure to determine the cap on yearly rent increases. “I don’t think people’s wages necessarily increase at the rate of inflation, and I

Continued on page 11



ANNOUNCEMENT
Beacon Apartments LLC, in conjunction with Jet Realty are pleased to announce an
Affordable Rental Open Waitlist Opportunity
The application period for a two-bedroom (2BR) Affordable Rental Waitlist will begin on 7/10/2023 at 2pm and end on 8/10/2023 at 2pm.

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

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

Eligibility Requirements

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

175 Beacon Street, Somerville, MA 02145

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

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

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



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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' and senators' votes on roll calls from the week of July 24-28.

\$375 MILLION FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES (S 2375)

House 157-0, Senate 39-0, approved and sent to Gov. Maura Healey a House-Senate conference committee version of a bill that includes authorizing \$200 million in one-time funding for the maintenance and repair of local roads and bridges in cities and towns across the state. The \$375 million package, a bond bill under which the funding would be borrowed by the state through the sale of bonds, also includes \$175 million for several transportation-related grant programs.

The House and Senate had approved different versions of the package and this compromise version was drafted by a 6-member conference committee.

The programs funded by the \$175 million include the municipal small bridge program; the complete streets program; a bus transit infrastructure program; and grants for municipalities to purchase electric vehicles and the infrastructure needed to support them.

"This ... bill secures historical levels of funding for our municipal roads, bridges and sidewalks," said Sen. Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn), Senate Chair of the Committee on Transportation. "In addition to our annual authorization, we have added additional funding for various transportation programs, from bridge repair to improving access to mass transit. No matter how you get around, this funding will benefit transportation systems in every region of the commonwealth."

"Providing funding for critical infrastructure projects through investments in the commonwealth's public transportation, roads, and bridges is one of the most important responsibilities that we have as members of the Legislature," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "I'm proud of the support for regional infrastructure that this legislation provides, and of the funding that it allocates for the purchasing of electric vehicles by transit authorities."

"The passage is good news for cities and towns, and with the changes this year, especially for rural communities," said Sen. John Keenan (D-Quincy). "I hope that in the future we will pass a two-year authorization so that municipalities will have access to these essential funds in a more timely manner, allowing them to better plan work on their roads and bridges."

"Our communities rely so heavily on Chapter 90 funding to make critical transportation improvement projects," said Rep. Mike Finn (D-West Springfield), House Chair

of the Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets. "Today's funding ensures our roads remain safe and efficient for the travel of people and commerce. Additionally, with extra resources being made available through competitive application grant programs, the legislative funding is now forward looking in striving to meet broad ranges of municipal needs."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$375 million package.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

GENDER X (S 2207)

Senate 39-0 approved and sent to the House a bill that would allow Bay Staters to choose the gender-neutral designation "X" in lieu of "male" or "female" on their birth certificates and marriage certificates.

Another provision in the bill codifies into law a current practice that allows individuals to select "X" as their gender designation on their driver's license, learner's permit, identification card and liquor purchase identification card.

In addition, current state law requires medical documentation in order to change a gender designation on a birth certificate. The bill does away with that requirement.

Similar proposals were approved by the Senate during the 2018, 2020 and 2022 sessions but died from inaction in the House.

"People know what gender they are," said sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). "This bill affirms the ability of people to choose a non-binary gender option on state documents and forms, which would align the commonwealth with many other states that have adopted this designation... Together, with our partners in the House, we will continue to move our commonwealth to embrace this basic human right."

"Giving people the opportunity to be who they are is a human right and one that we are proud to extend to every member of the commonwealth, regardless of how they identify," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) who first introduced the bill in 2017. "Allowing a nonbinary option for state licenses and birth certificates is fundamental to building a society that welcomes, protects and respects all individuals... I am as hopeful as ever that Massachusetts will be able to enshrine this change into our state laws this session and continue welcoming everyone into our commonwealth with open arms."

Although no senators voted against the bill, there was op-

position from some outside groups.

Catholic Action League Executive Director C.J. Doyle called the bill a "malign, non-rational proposal" that will "require the state to affirm and give legal sanction to the ideologically driven delusion that gender is a subjective social construct, which can be altered arbitrarily and capriciously, rather than what it is, which is an objective and immutable biological reality."

"It will make government a party to this delusion," continued Doyle. "It will confuse and falsify public records and compel government employees to participate in this falsification. It will result in discrimination in public employment against those who hold a traditional understanding of reality and will make the investigation of offenders more difficult for law enforcement. Section 4 of the bill will essentially empower government bureaucrats who administer programs for youth to proselytize the minors in their care for so-called gender transitioning."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes
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MAKE OBTAINING ID CARDS EASIER FOR HOMELESS PERSONS (S 2251)

Senate 39-0 approved and sent to the House legislation that would make it easier for homeless youth and adults to secure free state ID cards.

Supporters said that currently a person experiencing homelessness faces prohibitive fees and documentation requirements when trying to obtain an ID card. They noted that this legislation removes those barriers by eliminating fees and only requiring that applicants present documentation showing that they are currently receiving services provided by the state, a homeless service provider or another service provider. They argued that ID cards are necessary for applying for jobs, enrolling in school, interacting with law enforcement, accessing government buildings, opening financial accounts and many other basic services that many take for granted.

"When we listen to our homeless youth about the challenges they face, there is a common denominator and that is access to identification," said Sen. Robyn Kennedy (D-Worcester), the Senate sponsor of the bill. "Having proper identification is the foundation to accessing food, shelter and employment opportunities, while also breaking the cycle of poverty."

"Fees and documentation are not just barriers to identification. By extension, they are barriers to getting a job, accessing healthcare and applying for services—the most basic of necessities," said Senate *Continued on page 21*

COMMENTARY

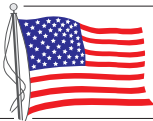
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Don't let the West Nile Virus bug get you this summer.

Our View Of The Times



Heads up, Somerville. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has, unfortunately, is warning that it has found West Nile virus (WNV) in mosquito samples from the Brookline and Worcester regions.

While no human or animal cases of WNV or Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) have been reported, they are strongly encouraging community mem-

bers to take steps to protect themselves from mosquitoes and mosquito-borne illnesses. Among their recommendations:

- Avoid mosquito bites.
- Apply insect repellent when you go outdoors.
- Clothing can help reduce mosquito bites.
- Be aware of peak mosquito hours.
- Mosquito-proof your home.
- Drain standing water.

- Install or repair screens.
- Protect your animals.
- Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains.
- Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for animal use and vaccinations to

prevent WNV and EEE.

- If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to the Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795, and to the Department of Public Health by calling 617-983-6800.

Play it safe and follow the DPH recommendations to stay safer and get through the summer without incident.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Wishing a very happy birthday **Natalia Potaris**. We wish her a very special day. To **Kaitlin Denk**, we wish her a very happy birthday. We hope she had a great day with her family. Happy birthday to **Ron Newman**, we hope he has a great day. Happy birthday to **Alicia Lafuente**, we wish her the very best. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Jason Banning, Karen D'Amato, Mike Morrison, Sharon Paglia Breen, Danzombie Guilmain, Tori Antonino, Michele Oliphant Spinale, Jane Sherrill, Montague Helen Kern, Zach Corey, Keith Anderson, John Alan Roderick** and **Heather Hanson** a very happy birthday. We hope ev-

eryone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed.

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

Somerville's **Urban Forestry Committee** and collaborators are developing ways to celebrate our hard-working city trees. If you want to join in helping, you can **Adopt-A-Tree**. Look for colorful "Adopt me!" tags on newly planted trees in your

neighborhood. Scan the QR code on the tag or visit tinyurl.com/somervilletree to go through the steps to adopt the tree. Name it, water it, love it. You can even receive an adoption certificate available in many languages. Watering is the most important thing you can do to help a newly planted tree. They require 15-20 gallons of water each week between May-October, or even more during hot summer months.

The **Somerville Mobile Farmers Market** is open for the season, selling fresh, local produce **through October 28**. The market schedule is as follows: **Thurs-**

days: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.: Clarendon Hill Towers (1372 Broadway), **Fridays: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Council on Aging/SCALE** (167 Holland St.), 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.: **East Somerville Community School** (50 Cross St.). **Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.: Mystic Housing Development** (25B Memorial Rd., at the playground). The market accepts cash, debit, credit, SNAP, WIC Farmers Market Coupons, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons. All are welcome. To learn more, visit: somervillema.gov/farmersmarket.

Join the **Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)** on

Continued on page 23

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#883

1. What is the Barbie doll's full name?

2. Who is the creator of the Barbie doll?

3. When did Mattel launch the Barbie doll?

4. When is National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day?

5. What sport does Cristiano Ronaldo play?

6. What does Na stand for on the periodic table of elements?
7. In which ocean is the Bermuda Triangle located?

8. Which Disney movie is the villain Clayton from?

9. What game show is Steve Harvey the host of?

10. What is hummus made from?

11. Where do the Mamma Mia movies take place?

12. What plant is known to help heal a sunburn?

Answers on page 10

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. The King of Hearts is the only king without a mustache.
2. Animals that lay eggs don't have belly buttons.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
FRUITS & VEGETABLES

- ACROSS
1. Itsy Bitsy Spider's tunnel

6. Operations, as in military

9. Carpenter's joint

13. Book, in Paris

14. Coach's talk

15. Long-necked wader

16. Did not go out to eat (2 words)

17. Chi preceeder

18. Top scout

19. '90s children's series " ____ in Pyjamas"

21. Alternative to stick

23. T-cell killer, acr.

24. Show worry

25. Knee-related acronym

28. Sushi restaurant's boozy offering

30. Grilled cheese and ____ soup

35. Mouse to a snake

37. In ____, or together

39. Convicted one

40. Pear or quince, botanically speaking

41. California and Nevada lake

43. Raja's daughter

44. Uncouth ones

46. Of two minds

47. René Descartes' "therefore"

48. Make wealthy

50. Use a surgical beam

52. Gingerbread creation

53. When fruit is ready

55. Red-white-and-blue inits.

57. "Hot" vegetable-shaped toy

60. L in BLT

64. 3-D picture in a book

65. U.N. workers' grp.

67. Owned house or car, e.g.

68. Item on a cell phone bill

69. What's old is new again, prefix

70. Popular electric car

71. Hair styling products

72. Scottish cap

73. British peers

- DOWN
1. Block of concrete, e.g.

2. Pocket bread

3. Baker's baker

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
19						20			21	22			
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	57	58	59					60				61	62
64						65	66			67			
68						69				70			
71						72				73			

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4. Dickens's Heep

5. Serena's sport

6. Prefers

7. Fairytale princess test

8. Virgo's brightest star

9. Letter opener

10. Ship to Colchis

11. Airhead

12. The loneliest number?

15. Concerning this

20. Nautical "Stop!"

22. College assessment test, acr.

24. Camera's tiny aperture

25. Gwyneth Paltrow's daughter

26. Sing like Tony Bennett

27. Madagascar primate

29. Myanmar currency

31. Bébé's mother

32. Rooster, in the olden days

33. Polynesian kingdom
34. Layered bulb

36. Giant Himalayan?

38. Lady Grantham of "Downton Abbey"

42. Follow as a consequence

45. Claw mark

49. "Battleship" exclamation

51. Heir's concern

54. At the end of a hot pepper or many a sweet potato

56. Cruising

57. Prepare to be shot

58. October birthstone

59. What Little Toot does

60. *Fruit of the ____

61. Brezhnev's domain

62. Jailbird's home

63. Airline postings

64. Dog breed from China

66. Grazing ground
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

Promoting fair housing: Recap of city meeting on housing equity

By Yoko Zhu

The Somerville Fair Housing Commission, which advocates for tenant rights and deals with fair housing violations, held their monthly meeting on Thursday, July 27.

The meeting was led by Commissioners Claudia DeAndrade, Patrice Faulkner, Dennis Fischman, Rona Fischman, Janine Lot, and staff member Hanalei Steinhart. Members of the public were invited to participate remotely, which Commissioner Dennis Fischman expressed as the best way to get involved in the Somerville Fair Housing Commission.

Steinhart reviewed three new complaints that Fair Housing received. The first one was on the basis of disability discrimination, involving a tenant who “owns a service dog but was denied an apartment, due to the landlord’s

allergy.” However, the landlord “did not live in the unit, would not be spending substantial time in the unit, and has a dog herself.”

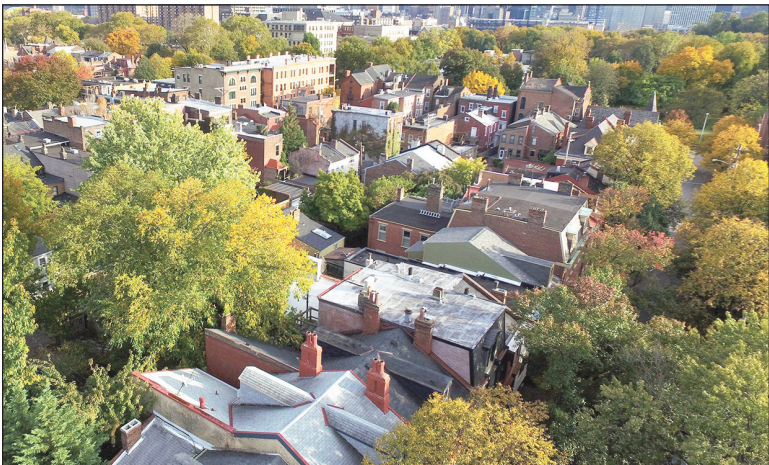
The second complaint was on the basis of small children, as this tenant was “working to renew a lease with the landlord. The landlord had extended an invitation to renew. Upon finding out that the tenant was pregnant, the landlord didn’t send over the lease to renew with 11 days left on the lease. The landlord claimed this was because of renovations scheduled to start before they moved out,” Steinhart said in the meeting. “However, those renovations have not been scheduled.”

The third complaint came that morning, regarding a landlord who was engaging in “retaliatory behavior” and “asking tenants for repairs to be made to their unit such as broken stoves or electrical fixtures.”

Concerns of housing discrimination can be submitted to the Fair Housing Commission section on the City of Somerville website (<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/fair-housing-commission>).

Additionally, the Fair Housing Commission indicated they had additional questions for the politicians running in the local elections. “The questionnaire would test each of the candidates’ knowledge,” Commissioner Faulkner said. “It’s to see how well they know their district, and also as a form of accountability in regards to their company policies.”

The additional questions proposed to the candidates include: What advice would you give to Somerville residents, who may have been facing discrimination? How do you know that you have addressed and combatted the housing discrimination against



The Somerville Fair Housing Commission recently held their regular meeting, largely addressing issues brought before it concerning tenant rights and violations by landlords.

protected classes and affirmatively furthering Fair Housing in Somerville?

Furthermore, the meeting also discussed the Anti-Displacement Task Force (ADTF), which was “formed to research and recommend policies to prevent residential displacement,” according to the city website.

The ADTF hosted listening

sessions for landlords on July 20 and tenants on July 27. The ADTF is currently researching and collecting ideas from the public. After gathering the necessary information, they will submit a proposal to the city council.

On Aug 1, a webinar was held on “Coordinated Entry as a Tool for Equity: Training on Fair Housing and Coordinated Entry.”

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Hawaiian Staples

On a recent trip to Kauai, Hawaii, I purposely ventured out to try some traditional dishes of Hawaii.

My first stop was Pono Market in Kapaa. The market was a busy little hole in the wall packed with assorted drinks, and other premade, quick grab and go items. They also gave the option of combination plates which included a variety of main dishes like, fried chicken, kalua pork, chicken curry, pork lau lau, chicken lau lau, teri meatloaf, and side dishes like different types of poke, Korean tako, spicy ahi, Shoyu ahi, rice, potato mac salad, cucumber kimchee, and rice pudding, just to name a few.

The one item I was most interested to try was the pork lau lau. The lau lau is actually a Polynesian dish consisting of pork, salted butterfish, chicken, or even a combination of ingredients, wrapped in taro leaves, and steamed on

the stovetop. Originally, lau lau were cooked in an imu. The imu is an underground oven that is lined with hot stones and vegetation such as banana and taro leaves. The lau lau or the infamous kalua pig is then placed on the leaves along with more hot stones, covered with burlap and a tarp, then dirt is placed on top and around the edges of the tarp to seal in the heat.

It is important to make note the taro leaf is poisonous in its raw state due to its high levels of oxalates. It can cause severe pain and swelling of the throat, and may cause breathing difficulties. However, when cooked properly, there are many health benefits as described in the following link: <https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/taro-leaves>

I ordered the combination plate with pork lau lau, chicken lau lau, rice, potato mac salad, and for good measure, I ordered an additional side of cucumber

kimchee. Although not the fanciest of meals, I absolutely loved it! The pork cubes in the lau lau were tender, succulent nuggets of flavor. The taro leaves tasted like spinach on steroids.

The chicken lau lau was really flavorful, especially with the dark meat. The potato mac was basically dressed with mayonnaise, but enjoyable nonetheless. With all the rich food, the cucumber kimchee was a nice addition to cut through the richness of the dish. If you find yourself in Kauai, I highly recommend Pono Market for a true culinary experience of local food. <https://www.ponomarketkauai.com>

As an added bonus, making a trip to the Passion Bakery Cafe in Kapaa, for their malasadas, Portuguese fried donuts, are a must. On Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday you get can fresh, fried either coated in cinnamon sugar, or filled with a variety of flavors. I think they have 15 flavors to



choose from. The guava and lilikoi fillings are outstanding. It’s definitely best to place your order the day before as they sell out fast. <https://www.passionbakeries.com>.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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ADVERTISEMENT

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Intercom Replacement project at the Bryant Manor Development for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Nangle Engineering Incorporated.

The Project consists of: Replacement of intercom system with a video intercom system.

The work is estimated to cost **\$ 170,530.00**

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive. General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the category of Electrical.

General Bids will be received until **2:00pm, Thursday, August 17, 2023** and publicly posted online, forthwith.

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be prepared and submitted online at www.Projectdog.com and received no later than the date & time specified above. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. For E-Bid Tutorial and Instructions, download the [Supplemental Instructions To Bidders for Electronic Bid Projects](#) from www.Projectdog.com. For assistance, contact Projectdog, Inc. at 978.499.9014

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternatives), and made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available online and for purchase at www.Projectdog.com, project code 857052 on Wednesday, August 2, 2023.

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for \$35.00 per set, payable to Projectdog, Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

The job site and/or existing building will be available for observation on the morning of Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 75 Myrtle Street, Somerville. Bidders must contact Nangle Engineering Inc. (cwneunaber@nangleengineering.com or (617) 817-4973) prior to close of business on the Monday prior to schedule an appointment.

The inspection is an opportunity to visit and observe the site only. Any oral interpretations offered at the site inspection are non-binding. Any questions must be submitted in writing to the Designer, at the e-mail address on the Project Manual cover, no later than 4:00 PM on the Friday prior to the date stated above for the receipt of bids. Questions after that time may not be responded to, at the sole discretion of the designer.

The Somerville Housing Authority reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any and all bids, or to waive any informalities in the bidding. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after approval of the award by the Somerville Housing Authority without written consent of the Somerville Housing Authority.

Joseph R. Macaluso, Executive Director
August 2, 2023

8/2/23 The Somerville Times

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Removal of Public Shade Trees

City of Somerville

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 87, the City of Somerville will hold a **virtual public shade tree hearing on Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** using GotoWebinar software to consider the removal of the following public shade tree(s):

- 267 Alewife Brook Parkway
1. Two (2) red maples- 9" and 10" in diameter, fair condition

Trees are in conflict with planned sewer replacement by Somerville Engineering. Replacement trees will be replanted in the area.

- 18 Loring Street
1. Two (2) London plane trees- 18" and 20" in diameter, good condition

Trees are proposed for removal at request of homeowner due to documented structural damage from roots.

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

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

TO USE A COMPUTER
Registration URL: <https://tinyurl.com/ycka438x>
TO CALL IN
United States: +1 (213) 929-4212
Access code: 208-357-973

7/26/23, 8/2/23 The Somerville Times



LEGAL NOTICE

City of Somerville
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)
WFD-24.3
The City of Somerville, Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)
invites sealed proposals for **FabVille Lab Manager**
Funds for the FabVille Lab Manager are provided by the Economic Development Division of the City of Somerville Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development.

Bid Number **WFD-24.3**

Request for Proposal package will be posted and available for download on the City of Somerville website beginning at 10:00AM, Wednesday August 2, 2023 at www.somervillema.gov/wfd.
Print copies available upon request to WFD@somervillema.gov.

An electronic PDF file should be emailed to email WFD@somervillema.gov and proposal packages must be submitted no later than **12:00 PM, Friday August 18, 2023** for responses to WFD-24.3 to the above email address.

Please contact the **City of Somerville's Workforce Development staff**, by email at WFD@somervillema.gov, for information and proposal packages.

Thomas F. Galligani Jr.,
Executive Director
617- 625-6600, x 2500

8/2/23 The Somerville Times

Be sure to visit us online at
www.TheSomervilleTimes.com



City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, August 17, 2023**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7934388600182661465>
Webinar ID: 756-262-419

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (914) 614-3221
Access code: 892-291-442

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

7 Washington Street CRG Graphics proposes a Major Amendment to a previously approved application that required a Special Permit (PB 2017-07) in the Mid-Rise 6 (MR6) district.

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

8/2/23 The Somerville Times

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from our website:
www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Ms. Cam's

Olío

Answers

1. Barbara Millicent Roberts

2. American businesswoman Ruth Handler

3. March 9, 1959

4. August 4

5. Soccer

6. Sodium

7. North Atlantic Ocean

8. Tarzan

9. Family Feud

10. Chickpeas

11. Greece

12. Aloe

From on page 8

COMMENTARY

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

City abandons its lawsuit against Newport Construction



By Chris Dwan

On October 7, 2017, Newport Construction and their subcontractor Northern Tree Service removed 38 street trees along Beacon Street in Somerville, MA. They did this with none of the notice or public process required under either city ordinance or state law.

After sustained public outcry, and extensive discussion in city council, our Public Works Division finally issued a citation against Newport in January of 2019. We demanded \$38,000 — a thousand bucks per tree. This was an absolute pittance in the context of a multi-year roadway project. It also wildly underestimated the value of the trees, making no distinction between a sapling (which the city can install for around \$1k) and a mature tree with 20 to 30

years of growth.

Newport's CEO responded brassily to the citation, writing that he had *"no intention of paying"* and *"considered the matter closed."* This led to more public conversation, and the city eventually filed a lawsuit against Newport and their subcontractor Northern Tree Service in Superior Court in November of 2019.

In May of this year, more than three years after that filing and five and a half years after the removals, the city appears to have quietly allowed the lawsuit to expire by failing to respond to an "Order for Status Review" from the court.

I wrote a piece on Medium in January of 2020 describing the cozy deal that seems to exist between MassDOT and Newport Construction. In that post, I shared how the project's woes and negative reviews were determinedly swept under the rug in a series of private meetings between the state and the company. The final project evaluation, signed off in early 2021, makes no mention of the fact that the city literally sued Newport over the way we were treated.

In that post, I noted that Mr. DeFelice had donated a total of \$1,000 to Joe Curtatone's campaigns just as the Beacon Street project was getting started. I made a half-hearted swipe about how if this was the corruption that I've heard so much about in this city, then we're damn cheap. We abandoned our lawsuit more than a year into Katjana Ballantyne's first term. Mr. DeFelice did not donate to her campaign, so in that same half-hearted spirit, we've gone from cheap to free.

More seriously though, I don't posit corruption or malice as a motive. I suspect it's more along the lines of a line from a Taylor Swift song: *"It isn't love it isn't hate / It's just indifference."* I suspect that this lawsuit, the citation, and all the time spent in public and private conversations is perceived by many in the administration as an inconvenient waste of time. I suspect that it was a surprise to the Mayor to learn that the lawsuit had been abandoned. I don't know for sure. Neither she nor the law department has responded to my messages.

This situation is a shame on a couple of fronts.

First and foremost, it sends an unambiguous signal to contractors, developers, and others that we lack the discipline to hold people accountable. Folks who live in the lower numbered wards, near Union Square and Brickbottom in particular, are painfully familiar with developers and contractors running roughshod over residents, confident that the city will continue to look the other way.

Second, as I said in my public comment on Somerville's charter reform process: This *"makes a mockery of advocacy, wastes community engagement, and threatens to dissipate the civic activism that is so foundational to Somerville's culture."* Seeing time and engagement thrown away discourages people at a time when we desperately need more voices, perspectives, and engaged citizens to address our multitude of crises.

In closing though, I will admit that things are not all terrible: We got plenty of good energy from that bad situation. The council passed an ordinance regulating the removal of trees on private property. We have an ac-

tive and engaged tree committee to connect residents, landscape professionals, and city staff. The city has staffed and funded programs for tree planting, pruning, and removal. I even flatter myself to think that all this work has activated a few additional civic-minded people who are now putting in hours to make our city a better place for all of us.

Still, it's still frustrating to see accountability slip away when the law department and the mayor fail to respond to a status request from the court about our very own lawsuit.

Links:

- [1] <https://www.thesomerville-times.com/archives/79270>
- [2] http://somervillecityma.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegFile.aspx?ID=17090&highlightTerms=newport+construction
- [3] <https://medium.com/@fdmts/a-cozy-deal-massdot-and-newport-construction-3e5b41b664b6>
- [4] <https://medium.com/@fdmts/the-role-of-the-city-council-in-somervilles-government-ae318e47b255>

Somerville tenants voice support for rent stabilization CONT. FROM PG 5

think 5% is often too high, when the rents are already too high," said Housing Attorney Susan Hegel. Hegel was one of the speakers who urged the task force to consider the use of the COLA or another index when drafting the new legislation.

Expanding tenant protections

Speakers also advocated for just cause eviction protections, which would limit the legal circumstances under which a landlord could evict tenants. Many tenants also said that these protections need to be specific. "It needs to have language that is not left up for interpretation,"

said former Somerville resident Jurett Mooltrey-Weathers, whose building in Somerville was recently sold, displacing tenants.

Speakers also voiced support for vacancy controls, which would prevent landlords from raising the rents of vacant units. Resident Haley Brown said that she moved eight times in 11 years due to rent increases. She said that vacancy controls are "essential to protect tenants from landlords who will kick them out in order to increase the rent."

Brown added that housing

is not a commodity. She said, "Artists, community activists, teachers, people with a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and incomes are the lifeblood of this city. If they can't afford to live here, there will be nothing to stay for." Gabrielle René, a community organizer with City Life / Viva Urbana, said she was displaced from Somerville as a high school student due to high rent increases. René said, "We deserve to have communities. We deserve to have places where we know our neighbors. And we deserve to have a community that we can afford, that is affordable and hab-

itable." René added, "Yes, they can make it affordable and habitable for everybody."

Nicole Eigbrett, the co-chair of Somerville's Anti-Displacement Task Force Residential Displacement Committee, said that the legislation could reach the Massachusetts State Legislature this fall, after the task force submits its recommendations to the mayor, and the city council votes on the finalized proposal for the new laws. It could take months or years for the resulting bill to be approved at the state level, said Eigbrett.

If passed, the bill would permit

the city to implement a rent stabilization local ordinance. Then, the city would reach out for additional feedback from the Somerville community, before the ordinance draft would be brought before the city council again. More information on the legislative process can be found at the Somerville Anti-Displacement Task Force website.

"These specific listening sessions are only the beginning, and we very much look forward to staying engaged with our community as this legislative process moves forward," said Eigbrett.

Food For Free and Lamplighter Brewing Co. tap into charitable spirit to launch 'About Thyme'

Food For Free and Lamplighter Brewing Co. (LBCO), are ready to quench your thirst to end hunger. On July 11, the organizations launched "About Thyme," a limited-edition charitable beer to support the nonprofit's year-round food rescue and distribution efforts across Eastern Massachusetts.

"About Thyme" beer is a Golden Ale infused with lemon thyme, reflecting a perfect blend of refreshing and invigorating flavors. For every pint of "About Thyme" sold, \$1 will go directly to Food For Free. For non-drinkers, the sober curious and designated drivers alike, a non-alcoholic Sparkling Strawberry Lemonade by Pepita Coffee Co. is also available with \$0.50 from each sale benefiting the cause. Both charitable spirits are available for purchase now through Sept. at Lamplighter Brewing Co.'s Broadway and Cambridge Crossing locations, as well as on the brewery's website.

"We are thrilled to be working with Lamplighter Brewing Co. on this innovative partnership," says Jessica Tretina, Food For Free's Marketing & Communications Manager. "Not only does 'About Thyme' help to raise essential funds for our organization, but it also provides a platform for increasing awareness of hunger in our community as 1 in 3 Massachusetts households struggles with enough to eat."

On August 10, residents are invited to attend the official launch party of "About Thyme" at a special "Picnic in the Park" held outside the brewery's Cambridge Crossing location, 110 N First St Cambridge. From 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, community members are invited to join the Lamplighter and Food For Free teams in an expanded outdoor beer garden for a bring-your-own picnic dinner, with fresh pours of "About Thyme" as well as several other beer selections available for purchase. More information about the event can be found on Eventbrite.

"We're so honored to be working with Food For Free this summer to spread awareness about their mission and raise funds for their incredible work," says Emma Arnold, Lamplighter Brewing Co.'s Marketing Director. "As a business operating in the food and beverage industry, we understand firsthand the importance of supporting sustainable food systems for all. To be able to support this cause with a delicious collaboration beer was a dream come true for our team."

Going beyond the pour, LBCO employees will volunteer at Food For Free's Somerville Packing and Distribution Center. The nonprofit is one of the oldest food rescue organizations in the nation. Founded in 1981, Food For Free now serves more than 150,000 food insecure Massachusetts residents and distributes 7.5 million pounds of nutritious fresh and prepared foods annually.

To learn more about Food For Free and their food rescue and distribution programs, or to donate directly to the organization, please visit: www.foodforfree.org



HONK! Festival 18th annual festival of activist street bands, October 6-8, 2023

HONK! 2023. The dates for this year's music festival of activist street bands, October 6-8, are now set. The organizing has already begun in earnest, with a more complete schedule of in-person free outdoor events available soon after Labor Day weekend.

The HONK! Festival, a music fest originally conceived and presented in 2006 in Somerville, caught on immediately in the local area. Since then HONK! has been presented locally every year, in some shape or form, even during the particularly tricky era encompassing years 2020 and 2021. HONK! has carried on, not daunted by the challenges presented.

Full details on how HONK! came to be, the philosophical and pragmatic approaches behind what has now become a HONK! international movement, and what differentiates a HONK! band from other music-makers in the streets, can all be found at honkfest.org/about.

"By describing HONK! bands as activist, we are referring to bands which are socially engaged — some in direct action and outright political protest, others in community building, be it performing for social justice or community-based organizations or conducting workshops in the public schools. Further, by performing at street level, usually for free, without sound amplification and with very little distance between artist and audience, HONK! bands create a participatory spectacle to reclaim public space in ways that place them at the heart of activist politics."

Taking a deep dive into the HONK! Wiki can also reveal the far-reaching aspects of this particular progressive musical network.

As they say, stay tuned for further details on this year's local and longest-running HONK! Festival. For further updates, keep referring to honkfest.org.



HONK! Festival

18th annual festival of activist street bands.

October 6-8, 2023

Held in Somerville, Cambridge, and Boston neighborhoods.

Outdoors on Fri.-Sun., rain or shine.

Free and open to all.

For further information: www.honkfest.org, info@honkfest.org.

COMMENTARY

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

An Inclusive Somerville Requires Economic Justice



By Somerville City Councilor At-Large Willie Burnley Jr.

As your At-Large Somerville City Councilor, I've poured myself into making our community as welcoming as it can be for all. From making Somerville a sanctuary for those seeking gender-affirming healthcare to uplifting Somerville's Black history by being the first person to name a park after an African-American (Leonard Grimes Park is on its way) to passing first-in-the-nation non-discrimination ordinances that protect non-traditional family structures from discrimination, I've sought to ensure that Somerville sends the message far and wide that we are an inclusive community. However, I know that there is no future for equitable inclusion without affordability.

Anyone will tell you that the cost of housing is at the heart of the affordability crisis in our region. As a renter who was dis-

placed from Somerville several years ago, I know viscerally the stress, terror, and trauma that housing instability has on our neighbors. Unfortunately, the statehouse makes it nearly impossible for cities like ours to implement common sense housing regulations that would create stability for tenants. As such, while we fight to pass policies like rent stabilization and additional tenant rights, it is crucial that our city does everything in its power to reduce the burden on residents teetering toward the economic edge.

One way that I have pursued economic justice on the council is by proposing expansions to worker benefits. For example, in January, I sponsored an ordinance that would extend paid leave to survivors of abuse and violence. In Massachusetts, employers are required to offer up to 15 days of leave annually to employees who suffer from these horrific circumstances. However, it is up to the employer whether this leave should be paid or unpaid. As a result, survivors of domestic violence on average lose out on 137 hours of paid work a year. In order to support workers and survivors, we cannot economically punish them for the violence

of others. The City of Somerville must establish by law that survivors will receive paid leave while they seek safety.

The City of Somerville cannot say that it supports workers if we are not ensuring our own workers are receiving a living wage and decent benefits. As someone who grew up in a union household and who was recently endorsed by the Greater Boston Labor Council, I want all of our workers to have the most robust economic security they can. That is one reason why in January I proposed opting Somerville into the state's Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) program, which would prolong paid leave for medical and family emergencies for many municipal workers. Sadly, despite the fact that opting us into this program is in the jurisdiction of the city council, the administration has failed to move with urgency to provide necessary clarity around the financial implications of PFML.

My deep conviction that we need to shatter this status quo that isn't working for working people has only been strengthened by my time on the council. Since taking on this role less than two years ago, I have become more convinced than ever that

our community needs have been pitted against corporate greed. As such, I believe that government has a moral duty to be as bold and creative as possible in pursuing economic relief for our residents. As a Councilor, I've been blessed to speak with many of my neighbors about what economically drags them down and one thing that comes up again and again is the cost of healthcare.

Here's my hot take of the day: medical debt shouldn't exist. It is a policy failure that harms our neighbors fiscally by damaging their credit scores and driving them into bankruptcy as well as physically by coercing them into seeking care less and increasing their general stress. The very existence of medical debt remains an existential threat to ensuring healthcare is a human right.

Through partnership with the nonprofit RIP Medical Debt (RIPMD), I've found a way for the city to abolish over \$11 million worth of medical debt for thousands of Somerville residents who make less than 400% of the federal poverty rate for roughly \$250,000. This is due to the complex yet frugal way in which entities are able to purchase portfolios of debt for pen-

nies on the dollar. RIPMD has already done this in jurisdictions across the country using municipal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). In pursuit of this effort, I have already gotten two major hospitals in our area to signal their support and offer their assistance for this program. However, because the city council has no power to allocate funds, the mayor is the ultimate decider of whether we will be a community gripped by corporate healthcare greed. Despite the fact that this program would be transformative for thousands of residents and the months-long dialogue I have had with them behind the scenes, the administration has failed to move with urgency on this matter.

Our community is at a crossroads. We have to decide if we will be a home only for the wealthy and elite or if we will fight to protect our economic and racial diversity. Those of us on the edge of displacement and economic ruin, along with our co-conspirators in this class struggle, cannot afford lip service about economic justice any longer. We need leaders who will enact decisive and bold policies that refund our residents.

Somerville Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change seeks one member

The City of Somerville's Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change (CEUCC) seeks one new member, and all Somerville residents are invited to apply. Boards and commissions offer an opportunity for residents with a range of experience, skills, expertise, and perspectives to share their talents and insights with their community. CEUCC applicants should have some combination of knowledge about climate change, as well as lived or professional experience with environmental justice communities or experience developing sustainable buildings and/or affordable housing.

The CEUCC advises the City and the Mayor's Office of Sustainability and Environment on climate change and energy policy issues and assists the City with related program design and outreach. In the past, for example, the Commission has advised the City on energy performance of city buildings, community choice aggregation of electricity, and residential solar. Upcoming topics will include the Somerville Climate Forward update; local, state, and federal policy; innovative sustainability practices; and climate equity.

The new Commissioner will serve the remainder of a term through February 28, 2025, with possible reappointment for a three-year term. The CEUCC typically meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This is a volunteer position. CEUCC members are confirmed by the City Council. All Commissioners must comply with and sign the City of Somerville's Code of Conduct for Board, Commission, and Committee Members.

Applications are due Friday, August 25, 2023. Interested candidates should submit a statement of interest and resume via email to ose@somervillema.gov with the subject line "Commission Application" or by mail to 50 Evergreen Ave., Somerville, MA 02145, ATTN: Director, Office of Sustainability and Environment. Please contact Christine Blais at cblais@somervillema.gov or 781-296-7194 with questions.

Cabot, Cabot & Forbes and Cannon Hill Capital Partners Acquire Mystic Avenue Site in Somerville

A joint venture between Cabot, Cabot & Forbes (“CC&F”), a Boston-based developer of mixed-use properties, and Normandy Opportunity Zone Fund, LP, a real estate fund sponsored by Cannon Hill Capital Partners (“Cannon Hill”), a vertically-integrated real estate operator, developer and investment manager focused on the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic markets, announced the acquisition of 65-75 Mystic Avenue in the Assembly Square neighborhood of Somerville, MA. A portion of the 11.5-acre site is comprised of a 125,000 SF retail big box leased to Home Depot. CC&F and Cannon Hill financed the purchase with proceeds from CrowdStreet, a fintech company that operates an online real estate investment platform, as well as loans from Centennial Commercial Finance Group and Lionheart Strategic Management LLC.



Jay Doherty, Chief Executive Officer of CC&F, said “we are pleased to have outstanding cooperation from our capital partners and lenders to take ownership of this exceptional property in the face of today’s challenging financial markets.” Eric Rubin, Chief Investment Officer of Cannon Hill, added “this continues both Cannon Hill’s and CC&F’s longstanding focus on transit-oriented properties in strong submarkets. We are excited to be a part of the continued growth of Assembly Square.”

“In light of the challenging market environment, this project far exceeded our expectations, with over \$68M of equity raised from investors on CrowdStreet,” said David Govshtein, Managing Director at CrowdStreet. “The size of the raise indicates there is strong investor interest in well located commercial real estate offerings with experienced sponsors such as Cabot, Cabot & Forbes and Cannon Hill Capital Partners.”

The Seller was represented by David Smookler and Peter Considine of Atlantic Retail, and the Buyer was represented by Tony Ciccolo of Atlantic Retail.

About Cabot, Cabot & Forbes: Boston based CC&F, founded in 1904, undertakes mixed use, residential and life sciences development in Greater Boston with major projects currently underway in the Fenway, Wakefield, and Woburn. For more information, please visit www.ccfne.com

About Cannon Hill Capital Partners: Cannon Hill Capital Partners is a vertically-integrated real estate operator, developer and investment manager pursuing growth through a value-added investment strategy primarily focused on repositioning and developing best-in-class office, multi-family, industrial and life sciences properties in the metropolitan regions of New York, Boston, and Washington, D.C. Its portfolio under management includes 33 properties aggregating approximately 9.0 million square feet in its core markets.

For more information, please visit www.cannonhillcap.com.

Somerville man sentenced for felony and misdemeanor charges related to Capitol breach

A Massachusetts man was sentenced on July 30 in the District of Columbia on felony and misdemeanor offenses for his actions during the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol breach. His actions and the actions of others disrupted a joint session of the U.S. Congress convened to ascertain and count the electoral votes related to the presidential election. Noah S. Bacon, 30, of Somerville, Massachusetts, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Christopher R. Cooper to 12 months in prison, two years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$2,000 in restitution.

Bacon was found guilty by a jury on March 3, 2023, of obstruction of an official proceeding, a felony, and the misdemeanor charges of entering or remaining in a restricted building or grounds; disorderly or disruptive conduct in a restricted building; entering and remaining in the gallery of either House of Congress; disorderly or disruptive conduct in a Capitol building; and parading, demonstrating, or picketing in a Capitol building.

According to the government’s evidence, on Jan. 6, 2021, Bacon was among a mob of rioters illegally on the Capitol grounds. He entered the Capitol building at approximately 2:15 p.m., through the Senate Wing door, and remained inside for about 50 minutes. While inside the building, Bacon moved through areas including the Crypt, Hall of Columns, Rotunda, the East Rotunda Door vestibule area, the Senate Gallery, and the Senate Chamber, where he sat for approximately 10 minutes.

While in the East Rotunda Door vestibule area, Bacon attempted to keep the breached door open as other rioters streamed inside from the East Front. He also used a “Don’t Tread on Me” flag to cover a security camera before proceeding up the Gallery Stairs and onward toward the Senate Gallery hallway. Bacon was among the initial wave of rioters arriving at the Senate Gallery and watched as rioters prevented United States Capitol Police officers from securing the gallery doors. As Bacon entered the Senate Chamber balcony, he unlatched the cam bolt on a second door, facilitating entry for others.

Court documents say that Bacon and the other rioters then maneuvered down to the second floor, gaining access to the Senate Chamber, and found a seat in the back of the chamber, where he remained for approximately 10 minutes as rioters freely roamed the chamber rummaging through desks and paperwork. Bacon exited the Capitol building at approximately 3:06 p.m. Bacon was arrested on June 30, 2021.



COMMENTARY

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

Participatory Budgeting – How is the New Process Going?



By Will Mbah
Candidate for Somerville
City Councilor at Large

The process of Participatory Budgeting began this year as an experiment in citizen participation with the intent to help educate all residents about the methods of budgeting and, especially, to give high school students an initial experience in democratic process as they look forward to becoming active citizens when they reach voting age.

The idea of adding this process to the city's annual routine of financial management first arose as part of the Charter Revision discussions in 2021. Advocates cited the use of participatory budgeting in other cities, describing the activity as a way to bring greater transparency to decision-making and allowing citizen-priorities to more strongly influence the overall budget process. The Charter Revision Committee and the City Council have not included the process as a mandated responsibility in the Charter draft, adopted in May. However, there was general support for starting the process experimentally and testing its effectiveness for later formalization.

For the participatory budget, the Council has set aside a small amount of the city's general revenue -- \$1 million from last year's (FY2023) budget. Of course, all the rest of the city's revenue and spending -- \$337 million got FY 2024 -- has gone through the normal budget process, with the Mayor proposing line by line expenditures and the City Council making the specific appropriations of funds.

Despite its small size, it is expected that the citizen interest that participatory budgeting will generate will have wider impacts. Participants in this activity -- especially the young folks -- will broaden their understanding and interest and become more engaged as time goes on.

What has happened so far?

In order to carry out this first year's process, the May-

or appointed a Task Force, which took responsibility for designing the process. They spelled out all the steps and rules for taking public testimony and recommendations, reaching out to a wide public in all groups and languages, and choosing the eligible projects -- all of which has been written up as Guidebook, found on the city website. The public engagement began on March 20, with a call to citizens to submit ideas about improvements that can be made on public property in order to benefit their neighborhoods and the community at large. The Guidelines specify that to be eligible for funding, projects must be one-time expenses, occur only on city-owned land or facilities and not require the city add staff or engage in full bidding and contracting procedures.

Two months were provided until May 20 for citizens to send in their proposals and the Task Force received a total of 966 communications. All the responses have been posted on the city's website under a Participatory Budget tab.

During these summer months, the Task Force and a group of volunteer Budget Delegates, organized in five committees, are reviewing the proposals and giving each a weighted average score based on the evaluation criteria that are spelled out in the Guidelines. This evaluation will narrow down to a group of 20 of the best and most interesting proposals, at least one in each category. Then the Task Force will post the survey ballot, inviting all residents over 12 years old to vote in September and October. Votes will be received on line or on paper. Each winning proposal will have to receive at least 2,000 votes to be eligible for funding. Likely a choice will need to be made at the end, if the \$1 million fund is insufficient to cover all the best programs.

Of course, even if a particular proposal cannot be funded through the Participatory Budget line, there will be alternative ways of funding it under other programs -- such as Community Preservation, Community Development Block Grants and, of course, the city budget itself for next year.

What ideas for projects have been proposed? How has the process gone so far?

The 966 ideas that were received have been grouped into five categories. The largest numbers of specific proposals appeared in the categories of Streets and Sidewalks, Parks and Green Spaces and improvements to City Hall and other city buildings.

Many proposals are for better signage, crosswalks, and curb realignments at the intersections where the Community PATH bike lanes cross streets, as at Lowell, Cross, and Clyde Streets. Similarly, the intersections where ramps from the Community PATH descend down to street level are cited for signs and better sight lines. Traffic calming suggestions have been made for multiple locations for speed bumps, new curbing and sidewalk repairs.

A great variety of park improvements and green spaces have been proposed -- trees and planting, repair and upgrading of recreational equipment, signs and amenities. One proposal is for the installment of new bleachers in McKinney Park, another is for a small wind turbine at Prospect Hill. Sprucing up city buildings with new paint jobs, added greenery and repairs also have been popular proposals.

Other interesting ideas are the creation of a sharing depot or "swap shop" -- where people can bring tools and equipment to be borrowed by other homeowners and craftspeople. Ideas for weekend hours at the libraries and the Fabville craft shop, as well as planning for a community arts workshop and community center have been proposed.

With so many useful proposals, the voting process in the fall should be quite lively and elicit the attention of many citizens. With the multiple means of outreach in all languages that the Task Force has planned, we may expect the participatory budget process to achieve its main goal of bringing new voices and younger participants into the discussions of city finance and project planning.

Keep watching for the announcement in September that the ballot box is open.

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

Boston Tap Party

Join in on Saturday, August 5 at 7:00 p.m. at Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., Somerville, for Boston Tap Party for dancers, theater-goers, and lovers of the art form.

Their world-class faculty will be joining forces with local guest artists to bring a jam-packed performance to our beloved city.

Featuring Diane Walker with Faculty Ian Berg, Sydney Burtis, Ryan P. Casey, Luke Hickey, Khalid Hill, Jason Janas, Kelly Kaleta, Demi Remick, Aaron Tolson Paul Arslanian will lead a live band.

Tickets and more info available on their website: bostontapparty.com.



GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

7:00 AM Ward 4 Spring Community Meeting 5-16-23
9:00 AM ArtBeat 2023
9:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
10:00 AM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
11:00 AM History of Your House & Family
12:00 PM SomerViva - Ekip k'ap Sipòte Komite Ayisyèn
12:30 PM School Committee Meeting 6-26-23
3:00 PM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting
4:00 PM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
4:30 PM ArtBeat 2023
5:00 PM Driver's License Info Session em Portugues
6:30 PM Juneteenth Flag Raising
7:30 PM SomerViva - Ekip k'ap Sipòte Komite Ayisyèn
8:00 PM City Council Meeting 7-13-23
10:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
11:00 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
11:40 PM SPD Ride Along

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

12:00 AM City Council Meeting 7-13-23
2:30 AM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting
7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice III
7:45 AM COHR and SPD: Discussion Panel
9:00 AM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting
10:00 AM Driver's License Info Session em Portugues
11:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
12:00 PM Senior Circuit - Climate Change
12:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting 6-27-23
3:00 PM ArtBeat 2023
4:00 PM Ward 7 Spring Community Meeting 5-18-23
6:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
7:00 PM Senior Circuit - Climate Change
7:30 PM SomerViva - Ekip k'ap Sipòte Komite

Ayisyèn
8:00 PM ArtBeat 2023
9:00 PM Public Safety For All InfoSeries Session 1
9:30 PM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting
10:30 PM Spring Hill Walking Tour 2023

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

12:00 AM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
12:59 AM An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington
7:00 AM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
7:35 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #1
8:00 AM History of Your House & Family
9:00 AM COHR and SPD: Discussion Panel
10:30 AM Ward 2 Spring Community Meeting 5-15-23
1:00 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
2:00 PM SomerViva - Ekip k'ap Sipòte Komite Ayisyèn
3:00 PM City Council Meeting 7-13-23
5:30 PM Pride Flag Raising 2023
6:00 PM Driver's License Info Session em Portugues
7:30 PM An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington
9:00 PM Ward 6 Spring Community Meeting 5-4-23
11:10 PM ECSA Park Ribbon Cutting
11:30 PM SomerViva – Kreyol

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

12:00 AM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting
1:00 AM City Council Meeting 7-13-23
7:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #1
7:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
8:00 AM Juneteenth Flag Raising
9:00 AM Jane's Walk: Boynton Yards
10:30 AM Spanish All Ward Spring Community Meeting
12:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
1:00 PM An Afternoon with General and Mrs.

Washington
2:30 PM ArtBeat 2023
4:00 PM Driver's License Info Session em Portugues
5:30 PM Finance Committee of the Whole 6-21-23
7:45 PM ECSA Park Ribbon Cutting
8:00 PM School Committee Meeting 6-26-23
10:30 PM Juneteenth Flag Raising
11:30 PM SomerViva - Ekip k'ap Sipòte Komite Ayisyèn

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

12:00 AM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting
1:00 AM City Council Meeting 7-13-23
7:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #1
7:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
8:00 AM Juneteenth Flag Raising
9:00 AM Jane's Walk: Boynton Yards
10:30 AM Spanish All Ward Spring Community Meeting
12:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
1:00 PM An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington
3:00 PM ArtBeat 2023
4:00 PM Driver's License Info Session em Portugues
5:30 PM Finance Committee of the Whole 6-21-23
7:45 PM ECSA Park Ribbon Cutting
8:00 PM School Committee Meeting 6-26-23
10:30 PM Juneteenth Flag Raising
11:30 PM SomerViva - Ekip k'ap Sipòte Komite Ayisyèn

MONDAY, AUGUST 7

12:00 AM Senior Circuit - Climate Change
12:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
1:00 AM Pride Flag Raising 2023
7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II
8:00 AM Spring Hill Walking Tour 2023
9:30 AM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting
10:30 AM Jane's Walk: Boynton Yards
12:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis

12:30 PM Senior Circuit - Climate Change
1:00 PM Ward 6 Spring Community Meeting 5-4-23
3:30 PM Public Safety For All InfoSeries Session 1
4:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
4:30 PM An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington
6:00 PM SomerViva - Kreyol
6:30 PM Ward 5 Spring Community Meeting 4-26-23
8:30 PM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting
9:30 PM City Council Meeting 7-13-23

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

12:00 AM Senior Circuit - Climate Change
12:30 AM Finance Committee Meeting 6-27-23
7:00 AM Ward 4 Spring Community Meeting 5-16-23
9:00 AM ArtBeat 2023
9:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
10:00 AM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
11:00 AM History of Your House & Family
12:00 PM SomerViva - Ekip k'ap Sipòte Komite Ayisyèn
12:30 PM School Committee Meeting 6-26-23
3:02 PM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting
4:00 PM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
4:30 PM ArtBeat 2023
5:00 PM Driver's License Info Session em Portugues
6:30 PM Juneteenth Flag Raising
7:30 PM SomerViva - Ekip k'ap Sipòte Komite Ayisyèn
8:00 PM City Council Meeting 7-13-23
10:32 PM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
11:02 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
11:41 PM SPD Ride Along
12:00 AM City Council Meeting 7-13-23
2:30 AM Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony 2023

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

8:00 AM Brown School Moving On Ceremony
9:00 AM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
10:00 AM Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony
11:00 AM Full Circle Graduation
12:30 PM Argenziano pre K-4 Spring Concert
1:00 PM WSNS K-8 Spring Concert
2:30 PM SHS Baseball vs Marblehead
5:00 PM Intramural Boys' Basketball Championship
6:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
7:00 PM Brown School Moving On Ceremony
8:00 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
9:00 PM Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony
10:00 PM Full Circle Graduation
11:30 PM Argenziano pre K-4 Spring Concert

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

12:00 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Salem
1:30 AM SHS Girls' LAX vs Matignon
8:00 AM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
9:30 AM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
10:00 AM SHS Football vs Chelsea
12:00 PM SHS Boys Soccer vs Malden
2:00 PM Full Circle Graduation
3:30 PM Healey 5-8 Spring Concert 6-1-23
4:00 PM SHS Chamber Concert
5:00 PM SHS Class Day 2023
6:30 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising 2023
7:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
8:30 PM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
9:00 PM SHS Football vs Chelsea
11:00 PM SHS Boys Soccer vs Malden

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

1:00 AM Full Circle Graduation

2:30 AM Healey 5-8 Spring Concert 6-1-23
3:00 AM SHS Chamber Concert
7:00 AM Intramural Boys' Basketball Championship
8:00 AM SHS Chamber Concert
9:00 AM SHS 2023 Graduation
10:30 AM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising 2023
11:00 AM Brown School Moving On Ceremony
12:00 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
1:00 PM Kennedy School Moving On Ceremony
2:00 PM Full Circle Graduation
3:30 PM Argenziano pre K-4 Spring Concert
4:00 PM WSNS K-8 Spring Concert
5:30 PM SHS Baseball vs Marblehead
8:00 PM Intramural Boys' Basketball Championship
9:00 PM SHS Chamber Concert
10:00 PM SHS 2023 Graduation
11:30 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising 2023

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

12:00 AM Brown School Moving On Ceremony
1:00 AM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
2:00 AM Brown School Moving On Ceremony
3:00 AM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
8:00 AM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
8:30 AM WHCIS Moving On Ceremony
10:00 AM Full Circle Graduation
11:30 AM Argenziano 5-8 Spring Concert
12:00 PM SHS 2023 Graduation
1:30 PM Kennedy K-3 Spring Concert
2:00 PM WHCIS K-3 Spring Concert
2:30 PM WHCIS Gr 4-8 Spring Concert
3:30 PM Spring String Fling
4:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Salem
5:30 PM ESCS Spring Concert
6:30 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising 2023
7:00 PM El Sistema Somerville June Concert

7:30 PM WHCIS Moving On Ceremony
9:00 PM SHS Football vs Cambridge
11:00 PM SHS 2023 Graduation

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

12:15 AM SHS Football vs Arlington 11-25-99
3:30 AM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
5:00 AM Chris Herren Speaks to SHS
8:00 AM ESCS Moving On Ceremony
9:00 AM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
9:30 AM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
11:00 AM WHCIS Moving On Ceremony
12:05 PM Pride Flag Raising 2023
12:30 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising 2023
1:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
2:00 PM Intramural Boys' Basketball Championship
3:00 PM SHS Chamber Concert
4:00 PM Healey 5-8 Spring Concert 6-1-23
4:30 PM Kennedy 4-8 Spring Concert
5:30 PM Kennedy K-3 Spring Concert
6:00 PM ESCS Moving On Ceremony
7:00 PM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
7:30 PM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
9:00 PM WHCIS Moving On Ceremony
10:05 PM Pride Flag Raising 2023
10:30 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising 2023
11:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship

MONDAY, AUGUST 7

12:00 AM Healey Schoolyard Ribbon Cutting
1:00 AM WSNS K-8 Spring Concert
2:30 AM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
8:00 AM ESCS Moving On Ceremony
9:30 AM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
10:00 AM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
11:02 AM WHCIS Moving On Ceremony

12:04 PM Pride Flag Raising 2023
12:30 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising 2023
1:21 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
2:08 PM Intramural Boys' Basketball Championship
3:00 PM SHS Chamber Concert
4:00 PM Healey 5-8 Spring Concert 6-1-23
4:30 PM Kennedy 4-8 Spring Concert
5:30 PM Kennedy K-3 Spring Concert
6:00 PM ESCS Moving On Ceremony
7:30 PM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
8:00 PM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
9:02 PM WHCIS Moving On Ceremony
10:04 PM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
11:00 PM Kennedy School Moving On

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

12:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English
1:30 AM SHS Hockey vs Latin Academy
8:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Everett
10:00 AM Healey 5-8 Spring Concert 6-1-23
10:30 AM WHCIS K-3 Spring Concert
11:00 AM SHS Boys Soccer vs Malden
1:00 PM Kennedy 4-8 Spring Concert
2:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Cambridge
3:30 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Everett
4:30 PM Argenziano pre K-4 Spring Concert
5:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Exhibition
7:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Everett
9:00 PM Healey 5-8 Spring Concert 6-1-23
9:30 PM WHCIS K-3 Spring Concert
10:00 PM SHS Boys Soccer vs Malden
12:00 AM Kennedy 4-8 Spring Concert
1:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Cambridge
2:30 AM SHS Girls' LAX vs Everett
3:30 AM Argenziano pre K-4 Spring Concert
4:00 AM SHS Spring Concert & Art Exhibition

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Upcoming events:

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

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

Blood Pressure Screening - Monday, August 7th from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Celeste Gearhart, RN from the Public Health Nursing Department will be visiting the Holland St. Center to conduct blood pressure screenings. She will be taking blood pressures and handing out educational materials on heart health. Stop by to get your blood pressure taken, meet with Celeste, and ask her any questions you may have.

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

Knitting Group – Tuesday, August 15th & 22nd from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. If you are looking to learn how to knit, rekindle your love of knitting, or knit with others, join us for our new knitting group. Our first project will be learning to knit a potholder. All supplies, including yarn and needles will be provided. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

De-Clutter Drop-in Sessions – Thursdays, August 3rd and 31st from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. Thinking about joining the Somerville de-cluttering group

but can't make a six-week commitment? Do you want to check in about clutter before the fall de-cluttering group commences? Look no further than the De-Clutter Drop-In Sessions. Both sessions are open to Somerville and Cambridge residents age 60 and over. For more information or to RSVP please call Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

Wednesday Bingo – August 16th at the Holland Street Center. Lunch at noon, Bingo to begin following lunch. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Paint Day – Wednesday, August 23rd starting at 1:30 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. We will be painting a bottle. Space is very limited. \$5 per person. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Line Dancing Returns! – Monday, August 7th, 14th, 21st and September 11th, 18th and 25th at 1:00pm. Six-week sessions. Join us for an afternoon of Line Dancing with Julie Kaufmann. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

LCR Game Day - Friday, August 4th and 11th at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland St. Center. LCR-Left Center Right is a fun, fast-paced dice game that you won't be able to put down! Players roll the dice to determine where they pass their chips. The last player with chips is the winner and wins the center pot. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov Grab & Go lunch available.

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

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

Veteran's Group – Meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, August 22nd, at the Holland Street Center starting at 11:00 a.m. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Tech Open Hours – Tuesdays, August 1st, 15th, and 22nd starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. Bring your phones, computers, and tablets or borrow one from the COA. This is a drop-in style individual help to answer your technology questions and frustrations. RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 781-823-9210 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Tech Time with Tufts – Monday, August 28th at 1:00 p.m. in our Holland Street Center. Tufts University first year students will be joining our Tech Time Drop-in Hours. Students will provide drop-in style individual help to answer your technology questions and frustrations. Please RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318.

Afternoon Movie Day – Tuesday, August 1st at 12:00 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. This month's film is Murder Mystery starring Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston – A New York cop and his wife go on a European vacation to reinvigorate the spark in their marriage but end up getting framed and on the run for the death of an elderly billionaire. Rated PG-13. Pizza will be served before the movie; \$2 per person. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Morning Movie Day – Friday, August 25th, 10:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. This month's film is Murder Mystery 2 starring Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston – Full-time detectives Nik and Audrey are struggling to get their private eye agency off the ground. They find themselves at the center of an international abduction when their friend, Maharaja, is kidnapped at his own lavish wedding. Rated PG-13. Pizza will be served after the movie; \$2 per person. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Virtual LGBTQIA+ Exercise Class – Thursdays, August 3rd, 17th, 24th and 31st starting at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Walking Club – Every Thursday, August 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st at 9:00 a.m. Meets at the Holland Street Center. Weather permitting. RSVP, please contact 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

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Somerville to commemorate National Purple Heart Day



Do you know a Purple Heart recipient or family member? Community members are invited to attend a designation ceremony at noon on Monday, August 7, at Dilboy Post 529 (351 Summer St.) to commemorate National Purple Heart Day and to mark Somerville as a designated Purple Heart City and part of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Trail.

For more information, contact the Somerville Veterans' Office at veterans@somervillema.gov or call (617)625-6600 x4700.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Street after storm... — Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why don't fish play soccer?
Because they're scared of nets

On This Day in History

August 2

- 0047 – Caesar defeats Pharnaces at Zela in Syria and declares, “veni, vidi, vici,” (I came, I saw, I conquered).
- 1552 – The treaty of Passau gives religious freedom to Protestants living in Germany.
- 1776 – The Continental Congress, deciding unanimously to make the Declaration of Independence, affixes the signatures of the other delegates to the document.
- 1862 – The Army Ambulance Corps is established by Maj. Gen. George McClellan.
- 1876 – Wild Bill Hickok is shot while playing poker.
- 1923 – Vice President Calvin Coolidge becomes president upon the death of Warren G. Harding.
- 1934 – German President Paul von Hindenburg dies and Adolf Hitler becomes chancellor.
- 1965 – Newsman Morley Safer films the destruction of a Vietnamese village by U.S. Marines.
- 1990 – Iraqi forces invade neighboring Kuwait.

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Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “These barriers harm the most vulnerable people in our commonwealth and eliminating them is a compassionate step that makes the path to stability a little bit easier.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes
----------------------	-----

\$513 MILLION FISCAL 2023 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET (S 2426)

Senate 38-0 approved a \$513 million fiscal supplemental budget to help close out the books on fiscal year 2023 that ended on June 30. The House has already approved its own \$693 million package. A House-Senate conference committee will eventually hammer out a compromise version.

Provisions in the Senate version include \$180 million for fiscally strained hospitals; \$60.3 million for staffing at the Department of Transitional Assistance; \$100 million for the state’s pension fund; \$40 million for a settlement of a court case related to police promotion discrimination; and \$75 million for school districts with extraordinary special education costs.

“As we fully emerge from the pandemic, the Legislature has addressed several sectors of state government with crucial funding to continue to keep the economy of the commonwealth on a firm footing,” said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “The passage of this supplemental budget today utilizes robust tax revenues to its fullest effect, making substantial investments in health care, special education, unemployment assistance and disaster relief funding. Those investments will keep Massachusetts as a leader in the key economic sectors for decades to come.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$513 million supplemental budget.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes
----------------------	-----

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

7.5 PERCENT PAY HIKE FOR SENATE STAFFERS – Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) announced a pay hike for all Senate employees. All staff members who began work prior to May 1, 2023 will receive a 7.5 percent pay hike beginning July 31, 2023. For example, a staffer who currently earns \$50,000 will receive a \$3,750 hike to \$53,750 while an employee earning \$100,000 will receive a \$7,500 bump to \$107,500.

“I know I reflect the feelings of the Senate members when I say that we are deeply appreciative of all of your hard work,” said Spilka in an e-mail last week to Senate staffers. “Thank you for your continued dedication to the Senate and the people of the commonwealth.”

Judicial and executive branch employees currently have the right to form a union but Legislative staff cannot do so. Two bills, H 3069 and S 2014, pending before the Legislature would allow these employees to unionize. The

measures are giving little chance of success this year based on a recent comment from Spilka in July 2022 that “the Senate does not at this time see a path forward for a traditional employer-union relationship in the Senate as we are currently structured.”

LIMIT FEE FOR CASHING CHECKS (H 344) – The Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure held a hearing on a measure that would set a cap on the fees check-cashing stores and outlets are allowed to charge. The maximum charge would be 5 percent of the value of a personal check or \$5, whichever is greater, plus a \$1 service charge; 2.5 percent of a government check plus a \$1 service charge; 2.25 percent of a payroll check plus a \$1 service charge; and 3 percent of all other checks including traveler’s check, cashier’s check and certified check plus a \$1 service charge.

Supporters said of the 34 states that regulate check cashing, Massachusetts is one of eight that do not regulate the fees that may be charged. They argued these check-cashing “stores” are often located in low-income neighborhoods and take advantage of vulnerable residents.

They noted the bill would provide greater consumer protections for individuals who are “unbanked” -- folks who don’t have a checking, savings or money market account or who are “underbanked” --- folks who may have a bank account, but also rely regularly on alternative financial services outside of the mainstream banking system. Lower-income households, less educated households, Black households, Hispanic households, working-age households with a disability and single-mother households are most vulnerable to being unbanked or underbanked.

“This bill aims to tear down financial barriers that create situational and generational cycles of poverty by fostering a fair and responsible market in which low-income families can more easily save and protect their money,” said sponsor Rep. Kay Khan (D-Newton). “Passage of this bill will allow people to keep more of their hard-earned income, improving their ability to build assets, create wealth and promote overall stability in the economy of the commonwealth.”

BAN ELEPHANTS AND OTHER ANIMALS (H 3245/S 2189) – The Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development Committee held a hearing on legislation that would ban elephants, bears, lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs and other animals from being used in traveling circuses and other traveling shows in Massachusetts. Violators would be fined between \$500 and \$10,000.

“It is cruel for any of these large animals to live a life on the road and be forced into an unnatural lifestyle,” said House sponsor Rep. Carole Fiola (D-Fall River). “Animal-based traveling acts have waned in popularity across the nation, with many companies eliminating animal-based models and now proudly offering animal-free shows. Currently, 14 municipalities in Massachusetts have local ordinances banning traveling animal acts and eight other states have already adopted these bans. Action is needed statewide to

protect wildlife and ensure the humane treatment of all animals.”

“Exotic, wild animals are subject to abusive training as they are transported throughout the country and across the commonwealth,” said Senate sponsor Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield). “The cruel exhibition of these various animals also poses serious health and safety to the general public. We must be intolerant to animal abuse and ensure the safety of patrons.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Massachusetts, like most states, currently has a law to prevent utility shut offs during the winter months. However only 19 states have similar provisions for dealing with extreme heat in the summer months. Recent reports from scientists indicate that Massachusetts residents can expect extreme heat conditions annually for the foreseeable future.” — *Former Sen. Dick Moore, Legislative Chair of the Dignity Alliance urging passage of a bill to protect older adults and people with disabilities for having utilities shut-off during periods of extreme heat.*

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session.

During the week of July 24-28, the House met for a total of eight hours and 42 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 13 hours and 32 minutes.

Mon. July 24	House 11:01 a.m. to 1:52 p.m. Senate 11:02 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.
Tues. July 25	No House session No Senate session
Wed. July 26	House 11:04 a.m. to 11:09 a.m. Senate 11:14 a.m. to 2:48 p.m.
Thurs. July 27	House 11:03 a.m. to 4:49 p.m. Senate 11:03 a.m. to 4:53 p.m.
Fri. July 28	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Roland Pearsall: Davis Square's Cross-Generation Rocker

Article by Off the Shelf Correspondent Michael Todd Steffen.

I took a chance and interrupted solo guitarist/singer Roland Pearsall between two songs while he was performing in Davis Square a couple of weeks ago. I had to muster up my courage. Pearsall sings in an untiring booming baritone, playing covers of James Brown, Gnarl Barkley, The Genies and Frankie Ford – from long ago. I was apprehensive of the sizeable and “mythic” persona of his talent, singular minded repertoire and the years of tradition resonant in his guitar and voice. Like I was approaching one in the brotherhood of Bruce Springsteen or Chris Isaak.

Yet I found Roland to be mild mannered, somewhat bashful, and personally respectful and appreciative of the opportunity to talk about his music.

Michael Steffen: How long have you been playing in Davis Square?

Roland Pearsall: I started playing Davis Square, at least a few shows, in 2013. So a decade now. In 2015 I started using an electric guitar out there as opposed to an acoustic one.

MS: This was your Newport Festival moment?

RP: Laughs...

MS: And you're pretty much a solo artist?

RP: I mostly play solo because of the ease of the setup. You really are your own boss and can come and go as you please. I know other musicians and do occasional full band shows, but I like being self-contained. My two albums – I'm working on my second one now – have full band instrumentation. In addition to guitar, I play drums, bass, keyboards and harmonica, so I can fill out the sound as needed.

MS: I've caught myself standing here especially listening to you sing *Good Good Lovin'* or *Who's that Knockin'*. I'll even miss one of my buses sometimes to wait out another set. One thing, it's just plain good. The summer Lebowskis and young professionals alike around here suspend their usual chatter with one another to listen to your music. I see little children dancing to your songs with their parents.

RP: Yea, well, I listen to everything, classic rock, blues, soul, R&B, oldies, country, folk, 60's British invasion, rockabilly ... I enjoy a lot of 90's and 2000's



rock. I've even had rappers come up and freestyle with me providing the musical backing, so I appreciate that as well. When you've been singing a long time, you develop your own style, and at this point, regardless of what genre the song is in, I fit it to me.

MS: It's distinct in its choice of older music. I often find myself thinking, This is the music my parents were listening to when they got together first back in the late 50s and early 60s. To many other listeners, that would mean the music of their grandparents. How did you get into the older music?

RP: My parents helped this along for sure. Music played constantly in our house growing up – the Beatles, the Doors, oldies radio, stuff like that. In fact, I remember hearing Jim Morrison sing *Light my Fire* when I was still just a little kid and asking myself, “Hmm, a person has a fire to be lit?”

MS: Were your parents musicians?

RP: My father sang at parties and always got a good response. I was too shy for the longest time. Then I started doing it. Another inspiration was when my grandmother took us to see Chuck Berry when I was a teen. It was a great show. Berry confidently held the crowd and I felt like I intuitively understood what he was doing. This set me on the path of discovery, figuring out what songs to do when, and what to say, to hold the audience's attention and generate good vibes with them.

MS: But there's a lot of reflection and know-how to the music too.

Continued on page 23

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You're not suitable! Therefore disorderly!

It's true:

When a carpenter has sex with a banker
or a bricklayer has sex with an undertaker

or a John has sex with a Craig
or a Randy has sex with a Richard

Being orderly is simply not suitable

— Jesse Mavro Diamond

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

In *AMERICAN QUEERS: Poems Celebrating Mid-Century Gay Activists*, Jesse Mavro Diamond imagines a metaphorical kingdom inhabited by four relatively unknown gay and lesbian royal champions. With sharp wit and whole-hearted empathy, the poet extols and elegizes Stormé Delarverie, Richard Leitsch, Pat Parker and Charley Shively. Appending the poems with well researched biographical notes on each activist, diverse readers, students and teachers will discover the work is compelling and informative. *AMERICAN QUEERS* “impresses with historical vision and authenticity.” (Judson Evans)



For Dick Leitsch

Sip-In: 1966

Carpenters, bankers, bricklayers, undertakers.
Why gay bars?
Because we could only be gay
In gay bars.

The N.Y. State Liquor Authority CEO:
No discrimination in bars. Why?
Because bars had the right to refuse customers
not acting suitably. Therefore, disorderly.

Bankers, bricklayers, undertakers, carpenters.
And Dick, a former Tiffany salesman.
All risking entrapment.
Wasn't flirtation with a cute, undercover cop
worth the risk?

At the West Village bar.
John, Richard, Craig and Randy
dropped the “H” word bomb.
We are homosexuals and we want a drink.
Craig, Randy, John and Richard,

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

August 7 for a 12-mile bicycle ride exploring the Mystic and Malden Rivers. Meet at 5:15 p.m. at Paul Revere Park in Charlestown, just north of the locks.

Join Boynton Yards and Once Somerville for the next free block party filled with live music, games, crafts, vendors, food trucks and cold drinks on August 19. Sip, nosh, shop, play, craft, and rock out with delicious food, talented vendors, and incredible artists from around the world. To RSVP for your free ticket, visit www.oncesomerville.com.

Yart Sale is back, Saturday, August 12, from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m., (rain date 08/13) citywide. To participate, check out this link: <https://forms.gle/VFFjx-SW96QscihMy5>.

The Center for Arts at the Armory needs your support. Join them for an important community meeting on August 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Performance Hall, 191 Highland Ave. This meeting is an opportunity for Center for Arts at the Armory, to present to the community, their mission, leadership, business plan, events, programs, services and successes. They will also be presenting ways in which you can engage with this process and make your voice heard. Learn more under their event page on their website www.artsatthearmory.org

East Somerville’s Summer Carnival Block Party Series kicked off last month. These block parties will be held at 115 Broadway (East Somerville Public Library) and on Illinois Ave. on Sunday evenings once a month. Enjoy live music, food, and activities for the whole family. The next block parties take place August 20 and September 10.

Become a crossing guard and help keep our students safe. Training is provided, \$20.23 / hour, perfect attendance bonus, clothing allowance, uniforms provided, and paid snow days. Send your resume to careers@somervillema.gov or apply at somervillema.gov/careers.

Save the date, Tuesday, September 19. The 2023 Foodie Crawl planning is in the works. Taste the world on Broadway in East Somerville and support East Somerville Main Streets.

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

The Somerville Council on Aging is holding Blood Pressure Screening on Monday, August 7, from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Celeste Gearhart, RN from the Public Health Nursing Department will be visiting the Holland St. Center to conduct blood pressure screenings. She will be taking blood pressures and handing out educational materials on heart health. Stop by to get your blood pressure taken, meet with Celeste, and ask her any questions you may have.

Dilboy Pool, 110 Alewife Brook Parkway, is now open for the summer season. Pool hours are Monday – Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 6:45 p.m., Saturday – Sunday, 11:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. Pool admission: Children – \$1. Adults – \$2. Ginny Smithers Pool at the Kennedy School, 5 Cherry St., summer hours Monday – Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Resident registration for summer swimming lessons opened on

July 3. Non-resident opened on July 5 at 8:00 a.m. Limited spots are available. Visit somervillema.myrec.com.

The City of Somerville’s annual SomerMovieFest returns this year with a series of seven family-friendly films being shown in parks around Somerville. Screenings begin at dusk. The next screening will be Top Gun: Maverick, Thursday, August 3, 8:33 p.m., Seven Hills Park (Somerville Community Path and Buena Vista Rd.).

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

The Somerville Police Dept. is happy to announce the return of the Junior Police Academy for Somerville Youth Grades 5, 6, 7, 8. The program will run August 7 – 11 and feature a variety of training situations in which all cadets will be required to participate in. The program will include, but not limited to classroom training, hand on police tactics, and physical training. Travel days to special events and more. To sign up, please go to the Somerville Recreation page: <https://bit.ly/3JZbZun>.

The Free Lockboxes for Seniors Program is intended to provide police, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) access to your residence in the event of an emergency where you are unable to open the door. A key to your residence will be stored in a secure metal storage device, like a realtor’s lockbox, at your residence. The access code to the lockbox will only be available to police, fire or EMS personnel and be used only during an emergency. The program is targeted towards

Somerville residents who live alone and are aged 65+, or those who are disabled and/or suffer from major medical issues at any age. Individuals living in apartment complexes or other facilities with maintenance staff are not eligible for this program. For more information, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

For updates and detours connected to Spring Hill Sewer Separation project, visit: <https://voice.somervillema.gov/springhillsewer>.

Don’t forget to visit Somerville’s farmers markets. Every Wednesday through November 22, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. visit the Davis Square Farmers Market, across from American Flatbread at 44 Day St. Visit: www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis. Every Saturday through October 28, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., the Union Square Farmers Market takes place at 66-70 Union Sq. visit: www.unionsquaremain.org/2023-fmseason.

With hot summer days ahead, the Somerville Homeless Coalition is looking for essential supplies to help keep those without a home safe and cool. Whether it’s sunscreen or juice boxes, they have compiled an Amazon wish list with key summer items for clients. If you are interested in donating you can do so through the link provided or by dropping items off at their Engagement Center located at 1 Davis Square between Monday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. for lunch). https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2S-0DQDB857065?ref_=wl_share&fbclid=IwAR1ZHXC1YJnbbt36Zicx-PnsR7pAEJ4dP1rODG5sNovyNzGE-68py31ENo.

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Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

RP: I do a lot of research on my own. One of my greatest joys is to unearth obscure music that deserves more attention than it got when it came out. Once I get into something, I get into it all the way and want to learn everything I can about it. Music is no exception.

Catch Roland Pearsall live one afternoon or early evening in Davis Square, playing his American Standard Stratocaster – “the perfect street axe” – through his eponymous Roland Cube Street amp, with a separate channel for vocals. You’ll be telling yourself, This is the real thing.

That’s how you’ll know him, with genuinely inviting entertainment for four generations, you, your kids, parents and grandparents – wherever “you” are in that lineup. You can also enjoy his music on <https://m.youtube.com/@RolandPearsall>.



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