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New City of Somerville Charter signed by Governor Healey



The new Somerville City Charter, approved by the governor, awaits approval of voters in November.

Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey signed the proposed new City of Somerville Charter today, Sept. 9, and now the joint efforts of Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the City Council, and the Charter Review Committee to update the charter are ready for voter approval. Two November 4, 2025, ballot questions will allow voters to decide whether to accept the charter and whether to extend the Mayoral term.

If the charter is approved by voters, a range of updates would go into effect immediately including that bodies will be created to develop plans to implement ranked choice voting (which allows voters to rank multiple candidates rather than vote for only one) and to explore public financing of election campaigns. If the separate Mayoral term question laid out in the charter passes, the Somerville Mayor would serve a term of 4 years *Continued on page 4*

Somerville's Ignite: Global Street Food & Fire Festival returns

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council invite the community to *Ignite: A Global Street Food & Fire Festival* on Saturday, September 27, from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Union Square Plaza (rain date Sunday, September 28). This free community celebration will feature a unique selection of global foods, cultural performances, interactive activities, and the excitement of fire artistry.

"Ignite is one of Somerville's most vibrant celebrations of culture, food, and creativity," said Mayor Ballantyne. "It showcases the incredible talent, entrepreneurship, and diversity of our community while also bringing neighbors together for an unforgettable experience."

This year's festival has been reimagined to offer more opportunities for hands-on engagement. Attendees can take part in free *Continued on page 4*



The 2025 edition of *Ignite: A Global Street Food & Fire Festival* will take place this Saturday in Union Square Plaza.

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

The Somerville Public Library is asking for community feedback to help shape its next **five-year strategic plan**. Residents, workers, and visitors are invited to share their ideas for how the Library can best develop its collections, programs, services, and spaces. The survey is open through **Wednesday, October 15**, takes about five minutes to complete, and is voluntary and anonymous. Participants can take the survey online at tinyurl.com/58vmk4vw or complete a paper copy at any Somerville Public Library location. For more information about Somerville Public Library programs and services, visit www.somervillepubliclibrary.org.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan, Ward 1 Councilor Matt McLaughlin, and city staff invite you to an open house on **Saturday, October 4**, at Ed Leathers Park (between Skilton Ave. and Walnut St.) from noon to 2 p.m. The City of Somerville is working to make the western segment of Pearl Street between McGrath Highway and Medford Street safer and more accessible by redesigning and reconstructing the street. Community members can talk directly to staff while exploring different stations for various aspects of the design. Learn more or visit somervillema.gov/westernpearl for more information.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy Birthday to Lori Pino of Amal Niccoli Salon in Ball Square. We wish her the best and hope she enjoys her day. Happy *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of September 24 – September 30 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday September 24	Rain	67°/60°	56%	43%	NE 11 mph
Thursday September 25	Rain	71°/67°	75%	61%	SE 12 mph
Friday September 26	Partly Cloudy	79°/60°	22%	13%	SW 10 mph
Saturday September 27	Partly Cloudy	76°/61°	17%	9%	ENE 9 mph
Sunday September 28	Sunny	80°/55°	20%	12%	W 9 mph
Monday September 29	Sunny	74°/53°	11%	7%	N 9 mph
Tuesday September 30	Partly Cloudy	72°/50°	8%	3%	NE 10 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: Somerville needs a centralized meeting system for the sake of local democracy

JB says:

These sound like a great proposals. Also, in the age of AI it should be very easy to capture meeting minutes and publish then very quickly.

Crystal says:

@JB, I really don't want AI to be used to capture meeting minutes and publish. That's even aside from any of the ethical or environmental issues involved (how AI has been built on the backs of artists, how AI uses up and contaminates potable water near the data centers and causes droughts for the people who live nearby). AI is becoming slightly better at predicting what text is expected to answer a question. That is WAY different from an actual understanding of what occurred, particularly if the topic is politically sensitive.

See also, judges have started sanctioning lawyers for using AI to draft submissions for the court because AI programs keep hallucinating fake cases and fake conclusions from real cases.

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/some-judges-move-beyond-fines-keep-lawyers-ai-errors-check-2025-09-16/>

Response to: Residents offer mixed reactions to Memorial Drive project

Josh says:

I don't understand the thinking here. Memorial is a major artery for moving vehicles—I have to wonder which side streets proponents of trimming Memorial prefer that vehicles take? Also, what's wrong with creating an 11-foot-wide path, if that width is needed, alongside the existing four lanes... there seems to be plenty of space.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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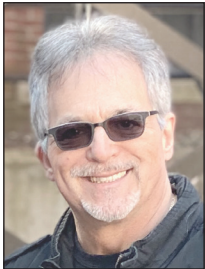
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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

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

Dented cans



A very good friend of mine told me a story that had me holding my stomach from laughing. His dad, also a good friend of mine, used to take his son and his friends fishing. Now his son takes his dad shopping. Instead of me telling the story, I will let my pal tell it in his own words. Here goes:

I usually go shopping once a week for my father. When I got home from a friend's birthday party Wednesday night, around 9:15, I called and asked him if he had his list ready so I could go shop for him. He asked if he could come along. I told him I could not fit his motorized wheelchair in my rented car, but he could use one of those scooters they have at the local supermarket.

Once we arrived at the market around 9:30 p.m., it took me about 15 minutes to explain how to use the shopping cart scooter. I said I would follow him with a regular cart and get whatever he wanted.

He said, "I have one of these at home; I know what I'm doing!"

We entered the store, and our own version of convoy/demolition derby began. He entered through the outdoor and knocked over a small display of spices, and kept going. Never acknowledging that this contraption actually has brakes, he speeds down the first aisle. He never once looked straight ahead. He looked side to side until he found what he was looking for. He sees the ad for 10 Pepsi 2-liter products for 10 bucks. He yells out, "I want three Pepsis, two Sprites, three ginger ales, and two lemonades." I tried explaining to him that Sprite is not a Pepsi product and therefore does not qualify for the sale. I spent the next 10 minutes trying to explain that Sierra Mist is the same thing, and that if he wants the Sprite, I will pay the extra 20 cents. I should have just shut up and put the Sprite in the cart in the first place.

Now, he starts heading down the various aisles. Not paying attention for one minute where he is going, he

Continued on page 11



Eat Out in East!

Let's meet up on Wednesdays to support local businesses

4:00pm-8:00 pm



Join ESMS and Ward 1 City Councilor, Matt McLaughlin!

Your East Somerville Dining Guide

- ✗ Mount Vernon
- ✗ Taco Loco
- ✗ Los Paisanos
- ✗ Viny's
- ✗ Tapatio
- ✗ Sister's Caribbean
- ✗ Fat Hen
- ✗ Los Toritos
- ✗ La Cosecha
- ✗ Rincon Mexicano
- ✗ Gauchao
- ✗ Ola Cafe
- ✗ La Brasa
- ✗ Rei Da Picanha
- ✗ Pastelaria Vitoria
- ✗ Royal Pizza & Subs
- ✗ Montecristo
- ✗ El Jalisco
- ✗ Michette
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- ✗ Oliveira's Steak House



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Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: Have you heard the old saying, “A penny saved is a penny earned”?

A: It’s a classic from Benjamin Franklin – but in today’s world, saving a dollar is actually worth more than earning one. Why? Because you don’t pay taxes on a dollar you save, while every dollar you earn gets taxed. Depending on your tax bracket, saving \$1 can be the equivalent of earning \$1.30–\$1.50 before taxes.

Here’s how this adds up in your favor:

- Savings are tax-free: To have \$1 after taxes, you often need to earn \$1.30 or more.

- Avoiding debt interest is just as powerful: Paying off a credit card charging 20% interest is like earning 20% on an investment — nearly impossible to find legally anywhere else!

- Small savings add up fast: Making consistent, conscious choices to avoid wasteful spending is a guaranteed return — risk-free and immediate.

So yes — a penny saved might actually be

the smartest penny you’ll ever earn!

Any questions? I’d be happy to help.

I’m Vincent Hicks, CPA, based in Somerville with over 20 years of experience. Reach out at vhicksconnect@gmail.com or (859) 553-0788.

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



New City of Somerville Charter signed by Governor Healey

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rather than the current 2-year term, and the change would go into effect no earlier than the 2028 term. The approved charter proposal can be read at somervillema.gov/charterreview.

Key changes in the updated charter include (but are not limited to):

- Improving readability by removing Latin and updating outdated 1899 verbiage

- Bringing charter requirements in line with modern practices

- Increasing the oversight power of the City Council in the areas of confirmation of department heads and board and commission members, annual audit reporting, allowing for the provision of Council legal counsel, and explicit authority to hire Council staff.

- Adjusting and codifying budget timelines and processes including requiring:
 - a community budget hearing before budget preparation;

- an annual joint meeting of the City Council and School Committee, called by the Mayor, to review the financial condition of the city; and,

- a public hearing on the proposed budget before the City Council takes action.

- Requiring a review of the charter, the code of ordinances, and the city’s boards and commissions every 10 years.

Many existing charter components remain unchanged, including retaining:

- The current form of government, with the mayor serving as the chief executive officer, with the power to appoint department heads, enforce ordinances, and manage the day-to-day operations of the city, and the City Council serving as the legislative branch.

- The composition of the City Council and the School Committee, and the Mayor and City Council President serving by virtue of their offices.

- A 2-year term of office for all elected officials.

“These charter reforms represent a major step forward for Somerville – increasing transparency, strengthening democracy, and ensuring the shape of our city government reflects our community values,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “I’m grateful to Sen. Jehlen, Rep. Barber, and our entire legislative delegation for shepherding this through the Legislature, Ward 1 Councilor Matt McLaughlin for championing charter reform throughout, and Governor Healey

for finalizing this decades-long effort. This achievement reflects the power of inclusive leadership and community voices working together to shape Somerville’s future.”

“This charter now reflects the times we live in and gives us a modern framework,” stated Councilor Matt McLaughlin. “This was a deeply democratic and inclusive process involving residents volunteering extensively and gathering input from thousands to draft this charter. It provides crucial improvements, from clear, modern language to addressing the balance of power between the mayor and City Council in areas like the budget and appointments. Ultimately, this approved charter is light years better.”

The majority of changes are the direct outcome of recommendations by the Charter Review Committee, composed of residents and elected officials. The Council and city then collaborated to transform those proposals into new charter language. **Bringing an 1899 charter into the 21st century**

The city’s charter was initially established in 1871, the same year Somerville was incorporated as a city. Since a more substantial update in 1899, it has under-

gone only targeted revisions. More recently charter review was launched in 2008. A 2018 City Council initiative modernized the name “Board of Aldermen” to “City Council.” In 2019, then Councilor Ballantyne initiated an update to shift oversight of the Committee Clerks from the Administration to the City Council to streamline management and improve workflows. In 2021, then Councilor Ballantyne also led the Council in submitting a special act to amend the charter to use gender-neutral language.

Full charter review began in 2020, when former Mayor Joe Curtatone and then City Council President Matt McLaughlin (now Ward 1 Councilor) jointly launched the latest comprehensive review. The Charter Review Committee established as a result met for 16 months and issued a range of recommendations in August 2022. The Ballantyne Administration and City Council then jointly updated the charter to ensure it met legal standards. The Collins Center for Public Management at UMass Boston provided critical expertise and support. To view the charter language and more information, visit: somervillema.gov/charterreview.

Somerville’s Ignite: Global Street Food & Fire Festival returns

CONT. FROM PG 1

micro-cooking classes from 4 to 5:30 p.m., led by instructors representing Bangladesh, Puerto Rico, Laos, and Haiti. Interactive activities include flag-making, tarot readings with Madame Anderson, Arabic calligraphy, face painting, and more.

The festival’s diverse food vendors include MOLU Ghanaian Cuisine, Dos Manos Kitchen, Matki Artisanal Khulfi, Sintá Filipino, Masala Square, Siam Ginger, Gracie’s Ice Cream, and Arepa La Mazonca. Festival goers can also “test your

nose” at the Nibble table, add to a Global Food Map, and cheer on (or join in) the popular curry-eating contest hosted by Masala Square.

Live performances throughout the day will highlight cultures from around the world. The schedule includes Brinca Piranga’s joyful Bumba Meu Boi dance from Brazil, Pumawari Tusuy (Peruvian folk dance), KS Dance Studio (Haitian dance), Tierra del Sol (Mexican folk dance), and global dance sets with DJ Philip Tan.

The Boston Circus Guild will close the night with its dazzling fire-throwing and fire-twirling spectacle, joined by roving dancers, circus artists, and towering bird puppets.

About Nibble

Ignite is produced by Nibble, a Somerville Arts Council initiative that includes Nibble Kitchen Restaurant at Bow Market and the Nibble Culinary Entrepreneurship Program. Nibble provides opportunities for predominantly female and immi-

grant food entrepreneurs to test restaurant concepts in a supportive, low-risk environment while fostering cultural exchange and economic development.

Logistics

Parking is limited; attendees are encouraged to take public transportation. Entry is free, but festivalgoers are encouraged to support food vendors and local businesses.

For more information, please visit somervilleartscouncil.org/artsunion/ignite.

Committee discusses MBTA bus lane enforcement, Route 90 changes

By Jordan Pagkalinawan

On Thursday, September 18, the Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee heard updates on the MBTA's plans for automated bus lane enforcement, as well as proposed changes to service on route 90.

Automated bus lane enforcement

MBTA representative Kirstie Tirandazi gave a presentation on the "Make Way for Buses" [1] program, which would utilize automated cameras to ticket drivers who block bus lanes and stops. The program follows a January law [2] that allows for two types of enforcement: mounted cameras on MBTA and regional transit agency buses, and municipally led wayside cameras at stops and plazas.

Though cameras would capture initial infractions, Tirandazi explained humans would review them for verification before tickets were sent in the mail. First-time violators would be given a warning and a 60-day public education period before fines would be issued. Those fines range from \$25 to \$125 for stopping in a bus lane and \$100 upwards for parking in a bus stop.

The planned rollout will be soft-launched next spring on two Silver Line bus routes, SL4 and SL5, before expanding system-wide, garage by garage, according to Tirandazi. The regulations, which were drafted in April, will be adopted by the MBTA on Wednesday, September 24.

Councilors were enthusiastic over the program's rollout, and some wondered how other cities handled similar enforcement tactics. Tirandazi noted that Boston was "late" to the game, considering that San Francisco, New York City, Chicago, and Washington, DC, had already established similar programs – all of which were a "massive success" and "big revenue generators." Still, the enforcement program will be revenue-neutral with a larger emphasis

on changing drivers' behavior.

Service planning changes on MBTA Route 90

Following Tirandazi's presentation, OS-PCD Senior Transportation Planner Justin Schreiber led a discussion on service planning considerations for MBTA bus route 90.

Schreiber explained that the route underwent two key changes as part of the Bus Network Redesign Project [3]. Recent changes made this summer, which omitted Cross Street and Tufts Street, received negative feedback from various Somerville-area schools and the East Broadway business district. That led to the MBTA restoring service to Cross Street on August 24 and improving pavement markings on Cross Street at Broadway.

Future goals for Route 90 include offering an accessible Green Line transfer, connecting East Somerville to the rest of the city, and maintaining a connection between Lechmere and Assembly Row on a reasonable frequency.

Schreiber cautioned that the path forward will come with "significant tradeoffs," highlighting the potential ramifications of consolidating Route 90 with Route 88, both of which run along Highland Avenue, the latter with increased frequency. Combining both routes with service on Washington Street, which is intended to maintain a connection with the Green Line, comes with significant reservations from the city and community. Consolidating service without a Green Line connection is not supported by the MBTA.

Councilors and residents proposed various solutions, including a busway from Joy Street, rerouting Route 90 onto McGrath Highway, and even an elevator at the Gilman Square station. Schreiber said that "nothing is off the table" when considering the future of Route 90, adding that



MBTA bus lane enforcement and Route 90 changes were items covered at the latest meeting of the city's Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

the MBTA will have a larger conversation with the community before additional changes are made.

Links:

[1] <https://www.mbta.com/projects/au->

tomated-camera-enforcement-program

[2] <https://www.mass.gov/lists/mass-general-laws-c90k>

[3] <https://www.mbta.com/projects/bus-network-redesign>

Tufts University Department of Music Presents 'Tufts Composers: Look What Happened Now #1'

The Tufts University Department of Music presents "Tufts Composers: Look What Happened Now #1" in the Distler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Monday, September 29, 2025 at 5 p.m. Chamber Music from Somerville. Music by guest composer Andrew Blickenderfer performed alongside new Tufts Composers compositions.

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus. For more information, please visit go.tufts.edu/musicvents or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617-627-3679.



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COMMENTARY

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

Eat Out in East and address ICE



By Matthew McLaughlin
Ward 1 City Councilor

ICE is out in East Somerville and the streets are noticeably silent. Multiple East Somerville residents have been detained by ICE in the last two weeks. No one has been charged with any crimes and some even held a protected status. We are uncertain about

the exact number because some cases may be unreported by the community, giving ICE time to quickly move people out of state to be processed for expedited deportation. The city is working with Greater Boston Legal Services and the ACLU to provide legal assistance to our residents.

These detentions are not being reported by the federal government to Somerville or any agency that may provide residents with their constitutional rights to due process. ICE agents wear masks to instill fear in the community. I recently condemned the use of masks by federal agents at a city council meeting, citing the International Association of Chiefs of Police who also

condemn the use of masks.

East Somerville businesses, 70 percent are immigrant owned, have also been negatively affected. At least three businesses have closed since Trump took office. The decline in business as well as tariffs are negatively impacting our community and tax base. The lack of neighborhood presence on the streets only makes us less safe.

These are dark times and there are many things out of our control. There are many things we can still do, however, to both help those in need and strengthen our community bonds. I am working with East Somerville Main Streets to promote Eat Out In East, a weekly event to both pro-

mote local businesses and foster community building.

Eat Out in East will be every Wednesday from 4-8 pm. I encourage residents to start at the Connexion Church on 149 Broadway. There you can learn about our daily activity and get plugged into activities happening throughout the neighborhood. Connexion provides services for those in need, including food, clothing and other resources. There are many residents there who can connect you to other initiatives to support our local businesses and our neighbors. I attended their weekly dinner last Wednesday and was truly moved by their charity and resilience.

Democracy dies in darkness. We can do our part by shining a light in the darkness and by being there for each other. ICE agents do not want to be seen abducting people in our streets. It's why they wear masks. Trump and his agents know what they are doing is wrong. We can't behave like we are the ones doing something wrong, hiding in fear and staying divided. Those of us who are able must continue using our constitutionally protected rights of free speech and free association to keep our streets safe and support our local economy. Please get involved. Be out, be active, shop local and report anything you see to the city of Somerville.

Somerville High School earns continued Accreditation from New England Association of Schools and Colleges

Somerville High School has received continued Accreditation in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) following a visit in April 2025 by the Commission on Public Schools. The school district is pleased to make this announcement as classes reconvene for the 2025-26 academic year.

As part of the NEASC Decennial Accreditation Report, the Commission identified twelve "Priority Areas of Growth" where Somerville High School met or exceeded recommendations following the NEASC's previous collaborative visit with the school.

Among the achievements outlined in the 44-page report – https://somerville.k12.ma.us/files/SHS_Somerville-HSMA_Decennial_Report.pdf – were an investment in work-based learning through the school's Career and Technical Education curriculum, alignment of English Language Arts and world language studies across all high school grade levels, development of a comprehensive Tier 1 (high-quality classroom instruction best practices) resource and student support guide, fostering a safe school climate, and effective use of technology and digital literacy. The report also highlighted access to academic honors and Advanced Placement courses, as well as opportunities for dual enrollment in college and high school.

"This report reflects the talent and the hard work of the entire staff at Somerville High School," said principal Alicia Kersten, in response to the overwhelmingly positive report. "Their dedication and the buy-in from our amazing student body have created a learning environment that the entire Somerville community can be proud of."

Of the Commission's "Foundational Elements" for accreditation, the high school was proficient in seven of eight components reviewed, with additional resources needed for consistent written formatting of all departmental course curricula at the campus. Kersten and her team will submit a progress report in May to detail the school's strategic response to the request.

"I could not be more proud of the accomplishments of Principal Kersten and her entire team at Somerville High School," said Ruben Carmona, Superintendent of Schools. "This further reinforces our commitment not just to academic excellence, but also fair and equitable access, the emotional wellness of our students, and community engagement. This is a great showcase of the high school's strengths and a valuable opportunity to address areas of current and future growth."

For more on the Commission on Public Schools, visit www.neasc.org.

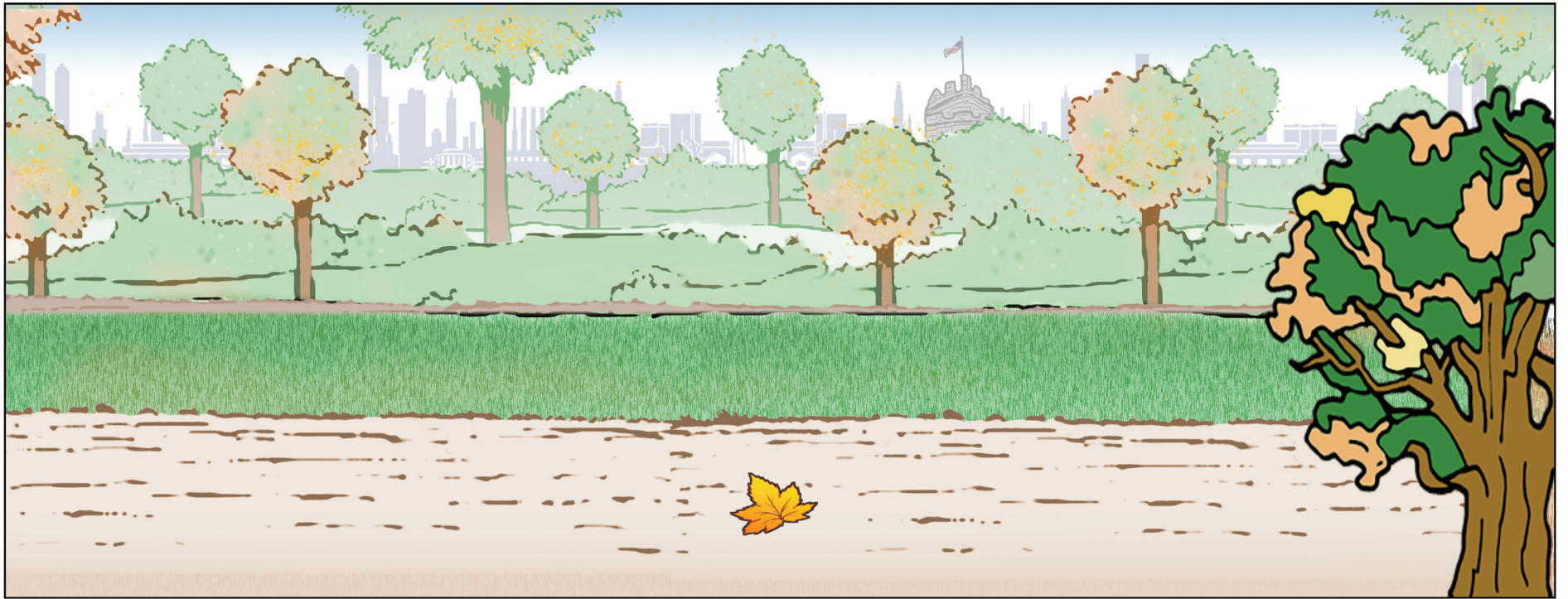
Learn about Somerville High School at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/SHS/



COMMENTARY

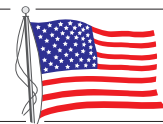
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Autumn is here.

Our View Of The Times



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

An incomparably divisive political climate exists 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 with our individual beliefs and personal commitments?

The cost of living, higher prices on almost 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.

Add to that a weekend stay at a quaint bed and breakfast, or a camping trip with the family, among other possibilities, can

do wonders to ease our worries and lift our spirits. There are many ways one can capitalize on the allure of the season.

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

birthday to **Karen F. McWatters**, who celebrates this week. We hope she has a great birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Ann Sylvester, Julia Gilligan Corsetti, Scott Breen, Lisa Monaco, Joell Johns, Roy Carreiro, Joseph Leblanc, Debbie Price King, Linda Malone, and Edward Barry**, 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.

Community members are invited to join **Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the City Council, and the School Committee** at the **2025 City Hall Community Meet-**

ings. These meetings are held every fall in each of Somerville's seven wards to share the latest city and neighborhood updates – and more – with community members. The in-person meetings kick off with a social half-hour with free pizza and healthy kid-friendly snacks, where you can chat one-on-one with elected officials, including the mayor, your Ward and At-Large City Councilors, and School Committee members, as well as staff, about issues important to you. The next meetings will be on **Monday, September 29, Ward 7, West Somerville Neighborhood School Café, and Tuesday, September 30, Ward 1, East Somerville Community School**

Café. All meetings start at 6 p.m.

Halloween Kids Costume Swap will be held on **Sunday, October 5**, at the **Central Library** (79 Highland Ave.) from 1 to 4 p.m. Get in the spooky spirit and join in for a free kids Halloween costume swap. Families interested in donating can drop off gently used costumes **now through October 2** in drop boxes at all three library locations.

Do you live in Somerville? Have you graduated from high school yet? **Scrapheap Showdown** is coming. Time to get your teams together. Get two more friends and

register your team. Choose a crazy name for the team and then all come on **October 19** to **Breed Memorial Hall** at **Tufts University**, 51 Winthrop St, Medford.

Free Flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinics. Visit somervillema.gov/vaccinations to find Flu and COVID vaccine clinics this year and register for your appointment. More clinics will be added throughout the season.

This fall, the **Somerville Museum** is offering programs for kids, young and old, on **select Friday and Saturday mornings.** On **September** *Continued on page 9*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#990

- Who is the youngest person to win two Academy Awards?
- What did Lucille Ball try to sell in a commercial on *I Love Lucy*?
- Jennifer Lopez and Ray Liotta co-starred in what drama?
- What movie musical stars Diana Ross and Michael Jackson?
- Which singer was the only solo musician to have a #1 hit in every year of the 1990s?
- Which is the largest written constitution in the world?
- What is the only kind of parrot that cannot fly?
- Which is the driest place in the world?
- What is fear of public speaking known as?
- What is the name of John Travolta's character in the film *Saturday Night Fever*?
- Actors Jodie Foster and Kristen Stewart starred together in what 2002 thriller movie?
- Who was Johnny Carson's longtime sidekick on *The Tonight Show*?

Answers on page 12

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- Honey is the only food that does not spoil.
- The movie *Toy Story* helped sell the Etch-a-Sketch.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD PERIODIC TABLE ELEMENTS

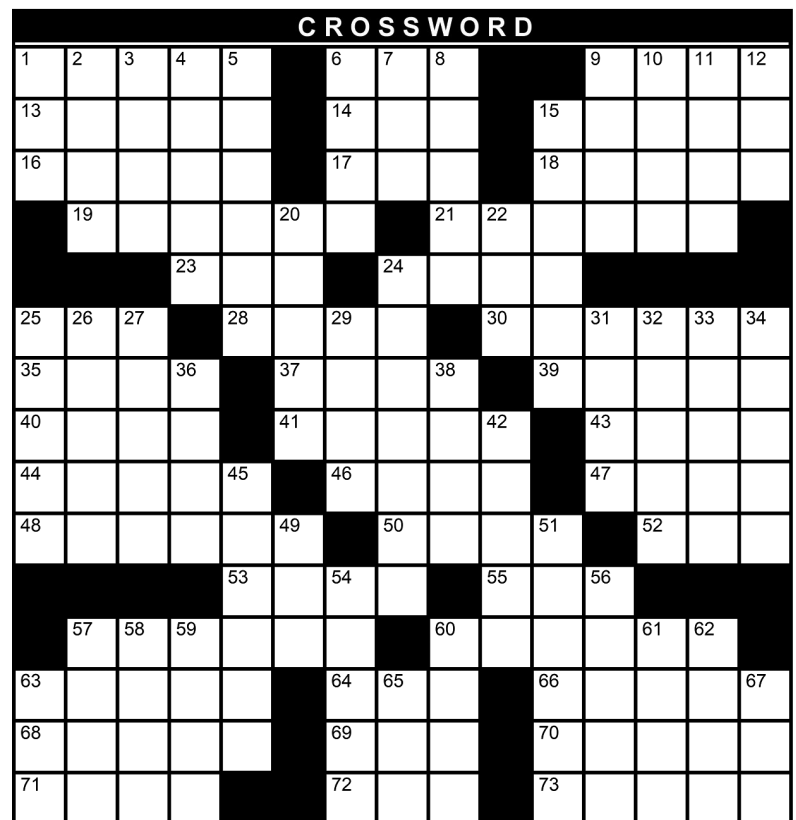
ACROSS

- "_____ of New York," 2002 movie
- That guy
- Extinguish birthday candles
- Impolite dinner sound
- Division of time
- Forgo
- On the move
- Lake, in France
- Alaska native
- The heaviest metal
- Inert gas of balloon fame
- "Jersey Shore" network, acr.
- Move like parasailor
- Pick up, as in a criminal
- Z, NATO phonetic alphabet
- "A ship without _____"
- Paella pot
- Nessie's turf
- Sweating room
- Cyberspace soliloquy
- Gold
- Foul substance
- Ruled
- Dish out
- Belgium's currency
- Lands (2 words)
- Indira Gandhi's dress
- ____ Without Hats, band
- Sheltered nook
- Gross National Product
- Majority of elements on periodic table
- Iron
- Fortune teller's card
- Anger
- Saharan rest stop, e.g.
- Venerated paintings
- Acquired
- Beside, archaic
- Curious
- Professional basketball league, acr.
- Paterfamilias, tenderly

- Prosecco cocktail
- Position of leadership
- George Gershwin's brother
- Village People's "____ Man"
- Island near Java
- Stead
- Reproductive cell
- Kind of nurse
- The Beatles' "I Am the ____"
- Throat lobe
- "Lend me your ____"
- Glucose+fructose
- Like Ar, Xe and Ne
- Completely dedicated (2 words)
- Hair color
- High in decibels
- Small European freshwater fish
- Pasta wheat
- Accustom

DOWN

- General Services Administration
- Additionally
- Common allergens
- Tale-spinning brother



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



- Rn, known for seeping into homes
- Forever and a day
- Dance with leis
- Join companies
- Old European coins
- D.C. mover and shaker, for short
- Encroachment
- Victory hand gesture
- Life force, in Sanskrit
- Type of shark
- Aphrodite's son
- Broadway recognition
- Greek salad ingredient
- Not mint
- This over matter?
- Sn, element in bronze
- "To ____ Peter to pay Paul"
- Pig pen

Solution in the next edition of *The Somerville Times*.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

27, they start with special songs and puppetry with Jef Czekaj, with lyrics matching up with many of the exhibits in the *History on the Line* exhibition. Kids can stay afterwards for a scavenger hunt. The museum is also starting its next exhibition, **Barcode Journeys** with **Barbara Jo**, which opens on September 18. Join them for an opening reception to celebrate from 6 to 8 p.m. and exciting panels, lectures, dance performances, and more throughout the run. Visit www.somervillemuseum.org.

Hazardous Waste Drop-Off, Saturday, October 11: Next monthly **Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day** at DPW (1 Franey Rd., 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.)

Don't miss a chance to learn more about **Theatre in Somerville Public Schools** on **Monday, September 29**, at 5:30 p.m. in the **Somerville High School auditorium**. Please RSVP to this information session at the following link: <https://trst.in/N6vQpz>

Are you an **artist or craftsman** who creates objects for sale? You can rent a table to display and sell your wares on **Saturday, October 25**, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the **Holiday Crafts Fair** at the **Somerville Community Baptist Church** in Davis Square. The price for renting a table is \$35. The Fair will also feature food and fun activities for all ages. To rent a table, please make out your check for \$35 to Somerville Community Baptist Church, and mail it along with your name and contact information (address, phone, email) to SCBC, 31 College Avenue, Somerville, MA 02144. For more information about the Fair, contact Marion Annacone, marion.annacone@gmail.com.

Dilboy Post will be holding its third **Annual Comedy Fundraiser, Elaine Pelino & Friends**, hosted by **John Harrington**. The event will be held on **November 9**, 2 – 5 p.m., **351 Summer St.** For tickets (\$25) and more information: www.dilboyvfw529.com, dilboy.post@comcast.net, 617-666-8794.

LEGO® Discovery Center Boston is showing thanks by offering free admission to local community heroes. Healthcare professionals, first responders, and the military can all enjoy free admission during their specific appreciation months. September is healthcare appreciation month, October is **first responders' month**, and military appreciation month is in November. They also receive 30% off for up to six friends and family members so they can enjoy a memorable day building memories. Visit <https://www.legodiscoverycenter.com/boston/>

The **Somerville Fire Department** has begun the annual inspection and **flushing of all fire**

hydrants citywide, on concluding on or around **Saturday, September 27**. This annual maintenance program helps keep our community safe by helping to ensure that hydrants will work properly when needed to put out a fire. The **Water Department** also conducts additional water main flushing and maintenance year-round. Visit somervillema.gov/hydrantflushing to see hydrant flushing schedules by street. The schedules are typically updated weekly.

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

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our **Arts Editor, Doug Holder**, for setting up a **GoFundMe campaign** for *The Somerville Times*. With the cost of printing going up and a lack of businesses having the resources to advertise, free papers feel the effect. We sincerely thank all who have already contributed and thank any future contributors. If you are interested in helping, please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-somerville-times>. Or if anyone is interested in advertising, please contact Bobbietoner@aol.com. We offer great discounts to help our advertisers be able to advertise. Thank you all so much for your support!

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Somerville Police Chief Shumeane Benford, and the **Somerville Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** invite community members to a neighborhood meeting on **Monday, October 6**, to discuss public safety and homelessness in the Davis Square/Seven Hills area. All members of the community, including individuals and businesses, are invited to attend. 6-7:30 p.m., **Somerville Community Baptist Church**, 31 College Ave., in the Sanctuary. This meeting will also be livestreamed on City YouTube at youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV. Submit questions in advance: For people watching the livestream, questions may be submitted in advance to davissafetymeeting@somervillema.gov. Please submit by **Friday, October 3**.

The **Somerville High School Class of 1980 Reunion Social** is taking place **Saturday, October 4**, from 7 to 10 p.m., **Jake n Joe's**, *Continued on page 11*

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



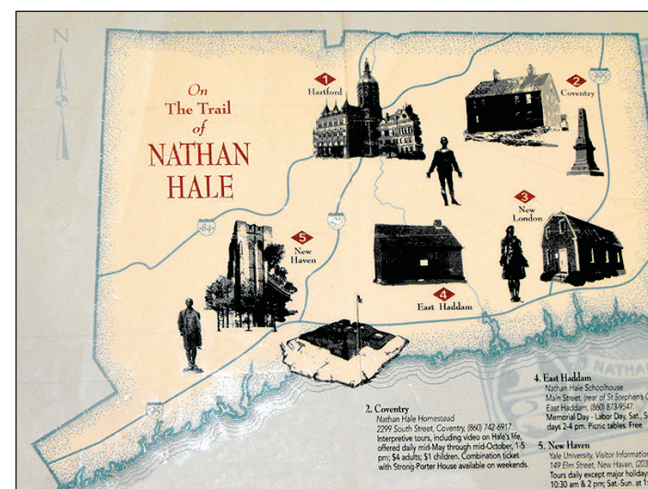
Eagle feathers #338

This article first appeared in the June 20, 2012, edition of *The Somerville Times*.

All Hail to Hale!

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Heroes come in many different shapes and sizes and from all walks of life. A hero could be a schoolteacher, a military officer, or sometimes both. Such is the case with Nathan Hale, a true American hero. In his brief 21 years on earth, the Yale-educated man managed to become an accomplished Connecticut public school teacher, as well as the first member of what is now known as the Central Intelligence Agency. Hale spent the last year of his life in what is now Somerville, training under George Washington in the newly formed Colonial Army.



He quickly rose to the rank of Captain and commanded a company of Connecticut troops stationed at Winter Hill. With the battles of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill behind them, the army desperately needed to train itself in order to be prepared for the coming onslaught. With a passionate spirit, Hale trained the men of his company to be the best soldiers they could be.

His commander was Colonel Thomas Knowlton, namesake of East Somerville's Knowlton Street and Knowlton's Rangers. A veteran of the French and Indian War and the Battle of Bunker Hill, Knowlton began the first American Ranger battalion, of which Nathan became one of his captains. This was the special unit General Washington drew upon to obtain his volunteers for espionage when the fighting moved to New York City.



Hale was the only soldier to volunteer for the secret mission that would ultimately result in his capture and execution. He secretly posed as a Dutch schoolteacher while gathering information about the enemy troops occupying New York City. On the way back to the American lines, he was apprehended, coincidentally, *Continued on page 11*

LEGAL NOTICES

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

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 1, 2025**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, 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 ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_22vLIExThuREImYIC-JcQ
 Webinar ID: 894 6353 1296

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:

872 Broadway 872 Broadway LLC seeks relief from SZO § 2.4.3.d.v to allow mechanical equipment in the frontage area of a lot, which requires a Hardship Variance.

872 Broadway 872 Broadway LLC seeks relief from SZO § 4.1.7.d. ground story primary facade fenestration requirement for a General Building in the Mid-Rise 3 (MR-3) zoning district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

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

Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.

9/17/25, 9/24/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP 26-17

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites bids for:

Family & Medical Leave Act Administration

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Monday, September 22, 2025**. Sealed bids will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, October 15, 2025**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor informality in the RFP process, and accept the bid(s) deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.

Please email jremy@somervillema.gov for more information.

Jordan Remy
 Senior Procurement Manager
 617-625-6600 x3400

9/24/25 The Somerville Times



Section 00 11 13
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID
 MGL c.149 Over \$150K

The **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Unit Modernization - Bryant Manor at Bryant Manor (667-4) in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **REVERSE ARCHITECTURE**.

The Project consists of but not limited to:
 Bryant Manor is a 5-story "section 8 new construction" elderly housing apartment building located in Somerville, MA. The building was originally constructed in 1977 and has 134 1- bedroom units and first floor common area amenities. The building has a concrete structure and is noncombustible construction. The project consists of interior renovations to 3 units, including one accessible unit. The work includes dry-wall patching and selective modifications to walls, ceilings and soffits, new finishes, fixtures, cabinetry, lighting, plumbing, and electrical work. New electric heaters will be added to bathrooms. New shelving and rods in closets. Replacement of door hardware and selective door replacement. Flooring materials require asbestos abatement. The accessible unit shall meet the requirements of ADA and 521 CMR for Group 2B dwelling units. The units will be vacant during construction, the building will be occupied.

The work is estimated to cost **\$284,000.00**.

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 10/03/2025 at 12:00PM EDT for filed sub-bids and by 10/17/2025 at 12:00PM EDT for general bids. Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

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

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, **General Building Construction**, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until **24 October 2025 at 2:00PM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

Filed Sub-bids for the trades listed below will be received until **09 October 2025 at 2:00PM EDT** and publicly opened 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.

TRADES

Plumbing
 Electrical Work

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

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

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled
 Date and Time: 10/02/2025 at 10:00AM EDT Address: 75 Myrtle st, Somerville, MA 02145 Instructions: Meet at the front door.

Pre-bid Conference / Site Visit is MANDATORY for General Contractors.

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

Nashoba Blue Inc.
 433 Main Street
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 978-568-1167

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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
 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 7, 2025** 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 2 of the Acts of 2025, 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.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9nbllUQmeCeff7PR5Z50

Webinar ID: 876 9314 6692

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**HP25-000076 - 76 Highland Avenue**

Applicant: Li Liu
 Owner: Li Liu

The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by replacing a total of twenty-nine (29) windows.

DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)**HP25-000075- 382 McGrath Highway**

Applicant: Nicholas Tan
 Owner: 382 McGrath NT LLC

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 to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. Note: Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov NO LATER THAN NOON one week prior to the meeting date. Email historic@somervillema.gov with inquiries.

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Advertisement

The **Somerville Housing Authority** is seeking a competitive sealed bids RFB for "Full Service" Elevator Preventative Maintenance, Testing, Emergency and Non-emergency Repairs of 17 Elevators at Various Locations in Somerville Massachusetts, **SHA Job No. #P-ELV-82025** in accordance with the specifications prepared by the SHA Purchasing Department. Contractor must provide twenty-four (24) hour service 7 days a week.

The Term is for Three (3) years with two (2) 1-Year options at the SHA's sole option

Documents will be posted by **11:00 A.M., September 24, 2025.**

Proposals will be accepted until **2:00 P.M., October 10, 2025**, at the Somerville Housing Authority, Administration Bldg., 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 01245.

The work is estimated to cost **\$750,000.00** for 5 years.

Proposal is subject to applicable bidding laws including but not limited to M.G.L. c.149 §44A – H, M.G.L. c.30B and applicable federal procurement laws. To the extent there are inconsistencies between state and federal procurement laws, the more stringent standard will be followed.

RFB Documents will be available for download on SHA's Web site, www.sha-web.org, under About us, Bid opportunities tab by **11:00 a.m., September 24, 2025.**

Addendum's will be posted on the website and shall be the bidder's responsibility to include in bid

General Bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Planning and Operation DCAMM in the category of work: Elevator Constructor.

Proposals shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than 5% of the greatest possible bid amount (including the amounts bid for any and all alternates) and made payable to the **Somerville Housing Authority.**

There will be a recommended, but non-mandatory, pre-bid conference held at **10:00 a.m., September 26, 2025.** Attendees are required to provide notification that they will attend. Please notify Anthony Crespo by email at Tonyc@sha-web.org or at 617-996-0906 if you are attending. All interested parties will meet outdoors of Somerville Housing Authority, Modernization Building, 30 Rear Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145.

9/24/25 The Somerville Times



Advertisement

The **Somerville Housing Authority** is selling the residential property it owns located at 17 Monmouth Street, Somerville, Massachusetts, 02143, and is requesting proposals from interested buyers. The Property features 6,667 total square feet with 4,154 square feet of living space in 12 rooms. The house was built as residential circa 1896 on a 11,582 square foot lot (.27 acres). Property description can be found under MLS listings 73426189 and 73426191 Real Estate Broker: JacquelineVienneau, Berkshire Hathaway; 603-231-0089. The highest priced proposal from a responsive and responsible proposer will be selected. All proposals must be accompanied by sufficient evidence of the buyer's ability to finance the purchase, e.g., mortgage pre-approval letter. The Authority may seek additional information if needed to determine the proponent's ability to finance. If The Authority determines that the highest price proposal has not satisfied this requirement to provide proof of financing, The Authority will move to the next highest price proposal to confirm proof of financing, and so forth, until the highest bidder with proof of financing is selected as the winning bidder. RFP can be found in listing and at <https://www.sha-web.org/bids.aspx>

9/24/25 The Somerville Times

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The Somerville Times
call
857-488-5138**

Boston Festival of New Jewish Music

The Tufts University Department of Music presents The Boston Festival of New Jewish Music at the Perry and Marty Granoff Music Center on Sunday, October 5, at 1:00pm.



The Boston Festival of New Jewish Music presents its first concert of the 2025-26 season at the Multi-cultural Arts Center, featuring three genre-defining acts representing decades at the top of klezmer music: Veretski Pass, Adrienne Greenbaum's Fleytmusik, and Jake Shulman-Ment and Abigale Reisman's Two Strings. In the afternoon before the concert, the artists offer a series of workshops on klezmer music for students and community members at the Granoff Music Center.

Free for Tufts community members; students: \$15; General Public: \$50

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus. For more information, please visit as.tufts.edu/music/musiccenter or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617-627-2253.

Dented cans CONT. FROM PG 3

smashes into someone's cart and yells at them to "get the hell out of the way." The stock boy had all his boxes lined up, ready to refill the shelves. He sees my dad coming down the aisle. I look at him, he looks at me. I shake my head, and he puts his hands up and walks away. My father went down that aisle like a bowling ball. I swear, if knocking down items in the grocery store were an Olympic sport, he would win a gold medal.

We then make it to the canned goods aisle, and he proceeds to read

every single can on every shelf. The manager of the store comes over the PA system and says, "Attention shoppers, the store will be closing at 11 p.m." I tell him we'd better hurry up, and he tells me that the store doesn't actually close at 11. It just means you have to stop shopping at 11. We debate this for a few minutes as he knocks down the end display of cashew nuts and then runs over the scattered bags on the floor. I said, "Dad, will you please pay attention to where you are going?" He re-

plies, "I AM! I can't help it if they keep putting things in my way." He crashed into everything in his path that night. When we finished shopping, He rode the scooter back to the charging station. He pulled it up, backed it into the smallest parking spot in the scooter area in one try without hitting anything. The stock boy and carriage attendant both looked at me, shook their heads, and laughed. I threw my hands up and chuckled as I walked my father to the car.

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

by a squad of British rangers. He was condemned and executed for being a spy.

There is a well-known and poignant quote that he made before his death: "I regret that I have but one life to give to my country." Our

country's first secret agent is honored at the CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia. He is the only fallen agent to be recognized with a statue instead of a star on the wall. Statues of Hale adorn the Connecticut State House, Yale University, and elsewhere.

In the end, despite his work as a secret agent, soldier, and leader of men, perhaps his greatest achievement is that he never stopped teaching. His last words teach us what it truly means to be a patriot and to dedicate one's life to what one truly believes in.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 9

230 Mishawum Rd., Woburn, MA. Checks should be made out to SHS Class of 1980, c/o Mary Ellen Melaragni, 9 Churchill Circle, Winchester, MA 01890, wasmith1492@gmail.com. No tickets will be sold at the door.

must be over the age of 60 or have a permanent disability and must be otherwise unable to afford or access needed medical equipment. For additional information or for an application, please contact **Debby Higgins** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Through the generosity of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and under the direction of Mayor Ballantyne, the Council on Aging can provide **Durable Medical Equipment** at no cost to Somerville residents. Residents with a documented need for medical equipment

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.

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HELP WANTED

Full-Stack Software Engineer at Glimpse Engineering, Inc. d/b/a Glimpse in Somerville, MA: Lay app foundatn from tech/UX perspect. Web app dvlpmnt, data visualizatns, other tech info overlays. BS in Engg, Physics, or rel quant field +5yrs exp w/ dsgng & implmntg data visualizatns using overlays; bldg & maintng web apps inclg front-end code & dsgng back-end syss. Will acppt MS in same fields +3yrs of same exp. Total exp must incl 3yrs using AWS tools & srvc, SQL dbs to supprt data visualizatns; 2yrs w/API dvlpmnt & maint. Bkgrnd chk req. Hybrid office/home wrk sched. \$178,131-\$210,000/yr. Apply careers@glimp.se, code OM25.

MISCELLANEOUS

Old guitars wanted! Gibson, Fender, Martin, Etc. 1930's to 1980's. Top dollar paid. Call 866-433-8277

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Replace your roof w/the best looking & longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! 3 styles/multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited time offer up to 50% off install + additional 10% off install military, health & 1st responders. 833-370-1234

Inflation at 40-year highs. Interest rates are up. Credit cards, medical bills, car loans. Have \$10k+ in debt? Call National Debt Relief to find out how to pay off your debt for much less than you owe! Free quote: 844-955-4930

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regain access to their entire home. AmeriGlide 833-399-3595

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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Billie Eilish | 7. The kakapo |
| 2. Vitameatavegemin | 8. Atacama Desert |
| 3. <i>Shades of Blue</i> | 9. Glossophobia |
| 4. <i>The Wiz</i> | 10. Tony Manero |
| 5. Mariah Carey | 11. <i>Panic Room</i> |
| 6. The Constitution of India | 12. Ed McMahon |

Fluff Festival 2025

Somerville's Fluff Fest has turned 20, and all were invited to celebrate the famous treat in Union Square on Saturday, September 20. This year's milestone theme, *Forever Fluff: 20 Years of Sticky, Sweet Somerville*, marked two decades of celebrating the invention of Marshmallow Fluff in Union Square with zany games, music, fluff-filled snacks, and more. Additional photos from the event are posted on our website: www.thesomervilletimes.com. — Photos by Bobbie Toner





Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week



Q: My dog is essential to my physical and mental health. Do I have a right to have my dog live with me in my apartment?

A: It depends on whether it's a service dog or a companion for emotional support. They are categorized differently under the law. Service dogs are included in Fair Housing. "Enforcement agencies under the state statute and the Fair Housing Act encourage accommodations of comfort animals as well," according to Attorney William McKamie.

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

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

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BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Beauty embraces safety... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

September 24

- 1788 — After having been dissolved, the French Parliament of Paris reassembles.
- 1789 – Congress passes the Judiciary Act of 1789, establishing a strong federal court system with powers to ensure the supremacy of the Constitution and federal law.
- 1862 – President Abraham Lincoln suspends the writ of habeas corpus against anyone suspected of being a Southern sympathizer.
- 1929 – The first flight using only instruments is completed by U.S. Army pilot James Doolittle.
- 1956 – The first transatlantic telephone cable system begins operation.
- 1957 – President Dwight D. Eisenhower sends federal troops into Little Rock, Arkansas, to protect nine black students entering its newly integrated high school.
- 1960 – The Enterprise, the first nuclear powered aircraft carrier, is launched.
- 1969 – The "Chicago Eight" go on trial for their part in the 1968 Democratic Party National Convention.
- 1970 – The Soviet Luna 16 completes the first unmanned round trip to the moon.



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville writer Patricia Wild: Brings the strands of the soul together in her new memoir

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Nina Rubinstein Alonso is the publisher of the acclaimed literary magazine *Constellations*. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Ibbetson Street*, and elsewhere. She is a long-time member of the literary group The Bagel Bards.



Side Effects

Smiling ads say these pills may help what hurts though small print warns you might feel jittery sleepy faint nauseated have blurred vision heart burn muscle spasms joint strain or depression episodes of vomiting or seizure even swollen arms and legs dry mouth itchy skin diarrhea shortness of breath as medications may have side effects even emotional impacts like bipolar depression or weakness with uncontrollable movements or suicidal tendencies but the ads show kids bouncing on the beach adults relaxing in the sun while subtitles whisper it's unpredictable how a drug may affect you as each person is biochemically unique so Big Pharma keeps peddling wares knowing that people in pain will try anything dodge fears that the drug may be the edge of death can't deliver la vida sueño beyond suffering that cosmic realm where peaceful skies float cloudless blue.

— Nina Rubinstein Alonso

To have your work considered for the *Lyrical* send it to:
Doug Holder, 25 School St.; Somerville, MA 02143. dougholder@post.harvard.edu

Patricia Wild is a well-known and respected writer, Quaker activist, journalist, and community organizer. She is an integral part of the beating heart of Somerville, and beyond. As long as I have known her, she has been a straight, no chaser sort of woman – with a built-in shit detector. She is also a very spiritual woman, who questions herself and the world around her. In her new book, *Strands: An Apprenticeship with Grief and Loss*, she goes past the bone and into the marrow of grief, loss, and our very souls. I caught up recently with her for an interview.

Doug Holder: You described your new book as an “opus of the soul.” Explain.

Patricia Wild: Sounds a little lofty, doesn't it? But I'm sure your readership knows this phenomenon – but perhaps uses different language. In the zone? Connecting with something greater than ourselves? Connecting with that gift we humans have been given: Consciousness? Our Muse showed up? There's something about connecting with Truth wrapped in all of this, too, right? And trusting, as a spiritual practice, that the words will come.

DH: Much of your book is centered around Quaker practice. What led you to become a Quaker?

PW: A long story. But a pivotal and conveniently-brief story may explain a teeny bit: On Easter Sunday an elderly Quaker stood: “We don't know what happened at Easter,” she said, “But we know this: There is Mystery.” I'd loved that!

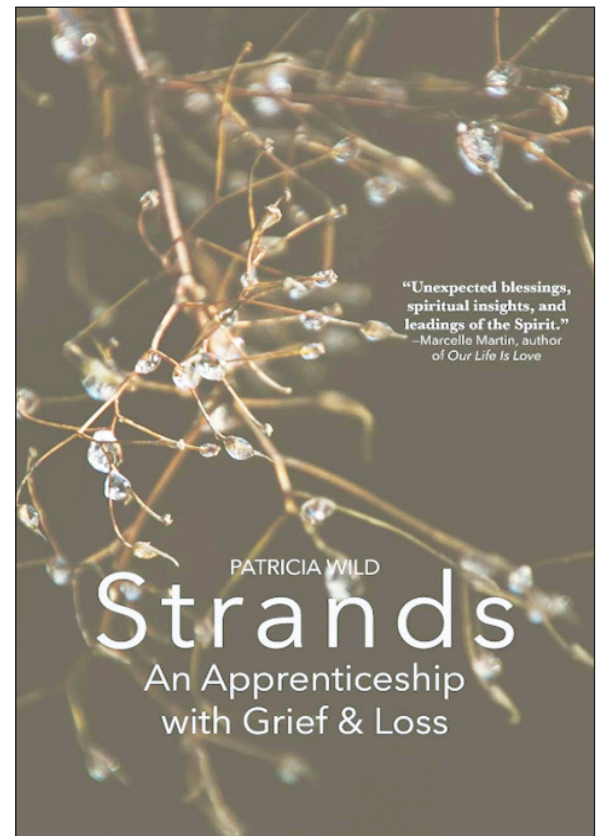
DH: The title refers to you as an apprentice of grief and loss. When does one move on from apprenticeship?

PW: I wrote *Strands* during COVID. Subsequently, my beloved sister Deborah and my best-friend brother, Paul have died. So in a sense my immediate answer would be: Um, never? I did bring some gained understanding to these incredible losses in my life; some newly-acquired rituals helped. I freshly understood the importance of friends, community, sharing stories. But I also, humbled and overwhelmed by grief and loss, found a grief counselor.

DH: One of the struggles you have had was around being a woman of privilege. Why couldn't you just accept that and move on?

PW: I'm not wired that way, I guess. (And another reason why I joined a religious community in which folks at least try to walk the walk.) And to circle back to that marvelous thing called Consciousness, doesn't that huge gift ask our species to be aware of and to acknowledge Life's deeply-outrageous unfairnesses?

DH: In this day and age, it is hard to find time for quiet reflection. But your Quaker practice involves this on a regular basis. What has changed in you from this reflection?



PW: Um, everything? Early Friends called themselves Seekers of the Truth. My judgey-ness, my relationships, my confusions as to what I'm called to do in this overwhelmingly broken, broken world, how to answer someone's snarky email; in quiet reflection sometimes, I can find my way. I'm gifted with a sense of Truth. And one of the things about seeking is, rarely, rarely are we given The Whole Picture. An early Friend, Caroline Fox (who apparently struggled with depression) basically said, “Live up to the Light and more will be given.” In other words, inwardly ask/seek with curiosity and humility. And keep asking. (“How would my better angels response that snarky email?”) It's the process that's important!

DH: You quote Thomas Merton. Merton talks about mystical moments when he feels connected to all people, he is part of a larger organism. How often do you feel that way?

PW: Such moments are preciously rare. And, unfortunately, we're not designed to be able to fully reconnect with such blissful and powerful moments as we did when we first experienced them. We remember them with incredible gratitude, but they have faded. So unfair!

DH: I am sure that you agree with Socrates, that the unexamined life is not worth living. Do you think there is a fear if we are in conversation with our soul ... we might not like what we hear, and our complacency will be ruined?

PW: What complacency? If we examine our lives fully.

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