



Inside:



Bye-Bye Summer
page 3



A community's love language
page 19



Through the eyes of Denise
page 20

Somerville to foster a bond with Ukrainian city



Mayor Olga Popenko addressed the Somerville City Council via video conference on the occasion of its adoption of the City of Pryluky, Ukraine, as a sister-city.

By Harry Kane

There's a war at home and abroad, so as a method for advancing peace and progress, Somerville has just established a sister-city relationship with the City of Pryluky, located in the northern region of Ukraine, to stand in solidarity against authoritarian regimes that threaten democracy amid difficult and trying times.

A few weeks ago, At-Large City Councilor Wilfred N. Mbah was in Washington, D.C., at a leadership conference, where he interacted with Ukrainians from the Chernihiv region. This inspired his idea to sponsor a resolution to establish a bond with the Ukrainian city, which was presented during the latest Somerville City Council meeting on August 28.

Continued on page 4

Somerville Rock + Roll Yard Sale to rock Union Square

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and The Somerville Arts Council are pleased to announce the return of the Rock + Roll Yard Sale to Union Square Plaza on Sunday, September 7, from 12 to 5 p.m. (rain date: Sunday, September 14). Now in its 18th year in Somerville, this long-running event celebrates creativity, community, and the city's do-it-yourself spirit.

The Rock + Roll Yard sale's creativity, community, and support for local artists and small businesses is a perfect example of what makes Somerville unique," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

Presented in partnership with Chris and Jennifer Daltry of What Cheer Records, the Rock + Roll Yard Sale will feature a wide range of roughly 50 local vendors offering vinyl records, vintage clothing, handmade goods, art, and more. Shoppers can expect an eclectic mix of collectibles

Continued on page 2



The Rock + Roll Yard Sale returns to Union Square Plaza this coming Sunday.

THE 14TH ANUAL

FOODIE CRAWL

EVERY BITE TELLS A STORY

A FUNDRAISER FOR
EAST SOMERVILLE MAIN STREETS

September 9, 2025 5:30 - 8:30 PM

www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/foodiecrawl

Bay State Skating School

LEARN TO SKATE CLASSES for
Recreational • Figure • Hockey Skating Skills

As featured on Chronicle

Over 50 Years Experience
Children (4-18 years)

Boston Parents Family Favorite 2023

The safety of our customers and staff is our #1 priority!
Cambridge, Brookline, Cleveland Circle, Medford,
Newton-Brighton, Quincy, Somerville,
Waltham, West Roxbury, Weymouth

781-890-8480 • www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org

T.J. SILLARI, INC.

Over 50 Years Experience

Plumbing • Heating • Gas Fitting • Industrial Work • Water Heater Replacement • Complete Drain Service

Residential - Industrial - Commercial

625-9877

Proud to be a Somerville resident

Master Plmb. Lic. #6106



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.

Join the Somerville Museum for a Tavern Talk with Dan Breen: *The March from Prospect Hill to Quebec: America Invades Canada, 1775.* Wednesday, September 3, 7 – 8 p.m., at Aeronaut Brewery, 14 Tyler Street. “250 years ago this September, Benedict Arnold led a thousand members of Washington’s army to the north, away from the lines around Boston, in an attempt to drive the British out of Quebec. On the way, they battled trackless bogs, debilitating hunger, bone-chilling cold, and the ravages of disease – and that was the easy part! Join us as we relate the story of this, the first, and in some ways the most remarkable, military expedition in United States history.”

Ward 3 voters, save the date. Thursday, September 4, 7 p.m. at the Somerville High School. The Ward 3 Democratic Committee will host the Ward 3 School Committee Candidates Forum featuring three exciting candidates who want to represent Ward 3 on the Somerville School Committee. All members of the community are invited. The forum offers an opportunity to hear from the candidates about K-12 education, early childhood programs, special education, and the future of Somerville schools in our rapidly changing community. Neighbors are invited to submit questions or topic ideas to ward3dems.somerville@gmail.com. At the primary on Tuesday, September 16, the top two vote getters will advance to the final election in November, so this is your chance to hear directly from the candidates and to make an *Continued on page 13*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of September 3 – September 9 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday September 3	Sunny	77°/56°	8%	4%	E 10 mph
Thursday September 4	Sunny	79°/62°	7%	2%	S 12 mph
Friday September 5	Rain	80°/68°	31%	19%	S 16 mph
Saturday September 6	Partly Cloudy	83°/58°	25%	12%	SW 12 mph
Sunday September 7	Partly Cloudy	73°/55°	20%	9%	NW 9 mph
Monday September 8	Sunny	73°/51°	9%	4%	NW 10 mph
Tuesday September 9	Sunny	71°/52°	3%	1%	E 9 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: *Hot wheels in the Ville*

Steve says:

I graduated the same year as your sister, Jimmy, and I never heard anyone from Somerville call it “the Ville” or any of us “Villens”. Guess it must have been a West Somerville thing.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138

@somervilletimes

www.facebook.com/thesomervilletimes

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

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

A proud member of the following newspaper organizations:



© 2025 The Somerville Times except where noted. All rights reserved.

Somerville Rock + Roll Yard Sale to rock Union Square

CONT. FROM PG 1

and creations from independent artists, collectors, and makers.

“Bringing our event to Somerville is something we look forward to every year,” said Chris and Jennifer Daltry, founders of What Cheer Records. “It means the world to us to see this city continue to grow while still embracing this funky event. Whether you’re looking for music, vintage, or handmade items, you’ll find something here.”

For updates, follow @rockandrollyardsale and @somervilleartscouncil on Instagram, or visit somervilleartscouncil.org/events/rock-and-roll-yard-sale.

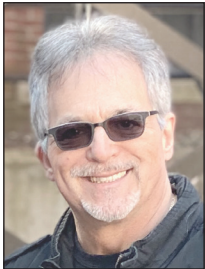


Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

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

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

Bye-Bye Summer



Now that another summer is in the rear view mirror the kids are back in school and the leaves are falling. Summer went by fast! I asked this question: What was your favorite summer past time growing up in Somerville?

“We had about 25 kids lived in my street. We’d play Relievo, Buck Buck, Dilboy pool, Woodstock Park leaders, and I used to jump around on my pogo stick.”

“On Heath Street and Langmaid Ave. neighborhood, we played hide and go seek every summer ... for years. Both the kids my age, the ones 2-3 years older and the ones 2-3 years younger, probably about 15 of us. This went on for years, 1970-77. Great memories. We even hid on the roof

of Belotti Olds - LOL.”

“I used to like to go to Palamacci Playground when they used to be open. Run by Somerville Recreation. They used to have activities, playday and contests. It was fun. I also liked playing games in the street with the whole neighborhood kids on summer nights. We played four corners, statute, red rover and hide and seek! We had a great time!”

“Going to Albion Park, playing dodgeball and jackstones. So excited to see who our park leaders were and we always had good ones, that I remember.”

“Woodstock playground, the trip to Paragon Park. Then moving up to Dilboy to play park baseball. I have to say as proud as I am to be a combat veteran, I’m even prouder to have lived and be from Somerville. God Bless Somerville. Now that’s my home sweet home. Just to have had Mrs. De Naro in my life was a major



plus of growing up.”

My summers of times gone by involved

making go carts, riding bikes and playing in the street. Ah, the good old days.

DAVIS SQUARE VILLAGE
COMMUNITY EVENT
 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
 Rain Date : Sept 14
 SEVEN HILLS PARK, DAVIS SQUARE

11AM-5PM • LIVE MUSIC FROM 11:45-4:30
 Grain Thief • Irish Moss • Amy Plays Uke • Talking Hearts • Hot Garbage
 (Deadgrass) (Irish Reggae) (Kid's Show) (Classic Country) (Rock)

A FREE celebration of community and the thriving culture of Davis Square with local makers, artists, businesses, farmers, and creatives featuring live music, family activities, a kid's zone, and more!

Schedule & more info at:
davissquarevillage.com

A FUNDRAISER FOR EAST SOMERVILLE MAIN STREETS

THE 14TH ANNUAL **FOODIE CRAWL**

EVERY BITE TELLS A STORY

September 9, 2025
 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Live Music

A benefit for East Somerville Main Streets

Tickets & Information www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/foodiecrawl

Rain Date: Wednesday September 10
 Sister's Caribbean, Michette, La Brasa, Los Paisanos, Lotus Xpress, Rei Da Picanha, Rincón Mexicano, El Jalisco, Vinny's... and more!

Somerville Police Dept Crime Log August 19-25

Assault

25051033: On 8/20/25 at approximately 4:44 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Mystic Ave. for report of juveniles comin

Assault

25050849: On 8/19/25 at approximately 8:44 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Broadway for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated while walking on Alewife Brook Pkwy, he was approached by a male party who punched him in the face.

Assault

25051954: On 8/24/25 at approximately 11:46 a.m., Somerville Police were flagged down on Allen St. The reporting party stated his son was playing in the park next to the community garden and was sprayed with a hose by a female party.

Assault

25051684: On 8/23/25 at approximately 2:28 a.m., Somerville Police responded to Davis Sq. for a past assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a female assaulted him with a brick.

Assault

25051531: On 8/22/25 at approximately 2:55 p.m. Somerville Police responded to College Ave. for a past assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was walking on the sidewalk and saw a bike blocking the way. When he moved the bike, a juvenile male began to attack him. The victim suffered injuries to his lip.

Arrest

25051891: On 8/22/25 at approximately 2:58 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Bow St. for a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers observed two male parties inside. One of the males was then placed under arrest.

Other Crimes: 2 MV vandalisms + 8 Car breaks + 3 Package thefts + 5 Bike thefts + 1 Motorcycle theft

— Somerville Police Department



Somerville to foster a bond with Ukrainian city

CONT. FROM PG 1

“We are committed to fostering cultural exchange, mutual understanding, and international friendship,” said City Councilor Wilfred N. Mbah.

Councilor Mbah explained that the City of Pryluky shares similar values to Somerville, like community resilience, innovation, and civic pride. As a welcoming and globally-connected city, the Ballantyne Administration and the Somerville City Council believe creating a sister-city relationship with Pryluky will help foster opportunities for educational and economic exchange and reaffirm the values of solidarity and cooperation on a global scale.

“Establishing a sister-city relationship with Pryluky will allow Somerville to stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people, provide opportunities for cultural and educational exchange, and strengthen Somerville’s commitment to democracy, peace, and global cooperation,” said Councilor Mbah.

Pryluky’s mayor, Olga Popenko, connected by video conference during the City Council meeting on August 28.

“We are fighting for our very right to exist as a free, democratic state,” said Mayor Popenko. “In this struggle, we are becoming increasingly aware of how important it is to have friends and partners

in the world.”

The people of Pryluky want the residents of Somerville to know that they see potential in a partnership, explained the mayor of Pryluky. In the speech, she outlined several areas of mutual exchange that could form the basis of cooperation, including international education efforts, cultural and art projects, business development, and humanitarian efforts.

“Most of us cannot fathom what you and your community have faced during this relentless war,” said Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne in a speech she delivered at the City Council meeting to the Popenko Administration. “I have no doubt that this partnership will strengthen our shared commitment to lasting and just peace for all.”

Uniting with like-minded communities on an international stage against authoritarian regimes that threaten democracies is a step forward to safeguard the freedoms of our future.

“Our city looks forward to our future as your sister-city,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “Both as an opportunity to liberate our communities and cultures, as well as bolster our roles as a place of peace and progress.”

Several City Councilors made statements following the interchange between



At-Large City Councilor Wilfred N. Mbah, sponsor of the resolution.

Mayor Popenko and Mayor Ballantyne.

“I think all of us know that it can feel like we have no power to influence international events, but I very firmly believe that actions like this can have a really meaningful effect,” said Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen.

At-Large City Councilor Willie Burnley, Jr. started out by speaking directly to the people of Ukraine. “When we walk around Somerville, we see your flags. We see them on homes, we see them in cafés,

we see them painted on fences, because the people of Somerville are the world. We have people from all over this beautiful world of ours that are connected to your community and many others.”

By connecting the two cultures, Councilor Burnley Jr. says both communities will be strengthened.

“Somerville, again, leads the way confronting issues, whether big or small, local or statewide, or international,” said Councilor Burnley, Jr.

City Councilors award inspector with citation

By The Times Staff

Stephanie Estrela, senior code enforcement inspector from the Inspectional Services Department (ISD), was commended with a citation at the City Council meeting on August 28, for her leadership and support during the triple-decker house fire on Wheatland Street that displaced 27 residents.

On Sunday, July 6, the Somerville Fire Department responded to a blaze at a 3-story residence located at 81 Wheatland St., which spread to the adjacent property. Councilor Clingan explained that there was an urgent need for coordination as on-lookers were gathering in the street while the building was burning.

“At that critical moment, Health Inspector Estrela arrived on the scene and quickly took charge,” said Councilor Clingan. “She

organized residents away from the danger zone and out of the intense sun, gathering them under a nearby tree while firefighters continued operations.”

Estrela accounted for all the displaced residents despite language barriers and worked swiftly to collect information about the victims amid the chaotic scene.

“Inspector Estrela’s communication remained clear, professional, and effective,” said Councilor Clingan. “Her actions provided vital support for both residents and emergency personnel, ensuring that victims received assistance in a timely and organized manner. Inspector Estrela’s leadership and professionalism exemplifies the City of Somerville’s commitment to public safety and community well-being.”

Estrela has been serving the City of Somerville for 16 years in various positions, explained Mayor *Continued on page 9*



Inspectional Services Department inspector Stephanie Estrela receiving a citation from the Somerville City Council.

YOU BELONG AT RCC



Visit rcc.mass.edu/register or call 857-701-1200 to get started.



COMMENTARY

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

Candidate Questionnaire 2025, Somerville Fair Housing – Part 3

Fair Housing means no discrimination! Candidates for Mayor and City Council had the chance to present their views on non-discrimination in housing by answering a questionnaire from the Somerville Fair Housing Commission, a nonpartisan group of volunteers. We are sharing all the answers we received. The Commission hopes you, the voters, will use the candidates' answers as you decide how to vote in the September 16 primary and the November general election.

Answers from challengers are below; answers from the first 3 of 6 questions to challengers were published in last week's edition of *The Somerville Times*.

Challengers

Two of the last 3 of 6 questions for candidates who have not been elected before are: *Question 4: What do you see as the link between affordability and Fair Housing in Somerville?*

Question 5: What steps would you take to continue to support fair housing in light of the Trump administration's weakening of HUD and attack on Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rules?

Here are all the answers we received from challengers running for an open seat:

Question 4: What do you see as the link between affordability and Fair Housing in Somerville?

Jason Mackey, City Council candidate, Ward 5:

Affordability and Fair Housing are inseparable. When housing becomes unaffordable, it's not just a market failure, it's a civil rights issue. As interim, Chair of the Somerville Human Rights Commission, I've seen how the rising cost of housing disproportionately harms communities already facing systemic barriers, Black and Brown residents, immigrants, people with disabilities, and working, class families. These are the very people Fair Housing laws are designed to protect. But when rent becomes unattainable, it doesn't matter what the law says, displacement wins. As a renter myself, I've felt the pressure. I know what it's like to navigate a competitive market, to worry about rising rents, and to wonder if you're being quietly screened out because of who you are or

how you pay. Housing bias may be illegal, but economic exclusion is still legal, and it's happening all around us.

That's why I believe we must build more housing at every level, deeply affordable, workforce, and market, rate. The solution to our housing crisis isn't one type of home or one income bracket, it's a comprehensive strategy that increases supply, protects tenants, and keeps our neighborhoods accessible to the people who make our city work.

And this isn't just a Somerville problem. We need regional solutions. Boston, Cambridge, Medford, and other neighbors must work with us to create a more equitable and affordable metro area. No one city can solve this alone, but Somerville can and must lead by example.

Fairness in housing means access. And access doesn't exist without affordability.

Emily Hardt, City Council candidate, Ward 7:

Affordability and Fair Housing are closely connected. Because housing options are so constrained in Somerville, landlords have the upper hand when it comes to determining rents AND determining who to rent to. The impact of both of these together means that our housing market is very unjust, with profound inequities based on race and class. In Somerville, because the supply of reasonably affordable housing is so limited, landlords receive many more applications than they need. This makes it hard to demonstrate that discrimination has occurred in an individual case because they can plausibly deny that their decision was motivated by discrimination.

Housing affordability and Fair Housing are also connected in that the work that promotes one often promotes the other. Organizations such as the Somerville Community Land Trust, and other programs to develop affordable housing options, benefit not only affordability but also fairness in housing. I believe that Somerville should continue and increase efforts to further both goals.

Michael Murray, City Council candidate, Ward 7:

We clearly need more affordable housing. Marginalized communities are also

marginalized in the economy, so affordable housing is central toward maintaining a vibrant and diverse Somerville.

Justin Klekota, City Council candidate, At Large:

Discrimination based on source of income (e.g. Section 8) and other protected classes listed above is contrary to our law and our values as a community as it pertains to housing affordability and the cause of justice. Our housing stock should include affordable units and fair practices that make them accessible regardless of source of income and other protected classes.

Marianne Walles, City Council candidate, At Large:

Safe, inclusive, and affordable housing can help ensure Fair Housing by providing opportunities that are not covered under Fair Housing Laws.

Ari Iaccarino, City Council candidate, At Large:

Everything. Until there's enough housing volume, scarcity will be used against home buyers and renters to ask for the highest prices possible with the least amount of friction: it's basic business that's even been built into algorithms. Got kids? Risky. No kids? Better. Etc.. Discriminatory business calculations are in the interest of making as much capital as possible.

That's where a strong Somerville could come in. Housing investments do not exist in a vacuum – they're shaped by zoning, tax policy, and tenant protections. If city councilors and the mayor push for building more housing with priority for existing residents along with tenant protection programs that reduce displacement, then equity will follow, raising up both protected classes and everyone else.

Somerville should be using its leverage as an important city in proximity to Boston to develop more housing while reducing legal and structural financial discrimination.

Banning flippers, investors, and private equity from purchasing single and multi-family homes without any actual dedication to density increases is paramount to making this work.

Scott Istvan, City Council candidate, At Large:

Housing affordability is a cornerstone of

fair housing - we need to make sure people of all income levels can comfortably live in our city. The fact that housing is often viewed as a commodity means income discrimination is completely accepted in housing, so it's important we work to create and maintain affordable housing.

Holly Simone, City Council candidate, At Large:

Ensuring compliance with Fair Housing makes housing affordable for all. It prohibits discrimination in housing and requires a fair and open process to ensure equity for all.

Ben Wheeler, City Council candidate, At Large:

Fair Housing protections don't mean much if housing is out of reach. Many of the groups most in need of protection by Fair Housing laws – immigrants, seniors, people with disabilities – are also disproportionately affected by high housing costs. When rents rise faster than wages, discrimination gets compounded: fewer available options leave renters at the mercy of biased gatekeepers. Expanding affordable housing – through inclusionary zoning, Somerville's investments in programs and organizations such as its Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Somerville Community Corporation, Community Action Agency of Somerville, and Community Land Trust, municipal vouchers, and non-profit development—directly supports Fair Housing by ensuring people from all backgrounds can actually stay in Somerville. Affordability isn't separate from Fair Housing—it's a foundation for it.

Jon Link, City Council candidate, At Large:

Affordability and Fair Housing are strongly linked. If people can't afford to live here, they're effectively excluded. I mentioned some of this earlier, but it's harder and harder for working-class households and families to keep roots in Somerville. The housing market we have today reproduces segregation and inequality, even without obvious discrimination.

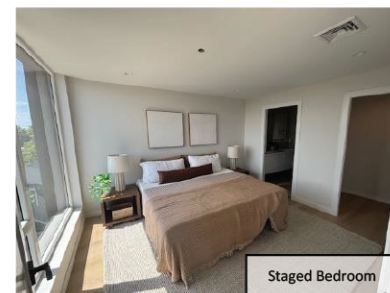
To advance Fair Housing, we have to continue to add truly affordable housing. That means investing in public housing, continued funding and support of our community land trust, *Continued on page 16*



Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is pleased to announce:
Three (3) Income-Restricted Condos Available for Sale at 125 Lowell St.

Unit Information

- Unit 4A** is a 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom unit with a sales price of **\$245,433**, estimated condo fee of \$217 and minimum downpayment of \$7,363.
- Unit 2D** is a 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom unit with a sales price of **\$299,622**, estimated condo fee of \$399 and minimum downpayment of \$8,989.
- Unit 1A** is a 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom unit with a sales price of **\$354,286**, estimated condo fee of \$301 and minimum downpayment of \$10,629.



Open house dates

Wednesday, August 27 from 5 PM to 7 PM
Sunday, September 14 from 11 AM to 1 PM

Who can apply?

There is a minimum of 1 person per bedroom (only households of 2 or more can apply for a 2-bed).*

You can apply if all adults in your household earn up to:

Income Limits	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people
80% AMI** (Unit 4A)	\$92,650	\$105,850	\$119,100	\$132,300	\$142,900
110% AMI (Units 1A & 2D)	\$92,651- \$127,358	\$105,851- \$145,552	\$119,101- \$163,746	\$132,301- \$181,940	\$142,901- \$196,495

*Exemptions and restrictions may apply. All the information you need is in the application packet.

**There is no program minimum income for 80% AMI units.

How to apply:

Download the application online at somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing

To request a paper application
 Call: (617) 625-6600 X 2566
 Email: inclusionary@somervillema.gov

Pick up a paper application at any city building

Return applications by:

- Email: inclusionary@somervillema.gov
- Fax: 617-591-3235
- Mail or drop off: City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Ave., Somerville, MA 02145

The last day to apply is September 22, 2025 by 12PM.

When is the lottery?

There will be a lottery to decide who has the first opportunity to qualify to purchase this unit on **September 30, 2025 at 11 AM on Zoom**. View the lottery here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87047009940>

Do you have questions about a property or the income-restricted housing program?

We can answer your questions during our weekly office hours:

Every Thursday from 5:30-7:30 pm on Zoom

Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81106664399>

Call in: +1 (305) 224-1968
 Access code: 811-0666-4399

These units are available to income eligible, first-time homebuyers through the City of Somerville's Inclusionary Housing Program.

The City of Somerville can provide you with an interpreter in your language for free. To request an interpreter, please contact us at somerviva@somervillema.gov or call 311 (617-666-3311) at least 7 days in advance of this event.



Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact the ADA Coordinator, Adrienne Pomeroy, at 617-625-6600 x2259 or apomeroy@somervillema.gov.



Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com
Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

Missing Somerville Juvenile: Kylee ALMEIDA/LEBLANC

Kylee ALMEIDA/LEBLANC, 12, has been missing since the morning of August 29, 2025. Last known location, Somerville MA. Lylee was last seen wearing white tank shirt, green and black camouflage flare jeans, black backpack, and a purse. Possible destination is Cambridge.

If Kylee is found, please contact the Somerville Police Department at 617-615-1212.



OBITUARY

Patricia (Carlow) LaFauci



Patricia (Carlow) LaFauci, 83 years old and a lifetime resident of Somerville, died May 4, 2025. A private service is planned for family.

City Councilors award inspector with citation

CONT. FROM PG 5

Katjana Ballantyne. "It's extremely important that city staff get to be recognized for the skills and hard work that they bring to the roles every day. And I'm glad to see that Stephanie is getting recognized."

An excerpt from the citation reads: "Stephanie's proactive leadership prioritized safety and well-being and provided critical support to both residents and emergency personnel."

Estrela accepted the citation and thanked Mayor Ballantyne and the City Councilors.

"When there are fires and there are emergencies, it is critical for ISD Health to be on scene," Estrela said. "We at ISD Health are looking forward to helping any residents who are in need of assistance."

LEGAL NOTICE

CITY PRELIMINARY ELECTION CITY OF SOMERVILLE



OFFICE OF BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

Ordered:

In City Council

The Board of Elections Commissioners is hereby directed to cause notice to be given in the manner prescribed by law that meetings of the qualified voters of this city will be held in the several polling places which have been designated by said Council for or within the voting precincts in which they respectively are qualified to vote, said polling places are located as follows, namely for;

WARD ONE

- Precinct 1. A room in the MICHAEL E CAPUANO SCHOOL, 150 Glen Street;
- Precinct 2. A room in the MICHAEL E CAPUANO SCHOOL, 150 Glen Street;
- Precinct 3. A room in the EAST SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, Glen Street Entrance directly across from 68 Glen Street;
- Precinct 4. A room in the EAST SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, Glen Street Entrance directly across from 68 Glen Street;
- Precinct 4A. A room in the EAST SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, Glen Street Entrance directly across from 68 Glen Street;

WARD TWO

- Precinct 1. A room in the THE POLICE STATION, 220 Washington Street;
- Precinct 1A. A room in the THE POLICE STATION, 220 Washington Street;
- Precinct 2. A room in the ARGENZIANO SCHOOL at Lincoln Park, 290 Washington Street;
- Precinct 3. A room in the ARGENZIANO SCHOOL at Lincoln Park, 290 Washington Street;
- Precinct 4. A room in the ARGENZIANO SCHOOL at Lincoln Park, 290 Washington Street;

WARD THREE

- Precinct 1. A room PROPERZI MANOR, 13-25 Warren Avenue;
- Precinct 2. A room in the CUMMINGS SCHOOL, 42 Prescott Street;
- Precinct 3. Gym at ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH; 179 Summer St;
- Precinct 4. Gym at ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH; 179 Summer St;

WARD FOUR

- Precinct 1. A room in the MYSTIC ACTIVITY CENTER, 530 Mystic Avenue;
- Precinct 2. A room in the PEARL ST PARK BUILDING, 240 Pearl Street;
- Precinct 2A. A room in the PEARL ST PARK BUILDING, 240 Pearl Street;
- Precinct 3. A room in the BRAZILIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 212 School Street;
- Precinct 4. A room in the HEALEY SCHOOL, 5 Meacham Street;

WARD FIVE

- Precinct 1. A room in the ARMORY, 191 Highland Avenue;
- Precinct 2. A room in the ARMORY, 191 Highland Avenue;
- Precinct 3. Gym in the JOHN F KENNEDY SCHOOL, Sartwell Avenue Entrance directly across from 19 Sartwell Avenue;
- Precinct 4. Gym in the JOHN F KENNEDY SCHOOL, Sartwell Avenue Entrance directly across from 19 Sartwell Avenue;

WARD SIX

- Precinct 1. A room in the GEORGE DILBOY POST, 351 Summer St;
- Precinct 2. A room in the SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, 31 College Avenue;
- Precinct 3. A room in the WEST BRANCH LIBRARY, 40 College Avenue;
- Precinct 3A. A room in the WEST BRANCH LIBRARY, 40 College Avenue;
- Precinct 4. A room in the GEORGE DILBOY POST, 351 Summer St;

WARD SEVEN

- Precinct 1. A room in the SENIOR CENTER, TAB BUILDING, 167 Holland Street;
- Precinct 2. A room in the WEST SOMERVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL, Raymond Ave Entrance-Directly across from 17 Raymond Ave;
- Precinct 3. A room in the VNA ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY, 405 Alewife Brook Parkway;
- Precinct 4. A room in the WEST SOMERVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL, Raymond Ave Entrance-Directly across from 17 Raymond Ave;

ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

AT SEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, when the polls shall open and there and then between that time and the closing of the polls, which shall be at EIGHT O'CLOCK in the evening, the said qualified voters will give their ballots for:

A Mayor, Eight Councilors-at-Large in all wards and the said qualified voters of Ward Seven for a Candidate for Councilor and Ward Three for a candidate for School Committee who shall be a qualified voters of the ward in which elected, all for the term of two years.

Nicholas P. Salerno, Chairman
Austin Brower
Kelly J. Cooper
BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

The City of Somerville does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, national origin, sexual preference, disability, or any other protected category in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities. Auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, reasonable modifications in policies and procedures will be provided to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

9/3/25 The Somerville Times

LEGAL NOTICES

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

BID ADVERTISEMENT

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites e-bids from DCAMM Certified Roofing Contractors for the Partial Roofing Replacement at the (200-2) Mystic River Apartments Development, 15, 35 & 45 Memorial Road in Somerville, Massachusetts, 02145, in accordance with the documents prepared by SOCOTEC AE Consulting Inc. of Boston, Massachusetts.

The Project consists of: The replacement of existing low-sloped built-up roofing with a new modified bitumen roofing system over the existing precast concrete modular additions at designated buildings and locations.

The work is estimated to cost **\$293,412 including Alternates.**

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive.

General bidders must be certified by DCAMM pursuant to M.G.L.c. 149 Section 44D. The General Bidder must be certified eligible in the DCAMM Prime/General category in **ROOFING**.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents are available online after **Wednesday, August 27, 2025, after 2:00 PM** at www.Projectdog.com. Enter Project Code **870481** in the project locator box and select "Acquire Documents" to download documents. All plan holders must have an active online account on www.Projectdog.com to acquire documents and to receive project notifications.

Addenda, if issued, will be posted to the Projectdog website and shall be accompanied by e-mail notification to every individual or firm on record as having received the Contract Documents.

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be submitted online at www.Projectdog.com. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. Tutorials and Instructions are available online at www.Projectdog.com. For assistance, contact Projectdog Inc. at 978.499.9014.

General Bids for this project will be accepted from eligible bidders until **Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 2:00 PM** and will be publicly opened, forthwith online.

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

Supplier Diversity Office (SDO), formerly known as SOMWBA. The combined participation benchmark reserved for such enterprises shall not be less than 13% of the final contract price including accepted alternates. **Request for waivers must be sent to FOHLC (david.mcclave@mass.gov) 5 calendar days prior to the General Bid date. NO WAIVERS WILL BE GRANTED AFTER THE GENERAL BIDS ARE OPENED.**

The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Labor and Material (Payment) Bond each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract sum. Bonds shall be obtained from a surety licensed to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the form shall be satisfactory to the Somerville Housing Authority. The cost of such bonds shall be included in the bid price.

Attention is directed to the Department of Labor Standards (DLS), a copy of which is included in the Contract Documents, and will be made a part of the Contract. The Awarding Authority is exempt from sales and federal excise tax to the extent permitted under law. Bidders should not include such taxes in figuring or in references to any bid.

Bidding procedures and award of the Contract and Subcontracts shall be in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 149, Sections 44A through 44J inclusive, of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including all current amendments; and the guidelines established by the Deputy Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Capital Assets Management (DCAMM), dated June 30, 1981.

The Awarding Authority reserves the right to waive any irregularities in or to reject any and all bids, if it be in the public interest to do so, and to act upon the bids and make its award in any lawful manner.

All questions and requests for interpretations must be submitted in writing via e-mail to parul.belsare@socotec.us by the General Bidders until **Wednesday, September 10, 2025 until 2:00PM**

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT:

Date and Time: **Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 10:00 AM**

Address: 30 Memorial Road Somerville, MA 02145.
Meet at the main entrance of the Administration Building.

Attendance at this pre-bid conference is strongly recommended for parties submitting a bid

Brian Langton
Somerville Housing Authority

8/27/25, 9/3/25 The Somerville Times



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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, September 16, 2025** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to historic@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_WW0ngbETRTq2fw86LtBAMQ
Webinar ID: 889 5069 9459

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HP25-000056 - 10 Sargent Avenue

Applicant: Law Office of Michael LaRosa
Owner: Patrick and Kayla Canty

The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

8/27/25, 9/3/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #26-03

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

Green Stormwater Infrastructure Maintenance

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **9/3/2025**. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **9/18/2025 by 3PM EST**. 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. Massachusetts Prevailing Wages apply.

Logan Carroll
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3407

9/3/25 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
30 Memorial Road
Somerville, Massachusetts 02145
Telephone (617) 625-1152 Fax (617) 628-7057
TDD (617) 628-8889

ADVERTISEMENT

REQUEST FOR DESIGN SERVICES (RFS)

SHA Job 2514

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed proposals from registered Engineering firms to provide professional design and construction administration services to replace the 13 existing rooftop exhaust fans at our Weston Manor development located in Somerville, MA 02144. The replacement will include evaluation and design of a new rooftop exhaust fan system sized for Weston Manor, 8 story elderly housing development.

A briefing and site inspection is scheduled for **10:00 AM on Thursday, September 18th, 2025**, at the Weston Manor elderly facility located at 15 Weston Ave, Somerville, MA 02144.

Response to this RFS must be submitted no later than **1:00 Thursday, September 25th, 2025**.

The RFS may be obtained after **8:00AM on Wednesday, August 27th, 2025**, by contacting ryanc@sha-web.org or by phone at 617-625-1152 Ext.331.

Questions must be sent in writing to ryanc@sha-web.org no later than **Friday, September 19th, 2025**.

8/27/25, 9/3/25 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
30 Memorial Road
Somerville, Massachusetts 02145
Telephone (617) 625-1152 Fax (617) 628-7057
TDD (617) 628-8889

ADVERTISEMENT

REQUEST FOR DESIGN SERVICES (RFS)

SHA Job 2513

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed proposals from registered Engineering firms to provide professional design and construction administration services to replace one of the existing elevators at our Highland Garden development located in Somerville, MA 02143. The replacement will include evaluation and design of a new elevator sized for Highland Garden, 7 story elderly housing development.

A briefing and site inspection is scheduled for **10:00 AM on Wednesday, September 17th, 2025**, at the Highland Garden elderly facility located at 114 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02143.

Response to this RFS must be submitted no later than **1:00 Wednesday, September 24th, 2025**.

The RFS may be obtained after **8:00AM on Wednesday, August 27th, 2025**, by contacting ryanc@sha-web.org or by phone at 617-625-1152 Ext.331.

Questions must be sent in writing to ryanc@sha-web.org no later than **Friday, September 19th, 2025**.

8/27/25, 9/3/25 The Somerville Times



Advertisement

The Somerville Housing Authority is seeking competitive sealed Request for Proposal (RFP) for "As Needed" Housing Inspection Services, **SHA Job No. P-INSPECT92025** in accordance with the specifications prepared by the SHA Purchasing Department.

The Term is for Three (3) years.

Documents will be posted at **11:00 A.M., September 3, 2025**.

Responses will be received until **11:00 A.M., September 22, 2025**.

The work is estimated to cost **\$252,000.00** for 3 years.

RFP Documents will be available for download on SHA's Web site, www.sha-web.org, under About us, Bid opportunities tab at **11:00 a.m., September 3, 2025**.

If bidding, you must contact Anthony Crespo by email at Tonyc@sha-web.org and register/leave contact information including an email. You will receive a reply that your email has been received. Proposers are responsible for ensuring that their email and bids are received. Addendum's will be posted on the website and shall be the bidder's responsibility to include in bid.

9/3/25 The Somerville Times

LEGAL NOTICES

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



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on **Tuesday, September 16, 2025**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of Entertainment by Performers Indoor License for New England Neapolitan Assembly Row LLC d/b/a Salt & Stone at 463 Assembly Row.

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_yrRAwzYGRXqhdKEvq6YsQ

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

9/3/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on **Tuesday, September 16, 2025**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices Indoor License for Juice Joint LLC d/b/a Tropical Smoothie Cafe at 22 McGrath Highway.

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_yrRAwzYGRXqhdKEvq6YsQ

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

9/3/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on **Tuesday, September 16, 2025**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices Indoor License for Leone's Donut Shop, Inc. d/b/a Dunkin Donuts at 74 Middlesex Ave.

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_yrRAwzYGRXqhdKEvq6YsQ

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

9/3/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on **Tuesday, September 16, 2025**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of All Forms Alcohol and Common Victualer License for JSP Restaurant Inc d/b/a Edamame Spicy at 499 Broadway.

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_yrRAwzYGRXqhdKEvq6YsQ

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

9/3/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on **Tuesday, September 16, 2025**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of Alteration of Premises for Jaswant Nathji Corp d/b/a Jerry's Liquors at 329 Somerville Avenue.

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_yrRAwzYGRXqhdKEvq6YsQ

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

9/3/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on **Tuesday, September 16, 2025**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices Indoor License for Beni Inc d/b/a Mint Indian Eatery at 86B Broadway.

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_yrRAwzYGRXqhdKEvq6YsQ

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

9/3/25 The Somerville Times

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

informed decision. The forum is cosponsored by the Somerville Democratic City Committee.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: 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. 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 **Len Glionna**, **Dennis Kacoyanis**, **Nick Stavre**, **Guillermo Hamlin**, **Billy Harrison**, **Paul Mercier**, **Judith Medeiros**, **Sabrina Faria**

Caprigno, and **Joe Fothergill**, 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.

A **Somerville Town Hall on Libraries and Schools** will be held on **September 5, 6:30 – 8 p.m.** at the **East Somerville Community School**, 50 Cross Street. Join in for a discussion with the mayoral candidates about education issues, co-hosted by the **Somerville Public Library Foundation**, **Friends of the Somerville Public Library**, and the **Somerville Council of PTAs**. 6:30 p.m. Doors open for free

pizza and free books in the cafeteria, 7 - 8 p.m. The three candidates for Somerville mayor will discuss libraries and schools. Questions for the candidates will be sourced from you, the community, ahead of time.

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, September 9**. The **Foodie Crawl** is back. This one-of-a-kind tasting tour transforms Broadway into a global dining experience, where every bite tells a story of culture, tradition, and community. From Brazilian barbecue and Haitian stews to Colombian arepas, French pastries, Italian specialties, Mexican tacos, Sal-

vadoran pupusas, and more, the Foodie Crawl is your passport to East Somerville's rich and vibrant culinary scene, all in a single evening. The Foodie Crawl is East Somerville Main Streets' largest annual fundraiser, and every ticket sold directly supports our mission to promote a vibrant and diverse commercial district in East Somerville. Food will be served from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Purchase tickets: www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/foodiecrawl. Pre-sale tickets only; no tickets will be sold at the event.

To mark the 24th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, **Mayor Katjana** *Continued on page 21*

CLASSIFIEDS

Place your classified ad today – only \$1 per word! E-mail: ads@thesomervilletimes.com

AUTOS/MISC

Donate Your Car to Veterans Today! Help and Support our Veterans. Fast - FREE pick up. 100% tax deductible. Call 800-245-0398

MISCELLANEOUS

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

Reach millions of homes nationwide with one easy, affordable buy in the ADS Network! For more information www.communitypublishers.com/category/all-products

SunSetter. America's #1 awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and save \$350! 855-914-1148

We buy houses for cash as is! No repairs or fuss. Any condition. Easy 3-step process: Call, get cash offer, get paid. Get your fair cash offer today. Liz Buys Houses: 844-877-5833

Portable oxygen concentrator may be covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence & mobility w/the compact design & long-lasting battery. Inogen One free info kit! 877-305-1535

Consumer Cellular - same reliable, nationwide coverage as large carriers. No long-term contract or hidden fees, free activation. All plans unlimited talk & text starting at just \$20/mo. 877-751-0866

Become a published author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing trusted since 1920. Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Free author's guide 877-729-4998 or dorranceinfo.com/ads

No cleaning gutters guaranteed! LeafFilter - most ad-vanced gutter protection, backed by a no-clog guaran-tee & lifetime warranty. 833-610-1936 schedule free inspection & estimate. Get 75% off install & \$250 bonus discount! Limited time. Restrictions apply, see rep for warranty & details.

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

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

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. AmeriGlide 833-399-3595

Home break-ins take less than 60 seconds. Don't wait! Protect your family, home, assets now for as

little as 70¢/day! 833-890-1262

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as 1-day. Limited time, waving all installation costs! Additional terms apply. Subject to change & vary by dealer. Ends 9/30/25. 844-501-3208

Pest control: Protect your home from pests safely. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders & more. Locally owned & affordable. For service or inspection today! 833-860-0657 Have zip code ready!

MobileHelp America's premier mobile medical alert system. Home or away. For safety & peace of mind. No long term contracts, free brochure! 888-489-3936

Aging roof? New homeowner? Storm damage? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. 833-640-4753 Have zip code ready when calling!

Water damage cleanup & restoration: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do repairs to protect your family & home value! 833-887-0117. Have zip code ready!

Professional lawn service: Fertilization, weed control, seeding, aeration & mosquito control. Free quote. Ask about first application special! 833-860-0811

DIRECTV Stream - Carries the most local MLB games! Choice Pkg

\$89.99/mo for 12 mos Stream on 20 devic-es. HBO Max included for 3 mos w/Choice Package or higher. No contract or hidden fees! Restrictions apply. IVS 866-859-0405

Wesley Financial Group, LLC timeshare cancellation experts over \$50 million timeshare debt/fees cancelled in 2019. Free info package. Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971

Bath & shower updates in as little as 1-day! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & military discounts available. 1-877-543-9189

Prepare for power outages today - Generac Home Standby Generator. Receive free 5-Year warranty w/qualifying purchase. 855-948-6176 to schedule free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Dental insurance from

Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. 400+ procedures. Real dental insurance - not a discount plan. Free info kit! 855-526-1060 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/ads)

Reader Advisory: The National Trade Association we belong to has purchased the above classifieds. Determining the value of their service or product is advised by this publication. In order to avoid misunderstandings, some advertisers do not offer employment but rather sup-ply the readers with manuals, directories and other materials designed to help their clients establish mail order selling and other businesses at home. Under NO circumstance should you send any money in advance or give the client your checking, license ID, or credit card num-bers. Also beware of ads that claim to guarantee loans regardless of credit and note that if a credit repair company does business only over the phone it is illegal to request any money before delivering its service. All funds are based in US dollars. Toll free numbers may or may not reach Canada.

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. September 21 | 7. Rydell High |
| 2. Didaskaleinophobia | 8. London |
| 3. Armenia | 9. 42 |
| 4. 1858 | 10. Buzz Lightyear |
| 5. Panic Room | 11. Aaron |
| 6. Abraham Lincoln | 12. Moby Dick |

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: What do elderly people often say they wish they'd focused more on in life?

A: Surprisingly, the answers are incredibly consistent— and they aren't about money in the bank or job titles!

Across interviews and hospice conversations, people often say they wish they had:

- Spent more time with loved ones
- Taken better care of their health
- Focused on what truly mattered to them— not just what was expected
- Lived more in the present instead of always chasing “someday” goals

So what does this have to do with your finances?

Everything!

If your financial plan doesn't reflect your

real priorities – like having time for your kids, taking care of your body, or traveling while you're still able – it might be time to adjust. A clear financial strategy should serve your vision of a good life.

Ask yourself: Is my money supporting what matters most to me—right now and in the long run?

Any questions? I'd be happy to help.

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

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



Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Cannellini Bean Salad

A refreshing salad that can be made ahead of time. Serve it over quinoa, farro, or even mix it with romaine lettuce. Packed full of protein and flavor, a quick, easy dish for a very satisfying lunch or even a snack.

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- Juice of 1/2 lemon, approximately 2 tablespoons
- 1 small garlic clove, finely minced
- 1/8 cup sun-dried tomatoes in olive oil, chopped, plus 1 teaspoon olive oil from the jar
- 1/4 cup red onion, finely chopped
- 2 teaspoons capers
- 1-15oz can cannellini beans, rinsed
- 1/3 cup crumbled feta
- 2 teaspoons parsley, finely minced

Salt and pepper to taste, start with a pinch each

Add the olive oil, vinegar, lemon juice, garlic, and sun-dried tomato oil to a medium sized bowl, and whisk until incorporated. Add the sun-dried tomatoes, onion, capers, and a pinch of salt and pepper. Fold in the beans, feta, and parsley.

Taste and adjust seasoning, if needed. The flavors are bright from the lemon juice, creamy from the beans and feta, sweet with the sun-dried tomatoes, with a hint of brininess from the capers. Serve over farro, my favorite, especially given the extra texture. Feel free to substitute garbanzo beans and add chopped red bell pepper if you want.

Serves 2-3.

<https://ddimarzo2002.wixsite.com/thymethief/chef>



Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com
 On Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1
 and follow us on X/Twitter at [@somervilletimes](https://twitter.com/somervilletimes)

Candidate Questionnaire 2025, Somerville Fair Housing – Part 3

CONT. FROM PG 6

and finding solutions to vacant properties where land banking isn't a viable strategy. The odds are stacked against us, but if we act now, we can reduce displacement.

Christopher Ryan Spicer, City Council candidate, At Large:

The link is established in Fair Housing law, Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 40B, the law that directs communities to supply affordable housing. I see the linkage in terms of human rights. People need housing. They just do. People suffering from mental illness, substance abuse, and intellectual disabilities, homeless individuals and families – all need housing and wraparound services, especially low-income immigrants. Only strategic intervention can keep market-rate housing affordable. I applaud our evidence-based approach which includes setting aside for long-term investments to steadily increase inclusionary housing. But immediately, more families below 30 percent Area Median Income (AMI) need services and support from Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Fund. More families between 30 percent and 60 percent of AMI need affordable housing period. The 2020 Affordable Housing zoning overlay acknowledged there is not enough public housing in Somerville, which fell 114 units short of the law mandated minimum requirement. Somerville residents, unless eligible for emergency housing, cannot get priority housing anywhere outside of Somerville.

This City just molts, every house bought by a shell company with a private capital firm behind it, destroys itself to the bones, a dumpster taking up station for a year, then rebuilds, and another year goes by. The four generation family home becomes two unit – and this is what it means for Somerville to ascend the urban hierarchy – that's planned. Somerville has accrued it's educated outlook without retention. Resident's support for political process, said to be the positive side of gentrification, means looking beyond narrow interests to better serve those aging in place. The Condominium Conversion Ordinance requires a five-year notice period and housing search assistance for elderly, disabled or low- and moderate-income tenants, and a one-year notice for all other tenants. The amount of relocation assistance a landlord must provide to each tenant increased from \$300 to \$6,000. I will value the link of affordability and Fair Housing on principle. Because to deprive people of their territory, their community, and without re-placement, cannot

be a process called governance of the people, for the people.

In last week of July my three daughters and I attended the State House hearing in support of rent stabilization. Should Somerville explore some method of rental control to protect the tenant but also provide protections to the landlord owner who has increasing expenses and needs to remodel and improve his rentals? The Anti-Displacement Task Force recommends capping rents subject to rent stabilization at Consumer Price Index plus 2% up to a maximum of 5%. For example, an increase of \$100 on a \$2000 rent. The Home Rule Petition (HRP) includes authorization for Somerville to grant application for extraordinary expenses like converting to electric heat pumps or deleading. Rents remain stabilized on turnover. Just-cause evictions. Rent Restricted housing with rents based on income exempt from regulation and owner-occupied exempt from regulation. If the City is granted HRP there will be further opportunity for community input on the administration of a rent stabilization ordinance.

Is Somerville an elder-friendly community? The most prevalent housing problem of the elderly is housing costs. What about the elderly disabled? In 2021 approximately 6,400 Somerville residents live with a disability. That total has dropped but those living with disability and poverty have increased. I am a proponent of housing policy rooted universal housing design, the framework for accessible entrances, hallways, bathrooms, kitchens, outlets, and plywood backing to install grab-rails. I learned about its principles from my mother, an occupational therapist, and the car full of medical assist bars. Her work carried out the mandate of the Older American Act of 1965, which provided program funds for elderly people who live in their own homes to make adaptations in the physical environment, and the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, requiring physically accessible housing but only called for "reasonable accommodations" for persons with disabilities. The rent control that some Cambridge refugees remember lasting there until the 1980s, providing a means of affordability to historically marginalized people, in Somerville had been abolished in 1970. Progressive municipal agency is curtailed. The exception is provisional rent stability, won by home rule petition, allowing Somerville a role to keep market-rate housing affordable to low-in-

come. One measure of success preventing displacement is applying such tools preventing evictions.

The 2025 Aging Needs Assessment showed that age was the highest factor causing residents to feel excluded in Somerville, followed by race. The most prevalent housing problem of elderly is burden of housing costs. One scholar (Michael E. Stone, Shelter Poverty, Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1993, ch. 2) defines affordability based on whether individuals or families have enough money to pay for necessities such as child care, food or medical care after paying for housing, calculated on a sliding scale based on household size and income. The 2025 Aging Assessment reported: "Over a third of Hispanic or Latino respondents and 41% of Black or African American respondents disagree or strongly disagree that they have adequate resources to meet their needs."

"Similarly, respondents of color cited greater frequencies of concern and uncertainty with respect to running out of food before having enough money to buy more, compared to white non-Hispanic participants (Figure 27). Only 10% of white non-Hispanic selected often true or sometimes true, and 2% selected "I don't know" in response to the statement, "In the past 12 months, I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more." In comparison, 20% of Asian respondents and 24% of respondents of other racial identities reported this level of worry. Moreover, a third of Hispanic or Latine respondents and 41% of Black or African American respondents reported often or sometimes true. Access to food, in relation to financial security, is a concern for Somerville residents, particularly among those from a minoritized identity."

In sum, Somerville is not securing basic protection under the law when the burden of housing is so cumbersome that food insecurity is such a major concern.

Jack Perenick, City Council candidate, At Large:

While we usually think about discrimination in terms of denial of housing, price discrimination and discrimination in the terms of a tenancy agreement are also common. It's critical we ensure that all people have equal access to fair market prices for housing in our city. In particular, price point discrimination is critical to deflating our rental market. Increasingly, this will mean a regulation of pricing software and AI in addition to traditional forms of

discriminatory practices.

Question 5: What steps would you take to continue to support fair housing in light of the Trump administration's weakening of HUD and attack on Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rules?

Jason Mackey, City Council candidate, Ward 5:

No matter what's happening at the federal level, Somerville has a responsibility to lead with integrity, fairness, and inclusion. Fair Housing shouldn't be a partisan issue, it's about ensuring that everyone, regardless of background, has a real shot at living in our city. If elected, I would work to ensure our local policies uphold the principles of Fair Housing, even when Washington does not. That includes:

- Building equity into our land use and housing decisions, by encouraging development that expands opportunity and reflects the diversity of our community. When public land is sold, or public funds are used, we should expect inclusive outcomes, not just compliance on paper.

- Ensuring predictability and transparency for developers, while also incorporating equity analysis into how we evaluate zoning changes and major projects. That means asking who benefits, who's burdened, and how we can make projects work for everyone, residents and builders alike.

- Investing in our Office of Housing Stability and Fair Housing Commission so they have the tools and capacity to educate, enforce, and support both tenants and landlords.

- Setting public Fair Housing goals and measuring our progress. We can't improve what we don't track. I support creating a Fair Housing dashboard with metrics on access, complaints, inclusionary units, and outreach efforts, so the public can hold us accountable.

- Leading regionally. Fair Housing and affordability are regional challenges. I would advocate for stronger partnerships across Greater Boston to share data, coordinate policies, and avoid playing affordability ping-pong across city lines.

Ultimately, I believe we can be both a city that welcomes new development and a city that fights for fairness and inclusion. That's the kind of leadership this moment demands.

Emily Hardt, City Council candidate, Ward 7:

The City of Somerville should increase its support and commitment to fair housing in light of the attacks *Continued on page 17*

Candidate Questionnaire 2025, Somerville Fair Housing – Part 3

CONT. FROM PG 16

at the federal level. I would support allocating more resources to combat discrimination, including ensuring that the Fair Housing Commission has the resources and capacity that it needs to effectively fulfill its mission. I think we can do more to educate landlords first about the laws barring discrimination and second, if this can continue under the Trump administration's cuts, that HUD can pay landlords market-rate rent when it is difficult to find affordable housing. When inspections or other additional work are required of landlords, we can direct the Office of Housing Stability to offer support to landlords.

Michael Murray, City Council candidate, Ward 7:

We need to make sure our Fair Housing Commission is properly funded and has the resources it needs, regardless of the Trump administration's actions.

Justin Klekota, City Council candidate, At Large:

Even without federal enforcement, Somerville can voluntarily adopt Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rules and continue using HUD's assessment tools. Somerville can integrate fair housing goals into its zoning codes and publish data on housing outcomes and segregation patterns. Somerville can also partner with nonprofits, legal aid groups, tenant unions, and universities to promote tenant organizing (especially in marginalized communities) and support lawsuits against discriminatory practices.

Somerville also needs to maintain balance in its housing stock accessible to all income levels. Somerville should continue its practice of requiring 20% of units in new construction be affordable. Increasing housing prices in Somerville are also pressuring middle class renters and homeowners, and Somerville should adopt an expansive definition of affordability that also includes middle income earners in addition to the 20% affordable units defined by current law.

Marianne Walles, City Council candidate, At Large:

Advocate both at the local and state level to not allow Somerville/ MA to reduce the Fair Housing Rules.

Ari Iaccarino, City Council candidate, At Large:

The rollback of AFFH enforcement along with Secretary Scott Turner's simple self-attestation Interim Final Rule means the responsibility for Fair Housing has fallen squarely on municipalities like

Somerville.

- Strengthen local fair housing ordinances beyond federal requirements to include algorithmic screening and voucher discrimination

- Continue to enforce affordable housing impact assessments for new developments
- Expand inclusionary zoning ordinances to promote economic integration; I would specifically like to see more middle-class inclusions

- Partner with community orgs to train residents on how to report violations

- Enact fines or penalties for landlords engaging in discriminatory behavior; the money would be directed towards housing subsidies for renters

- Ensure code enforcement doesn't disproportionately target low-income and BIPOC renters

Somerville can – and must – go further than federal minimums to protect tenants, reduce displacement, and dismantle systemic barriers.

Scott Istvan, City Council candidate, At Large:

Legislatively, we can expand housing protections here in Somerville as federal protections are rolled back. The harder part becomes enforcement and funding – how do we make up the funding gaps, and even expand the programs we have existing? I'd love to see the city prioritize funding the creation of affordable housing, and I'd even love to see the city get more involved in the development of housing units themselves.

Holly Simione, City Council candidate, At Large:

Federal block grants and recent ARPA funding have made possible many housing developments, where in the past the federal government was a collaborative partner with state and local government. I would lobby our state and federal legislative delegations to continue to pressure the administration to not stymie housing opportunities for political gain. I would encourage the Mayor to offer Tax Increment Financing (TIF), which is a creative public financing tool utilized by local governments to fund development projects and revitalize underdeveloped or distressed areas as another solution.

Ben Wheeler, City Council candidate, At Large:

Federal cuts to HUD have gutted key programs—slashing Fair Housing enforcement staff, repealing the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule, and re-

ducing Section 8 funding. Somerville can't wait for Washington.

We can act locally without new fundraising by:

- + Enforcing Fair Housing ourselves: expand the Fair Housing Commission's authority to investigate complaints and issue penalties, instead of relying on HUD.

- + Using zoning leverage: make sure that processes for permits, variances, and condo conversions include consideration for non-discrimination compliance and affordability.

- + Providing direct tenant support: work towards a guaranteed tenant legal counsel program to fill the gap left by federal enforcement cuts.

- + Enforcement: fully staff the Fair Housing Commission, and ensure it has the power and support to do its work, alongside legal support for tenants facing discrimination.

- + Strengthening family housing protections: keep enforcing our condo conversion rules, and actively encourage lead abatement—perhaps with tax relief for homeowners—so families with children aren't locked out.

By shifting enforcement and resources locally, we can uphold Fair Housing protections even as federal supports disappear. The city should treat housing justice as a local civil rights issue, independent of what HUD does or doesn't do.

Jon Link, City Council candidate, At Large:

It's pretty clear that what gets called progressive (but we in Somerville would probably just call common sense or ethical) won't be supported at the national level. The Trump administration only wants to terrorize communities, not help them.

Somerville needs to continue to strengthen tenant protections, throwing more support into public and social housing (like our Somerville Community Land Trust). We also need to collect and publish data so that we can understand where displacement and discrimination is happening, why it's happening, and know where we can put our energy to have the greatest impact. We need a spotlight and a data-driven approach.

Christopher Ryan Spicer, City Council candidate, At Large:

A weaker HUD spells erosion of the right to housing. I see it as a matter of rescuing stranded delivery. Since passage of The Fair Housing Act in 1968 recipients of HUD funds have been required

to avoid active discrimination, but also affirmatively work to undo the damage of segregation and build more inclusive communities. Here in Somerville, inclusionary housing is 15% of Somerville's public housing stock and 251 units were in the inclusionary zoning pipeline as of 2023. On average, in FY 2023 a market-rate sold 3.6 times a comparable inclusionary homeownership unit.

To continue fair housing and prevent the desertification of the elderly it is critical to have flexible programmatic funding supporting the housing burden that falls most disproportionately on the very low income. The Suffolk University Housing Discrimination Testing program is a potential partner. Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plans typically provides for a lottery and active marketing of inclusionary units to households with Section 8 vouchers. Without continued intervention of the 100 Homes Initiative and the Early Acquisition Fund, gentrification of Magoun Square, Duck Village and portions of East Somerville is all but annihilating options for moderate-income. It's a new and darker day than those that closed the Clarendon Hill redevelopment, and accepted the proposed development of 299 Broadway. The rental stabilization group composed of representatives from the City's Office of Housing Stability, Somerville Housing Authority, and other actors such as the Somerville Homeless Coalition which administers eviction prevention fund dispersals. Fair Housing criterion will ensure that reductionist, income-only factors are not the only determinate of qualifying recipients.

Take a feasible program and consider the legal difference between 'may' and 'shall'. A mortgage insurance program capitalized by the housing trust may provide insurance for loans. In 2017, Somerville a similar program distributed 130 loans to whites, but only a handful to people of color. Whites compose roughly half the total number of low income persons but Shall the mortgage insurance program benefit those facing interlocking oppressions of race and poverty? Affirmatively furthering Fair Housing rules means it shall. Furthermore, as boomers seek to come back to the city while simultaneously downsizing, market predictions suggest a squeeze on housing stock, causing values of traditionally perceived starter homes to soar. We have to do better for first-time home buyers of color. blamed the fact sidewalks had not been repaired *Continued on page 18*

SomerStreets: Gilman Square Arts & Music Festival

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the Somerville Arts Council, and the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council invite community members to SomerStreets: G'25 Gilman Square Arts & Music Festival on Saturday, September 13, from 12 to 5 p.m. (Rain date: Sunday, September 14), with activities on Pearl Street from Marshall to James Street.

What began in 2018 as a neighborhood block party has blossomed into one of Gilman Square's most anticipated celebrations of art, music, and community. The festival returns for its third year as part of the City of Somerville's SomerStreets series, putting it among the ranks of Somerville's most beloved open-streets events, including Carnaval and Monster Mash.

Curated by the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council, the festival will feature live music, local artists and crafters, food vendors, family-friendly activities, and more. The mission of the Gilman Square Arts & Music Festival is to illuminate the vibrant, eclectic, and diverse creative culture of the Gilman Square neighborhood.

The Gilman Square Arts & Music Festival is the Neighborhood Council's signature annual event, drawing crowds from across Somerville and beyond. From its grassroots beginnings to its place as a featured stop on the SomerStreets calendar, it continues to grow while keeping its heart in the community.

Save the date for G'25 and stay tuned for more details. A schedule of performers, vendors, and activities will be announced in the coming weeks. And mark your calendar now for the next SomerStreets event, MonsterMash, Sunday, October 19.

For more information, please visit somerstreetscouncil.org/events/somerstreets-gilman.

Road Closures and Parking Restrictions:

- Pearl St will be closed from Marshall St. to James St. from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- No Parking signs on both sides of Pearl St. from Marshall St. to James St. from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- MBTA detours will be in place from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Please visit [MBTA.com](https://www.mbta.com) for details

Candidate Questionnaire 2025, Somerville Fair Housing – Part 3

CONT. FROM PG 17

on policies supporting immigrants. When sewage overflow filled his basement and he had no recourse from the City to pay for cleanup, his response was to entrench in conservative ideas. He said, "We should only spend on what is necessary." By that he meant municipalities should divest from direct services. He echoed a politics that produced a rollback in the early 1990s. For instance, The Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 authorized spending for a service coordinator program. That sounded good, and was based on success, but in practice it meant funding was not available for direct services but only less intensive support, the equivalent of deflecting constituents to Somerville Cambridge Elder Services. The resident also echoed a challenge to Somerville Af-

fordable Housing Trust Fund in 2019, blocking the purpose of SAHTF to provide supportive housing. In 2024, State Rep. Christine Barber's office led a push for a Home Rule Petition to expand the purposes of the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The HRP will allow Somerville to provide direct services connected with suitable housing. I fully agree that aging society needs suitable housing linked with services.

HUD never fully took on responsibilities for assisting residents aging stay in place. A commonly expressed goal of older adults is to remain living in their own homes for as long as possible. Enjoying familiar community settings, with supports as needed, as opposed to moving to nursing homes. By aging in place, older adults can retain their independence, as

well as maintain valued social relationships and engagement with the community. According to the 2023 Somerville census, there are 8046 residents 65 years and older. A third of those 65-75 remain in the workforce. Many elderly are concerned that City leadership does not recognize enough the knowledge of the city that elderly bring. With 1436 residents ages 75-84, and, 1492 residents over 85 years old, Somerville's old-old need city leadership to take a step closer to listen. I agree with residents who have proposed an elderly liaison in City Hall to help navigate. In addition, I will advocate for progressive local property tax policies, zoning, or other regulatory changes to advance fair housing goals in Somerville. For instance, I support City revenue allocation to the Affordable Housing Trust

fund, such as amendments to the Article 15 of the Somerville Zoning Ordinances (Linkage Zoning) project mitigation contribution for affordable housing.

Jack Perenick, City Council candidate, At Large:

In brief, it is critical for us to signal to our community that the City and State are committed to our fair housing rules and that we will step in to fill the void created by HUD's defunding and intentional circumventing. It should be clear to residents, property owners, and all involved that the City of Somerville intends to continue in the direction we have been heading towards stronger tenant protections, and that federal actions to the contrary will have no bearing on our intentions or efforts.

— Somerville Fair Housing Commission



Are You Sitting On A Fortune?

Call Our Team at CRG To See What Your Home Is Worth.

617-764-4342

699 Broadway Ave, Somerville, MA 02144





LA POSADA RESTAURANT & TEQUILA BAR

617-776-2049

505 Medford St, Somerville, MA 02145

[laposadasomerville](https://www.instagram.com/laposadasomerville)




• Craft margaritas • Taco Tuesday special • Mexican cuisine

COMMENTARY

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

Union Square Farmers Market: The Community's Love Language

How farmers markets provide an inclusive environment through increased language access and culturally responsive practices.

For many people, good food is their love language. For me, and many others who identify as a cultural or ethnic minority, food is a critical part of our identities.

One of the main reasons I originally applied for the Bilingual SNAP Facilitator role at the Union Square Farmers Market (USFM) is because I believe that language and culture should never be a barrier to good food.

USFM has been a community centerpiece and gathering space for over two decades. More importantly, thanks to the overwhelming support for the Good Food For All campaign, it has become an intersection for cultural foodways in the heart of our community.

For eight years, donations from our neighbors, local businesses, and market vendors have helped fund our impactful SNAP match program, which provides much-needed language access to our SNAP customers. On any given market day, you can find our staff translating in one of the five different languages we speak for SNAP customers.

In anthropology, "foodways" is the term used to specifically describe the cultural, social, and economic practices surrounding the production and consumption of food. What we eat, how we eat it, and who we eat with reveals a lot more about our identities and cultural background than you would expect.

Maintaining a connection to and practicing one's cultural foodways has been proven to improve personal well-being through decreased stress, increased sense



of belonging, and safety. In fact, accessing cultural foodways is often mentioned by immigrants as a way to feel connected to their home culture.

But, as you can imagine, this is easier said than done, particularly for low-income individuals who are already facing food insecurity. Many cultural dishes require specific, fresh ingredients that are typically expensive and difficult to find, and low-income minorities often face additional barriers when accessing food assistance programs such as SNAP.

I have become familiar with many of our SNAP customers as they introduce the joy of the market to friends and family. I have also noticed our vendors diversify their offerings to include culturally relevant produce such as okra, loofah, and bok choy.

One of my favorite moments last season was when I exchanged recipes for pea shoots with a customer and one of our farmers while waiting to check out. Good Food For All is the reason why this is all possible.

Now more than ever, we need your support. I have watched the market grow – and with it, our number of SNAP matches. Since 2019, we have weathered an astounding 455% increase in demand for the USFM match.

It is now on all of us to keep this program going to best serve our vulnerable neighbors.

— Claudia Chung
Union Square Farmers Market Bilingual
SNAP Facilitator since 2022

HELP US CLOSE THE GAP
ON OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL

union square main streets presents

GOOD FOOD
FOR ALL

sustaining a more inclusive
farmers market

learn more or donate at
unionsquaremain.org

donations help make these outcomes at the
Union Square Farmers Market possible:



- \$15 = one SNAP match for one family
- \$60 = SNAP match for one family for one month
- \$150 = one SNAP match for ten families
- \$800 = all the SNAP match funds needed for a typical Saturday farmers market
- \$3,200 = SNAP match funds for one month



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week



Q: I live in an apartment building, and the landlord doesn't want to rent to people below the age of 25. Can he do that?

A: No. It is illegal to discriminate against someone based on his or her age. Age is a protected category under the Massachusetts fair housing laws. However, there are some exceptions. Minors are not protected, and the protections do not extend to residency in state or federally-aided housing for the elderly, or to housing intended for use as housing for persons 55 years of age and over, or to housing for individuals age 62 or over.

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

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

To donate visit:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-somerville-times>

Share with your friends and neighbors!
Let's keep local news alive, together.

And to advertise in *The Times*, call **857-488-5138**

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why did the dog do so well at school?
Because he was the teacher's pet.

The "Original"
All Types Vent Cleaning
Restaurant Hood Cleaning
Dryer Vent/ HVAC Cleaning
Power Washing
Licensed and Insured
in Massachusetts
We travel all over
Massachusetts
Call today to find out
our weekly specials!
Call Jimmy 857-366-3761

To advertise in
**The
Somerville
Times**
call
Bobbie Toner
857-488-5138

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Deeply rooted in Somerville... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

September 3

- 1189 – After the death of Henry II, Richard Lionheart is crowned king of England.
- 1777 – The American flag (stars & stripes), approved by Congress on June 14th, is carried into battle for the first time by a force under General William Maxwell.
- 1838 – Frederick Douglass escapes slavery disguised as a sailor. He would later write *The Narrative Life of Frederick Douglass*, his memoirs about slave life.
- 1895 – The first professional American football game is played in Latrobe, PA.
- 1939 – Great Britain declares war on Germany, marking the beginning of World War II in Europe.
- 1976 – The unmanned US spacecraft Viking 2 lands on Mars, takes first close-up, color photos of the planet's surface.
- 1994 – Russia and China sign a demarcation agreement to end dispute over a stretch of their border and agree they will no longer target each other with nuclear weapons.
- 2001 – Protestant loyalists in Belfast, Ireland, begin an 11-week picket of the Holy Cross Catholic school for girls, sparking rioting.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 13

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

Challapalooza, a one-day outdoor Jewish music festival, will be held on **Sunday, September 7** (12:00 – 6:30 p.m.) at **Prospect Hill Park**. A captivating lineup of local Jewish musicians spanning Appalachian folk, klezmer, Middle-Eastern pop, brass-band hip-hop, rock, big-band swing, and more. Kosher food trucks (shawarma, local chocolate, ice cream), plus local Jewish artists. 100% volunteer-run by young Jewish adults in Boston; all proceeds go directly to the artists. Website and tickets: challapalooza.org.

Scavenger Hunt Saturday at West, September 6. A scavenger hunt with a bear theme – just in time for SeptemBEAR! Find all the bears and get a prize. Intended for children up to age 12. This event will be held on **Saturday, September 6**, at the **West Branch Library** (40 College Ave.) from 9 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.

Mayor **Katjana Ballantyne** and the **Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA)**, in proud partnership with the **Brazilian Women's Group**, invite community members to celebrate 203 years of Brazilian independence at the third annual **Brazil flag raising** on **Thursday, September 4**, on the **City Hall Concourse** (79 Highland Ave.) at 3 p.m. Rain date: Thursday, September 9. For more information, contact soia@somervillema.gov.

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

Ignite: A Global Street Food & Fire Festival is returning to **Union Square** on **Saturday, September 27**. Get ready for a magical afternoon filled with flavors from around the world, incredible culture and fire performances, and entertainment that will light up the evening. Expect more opportunities for hands-on experiences. 3:30 – 7:30 p.m., Union Square. <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/events/ignite-festival-2/>.

Somerville's Preliminary Election takes place on **Tuesday, September 16**. This election will narrow the candidate pool before the **Municipal Election** on **Tuesday, November 4**. Offices on the ballot include: Mayor, Councilor At Large, Ward 7 Councilor, and Ward 3 School Committee. Register to Vote. The last day to register to vote is **Friday, September 5**. Election Day: **September 16**. Vote at your designated polling location. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. To look up your polling place, get instructions for voting by mail, review a sample ballot, or for other election info, please visit somervillema.gov/elections or call 311 by dialing 3-1-1 or 617-666-3311.

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

Outdoor Movie Nights at Aeronaut, Saturday, September 6, Jaws, 9 – 11 p.m. at **Aeronaut Brewing Company**. Head to Aeronaut on Saturday nights over the summer for outdoor movie nights on the patio featuring some favorites. Admission is free. Weather permitting. **9/6 Jaws, 9/13 Zoolander**. 14 Tyler St., Somerville.

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

selections. Proceeds benefit the all-volunteer, non-profit Somerville Garden Club.

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

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

Somerville voters, save the date. **Monday, September 8**, 7:00 p.m. at the **Somerville High School**. **Somerville City Councilors At-large Candidates Forum**. The **Ward 3 Democratic Committee** will host a forum featuring eleven of the twelve brave candidates who want to represent you on the City Council. All members of the community are invited. 12 candidates are on the ballot. Only 8 will be nominated for the November General Election. Many new faces. Are these people the future of Somerville? The forum offers an opportunity to hear from the candidates about issues in our rapidly changing community. Neighbors are invited to submit questions or topic ideas to ward3dems.somerville@gmail.com. At the primary on **Tuesday, September 16**, the top eight vote getters will advance to the final election in November, so this is your chance to hear directly from the candidates and to make an informed decision

Holding Up The Sky, by **Bob Nesson**,

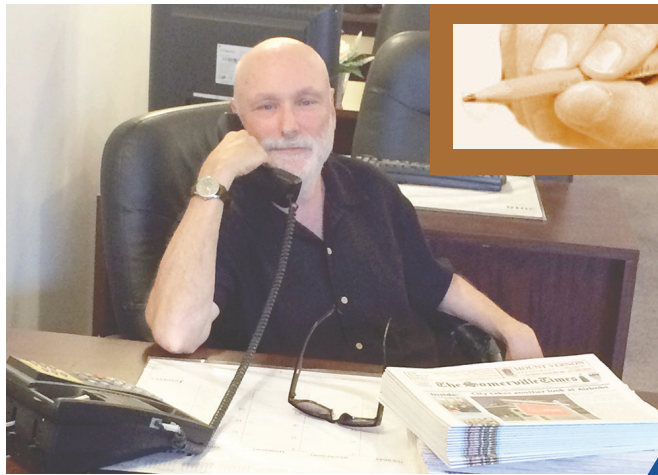
Somerville filmmaker and documentarian, follows Ed and Jimmy, two formerly incarcerated men who have successfully rebuilt their lives – yet are still bound by the constraints of lifetime parole. Their stories expose the power of second chances through education and community – as well as barriers to reentry. The film challenges us to rethink justice, redemption, and what it truly means to be free. Bob Nesson's documentary *Holding Up the Sky* will be previewed on **September 10** at the **Somerville Theatre**. The screening will be followed by a conversation with the filmmaker and special guests. Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square, Somerville, MA 02144. Suggested arrival: 6:30 p.m. (to pick up tickets and get seated).

Gathering of the Fairies: Celebrating Nature Spirits, Saturday, September 6, 2 – 5 p.m. at the **Somerville Community Growing Center**, 22 Vinal Ave. Rain Date: Sunday, September 7. Experience nature spirits from around the world – and our imaginations. Everyone is invited to come dressed up as their favorite magical being. Celebratory activities in the garden for fairies and their friends include face painting, story read-alouds, building a fairy house, creating a fairy wand, and other fairy crafts. Music by the **Magical Ms. Kimberly**. Donations are encouraged to support the Growing Center and Gathering of the Fairies. Contact: **Kathleen** at kath-leen@thegrowingcenter.org.

Medicinal Plant Walk with Mo, Wednesday, September 10, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Join herbalist **Mo Katz-Christy** for a meander through the neighborhood to meet city plants and explore their medicinal uses. We will explore weeds and cultivated plants, trees, and shrubs. Note this program begins at the **Growing Center**, but will then walk throughout the neighborhood. Registration link [here](https://mokatrchristy.com/). For more information on the entire series, visit their website: <https://mokatrchristy.com/>.

Join **Mayor Katjana Ballantyne** and **Somerville's Council on Aging** for the annual **Mayor's Senior Picnic** at 11:00 a.m. at **Trum Field** on **September 9**. Call **Connie Lorenti** at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319 for a free ticket by September 5.

The **Somerville Flea Market** is now open for its 13th year. Vintage vendors, Artisan makers, Farm stand, Live DJ, plus treasures you didn't even *Continued on page 23*



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

A HANDPICKED POEM

Presented by Off the Shelf correspondent Michael Todd Steffen

From the December 14, 2024 online Daily Rattle, from the printed *Rattle Winter 2013*

The Famine of Love
by Jenneva Scholz

After his mother forbids him to marry Psyche, Cupid puts down his bow and all living things on earth stop mating. First the fruit flies fell around the fruit bowl and the air was still, the figs and apples ripened and then were gone. The end of bees means the end of plums and roses, the end of rye and amaranth.

Soon, no mice: we noticed their silence after the years of traps and scratching in the ceilings, no droppings in the flour, no footprints in the butter. I found an owl dead in a glade. Take less time than you might think for horsefeed to look like food

if there is no food. There are our orchards, there are our fields, empty of hum and buzzing, empty of peaches and wheat. The male swan left the lake, just flew away, and his mate made widening circles over town, honking her grief until we shot her down.

The goats stripped every bush of leaves but bore no kids, no cats birthed kittens, no kits for the foxes, no goslings, no grubs, no nymphs, no infants. My son now prefers the empty woods to the dancing girls—it's true they've grown bony, and though I go to watch them they don't stir me. I'm hungry.

At the town council we address the issue: how long can we survive on leaves and boiled bark? Two months, if we eat our seed corn, and slaughter our horses. One month if we save some corn,

save some horses to try to plant in the spring. My wife once rode that horse fifty miles just to see me for an afternoon. Once she rode over a river in winter, the ice spackled with rabbit tracks and filled with unlucky fish, just to marry me. Once we made love in the garden, under the bean trellis;

in our bed we made a child. I make a list

of her good qualities. I try to find my love for her in things, wearing the clothes she gave me, reading notations she left in my book. Re-reading her letters I think, I'm so hungry I could let you starve. It's hard to know yourself anymore when you can think a thing like that. Some things might outlast this. Tortoises, maybe. But look at them: each grooved to fit smoothly with the other, built to heave those heavy bodies together and lock in. See how his belly is arched to cradle her shell. I keep thinking: I don't need her. I keep opening the cupboard to find nothing.

From the onset with the fruit flies (the virologists' study analogues) the poem gives us a terrible vision of the end of a world, not just the death of an individual, but a general diminishing of resources, animals, fruits, grains, insects dying off to foreseeable total depletion, of a community undergoing famine –

Two months, if we eat our seed corn, and slaughter our horses. One month if we save some corn, save some horses to try to plant in the spring...

The situation is hopeless, expressed in a logic that makes no sense: They have a chance to plant later if they starve themselves to death first in order to preserve corn seed. (Other interesting elements in the poem don't stand up to the scrutiny of reason, like gender: At one moment the narrative voice is communal, at another moment it is Venus taking up from the epilogue talking about Cupid, at another moment it is a man talking about making love to his wife in the garden and the child they made...)

What helps keep the poem interesting, instead of just desperate, is the magnified awareness of the poem's being a poem, the way we sometimes abide a nightmare by being vaguely aware we are only dreaming. The artificiality (or artfulness) of the poem is announced in the prompt in the epigraph about Venus and Psyche and Cupid and how all things on earth stop mating. It situates us in an etiological or mythic realm, not the real world. As with every poem, there's a big implied As if running throughout it. In reality, perhaps, a long lonely Friday night without a date might have inspired Jenneva Scholz – or fretted her– with the intensity to begin seeing this poem under her pen. Remembering the story about Psyche and Cupid would be all the spark needed for the fire. It was written, I think, close to its first appearance in the early 20-teens, when the world was having a voluble discussion about the disappearing *Continued on page 23*

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Susan Isla Tepper has been a writer for twenty-plus years and is the author of twelve published books of fiction and poetry, and seven stage plays. She writes in all genres, with stories, poems, interviews, essays, and opinion columns published extensively worldwide. Her new novel, titled *Hair Of A Fallen Angel*, was released by Spuyten Duyvil Publishing, NYC.



Do I Die Today

That curse is the light
behind anyone's guess.
You move it moves
a few years back
then forward
a sickening rotation;
startling even the crow
quietly on a branch.
You boil two eggs in shells.

Five fucking years suspended
they call this life—
they say Oh get on with it.
Have the eggs been boiled
hard for peeling?

You are willing to go
astray, go down in the pit
take a look around
decide.

— Susan Isla Tepper

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

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

know existed. **Sundays, August – October.** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., 18 Holland St.

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

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

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

L62Zr2RtUK4NjqmW9. The priority deadline is **September 27**. Email swfm_community@artsatthearmory.org with any questions.

SYS is proud to announce that **TOPSoccer** will be coming to our community beginning in September. This program for players with mental and physical disabilities will make an incredibly positive impact on our families. The registration link and other information will be available at www.somervillesoccer.org. For more information on TOPSoccer, please visit <https://mayouthsoccer.org/events-and-programs/topsoccer/>.

As the next step in realizing **Somerville's Master Plan** to transform the city's **Armory building** into a public community arts center, the **Ballantyne Administration** is sharing phase one application guidance for interested prospective arts tenants. For more information, visit voice.somervillema.gov/armory-master-plan.

On **September 13**, the **Gilman Square Arts & Music Festival** will be back to highlight local artists, makers, performers, and food vendors. This event is supported by the **Somerville Arts Council** and is made possible by an LCC grant, the generous support of local businesses,

and volunteers from the **Gilman Square Neighborhood Council**. **Saturday, September 13**, from 12 to 5 p.m. (severe weather date: Sunday, September 14), located on Pearl St. from Marshall to James Street.

The **Somerville High School Class of 1980 Reunion Social** is taking place **Saturday, October 4**, from 7 to 10 p.m., **Jake n Joe's**, 230 Mishawum Rd., Woburn, MA. Checks should be made out to SHS Class of 1980, c/o Mary Ellen Melaragni, 9 Churchill Circle, Winchester, MA 01890, wasmith1492@gmail.com. No tickets will be sold at the door.

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

The **Davis Square Market** is open for the 2025 Season. The market will run **every Wednesday** from 12 noon to 6

p.m., **through November 26**, at 44 Day St., Somerville. This long-running market features over two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers offering a vibrant selection of delicious produce, protein, baked goods, ready-to-eat meals, alongside a host of other locally made products. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards, and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match. Visit <https://www.mass-farmersmarkets.org/davis>.

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

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

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

number of bees (second line) and how that affected the whole food chain.

For a lot longer, we've been told about goat grazing and the depletion of vegetation on the Mediterranean islands. When the goats stop mating here, the drop-off we feel is the hollowness of eating or consuming without love, without procreativity, without creativity. It's a dilemma for me evoked in our present world with the consumption of much processed food, without real taste or appreciation, without love.

The really big drop-off we feel, however, is earlier in the poem. The onset of the poem enumerates the deaths of small beings, which hardly matter to us, seemingly, fruit flies, bees. And then mice, maybe a little more troublesome, yet they are pests that keep us awake. The bluntness with which Scholz announces the significantly larger death is telling about our first somewhat immediate encounter with death: "I found an owl dead in a glade." It's an utmost poetic stroke of the unpoetic, the bluntness of bluntness. (Sorry, belles-lettrists, and this failure to encompass poetry with the merely beautiful!)

Though the dilemma here is famine, the withdrawal of food sources, we are reminded again and again of its "mythic" cause, that Cupid has ceased to shoot his ar-

rows of desire at the creatures. That element is re-invoked powerfully by Scholz in the image of the male swan leaving its mate on the lake. Without love: the lone left swan honking out grief until somebody in the community shoots it, out of irritation, sure, but then also for the food it provides.

The thing that makes a poem like this all the more urgent and true is its ability, proven as it so happens just now by world events, to open a vivid, intimate door onto the ongoing disaster of humanity, who we are. I've been hearing about people undergoing famine all my life. I've seen the images of the bloated children in magazines and on TV. Never have I, as a taxpayer, felt so involved, at however a slant. But works of art like Guernica, or this poem, *The Famine of Love*, bring us as close to that failure as possible without actually being there, with the power of art to carry us into that realm of woe and suffering stripped of ideology. The imagination is a far more powerful vehicle than mere fantasy. Ask any nightmare.

The speaker in the poem undergoes the simultaneity of grief and want, the excruciating loss of the love Cupid is deliberately no longer delivering and the hunger resulting in that withdrawal. It is such a polarly opposite

set of deprivations:

I make a list of her good qualities. I try to find my love for her in things, wearing the clothes she gave me, reading notations she left in my book. Re-reading her letters I think, I'm so hungry I could let you starve.

I love you and hate you, more than anything. It brings us to the breaking point, where Robert Lowell, in a similar despair, in the poem *Skunk Hour*, another poignant love-loss poem, utters the lucid perspective of insanity: My mind is not right. When the universe seems to have gone as deaf to our cries as a child-god brooding over his implacable mother's injunctions, we can only recognize the validity of the thorough breakdown –

It's hard to know yourself anymore when you can think a thing like that.

When that's what the world is saying, that's what we need to recognize. That's the step that needs to be made before any remedial steps can be taken. The admission that we, we all, not just the people in the news, are doomed.

The Somerville Times

To advertise in our Business Directory,
call 857-488-5138.

Let your customers find you in
Somerville's most widely read newspaper!

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

LEARN TO DRAW AND PAINT

Artist and art teacher Geoffrey Halverson



www.geoffreyhalverson.com

Flexible Schedule - 2 hour classes
Perfect for beginners and intermediate students
Location of classes in North Cambridge (Huron Village)
Call: 617-501-6217 • halverson12g@yahoo.com

Monica Calvo Realtor®

Real Estate Professional
Cell: 617-605-3308



Email: mcalvo@relocationnewengland.com
Web: remaxpartnersrelocation.com

RE/MAX
PARTNERS RELOCATION
44 Park ST
Andover MA 01810
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated



ENCOMPASS
PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

BUY - SELL - JOIN

CALL US FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS!

BOBBIE TONER

REAL ESTATE CONSULTANT
BOBBIETONER@AOL.COM
857-488-5138

JOHN RAPOSO

BROKER
JOHN@ENCOMPASSPROPS.COM
617-665-8866



WWW.ENCOMPASSPROPS.COM
ENCOMPASSPROPS



Cleaning. Restoration. Construction.

SERVPRO® of Arlington,
Somerville, Charlestown

617-629-5331

Independently owned and operated



BRENEVILLE
LAW OFFICES, LLC

FREDLER BRENEVILLE, Esq.
Attorney at Law



Immigration • Accident-Injury
Family Law • Estate Planning
Landlord-Tenant

*Nou pale Kreyol
Nous parlons Français*

(617) 448-6037

INFO@BRENEVILLELAWOFFICES.COM
500 N. MAIN ST. STE. A 2ND FL., RANDOLPH
55 BROADWAY, SOMERVILLE
BRENEVILLELAWOFFICES.COM

Wedding & Event Photo & Video

— Harry Kane —



KANE FILMS
www.KaneFilms.net
860-840-3737
HarryKaneFilms@gmail.com

The Law Offices of Richard G. Di Girolamo

Richard G. Di Girolamo, Esquire
Anne M. Vigorito, Esquire
Breanna L. Rolland, Esquire

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

Real Estate Law
Zoning
Civil Litigation
Criminal Defense
Family Law
Personal Injury

TELEPHONE: (617) 666-8200
FAX: (617) 776-5435
EMAIL: digirolamolegal@verizon.net
424 BROADWAY, SOMERVILLE, MA 02145

T. J. SILLARI, INC.

Over 50 Years Experience
Proud to be a Somerville Business Resident



- Plumbing • Heating
- Gas Fitting • Industrial Work
- Water Heater Replacement
- Complete Drain Service

Residential - Industrial - Commercial

Master Plmb. Lic. #6106

625-9877

Telephone:
(617) 625-2244
(617) 625-4344

Fax:
(617) 625-4350

EDWIN J. SMITH
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
RUMERY & SMITH

403 HIGHLAND AVENUE
SOMERVILLE, MA 02144

edsmithlaw@gmail.com



Alibrandi's Barber Shop

Men & Boys Haircuts

"Best Somerville Barber"

194 Holland St, Somerville, MA 02144
617-628-4282 Closed Wednesday

clarkarts
PUBLISHING
COLORING BOOKS • QUIZ BOOKS • MORE
www.clarkarts.net