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old biz

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## Somerville residents weigh in on rent stabilization



A final listening session was recently held by Somerville's Anti-Displacement Task Force concerning rent stabilization in the city.

By Jennifer Purcell

On the evening of Tuesday, September 12, Somerville's Anti-Displacement Task Force (ADTF) held its third and final rent stabilization listening session. Much like the previous two sessions, residents of Somerville were invited to voice their opinions on the subject and share their personal experiences in order to aid the task force in making an educated decision regarding what should and should not be included in the home repetition process. The questions that ADTF chair Luis Quizhpe asked listeners to focus on were as follows:

- Should the rent limit increase if a tenant moves out of an apartment or can a landlord raise it more?
  - Should property owners be allowed to raise rent if they improve the unit or if taxes
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## What the Fluff? Festival returns this weekend in Union Square

What the Fluff? A Tribute to Union Square Innovation returns for an 18th year this Saturday, September 23 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. (rain date 9/24). This zany, madcap festival honors the invention of Marshmallow Fluff by Archibald Query in Somerville in 1917 and salutes the spirit of innovation that thrives throughout the city today.

Celebrate this iconic condiment with fellow Fluff lovers in Union Square, the longstanding home of this funky festival. This year's theme – Fluff Union: The Sweetest Square in Somerville presented by Boynton Yards – showcases delightful and delectable tastes, sweet sights and sounds, incredible innovations, and community, sweet, community.

Discover tasty local treasures at neighborhood businesses, raise a pint of Fluff with friends old and new, dance in the streets, and make

*Continued on page 4*



The What the Fluff? Festival takes place this Saturday from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Union Square.

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Reminder: **Green Line Union Branch service is suspended through Thursday, October 12**, to allow for MassDOT work on the **Route 28 Squires Bridge**. Riders can use Routes 86, 91, and CT2 between Union Square and East Somerville Station on the Medford Branch. These routes also service Sullivan Square Station on the Orange Line. Route 87 can also be used between Union Square and Lechmere Station.








\*\*\*\*\*  
**What the Fluff? A Tribute to Union Square Innovation** is a madcap festival honoring the invention of Marshmallow Fluff, returning for its 18th year. It celebrates Somerville’s proud tradition of innovation with live music, fluffalicious feasts, sticky games, zany happenings, and much more on **Saturday, September 23**, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. in **Union Square** (rain date Sunday, September 24).

\*\*\*\*\*  
Celebrate the **first official day of fall** this year with free games and entertainment for the whole family. **Mayor Katjana Ballantyne** and the **City of Somerville Parks and Recreation Department** invites you to a **Fall Festival event** on **Saturday, September 23** (no rain date), from noon to 4:00 p.m. at **Trum Field** (541 Broadway). Get in the spirit of the season with fun for all ages including bounce houses, face painting, magicians, cotton candy, games, music, arts and crafts, and more. For more information, call 617-625-6600 ext. 2980.

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Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of September 20 – September 26 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> <i>September 20</i>	Sunny	75°/53°	6%	3%	NW 9 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> <i>September 21</i>	Sunny	72°/56°	5%	2%	NNE 5 mph
 <b>Friday</b> <i>September 22</i>	Sunny	70°/53°	6%	3%	E 10 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> <i>September 23</i>	Sunny	69°/60°	19%	12%	E 11 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> <i>September 24</i>	Rain	67°/61°	55%	33%	ENE 12 mph
 <b>Monday</b> <i>September 25</i>	Rain	70°/61°	56%	35%	N 11 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> <i>September 26</i>	Rain	72°/60°	48%	37%	NE 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: City Council asks administration for help with homelessness

Anonymous says:  
I call upon each City Councilor to take in at least one homeless person into their house. This would send a message by setting an example so that others(myself included) to do the same.

Matt says:  
Anonymous. no. just no. the majority of the chronically homeless are homeless as a result of a behavioral health condition. If you check out the Cambridge paper they did a good job describing the underlying issues. basically west Somerville = drugs and behavioral health. East Somerville – migrants. Migrants can be supported through stan alone housing services (plus some relief on access to the legal labor market) while those suffering with drug and alcohol abuse need much more comprehensive services. Many are not interested in housing and may need medical/legal directive to go to recovery services.

Response to: Somerville celebrates Brazilian Independence Day

Martha Diamant says:  
What does the Brazilian flag image and colors represent.

Rachel Klein says:  
The green color is a symbol of the flora and fauna of Brazil, the yellow represents gold, and the blue globe and stars symbolize the night sky filled with stars and constellations that also stands for the country’s states.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Life in the

Massachusetts

VILLE

The Spirit of America

by Jimmy Del Ponte

# No biz like old biz



Of all the old businesses in Somerville, I miss The Venice Cafe most. But there are plenty of past businesses that we would like to see come back. Somerville Lumber was one of my favorite stores. I'm going to toss out a few places my Facebook friends shared.

The Paddock, La Rongas, La Hacienda, Lucy's, The Pine Tree Diner, The Continental restaurant, Kemps Hamburgers (actually in Medford), Virgies, Victor's, Friendly's and Dairy Queen.

We loved Kay and Chips, Johnny D's, Ball Square bowling alley, Mitchell's and Cummings.

Here's a memory about the bowling al-

ley: "Somerville teachers had their league at the Ball Square Alley in the 1970's. I led with 110 average for the year. Not great but fairly good for candlepin. It was fun to be with a good group. Al Giroux principal of the high school was in the league."

"For me it's La Hacienda, hands down. Honorable mentions to Sligo, Victor's, Yee's Village, Disc Diggers, Somerville Lumber, T&S Wholesale, Johnny D's, and Arthur's next to Perry Park."

"La Contessa Bakery, Christie's, Ming Toy, Frascatis and Speedy Pizza."


Buddy's Diner has been closed for months. I hope it reopens.

I'd give anything to see that hot bread sign flashing at Roma Bakery on Somerville Ave. (across from where Bradlees used to be).



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## Somerville residents weigh in on rent stabilization CONT. FROM PG 1

or utilities go up?

- Should anyone be exempt from the rent stabilization law or should the rent stabilization law apply to new buildings or not?

For some background, the rent stabilization strategy aims to make housing in Somerville affordable for everyone. Co-chair of the resident displacement committee Jill Carrier pointed out that the key elements of rent stabilization are as follows:

- Choices of cap.
- Exceptions to the cap.
- Exemptions allowed.
- Types of decontrol.
- Administration.

Out of the 25 community members who voiced their opinions, 22 agreed that rent stabilization would greatly benefit the

masses and that no one should be exempt from it. “The idea that rent stabilization should not apply to all is an oversight,” resident and tenant Kaylee Marco stated. “Everyone could benefit from rent stabilization to prevent landlords from catering only to those with higher income, thus gentrifying an already diverse and lively neighborhood.”

In addition, all 22 speakers who support this law agreed that rent increases should be capped at between 2% and 5% so that it can match wage increases and inflation. According to resident Lizzie Rutberg, this looks like an increase of about \$50. However, several residents like herself believe that even this is still too much. They be-

lieve this to be incredibly concerning because as of today, over 60% of Somerville residents are renters.

As several of the speakers stated, rent is currently being increased without any signs of improvement to the properties. “Too many friends have seen their apartments listed for much higher after they’ve moved out with zero repairs being done besides, quote-unquote, ‘the landlord special.’ If you want to increase rent more, then you must do more to account for that cost,” Marco said.

However, not every speaker supported this cause. Bert Faulkner, a landlord who relies on the rent his tenants pay as his main source of income, adamantly op-

posed the idea. “Now if you introduce controls on any product or service, you are going to water down the quality,” he said, followed up by saying that no one should have to deal with a bad landlord and should look for better housing if they have one. Jerry Cronin, another landlord, agreed with him and feels that landlords should not have to shoulder the burden of the housing crisis. If this law passes and their properties end up sustaining excessive damage at any point in time, landlords will have great difficulty getting back any money that they spend in order to make the necessary repairs.

Quizhpe continually stressed that the ADTF is only in the beginning stages of getting this law

passed and that there is not even a draft to be submitted to the city council at this time, therefore it could be years before that happens. However, they have now heard from the members of their community and will proceed to develop criteria that will be used to draft their proposal.

“I believe the city of Somerville has the unique opportunity to shift the terms of debate around rent control and finally ebb the tide of displacement washing across our neighborhoods,” resident Frank Egan stated with pride.

The ADTF said that they will discuss what they should prioritize and that people can expect an update at some point this fall but it’s a pretty lengthy process.

## What the Fluff? Festival returns this weekend in Union Square CONT. FROM PG 1

sweet memories at the most flufftastic end-of-summer celebration in New England. Just like Union Square, there’s something for everyone with a wide variety of themed happenings which promise cost-free fun for all ages:

Take part in hilarious antics with sticky activities like Fluff Musical Chairs, Fluff Limbo, Fluff Hairdos, and Fluff Jousting on the Shenanigans Stage hosted by Fluff Fest’s longtime Archibald Query impersonator

Groove with Emcees Sheila and Bobby Foley, of The Neighborhood Restaurant and Bakery and DJ Paul Casserly of Reliable Market on the Fluff’n Jam stage featuring:

Special Welcome from Mayor Ballantyne at 3:00 p.m.

FM Collective at 3:15 p.m.

Oom Yung Doe demo at 4:00 p.m.

Samba Cisse & Silimbo D’Adeane at 4:20 p.m.

Grace Givertz at 4:45 p.m.

Villari’s Martial Arts demo at 5:25 p.m.

Samba Cisse & Silimbo D’Adeane at 5:45 p.m.

Mayor Joe Flufftastic Innovation for Impact Award presentation honoring Bill Cavellini and Michèle Hansen, Union Square Neighborhood Council founding

co-chairs at 6:00 p.m.

The White Owls at 6:15 p.m.

Get inspired at Innovation Alley presented by Somernova featuring youth inventors at the robotics ring, fresh ideas on the freeform mic, and chances to relax at the Inno Alley Lounge.

Challenge yourself or friends to navigate a flufftastic parkour course hosted by Somerville pros Parkour Generations Boston

Try your hand at old-school, boardwalk-style games including Fluff Bowling, Fluff Ring Toss, and more at the Midway Games Area (free to play, free to win prizes).

Strike a pose with colorful cutouts of your favorite Fluff characters by local artists Nathaniel Devarie and CultureHouse.

Snag your Fluff shirts, tanks, sweatshirts, koozies, tote bags, and more at the Fluff Stuff merch booth underwritten by The Goods.

Browse more than 60 vendors ready to serve up sweet and savory Fluff-inspired dishes, oodles of Fluff-themed items, community groups, and crafts.

Shop scores of local businesses who will be opening their doors to Fluff lovers in the lead up and during the Festival for you to enjoy scrumptiously sticky treats,

buy limited edition Fluff goodies, and take advantage of other flufftastic specials.

For those who know Union Square, Fluff Fest is a beloved tradition that marks – in all its zany glory – the arrival of fall,” said Jessica Eshleman, executive director of Union Square Main Streets. “For those just discovering our neighborhood, What the Fluff? offers an incredible spectrum of unexpected opportunities to fall in love with the locally-owned businesses that make our corner of Somerville so unique and spirited.”

The endlessly entertaining What the Fluff? Festival is made possible by the generosity of its sponsors: Boynton Yards, Somernova, The Goods, The Hamilton Company, Rockland Trust, Holiday Inn Boston Bunker Hill, USQ, Kerbey Harrington Pinkard LLP, Citizens Bank, Liberty Cannabis, Verizon, Event-Them, CultureHouse, Parkour Generations Boston, MassBike, Thalia Tringo & Associates Real Estate, Feast & Fettle, Middlesex Federal, HomeWorks Energy, Nicewicz Family Farm and Naveo Credit Union.

Festivities are expected to attract 20,000 Fluff fans and traffic will be rerouted around



Union Square to accommodate festival activities. Revelers are highly encouraged to walk, bike, boogie, or take public transit. Green Line riders will be provided with free, fully accessible shuttles from the East Somerville stop to the heart of Union Square running approximately every 10 minutes.

For a second year, free bike valets will be offered by Mass Bikes. Bike valets can be found on Somerville Avenue at the eastern festival entrance near Gracie’s Ice

Cream and the western entrance near Market Basket.

What the Fluff? is produced by Union Square Main Streets and the Somerville Arts Council.

Date: Saturday, September 23, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. (rain date Sunday, September 24)

Where: Somerville Avenue from Warren Street near Gracie’s Ice Cream to School Street near Market Basket in Union Square, Somerville, MA 02143

More details: [www.flufffestival.com](http://www.flufffestival.com).



# Restaurant owners unsatisfied with new Outdoor Dining Fee

By Beatriz Leite

This past Thursday, Rachel Nadkarni, representing the City of Somerville, held a meeting regarding the Outdoor Dining License Fees for the 2024 season and beyond. The proposal will be taken to the mayor’s office and have it established by October.

Nadkarni explained that after the pandemic, the number of restaurants interested in using public space as outdoor dining increased significantly, and in 2023, 69 establishments were granted a license to do so. Therefore, the City of Somerville plans to establish more permanent rules for 2024 and beyond.

The proposed fees will be based on capacity and space used and will be equivalent no matter if it will be a sidewalk or roadway, which raised some concerns from the community.

“You are trying to be equalitarian but it’s not egalitarian,” Joe Carreiro, owner of El Potro Mexican Bar & Grill, said, regarding the lack of differentiation be-

tween sidewalk and roadway.

The use of public space will be charged \$3 per square foot for the first 150 sf and \$6 per square footage above that. The fee would be fixed for the next three seasons (2024-2026). For 2027, there will be a minimum of a 10% increase in inflation, according to Nadkarni. The goal of this predicament is to allow small businesses to thrive and not be overcharged and discourage the overuse of outdoor public space.

Nadkarni showed comparisons with other cities to highlight how the City of Somerville is trying to come up with a fair price for the utilization of the streets for commerce. However, that did not convince business owners.

Jess, a small business owner, highlighted her concern for the never-ending construction in the city, and how that could affect outdoor dining. “How are these fees being paid?” she asked.

The question was addressed regarding whether the fees will be paid before the season, or just



Somerville’s restaurateurs are likely to face new fees imposed by the city in the near future for use of public space for outdoor dining.

on days when using the public space is viable, considering the city is making constant repairs to the sidewalks and roads, making outdoor dining impossible these days.

Nadkarni did not have an answer to this question but wrote it down to edit the agreement better and more carefully to make outdoor dining finer in the city.

Comments were written down and will be considered before making a final fee decision which will come most likely by the end of next month to allow the businesses to plan for the next season.

## Somerville's John F. Kennedy School named a 2023 U.S. Blue Ribbon School

On Tuesday, September 19, the U.S. Department of Education recognized 353 schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2023. The recognition is based on a school’s overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student groups on assessments. Among the winners, Somerville Public Schools’ John F. Kennedy School was named a Blue Ribbon School.

“The honorees for our 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award have set a national example for what it means to Raise the Bar in education,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. “The leaders, educators, and staff at our National Blue Ribbon Schools continually inspire me with their dedication to fostering academic excellence and building positive school cultures that support students of all backgrounds to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. As the Biden-Harris Administration partners with states and schools to accelerate academic success and transform educational opportunity in this country, we take tremendous pride in the achievements of these schools and their commitment to empowering educators, serving students, and engaging families.”

With its 40th cohort, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed approximately 10,000 awards to more than 9,700 schools. The National Blue Ribbon School award affirms and validates the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in striving for – and attaining – exemplary achievement. National Blue Ribbon Schools represent the full diversity of American schools and serve students of every background.

National Blue Ribbon Schools serve as models of effective and innovative school practices for state and district educators and other schools throughout the nation. A National Blue Ribbon School flag gracing a school’s entryway or on a flagpole is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

The Department recognizes all schools in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, subgroup student scores and graduation rates:

- Exemplary High-Performing Schools are among their state’s highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.
- Exemplary Achievement Gap-Closing Schools are among their state’s highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school’s student groups and all students. Nominated schools also complete an extensive narrative application describing their school culture and philosophy, curriculum, assessments, instructional practices, professional development, leadership structures, and parent and community involvement.

Up to 420 schools may be nominated each year. The Department invites nominations for the National Blue Ribbon Schools award from the top education official in all states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education. Private schools are nominated by the Council for American Private Education.



Beacon Hill Roll Call



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**THE HOUSE AND SENATE.** There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

**TAX REDUCTION PACKAGES ARE STUCK IN COMMITTEE** – It’s been three months since the House and Senate created a conference committee to hammer out a compromise version of different tax relief packages approved by each branch. Here’s the timeline of the bill which was first approved by the House five months ago.

April 13: House approves \$1.1 billion in tax relief.

June 15: Senate approved its own \$590 million tax relief package.

June 20: A conference committee is appointed to hammer out a compromise version of the two bills.

Gov. Healey last week said the tax package is high on the Fall agenda. "Our job is not done until that tax package is done," Healey said.

This week, *Beacon Hill Roll Call* reviews how local representatives votes on several roll calls on tax reductions.

**\$1.1 BILLION TAX CUT PACKAGE (H 3770)**  
House 150-3, approved a \$1.1 billion tax relief package. Provisions include combining the Child Care Expenses Credit with the Dependent Member of Household Credit to create one refundable \$600 credit per dependent, while eliminating the current cap; exempt the first \$2 million, instead of the current \$1 million of the value of a person’s estate from the state’s estate/death tax that a person is required to pay following their death before distribution to any beneficiary; double the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit from \$1,200 to \$2,400; increase the rental deduction cap from \$3,000 to \$4,000; reduce the short-term capital gains tax rate from 12 percent to 5 percent; raise the Earned Income Tax Credit from 30 percent to 40 percent of the federal credit; and replace the current business tax from the 3-factor apportionment based on location, payroll, and receipts with a single sales factor apportionment based solely on receipts.

Another provision changes the tax refund distribution formula under a current law, known as 62F, that requires that annual tax revenue above a certain amount collected by the state go back to the taxpayers. Under current law, the money is returned to taxpayers based on how much he or she paid in 2021 taxes, while this tax relief package changes the formula and provides a flat rate refund, unrelated to what the individual paid in taxes.

The measure would also change a current law that provides when the state’s Stabilization Fund, also known as the Rainy Day Fund, exceeds 15 percent of budgeted revenues, the excess is transferred to the Tax Reduction Fund which eventually is returned to taxpayers. The Democrats’ tax relief bill would raise that percent to 25.5 percent.

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$1.1 billion in tax relief. A “No” vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	No

**HOW TO DISTRIBUTE SOME FUTURE TAX REFUND (H 3770)**

House 26-128, rejected an amendment that would change the current law (known as 62F), approved by voters on the 1986 ballot, which requires that annual tax revenue above a certain amount collected by the state go back to the taxpayers. A few months ago, the law resulted in \$2.9 billion being returned to taxpayers, using a formula based on how much each taxpayer paid in income taxes in 2021.

In the House \$1 billion tax reduction bill, the formula is changed so that each taxpayer will receive a flat rate refund, unrelated to what they paid in taxes. The amendment would strike the change and revert back to the refund based on what a person paid in income taxes in 2021.

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment distributing the refund based on what each taxpayer paid in taxes. A “No” vote is against the amendment and favors a flat rate refund of the same amount for each taxpayer.)

Rep. Christine Barber	No
Rep. Mike Connolly	No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	No

**RAISE TRIGGER POINT FOR TAX REFUND (H 3770)**

House 25-129, rejected a Republican amendment to a section of the Democrats’ tax relief bill that would change a current law that provides when the state’s Stabilization Fund, also known as the Rainy Day Fund, exceeds 15 percent of budgeted revenues, the excess is transferred to the Tax Reduction Fund which eventually is returned to taxpayers. The Democrats’ tax relief bill would raise that percent to 25.5 percent.

The Republican amendment would eliminate that change and revert to the current 15 percent formula.

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment making the cap 15 percent. A “No” vote is against the 15 percent cap and favors the 25.5 percent cap.)

Rep. Christine Barber	No
Rep. Mike Connolly	No

Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven No

**TAX REVENUE FROM MILLIONAIRE’S TAX (H 3900)**

House 25-132, rejected an amendment that would remove a section in the budget that exempts tax revenue generated from the recently voter-approved Millionaire Tax from counting toward the allowable state tax revenue limitations, under Chapter 62F, which provides that whenever revenue collections in a fiscal year exceed an annual cap tied to wage and salary growth, the excess is returned to taxpayers. Last year, \$3 billion in refunds were returned to taxpayers when the law was triggered for just the second time since its passage in 1986. The revenue from the Millionaire Tax is deposited into the new Education and Transportation Stabilization Fund.

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment that favors tax revenue generated from the recently voter-approved Millionaire Tax counting toward the allowable state tax revenue limitations. A “No” vote is against the amendment and supports exempting the revenue from the allowable state tax revenue limitations.)

Rep. Christine Barber	No
Rep. Mike Connolly	No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	No

**ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL**

**REQUIRE STATE AGENCIES TO INCREASE LANGUAGE ACCESS**

– Gov. Maura Healey signed an executive order instructing all state agencies to conduct a thorough assessment of their language access capabilities and develop a plan for improvement. The order is designed to make the delivery of services and resources more accessible and equitable for residents with limited English proficiency.

“Everyone in Massachusetts, regardless of what language they speak, deserves equitable access to government services and resources, but we recognize that language often poses a major barrier,” said Gov. Healey. “This executive order will help break down language barriers and bridge gaps ... We’re proud to take this important step toward making state government more accessible and equitable during Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month.”

“One in four Massachusetts residents speak a language other than English – which underscores why this executive order is so critical,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “It is essential that we are setting people up for success by ensuring that they are able to read and engage with information provided by their state government. This ... will help us work to ensure that all residents have the chance to get their questions answered and

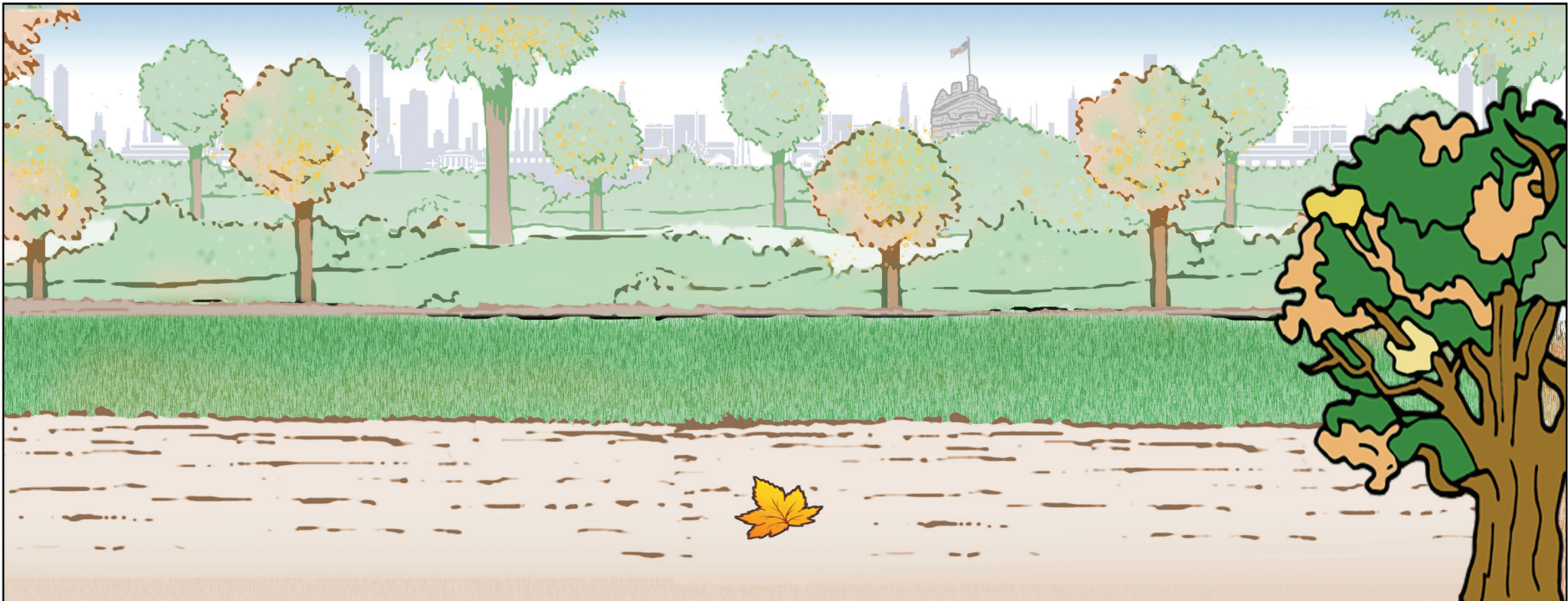
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COMMENTARY

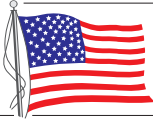
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Autumn is coming.

Our View Of The Times



Most change leads to new beginnings. That's what they say anyway. We've been through challenging times this past few years, and here we are once again with autumn on our doorstep, bringing with it the undeniable realization that change is inevitable.

We've slogged our way through the pandemic with its isolation and deprivation and are now finally clearing the dust

and slowly putting it all back together again as we endeavor to regain normalcy in our lives.

An incomparably divisive political climate remains with all its intransigence and intolerance of opposing points of view. And who knows whether or not the worst is yet to come as we choose sides and dig in?

The cost of living, higher prices on al-

most everything, and the ever-present pressure placed on the backs of many of us as we struggle to make ends meet. There is a lot to contend with, but we do our best to keep our spirits up and press ahead.

Taking a break from it all by getting out on the road to do a little old fashioned New England leaf peeping or just plain sunset watching can do wonders for the spirit and recharge the weary. After all, we

live in a part of the world where the colors of autumn are breathtaking and often inspiring. Let's not forget that.

A change of season can represent a moving forward, taking the next step and shaking off the troubles of the past. It's also a reminder that we are all children of nature and should take stock in the beauty and wonder of life itself. Again, consider the alternative.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to a great Somerville person, **Lori Pino**, owner of **Amal Niccoli** in Ball Square. We wish her a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to the now retired **Somerville Homeless Coalition Director, Mark Alston-Follansbee**. We wish him the very best. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Debra Lawson Kennedy, Ellen Gagliardi, Stephen Green, Jonathan O'Connell, Conor M. Brennan, Adele Changer, Kimberly Barnett, John Morabito Jr., Ann Sylvester, Julia Gilligan Corsetti, Scott Breen** and **Lisa Monaco** 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.

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The **City of Somerville** is hiring **polling place workers** for the upcoming **2023 election cycle**. Many poll workers will be needed this year to conduct a successful election. The **Elections Office** is hosting **three information sessions** about becoming a poll worker on **Wednesday, September 27** at **City Hall** (93 Highland Ave.) in the **Committee Room** on the second floor. The afternoon sessions are from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., and 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. The evening session will be held

from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Register to attend at: [somervillema.gov/PollWorkerInfo-Sessions](http://somervillema.gov/PollWorkerInfo-Sessions). If you are interested in learning more but not able to attend an information session, please contact the Elections Office at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200.

\*\*\*\*\*

This year **Červená Barva Press** celebrated 18 years of publishing in April. Founded in 2005 by **Gloria Mindock**, editor and publisher, the press has continued to grow every year. The press has offered numerous events every year. This year, the press is offering an exciting new event. **Červená Barva Press Poetry and Fiction Online Summit, Saturday, September**

**30**, from 9:50 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and **Sunday, October 1**, from 9:50 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Online access information will be sent out prior to the summit. Presenters include award-winning authors with years of publishing experience. Registration is \$42 for both days. For registration, descriptions of the events and bios, please visit: <http://www.cervenabarvapress.com/index.html#POETRYFICTION-SUMMIT>.

\*\*\*\*\*

School season is in full swing, but the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** still have a handful of children in need of backpacks. They have

Continued on page 18



FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#890

1. During World War I, what did Emma Curtis call her recipe for a peanut butter and marshmallow creme sandwich?

2. When does Autumn Equinox happen in the Northern Hemisphere?

3. What pigment turns the colors of the leaves to red and purple?

4. What is the official state Dog of Massachusetts?

5. What is the official state dog of New Hampshire?

6. Where was the first post office in America established?

7. Where was the first

practical subway line constructed?

8. What state has the slogan Great Faces, Great Places on its license plate?

9. What was the name of the helmets members of band Devo wore on their heads?

10. What name did John Lennon add to his original middle name?

11. What state quarter has an American buffalo and sunflowers on it?

12. What type of pants did Mary Tyler Moore wear and make popular on *The Dick Van Dyke Show*?

Answers on page 10

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. "Schoolmaster" is an anagram of "the classroom."

2. Many oranges are actually green.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD  
WORLD SERIES

- ACROSS
- 1. In the middle of
  - 6. "\_\_\_\_, the Beloved Country"
  - 9. Start of "The Night Before Christmas"
  - 13. Anoint
  - 14. "...three strikes, \_\_\_\_'re out, at the old ball game"
  - 15. Capital of Egypt
  - 16. Yanees owner, George \_\_\_\_brenner
  - 17. Mandela's org.
  - 18. Back street
  - 19. Walk-off move (2 words)
  - 21. One of MLB countries
  - 23. Start an engine
  - 24. Salvador Dali's muse
  - 25. Old French coin
  - 28. Select
  - 30. Pass, as time
  - 35. Antonym of is
  - 37. Rumpelstiltskin's weaver
  - 39. Virgo's brightest star
  - 40. Snack, in Spain
  - 41. Rose oil
  - 43. Yogi Berra - 295 PA, e.g.
  - 44. Player's representative
  - 46. Eyelid affliction
  - 47. Shade of beige
  - 48. a.k.a. Mr. October
  - 50. Small island
  - 52. In the know
  - 53. Part of armor
  - 55. Octopus' defense
  - 57. Last year's World Series winners
  - 60. Ronald AcuÒa Jr.'s home base
  - 64. Indian monetary unit
  - 65. Sun, in Mexico
  - 67. \_\_\_\_ Asimov
  - 68. Artemis' companion
  - 69. E.T.'s craft, acr.
  - 70. Shelf material
  - 71. Cry like a baby
  - 72. Young newt
  - 73. Shermans, in World War II

CROSSWORD											
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10
13						14				15	
16						17				18	
19					20			21	22		
			23				24				
25	26	27		28		29			30	31	32
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
64						65	66			67	
68						69				70	
71						72				73	

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© StatePoint Media

- 5. Madagascar's hedgehog-like animal
- 6. Printer cartridge color
- 7. Guidry, Cey or Gardenhire
- 8. New Mexico's state flower
- 9. Samoan money
- 10. \_\_\_\_ card
- 11. Length times width
- 12. Tofu ingredient
- 15. Lock sites
- 20. Soft palate hanger
- 22. Kind of beer
- 24. Speech organ
- 25. Fretted instrument
- 26. a.k.a. People of the Middle Waters
- 27. Remove pegs
- 29. Auction portions
- 31. Cathedral recess
- 32. \_\_\_\_ clock
- 33. Close call
- 34. Relish (2 words)
- 36. NASA's orange drink
- 38. "The Catch" (1954) catcher
- 42. Rekindled
- 45. Like theater seating
- 49. Big-headedness
- 51. Join the army
- 54. Matter of debate
- 56. Buckwheat dish
- 57. Halo
- 58. Do like volcano
- 59. Bluish green
- 60. Sir Mix-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_
- 61. Delhi bread
- 62. Spill the beans
- 63. Whitey Ford, Bob Gibson and Christy Mathewson
- 64. Commissioner Manfred
- 66. Bug enemy

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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



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.

Inclusive play in the ‘Ville

By Nicole-Marie Cannon

Now that voting has opened for the participatory budget, I wanted to share a project on there that is near to our hearts as a family. It’s called ‘play for all in the ‘Ville’. While we have loads of playgrounds here in the city that have maybe one or two inclusive features, we don’t have a truly inclusive playground for kids with disabilities and their typical peers to play alongside each other. A

lot of times kids with disabilities are playing on the sidelines while their peers get to go on the climbing structures and other play features, which really stinks. We worry about the message this is sending to all of the kids. As a family, we’d love to see a climbing structure that also has ramps for kids of all abilities to play together. Things like accessible merry go rounds, seesaws, play houses, adaptive swings, zip line swings, musical

elements, etc. would be amazing too. We’ve been told that inclusive playgrounds are some of the coolest - and we agree! Our favorite being Cypress Street Playground in Brookline. If you’d like to chat more about this, feel free to pm me! We’re excited that this is a part of the participatory budget and hope that others in the city see the need for all of our kids to play together too. <https://pbstanford.org/somerville2023/ranking>



A picture of our little girl at the Universal Louis DePasquale playground in Cambridge.

The Somerville Times  
Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #288

This article first appeared in the November 4, 2015, edition of The Somerville Times.

Somerville Spirits

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Somerville’s roots run deep. As a city, she goes back to 1872. As a town, she goes back to 1842; and as Charlestown, Beyond the Neck, she dates back to 1628. This was two years before Boston was established in 1630.



These were “spirited times” in every form of the word. Beer was a necessary staple brought to this country by the early settlers. It was consumed by both adults and children because the local water was found to be brackish or salty. This is why Boston was founded. Charlestown settlers moved there for its fresh spring water emanating from Beacon Hill. Even the Governor’s son, John Winthrop Jr., was a brewer of beer ... corn beer. Through the years, the favorite colonial spirit was rum. When it was diluted with water, they called it grog. From 1715 to 1905, a New England favorite was Old Medford Rum. This rum was the base for most eggnog recipes. It was Paul Revere’s favorite drink. Medford Rum is long gone but the rights to produce it are still held by Somerville’s M. S. Walker company. The British Royal Navy abolished its daily, age-old “ration of rum” practice in 1970. The sailors felt that this act by their Admiral was “dashing their spirits.” Not all spirits are alcoholic. At this time of the year, the city reveals her other spirits to the curious and her ghosts to the imaginative. Here are a few...

- Some say the Mystic River’s name was originated from old women who gathered medicinal and mystical herbs along its shore. They gathered them to

Continued on page 20





LEGAL NOTICES

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

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by 382 McGrath NT LLC to Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Trust, dated June 10, 2022 and recorded with the Middlesex (Southern District) County Registry of Deeds in Book 80264 Page 140 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, and in which the mortgaged premises consist of a certain parcel of land with the buildings and improvements thereon located in Somerville known as 382 McGrath Highway, Somerville, Massachusetts, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 a.m. on the **17th day of October 2023**, at the mortgaged premises located at 382 McGrath Highway, Somerville, Middlesex (Southern District) County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

To wit:  
A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situated in Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, being shown as Lot "A" on a plan entitled, "Plan of Land in Somerville owned by the Estate of George D. Haven," Charles J. Elliot, Engineer and Surveyor, dated May 18, 1922, recorded with Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds at the end of Book 4685, being bounded and described as follows:

Northeasterly by Medford Street, now known as McGrath Highway, by a line with a radius of 750 degrees, forty-seven and 18/100 (47.18) feet; Northwest by Lot "B" on a said plan, eighty and 55/100 (80.55) feet; Southwest by land now or formerly of Hopkins, fifty-two and 61/100 (52.61) feet; and Southeasterly by land now or formerly of Francis, seventy-two and 58/100 (72.58) feet.  
Containing 3,749 square feet of land according to said plan.  
For title see Deed recorded with the Middlesex (Southern District) County Registry of Deeds in Book 80264, Page 137.

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid condominium fees, taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. No representations express or implied are made with respect to any matter concerning the premises, which will be sold "as-is".

TERMS OF SALE:

Twenty-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000.00) shall be paid in certified or bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of said sale, and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid by certified or bank cashier's check at the offices of Erik T. Potter, Esq., Potter MacLellan LLP, 113 Ripley Road, Cohasset, MA 02025 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. The successful bidder of the sale of the premises shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the Auction Sale. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.  
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of sale.

Present Holder of Said Mortgage:  
Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Trust - c/o Erik T. Potter, Esq. Potter MacLellan, LLP  
113 Ripley Road, Cohasset, MA 02025 – 617-257-7050  
Dated: April \_\_, 2023

9/13/23, 9/20/23 The Somerville Times

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Lord Mansoor LLC to Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Three Trust, dated February 14, 2023 and recorded with the Middlesex (Southern District) County Registry of Deeds in Book 81250, Page 91 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, and in which the mortgaged premises consist of a certain parcel of land with the buildings and improvements thereon located in Somerville known as 41 Derby Street, Somerville, Massachusetts, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold collectively commencing at Public Auction at 1:00 pm on the **6th day of October 2023**, at the mortgaged premises located at 41 Derby Street, Middlesex County, Somerville, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

To wit:  
A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon in Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, shown as lot "E" on a plan recorded with Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds at the end of Book 2028, being a sub-division of lots thirty-three (33), thirty-four (34), and thirty-five (35) on a plan of land recorded with said Deeds and Book of Plans 54, plan 39, and bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHWESTERLY by Derby Street, Forty (40) feet;  
NORTHWESTERLY by lot F on said sub-division plan, one hundred (100) feet;  
NORTHEASTERLY by lot 49, recorded in said Book of Plans 54, plan 39, forty (40) feet; and  
SOUTHEASTERLY by lot thirty-two (32) on said last mentioned plan, one hundred (100) feet.

For Grantor's title see Deed dated July 7, 2022, and recorded on February 14, 2023, with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 81250, Page 79.  
Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid condominium fees, taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. No representations express or implied are made with respect to any matter concerning the premises, which will be sold "as-is".

TERMS OF SALE:

Twenty-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000.00) shall be paid in certified or bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of said sale, and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid by certified or bank cashier's check at the offices of Erik T. Potter, Esq., Potter MacLellan LLP, 113 Ripley Road, Cohasset, MA 02025 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. The successful bidder of the sale of the premises shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the Auction Sale. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.  
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of sale.  
Present Holder of Said Mortgage:  
Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Three Trust - c/o Erik T. Potter, Esq. Potter MacLellan, LLP  
113 Ripley Road, Cohasset, MA 02025 – 617-257-7050  
Dated: September 5, 2023

9/6/23, 9/13/23, 9/20/23 The Somerville Times



City of Somerville  
**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**  
City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, October 4, 2023**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/WM\\_L5sbGagN02-T7vQfA0SCHA](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/WM_L5sbGagN02-T7vQfA0SCHA)  
Webinar ID: 821 2260 7168

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

**118 College Ave** Havurat Shalom Community Seminary, Inc., c/o Meredith Porter, seeks an administrative appeal of the Building Inspector's issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy, C023-000082.

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

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

9/20/23 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com) on **10/11/2023 at 12:00PM**. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Teries Isckarus unit #0121; Atta Ahmad unit #348MZ. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

9/20/23 The Somerville Times

Ms. Cam's

From on page 8

Olío Answers

- |                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. The Liberty Sandwich | 7. Boston, between 1895 and 1897 |
| 2. September 23         | 8. South Dakota                  |
| 3. Anthocyanins         | 9. Energy domes                  |
| 4. Boston Terrier       | 10. Ono, John Winston Ono Lennon |
| 5. Chinook              | 11. Kansas                       |
| 6. Boston, 1639         | 12. Tight capri pants            |

Food For Free's Party Under the Harvest Moon

On Friday, September 29, hundreds of supporters, donors, and community members will unite at Party Under The Harvest Moon – an annual celebration hosted by Food For Free to raise awareness and funds to fight food insecurity across Eastern Massachusetts. The event goal is to raise over \$175,000. Party Under The Harvest Moon raises critical funding in support of the nonprofit's innovative programs that serve more than 150,000 food insecure Massachusetts residents and distributes 7.5 million pounds of nutritious fresh and prepared foods annually. This year, guests will hear from community partners and enjoy live music and a silent auction with catering by Something Savory and donated spirits from Cambridge Brewing Company and Tito's Vodka. Party Under The Harvest Moon will take place from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at MIT's Morss Hall, located at 142 Memorial Drive in Cambridge. Ticket prices range from \$125 for individuals to \$1,000 for groups. For more information or to reserve tickets, visit: <http://www.foodforfree.org/harvest-moon>.



LEGAL NOTICES

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ADVERTISEMENT

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

The Project consists of: Replacement of FPE panelboards and transformers with new.

The work is estimated to cost **\$ 490,587.00 (including all alternates)**

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive. General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the category of Electrical.

General Bids will be received until **2:00pm, Thursday, October 5, 2023** and publicly posted online, forthwith.

Filed sub-bids for the trades listed below will be received until **2:00pm, Thursday, September 28, 2023** and publicly posted online forthwith.

Filed sub-bidders must be DCAMM certified for the trades listed below and bidders must include a current DCAMM Sub-Bidder Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Sub-Bidder's Update Statement.

SUBTRADES: Section 23.00.00 HVAC

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

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

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available online and for purchase at [www.Projectdog.com](http://www.Projectdog.com), project code 857768 on **Wednesday, September 13, 2023**.

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for **\$35.00** per set, payable to [Projectdog, Inc.](http://Projectdog, Inc.), to cover mail handling costs.

The job site and/or existing building will be available for observation on the morning of **Thursday, September 21, 2023** at 75 Myrtle Street, Somerville. Bidders must contact Nangle Engineering Inc. ([cwneunaber@nangleengineering.com](mailto:cwneunaber@nangleengineering.com) or (617) 817-4973) prior to close of business on the Monday prior to schedule an appointment. Bidders attending will be limited to one person per firm. Attendees may bring and wear a face mask which covers the nose and mouth, and may wear gloves.

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

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

Joseph R. Macaluso, Executive Director  
September 13, 2023

9/13/23, 9/20/23 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING  
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
KATJANA BALLANTYNE  
MAYOR

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, October 3, 2023** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_lIrSvMm2QUKqWoRsDsY8ag](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lIrSvMm2QUKqWoRsDsY8ag)

Webinar ID: 835 9320 1779

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.

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

HPC.ALT 2023.44 – 137 Central Street

Applicant: Ted Dow  
Owner: Nathan Cormier  
*The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness for window replacement done without a permit.*

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

HP23-000025 – 101 Highland Avenue

Applicant: Somerville Young Men's Christian Association  
Owner: Same as Applicant  
*The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.*

Case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) with inquiries.

9/13/23, 9/20/23 The Somerville Times

Legal Notices can be downloaded  
from our website:  
[www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by 0037 Main Somerville LLC to Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Trust, dated August 2, 2021 with the Middlesex (Southern District) County Registry of Deeds in Book 78389 , Page 62 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, and in which the mortgaged premises consist of a certain parcel of land with the buildings and improvements thereon located in Somerville known as 37 Main Street, Somerville, Massachusetts, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:30 a.m. on the **17th day of October 2023**, at the mortgaged premises located at 37 Main Street, Somerville, Middlesex (Southern County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

To wit:  
The land together with the improvements thereon, situated in Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts ("the premises") shown as Lot A on a plan ("the Plan") entitled: "Plan of Land in Somerville, Mass." Dated July 20, 1965, made by Fred M. Gould, Surveyor, recorded Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 10934, Page 201. For title see Deed recorded with the Essex County Registry of Deeds in Book 78389, Page 59.

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid condominium fees, taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. No representations express or implied are made with respect to any matter concerning the premises, which will be sold "as-is".

TERMS OF SALE:

Twenty-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000.00) shall be paid in certified or bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of said sale, and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid by certified or bank cashier's check at the offices of Erik T. Potter, Esq., Potter MacLellan LLP, 113 Ripley Road, Cohasset, MA 02025 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. The successful bidder of the sale of the premises shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the Auction Sale. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of sale.

Present Holder of Said Mortgage:  
Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Trust - c/o Erik T. Potter, Esq. Potter MacLellan, LLP  
113 Ripley Road, Cohasset, MA 02025 – 617-257-7050  
Dated: April 5, 2023  
9/13/23, 9/20/23 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
RFP # 24-23

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

Teele Square Fire Station Emergency Shoring

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com), <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **09/21/2023**.

Sealed general bids are due by **10/05/2023 at 1:00pm**.

The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Andrea Caruth at [acaruth@somervillema.gov](mailto:acaruth@somervillema.gov) for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required. Prevailing wage applies.

**Andrea Caruth**  
Deputy Chief Procurement Officer  
617-625-6600 x3400

9/20/23 The Somerville Times

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



# SomerStreets: Strike Up the Bands

SomerStreets: Strike Up the Bands returned to Highland Ave. on Sunday, September 17. The day was filled with entertainment for everyone, whether you were dancing with Los Nitidos or rocking out with Spanish rock band Calypso. The Alejandro Brittes Quarte demonstrated to the crowd the core elements of chamamé music. In addition to live music, the festival included craft vendors, community tabling groups, and interactive activities, including performances by the Boston League of Wicked Wrestlers (BLOWW). The next SomerStreets event will be held on October 22, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m., with a rain date of October 29, on Somerville Avenue from School Street to Warren Avenue in Union Square.







Photos by Bobbie Toner





## Somerville Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the City's SomerViva: Office of Immigrant Affairs, Department of Racial and Social Justice, and the Somerville Arts Council (SAC) are inviting the community to a range of events throughout September and October celebrating National Hispanic Heritage month, September 15 – October 15, 2023.

Hispanic Heritage Celebration, Saturday, October 14, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Save the date and watch for a separate announcement at [somervillema.gov](http://somervillema.gov) for this year's Hispanic Heritage Celebration on Saturday, October 14, at the East Somerville Community School from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Hosted by the City's SomerViva: Office of Immigrant Affairs and the Department of Racial and Social Justice, this event was shaped by a working group of community volunteers who interviewed residents to ask how they wished to celebrate their heritage.

The celebration will thus showcase "country stations," where attendees can learn about Latin American and Caribbean countries including sampling foods and viewing traditional clothing. Dance performances, interactive workshops (including pupusa-making and dance lessons), and more round out the fun. All are invited to attend this free event. Thanks to Padres Latinos for their co-sponsorship of this celebration. For questions, please contact Susana Ubaldo-Russell at [srussell@somervillema.gov](mailto:srussell@somervillema.gov).



### Somerville Public Schools Events

The Somerville High School (SHS) LatinX Student Union with the support of the Somerville Public Schools is hosting a series of events and activities in recognition of and to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month that will be shared directly with students and their families.

### Las Chicas Artistas

The Somerville Arts Council (SAC) invites the community to Las Chicas Artistas all-Spanish-language exhibition celebrating local women and women-identifying as Hispanic artists, on view now through December 2023.

Opening events for Las Chicas Artistas will take place on Friday, September 22, and Friday, October 13, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Arts Council's BIPOC pop-up exhibition space (191 Highland Ave., Suite 2A). Both events will include live performances and the opportunity to meet the artists.

### Artistas de Somerville

As part of Hispanic Heritage Month, SAC is also extending collaboration with The Inside Out Gallery, which has put on a one-of-a-kind exhibition, Artistas de Somerville, at the CVS window in Davis Square. The exhibition includes work from Consuelo Lopez, Fermin Castro, Laidy Saenz, and Mario Quiroz, and is on view now through October 23.

## Somerville hiring polling place workers for 2023 election cycle

The City of Somerville is hiring polling place workers for the upcoming 2023 election cycle. Many poll workers will be needed this year to conduct a successful election. Interested residents are encouraged to attend an information session on Wednesday, September 27, to learn more.

### Information Session

The Elections Office is hosting three information sessions about becoming a poll worker on Wednesday, September 27 at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.) in the Committee Room on the second floor.

The afternoon sessions are from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., and 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. The evening session will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Register to attend at: [somervillema.gov/PollWorkerInfoSessions](http://somervillema.gov/PollWorkerInfoSessions).

If you are interested in learning more but not able to attend an information session, please contact the Elections Office at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200.

### General Duties

Poll workers are encouraged to commit to working election day: Tuesday, November 7, 2023. The workday starts at 6:30 a.m. and ends after the polls close at 8 p.m., with a two-hour break.

### Poll workers serve in one of the following roles:

The Warden is in charge of the Precinct. They make sure everything is set up correctly, all regulations are followed, and all materials are returned to City Hall at the end of the day. The compensation is \$265 per day.

The Clerk maintains all records, ensures that all pertinent documents are signed, and verifies that the votes of the precinct are accurately recorded. The Clerk is in charge in the absence of the Warden. The compensation is \$235 per day.

The Inspectors check off names as voters check in, assist at the voting machine, or staff the demonstration table. Inspectors also help set up and break down the precinct. The compensation is \$200 per day.





# 'Gathering of the Fairies' at the Somerville Community Growing Center

By Jennifer Purcell

On Saturday, September 16, residents of Somerville gathered at The Growing Center's garden oasis for a fairy-themed event for children and adults of all ages, the Gathering of the Fairies. Attendees were encouraged to dress up as their favorite fairies and immerse themselves in the world of imagination as they turned the beautiful garden into their playground.

Several volunteers showed up with a variety of crafting materi-

als that were used to make fae-related objects such as magic wands and fairy houses, alongside a face-painting station that was a huge hit amongst the children.

Children were also encouraged to not only use the crafting materials that were provided for their projects but also to use the tools that were provided by nature, such as branches, leaves, rocks, and seashells.

The event ran from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., providing attendees with more ample time to express themselves and fully immerse in

the world of the fae.

The Somerville Community Growing Center, an organization that is run entirely by volunteers, has striven to build their community through hosting educational programs and events since the year 1993 as well as striven to make others feel welcome, a goal that they were certainly able to achieve this past Saturday.

For a full list of fall events at the Somerville Community Growing Center, go to: <https://www.thegrowingcenter.org/>.

— Photos by Jennifer Purcell





## Voting now open for Somerville's first-ever Participatory Budgeting process

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is inviting all Somerville residents ages 12 and older to vote in the city's first-ever Participatory Budgeting process. Voting is open now through Friday, October 15, 2023. The city will begin taking steps toward implementing the winning projects later this fall.

The Somerville community submitted more than 900 ideas for consideration. Throughout the summer, budget delegate volunteers collaborated closely with city staff to evaluate each idea's need, impact, feasibility, and cost to determine the final ballot proposals.

"Somerville's first-ever Participatory Budgeting is a historic moment where residents have the opportunity to directly determine the allocation of city funds toward projects that matter most to our community," said Mayor Ballantyne. "The proposals on the ballot reflect the passion and ingenuity of our community, and I'm excited to see which ideas are selected by our neighbors. I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to the budget delegate volunteers and city staff who collaborated throughout the summer to create the final ballot ideas. I encourage everyone age 12 and up to vote and help shape the future of Somerville."

### Somerville Participatory Budgeting 2023 Ballot Proposals

For more information on each idea, including cost and location, go to [somervillema.gov/pb](https://somervillema.gov/pb).

#### Solar System Sculpture

Hire a local artist to build a scaled model of the solar system in a sculpture series.

#### Concrete Safety Island Crossings on Wide Thoroughfares

Install concrete curb barriers and signage to create pedestrian islands at major thoroughfares (such as Broadway Ave., Elm St., Washington St., Boston Ave.).

#### Outdoor Living Rooms in Parks

Install furniture such as chairs, benches, tables, and picnic tables – so folks of all ages have comfortable ways to enjoy our parks.

#### Faster BigBelly Trash Bin Adoption for Rat Abatement

Place additional BigBelly trash can units through the city to improve cleanliness and decrease the rat population.

#### Additional Bike Racks and Fix-it Stations

Add fifty (50) bike racks across the city in high traffic corridors, and 5 bike fix-it stations.

#### Play for All in the 'Ville

Make play accessible in Somerville by adding play equipment for kids of all abilities.

#### Library of Things Expansion

Expand "Library of Thing" program to include additional household tools such as cooking utensils, appliances, and power tools

#### Bus Stop Improvement

Improve access and condition of areas around bus stops in most heavily used corridors in Somerville.

#### STEM Programming in Libraries

Create informal STEM programming through Somerville Library; providing unique hands-on experiences to people of all ages.

#### Get Ripped in the 'Ville

Add fixed workout equipment, such as pull up and dip bars, throughout Somerville parks and facilities.

#### Improve Pedestrian Safety near GLX Stops

Install crosswalks, lighting, speedbumps, or daylighting at intersections adjoining or nearby new Green Line Extension (GLX) stops.

#### Support Direct Community Food Access

Contract with a nonprofit to strengthen direct community food access programs in Somerville.

#### Accelerate Bike Lane Installation

Install one – two miles of Quick-Build bike lanes divided by flexible delineators.

#### Somerville Safe Crossings

Add 15 crosswalks in Somerville with curb cut ramps on either side to increase safety and accessibility.

#### Summer Music in the Park Series

Create a series of outdoor concerts featuring local musicians in a variety of genres, with a focus on highlighting different cultures.

#### Residential Street Speed Bumps and Daylighting

Create fund to support speed bumps and daylighting of intersections on primarily residential streets.

#### Beating the Heat! Misting and Water Fountains

Add combined water fountains and misting stations to high traffic pedestrian areas.

#### Light Up the 'Ville

Engage with local artists to design lively lighting for Somerville squares.

#### Pedestrian Safety at Community Path Intersections

Add additional raised crosswalks, speedbumps, pedestrian islands, and concrete daylighting to intersections.

#### Keep It Cool in the 'Ville

Install shade structures for parks and public squares.

#### How to Vote

Residents will be able to rank their five favorite ideas when casting their ballot. Ideas with the most votes will be funded until the \$1 million runs out. The funded ideas will be announced this fall.

Participatory Budget votes can be cast online, over the phone, or in person. Respect your neighbors: vote only once to give everyone an equal voice.

Online: go to [somervillema.gov/pb](https://somervillema.gov/pb) or scan the QR code on Participatory Budgeting advertisements

Call 311 (dial 311 or 617-666-3311) or call 617-863-6622

Complete a paper ballot at Somerville Public Libraries or City Hall.

The funded ideas will be announced soon after the voting and the city will begin implementing them later this fall.

More complicated projects will take longer to realize, but the work to deliver on these community priorities will begin right away.



## COMMENTARY

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## The Dumpster at 371 Beacon Street



By Chris Dwan

Last week, as I often do, I complained on social media (<https://twitter.com/somershade1/status/1701725665936957598>).

This time it was about a dumpster in the street at 371 Beacon Street in Somerville, MA. The builders have had it there for months, blocking a part of the intersection where the bike lane ends, where Beacon Street meets Oxford Street at an oblique angle, where Somerville becomes Cambridge, and a few feet from a sharp bend in the road leading to the complex intersection of Beacon Street and Somerville Ave.

While it doesn't technically block the intersection — it does compress traffic at a crucial and heavily traveled spot. It's not a great place for a dumpster.

I was surprised (as I often am) by the online response. It turns out that this particular dumpster and this particular construction site have been a source of irritation for a lot of folks over the years. More on that at the end of this piece.

### The Forever Project

The hotel at 371 Beacon Street was under construction when I moved to the neighborhood ten years ago. One day in 2022 I got curious and emailed the Department of Public Works (DPW), asking for copies of any permits and plans that the city had on file.

The staff at DPW are usually accommodating about scanning and emailing stuff, but this time they asked if I would mind coming up to their offices on Franey Street. When I got there, there were two overflowing manilla

file folders waiting. I don't blame them for asking me to pick out the bits and pieces of interest rather than scanning everything.

The original plans for 371 Beacon were approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals in January of 2010, more than 13 years ago.

A lot of water has flowed under a lot of bridges since 2010. Properties have changed hands, contaminated soil has been discovered and remediated, the green line extension has been constructed, the community path extension has opened, Beacon Street itself has been entirely rebuilt, and that's not even mentioning the pandemic. It's a long time for a place to be under construction. By contrast, the foundation permit for the Cambria Hotel on Somerville Ave. was issued in 2019 and it opened less than three years later.

### Permits

It's not well advertised, but it's possible to independently look up permits, licenses, and even 311 tickets. Go to the city website and click on the menu item "for businesses" and then "licenses and permits." This takes you to a landing page with yet another link to "CitizenServe," the city's "online portal for licenses and permits." Once on CitizenServe, the "search" button leads to a form where you first select between "licensing," "permitting," and "constituent services" and then enter keywords, permit types and statuses, and so on.

A search for dumpster permits on Beacon Street returns fifteen hits at eight addresses — none of them at numbered higher than 205 Beacon. The builders just put a dumpster in the street knowing full well that the city would probably not do a thing about it, and they were right.

### Just call 311

The usual response from the city to this sort of thing is to say that we should put in tickets with



our 311 system rather than griping on social media. People have been doing that for years. On August 17 of this year, we see ticket 23-016530:

"The brown industrial dumpster has been here for years. Construction isn't happening, there are no workers, no trucks, nothing. The dumpster is a hindrance to the bike lane and crosswalk. It blocks the view of pedestrians trying to cross the street, it causes a bottle neck during rush hour between the cyclists who have to navigate out of the bike path to go around it, and vehicles have to stop next to it- allowing little room for the cyclists. I've been at this intersection too many times and seen cars and cyclists tap each other. It's not safe. Recently on a morning walk, I saw a contractor pull up in his truck and he unloaded at least six bags of garbage

and other debris into the dumpster and drove off. The dumpster is being used by contractors who aren't working on the building it's in front of. It's a hazard which, if it hasn't already, is a major accident waiting to happen."

Ticket 20-017171, from October of 2020, is particularly ironic for those of us who follow city politics. It asks the city to investigate unsafe conditions at the site and appears to be signed by "Councilor Katjana Ballantyne." Nearly three years later, now-Mayor Ballantyne's team finally closed the ticket, the very day after I started making a fuss online.

### A Happy-Ish Ending

As I said at the beginning, a lot of people were annoyed by this dumpster for quite a while. My posts on Twitter, Reddit, and Medium, got significant traction for such an incredibly local hap-

pening. At my urging, a few other people put in 311 requests, and in short order the dumpster was drained (which I'm told smelled disgusting) and hauled away.

The dumpster is gone, and that's a win, but this wasn't a great way for things to go down. The builders should have pulled a permit. Our inspectional services department (ISD) should have investigated repeated complaints. The police should have taken notice. The fact that it took online rabble-rousing to kick ISD into motion, despite multiple prior requests to 311, speaks to a gap in our civic processes.

The bright side is that individual activism actually works at the local level. I encourage everybody to speak up and insist on "better," particularly when it's something as glaringly wrong as a dumpster in the street.





COMMENTARY

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For the love of all that’s Holy, can we please do something about Highland Ave.?



By Jason Mackey

Remember the "this car survived Highland Avenue" bumper sticker that circulated on Reddit last Spring? Initially, it was a humorous nod to our communal struggles with Highland Avenue's deteriorating condition. But as seasons have changed, that fun joke is now overshadowed by the undeniable realities that Highland Avenue is an unmitigated disaster and getting worse by the day.

Highland Avenue, arguably the most prominent road in our city, is best described as a lunar landscape. It's terrible. In fact, it's so terrible, an 18th century cart path would suffice as an upgrade. And while our City Council is busy playing SimCity with mini roundabouts and trying to set the world record for the number of speed humps on a single street, our primary artery is crying out for some TLC. Despite promises of planned improvements, the necessary actions to address its condition are

conspicuously absent.

Our City Council, brought to you by the Democratic Socialists of America, seems to have a vision for Somerville that's more in line with a quirky board game than an actual city. Their focus on projects like tiny rotaries scattered throughout the city overshadows the immediate need to resurface Highland Avenue – or do something, anything at all to alleviate the pain. Their idealistic visions, while commendable in intent, miss the mark when it comes to pragmatic solutions. Infrastructure isn't just about building; it's about prioritizing. What Somerville needs isn't a city that resembles a slalom course but one that prioritizes key infrastructure over what seems like the result of a "fun ideas" brainstorming session.

Highland Avenue represents more than just a thoroughfare; it embodies Somerville's spirit and promise of a better tomorrow. However, under our City Council led by leftist ideologues more interested in boutique bike lanes, decorative crosswalks, and laissez-faire cycling policies than actual progress, it stands as a stark reflection of inat-

tention and misplaced focus. While comically small traffic circles may have their place, they should not overshadow the imperative of revitalizing one of our city's most heavily trafficked arteries.

Thankfully, the upcoming election shines as a potential turning point. The last thing we need are more socialists on the City Council. We need experienced, pragmatic leaders like Jack Connolly (Ward 6) and knowledgeable voices of the next generation like Jack Perenick (Ward 5) on the council to ensure our city's limited resources are allocated effectively and that safety and functionality is prioritized in all public works projects.

I hope our current leaders read this and take action. We can't wait for 2026. It's understandable that things won't be perfect while sewer and other infrastructure projects are ongoing, but this is ridiculous. Most of us lean to the left but demand more than just talk; we demand tangible action. We need our City Council to prioritize pivotal infrastructure over partisan projects. Let's build a Somerville where Highland Avenue stands as a testament to progress and efficiency, not of neglect.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

babies in need of diapers too - sizes 1-5. For a full list of items please see their Amazon Wishlist [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2PKG3LS84XJMF?ref\\_=wl\\_share&fbclid=IwAR2hGRE\\_D8M-8Jr2TUUV6fN0PlqOrGCRHFXsD-BqfK6alM2jR3dsxNUv3AFus](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2PKG3LS84XJMF?ref_=wl_share&fbclid=IwAR2hGRE_D8M-8Jr2TUUV6fN0PlqOrGCRHFXsD-BqfK6alM2jR3dsxNUv3AFus) or, drop off your donations at their food pantry, **Project SOUP**, at 165 Broadway, Somerville. Visit <https://somerville-homelesscoalition.org/>.

Somerville Math Fund's high school engineering challenge is coming. Time to sign up (deadline is **October 6**), for the **October 22** event. Get details and links here <https://somervillemathematics.blogspot.com/>.

Congratulations to **Somerville High School math teacher Michael Morgan**, who received an **internal SPS scholarship** to attend **Massachusetts School Administrator Association Leadership Licensure Program**. And congratulations to **Healey School Spanish teacher Alzimara Oliveira**, who received an **internal SPS scholarship** to participate in the **PSi certificate program**.

The **Somerville Museum** is hosting a **Community Curator exhibition** curated by **Martha Friend**. **Opening Reception: Thursday, September 21, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** September 21 – December 2. Please check out their website for confirmation of Museum's open hours: [www.somervillemuseum.org](http://www.somervillemuseum.org).

Is your family looking for adventure? **Cub Scouts** is a program for kids and their families. Every family pitches in to help out. No experience needed, just enthusiasm and a Do Your Best attitude. **Pack 3** is an all-volunteer group of families who welcome and embrace people of diverse race, color, religion, sex, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, economic status, family structure, and physical or mental ability. Contact the pack, for more info visit [facebook.com/somervillepack3](https://facebook.com/somervillepack3) or email: [info@somervillepack3.org](mailto:info@somervillepack3.org). Visit [somervillepack3.org](http://somervillepack3.org).

The **Welcome Project** is holding another semester of **English classes**. It's also not too late to register for Somerville and Medford EFP classes. For more informa-

tion visit: <https://www.welcomeproject.org/english-for-parents-efp.html>

September is **Library Card Sign-Up Month**. There's so much you can do with a library card from the **Somerville Public Library**. To sign up for a card visit, the Circulation desks at any of the three branches. All you need is a photo ID, and proof of Somerville address. Children ages 5 and up can also get a library card with their parents' information. Visit: [somervillepubliclibrary.org](http://somervillepubliclibrary.org).

Join **Arts at the Armory** on the **fourth Tuesday of each month** for the **Boston's The Moth StorySLAM!** This month's **Luck** on **September 26**, doors at 6:30 pm. This community-focused, open-mic storytelling competition is open to anyone to share a story on the night's theme. Tickets available here: <https://themoth.org/events/luck-boston>.

The **Somerville 5K Road Race** returns for a 28th year on **Saturday, September 30**, in Davis Square. Staff, clients, supporters, and local partners will come together once again to raise awareness and support for our most

underrepresented neighbors. Help in the fight to end homelessness, hunger, and eviction? Whether you want to run, jog, or walk alone or with a team, your support will help is needed to go the distance for our clients. Learn more and register here: <https://bit.ly/Somerville5KRoadRace>.

Safety tips and resources to help during the current **hurricane season**: Secure outdoor property and ensure you are in a safe location before the onset of strong winds. Charge cell phones and other electronic devices. Do not attempt to relocate or move any downed wires, as they are dangerous to handle. Reports of downed wires can be reported by calling 911. Downed tree limbs can be reported via 311 (dial 311 or 617-666-3311). Power outages can be reported and monitored via **Eversource's website**: [eversource.com/cg/customer/reportoutage](https://eversource.com/cg/customer/reportoutage).

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.



## COMMENTARY

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# Allowing clean energy enterprises to grow in Somerville



**By Will Mbah**  
Candidate for Somerville  
City Councilor at Large

Since Congress passed the Infrastructure and Jobs Act in November 2022, economic development advocates and the business press have anticipated a flow of new investment into the sector of clean

energy in the Boston region. To what extent is this flow of funding and resulting growth now reaching Somerville? Do we fully understand how our economic development policies and our spatial, urban systems and fiscal/financial planning are able to support and accommodate the needs of these enterprises and workforce as they grow?

## The context of municipal powers and policies in support of the clean energy sub-sectors

For more than twenty years, Somerville leaders have encouraged energy-related enterprises to locate in the city.

For both start-up firms and for units of established firms, we have offered a location close to the universities and institutes where energy-related research is underway and with an available concentration of scientific talent and skilled technical workers. Two important Somerville organizations -- Greentown Labs and the Northeast Clean Energy Council -- have been able to attract to the city several hundred enterprises at their stages of start-up and "acceleration," and as they continue to grow to maintain linkage to the city and its professional networks. In parallel, the city has taken supporting actions:

- Adjusting zoning, the building code, environmental regulations and traffic/parking rules allowing the laboratories and the testing, storage and supply facilities to function efficiently;
- Offering tax incentives and other subsidies for jobs creation;
- Providing workforce training programs and linking enterprises to the high school STEM and vocational programs; and
- Helping to expand the markets for clean energy products and services by incorporating clean energy components into city capital projects and procurements, and assisting residents and businesses to install energy-saving

and carbon-free equipment.

## How is the combination of public, private and non-profit investment working?

Back in 2021, I took part in an event at SomerNOVA on Dane Street and met folks from three typical Greentown companies that were working on additive-manufacturing techniques, which could minimize energy use and carbon emissions. When I first met them, the companies held new patents; they had received initial capital and had teams of 10 to 20 people working in the SomerNOVA facility.

Now just two years later, these three companies have moved quickly to the stage of expansion to full production and product/service marketing. This has required them to choose new locations and strategies of growth. Here's a quick update report:

Form Energy has developed a long-lasting electric storage battery that combines iron pellets and air as its components. The electricity generating process, which essentially releases power from iron rust, does not pollute. The process of building the batteries is much cheaper and uses far less energy than building batteries from hard-to-mine lithium or other rare-earths.

Since its founding in 2017, Form Energy has received multiple rounds of venture funding and federal grants, totaling over \$500 million. It has expanded to a local staff of about 200 and has leased over 90,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of space at 200 Inner Belt Road. It will keep here in Somerville the headquarters, research and testing units. Meanwhile, it is building a one million square foot manufacturing plant on a 55 acre site in West Virginia, where the full production of batteries will take place.

Advent Technology has perfected a method of electro-chemistry to create hydrogen fuel cells that can replace diesel generators. Hydrogen produces power with no carbon emissions.

Advent has been outfitting a new research, development and manufacturing facility at Hood Park in Charlestown, where its research team from Greentown lab and some of its headquarters staff from downtown Boston are relocating. The company has taken 21,000 ft<sup>2</sup>. It now has about 150 employees in total, but the number in Charlestown has not been reported.

Alloy Enterprises has devised a method of laminated

aluminum manufacturing that creates parts for electric vehicles. Its process is an alternative to 3d printing (which fuses heavier metal powders). The resulting light metal parts save fuel and power in normal use of the vehicles.

Alloy has been a very fast growing company. It was founded only in 2020 with a small research team at Greentown Labs. But it has moved through two rounds of venture capital funding, with the latest placement of \$26 million in May 2023. The company is now hiring and expects to grow to 50 employees by end of the year. It is moving into about 17,000 ft<sup>2</sup> in a suburban style manufacturing building in Burlington.

These are just three stories of Greentown companies that have outgrown the Dane Street facilities but are finding it possible to keep operations in the city and the Boston region.

What lessons do these success stories hold for Somerville economic development?

Somerville will not be able to provide space for any company to expand to a million square feet of manufacturing or to occupy facilities from which large volumes of products and services can be shipped. Nevertheless, companies can retain in the city important units of their on-going research, development, testing or prototyping.

To accommodate such units, Somerville should continue to plan for buildings with labs and flex manufacturing spaces, which can be leased in units of 10,000 to 20,000 ft<sup>2</sup>. These will not be the types of corporate showcase laboratories, such as the ones on Binney Street in Kendall Square; they will have lower rents and perhaps shared technical equipment and work spaces for small firms. They will need to be efficient, well-managed, and have a high standard of environmental performance. The zoning rules for these buildings should allow them to be built without unnecessary design flourishes and with the ability to change uses and interior spaces quickly and by right.

The city's housing policies will also be of great importance, recognizing that the relocation of company workspaces usually takes place with new hiring. Having affordable and convenient housing -- both to accommodate new employees and avoid disrupting existing employees will help keep companies in the city.

If you want to learn more or support my campaign, please visit my website at [willmbah.com](http://willmbah.com).

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Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

help the sick, but suspicious minds accused them of being witches. In 1648, Margaret Jones of Charlestown was the first woman in the Massachusetts Bay Colony to be executed for witchcraft. This occurred forty-four years before the Salem trials, and Governor Winthrop of Ten Hills headed her trial.

• On October 20, 1962, Somerville's Bobby "Boris" Pickett's song, The Monster Mash, was the "hit of the land." As number one on the Billboard's 100 list, it travelled from coast to coast quicker than all other records up to that time. For the last 53 years, it has been the anthem of Halloween.

• During the Revolutionary War, Somerville's hills were a prison to over 4,000 British and Hessian soldiers. Through the years, ghost stories have flourished about their stay here.

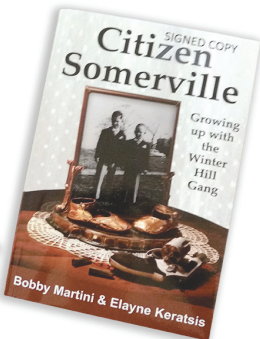
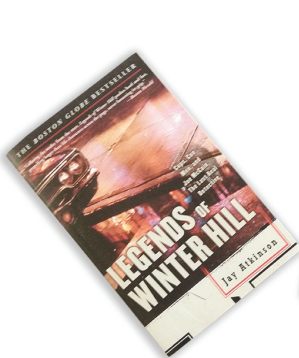
• Washington Irving, the author of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, a Halloween classic, wrote another novel titled The Devil and Tom Walker. It takes place along the edge of the Mystic River where he lived. In this book, Tom sells

his soul to the devil in exchange for Captain Kidd's Treasure, which is said to be buried near Ten Hills.

• It all started on Halloween October, 1, 1961. They were the famous Winter Hill gangland wars of the 1960's and beyond. It began after an attempt on the life of the gang's Somerville leader, James "Buddy" McLean. When Buddy retaliated by shooting and killing Charlestown's Bernie McLaughlin, war was declared. It spanned well over two decades and took over sixty lives before it slowed.

• Up until March 1, 2009, Sacco's Bowl Haven in Davis Square was thought to be an abnormal haven for ghostlike occurrences. Sightings were often made of unusual noises, odd bowling-pin drop-pings, and balls returning without warning when the power was off. The television program, Ghost Hunters, came to Somerville to investigate and to research the suspected activities. In the end, the Ghost Hunters team debunked their claims.

Or was it that they "bowled away their spirits?"



Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Urban geometry ...

— Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why did the robot couple insist on being married in the fall? They wanted to be fully autumn-mated

On This Day in History

September 20

- 1519 – Ferdinand Magellan embarks from Spain on a voyage to circumnavigate the world.
- 1784 – Packet and Daily, the first daily publication in America, appears on the streets.
- 1830 – The National Negro Convention convenes in Philadelphia with the purpose of abolishing slavery.
- 1850 – The slave trade is abolished in the District of Columbia.
- 1934 – Bruno Hauptmann arrested for the kidnapping and murder of the Lindbergh baby.
- 1952 – Scientists confirm that DNA holds hereditary data.
- 1973 – In a pro tennis bout dubbed "The Battle of the Sexes," Billie Jean King beats Bobby Riggs at the Houston Astrodome in Texas.
- 1977 – Socialist Republic of Vietnam admitted to the United Nations.
- 2011 – US military ends its "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and allows gay men and women to serve openly.

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# HONK! Festival 2023 coming your way in October

HONK! Festival 2023 has revealed their participating bands roster for this year's 18th annual gathering of activist street musicians. The current count is at 33 bands, with this year's participants hailing from all across the United States.

With memberships as big as 30 players, many of this year's festival participants will travel some distance (for example, from Georgia, Texas, California, Washington, Colorado) to join in this annual uproariously jubilant purposeful gathering held during Indigenous Peoples Day weekend.

What is HONK! exactly, one might ask? HONK! is a very unique musical movement that first began right here in Somerville back in 2006. Out of those humble beginnings, HONK! has become a recognizable worldwide phenomenon that warrants its own wiki.

HONK! is now short-hand for what is fully expressed at [honkfest.org/about/](http://honkfest.org/about/), for example: "At full power, these bands create an irresistible spectacle of creative movement and sonic self-expression directed at making the world a better place. This is the move-

ment we call HONK! striving in a HONK!-like manner to help make the world a better place."

Or perhaps HONK! can also be explained by the cantastoria entitled "What Is HONK?" that was first revealed at the very first HONK! Festival back in 2006. This theatrical story-telling performance has been performed at each local HONK! Festival ever since. The link provided is of the 2012 version, which was captured at the opening ceremonies for HONK! 2012, with musical participation by HONK!'s founding and host band, the Good Trouble Brass Band (formerly known as the Second Line Social Aid & Pleasure Society Brass Band): [youtu.be/qLepBbZBx3w?si=m7El-9Le9Vy459LwD](https://youtu.be/qLepBbZBx3w?si=m7El-9Le9Vy459LwD).

As mentioned above, the founding band and continued host of the HONK! Festival recently became the Good Trouble Brass Band, formerly known as the Second Line Social Aid and Pleasure Society Brass Band. The band has adopted this new name as of August, 2023 to best reflect its own mission as an activist street band. More information re-



HONK! Festival 2023 will be taking place October 6-8 throughout the Somerville, Cambridge, and Boston areas.

the name change can all be found at [goodtroublebrassband.org](http://goodtroublebrassband.org).

Complete HONK! Festival performance and activities schedules will be made available online on or after 28 September 2023, with ongoing updates all found at [honkfest.org](http://honkfest.org).

HONK! Festival 18th Annual Festival of Activist Street Bands. October 6-8, 2023 Held in Somerville, Cambridge, and Boston neighborhoods. Held outdoors rain or shine. Free and open to all. If interested in volunteering, contact [volunteer@honkfest.org](mailto:volunteer@honkfest.org). For further information: [www.honkfest.org](http://www.honkfest.org), [info@honkfest.org](mailto:info@honkfest.org), 781-285-8639.

HONK! is a not-for-profit, all-volunteer project where many hands lighten the impressive list of festival to-dos. All who are interested in experiencing the strong sense of camaraderie that HONK! generates, can email [volunteer@honkfest.org](mailto:volunteer@honkfest.org) plus [housing@honkfest.org](mailto:housing@honkfest.org). Visit [honkfest.org/help](http://honkfest.org/help) for more information on volunteer opportunities and also to make a tax-deductible donation. No donation is too small, or too large.

For complete information and continuous updates on this year's HONK! Festival, visit [honkfest.org](http://honkfest.org), [facebook.com/honkfestival](https://facebook.com/honkfestival), and [twitter.com/honkfest](https://twitter.com/honkfest).

## Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

interact with their government in a way they understand. I am excited to see the implementation of strong language access plans across our state agencies and all the benefits this will bring to our state."

**MANDATORY DIAPER CHANGING STATIONS (H 209)** – Another bill heard by the Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities would require public buildings and places of public accommodation to provide a private or semi-private diaper changing station accessible to all caretakers of children, regardless of sex, gender or disability. The requirement would apply only to new construction of public buildings or places of public accommodation and those undergoing significant renovation. Signage indicating the location of the diaper changing station must be posted at or near the entrance of a facility.

"As a dad of three young children, I've frequently experienced the difficulties of trying to find a diaper changing station while out with my kids," said co-sponsor Rep. Simon Cataldo (D-Concord). "This bill aims to make it easier and safer for all parents and caretakers to change

kids' diapers in public buildings."

"This legislation will make it clear that parents and children are welcome in the commonwealth's public spaces," said co-sponsor Rep. Steve Owens (D-Watertown). "By providing changing stations that are accessible to all, we can keep our children and public spaces clean and healthy."

**HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?**

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

During the week of September 11-15, the House met for a total of 15 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 10 minutes.		
Mon. Sept. 11	House 12:01 p.m. to 12:06 p.m.	Senate 11:08 a.m. to 11:13 a.m.
Tues. Sept. 12	No House session	No Senate session
Wed. Sept. 13	No House session	No Senate session
Thurs. Sept. 14	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:11 a.m.	Senate 11:17 a.m. to 11:22 a.m.
Fri. Sept. 15	No House session	No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at [bob@beaconhillrollcall.com](mailto:bob@beaconhillrollcall.com)





OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Review of 'Prayer for the French Republic'

A play by Joshua Harmon

Review of *Prayer for the French Republic*  
A play by Joshua Harmon  
At Huntington Theater through October 8, 2023

By Andy Hoffman

The Huntington Theater presents a new play by Joshua Harmon, *Prayer for the French Republic*, an extraordinary evening of theater. This ambitious drama concerns a family of French Jews and the uncertainty Jews everywhere feel about wherever they live. We may be comfortable now, the play posits, but for how long? We can look back to violent acts of antisemitism and ask ourselves, "Are we safe? Might we be safer somewhere else?"

Brother and sister Patrick Salomon and Marcelle Salomon Benhamou represent two sides of the problem. Patrick has assimilated to the extent that neither he nor his children observe Jewish holidays. Marcelle, on the other hand, married an Algerian Jew and described herself to a visiting young American cousin, Molly, as 'traditional.' Both Marcelle and her husband Charles are successful physicians, he with a large practice and she as psychiatry department head. Their two adult children, Elodie and Daniel, still live with them. Charles says of his family that they lived in Algeria for 500 years, and in Spain for a thousand years before that, marking the family's movement around the Mediterranean with the Spanish Inquisition and the rise of Islamic Nationalism. The Benhamou family finds its peace disturbed in the beginning of the play when Daniel comes home having



Left to right: Jesse Kodama, Jared Troilo, Phyllis Kay, Peter Van Wagner, Tony Estrella.

been attacked on the street, largely because as a math teacher at a Jewish school he wears a kippah, a skull cap. The elections involving the National Front leader Marie Le Pen and Donald Trump in the US have put the Benhamous on high alert. Charles no longer feels safe and wants the family to emigrate to Israel.

They live in the apartment that Marcelle and Patrick grew up in, and these characters share the stage with their ancestors, those who survived the Holocaust. Irma and Adolphe Salomon, the great-grandparents lived out the war trapped in the relative quiet of their Paris apartment, but their children have either escaped or fallen victim to the Nazis, and the old people pass their time imagining their offspring safe and sound. They are not, of course, not all of them. Those that do take up the century-old family business, selling pianos.

For these French Jews, the Holocaust remains as much a part of their personal

Continued on page 23

Lyrical  
SOMERVILLE  
edited by Doug Holder

Kelsey Kessler is a writer, clinical social worker, and mixed media artist. She is from Baltimore, Maryland and is located in Boston, Massachusetts. Her work has been published in multiple magazines and is featured on the *viewless wings* poetry podcast. She is currently writing her debut poetry book.



When I said I liked vampires I never meant like this

I don't think I'll ever give you validation  
For wanting to catch up with you over a cup of coffee.  
I remain curious of your painting built of those you lie about  
caring about.  
Look at you, charismatic guy, you have it all.  
Nine of months of torture as you sold me some fictional fantasy.  
I'm not going to lie; I have made some pretty gruesome  
mistakes.  
Yet you're emotional cheating makes mine look angelic.  
I should have known it was peculiar  
You would only call me to spill your guts to me  
You said you always loved my sweetness  
Just to place your hand around my neck  
The way you sucker punched the sweetness out of my body  
How you chock my skin until I am left breathless  
How you sunk your fangs into my veins  
You're a satellite parasite!  
You leave my skin breathless like an energy vampire  
  
And every friend I ever talk tells me all you did was cheat.  
I hate to admit how compelling you can be.  
How do you emotional cheat on people without having any  
blood on your hands?  
Maybe you do, but the blood is just invisible.  
What an iridescent debilitating fucked up game you played  
If it is not with me is with them, or her, or him.  
  
I have made some gruesome mistakes in my life  
Yet your emotional cheating makes my mistakes look angelic  
I should have known it was peculiar

You always expected me to heal your guts  
You said you always loved my sweetness  
Just to place your hand around my neck  
The way you sucker punched the sweetness out of  
my body  
How you choke my skin until I am left breathless  
How you sunk your fangs into my veins  
When I said I liked vampires I never meant like this.  
  
You always said you cared about me, that would be  
pretty hard.  
You can't love anyone if you.  
Don't know how to be loyal to someone.  
I tried my best to be there for you through your de-  
mons lingering in your ear.  
Now all I know is I can never do that.  
Because how you think emotionally cheating is ok is

something I'll never comprehend.  
  
I have made some gruesome mistakes in my life  
Yet your emotional cheating makes my mistakes  
look angelic  
I should have known it was peculiar  
You always expected me to me to heal your guts  
You said you always loved my sweetness  
Just to place your hand around my neck  
The way you sucker punched the sweetness out of  
my body  
How you choke on my skin until I was left breathless  
How you sunk your fangs into my veins  
So, I think you are wearing an invisible vampire  
costume  
Yet you can never take it of.  
  
— Kelsey Kessler



# Somerville's Senior Picnic

Somerville's rescheduled Senior Picnic was held Thursday, September 14, at Trum Field. The day was filled with beautiful weather, food, music and a great opportunity for meeting catching up with old friends. Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services was invited to participate. SCES CEO Marta Corvelo and representatives from the Community Support Center were on-hand to distribute information on how SCES provides free advice and guidance on challenging of aging, caregiving, and disability.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



## Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

history as their piano stores. Pierre marries a Catholic woman, and Patrick too marries outside the faith, but even he has not forgotten. As the play's narrator, Patrick – admirably presented by Tony Estrella, the Artistic Director of Rhode Island's Gamm Theater, which recently produced Harmon's *Bad Jews* – regales the audience with stories of slaughter of Jews in France as far back as the Crusades. The felt vulnerability of the Benhamou family drives *Prayer for the French Republic* to its moving conclusion.

Harmon's script, while long, flies along. These families,

like all families, fight and argue and love, and we see plainly how people who are on the same side can vehemently, sometimes destructively, disagree. *Prayer for the French Republic* produces laughs and tears as the family struggles with and for its past and future. As they celebrate shabbat, Hannukah, and Passover, teaching their American cousin in her own lost traditions, we feel the vital importance of both where they come from and where they are going. It's a brilliant play, and Huntington Artistic director Loretta Greco has conducted the production and its talented cast to near perfection. The only hiccup in the evening is a pe-

culiar break twenty minutes from the end, when the curtain comes down and the audience felt uncertain whether there was more to the show. Even with this misstep, *Prayer for the French Republic* should go on your must-see list. It tells a complicated and necessary story, not just about Jews, but about a world in migration. However, we come down on the mass movement of people from the America's north to the US, or African to Europe and the Middle East, or South Asians on the run from climate change, this play opens our eyes and hearts to the painful uncertainty of life.



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