Somerville's original independent newspaper

The Somerville Times

www.thesomervilletimes.com

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Mayor Ballantyne delivers FY26 budget

The Ballantyne administration's Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget was passed by the Somerville City Council at their latest regular meeting last Thursday.

On Thursday, June 26, the Somerville City Council passed the Ballantyne administration's $380.1 million Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) operating budget. The FY26 budget protects vital services, advances key initiatives, and once again significantly invests in Somerville's schools, workforce, and infrastructure, despite a challenging economic landscape affecting communities across the Commonwealth.

"While many cities are scaling back, we're able to stay the course and choose progress thanks to careful planning and fiscal strategy," said Mayor Ballantyne. "This budget protects your core services—your road repairs, your recycling pickup, your librarians, your rec programs—while also delivering bold action on schools, housing, climate, and equity. Our finances are stable, our focus is clear, and with this vote, we're ready to turn these plans into action."

Investing in Education and the Next Generation

The FY26 budget process also *Continued on page 4*

'SEEING ACROSS GENERATIONS'

Manos, Johnson, Menjivar show at Leica Gallery Boston

The Leica Gallery Boston is honored to present *SEEING ACROSS GENERATIONS*, a landmark exhibition celebrating three generations of Boston-area photographers whose work spans decades of image-making, mentorship, and community engagement.

In honor of the Leica I's centenary, this exhibition brings together the distinct yet interconnected practices of Constantine Manos, Stella Johnson, and Somerville's own Iaritza Menjivar – each of whom has used the Leica M camera to document the world through a lens shaped by their individual perspectives and identities.

The exhibition centers Manos' iconic series *The Bostonians*, originally created fifty years ago to celebrate the American Bicentennial, now intimately reveals how time has shaped the *Continued on page 22*

Somerville artist Iaritza Menjivar's Untitled, 2024. Courtesy of the artist.

NEWSTALK

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.

All **city offices** are closed on **Independence Day, July 4**. Trash and recycling pickup will be delayed by one day. All Somerville Public Library locations will also be closed on Friday, July 4. We wish everyone a safe, Happy 4th!

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Creative Musings, Wednesday, July 2 and July 9, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the **Somerville Community Growing Center,** 22 Vinal Ave. Visit the Growing Center for some relatively quiet time during the weekly **Red Fire Farm CSA** distribution window. Bring a book and read. Grab your journal and write a bit, create a poem or make an entry in the **Growing Center Journal** that will be available. Every Wednesday, through October 15.

****

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to our own **Doug Holder**. A great friend, poet, and a great guy. We hope he enjoys his day and spends it with great friends. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Richard Johnstin, Suzan Baltozer, Carlton Soohoo, Rose Nash, Christine Dischino Leavitt, Tamara McAllister, Holly Dow, John Hughes, Maureen Pirone**, and **Charles Zammuto** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

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SomerMovie Fest returns **July 10**. The movies *Continued on page 7*

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com
www.thesomervilletimes.com
Phone: 857-488-5138

@somervilletimes
www.facebook.com/thesomervilletimes

Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.
Editor – Jim Clark
Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner
Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Harry Kane, Jeffrey Shwom and Cathleen Twardzik

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

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

A proud member of the following newspaper organizations:

Somerville Weather Forecast

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

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday *July 2*	Cloudy	88°/67°	7%	4%	SW 10 mph
Thursday *July 3*	Sunny	91°/65°	16%	11%	W 11 mph
Friday *July 4*	Sunny	82°/61°	5%	3%	NW 12 mph
Saturday *July 5*	Sunny	85°/67°	1%	1%	WSW 9 mph
Sunday *July 6*	Partly Cloudy	92°/70°	5%	2%	SW 12 mph
Monday *July 7*	Sunny	93°/74°	21%	13%	SW 11 mph
Tuesday *July 8*	Thunderstorms	83°/71°	60%	44%	SE 11 mph

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

Somerville's annual FREE outdoor movie series returns this summer

Showtimes vary, and all movies will start at dusk. Join us at one or all of the events listed below.

The Outsiders: Thursday, July 17, Lincoln Park (Perry Street)

The Lion King: Thursday, July 24, Lincoln Park (Perry Street)

Hidden Figures: Thursday, July 31, Seven Hills Park (Davis Square)

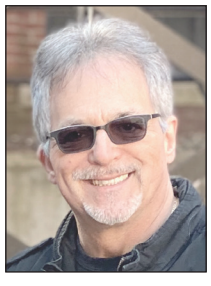
Wayne's World: Thursday, August 7, Seven Hills Park (Davis Square)

Barbie: Thursday, August 14 Seven Hills Park (Davis Square)

Persons with disabilities who need ADA accommodations to access this program, please contact Adrienne Pomeroy on advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or apomeroy@somervillema.gov

Life in the Massachusetts VILLE "The Spirit of America" by Jimmy Del Ponte

Hoodsies for everyone!



When I was a kid growing up in Somerville in the 60's and '70 s, we loved July 4th. We lit off firecrackers and sparklers, plus we got free Hoodsies. The aldermen would go to playgrounds throughout the city and hand out free Hoodsies ice cream cups to all the kids.

I don't know when the tradition started or when it ended, but it's a part of our childhood that lots of Somerville people remember fondly. I asked my friends on The Pride of Somerville Facebook page to share their memories of free Hoodsies on July 4th.

"There would be a list of what time they would be given out at each park. Aldermen gave them to us, I think. Got mine at Hoyt–Sullivan Playground on Central St. We thought we won the lottery! It was the simple things back then."

"My Dad gave them out at Craigie Park and other locations with other members of the Board of Aldermen – his name – Walter Whitney! He loved it as much as the kids!"

"Gene Brune brought them around for everyone."

"We used to get them at Powder House Park and then run down to brown school to get a second one."

"Hated the wooden spoon, so I folded the top lid in half and used that to eat the ice cream."

"Gus Barrasso, our Ward 4 Alderman and a terrific guy, would deliver the Hoodsies in a small refrigerated box truck to the Mystic Ave. Brick Jungle in the '60s. Every year, without fail, he'd be there early in the morning of the 4th! Great guy. RIP Gus."

"Couldn't wait to go down my street to the Northeastern Jr. High playground and wait in line. So many kids back then. And the fireworks at Trum Field were awesome."

"We got Hoodsies at the grand opening of the Somerville Ave. Firehouse at Lowell St. and also at Paul Revere's ride."

"My Dad loading up our station wagon full of kids, driving around to the different locations!"

"I remember Alderman Michael Simonelli giving Hoodsies to" *Continued on page 22*

Somerville Police Dept Crime Log June 17 – 23

Residential Breaking and Entering

25034056: On 6/17/25 at approximately 11:00 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Greenwood Terrace for a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated two bicycles were missing from his enclosed porch.

Unarmed Robbery

25034037: On 6/17/25 at approximately 7:42 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Canal St. for a larceny. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a female party came into the store and began to shoplift items. When the victim confronted her, she shoved him to the ground and fled with the stolen items.

Assault

25035121: On 6/22/25 at approximately 5:49 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Innerbelt Rd. for a dispute. Upon arrival, officers spoke with two females who stated they got into a fight with each other.

Assault

25035038: On 6/22/25 at approximately 10:04 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Broadway for a larceny. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a female party came in and got into a dispute over damaged laundry. The female then stole cash from the register and assaulted the victim before fleeing. Officers identified the female suspect.

Unarmed Robbery

25035329: On 6/23/25 at approximately 6:20 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business in Assembly Row for a larceny. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a male came in and began to shoplift. The victim confronted the male and the male shoved him and fled with the stolen items.

Other Crimes: 2 Vandalisms • 1 Package theft • 2 Bike thefts • 3 Car breaks

— Somerville Police Department

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Do your part - Leave a message on our tip hotline answering machine – All calls are confidential –Your Privacy is Assured. If you choose, you can leave your name and phone number and your call will be returned (not required). Also, if you prefer you may e-mail directly with your crime tip. We will follow up on all information provided to the best of our ability. Thank you for your assistance.

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

Text-A-Tip

Text a Tip to the SPD from anywhere!

• 100% completely anonymous • Easy and secure
• Text messages can be sent from anywhere at any time

Simply text the phone number "TIP411" (847411) and put "617spd" at the beginning of your text message. If your message requires an emergency response PLEASE DO NOT TEXT and instead call 9-1-1.

Powered by: tip411

Mayor Ballantyne delivers FY26 budget

CONT. FROM PG 1

included passage of the FY26 school budget, marking a 7.4% increase in school funding all told, totaling nearly $8 million in new investments. This marks a 34% increase in Somerville Public Schools funding since Mayor Ballantyne took office.

The $112 million school budget includes:

• A $1.5 million fund for healthy salary increases for teachers, paraprofessionals, liaisons, and administrators under a newly ratified union contract.

• A 5.2% increase in base school funding.

• An additional $750,000 in targeted reserves to support school operations. These investments help protect against staff cuts seen in other districts, improve compensation for educators and support staff, and expand student support services.

Protecting Services and Building for the Future

Even as rising costs and reduced new growth posed challenges, the Ballantyne administration avoided layoffs and major cuts. Through a combination of careful reserve use, a partial hiring freeze, and department-level efficiencies, the budget closed a $4 million gap without reducing resident-facing services.

FY26 budget highlights include:

• Emergency Services & Infrastructure: Upgraded dispatch and traffic signal systems for faster emergency response; investments in fire stations and critical water infrastructure

• Climate Action: A curbside composting pilot for 1,000 households, permanent removal of rodenticides, and continued progress on 77 climate goals, including geothermal exploration

• Housing & Equity: A new Permanent Supportive Housing Task Force, funds to advance 976 affordable units, and staff to support homelessness response and inclusive permitting

• Community & Culture: Expanded youth and senior programming, continued progress toward public ownership of the Armory as an arts center, and upgrades to parks and public spaces

A Budget Built on Stability and Vision

Somerville's FY26 financial plan reflects both discipline and ambition. The City's AAA bond rating helped keep borrowing costs low, while strategic planning and long-term community-driven goal setting including SomerVision (somervision2040.com) built conditions that allowed for continued progress in a tightening economy.

"I won't sugar coat it. Federal uncertainty looms, the economy is slowing, and costs are rising. We are navigating serious headwinds. This budget however offers a blueprint for how we can best meet today's needs and tomorrow's goals," said Mayor Ballantyne. "We're showing that with the right vision, strong partnerships, and a bit of creativity, cities can lead even in tough times."

To learn more about the FY26 budget, visit somervillema.gov/budget.

June 26 City Council meeting – here's what you missed

By Norah Doyle

If you weren't at the city council meeting last Thursday, here's a cohesive breakdown of what was discussed.

Recognitions and Citations

An important item on the meeting agenda was for the Council to recognize and commend several individuals and groups for their contributions to the Somerville community.

DPW employees Jason Diorio and Kevin McCormick were commended and recognized by the Council for assisting a community member in need on June 11.

The Somerville Pride 7th-grade girls basketball team was congratulated for winning the Metro West Youth Basketball Championship.

"I think [this is] only the third time in the 35 or so years that this has happened," said Council President Judy Pienda-Neufeld. "It's a big deal. It's an achievement worth celebrating here today and letting them know just how proud their community is."

Speaking of, outgoing Councilor Judy Pineda-Neufeld was recognized for her service as Ward 7 Councilor and Council President, receiving praises for her work in Somerville from fellow council members as well as from Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

The Council also congratulated and recognized the Kiwanis Club for its 100 years of service.

Climate Superfund Bill Resolution Approved

The Council approved a resolution in support of the Climate Superfund Bill. This bill would essentially require large fossil fuel companies to send funds towards efforts to help fight climate change. This is a progressive step for Somerville regarding the environment, and the bill is more popularly known as the "Make Polluters Pay Bill," according to Grace Hall, a Ward 7 resident who spoke on behalf of the bill.

FY26 City Budget

The meeting included a detailed budget review process with the Council, which was paused multiple times for hearings and discussions. The $362.9 million operating budget for Fiscal Year 2026, with additional funding for infrastructure, schools, and public programs bringing the total financial plan to over $380 million, was approved by the Council.

Zoning Amendments

The Council approved several zoning text and map amendments, including the following, which were passed by the Council:

Action to approve Item 25-0-131 on the agenda, an amendment to articles 8 and 12 of the Zoning ordinance to establish a new arts and innovation sub-area of the master planned development overlay district.

Action to approve Item 25-0128, an amendment to articles 6, 9, and 10 of the zoning ordinance to establish a new research and development zoning district.

The ordinance ordain of Item 25-0-129, an amendment to Articles 2, 3 through 6 and 9 of the zoning ordinance to revise the regulations for arts and creative enterprise office and residential uses.

Grant Acceptances

The Council approved the acceptance of several grants for the Health and Human Services Department and Department of Public Works, which totaled over $239,000. Broken down, A $119,095.58 grant from the MA Dept of Public Health, a $110,280 grant from the MA Dept of Public Health, and a $10,000 grant from the MBTA to the Dept of Public Works.

Miscellaneous

The Council approved an ordinance updating salary categories for non-union city positions and referred various new orders and resolutions to committees for further discussion. Most notably, the Council canceled its regular meetings scheduled for July 24 and August 14, 2025.

The Somerville Times

Beacon Hill Roll Call

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THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' and senators' votes on roll calls from the week of June 23-27.

APPROVE JOINT RULES FOR 2025-2026 SESSION (S 2545)

House 157-3, Senate 40-0, approved a package of joint House-Senate rules under which the House and Senate will operate in the 2025-2026 session.

Provisions include increasing from 3 days to 10 days the advance notice that must be given before a committee hearing is held; allowing the public to participate remotely in committee hearings; posting on the Legislature's website the attendance record of each legislator at hearings of his or her committees and how each individual senator or representative voted on the bills acted upon by the committee.

Other provisions include requiring committees to produce and post on the Legislature's website plain-language summaries of all bills in time for their hearings; requiring committees to adopt rules making written testimony submitted to the committee to be made publicly available; requiring committees to report out bills by the first Wednesday in December of the first year of the 2-year session; allowing the Legislature to meet in formal session after July 31 in the second year of the legislative session to take up only reports of conference committees formed on or before July 31, appropriation bills filed after July 31 and gubernatorial vetoes or amendments; requiring that the public be allowed to attend the first meeting of any conference committee that is working on hammering out a compromise version when the House and Senate approve different versions of a bill; and requiring a minimum of 24 hours between when a conference committee report is filed and legislators are asked to vote on it.

"These critical reforms are representative of the House's strong commitment to the pursuit of a more accessible and efficient Legislature that is responsive to the concerns of our constituents," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "We remain focused on the all-important responsibility of bettering the General Court as an institution, a goal that I know so many of my colleagues are committed to."

"I'm proud of the contributions the Senate has made to this comprehensive joint rules agreement that will welcome the public into our day-to-day work in a much more transparent and accessible way, while adjusting the legislative calendar and workflow to better reflect how we operate today," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "Our best work on behalf of the people of Massachusetts happens when more voices are at the table, and these reforms are a positive step toward that goal."

"I am proud to have helped lead the effort, on behalf of the Senate, to reach an agreement on the Legislature's joint rules, which reflects our shared commitment to transparency and increased public participation," said Senate Majority Leader Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton). "This is a meaningful step forward, made possible through close collaboration between the Senate and the House, and I am optimistic these reforms will bring greater clarity, accountability and momentum to the work ahead."

"These updates to the joint rules will streamline legislative work to aid efficiency and allow for more public involvement in the process," said Rep. Bill Galvin (D-Canton), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Rules. "Our constituents are increasingly engaging in the legislative process online and expect ample access to information on the progress of bills. These changes make information more accessible to the public on the legislative website in real time and provide more opportunities for residents to be involved."

Reps. Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica) and Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick) were the only two legislators to vote against the rules package. Neither one responded to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them to explain why they opposed the package.

"These rules reforms are a welcome and potentially valuable step in making the Legislature's procedures more timely, accessible, and transparent," said Peter Enrich a member of the steering committee of The Coalition to Reform Our Legislature (CROL). "It is gratifying to see this responsiveness of the Legislature to the criticism and demands for reform coming from frustrated citizens and organizations. At the same time, it is important to recognize that these rules changes are at best a small, first step in rebuilding an effective, accountable and transparent Legislature, where legislators are more responsive to the citizens who elect them than to the legislative leaders who presently dominate the system."

"What an exciting first step toward basic standards of a transparent and democratic Legislature," said Aaron Singer producer and director of "Shadows on the Hill," an upcoming documentary that he says asks why common-sense bills don't pass the Massachusetts Legislature. "If leadership is serious about reform, they'll need to address the loyalty stipends, top-down committee appointments and lack of an independent research service. When 85 percent of the House votes with the speaker 100 percent of the time in 2024, it's clear: the real boss is the guy controlling their pay, power and access to information.

"These new rules should be the beginning, not the end, of democratic reforms," said Progressive Mass Policy Director Jonathan Cohn. "That we have them at all is a credit to years of advocacy and popular education, the landslide win of Question 1 on the ballot last year and the willingness of candidates to make Beacon Hill's inertia and lack of transparency a key issue. There is more to do, such as structural reforms like fixing a stipend system that centralizes power or the deeper work of changing the culture of Beacon Hill in a way that encourages legislators to be more willing to speak out, stand out and not settle for inertia and small wins. But today, we celebrate."

(A "Yes" vote is for the new joint rules. A "No" vote is against them.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven	Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

REPRODUCTIVE AND TRANSGENDER CARE PROTECTIONS (S 2538)

Senate 37-3 approved and sent to the House legislation that would strengthen health care protections in the Bay State. The bill is designed to fortify protections for people seeking and providing reproductive and transgender care.

The legislation would prohibit state agencies and law enforcement from cooperating with other states or federal investigations into legally protected reproductive or transgender health care provided in Massachusetts. Under the bill, businesses that manage electronic health information would similarly be limited in sharing patient data connected to these services.

Other provisions would allow prescriptions to be issued with the name of a healthcare practice rather than an individual practitioner; exclude certain reproductive and gender-affirming medications from the state's drug monitoring programs; limit third-party access to related medical records; enhance license protections for attorneys and anyone providing reproductive or transgender health care services; and forbid insurance companies from discriminating against or penalizing providers who offer reproductive and transgender health services.

"As we face new, more unpredictable threats from a hostile federal government that is targeting those engaged in care that is legally protected under Massachusetts law, we must again stand up to defend our autonomy and the rights of Massachusetts residents," said *Continued on page 16*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark

Happy 4th of July, Somerville!

Our View Of The Times

The Fourth of July holds a special significance in the hearts of truly patriotic Americans. Not on-ly is it a time to celebrate the birth of our nation, but it also happens to fall at the best time of year to make good times happen, summer.

Who among us doesn't enjoy the occasion? Who can resist the warm glow of good fellowship between friends, neighbors, and families as the "birthday" of our nation comes around?

Great memories for the future are made each year as we attend a patriotic gathering, watch some fireworks, or just take a quiet look around and realize that America is still the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave. There's nothing corny about these ideas. They are concepts that live and breathe as vitally today as they ever have.

We must never take these freedoms for granted, nor minimize their importance in assuring that we Americans enjoy one of the finest standards of living among all nations of the world.

For whatever exists momentarily that may divide us, there are important times like these when we can unite together in the spirit of true patriotism and national pride to celebrate the great gift of being Americans, and commemorate the sacrifices of our forebears in bringing this nation to life. We owe it to their memories to take the time to pause and reflect on what their efforts mean to us today.

The celebration at Trum Field last week for the city's Fourth of July celebration, complete with live entertainment and a spectacular fireworks display, helped to bring out the true patriot in many of us.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

begin at dusk, and showtimes are approximate. Arrive early to grab a good spot, get comfortable, and enjoy the summer evening with neighbors and friends. The series kicks off with ***The Wild Robot*** on **Thursday, July 10**, at approximately 8:30 p.m. at the **Lincoln Park Softball Field**. For more information, please visit somervillema.gov/moviefest.

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

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Ice Cream FAQ with **Gracie's Ice Cream** at **West Library** on **Monday, July 21**, 6 – 8 p.m., 40 College Ave, Somerville. Join in at the West Branch and talk ice cream with Gracie's Ice Cream. Bring your questions for this informal Q&A all about ice cream and Gracie's. They would love it if you could bring an item to donate to **Project Soup**.

****

The **Somerville Mobile Farmers Market** returns on **Thursday, July 1**0, for the 2025 season. The market will be open **Thursdays through Saturday**s, and will run **through November 1**. All produce is sourced from local farms and priced affordably to make healthy, fresh food accessible to all. The mobile market accepts cash, debit and credit cards, SNAP, Fresh Connect, WIC Farmers Market Coupons, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons. For locations and the full schedule, weekly produce updates, and more information about programs and events, visit the market's website at somervillemobile-farmersmarket.org.

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

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ArtBeat 2025 is coming to **Davis Square** on **Saturday, July 19** (rain date Sunday, July 20). This year's theme is **FREEZE** – think snowflakes,

Continued on page 21

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio #979

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. Which city hosted the first official Independence Day celebration on July 4, 1777?

2. When was the first 4th of July celebration held at the White House?

3. How many times does the Liberty Bell ring on each Independence Day?

4. What is the location of the nation's oldest 4th of July parade?

5. What was the first state to declare the 4th of July a state holiday?

6. Which three U.S. presidents died on the 4th of July?

7. Where does Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest take place on Independence Day?

8. What is the largest 4th of July fireworks display in the U.S.?

9. How many people signed the Declaration of Independence?

10. What are the first seven words of the Declaration of Independence?

11. What was the name of the newspaper that published the Declaration of Independence?

12. What was The Statue of Liberty's official name?

Answers on page 14

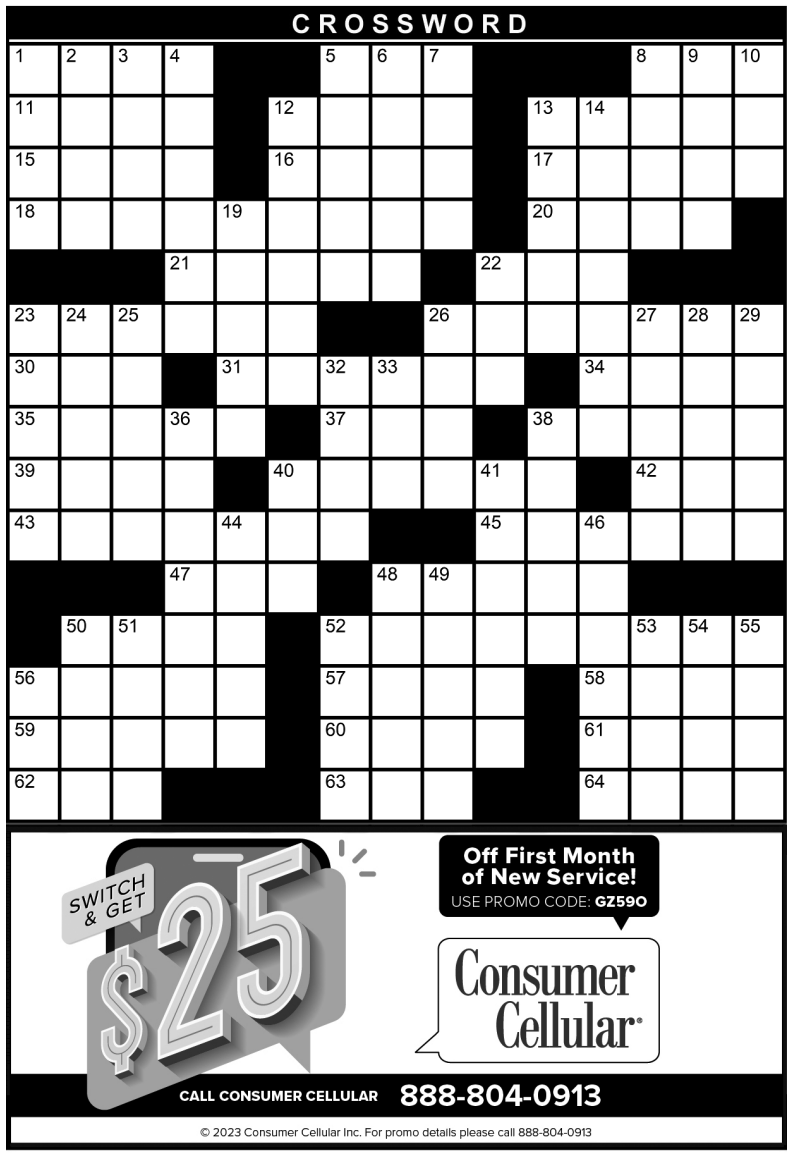
The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Sweat doesn't smell bad.

2. The only domestic animal not mentioned in the Bible is the cat.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

FLOWERS



ACROSS

1. Straw man's "victim"
5. Protestant denom.
8. Large edible mushroom
11. Mischievous Norse deity
12. Thumbelina emerges from a flower in a fairy ____
13. Brick and mortar destination
15. Garner wages
16. Guinness and such
17. Poison: "Every Rose Has Its ____"
18. "If you go to San ____, be sure to wear some flowers in your hair"
20. Electric one and moray one
21. Killer whales
22. p in mpg
23. Fatwa, alt. sp.
26. Spain's neighbor, across Strait of Gibraltar
30. "Back To The Future" actress
31. Leaked, as in ship
34. Miso bean
35. Operatic solos
37. H+, e.g.
38. Is dressed in
39. Leave a Hancock
40. Cast-off skin
42. Egyptian boy king
43. Clearance, as under a bridge
45. Neglectful in duty
47. "Dandelion Wine" author ____ Bradbury
48. Dear one
50. Black cat, to some
52. "Build Me Up _____"
56. Adult
57. ____ bowl, frozen dish
58. Poetic "through"
59. Latin dance
60. "Buffalo ____, won't you come out tonight..."
61. Kids' building block
62. Altitude, abbreviated
63. Like a fox
64. Water carrier

DOWN

1. Staff symbol
2. Zoo sound
3. Gumbo pod
4. Separate grain from chaff
5. Model-building wood
6. Smart ones?
7. 100 centavos
8. Refrigerate
9. Commits a faux pas
10. Mont Blanc, e.g.
12. a.k.a. meditation in motion (2 words)
13. Ranch grazer
14. Bette Midler's 1981 Grammy winning song (2 words)
19. Dungeness one and snow one
22. Poppy's seed container
23. Banned camera setting, in a museum
24. Falcon's home
25. Boreal forest, in Russia
26. Ma tre d's list
27. Raccoon's South American cousin
28. 2024 Grammy winner for "Flowers"
29. Hop-drying kilns
32. Lis in fleur-de-lis
33. ____ Goo Dolls of "Gutterflower" fame
36. "Flowers in the Attic" author V.C. ____
38. One of journalism's Ws
40. Declare
41. Costing nothing
44. Want to
46. ____ Beach, SC
48. Belonging to duke
49. Miuccia Prada's homeland
50. Like traditional storytelling
51. Lose skin
52. Tea servings
53. Tobacco
54. Strong desire
55. Standard's partner
56. Govt. property org.

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

S	C	O	T	T	■	I	B	S	■	■	S	P	A	R
A	L	G	E	R	■	R	A	W	■	C	E	A	S	E
T	O	R	S	I	■	I	R	E	■	H	E	L	I	X
■	P	E	L	V	I	S	■	P	L	A	S	M	A	■
■	■	■	■	A	I	R	■	A	T	O	P	■	■	■
T	E	D	■	A	I	D	S	■	G	E	N	E	R	A
R	E	A	M	■	S	O	S	O	■	L	A	D	E	N
U	R	G	E	■	H	E	A	R	T	■	M	I	R	V
N	I	G	E	R	■	R	U	S	H	■	E	T	U	I
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ArtBeat 2025: Mayor Ballantyne invites all to annual festival in Davis Square

Summer is heating up in Somerville, so we're bringing the cool. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council invite community members to "ArtBeat 2025: Freeze" on Saturday, July 19, from 12 to 9 p.m. in Davis Square (rain date: Sunday, July 20).

One of the City's largest festivals, ArtBeat transforms Davis Square into a bustling celebration of creativity and community. The festival will feature approximately 100 craft and food vendors, local organizations, and two performance stages showcasing a dynamic mix of music, dance, theater, and interactive activities – all highlighting Somerville's diverse and vibrant arts scene.

Streets will be hopping with vendors and music from 12 to 7 p.m., with music continuing in Seven Hills Park until 9 p.m. Keep cool throughout by filling up your water bottle at the water buggy in Davis Sq., setting up your umbrella on the Seven Hills Park lawn, or visiting the shade sail by the Elm St. stage.

This year's theme, "Freeze," invites artists and attendees to creatively explore the many meanings of the word, whether that's freezing in motion, preserving memories, or simply cooling down on a summer day. The event takes place throughout Davis Square, including Seven Hills Park, Elm Street, and Holland Street, which will be closed to traffic. Admission is free and open to all.

"ArtBeat brings out the very best of Somerville – our creativity, diversity, and our strong sense of community," said Mayor Ballantyne. "Each year, our local artists continue to surprise and inspire us, and I'm excited to see how they bring this year's theme to life."

For all ArtBeat information, please visit: somervilleartscouncil.org/events/artbeat-freeze.

MBTA Bus Information
MBTA Bus Routes: 87, 88, 89, 90, 94, and 96 will be rerouted from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Please see www.mbta.com for full detour information.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week

Eagle Feathers #332

This article first appeared in the July 10, 2013, edition of The Somerville Times.

'Pop' of Pops

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

He was born on December 20, 1871, in his parents' home on Myrtle Street in East Somerville and pursued a career in music that would achieve meteoric success. His name was Henry Kimball Hadley, and during his lifetime he brought the sound of music to hundreds of people in his hometown and to thousands of listeners around the world.

Henry learned to play the violin and piano from his father, Henry S. Hadley, who taught music for over 40 years in the Somerville Public Middle Schools. His father taught his sons well because Henry went on to become a world-renowned conductor and composer, while his brother, Arthur, became a noted violinist for the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

His mother was active in church music and she, along with his father and grandparents lived in various homes on Pearl, Myrtle and Florence Streets. The neighbors dubbed this area The neighbors dubbed this area "Hadley Hill."

Henry began his career at a time when Americans, compared to their European counterparts, were considered to be inferior musicians. At that time, locals *Continued on page 22*

LEGAL NOTICES

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, July 16, 2025**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8Q3pqNmdSS6cCXIdjFGMZQ
Webinar ID: 898 8755 0222

TO CALL IN

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

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

181 Pearl Street	181 Pearl St. LLC seeks relief from SZO Section 10.3.6.a.i., regarding landscape buffer requirements, which requires a Hardship Variance.
8 - 8a Melvin Street	Senthil Kumar seeks relief from SZO Section 3.1.13.l.ii.c., regarding total dormer width standards, which required a Hardship Variance.
8 - 8a Melvin Street	Senthil Kumar seeks relief from SZO Section 3.1.13.l.i.a, regarding dormer face width standards, which requires a Hardship Variance.
8 - 8a Melvin Street	Senthil Kumar seeks relief from SZO Section 3.1.13.l.i.c, regarding dormer separation standards, which requires a Hardship Variance.
103 Gilman Street	Avik Deirmenjian seeks relief from SZO 14.1.5.c.11.b. to expand an existing nonconforming structure further into the rear setback, which requires a hardship variance.
14 McGrath Hwy	Liquor Junction is proposing to expand their alcohol sales business in the Commercial Business (CB) district, which will require a Special Permit under SZO 4.3.13. 'Permitted Uses.'
14 McGrath Hwy	Liquor Junction is proposing to increase the leasable floor area of their business's use to more than 10,000sqft in the Commercial Business (CB) district, requiring a Special Permit per SZO 9.1.7.c.i.
379 Somerville Ave	Brickstone Builders Corp seeks relief from SZO 4.3.11.e. for façade buildout requirements in the Mid Rise 5 (MR5) district, which requires a Hardship Variance.
379 Somerville Ave	Brickstone Builders Corp seeks relief from SZO 4.3.8.b. for maximum front yard setbacks in the Mid Rise 5 (MR5) district, which requires a Hardship Variance.
379 Somerville Ave	Brickstone Builders Corp seeks relief from SZO 4.3.8.d for ground story fenestration requirements for primary façade composition in the Mid Rise 5 (MR5) district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

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

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

7/2/25 The Somerville Times

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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, July 15, 2025** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_izwoqQ03RLmyBx8yp0v5fw
Webinar ID: 814 6558 0498

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

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

HP25-000051 - 80 Irving Street
Applicant: Daniel A. Casparriello
Owner: Daniel A. Casparriello and Amanda A. Casparriello
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

DETERMINATIONS OF PREFERABLY PERSERVED (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HP25-000013 - 294 Lowell Street
Applicant: Adam Dash and Associates – Adam Dash
Owner: Yangqing Xu
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

6/25/25, 7/2/25 The Somerville Times

CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on **Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Application of Change of Category from Wine and Malt to All Forms Alcohol License for EAD Entertainment LLC d/b/a Muse Paintbar at 461 Artisan Way.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_05w44pckR0Gz5YmrNMUepw

   You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

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

7/2/25 The Somerville Times

CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on **Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Application of Entertainment by Devices Indoors License for Los Tacos Hermanos LLC d/b/a Los Tacos Hermanos at 253 Washington Street.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_05w44pckR0Gz5YmrNMUepw

   You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
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THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

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

7/2/25 The Somerville Times

LEGAL NOTICES

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #25-79

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

Cummings Warming Center Renovations

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **07/02/2025**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all bids if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Filed Sub-Bids with certifications for the DCAMM categories of Resilient Flooring, Plumbing, HVAC, and Electrical are due by **07/24/2025 at 3:00pm**:

Sealed General Bids with DCAMM certification in General Construction are due by **07/31/2025 at 3:00pm**.

5% Bid Deposit required. Prevailing wages apply.

Please email tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov for more information.

Thupten Chukhatsang
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

7/2/25 The Somerville Times

District-Wide Back to School Fair!

August 20, 4–6 p.m. Last year, over 1000 people attended this event, which included representatives from all our schools and departments and featured 25 community partners.

All are invited to enjoy this popular event to learn about our schools, participate in fun activities and win swag. This event is for families and their students from preschool through grade 12!

Somerville Fire Department summer safety reminder: Grills not allowed on porches or balconies

With summer in full swing, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville Fire Chief Charles Breen are reminding community members to safely use and store grilling equipment to help prevent outdoor fires this summer. Most importantly, grills and smokers are not allowed on porches, balconies, fire escapes, or roofs. Remember to call 911 if you see uncontained flames or smoke. Outdoor fireplaces, fire pits, and chimineas are also always prohibited in the city in all locations.

"Somerville is a very densely populated city, and a fire resulting from improper use of a barbeque grill could impact you and many of your neighbors," said Chief Breen. "Complying with safety tips and regulations helps to keep us all safe."

Somerville has a lot of older housing, mostly constructed of wood-frame units built closely together. With the density of buildings in the city, outdoor fires can easily spread to homes and other properties. About two-thirds of grilling fires in Massachusetts occur between May and September, and outdoor cooking fires cause serious injuries and property damage every year across the state.

"Grilling is a fun summer activity to share with family, friends, and neighbors, but it's important to keep safety in mind. Most grill fires are easily preventable with proper precautions," said Mayor Ballantyne. "We can all take some simple, yet important steps this summer to help prevent fires in our community."

Safe Cooking

- Charcoal, wood, electric, and propane grills are not allowed on porches, balconies, fire escapes, roofs, or decks with a roof, overhang, or wall. This includes grills, hibachis, barbecues, and smokers.
- Grilling should only be done outdoors, at ground level, 10 feet from structures, and never under overhangs or branches.
- All cooking fires should be on a charcoal briquette grill or propane gas grill.
- Never leave a grill burning unattended.
- Keep children and pets away from grills, matches or lighters, and lighter fluid. Children should never play near grills or propane cylinders.

Safe Storage and Cleanup

- Always clean your grill after use to help prevent grease fires. Make sure it is cooled completely before storing.
- Propane tanks cannot be stored in or on residential buildings.
- Dispose of ashes from grills in a metal can, douse them with water, and cover with a tight-fitting lid. Ashes can remain hot enough to ignite combustibles long after the fire goes out. Never dump them outdoors or place them inside a building or in the trash, and never place them in a combustible container or paper bag.

To report improper use of a grill or outdoor burning violations, call the Fire Department at 617-623-1500. For more grilling safety information, visit the Commonwealth's Grilling Safety webpage at mass.gov/info-details/grilling-safety.

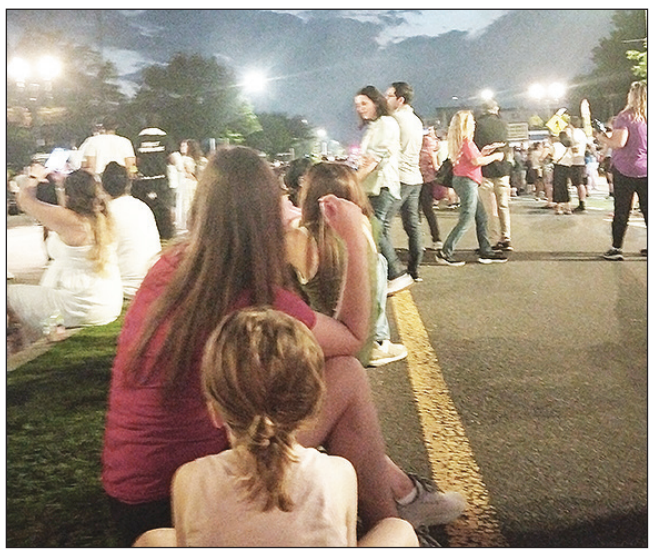
The Somerville Times

Somerville's Fireworks Celebration

The City of Somerville's Fireworks Celebration was held on Wednesday, June 25, at Trum Field. Music, food, and a dazzling display in the sky await those who came out to enjoy the festivities.

— Photos by Oliver, Daniel, and Delilah Lancaster








Honoring Disability Pride Month in Somerville

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD), and the Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) invite all to a series of events this July to recognize Disability Pride Month and promote visibility, honor the contributions of people with disabilities, and foster an inclusive, empowered community. Highlights include the Disability Pride Flag Raising on Thursday, July 10; fun activities at the SCPD Art Beat Booth on Saturday, July 19; and a group trip to the ADA35 anniversary march and roll in Boston on Wednesday, July 23, and more.

"I'm deeply grateful for the tireless advocacy of our Commission for Persons with Disabilities," said Mayor Ballantyne. "As we prepare to raise the Disability Pride flag for the second year and honor Disability Pride Month, Somerville not only celebrates the strength and incredible contributions of our community members with disabilities, my administration remains firmly committed to fostering a city that is inclusive, accessible, and dedicated to ensuring that all people with disabilities can fully participate with dignity in every aspect of our community life."

Somerville began celebrations last month, with the SCPD bringing together over 100 Somerville residents with disabilities and family members to the Boston Red Sox annual Disability Pride game. The SCPD was honored by the Red Sox for this act of inclusion and equity. All residents are invited to participate and join in a full slate of additional events throughout the month of July. Disability Pride Month is celebrated in July to honor the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and 2025 marks the 35th anniversary of its signing on July 26, 1990.

"The historic Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 prohibited, for the first time in this country's history, discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all aspects of public life. It laid the foundation for the establishment of local enforcement bodies like the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities, for which I proudly serve as Chair," said Holly Simione, Chair of the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities. "The impact of this far-reaching and empowering civil rights legislation cannot be emphasized enough; from employment rights, accessible housing, educational equity, public accommodations, and technology access, all were made possible because of the ADA. This landmark Act serves as the enforcement backbone for the work we do as the SCPD."

As charged by the state, the SCPD among other activities serves to 'advise and assist municipal officials and employees to ensure compliance with state and federal laws that affect people with disabilities.' In Somerville, the SCPD does so much important work around disability advocacy and organizing.

"We are honored to be appointed by the mayor, for our lived experiences as persons with disabilities and advocates for all Somerville residents," said Chair Simione. "This work ensures that Somerville embraces an environment that is free from discrimination and harassment based on disability, and strives for all people to have full and equal access to city services and programs, made possible by ADA."

"The Department of Racial and Social Justice and the City's Accessibility Division look forward to again supporting the SCPD's slate of programming for Disability Pride Month," said Amanda Nagim-Williams, Director of RSJ. "We are grateful for their partnership and are excited about the ways we will continue to collaboratively champion accessibility, equity, and belonging in the city."

Schedule of Events:

Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities Monthly Public Meeting

- Date/Time: Wednesday, July 9, 6 p.m.
- Location: West Somerville Library (40 College Ave.)
- About: Meet members of the SCPD and learn about their ongoing advocacy to support and empower Somerville residents with disabilities. A recent example of their impact: the SCPD awarded $70,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors through the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation. Learn more at somervillema.gov/scpd.

Disability Pride Month Flag Raising

- Date/Time: Thursday, July 10, 5 p.m.
- Location: City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave.)
- About: Join Mayor Ballantyne, City Council members, the SPCD, and RSJ to raise the Disability Pride flag above Somerville's City Hall. Families are encouraged to join us to hoist the flag together.

SCPD ArtBeat Booth

- Date/Time: Saturday, July 19, 12 to 7 p.m. (musical performances continue until 9 p.m.)
- Location: ArtBeat, Davis Square
- About: Visit the SCPD's booth at ArtBeat in Statue Park to gain resources, learn about open seats for Members, take home a free book, and participate in a fun art activity. Learn more at somervilleartscouncil.org/events/artbeat-freeze.

ADA35 Boston with the Boston Disabilities Commission

- Date/Time: Wednesday, July 23, noon to 2 p.m.
- Location: Boston City Hall (1 City Hall Square, Boston)
- About: Join the SCPD and fellow advocates in Boston to honor the 35th anniversary of the ADA. Events include a flag raising, march and roll, and rally on the Boston Common. Learn more at boston.gov. If you are interested in attending this event and would like help with transportation, please email adacommission@gmail.com.

Somerville Garden Club hosting garden protector talk

The Somerville Garden Club is pleased to host Lifetime Massachusetts Master Gardener Bonnie Power at its July meeting. The Club's monthly meetings are free and open to the public. Tufts Tab Building, 169 Holland st, July 9, 7 – 9 p.m.

SPIDERS: THE MOST MISUNDERSTOOD GARDEN PROTECTOR

This talk is an opportunity to learn more about a very underappreciated group of garden arthropods, spiders. Spiders are valuable apex predators in our gardens.

This presentation, shared from a spider expert In Indiana, includes pictures and descriptions of a wide variety of different spiders

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From page 8

Ms. Cam's Olio Answers

1. Philadelphia
2. July 4, 1801, Thomas Jefferson was president
3. 13 times
4. Bristol, Rhode Island
5. Massachusetts
6. John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe
7. Coney Island, New York
8. The Macy's 4th of July Fireworks celebration in New York City
9. 56
10. "When in the course of human events"
11. The Pennsylvania Evening Post
12. Liberty Enlightening the World

Educator and Community Advocate Ben Wheeler launches campaign for Somerville City Council At Large

Educator, community advocate, and dad Ben Wheeler has officially announced his campaign for Somerville City Council At Large, focused on practical policy, responsive government, and improving affordability, education, and public safety for all residents.

Wheeler, a father of two children attending Somerville Public Schools, has dedicated his career to education and creative technology. After growing up just off Beacon St. in Cambridge and living in New York City and overseas in the nation of Georgia, he returned to Somerville in 2018, drawn by family ties and the vibrant community.

"I'm running because Somerville should work as well as the people who live here do," said Wheeler. "I've seen too many neighbors priced out, too many city processes stall, and too many working families left to juggle too much on their own. I want to help build a city that listens, follows through, and puts creative solutions into action."

Wheeler's platform emphasizes housing affordability, supporting and expanding universal pre-K and after-school programs, and making streets safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike. A former engineer and learning specialist at Scratch, an MIT-based nonprofit providing free coding education worldwide, Wheeler holds a master's in education from Harvard and has designed inclusive, innovative curricula for public schools.

In addition to volunteering with the Somerville Community Land Trust, Wheeler has experience organizing with labor unions and supporting democratic development internationally. Locally, he coaches robotics for Somerville middle schoolers and advocates for a stronger community involvement in city decisions.

"This campaign isn't just about ideas – it's about follow-through, and learning from the people already hard at work on our problems, before trying to make policy," Wheeler said. "I want our City Council to reflect the deep knowledge, creativity, and commitment of Somerville's residents. We should be asking tough questions, working collaboratively, and delivering clear results."

Somerville City Council At Large candidate Ben Wheeler. — *Photo by Elena Clamen*

A campaign kickoff event will be held on Wednesday, July 16, at Casey's Tavern on Broadway.

To learn more or get involved, visit benwheelerforsomerville.com or email benwheelerforsomerville@gmail.com.

— *Ben Wheeler for Somerville Committee*

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: Is spring cleaning—or getting rid of all this clutter—really worth it?
A: Most definitely, yes! Clearing out what you no longer use isn't just good for your home—it can benefit your finances and your community too.

Here's why it's worth the effort:
- You free up physical (and mental) space – A less cluttered home feels calmer and easier to manage.
- You pass on useful items – Things you no longer need may be exactly what someone else could use.
- You may qualify for a tax deduction – Donating goods to a qualified nonprofit can be deductible on your federal taxes if you itemize.

And don't overlook this bonus: a more organized space often leads to a more organized financial life. When your surroundings are in order, it's easier to stay on top of bills, budgeting, and long-term planning.

Bottom line: Spring cleaning isn't just about tidying up – it's a reset for your space, your mindset, and your money.

Any questions? I'd be happy to help.
I'm Vincent Hicks, CPA, based in Somerville with over 20 years of experience. Reach out at vhicksconnect@gmail.com or (859) 553-0788.

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

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

Sen. Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington). "The passage of the [the bill] upholds the Senate's commitment to always keep the health and safety of Massachusetts residents at the forefront of our work."

"With today's vote, Massachusetts is reinforcing its legacy of safeguarding abortion care despite ever-evolving and escalating efforts from a hostile federal administration to empower anti-abortion extremists and undermine access to reproductive health care and our fundamental right to bodily autonomy nationwide," said Rebecca Hart Holder, President of Reproductive Equity Now.

"Abortion and gender-affirming care providers and patients are under escalating attacks, facing lawsuits, harassment and intimidation by hostile states around the country," said Carol Rose, Executive Director of the ACLU of Massachusetts. "Massachusetts has long recognized that access to these forms of health care is essential – for our health, our families and our bodily autonomy. This legislation builds on our state's already-strong shield law protections in a time of tremendous urgency."

"This bill is looking to solve a problem that doesn't exist and in doing so actually creates problems," said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton), one of only three senators to vote against the bill. "For example, the bill prevents the disclosure of health information when requested by other states even during criminal investigations. If a child is raped by a family member and then trafficked to Massachusetts for abortion services, this bill would allow the commonwealth of Massachusetts to prohibit outside agencies from obtaining any information that may be germane to a criminal investigation. The bill also calls into question parental rights and custodial issues regarding minors from out of state who are seeking healthcare services unbeknownst to their parents."

Sens. Kelly Dooner (R-Taunton) and Pater Durant (R-Spencer), the only other members who voted against the proposal, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them to explain why they opposed the legislation.

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill. A "No" vote Is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

REGULATE DOCUMENTS REQUESTS (S 2538) Senate 5-34, rejected an amendment that would require the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (HHS) to promulgate regulations related to document requests made by other states and the federal government and maintain a database of the requests. The amendment would also require HHS to provide a record of the requests to the House and Senate Clerks.

"The top priority we should all have is the safety of our friends, family and neighbors" said Sen. Patrick O'Connor (R-Weymouth) who voted for the amendment. "I will continue to work to ensure that the rights and protections that these individuals have are safeguarded by the Legislature and that everyone has access to their right to proper healthcare without interference from other states or legislative bodies."

Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester), the sponsor of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to explain why he proposed the amendment.

"I voted against [the amendment] because, while I agreed with the intent [of the amendment], I didn't believe it could be implemented without a lot of further research to make it possible to implement as written," said Sen. Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington). "Having not spoken with HHS, we couldn't do that in time to redraft it."

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment. A "No" vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

GOV. HEALEY SIGNS $1.3 BILLION FOR TRANSPORTATION AND EDUCATION PACKAGE (H 4227) - Gov. Maura Healey signed into law a $1.3 billion fiscal 2025 supplemental budget that uses funds generated from the surtax imposed on taxpayers' earnings of more than $1 million annually, to fund $593 million for education-related projects and $716 million for transportation-related ones. The surtax was created by voters in November 2022 when they voted for a constitutional amendment, dubbed by supporters as the "Fair Share Amendment," that allows a graduated income tax in Massachusetts and imposes an additional 4 percent income tax, in addition to the flat 5 percent one, on taxpayers' earnings of more than $1 million annually.

A total of $535 million of the $716 million for transportation will be used for various MBTA projects. Other provisions include $80 million for Chapter 90 aid to ensure every city and town receives funding to maintain local roads and bridges; $16.4 million for municipally owned small bridges and culverts; $7 million for the improvement and maintenance of unpaved roads; and $5 million for transportation improvements associated with the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The $593 million for education includes $248 million for special education; $115 million for public higher education infrastructure investments; $25 million for tutoring to support accelerated literacy growth and success for students in kindergarten through grade 3; $10 million for English Language Learning Programs; $10 million to support the Holocaust Museum in Boston; and $10 million for grants to eligible local school districts for clean energy infrastructure improvements and upgrades.

"I proposed this bill to address two of the most critical needs we have as a state – transportation and education," said Gov. Healey. "For decades, our transportation system has been underinvested in, and Massachusetts residents and businesses have been paying the price. We're delivering an historic infusion of funding to upgrade roads and bridges and finally stabilize the finances at the T. We're also expanding access to the programs that have been proven to support students and help them recover from the learning losses they suffered due to the pandemic, like tutoring and career and technical education."

"As the school year comes to a close, educators and families can head into summer break knowing that significant funding is coming their way that delivers the support they need for special education, childcare and tutoring," said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. "At the same time, we're ushering in a new era of modern, reliable transportation across Massachusetts. We look forward to continuing to build on the progress we've been making on transportation and education across the state."

"Ensuring that every Massachusetts resident has access to a safe and reliable public transportation system, and that every student in the commonwealth receives a high-quality education, are two of the most fundamental responsibilities that we have as elected officials," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "The investments being made in this supplemental budget are representative of the commonwealth's continued focus on meeting those responsibilities."

"No matter where you live in Massachusetts, you deserve reliable transportation and an education that opens doors to opportunities," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "This funding moves us closer to a commonwealth where everyone has access to both. At a time when the federal government's commitment to safe transit and strong public education is in doubt, this legislation makes direct investments in local communities, our school systems and the infrastructure projects that keep Massachusetts moving forward."

CHANGE DATE OF STATE PRIMARY ELECTIONS (S 532) – The Election Laws Committee held a hearing on legislation that would change the Bay State primary election date from September to the second Tuesday in June. The bill also permits municipalities to schedule local elections on the same dates as presidential or state primaries which supporters say would enhance voter engagement, improve efficiencies and reduce costs.

"It is outrageous that voters continue to face barriers to engagement, clerks continue to face significant administrative burdens and taxpayers continue to bear overly high costs due to our woefully outdated primary election schedule," said sponsor Sen. Becca *Continued on page 17*

Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 16

Rausch (D-Needham). "The proof is in the pudding — our state's primary date has conflicted with Jewish holidays, rendered our clerks unable to comply with federal election law or clashed with other conflicts every single cycle for the better part of two decades, necessitating a date change each time."

Rausch continued, "The replacement dates have not been much better, falling on the Tuesday after Labor Day more than once. To the greatest extent we can, we should fix the aspects of our democracy that are broken, and our last-in-the-nation primary date is among the top of the list."

TAX CREDIT FOR CARING FOR ELDERLY OR DISABLED (H 3018) – A bill heard by the Revenue Committee would provide up to a $600 state income tax credit to any Massachusetts resident who care for an elderly or totally disabled relative with Alzheimer's disease in the person's home. Taxpayers are eligible if they provide more than half of the support for a relative age 70 or older or a totally disabled relative with Alzheimer's disease; if their income is less than $20,000 for a single filer or less than $35,000 for a joint filer; and if the cared-for relative lives with the taxpayer for more than six months of the tax year.

"Caring for an aging parent or a loved one with Alzheimer's can be emotionally and financially overwhelming," said sponsor Rep. Bruce Ayers (D-Quincy). "This bill provides a modest but meaningful tax credit to help families offset the high costs of home care, and to support those who are making great personal sacrifices to care for someone they love in the comfort and dignity of their own home."

PROHIBIT LEVEL 3 SEX OFFENDERS FROM LIVING WITH OTHER LEVEL 3 OFFENDERS (H 1786) - Legislation that would prohibit individuals who have been classified as a Level 3 sex offender from renting, residing or otherwise occupying a single-family dwelling or a unit in a multi-family dwelling with another level 3 sex offender, unless they are legally related by consanguinity, affinity or adoption, was one of the bills before the Judiciary Committee. Violators would be subject to a $1,000 fine and/or up to a 2.5-year prison sentence.

"Individuals classified as Level 3 sex offenders have committed serious crimes and pose a significant threat of reoffending in the future," said sponsor House Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "Having two or more dangerous sex offenders residing together can create an extremely volatile situation that makes it even more likely they will reoffend. By preventing these individuals from living together, we can protect the public by minimizing their ability to potentially work in concert to reoffend."

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS (H 4124) - The Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security held a hearing on a measure that would ban prisons from prohibiting an inmate from playing Dungeons and Dragons or other role-playing games.

"Current law allows correctional facilities to ban role-playing games like Dungeons and Dragons under the misguided belief that they promote gang activity or inappropriate behavior," said sponsor Rep. Jack Lewis (D-Framingham). "This restriction is not only baseless, but it echoes the outdated paranoia of the 1980s 'Satanic Panic.' Denying incarcerated individuals the opportunity to engage in creative, collaborative and mentally stimulating games is an unreasonable infringement on their free time and rehabilitation potential."

NO RIGHT TURN ON RED (S 1715) – Another bill heard by the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee would prohibit vehicles from turning right on a red or stop signal.

"Eliminating right turns on red improves pedestrian safety by reducing conflicts between turning vehicles and people crossing the street, especially protecting children, seniors and individuals with disabilities," said sponsor Sen. Robyn Kennedy (D-Worcester). "It supports walkable, equitable communities with minimal impact on traffic flow while addressing risks from distracted or rushed driving."

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Investing in clean energy to modernize our schools is one of the smartest steps we can take to create healthier, safer learning environments for our students and educators. By improving energy efficiency, we lower costs, reduce harmful pollution and free up valuable resources to support teachers and educational programs. This is an investment in our buildings, the future of our communities and the well-being of the next generation." — *Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper announcing that the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center awarded more than $52 million in grants to help upgrade public school facilities through the Green School Works program, which aims to make K–12 public school buildings more energy-efficient, lower costs for school districts, reduce pollution and create safer and healthier learning environments for students and educators.*

"Good nutrition is a cornerstone of health, year-round. Programs like SUN Bucks let children focus on learning, playing and just being kids, rather than where their next meal will come from when school is closed." — *Health and Human Services Secretary Kate Walsh announcing the SUN Bucks program which provides grocery money to eligible low-income Massachusetts families with school-aged children in the summer months to buy food when schools are closed. The program started in June 2024 and last year served 584,441 Massachusetts children.*

"We're working on every front to lower costs, from cutting taxes, to building more housing, to lowering your energy bill. Our legislation gets charges off bills, lowers overall energy costs and prevents big price swings that families and businesses can't afford. We're putting savings back in people's pockets while continuing to move Massachusetts toward greater energy independence." — *Gov. Healey testifying at a hearing on her legislation that she calls "The Energy Affordability, Independence and Innovation Act," which she says will lower energy bills and bring more energy into Massachusetts.*

"Today's hearing is political theater. It's the governor trying to deflect blame as she heads into an election year. The Healey administration wants credit for tackling energy costs, but their bill just recycles the same failed mandates that created the crisis in the first place." — *Paul Craney, spokesperson for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, commenting on Healey's bill.*

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 June 23-27, the House met for a total of six hours and 50 minutes while the Senate met for a total of five hours and 46 minutes.

Mon. June 23	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:32 a.m. Senate 11:12 a.m. to 11:27 a.m.
Tues. June 24	No House session No Senate session
Wed. June 25	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. June 26	House 11:02 a.m. to 5:20 p.m. Senate 11:24 a.m. to 4:55 p.m.
Fri. June 27	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

The Somerville Times

Somerville City Council unanimously approves zoning unlocking expansion of Somerville's Innovation Hub

On Thursday, June 26, the Somerville City Council unanimously approved the Arts & Innovation Zoning, unlocking the expansion of the Somernova campus.

The approval follows the recent formal signing of the landmark Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) with the Union Square Neighborhood Council and Art Stays Here, as well as a first-of-its-kind Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with Greater Boston Building Trades Unions. Together, these milestones represent a powerful step forward for inclusive, future-focused development in Union Square.

Fueled by the Arts & Innovation Subarea zoning, Somernova's expansion envisions 1.5 million square feet of cutting-edge R&D and commercial space and housing to support the next wave of climate and tough tech innovators. Integrated into a vibrant ecosystem of arts and music, local retail, housing, childcare, civic space, and a community center, this expansion will cement Somernova as a global launchpad for companies incubated at and emerging from trailblazers like Greentown Labs and The Engine – positioning Somerville at the forefront of solving the world's toughest challenges.

With the zoning now approved, Somernova will initiate the Master Plan Special Permit and MEPA review processes.

Members of the Union Square Neighborhood Council, Arts Stays Here, Rafi Properties, and Somerville City Council after the unanimous passage of transformative Arts & Innovation Zoning, advancing the Somernova expansion. *— Photo Courtesy of Somernova*

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

General Exercise classes are now on YouTube and City Cable – In addition to our general exercise classes offered in person at the Holland Street Center and the Ralph & Jenny Center and our virtual classes via Zoom, the COA is now offering general exercise classes shown on GovTV and YouTube. An easy way to find the YouTube videos is to go to the city website: somervillema.gov, scroll all the way down until you see SOMERVILLECITYTV. Click on Somervillema.gov/Video, click on GOVTV or YOUTUBE then select the COA General Exercise Video of your choice or check out some of the other popular videos that are posted. You can also check out the videos on GOVTV Comcast channel 22, Astound SD channel 13 and Astound HD channel 613. New exercise videos will be posted each month, we look forward to you exercising with us from the comfort of your own home, at a time that is convenient for you! For additional information regarding any of our fitness programs, please contact Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

Friendly Caller Program – We have many wonderful volunteers who are waiting to give you a call. Whether you are looking to make a new friend or would just like a friendly chat to look forward to every week, this program has you covered. Call Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 to learn more about the program and to sign up.

Mark your calendars, the COA is hitting the road – Day Trips:

Lobstahs and Laughs – Wednesday, July 16th - $142. per person. Featuring The Bobby Darling Show at Fosters Clambake Restaurant in York, Maine. Motor coach roundtrip transportation. Lunch of either Lobster Bake or BBQ Chicken. Refunds are unavailable after June 16th. Payments accepted by check, made payable to the SCOA. For more information contact Connie Lorenti by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

Tom Jones Tribute Band – Thursday, August 21st - $136. per person at the Danversport Yacht Club. Motor coach roundtrip transportation. Lunch of Chicken Picatta or Baked Haddock. Refunds are unavailable after July 21st. Payments accepted by check, made payable to the SCOA. For more information contact Connie Lorenti by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

Fall Foliage Day Trip, New Hampshire – Wednesday, September 24th - $159. per person. Motor coach roundtrip transportation with stops at The Cathedral of the Pines, Lunch at the Old Mill Restaurant, a visit to Smiths Country Cheeses and a visit to Red Apple Farm. Lunch of Baked Haddock or the Famous Old Mill Chicken Vegetable Pie. Refunds are unavailable after August 25th. Payments accepted by check, made payable to the SCOA. For more information contact Connie Lorenti by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

Always Olivia – Olivia Newton-John Tribute Wednesday, October 22nd - $137. per person. At the Venus De Milo in Swansea, MA. Motor coach roundtrip transportation. Luncheon and show included. Refunds are unavailable after September 22nd. Payments accepted by check, made payable to the SCOA. For more information contact Connie Lorenti by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

Christmas with Tony Bennett and Barbara Streisand – Wednesday, December 3rd - $136. per person. At the Danversport Yacht Club. Motor coach round trip transportation, a tribute show to Barbara Streisand and Tony Bennett. Lunch of Baked Stuffed Chicken or Baked Haddock. Refunds unavailable after November 14th. Payments accepted by check, made payable to the SCOA. For more information contact Connie Lorenti by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

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

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

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST
If you would like to receive a virtual copy of our monthly newsletter, please contact Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen Bastardi at mbastardi@somervillema.gov
If you would like to become part of our Google Group, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

MEAL PROGRAM
Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services Meal Program. All are welcome! Registration is required. You will need to register on a weekly basis. Each week, on Monday or Tuesday call the COA Reservation line on 617-625-6600, ext. 2323, to reserve your spot for the following week. Please leave your name, phone number and the day/days you would like to attend for the upcoming week. We will return your call to confirm your reservation by Wednesday afternoon. Lunches are provided by Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services. Congregate Meal Program and catered by City Fresh. A suggested $3 donation for lunches. Menu Subject to Change. Meals served at Noon.

Looking for a location to chat with your friends?
Come to the COA on Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., the senior center is open, and the coffee is on as we wait for the start of Bingo.

Landmark Arts Space Investment: Somernova in Somerville

As a result of over two years of volunteer advocacy, this month the Somerville arts and music community celebrates two separate, yet connected wins for arts space. Simultaneously, stakeholders participated in two community processes: changes in zoning, led by the city and passed by the City Council, as well as a monumental Community Benefits Agreement and Project Labor Agreement agreed to by Rafi Properties and the Union Square Neighborhood Council and Greater Boston Building Trades Unions, respectively.

First, on Thursday, June 26, Somerville City Council unanimously passed zoning amendments that bolster the arts and creative sector, including a new Research and Design (R&D) designation. This new base zone doubles the Arts and Creative Enterprise (ACE) requirement from what is usually 5% to 10%.

In addition, a new Arts and Innovation Overlay was created for new arts space and climate tech (tools & technology that fight climate change) in Union Square. Further, following the recommendations set forth in the Arts Space Risk Assessment report from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and Somerville Arts Council (SAC) – the new, revised ACE use definitions were passed, prioritizing specific arts space needs of artists and musicians.

Second, on June 12, community stakeholders publicly signed 2 monumental agreements for this project: the largest arts infrastructure investment via a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) in Somerville history and a first-of-its-kind-in-Somerville Project Labor Agreement (PLA), offering job training and fair wages for construction workers. This was the culmination of years of community-wide advocacy, mostly by volunteers.

Specifically, Somernova agreed to build at least 100,000 SF of new arts/music space, including 3 new independent live music venues and form-built, affordable (subsidized by Somernova), and long-term artist workspace, including music recording, music and performing arts rehearsal, and artist studios. Somernova also agreed to work with a Curatorial Advisory Team of artists and arts stakeholders on leasing. On top of the arts benefits, the CBA also offers new housing, a new funded community center, and the strictest traffic management plan in Somerville's history.

The upzoning was the result of a thorough and transparent community process called the Central Somerville Avenue Public Meeting Series, led by the city, as well as city-led City Council hearings, and many Land Use Committee/Planning Board meetings.

"I am so proud of the Somerville community for the years of participation by so many residents, workers, the artist community, the business community, and city staff," says Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "Through that work, Somerville will be able to help grow two important sectors: the arts and climate technology. Our city is proud to invest in and help grow both on the new campus."

"This is a communal win negotiated by and for our neighbors," says Somerville Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott. "Through the Union Square Neighborhood Council's Community Benefits Summits and nearly two years of negotiation with Rafi, our neighborhood stood up for itself and delivered results. This has been the kind of community-driven process that activists envisioned over a decade ago for our city, and is a huge step forward in the baseline expectations we set for collaborative planning between neighbors and developers. With this success, the USNC, city, and Rafi Properties have collectively raised the bar and established a model for future development proposals throughout the city."

Arts stakeholders at the advocacy community meeting.

The Community Benefits Agreement is the result of many public community meetings and two Community Benefits Agreement Summits held for residents, local businesses, homeowners, and other eligible stakeholders to share input on the potential impact of the development. The public voted for many potential benefits, including affordable arts space, shorter buildings, green and open space, housing, traffic mitigation, and a project labor agreement.

"It certainly was challenging at times," explains Matthias Rudolf, Co-Chair, Union Square Neighborhood Council. "To simultaneously participate in community processes for both upzoning and the community benefits and project labor agreements. The work paid off. We did it together. Neighbors, residents, and business owners showed up and participated. That's direct democracy."

"We're excited to expand Somernova into a campus where tough tech and the arts can grow together in community and thrive," said Kristin Phelan, VP of Real Estate at Rafi Properties. "The Community Benefits Agreement reflects what's possible when community voices are truly centered in the development process. It represents our deep commitment to Somerville's future, where economic growth, creativity, sustainability, and equity go hand in hand."

"In 2019, the City of Somerville revised its entire zoning ordinance, adding the Fabrication District, specifically to protect affordable artist workspace buildings by disincentivizing redevelopment," explains Ethan Dussault, Somerville resident, small business owner, and CBA Negotiating team member. "This provided an advocacy opportunity: if a developer wanted to upzone 7.4 acres of FAB, then they would have to significantly bolster the arts to do so."

"We've seen other developments abide by FAB and ACE requirements," says Gregory Jenkins, Executive Director of Somerville Arts Council. "But this project wrote form-built, affordable, and long-term into the CBA. This, combined with the passing of the ACE definition revisions, really props up a new, usable arts space for our creatives. It's been quite a road for everyone."

Free summer meals for kids

Free Summer Meals in the Parks is back in 2025! Starting next Monday, July 7, and until August 22, free meals will be available to all kids and teens, ages 19 and under.

These meals are available Monday through Friday at the locations listed on the city's website, somervillema.gov/freesummermeals (please refer to each location for specific times).

Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week

Q: My landlord has agreed to let me sublet my apartment. Do the Fair Housing laws apply to me?

A: Yes! You're "the landlord" now, so you're bound by all the laws that apply to landlords, including fair housing laws. When advertising your sublease, adhere to fair housing laws that apply to landlords.

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

Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner
By Bobbygeorge Potaris

What ghost haunted King George III?
The spirit of '76.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise

Leave Earth immediately… — *Photo by Denise Provost*

On This Day in History
July 2

1298 – An army under Albert of Austria defeats forces led by Adolf of Nassau.

1644 – Oliver Cromwell crushes the Royalists at the Battle of Marston Moor.

1776 – The Continental Congress resolves with the Declaration of Independence that the American colonies "are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

1858 – Czar Alexander II frees the serfs working on imperial lands.

1863 – The Union left flank holds at Little Round Top during the Battle of Gettysburg.

1881 – Charles J. Guiteau fatally wounds President James A. Garfield in Washington, D.C.

1926 – Congress establishes the Army Air Corps.

1937 – American aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart disappears in the Central Pacific during an attempt to fly around the world.

1961 – Novelist Ernest Hemingway commits suicide at his home in Ketchum, Idaho.

1964 – President Lyndon Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act into law.

1976 – North and South Vietnam are officially reunified.

1980 – President Jimmy Carter reinstates draft registration for males 18 years of age.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

frozen moments, and glacial vibes on the hottest day of the year. Stay tuned for artist lineups, performances, and surprises. Find more details in our bio link or right here: https://somervilleartscouncil.org/events/artbeat-freeze/

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On **Wednesday, July 9**, 6 – 8 p.m., **SMC** will host an opening reception along with a member mixer at **29 Properzi Way**. They invite you to join them for an evening of lively conversation, where new and longtime members alike will gather in the spirit of art and community. Meet their newest Gallery artists, **Valerie Prosper Imparato** and **Flor Delgadillo**. Light refreshments will be served.

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Disability Pride Month Flag Raising will take place on **Thursday, July 10**, 5 p.m., **City Hall Concourse** (93 Highland Ave.). Join **Mayor Ballantyne, City Council members, the SPCD**, and **RSJ** to raise the **Disability Pride flag** above Somerville's **City Hall**. Families are encouraged to join us to hoist the flag together.

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Senior Social Gathering in Spanish, Tuesday, July 8, 2 – 3 p.m., at the **Ralph and Jenny Center**, 9 New Washington St., Somerville. You are cordially invited. Join the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs staff for a friendly gathering especially for Spanish-speaking seniors. Come to connect and chat with new friends and neighbors, and build community while enjoying a coffee and treats.

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Ye Olde Comix Con at **Somerville Public Library**, 79 Highland Ave., **July 26**, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Join the **Somerville Public Library** for their fifth annual all-day fan-themed event, with programming from your favorite fandoms, stalls with local artists and vendors, cosplaying, and more. Go here to find out more and register for reminders: https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/comix-con.

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Summer is here, and so is the heat. Visit the city's website at somervillema.gov/keepcool for **heat safety tips** and ways to keep cool in and around Somerville are below. Safety tips are also available in multiple languages.

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The **Powder House, Milk Row Cemetery** and **Prospect Hill Tower** will be open to the public on select dates and times **from May through October** as part of ***History On The Line***, a series of exhibitions and programs organized by the **Somerville Museum** and funded by the **Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism's MA250 initiative** and the **City of Somerville**. Next dates will be: The **Powder House** on **Thursday, August 7**, 6 p.m., **Milk Row Cemetery, Saturday, July 26**, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., **Prospect Hill Tower, Thursday, July 10**, 6 – 8 p.m. For more dates and events, visit https://www.somervillemuseum.org/historic-events-1.

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The **Somerville Museum** presents ***Kaleidoscope: Reflecting the Moment*** **through August 23**. *Kaleidoscope: Reflecting the Moment* is an immersive, multi-sensory exhibition by multidisciplinary artist **Flor Delgadillo** that invites us to reflect on shifting ideas of home, family, neighbors, and community in a rapidly changing world. Blending opportunities for pause and reflection with moments of interaction and creation, Kaleidoscope explores how light transforms space, how sound carries memory, and how collective experience deepens our sense of belonging, connection, and resilience. For more information, visit: https://www.somervillemuseum.org/.

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The **City of Somerville** is reminding residents that the season of growth is also the **season of pollinators**. As you shop for plants to fill garden pots or garden beds, you can play a role in feeding and sheltering the insects that keep our global ecosystem functioning. Somerville's **Pollinator Action Plan** is your go-to guide for planting a beautiful garden and protecting the creatures that keep our environment blooming. Whether you're a homeowner, renter, seasoned gardener, or total beginner, the Plan is full of practical steps and inspiring ideas to help create a vital habitat right here in the city. Check out the full Pollinator Action Plan at: www.voice.somervillema.gov/somerville-pollinator-action-plan.

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National Night Out is back again. Celebrate bringing police and community together with fun activities for the whole family. Join in on **Tuesday, August 5**, at **Dilboy Stadium**, 110 Alewife Brook Parkway, from 5 to 8 p.m., for a fun night.

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The **Ginny Smithers Pool**, 5 Cherry St., is officially back open. For more information on spring pool hours for Swim Lessons, Water Exercise, Lap Swim, Family Swim, and Open Swim. Please visit their website, https://somervillema.myrec.com/info/default.aspx, or email aquatics@somervillema.gov.

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Join **Union Square Main Streets** and 60+ of your favorite local food producers for the **21st Annual Union Square Farmers Market**. Shop local **Saturdays from May 10 to October 25**, except September 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the **Union Square Plaza**. Thanks to their partnership with the **City of Somerville** and the **Somerville Farmers Market Coalition**, they are proud to continue to offer our SNAP match. For more info, visit un-ionsquaremain.org/2025-season.

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The **Davis Square Market** is open for the 2025 Season. The market will run **every Wednesday** from 12 noon to 6 p.m., **from May 21 through November 26**, at 44 Day St., Somerville. This long-running market features over two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers offering a vibrant selection of delicious produce, pro-tein, baked goods, ready-to-eat meals, alongside a host of other locally made products. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly $15 SNAP Match. Visit https://www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis.

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The **Council On Aging's Walking Club** meets **every Thursday** at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the entrance of **Holland Street Center**, 167 Holland St. Weather permitting,

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Somerville Animal Control is in need of towels/blankets/linens. They can arrange a porch pickup if you message them on Facebook, or they can be dropped off at the police station at any time.

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You can download a helpful packet of **Know Your Rights resources and information** in the language of your choice below. **Somerville Public Schools** has also created a list of resources on the **One Somerville Resource page**, which can be found here https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-departments/somerville-family-learning-collaborative-sflc/one-somerville-resources.

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Street sweeping in Somerville resumed on Tuesday, April 1. Somerville's street cleaning program is an essential public works program that not only keeps our city cleaner but also reduces the risk of flooding and icing due to clogged storm drains. The street sweeping season runs **from April 1 until December 31** each year. On designated street sweeping days, vehicles must be moved from the side of the street being swept, as noted on signs posted on each street. The penalty for not complying with street sweeping parking regulations is a $50 fine. Check the signs on the streets where you park and visit www.somervillema.gov/sweeper for more information.

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SCES is teaming up with **City Fresh Foods** to offer a **five-pack of frozen home-delivered meals**. This new meal delivery option is ideal for consumers who want the convenience of home-delivered meals but are not able to be at home each weekday to receive deliveries. Meal recipients can choose which weekday they would like to receive the frozen meals, with up to five meals in each bulk delivery. Each meal comes with bread, milk, and a dessert. Current SCES clients who are interested in receiving meals should call their office at 617-628-2601 or contact their case manager for more information.

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

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

'SEEING ACROSS GENERATIONS'

CONT. FROM PG 1

changing city. Through images of Franklin Park, Government Center, Parades, and more, these prints show how he was able to carefully document the dynamic nature of Boston's historic neighborhoods and diverse communities.

Known for his sharply composed images, Manos's work turns the quotidian into something striking and unexpected, asking us to look, then look again. As the first artist to exhibit at Leica Gallery Boston, and with his passing in January of this year, this exhibition stands as a powerful tribute to his enduring legacy.

Stella Johnson's images bring viewers to Revere Beach and beyond, offering layered, richly observed photographs that explore public space, connection, and joy across cultures. Her work reflects a deep belief in the beauty and necessity of communal life, tracing how interaction and congregation have evolved in response to the shifting demands of modern society, with Boston and other cities as the backdrop for this exploration. A student and close friend of Manos, Johnson's formal precision echoes his influence, yet her work pulses with movement, spontaneity, and intimacy.

Representing our emerging generation, Iaritza Menjivar brings a vibrant, contemporary perspective to this lineage. Drawing on themes of identity, migration, and belonging, her photographs look toward the future of photography where personal and collective histories meet. Influenced by her close collaboration with Johnson, Menjivar's images are bold and emotionally resonant, looking to an interest in light, ambiguity, and often featuring her partner and family as subjects.

Constantine Manos, *Man sunning himself on Fourth of July*, Government Center, 1976. Courtesy of Robert Klein Gallery.

Stella Johnson, *Seagull*, Revere Beach, MA. 2021. Courtesy of the artist.

Like Manos, she uses visual disruption to reframe perception, but where he makes the familiar strange, she delves into transformation using color and shadow as tools to reveal new ways of being. Her photographs are deeply personal but never isolated, anchored in memory, identity, and the shifting boundaries between self and community.

Presented together in conversation, these bodies of work illuminate a continuum: a shared commitment to documenting life and human connection across time. From Boston to Somerville, Revere Beach and beyond, *SEEING ACROSS GENERATIONS* reveals how three artists, across eras, have used the Leica camera to witness, remember, and reimagine the world around them.

The exhibition will open to the public on Thursday, July 17, from 6 to 8 p.m. during the opening reception. A panel discussion with Stella Johnson and Iaritza Menjivar about the exhibition will take place on Saturday, July 26, from 12 to 2 p.m.

SEEING ACROSS GENERATIONS will be on view at the Leica Gallery Boston through September 14, 2025.

Hoodsies for everyone!

CONT. FROM PG 3

us kids at Foss Park. A great guy."

"The Hoodsies were given out by the local alderman in Ward 1 – it was Louis Ryan or Jimmy McCarthy."

"At Lincoln Park, the Hoodsies were delivered by Billy Joyce."

"Back in the 60's, Trum Field would have a track meet on the 4 of July and give out Hoodsies to all that attended, and that night had a really nice fireworks display – with pizza trucks, hot dogs and hamburger vehicles, and slush vehicles, along with ice cream vehicles, etc. It was a pretty good time."

It's the general consensus that the little wooden spoon was annoying. Many would fold the lid and use that for a spoon!

It wasn't Fourth of July if you didn't run from park to park for your free Hoodsie.

"One of the best Somerville childhood memories."

Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 9

were not hired as concert leaders. He went to Europe numerous times and learned as much as he could from the masters. In this way, he cross-trained in all types of music, playing, composing, and conducting.

When he returned from Europe, he taught music for six years at St. Paul's Episcopal School for boys in New York. While there, he wrote prolifically for himself and other notables. One person was John Philip Sousa, for whom he wrote military music and became a close friend. Heading back to Europe from 1904 to 1909, he further established himself there, writing, composing, and conducting.

Returning successfully from Europe, he became the conductor of the Seattle Symphony Orchestra.

In 1906, a devastating earthquake and fire struck San Francisco, destroying most of the city. By 1911, the first-rate rebuilding of the city had progressed to the point that the citizens wanted an orchestra. After being lured from Seattle, Henry became the first conductor of the San Francisco Symphony and stayed there until 1915, when he returned to New York to create successful operas for the next five years.

In 1921, he broke the ice and became the first American to lead a major American orchestra, the New York Philharmonic. As time went on, he gradually infused American songs into the orchestral programs until American songs became the norm.

In 1925, he received an honorary Doctorate from Tufts University. In 1929 he started the Manhattan Symphony Orchestra and in 1933 he founded the National Association for American Composers and Conductors.

In 1934, he was a leader in the creation of the Berkshire Music Festival at Tanglewood. His trailblazing led on to the likes of Arthur Fiedler (known by most as "The King of Pops") and John Williams. Henry was an all-American conductor from an all-American city, Somerville.

He is buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. He wrote songs, musical poems, operas, and symphonies, composing hundreds of works. Music was his life.

OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Kathleen Spivack is an award-winning writer. She studied with Robert Lowell and remained friends with him for eighteen years, and is the author of many books, among them *Moments of Past Happiness, A History of Yearning*, and *With Robert Lowell and His Circle*. She has had residencies at the Radcliffe Institute, Yaddo, The MacDowell Colony, and the American Academy in Rome, and has been the recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Fulbright Commission. She teaches in Boston and Paris.

Ping Pong Sestina. For Elizabeth Bishop

On Monday mornings in your apartment we faced
each other across the net, two poets
having a go at ping pong. Your arthritic hands
gripped the paddle. Determined, you played
against my energy and youth, a tricky game
in which I held myself back, wanting you to win,

not to succumb to your age, or defeat: always to win.
You grinned with delight at the speed of the game,
pressing in for the slow shots, gingerly played
over the edge of the net: you, handling
your aching body and keeping the poetic
plonk of the white ball going. Wheezing, your face

was childlike. "Please call me Elizabeth." But I couldn't face
that. You were "Miss Bishop." Elizabeth Bishop, Poet,
as in "Miss Bishop's too noble-O." Even with one hand
behind your back, whatever smallest edge you had you played
to advantage as if seeing angles were a game
and as if there were only one way of recording, one way to win

that cancelled all other alternatives. You so easily won
friends, admirers, yet always at play
was your encircled suffering, lack of love hinted, gamely
ignored; the poems and stories in which pain was handled
so far back behind the eyes that the poetry
stood for itself, was really poetry, not pain. You faced

it only obliquely. Once, showing me a photo, the face
of yourself as a baby, small, stubborn, not at all "poetic,"
protesting abandonment in crumpled white lace, hands
tightly folded as if your dear life, even then, was not a game,
as if you sensed you had something dark to play
out, a despairing intelligence behind that winning

little person. But it was late now. You were winded,
fighting arthritis, the ball. I found myself mentally playing
both sides of the table, cheering your game
so much more than my own. Did I hold back? Did I hand
you the final point? The match? No, you won on your poems
alone. Your austere inward face

was wickedly triumphant, handing me the paddle. "Shall we play
again?" Lunch was waiting, talk of books and poetry. But facing
winter noon in Cambridge, we started another game.

— *Kathleen Spivack*

Written for the Memorial, Poetry Society of America, New York.

New England Poetry Club: We, (too) The People

I am on the board of the New England Poetry Club and I want to let you know about this wonderful series we have coming up this summer.. Such poets as Robert Pinsky, Richard Blanco, Diannely Antigua, and Stephanie Burt–will read from their work at the LONGFELLOW HOUSE in Cambridge, Ma. Our first event is July 6 with former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky. The events will start at 3 p.m. on the Longfellow House lawn. For more info go to: https://nepoetryclub.org/we-too-the-people/

We (too) The People

NEPC is proud to feature a series of events featuring some of the most acclaimed voices in American poetry.

It's the sweetest poetic phrase in American democracy: "We the People." It is confounding, then, that some, in recent days, aim to limit the inclusive vision of what we are and to narrowly redefine American culture.

To explore the diversity of voices and visions in contemporary poetry– and to begin celebrating the 250th anniversary of our great democratic experiment – we are producing WE (too) THE PEOPLE– eight poetry programs across Summer 2025 and 2026.

The New England Poetry Club is collaborating with the Longfellow House–Washington's Headquarters and their Friends organization to invite some of the most acclaimed names in American poetry to bring their voices to this special program. Taken together, the work of these literary artists will offer a dynamic vision of our country and its people, our shared history, and imaginative reach.

The readings will be presented, free and open to the public, on the lawn at the Longfellow House on four summer Sundays each year– and, for the first time, will be live-streamed so that audiences from across the country will be able to join us. In addition, the edited recordings of these events will eventually be made available to anyone who wishes to explore the contemporary literary landscape and consider how poetry, as a primary historical resource, can illuminate discussions of civil society and deepen our historical understanding.

Study guides will be prepared so that schools across the country can use these materials in the classroom.

#ICYMI Watch it on Somerville EdTV

School concerts, graduation ceremonies, and athletic events are all available to watch online through the City Cable Department's https://www.youtube.com/@SomervilleEdTV channel.

Coming soon: 8th Grade Moving On Ceremonies.

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY