The future of Armory building discussed at meeting

By Ana Celerier

On Tuesday, August 1, a virtual public meeting was held to discuss the future of the historic Somerville Armory building. The Somerville Arts Council members were present to discuss the different approaches to the future of the historic building’s management. They said that creating a sense of belonging is essential for the artists currently involved in the space, and that for visitors the space needs to be inviting and inspiring. The Arts Council stated that the city currently owns the Armory and plans to remain the owner.

“We’re really talking about who would be responsible and how they would be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the space,” said Kate Scorzza Ingram, founder of Create Today, a consulting company.

Continued on page 4

Local artist Martha Friend explores universal love of blue

By Maile Blume

Martha Friend’s glass-covered home is a community landmark in Somerville, evoking wonder and joy in people passing by. People are often drawn in by the expanse of blue sculptures, said Friend. “If I’m out gardening, people always stop and just start talking to me about blue and how much they love blue,” she said. The positive community response to her art and Friend’s own love of blue inspired her to curate a show on the color, for the Somerville Museum. The show will open on September 21.

When Friend first started building outdoor art installations on her property, she was newly retired from a career in teaching. “I had free time for the first time ever, so this was my first big chance, and I wanted to do something big,” she said.

Continued on page 4

Martha Friend is preparing sculptures for her upcoming exhibit on the color blue. — Photos by Maile Blume
Happy birthday this week to several locals: artsatthearmory.org. Learn more under their event page on their website www.heard.org. They will also be presenting ways in which you can engage with this process and make your voice heard. Also, the Home Depot in Everett sucks. Unfortunately, the Home Depot store in Somerville was the second-highest grossing store in the chain, and the highest grossing per square foot. I don’t imagine that has changed hugely, so I can’t imagine HD would be interested in the lease being bought out.

Due to inclement weather, the Senior Picnic planned for yesterday turned into a drive-thru pick up event. A full sit-down Senior Picnic has been rescheduled for Thursday, September 14, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Trum Field. For any questions and to get a new ticket, call the Somerville Council on Aging at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319.

The Center for Arts at the Armory needs your support. Join them for an important community meeting on August 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Performance Hall, 191 Highland Ave. This meeting is an opportunity for Center for Arts at the Armory, to present to the community, their mission, leadership, business plan, events, programs, services and successes. They will also be presenting ways in which you can engage with this process and make your voice heard. Learn more under their event page on their website www.artsatthearmory.org.

*NOTE: Conditions subject to change. Always check a daily forecast prior to activities that can be affected by the weather.*
Life in the Ville by Jimmy Del Ponte

Before the bike path was built trains rolled along there. Growing up in the 60’s and 70’s, the tracks were another playground for us. We had to be very careful for trains but there was always someone looking out. I asked my social media friends and Somerville to share their thoughts on the old train tracks.

“Anyone recall Pollywog Pond, near Cedar St.?”

“Royal White dry-cleaning building, now blue apartment bldg.? I recall catching tadpoles there.”

“Yes, the tracks were like our adventure in the woods. Making bow and arrows out of branches and string.”

“Looking for frogs and turtles and the occasional snake.”

“As kids we built so many forts in the banking along those tracks and then as teenagers, we hung at the platform at the end of Warwick Street and that was Our drinking spot we even had one engineer on the 11 o’clock freight train that would slow down and let us run up and give him a beer.”

“That was probably my father you were handing the beer to on the train, lol! I used to always say thank God those trains are on tracks when pops was driving them.”

“We used to go down behind the little park at Trum Field and catch snakes and frogs.”

“The forts where great and the trails made though the "woods" too! Have a good memory of all the box trains that were stopped … hmmm will leave that alone to the people that remember!”

“We used to swing on the tire hanging from the tree behind the H.S. that went almost over the train tracks! My father was an engineer for Boston and Maine, and he said he would kick our asses if he saw us swinging from that tire. Needless to say, we paid no attention and we also hopped on the trains to see who could last the longest before it went under the bridge! Ahhh, the good old days!”

Want to write local Somerville stories?
Call 857-488-5138 and speak to the Assignment Editor

Somerville named a Purple Heart Community

Prospect Hill Tower was illuminated in purple Monday night to observe National Purple Heart Day.

To celebrate National Purple Heart Day, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Department of Veterans’ Services recognized and commemorated Somerville Purple Heart Recipients at Dilboy Post 529.

Also at the event, Somerville was formally named a Purple Heart Community by the Military Order of the Purple Heart organization.

— Photo by Bobbie Toner

Senior Picnic

*NEW DATE*
Thursday, September 14
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Local artist Martha Friend explores universal love of blue

She wanted to embark on a project that she could immerse herself in for the entire summer following her retirement, and began constructing the first installation on her property. Emerald City, a collection of luminous, green sculptures that Friend built with found objects.

Friend worked on the project for months. “It just got bigger and bigger,” she said. Then, Friend started constructing Sapphire City out of blue glass objects, and other installations followed, including Dance Party, a collection of plastic horses that Friend spray-painted when she discovered a silver, weather-resistant coating. “It just kind of took off from there,” she said.

Friend’s installations are shaped by her desire to create art that everyone can enjoy. “I really want it to be something that everybody can relate to, because that’s kind of how it developed. Children love my house. I have started doing all kinds of little things that are under trees and bushes, that are at children’s level,” she said.

“What motivates me is to make stuff that is not obtuse, you know. It’s just clear. It’s just fun,” she added.

When Friend received a grant from the Somerville Museum to do an exhibit on the color blue, she reached out to a network of local artists who participate in Somerville Open Studios, and many agreed to be a part of the show.

Around 45 contributors, including artists and other community members, are adding something to the exhibit, said Friend, whether it be artwork, trinkets, or a personally meaningful blue object, such as a periwinkle blue wedding dress.

“He is a rich and deep color, and it does represent the calming effects of water,” Friend said, on her own associations with the color, adding, “I think of the sky.

At night, it really becomes a little cosmic because who doesn’t lie on their back, looking at the stars and thinking, ‘Wow, you know, there’s just something quite a bit bigger out there.’”

As Friend is preparing for the show, she is also dreaming of ways to create more installations on her property. She said that because her art has expanded throughout her yard, she is considering building more vertical structures, such as a giant tree sculpture.

Friend also finds joy in naming her installations, such as a collection of plastic baby figurines riding toy horses. “It’s just called ‘Babies on Horseback,’ which, in and of itself is ridiculous, right?” said Friend. “I like the simple words that get connected. Just about everything gets named.”

Friend is motivated to continue making art in part because of the ongoing, joyful feedback she receives from the community. “I’m really allowing sort of the public response to what I’m doing to kind of direct me to what else I could do,” she said.

The upcoming exhibit curated by Friend, BLUE: The Celebration of a Color, will run from September 21 to December 2 at the Somerville Museum. The exhibit will also include a workshop on making glass art with Friend on November 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., as well as a workshop on producing cyanotypes — blue, photographic prints — with artist Karen Molloy on October 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will also be a lecture entitled ‘The History of the Color Blue presented by Richard Newman, the head of Scientific Research at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, on October 17 at 6:00 p.m.

More information on the exhibit and these events can be found on the museum’s website: https://www.somervillemuseum.org/blue.

The future of Armory building discussed at meeting

Ingram presented the main two ideas for how the Armory could be operated. The first is for the city to remain as the owner and to become the full operator. Meaning the city would have complete control over programming activity and content. They would also be responsible for all operating revenues and expenses. The city would also be responsible for marketing, advocacy, and fundraising to support the space’s programming, operations, and capital improvements.

The next option to be considered would be having multiple tenants, so the city would maintain its ownership role of the facility, but multiple tenants would operate the individual spaces within the Armory, so the city would have less control over the programming activity and content within the space. The city would still be responsible for the long-term capital costs and maintaining the facility. Still, it would require many partners for marketing, advocacy, programming, and fundraising. The tenants would be responsible for marketing and fundraising for their specific venues.

The presenters then shared a survey with those attending the meeting, asking them which option they preferred and why. Many members of the public who were in attendance said that they preferred the second option as it allowed for more community input. No final decisions were made at this meeting, and more community engagement regarding the future of the building’s management is expected to occur.

The Armory will be holding an important community meeting on August 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Performance Hall. As per their website, “This meeting is an opportunity for us, the Center for Arts at the Armory, to present ourselves to our community — our mission, leadership, business plan, events, programs, services, and successes. We want to educate our community about what our organization does and what the community would lose if our organization dissolves. Ultimately, we want you, our community members, to decide for yourselves how you believe you will best be served by the Armory. We will also be presenting ways in which you can engage with this process and make your voice heard.”

More information can be found on their website: https://artsatthearmory.org.
Edgerly ends summer session early

By Jim Clark

Last week, parents of students attending the summer session at the Edgerly Education Center were notified that classes would end three days early due to disruptions caused by construction crews working in and around the building.

The school has been undergoing renovations in preparation of accepting students from Winter Hill Community Innovation School in the fall. That school was closed earlier this year after its structural integrity came into question when a section of concrete fell onto a stairwell while the building was unoccupied, requiring the temporary closure of the Winter Hill school building.

The building has remained closed while under assessment through the summer, with school year 2023-2024 classes intended to be held at alternate locations, including Edgerly.

Somerville Public Schools issued the following:

"After careful consideration, we made the decision to end summer programming early at the Edgerly Building due to the increasing disruption caused by the construction work currently underway there and to address concerns from our summer program staff and parents. The remaining days of the session, Friday, August 4, through Wednesday, August 9, are canceled. This construction work is being done to prepare the building for Winter Hill students for the start of the school year.

In the decision to move Winter Hill students to Edgerly, we knew that roofing, masonry, and window caulking needed to be improved to keep the building watertight. There is non-friable asbestos in the window caulking at Edgerly. Non-friable asbestos, a type of asbestos that is generally not considered a health risk because it does not easily release fibers, is not uncommon in older buildings and is not considered a safety risk unless improperly disturbed.

"We will continue to keep our staff, families, and community updated."

As part of the work to recaulk the windows, work was performed on the exterior of the building by a licensed asbestos abatement contractor to remove this caulking. All work was conducted according to state Department of Environmental Protection regulations and safety protocols. As part of the work, Somerville also brought in a construction site hygienist to oversee the work and monitor air quality on the inside and outside of the building to ensure work was safely conducted.

Additionally, the Somerville Building Inspector inspected the site on Thursday, August 3, as asbestos removal was underway to ensure adherence to protocols, and found, "The contractor had all appropriate safety measures in place, there was no evidence of unsafe practices occurring. There were no observed defects in the containment installation at the time of inspection."

We understand that the required signage, protective gear for crews, and containment structures used while conducting this work can be unsettling, and we should have informed staff and families in advance of the safety protocols in place. But we do wish to reassure our staff and families that at no time was there a risk of exposure to occupants of the building. School officials have since met with program staff and families today to address their concerns and assure them that the building was and remains safe to occupy.

Due to the discomfort of staff and families as well as noise and other disruptions from the construction, however, we have decided to close for the remaining three days of the summer session. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause our families, and we will be updating affected families about alternate services. We do hope this closure will give our staff and families peace of mind. It will also allow our work to advance more rapidly so that we can welcome our Winter Hill students, teachers, and administration back to a school they can feel safe in and continue to learn in this fall."

In a related matter, the assessment of the viability of reopening the Winter Hill Community Innovation School in the fall was completed and it was determined that the school would remain closed indefinitely due to the discovery of asbestos in the building.

The city issued the following statement on Monday:

"In June, the City initiated an additional building assessment of the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (WHCIS). Today, our consultant informed the City, who immediately informed Somerville Public Schools, of the unexpected presence of asbestos in material not typically found to contain asbestos. The City closed the building, which has not been currently holding classes, and it will remain closed until further notice as we work to investigate the findings and remediate the material. We will continue to keep our staff, families, and community updated. For more information on the WHCIS building renovation and replacement efforts, visit www.somervillema.gov/WHCIS."

Meanwhile, the early closure at Edgerly is said to benefit the efforts of construction crews to finish their work sooner without concerns of putting the health and safety of students and school staff at risk.
“Massachusetts continues to move in a positive direction by making significant investments in this budget,” said Rep. Todd Smola (R-Warren), the ranking House member of the Committee on Ways and Means. “We prioritize local funding by increasing general government aid to municipalities and double the minimum aid contribution per pupil for education.”

“While there were many good provisions in the budget, the final version contained policies, unrelated to the budget itself, that we could not support,” said Reps. Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick) and Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica) in a joint statement.

The statement continued, “Seniors, renters, small businesses and hard-working families can barely afford to make ends meet. As a result, Massachusetts continues to see one of the highest out-migrations in the country. At the same time, this budget provides a massive expansion in financial benefits for illegal immigrants. It’s easier for Hollywood movie studios and multi-national corporations to get massive tax cuts than for the working-class to catch a break. The people of Massachusetts deserve better.”

“Speaker Ron Mariano and Senate President Karen Spilka once again demonstrated that the Massachusetts legislature is not open to transparency or tax relief,” said Paul Craney, spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. “They released the budget from conference committee after 8 p.m. on a Sunday night in late July and are requiring their members to vote on the $56.2 billion dollar budget less than 24 hours later.”

Craney continued, “They go through great lengths to hide a secret we already know, the Massachusetts legislature failed to provide any tax tangible relief in their budget. Despite an obvious need for the state to become more economically competitive after the narrow passage of the income surtax which is driving taxpayers to New Hampshire and Florida, Speaker Mariano and Senate President Spilka failed to respond.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the budget. A “No” vote is against it.)

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

SUSPEND RULES TO ALLOW AMENDMENTS TO THE BUDGET (H 4040)

House 25-132, voting strictly along party lines, rejected a motion to suspend House rules in order to allow the House to consider amendments to the conference committee version of the budget. House rules prohibit any amendments from being offered to a conference committee version of a state budget and allows only an up or down vote on the entire package. Suspending the rules would allow representatives to offer an unlimited number of amendments to the spending plan. Republicans supported rule suspension while Democrats opposed it.

The debate centered around a provision in the conference committee version of the budget that would allow undocumented/illegal immigrants to qualify for the lower in-state college tuition rate if they attended high school here for at least three years and graduated or completed a GED. They would also be required to provide a college or university with a valid social security number or taxpayer identification number, an affidavit indicating they applied for citizenship or legal permanent residence, or plan to do so once eligible and proof they registered for selective service if applicable.

Under current law, in-state students pay $17,357 in tuition to attend UMass Amherst, while their undocumented/illegal immigrant classmates who do not qualify pay $39,293.

The provision was included in the Senate version of the budget but was not included in the House version. The conference committee opted to include the provision in the compromise version.

Supporters of rule suspension say it is unfair and undemocratic for the provision to be included in the final budget when the House never had the opportunity to vote on it.

Opponents of rule suspension said that suspending the rule would result in hundreds of amendments, not just the one dealing with undocumented/illegal immigrants’ tuition rates, being proposed to the budget and starting budget debate all over again. They noted that both Republican members of the conference committee signed off on including the tuition provision.

The provision seems headed to become state law since Gov. Healey in the past has expressed support for allowing these immigrants to pay the lower rate. In May, she said that offering in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants is “absolutely essential and a no-brainer.” Rep. Sarah Peake (D-Provincetown), the chief supporter of the provision during House floor debate and Rep. Paul Frost (R-Auburn), the chief opponent, did not respond to repeated requests from Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them to comment on the provision and on the motion to suspend rules.

(A “Yes” vote is for rule suspension. A “No” vote is against it.)
Happy birthday to Brandon Wilson. We wish her a very nice day. We hope she takes the day to enjoy it. Happy birthday to Donna Cassaro-Sides. We hope she has a great day. We wish all of our celebrating Facebook friends, such as Maria Mancini, Heather Marie Driscoll, Pamela M. Ferguson, Dale Hodgkins, Trish Bean Oakland, James Bimbo, Savanna Payne, Victor Martins, Elizabeth Roche and Adam Knight a very happy birthday.

The Public Space and Urban Forestry Division announced that the construction phase of the Somerville Junction Park project is gearing up to begin with in the next month. A virtual construction kick-off meeting will be held on Monday, August 14, at 6:00 p.m. followed by a groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, August 16, onsite (114 Central St.) at 2:30 p.m. Community members are invited to attend both events. Register to attend the kick-off meeting at bit.ly/43HB04u. For more information and to keep up with the project, visit: voice.somervillema.gov/somerville-junction.

On Monday of this week, Mayor Katja Ballanyne and the Department of Veterans' Services invited all to a ceremony on National Purple Heart Day at the Dilboy Post in Somerville. The Military Order of the Purple Heart Regional Commander formally presented Somerville’s Purple Heart City designation and Somerville Purple Heart Recipients will be recognized and commemorated. The city also illuminated City Hall and Prospect Hill Tower in purple and raised the Purple Heart flag at City Hall and the Dilboy Post.

Somerville joins more than 100 municipalities in Massachusetts and hundreds more nationwide in recognizing those wounded or killed in combat for their country. It is vitally important that we remember to honor those who gave their all defending our country.

The city's biennial Happiness Survey that was mailed to a random sample of 5,000 Somerville residents in June, is open for everyone to complete online. Participation is voluntary and results are anonymous. The survey will close on Tuesday, August 15, 2023. Take the survey online at somervillema.gov/HappinessSurvey.

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The Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave, will hold a Make Friends After College Party on Saturday, August 12 at 6:00 pm. This is a free event with drinks, snacks, lights, music, dancing, socializing, and good times. They are a group of mainly young professionals just looking to make friends around the Boston area. Even if you are in college, you are more than welcomed to join. Learn more at www.artsatthearmory.org.

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Our View Of The Times

When a community comes together to celebrate and honor something truly worthy, it is especially heartwarming and inspiring. This week, our city stepped up and gratefully accepted its place among other Purple Heart Communities.

To be named a Purple Heart Community, a municipality with living or deceased Purple Heart Recipients must issue an official proclamation and recognize August 7 as National Purple Heart Day. This has been done and the city held a special ceremony honoring this special day.

As a Purple Heart Community, Somerville will be added as a stop on the Purple Heart Trail, a symbolic system of roads, highways, bridges, and other monuments across the country that give tribute to those who have been awarded the Purple Heart medal.

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Somerville’s Urban Forestry Committee and collaborators are developing ways to celebrate our hard-working city trees. If you want to join in helping, you can Adopt-A-Tree. Look for colorful “Adopt me!” tags on newly planted trees in your neighborhood. Scan the QR code on the tag or visit tinyurl.com/somervilletree to go through the steps to adopt the tree. Name it, water it, love it. You can even receive an adoption
The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Nutmeg is extremely poisonous if injected intravenously.
2. Montpelier, VT, is the only U.S. capital with no McDonald’s.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
INTERNATIONAL GREETINGS

ACROSS
1. Russian czar’s edict or proclamation
9. Thai currency
13. Femme faral
14. Cow greeting?
15. High-quality black tea
16. Heretofore (2 words)
17. Used for making holes
18. Old and feeble
19. Precedes or follows alaikumin a greeting
21. Robin Williams’ “Good Morning, ______”
23. Family memb.
24. Blood fluids
25. R&R spot
28. Standout
29. Precedes or follows alaikumin a greeting
30. All together (2 words)
32. Like surrendered land
34. 1/60th of min, pl.
35. Crafts’ companion
37. Hyperbolic tangent
39. River in Paris
40. Traditions passed on by word of mouth
41. Home of Darfur
42. Horse greeting?
43. Precedes or follows alaikumin a greeting.
44. Shadow-utilizing timepiece
45. Don’t try this here? (2 words)
49. Greetings to ______
51. “Toddlers & ______” reality TV
52. JFK’s brother
54. Amiss
55. Band booking
57. Hello in Normandy region
60. Did like a lunatic
61. White ____ in retail

DOWN
1. Stars and Stripes country
2. Unspoken greeting in France
3. Kindred
4. Prevents one from seeing
5. Have as logical consequence
6. Mosque prayer leader
7. Japanese greeting move
8. To crack, as in case
9. Kindred
10. Out of shape
11. Hello in Spain or in Mexico
12. Kindred
13. Kindred
14. Kindred
15. Kindred
16. Kindred
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The Public Space and Urban Forestry Division seeks to design new park for Somerville

By Cassidy Beek

The City of Somerville’s Public Space and Urban Forestry (PSUF) Division held a virtual town meeting on Wednesday, August 2 to discuss future plans for a new 6,500 sq. ft. pocket park at 217 Somerville Ave.

Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott and Jon Bronenkant, a new public space planner for Somerville, presented information on the history of the site, the potential elements and a tentative timeline for the project. The community was also given multiple opportunities throughout the meeting to ask questions and share their unique ideas.

The site will add .15 acres of open space to Somerville, which is a vital step in achieving 105 additional acres of land as part of the goals outlined in SomerVision 2024.

Bronenkant shared the existing conditions of the lot. The lot includes heavy traffic passage due to the multimodal path running along the site on Somerville Ave., making this park the ideal destination for rest and shade amongst the roads and commercial businesses. There is also abutting fencing and residences on two sides to be mindful of during the design process.

“There’s not a lot of green, there’s not much open space and it’s a lot of parking lots and buildings. Acquiring this land and creating it into open space will be key to cooling this area down and kind of creating a spot for rest and relaxation along the busy Somerville Ave,” said Bronenkant.

Bronenkant presented conceptual images of the park, to give the community an idea of what the space could include. Some ideas included naturalistic play structures, waterplay elements including a splash pad feature for cooling purposes, heavy vegetation and tree canopies for shade.

Bronenkant opened up the meeting for community members to ask questions about the design process and share general ideas for the site.

Dorian Yablin, a community member, recommended ADA equipment and STEM related play features to be incorporated. Bronenkant aims to make the park as green and accessible as possible despite ADA features requiring additional space to install.

“I think we can definitely look at ways of incorporating green infrastructure or something about pollinators and different forest communities. Also, we can include some signage and kind of engage them in the green infrastructure or environmental factors that this park is dealing with,” said Bronenkant.

Community members expressed immense appreciation for the creation of additional greenspace in the area and encouraged the park to be multi-use including a passive space for relaxation and recreational playground for children.

Many shared interest in designing the park to include naturalistic elements by incorporating wooden play structures as opposed to colorful ones, and boulders for a water feature. More ideas included a protective barrier from Somerville Ave. and the addition of a Miyawaki forest.

After being asked about the design process for the park, Bronenkant said that proceeding a quick analysis of the site, the division wrote a scope of work for the designer to implement, outlining the tasks the designer is responsible for. The division also issued a Request for Proposal (RFP), permitting designers to apply, submit their items and undergo the interview process.

Multiple community members requested in-person meetings for the future. Bronenkant said that once the designer has been hired, he hopes to engage the community in different ways including holding an on-site meeting.

The division has taken the steps to submit PARC grants for project funding, and is beginning the process of hiring a design team and completing the public process input process. The division aims to produce construction drawings and hire a contractor by Winter 2023/2024. In Spring 2024, they are looking for construction to begin and by Spring 2025, for the project to be complete and open to the public.

For more information about upcoming meetings and updates on the park visit the project page at voice.somervillema.gov/217-somerville-ave.

Planning for a new city at 217 Somerville Ave. is fully underway. — Photo by Bobbie Tower

Arlington National Cemetery

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

The western border of Somerville is marked lengthwise by the Dilboy Recreation Field which honors a World War I veteran, the Alewife Brook Reservation and the Alewife Brook Parkway which stretches between Medford and Cambridge.

An athletic stadium, a statue in front of our City Hall, and the VFW Post 529 in Davis Square, all honor this hero. One of Somerville’s most noted champions, Army Private George Dilboy, was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions above and beyond the call of duty and is buried in the National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

On the other side of Somerville’s western border lies the Town of Arlington which on June 17, 1867, “Bunker Hill Day,” renamed itself after this sacred national graveyard. Since then, an impressive eagle-surmounted Civil War Memorial has commanded the view of Arlington’s Center.

Dilboy had the acclaim of being honored by three United States Presidents:

• Woodrow Wilson authorized his Medal of Honor.
• Calvin Coolidge presided at his funeral.
• Warren G. Harding brought his remains back to Arlington National Cemetery.

Arlington National Cemetery is one of the most moving, memorable sights in the nation and more than 400,000 people are laid to rest there. It includes Civil War veterans, qualified veterans and their eligible family members. Medal of Honor recipients, high-ranking federal... Continued on page 17
An art gallery through your phone

By Beatriz Leite

The new Somernova Art Project is a free art gallery located outdoors, composed of a collection of ten frames that contain a QR code. Those codes, when scanned will have an art piece and a song, both created by Somerville creators to fit the purpose of art coming from the local to the local.

Mieko Murao created this AR gallery concept during the pandemic, when all museums were closed, she found a way for people to enjoy and appreciate art. Her idea for featuring local artists and musicians has garnered attention, including from the Somerville Museum, which has added archived pieces to the gallery. This public AR gallery continues to grow and expand, as does Somerville’s art scene.

When accessing the code, the viewer has access to the art piece and the artist, as well as the music and musician that pair with that artwork.

The project includes work from Aaron Wetjen-Barry, Rayna Lo, Samer Khudairi, Lou Lim, Steve Novick, Andrew Johnson, and the founder of the project, Meiko Murao. All are based in the Greater Boston area, with different approaches to art and pieces, from abstract art to Chinese calligraphy-inspired works.

The gallery also features musicians from the Boston-based record label, Union Sound. The music is paired with the art pieces and is silent at first, by hitting the unmute buttons the tunes can be enjoyed with the art viewing.

The frames are dispersed across the city. Locations include the Bow Market, which has two frames, The Alley at 28 Dane Street, with other two, and The Somerville Museum with three. The other three do not have a specific location but are located in other spots of the city.

To access the QR code, a smartphone user can use their camera with an IOS or an Android 9 or above. If that is not the case, downloading a third-party app would be the best option to get the link to the AR gallery.

O’Neill Scholarships support higher education of local students

By Nathan Lamb

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) has awarded John O’Neill Scholarships to support the higher education of two local students.

Established in 2017 to honor longtime SCES Executive Director John O’Neill, the scholarship benefits outstanding students from Cambridge and Somerville who are pursuing studies in elder services, health care, advocacy, or policy work.

The following students will receive $2,500 John O’Neill Scholarships in 2023:

Isadora Oliveira recently graduated from Somerville High School (SHS) and plans to major in biology at Endicott College.

Aya Mahrous is a recent graduate of Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School. She plans to attend UMass and major in health sciences/biomedical, toward the eventual goals of graduate school and a degree in dental medicine.

Aya has passed exams to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). Her resume includes work as a CNA at the North End Rehab and Health Center in Boston and various community service activities.

The scholarship recipients were also given another $250 to help cover incidental expenses of preparing for college.

John O’Neill was Executive Director at SCES for 38 years, and the scholarship fund was established to honor his lifelong dedication to ensuring that older people have options to stay healthy and remain in their homes.

A central goal of the O’Neill Scholarship is to help meet the growing need for advocates and leaders in fields that serve older adults.

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

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com
Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1
THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

BERNABE RODRIGUEZ, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

8/9/23 The Somerville Times
LEGAL NOTICES

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on Monday, August 21, 2023, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Sidewalk Seating, for Tu Y Yo V LLC d/b/a Tu Y Yo, 835 Broadway.

Pursuant to Chapter Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar 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 GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2587791064021196785

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BERNABE RODRIGUEZ, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

8/8/23 The Somerville Times

CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on Monday, August 21, 2023, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of an Alteration of Premises, Public Parklet Seating, for Picante Somerville LLC d/b/a Picante Taqueria, 201 Washington St.

Pursuant to Chapter Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

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8/8/23 The Somerville Times

$375 MILLION FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES (S 2375) – Gov. Healey signed into law a bill that includes authorizing $200 million in one-time funding for the maintenance and repair of local roads and bridges in cities and towns across the state. The $375 million package, a bond bill under which the funding would be borrowed by the state through the sale of bonds, also includes $175 million for several transportation-related grant programs.

The programs funded by the $175 million include the municipal small bridge program; the complete streets program; a bus transit infrastructure program; and grants for municipalities to purchase electric vehicles and the infrastructure needed to support them.

“This Chapter 90 bill will deliver funds straight to municipalities to support projects that we know are critical to their economic development, including bridge and road maintenance, public transit, electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, and pedestrian, cyclist and car safety,” said Gov. Healey.

“As a former mayor, I know firsthand how much cities and towns rely on Chapter 90 funding to ensure that residents and visitors can get around safely and to spur economic activity,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll.

HEARINGS – The Judiciary Committee held a hearing on several proposals including:

PRISON LABOR (H 1400) – Would prohibit any prisoner from being transferred to other states and being required to work on labor projects in that state. The measure was first filed in 2017 when former Bristol County Sheriff Tom Hodgson was planning to transport Bristol County prisoners across state lines to the nation’s southern border to help build former President Trump’s proposed border wall.

“I simply believe it is in the best interests of Massachusetts residents, both morally and financially, for our criminal justice system and our county correctional facilities to be focused on the successful rehabilitation of inmates within their community,” said sponsor Rep. Tony Cabral (D-New Bedford). “To the extent prison work programs have value, the return from those programs should be re-couped in our local communities, right here in the commonwealth and not on chain gangs in Texas.”

NO/LIMITED SOLITARY CONFINEMENT (H 1740) – Would prohibit prisoners under 21 years old from being held in solitary confinement.

“Research has shown a link between solitary confinement and mental disorders, as well as increased rates of suicide,” said sponsor Rep. Dave Rogers (D-Cambridge). “Young people are especially vulnerable to these negative effects, due to the developing state of their minds. [The bill] offers a reasonable solution which will protect incarcerated youth, ultimately strengthening their ability to rehabilitate.”

DEDICATE 1 PERCENT OF MARIJUANA EXCISE TAX TO YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION (H 103) – Would require that 1 percent of the excise tax on recreational marijuana be used for youth substance abuse prevention.

“There are many compelling statistics that suggest recreational drug use among younger people can lead to greater risk of substance use later in life,” said sponsor Rep. Bruce Ayers (D-Quincy). “Utilizing this revenue would help create programs and awareness among young people to ensure we are doing our part to prevent them from becoming addicted to harmful substances.”

GUILTY BUT WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS (S 981) – Would create a new court verdict of “guilty but with a mental illness” that would carry the same sentence as provided by law for a defendant found guilty of the same crime, except they would serve the sentence at a mental health facility instead of a prison. The measure also provides that if the defendant is a male and the court determines that strict security is required, he

Continued on page 21
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Notice of names of persons appearing to be owners of funds held by City of Somerville, and deemed abandoned.

To claim funds, please go to www.somervillema.gov/treasury and complete the Abandoned and Unclaimed Property Form and send completed form together with required documentation to the City of Somerville Treasury department by Aug. 10, 2023. Mail to City of Somerville Treasury, 900 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143 or email treasury@somervillema.gov. If you would like a printed copy of the Abandoned and Unclaimed Property Form mailed to you, please email treasury or call 617-625-6600 ext. 3500. Funds not claimed by Aug. 10, 2024 will be deemed abandoned.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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By Khoa Tong

The Somerville City Council discussed Tufts Administration Building license agreement.
LEGAL NOTICES

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ADVERTISEMENTS

The Somerville Housing Authority, the awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Intercom Replacement project at the Bryant Manor Development for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Nangle Engineering Inc., the engineer.

The Project consists of: Replacement of intercom system with a video intercom system.

The work is estimated to cost $170,530.00

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §23E to 27H inclusive. General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the category of Electrical.

General Bids will be received until 2:00pm, Thursday, August 17, 2023, and publicly posted online, forthwith.

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be prepared and submitted online at www.Projectdog.com and received no later than the date & time specified above. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. For E-Bid Tutorial and Instructions, download the Supplemental Instructions To Bidders for Electronic Bid Projects from www.Projectdog.com. For assistance, contact Projectdog, Inc. at 877.499.9014.

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

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available online and for purchase at www.Projectdog.com, project code 857062 on Wednesday, August 2, 2023.

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for $35.00 per set, payable to Projectdog, Inc., to cover mailing handling costs.

The job site and/or existing building will be available for observation on the morning of Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 75 Myrtle Street, Somerville. Bidders must contact Nangle Engineering Inc. (cnvneubauer@nangleengineering.com or 617-817-4973) prior to close of business on the Monday prior to schedule an appointment.

The inspection is an opportunity to visit and observe the site only. Any oral interpretations offered at the site inspection are non-binding. Any questions must be submitted in writing to the Designer, at the e-mail address on the Project Manual cover, no later than 4:00 PM on the Friday prior to the date stated above for the receipt of bids. Questions after that time may not be responded to, at the sole discretion of the designer.

The Somerville Housing Authority reserves the right to waive any inconsistencies in or to reject any and all bids, or to waive any inconsistencies in the bidding. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after approval of the award by the Somerville Housing Authority without written consent of the Somerville Housing Authority.

Joseph R. Macaluso, Executive Director
August 2, 2023

8/22/23, 8/8/23 The Somerville Times

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville Planning Board (PB) will hold a virtual public hearing on Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 6:00PM through GoToWebinar.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7934388600182661465

Webinar ID: 756-282-419

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (914) 614-3222
Access code: 892-291-442

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

1. 7 Washington Street

CRG Graphics proposes a Major Amendment to a previously approved application that required a Special Permit (PB 2017-07) in the Mid-Rise 6 (MR6) district.

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

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

8/22/23, 8/8/23 The Somerville Times

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Intercom Replacement project at the Bryant Manor Development for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Nangle Engineering Inc., the engineer.

The Project consists of: Replacement of intercom system with a video intercom system.

The work is estimated to cost $800,530.00

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §23E to 27H inclusive. General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the category of Electrical.

General Bids will be received until 2:00pm, Thursday, August 17, 2023, and publicly posted online, forthwith.

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be prepared and submitted online at www.Projectdog.com and received no later than the date & time specified above. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. For E-Bid Tutorial and Instructions, download the Supplemental Instructions To Bidders for Electronic Bid Projects from www.Projectdog.com. For assistance, contact Projectdog, Inc. at 877.499.9014.

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Joseph R. Macaluso, Executive Director
August 2, 2023

8/22/23, 8/8/23 The Somerville Times

City of Somerville LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on Monday, August 22, 2023, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Private Patio Seating, Mike’s Bar Inc d/b/a Mike’s Parisé’s Cafe, 97 Washington St.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar 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 GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/756797164821159765

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BERNABE RODRIGUEZ, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
LICENSENG@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV
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To advertise in The Somerville Times call Bobbie Toner: 857-488-5138
Upcoming events:

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

A Stroll Down Memory Lane – Wednesday, August 30th starting at 11:30 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. Join us for an afternoon of laughter and memories. The COA DJ, Hank, has created a memorable slide show highlighting our programs, events and adventures throughout the years! A special lunch will be served. $5 per person. RSVP by call Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somerville.gov.

Knitting Group – Tuesday, August 15th & 22nd from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. If you are looking to learn how to knit, rekindle your love of knitting, or knit with others, join us for our new knitting group. Our first project will be learning to knit a potholder. All supplies, including yarn and needles will be provided. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

De-Clutter Drop-in Sessions – Thursday, August 31st from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. Thinking about joining the Somerville de-cluttering group but can’t make a six-week commitment? Do you want to check in about clutter before the fall de-cluttering group commences? Look no further than the De-Clutter Drop-In Sessions. Both sessions are open to Somerville and Cambridge residents age 60 and over. For more information or to RSVP please call Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

Wednesday Bingo – August 16th at the Holland Street Center. Lunch at noon, Bingo to begin following lunch. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somerville.gov.

Paint Day – Wednesday, August 23rd starting at 1:30 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. We will be painting a bottle. Space is very limited.

$5 per person. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somerville.gov.

Line Dancing Returns! – Monday, August 14th, 21st and September 11th, 18th and 25th at 1:00pm. Six-week sessions. Join us for an afternoon of Line Dancing with Julie Kaufmann. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somerville.gov.

LCR Game Day – Friday, August 11th at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland St. Center. LCR-Left Center Right is a fun, fast-paced dice game that you won’t be able to put down! Players roll the dice to determine where they pass their chips. The last player with chips is the winner and wins the center pot. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somerville.gov.

Bingo – Every Tuesday at the Ralph & Jenny Center starting at 10:00 a.m. Lunch available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somerville.gov.

Bingo – Every Thursday at our Holland Street Center starting at 10:00 a.m. Lunch available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somerville.gov.

Veteran’s Group – Meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, August 22nd, at the Holland Street Center starting at 11:00 a.m. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somerville.gov.

Tech Open Hours – Tuesdays, August 15th, and 22nd starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. Bring your phones, computers, and tablets or borrow one from the COA. This is a drop-in style individual help to answer your technology questions and frustrations. RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 781-823-9210 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somerville.gov.

Tech Time with Tufts – Monday, August 28th at 1:00 p.m. in our Holland Street Center. Tufts University first year students will be joining our Tech Time Drop-in Hours. Students will provide drop-in style individual help to answer your technology questions and frustrations. Please RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318.

Morning Movie Day – Friday, August 25th, 10:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. This month’s film is Murder Mystery 2 starring Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston – Full-time detectives Nik and Audrey are struggling to get their private eye agency off the ground. They find themselves at the center of an international abduction when their friend, Maharaja, is kidnapped at his own lavish wedding. Rated PG-13. Pizza will be served after the movie; $2 per person. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somerville.gov.

Virtual LGBTQIA+ Exercise Class – Thursdays, August 17th, 24th and 31st starting at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2300. Friendly Caller Program - Looking for a way to practice social distancing but remain connected to other people? Look no further than the Somerville Council on Aging’s Friendly Phone 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.

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: somervillecouncilaging If you have any questions or need help following us, contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email her at dhiggins@somerville.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.

The Council on Aging’s Senior Transportation Program

The COA is offering free taxi rides to Somerville residents over the age of 60. Rides are available to go to the grocery store, farmer’s market, and pharmacy in Somerville and routine medical appointments in the surrounding communities. To best accommodate the needs of everyone in the city and to maximize the use of our funding, we will be capping the number of rides per week. To ensure the health and welfare of every resident of Somerville, exemptions will be made for chemotherapy and radiation appointments. To find out more information or to schedule your ride, please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319. All rides must be booked two business days in advance. This program is funded through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding.
Gilman Square neighborhood planning

By Will Mbah
Candidate for Somerville City Council at Large

I have been following with interest the planning activity for Gilman Square, where a newly recognized Neighborhood Council hopes to achieve a community-directed re-development plan.

Gilman Square is the second Neighborhood Council to be formed under the ordinance, which I and my City Council colleagues adopted back in 2018. The Union Square Neighborhood Council was the first and its experience has revealed the process to be complicated and slow moving, requiring hundreds of hours of volunteer time. The Community Benefits Agreements achieved at Union Square have been difficult to interpret and monitor for compliance. Thus, other neighborhoods with less population and smaller redevelopment potential have been unable to undertake the tasks of forming councils.

Recognizing these difficulties, the City Council in April 2023 has adopted an amended ordinance and we will now be able to observe at Gilman Square whether the changes can lead to a more effective planning process.

Background of Gilman Square planning

SomerVision (2012) defined Gilman Square as a station-area, where transit-oriented redevelopment could be accomplished by infill at a modestly higher scale. This was a different strategy than in a transformation zone like Union Square, where large scale redevelopment was expected to generate property value gains, from which infrastructure and community benefits could be drawn.

For the subsequent neighborhood planning, the city and state tried a variety of methods of citizen engagement, intended to define local needs and priorities. First, the Gilman Square Station Area Plan (2014) used the method of “Somerville by Design,” which involved “charrette” meetings and crowd source surveys.

Then the state Department of Transportation and MBTA organized the GLX Community Working Group with one appointed citizen representative from each of the five GLX station areas along with other city and state agency representatives. Periodic meetings of this working group took place during the entire period of construction from 2017 through 2021.

In the same time period, the Gilman Square community pressed the city to work on a zoning scheme and a redevelopment plan to be ready when the GLX would reach completion. But this activity was delayed because other projects — the high school, storm sewer separation, Zoning Ordinance overhaul, etc. — took precedence.

The city agencies revived area planning only in 2020 under the title: Implementing the Gilman Square Plan. They identified five potential redevelopment parcels.

On the south side of Medford Street, two city owned vacant parcels plus a vacant former gas station might be consolidated into a parcel of 1.3 acres and offered to a developer under a master plan. On the north side, two parcels with open uses stood on either side of the historic Malta Building. These could be rezoned to encourage their infill redevelopment.

The process of citizen engagement for this planning was defined in a memorandum between the Neighborhood Association and the city. They worked cooperatively to co-host meetings and workshops, keeping the public informed and receiving feedback. During COVID, this activity took place on the SomerVOICE platform.

Over the years, community members were not satisfied with the level and content of their participation. In 2020, fifteen residents took a different track. They filed a petition with the City Council and Planning Board to re-zone the five redevelopment parcels from MR-4 to MR-6 with an understanding that Overlay regulations could be added, requiring any developers to provide community benefits in exchange for the additional height and floor area.

After lengthy discussions, the Council concluded that rezoning from MR-4 to MR-6 would not give the community leverage to fix priorities and require benefits. The petition was changed so that the city-owned parcels became Civic (not MR-6), the former gas station remained MR-4 and only the two privately-owned parcels flanking the Malta Building became MR-6. In reaction, the owner of Malta Building challenged the rezoning in court.

OSPCD then began to discuss using the Somerville Redevelopment Authority to acquire the vacant gas station parcel and consolidate the three lots. Alternatively, without the redevelopment authority, OSPCD could issue a Request for Proposals, asking developers to describe the scale, density, and mix of uses that they could build on the consolidated parcel.

To pursue these options, the OSPCD organized a Citizens Advisory Committee — with area representatives (appointed by the Mayor and City Council) along with elected City Councilors and city agency staff. This group has been meeting since March 2022.

Creation of the Neighborhood Council

It was in response to these inconclusive planning methods that the Gilman Square Neighborhood Association transformed itself into a Neighborhood Council. The process began in January/February 2022 by amending the By-Laws, registering as a not-for-profit corporation and then, in June 2022, petitioning the City Council for recognition.

This request led to the discussions at the City Council about simplifying the procedures for smaller neighborhoods and clarifying the legal status of recognition. The amended Ordinance with these changes was adopted in April 2023 and the vote, granting recognition of the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council, came on May 25, 2023.

Can we expect the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council to be more effective than the past planning methods?

There is optimism that the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council can effectively engage a more diverse group of residents and local businesses in the neighborhood planning. One example of its strategy of outreach is a pending By-law change to appoint two teen-age youth members to its Board.

The difficult problem still to be faced is how to make any model of citizen directed redevelopment effective at the smaller scale of Gilman Square. The core idea remains: to use the mechanisms of zoning and disposition of city land to induce a substantial gain in land and building values, which can then enable the financing of infrastructure and community benefits.

In total, however, the five potential redevelopment parcels total only 2.1 acres and have a future build out of about 92 dwelling units and 50,000 ft2 commercial space. By contrast, the Union Square redevelopment covers 17 acres with future 1,300 dwelling units and 2.5 million ft2 of commercial space.

Gilman Square’s planners and citizens will need to be creative to use their simplified process to produce a modest but effective outcome of community benefits.

If you want to learn more or support my campaign, please visit my website at willmbah.com.

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

government officials and their dependents are also honored. Only two presidents lay there and both have touched Somerville:

• First was President William Howard Taft, who in 1910 was the recipient of the largest welcoming parade in Somerville’s history.

• Second was President John F. Kennedy who in 1947 began his political career representing the Somerville and Cambridge districts. This year, 2023, will commemorate 50 years that the eternal flame of his memory has burned just a few feet from where he was buried in the Arlington National Cemetery.
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Ms. Cam’s Olio Answers

1. Robert Frost
2. Maine
3. Hawaii
4. Stephenie Meyer
5. The Time Warp
6. Lewis Wilson
7. Anastasia and Drizella
8. Toy Story
9. Mary Somerville
10. Chicken Feed
11. Hippopotamus
12. A pebble

Ms. Cam’s Answers

From page 8
Yart Sale this Saturday

Yart Sale is a citywide event that will take place on Saturday, August 12, 12:00 to 6:00 p.m., (rain date 8/13). Think of a yard sale but with ART! Don't miss these featured artists: Jo Studio, Britt Jones Art, Robert Boyer Pottery, Amanda Claire, Cheat Death Tintype and Bulgihan Press. Learn more at: https://somervilleartscouncil.org/yartsale.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise

— Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

August 9

0480 – The Persian army defeats Leonidas and his Spartan army at the Battle Thermopylae, Persia.

1645 – Settlers in New Amsterdam gain peace with the Indians after conducting talks with the Mohawks.

1814 – Andrew Jackson and the Creek Indians sign the Treaty of Fort Jackson, giving the whites 23 million acres of Creek territory.

1910 – The first complete, self-contained electric washing machine is patented.

1930 – First appearance of the animated character Betty Boop (“Dizzy Dishes”).

1936 – Jesse Owens wins four gold medals in track and field at the Berlin Olympics.

1944 – Fictional character Smokey Bear (“Only you can prevent forest fires”) created by U.S. Forest Service and the Ad Council.

1969 – Charles Manson’s followers kill actress Sharon Tate and her three guests in her Beverly Hills home.

1979 – England’s first major nude beach established, at the seaside resort of Brighton.

Bobby’s Dad Jokes Corner

By Bobbygeorge Potaris

What’s a lawyer’s favorite drink? Subpoena colada

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Free Bluebikes passes and Spin Class for National Wellness Month

In recognition of National Wellness Month, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (“Blue Cross”) is sponsoring free Bluebikes Adventure Passes every Monday in August, beginning August 7, for its third annual “Mindful Mondays” initiative, and is also hosting a free Spin Class on August 28th – the last Monday of the month – to encourage people in the Metro-Boston region to exercise and take care of their mental health.

The free Adventure Passes will be available across the system’s 13 municipalities, including Arlington, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Newton, Revere, Salem, Somerville, and Watertown. Blue Cross is the sponsor of Bluebikes, which is owned by the municipalities and operated by Lyft.

Riders can take advantage of complimentary Adventure Passes on “Mindful Mondays” by downloading and opening the Bluebikes App [9] and entering the appropriate code. Each code will unlock one free Adventure Pass, which includes an unlimited number of two-hour rides during a 24-hour period. The codes for each Monday are as follows:

August 14: BLUECROSS0814 – August 21: BLUECROSS0821 – August 28: BLUECROSS0828

To honor their commitment to providing access to wellness-oriented experiences in support of whole health journeys, BCBSMA is also hosting a free 60-minute Bluebikes Spin Class on August 28. The class will be first come first serve, open to the public, and will take place at Christopher Columbus Waterfront Park in Boston. Rev’d instructor, Alyssa Pannozzi, will be leading the class, who is also known for their dedication to enhancing mental and physical health.

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 12

would be housed at Bridgewater State Hospital.

“This legislation aims to address the use of prisons as wholly inadequate facilities to treat mental illness,” said sponsor Sen. Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington). “In Massachusetts, defendants often fail to receive the mental health treatment they need which often contributes to committing a crime and winding up in our criminal justice system. For far too many years, we have relied on prisons to treat mental illness when they cannot, all while we have therapeutic, safe and secure facilities dedicated to this treatment that can be used instead.”

ALLOW BUSINESSES TO OPT INTO "DO NOT CALL" LIST (S 202) - Would restrict telemarketing companies doing business in the state by allowing businesses to sign up for a "Do Not Call" list and fining companies up to $5,000 if they call a business on the list. Current law only allows individual consumers to sign up for the list.

Under the bill, all current laws that now apply to individuals would also apply to businesses including allowing an individual on the list to sue a company for up to $5,000 if the company violates the law and calls the individual more than once a year; preventing companies from blocking their number from appearing on any business’ Caller ID; prohibiting companies from using recorded message devices to make these calls; and restricting these calls to between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Sponsor Sen. Patrick O’Connor (R-Weymouth) said he filed this bill to allow businesses to protect themselves from spam calls. “These harassing calls can clog up phone lines and waste time, which can be particularly harmful to the operation and revenue of thousands of small businesses across the commonwealth,” said O’Connor.

REGULATE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (H 1974) - Would create new safeguards and patient protections governing the use of AI in mental health services.

“With the rise of telehealth and other technology changes in the delivery of behavioral health care, the prospect of generative AI use in therapy settings is no longer just the stuff of science-fiction novels,” said sponsor Rep. Josh Cutler (D-Duxbury). “We need to ensure that the rights of patients are always protected and that any AI use is fully disclosed and transparent. This bill would create those important safeguards and ensure we stay ahead of the curve.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES - The NAACP held its national convention in Boston last week for the first time since 1982. Here’s what some of the participants said:

“This is really an opportunity for us here in Boston to reframe that.” — NAACP Boston Branch President Tantisha Sullivan.

“We aren’t at the promised land by any means. But nowhere else in America is, either. But we aren’t what we were.” — Former Gov. Deval Patrick.

“What I know about the leaders who are here is that the members of the NAACP are up to the challenge to fight for these hard-won rights and freedoms. And we know every day we must be vigilant in protecting that which we have achieved and keeping our eyes on our vision — our collective vision of how we can continue to strengthen our nation.” — Vice-President Kamala Harris.

“If you want policymakers who align with, say, your lived experience, who share your values, who operate with a sense of integrity and intentionality to get things done, they don’t get there by accident. They’re placed there by people who vote. And so I’m going to keep stressing that as a theme that keeps coming up.” — Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell.

“They continue to wage a war on education, health care, and opportunity to create new ways to criminalize our brothers and sisters and we have all felt the impact and bitter sting of this bigotry and bias. But today and every day after, the NAACP will not back down. — Leon Russell, NAACP National Board of Directors Chairman.”

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?

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

During the week of July 31-August 4, the House met for a total of ten hours and 56 minutes while the Senate met for a total of ten hours and 20 minutes.

Mon. July 31 House 11:01 a.m. to 9:51 p.m.
Senate 11:59 a.m. to 9:55 p.m.

Tues. August 1 No House session
No Senate session

Wed. August 2 No House session
No Senate session

Thurs. August 3 House 11:03 a.m. to 11:09 a.m.
Senate 11:18 a.m. to 11:42 a.m.

Fri. August 4 No House session
No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com
I recently caught up with artist/curator Bess Paupek. The objects of her affection are ... well ... objects.

**Doug Holder:** How has it been for you as an artist and curator living in Somerville?

**Bess Paupek:** I moved to Somerville just about 20 years ago when it was the perfectly located and inexpensive city near Boston and Cambridge. I would quickly discover so much more. At that time, and still, there were so many artists to meet and talk to and to make cool art happenings with, and I fell in love with this amazing city, where friends live and work around every corner. I only just recently moved a couple of miles down the road to East Arlington, but I've kept my studio and practice in Somerville and continue to draw deep inspiration from the people, stories and neighborhoods of Somerville.

**DH:** According to a press release from Somerville Open Studios you 'create experiences out of objects, community and research.' Explain.

**BP:** I source my inspiration from the variety of ways I've been taught to see: some training as an artist, a curator, a museum professional and an academic, how I put things together is a fusion of all of these tools. As I constantly refine my art-making and curatorial practice, I find myself interested in building experiences for others based on the people and stories around me.

I am drawn most recently to people, their stuff, and their stories about their stuff. I imagine our homes as individual storage rooms for vast collections, the city a container for these worldly possessions. I think a lot about the choices people make in what objects they choose to keep near them. I am interested in considering nostalgia before monetary value, and the energy, history, and sense of time that these heirlooms and prized possessions of 85 residents of Somerville residents contributed to your project?

**DH:** What did you learn from the objects that you collected?

**BP:** My Somerville Museum show Borroed Time continued on page 23. My Somerville Museum show Borroed Time. How has it been for you as an artist and curator living in Somerville?

**DH:** You were a community curator for The Somerville Museum. Can you tell us about that experience?

**BP:** I was the Community Curator for the Somerville Museum during the first year of the community curator program, in the winter of 2019. It was a wonderful opportunity to make use of this incredible resource right in the center of our city. I am so grateful to the museum for including me in that wonderful program!

**DH:** What did you learn from the objects that you collected?

**BP:** My Somerville Museum show Borroed Time continued on page 23.

Sarah Hirsch is a painter, writer, and teacher. She lives in coastal Wickford, Rhode Island, surrounded by beautiful water and light. Recent works have centered on the sublime and the ordinary, dancers, enormous flowers, loss, the ocean and her many moods, and children in their many states of motion. Sarah holds a Masters of Education from Lesley University, Montessori certification, and a BA from Colby College. She has lived and taught in the Boston area, as well as Maine, Rhode Island, India, France, and Morocco while on a Fulbright Grant. www.sghirsch.com.

**To the woman with the pendulating breasts:**

Thank you.

Stony expression fixed on the blinking walk signal flashing bright against the watercolors of post-deluge dawn, a weathered, strong knuckle grip anchored to a cardboard coffee cup

faded baseball cap shoved tight down over tin hair, metal-stubbard curling out sideways in a relentless fight for flight, bouncing slightly with each step, as your breasts swing free, long with the care of children, almost certainly, and lovers, gravity and age lived

the thin cotton of your top a tenuous barrier against the heat of July and gaze of strangers.

Thank you, because I dreamt of my mother and woke up missing her, and wishing I could see her solidly marching along a sidewalk, bra-less and brazen.

— Sarah Hirsch

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

Doug Holder, 2S School St.; Somerville, MA 02143. dougholder@post.harvard.edu

**Lyrical SOMERVILLE**

**OFF THE SHELF**

**by Doug Holder**

**Somerville Artist and Curator**

Bess Paupek is on 'Borrowed Time'

create for ourselves in this post-pandemic era, aka this period after which our sense of time was vastly shifted. Did we time travel in this time machine? I think so. There is a palpable amount of ancestral energy, history, and sense of time that these heirlooms, objects and stories bring to the surface. I do believe some sort of momentary time travel takes place in those moments where memory takes over and we forget where we are.

**DH:** You were a community curator for The Somerville Museum. Can you tell us about that experience?

**BP:** I was the Community Curator for the Somerville Museum during the first year of the community curator program, in the winter of 2019. It was a wonderful opportunity to make use of this incredible resource right in the center of our city. I am so grateful to the museum for including me in that wonderful program!

**DH:** What did you learn from the objects that Somerville residents contributed to your project?

**BP:** My Somerville Museum show Borroed Time continued on page 23.
certificate available in many languages. Watering is the most important thing you can do to help a newly planted tree. They require 15-20 gallons of water each week between May-October, or even more during hot summer months.

The Somerville Mobile Farmers Market is open for the season, selling fresh, local produce through October 28. The market schedule is as follows: Thursdays: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.; Clarendon Hill Towers (1372 Broadway), Fridays: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Council on Aging/SCALE (167 Holland St.), 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.; East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.), Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; Mystic Housing Development (25B Memorial Rd., at the playground). The market accepts cash, debit, credit, SNAP, WIC Farmers Market Coupons, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons. All are welcome. To learn more, visit somerville- ma.gov/farmersmarket.

It’s time to fire things up with the 11th annual Ignite Festival! To celebrate Union Square’s squishing food landscape, the Somerville Arts Council is issuing an open call to artists working in various genres this year’s Ignite Festival - an evening celebration of global culture and all things illuminated. The mission of Ignite is to showcase the depth and breadth of local talent through a global lens. They seek proposals for internationally themed performances and light installations/performances. Application Deadline: Sunday, August 27. Application: https://forms.gle/TGiGgZpUZgB9qF5r6 Festival: Saturday, September 3, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. (Rain date: Sunday, October 1) Union Square, Somerville. Questions? Email: somarstscalls@gmail.com.

Join Boynton Yards and Once Somerville for the next free block party filled with live music, games, crafts, vendors, food trucks and cold drinks on August 19. Snap, nosh, shop, play, craft, and rock out with delicious food, talented vendors, and incredible artists from around the world. To RSVP for your free ticket, visit www.onesomersville.com.

SCOA Knitting Group takes place Tues- day, August 15 and 22 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. at their Holland Street Center. If you are looking to learn how to knit, reknit your love of knitting, or knit with others, join their new knitting group. The first project will be learning to knit a potholder. All supplies, including yarn and needles will be provided. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

East Somerville’s Summer Carnival Block Party Series kicked off last month. These block parties will be held at 115 Broadway (East Somerville Public Library) and on Illinois Ave. on Sunday evenings once a month. Enjoy live music, food, and activities for the whole family. The next block parties take place August 20 and September 10.

Become a crossing guard and help keep our students safe. Training is provided, $20.25 / hour, perfect attendance bonus, clothing allowance, uniforms provided, and paid snow days. Send your resume to careers@somervillema.gov or apply at somervillema.gov/careers.

Save the date, Tuesday, September 19. The 2023 Foodie Crawl planning is in the works. Taste the world on Broadway in East Somerville and support East Somerville Main Streets.

Another event coming up is the Somerville Greek Festival. Enjoy delicious, authentic Greek food and pastry, dance under the big tent to live music and enjoy a cold beer or wine while taking in the excitement at the largest Greek food festival in town. The festival will run September 8 and 9 from 12:00 to 11:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 10 from 12:00 to 9:00 p.m. Plenty of free parking. The menu will be posted ahead of this event, with plenty of vegetarian options. The Somerville Greek Festival is an annual event of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church, 29 Central St., Somerville, and open to the general public. It is a major fundraiser which allows the community of faithful to continue to serve the Somerville community through philanthropy, liturgical services, classes, youth ministries and much more. Visit dortionchurch.org.

Don’t forget to visit Somerville’s farmers markets. Every Wednesday through November 22, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. visit the Davis Square Farmers Market, across from American Flatbread at 44 Day St. Visit: www.massfarmersmarkets.org/ davis. Every Saturday through October 28, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., the Union Square Farmers Market takes place at 66-70 Union Sq; visit: www.unionsquare- main.org/2023-fmseason.

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

clocks and vintage travel clocks to kitchen timers, watches and old electric alarm clocks. This show was held at the gallery at Washington Street Art Center in Somerville, ticking, chiming and creating space for people to leave comments on their thoughts on time.

DH: Why should we view your work? BP: It is my hope that the relevance of this work speaks for itself, directly to individuals, inviting them to find their own way toward participation, be it via loaning an object to a show or simply experiencing the communal energy of our stuff put together in a space. It is my hope that more and more individuals will learn about this work and participate, and continually to be able to find something of themselves in these gallery experiences I am so grateful to create.

Keep your eye out for the next show, which will most likely focus on clothing. Yep, I am putting it out there that I’m going to be asking folks to lend me objects of clothing. Stay tuned for more on that!
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