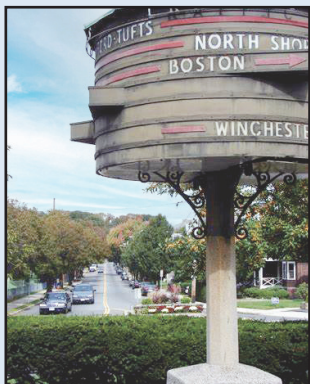




## Inside:



**Round and round  
we go**

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**Living without the  
Orange Line**

page 5



**Awareness and  
recovery**

page 11

## City reevaluates confirmations process after Civil Service Commission rebuke



The Somerville City Council reviewed and discussed the recent ruling that a candidate for a public service job was wrongly denied at their latest regular meeting.

By Jim Clark

An Order was put forward by Ward 7 Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld at the latest meeting of the Somerville City Council on Thursday, August 25, that the City Solicitor update the City Council on the August 11 Civil Service Commission decision on the Matthew Fairchild v. City of Somerville matter, and its impact on the city's confirmations process.

On May 5, 2021, Fairchild took action against the City Council's decision to deny him confirmation for appointment as a Reserve Police Officer in the Somerville Police Department, ostensibly based on unsubstantiated claims about the candidate's alleged untruthfulness. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Civil Service Commission subsequently ruled in Fairchild's favor and issued its *Continued on page 4*

## 'Evicted' exhibit at Arts at the Armory

The Community Action Agency of Somerville in collaboration with The Welcome Project, The Somerville Homeless Coalition, Somerville Arts Council, Arts at the Armory, All She Wrote Books, Somerville Office of Housing Stability, Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services, De Novo Legal Services, Youth Build Just A Start, Somerville Public Schools, and local artists will open *Evicted* at The Center for Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., Somerville.

Based on the Pulitzer prize-winning book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond, *Evicted* is an immersive exploration of poverty and homelessness. Community members are invited to explore this exhibit starting on September 10. The public is also invited to register for a free ticket to the Opening Night Event on September 8.

*Evicted* exhibit website: <https://www.caasomerville.org/evicted-exhibit>



*Evicted* will be on display at the Center for Arts at the Armory beginning on September 10. Hours: Monday – Wednesday 4:00 – 8:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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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.

Somerville Prevention and the city will recognize **International Overdose Awareness Day, Wednesday, August 31**, by planting 15 purple flags in memory of Somerville residents who have died from an opioid-related overdose in 2021. **Free Narcan** and other resources will be available at **City Hall** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. September is also **Recovery Month**. Additional Narcan distributions will take place **Thursday, September 15**, in **Union Square** from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Friday, September 30, at Foss Park from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, resources, or to get involved, email [mmitchell@somervillema.gov](mailto:mmitchell@somervillema.gov) or visit <https://www.somervillema.gov>.

\*\*\*\*\*








Looking to **vote early** in the **2022 State Primary Election**? In-person early voting will be held in the **Council Chambers at City Hall** (93 Highland Ave.) until **Friday, September 2**. Residents can also apply to vote by mail. Applications must be received by the **Elections Office** by 5:00 p.m. on **Monday, August 29**, to vote by mail in the State Primary. For more information or to register to vote, visit [somervillema.gov/earlyvoting](https://www.somervillema.gov/earlyvoting).

\*\*\*\*\*

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to our own photographer, **Claudia Ferro**. We can't say enough nice things about her. We are very happy to have her as our photographer. We wish her a very happy birthday now that she is recovering and getting around better after her fall and surgery. We *Continued on page 9*

# Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of August 31 – September 6 as provided by the National Weather Service

| DAY   | CONDITIONS    | HIGH/LOW | PRECIPITATION | HUMIDITY | WIND       |
|---|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|------------|
|  <b>Wednesday</b><br><i>August 31</i>   | Rain          | 87°/64°  | 8%            | 5%       | SSW 14 mph |
|  <b>Thursday</b><br><i>September 1</i>  | Sunny         | 82°/56°  | 69%           | 51%      | WSW 12 mph |
|  <b>Friday</b><br><i>September 2</i>    | Sunny         | 77°/60°  | 3%            | 1%       | ENE 9 mph  |
|  <b>Saturday</b><br><i>September 3</i>  | Partly Cloudy | 86°/66°  | 7%            | 4%       | SSW 10 mph |
|  <b>Sunday</b><br><i>September 4</i>    | Rain          | 87°/61°  | 33%           | 29%      | SSE 11 mph |
|  <b>Monday</b><br><i>September 5</i>   | Rain          | 74°/59°  | 49%           | 41%      | N 11 mph   |
|  <b>Tuesday</b><br><i>September 6</i> | Partly Cloudy | 80°/60°  | 24%           | 17%      | ENE 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: Watch your step

Tim K. says:

Jimmy, everything in this article is spot on. I jog thru Davis regularly and more times than not I use the street, because of the hazardous raised sidewalks and cobblestones. I can't imagine what it is like for a senior using a walker or in a wheelchair. The city streets are not much better and are in deplorable shape as well. Patched and repatched again from all the Eversource digging. Not very safe for a bicyclist mind you, when will some of them be repaved? Glad you mentioned the trees. Have you seen the trees on the corner of Beacon and Washington lately, in front of the Cheese And Wine Cask. Branches almost hanging down to the ground. Who is watching the books? Where did all the money go? Inexcusable. We need to start holding the mayor and these so-called city councilors accountable, they are supposed to be working for their constituents.

TheoNa says:

It's completely inexcusable for the city to claim that they don't have the money available. They somehow find the money to fund traffic changes that almost nobody wants, fund a ridiculous number of speed bumps, spend thousands of dollars painting Magoun Square with a Black Lives Matter mural only to have it get wiped away within days, fund a site for drug users to shoot up, create more and more agencies and committees, etc.

### Response to: When the liver becomes a bottleneck of blood

Sanjit Tewari, MD says:

Great article Dr. Halim!

Do you think a followup article discussing the myriad of lifesaving techniques developed and employed by Interventional Radiology could be interesting?

I would be curious to how your metaphor-play would work in those contexts as well.

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

# The Somerville Times

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Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Round and round we go



Maneuvering through the Powder House rotary took some time to figure out. I asked our readers to share their thoughts and opinions regarding the new traffic pattern. Wow! It's sure different. No lights and one shop sign.

"Drove through there a few weeks ago when I came down for a visit, and I felt like I was in a pinball machine lol and all those X's and weird lines all over the roads. I didn't have any idea what they were meant for."

"A lot better than it was. There is at least some guidance now and I feel a lot more comfortable when I approach that circle."

"It's the worst system I have ever seen! Accidents waiting to happen!"

"Whoever designed it knows nothing about driving!"

"It's frightening. I'm never sure those with the yield sign will yield. At least be-

fore there was a definitive stop before entering rotary."

"Can we dumb it down any further so we morons stay in the lanes? felt like a rat in a maze. Ridiculous."

"It was clearly designed for people who do not know how to use rotaries."

"Why??? Cuz the one they've had forever stopped working??? Get rid of the damn cones things."

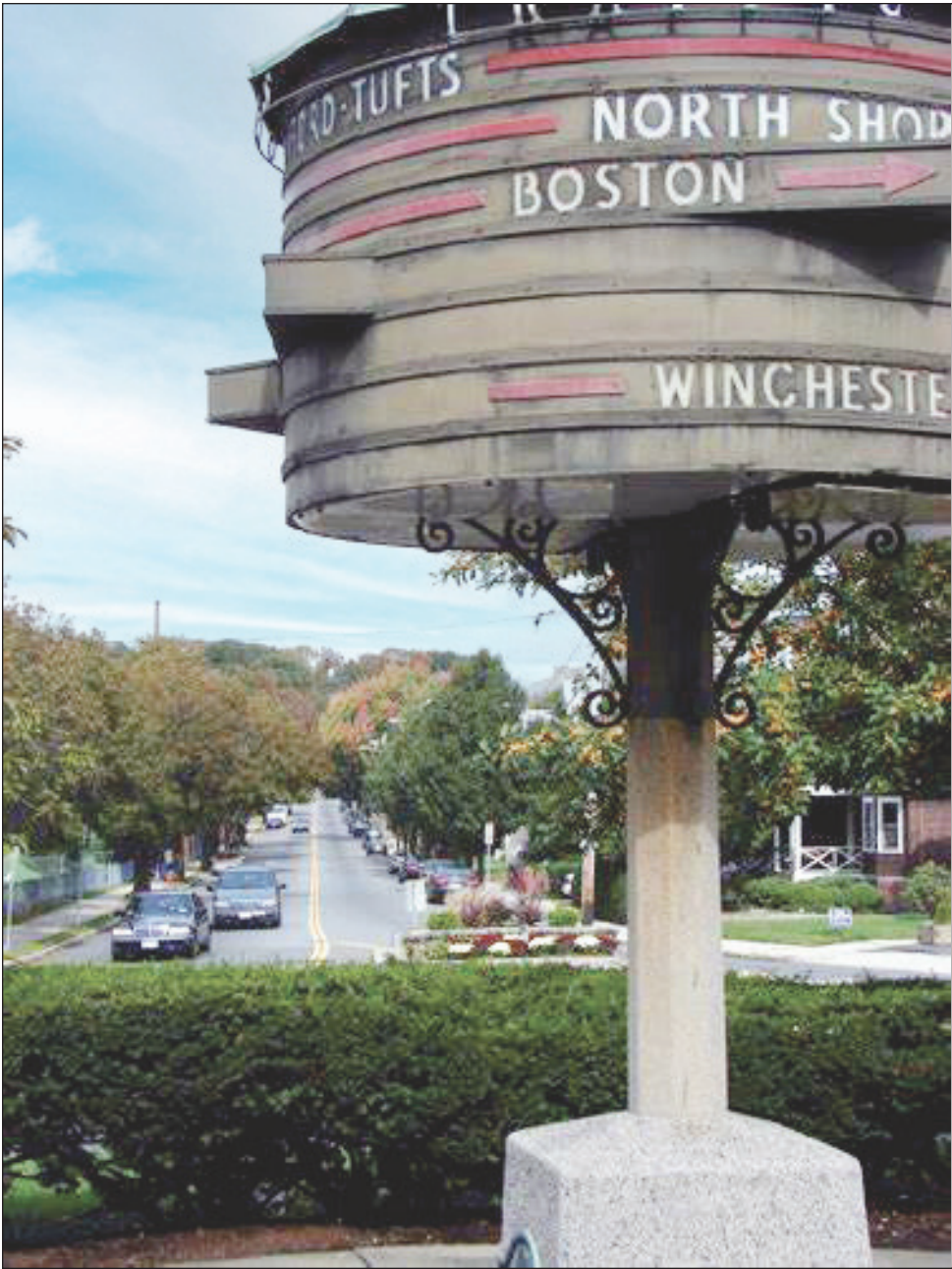
"Ridiculous, if you need that much guidance you shouldn't be driving."

"Drove through Powder House rotary for 60 years without little white soldiers guiding my path. Lucky to be alive, I guess!"


"Stupidity at its best!!"

"There's now only one stop sign at the rotary. All you have to do is follow the directions and yield to pedestrians."

Hopefully motorists will yield when they are supposed to. If you drive today, you have a lot to take in so I try to be patient and pay attention. I realize that traffic maneuvering is easier when you simply stay in your lane.



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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

# Low-speed chase on Somerville Ave.

A Somerville Police officer travelling eastbound on Somerville Ave. last Sunday evening pulled behind a vehicle stopped at the traffic signal at the intersection of Somerville Ave. and Prospect St. in the left turn only lane with the left blinker on.

The officer, who also intended to turn left, observed that after about five seconds of the traffic signal being red, the vehicle in front began to slowly enter and go through the intersection continuing straight onto Somerville Ave.

The officer activated their emergency lights and checked both directions before going through the intersection. Two individuals on bicycles were traveling North on Prospect St. towards Washington St.

After the two individuals went through the intersection, the officer continued straight onto Somerville Ave. behind the suspect vehicle, which was traveling on the wrong side of the double yellow lines at about fifteen miles per hour.

As this vehicle and the officer passed Merriam St., the vehicle travelled back onto the correct side of the double yellow lines and the officer updated dispatch via the radio of their location and the attempt to pull over the vehicle that continued traveling at around fifteen miles per hour.

The intersection of Somerville Ave. and McGrath Highway was also red with a queue of several cars preventing the vehicle from traveling any further. At this point vehicle pulled over to the right side of the road in front of Target and the officer updated police dispatch with their current location. A back up arrived shortly after dispatch was updated.

The officers approached the driver, later identified as Brian Soares, of Cambridge, who was still in his vehicle.

Soares was asked if he knew why he was stopped. He reportedly appeared very nervous and only said, "I'm sorry."

The reporting officer informed Soares that he was being stopped for a red light violation and a marked lanes violation. Soares was asked for his ID and he informed the officers that all of the forms of identification he owns are currently at his house.

Soares was asked for his name and date of birth and he told the officers his name was Brian Soares and gave his date of birth.

The information Soares provided was put into a query on the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS). No results appeared for a driver's license with the name and date of birth.

The Warrant Management System (WMS) had one warrant with the name Brian Soares and the corresponding date of birth.

At this point Soares was told to step out of his vehicle and was placed under arrest on a charge of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and on warrant charges of uninsured motor vehicle or trailer, unregistered motor vehicle, possession/use of a false RMV document, and number plate violation.

Soares stated the vehicle belongs to his friend. It was towed away and the registered owner was notified via phone of how he could pick up his vehicle.

## SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Arrests:</b>                                       | thorne St. on a warrant charge of assault with a dangerous weapon. | August 28, 8:13 p.m., arrested at Somerville Ave. on a charge of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and on warrant charges of uninsured motor vehicle or trailer, unregistered motor vehicle, possession/use of a false RMV document, and number plate violation. |
| Ross Daprato, August 24, 12:18 p.m., arrested at Haw- | Brian Soares, of Cambridge,  |   |

# City reevaluates confirmations process after Civil Service Commission rebuke

CONT. FROM PG 1

ruling on August 11, 2022.

In the ruling, the Commission stated that the decision to bypass Fairchild was based on a flawed review process that was not consistent with basic merit principles. As a result of this improper conduct, Fairchild's civil service rights were abridged, denied and prejudiced causing actual harm to his employment status.

The ruling also pointed out that that it was the mayor, not the City Council, whose action on March 3, 2021, formally nullified Fairchild's conditional offer of appointment and forced the police department to process the appointment of two lower ranked candidates, which served as the basis for Fairchild's appeal.

According to the Commission, the city's Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee conclusion that Fairchild was untruthful in his response to hypothetical questions it asked him about a drug bust scenario and his alleged criminal record are both unsubstantiated by the evidence and fall woefully short of having been based on a properly vetted, reasonably thorough review of the relevant facts.

In addition, the ruling criticized the refusal to confirm an innocent candidate for political reasons unrelated to that candidate's fitness for appointment, and that the Confirmation Committee should take care in exercising its oversight role to confirm appointments under the Somerville municipal charter, and not stray into the type of "arbitrary and capricious" behavior or carry "overtones of political control or objectives unrelated to merit standards" prohibited by basic merit principles as well as basic rules of common decency.

Also, the Commission found that the authority of the Confirmation Committee to inquire into "non-medical issues" in its role as confirming the appointment of a qualified candidate who had received a bona-fide conditional offer also calls for a careful balance of the oversight duty of the Committee under the Somerville municipal charter with the statutory duties imposed by law.

The Commission subsequently ordered that the Massachusetts Human Resources Division and/or the City of Somerville place the name of Matthew Fairchild at the top of all current and future certifications for appointment to reserve and/or permanent, full-time police officer with the Somerville Police Department so that he is first in line for appointment to the next available vacancy in a position as a permanent, full-time SPD Police Officer until he is so appointed or bypassed.

In addition, Fairchild is not to be bypassed for appointment to the position of a reserve and/or permanent full-time SPD Police Officer for any of the reasons found insufficient in the Commission's decision or based on any other facts that were known or reasonably should have been known at the time of his bypass in February 2021.

Also, if Fairchild is bypassed for appointment as a permanent, full-time SPD Police Officer, no future appointment of any other person to that position shall become effective until such time as Somerville has provided Fairchild with sound and sufficient reasons for the bypass, that he has the opportunity to file an appeal with the Commission, and the Commission has issued a final decision related to the bypass.

Finally, Fairchild is to be given a retroactive civil service seniority date that is the same civil service seniority date he would have received had his appointment to the position of an SPD Reserve Police Officer been confirmed in February 2021 as the top ranked candidate on Certification.

The Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

Continued on page 14



# Orange Line closure goes into effect

By Gina Ingrando

On August 19, the Orange Line was shut down for safety repair work that is scheduled to take at least a month to finish before the line will be running again. Massachusetts residents that travel into Boston by rail were given the notice a week before the shutdown, but some had already heard the rumors of the closure circulating around the city.

To help commuters out with their travels during the day while the line is closed, there will be over 200 shuttle buses available. Riders will also be able to utilize the Commuter Rail, the Silver Line, and Blue Bikes.

This week, I got to speak with Maria Ingrando who is a com-

muter on the Orange Line and has been for the last 29 years. We got to talking about the time changes in her morning schedule now, what she takes to get to work, and what her thoughts concerning the shutdown are.

While her trip to work in the morning usually takes around 30 minutes starting at Wellington Station in Medford with the Orange Line, it now takes her a little longer than 45 minutes starting at Beachmont Station in Revere with the Blue Line. The closure has caused her to take a step back in her route before actually being able to head into the city.

When Maria heard about the closure, she was very upset and shared that she believed the repairs would not be done in 30

days. The thought of the repairs not being done within the one-month timeframe they announced makes Maria nervous due to the fact that once school starts again, she has to add in the time it will take to drop her youngest daughter off at school to her commute. This could also possibly cause her to have to switch her commuter route again as well.

Maria says, "Boston should have one of the best transit systems, but it is lacking in so many ways. Other large tourist cities like New York and Chicago have an upper hand on us and I don't understand why. This shouldn't be happening. It's poor management."

The Orange Line is scheduled to resume operations at 5:00 a.m. on September 19.



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## COMMENTARY

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

## Thank you, Somerville!

By Jason Mackey

When I announced my candidacy last April, I was told to expect nothing less than a grueling campaign with a high risk of failure. Despite that, the opportunity and honor of serving the 27th Middlesex as our next State Representative far outweighed that risk of failure, and I enthusiastically jumped into the race. The early days of the campaign were great. I met hundreds of amazing Somervillians and learned a lot about the challenges they routinely overcome. The people truly are what make Somerville a great place to live, and I looked forward to representing their interests on Beacon Hill.

Despite the optimism of those early days, and encouragement from my earliest supporters, a series of unforeseen family emergencies – combined with the stress of running as a first-time candidate – compelled me to

make one of the hardest decisions of my life, which was to indefinitely suspend my campaign for State Representative of the 27th Middlesex District. This decision was quietly made earlier this month, and I've since spent weeks trying to talk myself out of it.

I'm not used to giving in; it's not in my nature. As an entrepreneur, I wouldn't have gone very far had I quit when the going got tough. Giving in is the last thing I ever want to do. To quote Winston Churchill, "Never give in, never, never, never – in nothing, great or small, large or petty – never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense." This decision is one of those times where good sense wins.

Thank you to everyone who supported me. From friends and neighbors to my Kitchen Cabinet and elected officials. Thank you. And although this was my first campaign, I promise it won't be my last. There's still so much

more to do, and so many ways we can do better. I love this City; I'm not going anywhere, and I promise to continue serving the people of Somerville to the best of my ability.

In time, I will refocus my efforts on championing diversity and inclusion through my role as Ward 5 Diversity Chair; fighting to eliminate housing insecurity through fair housing policies; and continuing to make the case for a Universal Basic Income (UBI) through the nonprofit I co-founded called UBINow.org.

Moving forward, all I ask is that you please vote in the State Primary on September 6, and again in the General Election on November 8. If you're unsure of where to vote, visit [www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVote-MA](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVote-MA). If you're curious about the statewide candidates I'm voting for next week, feel free to check out my ballot from this year's Democratic Convention at [www.massdems.org](http://www.massdems.org) or any of my social media accounts. And please encourage your friends, wherever they live, to vote for Democrats up and down the ballot.



Jason Mackey.

Thank you, Somerville, for the opportunity of getting to know you. Your support has been incredibly humbling, and I'm honored to have had the experience of running for office in this great City.

Thank you, Somerville, for the opportunity of getting to know you. Your support has been incredibly humbling, and I'm honored to have had the experience of running for office in this great City.

## Sen. Jehlen asks Board not to raise graduation requirement

Last week, Senator Pat Jehlen, who represents Somerville, went to the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education with Senator Jo Comerford and Representative Jim Hawkins. They asked the Board not to make it harder for the state's most vulnerable students to pass the MCAS graduation exam and get their high school diplomas.

When the proposal was first made public last spring, the three quickly gathered the signatures of half of the legislature in opposition.

"It was easy to collect the signatures from our colleagues because long-standing issues with the MCAS test are widespread," said Sen. Comerford. She said legislators are hearing "urgent calls for

help and action from the people we represent." It is very rare for so many legislators to sign a public letter to a state agency. Somerville representatives Christine Barber, Mike Connolly, and Erika Uytterhoeven signed the letter. The full letter is [here](#).

Rep. Hawkins, a former 10th grade math teacher, told the board that falling short on MCAS leads students to disengage from school, just as they were about to have an opportunity to discover what really interests them. "When you get to be a junior or senior in high school, you get to take the courses that really energize you, whether it be music, arts, vocational trades, or whatever it is," he said. "If these students don't pass the MCAS in

10th grade and they have to take remedial courses, we're taking that away from them."

Sen. Jehlen focused on the students who have historically had the most difficulty passing the test to get their diplomas, those who are learning English and are not yet fluent. "English learners have overcome incredible, often life-threatening, obstacles," she said. "Please don't add another barrier." Jehlen's letter is [here](#).

The legislators' letter, signed by 98 state senators and representatives, urged the board to reject the proposal from Education Commissioner Jeff Riley. "If the state's goal is racial and social equity, this is the wrong way to go," the legislators wrote.

Public comments solicited by



the board were also overwhelmingly opposed to making it harder to graduate, with 243 opposed and four in favor. Despite this, the Board voted 8-3 to raise the passing score for MCAS, as well as the score to qualify for an Educational Proficiency Plan. The board's 11 members are all for-

mally appointed by the governor, but state law provides that one be chosen by students, one by the Parent Teacher Association, and one by the state labor council. Those three all voted against raising the score. The board members chosen by Gov. Baker voted to make the changes.



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Goodbye summer, hello Labor Day weekend.

Our View Of The Times



It is often with a bit of melancholy that we say farewell to the warm summer months and begin looking ahead to the change of season and climate.

There is, of course, a lot to be said for the beauty of fall foliage in New England, and the nostalgic gentle warmth of the holiday season of winter, followed by renewal and reviving spirit of spring.

Still, the special surge of vitality felt in

the summertime is unique and reminds us to live our lives to their fullest. Opportunities for family outings, vacations and adventure seeking are plentiful. A peaceful sunbathing session on the seashore can be precious, as well as a quiet walk in the woods either alone or with a loved one. We hope that all of you have taken some time over past few months to take advantage of some of the wonderful things offered in

and around our environs.

We have one more great weekend coming up in what is traditionally considered to be the summer season. We encourage all to get out there and wring every last bit of fun in the sun and camaraderie from the occasion.

The Labor Day weekend may mark a passage point in the year’s unfolding, but it also is a time to celebrate the fruits of

our efforts and to give ourselves a bit of a reward for jobs well done.

It’s a good time to let go of some of the worries and cares that tend to bog us town. If only for a relatively short time. So go ahead and make the most of it. One last fling in the summer sun.

We wish one and all a fun and rewarding celebration this coming weekend. It is certainly well deserved and welcome.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

hope to see her out and about more. Happy birthday **Patty Oppedisano**. We wish her a great day. Happy birthday to the sister of our former publisher, **Marilyn Publicover**, who is celebrating this week. We wish her the very best. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Isabel Mercauto, Thomas B. Mercier, Donna M Morabito, Mary Casavant, Len Glionna, Dennis Kacoyanis, Nick Stavre, Guillermo Samuel Hamlin and Billy Harrison** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Fire Department’s annual fire hydrant inspections** have begun and will continue **through Saturday, September 3**. Disturbed water main sediment can potentially cause rusty or discolored water, but does not pose a health hazard. It could stain fabric, however, so residents are advised not to do laundry while water is discolored. This rusty condition will be temporary. Anyone with questions about this procedure may contact the Somerville Fire Department at 617-623-1700. Learn more at <https://www.somervillema.gov>

\*\*\*\*\*

Classes are beginning for **Somerville**

**Public Schools**. School starts today, **August 31** for students in **grades 1-12**. Students in **pre-kindergarten and kindergarten** start school on **September 6**.

\*\*\*\*\*

Free, blank **CharlieCards** are now available at all **Somerville library locations** (Central, East, and West branches) during regular hours, while supplies last. Register your CharlieCard at <https://www.mbta.com/fares/charliecard> or visit <https://www.somervillema.gov>

\*\*\*\*\*

The 30-day **full closure** of the **Orange Line** from Oak Grove to Forest Hills stations and the 28-day closure of the **Green**

**Line** from Union Square to Government Center stations began. The MBTA released the **Rider’s Guideweb** to help commuters. Read the full release on our website, [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Gilman Square Neighborhood Association** would like to invite you all to join them on **Saturday September 10**, from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. for their annual **G’22 - Gilman Square Arts and Music Festival** (formerly known as the Gilman Square Block Party) at **Mad Oyster Studios** and on **Pearl St.** between Marshall and Bradley. Based on vendor data from last year, they had

*Continued on page 13*



FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's  
**Olio**  
#839

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. Which country celebrates Labor Day on the first of May?

2. Who is widely believed to be Father of Labor Day in America?

3. The Labor Day Parade was held in America in which year for the first time?

4. What is the name of a non-union sanctioned strike?

5. Before Miley Cyrus recorded *Wrecking Ball*, it was offered to which singer?

6. Who was the first female Prime Minister of Great Britain?
7. What does a funambulist walk on?

8. Area 51 is located in which U.S. state?

9. What rock star moonlights as a horror movie writer and director?

10. On a dartboard, what number is directly opposite No. 1?

11. What is the nickname of the U.S. state of California?

12. Which TV show follows the lives of Jay Pritchett and his family?

Answers on page 12

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. The chicken is the closest living relative of the Tyrannosaurus rex.
2. More than two-thirds of millennials sleep nude.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD  
AWARD-WINNING DRAMAS

- ACROSS
1. Radiant light

5. Ceiling prop

8. Sweatshirt attachment

12. Auricular

13. Lightly colored

14. Like a certain lass

15. Rotterdam or Singapore, e.g.

16. Greek god of love

17. Event host

18. 1960 Golden-Globe winner with Kirk Douglas

20. The Bee \_\_\_\_\_

21. Rowed

22. Costa del \_\_\_\_\_

23. 1922 Pulitzer-winning "Long Day's Journey into Night" author

26. James Cameron's 1997 Oscar-winner

30. Steal

31. "Killers of the Flower Moon" tribal members

34. All's opposite

35. 2021 "royal" Emmy winner

37. "One Fish Two Fish \_\_\_\_\_ Fish..."

38. More eccentric

39. Assistant

40. Expels

42. Before, old-fashioned

43. Consummate professional, in music

45. Mid-body narrowing, pl.

47. Feather glue

48. Library offerings

50. Cry like a baby

52. "The \_\_\_\_\_", 1972 mafia Oscar winner

56. Jeopardy, not the game

57. Type of molding

58. This location

59. Full of blood vessels

60. Christian of haute-couture

61. Suite cleaner

62. Mountain goat terrain

63. D.C. bigwig

64. Middle of March

5. Travesty

6. Not silently

7. Loch \_\_\_\_\_

8. 2012 Emmy-winning espionage thriller

9. Fairy tale opener

10. Half of binary code, pl.

11. Yellow #5, e.g.

13. Bits of wisdom

14. Fathered

19. Bird of prey's weapon

22. Female sib

23. \_\_\_\_\_'s razor

24. Waterwheel

25. Horace's poem

26. Danson and Kennedy

27. Lymph "containers"

28. Lacking vigor

29. Roman counterpart of Greek Demeter

32. Ben Affleck's 2012 Golden Globe
- best drama winner

33. Wow

36. 2000-2003 White House Emmy winner, with The

38. Port city in Japan

40. Get it wrong

41. BOGO offer

44. Total amount

46. Isthmus, pl.

48. Railroad car undercarriage

49. Theater, to Socrates

50. Samuel Adams, e.g.

51. Operatic solo

52. Hermes and Apollo

53. Cabbage amount

54. Great Lake

55. Best Director Oscar-winner Warren Beatty's 1981 film

56. Rubber substitute, acr.
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

CROSSWORD

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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© StatePoint Media

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| O | V | U | M |   |   | D | A | N | A |   | O | B | E | S |
| L | I | M | B |   |   | I | B | I | S |   | A | S | P | I |
|   |   | V | E | L | O | C | I | T | Y |   | T | O | S | S |
|   |   |   |   | E | L | I | D | E |   |   | G | E | L |   |
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| B | A | S | E |   |   |   |   | B | E | L |   |   | S | T |



Somerville to expand MBTA M7 student pass access to all Somerville Public Schools students in grades 7-12



On Monday the MBTA and Somerville Public Schools (SPS) announced the expansion of the City’s M7 program, which launched last school year at the high school level. This year, all SPS students in grades 7-12 will be provided with M7 cards, or M7s, which are MBTA Student CharlieCards that are pre-loaded with monthly passes for the school year and are paid for by SPS. Students with an M7 card can ride the subway, buses, and up to Zone 2 of the Commuter Rail at no cost from the date of distribution through June 30, 2023.

“We are excited to continue this great partnership with the MBTA and to be able to expand the M7 program to our middle grades students this year,” said Dr. Jeff Curley, Acting Superintendent of the Somerville Public Schools. “The M7 MBTA passes help to directly address the transportation barrier that many students face, increasing students’ access to opportunities, programs, and services that might otherwise have been out of reach. We appreciate the School Committee’s, City Council’s, and Mayor Ballantyne’s support of this critical resource for our students.”

“I am proud that we are expanding the M7 program to even more Somerville students this year,” said Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “Funding these passes is one way we are increasing our local investment in youth and families while also advancing our climate action goals. Public transportation is a public good that must be an accessible, reliable resource for all residents, and this is a vital step in that direction. I thank the MBTA, the City Council, and the School Committee for supporting this program and look forward to building on initiatives like these going forward.”

“The MBTA is excited to expand this program with Somerville Public Schools, and to now offer M7s to Somerville’s middle schoolers in addition to high schoolers beginning this school year,” said MBTA General Manager Steve Poflak. “M7s continue to be an excellent benefit for Somerville students, providing completely unlimited travel during the school year on the subway, on all buses, and Zones 1A, 1, and 2 on the Commuter Rail, and allowing Somerville students the ability to travel to their classes, after-school activities, and more at no cost to the student or their family. We continue to appreciate Somerville’s partnership in offering this vital benefit to their students.”

The M7s will be provided to approximately 2,000 Somerville middle and high school students for the upcoming 2022-23 school year as part of a budget line approved by the City Council/School Committee in July 2022. The M7s are pre-loaded with monthly passes for unlimited travel on the subway, Local or Express buses, and Commuter Rail Zones 1A, 1, and 2 from September through June.

During July and August, M7s offer the same discounts as S-Cards – reduced (roughly 50% off) one-way fares, or \$30 monthly or \$10 7-day passes for unlimited travel on the subway and Local or Express buses – though students or their families must add value to the cards. Students may also use their M7 Card to get 50% off the standard one-way fare or monthly passes for Commuter Rail Zones 3-10 and ferry printed on a CharlieTicket.

The MBTA collaborates with municipalities and middle and high schools in the region to offer students year-round discounted MBTA fares for the bus, subway, Commuter Rail, and ferry. Through the MBTA’s Student Pass Program, schools may sign up to provide cards and have families pay for them via the S-Card, or schools can cover the cost via the M7 card. Other cities, towns, and schools interested in providing discounted fares to their students can learn more by visiting mbta.com.

The Somerville Times  
Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #261

Our City Seal

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

The most historic objects of interest in Somerville are the Old Powder House at the junction of Broadway and College Avenue and the Prospect Hill Memorial Flag Tower and Observatory on Munroe Street.

The Powder House is the older of the two and was quarried and built as a windmill in 1703 from the bluestone beneath it. It is considered to be the most distinct, antique relic in Massachusetts and its image has been the city’s logo for the last fifty years.



Mallet Street was named after its creator and French Huguenot, John Mallet. He and his family originally settled in Oxford, Massachusetts. Because of Indian attacks on their settlement, they were forced to return closer to the safety of Boston. Mallet’s wind-operated gristmill catered to the needs of local farmers. Upon his passing in 1722, he left the property to his sons who continued to grind corn until 1747. They then sold the mill to the Province of Massachusetts Bay who then converted it into an armory for storage of gunpowder and ordnance. It then became the site of one of the earliest hostile occurrences of the Revolutionary War.



Two hundred and forty-five years ago this week, on September 1, 1774, British troops seized the 250 half-barrels of gunpowder that were stored within it. This incident caused a far-reaching assembly of patriots and mustering of arms. It was a dry-run for Lexington where eight months later their Minuteman training proved their value. Liberty Avenue abuts the Powder House and reminds us what these patriots fought and won for all of us during the eight-year rebellion.

The Prospect Hill Tower was built and Continued on page 12



## LEGAL NOTICES

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**City of Somerville  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, September 7, 2022**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8927824836080309773>  
Webinar ID: 504-557-091

**TO CALL IN**

Phone number: 1 (415) 655-0060  
Access code: 846-932-440

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

- 10 Washington Street** Paradigm Direct Roland, LLC proposes to develop a four (4)-story LEED Platinum commercial building in the Commercial Industry (CI) zoning district, which requires Site Plan Approval and one (1) Special Permit.
- 10 Oak Street** Fidelis Bridge Loan Venture V REO LLC seeks an extension to a previously issued Special Permit (ZBA 2018-10) in the Urban Residential (UR) District.
- 141 Central Street** Tobin Wells proposes to construct a conforming building component to a non-conforming building type in the Neighborhood Residential (NR) zoning district, which requires a Special Permit.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

8/24/22, 8/31/22 The Somerville Times

**Notice of Self Storage Sale**

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com) on 9/14/2022 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Kim Collins unit #1302. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

8/24/22, 8/31/22 The Somerville Times

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


**City of Somerville  
PLANNING BOARD**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, September 8, 2022**, 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/1175725801027024398>  
Webinar ID: 443-834-947

**TO CALL IN**

Phone number: 1 (631) 992-3221  
Access code: 300-031-094

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

- 16 and 20 Medford Street** Somerville Living, LLC proposes to establish a Household Living principle use in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) zoning district, which requires a Special Permit.

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

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

8/24/22, 8/31/22 The Somerville Times

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court**

MIDDLESEX Division Docket No. MI22P4332EA

**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Estate of: **Daniel J. Lavoie**  
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Also Known As: **Daniel Lavoie**Date of Death: **July 8, 2022**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of

Petitioner **Barry R. Lavoie of So. Dennis MA**  
First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

[x] **Barry R. Lavoie of So. Dennis MA**  
First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve [ ] with [x] **without surety** on the bond.

**The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.**

8/31/22 The Somerville Times

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

**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, September 8th, 2022** at 5:00 p.m. using GotoWebinar software to consider the removal of the following public shade tree(s):

- 2 Harding Street (Boynton Yards)** – 15.4-inch diameter white ash due to conflict with planned construction activities. Location will be replanted.
- 3-5 Hawkins Street** – 6.2-inch diameter cherry due to conflict with planned construction activities. Location will be replanted
- 3. 270 Alewife Brook Parkway (Clarendon Hill, Somerville Housing Authority)** – 17-inch diameter pin oak due to conflict with planned construction activities. Location will be replanted.

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](mailto:trees@somervillema.gov), or mailed to: 1 Franey Rd., Somerville, MA. 02145.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, 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](mailto:trees@somervillema.gov).

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Webinar ID: 988-419-443

Registration URL: <https://tinyurl.com/thsept22>**TO CALL IN**

United States: +1 (631) 992-3221  
Access code: 930-827-278

8/31/22 The Somerville Times


**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
8 BONAIR STREET  
SOMERVILLE, MA 02145  
RFP# S2023-05**

The School Committee of the City of Somerville invites sealed bids for:

**A CONSULTANT FOR THE SEARCH AND HIRING OF A  
SUPERINTENDENT FOR SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Each Proposal shall be submitted in two separate sealed envelopes clearly marked "Price Proposal for A Consultant for the Search and Hiring of a Superintendent" and a "Non-Price Proposal for A Consultant for the Search and Hiring of a Superintendent" in accordance with the Request for Proposal and Contract Documents which may be obtained at the Finance Office (Room 321), Somerville School Department, 8 Bonair Street, Somerville, MA 02145 on or after **Tuesday, August 30, 2022** Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

All Proposals shall be filed no later than **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20, 2022** at the Finance Office, Somerville School Department, 8 Bonair Street, Somerville, MA 02145. There will be a Proposal review including possible interviews with the finalists.

Please contact Leah Arredondo ([laredondo@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:laredondo@k12.somerville.ma.us)) or call 617-629-5218 to receive the proposal and register as a proposal vendor.

**The School Committee of the City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part or parts thereof, waive any minor informality in the Bid process and to award the Contract that is deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville School Department.**

**Francis Gorski  
Chief Financial Officer  
Somerville Public Schools**

8/31/22 The Somerville Times



LEGAL NOTICES

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Suffolk Probate and Family Court  
24 New Chardon Street  
Boston, MA 02114

SUFFOLK DivisionDocket No. SU20D0113DR

DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING


Angela Acosta De Melara vs. Jose Melara

To Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.  
The Complaint is on file at the Court.  
An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party .**SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411**  
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:  
**Francisco J Rosa, Esq.**  
**Rose and Taing Law, LLC**  
**1550 Middlesex St**  
**Lowell, MA 01851**  
your answer, if any on or before **11/02/2022**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: August 24, 2022.  

**Felix D. Arroyo**  
Register of Probate

8/31/22 The Somerville Times




CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP# 23-13

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites proposals for:  
**On-Call Consultant for Facilitation and Mediation Services**  
The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, August 31st, 2022**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Thursday, September 15th, 2022**.  
The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any minor informality in the RFP process, and accept the proposal(s) deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.  
Please email [jremy@somervillema.gov](mailto:jremy@somervillema.gov) for more information.  

**Jordan Remy**  
Procurement Analyst  
617-625-6600 x3400

8/31/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
REBID RFP# 22-28

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites proposals for:  
**Chief of Police Search Consultant**  
The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, August 31st, 2022**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, September 21st, 2022**.  
The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any minor informality in the RFP process, and accept the proposal(s) deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.  
Please email [procurement@somervillema.gov](mailto:procurement@somervillema.gov) for more information.  

**Thupten Chukhatsang**  
Senior Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3400

8/31/22 The Somerville Times

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City of Somerville to mark International Overdose Awareness Day, Recovery Month

In recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day on Wednesday, August 31, and Recovery Month in September, the City of Somerville will plant 15 purple flags on the City Hall lawn in memory of the 15 Somerville residents who died of an opioid-related overdose in 2021.

A larger flag will also be on display in recognition of all Somerville residents who have died of an overdose. City Hall will be illuminated with purple lights through September to bring awareness to Recovery Month.

International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event that aims to raise awareness and reduce stigma of overdose, and Recovery Month is observed nationally to promote evidence-based recovery practices. Here are some ways Somerville residents can take action and show support:

Pick up free Narcan, fentanyl test strips, and more resources at a distribution event:

Wednesday, August 31, at City Hall, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 15, Union Square Plaza, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Friday, September 30, Foss Park (corner of Broadway and McGrath), 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Attend a virtual Overdose Prevention Training to learn how to prevent, recognize, and respond to an opioid overdose. The next session is Tuesday, September 6, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. at [bit.ly/odprevention22](https://bit.ly/odprevention22). To schedule a training at a different time, email Matt Mitchell, Prevention Services Manager, at [mmitchell@somervillema.gov](mailto:mmitchell@somervillema.gov).

Read the Fenway Health report about opening a supervised consumption site in Somerville and stay tuned for opportunities to engage with that process.

Wear purple or display purple lights, ribbons, or flags.

Follow Somerville Prevention on Instagram ([@somervilleprevention](https://www.instagram.com/somervilleprevention)) for information on overdose prevention, upcoming overdose prevention training opportunities, and other educational resources, and consider sharing the content to promote awareness and educate community members.



## Call to Artists for the Ignite Festival 2022

To celebrate Union Square's sizzling food landscape, the Somerville Arts Council is issuing an open call to artists working in various genres this year's Ignite Festival, an evening celebration of global culture and all things illuminated. If you are interested in participating, submit your proposal via Ignite Google Form Talent Application, located on the event page of SAC website. Deadline to apply is September 12 <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/artunion/2022/ignite>. Ignite Festival brings you an evening of international eats, fire throwers, roving entertainment, and a raucous celebration of global culture!

## Meet and greet for Andrea Campbell



On Tuesday, August 23, Representative Christine Barber and Mayor Katjana Ballantyne had a meet and greet for Andrea Campbell who is a candidate for Attorney General at La Catina Mexicana in Union Sq.

Former Aldermen Dennis Sullivan and Bob McWatters are supporting her candidacy.

## The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week

CONT. FROM PG 9

celebrated in 1903, two hundred years after the Old Powder House took shape. Somerville's first city seal was a representation of General Washington standing on Prospect Hill with the Union flag unfurled. On its right was a view of the State House in Boston and on its left was a view of Charlestown and its Bunker Hill Monument. Within a circle around the same is the inscription: Somerville. Founded 1842, Established a city 1872. On the outer circle around the above, is the city motto, "Municipal Freedom Gives National Strength."

Somerville's first city seal, The General Washington Prospect Hill version, lasted 100 years. It was replaced in 1972 by today's Powder House seal which is 50 years old this year. These historically celebrated seals and their motto still hold true today – Municipal Freedom Gives National Strength!



Ms. Cam's

From page 8

# Olio

Answers

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. China  | 7. A tight rope      |
| 2. Peter McGuire                                | 8. Nevada            |
| 3. Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City | 9. Rob Zombie        |
| 4. Unofficial strike                            | 10. 19               |
| 5. Beyoncé                                      | 11. The Golden State |
| 6. Margaret Thatcher                            | 12. Modern Family    |

## BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Where does seaweed look for a job?  
In the kelp-wanted section

## On This Day in History

### August 31

1756 – The British at Fort William Henry, New York, surrender to Louis Montcalm of France.

1802 – Captain Meriwether Lewis leaves Pittsburgh to meet up with Captain William Clark and begin their trek to the Pacific Ocean.

1919 – The Communist Labor Party is founded in Chicago, with the motto, "Workers of the world unite!"

1928 – Kurt Weill's The Threepenny Opera opens in Berlin.

1942 – The British army under General Bernard Law Montgomery defeats Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps in the Battle of Alam Halfa in Egypt.

1961 – A concrete wall replaces the barbed wire fence that separates East and West Germany, it will be called the Berlin wall.

1990 – East and West Germany sign the Treaty of Unification (Einigungsvertrag) to join their legal and political systems.

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**857-488-5138**



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

between 600-800 attendees. This year, with the addition of 4x the local vendors and artists, they are expecting to see an even larger turnout. They have several local artists, many from the Gilman Square neighborhood, selling their work as well as arts and crafts activities for kids. There will be four fantastic musician groups, including **Alastair Moock** playing at noon, who will be playing music geared towards the kids. They will also have several local organizations (**the Y, OSPCD, PTA groups**, and others) sharing information and soliciting neighborhood input, as well as several local food, beverage, and produce vendors keeping everyone fed and hydrated. It will be a fun filled day of celebrating Gilman Square and Somerville. Visit G'22 Facebook Event for more information.

The **SHS Class of 1982 40th Reunion** will be held at the **Sons of Italy**, 117 Swanton St, Winchester, MA on **November 15, 6:30-11:30pm**. Cost: \$40 per person, dinner included, cash bar. (\$50 after November 4). Payment methods: include Paypal: [mbmbrennan44@gmail.com](mailto:mbmbrennan44@gmail.com), Venmo: SHS Class of 1982 @shsclas-sof1982, Check: made out to SHS Class of 1982 mailed to **Marybeth Caturello**, 85 MacArthur Road Stoneham, MA 02180. For any other questions, please email **Marybeth Brennan** at [mbmbrennan@comcast.net](mailto:mbmbrennan@comcast.net) or call Marybeth Caturello at 617-851-2519.

The **federal government** is pausing delivery of **free COVID-19 at-home tests** on **Friday, September 2**. Right now, all households can order three rounds of eight rapid antigen tests. Orders placed before the deadline will be completed. Get yours now at [www.covid.gov/tests](https://www.covid.gov/tests).

Join the **Somerville Chamber of Commerce** on **September 20** at the **Donald Ross** designed **Sandy Burr Country Club Golf Course** with lunch and dinner on site. There are many ways to participate – golf, sponsor, contribute swag (80 count), contribute raffle items, volunteer for registration desk or for hole in one witness: [\[ber-golf-classic-1652\]\(https://www.somervillechamber.org/events/details/chamber-golf-classic-1652\).  
Save the date, \*\*Saturday, September 10, 10:00 a.m.\*\* for the \*\*Ryan Harrington Foundation Cornhole Tournament\*\*, taking place at \*\*Trum Field\*\*. Registration will be available online shortly. Registration fee is \\$50 per team, two players per team. There are men's and women's divisions. A cash prize goes to the winners of each division. They will be selling t-shirts, hats, food and drinks at the field as well as having raffle items and a 50/50. There will also be kids activities. All monies raised will go to youth organizations in local communities.](https://business.somervillechamber.org/events/details/cham-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

The **Somerville Flea** is now open **Sundays** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., **52 Holland St.**, Somerville. Three dozen local vintage and artisan vendors, farm stand and live music all in the heart of Davis Square. Find that special thing you never knew you even existed. Every **Sunday through October 23**.

At-home **COVID-19 tests** are a quick, convenient way to reduce transmission of the virus and protect friends and loved ones. Stock up now if you're running low. Free test kits are available at the following Somerville locations (one kit per family member): **City Hall**, 93 Highland Ave.; **City Hall Annex**, 50 Evergreen Ave.; **Central Library**, 79 Highland Ave.; **East Branch Library**, 115 Broadway; and **West Branch Library**, 40 College Ave. Each household is also eligible for three free shipments of tests from the federal government, and if you have health insurance, your provider may also cover the costs of at-home tests. Learn more at [somerville-ma.gov/covidtesting](https://www.somerville-ma.gov/covidtesting).

**Tufts Outdoor Movie Night** is presenting a free outdoor screening of Disney's **Encanto** on **Friday, September 9**, at 7:30 p.m. on Fletcher Field (111 Professors Row, Somerville). Attendees may arrive between 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. Parking will be available at Dowling Hall (419 Boston Avenue, Medford). Popcorn and water will be provided. Free [\[to-tickets-406932194147\]\(https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-movie-night-encanto-to-tickets-406932194147\)  
Visit \*\*South Street Farm\*\* on \*\*Sunday, September 18\*\* from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. to celebrate \*\*Groundwork's 22nd annual Harvest Gala\*\*. There will be food, drinks, live music, raffles, auctions, and many old and new friends. Buy tickets today via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/harvestgala>.](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-movie-night-encan-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

The **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** is now available 24/7, 365 days a year in Massachusetts and across the country. 988 is a direct three-digit phone line to trained **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** call takers. If you need suicide, substance use, or mental health crisis support, or if you are worried about someone else, you can call or text 988 or use the chatline at [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org) to access compassionate care and support.

**Riverfest 2022** is taking place **Saturday, September 10, 12:00 p.m.**, at **Assembly Row** at Assembly. To cap off the summer season, Riverfest will return with a day filled with free events, fun, and fireworks all brought to you by **Assembly Row** and **Capital One Café**. Browse handmade goods at our mini craft fair brought to you by **Boston Women's Market** from 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. Starting at 4:00 p.m., enjoy live music at **Night Shift's Owl's Nest** and check out activities and games like music, a Chalk Walk, airbrush tattoos and retailer giveaways, all culminating in a fireworks show over the Mystic River!

Save the date for **SomerStreets: Strike Up the Bands** on **Sunday, September 11**, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Highland Ave. between Central St to Lowell St. A free and family friendly event. This street festival includes local craft vendors, community tabling groups and many interactive activities for kids and adults. Don't miss **Esh Circus Arts, Parkour Generations, Somerville Recreation activities**, and **Event Them** bringing all the yard games.

**One Man's Trash** at the **Arts at the Armory**, **Friday, September 9, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.** Residing behind bins and beneath trash can lids, inventive acrobats, high-fly-

ing aerialists, and quirky clowns welcome you into their world for a junkyard adventure. Inhabiting a space of discovery and fun, this repurposed circus turns trash into treasure. Dive into our dumpsters to see how we recycle, reuse, and reinvent rubbish into a circus extravaganza. Tickets [cirque-us.ticketleap.com/one-mans-trash-a-repurposed-circus](https://cirque-us.ticketleap.com/one-mans-trash-a-repurposed-circus). [www.TheCirqueUs.com](https://www.TheCirqueUs.com).

Don't forget to visit **Somerville's farmers markets**. Every **Wednesday through November 23, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.** visit the **Davis Square Farmers Market**, across from American Flatbread at **44 Day St**. Visit: <https://www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis>. Every **Saturday through October 29, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, the **Union Square Farmers Market** takes place at 66-70 Union Sq. visit: <https://www.unionsquaremain.org/2022-fmseason>. Every **Sunday through November 20**, the **East Somerville Farmers Market** takes place at **115 Broadway, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** Visit <https://www.east-somervillemainstreets.org/market>. There is a \$15 SNAP match at all Farmers Markets across Somerville.

The **Somerville Mobile Farmers Market** is open for the season, selling fresh, local produce **through October 15**. The market schedule is as follows: **Fridays: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** at the **Council on Aging/SCALE** (167 Holland St.); 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.: **East Somerville Community School** (50 Cross St.) **Saturdays: 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.:** **North Street Housing** (24 North St.); 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.: **Mystic Housing** (Playground between 15B and 25B Memorial Rd.). The market accepts cash, debit, credit, SNAP, WIC Farmers Market Coupons, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons, and it offers an unlimited 50% discount for anyone who needs it. All are welcome. To learn more, visit: [somervillema.gov/farmersmarket](https://www.somervillema.gov/farmersmarket).

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# City reevaluates confirmations process after Civil Service Commission rebuke

CONT. FROM PG 4

consists of Ward 7 Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld (Chair), Councilor At-Large Kristen Strezo (Vice Chair), Councilor At-Large Charlotte Kelly, Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan, and Councilor At-Large Jake Wilson.

At last week's City Council meeting, councilors took the opportunity to express their views on the Commission's ruling.

Councilor Pineda Neufeld spoke about the effects of the decision on how the Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee conducts its business. "I know you all received the recent decision in the Fairchild case. It's important reading, I would encourage you to read through it," Pineda Neufeld said. "As I was going through it as the Chair of the Confirmations Committee, there are some real key critical pieces in here that impact our process and the way in which we interview and confirm candidates."

Pineda Neufeld specifically cited the Commission's view concerning political influences in the confirmations process. "That feels like it has a major impact on our committee and how we move forward," she said. "I submitted this order so that we have a conversation with our legal team and City Solicitor and their office about how it impacts our committee, what we need to glean from this in terms of learning moving forward."

Attorney Tim Zessin, who represented the city in this matter, addressed the Council. He said that this was a difficult case and that the Commission had issues with the manner in which the Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee conducted its interview and confirmation process, as well as the role the Council has in the process.

"Obviously, I imagine the Council is disappointed," Zessin began. "I think this was a difficult case, and clearly the Commission and [Commissioner] Mr. Stein had issues with the way Council and the Confirmations Committee conducted their review as part of the nomination and confirmation process. I think there are some takeaways from this decision. I still believe there is a role for the Council and the Confirmations Committee to play in the appointments process."

Zessin said that as he drilled down on the decision, the Commission did not go so far as to say the Council is a rubber stamp. "I think there is some limitations, but there still is a role in the nomination process."

Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott said that he was not disappointed with the outcome of the decision. "I was thoroughly impressed with Mr. Fairchild during the interview process," said Scott. "One of my big takeaways from this is the Commissioner strongly cautioned the city to carefully protect, obviously, personal medical history as a matter of high importance. Prior to making a conditional job offer an employer should have evaluated all relevant non-medical information."

Scott asked Zessin if he felt that having the confirmation process happen before evaluating any medical evaluation would be a more prudent course of action in the future. Zessin agreed that conducting interviews prior to the candidates having their physical exams might alleviate some of the problems, however he stated that would be a policy decision.

Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis expressed his pleasure with the outcome of the decision and noted that the Committee did not have access to the transcript/video between the candidate and

the Police Department. He went on to say that the Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee has, for years, requested additional information about candidates, only to be denied by the Administration.

Councilor At-Large and Confirmations Committee member Kristen Strezo, after citing critical language in the Commission's ruling, flatly stated that it is an embarrassment to the City of Somerville.

City Council President and Ward 1 Councilor McLaughlin commented that most people try to do the right thing, but sometimes mistakes are made. "Lots of times people, and I'm including myself, I've acknowledged in the past my zeal ended up negatively impacting individuals because I felt that I was right at the time. And I think that happens often in society," McLaughlin said. "And I look at this and I'm really just taken back by – I read this whole report and I didn't hear once this report state that the Administration, that the City of Somerville did something wrong. But they repeatedly admonished the City Council and the Confirmation of Appointments Committee."

McLaughlin continued, "And I know I'm not a lawyer and I'm not a judge either, and I've read some legal reviews and I've rarely seen a judge speak so candidly describing the City Council's conduct as 'improper conduct, lacking merit, patently absurd, flow from arbitrary and capricious decision, from the City Council, unsubstantiated by evidence and fall woefully short of being based on a properly vetted, reasonably thorough review of relevant facts.' And to one of my colleague's points that we should have gotten this information beforehand, this Commissioner says the question shouldn't have even been asked

and is problematic that it was even asked to begin with."

"So, to say that the behavior of the Council is defensible because we didn't receive a piece of information, that falls woefully short of any logic in my mind," said McLaughlin. "I was one of the main people who tried to make the Confirmation of Appointments Committee a relevant committee, that was a rubber stamp for many years, and I feel now that it has swung in the other direction, where guilt is presumed before innocence, and people are arbitrarily, capriciously dismissed and have their names disparaged, have potential job employment ruined."

McLaughlin expressed his opinion that the Council should never have rejected Fairchild's appointment to begin with. "It's troublesome to me that rather than say, 'I apologize to Mr. Fairchild for putting you through this. For not only denying you a job in the City of Somerville but for potentially denying you employment in future aspects. Publicly calling you a liar.' If you can't make a logical decision because you were denied information, maybe don't call someone a liar. And maybe don't say on the record, 'The two who did not lie, thank you. The Committee is doing its best to surround you with honest associates.' And then proceed to vote against every candidate, regardless of their merit."

"So, I think this is very black and white," McLaughlin continued. "Again, I'm not a lawyer, but I felt like this case specifically said this City Council can only judge candidates based on merit. And what I see from the judge's opinion is that it was a flawed, capricious and arbitrary decision, politically motivated. These are the judge's words, the Commissioner's words, not mine. But I agree with this person's opinion that

judging from the fact that there was a 3 to 2 vote on every single person that appeared before the Committee that day – and one of them was rejected by everyone – but two others were rejected for a stated reason of politics, which this Commissioner goes out of the way to say that this is problematic and a red flag."

McLaughlin continued, "So, I really want to give everyone the benefit of the doubt, but I am saying this now as the Council President, and as somebody who is really disturbed by the way occasionally zeal and the feeling of being right might get in the way of hurting individuals. And I think this is what happened, I think people have their views and their values, and they're trying to live by their values, but I just encourage people around this Council to maybe think about the consequences of your actions and the individual in front of you, who is not here for the revolution, they're not here for anything besides to work in the City of Somerville, feed their families, and they did not sign up to be publicly humiliated."

"I'm taken back by the lack of remorse," McLaughlin said in conclusion. "This man deserves an apology and if people aren't willing to apologize, I will apologize on my behalf, because I can't speak for anyone else but myself."

The Order was approved and sent to the Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee for discussion follow-up.

A video of this City Council meeting is available for viewing at: <https://somervillema.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

You can download the full text of the Civil Service Commission ruling at: [http://thesomervilletimes.com/downloads/fairchild\\_court\\_order.pdf](http://thesomervilletimes.com/downloads/fairchild_court_order.pdf)

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Mercy' by Bill Littlefield

Mercy  
By Bill Littlefield  
Black Rose Writing, Texas  
242 pages, \$20.95.

Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Ed Meek

John Gardner (*The Art of Fiction*) would call *Mercy* an architectonic novel. It is written using a number of different points of view. For it to be successful, the author has to be able to create convincing characters and, when he changes point of view, we have to be invested enough in the characters to go along for the ride. And somehow, the author must manage to tie or bring these characters together. Littlefield delivers in his compelling new novel *Mercy*. And these days, with the stress of a pandemic and a Russian invasion of Ukraine, the notion that we could both show and use a little mercy really strikes a chord.

You may know Bill Littlefield from his work as host of *It's Only a Game*, the popular NPR show that he created. As someone who spent years telling and listening to stories, Littlefield is adept at storytelling. He has also worked with the incarcerated for a number of years through Emerson College's prison program. In *Mercy*, Littlefield is able to bring some of the many tales he must have heard to life. His wide range of experiences lends his voice authority, particularly when he writes from the point of view of characters in the novel on the wrong side of the law.

*Mercy* is set in a suburban neighborhood inhabited by a cross-section of characters. An older couple with a young son, a woman whose husband loses all their money by day-trading, and a famous gangster who has been returned home from jail to die in the house lived in by his wife. Two guys who worked for the gangster are also integral to the plot.

In this type of novel, you'll find yourself, depending on your background, identifying with some characters more than others or maybe not identifying but appreciating. My favorites were the small-time bad guys, Francis and Gibby, who did odd jobs for the gangster, Arthur Baladino. Their dialogue crackles like the exchanges in a Dennis Lehane novel. Francis tells Gibby about a guy he met in jail for murder who said to him: "I don't consider myself a murderer."

"Nobody guilty in here," Gibby said.  
"No, no, that's not it," Francis said. "He's defending himself, the way he sees it..."  
"Okay," Gibby said.  
"But the main thing, his point, this guy, he's just

doing what it is he does. He's out there with his guys, that's all. He's got a gun... 'Murderer?' he tells me, Murderer's a guy does it for money."

As you read *Mercy*, you'll find yourself nodding along with the stories the characters tell. Like Jack you may remember "the cruelty of children." Jack tells us of a kid coming up behind him as he was walking along with a friend; the kid banged their heads together. "Every kid has something like that to get through. Or bullying. Teasing. Having to go the bathroom and the teacher won't let you."

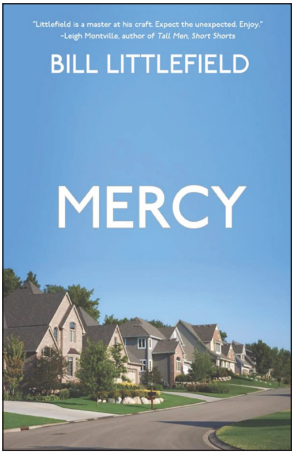
We didn't have a murderer like Arthur Baladino in our neighborhood in Milton, but we did have a counterfeiter next door, and around the corner was a child molester who seduced (if that's the word) the paper-boy.

The theme of *Mercy* comes into play in the ways the characters help and support each other. The couple that sticks together despite having to deal with the unimaginable. The gangster's wife who takes him in when he's released from jail. Two women who find love with each other late in life. No matter who we are, we've all had difficult situations to deal with. Even Arthur Baladino and his wife have terrible things happen to them that makes them sympathetic characters.

Echoing John Edgar Wideman who writes about the younger brother who has spent his life in jail for his involvement in a murder, Littlefield doesn't let his wise guys off the hook, but he would like us to see them as human beings.

"What it is, I guess is, people are people, inside or out. Some of 'em do stuff, you know when they're young guys, whatever." Says Francis referring to the way, men he knew in prison grow and change. Most of the violent crime, as we know, is committed by young men. And we've learned that young men are not very good at considering the consequences of their actions.

The plot of the novel revolves around the many secrets simmering beneath the surface of the lives of the characters and Littlefield slowly teases them out to connect the disparate voices in *Mercy*. You'll find yourself having a hard time putting *Mercy* down as you turn the pages to find out what happens next.

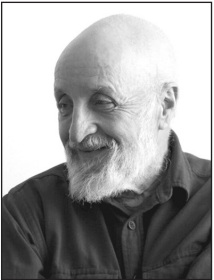


Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Bert Stern is the author of two previous poetry collections, *Silk/The Ragpicker's Grandson* and *Steerage*, as well as the critical book *Wallace Stevens: Art of Uncertainty*, and *Winter in China*, a monograph on American expatriate Robert Winter. He is Milligan Professor of English Emeritus at Wabash College, and has also taught at the University of Thessaloniki as Fulbright Professor of English and at Peking University. Stern served as chief editor for Hilton Publishing, and for fifteen years taught for Changing Lives through Literature, a program designed for men and women on probation. He lives in Somerville, Massachusetts.



The Drunken Captain Remembers the Sea

The Drunken Captain Remembers the Sea

and gladly drowns there. Children

remember birdsong that politicians

have forgotten. Greedy gulls peck

along the beach, forgetting

freshening winds. Come spring,

empty and anxious, poll booths

await the end of the world

but would vote for peace

if they could register.

— Bert Stern

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