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Opening of Assembly Row Fire Station announced



The informal opening of the Assembly Row fire station took place last week.

— Photo courtesy of City of Somerville

Moving season is in full swing in Somerville, not only for residents, but for the Somerville Fire Department, too. You won't catch the usual move-in sights like futons, bean bag chairs, and crates, but instead a new fire crew, new equipment, and a full Fire Engine are moving into Somerville's first new fire station in half a century.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Fire Chief Charles Breen are pleased to announce the informal opening of the Assembly Row fire station. Though some additional outfitting and organizing is still underway inside, the station went into service on Wednesday afternoon. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place later in September.

"Minutes matter when it comes to saving lives during a fire, and with the opening of this new fire station, not only the growing

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Developers initiate process for proposed Teele Square hotel

By Harry Kane

Plans for the proposed Teele Square eight-story hotel on Broadway may be moving forward if developers can cut through red tape that has prolonged the project.

On August 25, City Councilor At-Large Kristen Strezo sponsored a required neighborhood public meeting to discuss plans for the application to redevelop the site at 1154 Broadway in Teele Square.

"You may affectionately know it as the pit," said Attorney Adam Dash, who represents 1154 Broadway Realty Trust, the owner and applicant of the property.

The parcel has been referred to as the "Teele Square Pit" by locals for years since a multi-tenant building fire affected several

Continued on page 4



Plans for a proposed 8-story hotel at 1154 Broadway in Teele Square are moving forward.

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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.

To mark the 24th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville Department of Veterans' Services invite all community members to a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on **Thursday, September 11**, at 6 p.m. in **Davis Square**. The observance will honor all victims of 9/11 as well as first responders, workers, and volunteers who rushed to the scene to save lives or to later help carry out the dangerous cleanup. It will include a moment of silence and feature an invocation and benediction by **Father Paul Coughlin** as well as remarks by Mayor Ballantyne and **Veterans Director Jerome Thomas**. For more information, please email veterans@somervillema.gov or contact 311 at 617-666-3311.

Somerville's Preliminary Election takes place on **Tuesday, September 16**. This election will narrow the candidate pool before the **Municipal Election on Tuesday, November 4**. Offices on the ballot include: Mayor, Councilor At Large, Ward 7 Councilor, and Ward 3 School Committee. Vote at your designated polling location. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. To look up your polling place, get instructions for voting by mail, review a sample ballot, or for other election info, please visit www.somervillema.gov/elections or call 311 by dialing 3-1-1 or 617-666-3311. **Early Voting for the Primary** will take place at **Somerville City Hall** on the following dates and times: **Wednesday, September 10**, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and **Thursday, September 11**, 8:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of September 10 – September 16 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday <i>September 10</i>	Cloudy	68°/56°	25%	17%	NE 11 mph
Thursday <i>September 11</i>	Sunny	77°/55°	12%	8%	NE 8 mph
Friday <i>September 12</i>	Sunny	69°/59°	2%	1%	ENE 10 mph
Saturday <i>September 13</i>	Partly Cloudy	72°/55°	5%	2%	SE 11 mph
Sunday <i>September 14</i>	Partly Cloudy	73°/55°	26%	17%	SE 9 mph
Monday <i>September 15</i>	Rain	71°/54°	45%	31%	NE 10 mph
Tuesday <i>September 16</i>	Rain	75°/56°	41%	28%	NE 9 mph

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

The Somerville Times

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September 16 Preliminary Election
EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE

SOMERVILLE CITY HALL, 93 HIGHLAND AVE

Tuesday, September 9, 8:30am- 4:30pm

Wednesday, September 10, 8:30am-4:30pm

Thursday, September 11, 8:30am-7:30 pm

More info and other voting options at:

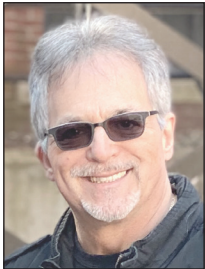
somervillema.gov/elections

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

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.

Training wheels off



Today, bicycles are everywhere. They're beside us, behind us, in front of us, and amongst us everywhere we go, even on the sidewalks. Bicycles have become a

very serious, popular, and scary mode of transportation. But when I was a kid in the '60s and '70s, bicycles were just plain fun. If anyone over 25 rode a bike back then, they were probably called hippies. Growing up in 60's Somerville, a bicycle was a very prized possession. Every kid got one sooner or later. It was a rite of youth. From our first tricycle to when the training wheels came off, we were off and rolling.

My brother, sister, and I had older cousins who gave us their old bikes, and we were so happy to get them. But one Christmas, my parents went all out and bought us three brand new bikes from Sears. They had a light and a horn built

in. It was definitely one of my fondest gifts ever. I can still see those three new shiny bikes in the cellar near the furnace. We had to lock them down the cellar every night.

A friend shares this: "When Ace was in Ball Square circa 1965, my brother Gary and I got new twin Gold metallic Raleighs. We had them about two weeks before they were stolen on a shopping trip to Porter Sq." You had to guard your bike with your life.

Years later, we would build crazy looking bikes out of junk parts just for fun. It took a while to get used to balancing the big metal basket full of newspapers when we started delivering The Record American, The Globe, and The Herald Traveler.

We went everywhere on our bikes. My dad wouldn't allow us to leave our street until we got older. We snuck off anyway. One day when I was 11 years old, four of us rode our bikes to the Prudential Building in Boston. I thought every honk and beep was my father, who I thought was out

looking for me. He never found out.

Along with Ace Bike Shop and Park Sales on Somerville Ave., Abe's Bike Shop was on Mass Ave. in Cambridge. Along with Sears, Lechmere Sales, and Kmart, Bradlees sold bike stuff too. We would customize our bikes with mirrors, bells, sirens, raccoon tails, and hand grip streamers. My favorite accessory was a metal flag holder that attached to the front fork. It held 5 flags.

Remember putting baseball cards in the spokes to make a motor sound? The best motor sound came from putting a balloon in the spokes, but it would always pop if you went too fast. Around 1964, Schwinn introduced the Sting Ray bike. If you had one of those, you were really cool!

Our bikes were very important to us. There would always be at least five or six of us riding around the city looking for fun.

My most memorable bike stunt was done on a dare around *Continued on page 10*



— Photo by Ron Bargoort



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of *The Somerville Times* do not reflect the views and opinions of *The Somerville Times*, its publishers or staff. Readers are invited to send letters to the editor to *The Somerville Times*. Please email your letters to News@TheSomervilleTimes.com or mail them to 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. *The Somerville Times* Reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and length. All letters must include a name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

Recently, Somerville for Palestine has been on a curious crusade. Not for justice. Not for the community. But for the remarkable project of convincing people that a meme I shared lampooning Islamophobia is somehow Islamophobic. You almost have to admire the audacity.

Why would Somerville for Palestine take a meme obviously aimed at the tired, conspiratorial, hate-trafficking voices they also claim to oppose, and twist it into an attack directed at Mamdani? There is only one explanation: because outrage serves their agenda better than the truth.

And that's really the point. This isn't about a meme. It's about priorities. While

they manufacture scandal, I've been focused on the real work of pushing back on hate, standing up for equity, and making sure Somerville is a city where Black, Muslim, Jewish, queer, immigrant, disabled, and working-class residents all have a fair shot. That's the job I've taken seriously as Interim Chair of the Human Rights Commission, and that's the work I intend to keep doing.

Somerville for Palestine have even gone so far as to demand my resignation as Interim-Chair. Let me be clear: I will not resign. I was asked to serve as Interim-Chair by my fellow Commissioners because I have shown the ability to build organiza-

tions, be a voice for vulnerable communities, and willing to take on hate in all its forms. That responsibility is bigger than any smear campaign, and I will continue carrying it out.

I respect that many Somerville for Palestine members genuinely care about peace and justice abroad – the bloodshed in Gaza must end. Full stop. But when a faction here at home trades honest dialogue for bad-faith attacks, it undermines the very solidarity they claim to cherish. Somerville doesn't need performative sideshows; Somerville needs leaders willing to engage honestly, tackle real inequities, and bridge divides in-

stead of exploiting them.

So, if Somerville for Palestine wants to spend its energy purposely misreading a joke, organizing smear campaigns, and calling for my resignation, that tells you everything you need to know. I'll be spending mine on the real fight: building a Somerville that delivers for everyone.

Jason Mackey

Interim Chair, Somerville Human Rights Commission

The views expressed here are my own and do not reflect those of any organization, employer, or group with which I am affiliated.

Opening of Assembly Row Fire Station announced

CONT. FROM PG 1

Assembly neighborhood but our full city just got safer," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "I want to thank our Capital Projects team, planning and development staff, the Fire Department, and our community partner Biomed Realty for collaborating to make this long-needed station a reality – and for creating a space that not only includes leading-edge safety features for our firefighters but sets the standard for a 100% fossil-fuel-free facility."

The Assembly Row station is located on the corner of Middlesex Avenue and Foley Street in Assembly Square. It will house Engine 2, operated by a crew of 3-4 firefighters, and will primarily serve the growing Assembly Square area and the Ten

Hills neighborhood. The approximately 10,000-square-foot station was created via a public-private partnership as part of a larger development owned by BioMed Realty.

A joint project by the city's Department of Infrastructure and Asset Management and Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, along with the Fire Department, the Assembly Row station is Somerville's first newly constructed fire station in roughly 50 years. Fire Headquarters on Broadway was the most recent new station, built in 1974.

"The new fire station will greatly improve response times and provide critical public safety services to the rap-

idly growing Assembly Square neighborhood," said Chief Charles Breen. "In addition, this state-of-the-art station is proof of the city's commitment to improving the quality of life for our dedicated firefighters."

The Assembly Row station is designed for the safety and well-being of the firefighters living and working within. It includes a decontamination area, which has specialized equipment for firefighters to clean protective gear and a dedicated heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system to keep contaminants out of the living areas. The station also has a dayroom and kitchen, a fitness room, and individual bunk rooms.

The building itself is completely fossil-fuel-free. It is 100% electric with heating and cooling via variable refrigerant flow (VRF), similar to a ductless mini-split system. Other features include apparatus bays with exhaust systems and carbon monoxide monitors, a backup emergency generator system, the PURVIS Fire Station Alerting System, internet connectivity and Wi-Fi, and ample storage space. Click here for photos of the new fire station.

Stay tuned: A ribbon-cutting ceremony and official grand opening will be held later this fall. Additional information will be shared via somervillema.gov and city social media as it becomes available.

Developers initiate process for proposed Teele Square hotel

CONT. FROM PG 1

businesses, including the Chinese restaurant Kee Kar Lau, a nail salon, Hawk Cleaners, and a Somerville police substation, on October 29, 2011.

The vacant lot has been left idle due to the possibility of soil contamination around the former dry-cleaning establishment that may force the developers to conduct environmental remediation.

"The property was permitted for a six-story hotel under the old zoning ordinance, which was prior to 2019, and that got approved," Dash said.

That approval has since expired. Now, years later, the developers are proposing an eight-story hotel with 99 rooms.

"A hotel of less than six stories in this economy is just not financeable at the mo-

ment," Dash said.

Now that the application process is underway, the development team requires special permits and variances to move forward with the project.

An interesting feature of the proposed hotel would include parking spaces that contain "parking lifts," explained Will Chalfant, project manager at Khalsa Design, Inc.

The lifts are automated, and each space can hold three cars, he explained. "You have a pit space, a space at level, and then a space above, and they cycle through, up and down, depending on which car they need," Chalfant said.

Chalfant noted that the parking lifts will be accessible exclusively by parking attendants; guests will not need to navigate the lifts.

Amenities for guests in the proposal include a fitness room on the second floor and a bike rack in the garage with bikes that will likely be branded with the hotel name.

In the current proposal, the first floor of the hotel will have a 2000 square foot restaurant along Broadway with an outdoor eating area, he said. However, the ground-floor restaurant cannot be directly associated with the hotel; it must be independently operated.

The development team has also proposed a top-floor restaurant. "On the top floor level, we have a nice restaurant bar that wraps around the three sides of the building, intended to take advantage of the views of the city ... looking towards Boston," Chalfant explained.

The renderings show a rooftop lounge with outdoor seating for hotel guests.

In terms of the overall look of the exterior of the building, Chalfant says: "We are trying to fit in, rather than stand out."

The development team provided renderings showing a "known brick esthetic," and is "trying to have a design language that's very understandable, but that's also contemporary to an extent that will stand the test of time," Chalfant said.

One proposal being considered by the development team is for a Hotel by Hilton, which has several boutique lines of hotels, one of which is called the Graduate by Hilton. The team believes this will encourage parents who visit students at Tufts University to stay at the hotel.

Welcoming Week 2025

By The Times Staff

Anyone and everyone can belong in the City of Somerville. This week marks the beginning of what's known as Welcoming Week. It's a time to make everyone feel welcome and embrace the diversity in the community, and a way to remind residents that what unites us is greater than what divides us.

Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne presented a proclamation at the latest City Council meeting on August 28 to recognize Welcoming Week, which will occur from September 12 through September 21.

"We don't just talk about diversity, we live it," said Mayor Ballantyne. "Our neighborhoods are home to people from across the globe, and our culture, schools, and economy are stronger because of it."

Welcoming Week is a national celebration that reminds residents of Somerville how people from different cultures can come together to foster unity. Learning from others can open minds and build understanding, spark creativity and innovation, and promote empathy and connection.

Mayor Ballantyne and the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA) will facilitate the celebration of immigrant inclusion, community connection, and cultural exchange during Welcoming Week 2025.

It is a celebration of inclusion that will include a series of events and activities designed to uplift immigrant voices, showcase community solidarity, and connect residents across cultures.

The mayor says that the week reminds residents to show courage and not give in to fear. "It's about choosing connection over division, compassion over fear, and love over hate."

Welcoming Week is an annual campaign led by Welcoming America that celebrates the growing movement of inclusive communities. Launched in 2012, it provides a platform for local events that build mutual understanding between immigrants and non-immigrants and deepen a sense of belonging for all.

"While we officially mark Welcoming Week this September, the spirit of this week goes well beyond a single set of days," said Mayor Ballantyne. "In Somerville, welcoming is year-round."



Welcoming Week in Somerville was recognized by official proclamation at the latest City Council meeting.

Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs Community Get-Together

Date/Time: September 25, 3 – 6 p.m.

Location: Edward L. Leathers Community Park, 104 Walnut St.

About: Welcoming Week 2025 will close with a community celebration; with food, music, and resource-sharing to help neighbors connect and thrive.

For more info, go to <https://www.somervillema.gov/welcoming-week>

Forever Fluff: Somerville celebrating 20 years of 'What the Fluff? Festival'

Somerville's Fluff Fest is turning 20, and all are invited to celebrate the famous treat in Union Square on Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 2 to 6 p.m. (rain date: Sunday, September 21). This year's milestone theme, Forever Fluff: 20 Years of Sticky, Sweet Somerville, marks two decades of celebrating the invention of Marshmallow Fluff in Union Square with zany games, music, fluff-filled snacks, and more.

"Only in Somerville could marshmallow Fluff inspire two decades of music, art, and sticky, sweet fun," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "It's a reminder that celebration, creativity, and connection – as well as fearless abandon when it comes to over-the-top fluff games – are at the heart of who we are as a city." Since its debut in 2005, What the Fluff? has grown into one of Somerville's most beloved and quirkiest annual traditions, drawing thousands of residents, visitors, artists, businesses, and community organizations. From Fluff-themed weddings to creative tattoos and games, the festival has inspired countless memories over the years.

This year's 20th anniversary will feature:

- Live music and performances
- Fluff-inspired food from local vendors
- Family-friendly (and sometimes sticky) games and activities
- Local businesses and artisan vendors showcasing Somerville's creative spirit

"Twenty years of Fluff Fest is so much more than just a sweet, rocking good time – it celebrates what makes Somerville unique," said Jessica Eshleman, Executive Director of Union Square Main Streets. "Innovation, the arts, small businesses, and strong community connections are what make Union Square, recently named the 38th coolest neighborhood in the world, the place to be on September 20."

What the Fluff? is co-produced by Union Square Main Streets and the City of Somerville Arts Council as part of the city's ArtsUnion initiative to support cultural economic development in Union Square.

Road Closures and Parking Restrictions

Somerville Avenue (School St. to Warren Ave., Union Square)

Closed to all traffic: 11 a.m.–8 p.m.

No parking: 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

Quincy St., Church St., and Bow St. will operate as two-way between Summer St. and Somerville Ave. from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. to allow abutter access.

Hawkins St. will operate as two-way from Lake St. to Washington St. from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. to allow abutter access.

MBTA buses will be rerouted from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. For updated stop locations, visit [MBTA.com](https://www.mbta.com).

For more information, visit [flufffestival.com](https://www.flufffestival.com).



COMMENTARY

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

Why are Mayor Ballantyne and the Somerville City Council not mailing voters information about the proposed new City Charter?



By Jack Connolly
Jackconnolly422@gmail.com

Since 1918, Massachusetts voters have enjoyed the constitutional rights of initiative and referendum. Because of this, voters have been able to propose new state laws they deem necessary and appropriate and challenge those

laws they believe to be unworthy of their support.

Many important state laws have been enacted because of the right of initiative. Among the most recent are the law allowing the sale and personal use of recreational marijuana and the so-called millionaire surtax law.

To ensure that the rights of initiative and referendum could be fully and fairly implemented, the Legislature enacted Chapter 54, Section 53 of the General Laws. This statute requires the Secretary of State to mail each household with a registered voter a summary of the proposed ballot measure(s) they are being asked to vote upon at the

upcoming general election, together with arguments for and against such measure(s).

Curiously, there is no similar statute requiring cities and towns to mail voters' information when they place binding questions on their general election ballot. There is, however, a statute, Chapter 53, Section 18B of the General Laws, that requires local governments to mail such information to voters, but only if this statute is accepted by the municipality.

For thoroughly inexplicable reasons, the city council and Mayor Ballantyne failed to include any language in the proposed city charter home rule pe-

tition that would have ensured that voters are mailed information about the charter prior to the November 4 election. This mistake could have easily been rectified by the city council's acceptance of Chapter 53, Section 18B. The city council's stonewalling on this issue must cease, and move forward immediately!

The Somerville City Council can and should vote this week to accept this statute without any further delay. The voters they represent deserve to know what is in the proposed city charter and be given the reason(s) to vote for or against its approval.

House Bill 4445, the proposed city charter legislation, sits in the

state senate committee on bills in the third reading. Its passage is now in the hands of state senator Patricia Jehlen.

Although it would not be ideal, Senator Jehlen should delay final Senate action on House 4445 unless and until the Somerville City Council and Mayor Ballantyne do what is in the best interest of Somerville's voters. And that is: accept Chapter 53, Section 18B.

Not to do so would be a travesty of transparency.

Jack Connolly is a native Somervillian, a Davis Sq. resident and insurance agent. He is also a former Somerville Ward Six and At Large Alderman (known now as City Councilor).

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: How important is it for both partners in a relationship to be on the same financial page?

A: Extremely! While everyone has different financial styles and preferences, successful partnerships are built on a shared understanding of how money decisions are made – and how to navigate differences.

Here are a few key reminders for couples managing money together:

- Decide how financial decisions will be made. Whether you agree easily or often disagree, there should be a clear and respectful process for working things out.
- Balance authority and accountability. Even if one person earns more or handles the day-to-day money tasks, both partners contribute – and both should have a voice.
- Talk regularly – not just during emer-

gencies. Setting aside time for check-ins can prevent misunderstandings and build mutual confidence.

- Work as a team when challenges arise. If one person overspends or avoids budgeting, don't assign blame — focus on solutions that support your shared goals.
- Getting aligned won't solve everything overnight — but it can improve financial health, reduce stress, and may even bring you closer.

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 vchicksconnect@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.

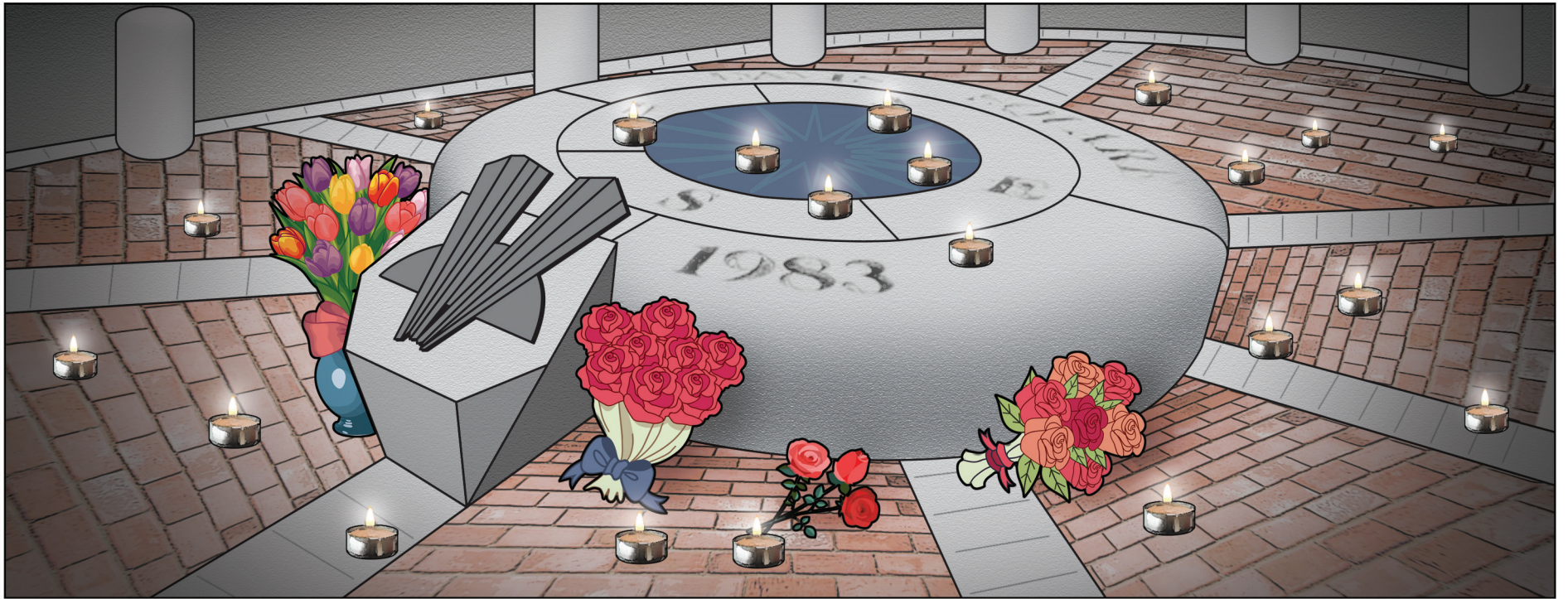


Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

COMMENTARY

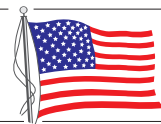
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville remembers the victims and heroes of September 11, 2001.

Our View Of The Times



Although 24 years will have passed since the terrible and tragic events of September 11, 2001, took place, for many of us, the shock and horror remain fresh in our memories. And since we, as New Englanders, were relatively close to the sites of destruction and loss of life, we can perhaps feel those sensations of sadness and even anger a little deeper than some others might, especially since our own Logan

Airport played a role in the perpetrators' deadly scheme.

It all felt so close. The Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and then the anthrax threats. It seemed like the world had gone mad, and we wondered where we could go to be safer. More than a few spoke of heading for remote locations until things calmed down.

Today, we join the rest of the nation

in remembering those who were injured and killed during this horrendous event, including the brave first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Those who were there and survived the ordeal are also remembered and honored on this occasion.

We've all been through so much over the past year or two, dealing with the pandemic and all the fallout associated with it.

Perhaps it's time to set aside what divides us and embrace what unity we can.

Consider joining in for the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony tomorrow, September 11, at 6:00 p.m. in Davis Square to share our thoughts and feelings, and show solidarity in our support for those who have passed and those who remain, doing everything in their power to help keep us safe.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **Bob Trane**, who is a lifelong resident and a former Somerville Alderman. We wish him a very happy birthday. Also celebrating is **Maureen Cuff Bastardi**. We wish her a very special day. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **David C. Roberts**, **Stephen J. Bremis**, **Maureen McCole**, **Richard Keller**, **Felicia Dalelio**, **Dan Johnson**, **Alexa Trefonides-Mase**, **Jeff Meese**, **Judy Calvey**, **Cheryl Tucker**, **Mary Ann Beaton**, **Jessica O'Brien**, **Jane Becker**, and **Gary DiZoglio**, a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have

missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

The **Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH)** announced last week that the first positive human case of **West Nile Virus (WNV)** confirmed in the state this year was a woman in her 70s who was exposed in Middlesex County. Today, Somerville has their risk level elevated to high risk for West Nile Virus. Residents should continue to take precautions to protect themselves against mosquito bites and mosquito-borne diseases, including WNV and **Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)**. For more informa-

tion, visit mass.gov/dph/mosquito or call the **Massachusetts DPH Epidemiology Program** at 617-983-6800.

This year's **Riverfest** will take place on **Saturday, September 13**, 11 a.m. – 9 p.m., 355 Artisan Way. Enjoy fireworks over the **Mystic River**, shop 30+ artisan vendors, play beach volleyball or pickleball at **Club Volo**, and experience live performances on two different stages throughout the day. This year, the **Baxter Park Oval** will feature a bounce house obstacle course, giveaways, roving entertainment, and more family-friendly fun. End the evening with a breathtaking fire-

works display over the **Mystic River** – the perfect finale to a day of community, celebration, and fun.

Are you an Artist or Craftmaker who creates objects for sale? You can rent a table to display and sell your wares on **Saturday, October 25**, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the **Holiday Crafts Fair** at the **Somerville Community Baptist Church** in **Davis Square**. The price for renting a table is \$35. The Fair will also feature food and fun activities for all ages. To rent a table, please make out your check for \$35 to Somerville Community Baptist Church, and mail it along with *Continued on page 13*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#988

- Who is known as the King of Clay?
- Who played the character Jack Dawson in the movie *Titanic*?
- What's the maximum number of sets in a Grand Slam match?
- Which actor played Iron Man in the Marvel Cinematic Universe?
- What tennis star celebrates their birthday on September 26?
- What painting by Vincent van Gogh depicts a September harvest scene?
- When is International Day of Peace?
- What band was Harry Styles a member of before his solo career?
- Who was the first player to achieve a Golden Slam?
- Which novel features a character named Holden Caulfield?
- Who is known as the "Swiss Maestro" in tennis?
- Which poet wrote *The Raven*?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- On average, 100 people choke to death on pens every year.
- A dragonfly has a lifespan of only 24 hours.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD COMBO WORDS

ACROSS

- Wood file
- Pick up a perpetrator
- This and that
- Title for Turkish leader
- Tarantino's "___ Bill: Vol.1"
- Ten million, in India
- Type of word
- Kent State state
- Oohed partner
- Sleeping in a very fancy tent
- Board game of diplomacy
- Canada's favorite tree?
- Long time
- Asian wild sheep
- Galilei's first name
- Ever, to a poet
- Lease giver
- Hokkaido native
- Sends unwanted emails
- Charlotte's creation
- "Bravo! Bravo!"
- Roughly (2 words)
- Common spa treatment
- Gobbled up
- Movie theater snack
- Infer using data
- Entrepreneur Mary Ash's middle name
- Wiser
- Decomposes
- Communication device
- Veranda, in Honolulu
- Rum-soaked cake
- Shades of color
- Those against
- Tehran location
- Small island
- Violin's Renaissance predecessor
- Cloud's domain
- Left after deductions, in U.K.

DOWN

- Escaped
- Bug-eyed
- Synagogue
- Wide-brimmed straw hat
- Nothing, in Latin
- Skirt shape
- Online journal
- Exceptionally intelligent one
- Aah's partners
- Hiker's journey
- He had
- Small hill rising up from veld
- Classic TV's "lovely lady"
- Pall ___ and ___ of America
- ENT's first concern?
- "The Fox and the Grapes" storyteller
- Copy, slangily
- Get the picture
- Desert in China and Mongolia
- Jasmine's kin
- Related on mother's side
- Revealed
- Zeus in disguise
- Not min or hr
- Nonalcoholic drink
- LDS missionary
- Cook in a skillet
- Sea in the Mediterranean
- Desert mirage
- Prickly marine invertebrate
- Scornful remark
- Keep someone ____, ____, or away from causing harm
- Indian princess
- On top of
- Wading bird
- Yorkshire river
- Patty follower
- Abbreviation on a bathroom door
- Part of tennis match

CROSSWORD												
1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
	18			19					20			
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43				44				45		46		
				47			48	49				
	50	51				52				53	54	
55						56				57		58
59						60				61		
62						63				64		



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

Soultion in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Somerville to host public forums on social consumption licenses



The Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) recently drafted three types of licenses allowing for the “social consumption” of cannabis by adults 21 and older in approved venues, similar to those allowing for alcohol consumption. Once these regulations are finalized, communities will be able to choose whether they opt into the new rules.

In the coming months, the city will be reviewing the CCC’s regulations and is proactively seeking public feedback to help shape Somerville’s approach to cannabis social consumption. These licenses will create new opportunities for individuals and businesses to consume or serve cannabis in accordance with CCC regulations and guidelines. To inform Somerville’s approach, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the city’s Economic Development division invite local businesses and residents to participate in upcoming forums to learn about and discuss options.

For more information on cannabis social consumption, please visit: somervillema.gov/social-consumption.

The city is hosting public forums for potential business operators and the public throughout the fall, beginning on September 30.

Community Outreach Schedule:

- Virtual forums for business operators interested in opening a cannabis social consumption establishment in Somerville:

Tuesday, September 30, at 11 a.m. online via Zoom

Zoom ID: 812 9581 3073

URL: bit.ly/45xhDzh

Monday, October 6, at 6 p.m. online via Zoom

Zoom ID: 848 8412 7712

URL: bit.ly/45LD5iQ

- In-person forums for the public to learn more and share your thoughts about cannabis social consumption:

Wednesday, October 29, at West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.), 6 p.m.

Thursday, November 6, East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.), 6 p.m.

- Virtual forum for the public to learn more and share thoughts about cannabis social consumption:

Monday, November 17, at 7 p.m. online via Zoom

Zoom ID: 859 2351 6298

URL: bit.ly/47dgD4x

For more information about the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission, the state agency that makes the rules for legal cannabis sales in Massachusetts, visit their website at www.masscannabiscontrol.com.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



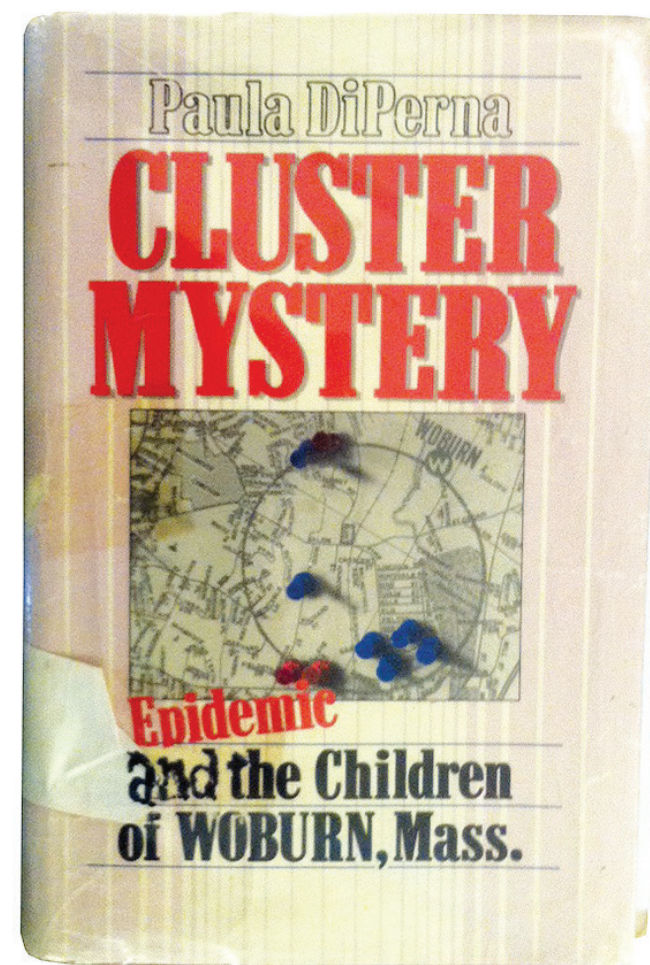
Eagle feathers #337

This article first appeared in the December 10, 2014, edition of *The Somerville Times*.

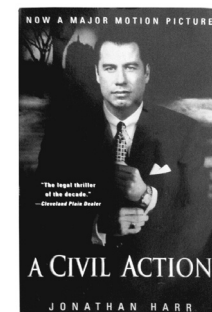
Anderson’s Train

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Charlestown, established in 1628, is older than Boston. It originally covered ten towns before it split and annexed itself to the capital city, taking 200 years to accomplish.



Somerville was the last to separate in 1842, and Woburn was the first to leave in 1642. Through the forthcoming years, one of the only things that would slowly reconnect them were new transportation routes. The Middlesex Canal was built in 1803, followed by the Medford Turnpike in 1804, the Middlesex Turnpike in 1823, the Boston and Lowell Railroad in 1835, and eventually Interstate Route 128 in 1951 and Route 93 in 1963.



Not long ago, Route 93 travelers were uncomfortably aware of which town they were passing through. The reason for this awareness was the strong odors permeating from the upheaval of a toxic waste site abreast of the highway. It was one of the ten worst contaminated sites in the nation.

The location was just north of the Route 128 and the Route 93 cloverleaf, *Continued on page 11*

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB #26-16**

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

**Nunziato Field and Dog Park Water Fountain Installation
& Quincy Street Open Space Renovation**

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) 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, September 10, 2025**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **2:00PM Wednesday, September 24, 2025**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all bids if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required. Massachusetts Prevailing Wages apply.

Felisa Garate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406

9/10/25 The Somerville Times

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Training wheels off

CONT. FROM PG 3

1968 at Grant's five and Ten store in Davis Square. I rode my bike in the front door, which was on Elm St. I peddled all the way through the store, almost knocked over a few people, whizzed down the aisles, down several steps, and out the back door on Herbert Street. I didn't get bagged.

At one time, you could register your bike at the Somerville Police station, and you'd get a small metal license. I'm not sure of the years that practice was incorporated, but I had one.

Here's a memory from a friend of mine: "Not sure about the 70s and 80s, but in the 60s, we went to Jimmy Welch's Garage (on Hudson Street behind the firehouse). Whatever parts you couldn't get along the tracks, you could usually get from Jimmy. For stuff like new tubes and patch kits, we'd go down to Somerville Ave. to Park Sales or over to Roach's Sporting Goods or Kresge's. Seems like Mickey Finn used to sell bike tire tubes as well."

Our bikes were from Sears, Schwinn, Raleigh, Columbia, and J.C. Higgins. And then came more fancy and expensive bikes like Fujis, and Motobecanes. The last bike I had was a nice Trek that was stolen out of my yard five years ago. I don't mind. My bike riding days are over anyway. Too dangerous. Plus, I have two new titanium hips to get me around.

Curbside food waste collection pilot announced

As part of efforts to support both neighborhood life quality and climate goals, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne announces Somerville's new pilot program for curbside food waste collection. In partnership with Garbage to Garden [1], the City of Somerville will provide weekly curbside food waste collection to up to 1,200 eligible East Somerville households through mid-2027. The pilot program will help the city better understand how municipal composting could be expanded citywide in the future and how it could support the city's carbon net-negative Climate Forward [2] goals.

"Curbside composting programs are a win-win. With curbside food waste pickup, you get immediate neighborhood benefits like reducing trash, odors, and food sources for rodents. Citywide, it also reduces your carbon footprint, decreases waste going to landfills and incinerators, and produces high-quality compost," said Mayor Ballantyne. "This pilot is an exciting first step in exploring what's next for modernizing – and greening – waste collection in Somerville."

The pilot program will provide no-cost curbside food waste collection to a test area in a portion of East Somerville. To be eligible, residents must live in a building with six units or fewer and not already have an active curbside composting subscription. Participating households will receive a kitchen container, curbside bin, and educational materials at no cost. Garbage to Garden will pick up the compost bin weekly on trash and recycling collection day.

As described in Somerville's Zero Waste Plan [3] and Climate Forward 2024, the city has set waste diversion goals to reduce the amount of waste generated in the city by 30 percent by 2030 and 90 percent by 2050. In Massachusetts, plant and animal waste and compostable paper account for approximately 30 percent of municipal solid waste, so municipal composting is a key action toward these goals.

According to the city's Consumption-Based Emissions Inventory [4], food, including food waste, is the single largest source of resident carbon emissions within Somerville's bor-



The city's new pilot program for curbside food waste collection will provide weekly curbside food waste collection to up to 1,200 eligible East Somerville households.

ders, outpacing both transportation and housing-related activities like heating and residential electricity use. Avoiding food waste and only buying as much food as households need is one of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to avoid food emissions.

"Beyond quality of life and sustainability benefits, composting also promotes zero waste principles. Each time we toss our leftovers or expired foods into a compost bin instead of the trash, it can raise awareness of our overall consumption and give residents an opportunity to grow a culture of climate action that will make a difference in our community and beyond," said Christine Blais, Director of the Somerville Office of Sustainability and Environment. "In short, programs like this can have a positive multiplier effect on how we each approach our own role in improving our environment."

In the coming weeks, the City of Somerville will conduct targeted outreach and will provide more information about how you can find out if your household is eligible for the curbside food waste collection pilot program. To be alerted when the program eligibility and enrollment form is available, please visit somervillema.gov/foodwaste and sign up to receive

pilot program updates. Or watch for announcements on City social media, in the City e-newsletter (subscribe at somervillema.gov/subscribe), or local news.

For more information, contact the Office of Sustainability and Environment at (857) 270-4608 via text/call or via email at ose@somervillema.gov.

About Garbage to Garden

Garbage to Garden serves over 40,000 households, schools, restaurants, businesses, and events throughout Maine and Massachusetts. Guided by a commitment to sustainability and the local economy, Garbage to Garden makes composting easy, approachable, and accessible for everyone.

Links:

- [1] <https://garbagetogarden.org/>
- [2] <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/climate-forward>
- [3] chrome-extension://efaidnbmn-nnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://s3.amazonaws.com/somervillema-live/s3fs-public/Somerville_Zero_Waste_Plan_2023.pdf
- [4] chrome-extension://efaidnbmn-nnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://s3.amazonaws.com/somervillema-live/s3fs-public/Somerville_CBEI_Report_2023.pdf

Land Use Committee discusses Gilman Square upzoning proposal

By Jordan Pagkalinawan

On September 4, the Somerville Land Use Committee heard from Land Use Analyst Samantha Carr on an upzoning proposal from the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council.

Gilman Square zoning proposal

The proposed changes include incrementally upzoning parcels along Medford and Pearl Street from Mid-Rise 4 to Mid-Rise 6, converting the Homan's site designation from civic space to Mid-Rise 6, and expanding the pedestrian street designation beyond the current Medford and Pearl Street corridor.

Carr also explained how the proposal aligns with the SomerVision 2040 [1] initiative, noting how it would celebrate the neighborhood's unique character, grow a transit-oriented economic base, and build a sustainable future through affordable housing options, the latter of which would be unlocked with Mid-Rise 6 upzoning.

The proposal would also fit with the Gilman Square Station Area Plan [2] by encouraging redevelopment of underutilized sites and promoting the construction of new buildings "with a percentage of affordable units."

Carr recommended building on the initial proposal and enhancing certain aspects to meet the committee's goals, as well as considering incremental upzoning from Mid-Rise 4 to Mid-Rise 6 within a quarter-mile of the transit walkshed buffer. She also advised members to take a judicious approach to expanding the pedestrian street designation, which would offer "some great opportunities to enhance active transportation infrastructure."

Councilor Matthew McLaughlin explained that the timing of the Gilman Square proposal aligns with the city's zoning work on the Broadway corridor.

"If we get the two of those done, that will cover a lot of the [Green Line] train stations, so we'll have a lot of density by transit, and then we can start focusing on other areas as well," he added.

Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen noted that the Homan's site should remain designated as "civic space," citing that it is a city-controlled process and not a zoning issue.

Reaction to proposal

Councilors were generally supportive of the proposal, citing how similar discussions have occurred for years "in the abstract," according to Councilor Jake Wilson.

Wilson also favored zoning certain parcels as Urban Residential around MR-6 complexes, adding, "I'm generally a big fan of UR. It seems like the data we got in that presentation before the recess showed UR to be a really underrated workhorse of new housing creation around the city. I think we can do a lot with UR."

"Everyone I hear from in the Gilman Square area, what they want to see is a really vibrant, mixed-use neighborhood," Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen said before citing two other rounds of upzoning that did not lead to "actual groundbreaking."

"We have the time to get this right and come up with a proposal that the neighborhood supports, that the council supports, and that is gonna ultimately lead to a vibrant, mixed-use square," he added. "It's important that we do it. I very much support the citywide and Gilman Square-specific goals. And also, I think we need to be realistic and cognizant of the fact that it's not just zoning that's keeping Gilman Square in the spaces that it's been for a while."

Concern over potential tax increases

One key concern some committee members shared was the potential for tax increases that would accompany upzoning. Both Ewen-Campen and Wilson

requested future comments from the chief assessor on the tax implications of the proposal

"There are people who live there [next to Gilman Square Station], maybe one or two-unit houses right now, and if they have no intentions to redevelop any time soon, that, in theory, could be a massive tax increase on them," Ewen-Campen said.

Ewen-Campen also wanted to update the proposal to include School Street for zoning changes from Neighborhood Residential to Urban Residential.

Next steps

Following the presentation, Carr plans to hold discussions with the planning department to move the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council's proposal forward between sessions. The committee hopes to have a representative from the Assessor's Office present at their September 18 meeting to resolve concerns over tax implications.

Links:

[1] <https://www.somervision2040.com/>

[2] <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.somervillebydesign.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Gilman-Square-Station-Area-Plan-Final-Web.pdf>

Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 9

where former chemical, glue manufacturing and tannery companies flourished for over 100 years. It was Woburn, Massachusetts.

Now, many years later, the area has been restored and sealed with an impermeable layer as a result of a \$70 million superfund. This 300 acres of reclaimed area is where Route 93's newest bridge takes you to Raytheon, Target, and The Anderson Regional Transportation Center.

The ARTC is the most interesting site of them all and was named in honor of young leukemia sufferer Jimmy Anderson. He was one of the inordinate number of cancer victims from this area. This multi-functional MBTA and Amtrak facility serves rail, bus, and airport shuttles to Logan Airport.

Jimmy's mother, Anne Anderson, grew up in Somerville, went to Somerville High School and was a Somerville librarian for seven years before moving to Woburn to raise

her family. It was Anne Anderson who, inspired by her son's and other children's suffering, became the spark plug of an eight-family lawsuit against suspected polluters of Woburn's water supply. During this time one of these families, the Auferos, also formerly of Somerville, was on its way to Massachusetts General Hospital with their 3 ½ year-old son, Jarrod, when he stopped breathing. They detoured off Route 93 for help at the Winter Hill Fire Station. Firefighter Fred Carter performed CPR on Jarrod until they reached MGH where he later died.

Anne's suspicions and persistent detective work brought to light a cluster of child cancer cases in her neighborhood and beyond. Her untiring work eventually led her to testify in Washington, D.C. The complicated, landmark case of the 1980's generated a number-one best-selling book by Jonathan Harr, *A Civil Action*, which took 8 ½ years to research and write. This, in



turn, generated a major, star-studded motion picture with the same title. The cast included John Travolta, Robert Duvall, James Gandolfini, Kathleen Quinlan, and a bit part by talk-show host and former

Somerville resident, Howie Carr.

Because of the efforts of Anne Anderson and her colleagues for over a decade, a superfund and the Massachusetts Cancer Registry were established.



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week



Q: I think I've been discriminated against. What should I do?

A: Call Shannon Lawler at the City of Somerville Housing Department, 617-625-6600 ext. 2569 (or email her at slawler@somervillema.gov) Shannon will help you know your rights and figure out what you can do

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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BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



I found a book called *How to Solve 50% of Your Problems*. So I bought two.

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Restaurant Hood Cleaning
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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Just what milkweed is for... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

September 10

- 1419 – John the Fearless is murdered at Montereau, France, by supporters of the dauphin.
- 1588 – Thomas Cavendish returns to England, becoming the third man to circumnavigate the globe.
- 1846 – Elias Howe patents the first practical sewing machine in the United States.
- 1861 – Confederates at Carnifex Ferry, Virginia, fall back after being attacked by Union troops.
- 1914 – The six-day Battle of the Marne ends, halting the German advance into France.
- 1963 – President John F. Kennedy federalizes Alabama's National Guard to stop public-school desegregation.
- 1981 – Pablo Picasso's painting *Guernica* is returned to Spain and installed in Madrid's Prado Museum.
- 2008 – The Large Hadron Collider is powered up in Geneva, Switzerland.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

your name and contact information (address, phone, email) to SCBC, 31 College Avenue, Somerville, MA 02144. For more information about the Fair, contact **Marion Annacone**, marion.annacone@gmail.com.

The **City of Somerville** is hiring **polling place Inspectors** and **standby poll workers** for the upcoming **Preliminary Municipal Election**. Poll workers must be available on **Election Day: Tuesday, September 16**. The workday starts at 6:30 a.m. and ends after polls close at 8 p.m., with a two-hour break. Duties include setting up and breaking down the precinct, greeting and checking in voters, and assisting at the voting machines. Inspectors can earn \$240 for the day. To apply, please email **Human Resources** at hrad-min@somervillema.gov. Applicants will be contacted and hired as needed up until Election Day.

The **City of Somerville** is planning to build a new **PK-8 public school building**, and the **Construction Advisory Group (CAG)**, **Mayor Ballantyne**, and **Somerville Public Schools** want to hear from you. To learn more about the project and take the survey offered in seven languages, please visit somervillema.gov/newpkto8.

Registrations are now open for **Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services' fall Savvy Caregiver course**. Savvy Caregiver is an evidence-based training program designed to help family caregivers best support a loved one with dementia and care for themselves. The course has been proven to decrease caregiver distress, burden, and depression, while increasing a caregiver's sense of competence and confidence in their care role. Participation is free. Savvy Caregiver will be held virtually via Zoom **each Wednesday** from 12 to 2 p.m., **starting October 1 and concluding on November 12**. To register, call 617-628-2601 ext. 3153 or email katherine.bonilla@eldercare.org.

Ignite: A Global Street Food & Fire Festival is returning to Union Square on **Saturday, September 27**. Get ready for a magical afternoon filled with flavors from around the world, incredible culture and fire performances, and entertainment that will light up the evening. Expect more opportunities for hands-on experiences. 3:30 – 7:30 p.m., **Union Square**. <https://>

somervilleartscouncil.org/events/ignite-festival-2/.

The **Somerville Garden Club** is holding its annual plant sale. **Sunday, September 21**, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (rain or shine), **331 Summer Street**, Somerville. Discover the perfect plant to enliven your garden or windowsill at this popular yearly sale. Perennials for sun and shade, herbs, shrubs, groundcovers, plus a wide variety of house plants, will be featured. Choose from hundreds of plants donated by Somerville Garden Club members and friends – there's something for everyone! Horticultural books, decorative containers, and garden tools will also be for sale. Experienced gardeners will be available to answer questions and assist with plant selections. Proceeds benefit the all-volunteer, non-profit Somerville Garden Club.

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!

The **Somerville Naloxone Distribution event** takes place on **Thursday, September 18**, 1 – 4 p.m., **Davis Square Plaza**, Somerville, intersection of College and Highland Avenues. **Somerville Public Overdose Prevention Training** takes place **Tuesday, September 23**, 6 – 7 p.m., **Auditorium, Somerville Public Library Central Branch**, 79 Highland Avenue, Somerville. Registration link: bit.ly/4mJcOsw. For more information, please contact **Director of Prevention Services Tina Los** at tlos@somervillema.gov.

Fall Festival, September 13. Welcome the fall season with fun for the whole family. Enjoy bounce houses, music, and an array of fall-themed activities, including pumpkin decorating, face painting, music, and more. This event will be held at **Founders Rink** (8 Gar-

den Court) from 1 to 4 p.m.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and **The Somerville Arts Council** are pleased to announce the return of the **Rock + Roll Yard Sale to Union Square Plaza**. Now in its 18th year in Somerville, this long-running event celebrates creativity, community, and the city's do-it-yourself spirit. For updates, follow @rockandrollyardsale and @somervilleartscouncil on Instagram, or visit somervilleartscouncil.org/events/rock-and-roll-yard-sale. **Sunday, September 14**, 12 – 5 p.m.

The **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.

Somerville author **Lesley Bannatyne** will read and discuss her new novel-in-stories, *Lake Song*, at **Porter Square Books, Cambridge**, at 7 p.m. on **Thursday, September 11**. Lesley will be joined in conversation with **Dr. Talaya Delaney**, and a book signing immediately follows the event. Everyone is welcome.

Save the Date: *What the Fluff? A Tribute to Union Square Innovation* is a madcap festival honoring the invention of **Marshmallow Fluff**. It celebrates Somerville's long-standing tradition of innovation with live music, fluffalicious feasts, sticky games, and so much more happening **Saturday, September 20**, from 2 to 6 p.m. in **Union Square** (severe weather date Sunday, September 21).

The **Somerville Farmer's Market Community Booth Interest form** is now open. The market has two community booths available each week (free of charge) for the nonprofits, schools, and other organizations working to benefit the greater Somerville community. Petition the greater Somerville community by tabling for your organization. Community Booth form: <https://forms.gle/L62Zr2RtUK4NjqmW9>. The priority deadline is **September 27**. Email swfm_community@artsatthearmory.org with any questions.

As the next step in realizing **Somerville's Master Plan** to transform the city's **Armory building** into a public community arts center, the **Ballantyne Administration** is sharing phase one application

guidance for interested prospective arts tenants. For more information, visit voice.somervillema.gov/armory-master-plan.

On **September 13**, the **Gilman Square Arts & Music Festival** will be back to highlight local artists, makers, performers, and food vendors. This event is supported 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**. **Saturday, September 13**, from 12 to 5 p.m. (severe weather date: Sunday, September 14), located on Pearl St. from Marshall to James Street.

The **Somerville High School Class of 1980 Reunion Social** is taking place **Saturday, October 4**, from 7 to 10 p.m., **Jake n Joe's**, 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. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Join **Union Square Main Streets** and 60+ of your favorite local food producers for the **21st Annual Union Square Farmers Market**. Shop local **Saturdays through October 25**, except September 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Union Square Plaza. Thanks to their partnership with the City of Somerville and the **Somerville Farmers Market Coalition**, they are proud to continue to offer our SNAP match. For more info, visit unionsquaremain.org/2025-season.

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. For additional information or for an application, please contact **Debby Higgins** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

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Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Rafael Nadal | 7. Roger Federer |
| 2. Five sets for men, three sets for women | 8. Leonardo DiCaprio |
| 3. Serena Williams | 9. Robert Downey Jr. |
| 4. <i>The Harvest</i> | 10. One Direction |
| 5. September 21 | 11. <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> |
| 6. Steffi Graf in 1988 | 12. Edgar Allan Poe |



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville Poet Mollie O'Leary: A poet of Memories

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Peter F. Crowley is a prolific writer from the Boston area whose work spans short fiction, op-eds, poetry, and academic essays. His writing has appeared in publications such as *Pif Magazine*, *New Verse News*, *Counterpunch*, *Common Dreams*, *The Galway Review*, *Digging Through the Fat*, and *The Opiate*. He was a finalist in both the short story and poetry categories of Adelaide's Award Anthologies. He is the author of two poetry collections, *Those Who Hold Up the Earth* and *Empire's End*, as well as a short fiction collection, *That Night and Other Stories*.



Recently, I caught up with Somerville Poet Mollie O'Leary. She generously agreed to answer my questions. From her website:

"Mollie O'Leary (b. 1995) is a poet from Massachusetts. She holds a B.A. in English and Philosophy from Kenyon College and an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Washington. Mollie's chapbook *The Forgetting Curve* was published in 2023 through *Poetry Online's* chapbook contest. Her work has appeared in *McNeese Review*, *Chestnut Review*, *wildness* and elsewhere. Mollie has participated in workshops through Tin House and Inprint; she has also attended artist residencies in Mexico, Italy, and Norway."

Doug Holder: How has it been for you as a poet living in Somerville?

Mollie O'Leary: Somerville and the surrounding neighborhoods have a really vibrant arts and poetry scene. I've met a lot of people through poetry, including a local group of Boston poets called the Chickadee Collective. It's been really inspiring and energizing to connect with people who share a love of language and want to talk about it!

DH: You studied at Kenyon College with Somerville Poet Jennifer Clarvoe. How did this experience shape you as a writer?

MO: Jennifer taught my Introduction to Poetry workshop, when I was a sophomore in college which was hugely influential since I was just starting out and finding my voice. I was also in her Prosody and Poetics class, where I learned more about the musicality and rhythm of poetry. I remember we had to memorize and recite poems in her class, and that was such an interesting exercise in what lines, rhymes, or metaphors tend to stick with you and why that might be. It was a wonderful surprise to run into Jennifer at a coffee shop in Somerville almost 10 years since I took my first class with her!

DH: Reading your poem *The Forgetting Curve*, I am reminded of Elizabeth Bishop's *One Art* with its opening line "The art of losing is not hard to master." Was Bishop an influence for you?

MO: Almost all of my mentors and various readers have drawn parallels between myself and Bishop – and I love that! Bishop has always been a big influence. I was actually introduced to her poem *Sestina* in a class with Jennifer. Bishop's understatement in that poem, while also being so straightforward and honest with the reader, struck me and has stayed with me ever since. Studying Bishop's emotional restraint and her use of unadorned yet moving language has helped me write some of my more difficult poems, like *Anti-Elegy*.

DH: Why should we read your work?



MO: My poetry is very interested in memory and how it shapes our understanding of ourselves and our connections with others, especially in the wake of traumatic or emotionally difficult events. If you have memories that you are both hesitant to remember yet afraid to forget, I think you'll connect with my work.

RECURRENCE

Peering into the scoured bathtub, I spot sour mildew budding. I wake to pink biofilm on graying porcelain. Even slime mold has memory; its amoeba body retrieves oat flakes. After I scythe seven inches of hair, still I feel long strands running down my spine. Ever since the flood, I try not to hold onto much, exfoliate dead cells as if this excess might weigh down a life raft. I slip pale sea glass into my pocket only to part with it once I reach the car. I used to capture wild hermit crabs, place them in salted tap water, swooshing the tupperware to mimic waves. I thought I could trick them into being home. The hermit crabs lasted a day, leaving behind their tiny calcified capsules, perfect like piped frosting. The brain wants to be buoyant, shedding ghosts to avoid overgrowth. We're meant to slough off the past, but I still don't know where to keep the shells the tide gives back.

— From the *Chestnut Review*

When you need a beer

When all sides seem to be caving in
When the "resistance" celebrates its identity on
the dictator's military parade birthday
When the normalized genocidal maniac
starts bombing another country
When more and more are cowering to the
dictatorship or keeping mum about it
When climate change-induced fires
perpetually burn, pollute the air
and truncate lifespans
When science, medicine and international aid
are no longer funded because America, Fuck Yeah

When the word military comes up, eternal love infects brain
When Democrats are hypocrites and the GOP is fascist
When work is the barrel of the gun that maintains health
insurance and the layoff-looming economy flails overhead

It is then,
my friend,
when you may need a beer

— Peter F. Crowley

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