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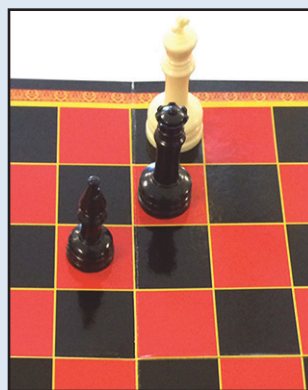
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COA celebrates the 250th

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Use of police body-worn cameras approved in Somerville



The Somerville City Council approved the use of a state grant to purchase and implement body-worn cameras for police officers.

By Christa Lee

The City of Somerville's City Council held a public hearing on July 27 and approved using a \$231,635 state grant on police body-worn cameras, which expires on August 31. The grant and other funds saved for this reason is expected to cover all costs for the 2027 financial year.

Mayor Wilson started his presentation with a strong statement that the "community is tired of waiting for action on commitments to police reform that were made six years ago in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd." He continued by discussing the collaborative work put into the policy, which "specifically contains provisions granting a civilian oversight body access to body-worn camera video."

There was a mix of opinions *Continued on page 4*

Rat***** Music Fest returns to Union Square

On Saturday, August 22 and Sunday, August 23, Rat***** Music Fest (formerly Ratchella) will be held once again in Union Square.

Hosted by Yardwork Productions, the fest's third iteration comes with a cheeky nod to its former name, after last year's organizers were threatened with a cease and desist from Coachella for use of their trademarked "chella".

Featuring 14 live bands over one weekend, Rat***** takes place outdoors at 321 Washington Street, rain or shine. The fest is headlined by Lady Lamb from Maine, an indie artist with a cult following who has previously headlined at Arts at the Armory and The Sinclair. Sunday's headliner is indie pop group Nova One from Providence, who are coming off the release of their album "how to kiss," released this March and

Continued on page 4



The Rat***** Music Fest will be held on Saturday, August 22 and Sunday, August 23 in Union Square.

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The views and opinions expressed in Newstalk do not necessarily reflect those of The Somerville Times, its publisher or staff. The column has many contributors.

The city is inviting residents, artists, cultural organizations, and creative businesses to help shape what could become the first **Municipal Cultural Trust in Massachusetts**, a new tool designed to protect affordable creative space and prevent artist displacement. Community members can give feedback during a three-part meeting series that begins Wednesday, August 5, at the Central Library (79 Highland Ave.) at 6 p.m. Each meeting will focus on a different stage of the Cultural Trust discussion. Full schedule: <https://www.somervillema.gov/news/somerville-seeks-community-input-first-its-kind-cultural-trust>

Somerville's **Yart Sale** returns **August 8**. Somerville's porches, driveways, and front yards will transform into mini galleries and pop-up markets as Yart Sale returns on Saturday, August 8 (rain date: August 9) from noon to 6 p.m. Expect to find paintings, photography, handmade objects, jewelry, art supplies and tools, collectible items, plants, frames, vintage clothes, and more. For full event guidelines, visit: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/yart-sale/>.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **Donna Cassaro-Sides**. We hope she has a great day. We wish all of our celebrating Facebook friends, such as **Montague Helen Kern**, **Zach Corey**, **Keith Anderson**, **John Alan Roderick**, **Heather Hanson**, **Barry Atkins**, **Maria Mancini**, **Heather Marie Driscoll**, **Kathleen J Gatta**, **Trish Bean Oakland**, and

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of August 5 – August 11 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>August 5</i>	Partly Cloudy	86°/71°	6%	2%	SW 7 mph
 Thursday <i>August 6</i>	Thunderstorms	90°/74°	33%	13%	SW 8 mph
 Friday <i>August 7</i>	Thunderstorms	89°/72°	45%	19%	WSW 9 mph
 Saturday <i>August 8</i>	Thunderstorms	89°/73°	50%	36%	S 10 mph
 Sunday <i>August 9</i>	Partly Cloudy	90°/69°	22%	14%	WSW 12 mph
 Monday <i>August 10</i>	Partly Cloudy	88°/68°	23%	13%	SW 14 mph
 Tuesday <i>August 11</i>	Thunderstorms	80°/67°	36%	27%	WSW 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: Book review: 'The Strange Case of the Alchemist's Daughter' by Theodora Goss

hijab says:

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

Response to: Elm-Beacon Connector safety improvements to start late summer 2026

In Vino Veritas says:

Look for two things... lots more backups and slow car traffic, continuing to frustrate anyone attempting to drive from point A to point B, and the ongoing issue of idiots cyclists riding the wrong way, screwing around on cell phones, not paying attention (headphones on, head with no helmet buried in a screen). This is not a safety issue, it's a cultural issue. Nobody is paying attention while on the roadways. That and the third-world condition of our streets in the past decade.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138



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Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

Editor – Jim Clark

Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

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Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Harry Kane,
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Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte,
Dorothy Dimarzo, Bob Doherty
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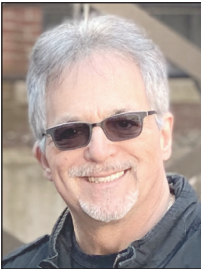
Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

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

The faker



Recently, I had to go into Cambridge Health Alliance’s emergency room when a close friend was rushed there. Thankfully, they were okay, but then my mind started to go back to my early youth.

I have quite a few remembrances from when it was still Somerville Hospital. As a matter of fact, I was at that hospital a lot. Too many times. Many times as a patient, but more times in the ER with a family member or close friend. There were several with tragic results.

I always hated school, especially the 8 years in parochial school with nuns. Some were real nice, most were real scary, and school was run with the utmost sternness. Sister school in the 60’s was serious business. We managed to come out of it with some fun memories, but for the most part, I dreaded almost every day. So I had to devise an escape plan.

I came up with an idea to get myself out of school for a day or two. It seemed simple. I was about 9 years old in 1962 and tried to hatch a cockamamie plan to bang out sick. I would complain to my parents that I had a stomach ache. I figured they would just let me stay home, give me some Brioschi or Pepto, and worst-case scenario, see our family pediatrician, Dr. Goldenberg. I thought about how great it would be skipping school for even just one glorious day. Perhaps I’d watch something on one of the 3 channels on our huge mahogany black-and-white TV! Maybe I’d have ice cream while enjoying The 3 Stooges, or Yogi Bear cartoons.

My dad worked 3-11, so he and my mom were both home the morning I started my Academy Award performance. It was about 7:00 a.m. when my fake stomach ache routine began. “Ow! Mom! My stomach hurts!” My mother was not exactly a full-blown hypochondriac, but let’s say she was very protective and took no chances with the health of her family. We saw our

family Pediatrician a lot. He made house calls too, a lot. He even had a favorite chair in our living room.

Fast forward to the next day, and I’m at Somerville Hospital being examined by a surgeon! Are you kidding? A doctor in a hospital is now trying to find the source of my fake stomach ache. I was getting very nervous. It wasn’t going as planned. Next thing you know, I’m getting my appendix out! My pretend stomach ache turned into inpatient surgery.

I remembered getting my tonsils out years earlier, and it was no picnic. My little brother and I went through our tonsillectomies together, and it was a very frightening memory for me. Now I was back in the hospital and terrified. I remember promising God that I’d never lie again, but out came the appendix. I got presents, and visitors, and Ice cream and more than the one or two days off from school I’d planned. It was very painful caring for those stitches and recovering slowly. I couldn’t believe that a made-up



fake pain took such a serious detour.

Boy, did that show me. A kick in the pants lesson in what lying can get you into. The doctor yanked my appendix out even though I made up the ache. Did the surgeon also pull a fake out? Did he remove my appendix for the money, or because he didn’t want to look stupid for not finding the real source of my “pain?” Was my appendix in fact in need of removal? I doubt it.

Two years later I tried to fake another ailment to get out of school. I never dreamed my luck could stink twice. So I complained about a pain in my leg. I even developed a fake limp.

Continued on page 5

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Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: Just because I received a Form 1099, does that automatically mean I owe tax on the amount reported?

A: Not necessarily!

A Form 1099 tells the IRS how much money was paid to you, but it doesn't always tell the IRS how much of that money is actually taxable.

Here are a few common examples:

• **You may have spent money to earn that income.**

If you run a business or are self-employed, you're generally taxed on what's left after your ordinary business expenses—not simply the amount shown on the Form 1099.

• **You may have sold something for less than you paid.**

If you sold personal items online, you could receive a Form 1099-K even though you actually lost money on the sale. For example, if you bought a bicycle for \$900 and later sold it for \$400, you may still receive a Form 1099-K showing the \$400 payment. Because the form was issued, be sure the transaction is properly reported on your tax return (as a personal item sold at a loss) so it isn't treated as taxable income.

• **What matters is how much you actually made.**

If you sold stocks, business property, or certain other investments, make sure what you originally paid is taken into account when preparing your tax return—even if it

doesn't appear on the Form 1099. In many cases, what matters isn't simply how much you received—it's the difference between what you received and what you originally paid.

Bottom Line:

A Form 1099 tells the IRS how much money was paid to you—not necessarily how much of that money is taxable. Before assuming the entire amount is taxable, make sure your tax return reflects the complete picture.

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



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

Use of police body-worn cameras approved in Somerville

CONT. FROM PG 1

present at the hearing. Alexandra Thorn, a member of an organization that fights against surveillance called Digital Fourth, is in opposition to deploying this technology. "The motions approved do not provide the assurance I would want. The police will still have full access to the data," said Thorn. "[And] although the policies also allow for access to the data by a civilian oversight body, Somerville doesn't have any civilian oversight body, and it would take years to create one."

Marea Beeman, criminal defense attorney and criminal justice consultant, supports police body-worn cameras because

of her experiences with using them as evidence in court cases. In one case, her client was charged with "disorderly conduct and with assault and battery on a police officer," but the video evidence showed otherwise. The case was dismissed as a result.

"The video evidence is objective. It cuts both ways," said Beeman. "If there's something that has happened in a case that contradicts what your client is telling you, it's going to be really hard to make that assertion."

This issue had three decisions attached to it: the accepting of the grant money to be used in a body-worn camera program, the policy, and an impact report.

To accept and expend a \$231,635 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to the Police Department for a body-worn camera program.

Yes: Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Strezo, Hardt, McLaughlin, Mbah, and Davis.

No: Link, Scott, Sait, and Wheeler.

Approval of the Technology-Specific Surveillance Use Policy for Body Worn Cameras.

Yes: Clingan, Strezo, Wheeler, Hardt, McLaughlin, Mbah, and Davis.

No: Ewen-Campen, Link, Scott, and Sait.

Approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Body Worn Cameras.

Yes: Clingan, Strezo, Hardt, McLaughlin, Mbah, and Davis.

No: Ewen-Campen, Link, Scott, Sait, and Wheeler.

Approval of this program means body-worn cameras will begin to be implemented in August of this year.

To view the full policy, go to <https://somervillema.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=8144733&GUID=B57A7A7C-8FE0-4C25-A79A-5CAF6205B4CF&Options=&Search=>

Rat***** Music Fest returns to Union Square

CONT. FROM PG 1

performed at last year's Newport Folk Fest.

Doors open at 1 PM on both days, with music starting at 2 PM and ending at 9 PM. One-day tickets are \$35-\$40, and a two-day pass is \$60. The "Very Important Rat" two-day pass is \$150 and includes extra support to the artists, a signed festival poster, and a t-shirt.

What to expect from co-founder Emma Caviness:

"Rat***** got its grassroots start in a backyard as a DIY music venue and remains rooted in the same DIY principles. The fest celebrates collective care through music, art, and gathering, bringing together 14 local and regional bands, 15+ artists and vendors of all media, 5+ community advocacy organizations, 50+ volunteers, and MANY neighbors. We display art created during community art builds made from recycled materials. We also host sound trainings and produce a multimedia

magazine called Rat Tails. Everything we do is grounded in the shared belief that no one is disposable — and that where our joy goes, our rage, and these days more so than ever, our grief, is welcome. We work to build a year-round ecosystem for the world we want to live in."

RATCHELLA 3 Live Music Lineup:

Saturday: Tiberius, Sidebody, Sweet Petunia, Clifford, Dino Gala, Winkler, Lady Lamb.

Sunday: Ugly Ghost, Surgeon General, Ohio State Fair, Main Era, Warmachine, Laveda, Nova One.

RAT***** 3 supporters include Judge Amps, Somerville Arts Council, Union Square Neighborhood Council, The Loov, Everything Matters Press, and more.

About Yardwork Productions

Yardwork Productions is a woman- and gender-queer-run grassroots arts cooperative that organizes community-centered



events in Somerville. We believe that by partying in the neighborhood, we can build solidarity with our neighbors. We value decentralizing power and putting decisions into the hands of the community,

creating the world we want to live in.

Rat***** 3 supporters include Judge Amps, Somerville Arts Council, Union Square Neighborhood Council, The Loov, Everything Matters Press, and more.

New Human Rights report finds strong overall quality of life in Somerville – but persistent inequities demand action

The Somerville Human Rights Commission (HRC) released its 2025–2026 Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in the city, finding that while most indicators show that Somerville is a city with many strengths, significant disparities persist. The Commission is urging city leaders, community organizations, and residents to work together to address these inequities through targeted investments and policy action.

Drawing on publicly available data, interviews, focus groups, and community input, the report identifies immigrant rights and equitable access to basic needs as the Commission's two highest priorities. It concludes that Somerville benefits from a diverse population, strong civic institutions, high educational attainment, robust employment, and broad health insurance coverage. However, citywide averages mask significant neighborhood-level disparities.

The report finds that East Somerville, West Somerville, and Winter Hill consistently experience higher rates of poverty, poorer health outcomes, and greater so-

cial vulnerability than other parts of the city. These neighborhoods also have larger Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino populations, underscoring the need for targeted outreach and investment.

The report also highlights several populations facing disproportionate challenges. Poverty rates are significantly higher among non-whites, female-headed households, and especially older adults. Seniors face a 20% poverty rate, double that of the overall Somerville population. At the same time, immigrants are navigating overlapping pressures, including increased immigration enforcement, changes to federal safety-net programs, and fear of accessing services that remain available because of ICE activity.

To address these challenges, the Commission recommends:

- Expanding rental assistance programs to help low-income residents remain in their homes, with particular attention to older adults, immigrants, and others most affected by the housing crisis.
- Conducting a comprehensive review of services available to older adults living in

poverty and creating programs to address identified gaps.

- Increasing outreach, investment, and services in East Somerville, West Somerville, and Winter Hill to reduce persistent disparities.
- Studying successful grassroots responses to immigration enforcement in Minnesota and developing a framework for a coordinated community response in Somerville.

The report represents the Commission's first comprehensive assessment following its revitalization and reestablishment of a quorum in 2025. It also fulfills the Human Rights Commission's annual reporting responsibility under the Somerville City Ordinance and establishes a baseline for future monitoring of human rights conditions in the city. Commission Co-Chair Salma Kazmi expressed excitement that “this first annual report will help us plan our future work in Somerville.” She “looks forward to partnering with the city and other agencies to strengthen our community by supporting human rights for all Somerville residents.”

The Commission hopes the report will spark community dialogue and strengthen collaboration among residents, non-profit organizations, advocates, and city officials. “Community members have a right to be informed and participate in decisions that shape their lives,” said the HRC’s other Co-Chair Elyse Best. “When basic needs, immigrant safety, and affordable housing are at risk, City leaders must listen to residents and support their solutions.”

The full report is available at <https://tinyurl.com/hrc-report-25-26>. The Commission encourages residents, community organizations, and elected officials to read the report, share it widely, and provide feedback that will help shape future work.

About the Somerville Human Rights Commission: Our mission is to protect the constitutional, civil, and human rights of all people in Somerville. We strive to end discrimination and promote universal access to basic needs, improved quality of life, mutual understanding, and elevated public discourse.

— Somerville Human Rights Commission

Legislature to bring oversight to Massachusetts’ unregulated home care industry

The state legislature passed a bill to help older adults age in place in Massachusetts by requiring home care agencies to be licensed and meet standards for screening, training, and supervision. The bill also creates a commission to make recommendations for social insurance for long-term care as well as a Family Caregiver Commission.

“Everyone – consumers and workers – will be safer and better served with home care licensure in place,” said Senator Patricia D. Jehlen (D-Somerville), Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Aging

and Independence and lead Senate sponsor of the legislation. “This legislation is the culmination of years of collaboration with advocates representing older adults, care providers, unions, and regulators to ensure all agencies are vetted, workers are protected, and consumers receive high-quality care. The commissions on Long Term Services and Supports and Family Caregiving are important next steps in providing more affordable options for our residents to access care and services. I am grateful to the Senate President, her team, my co-chair Representative Stanley and his team, along

with my fellow conferees.”

Regarding the long-term care commission, Jehlen said, “Most of us will need long-term care at some point, and many will find it very hard to afford. The long-term services and supports commission will take the next step toward creating social insurance for long-term care, recommending models with variables such as the required contribution and the amount or duration of benefits. Establishing social insurance for long-term care will make it possible for many more people to age with financial security.”

The Family Caregiver Commission is to study family caregiving policy in Massachusetts. The commission would report on the current landscape of all state-funded efforts in caregiving research, clinical care, institutional and home-based and community-based supports, along with the feasibility of allowing spouses to serve as paid caregivers in the MassHealth program.

The bill is now sent to the Governor for consideration after having passed both branches of the legislature and finalized in a conference committee.

— Office of Senator Patricia D. Jehlen

The faker CONT. FROM PG 3

I ended up back at Somerville Hospital, same surgeon, and you guessed it. Doctor “Invento” found a “Baker’s cyst” behind my right knee. There was no pain. I made it up again, but eight stitches later, another hospital stay, crutches, and one more un-

even scar, and I have part two of my fake pain story. The boy who cried wolf twice. The boy who never learned. The boy who hated school. There is still part of a stitch visible on my leg scar.

One of my dad’s favorite things to say

to me was, “Some day that mouth of yours is going to get you in trouble!” And it has, believe you me. My big mouth and dumb schemes gone wrong problems started at an early age. My big mouth still gets me in trouble today, and I still love a good

scheme.

For a while, Somerville Hospital also had a detox unit and hosted Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. There’s also a liquor store directly across the street. You can’t make this stuff up.

COA 250th celebration lunch event

On Thursday, July 30, the Council on Aging celebrated our nation's 250th at Dilboy Post with a delicious lunch and great music from DJ Hank. Middlesex DA Marian Ryan visited as a special guest.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



COMMENTARY

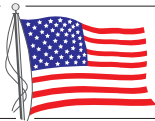
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



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

Our View Of The Times



The Somerville Health and Human Services recently reported that testing by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has detected West Nile Virus (WNV) in mosquitoes collected from Somerville. However, Somerville remains at a “Moderate” risk level for WNV. There have been no animal or human cases of WNV reported in the state so far this season.

- MDPH recommends the following safety measures as precautions:
- 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.

- If an animal is suspected of having WNV, 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

James Bimbo, 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.

Be an **ARTIVIST!** Hands-on arts-advocacy workshop, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the **Somerville Museum**, One Westwood Road. For all ages, families too! Make your own advocacy postcards and campaign signs promoting the value of arts in Somerville. Work with artists from **Humphreys Street Studios** and **Central Street Studios** to express your creative ideas and support artists and artist workspaces. All materials supplied. No regis-

tration necessary, just drop in.

Join **Mayor Jake Wilson** and **Somerville's Council on Aging** for the annual **Mayor's Senior Picnic** at 11:00 a.m. at **Trum Field** on **September 10**. Call **Connie Lorenti** at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319 for a free ticket by September 4. Enjoy good food, music, meeting new people, and catching up with old friends.

The **Somerville Bicycle Committee's August Streetwise** will be held **August 19** at 6 p.m. at **Aeronaut Brewing Company**, 14 Tyler St., featuring **BCU Labs**. From their website: "BCU Labs seeks

to draw insight and tell stories from the wealth of biking data in Boston. Our mission is to leverage the power of data through creative experimentation, learn where Boston can improve its infrastructure ... and continue to empower BCU's advocacy one pedal at a time."

East Somerville's Foodie Crawl 2026, Tuesday, September 15 (Rain Date: September 16), 6 – 8:30 p.m. Join them for an evening of delicious food, local discoveries, live music, and community connection while supporting the work of East Somerville Main Streets. For more information, visit: [\[eastsomervillemainstreets.org/foodie-crawl-2026\]\(https://www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/foodie-crawl-2026\).

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

The risk of West Nile Virus has been raised to Moderate in Somerville. Community members are encouraged to take precautions to protect

Continued on page 9](https://www.eastsomervil-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Block party support



After Saturday's Somerville Democratic Party debate at Somerville High School, City Councilor Will Mbah stopped by a block party on Whitman St., where he met with supporters.

Somerville firefighter arrested in alleged scam case

A Somerville firefighter, Robert Whelan, has been arrested and charged in connection with an alleged World Cup ticket scam. Prosecutors say the firefighter is accused of larceny and forgery after allegedly selling fraudulent tickets to multiple buyers. The firefighter pleaded not guilty in court and was released pending further hearings. City officials have stated that the matter is under internal review, and the case remains under investigation.

Somerville firefighter Robert Whelan in court on Monday. — Photo courtesy of Somerville District Court

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

themselves from mosquito bites and mosquito-borne diseases. For more tips and information, visit www.somervillema.gov/mosquito-advisory.

Kelly's Diner will be celebrating their 30 Anniversary on Wednesday, Sept 16. On Sept 16, everything will be free. Limited menu. Just breakfast. Open 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Somerville Flea is back. Stop by Sundays through October, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., 52 Holland St. Discover the area's best collection of artisan makers and vintage vendors. With 13 Sundays running from August through October, there'll always be something new to explore. Support local businesses, shop

one-of-a-kind finds, and uncover that treasure you never knew you needed or even existed.

Looking for a creative summer activity for your child? Join the Somerville Museum for the Somerville Museum Vacation Arts Program, a week of hands-on artmaking designed for ages 7–11. From August 17 to 21, young artists will explore a new mix of creative workshops each day, including beads and books, terrariums, mosaics, rhythm, printmaking, corn husk doll making, crochet, shell etching, clothing upcycling, and stuffed animal making. All materials and daily snacks are provided. 9 a.m.–12 p.m., Somerville Museum, 1 Westwood Road, \$60 per day or \$250 for the full

Continued on page 14

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #360

This article first appeared in the August 31, 2016, edition of The Somerville Times.

Checkmate

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Chess is thought to be almost as old as civilization itself. This two-person strategy and tactical board game dates back at least fourteen hundred years. Game pieces and game boards survived the ancient world from India, China, and Egypt.



Hastings, England - 1908

Interest in this pastime bridged countries and continents and captured the fascination of monarchs and emperors across the eastern world. It taught military skill and maneuvering and heightened concentration. Trading along the famous Silk Road brought commerce and exchange to Europe. With this, interest in chess soon followed. In the West, it became known as The Game of Kings or The Royal Game.

Modern chess is sometimes referred to as Queen Chess, since the game changed in play during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I when the game's queen piece was given more power. In America, the first well-known colonial American chess player was Benjamin Franklin. This Declaration of Independence signer wrote an essay titled *The Morals of Chess*.



Over half of America's presidents were chess enthusiasts, spanning from George Washington to Bill Clinton. Through the years, international as well as American admirers of chess flourished. Military devotees included Napoleon Bonaparte, Generals Grant, Eisenhower, and Patton. Singers Ray Charles, Ricky Nelson, and Willie Nelson also played the game. Famous actors included Marlin Brando, Humphrey Bogart, Dean Martin, and George C. Scott. Like these others, John Wayne liked to play the game in between sets to help his concentration and focus.

Harry Nelson Pillsbury was born in 1872, the year that Somerville became a city. He grew up on

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS
FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

On or after August 14th, 2026, the City of Somerville will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the following project:

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Small Business Resiliency

Purpose: Provide technical assistance to small businesses in the East Somerville and Union Square areas.

Location: Income eligible areas including East Somerville and Union Square. Specific addresses and locations will be subject to environmental reviews once identified.

Project/Program Description: This is a technical assistance program and will support small businesses in the East Somerville and Union Square areas. The technical assistance will assist small businesses that provide direct services to clients of whom a minimum of 60% reflect the target populations that follow: women/minority owned/operated; non-native English speakers; and/or low- or moderate-income entrepreneurs. The businesses may receive assistance (with things such as acquiring property; clearing structures; building, expanding, or rehabbing a building; purchasing equipment); operating capital or lease negotiations; or training to understand fundamental business concepts.

Level of Environmental Review Citation: 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)(2)

Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Historic Preservation [National Historic Preservation Act of 1966], Noise Abatement and Control [Noise Control Act of 1972], and Wetlands Protection [Executive Order 11990]

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any): Once sites are selected, tier 2 reviews will be conducted to ensure that they: do not adversely affect a Massachusetts historically significant site or are not subject to adverse noise levels. If the described Tier 2 review does identify any of these scenarios, HUD guidelines will be followed to best mitigate the concern.

Estimated Project Cost: HUD Funding: \$135,000 Estimated Cost: \$135,000

The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)(2). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Strategy and Development Department, City of Somerville, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA and may be examined or copied Monday - Wednesday 8:30 A.M to 4:30 P.M., Thursday 8:30 A.M. - 7:30 P.M. or Friday 8:30 A.M. -12:30 P.M. or can be requested through an email to mrubin@somervillema.gov.

On or after August 14th, 2026, the City of Somerville will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the following project:

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Parks and Open Space Improvements

Purpose: Enhancing urban environment through additional and improved recreational spaces.

Location: Income eligible areas including but not limited to East Somerville, Winter Hill, and Union Square. Specific addresses will be assessed in the site-specific reviews.

Project/Program Description: This project will create and revitalize quality neighborhood open spaces in the City's most densely populated and underserved neighborhoods. The city will focus its parks and open space activities on the low- to moderate-income neighborhoods that demonstrate the greatest need and lack of suitable green space and recreational amenities. Once parks are identified for funding, more detailed descriptions will follow in Tier 2 reviews.

Level of Environmental Review Citation: 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)

Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Contamination and Toxic Substances [24 CFR 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)], Endangered Species Act of 1973, Floodplain Management [Executive Order 11988], Historic Preservation [National Historic Preservation Act of 1966], and Wetlands Protection [Executive Order 11990].

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits: Tier 2 reviews will be conducted to ensure projects comply with the above listed federal regulations. Sites will be reviewed to ensure they are not located in FEMA designated flood area and that there are not on-site or nearby hazardous, toxic, or radioactive materials that could harm the health and safety of occupants. Project sites will be evaluated to determine that the site and surrounding neighborhood do not suffer from adverse environmental conditions and that the proposed action will not create an adverse and disproportionate environmental impact or aggravate an existing impact. The Massachusetts Historical Society/State Historic Preservation Officer will be consulted to ensure the project does not adversely affect a historical site and when relevant, Tribal Historical Preservation Officers will also be consulted. Sites will be reviewed to ensure projects do not have an adverse effect on endangered or threatened species or critical habitats. Due to potential ground disturbances, potential effects on endangered species, important farmland, and wetlands will also be reviewed. If adverse conditions are identified related to the above listed regulations, HUD guidance will be consulted to ensure proper mitigation occurs for each project site.

Estimated Project Cost: HUD funding: \$200,000, Total estimated project cost: \$200,000

The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)(2). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Strategy and Development Department, City of Somerville, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA and may be examined or copied Monday - Wednesday 8:30 A.M to 4:30 P.M., Thursday 8:30 A.M. - 7:30 P.M. or Friday 8:30 A.M. -12:30 P.M. or can be requested through an email to mrubin@somervillema.gov.

On or after August 14th, 2026, the City of Somerville will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the following project:

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Neighborhood Infrastructure and Improvements

Purpose: The project will focus on making improvements in underserved and income eligible areas.

Location: Income eligible low- to moderate-income census tracts.

Project/Program Description: The project will focus on making infrastructure, streetscape, and multi-modal safety improvements including traffic calming, ADA improvements, and utility improvements in underserved and income eligible areas. The activities identified will be aimed at benefitting areas that serve a minimum of 800-1000 low to moderate income residents. As a result of the densely populated nature of Somerville's neighborhoods, OSPCD is confident that most activities will serve a much higher number of low to moderate income persons. It is likely that this tiered review will cover no more than three different infrastructure projects.

Level of Environmental Review Citation: 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)(2)

Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Contamination and Toxic Substances [24 CFR 50.3(1) & 58.5(i)(2)], Endangered Species [Endangered Species Act of 1973], Floodplain Management [Executive Order 11988], Historic Preservation [National Historic Preservation Act of 1966], and Wetlands Protection [Executive Order 11990].

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits: Once sites are selected, tier 2 reviews will be conducted to ensure that they: are not located in a FEMA designated flood area; are not near or containing hazardous, toxic, or radioactive materials; do not suffer from adverse environmental conditions; will not be adversely harmed by the proposed action as well as the surrounding neighborhood; do not adversely affect a Massachusetts historically significant site; do not have an adverse effect on endangered or threatened species, or critical habitats; are in the proximity of explosive/flammable hazards. If the described Tier 2 review does identify any of these scenarios, HUD guidelines will be followed to best mitigate the concern.

Estimated Project Cost: HUD Funding: \$100,000 Estimated Cost: \$100,000

The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)(2). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Strategy and Development Department, City of Somerville, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA and may be examined or copied Monday - Wednesday 8:30 A.M to 4:30 P.M., Thursday 8:30 A.M. - 7:30 P.M. or Friday 8:30 A.M. -12:30 P.M. or can be requested through an email to mrubin@somervillema.gov.

On or after August 14th, 2026, the City of Somerville will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the following project:

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Housing Acquisition and Rehabilitation

Purpose: Create and Preserve Affordable Housing

Location: This program will be conducted citywide, and once specific homes/addresses have been identified, further environmental review will be conducted for those specific sites.

Project/Program Description: The goal of this program is to assist low/moderate income households and properties in Somerville through housing rehabilitation and acquisition. CDBG funds will primarily be used to undertake rehabilitation work for income-eligible residents to ensure availability of affordable and suitable living environments, but funds may also be used to fund housing acquisition on a limited basis. Housing acquisition will be for the purpose of creating/preserving affordable units in Somerville. The housing rehab program assists low- and moderate-income residents across the city in addressing code violations, critical rehab needs, and lowering housing costs through energy efficiency upgrades. Rehabilitation work is focused on ensuring affordable housing in Somerville remains accessible, clean/healthy for residents, and livable. The program also specifically targets seniors who need assistance to access heating system replacements.

Level of Environmental Review Citation: CFR Part 58.35(a)(3)

Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994, Contamination and Toxic Substances [24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)], Explosive and Flammable Hazards [24 CFR Part 51], Floodplain Management [Executive Order 11988], National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and Noise Control Act of 1972.

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Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any): Once sites are selected, the following process will occur to ensure compliance with all relevant federal regulations: sites will be reviewed to ensure they are not located in FEMA designated Special Flood Hazard area and that there are not on-site or nearby hazardous, toxic, or radioactive materials that could harm the health and safety of occupants; project sites will be evaluated to determine that the site and surrounding neighborhood do not suffer from adverse environmental conditions and that the proposed action will not create an adverse and disproportionate environmental impact or aggravate an existing impact; the Massachusetts Historical Society/State Historic Preservation Officer will be consulted to ensure the project does not adversely affect a historical site, and when warranted, relevant tribal historical preservation officers will be consulted; site noise and proximity to explosive/flammable hazards will also be reviewed when warranted by federal regulation. If review identifies areas that require mitigation to address any of the federal regulations reviewed during the Tier 2 review, HUD guidance will be followed to ensure best mitigation practices.

Estimated Project Cost: HUD Funding: \$500,000. Estimated Cost: \$500,000.
The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)(2). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Strategy and Development Department, City of Somerville, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA and may be examined or copied Monday - Wednesday 8:30 A.M to 4:30 P.M., Thursday 8:30 A.M. - 7:30 P.M. or Friday 8:30 A.M. -12:30 P.M. or can be requested through an email to mrubin@somervillema.gov.

On or after August 14th, 2026, the City of Somerville will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the following project:

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Green Infrastructure
Purpose: The City will Operate a tree planting program.
Location: Income eligible low- to moderate-income census tracts.
Project/Program Description: The City will operate a tree planting program in eligible low to moderate income census tracts. Activities identified in will be aimed at benefitting areas that serve a minimum of 500 residents. Given the densely populated nature of Somerville’s neighborhoods, the city is confident most activities will serve a much higher number of residents. The program is operated citywide, but CDBG funds are only used for trees planted in CDBG-eligible areas. The planting process for trees may involve some ground disturbances.
Level of Environmental Review Citation: 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)
Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Contamination and Toxic Substances [24 CFR 50.3(1) & 58.5(i)(2)], Endangered Species [Endangered Species Act of 1973], Floodplain Management [Executive Order 11988], Historic Preservation [National Historic Preservation Act of 1966], Noise Abatement and Control [Noise Control Act of 1972], and Wetlands Protection [Executive Order 11990].

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any): Once sites are selected, tier 2 reviews will be conducted to ensure that they: are not located in a FEMA designated flood area; are not near or containing hazardous, toxic, or radioactive materials; do not suffer from adverse environmental conditions; will not be adversely harmed by the proposed action as well as the surrounding neighborhood; do not adversely affect a Massachusetts historically significant site; do not have an adverse effect on endangered or threatened species, or critical habitats; are not subject to adverse noise levels; are in the proximity of explosive/flammable hazards. If the described Tier 2 review does identify any of these scenarios, HUD guidelines will be followed to best mitigate the concern.

Estimated Project Cost: HUD Funding: \$75,000 Estimated Cost: \$75,000
The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)(2). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Strategy and Development Department, City of Somerville, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA and may be examined or copied Monday - Wednesday 8:30 A.M to 4:30 P.M., Thursday 8:30 A.M. - 7:30 P.M. or Friday 8:30 A.M. -12:30 P.M. or can be requested through an email to mrubin@somervillema.gov.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Strategy and Development Department c/o Miranda Rubin, at 167 Holland St. or via email to mrubin@somervillema.gov. All comments received by August 14th, 2026, will be considered by the City of Somerville prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Somerville certifies to HUD that Alan Inacio, the Certifying Officer, in his capacity as OSPCD Director of Finance and Community Development, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD’s approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Somerville to use HUD program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Somerville’s certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Somerville; (b) the City has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the HUD Office of Community Planning and Development at Thomas P. O’Neill, Jr. Federal Building 10 Causeway Street, 5th Floor Boston, MA 02222-1092, (617) 994-8350 or via email at CPDRROFBOS@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Alan Inacio, OSPCD Director of Finance and Community Development, City of Somerville, Certifying Officer

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFP # 27-03

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

Research Study on the Outlook of Policing in a Digital Era

A request for proposals (RFP) may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, August 5, 2026**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, September 2, 2026**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

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

Cameron Moriarty
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3403

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

Invitation for Quotes

The **Somerville Housing Authority** is receiving quotes from Landscaping Companies to supply and install sod to approximately 2600 square feet of land. Clear and prepare existing land to receive Sod. Perform minor sprinkler repairs to existing system. Prevailing Wage Rates Apply.
There will be a **site walkthrough on August 12th** at 30 Memorial Road Somerville, Ma 02145 at 10:00 AM.
All Quotes are due on **August 27th by 3PM**
Interested parties need to email a request for documents to Brian Langton at BrianL@sha-web.org. beginning **August 5th**.

Brian Langton
Director of Modernization
Somerville Housing Authority
617 625 1152 ext.331

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

Invitation for Quotes

The **Somerville Housing Authority** is receiving quotes from Landscaping Companies to supply and install artificial turf to approximately 2600 square feet of land. Clear and perform all necessary preparations to receive artificial turf. Prevailing Wage Rates Apply.
There will be a **site walkthrough on August 12th** at 30 Memorial Road Somerville, Ma 02145 at 10:30 AM.
All Quotes are due on **August 27th by 3PM**
Interested parties need to email a request for documents to Brian Langton at BrianL@sha-web.org. beginning **August 5th**.

Brian Langton
Director of Modernization
Somerville Housing Authority
617 625 1152 ext.331

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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 6th, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** using Zoom software to consider the removal of the following public shade tree:

- 6 Bolton Street – One littleleaf linden (Tilia cordata): 14.23 inches in diameter, fair condition

Tree is proposed for removal to complete the development at 6 Bolton Street. More information on the project will be provided during the hearing.

The tree identified above has been posted for public inspection. **In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 87, any objections to the removal of this tree 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: David Jackson– Tree Warden, City of Somerville, 1 Franey Rd, Somerville, MA 02145.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, 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.

Registration URL:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HTWlZGGRSoWnY_7NQvnmVw

Webinar ID: 815 4688 6569

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a virtual public hearing on **Tuesday, August 18, 2026**, at 6:45pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sEDM1_7nSEiY30n4CEpBw

TO CALL IN

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

The Historic Preservation Commission will consider the following pursuant to the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

46 Mount Vernon Street Applicant: William Kuang
Owner: William Kuang
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by replacing 21 wood windows with aluminum clad windows

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

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

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

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

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, August 20, 2026**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HKJUtmCSzG7XQTELMU31g

TO CALL IN

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

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

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

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

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

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Section 00 11 13
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID
MGL c.149 §50K to §150K

The **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Thermostat Replacement and Building Management System Modifications - Weston Manor at Weston Manor (31-7) in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **C.A. CROWLEY ENGINEERING, INC.**

The Project consists of but not limited to:
Replace existing thermostats with new thermostats in the building with new - total 163 thermostats. Backup existing BMS system points, schedules, and sequences and upgrade existing BMS to meet current standards as noted in the contract documents. Replacement of existing electric baseboard radiation with new in select locations (four).

The work is estimated to cost **\$110,000.00**.

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 08/17/2026 at 2:00PM EDT for general bids.

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.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at www.biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.

General Bids will be received until **20 August 2026 at 2:00PM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates), and made payable to the **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under §50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at www.biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled
Date and Time: 08/11/2026 at 11:00AM EDT Address: 15 Weston Ave., Somerville, MA 02144

Instructions: Meet out in front of the building. Will tour the one of the units, the basement and review the existing BMS system.

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

Nashoba Blue Inc.
433 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
978-568-1167

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Ms. Cam's
Olio
Answers

From on page 8

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. M3GAN | 7. Siri |
| 2. Old Time Rock and Roll by Bob Seger | 8. 1956 |
| 3. Psycho | 9. 1971 |
| 4. Halle Berry | 10. The Wolf of Wall Street |
| 5. Red Apple cigarettes | 11. Albacore |
| 6. Margaret Hamilton | 12. Cocoa Puffs |



Somerville Fair Housing Commission

Question of the week

Q: Fair Housing means no discrimination. What kinds of action count as discrimination?

A: You may file a complaint if you are a member of a protected class and someone has denied you housing in any of the following ways:

- Refuses to rent, lease or sell housing.
- Discriminates in the terms, conditions, and/or privileges of housing.
- Makes any inquiry or record of the person seeking to rent, lease or buy housing pertaining to that person being a member of any of the protected classes.
- Falsely denies that housing is available.
- Blockbusts--causes person(s) to sell or rent by telling them that members of a minority group are moving into the area.
- Discriminates in financing housing (bank, savings and loan, or other business).
- Denies membership or participation in brokerage, multiple listing or other real estate services.
- Interferes, coerces, threatens or intimidates to keep a person from obtaining the full benefits of the Federal Fair Housing Law and/or filing a complaint.
- Discriminates in advertising (both oral statements and written material).

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The Somerville Fair Housing Commission generally meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. online. Call 617-625-6600 ext. 2578 for the login information.

A **GoFundMe** has been launched by our own Doug Holder to help keep The Somerville Times free and thriving. Every dollar helps us stay independent and serve our community.

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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Memories of the World Cup... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

August 5

1763 – Colonel Henry Bouquet defeats the Indians at the Battle of Bushy Run.

1858 – The first transatlantic cable is completed.

1861 – Congress adopts the nation's first income tax to finance the Civil War.

1892 – Harriet Tubman receives a pension from Congress for her work as a nurse, spy and scout during the Civil War.

1914 – The first electric traffic signal lights are installed in Cleveland, Ohio.

1962 – Actress Marilyn Monroe dies under mysterious circumstances.

1964 – President Lyndon Johnson begins bombing North Vietnam in retaliation for the Gulf of Tonkin incident and asks Congress to go to war against North Vietnam.

1974 – President Richard Nixon admits he ordered a cover-up for political as well as national security reasons.

1981 – President Ronald Reagan fires 11,500 striking air traffic controllers.

1992 – Four police officers are indicted for the beating of Rodney King.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 9

week. Discounts available for siblings, Somerville Museum members, and EBT cardholders. Space is limited; register through Eventbrite. <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/vacationarts>.

Dilboy Pool and Stadium are now open to the public. Dilboy Pool has a swim-

ming and wading pool for all ages, open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., with Lap Swim hours from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Admission is free. For more information on all Somerville pools, visit somervillema.gov/pools.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our **Arts Editor, Doug Holder**, for setting up a **GoFundMe campaign** for *The Somerville Times*. With the cost of printing going up and a lack of businesses having the resources to advertise, free papers feel the effect. We sincerely thank all who have already contributed and thank

any future contributors. If you are interested in helping, please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-somerville-times>. Or if anyone is interested in advertising, please contact Bobbietoner@aol.com. We offer great discounts to help our advertisers be able to advertise. Thank you all so much for your support!

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

Sargent Avenue on the edge of Winter Hill. His father was a teacher at the Prescott Grammar School and later the Assistant Principal of Somerville High School, where his son attended. Harry's first introduction to chess was after the loss of his mother when he was fifteen. His father thought the game would help him through his bereavement. Within four years, he had acquired the nickname the "Boston Wonder," after playing in dozens of competitions.

Harry Pillsbury had a photographic memory and an unquenchable appetite for chess. He burst into the inter-national chess world

at Hastings, England, the site of William the Conqueror's 1066 invasion. Harry may have felt at home there because of its unmistakable similarity to Somerville's Union Square. At just 22 years of age, he went on to win what many call the greatest chess tournament of all time, the Hastings Chess Match. He finished ahead of the world champion, past champions, and other champion contenders. He was the first person to win a major tournament on the first try.

Harry was a genius. His astonishing memory was exhibited when he once set a record by simultaneously playing twenty opponents blindfolded. Another time,

he played blind chess, checkers, and whist while given a difficult list of 33 words to glance at. The list was: Antiphlogistine, periosteum, takadiastase, plasmon, am-brosia, Threlkeid, streptococcus, staphylococcus, micrococcus, plasmodium, Mississippi, Freiheit, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, athletics, no war, Etchenberg, American, Russian, philosophy, Piet Potgelter's Rost, Salmagundi, Oomisillecootsi, Bangmamvate, Schlechter's Nek, Manzinyama, theosophy, catechism, Madjesoomalops.

At the end of the demonstration, he recited and spelled the words. The next day

he was asked again, and he recalled them in order and spelled them forwards and backwards.

Harry promoted women's chess in England and the United States. The National Correspondence Chess Club is named in his honor. He became the official United States Chess Champion in 1897 and held this title for nine years until his death on Bunker Hill Day, June 17, 1906. He was only 33 years old at the time of his death and is considered the third best American to ever play the game. He was Somerville's Harry Nelson Pillsbury, the "Boston Wonder" and the "Hero of Hastings."

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'The Language of Two'

by Jean Flanagan

The Language of Two
By Jean Flanagan
Finishing Line Press, 2026

Reviewed by Lee Varon

Jean Flanagan's latest collection of poetry, *The Language of Two*, brings us breathtaking poems of remembrance, loss, acceptance, and paying homage. Her finely crafted lyrics help us see how to live a rich and fulfilling life, despite intense moments of grief.

Several poems in the collection illuminate the lives of women lost to history, such as Clover Adams, the wife of historian Henry Adams (*In the Shadow of Suicide*), and in the title poem (*The Language of Two*), which is written in the voice of Ada Lovelace, the daughter of poet Lord Byron. I had never heard that Ada was credited, by some, as the world's first computer programmer.

But it is Flanagan's deeply honest and moving personal poems that had the most lasting impression for me. These poems are rich with stunning and memorable details. *Your Letter Fell into the Trash* depicts a letter from a former lover mixed with trash, stained by mayonnaise – in which the only still legible phrase is: "I love you but–."

In *Ballad of Goodbye at Ardmore*, the poet writes:

"I hear you hum this old love song/ and wonder if
you know the words/ of our first good-bye".

Some of Flanagan's poems felt like an arrow piercing the heart: the exquisitely detailed images of a wedding that never took place in *Blue Wedding Dress* where the poet writes: "The dress was royal blue lace/ ankle length with diamond sequins./ Perfect for a second wedding" and then the poem goes on to tell us, "I was to wear it to St. Jerome's Chapel/ at the end of Lake Street/ for the mass." It is the specificity of this poem that makes it so heartbreaking as the narrator tells us exactly how the wedding would have taken place but never did.

In *My Sister's Foot*, the poet begins jauntily: "I am obsessed with shoes, / smooth red suede heels/ 3 inches high. /Navy blue leather flats.../Sandals with diamond and gold bling/ Sneakers for tennis. /I hate

counter, no tables,
and the air sings
with sugary scents
of batter-rich berries

baking in wide-mouthed tins,
luring me in...

— Barbara Reynolds



Our poet Barbara Reynolds writes: "These were inspired by my frequent visits to Bloc Cafe. One day I was taken with the sensual act of eating a muffin, which led to memories of the 1940 film *Fantasia*. Another time led to recurring dreams of a coffee shop existing exclusively for raspberry muffins."



Fantasia Erotica

Undressing the muffin
is not a pornographic trope,
although nudity is implied.
Close your eyes and picture
carefully peeling back
the pliant ribs of a paper
baking cup, revealing
a hunk of savory cake –
cornflower yellow
and blueberry flaked –
a stunning debut
of a jaundiced torso –
ringed by a hippo's tutu.

The Raspberry Muffin

coffee shop can be found
down the backstreet alley
of my dreams
where muffins squat
fat as a stevedore's fist
in vintage pastry trays,
their crusts arrayed
edge to edge
like honey-red cobblestones.
Seating is slight –
stools, no chairs,



Jean Flanagan.



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