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COA cultural luncheon

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State Primary Election preliminary results



Will Mbah, Ben Ewen-Campen, and Erika Uyterhoeven won their respective races in the election.

By The Times Staff

In the Massachusetts 2026 Democratic primary, key legislative races were won by Ben Ewen-Campen, Will Mbah, and Erika Uyterhoeven. Ewen-Campen secured the 27th Middlesex State Rep. seat against Olivia Gilligan-Corsetti. Will Mbah won the 34th Middlesex State Rep. seat securing his position. Uyterhoeven, a former State Rep., won in the 2nd Middlesex State Senate primary. Ewen-Campen, Mbah, and Uyterhoeven will represent their districts in the upcoming general election.

In the race for Middlesex County District Attorney, incumbent Marian Ryan faced former prosecutor David Solet, Ryan was the primary winner and will hold the office in November.

As of 9 p.m on Election Day, it Continued on page 4

Somerville kicks off Recovery Month with vigil

By Keith Foster

Part of the Somerville community gathered outside Somerville City Hall last Thursday, August 27, which was Overdose Awareness Day, for a candlelight vigil and flag planting for eleven victims of opioid overdose. In addition, there will be overdose prevention training events throughout September, which is National Recovery Month.

Eleven purple flags were planted on the lawn of City Hall in memory of residents whose lives were lost to opioid-related overdose in 2025, with one large flag planted to represent those lost in prior years.

Speakers emphasized grief, responsibility, and a commitment to "do better" by keeping people alive until they are ready for help. Aspirations included a future year with zero overdose

Continued on page 4



Community and Government members gather around planted flags in a moment of silence for those who have been lost to drug overdose.

— Photos by Keith Foster

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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.

Congratulations to the candidates who won their races in this week's **State Primary Election**. They will face off with their respective opponents in the General Election on November 3. We thank all the candidates for their participation in the electoral process and wish them the best in the future. Updated election results will be posted on our website: www.thesomervilletimes.com.

On August 31, the **Davis Square Neighborhood Council** received a letter from **Andrew Flynn** of **Copper Mill** stating that they will not be moving forward with the transit-oriented housing development proposed at 231-249 Elm Street in Davis Square. The full letter can be found on their website <https://www.davissquarenc.org/>.

Somerville Stands Together will be holding a rally at **Tufts University** on **Thursday, September 3** at 3:30 in front of **West Hall**, 115 Packard Ave, Medford. The rally will be held to show Tufts University that our community expects it to respect workers' rights and bargain in good faith to make sure that employees have the good jobs our community needs.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to our own special photographer, **Claudia Ferro**. We wish her the very best birthday ever. Happy birthday to **Jodi Gallo**. We wish her the very best of birthdays. Happy birthday to **Juscelia LoRusso** of **Juscelia's Cakes**. She makes the best cakes around. *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of September 2 – September 8 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>September 2</i>	Cloudy	70°/63°	23%	14%	ESE 10 mph
 Thursday <i>September 3</i>	Thunderstorms	77°/67°	76%	61%	SW 11 mph
 Friday <i>September 4</i>	Partly Cloudy	80°/63°	15%	9%	NW 9 mph
 Saturday <i>September 5</i>	Partly Cloudy	72°/57°	16%	9%	NE 11 mph
 Sunday <i>September 6</i>	Partly Cloudy	70°/56°	12%	7%	NNE 10 mph
 Monday <i>September 7</i>	Sunny	77°/55°	8%	5%	NE 9 mph
 Tuesday <i>September 8</i>	Partly Cloudy	80°/62°	22%	14%	SW 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: Davis Square Summer Glow Up Ribbon Cutting

Ron Newman says:

I am happy for the improvement, but I nearly tripped and fell over loose bricks while attending the ribbon cutting ceremony. The city needs to pay attention to, and fix, the poor surfaces here.

Response to: Somerville's longest-running bakery to change locations

Bella says:

Late to the party... Marcia, I await your departure. Somerville's efforts to change our streets has resulted in four years without a traffic death. I'm proud to live here. Nowhere is perfect, there should be more bus service on Broadway and elsewhere and some cyclists behave poorly, but bus service is controlled by the MBTA and not the city, and I'd rather poorly behaved cyclists over poorly behaved cars. A poorly behaved cyclist is not operating a deadly machine. Have fun in Dracut or Tewksbury or whatever generic car-dependent suburb awaits you.

As for Lyndell's, I just hope the sign comes with them, and their current space ends up being occupied by something useful, like a convenience store or indie pharmacy or the like.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The SomervilleTimes

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138



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Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

Editor – Jim Clark

Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner

Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Harry Kane,
and Cathleen Twardzik

Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte,
Dorothy Dimarzo, Bob Doherty
Photographer: Claudia Ferro

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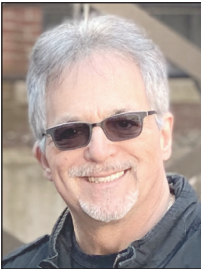
Life in the

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.

Kicking it old school: The Bingham



If you look around Somerville, you will still see some grand old brick structures that used to be elementary schools. The Brown, on Willow Ave., which was built in 1900, is the last one still actually being used as a school. Some of them have been converted into condos, such as The Lowe School on Morrison Ave. and the Carr School on Atherton.

I feel closeness to The Bingham School because a lot of my friends attended, plus my grandfather Giuseppe (Joe) Del Ponte was a custodian there. One of my friends was a student there, and her mother actually owned a condo in the complex that replaced it. S. Lester Ralph was Mayor back in 1974 when the Bingham School, which was built in 1886, was ordered closed due to structural defects. The structure may be gone, but the memories of The Bingham School live on.

Most of these recollections are from friends of mine who are now in their early 50's and 60's. Many of the former students still live in Somerville. They are random memories that I have strung together as a tribute to another lost 'Villen treasure.

A friend shares this: "I remember lining up outside by grade, and then they (the teachers) walked you through the basement to your room. I also remember when there was a fire drill, being scared to go down the rod iron stairs because I could see through the steps." "Lottie's was the little store where a lot of us Bingham students went for penny candy. I think it was near Richardson St." Someone my age (around 59) who attended told me that Bingham girls were not allowed to wear pants or slacks at the Bingham at one time. I'm not sure when that rule ended. There was also a cool shortcut on Franey Road (behind Trum Field) that the kids from around the Cedar St. area used. Do you remember a little fruit store nearby where Yola and her sister worked? Sometimes



— Photo courtesy of Growing Up In Somerville, Massachusetts

they gave the kids free apples and peaches.

Another friend tells us, "When Miss Mackey came, my dad never missed a PTA meeting because she was a former Dallas Cowboys cheerleader." Fact or fiction? Someone remembers that, "Miss Malloy taught the fifth grade and I think she used to wash and iron her money, and also iron her cheese sandwiches." I heard this from more than one former student! This next story is a little scary. "I was in the office just before the entire ceiling light came crashing down and almost killed me. The very next day the school was condemned and closed, and we were all sent to other schools." After the Bingham School

Continued on page 13



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JOIN OUR COMMUNITY MEETING ON ONE UNION SQUARE

You're invited to share your ideas for creating vibrant new housing and green space in the Union Square neighborhood.



Wednesday
September 9, 2026



6:00 - 8:00 PM



Urban Axes: 2
Union Square,
Somerville, MA

- Learn about the One Union Square site
- Share ideas for the space
- Connect with community members on the future of housing in Somerville

RSVP at oneunionsquare.com/community-meeting

Meeting is not being held as a requirement of any regulatory process. Redevelopment plans have not yet been filed.



Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: What’s the difference between a refundable and nonrefundable tax credit – and why does it matter?

A: Both can reduce the taxes you owe, but a refundable credit can go one important step further: it can potentially give you money back even after your tax has been reduced to zero.

♦ **Here’s a simple way to see the difference.** Suppose you owe \$600 in federal income tax and qualify for a \$1,000 tax credit. With a nonrefundable credit, the credit can generally reduce your \$600 tax to \$0, but you generally don’t receive the unused \$400 as a refund.

With a fully refundable \$1,000 credit, the credit can reduce your \$600 tax to \$0 – and the remaining \$400 can be paid to you as a refund!

♦ **The Earned Income Tax Credit is an important example.**

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable federal credit designed primarily for low- and moderate-income workers and families. You must have earned income to qualify, and eligibility and the amount of the credit depend on factors including your income, filing status, and number of qualifying children. Income limits apply.

♦ **Some credits can also be partially refundable.**

The Child Tax Credit, for example, has a refundable portion known as the Additional Child Tax Credit. This means that depending on your circumstances, part of the credit may potentially be refunded even if you don’t owe enough tax to use the entire credit.

Bottom Line: You may benefit from filing a tax return even if your income is low enough that you aren’t otherwise required to file. If you qualify for a refundable tax credit, filing a return could result in money being refunded to you even when you owe little or no federal income tax.

Any questions? I’m Vincent Hicks, a CPA based in the Cambridge–Somerville area. Reach out at vincent@hickscpasolutions.com



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.

State Primary Election preliminary results CONT. FROM PG 1

was reported by the Associated Press that U.S. Sen. Ed Markey has won the U.S. Senate Democratic primary for U.S. Senate over opponent Seth Moulton. Michael Roger Minogue won the Republican Primary for Governor.

Following are Somerville's unofficial election results:

Democratic Party
SENATOR IN CONGRESS
EDWARD J. MARKEY – 12972
SETH MOULTON – 3254
GOVERNOR
MAURA HEALEY – 13837
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL – 13405
ATTORNEY GENERAL

ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL – 13542
SECRETARY OF STATE
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN – 13431
TREASURER
DEBORAH B. GOLDBERG – 13095
AUDITOR
DIANA DiZOGGIO – 13046
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS
AYANNA S. PRESSLEY – 14246
COUNCILLOR
TERRENCE W. KENNEDY – 6491
DIANN MARY BAYLIS – 7270
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT
BURHAN AZEEM – 2505
CHRISTINE P. BARBER – 4391
THOMAS E. HOPCROFT – 90
MATTHEW McLAUGHLIN – 2211

ERIKA UYTERHOEVEN – 6816
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT 26th Middlesex
MIKE CONNOLLY – 1216
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT 27th Middlesex
BEN EWEN-CAMPEN – 7116
OLIVIA GILLIGAN-CORSETTI – 3068
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT 34th Middlesex
WILL MBAH – 2505
CHRISTOPHER RYAN OATES – 756
PAUL RUSEAU – 645
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
MARIAN T. RYAN – 10808
DAVID MARC SOLET – 3731

REGISTER OF PROBATE
TARA E. DeCRISTOFARO – 12579
Republican Party
SENATOR IN CONGRESS
JOHN DEATON – 587
GOVERNOR
MICHAEL ROGER MINOGUE – 468
BRIAN SHORTSLEEVE – 544
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
SHAWN OLIVER – 212
ATTORNEY GENERAL
MICHAEL C. WALSH – 570
TREASURER
ELIZABETH DIONNE – 522
For the latest updates, corrections, and final election results, go to www.thesomervilletimes.com.

Somerville kicks off Recovery Month with vigil CONT. FROM PG 1

deaths, paralleling the city’s Vision Zero street-safety efforts, with the belief that addiction is curable.

Public health vending machines offering Narcan are located at: East Somerville, in front of the old fire station; in front of the West Branch Library in Davis Square. Community members are encouraged to get training to administer Narcan and be ready to support their neighbors. Naloxone was approved for treatment in the United States in 1971. Since then, it has had a high success rate, working 75 to 100% of the time according to PubMed Central (PMC).

Free Naloxone (Narcan) access points: NARCS box in Davis Square in Seven Hills Park along the community path. Li-

braries usually have Narcan; if not, email chw@SomervilleMA.gov to arrange pick-up or, if nearby, delivery.

Upcoming events the city is hosting will be:

In-Person Overdose Prevention Trainings on

♦ Tuesday, September 8, 6 to 7 p.m., in the Central Library Auditorium (79 Highland Ave.)

♦ Thursday, September 24, 6 to 7 p.m., at the East Branch Library (115 Broadway)

♦ Monday, September 28, 6 to 7 p.m., at the West Branch Library (40 College Ave.)

To learn more about the Somerville Office of Prevention and its year-round programming and services, visit somervillema.gov/prevention.



The Eleven Flags surround one big purple flag in remembrance of residents lost to Opioid-related overdose.

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

City considers prohibition of anticoagulant rodenticides on municipal property

By Harry Kane

City Councilors Emily Hardt and John Link requested that Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances be amended to ban the use of anticoagulant rodenticides on city-owned property during the last City Council meeting on Thursday, August 27.

"A lot of people are concerned about banning rodenticides given that we have such a massive problem with rats in the city," said Hardt.

Hardt says that the rodenticides are not working to control the rat population and that poison is not the answer.

When seeing rats, residents can report sightings to 311. Eliminating access to food and water and removing pet waste

or windfall fruit are "common sense ways" of controlling the rodent population, she explained.

"We need to continue to try to work to control the rat population," explained City Councilor John Link. He said natural predators like owls that hunt rats are being poisoned.

"It doesn't make sense to continue down a path that we know is not working," said Link.

Morgan Pinney, sponsored speaker from Save Somerville Wildlife, mournfully recalled a bald eagle named MK, who died from rodenticide poisoning in 2023.

A new mural on Mystic Avenue was recently revealed on August 22, which was created by 11 Somerville High School



The Mystic River Mural Project revealed its new mural that highlights rodenticide impact on Mystic River watershed eagles. — Photos by Bobbie Toner

Students as a tribute to the "majestic and beloved" bald eagle.

Pinney says hawks, owls, and other wildlife have been "devastated" by rodenticides in the city.

The answer is helping "these would-be partners," explained Pinney. She says a single owl is capable of consuming more than 1000 rats per year.

City Councilor Jesse Clingan explained that the rodenticides do "more harm than good." He mentioned the inaugural DeR-ATification Week in late April that aims to help prevent and address rodent activity.

"We are not doing enough as a city," said City Councilor Ben Wheeler. He men-

tioned absentee landlords who own rental properties and commercial dumpsters as potential hotspots for rat activity.

Following the discussion, Mayor Jake Wilson requested approval of a Home Rule Petition that would ban FGAR's and SGAR's on private property.

The administration hopes that joining the other communities in Massachusetts to regulate anticoagulant rodenticides citywide will push the state to follow suit. "Hopefully this moves the state to ban them," said Mayor Wilson.

Both items were referred for recommendation to the Legislative Matters Committee.



Somerville hosting annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

The City of Somerville's Veterans' Services Department invites community members to a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on Friday, September 11, at 6 p.m. in Davis Square to mark the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and honor all victims as well as first responders, workers, and volunteers who rushed to the scene to save lives or to later help carry out the dangerous cleanup.

"On this solemn day we remember the lives lost, honor the bravery of first responders, and offer support to their families and communities as we continue to heal as a country from the trauma of that day," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "Unity is our strength, so may we also honor their memory by continuing to look out for each other."

The observance will feature a moment of silence, invocation, and benediction by Father Paul Coughlin, as well as remarks by Mayor Wilson and Veterans Director Jerome Thomas. A bagpipe tribute will follow, and attendees will be given individual roses to place on the 9/11 Memorial. The ceremony will include a presentation of and retiring of the colors (national, state, and unit flags) by the Honor Guards of the Somerville Police and Somerville Fire Department.

"As we reflect on the 25th anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, we owe it to those we lost on that day to remember not only the horror we experienced as a nation, but also the compassion, unity, and sense of community that followed. It truly reflected the best of the American spirit," said Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan.



Save Route 80 bus service through Somerville

By Harry Kane

The MBTA is undertaking a large-scale redesign of the entire bus network called the Better Bus Network Project. As part of the improvements, the MBTA is cutting Route 80 through Somerville, City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen explained.

A resolution to retain Route 80 was approved at the City Council meeting on Thursday, August 27.

Route 80 runs between Lechmere and Powderhouse Square along McGrath Highway. The MBTA redesign and proposed updates claim the bus route is “redundant” because of the GLX, according to the resolution.

Ewen-Campen said Route 80 is “very important.” He sponsored Alessandra Seiter from the Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee to speak on behalf of commuters who want to retain Route 80.

Seiter said Route 80, which connects Magoon Square to East Somerville, “runs on a corridor that is integral to civic, educational, commercial, and residen-

tial life in our city.”

The resolution states that “the GLX does not meaningfully substitute for many destinations served effectively by the 80” and that the Gilman Square GLX station is “not meaningfully accessible” to many people in wheelchairs or other mobility devices. These commuters would then “be left without public transit access if the 80 is discontinued.”

“I don’t want to see this bus leave,” said City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin. He voiced his frustration and said he thinks the community deserves more buses.

“Instead of taking away buses, we should be adding more,” said McLaughlin.

City Councilor Jesse Clingan said, “We shouldn’t be cutting out any modes of transportation, especially ones that go by some of our most vulnerable population buildings.”

City Councilor Wilfred N. Mbah said, “Any reduction or elimination of Route 80 service could disproportionately affect residents who have the fewest transportation alternatives and also undermine our broader goals for equitable and



The Somerville City Council approved a resolution to retain the MBTA bus Route 80 through the city.

sustainable mobility.

“We need to continue to advocate for a transit system that connects neighborhoods and ensures that no resident is left behind because they cannot afford or access a car.”

The MBTA is soliciting public comment for current proposed updates through September 8.

Learn more about these potential updates and submit feedback at mbta.com/BNRupdates.

Help shape the future of Davis Square: Feedback sought for new Neighborhood Plan

Do you have opinions on Davis Square? Of course you do. Now it’s your chance to share them by taking the new Davis Square Neighborhood Plan Survey before it closes on Sunday, September 27, or by joining upcoming events. All Somerville community members and visitors are encouraged to take the survey, and all are invited to attend an upcoming open house or virtual meeting as well.

“Davis Square is one of the absolute treasures of our city. Everyone experiences it differently, so we want its future to reflect that full range of perspectives,” said Mayor Jake Wilson. “This survey is an easy and meaningful way to tell us what you value about this square that means so much to our community and the region, and to share what you want the city to focus on in the years ahead.”

The city is developing a neighborhood plan for Davis Square to guide future decisions around growth, public space, transportation, and accessibility, as well as infrastructure, housing, economic vitality, climate resilience, and more. Community feedback – including from the survey – will help identify shared priorities, needs, and

concerns and ensure the plan reflects the experiences of the people who live, work, own a business or property, commute through, and spend time in the square.

“The neighborhood plan will capture our near-, medium-, and long-term vision for Davis Square,” said Ward Six City Councilor and City Council President Lance Davis. “It’s an important document that will guide planning and investment as we move forward, and we need your input to make sure we get it right.”

Ways to Give Feedback

All Somerville community members, local workers, and visitors are encouraged to participate and share feedback. Sharing your name and contact information is optional.

Survey: Open through September 27 at: bit.ly/davissquaresurvey

Open House: Stop by anytime to engage with the project team and share feedback through hands-on activities at your own pace.

- Wednesday, September 16
- Somerville Theatre Crystal Ballroom (55 Davis Sq.)
- 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.



The public has a chance to weigh in on the future of Davis Square by taking the new Davis Square Neighborhood Plan Survey.

Virtual Meeting: Will consist of a general overview and Q&A

• Thursday, September 17

• 5:30 to 7 p.m.

• Register at: tinyurl.com/yzp6mkr2

Physical paper surveys can be available upon request; please call 311 (617-666-3311) and returned by mail to Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or dropped off at the Planning Division in the Tufts Administration

Building, 167 Holland St.

Learn more and sign up for email updates

For more information on the plan or to sign up for plan process updates, visit the project’s SomerVoice page at voice.somervillema.gov/davis-square-plan. For questions about the survey or the Davis Square Neighborhood Plan, contact 311 at 617-666-3311 or email projectcoordinator@somervillema.gov at beas-sa@somervillema.gov.

COMMENTARY

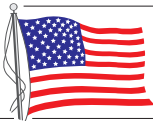
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Kids are heading back to school, so let's be careful out there.

Our View Of The Times



Once again it is time to shift gears and power down a bit as we roll out of the high-octane frenzy of summertime and into the laid-back breezy days of autumn and on into the winter months ahead.

We all need to become a bit more aware of what lies ahead of us on the road, and to be especially alert to activities near our schools and playgrounds, as the kids are now back to their normal schedules.

Consequently, the need for exercising caution couldn't be greater, as students and their families become used to newer routes and modes of transportation.

Naturally, we hope that everyone drives responsibly at all times, but we also like to put out a reminder at this time of year, just to try to help everyone to become a little more conscious of the fact that the kids are out there and that we should be looking

out for them, rather than being a hazard for them to look out for.

Drivers should reduce speed in school zones, obey school bus stop signals, and avoid distractions, while pedestrians should stay alert, only cross at crosswalks, look for traffic, and wear reflective gear or bright clothing when walking or biking. Please observe and obey all traffic signals, stop signs, and especially the crossing

guards who are out there helping to protect our little ones.

Many of you have kids of your own and would wish for this, too, no doubt. Let us all take a little time to spread the word whenever we can. Just a bit of friendly persuasion can make a large impact and help to make the streets a bit safer for everyone.

The kids, most of all, will appreciate the extra care taken in caring for them.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Happy Birthday to **Nancy Gaudet-Bacci**, who is celebrating this week. We wish her a great birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Mary Casavant**, **Len Glionna**, **Dennis Kacoyanis**, **Patty Oppedisano**, **Nick Stavre**, **Guillermo Hamlin**, **Billy Harrison**, **Donna M Morabito**, **Paul Mercier**, and **Judith Medeiros**, 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.

Eleven food vendors are coming to the **Somerville Nepali Street Food Festival**. Enjoy your meal while watching live mu-

sic and dance performances celebrating the best of Nepali culture. The Nepali Street Food Festival will take place from 2 to 8 p.m. on **Saturday, September 5** (rain date: September 6) at City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue. Learn more: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/events/nepali-food-fest/>

Somerville Arts and Culture invites community members to apply as panelists for the **2027 LCC Grant cycle**. Panelists review grant applications, learn how the local funding process works, and help support artists and cultural projects across our community. Whether you're

an artist, educator, cultural organizer, or community member who cares about arts and culture, they'd love to hear from you. Apply by **October 1**. <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/lcc/lcc-panelist-application/>.

Civic Day will take place on **Thursday, September 10**, from 5-7:30 p.m. at **City Hall**. Civic Day offers an array of family-friendly ways to learn about your local government and how it can serve you with free pizza too. Complete a 311 scavenger hunt, meet the Somerville Police K9 unit, take a photo with a Somerville Fire truck, sign up for a library card, and more.

SAC & the Inside-Out gallery (CVS Davis Sq.) present the **"Power of Print" Viva la Revolution!** If you missed its debut during **ArtBeat**, you still have plenty of time to check out this prolific exhibit. This showcase features linoleum relief prints by 64 artists from our local community. To find out more, visit <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/events/power-of-print/>.

Join **Mayor Jake Wilson** and Somerville's **Council on Aging** for the annual **Mayor's Senior Picnic** at 11 a.m. at **Trum Field** on September 10. Call *Continued on page 19*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's
Olio
#1037

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. Who was the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States?

2. What garden is known as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World?

3. What type of cat is known as a "Sacred Cat of Burma"?

4. What flavor liqueur is Cointreau?

5. Who shot singer Selena?

6. What disease caused Shania Twain's vocal cord muscle paralysis?

7. What flower is
- vanilla derived from?

8. In the film *Tommy*, who played The Acid Queen?

9. In L. Frank Baum's original novel, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, what color were Dorothy's shoes?

10. What musician does The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame describe as "the greatest instrumentalist in the history of rock music"?

11. What is the definition of Philomath?

12. What is Syn- genesophobia?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. A cat's jaw cannot move sideways.
2. In 2016, Mozart sold more CDs than Beyonce.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
SOLAR SYSTEM

- ACROSS
1. Ancient Peruvian

5. Hit the slopes

8. Bro or sis

11. Thomas the Engine's warning

12. Sun, e.g.

13. Twist and distort

15. Carpenter's groove

16. Jupiter's inner "ring"

17. MC Hammer's "2 ____ 2 Quit"

18. It makes up the majority of Jupiter's mass

20. Narrative poem

21. "When ____ Cry" by Prince

22. Louisville Slugger

23. Chase

26. Puffy cloud

30. Nurses' org.

31. Frozen drink

34. Ricci of fashion

35. Same as climate

37. Buddy Holly's "Peggy ____"

38. Knight's breastplate

39. Flying toy

40. a.k.a. pennant

42. Possesses

43. Appetizer

45. Like certain pine

47. Large edible mushroom

48. ____ -Arts, or fine arts

50. Disparaging remark

52. The largest moon in the Solar System

55. Jupiter's Great Red Spot

56. Up it in poker

57. Exclamation of disgust

59. Famous diarist Samuel ____

60. Like decorated cake

61. Reply from a tunnel

62. Tarzan's adoptive dad

63. Neither here ____ there

64. Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, acr.

CROSSWORD

12345678910

11121314

151617

1819202122

23242526272829

3031323334

35363738

39404142

43444546

474849

5051525354

55565758

596061

626364

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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

5. Coach-and-four

6. Type of leaf cabbage, pl.

7. Reason for Mars' redness

8. Kind of palm

9. Author Murdoch

10. Sandwich with acronym name

12. Snow mover

13. Flash of light

14. Farthest planet from sun in our Solar System

19. Make awake

22. Opposite of vend

23. Gets ready for a trip

24. Dark

25. Indian restaurant yogurt staple

26. ____ Zhen in "Fist of Fury"

27. The Solar System spans roughly 1.6 ____-years

28. Uniate church member
29. Impudent

32. ____-friendly

33. Center of the Solar System

36. *The smallest planet

38. Per ____, or yearly

40. Vigor

41. Approved

44. 4 years for a U.S. President, pl.

46. Daisies

48. Bench in Mexico

49. Larger key on the right

50. Pas in ballet

51. Between trot and gallop

52. Effect of pain?

53. Mussolini, with II

54. Not counterfeit

55. Relaxation location

58. Ornamental pond dweller
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Fifth Annual Veterans Health and Wellness Day



Join us for an afternoon of movement, wellness, and connection. The City of Somerville’s Veterans’ Services Department invites local veterans, first responders, their families, and community members to the fifth annual Veterans Health and Wellness Day on Saturday, September 12, at Lincoln Park (290 Washington St.) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“When Americans answer the call to serve our country, we have a social contract that says we take care of our veterans. This means continuing to prioritize health and well-being long after their service ends,” said Mayor Jake Wilson. “This event meets veterans where they are, recognizes the contributions of our first responders, and provides access to critical resources all while offering an array of activities for the whole family and an opportunity to connect with neighbors. Thank you to our city staff and community partners for organizing this important event for Somerville.”

Attendees can enjoy a range of activities, including:

- Wellness education and resource tables
- Fitness classes such as yoga, Zumba, and strengthening
- Chair massages
- Children’s activities including a bounce house and face painting
- Free healthy snacks

“We owe our veterans not only a debt of gratitude for their service but also the continued support and services that help ensure they have all the tools they need post-service to lead healthy and successful lives,” said Councilor Matt McLaughlin. “The annual health and wellness fair is a great way for veterans, first responders, and their families to connect, have fun, learn about services, and maybe finally try Zumba. It’s just one small way we can thank these selfless individuals for the sacrifices they make and the dangers they face.”

For more information, email veterans@somervillema.gov or call 311 (617-666-3311).

Senior CharlieCard Enrollment and MBTA Accessibility Training

Wednesday, September 23, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at The Council on Aging’s Holland Street Center.

The MBTA Mobility Center will be here to help seniors enroll in reduced-fare Senior CharlieCards. They will also be giving a 1-hour presentation on MBTA accessibility.

Please contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318, or at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov for more information or to register.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #362

This article first appeared in the February 3, 2016, edition of The Somerville Times.

The Chiefs

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

“The First Combination Chemical and Hose Reel, with Ladders, was invented by the Chief of Somerville, and exhibited Aug. 10, 1887. Humphrey (Dumps) of Engine 4, Boston, operated the Tanks. The First Fire that it performed splendid service at was in Cambridge, Box 71. The fire was in the Cambridge Poor-House.”



J. R. HOPKINS, Chief Engineer

The above statement was true, as attested by James R. Hopkins, Ex. Chief Engineer, F. D. Somerville, Mass. This was a vanguard of today’s fire truck design. It was one of many inventions he created to help enhance firefighting. Another was an all-in-one spanner, which tightened fire hose couplings and also worked as a wrench to operate hydrants. His most famous idea was the aluminum fire head-gear that bears his name, the popular Hopkins Helmet. Some cities used them as late as the 1970’s and beyond.



Hopkins and his men contributed more than fire protection to the city. They wired the first fire telegraph system. They also rescued from the Mystic River’s mudflats the 200-year-old Blessing of the Bay’s boat dock. Hopkins was also a woodworker, and he made furniture, gavels, and other items from that ancient saved wood.

His mind was also organizational. He was instrumental in forming The National Association

Continued on page 12

LEGAL NOTICES

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

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **PEDRO F. JIMENEZ to CENTURY BANK AND TRUST COMPANY** dated August 19, 2013 and recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds (the "Registry") in Book 62509, Page 503 (the "Mortgage"), of which Mortgage the undersigned (the "Mortgagee") is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of the Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 24, 2026 at the mortgaged premises located on or near Unit 12B, 12-14 Knowlton Street, Somerville, Massachusetts (the "Premises"), all and singular the premises described in the Mortgage, to wit: "Unit No. 12B of 12-14 Knowlton Street Condominium created by Master Deed dated June 6, 2006 and recorded on June 7, 2006 at the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 47583, Page 375.

The Post Office address of the Condominium is: Unit #12B, 12-14 Knowlton Street, Somerville, MA 02145.

The Unit conveyed is laid out as shown on a plan filed with said Master Deed and to which is affixed a verified statement in the form provided in G.L.C. 183A, Section 9. It is subject to and with the benefit of the obligations, restrictions, rights and liabilities contained in G.L.c. 183A, the Master Deed and the By-Laws filed therewith.

The Condominium and each of the Units is intended for residential purposes and other uses permitted by the applicable Zoning Ordinances and as set forth in the Master Deed.

The undivided percentage interest of the Unit conveyed hereunder in the common areas and facilities is 33.33% and is conveyed together with and subject to easements of record, so far as same may by [sic.] in force and effect, including without limitation, an exclusion easement to use Two (2) parking spaces as designated from time to time by the Condominium Trustees.

Being all and the same premises conveyed to Pedro F. Jimenez by Deed of Cristiane Bastos date March 1, 2010 and recorded in Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds 54425, Page 575 [sic..]"

The description of the Premises contained in the Mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

The Premises, together with all improvements encumbered by the Mortgage, are to be sold and conveyed subject to (i) all leases, tenancies, occupancies, mortgages, restrictions, covenants, orders of conditions, easements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments or liens, federal and state tax liens, other liens or claims in the nature of liens and existing encumbrances recorded prior to the Mortgage and/or otherwise having priority over the Mortgage, if there be any, (ii) the conditions, covenants, restrictions, easements, limitations, terms, lien rights and provisions and charges as set forth in (a) the Master Deed of 12-14 Knowlton Street Condominiums, as amended, and (b) the Declaration of Trust of 12-14 Knowlton Streets Condominiums dated June 6, 2006 and recorded with the Registry in Book 47583, Page 388, as amended; and (iii) the terms and provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 183A, as amended.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable deposit of TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) DOLLARS is to be paid by certified or bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale, the balance to be paid by certified or bank cashier's check and deed to be taken by purchaser within thirty (30) days of the sale at the offices of Seder & Chandler, LLP, 339 Main Street, Worcester, Massachusetts, attorneys for the Mortgagee.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation on the date and at the time and place appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned sale date by public proclamation on the date and at the time and place appointed for the adjourned sale.

In the event of the failure or inability of the purchaser to perform and to purchase the Premises in accordance herewith, the Mortgagee reserves the right (but is not obligated) to accept, subject to the Memorandum of Sale, the second highest bid for the Premises, without further advertisement and without further notice to other bidders or persons. In the event that the Mortgagee offers the Premises to the second highest bidder and such person declines either to purchase the Premises at the second highest bid price or to sign the Memorandum of Sale, then the Mortgagee may elect (but is not obligated) to exercise the rights of the second highest bidder under this paragraph and to purchase the Premises at the second highest bid price, without further advertisement and without further notice to other bidders or persons.

Other terms to be announced at the time and place of sale.

EASTERN BANK, successor by merger to Century Bank and Trust Company
Present holder of said Mortgage

Jennifer L. Conrad, Esq.
SEDER & CHANDLER, LLP
339 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(774)243-9958
Attorneys for the Mortgagee

THE ZEKOS GROUP
P.O. Box 549
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
(508)842-9000
Auctioneer, License No. 104

9/2/26 The Somerville Times



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

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a virtual public hearing on **Tuesday, September 15, 2026**, at 6:45pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WzfdxgnoRGCutE2dnL0xgA

TO CALL IN

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

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

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

333 Highland Avenue Applicant: Fan Wang
Owner: Fan Wang
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

Determinations of Preferably Preserved (STEP 2 IN THE DEMO REVIEW PROCESS)

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

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

8/26/26, 9/2/26 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #27-11

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

Inspection and Repair of Sewer Pump Station

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **09/02/2026**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **09/16/2026 3:00PM EST**. 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 Logan Carroll at Lcarroll@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

Logan Carroll
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3407

9/2/26 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):

Application of Indoor Entertainment by Devices for Edge of Elsewhere Inc d/b/a Edge of Elsewhere at 8 Tyler Street.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_z-jnZHXAQDKT1i2baH7wOA

You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

9/2/26 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):

Application of Indoor Entertainment by Performers for Goodgrain Inc d/b/a Wildgrain at 29 Properzi Way.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_z-jnZHXAQDKT1i2baH7wOA

You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

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LEGAL NOTICES

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB #27-10

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

On-Call Plumbing Services

A bid package may be obtained online at: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/procurement-and-contracting-services> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, September 2th, 2026**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: 2:00 pm, **Thursday, September 16th, 2026**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Logan Carroll at Lcarroll@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

Logan Carroll
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3407

9/2/26 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFP # 27-12

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

Operation of Founders Memorial Ice Skating Rink

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: **Tuesday, September 1st, 2026**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **3:00 pm, Wednesday, September 23rd, 2026**.

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

Please email cmoriarty@somervillema.gov for more information.

Cameron Moriarty
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3403

9/2/26 The Somerville Times

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Community health alert: Somerville's West Nile Virus risk elevated to high

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has announced the first two human cases of West Nile virus in Massachusetts this year. The cases were diagnosed in a man in his 60s and a man in his 90s, both exposed in Middlesex County. As a result, the risk level for West Nile virus has been raised to "High" in Somerville and other neighboring communities.



West Nile virus is usually transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. While the virus can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe illness. Community members are urged to continue to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquitoes. The state Department of Public Health recommends the following safety measures:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- Use insect repellent when you go outdoors: Products with DEET may be used on skin but should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Use permethrin products on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets, and camping gear. Permethrin should not be applied to skin. Other repellents, such as picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR 3535 have also been found to provide protection against mosquitoes. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. More information on choosing and safely using repellents can be found at mass.gov/info-details/mosquito-repellents.
- Cover up: If weather permits, wear long sleeves, long pants, and socks outdoors to help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- Avoid the outdoors at dawn and dusk: Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during the evening or early morning in areas of high risk. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. If you cannot schedule activities around these times, take extra care to avoid being bitten by wearing protective clothing and using repellent.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

- Drain standing water from around your home: Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Drain or get rid of items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains, empty unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.
- Install tightly fitting window and door screens or repair damaged screens: Screens help keep mosquitoes outside.

Mosquito-borne Illnesses

Both West Nile virus and Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) are usually transmitted to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. Only a small number of mosquitoes are infected at any given time, so being bitten by a mosquito does not mean you will get sick. For more information on preventing mosquito-borne diseases, visit mass.gov/mosquito-borne-diseases.

Seasonal Testing and Local Risk Updates

The State does seasonal testing for West Nile virus and EEE and updates town-specific risk levels where mosquitoes test positive for these viruses or human or animal cases are found. The first West Nile-positive mosquitoes in the state this season were announced on June 16. So far, 227 mosquito samples have tested positive for West Nile virus this year, and seven were positive for EEE. There have been no human or animal cases of EEE reported so far this year. You can check risk maps throughout the summer at mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-arbovirus-update.

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

New program can improve dementia care and support caregivers

A new program that aims to improve health outcomes and quality of life for people living with dementia and their caregivers is now available to Massachusetts residents, addressing a critical shortage in comprehensive, person-centered dementia care.

Local nonprofit Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services [1] is proud to announce the GUIDE program (Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience). GUIDE pairs participants with a personal care navigator who can connect them with local community resources such as home-delivered meals and transportation to medical appointments. Family caregivers receive education on supporting a person living with dementia and may qualify for a yearly allowance of respite services so they can rest and recharge.

The GUIDE program is funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and will be offered by AgeSpan in partnership with CCS Health [2] and Healthspan Partners [3]. GUIDE will be delivered to residents across Massachusetts through the AgeSpan Regional Care Collaborative, which encompasses 17 other community-based organizations, including SCES. The program is free for those who qualify.

"The GUIDE Program is a more comprehensive approach to dementia care," said Healthy Living Center Director Melissa Cloutier. "With more coordinated care for people living with dementia and education, training, and time off support for caregivers, this program ad-

resses challenges faced by the growing number of people across the country impacted by dementia."

Nationwide, nearly 7 million people are affected by dementia. CMS estimates that number will rise to 14 million by the year 2060. While the number of people living with dementia is rising, the care they receive has not kept pace. Many people with dementia also live with multiple chronic conditions, yet their care remains fragmented. As a result, they experience higher rates of hospitalization and emergency room visits. To manage these challenges, caregivers often have to provide round-the-clock care, which can take a serious toll mentally, physically, emotionally, and financially.

The GUIDE Program aims to address these issues with a new approach to care, including:

- Personalized care plans that adapt as needs evolve.
- Comprehensive assessments to understand the specific challenges and strengths of each individual and caregiver.
- Ongoing support with regular check-ins to help navigate the complexities of dementia care.
- Caregiver services that offer evidence-based training and education on the best ways to care for someone with dementia. This includes support for time off.

"The GUIDE program can empower caregivers to navigate and provide high-quality care for complex diagnoses," said Nina Cohen, SCES Senior Director



of Caregiver & Family Support Programs. "As caregiving demands grow, we are excited to offer programs like GUIDE to help caregivers thrive in their roles and maintain their own well-being."

To qualify, an individual must have a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia. They must have Medicare Parts A and B as their primary source of health insurance. Individuals enrolled in Medicare Advantage, Hospice, or the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) are not eligible for this program.

To learn more about this program or to enroll, please contact Nina Cohen, Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services Senior Director of Caregiver & Family Support Programs, at nina.cohen@eldercare.org or

617-628-2601.

About Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services is a Massachusetts nonprofit agency that has supported the independence and well-being of older adults and adults of all ages with disabilities in Somerville and Cambridge for the past 55 years. SCES offers free advice and guidance on questions of aging, caregiving, and disability through its Community Support Center which can be reached at 617.628.2601 or via email at info@eldercare.org.

Links:

- [1] <https://eldercare.org/>
- [2] <https://ccs.health/>
- [3] <https://www.healthspanswfl.com/>

Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 9

of Fire Engineers, of which he was Vice President, and the Massachusetts Fire Chiefs' Club. He also belonged to the Massachusetts State Firemen's Relief Association, the Somerville Veteran Firemen's Association, and other firefighting affiliations. During his last decade on the job, his men fondly called him "Uncle Bill" because of his close likeness to President William Taft.

James Hopkins was born on Gore Street in Cambridge, just over the Somerville line. Thomas Casey was born on Beacon Street in Somerville, just over the Cambridge line. When young men, the two were members of the volunteer engine company, Niagara, of East Cambridge. Coincidentally, they moved to each other's city, Hopkins to

Somerville and Casey to Cambridge. They both volunteered and fought honorably in the Civil War. Hopkins left for Washington on April 19, 1861, and fought in the first Battle of Bull Run. At the war's end, they permanently joined their respective fire departments, both working their way up the ranks to Chief Engineer. The friends worked together closely through the years, establishing what was said to be the nation's first mutual-aid pact between cities. Casey was on Cambridge Fire for 51 years, 26 of them as Chief, while Hopkins was on Somerville Fire for 56 years, 38 as Chief of his department.

During their careers, they and their men fought innumerable fires alongside each other. Many were huge. They fought at the



Great Boston Fire of 1872 that destroyed 776 buildings before it was stopped and the Chelsea conflagration of 1908 that incinerated over 1,500 structures across 350 acres. They also battled deadly infernos in their own neighborhoods of the Somer-

ville Boynton Yards and of the East Cambridge Packinghouse district. These two brothers in trade rolled up statistics that most likely will never be matched. Combined, they gave their cities over a century of fire protection ... hail to the Chiefs!

Somerville Council on Aging Hosts August Cultural Series Luncheon

On Tuesday, August 25, 2026, the Somerville Council on Aging welcomed community members to their monthly Cultural Series luncheon at the Dilboy Post. The afternoon was filled with warmth, conversation, and the joy of shared experiences. Guests were treated to a performance by Rich O'Reilly, whose easygoing acoustic style set the perfect tone for the gathering. Blending classic pop, folk, and light Americana favorites, his music created a relaxed, inviting atmosphere that had many attendees smiling and reminiscing about familiar tunes.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



Kicking it old school: The Bingham

CONT. FROM PG 3

closed its doors forever, the 329 students were bused to other schools, including the aforementioned Brown. Here are some more Bingham School teachers' names that my friends remem-

bered. Mrs. Laidlaw, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Dwyer, Mr. Buckley (The Principal who always wore a bow tie), Miss Driscoll, Miss Correy, Miss Wiggins, Miss Albania, Mr. McDonald, Miss Crowley, and

Miss Ricci.

Fond and happy memories of their old red brick school include the smell of mimeograph machine copies, playing punch ball and kick ball in the schoolyard at re-

cess with their friends, and milk money being 15 cents a week. And to this day, no one can actually confirm whether or not there was a spanking machine in the principal's office of the old Bingham School.

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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

1. Sandra Day O'Connor

2. Hanging Gardens of Babylon

3. Birman

4. Orange

5. Her fan club president, Yolanda Saldivar

6. Lyme Disease

7. Orchids

8. Tina Turner

9. Silver

10. Jimi Hendrix

11. A lover of learning

12. A fear of your relatives

Councilors propose updates to zoning ordinances for more accessible housing

By The Times Staff

The ground story elevation requirement in Somerville’s zoning code is under scrutiny thanks to a petition organized by a Tufts University graduate student named Crystal M. Huff. The petition proposes removing the requirement of a 2-foot minimum elevation of any building’s ground story to allow for more accessible housing.

The petition triggers a formal zoning amendment process that will go to Land Use and/or the Planning Board (or possibly both at once via a joint hearing, as has sometimes happened in the past), explained Huff. “That will hopefully move forward over the next few months to remove this one specific issue in the code, if it has enough support.”

At the City Council meeting on Thursday, August 27, lawmakers approved a resolution brought forward by City Councilor Jon Link and City Councilor Wilfred N. Mbah that requests the Director of Planning to work on increasing

accessible housing. “This resolution is not going to be enough,” said Link. “But my hope is that it’s a start.” City Councilors agreed that Somerville should do more to incentivize more accessibility and will work with the city staff in the Planning Department to create incentives for more facets of accessibility to be included in housing projects or renovations, even if those accessibility facets aren’t legally required.

The zoning code in Somerville’s residential districts currently requires a minimum 2-foot elevation of the ground story of most buildings. Very few of the buildings built nearly a century ago have an ADA-compatible ramp or lift for wheelchair accessibility, according to the petition.

“I think accessible housing is essential,” said Councilor Mbah. He emphasized the need to ensure that community members with disabilities or other accessibility needs live safely and independently with



The proposed zoning amendment is intended to allow for more accessible housing.

dignity in the city. “As our community continues to grow and housing costs remain a significant challenge, we must ensure that new and existing housing is not only available, but also accessible to people who need it,” said Mbah. “Increasing the supply of accessible housing will strengthen our commitment to inclusion and also help residents remain in the community as their needs change.”

Mbah added that the City Council will identify some of the barriers and opportunities to increase accessible housing to make Somerville a more inclusive and livable city for everybody.

The petition requests updating the zoning code to bring the city into compliance with ADA accessibility guidelines, whether it be renovating existing structures with ground-level egress when appropriate or building new construction at ground level.

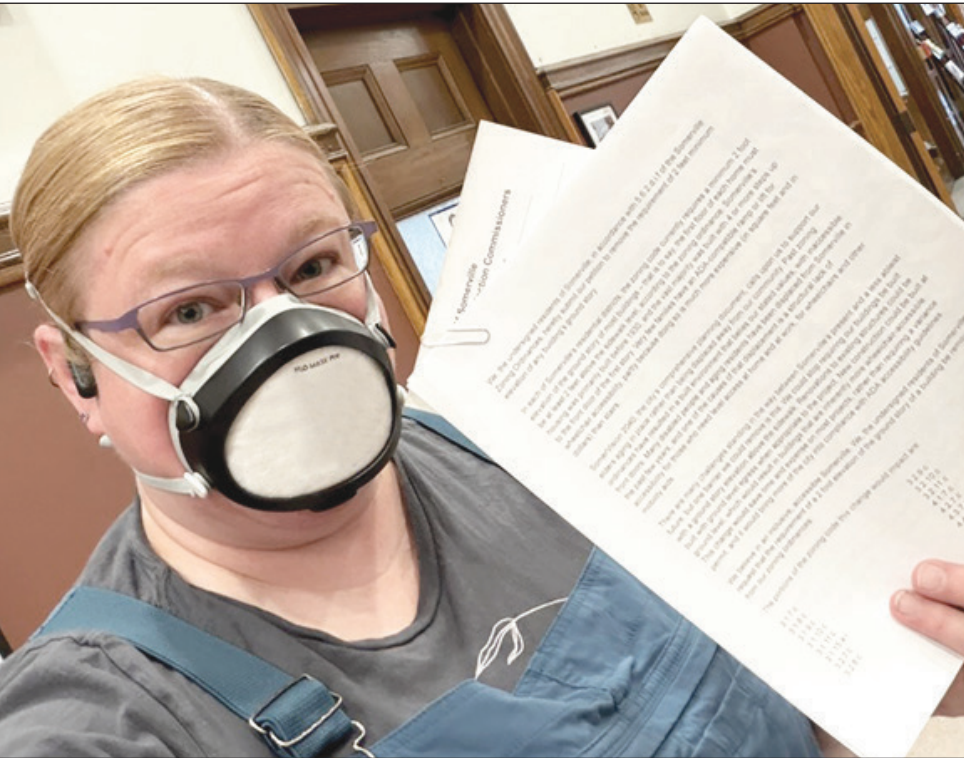
“This ground story elevation requirement in our zoning code is one reason why we have so little wheelchair-accessible housing in Somerville today,” said Huff in a letter to neighbors and friends. “The good news is, we can work on this problem. We

can ask the City Council to address the issues of accessibility in our zoning and city planning. We can require more accessible housing to be built in the future.”

Proposed amendments to the zoning ordinances will be submitted at a future meeting and will eventually lead to a public hearing to get the formal process started, explained City Council President Lance L. Davis.

“The thing about a city council resolution is that sometimes residents also need to push for action to be taken on it,” said Huff. “On both these items about accessibility, we should email our elected officials and city staff, making it clear that we agree: Somerville needs greater accessibility, and we want to see the work done to make it happen. We know this is in alignment with our values. We now need to see action taken.”

Crystal M. Huff has been a Somerville resident for over a decade and is now a graduate student at Tufts University. Huff expects to graduate in 2027 with a master’s degree in Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning.



Ground story elevation petition organizer Crystal M. Huff.

Animate History!

Friday, September 25th from 10:30 a.m. to noon at The Council on Aging's Holland Street Center. Step into the Silk Road and Bring Ancient Murals to Life with Artists: QI & Hudson.

This workshop introduces the value of the Dunhuang Grottoes, one of the most outstanding art treasures along the Silk Road, and teaches participants how to interpret its cultural and artistic value through digital animation. Using markers and animation character frame paper, participants will engage with a famous Dunhuang mural on the south wall of Cave 254, Dunhuang Grottoes, AD 465500, which explores themes of tolerance, kindness, and awakening. Space is very limited; preference will be given to Somerville residents. Please reserve your spot by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.



SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

EVENTS:

Spanish Senior Coffee Social – Tuesday, September 8th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Come, drink coffee, see friends, and talk to our staff. Free to all. This group is in Spanish. For more information, please contact Francia Reyes at 617-366-7796.

Knitting with Natasha – Tuesday, September 8th & 29th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Hoping to learn how to knit or practice your knitting skills in a supportive group, consider joining Knitting with Natasha. If you have any questions, please contact Natasha Naim by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2317, or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

Men's Group – Tuesday, September 8th at 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. A confidential space where men are free to speak openly and honestly about their lives and to support each other. New and returning members are welcome. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Somerville's Senior Picnic – Thursday, September 10th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Trum Field, located at 541 Broadway. Enjoy delicious food, awesome music, and a great atmosphere for meeting new people and catching up with old friends. Please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319, with any questions and to request your free ticket by September 4th. Limited transportation available; please request transportation prior to September 1st.

Nutrition Classes – In September, we will be talking about Calories & Properly Nourishing Our Bodies. Via Zoom- Mondays, September 14th & September 21st from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Contact Mary for the Zoom link. In Person at the Ralph & Jenny Center on Mondays, September 14th & September 21st from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. In Person at the Holland Street Center on Mondays, September 2nd, 9th, 16th & 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. For more information on any of the classes, to schedule a consultation, or to address your nutrition concerns, please contact Mary Marshall at headtofitness10@yahoo.com or call 617-625-6600, ext. 2316.

Make-up Nutrition & Question and Answer Time Via Zoom – Monday, September 14th & September 21st from 10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. Contact Mary for the Zoom link. This is a time to ask any questions you may have about any of the classwork previously covered. Please feel free to join this class before the scheduled Zoom class on Mondays. For more information on any of the classes, or to schedule a consultation, contact Mary Marshall at headtofitness10@yahoo.com or call 617-625-6600 ext. 2316.

Portuguese Senior Coffee Social – Tuesday, September 15th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Come, drink coffee, see friends, and talk to our staff. Free to all. This group is in Portuguese. For more information, please contact Rafael Peruz-

zo by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2123.

Music & Movement – Tuesday, September 15th, starting at 1:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Join Steve as he plays guitar, sings, and leads gentle movements. Just tapping your toe or singing along can help move your body in new ways. More entertaining than exercise. More energizing than a performance. Come join for an energetic combination of live music, chair-based movement, music history, trivia, and community. Participation is encouraged, but all are welcome to just sit and enjoy! With a backdrop of Sinatra, Elvis, and show tunes from the Great American Songbook, country, and 1960s pop, you'll leave feeling invigorated, with lifted spirits. Steve Gintz is a professional musician, board-certified music therapist, and mental health counselor. He is the founder of Instrumental Health, providing enriching arts programming for older adults in and around Boston. RSVP by calling Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315, or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

Music & Munch – Tuesday, September 15th at our Holland Street Center from noon to 1:00 p.m. This one-hour session will treat you to a playlist of diverse musical offerings: a little jazz, some "old-ies but goodies," a smidgen of classical, a dip into barbershop, a trip to Broadway. The music is taped, but the experience is live. Your guide is Somerville Resident, Laura Zoll, trained as a medieval musicologist and with a lifelong love of all things musical. Learn a little, sing along, relax, and enjoy some Music while you Munch. Grab & Go Lunch available upon request. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321, or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Movie Day – Wednesday, September 16th starting at 12:30 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. This month we will be showing At Midnight, starring Monica Barbaro & Diego Boneta. Jon Rudnitsky's At Midnight is a romantic comedy about two people who have made the "safe" choice not to fall in love. Rated R – runs for 1 hour & 40 minutes. Pizza will be served during the movie. \$2 per person for pizza. To register, call Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Nutrition Lunch and Learn – Thursday, September 17th from 11:30 a.m. to Noon at our Holland Street Center. Join us for a nutrition presentation from the Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services Dietitian on Fats and Seed Oils. Raffle prizes and food samples will be provided. The presentation will be held after bingo. For more information or to register, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Arts & Crafts – Friday, September 18th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. This month, we will be making flowers with their own little pot using air drying molding clay. Free of charge. Space is limited; preference will be given to Somerville residents. Must RSVP to Maureen Bastardi by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2335, or at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

Easton Flow in the Park – Fridays, September 18th and 25th and October 2nd, 16th & 23rd, start-

ing at 9:00 a.m. at the basketball court at Lou Ann David Park next to the Holland Street Center. Enjoy exercising in nature in this outdoor Eastern Flow class! Connect mind, body, and spirit while getting into a state of Flow. Finding flow moves us toward finding an effortless clarity and euphoria that can transform lives. Traditional Eastern movements from martial arts and nature are explored, but in a modern way. Music is used to enhance enjoyment and aid in movement flow. This class is community-oriented and fosters a supportive, non-competitive environment. All movements are easily adaptable and can be done standing or seated. For information and to register, please contact Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

Book Club – Friday, September 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center or via Zoom. Looking to talk about your love of books or hoping to meet more people who enjoy reading? Look no further than the Book Club at SCOA. Free of Charge. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317, or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

Veterans Group – Tuesday, September 22nd, starting at 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. This group allows veterans to connect with their peers, discuss personal challenges, and provide support. All Veterans are welcome. Coffee & refreshments will be served. Free of Charge. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321, or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov. Senior CharlieCard Enrollment and MBTA Accessibility Training – Wednesday, September 23rd from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. The MBTA Mobility Center will be here to help seniors enroll in reduced-fare Senior CharlieCards. They will also be giving a 1-hour presentation on MBTA accessibility! Please contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318, or at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov for more information or to register.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected via our Facebook page - Informative, entertaining, lots of photos and updates. Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCOA/>.

Follow the Somerville Council on Aging on Instagram! You can find us under the Instagram handle: somervillecouncilonaging If you have any questions or need help following us, contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email her at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive a virtual copy of our monthly newsletter, please contact Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen Bastardi at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

If you would like to become part of our Google Group, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Book review: ‘Broken Faith: A Story of Murder, Secrets, and a Catskills Synagogue’ by Mordechai Luchins

By Dennis Fischman

An insular religious community is a great setting for a cozy mystery. Look at the Cambridge Friends in Quaker Silence [1] for one example, and the Kate Burkholder series [2], set in Amish Country. In both cases, the number of suspects is manageable for the reader who's trying to solve the mystery first. Solving the mystery involves learning a lot about the community it's set in. That also applies to Jewish communities like the one Faye Kellerman writes about in The Ritual Bath [3] and its many sequels.

Another, more recent mystery that takes place in an Orthodox Jewish community is Broken Faith: A Story of Murder, Secrets, and a Catskills Synagogue.

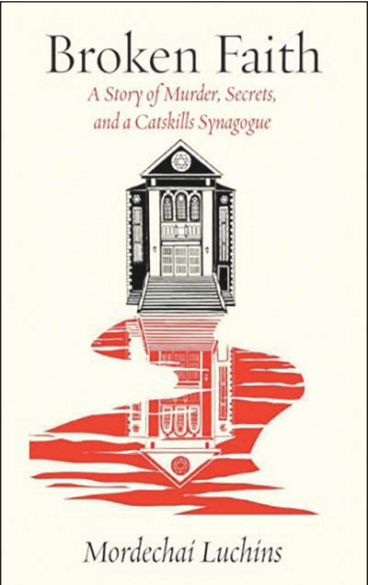
[4]. When you read this book, you will uncover the secrets of two rabbinical families in a small town in the Catskills, including a long-forgotten motive for murder. You will find out “whodunnit” but also how, with a novel solution to the classic locked-room mystery. It's a twisty, turny little story that drew me right in and kept me turning the pages.

When you read it, you will also meet Sheriff Em, short for Emunah, a wisecracking Jewish woman whose past is a bit of a mystery of its own. (I hope more about her will come out in future books!) She's a science fiction reader, and apparently, so is author Mordechai Luchins, because there are two or three people in town who have unusu-

al psychic gifts. The gifts are not absolutely necessary for solving this mystery, but they do help Em survive it. And I am so glad she does, because listening to her sarcastic voice is the biggest delight of this book.

I appreciated having the family trees drawn out, although I am still wondering who Rina was: she's mentioned twice in the text but not at all in the graphics. I also appreciated the witty explanations of terms from Hebrew and Yiddish. They make it so that (as the old advertising campaign had it) "You don't have to be Jewish" to have a great time reading this brief, fast-paced book.

Links:
[1] <https://www.thesomerville-times.com/archives/140911>
[2] <https://www.thesomerville-times.com/archives/141951>
[3] https://goodreads.com/book/show/104106.The_Ritual_Bath__Peter_Decker_Rina_Lazarus__1_
[4] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/252856496-broken-faith>



Broken Faith: A Story of Murder, Secrets, and a Catskills Synagogue by Mordechai Luchins. Ben Yehuda Press, 2026.

[2] <https://www.thesomerville-times.com/archives/141951>
[3] <https://goodreads.com/>



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

book/show/104106.The_Ritual_Bath__Peter_Decker_Rina_Lazarus__1_
[4] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/252856496-broken-faith>

SomerStreets: Gilman Square Arts & Music Festival

From kid’s music and a Honk band to interactive circus activities and pumpkin painting, there’s free fun for the whole family at the upcoming SomerStreets: Gilman Square Arts & Music Festival.

Held on Saturday, September 12, from noon to 5 p.m. (rain date Sunday, September 13), this edition of the City’s SomerStreets series is co-hosted by the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council and the City of Somerville Arts and Culture Division. All events will take place at Edward Leathers Park (108 Walnut St.).

Festival highlights:

- Interactive performances by Esh Circus
- Entertainment from Cate the Great
- Pumpkin painting with Neighborhood Produce
- Local artists and makers
- Food from Nibble Kitchen vendors and local favorites
- A beer garden hosted by Winter Hill Brewing Company
- Family-friendly activities and more

Music Lineup:

- 12–12:45 p.m.: Matt Heaton (kid’s music)
- 1–1:45 p.m.: Pink Slip (ska punk)
- 2–2:45 p.m.: Dom the Composer (R&B, gospel, folk)
- 3–3:45 p.m.: Emperor Norton’s Stationary Marching Band (Balkan-Klezmer-funk-Honk)
- 4–4:45 p.m.: FM Collective (Latin, hip-hop, jazz)



The event is free and open to all. For updates and the complete entertainment schedule, visit somerstreetartsandmusic.org/events/gilman-sq-fest.

2026 Location Update: Edward Leathers Park

Due to ongoing construction along Pearl Street, this year’s festival will temporarily move to Edward L. Leathers Community Park and portions of Walnut Street. To make room for the festivities, Walnut Street will be closed between Pearl and Medford streets, and Skilton Avenue will also be closed.

Davis Square apartment tower project abandoned

Developer Copper Mill has officially canceled its controversial plan to build a 24- to 26-story mixed-use apartment tower in Somerville's Davis Square.

On August 31, 2026, Copper Mill CEO Andrew Flynn sent a letter to the Davis Square Neighborhood Council stating that they will not be moving forward with their 500-unit, transit-oriented housing development in Davis Square.

In the letter, Flynn concluded that large-scale housing development is currently unfeasible in Somerville, leading to the halt of plans in Davis Square. Flynn claims the city's leadership has created obstacles, overshadowing external challenges. He expressed gratitude to community stakeholders for their past engagement.

The full letter can be found on the Davis Square Neighborhood Council's website: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Z78OTC96AgDKANi774REdamwRlfHCQNp/view>

The Burren and other businesses involved will continue as usual for the time being.



Healey-Driscoll administration expands joint active shooter response training statewide

More than 1,000 police, fire, and EMS professionals have completed joint active shooter response training across Massachusetts this year as the Healey-Driscoll Administration expands efforts to prepare first responders to act quickly and work together during a crisis.

One of the latest Active Attack Integrated Response courses brought approximately three dozen first responders to Tufts University for two days of classroom instruction, hands-on exercises, and realistic scenarios. Participants included personnel from the Massachusetts State Police, Arlington Police, Lexington Police, Lexington Fire, Medford Fire, Somerville Fire, Somerville Police, Stoughton Fire, Cataldo Ambulance, and the police departments of North Shore Community College, Tufts University, and Worcester State University.

"Massachusetts was the first in the nation to adopt an internationally recognized framework for consistent, statewide active shooter response training," said Public Safety and Security Secretary Gina K. Kwon. "Our law enforcement, fire service, EMS, telecommunicator, and emergency management personnel are training together in courses like this one so they can work together in a real-world crisis."

The Active Attack Integrated Response (AAIR) course was coordinated by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, the Municipal Police Training Committee, and the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center, with support from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.

The course was held August 18 – 19 in

partnership with Tufts University and the Tufts University Police Department. Tufts also hosted AAIR courses in June and July.

"We significantly ramped up AAIR deliveries to meet increased demand after last winter's active shooter event at Brown University," said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. "So far this year, we've delivered 35 classes for first responders across Massachusetts, from Provincetown to North Adams. That's more than 1,000 police, fire, and EMS professionals ready to stop the killing and stop the dying."

"The AAIR curriculum provides life-saving training to first responders at every level of experience," said Captain Amy Fanikos (Ret.), Deputy Executive Director of the Municipal Police Training Committee. "From classroom instruction to hands-on exercises to increasingly complex scenarios, it builds the skills necessary for law enforcement and fire/rescue to work seamlessly together when every second can be the difference between life and death."

"I received great feedback from the Somerville firefighters who took part in this course," said Somerville Fire Chief Charles J. Breen, Jr. "It builds on many of the emergency medical skills we already use, and it provides a strong foundation for working with our police partners. Trainings like this one could help save lives in a crisis most people don't want to contemplate."

"Massachusetts is doing some of the most aggressive AAIR training in the country," said John Cantarella, Northeast Regional Manager for the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training



— Photos courtesy of the Department of Fire Services

Center at Texas State University.

In 2022, Massachusetts became the first state to adopt NFPA 3000, Standard for an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response Program, as a statewide framework for active shooter response training through the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, Municipal Police Training Committee and State Police Academy.

Developed following the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida, NFPA 3000 emphasizes the importance of law enforcement, fire, EMS, and other public safety partners planning, training, and coordinating before an emergency.

AAIR puts that framework into practice. The curriculum uses plain language and common terminology to help first responders establish command, stop an attacker, and reach injured people as quickly

as possible. It also trains participants in the Rescue Task Force model, in which law enforcement protects fire and EMS personnel as they provide immediate medical care and evacuate patients.

The Department of Fire Services and Municipal Police Training Committee also offer Active Attack Incident Management, a course for chiefs and senior officers focused on command-level strategies, and Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events, which teaches civilians how to protect themselves and others until first responders arrive.

Together, these interagency training programs have reached more than 7,000 police officers, firefighters, EMS providers, public safety dispatchers, and other participants across Massachusetts.

— Department of Fire Services

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319 for a free ticket by **September 4**. Enjoy good food, music, meeting new people, and catching up with old friends.

This year’s **Gilman Square Arts & Music Festival** is **Saturday, September 12**. This annual neighborhood celebration will feature local art, food vendors, acrobatic performances, children’s activities, plus live music and a beer garden. The festival will take place at **Ed Leathers Park**, from 12 to 5 p.m., and it’s completely free to attend. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, hang out, and enjoy some tunes.

Registration for **SHC’s Somerville 5k** is open. Every step taken on **October 3** supports the community’s most vulnerable, helping raise the critical funds needed to tackle housing and food insecurity. Register today to run and claim your race t-shirt. For more information, visit <https://somervillehomelesscoalition.org/>.

Overdose Prevention Training takes place on **September 8**. Join Somerville’s **Health and Human Services Department** to learn about opioids and their impact on our community, how to recognize signs of an opioid overdose, the importance of calling 911, and how to administer Naloxone (Narcan). This event will be held on Tuesday, September 8, at **Central Library** (79 Highland Ave.) from 6 to 7 p.m. Learn more and register: <https://somervillepubliclibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/hold-for-overdose-prevention-training-3/>.

Intercambio Fall 2026 applications are now open. Looking for a welcoming space to practice English or Spanish, meet new people, and connect across cultures? Join in for eight weeks of conversation, cultural exchange, interactive activities, and community. At Intercambio, everyone has something to learn – and something to share. Applications are open **through September 21** at noon. Learn more and apply through the link here: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/intercambio/intercambio-fall-2026/>.

Moving season is here, and the **City of Somerville** is welcoming new and returning residents with a guide to getting settled, finding city services, and becoming part of the community (it is the **Year of the Neighbor** [\[villema.gov/departments/office-mayor-jake-wilson/year-neighbor\]\(https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/office-mayor-jake-wilson/year-neighbor\)\). Have a question about city services and aren’t sure where to begin? Start with 311 \(617-666-3311\), available 24/7 to answer city-related questions, address service requests, or to connect you with the right department. Find the full guide to get additional information on moving permits, trash and recycling schedules, signing up for city alerts, and more: <https://www.somervillema.gov/news/new-somerville-start-here>.](https://www.somer-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

ESMS’s biggest fundraising event of the year is almost here. **East Somerville’s Foodie Crawl 2026**, **Tuesday, September 15** (rain date: September 16), 6 – 8:30 p.m. Join them for an evening of delicious food, local discoveries, live music, and community connection while supporting the work of East Somerville Main Streets. For more information, visit: <https://www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/foodie-crawl-2026>.

This fall, **Somerville Recreation** is offering all that and more. Residents can explore youth sports and enrichment programs, adult fitness classes, aquatics and swim lessons, seasonal special events, community celebrations, and much more, including a range of new programs. www.somervillerec.com.

The **Massachusetts Department of Public Health** has announced the first two human cases of **West Nile Virus (WNV)** in the state this year. Both cases were reported in Middlesex County. As a result, the risk level for WNV has been raised to “High” in Somerville and other neighboring communities. WNV is usually transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe illness. For more tips and information, visit mass.gov/dph/mosquito or somervillema.gov/mosquito-advisory.

Somerville Firefighters Local 76 announced their annual **Davy Fitz Memorial Golf Tournament Fundraiser** on **Monday, September 14**, at **Hillview Golf Course** in North Reading, MA. Registration is due by **September 1**. Players can sign up as a foursome or individual golfer. For any interest in playing and/or sponsorship opportunities, contact **VP Jay Kenney** at 266 Broadway,

Somerville. Enjoy a great day of golf, a catered function, raffles/ prizes, and help support Somerville Firefighters.

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

PICK UP! Somerville Museum Calling fundraiser, **September 10**, 6 p.m., **Crystal Ballroom** at **Somerville Theatre**. Inspired by Somerville’s role as the site of the world’s first residential telephone call, and the Somerville Museum’s “**Let Freedom Ring**” public art project for America’s 250th, this year’s fundraising event celebrates connection between the past and the future and to one another. **Jimmy Tingle** (pun intended) will entertain us with his comedy and emcee the program. Sambaviva Brazilian dance ensemble will perform a medley of telephone-themed favorites. **TJ the DJ** will keep the music going throughout the evening. Mix and mingle over passed appetizers while exploring interactive telephone exhibits! For tickets and more information, visit: <https://www.somervilmuseum.org/>.

The **Mission Church of Christ**, 130 Highland Ave., will be hosting a **free health fair** for the community on **September 19**, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. with many vendors. Contact **MC Allied Health & Professionals Group** at mcahpg130@gmail.com.

Somerville Flea is back. Stop by **Sundays through October**, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., **52 Holland St.** Discover the area’s best collection of artisan makers and vintage vendors. With 13 Sundays running from August through October, there’ll always be something new to explore. Support local businesses, shop one-of-a-kind finds, and uncover that treasure you never knew you needed or even existed.

The **Brazilian Flag Raising** ceremony takes place on **September 10**. The **Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA)**, in proud partnership with the **Brazilian Women’s Group**, invites community members to celebrate 204 years of Brazilian independence at the fourth an-

nual Brazilian flag raising. Attendees will enjoy live music and performances of the national anthems of Brazil and the United States, a speaking program, and a ceremonial raising of the Brazilian flag. This event will take place on **Thursday, September 10**, on the City Hall concourse (93 Highland Ave.) from 3 to 4 p.m.

Harvest Festival: The Three Sisters and Strands of Connection takes place **Sunday, September 27**, 2 – 4:30 p.m. at the **Somerville Community Growing Center** at 22 Vinal Ave. Enjoy free, family-friendly harvest activities and celebrate the traditional Three Sisters indigenous system of growing corn, squash, and beans together – crops native to the Americas. Activities include: Learning about the Three Sisters, Pumpkin Decorating, Seed Guessing Game, Making Corn Husk Dolls, Harvest Storytelling, and Three Sisters Bake Sale. Check out a showcase of the products of the Strands of Connection: From Seed to Scarf project, which has engaged community members since April in learning about natural dyes, spinning, and making a scarf. Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org.

Somerville’s annual **Water System Flushing Program** continues **through late October**. This program consists of flushing pipes at high velocities to clean water mains and maintain the highest possible water quality. Temporary drops in water pressure and/or discolored water can occur. In these cases, though the water may be discolored, it is safe to drink. Until the water runs clear, it is advisable to avoid washing laundry, especially white fabrics. To find out when your neighborhood will be affected and to learn more: www.somervillema.gov/hydrantflushing.

Want to share feedback with the **City Council**? Public comments are accepted on a rolling basis via email at publiccomments@somervillema.gov. Find information about the Council or see the full schedule of Council meetings at somervillema.gov/council. Stream meetings at youtube.com/somervillecityTV. The next City Council meeting of the whole is on **Thursday, September 10**.

Somerville Firefighters Local 76 will be hosting a **UDS Cancer Screening Event** at the **Dante Club** on **September 8, 9, and 10**. Cancer continues to be one of the greatest threats



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week

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

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

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

To file a complaint, call Shannon Lawler at 617-625-6600 x2569..

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.



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By Bobbygeorge Potaris

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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Summer shadows... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

September 2

1666 – The Great Fire of London, which devastates the city, begins.

1789 – The Treasury Department is created in New York City.

1792 – Verdun, France, surrenders to the Prussian Army.

1870 – Napoleon III capitulates to the Prussians at Sedan, France.

1885 – In Rock Springs, Wyoming Territory, 28 Chinese laborers are killed and hundreds more chased out of town by striking coal miners.

1915 – Austro-German armies take Grodno, Poland.

1945 – Japan signs the document of surrender, ending World War II.

1963 – Alabama Governor George Wallace calls state troopers to Tuskegee High School to prevent integration.

1970 – NASA cancels two planned missions to the moon.

1992 – The US and Russia agree to a joint venture to build a space station.

1996 – The Philippine government and Muslim rebels sign a pact, formally ending a 26-year long insurgency.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 19

facing firefighters, killing far too many of our brothers and sisters. Early detection is one of our best weapons in the fight against this devastating disease. **Dante Club**, 5 Dante Ter., Somerville. For questions, call 646-553-5803.

Raise a glass to **Union Square** as **What the Fluff?** turns 21! This year's theme – **Legally Fluff: A Toast to Union Square** – is an ode to 21 years of fluff-filled fun for all ages. Put on the party hats, blow up the balloons, grab a bubbly beverage, and celebrate Somerville's signature sweet spread in style. The **21st Annual What the Fluff? Festival**, **Saturday, September 19**, 1 – 5 p.m. in Union Square.

The **Powder House**, **Milk Row Cemetery** and **Prospect Hill Tower** will be open to the public on select dates and times through October, as part of **History on the Line**, a series of exhibitions and programs organized by the **Somerville Museum** and funded by the **Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tour-**

ism's MA250 initiative and the **City of Somerville**. History unlocked: Drop-in chat on **select Thursdays**, 6 – 8 p.m., and **select Saturdays**, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. For dates and more information, visit <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>.

The **Somerville Mobile Farmers Market** has returned for the 2026 season. The market brings fresh, affordable, local produce to four city locations Thursdays through Saturdays and runs through October 31. All produce is sourced from local farms and priced affordably to make healthy, fresh food accessible to all. The mobile market accepts cash, debit and credit cards, SNAP, Fresh Connect, WIC Farmers Market Coupons, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons. For the full schedule, weekly produce updates, and more information about programs and events, visit the market's website at somervillemobilefarmers-market.org.

Assembly Row Farmers Market is being held at 375 Assembly Row, Somerville,

on **Fridays**, 3 – 7 p.m. The market will run **from June 12 to October 9**. Each week, you'll be able to find goods from nearly 30 New England-based farmers and producers. Expect a great mix of seasonal produce, baked goods, dairy and eggs, meats and seafood, honey, jams, specialty foods, and more. It's the perfect place to stock up for the weekend, discover local favorites, or simply enjoy a fresh Friday visit to Assembly Row. <https://marketspread.com/market/37299/assembly-row-farmers-market/>.

The **Davis Square Market** has opened for the 2026 Season. The market will run **every Wednesday** from 12 noon to 6 p.m., **through November 25**, at 44 Day St., Somerville. This long-running market features over two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers offering a vibrant selection of delicious produce, protein, baked goods, and ready-to-eat meals. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP

Match. Visit <https://www.massfarmers-markets.org/davis>.

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!

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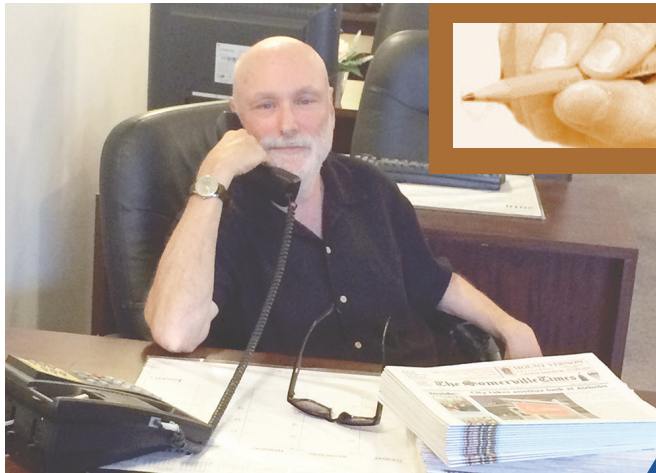
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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

On Being a Regular

By Off the Shelf Correspondent Jen Fries.



Tremont Street, Boston, in June, collage on board, detail. I used to work down there.

An acquaintance of mine, poet and columnist Doug Holder [1], recently posed a question on social media: Have you ever been a regular, and what does that mean to you?

He was responding to an article in Esquire, “The Lost Art of Being a Regular,” by Mark Allen Burger [2]. It’s paywalled (fair enough). Check your public library if you’d like to read it. In any event...

I realized that being a regular may indeed be a lost art, at least in the US. People my age are forgetting what it was like, and younger people never knew.

I further realized that we should probably revive this lost art, because we are entering a time when we’re going to need it.

Being a regular is a status relative to another person. It’s an earned title. You become a regular when someone else says you are, based on your interactions with them.

It’s a word belonging mostly to commerce, but it has the effect of de-business-ing business, of personalizing the impersonal. It’s a humanizing word that shifts the focus from transaction to relationship.

But what is it? How does it happen, and how does it work? I’ll tell you about my own experience.

Coffee and a Newspaper

In my home town, New York City, I commuted to work by the same route every weekday, along with thousands of other people, from Queens into Manhattan. Every morning, I stopped at the newsstand at the top of the stairs into the subway and bought the NY Times. I then went downstairs and stopped at the coffee stand in the station to get a regular coffee with milk and one sugar. I then continued down to the train with my paper and my coffee.

Beyond requesting my paper and ordering my coffee, and saying thank-you, I never spoke to anyone and barely made eye contact because that’s how we rolled in NYC.

And yet one day, I got to the newsstand, and my Times was folded and waiting for me, along with the papers of other regulars. I just had to put down my money and take it.

In about the same time period, I got down to the coffee stand one day and found my coffee waiting for me on the counter – regular, milk, one sugar, hot and fresh because the guy knew what time I’d be there.

We still didn’t talk to each other beyond me saying thank you, which was now all I had to say.

I realized suddenly that I was part of the scene, the community. Despite the traditional New York conversation-avoidance, I was remembered, recognized. I was known to these people. If I ever went missing, those guys along my daily commute would be able to help the cops pinpoint just where and when I’d vanished.

A little while after that social breakthrough, I had another. I worked in those days in the financial district, near Wall Street. Back then, the work day was 9 to 5 with a lunch break from 12 to 1. This was universal. So every day, the narrow streets of lower Manhattan would be crammed with people arriving to work, then become empty and silent, then get crammed with people going out for lunch, then become empty and silent again, then get crammed with people going home, and then stay empty and silent overnight. (I know about overnight because sometimes my friends and I would wander around down there to decompress after getting out of the Village dance clubs, and it was just us and the rats and the ghost of Peter Stuyvesant.)



Tremont Street, Boston, in June, collage on board, detail. I used to work down there.

Those crammed hours were absolute madness, and the lunch rush was the craziest because the traffic was less orderly than the morning and evening rushes.

Near the office where I worked stood a hamburger and hot dog joint. It was a tiny little storefront on the corner that only cooked 2 or 3 things with 2 or 3 variations each, and it was only open

Continued on page 23

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Holly Chatelain is a writer and editor new to the Boston area, having recently moved from Denver to Revere. She is a managing editor of Ibbetson Street Press. This poem was inspired by her cross-country drive from Denver to Boston to make the move.

**Leaving**

In Denver, I never needed a compass
To know which way was West
Now the mountains disappear behind me,
giving way to endless farmland
Even the air is flat
I’m tired of saying hello to the cows
Finally arriving at a stop in
Goodland, Kansas
Saved in advance on Google Maps:
The World’s Largest Easel,
Holding the world’s largest Van Gogh
The canvas propped on three gigantic wooden legs,
Enormous sunflowers rest against the
unbroken blue sky
A group of kids with baggy jeans and
Manic Panic hair
Smoke cigarettes in the gravel parking lot
The girl laughs at something one of the boys said,
tucks her hair behind her ear,
and dreams of leaving
I stop to snap a picture
And I put the car in drive

— Holly Chatelain

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:

Doug Holder, 25 School St., Somerville, MA 02143. dougholder@post.harvard.edu

Off The Shelf

CONT. FROM PG 22

for lunch. What little they did, they did extremely well, though, and the place was incredibly popular, so much so that they had to create a hyper-efficient way to process customers in the limited lunch-rush time window.

They had one line going in the double-door entrance and another line going out. You'd ride the in-line to the counter (where there were always a few crusty old dudes eating in), and place your order with the guy who would shout it out to the short-order cooks at the grill behind him. Then you'd step to your left and pay and receive your food, which would be ready and bagged in seconds because they were already cooking everything on the menu. Then you'd turn around and ride the out-line back to the street.

They gave this service to literally hundreds of people within the space of a single hour.

Now, granted, I'm a creature of habit, and I had my favorite thing that I would get from that place every time I went, up to three days a week because it was cheap as well as good.

But still – hundreds of customers on a virtual conveyor belt every single lunch rush.

And yet a day came, surprisingly quickly, when I got up to the counter, and the guy said, "The usual?"

Stunned, I said, "Yes, thanks." And he turned and shouted out exactly what I wanted. I will never comprehend how, out of that sea of humanity all getting burgers and hot dogs, he could remember anyone's order or face, but the man obviously had the power of professionalism.

That's what being a regular means to me. It means being a noticed presence in the spaces you occupy and move through. It means being recognized by identity markers unique to you. Small woman with long, dark hair. *New York Times*. Regular coffee, milk, one sugar, 7:30 AM. Hot dog, heavy mustard, sauerkraut, ginger ale. It means being part of someone's world enough that they add you to their schedule. They prepare for you, reserve space for you. You become part of the easy, efficient flow of their work. You are expected, and missed when you don't show up.

Sometimes, it can be moments like the time the delivery guy from our favorite Chinese restaurant came to our apartment by mistake. He was going to another apartment in our large building, but his feet carried him to our door by sheer force of habit, and he didn't realize it until we were all looking at each other in confusion. And then we laughed.

All Our Third Places

Whether you're in and out in 30 seconds or you stick around for hours, anywhere that you're a regular becomes a "third place" in your territory.

Third places, a concept developed by sociologist Ray Oldenburg, are spaces for free, informal, social interaction, additional to home and work. It's your coffee shop, pub, park, bookstore, basketball court, hair salon, etc. I argue they can also be transitional spaces on routes we travel frequently, turning the route itself into a third place. Here's a free article about the importance of third places by Ray Oldenburg and Karen Christensen in the *UNESCO Courier* [3].

Being a regular at a place grants you a certain emotional ownership of it. Something about it is now yours. Your paper, your coffee, your lunch, your time slot. Eventually, you might even have your table by the window, your pizza combo added to the menu with your name on it.

The day I became a regular at the news and coffee stands

granted me ownership over my commute. That route became part of my home turf. I could relax and enjoy my morning that little bit more. I felt comfortable enough to look around and begin to recognize other regulars I shared it with, who also ceased to be strangers just by dint of being seen every day.

Has that ever happened to you?

Has a barista anticipated your order? Maybe your favorite Thai restaurant knows how spicy you like your drunken noodles. Is there a shop you spend so much time in that when a newbie asks for help, you take care of them before revealing that you don't work there? Do you see the same joggers and families at the park every Saturday, and do they see you?

How many such third places do you have? Probably fewer now than before the pandemic. Covid cut us off from so much that was regular about our lives, but it was just the knock-out punch. It was already getting harder to become a regular before that disaster.

Our digitized, virtual, automated world yaps endlessly about connection and community, but it doesn't want us to go anywhere or meet anyone. We save our coffee order to the app, but the app won't anticipate our arrival or remark on our absence. The worker won't connect our face to our cup. We're responding only to the apps, not each other.

One-click ordering. Frictionless payment. Contactless delivery. These "conveniences" scrub the humanity out of our habits. They're bad when we need them, as during a plague, but worse when we don't.

Supposedly, eliminating all that interactive friction will free up more time for "quality" socializing. Really, though?

I mean, your commute is your commute. Is it better to make that daily trip with people to help you fuel up on the way out and wind down on the way back, or to do it in a bubble of invisibility and isolation?

And how will we do all this quality socializing when the work day is longer and more exhausting than ever? How much of that freed-up time gets spent doomscrolling before collapsing into bed?

Here-Place, Now-Moment

Devonshire Street, Boston, collage with wood, on board. One of my regular haunts.



Devonshire Street, Boston, collage with wood, on board. One of my regular haunts.

When you leave your home, how many faces do you recognize, and how many might recognize you? Do you know which dogs belong to which houses on your street? Do you have a personal map of businesses and amenities along your various routes, favorites that you use again and again?

If you needed to beg a favor, or drop out for a couple of hours, or you were being followed by a suspicious van, where would you go? What haven or check-in spaces do you have, where you are "one of us"?

That's what community is, our "us." The We of We the People. It's our extended home where we do all our regular stuff among our regular faces. We belong because we are participating members.

To be clear, I'm a hardcore introvert. I hate chatting, smiling, sparkling. I love silence and solitude. But even those who read books at ballgames are present. We recognize and are recognized. None of us has to perform a particular way to be part of the "us." We just have to show up often enough to be a regular.

The Age of Convenience is failing us. We need those passing, superficial relationships with all their frictions. We must re-humanize our ordinary, daily lives.

We do that, first, by getting out of the house, and then by de-automating all those pesky little tasks we're told are such a burden.

Turn your eyes from your phone to the person doing something for you. Order online but go to the local restaurant to pick up your meal in person. Say thank-you.

Choose your favorite businesses, services, amusements where you live, where you work, along your routes, and make a habit of stopping in rather than adding another app. Use your commons – parks, beaches, libraries, transit, etc. You part-own the damn things, after all.

Pop the bubble. Put the phone in your pocket. Be present in the here-place and now-moment. Little by little, you'll start feeling the "us" around you. You'll hear the music and languages. The dogs will learn your scent, and you'll learn your neighbors' roses and holiday decorations. You'll collect arcane, insider knowledge of all your places. You'll start thinking of your street, your shops, your station.

And before you know it, you'll be surprised by someone greeting you with, "The usual?" followed by, "Didn't see you last week."

And then you'll be a regular.

Note: The essay above contains 2,022 words which, according to western numerology, reduces to 6. The number 6 represents love, partnership, and community. In tarot, the sixth Major Arcanum is The Lovers, while the sixes of the minor suits represent various forms of shareable benefits. The 6 of Swords, an easing of burdens and difficulty. The 6 of Wands, victory and leadership. The 6 of Cups, relationships, memories, and simple joys. The 6 of Pentacles, sharing and mutual aid.

Please note also, this essay is 100% human-made by me. No AI was used in the writing or the art, all of which are my original creations. – Jen

Links:

[1] <https://dougholder.blogspot.com/>

[2] <https://www.esquire.com/food-drink/restaurants/a71839408/how-to-become-a-regular-at-a-restaurant-bar/>

[3] <https://courier.unesco.org/en/articles/third-places-true-citizen-spaces>



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