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## Tenant leaders and community organizers fight for affordable housing in Somerville



Somerville's Municipal Voucher Program (MVP) is one program that aims to address the housing crisis by providing a subsidy to make housing more affordable for low-income residents.

— Photos by Maile Blume

By Maile Blume

This budget season, in response to community organizing, Somerville allocated \$3 million to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for flexible rental assistance starting this July. However, community organizers say more needs to be done to address the ongoing housing crisis.

"We need to act like a crisis," said Catherine Porter, a community organizer with Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS) [1], an organization that works to end poverty in Somerville. "We need more local investment, especially out of the state and federal government," she said. Porter said that while the \$3 million will keep a lot of families housed, "rental assistance and eviction prevention is really just a Band-Aid. You know, what happens at the next rent increase?"

Continued on page 4

## 'Kitchen to Kitchen: Somerville In Food' to be released by Somerville Homeless Coalition

By Ana Celerier Salcedo

What began as a brainstorm of ways to raise funds for meals and community voices within the local food system soon became an idea to create a community cookbook. All proceeds from the release of Kitchen to Kitchen: Somerville In Food will benefit Come To the Table's important work, according to creators Alissa Ebel and Carley Ruemmele.

Come to the Table is a community meal organization in East Somerville. It dedicates its services to providing nutritious and warm meals and groceries to anyone without asking for proof or need of sensitive personal information.

The book's release is in partnership with several local organizations, such as The Somerville Homeless Coalition, The Somerville

Continued on page 9



Alissa Ebel and Carley Ruemmele, creators of the "Kitchen to Kitchen: Somerville In Food" cookbook.

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








The previously announced 42-day suspension of Green Line service between Lechmere and Union Square Stations from July 18 to August 28 will not take place. The repair work on the Squires Bridge has been postponed until September 2023. For updates visit the MBTA's website: [www.mbta.com/](http://www.mbta.com/).

Somerville's annual multicultural arts showcase, ArtBeat, returns to Davis Square on Saturday, July 15 (rain date: July 16). Now in its 37th year, ArtBeat features an eclectic mix of music, dance, theater, food, performance, and activities. Come enjoy nearly 100 vendors and community groups, two stages of music, and a dance showcase at the Somerville Theater, all inspired by this year's theme: Pulse. ArtBeat runs from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. throughout Davis Square. Attendance is free, but a suggested donation of \$3 will get you an ArtBeat dog tag. For a full schedule of events visit [somervilleartscouncil.org](http://somervilleartscouncil.org)

Celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy birthday to lifelong resident and former mayor, Gene Brune. We wish him the very best, he is an amazing guy. We wish him many more birthdays to come. Happy birthday to well-known local Eileen Costa. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Rebecca McLaughlin, Tom Fitzgerald, Linda Sauer McSorley, Janeen Mobilia-Dowling, Patricia Jillson, Corinne Brune Dellanno, Joanne Parziale and Michael Dunn a very happy birthday. We hope

Continued on page 7

# Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of July 12 – July 18 as provided by the National Weather Service					
DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> July 12	Sunny	90°/68°	12%	9%	WSW 9 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> July 13	Cloudy	81°/70°	25%	17%	SE 10 mph
 <b>Friday</b> July 14	Thunderstorms	76°/68°	75%	63%	S 10 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> July 15	Thunderstorms	80°/67°	55%	41%	SE 9 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> July 16	Partly Cloudy	81°/70°	22%	13%	E 7 mph
 <b>Monday</b> July 17	Cloudy	83°/70°	24%	18%	SSE 9 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> July 18	Thunderstorms	81°/70°	56%	43%	SE 10 mph

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

## TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

### Response to: Fair Housing Commission discusses anti-displacement efforts

slaw says:

Hearing landlords first, and even giving them their own meeting in the first place, shows what the priorities really are here.

### Response to: Lyrical Somerville – July 5

H. Dent says:

A very thought-provoking poem, as can always be expected from Mike.

### Response to: Grilled Zucchini, Zá atar and Pomegranate Molasses

Caroline Blamauer says:

Looks so yummy. Can't wait to try it.

### Response to: Board of Health discusses the possibility of tobacco license to limit access

Don W. says:

Would this licensing also apply to supermarkets, convenience stores etc? It only seems fair that it should across the board.

Log onto [TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://TheSomervilleTimes.com) to leave your own comments

# The Somerville Times

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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Fixer-upper



Why did they let City Hall basically rot so badly? I don't know if there are any plans to fix it up but I posted the question to my social media friends and this is what they feel about City Hall being in such bad disrepair. Here are the comments in quotes.

"I don't think municipal budgets are an either or proposition. Maybe getting on the Alderman's agenda might be better than a FB discussion? Maybe they spent all the money on police, or schools, or fire protection, or...?"

"The plan is to complete the building next to City Hall and then move City Hall functions there. Once that is completed, they'll renovate/restore the current building."

"It will get fixed when we vote them out and vote in someone who actually cares about this city!"

"I see people complaining here. I'm curious how many have called their reps about it. Or how many have called 311 about it. Or have attended public meetings to discuss it there? If all you're doing is complaining on FB about it and commenting on bike lanes instead, you're part of the problem."

"I bet the politicians don't treat their personal property this way. But to hell with the property that represents all Somervileans both past and present."

"I am born and bred in Somerville and moved to another state in 1978 for my husband's job. But a lot has changed, some for better, a lot for worse. To see City Hall in such a state of neglect is disgusting. I have nothing to do with this city anymore but I can complain of the way it is not being cared for. I loved growing up there!"

With all the new construction in the city you would think that they would want to make City Hall as nice as they could especially with it being so old. It will be good to see a fully remodeled City Hall, whenever they get around to it.



## ArtBeat Returns to Davis Square July 15

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council invite you to ArtBeat, Somerville's annual multicultural arts showcase, in Davis Square on Saturday, July 15 (rain date: July 16). Now in its 37th year, ArtBeat features an eclectic mix of music, dance, theater, food, performance, and activities. Come enjoy nearly 100 vendors and community groups, two stages of music, and a dance showcase at the Somerville Theater, all inspired by this year's theme: Pulse. ArtBeat runs from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. throughout Davis Square. Attendance is free, but a suggested donation of \$3 will get you an ArtBeat dog tag. Please see the attached PDF for a full schedule of events or visit [somervilleartscouncil.org](http://somervilleartscouncil.org).



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**ANNOUNCEMENT**  
*Beacon Apartments LLC, in conjunction with Jet Realty are pleased to announce an*  
**Affordable Rental Open Waitlist Opportunity**  
*The application period for a two-bedroom (2BR) Affordable Rental Waitlist will begin on 7/10/2023 at 2pm and end on 8/10/2023 at 2pm.*

**Eligible households of 2 or more people whose income does not exceed the following "Maximum Annual Income":**

80% AMI	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person
Income	\$94,800	\$106,650	\$118,450

- Eligibility Requirements**
- The rental unit must be used as the renters' primary residence.
  - Income and residency restrictions will apply throughout tenancy. Income eligibility will be reviewed annually.
  - Head of households claiming full-time student status are not eligible.
  - Total Household Liquid Assets cannot exceed \$75,000

**175 Beacon Street, Somerville, MA 02145**

Applications will be available beginning on 7/10/2023 at 2pm. To obtain an application, please contact **Jet Realty** and reference "175 Beacon 80%"  
Telephone: 617-666-5697 or email: [jetrealty@mac.com](mailto:jetrealty@mac.com)

**Completed applications** must be submitted to Jet Realty at [jetrealty@mac.com](mailto:jetrealty@mac.com) or mailed to P.O. Box 45014, Somerville MA 02145 by 8/10/2023 at 2pm.

Applications received after the deadline will not be added to the waitlist. All qualified applications will be ranked by date and time received. All mailed applications will receive a 7-day grace period.



# Tenant leaders and community organizers fight for affordable housing in Somerville

CONT. FROM PG 1

She added that the housing crisis will only continue and may even worsen until Somerville has deeply affordable housing.

## Fighting the Housing Crisis

CAAS works with tenant leaders to organize for changes in their buildings and throughout the city. They also educate residents on their rights as renters, advocate for improved living conditions for residents, and hold monthly renters meetings for residents to support one another and prevent displacement.

"The experience of meeting and working with other CAAS tenants is enriching. Every day I learn a lot. I hear stories that touch my heart," said Veronica Siqueira Soares, a tenant leader with CAAS. She said of the other tenant leaders, "They are hard-working people who fight bravely to continue living in Somerville even with very high rents and a high rate of evictions. They are fathers and mothers of families who bring their cultures and make Somerville such a unique and special city."

"The changes I would like to see in Somerville would be stability in the price of rents, which are very high, the security that children who were born here can remain here and have a safe and healthy life, programs that facilitate the purchase of popular properties and rents fairer, and that our mayor has more affectionate eyes for the low-income population, as this population drives the city by buying from local businesses and moving the city," said Soares.

"I would like the Somerville community to know that they are not alone in the fight for affordable housing justice," she said. "We invite everyone to learn about CAAS and attend our monthly meetings to let them know their rights as tenants. All together we are stronger!"

Porter said that community organizing around the housing crisis is forcing potential investors to see tenants as people, and creating an environment where

investors don't feel as comfortable displacing residents.

Tenant organizing strengthens the power of the people, and demonstrates, "Your community will fight for you, and fight for you to be here," she said.

One of the programs that came out of the tenant organizing is the start and expansion of Somerville's Municipal Voucher Program (MVP) [2]. In November 30, 2022, the city and the Somerville Affordable Housing

*"I would like the Somerville community to know that they are not alone in the fight for affordable housing justice"*

Trust Fund each allocated \$1.8 million to support the first five years of the program.

"It is really critical because it provides that subsidy that makes housing more affordable," said Nicole Eigbrett, the director of community organizing at CAAS. "And this program is really unique and attuned to the needs of our Somerville community because it will be more flexible in terms of immigration status and targeted at low-income Somerville residents who have children and who have families."

Eigbrett added that CAAS is advocating for several housing justice and anti-poverty laws at the state level. She said, "The change in the protections needs to happen at every level." One of CAAS's top advocacy priorities is to lift the ban on rent control. Another is to help produce affordable housing units as quickly as possible through supporting the real estate transfer fee [3] — which reinvests 2% of local property purchases by outside developers into affordable housing in Somerville.

CAAS also supports the Tenants Opportunity to Purchase

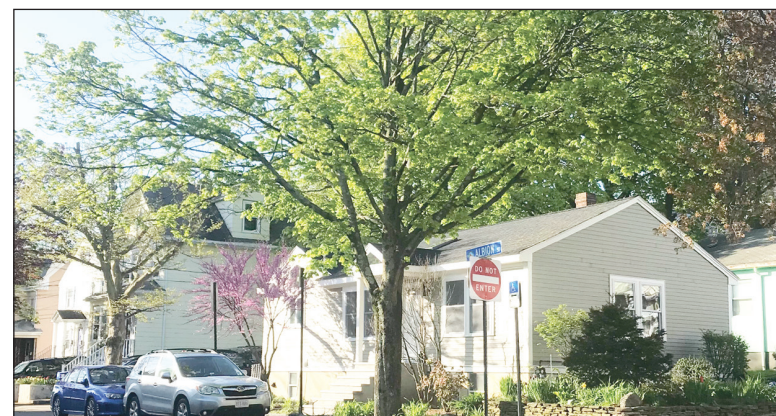
Act (TOPA) [4], which would give tenants the option to purchase their buildings first if they go up for sale, as well as eviction sealing, which would prevent eviction records from being used in housing screenings. "It is unfortunately permanently in a database that predatory landlords and property managers and real estate agents can use as a tool for discrimination and denying things like continued housing, stability, and sometimes in more severe cases, you know, opportunities for jobs," said Eigbrett on the topic of eviction records.

## Addressing the Regional Impact

The lack of affordable housing in Somerville is a regional issue, said Mary Cassesso, the managing trustee of the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Fund. "When people get pushed out of the market in Somerville, they start by trying to go to Everett or Malden, and those are now becoming unaffordable," she said.

Cassesso grew up in Somerville, and following the lead of her maternal grandmother and mother, has been fighting for affordable housing in the city for most of her career. "We were brought up recognizing that you had to fight for good government, good community," said Cassesso. "You had to be involved. You had to have skin in the game."

When construction for the I-93 highway was being planned, Cassesso, her family, and her neighbors advocated for a structure that would minimize risk to the community. "We all fought for a depressed structure, that it wouldn't be an elevated structure, you know, because the rates of cancer and heart disease from the small dust particles have been huge. And we also knew that those kinds of projects always cut through low-income communities where people had so many issues to address that they couldn't be up there fighting government. But we were, and we were a tight neighborhood, and not only the large family that we were got involved in everything, so did all



The Tenants Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) would provide residents with the option to purchase the properties they reside in from their landlords before they are sold to third parties.

the neighbors," she said. Cassesso said that the highway ended up displacing two-thirds of the homes in her neighborhood.

She said that the housing crisis needs to be addressed from many different angles, and that one possible solution could be the city repurposing municipal buildings. "The city of Somerville and all cities can and should look at every single municipal building that they have that's open, unoccupied, or that could be converted, and it should be for affordable housing exclusively and nothing else," she said.

## Organizing Beyond Housing

The Somerville Community Corporation (SCC) [5], which works to sustain the vibrance, diversity, and tolerance of the Somerville community, according to their website, purchases properties and turns them into affordable housing units as part of their 100 Homes Initiative.

This model comes with challenges, as outside investors and speculators drive up rental prices of local units, said Gonzalo Puigbó, the CEO of SCC. "They basically come in, they gobble these properties, they either convert them to condos, or you know, they displace families from the houses that they live in to sustain a higher rent model," he said.

"That makes it really hard because, you know, SCC has to go out there and buy these properties at market price, and then we have to rent it out at a much lower price to keep them affordable. So the city of Somerville and SCC have a partnership where they

provide us with subsidy money so that we can bring down that cost and keep those properties affordable," said Puigbó. He also said that in addition to increasing affordable housing in the city and supporting workforce development efforts through its programs, SCC is moving towards starting conversations in the city around race, as well as building a BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) leadership network.

Puigbó added, "You know, Somerville is a very progressive and well-intentioned city, and the population that lives here absolutely supports the efforts that we're trying to do. But you know, where I struggle myself as a Latino is that there's a lot of people speaking on our behalf."

Puigbó said that his vision for the BIPOC leadership network is that it will allow for community organizing to continue beyond SCC. "When I'm gone, or SCC's gone, or my staff is gone, or the board is gone, they can sustain themselves and learn to organize and fight for their individual rights and freedom."

[1] <https://www.caasomerville.org/>

[2] <https://www.somervillema.gov/news/somerville-announces-new-housing-support-low-income-households-excluded-federal-assistance>

[3] <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H3845>

[4] <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H1315>

[5] <https://www.somervillecdc.org/>

# Somerville Police are asking the public’s help in identifying suspect



The Somerville Police are asking the public’s help in identifying the pictured suspect in a recent residential breaking and entering in Somerville. Anyone who has information is asked to contact the Somerville Police Criminal Investigation Department at 617-625-1600 x7231. — Somerville Police Dept.



Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Lacourt Realty, LLC & 300 Somerville Avenue Realty, LLC are pleased to announce **2 income-restricted rental apartments** available through the City of Somerville Inclusionary Housing Program at:

**300 Somerville Ave., Somerville & 124 College Ave., Somerville**



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Household Size	Min. Income*	Tier 1 (50% AMI) Maximum Income Limits
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3		\$66,800
4		\$74,200
5		\$80,150
6		\$86,120

Address + Unit Number	Bedrooms	Monthly Rent	Utilities Included	Approx. Area (SF)
300 Somerville Ave. #6	2	\$1,290	N/A	1,509
124 College Ave. #2-5	2	\$1,492	Water; Sewer	650

\* Min. income requirements are waived for households with rental subsidies through mobile housing vouchers such as Section 8, MRVP, VASH etc.

**APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE: Tues. Jun. 27– Wed. Jul. 26 22**

Online at: [somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing](https://somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing)

Request hard applications and more information at: (617) 625-6600 X 2566 or [inclusionary@somervillema.gov](mailto:inclusionary@somervillema.gov)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: Wed. Jul. 26, 2023 at 2:00 PM**

Faxed to: 617-591-3235; Emailed to: [inclusionary@somervillema.gov](mailto:inclusionary@somervillema.gov)

Mailed/Dropped off to: City Hall Annex: 50 Evergreen Ave., Somerville, MA 02145;

**LOTTERY:** Tues. Aug., 1, 2023 @ 3PM | Register to view the lottery here:

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Visit: [somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing](https://somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing)

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](mailto:apomeroy@somervillema.gov).



City of Somerville Income-Restricted Rental Opportunity

**Prospect Union Square**

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[www.ProspectUnionSquareLottery.com](http://www.ProspectUnionSquareLottery.com)

**Ninety (90) Inclusionary Rental Units**

# of Units	Unit Size	Square Feet	AMI	Rent*	# of units built out for Mobility Impairments	# of units built out for Visual Impairments and/or Deaf/Hard of Hearing
10	Studio	449-486	50%	\$1,072-\$1,154	1	-
11	1-Bedroom	524-763	50%	\$1,092-\$1,205	3	-
7	2-Bedroom	840-880	50%	\$1,228-\$1,373	2	-
6	3-Bedroom	978-1,191	50%	\$1,359-\$1,536	-	-
9	Studio	405-553	51%-80%	\$1,415-\$1,497	-	-
13	1-Bedroom	524-763	51%-80%	\$1,461-\$1,574	2	-
7	2-Bedroom	840-918	51%-80%	\$1,674-\$1,819	1	-
5	3-Bedroom	978-1,135	51%-80%	\$1,865-\$2,042	-	-
8	Studio	425-453	81%-110%	\$1,803-\$3,212	-	1
8	1-Bedroom	524-763	81%-110%	\$1,735-\$3,175	1	-
3	2-Bedroom	840-954	81%-110%	\$1,889-\$3,902	1	-
3	3-Bedroom	978-1,023	81%-110%	\$2,231-\$4,185	-	-

\*All utilities paid for by the tenant.

Rents for 110% AMI units are based on household income. Included in chart above are the lowest/highest possible rents based on 1-2 people in a Studio unit, 1-2 people in a 1-Bedroom unit and 2-4 people in a 2-Bedroom unit.

## Minimum Income Limits for 50% AMI units

Unit Size	AMI	Minimum Household Income
Studio	50%	\$32,160
1-Bedroom	50%	\$32,760
2 Bedroom	50%	\$36,840
3-Bedroom	50%	\$40,770

## Maximum Income Limits

(set by the HUD + based on Household Size + AMI)

Household Size	50% AMI	51%-80% AMI	81%-110% AMI
1	\$51,950	\$51,951 - \$82,950	\$82,951 - \$114,268
2	\$59,400	\$59,401 - \$94,800	\$94,801 - \$130,592
3	\$66,800	\$66,801 - \$106,650	\$106,651 - \$146,976
4	\$74,200	\$74,201 - \$118,450	\$118,451 - \$163,240
5	\$80,150	\$80,151 - \$127,950	\$127,951 - \$176,299
6	\$86,100	\$86,101 - \$137,450	\$137,451 - \$189,358

\* 2023 Area Median Incomes for the Boston, Cambridge, Quincy, MA-NH MSA.

**Asset Limit:** \$75,000 (excluding restricted assets)

Applications are available during the application period.

**Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 — Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

To complete an online application, visit: [www.ProspectUnionSquareLottery.com](http://www.ProspectUnionSquareLottery.com).

To have a hard copy of the application mailed to you, please email

[ProspectUnionSquare@MaloneyProperties.com](mailto:ProspectUnionSquare@MaloneyProperties.com) or call (617) 639-3064 Ext 785

Hard applications will be available at the entrance of the City Hall Annex located at 50 Evergreen Ave. Somerville; Somerville City Hall located at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville; And all Somerville Public Library branches.

**Fully completed + signed** applications must be submitted online or received (not postmarked) no later than **Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Mailed to:**

**Maloney Properties, Inc.**

**Attn: Prospect Lottery**

**27 Mica Lane, Wellesley, MA 02481**

Or emailed to: [ProspectUnionSquare@MaloneyProperties.com](mailto:ProspectUnionSquare@MaloneyProperties.com)

**Lottery Drawing Date is expected to be held within 1-2 weeks following the application deadline. Below is the Zoom Information for the Lottery Drawing:**

<https://maloneyproperties.zoom.us/j/81100557552?pwd=RzJxbDJlQTZacEhuaWhpYU5JcXh3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 811 0055 7552 Passcode: 932926

- Selection by Lottery. Asset, Use & Occupancy Restrictions apply.
- Preference for Households with Mobility Impairments for accessible units

For more information, free language assistance, or to make a request for reasonable accommodations, please call (617) 639-3064 Ext 785 | US Relay 711 or email [ProspectUnionSquare@MaloneyProperties.com](mailto:ProspectUnionSquare@MaloneyProperties.com)

Equal Housing Opportunity



Beacon Hill Roll Call



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Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)

**THE HOUSE AND SENATE.** *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators’ votes on roll calls from the recent debate on the Senate’s version of a \$55.9 billion fiscal 2024 state budget.

**\$300,000 FOR FIREFIGHTERS’ CANCER SCREENINGS (S 3)**

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would provide \$300,000 for a municipal grant program for firefighter cancer screenings, including advance blood testing and imaging.

Amendment supporters say the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health undertook two large studies focused on firefighter cancer, concluding that firefighters experienced a 9 percent increase in cancer diagnoses and a 14 percent increase in cancer-related deaths, compared to the nation’s general population.

“Early screening of firefighters is so particularly important in the fight against cancer,” said sponsor Sen. Walter Timilty (D-Milton). “Quite simply, our firefighters experience a higher risk of cancer as a result of the work that they so courageously perform to both protect and care for us. Truly, firefighters both need and must have access to life-saving cancer screenings.”

“Furthermore, the chances of firefighters being diagnosed with terminal leukemia increases with the number of fire-related call responses,” continued Timilty. “In addition, the chance of a lung cancer diagnosis, an insidious disease, and subsequent death, increases with the amount of time a firefighter combats a blaze. In short, firefighting is a dangerous profession. Therefore, we must do everything we can to ensure that firefighters experience the same safety, security and protections they afford to us.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$300,000.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen      Yes

**\$250,000 FOR PROTECTION OF RIGHT WHALES (S 3)**

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would provide \$250,000 for the protection of right whales by increasing the patrols of officers to identify and remove abandoned fishing gear and to enhance their ability to enforce speed restrictions through use of drone technologies to minimize potentially harmful interactions between vessels and right whales.

Amendment supporters say more than 90 whales have either died or been injured since 2017 and that there are fewer than 340 right whales remaining today. “Since its incorporation in 2005, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC) group’s North American office has

run a dedicated program to save this imperiled species and implement protective measures to save right whales from those threats,” says the group’s website. “WDC has worked to develop and implement rules to reduce vessel strikes, successfully reducing the risk of a fatal collision by 80 percent to 90 percent in U.S. waters, and to increase federally designated critical habitat to cover nearly 40,000 square miles of the U.S. East Coast.”

Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester), the sponsor of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking him to comment on his amendment.

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$250,000.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen      Yes

**NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME (S 3)**

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment mandating that the state’s Department of Public Health and Department of Mental Health conduct a study on the occurrence and impact of neonatal abstinence syndrome in the Bay State. Neonatal abstinence syndrome is a treatable condition that newborns may experience as a result of prenatal exposure to opioids and other drugs the mothers might take. Babies can then go through painful and difficult drug withdrawal after birth.

Amendment supporters say this has become a big problem in the Bay State and across the nation. “Pregnant women who use drugs, smoke or drink alcohol put their unborn babies at risk for neonatal abstinence syndrome and other problems,” says Stanford Medicine Children’s Health’s website. “Women who use drugs also may be less likely to get prenatal care. This can also increase the risks for both mother and baby.”

Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester), the sponsor of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking him to comment on his amendment.

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen      Yes

**ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL**

The Public Health Committee held a hearing on 54 bills including these four that deal with smoking laws in the Bay State.

**PHARMACISTS AND SMOKING CESSATION MEDICINE (S 1428)** – Would authorize licensed pharmacists to dispense medications to help individuals quit

smoking. The pharmacist must first complete a training program which would include proper documentation, quality assurance and referral to additional services, including recommendations that the patient follows up with a medical practitioner.

“Despite decades of public health campaigns and legislation, smoking remains one of the most common causes of death in the United States,” said sponsor Sen. Mike Moore (D-Millbury). “The good news is that we have powerful tools to help individuals overcome their addiction to nicotine through several safe and effective smoking cessation medications – though access can be a key barrier for many. This critical legislation would expand access to lifesaving anti-smoking drugs by allowing trained pharmacists to dispense medications to qualifying patients looking to live longer and healthier lives.”

**REPEAL THE MENTHOL BAN (S 1364)** – Would repeal the state’s 2000 law that bans flavored vaping and tobacco products – including mint and menthol cigarettes.

“The state menthol ban was put in place as a reactionary measure for the rare occasion where it was deemed harmful, without much thought to the potential implications of the legislation,” said sponsor Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). “With my legislation to repeal the menthol ban, it would make the sale of current menthol products legal and subject to the regulatory and taxation requirements of the state, ensuring that the product is made and distributed according to our standards. It would also benefit small businesses that lost out on a significant portion of their income when the initial ban was hastily passed into law.”

**SALE OF CIGARETTES TO 21 AND OVER (S 1397)** – Would allow cigarettes and other tobacco products to be sold only in Adult-Only Retail Tobacco Stores or smoking bars. The stores are defined as an “establishment that is not required to possess a retail food permit whose primary purpose is to sell or offer for sale but not for resale, tobacco products and tobacco paraphernalia, in which the sale of other products or offer of services is merely incidental.” No one under age 21 is allowed in these stores.

Supporters said current law says people must be 21 years of age to buy tobacco but tobacco is still sold in hundreds of convenience stores and gas stations across the state. They said this is inconsistent and noted that these stores are sometimes lax and sell cigarettes and other tobacco products to people under 21.

Sen. Jason Lewis (D-Winchester), the sponsor of the measure, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking him to comment on *Continued on page 17*



FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's  
*Olio*  
#881

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. Who was the first tennis player to win all four major singles titles and the Olympic gold medal in the same calendar year?

2. What bird's eye is bigger than its brain?

3. In the move *Casa-blanca*, where were the letters of transit hidden?

4. Who has the Guinness World Records title of the longest career hosting a single game show?

5. Undigested food in the stomach is referred to as what?

6. On what part of your body would you wear a
- cloche?

7. What was the first U.S. city to put fluoride in the drinking water?

8. Which television series finale attracted the most viewers in the United States?

9. What company logo is featured in the movie *Cast Away*?

10. Who coined the term New England?

11. Bart is a main character in which animated TV series?

12. Tea leaves rolled into a small round pellets are called what kind of tea?
- Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. The U.S. Air Force introduced Bob Ross to painting.
2. A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD  
IDIOMS

- ACROSS
1. Nebraska city on Missouri River

6. Not her

9. Earnhardt of racing fame

13. Sea near Australia

14. Slippery when cold

15. Printer cartridge contents

16. Title of this puzzle, sing.

17. Congressional title, abbr.

18. Title holder

19. Run around in these and not make progress

21. Cut these to skip steps

23. He had

24. Nicholas II, e.g.

25. Jack-in-the-Box restraint

28. Subway in U.K.

30. What washing machine does

35. Egyptian goddess of love

37. Crescent point

39. Hot rod sticker, e.g.

40. Org. in Brussels

41. Impede

43. Parks or Luxemburg

44. \_\_\_\_'s, once Canada's famous department store

46. One of these in beans lacks importance

47. Barrel-counting org.

48. Nova \_\_\_\_, Canada

50. Mess up

52. Bugling ungulate

53. Modeling material

55. Robinson in "The Graduate"

57. Resting on these stops one from trying

61. No use crying over this milk

65. Money in the bank, e.g.

66. Certain frat house letters

68. Little dear

69. Like a disreputable neighborhood

70. College assessment test, acr.

71. Fairy-tale oil lamp dweller

72. Hawaiian tuber

73. "Oui" in English

74. The Three Musketeers' swords
- DOWN
1. Ear-related

2. Skirt length

3. Gulf V.I.P.

4. Moonshine

5. Cloth armband

6. Kaa's warning

7. Break it to start a conversation

8. Synchronizes, for short

9. Pillow filler

10. "Green Gables" character

11. Suggestive look

12. Blunders

15. Full of tribulations

20. Derive

22. Dinghy propeller

24. Bear witness

25. Read between these for real meaning

26. Writer Asimov

27. Likewise

29. \*Don't beat around it

31. Claudius' successor

32. Breadth

33. Oil holder

34. Cut one some of this and don't be critical

36. Dirt on Santa's suit?

38. Gallup's inquiry

42. Like Raphael's cherubs

45. Polite social behavior

49. How many of the President's men?

51. \*Cross it when you get to it

54. Investigative report

56. Count sheep

57. Bringing up the rear, adj.

58. Between ports

59. Consumer

60. Overhaul

61. Tennis scoring term, pl.

62. Pool path

63. Great Lake

64. Henna and such

67. \*One up your sleeve gives advantage

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
			23				24							
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41				42		43			
44				45		46					47			
48					49		50			51		52		
				53		54			55		56			
57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

OBITUARY

James V. 'Jimmy' McCallum



James V. "Jimmy" McCallum, a 47-year resident of Somerville and formerly of Charlestown, entered into eternal life on Wednesday, July 5, 2023 following a lengthy illness. He was 80 years of age.

Jimmy was born in Boston on January 9, 1943, a son of the late George H. McCallum and Margaret C. (Murphy) McCallum. He grew up in Charlestown where he was educated in the Boston Public School system and graduated from Brighton High School. Jimmy was an accomplished athlete in his youth, excelling in various sports. He received a partial scholarship to play hockey at Brown University but turned it down to enter the work force to provide for his family. Jimmy was more than a 30-year member and Past President of the Sheet Metal Workers Union Local #17. Following his retirement from Local #17, Jimmy worked for the MBTA at the Everett Barn. Public service was very important to Jimmy, which is why he served as an Alderman for Somerville's Ward 4 and was the Commissioner of the Somerville Housing Authority. Jimmy enjoyed playing golf every day and was a member of a league at Mt. Hood Golf Course in Melrose, where he won a few championships. He was a member of the Bunker Hill Council # 62, Knights of Columbus and the Old Charlestown Schoolboys Association.

Jimmy is the beloved husband of 48 years to Connie (Boyle) McCallum. He is the loving brother of the late Francis "Frank McCallum and his late wife Gerri, Richard "Dickie" McCallum and his late wife Mary, Roy McCallum, Donald "Donnie" McCallum, and Timothy "Tippy" McCallum. He is the beloved brother-in-law of Annette Kalimuddin. He is also survived by his nieces; Susan Huddleston of TX, and Carrie Tillery of CA.

In lieu of flowers, kindly make a memorial donation in Jimmy's name to:  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
501 St. Jude Place  
Memphis, TN 38105

'Kitchen to Kitchen: Somerville In Food' to be released by Somerville Homeless Coalition

CONT. FROM PG 1

Food Security Coalition, The City of Somerville, the Somerville Arts Council, and Directangle.

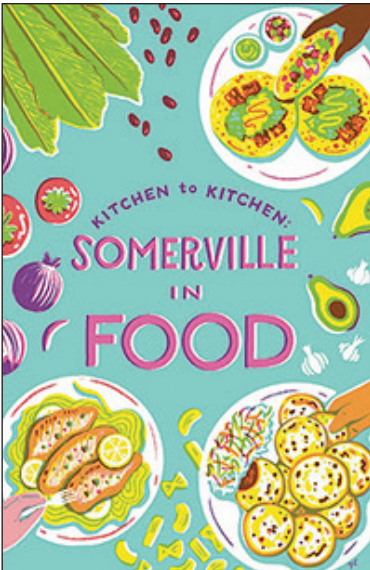
According to Ebel and Ruemmele, the book contains interviews and recipes from local Somerville chefs, volunteers, civil servants, small business owners, community advocates, students, and religious leaders.

"As you read the profiles of our neighbors and cook their delicious recipes, we hope this project will be a way to bring our community together around food while prompting thoughtful discussions on the impact of food insecurity and some of the food access efforts happening in Somerville." Said Ebel and Ruemmele.

There are two release dates for the book. If you are picking up the book, you can do so starting July 10 at any of the locations below. 429 Somerville Ave, Somerville, 165 Broadway, Somerville, 255 Elm Street Suite 204, Somerville, 149 Broadway, Somerville. If you choose to purchase your cookbook online but wish to pick it up in person, you must bring your confirmation email with you.

If you prefer to have the book delivered, delivery dates are estimated to be the first two weeks of August. Please note that deliveries to Boston may take longer. Those seeking a copy of the book in Spanish, please email [Pmurphy@shcinc.org](mailto:Pmurphy@shcinc.org). Translation: Si buscas una copia del libro escrito en Español por favor mada un correo electrónico a [Pmurphy@shcinc.org](mailto:Pmurphy@shcinc.org).

To learn more about the cookbook and pre-order your copy, click the link below: <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/e/Nx-mo2g?vid=y5o6l>.




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The Somerville Times

Historical Fact of the Week




Eagle feathers #283

The Creators


By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Thomas Alva Edison, the father of over one thousand patented creations, gadgets and devices was said to be a genius. His own description of that word was "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration." His initial inventions, first a municipal vote counter, and second the ticker-tape machine, came to life in the electrical shop of Somerville's Charles Williams.



Another discovery born in the Williams shop was Alexander Graham Bell's telephone with its first telephone number 1 awarded to the Williams home at #1 Arlington Street. Bell was a prolific inventor who once said "There cannot be mental atrophy in any person who continues to observe, to remember what he observes, and to seek answers for his hows and whys about things."

Throughout history, millions of people have had a ground-breaking spark or idea that was never developed. It takes ability, will and time to bring an invention to fruition, and most people lack one of the three. Through the years, many people who have touched or resided in Somerville have had their ideas and inventions brought to fruition.



Here is a sampling:

- Daniel Stillson – He was the creator of the famous pipe wrench that bears his name. He was a Naval Civil War veteran and a Somerville Alderman.
- George Cove – He created the first solar-powered house in the nation which was powered

Continued on page 21

## LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)
**City of Somerville  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, July 19, 2023**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

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

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9136661683517539935>  
Webinar ID: 422-058-763

**TO CALL IN**

Phone number: 1 (415) 930-5321  
Access code: 581-636-316

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

- 36 Radcliffe Road** Lidia Szydłowska proposes modifications to a Detached Triple Decker in the Urban Residence district, which requires a Special Permit.
- 34 Allen Street** Chris Ulrich seeks to establish a Veterinarian principal use in a pre-existing nonconforming commercial building in the Neighborhood Residence District, which requires a Special Permit.
- 391-395 Somerville Ave** Isaia and Victor Martins seek to extend the validity of a previously approved Special Permit with Site Plan Review (ZBA 2019-37) in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) district for a period of one (1) year.
- 120-132 Middlesex Ave** DWCH Assembly Row, LLC seeks to extend the validity of a previously approved Hardship Variance (P&Z 22-056) in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use (ASMD) district.
- 29 Lake Street** Esther Silberstein and David Mlaver seek relief from the maximum amount of stories permitted in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) district, which requires a Hardship Variance.
- 27 Fountain Ave** Andrea Traviglia & Andre Pelletier seek relief from the required sum of setbacks in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) district, which requires a Hardship Variance.
- 118 Rogers Ave** Valerie Humblet seeks to further extend the existing nonconformity for the required rear setback in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) district, which requires a Special Permit Finding.

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

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

7/5/23, 7/12/23 The Somerville Times


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

**THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.**  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)**

The **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, August 1, 2023** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Registration URL:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8977628321830501728>  
Webinar ID: 437-637-051

**TO CALL IN**

Phone Number: 1 (562) 247-8422  
Access Code: 280-744-768

**ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT****Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties****HPC.ALT 2023.41 – 11 Thorpe Street**

Applicant: Griffin Dunn  
Owner: Same as Applicant  
*The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by installing tracking lines for a ductless AC system.*

**Determinations of Historic Significance (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)****HPC.DMO 2023.15 – 45 Alpine Street**

Applicant: David Kogan  
Owner: Same as Applicant  
*The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.*

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

7/12/23 The Somerville Times

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**City of Somerville  
PLANNING BOARD**

City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, July 20, 2023**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available by using the registration link once the meeting has concluded.

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4278346410886983007>  
Webinar ID: 382-297-531

**TO CALL IN**

Phone number: 1 (415) 655-0052  
Access code: 189-631-606

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

- 366 Broadway** 366 Broadway Somerville, LLC proposes to develop a four (4)-story LEED Gold and Net-Zero Ready apartment building and establish a Household Living principle use for 58 dwelling units in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) zoning district. This proposal requires Site Plan Approval and one (1) Special Permit for Household Living.
- 32/40/44 White Street** SGL Development, Inc. proposes to develop a four (4)-story Commercial Building in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) district. The proposal requires Site Plan Approval and one (1) Special Permit for relief from the roof-mounted mechanical equipment and screening height.

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

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

7/5/23, 7/12/23 The Somerville Times

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW****PROJECT:** Draw 7 Park Redevelopment Project**LOCATION:** off Noonan Place, Somerville, MA**PROponent:** Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

**The undersigned is submitting an Environmental Notification Form ("ENF") to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs on or before June 21, 2023.**

**This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act ("MEPA", M.G.L. c. 30, s.s. 61-621). Copies of the ENF may be obtained from:**  
Mel Higgins - Weston & Sampson Engineers  
55 Walkers Brook Drive, Suite 100  
Reading MA 01867  
(978) 573-4156

**Copies of the ENF are also being sent to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board of Somerville where they may be inspected.**

The Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs will publish notice of the ENF in the Environmental Monitor, will receive public comments on the project for 20 days, and will then decide, within ten days, if an environmental Impact Report is needed. A site visit and consultation session on the project may also be scheduled. All persons wishing to comment on the project, or to be notified of a site visit or consultation session, should write to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, Attention: MEPA Office, referencing the above project.

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COMMENTARY

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

The Absurdity of the DSA: A Tale of Two Representatives

By Jason Mackey

“Massachusetts politics is a funny thing. The Commonwealth is full of vibrant debates, clashes of ideologies, and sometimes, surprising paradoxes. A particularly glaring paradox today centers on the Massachusetts House of Representatives, specifically, two self-proclaimed Democratic Socialists: Somerville Representatives Erika Uytterhoeven and Mike Connolly.

Erika Uytterhoeven, State Representative for the 27th Middlesex district, has earned a reputation of refusing to collaborate with her colleagues at the State House. Despite being elected to

represent and serve her constituent’s best interest, Uytterhoeven seemingly chooses to prioritize her ideological purity over productive collaboration. This mindset runs counter to the core essence of politics: compromise, negotiation, and teamwork.

In my 2022 campaign challenging Uytterhoeven, I emphasized the importance of collaboration. Despite our political disagreements, the ability to work with others, even those with opposing viewpoints, is vital to effective governance. It is the basis for progress and an essential aspect of serving the best interests of the people.

In stark contrast to Uytterhoeven’s approach, we have Mike

Connolly, the Representative for the 26th Middlesex district, who is facing the threat of expulsion from the Boston chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) precisely for working with his colleagues at the State House. Despite Connolly’s self-identification as a socialist and his progressive track record, the DSA is considering ousting him. His crime? Collaborating with other politicians and supporting proposals not radical enough for the DSA. This situation can only be described as high comedy.

Uytterhoeven’s reluctance to work with her colleagues and the

DSA’s charges against Connolly for doing just that reflects an inherent paradoxical absurdity within the ideology of Democratic Socialism: get penalized for refusing to work with colleagues or face expulsion for doing so.

As a former candidate for State Representative, I firmly believe that the ability to collaborate with others, regardless of ideological differences, is a crucial quality for any politician. Effective governance requires negotiation, compromise, and mutual respect. It’s not about winning a contest of ideological purity but about making real, positive changes for the constituents you serve.

The divergent paths of Rep-

resentatives Uytterhoeven and Connolly highlight a key issue in Democratic Socialism: its inability to prioritize practical solutions over ideological purity. They are failing the constituents they claim to represent. The ongoing comedy of the DSA versus Connolly underscores the need for representatives who focus on solving real problems through collaboration, rather than engaging in self-limiting ideological battles. I commend Connolly for his actions and wish Uytterhoeven would borrow a page from his playbook. Without a shift towards pragmatic strategies, the DSA runs the risk of exposing itself as the political farce it is.

SNAP matches through Good Food For All

Did you know that Union Square Main Streets and Union Square Farmers Market offer a dollar-for-dollar local SNAP match for all 25 Saturdays of the market season? This match allows people to double their buying power at the market – through the match, \$15 becomes \$30. As a relatively new Union Square business owner and graduate student in nutrition policy and programming at the Tufts Friedman School, I am excited to take part in fundraising for a program that has made such a large impact on our broader community. This SNAP match is made possible thanks to the City of Somerville, local businesses, and neighbors who donate through Good Food For All.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly food stamps) is a federally-funded, state-administered program that provides financial support to low-income people for certain food purchases. It directly addresses food insecurity, which per the USDA is the “lack of consistent access to enough food for every person in the house to live an active healthy lifestyle.” Food insecurity is not just the inability to afford food, it is also the lack of access to quality food. Food insecurity occurs for a variety of reasons, many of which are overlapping and intersecting, and it often falls under the broad umbrella of issues of food justice, often intersecting with racial justice and immigration status.

USFM’s SNAP match advances a proposition often centered in the food justice landscape: knowing your food and food quality matters deeply. Programs, like our SNAP match, increase equity and justice. This is deeply needed in Somerville and the United States as a whole.

This is made obvious by some perhaps lesser-known truths. Lack of quality diet is the number one cause of death in the US contributing to over 678,000 deaths annually, relating to a variety of causes including heart disease, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes. Any program that decreases food insecurity has a demonstrably positive impact on disease, from onset through outcome. And at the same time, a 2019 government survey found that 12.3% adults met the recommended fruit consumption, and only 10% of adults met a vegetable intake of 2-3 cups per day.

With survey results like that, it’s no wonder that match programs like ours are linked both to increased health and wellness and to decreased health care use and spending, as they specifically increase fruit and vegetable purchasing power. These benefits are not just extended to the people who receive SNAP, but society writ large. The farmers market SNAP match heads on these two important nutrition tenants: increasing both food security, and fruit and vegetable consumption.

As the co-Founder of a business centered on the experiences of historically marginalized people, I love our beautiful city and think of it as a progressive haven, at the forefront of public policy. And still, the amount of people in Somerville experiencing food insecurity has increased substantially since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic; demand for the SNAP match at USFM immediately increased 217%. Just in the first month of this market season alone, there has been a 39% increase in participation in the Union Square Farmers Market’s SNAP match.

Even though from a policy standpoint, we are living in a “post-pandemic” world, its impacts are still felt deeply and frequently. Increasing food insecurity is just one of many interrelated outcomes, and I encourage everyone to come to the table and give to Good Food For All. These actions that we take to support our community reverberate out, improving the world as a whole. To learn more about how you can help, visit Union Square Main Streets’ website at [unionsquaremain.org](https://unionsquaremain.org).

— Emily Kaplan, P+E Wellness and Tufts Friedman MS Candidate 2024



## Somerville rent stabilization listening sessions, July 20 and July 27

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville invite community members to provide public comments about rent stabilization at an upcoming listening session. As part of ongoing efforts to continue to reduce displacement and increase housing affordability, the City's Anti-Displacement Task Force (ADTF) is drafting a rent stabilization law, and community members are invited to share their input on what should be included. Two separate sessions will be offered: one for property owners, and one for renters.

Rent stabilization is a legal strategy that aims to keep housing affordable. Rent stabilization includes laws that prevent rents from rising too quickly and laws that offer protection against wrongful evictions. It also includes considerations for property owners, such as what types of buildings are exempt from the law and considerations for if and when a unit that formerly qualified for rent stabilization could remove its restrictions.

The ADTF will use the feedback received at the listening sessions to help inform the proposed legislation draft. Some example considerations are: In what way should rents be limited? Should any units or people be exempt from rent stabilization? If so, who? How should the costs of repairs be factored into rents?

The ADTF will then submit the draft law to the City and the City Council, and then to the state legislature, where the City will formally ask the state for permission to enact the law (known as a "home rule petition").

The first listening session, for property owners and their advocates, is Thursday, July 20, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. The second session, for renters and their advocates, is Thursday, July 27, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Both listening sessions will be hosted in a hybrid format, with the opportunity to participate in person at the Armory or remotely on Zoom. Both sessions will be recorded and posted on [voice.somervillema.gov/adtf](https://voice.somervillema.gov/adtf).

### How to Provide Comments

- Register and Speak at a Listening Session: Advance registration is required to speak at either listening session no later than 48 hours before the session. To sign up, go to [voice.somervillema.gov/adtf](https://voice.somervillema.gov/adtf) or call 311 (617-666-3311). Registration is only required for those providing comments. At each session, speakers will be called in the order of registration. If you do not register ahead of time but wish to speak, we will do our best to accommodate you but cannot guarantee you will have an opportunity to do so.
- Property Owners and Advocates: Register to speak at the July 20 session by Tuesday, July 18, at 5:00 p.m.
- Renters and Advocates: Register to speak at the July 27 session by Tuesday, July 25, at 5:00 p.m.
- Submit Written Comment: If you cannot attend the session, written comment will be accepted until midnight on Monday, July 31, by email to [adtf@somervillema.gov](mailto:adtf@somervillema.gov) or via mail at:

City of Somerville, Attn: Luis Quizhpe  
Office of Community Development and Strategic Planning  
93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143

### How to Attend a Listening Session

- Attend in person at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave.
- Join online: Find the Zoom links at [voice.somervillema.gov/adtf](https://voice.somervillema.gov/adtf)
- Join by phone:

### For landlords and their advocates (July 20):

Dial: +1 646-558-8656. Enter Meeting ID: 838 3292 1717. Enter Passcode: 635355.

### For renters and their advocates (July 27):

Dial: +1 646-558-8656. Enter Meeting ID: 844 6308 0114. Enter Passcode: 647757.



## The Somerville Commission for Women discusses recruitment and elects a new Co-Chair

By Beatriz Leite

The Somerville Health and Human Services Department held their monthly meeting for the Somerville Commission for Women, this past Friday, July 7.

The agenda did not include many topics for discussion. After approval of the minutes, the election for the new Co-Chair took place. The current chairs are Stephanie Galaitsi, Deborah Lormeus, Christina (CC) Morone, Fabia Oliveira, Kimberly

Sheridan, Crystal Turner, and, Arlen Weiner.

The commissioners, who volunteer for a three-year term and are appointed by the mayor, focus on advocacy, education, and outreach in regards to and on behalf of women. They discussed

recruitment for new volunteers to work on committees.

The volunteers serve on various committees and provide assistance in organizing and staffing Commission events and activities. The Commission helps design and implement programs

that promote equality for all women in the city, along with coordinating activities of all departments and divisions of the city government on issues affecting women and investigating any injustices and limitations of resources for women.

Be sure to visit us online at [www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)

# SCES augmenting cultural events and training through Somerville ARPA grants

A pair of grants will help Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) expand cultural events and strengthen hybrid workplace training.

The projects are funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grants through the City of Somerville. The funding will help SCES meet key DEI and employee-retention goals, said agency Director of Operations & Community Support Colleen Morrissey.

“The purpose of ARPA grants is helping communities recover from long-term impacts of the COVID pandemic,” said Morrissey. “By providing this funding, the City of Somerville is helping us build stronger connections with historically underserved communities that were disproportionately impacted by COVID. It will also help us revisit training for the hybrid workplace we adopted during the pandemic, which will benefit employee retention and ultimately the people we serve. We are immensely grateful for this generous support.”

The specific grants are as follows:

**Multicultural Meals and Arts Program for Older Adults in Somerville (\$63,979.90)**

SCES will partner with local restaurants and caterers to provide diverse meals at the

Somerville Council on Aging on Tuesdays and Thursdays from July 6, 2023 through June 27, 2024.

Cuisines will be Chinese, Italian, Portuguese, and Haitian. This will also benefit Somerville businesses, who are still recovering from pandemic financial losses.

Culturally diverse entertainment will also be scheduled once per month at the senior center.

In addition to supporting food security, the meal events reduce isolation, which is another major challenge exacerbated by the pandemic.

**Training and Workforce Development Program (\$150,226.10)**

This will strengthen onboarding and training, and proactively support career advancement and professional development.

SCES transitioned to a hybrid workplace during COVID, which reduced in-person supervision and prompted the agency to rethink training. Further, the recent worker shortage highlighted the need to prioritize employee retention through support and professional development.

The grant is funding a full-time internal staff trainer, professional development offerings, and a training space.

SCES was one of 35 local nonprofits that received funding through the Somerville ARPA grants. In announcing the \$10 million of funding, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne said the goals were to help strengthen and grow local organizations and programming.

“Building a city that supports progress for all doesn’t happen in a vacuum. It takes thoughtful and collaborative partnerships with our nonprofit community,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “Whether their focus is food accessibility, healthcare, career development, or cultural growth, these organizations are out in Somerville every day, tirelessly assisting our residents. Their commitment and dedication have made a tremendous impact in our community, and with these funds, we are demonstrating our unwavering support for their continued efforts.”

The ARPA funding allowed nonprofits to individually determine what was most needed in order to best serve community members. As a result, the \$10 million will support both specific new projects and general capacity building for the Somerville nonprofit community. Awarded projects address the funding priorities identified in the community engagement process including:

- Youth Services
- Economic Development
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Community Programming

**About Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services**

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services is a non-profit agency that supports the independence and well-being of older adults and adults with disabilities in Somerville and Cambridge. For free advice and guidance on questions of aging, caregiving or disability, contact our Community Support Center at 617-628-2601, email [info@eldercare.org](mailto:info@eldercare.org), or visit our website [eldercare.org](http://eldercare.org).



## Streamlined application process for zoning relief and historic preservations

Beginning July 5, the City of Somerville Planning, Preservation, and Zoning (PPZ) Division began accepting all new applications for permits for the Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals through the city’s Citizenserve Portal, the same online portal currently used for building permits and licensing by the city’s Inspectional Services Department (ISD).

The transition to Citizenserve centralizes all zoning relief and historic preservation project applications and documents into a single online platform. This change will help create a central repository for all project-related documents and streamline communications between applicants and assigned city staff.

Applications/processes that can now be submitted via Citizenserve include:

- Historic Preservation
- Demolitions of buildings over 75 years old
- Alterations to properties within Local Historic Districts
- Memorandum of agreement (MOA) process
- Zoning Permits
- Special Permits
- Site Plan Approval
- Hardship Variances
- Plan Revisions

All applications submitted prior to July 5 will be processed under the previous system.

**Learn More or Submit an Application**

Additional information on submitting applications via Citizenserve is available at [somervillema.gov/citizenserve](http://somervillema.gov/citizenserve). If you have questions, please email [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov) (zoning permit questions) or [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) (historic preservation questions).

Questions about building permits and certificates of occupancy, please email [isd@somervillema.gov](mailto:isd@somervillema.gov). Questions about zoning ordinance enforcement and interpretations should be directed to [isdzoning@somervillema.gov](mailto:isdzoning@somervillema.gov).



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Ms. Cam's

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Olío

Answers

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2. Ostrich	8. M*A*S*H
3. In the piano at the nightclub	9. FedEx
4. Pat Sajack, Wheel of Fortune	10. John Smith
5. Chyme	11. The Simpsons
6. Head, cloche hat	12. Gunpowder tea

## 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.*

# An Updated Clean Energy and Efficiency Code Now Governs Development in Somerville



**By Will Mbah**  
**Candidate for Somerville**  
**City Councilor at Large**  
**willmbah.com**

On July 1, 2023, Somerville and other cities in the Commonwealth have launched a new era of development and construction regulation. A new set of updated energy-efficiency regulations, called the Specialized Stretch Code, have taken effect. All buildings in the city that will be newly built or reconstructed will have to incorporate systems for heating, cooling and electric power supply, which conform to the best standards of efficiency and carbon-reduction.

Like all municipalities in Massachusetts, Somerville has in the past regulated the design, materials and systems of sanitation, energy and mechanical equipment by applying the state Building Code. This Code is a technical document that has appropriately evolved to incorporate the improved products and methods that industry designers and engineers have made available in the marketplace. Originally the Building Code regulations were only to protect people from disease, fire and building collapse. But over the years the purposes have expanded to encompass air and water quality, energy efficiency and to minimize the impacts of climate change.

## What is the Specialized Stretch Code?

In 2009, the Massachusetts Building Code was amended to include standards for energy efficient building systems and design solutions in sections called the "Stretch Code." These define the performance and design standards for such elements as high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment; power supply by electricity instead of natural gas or oil; and the use of solar panels, heat pumps, etc. They also describe ways to design windows with triple panes or tinting to reduce solar glare and heat and other methods of anticipating the effects of climate change.

In 2009, the Massachusetts Building Code was amended to include standards for energy efficient building systems and design solutions in sections called the "Stretch Code." These define the performance and design standards for such elements as high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment; power supply by electricity instead of natural gas or oil; and the use of solar panels, heat pumps, etc. They also describe ways to design windows with triple panes or tinting to reduce solar glare and heat and other methods of anticipating the effects of climate change.

In 2009, Massachusetts was the first state to write a Stretch Code. Cities and towns were then allowed to choose to apply these new rules to larger projects for new construction when applications for building permits and zoning approvals were presented by developers. The rules were written to apply only to new and large buildings because some of the technologies were

still experimental and costly.

Somerville was one of the first cities to adopt the Stretch Code in 2011 and, subsequently, 298 other Massachusetts cities and towns also adopted the code.

Of course during 14 years, the construction industry and building designers have continued to bring forward better building products and systems and the state, cities and towns have set more ambitious goals to achieve net-zero emissions. The state has fixed the goal of 50% reduction of carbon emissions from all sources by 2030 and the Somerville Climate Forward Plan has pledged the goal of zero carbon emissions in 2050.

The best contemporary practical ways to achieve these goals for buildings have been included in the Specialized Stretch Code. It was drafted in 2022 by an expert committee of the Commonwealth Department of Energy Resources and, starting in January 2023, cities began to take the votes to adopt the new code to take effect on 1 July. Somerville again was among the first. The City Council voted on January 26 and the Mayor approved.

## How will the new Specialized Stretch Code change development regulation in the city?

Compared with the older version from 2009, the new Stretch Code does three important things:

(1) It incorporates the improved technologies, systems and design solutions that have been made available in recent years.

(2) It expands the application of its standards to all building projects – covering not only large projects and new construction but also smaller buildings and the reconstruction or rehabilitations of older buildings.

(3) It requires designers and engineers to include in their buildings the ability to make more changes in future as the technologies continue to improve.

Essentially the updated Code recognizes that improved technologies have already brought down the costs of alternative energy systems and designs to justify their inclusion in all projects. Previously only projects over 100,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of building space were included. Now any building over 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> will be covered.

In addition, because the technologies will continue to evolve, it should be cost-effective and technically possible in a few years to transform buildings to full net-zero energy use. For example, lab buildings today continue to include natural gas for many research and production methods; but lab equipment using electricity is being improved

at a steady rate, so it should be possible in a few years for labs to phase out their gas for electricity. The labs recently built and under construction today will have in place their pathways to transition, as the Stretch Code has required.

Cambridge has just enacted a Building Energy Use Disclosure and Reduction ordinance that will aggressively move this transition along in its large group of older existing labs and office buildings. Somerville may want to adopt a similar approach in addition to the Stretch Code but, because our numbers of older lab and office buildings are small, the payoff may not justify setting up the necessary administrative process. Watching how the Cambridge ordinance works for a period of time should help us to decide.

## How will citizens recognize the impacts of the Stretch Code?

The most likely changes that citizen will recognize will occur in the development reviews that go before the Planning Board and ZBA.

Currently in the absence of the code provisions, OSPCD and the Planning Board have been requiring developers of larger projects to include in their applications documentation about their buildings' environmental and energy systems. In granting special permits, site plan approvals and ZBA variances, the planners and boards have imposed as conditions or mitigations many of the types of design and equipment standards that are now in the Stretch Code.

The Stretch Code now sets uniform procedures that all developers and owners, who apply for permits, will have to follow at the city Inspection Services Department. At the same time it becomes unnecessary and redundant for the OSPCD and the Planning Board and ZBA to require parallel or different documentation. Similarly, now that the Code provides in clear technical language what the standards and requirements must be, it will be unnecessary and inappropriate for the boards to make redundant or inconsistent findings, based only on their generalized authority to determine "consistency with city plans."

The city's Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change has been working with OSPCD and a consultant to determine what changes will need to be made in the Zoning Ordinance and in the procedures of development review to remove all the redundancies. It should result in simpler procedures and in much clearer plan approvals by the experts in ISD.

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## SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

### Upcoming events:

**The Mayor's Annual Senior Picnic is back!** – Tuesday, August 8th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Trum Field (541 Broadway) - There will be music, lunch and entertainment. To attend please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319 for your free ticket by August 1, 2023.

**Sleep Health 101** - Wednesday, July 19th from 11:00am-12:00pm at the Holland Street Center Sleep Health 101 will do anything but put you to sleep! Have you ever wondered how much sleep you should be getting or how you can achieve better quality sleep? Join us at Sleep Health 101. Hosted by The Cambridge Health Alliance. To RSVP, please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or nnaim@somervillema.gov Grab & Go lunch available.

**The Retro Polatin Duo** – Thursday, July 20th starting at 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. The Petro Polatin Duo is an exciting 50's and 60's band specializing in playing Vintage Rock and Roll and Classic Pop Hits, with soaring vocals and an infectious sense of fun. The duo is made up of a singer and guitarist. They will help us return to our roots, playing music such as "Dream Lover", "Sea Cruise", and "Rock Around the Clock." Lunch will be served after the performance, \$5 per person. Please call Debby Higgins to RSVP at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Intergenerational Game Time with the Mystic Learning Center** – Monday, July 31st starting at 11:00 a.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center. Spend some time playing cards, boards game and coloring with students from the Mystic Learning Center. We will have pizza for lunch. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or dhiggins@somervillema.gov

**LCR Game Day** - Friday, July 21st 10:00 a.m. at the Holland St. Center. LCR-Left Center Right is a fun, fast-paced dice game that you won't be able to put down! Players roll the dice to determine where they pass their chips. The last player with chips is the winner and wins the center pot. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov Grab & Go lunch available.

**Farmer's Market Coupons** - provided by Somerville Cambridge Elders Services, will be available for pick up on: Wednesday, July 12th from 9:30am-12:30pm at the Holland St. Center. For more information please call SCES at 617-628-2601.

**Lockboxes for Seniors** – The Free Lockboxes for Seniors Program is intended to provide Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) access to your residence in the event

of an emergency where you are unable to open the door. A key to your residence will be stored in a secure metal storage device, like a realtor's lockbox, at your residence. The access code to the lockbox will only be available to Police, Fire or EMS personnel and used only during an emergency. The program is targeted towards Somerville residents who live alone and are aged 65+, or those who are disabled and/or suffer from major medical issues at any age. Individuals living in apartment complexes or other facilities with maintenance staff are not eligible for this program. For more information, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

**Bingo** – Tuesdays at the Ralph & Jenny Center starting at 10:00 a.m. July 18th & July 25th, Lunch available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Bingo** – Thursdays at our Holland Street Center starting at 10:00 a.m. July 13th & July 27th . Lunch available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Veteran's Group** – Meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, July 25th at the Holland Street Center starting at 11:00 a.m. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Tech Open Hours** – Mondays, July 17th, July 24th & July 31st starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. Bring your phones, computers, and tablets or borrow one from the COA. This is a drop-in style individual help to answer your technology questions and frustrations. RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 781-823-9210 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

**Movie Day** – Friday, July 14th , 10:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. This month's film is A Tourist's Guide to Love-After an unexpected breakup, a travel executive accepts an assignment to go under cover and learn about the tourist industry in Vietnam. Along the way, she finds adventure and romance with her Vietnamese expat tour guide. Rated PG. Pizza will be served after the movie; \$2 per person. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Project Outlook, Low Vision Group** – (NEW TIME) Meets the 4th Thursday of each month (July 27th) starting at 2:00 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. Project Outlook is a group of residents with low or no vision who enjoy getting together for camaraderie and socialization. Project Outlook has been active for

over 30 years. Come join in the conversation, we look forward to meeting you. Please note day and time changes. For more information, please contact Claudia Ferro at 857-237-1801.

**Game Hour** – Mondays from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center. July 17th & July 24th Please join us as we play a wide variety of board and card games. Please RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

**Coffee & Conversation** – Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – At the Ralph & Jenny Center. This month we are meeting on July 17th & July 24th. Join us as we discuss a range of topics. No books – no test – just friendly conversation. Please contact Maureen Bastardi at mabastardi@Somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 to RSVP.

**LGBTQIA+ and Allies Social Group** – Thursday, July 13th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street in the Atrium. Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month. LGBTQIA+ and allies are welcome. Come and join us for this social gathering. Meet and mingle with new people. Light dinner will be served. RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at mbastardi@Somervillema.gov

**Book Club** – Meets the 3rd Friday of each month (July 21st) starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland St. Center. Do you love books and want to discuss your love of reading with others? Consider joining Book Club. Group meets in person and concurrently via Zoom. Please RSVP by calling Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov as space is limited.

**Music & Munch Program** – IN PERSON – Wednesday, July 12th at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. This 45- minute session will treat you to a playlist of diverse musical offerings: a little jazz, some "oldies but goodies," a smidgen of classical, a dip into barbershop, a trip to Broadway. The music is taped but the experience is live. Your guide is Somerville Resident, Laura Zoll, trained as a medieval musicologist and with a life-long love of all things musical. Learn a little, sing-along, relax and enjoy some Music while you Munch. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Brown Bag Supplemental Food Program** – PICK UP Thursday, July 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. For an application contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

# Current Show at The Art House in Somerville

The current solo show at The Art House highlights emerging artist Kelly Bishop, who investigates space, structure, and high-key color as she challenges the idea of existentialism. Her vibrant oil paintings provide a pathway into another realm for viewers to find peace and solace within.

The show runs until July 29, and they will be having a yoga event alongside Bishop's work on July 15 at 10:00 a.m. Tickets to the event can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/art-house-yoga-july-15th-tickets-214308631887?aff=oddtcreator>.

The gallery hours at The Art House are from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. 862 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144.



## Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

his proposal.

**REQUIRE RETAILERS THAT SELL TOBACCO TO ALSO SELL PRODUCTS TO HELP SMOKERS QUIT (S 1341)** – Would require any retailer that sells tobacco products to also sell at least one type of nicotine replacement therapy drug or device that has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for assisting with helping people quit tobacco use. Violators would be fined \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for a second offense and \$300 for a third or subsequent offense.

Supporters say that this might result in more people buying these drugs or devices to help them stop smoking and ultimately lead to a reduction in smoking. They argue it is important to have these drugs and devices readily available.

Sen. Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn), the sponsor of the measure, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to comment on his proposal. The same measure filed by Crighton last year was shipped off to a study committee where it died, as do most bills that are sent to a study committee.

### QUOTABLE QUOTES

“There is nothing more important than helping people get back up on their feet and 4 Housing is doing great work.” — Sen. Will Brownsberger (D-Belmont) upon visiting the housing nonprofit Justice 4 Housing that works to empower formerly incarcerated people in their reentry to society.

“Massachusetts residents rely on local government to deliver core services daily and information technology plays

a significant role in making that happen. This grant program is one of the many ways we partner with cities and towns to better serve residents, and we are proud to be able to help them improve their municipal broadband infrastructure.” — Gov. Maura Healey announcing \$4 million in grants to help municipalities and school districts across the state to support the construction or completion of their municipal fiber networks.

“Even as Bay Staters are back to enjoying the fresh sea breeze and splash of waves at the beach, pollution is still plaguing too many of the places where we swim. While past infrastructure investments have resulted in cleaner water in many places, we still have work to do to stop the flow of pathogens at some of our beaches.” — John Rumppler, Clean Water Director at Environment Massachusetts Research and Policy Center on the report that indicates that in 2022, 274 Massachusetts beaches were potentially unsafe for swimming on at least one testing day.

“These wildfires are continuing to rage, burning millions of acres of land and blowing smoke into Massachusetts that’s polluting our air. I’m proud that we are sending another crew of well-trained and dedicated firefighters to help our friends and partners in Quebec battle these intense blazes and stop further destruction of forests.” — Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Brian Arrigo announcing that the state has sent additional state wildland firefighters to Quebec, Canada, to help battle some of the more than 70 wildfires that have continued to burn since the beginning of June

### HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the

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

During the week of July 3-7, the House met for a total of 18 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 51 minutes.

Mon. July 3	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:06 a.m. Senate 11:23 a.m. to 12:46 p.m.
Tues. July 4	No House session No Senate session
Wed. July 5	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. June 6	House 11:06 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. Senate 11:24 a.m. to 11:52 a.m.
Fri. July 7	No House session No Senate session

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

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

<b>WEDNESDAY, JULY 12</b> 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I 7:35 AM ECSA Park Ribbon Cutting 8:00 AM An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington 9:31 AM Finance Committee Meeting 6-27-23 12:00 PM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting 1:00 PM City Council Meeting 6-22-23 5:00 PM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2 5:30 PM Haitian Flag Day 2023 6:00 PM SomerViva - Kreyol 6:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis 7:00 PM ECSA Park Ribbon Cutting 7:30 PM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting 8:30 PM Independence Day Celebration & Firework 2023 9:30 PM Pride Flag Raising 2023 10:00 PMPublic Safety For All InfoSeries Session 1 10:30 PM Community Path Extension Ribbon-Cutting 11:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo <b>THURSDAY, JULY 13</b> 12:00 AM City Council Meeting 6-22-23 7:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2 7:30 AM Independence Day Celebration & Firework 2023 8:10 AM ECSA Park Ribbon Cutting 8:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis 9:00 AM SomerViva - 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# Somerville Arts Council Summer News and Events

*ArtBeat Fest, Nibble News, Music Space issues & a Yart Sale*

JULY

Fri., July 14, 6:30 (RD 7/20): Mr. Ho's Orchestra, Music in the Park, Statue Park, Davis Square

Sat., July 15, 11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. (RD 7/16): ArtBeat, Davis Sq.

Sat. July 29: Legacy Ball, Arts at the Armory; go here for more info.

Sat. July 29, 4:30 – 8:30 p.m. (RD 7/30), Anbdu (summer) Music in the Park, Powderhouse Park

AUGUST

Sat., Aug 12, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. (RD 8/13), Yart Sale, Citywide Yart sale info here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/660616219444025?ref=newsfeed>

Sat., Aug. 19 (RD 8/20): Evolution of Hip Hop, Union Square Plaza

SEPTEMBER

Sat., Sept 9, (RD 9/10): GS23 Gilman Square Arts and Music Festival, Gilman Sq.

Sat., Sept. 10, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. (RD 9/17): Rock and Roll Yard Sale, Union Sq. Plaza

Sun, Sept. 17, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.: SomerStreets: Strike up the Bands, rain or shine, Highland Ave.

Sat., Sept. 23, (RD 9/24): Fluff Festival, Union Square

Sun., Sept. 24, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Somerville Dog Festival, Trum Field

Sat., Sept. 30, (RD 10/1): Ignite International Street Food & Fire Festival, Union Square

# Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Garden path...

— Photo by Denise Provost

## BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Where does seaweed look for a job?  
In the kelp-wanted section.

## On This Day in History

July 12

- 1096 – Crusaders under Peter the Hermit reach Sofia in Hungary.
- 1691 – William III defeats the allied Irish and French armies at the Battle of Aughrim, Ireland.
- 1794 – British Admiral Lord Nelson loses his right eye at the siege of Calvi, in Corsica.
- 1941 – Moscow is bombed by the German Luftwaffe for the first time.
- 1954 – President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposes a highway modernization program, with costs to be shared by federal and state governments.
- 1957 – The U.S. surgeon general, Leroy E. Burney, reports that there is a direct link between smoking and lung cancer.
- 1974 – G. Gordon Liddy, John Ehrlichman and two others are convicted of conspiracy and perjury in connection with the Watergate scandal.
- 1984 – Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale chooses Geraldine Ferraro as his running mate.

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# State public health officials announce season's first West Nile virus-positive mosquito sample

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has announced that West Nile virus (WNV) has been detected in mosquitoes in Massachusetts for the first time this year. The presence of WNV was confirmed by the Massachusetts State Public Health Laboratory in a mosquito sample collected July 6 in the town of Brookline in Norfolk County. No human or animal cases of WNV or Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) have been detected so far this year.

“We often find the first evidence of WNV in mosquitoes at about this time every year,” said Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD. “We are asking people to start taking steps now to avoid mosquito bites. While WNV can cause serious illness, there are simple things that you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones.”

WNV is usually transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. There were 10 human cases of WNV in 2022. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe disease. Most people infected with WNV will have no symptoms. When present, WNV symptoms tend to include fever and flu-like illness. In rare cases, more severe illness can occur.

“With the recent rain and the warmer weather, mosquito populations will increase and we will start to see more of them carrying WNV,” said Dr. Catherine M. Brown, State Epidemiologist. “Use a mosquito repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient, wear clothing to reduce exposed skin, drain standing water and repair window screens. We also encourage everyone to make it a habit to visit DPH’s mosquito-borne disease web pages so you know when and where WNV activity is occurring.”

## Avoid Mosquito Bites

*Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors.* Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient (DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-Menthane-3,8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535) according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

*Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours.* The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning in areas of high risk.

*Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites.* Wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

## Mosquito-Proof Your Home

*Drain Standing Water.* Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools and change the water in birdbaths frequently.

*Install or Repair Screens.* Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

## Protect Your Animals

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent WNV and EEE. If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to the Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795, and to the Department of Public Health by calling 617-983-6800.

More information, including all WNV and EEE positive results, can be found on the Arbovirus Surveillance Information web page at Mosquito-borne Diseases | Mass.gov, which is updated daily, or by calling the DPH Division of Epidemiology at 617-983-6800.

— Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH)



## Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

- by his solar electric generator.
- Somerville’s Reverend Augustus Russell Pope – He invented and patented the first home burglar alarm in 1853. He lived at the corner of Central and Summer Streets.
  - Alvin Fuller – He planted the seed for The Fuller Brush Company in the basement of 21 Windham Street near Davis Square. It has been a household name for over a century.
  - Governor John Winthrop –
- He set in motion the first ship built in Massachusetts. Enchantingly named “The Blessing of the Bay,” it was launched on July 4, 1631 and became the forerunner of our Navy.

  - William “Willie” Nickerson – He was a Massachusetts Institute of Technology trained engineer and co-inventor of the Gillette Safety Razor blade. When naming the company, Gillette won. The name Nick-erson for a safety shaving blade would obviously
- not be appropriate.

  - Somerville’s United States Navy Admiral Alfred Pride – He grew up on Hudson Street. He was the second man to land an airplane and the first to land a helicopter on the deck of an aircraft carrier. He designed airplane catapults and tail hooks to catch them.
  - Assembly Square – It owes its name to Henry Ford. In 1926 his Model “T” began the parade. In 1958, 400 distinctive Edsels,
- named after his son, rolled off the production line to end the parade and the plant’s auto history. During the plant’s lifetime, 1,338,652 automobiles were produced there.

  - Dr. William T.G. Morton – He publicly administered ether for the first time on October 16, 1846. The following day, the Boston Evening Journal reported the successful, painless operation that took place at Maclean Hospital. A dentist had taken the first
- giant step in eliminating surgical suffering.

There are many more, but to end on a sweet note:

  - Somerville’s Professor Russell Conwell - He invented the name Root Beer.
  - Somerville’s Archibald Query – He created Marshmallow Fluff.
  - Steve Herrell – He opened Steve’s Ice Cream in Davis Square fifty years ago this year, making old fashioned ice cream, fashionable again throughout the country.

# Medford Police arrest suspect following assault

On Tuesday morning, the Medford Police Department executed an arrest warrant at 278 Powder House Boulevard in Somerville where they took Nature Moncoeur, age 18, into custody. Moncoeur is being charged with assault and battery and attempted kidnapping after an assault of a female that took place on Royall Street in Medford on Sunday, July 3, at approximately 10:45 p.m.

Police officers conducted a week-long investigation that involved tireless efforts to identify the party responsible for the incident. The Medford Police Dept. thanked the Tufts Police Department, especially Sergeant Jessica Bruno, the Somerville Police Department and the Somerville Housing Police Department for their assistance on this case. Moncoeur was scheduled to be arraigned on Tuesday at Somerville District Court.

“I am extremely proud of the professionalism and dedication displayed by our officers,” said Chief Jack Buckley. “Thanks to the invaluable teamwork between our neighboring agencies and the community, we were able to quickly apprehend and take a dangerous suspect off the streets to ensure that our community remains safe. This is a testament to our officers unwavering resolve to keep Medford safe and I commend each one of them for their outstanding work.”

— Medford Police Dept.



## Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

– 4:45 p.m. Pool admission: Children -\$1. Adults \$2. **Ginny Smithers Pool** at the **Kennedy School**, 5 Cherry St., summer hours Monday – Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Resident registration for summer swimming lessons opened on **July 3**. Non-resident opened on **July 5** at 8:00 a.m. Limited spots are available. Visit [somervillema.myrec.com](http://somervillema.myrec.com)

**Sleep Health 101, Wednesday, July 19**, from 11:00 to 12:00 p.m. at the **Holland Street Center**. Sleep Health 101 will do anything but put you to sleep. Have you ever wondered how much sleep you should be getting or how you can achieve better quality sleep? Hosted by **Cambridge Health Alliance**. To RSVP, please contact **Natasha Naim** at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or [nnaim@somervillema.gov](mailto:nnaim@somervillema.gov). Grab & Go lunch available.

The **Enrollment Office** is open at its new location in the **East Somerville Community School**. Please visit by entering at the school's front entrance at 50 Cross Street. Visit their website for more information: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/enrollment>.

**Somerville Council on Aging Movie Day, Friday, July 14**, 10:00 a.m. at the **Holland Street Center**. This month's film is *A Tourist's Guide to Love*. After an unexpected breakup, a travel executive accepts an assignment to go under cover and learn about the tourist industry in Vietnam. Along the way, she finds adven-

ture and romance with her Vietnamese expat tour guide. Rated PG. Pizza will be served after the movie; \$2 per person. RSVP to **Debby Higgins** by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at [dhiggins@somervillema.gov](mailto:dhiggins@somervillema.gov)

The **City of Somerville's annual SomerMovieFest** returns this year with a series of seven family-friendly films being shown in parks around Somerville. Screenings begin at dusk. The next screening will be *Minions: The Rise of Gru*, **Thursday, July 13**, 8:55 p.m., **Lincoln Park**, 290 Washington St.

Enjoy free **outdoor movies, popcorn, candy, and fun** at **The Block at Boynton Yards**, all summer long. **Friday Flicks Outdoor Movie Nights at Boynton Yards** will start at 7:00 p.m. with yard games and fun, followed by candy, popcorn, and movies once the sun sets. Bring a blanket and get ready for a fun-filled evening. **July 14: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles**, **August 11: Raiders of the Lost Ark** and **September 15: The Little Mermaid** (1995 version). Boynton Yards, 110 South Street.

**Somerville Public Library** offers **video game hangouts** for teens and tweens (ages 10-18) at the **Central Library**, 79 Highland Ave, all through the summer from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Hangouts will take place **July 17, 24**, and again **August 7 and 21**.

In partnership with **CAAS Community Action Agency of Somerville**, the city is distributing **500 fully subsidized MBTA passes to low-income Somerville households**. This program aims to fill a critical gap for low-income residents who don't qualify for other transit benefit programs. Learn more and apply at: <https://www.caasomerville.org/transit-program-form>. For assistance by phone, call CAAS at 617-599-4185.

As of **Monday, June 26**, contractors will institute an **eastbound traffic detour on Highland Avenue between Central Street and Hamlet Street** to install utilities as part of the ongoing **Spring Hill Sewer Separation project**. For more information, visit: <https://voice.somervillema.gov/springhillsewer>.

There has been a concerning **shortfall in blood donations** in recent weeks. The **Red Cross** is looking for donors of all blood types, especially those with type B negative or O negative blood as well as platelet donors. By scheduling and keeping appointments right now, donors can help ensure patients relying on blood donations also get to enjoy their summer. To schedule an appointment to donate, download the **Red Cross Blood Donor App**, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Join **Somerville Prevention and Repair the World** at an upcoming **Narcan dis-**

**tribution event**. Each will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. **over four Saturdays in July**. Available resources include Narcan, fentanyl test strips, CPR face shields for rescue breathing, and syringe disposal containers. A brief overdose prevention training will also be available. For a list of places visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/>. The next event is **July 15**, Davis Square, Statue Park Broadway near Project Soup).

With hot summer days ahead, the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is looking for essential supplies to help keep those without a home safe and cool. Whether it's sunscreen or juice boxes, they have compiled an Amazon wish list with key summer items for clients. If you are interested in donating you can do so through the link provided or by dropping items off at their **Engagement Center** located at 1 Davis Square **between Monday and Friday** from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. for lunch). [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2S0D-QDB857065?ref\\_=wl\\_share&fbclid=IwAR1ZHXCIYJnbbt36ZicxPnsR-7pAEJ4dP1rODG5sNovyNzGE68py-31ENo](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2S0D-QDB857065?ref_=wl_share&fbclid=IwAR1ZHXCIYJnbbt36ZicxPnsR-7pAEJ4dP1rODG5sNovyNzGE68py-31ENo).

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Review of 'The Lehman Trilogy'

A play by Stefano Massini

Review of *The Lehman Trilogy*  
A play by Stefano Massini  
At Huntington Theater through July 16, 2023

Review By Andy Hoffman

Tony winner for Best Play in 2022 *The Lehman Trilogy*, playing at the Huntington Theatre through July 16, 2023. It tells the history of Lehman Brothers investment bank from its roots as a dry-goods store in Montgomery, AL, in the 1840s to the last involvement of anyone named Lehman in 1969, with the death of Robert Lehman, grandson of the founders. Over the course of three acts running three and a half hours, the play reveals the evolution of three Jewish European brothers on the make in America, and what their ambitions wrought.

*The Lehman Trilogy* occupies the stage much more like a medieval mystery play than a modern drama. The three actors – ably accompanied by multi-instrumentalist Joe LaRocca – do more telling than showing. But this telling has pathos, humor and drama as the three actors act out dozens of roles, from generation to generation, wives, children, grandchildren, and the rabbis that teach them. They also represent the various partners the brothers take on, the leaders that succeed them at their investment bank, and a wire-walker. Each actor – Steven Skybell, Joshua David Robinson, and Firdous Bamji – takes on accents, gestures, and speech patterns as a dizzying series of characters march through the Lehman family’s lives. The Huntington, and I assume other theaters that have braved this production, deserve high praise for their ambition. I saw *The Lehman Trilogy* on a recent Wednesday evening, and I found myself hugely impressed not only by the performance I saw, but also the realization that these performers had done a matinee earlier that day and still gave this extraordinary show.

While the play risks presenting a history lesson rather than a traditional play, the showmanship of the production as well as the quality of the script and the artistry of the actors transcends telling. The music also draws us in and along. Using a combination of plain crates and projection, the stage comes alive, especially as Emmanuel Lehman finds himself drawn to New York. As told in the play, which seems historically accurate, Alabama experienced a season of fire in the 1840s so severe it nearly destroyed the economic life around Montgomery. Already expanding to seed and farm implements, the Lehmans



became brokers for the slave-grown cotton at the nearby plantations, using their capacity to put raw cotton into the hands of northern manufacturers to fund the rebirth of Alabama’s economy. Inventing the role of cotton brokers allowed the Lehman brothers to become brokers more generally. They survived the Civil War in part because their family connection embodied the trust that allowed trade across the warring sides. After the war, Emmanuel drags his remaining brother, Meyer, to New York, where their trading house becomes the Lehman Brothers investment bank we all recognize.

*The Lehman Trilogy* breaks the story into parts: from the founding until after the Civil War; from the war to the beginning of the 20th century; and then until the end of the Lehman family control of the company. With all that happened over those 130 years, we must accept some serious elisions in the story. We hear nothing of the Lehman’s complicity in the slave trade or how they managed through the various economic contractions and collapses. We do get a bit of a sense of how they survived the Great Depression, but in truth even though the play presents the history of an iconic American business, the Lehman family history makes the play tick. The first generation in the U.S., freed from the restrictions placed on Jews in Europe, scrambles to make a living, first as peddlers and then as brokers. They retain their faith, seemingly as one of the few Jewish families in Montgomery. As the Lehmans become wealthy, they lose their connection to their Judaism, to the extent that the play mentions nothing of the Holocaust. When Henry, the family pioneer, dies, they shut the shop for a full seven days to sit shiva. When Emmanuel dies forty years later, they close the bank for three days. They observe the death of the second generation for a paltry three minutes. The Kaddish – the Jewish prayer for the dead – maintains its impact projected in Hebrew upon the set, but the Lehmans seem to have lost their way.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Barb Ariel Cohen lives with her husband in the Boston area. She is a scientist and entrepreneur who also practices the complementary discipline of writing poetry. She has been published in *The Penmen Review*.



The Alienness of Rights in Reptile Eyes

Alone, poised, effective  
Yet still as a leaf in no wind, waiting  
Unseen moves elsewhere promise death  
That sweeps as breezes touch all, to erase

Assertive dares become white bones  
Red-speckled with triumph’s laughter  
Where no whole spirit remains

Frozen seething thought  
Of food, air, water  
To risk a stillborn grasp  
Is far too wide,  
Open exposure, tired so a target

Quiet, safety, only the sound  
Of heartbeats  
The miracle that they persist.

— Barb Ariel Cohen

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