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## Ballantyne Administration reaches new agreements with local unions



The City of Somerville has successfully negotiated new collective bargaining agreements with two major local unions.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is announcing the successful negotiation and signing of new collective bargaining agreements with the SEIU Local 3 Custodians and the Somerville Police Superior Officers Association (SPSOA). These agreements reflect the city's ongoing commitment to fair compensation, organizational improvement, and public service excellence.

"This round of negotiations represents important progress for our city workforce," said Mayor Ballantyne. "I'm proud to deliver wage growth that supports employee retention and reflects the essential services these teams provide to our community."

**New police union contracts bring wages into a competitive range**

The SPSOA agreement covers Fiscal Years 2022 through 2024 and follows the ratification of a similar agreement with the Somerville *Continued on page 4*

## Somerville superstar Jack Parker, a hockey legend

By Norah Doyle

Somerville native Jack Parker will be inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame this November.

Parker first picked up a stick and laced up his skates when he was 12 years old, following in his twin brother's footsteps. Both boys were students at St. Ann's K-8 Catholic school and had started their athletic careers as basketball players.

Parker spent lots of his youth playing basketball at Trum Field Recreation Center, where he met Joe Quinn, who would play a pivotal role in his rise to hockey stardom. Quinn was Parker's first hockey coach, who started a junior high hockey team for Somerville when Parker was in middle school.

A few years later, when Quinn got a job at Catholic Memorial, Parker transferred *Continued on page 11*



Jack Parker and the Boston University Terriers celebrate winning the 2009 NCAA Men's Frozen Four Final. — Photo courtesy of Mitchell Layton|HHOF-IIHF

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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.

**Yart Sale** is back. Somerville's citywide creative yard sale returns this summer, and applications are now open. Whether you're selling art, vintage finds, art supplies, tools, frames, zines, or handmade crafts, this is your chance to be part of this Yart Sale. Event date is **Saturday, August 9, 12 – 6 p.m.** For locations, visit <https://somer-villeartscouncil.org/yart-sale/yart/>

\*\*\*\*\*

Help preserve **Central St. Studios**. Artists of **Central Street Studios** will be holding a **Yart Sale & Block Party** on **Saturday, August 9**, from 12 – 5 p.m., as part of Central Street Studios' preservation campaign to keep their artist workspaces long-term. Located at **Central St. and Berkley St.**

\*\*\*\*\*

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, James Bimbo, and Savanna Payne** 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Discuss an intriguing book in a relaxed atmosphere at the next meeting of the **HUB COMICS BOOK CLHUB!** *Continued on page 7*

## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of August 6 – August 12 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
<b>Wednesday August 6</b>	Partly Cloudy	75°/60°	9%	6%	NE 10 mph
<b>Thursday August 7</b>	Partly Cloudy	78°/60°	8%	4%	ESE 11 mph
<b>Friday August 8</b>	Sunny	81°/59°	4%	2%	S 12 mph
<b>Saturday August 9</b>	Sunny	82°/63°	2%	1%	S 10 mph
<b>Sunday August 10</b>	Sunny	90°/68°	4%	2%	S 11 mph
<b>Monday August 11</b>	Partly Cloudy	90°/69°	10%	7%	SW 11 mph
<b>Tuesday August 12</b>	Partly Cloudy	90°/70°	22%	17%	SW 12 mph

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

## TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

### Response to: Červená Barva Press celebrates twenty years

Susan Tepper says:

BRAVA & BIG CONGRATS to the inimitable Gloria Mindock for 20 years of publishing books, chapbooks, broadsides, columns, a newsletter, and much, much more!!!!!!!

### Response to: Somerville Jews for Willie

Questions from an undecided voter says:

I waited a week for a reply to my above 2 questions and the silence is deafening. I have all the answers I need. No chance I vote for this guy.

*Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments*

## The Somerville Times

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## Somerville's annual FREE outdoor movie series continues

Showtimes vary, and all movies will start at dusk. Join in at one or all of the events listed below.

**Hidden Figures:** Thursday, August 7, Seven Hills Park (Davis Square)

**Barbie:** Thursday, August 14, Seven Hills Park (Davis Square)

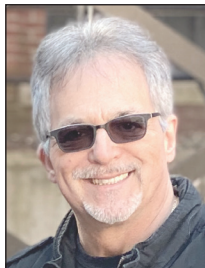


Persons with disabilities who need ADA accommodations to access this program, please contact Adrienne Pomeroy on advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or apomeroy@somervillema.gov

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.

# Cruising in the '80s



This is the true story of a car that had a life and personality of its own. A vehicle that transported colorful characters and made the rounds in more ways than one on the streets of 1980s Somerville.

There was a former policeman who lived up my street, and he owned a very cool black 1973 Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham. Every time I went by this car, I marveled at its elegance. I actually daydreamed about owning a car like that. If I were walking home, I'd always stop and take in its sleek lines, look in the windows, and fantasize driving it to Las Vegas or Fort Lauderdale or Revere Beach!

Then it happened. Around 1982, I heard my neighbor was selling it. He put a lot of miles on it, and it didn't want to put any more money into it. My heart started beating like mad. But he didn't want to sell it to me because it needed a lot of work, like a radiator, the A/C was broken, and it had some rot. It wouldn't even start!

Because we were friends, he would only take ... \$30! 30 bucks! My pals pushed it from his house on the top of the street down to our driveway with me steering,

and very excited about my Caddy. My Dad was on the phone in the kitchen when it rolled into the driveway. Looking out the window, I heard him loudly say, "My son just parked the biggest (expletive) Cadillac I've ever seen in the driveway!"

One of my friends helped me install the used radiator I bought at Nissenbaum's junk yard, and I was off and running, and stalling occasionally, but it was a blast. I was in the band The Echos at the time so that was on my front plate.

I turned 30 years old in 1983. To celebrate, we had a rolling party. My dear friend and fellow Somerville musician Dave S. volunteered to be the designated driver. Seven of my friends, including the driver, piled in for a rolling birthday party. Because I was very immature, and also a theater buff, I had a collection of silly hats, goofy sunglasses, and colorful kerchiefs. My friends wore fedoras, scally caps, army helmets, and a motorcycle cop helmet with a built-in microphone.

Of course, we were making silly comments out the window to pedestrians. Gas was around \$1.25 a gallon back then. We gassed up and hit the streets of Somerville to celebrate my thirtieth birthday on July 28, 1983.

As I said, my pal Dave S. was the design-



nated driver that day, and I loaded the best of the best of my pals – the craziest of the crazies – in for a rolling party. There were childhood friends, a fraternity brother from Emerson, and bandmates.

Among the birthday guests were Jay, Dave E, John, and Archie. There were two more guys with us that I can't really remember. I think it was Mark A., Charlie V., Ron B., Jerry A., Jimmy M., or Jimmy L., I can't recall. It was 37 years ago!

We were all decked out in our kooky helmets, bandannas, sunglasses, and other various obnoxious attire. The birthday crew looked like a bunch of nuts (and we were). Dave chauffeured us from one establishment to another, encompassing most of Somerville. Some of the places we hit were The Venice Cafe, Johnny D's, The Rosebud, The Coronet (currently Red-bones), Khoury's State Spa, and, of course, The Embassy Lounge on Somerville Ave.

I remember when we pulled up right onto the sidewalk in front of Primo's or Mama Leon's. Our driver and lifetime friend Dave S. reminded me on the phone this morning that we were picking up and dropping people off all day. Such a great day!

You can imagine the looks we got when

we piled out of that limo-like Caddy dressed ridiculously, all over the city. That 1973 Fleetwood Brougham was like driving around in my living room. What a birthday, what a car, what a great bunch of friends. What a year 1983 was.

I just found out that a very good Somerville friend also had a black Fleetwood Brougham around the same time. She was given the nickname "Gangsta Mom."

A few years later, the old beast was starting to fail, but it was still fun cruising in it. We had a phone on a cord that led to nowhere, just for looks. When the air conditioner broke, we drove around with the windows up so people would think we had A/C.

In 1983, Dirty Laundry, Sexual Healing, and Separate Ways were on the radio. With our competent designated driver, we went *Steppin' Out*, but always tried to do the *Safety Dance*. However, occasionally the cops still had to tell us to Beat It.

Three of my pals from that epic day are no longer with us. Rest In Peace Archie, John G., and Dave E. The '73 Fleetwood is long gone. All I have left from it is the hood ornament, and many great memories of a zany birthday with some of my best friends in 1983, Somerville.



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## Somerville Police Dept Crime Log July 22 – 28



### Residential Breaking and Entering

25043403: On 7/23/25 at approximately 12:40 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Perkins St. for a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, spoke with the victims who stated they observed a male party opening up their apartment window and attempting to enter. The male party then fled the area.

### Assault

25043962: On 7/23/25 at approximately 3:17 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Summer St. for report of a past assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he is a cab driver and got into an argument with a female passenger. During the argument, the female hit the victim twice and damaged his vehicle.

### Assault

25044992: On 7/28/25 at approximately 9:54 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a hotel on Foley St. for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she heard commotion outside of her room and was then approached by a female party who punched her in the face.

### Assault

25044788: On 7/27/25 at approximately 9:48 p.m., Somerville Police responded to the Somerville Hospital for a past assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with a nurse who stated a male juvenile punched her in the face. Officers identified the suspect.

### Robbery

25044753: On 7/27/25 at approximately 6:47 p.m., Somerville Police took a report from a female party regarding a past robbery. She stated that earlier in Davis Sq, she was attacked and robbed of her bag by an individual unknown to her.

### Arrest

25044185: On 7/25/25 at approximately 5:17 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Broadway for a check condition. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she got into an altercation with a male party known to her. During the altercation, the male party struck her with a metal cane. Officers located the suspect nearby and he was placed under arrest.

### Arrest

25044773: On 7/27/25 at approximately 7:59 PM, Somerville Police responded to Broadway for a past assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the juvenile victim who stated she was walking home and was approached by a female party who began yelling at her then pepper sprayed her. Officers located the female suspect and she was placed under arrest.

**Other Crimes:** 6 Bike thefts + 2 Vandalisms + 3 Car breaks + 1 Package theft + 2 MV vandalisms

— Somerville Police Department

## Text-A-Tip

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## Ballantyne Administration reaches new agreements with local unions

CONT. FROM PG 1

Police Employees Association (SPEA) earlier this year. Both contracts were negotiated and signed under the Ballantyne Administration and provide significant wage increases that maintain the Somerville Police Department's (SPD) competitive compensation levels in light of other Greater Boston departments that have implemented similar wage adjustments in recent years.

The SPSOA and SPEA contracts each include a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 2% in FY22, 3% in FY23, and 3% in FY24. In addition, both unions will receive a 2% market adjustment in each fiscal year, bringing the total wage increase to approximately 14% over the life of these

contracts. Officers in both unions will also see an increase to their annual hazardous duty stipends, which are now standardized at \$3,000 for all sworn officers.

To improve staffing flexibility, street safety, and community service delivery, the agreements also include provisions that allow the city to begin deploying civilian personnel for traffic control details in situations where sworn officers or designated public safety personnel are not available. The city will be assessing the best way to engage and structure a civilian traffic control workforce in the coming months.

The SPEA contract was signed and ratified in April, and it was funded by the City

Council in May. The SPSOA contract was ratified in June and was approved by the City Council on Wednesday, July 30.

"These contracts are the result of the administration's strong working relationships with our public safety unions and a shared goal of making Somerville a leader in service and safety," said Human Resources Director Anne Gill.

### Custodian agreement advances wage equity goals

The city has also signed a Memorandum of Agreement with SEIU Local 3 Custodians, fulfilling a wage reopener clause in the union's contract for fiscal years 2023–2025. This reopener was triggered by the city's recently completed Wage and Com-

pensation Study, commissioned under Mayor Ballantyne's direction to ensure fair and competitive compensation across departments.

Effective in FY25, base wages for all custodians will increase by 2%. Additionally, those at the top of the salary scale will receive a further 2% increase to address wage compression in the existing salary schedule. The city has also agreed to structurally adjust the custodians' pay scale starting in FY26, moving from 1% steps to 2% steps across the salary schedule. This change supports the Ballantyne Administration's broader initiative to modernize compensation practices and promote long-term workforce sustainability.

# Senate scrubs offensive language from state law

The Massachusetts Senate passed a bill to bring Massachusetts laws into the 21st century by removing offensive language from state statutes.

An Act amending certain laws relative to individuals with disabilities, strikes the “r-word,” a derogatory slur for people with disabilities, out of state law in the dozens of instances where it currently appears. This includes renaming an entire chapter of law that prominently includes the r-word.

The bill, S.137, also builds person-first language into state law, prioritizing terminology like ‘person with a disability’ that places the individual first. Other outdated references, such as ‘handicap’ or ‘needy’ to describe people with disabilities, are also erased from the law.

“Words are important. Language changes. We should use language that respects the people it refers to, and listen to them,” said Senator Patricia D. Jehlen (D-Somerville). “Fifteen years ago, a friend told State Representative Denise Provost and me how disrespected she felt being called

‘handicapped.’ We filed a bill to remove ten sections of the general laws that used that word. Over the years, we have found nearly 400 sections with offensive words, including the r-word. We have changed the names of three offices because the people they serve asked for more respectful names: the Department of Mental Retardation is now the Department of Disability Services, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission is now MassAbility, and the Executive Office of Elder Affairs is now the Executive Office of Aging and Independence, or AGE. But there are 362 sections of the general laws that still use offensive words. Today, at last, we move to replace them with language that is preferred by those it refers to.”

In order to better support another community of Massachusetts residents during today’s debate, Senators adopted an amendment inserting the term “deaf or hard of hearing” in several sections of state law, replacing the outdated term “hearing-impaired.” This further ensures that language in state law reflects the terminol-



ogy that community members prefer. Including this amendment, the bill updates 373 instances where the law refers to people using outdated terminology.

**Melissa Reilly, advocate for people with disabilities and former policy advisor to Senator James B. Eldridge:**

“The Archaic Language Bill, S.137—An Act amending certain laws relative to individuals with disabilities—is really important because all people with disabilities should be treated and respected by others and not mocked or judged or bullied by others for their disabilities. We are all unique and deserve respect, we do not want to be known as the “r-word.” We are all unique and different. People with disabilities deserve respect. We are able and capable and not disabled. We are hardworking people, and we need to be respected and dedicated, and have dignity. Please help us make a difference and support this bill.”

**Maura Sullivan, chief executive officer of The Arc of Massachusetts:**

“The Arc of Massachusetts is deeply grateful to the Senate for passing legislation today to rid our state laws of offensive and outdated language referencing the disability community. This bill has been a long-time priority for The Arc and our community. Today’s vote sends a clear message in an important moment – such

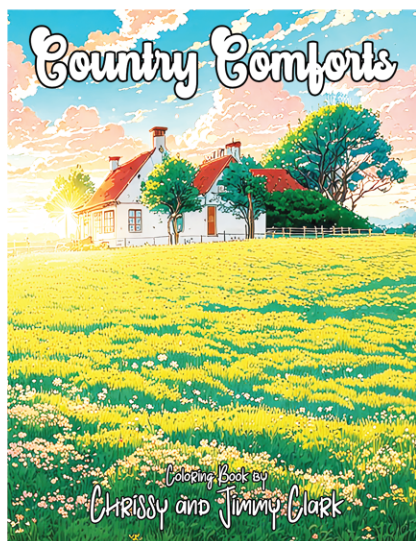
language has no place in our laws or in our society. At this moment when disability rights are being threatened, we must show up every day to reaffirm our commitment to uplifting and valuing this community. This bill does just that. We want to thank Senator Jehlen for her steadfast leadership; Senator Lovely, Senator Rodrigues, and Senate President Spilka for prioritizing bringing this to the floor; and the countless advocates, including Melissa Riley, who have made their voices heard. We look forward to working with our champions in the House to pass this bill. The Arc will continue to fight for laws and policies that reflect the values of accessibility, independence, and dignity for all.”

The disabilities language bill was reported out of the Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities on June 23, 2025, and was placed on the Senate Calendar for debate by the Rules Committee on July 17, 2025. Votes of both committees are available online, along with a full summary of the legislation. A recording of the Senate’s livestreamed debate and votes can be found archived on the public website.

The Senate passed the bill on a 40-0 roll call vote. The legislation now moves to the House of Representatives for consideration.

— Office of State Senator Patricia D. Jehlen

## Looking for a relaxing passtime?



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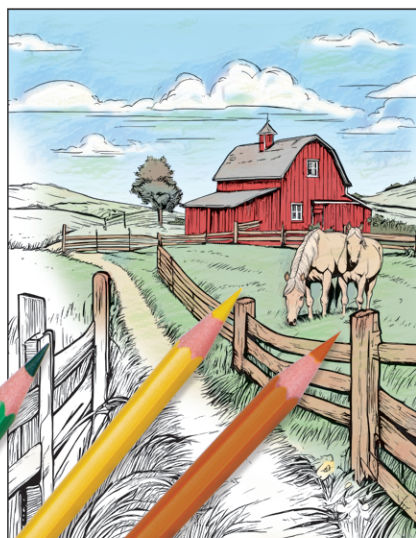
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# Somerville voting information for City Preliminary Election

On Tuesday, September 16, 2025, the City of Somerville will hold its City Preliminary Election, which will narrow the candidate pool before the Municipal Election on Tuesday, November 4.

The offices on the ballot for this election include:

- Mayor
- Councilor At Large
- Councilor – Ward 7
- School Committee – Ward 3

The preliminary election is open to all registered voters in Somerville. Somerville voters can vote early in person or by mail, or on Preliminary Election Day.

## Register to Vote in the Preliminary by Friday, September 5

You can register in one of three ways:

- Online at [somervillema.gov/register-to-vote](http://somervillema.gov/register-to-vote),
- In-person at Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)
- Via phone by calling the Elections Department (617-625-6600 ext. 4200) and requesting a voter registration form. Or by calling 311 (617-666-3311), and they will connect you to Elections.

The registration deadline is Friday, September 5, at midnight online or in person by 5 p.m. You also may mail in your form, but it must be postmarked by September 5.

## Vote early at City Hall, September 9-11

Vote early in the Preliminary Election in the lower level of City Hall from Tuesday,

September 9, through Thursday, September 11. The schedule is as follows:

- September 9 – Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- September 10 – Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- September 11 – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

How to vote in the Preliminary Election by mail

• Applications to vote by mail must be received by 5 p.m. (not postmarked) by Tuesday, September 9

• Download an application or fill it out online at [somervillema.gov/votebymail](http://somervillema.gov/votebymail), pick one up in the Elections office at City Hall, or request one be mailed to you by calling Elections at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200. Ballots must be received by 8 p.m., Tuesday, September 16.

Eligible voters who submit valid applications will receive their ballot in the mail. Ballots must be completed, signed, sealed, and received by the city no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16. Voters can check the status of their ballot on the state's website.

## How to return your application and ballot

Drop boxes: Leave it in a drop box at one of the following locations:

- City Hall Concourse, 93 Highland Ave.
- East Somerville Community School, across from 68 Glen St.



• In front of the Argenziano School, 290 Washington St.

• In front of the Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave.

• Behind the Mystic Activity Center, 530 Mystic Ave.

• In front of the Igreja Presbiteriana De Boston Church, 212 School St.

• In front of Saint Catherine of Genoa Church parking lot, 182 Summer St.

• In front of the Armory, 191 Highland Ave.

• In front of Dilboyl Post, 351 Summer St.

• In front of the Tufts Administrative Building, 167 Holland St.

• In front of the West Somerville Neighborhood School at 177 Powder House Blvd.

• Elections office: Return directly to the Elections Department at City Hall

• Mail: Send to the Elections Department, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143

Email or fax (for applications only): Completed applications can be emailed to [vote@somervillema.gov](mailto:vote@somervillema.gov) or faxed to 617-625-5643. Ballots cannot be returned by email or fax.

For more information about voting in Somerville, go to [somervillema.gov/elections](http://somervillema.gov/elections).

## West Nile virus case confirmed

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has announced the first confirmed case of West Nile virus in an animal this year.

While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe disease. Most people infected with WNV will have no symptoms. When present, WNV symptoms tend to include fever and flu-like illness. In rare cases, more severe illness can occur. People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes.

### Avoid mosquito bites

- Apply insect repellent when outdoors.
- Be aware of peak mosquito hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider re-scheduling outdoor activities that occur during the evening or early morning in areas of high risk.

• Clothing can help reduce mosquito bites. Wearing long sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

### Mosquito-proof your home

• Drain standing water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change the water in birdbaths frequently.

• Install or repair screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly fitting screens on all your windows and doors.

### Protect Your Animals

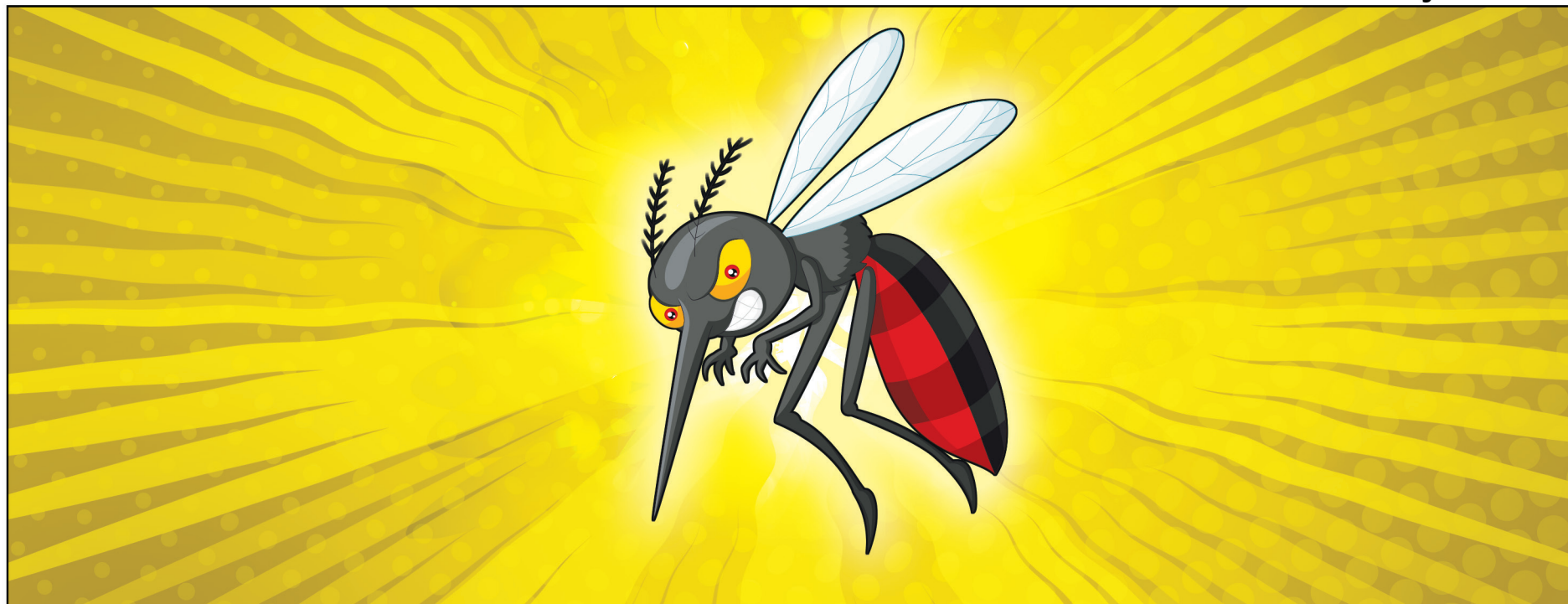
• Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools, especially after heavy rains.



# 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 Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has announced that the West Nile Virus (WNV) has been detected in mosquitoes in Massachusetts for the first time this year.

While no human or animal cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) have been reported, they are strongly encouraging community members to take steps to protect themselves from mosquitoes and

mosquito-borne illnesses. Among their recommendations:

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

+ Protect your animals.

+ Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains.

+ Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for animal use and vaccinations to prevent WNV.

+ 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

On **Wednesday, August 13**, at 7 p.m. They will talk both form and content regarding their pick-of-the-month, **Dave Ortega's *Dias de Consuelo***, which is 10% off now until BOOK CLHUB! Readers of all experience levels are welcome, although this book is for teens and up. You don't even have to buy a copy from Hub Comics. Admission is free, but bringing a copy is required. Book CLHUB is the **second Wednesday of every month, Hub Comics**, 19 Bow St., Somerville.

We have a **new tab** on our website, "**Campaign Releases**." Go there to see the latest endorsements, campaign info for this

year's election candidates.

**Outdoor Movie Nights at Aeronaut, Saturday, August 9**, 9 – 11 p.m. at **Aeronaut Brewing Company**. Head to Aeronaut on Saturday nights over the summer for outdoor movie nights on the patio featuring some favorites. 9 p.m. Admission is free. Weather permitting. **8/9 *The Hangover***, **8/16 *Anchorman***, **8/23 *Mean Girls***, **8/30 *Clueless***, **9/6 *Jaws***, **9/13 *Zoolander***. 14 Tyler St, Somerville.

**High heat and humidity** are expected during the summer; these weather conditions can cause heat illness if precautions

are not taken. Visit [www.somervillema.gov/keepcool](http://www.somervillema.gov/keepcool) for **heat safety tips**, which are also available in multiple languages, and more ways to keep cool in and around Somerville this summer.

**SomerMovie Fest** has returned. The movies begin at dusk, and showtimes are approximate. Arrive early to grab a good spot, get comfortable, and enjoy the summer evening with neighbors and friends. This week's movie is ***Hidden Figures***, on **Thursday, August 7**, at approximately 8 p.m. at **Seven Hills Park** in Davis Square. For more information, please visit [www.somervillema.gov/moviefest](http://www.somervillema.gov/moviefest).

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 you please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-somerville-times>. Or if anyone is interested in advertising, please contact [Bobbietoner@aol.com](mailto:Bobbietoner@aol.com). We offer great discounts to help our

*Continued on page 12*

# FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

# Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#983

1. What Boston college has produced more Grammy-winners than any other school?
2. Ruggles, Stony Brook, Assembly, and Chinatown are all stops on which of Boston's MBTA train routes?
3. What is the deepest tunnel in America?
4. The largest art heist in Boston's history occurred at which of the city's museums?
5. What *Parks and Recreation* star was born in Newton?
6. A small plaza at Boylston St. and Charles St. was re-named for what author?
7. What event in 2000 caused global panic over potential technological failures?
8. Which hurricane was the deadliest in U.S. history?
9. When do hurricanes lose strength?
10. Hurricanes are categorized based on their wind speed using what scale?
11. Which mile-long, walkable park that stretches from TD Garden to Chinatown was named after JFK's mother?
12. Which summer holiday is celebrated on July 14th in France?

Answers on page 11

## The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. A Harry Potter book filled with typos sold for \$90,000.
2. Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD WORKING OUT

#### ACROSS

1. Oven emanation
6. Beast of burden
9. Slat
13. Chocolate substitute
14. \_\_\_\_\_ carte
15. San Diego baseballer
16. Actress Linda of "Dynasty" fame
17. Grave acronym
18. Dartmouth and such
19. Largest shoulder muscle
21. Mind-body exercise with "apparatus"
23. To do this is human
24. Hold back or restrain
25. Biathlon gear, sing.
28. Rum follower
30. Illuminated by a certain star
35. Windshield option
37. Gang's domain
39. Symbolized by white dove
40. Wander
41. "Sesame Street" regular
43. a.k.a. amir
44. Nobel Prize, e.g.
46. Most luminous star
47. 0.001 inches, pl.
48. Workout prep
50. Used to be
52. Sailor's assent
53. Agitate
55. Carry a load
57. Series of exercises with little or no rest
61. Peloton sport
65. "Bite the bullet," e.g.
66. E in BCE
68. Term of endearment
69. "He \_\_\_\_\_ it like it is"
70. Actress Ryan
71. "M\*A\*S\*H" character
72. One of #18 Across
73. 007
74. What actors do

#### DOWN

1. Passed with flying colors
2. Five-star review
3. Not written
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Carlo

CROSSWORD													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13					14			15					
16					17			18					
19				20		21	22						
			23			24							
25	26	27		28		29		30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37		38		39				
40					41			42		43			
44				45		46				47			
48					49		50		51		52		
				53		54		55		56			
57	58	59	60				61				62	63	64
65						66	67		68				
69						70			71				
72						73			74				



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### Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

5. Soak up
6. 36 inches
7. Boxer Clay
8. Fraternity K
9. Surface magma
10. Passage into a mine
11. "Arboreal" yoga pose
12. Hitler's sidekick Rudolf \_\_\_\_\_
15. Highway accident
20. Extremely angry
22. "\_\_\_\_\_ show time!"
24. Nocturnal bird of prey (2 words)
25. It broke the camel's back
26. Plains tribe
27. Iron + nickel
29. Use calories
31. a.k.a. Indian Lilac
32. Vampire of Greek mythology
33. In a cold manner
34. To the point
36. Four years for a President
38. V
42. Premature
45. \_\_\_\_\_ semolina, pl.
49. Hawaiian dish
51. Trick-taking card game
54. List components
56. Twilight
57. C in NYC
58. Brain wave
59. Small brook
60. Nat of Jazz
61. Same as cagey
62. \_\_\_\_\_-European language
63. Like a drink in a snifter
64. Swirling vortex
67. One in a set

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

# Join Somerville's Yart Sale on Saturday, August 9

Once again, Somerville's porches, driveways, and front yards will transform into mini galleries and pop-up markets as Yart Sale returns on Saturday, August 9, (rain date: August 10) from noon to 6 p.m.

Find everything from original paintings and photography to handmade goods, band merch, art supplies, tools, vintage clothes, plants, frames, and more. Each purchase supports local artists and makers. With no two yards the same, you're in for a day filled with unexpected treasures, neighborhood connections, and artistic joy for all ages.

Sign up to register your yard, porch, or driveway at [somervilleartscouncil.org/yart-sale/yart-app](http://somervilleartscouncil.org/yart-sale/yart-app) before 11:59 p.m. on Friday, August 1. Information is also available for those in need of a space to set up.

Exhibitors are encouraged to be creative

with their displays but remain respectful of their neighbors by not blocking any streets or sidewalks.

Examples of things that can be part of the Yart Sale:

- Any art medium (paintings, photography, collage, ceramics, etc.)
- Handmade objects (jewelry, pottery, quilts, knitted items, etc.)
- Collectible items (coins, postcards, baseball cards, instruments, magnets, etc.)
- Plants
- Musician/band merchandise
- Art tools, supplies, equipment, and books

For questions, please contact Iaritza Menjivar at [imenjivar@somervillema.gov](mailto:imenjivar@somervillema.gov).

For more information and to access exhibitor locations and times, visit: [somervilleartscouncil.org/yart-sale](http://somervilleartscouncil.org/yart-sale).



## Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



### Coconut Curry Mussels

Last year I invested in an electric pressure cooker, otherwise referred to as an Instant Pot. I have used the traditional stovetop pressure cooker in the past and let me just say, this is a game changer! Extremely safe and easy to use.

There are so many different things to make in the pressure cooker from stews to cheesecakes, regular cakes and even yogurt. A new piece of equipment now available, is a crisper lid that can be placed on top of your pressure cooker and essentially turn it into an air fryer. With the fall coming I usually make multiple soups and stews ahead for freezing and use for a later date. And for those of you who love mussels, this is a foolproof method that cooks these sweet little nuggets perfectly every time.

- 1 Tablespoon Safflower Oil, or other light oil
- 2 Tablespoons Fresh Ginger, Grated
- 1/2 Sweet Onion, Sliced
- 4 Garlic Cloves, Sliced

- 1/4 Cup Red Curry Paste
- 1 Can Full Fat Coconut Milk
- 1/2 Teaspoon Kosher Salt
- 2 lbs Mussels
- 1 Loaf Crusty Bread, Grilled (optional)
- 1 Lime, cut into wedges
- Cilantro for garnish

Rinse and debeard the mussels. Discard ones that aren't closed, or don't close when tapped. On the sauté mode of the pressure cooker, add the oil and onions, sauté for 5 minutes. Add the ginger and garlic cloves, stir in for about 30 seconds. Add the curry paste, coconut milk, and salt. Stir well. Add the mussels and set on low pressure for 1 minute.

It will take a few minutes to come to pressure. Once the timer is up, do a quick release. Transfer mussels to individual bowls or one large bowl. Taste the curry mixture and adjust seasoning if needed. Pour over the mussels and enjoy. Serve with a side of crusty, grilled bread, lime wedges, and garnish with fresh cilantro. Serves 2-3 people.

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





**LEGAL NOTICES**

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)



City of Somerville  
**PLANNING BOARD**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, August 21, 2025**, 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. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to [planningboard@somervillema.gov](mailto:planningboard@somervillema.gov).

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/P-IVfaFcS906e6kTwRXEpA>  
Webinar ID: 893 4550 2920

**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:

- 74 Middlesex Ave** 74M Property Owner, LLC seeks to install non-conforming wall signs in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use District (ASMD) per SZO § 7.4.9.b., which requires a Special Permit.
- 3 Craigie St/675 Somerville Ave** 675 Somerville, LLC seeks to develop a General Building in the MR3 zoning district, which requires Site Plan Approval.
- 3 Craigie St/675 Somerville Ave** 675 Somerville, LLC seeks to establish a residential housing use in the MR3 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 email to [PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov](mailto:PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov).

8/6/25 The Somerville Times

**Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services program receives prestigious accreditation**

Adult Family Care (AFC), a program of Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services, recently received the highest-level accreditation from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). AFC earned a three-year Accreditation of Case Management for LTSS (Long Term Supports and Services).



NCQA evaluates organizations that plan and manage personalized care and services for people experiencing difficulty completing self-care tasks as a result of aging, chronic illness, or disability. Its accreditation standards are developed with input from researchers in the field, the LTSS Advisory Committee, and standing committees, both purchasers and operators of LTSS programs, state and federal regulators, and other experts.

AFC goes through NCQA's rigorous accreditation process every three years. This ensures the program meets its goals and provides excellent care – NCQA only awards the status of Accredited–3 years to organizations that demonstrate strong performance of the functions outlined in the standards for Accreditation of Case Management for LTSS.

“Being accredited by NCQA proves to our participants and partners that AFC is committed to upholding high standards,” said Program Director Nina Cohen. “Our work strives to put participants and caregivers, and their needs, at the forefront.”

AFC serves eligible adults who cannot live alone due to a medical diagnosis. The program's person-centered care model helps participants and caregivers create holistic, individualized plans with the goal *Continued on page 13*

**Somerville superstar Jack Parker, a hockey legend** CONT. FROM PG 1

schools to continue to play hockey for Quinn in his junior and senior years of high school.

“Joe was very, very, instrumental with me being a hockey player. That’s for sure,” said Parker, speaking fondly of his old coach.

After graduating from Catholic Memorial, Parker went on to play hockey for the Boston University (BU) Terriers, becoming team captain in his senior year. Parker graduated from BU in 1968, and his coaching career at BU began a year later when he joined the staff as an assistant coach. In 1973, when head coach Jack Kelly left, Parker was promoted to head coach of the Terriers, a job he held until his retirement in 2013.

Parker’s BU team has won three NCAA titles and appeared in 24 NCAA tournaments. By the end of his career, Parker had collected 897 career wins over the course of 40 seasons, all at Boston University.

The three national championship wins are, of course, favorite wins from Parker’s career, but his fondest memories of winning perhaps come from the Beanpot Championships.

“When I was playing, Jack Kelly used to say that ‘you can’t be the best in the east and you can’t be the best

in the nation until you’re at least the best in Boston,” said Parker. “We need the Boston championship, so winning the Beanpot championship was always exciting as a player and exciting as a coach.”

Parker has a soft spot for BU’s freshman hockey team, despite it being retired in 1972.

“I always tell people that the most fun I ever had playing hockey was playing freshman hockey and the most fun I’ve had coaching was coaching the freshman team,” said Parker.

When Parker was told he’d be inducted into the Hall of Fame, he was taken aback to say the least.

“I saw the call from the Hockey Hall of Fame. I thought for sure they were calling me to ask me a question about one of my players who got in. Keith Tkachuk was a great player for us and then a great Olympian,” said Parker. “When they told me they were calling me to tell me I was in, I was kind of flabbergasted.”

The induction celebration will be held Saturday, November 10, 2025, in Toronto, Canada. Parker hopes to bring along his family: his daughter, grandkids, and son-in-law.

“But I’m also hoping to be able

to get all my assistant coaches, they were instrumental with us winning so many games for all those years,” said Parker. “It’ll be fun to see all those guys again.”

In his retirement, Parker has taken up some new hobbies like skiing and sailing, and has also enjoyed getting to watch his grandkids play sports.

As a Hall of Famer to be, Parker encourages young and aspiring hockey athletes to live in the moment.

“Enjoy where you’re at and not so concerned about where you’re going. If you’re a sophomore in high school, don’t be considering ‘oh I wonder where I’m gonna be in college in college.’ Just enjoy the year you’re at right now and try to develop yourself in that year and not project,” said Parker.

Parker also encourages young athletes to play multiple sports, as he did with basketball and hockey.

“Try to play more than hockey, I think it helps get to be better athletes, which makes them a better hockey player in the long run.”

Check out the official Hockey Hall of Fame website for more information about the induction class of 2025 and festivities surrounding the induction: <https://www.hhof.com/>

Ms. Cam's *From on page 8*  
**Olio**  
Answers

1. Berklee College of Music	7. Y2K
2. Orange Line	8. Hurricane Katrina
3. Ted Williams Tunnel	9. When they move over land or cooler water
4. Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum	10. The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale
5. Amy Poehler	11. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway
6. Edgar Allan Poe	12. Bastille Day

## Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

advertisers be able to advertise. Thank you all so much for your support!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Wednesdays, through October 15, 3:30 – 6:30 pm.** Visit the **Growing Center** for some relatively quiet time during the weekly **Red Fire Farm CSA distribution window**. Relax, read, write, sketch, draw, or paint while enjoying a green setting in the city. Limited garden/nature books and art supplies will be available for use on-site. 22 Vinal Ave.

\*\*\*\*\*

Calling all **future hockey stars!** Ready to hit the ice and level up your game? Join the **Somerville Recreation Girls Hockey Clinic**. Open to all skill levels, no experience required. Learn the game of hockey from experienced female coaches, build confidence, and have a blast with other fierce young athletes! Equipment will be provided for all participants as needed, just come early to the first practice to collect your gear. Free, **Veteran Memorial Rink**, 530 Somerville Ave, August 6 and 7. Ages 9-14, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Register online [www.somervillerec.com](http://www.somervillerec.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

Applications are now available for one (1) **resale studio income-restricted home-ownership unit** through the **City of Somerville Inclusionary Housing Program** at 411 Norfolk St., Somerville, near the Cobble Hill neighborhood. More information at [somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing](http://somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing).

\*\*\*\*\*

Join **Mayor Katjana Ballantyne** and Somerville's **Council on Aging** for the annual **Mayor's Senior Picnic** at 11 a.m. at **Trum Field** on **September 9**. Call **Connie Lorenti** at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319 for a free ticket by September 5.

\*\*\*\*\*

Join the **Somerville Arts Council** for **24 Hours of Culture**, a free community party celebrating art, music, food, and joy as a strategy for liberation. **Saturday, August 16, 4 – 10 p.m.** (rain date August 17, same times). In **Union Square Plaza**. Expect live performances, hands-on art workshops, games, and delicious food from local BIPOC vendors. All are welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Somerville Flea Market** is now open for its 13th year. Vintage vendors, artisan makers, farm stand. Live DJ, plus treasures you didn't even know existed. **Sundays, August – October, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., 18 Holland St.**

\*\*\*\*\*

The city is seeking one member for the **Community Preservation Committee**. Application deadline **August 29, 2025**. Are you a Somerville resident who cares about affordable housing, history, open space, and accessibility? Would you like to help guide community investment? Apply to join the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) by August 29, 2025. Fill out the online form at: <https://cityofsomerville.jotform.com/251825134332046>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Rock + Roll Yard Sale** is coming to Union Square this fall, curated by **What Cheer?**. Taking place on **Sunday, September 7**, with a rain date of Sunday, September 14. This event will feature 40 to 50 carefully selected local vendors offering an eclectic mix of vinyl records, vintage clothing, handmade goods, artwork, and more. **12 – 5 p.m., Union Square Plaza**.

\*\*\*\*\*

Save the date for the second annual **Get Ready for School Fair**, open to all SPS students and families. **August 20**, from 4 to 6:00 p.m., followed by a **Welcome to High School event** from 6 – 8:00 p.m. Both events take place at **Somerville High School**.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Health Foundation's 2025-2026 grant funding cycle** is now open. The Foundation plans to distribute approximately \$30,000 and is accepting requests between \$10,000 and \$15,000 **through August 18** at 11:59 p.m. More information can be found under the **"Community Engagement"** title at: [www.challiance.org/community-health](http://www.challiance.org/community-health).

\*\*\*\*\*

**P'alante: Stories Moving Somerville Forward** is an art exhibition by local photographer **Mario Quiroz**, in collaboration with **Somerville Media Center** and **CAAS**, and with support from the **Somerville Department of Racial and Social Justice** and the **Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs**. Photographs will be on display **from August 1 to September 30** at the **East and West Branches of the library**, and **from August 1 to August 30** in the **Central Library Auditorium**. <https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

On **September 13**, the **Gilman Square Arts & Music Festival** will be back to highlight local artists, makers, performers, and food vendors. This event is sup-

ported by the **Somerville Arts Council** and is made possible by an LCC grant, the generous support of local businesses, and volunteers from the **Gilman Square Neighborhood Council**. Raindate, **Sunday 9/14**. Pearl Street between Marshall and James Streets will be closed to vehicular traffic from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. **227-249 Pearl Street, Somerville**.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Let's Get Truckin'.** Get up close to a **Department of Public Works (DPW)** truck and learn about its purpose and more with DPW staff. This event will be held on **Thursday, August 14**, at **Central Library** (79 Highland Ave.) from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Learn more. Keep the fun going and attend **Let's Get Truckin'** at **East Branch Library** on **Wednesday, August 20**.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Somerville High School Class of 1980 Reunion Social** is taking place **Saturday, October 4**, from 7 to 10 p.m., **230 Mishawum Rd., Woburn, MA**. Checks should be made out to **SHS Class of 1980, c/o Mary Ellen Melaragni, 9 Churchill Circle, Winchester, MA 01890, [wasmith1492@gmail.com](mailto:wasmith1492@gmail.com)**.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Museum** presents **Kaleidoscope: Reflecting the Moment through August 23**. *Kaleidoscope: Reflecting the Moment* is an immersive, multi-sensory exhibition by multidisciplinary artist **Flor Delgadillo** that invites us to reflect on shifting ideas of home, family, neighbors, and community in a rapidly changing world. Blending opportunities for pause and reflection with moments of interaction and creation, *Kaleidoscope* explores how light transforms space, how sound carries memory, and how collective experience deepens our sense of belonging, connection, and resilience. For more information, visit: <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Davis Square Market** is open for the 2025 Season. The market will run **every Wednesday** from 12 noon to 6 p.m., **through November 26**, at **44 Day St., Somerville**. This long-running market features over two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers offering a vibrant selection of delicious produce, protein, baked goods, ready-to-eat meals, alongside a host of other locally made products. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards, and offers a weekly \$15

SNAP Match. Visit <https://www.mass-farmersmarkets.org/davis>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Street sweeping** in Somerville resumed on Tuesday, April 1. Somerville's street cleaning program is an essential public works program that not only keeps our city cleaner but also reduces the risk of flooding and icing due to clogged storm drains. The street sweeping season runs **from April 1 until December 31** each year. On designated street sweeping days, vehicles must be moved from the side of the street being swept, as noted on signs posted on each street. The penalty for not complying with street sweeping parking regulations is a \$50 fine. Check the signs on the streets where you park and visit [www.somervillema.gov/sweeper](http://www.somervillema.gov/sweeper) for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*

SCES is teaming up with **City Fresh Foods** to offer a five-pack of **frozen home-delivered meals**. This new meal delivery option is ideal for consumers who want the convenience of home-delivered meals but are not able to be at home each weekday to receive deliveries. Meal recipients can choose which weekday they would like to receive the frozen meals, with up to five meals in each bulk delivery. Each meal comes with bread, milk, and a dessert. Current SCES clients who are interested in receiving meals should call their office at 617-628-2601 or contact their case manager for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*

Through the generosity of the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** and under the direction of **Mayor Ballantyne**, the **Council on Aging** can provide **Durable Medical Equipment** at no cost to Somerville residents. Residents with a documented need for medical equipment must be over the age of 60 or have a permanent disability, and must be otherwise unable to afford or access needed medical equipment. They currently have available: Commodes, Bath Benches, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies, and Transport Wheelchairs. For additional information or for an application, please contact **Debby Higgins** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

\*\*\*\*\*

Don't forget, if you would like to subscribe to receive a **digital edition** of our paper, go directly online to our website, over to the right side, and fill out your email address to receive a free, full PDF copy of the paper.

# Book review: 'Her Last Breath' by Linda Castillo

By Dennis Fischman

When a writer sets a mystery within a particular religious community, it takes a lot of attention to make the book succeed. The author must convey what it's like to live in that community in a way that lets outsiders in. (For me, that's one of the reasons to read the mystery: to learn about a way of life I wouldn't have access to any other way. Knowing what's normal there is a necessary step toward seeing what's out of place, and therefore a clue to the mystery.)

Yet it's tricky to make sure the portrayal is both accurate and, at the same time, respectful. A decent author doesn't cater to the prurient interests of people who want to feel superior to the Hasidic Jews in *Invisible City* [1], or the Friends in *Quaker Silence* [2], but doesn't sugarcoat those communities either.

The Kate Burkholder series, by Linda Castillo, manages those challenges – and provides thrill-

ing reading in the process.

Kate grew up in an Amish community in a small town in Ohio. For reasons that become clear as you read this book, she left the town, the community, and the Amish life. But here she is, back there, as Chief of Police, and in *Her Last Breath* [3], the murders she has to investigate are those of the husband of her best friend growing up, Mattie Erb, and two of their three children – all killed in what is meant to look like a hit-and-run accident. But it is not accidental.

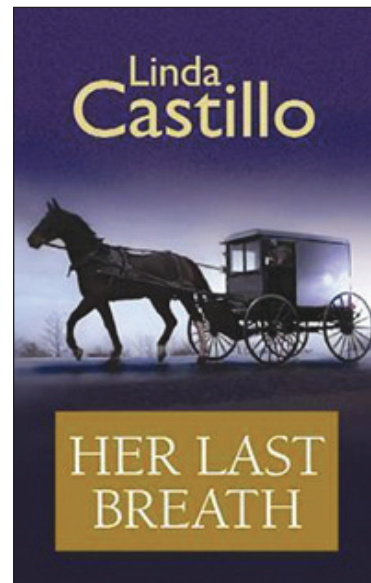
Kate and her department must question people inside the Amish community who tend to stick together and protect one another. They have to track down the vehicle used as the murder weapon using physical clues, and they have to figure out whether it was really the husband, Paul Borntrager, who was the intended victim. Or was it Mattie?

As if this weren't enough to keep Kate (and us readers) occupied, there's a trauma from

her past that's threatening to become public. If it does, it may mean the end of her police career. She and her lover, John Tomasetti of the Ohio Bureau of Investigation, have to figure out what to do about it. But John is pressing her to move in with him and make their relationship permanent, and if she doesn't, it may mean the end of the best thing in her life.

I hope this intrigues you. I have to admit, the solution depends on a character not being what they seem, in a way that I struggled to believe. Also, I am not a fan of the scene where our heroine gets captured, beaten, and has to fight off the killer – but a lot of people find that kind of climactic scene adds to their enjoyment!

I first started reading this series back in 2016, which was already seven years after the first book, *Sworn to Silence* [4], appeared in print. Somehow, I never read this one, the fifth in the series. Returning to it was a pleasure. But you could pick this one up and



*Her Last Breath*, by Linda Castillo. Minotaur Books, 2013.

read it independently, because Linda Castillo [5] makes sure to fill you in about everything you need to know.

And if you like it: well, there are sixteen books in the series, and a seventeenth due out in 2025. You can return to the Amish community in *Painters Mill, Ohio*, again and again.

**Links:**

[1] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18404089-invisible-city>



Dennis Fischman is a member of the Somerville Public Library's Mystery Book Club and an inveterate reader.

<https://www.thesomerville-times.com/archives/140911>

[2] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18009976-her-last-breath>

[3] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6115138-sworn-to-silence>

[4] [https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/54958.Linda\\_Castillo](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/54958.Linda_Castillo)

[5] [https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/54958.Linda\\_Castillo](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/54958.Linda_Castillo)

## Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

**Q: How big of a deal is it if I let my insurance lapse for a while—to save money or handle it later?**

**A: It's a bigger deal than many people may realize.** Letting coverage lapse – even for a few months – can create lasting consequences that go beyond the gap in protection! Here's why skipping coverage “for a little while” can hurt you later:

- You're uncovered during the lapse – Any damage or liability during that time is 100% out of pocket.
- You may not be able to get reinsured

easily – Many insurance companies have internal rules against underwriting new policies after a 60- to 90-day lapse.

• You may get pushed to high-risk carriers – These fallback insurers often charge higher premiums—and may offer limited coverage.

• It can raise red flags with lenders – Especially if the property is mortgaged, a lapse can violate loan terms.

**Bottom line:** Pausing insurance might seem like a short-term money saver, but it often leads to higher costs, fewer options, and more risk down the road. If you're changing how a policy is paid (like moving

it out of escrow), triple-check that coverage never gets interrupted.

**Any questions? I'd be happy to help.**

I'm Vincent Hicks, CPA, based in Somerville with over 20 years of experience. Reach out at [vhicksconnect@gmail.com](mailto:vhicksconnect@gmail.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.*



## Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services program receives prestigious accreditation

CONT. FROM PG 11

of achieving high-quality care at home. Caregivers benefit from tax-free stipends, paid time off, and ongoing support, while participants are cared for by a trusted person.

AFC's dedication to its participants is reflected in its survey data. In the latest participant survey, 99% of respondents said their caregiver has the skills and

knowledge to provide the care they need. More than 95% said they would recommend AFC to a friend.

“AFC is designed to help people receive the best care at home. Our program is uniquely suited to helping friends and families access the tools they need to care for a loved one and feel supported while

doing so,” said Cohen.

Adult Family Care serves more than 200 families across the Greater Boston, North Shore, and Merrimack Valley areas. For more information, visit [adultfamilycare.org](http://adultfamilycare.org), email [AFC@eldercare.org](mailto:AFC@eldercare.org), or call 617-440-0987.

NCQA is a private, nonprofit organi-

zation dedicated to improving health care quality. NCQA accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations. It also recognizes clinicians and practices in key areas of performance. NCQA's Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) is the most widely used performance measurement tool in health care.



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



**Q:** If a person is a member of a protected class, do I HAVE to rent to them?

**A:** No. What you have to do is to treat them the same way as any other tenant who applies. Show them the apartment, check their references and their credit, and do not pass them over just because they are (for instance) unmarried, or Salvadoran, or veterans.

*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.*

**District-wide Back to School Fair**

August 20, 4 – 6 p.m. Last year, over 1000 people attended this event, which included representatives from all our schools and departments and featured 25 community partners.

You are invited to enjoy this popular event to learn about our schools, participate in fun activities and win swag. This event is for families and their students from preschool through grade 12. To be held at Somerville High School.



**Want to write local Somerville stories?**

**Call 857-488-5138**

**and speak to the Assignment Editor**

**BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER**

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why did the coffee taste like dirt?

Because it was ground just a few minutes ago.

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**Somerville through the eyes of Denise**



Mayor Guitar... — Photo by Denise Provost

*On This Day in History*

**August 6**

- 1497 – John Cabot returns to England after his first journey to the Labrador coast.
- 1888 – Martha Turner is murdered by an unknown assailant, believed to be Jack the Ripper, in London, England.
- 1890 – William Kemmler becomes the first man to be executed by the electric chair.
- 1904 – The Japanese army surrounds a Russian army retreating to Manchuria.
- 1927 – A Massachusetts high court hears the final plea from Sacco and Vanzetti, two Italians convicted of murder.
- 1945 – Paul Tibbets, the commander of Enola Gay, drops the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan.
- 1962 – Jamaica becomes independent, after 300 years of British rule.
- 1965 – President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act, outlawing the literacy test for voting eligibility in the South.
- 1991 – Tim Berners-Lee publishes the first-ever website, Info.cern.ch.
- 1997 – Microsoft invests \$150 million in troubled rival Apple Computer, Inc.



## OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

## Interview with Somerville Master Color Printer Carol Fondé

Somerville photographer and master color printer Carol Fondé told me that she loves Somerville, the community, the artists, and the supportive people in her life. I met Carol Fondé at the Nave Gallery in Somerville, to discuss her life and work. Her exhibit at the Nave had ended, but much of her work was still on display, before it would be removed for another exhibition.

She is a friendly, talkative, and forthcoming woman. She was dressed in a very artsy way – you might say her outfit was one of her works of art. Fondé has lived in a number of places, but for four years her home has been in Somerville, MA. Years ago, she attended the Rochester Institute of Technology, where she learned and excelled as a student of her craft.

Fondé told me that in New York City, she founded Carol Fonde, Ltd., the first color lab owned and operated by a fine arts photographer. A master color printer is a highly skilled individual specializing in color printing, with a deep understanding of color theory, various printing processes, and the expertise to achieve exceptional print quality and color accuracy.

These individuals often collaborate with artists and designers to bring their vision to life. In the 1980's she moved to New York City (she still teaches at the New School). She became part of the city's milieu of musicians, writers, and photographers and made a name for herself working with such photography luminaries as Hiro, Annie Leibowitz, Joel Gray, Bruce Davison, Bert Stern, Richard Avedon, and others.

She told me that she became the personal printer for Richard Avedon. And indeed, Avedon was a great mentor for her. She remembered early on, "Avedon viewed one of my prints and told me, 'You didn't print this. This is a hack job. You are much



better than this." Fondé told me that Avedon was a real gentleman. Instead of trashing her, he gave her a backhanded compliment. He was someone who realized her potential as an artist. From my experience, a few simple words from a mentor or teacher can make all the difference in a person's life.

The exhibition was from her body of work, *The Vault*. This is a body of her personal work. Many of the subjects of her photography were her friends. Most of these people were artists, musicians, and visual artists from her artistic milieu. I viewed a picture of a beautiful, moody astrologer, people from the rock scene like Asa Brebner, Jonathan Richmond (*The Modern Lovers*), and many others. She also had some large landscape photographs. According to the artist, she always had an eye for landscape. She grew up in a Georgian mansion on Lloyd Neck on Long Island, NY. She lived near the shore, and as a kid, she took her Brownie everywhere – constantly taking pictures of the ocean. The shots she showed me were impressive ... touched by her magic wand.

In this digital age, there is not as much need for master color printers. But in spite of this, in 2021, she resurrected "Carol Fonde Fine Arts Printing." Fondé told me she wants people to know she is back in business, continuing to use her discerning eye to enhance the beauty of photos and the world for all.

# Lyrical

## SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Marc D. Goldfinger has been published in more places than he can remember. He's the Poetry Editor and a regular columnist for the *Spare Change News*, a member in good standing of the Highway Poets.



### THE OUTS

I have always been infected, I confess  
my heart is with the outs. The left-outs,  
the cast-outs, the out of its, out of their  
minds, possessed by that which has  
them talk to Gods or Demons.  
Our spiritual heads rotate on our necks,  
look into our eyes if you can, see  
outside society, outside civilization,  
the jungle roars from our outside eyes.  
I confess. I am one of them, yet  
even outside them too. The ride-outs,  
the white-outs, the black-outs. I have  
been told, by one authority  
or another that I will always  
be an outsider, an outrider,  
an outlaw, I dance on  
the webbing of civilization.  
I confess. I love the dope-fiends,  
the tramps, the petty thieves,  
the panhandlers, the whores,  
the poets from the fringe, the hustlers,  
the winos in the alley draining the spider  
from a bottle of Maddog 20-20, the dark  
bars and coffee houses where the smoke hangs  
heavy, where junkies draw up  
water from the drain of a dirty  
sink to quiet the voices,  
where the spirits mutter  
divine phrases to themselves. Everyone  
understands, no one is talking.

I confess. I love the flame-outs,  
the burn-outs, the shut-outs, the put-outs.  
The forced-outs, the unclaimed. We know  
each other, give one  
another the nod as we go  
about our business collecting  
the hebephrenic voices of the Gods.  
Okay, I confess. I am haunted by the ghosts  
of the past, the specter of the future,  
by women who look at their husbands  
with fear in their eyes, by men who walk  
docile behind angry wives,  
by the counter-worker who cowers  
when the manager walks  
by, by police who swagger, by guns  
in human hands.  
I confess. I am haunted by people

who think it is okay to develop  
diseases to be used as weapons of war,  
by people who spend millions of dollars  
of taxpayer money to find out what  
a president has done with his penis,  
by non-smokers who think auto-exhaust  
is okay, by companies who drill oil  
wells deep in the ocean and lack  
the technology to stop a well  
that blows one mile under  
the water, then banter while  
ecosystems die, by talk shows  
that promote mob mentality,  
by children who kill each other.  
I confess, I have always been  
infected, I am only haunted  
by what is real.

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