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The Pilot

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SHS Girls headed to MIAA Tournament

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They did the 'Mash'

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Public land use hearing held



This photo depicts "examples of the block building type."

By Cathleen Twardzik

The City Council's Land Use Committee's public hearing occurred virtually on Thursday, October 17.

The hearing's main goal "was to discuss a zoning map amendment for 501 Mystic Valley Parkway. The proposal seeks to change the zoning from a neighborhood residence (NR) district to an urban residence (UR) district, which would allow for increased residential density and a broader range of housing options," said Grace Munns, Deputy Director of Communications.

Somerville residents' response to the proposed land use of the building and future parking situation was explored at the meeting. Parking minimums was a major issue discussed. Resident concerns spanned a wide range – explaining the pros and cons of the matter.

Now for the specifics of the topic of retaining or removing parking minimums at *Continued on page 5*

Photo exhibition at Rooted Armory Café: 'Shoot Your Shot'

By Harry Kane

The love of film photography has made a comeback in Somerville with a community photo exhibition curated by Claire Ogden and presented by Lumentation Lab. The show is currently on display at the Rooted Armory Café, and will continue until November 13.

Shoot Your Shot exhibition hopes to remind artists that film is a medium unlike digital, which captures images in an alternate process, and allows the photographer to return to the foundations of still photography and take a leap of faith with their image-making.

"I met the staff through processing my own film photos, so I first got to know them as a customer," says Ogden. "I was just blown away *Continued on page 4*



Owner Jim DanDee of Lumentation Lab and Curator Claire Ogden present "Shoot Your Shot," a photo exhibition of 35mm prints from local photographers on display from October 9 - November 13. Shane Woolley is the photographer of "Queen of Forty Foot - Leap," featured in the exhibit. Claire Ogden took the installation photograph.

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

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, along with Somerville's Department of Public Works and Parks and Recreation Office, invite all local ghosts and ghouls to "Truck O'Treat" on Thursday, October 24, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. outside City Hall (93 Highland Avenue). In the event of inclement weather, the event will be moved to Thursday, October 31. Costumes are encouraged at the family-friendly event, which will include safe Trick-or-Treating on the City Hall concourse, a spooktacular visit from a decorated City of Somerville truck, refreshments and more.

The 2024 Halloween Block Party Pet Spooktacular takes place on October 26, at Chuckie Harris Park, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. Dress up your pet in their most creative costume and join in for a day of Halloween fun like no other. Watch cute pets and their owners in a costume contest, play fun games, take great photos, and enjoy tasty food. Don't forget to check out local artisans and vendors.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to a great guy and local realtor, Clifton Verdieu, who grew up in East Somerville. We wish him a great birthday with his family. Happy birthday to a former alderman and great guy, Dennis Sullivan. We wish him a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to poet and writer Timothy Gager. We hope he has a great day. Happy birthday to our own Mike Rais who celebrated last week, we hope he enjoyed his birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of October 23 – October 29 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday October 23	Sunny	75°/56°	10%	6%	SW 13 mph
Thursday October 24	Partly Cloudy	65°/39°	13%	7%	NW 12 mph
Friday October 25	Sunny	54°/37°	7%	4%	NNW 10 mph
Saturday October 26	Partly Cloudy	57°/38°	11%	8%	NW 9 mph
Sunday October 27	Partly Cloudy	60°/45°	19%	12%	SW 10 mph
Monday October 28	Partly Cloudy	61°/46°	24%	18%	SW 9 mph
Tuesday October 29	Cloudy	59°/43°	17%	11%	NW 10 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: *The Ultimate AIDS Physician and the Virus that Hijacks T-Cells*

Michael Keith says:

Beautifully constructed and powerfully compelling.

Phil Temples says:

Ian continues to bring medical science to the people in this moving piece of non-fiction that allows the average layperson to easily understand and appreciate.

Response to: *Public Information not finalized for city's Anti-Displacement Small Business Committee*

J says:

The lack of customers is also a factor on the vacancy rate of small business. The city continues to remove parking spaces around businesses which makes it harder for customers to access local businesses. We are becoming less and less supportive as a city of small business.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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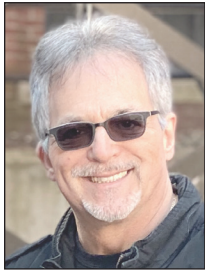
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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

The Pilot



Back in the early 80's a Somerville pal got his pilot's license. I was a lot less fearless than so I agreed to go up with him for a ride. The airport was on Billerica Rd.,

Tewksbury, or something like that so we picked a day and hit the field.

I was pretty nervous but I didn't really want to show it. So, I briefly climbed into the passenger seat as my friend took the pilot's seat. He messed around with the cockpit for a while getting used to the knobs and levers and then started the plane up.

The whole thing buzzed and hummed as we started moving. I'd even go as far as saying the small plane felt rickety. I wondered two things. One, what the hell am

I doing and two, it was it too late to turn back and let me out.

Next thing you know we were whizzing down the runway. Up, up and away and suddenly trees looked like twigs and cars looked like ants. I was very nervous way up there putting my life into my old Somerville pal's hands.

We flew around for about 45 minutes and then my friend started looking for the airport. He couldn't find the airport and what happened next was very hairy. He told me to grasp the steering wheel and hold the plane steady. What? Me? He then unfolded a map. We were hundreds of feet in the air and there was no sign of the runway or airport.

To say I was scared is an understatement. After about one, long minute he seemed to have found the airport. I kept the plane steady as my friend planned



our next move.

So, all of a sudden, I can say that I flew an airplane. Okay, maybe I wasn't quite as much a pilot, but I was still helpful in com-

pleting our flight.

Did I mention that it was the most harrowing experience in my life? File under nervous copilot



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Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week

Q: What kinds of questions CAN a landlord ask you if you are looking to rent from him or her?

A: You can be asked questions that will show whether you meet the requirements all applicants must meet. For example:

- Show that you will be able to pay the rent, including whether they have a Section 8 subsidy
- Show that you have a positive credit history
- Give prior landlord references
- In housing that is specifically reserved for persons with disabilities, verify your disability.



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Somerville Police Dept Crime Log October 8 – 14

Residential Breaking and Entering

24063136: On 10/10/24 at approximately 12:00 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Prospect St. for a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was sleeping and awoke to a male party in his room attempting to take his backpack. The victim confronted the suspect and the suspect fled out of the house.

Arrest

24063206: On 10/10/24 at approximately 8:10 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Line St. for a breaking and entering in progress. While enroute, officers were given a suspect description and located a male party matching the description on scene. He was then placed under arrest.

Arrest

24063238: On 10/10/24 at approximately 11:48 a.m., Somerville Police responded to Statue Park for a male that was chasing people with an axe. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a male party began swinging the axe at her during a confrontation. Officers then located the male holding the axe and demanded he drop it. The male suspect was then placed under arrest.

Robbery

24063851: On 10/12/24 at approximately 8:51 p.m., Somerville Police responded to 14 Broadway for report of a robbery. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a male party pushed and kicked him then stole his phone and cash.

Residential Breaking and Entering

24063554: On 10/11/24 at approximately 1:47 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Pearl St. for a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated her bicycle was stolen from her enclosed porch.

Residential Breaking and Entering

24063825: On 10/12/24 at approximately 6:28 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Concord Ave. for a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated someone entered her apartment and pushed the ceiling tiles in her bathroom. Nothing was reported missing.

Assault

24063829: On 10/12/24 at approximately 6:47 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Alewife Brook Pkwy. for an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she got into a traffic altercation with a female party. During the altercation, the female party drove toward the victim but stopped before hitting her. Officers identified the female suspect.

Other Crimes: 1 Car break + 1 MV theft + 4 Package thefts + 1 Bike theft + 1 MV vandalism + 1 Vandalism

— Somerville Police Department



Photo exhibition at Rooted Armory Café: 'Shoot Your Shot' CONT. FROM PG 1

by the passion they brought to film photography.”

Ogden floated the idea to Javier Molina, a staff member at Lumentation Lab, to hold an exhibition at the Rooted Armory Café.

“I thought it would be a great way to uplift the work coming through the lab,” Ogden said.

Any photos that had been processed at the lab could be potential submissions for the exhibit. After some deliberation, 36 photos were selected by Ogden and Molina.

“I think it’s really important and special to highlight community artists in this way,” Ogden said.

Ogden and Sophie Cloherly, an exhibition volunteer for Arts at the Armory, installed the photos in the café.

“Film photography is a reminder of the things that make us human: connection, creativity, failure, and the ability to try again,” according to the press release from the exhibition.

One of the photographers, Evan Guarino, who shot a black and white photo called, *The Dog Jog*, spoke to *The Somerville*

Times about his photograph and experience with film photography.

Guarino’s hobby for film photography has been developing for the past couple years, and he has enjoyed frequenting the lab.

“I like being able to bring it to a smaller, local shop that specializes in film,” Guarino said.

Guarino submitted some of his photos for the show after seeing the exhibition advertised on Instagram. *The Dog Jog* was one of two photos selected for the exhibition.

The photo was taken in Honolulu in February while Guarino was there on a work trip. He says he usually brings a film camera with him on most trips. The sleek, compact Olympus XA point and shoot film camera fits in his pocket, and is the perfect retro camera, he says.

“I shoot several rolls of film and then forget about them,” he added. “It’s like a fun reminder of the trips.”

The camera was already loaded with Ilford FP4 Plus Black and White film when he went to Honolulu, but it wasn’t done purposely.



“The Dog Jog,” photo by Evan Guarino, taken in Honolulu, February 2024.

“In Hawaii, that doesn’t really seem like the type of film you want to bring to a tropical paradise,” he said jokingly.

But Guarino used the black and white film, and he captured a great shot at a park by an airport. Guarino was taking photos of the different vertical and parallel lines of the outdoor park structure when by happenstance

a woman jogged by with a dog. He snapped the photo and captured, *The Dog Jog*.

Recently, Guarino said he likes shooting astrophotography. “I’ve been dabbling with trying to shoot some stars, and I took some comet shots with my film camera, as well, so eager to get that developed in the next couple of weeks.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of *The Somerville Times* do not reflect the views and opinions of *The Somerville Times*, its publishers or staff. Readers are invited to send letters to the editor to *The Somerville Times*. Please email your letters to News@TheSomervilleTimes.com or mail them to 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. *The Somerville Times* Reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and length. All letters must include an name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

Letter to Mayor Ballantyne and Somerville City Council: 90 Washington St.

Dear Mayor Ballantyne:

Did you happen to see the local news report on the amazing work Green and Open Somerville does to create more green space in our City? I did and it was great! If not, I found the link below:

'We pry and smash': Local group creating more green space by removing asphalt, creating gardens – Boston 25 News

The report showed a Somerville couple

working with volunteers to remove asphalt from their yard to plant more urban green space. The volunteer group, Green & Open Somerville, transformed 24 backyards already.

I felt pride when I heard these environmentally conscience volunteers lived in Somerville. Their small acts of thoughtfulness are inspirational. And I totally agreed with their spokesperson who said "the more of these little pockets we create of backyards that are cool and green and taking in water the better. It just benefits

everybody." Indeed, green space in Somerville benefits everybody!

So, tell me again what the SRA plans to do at 90 Washington Street? The answer is the exact opposite! Although purposeful volunteers work to restore green space on a lot-by-lot basis, our SRA leaders are hoping to plow under an acre of green space at 90 Washington Street to build a public safety building.

I wonder how many more asphalt driveways will need to be converted by Green and Open Somerville to offset the tragic

loss of one acre of lush green space (with 38 mature trees and bushes) so that the SRA can build a new fire and safety building? Shouldn't we be asking these questions before it is too late?

Somerville is one of the very hottest cities in the greater Boston area because of the lack of greenspace. Please follow Green and Open Somerville's example and save Cobble Hill's 40+ year old urban oasis.

Respectfully,
Margaret Gaudet

Outdated Stat About Dogs and Cats Euthanized

Hello there,

I noticed that your article references an outdated stat. You mentioned that "415,000 animals" are euthanized in shelters annually. Based on our most recent

data, these figures have been updated, and According to the latest data, around 689,000 Shelter Animals are Euthanized each year including 359,000 dogs and 330,000 cats.

As one of the leading organizations in advocacy, it's the World Animal Foundation's utmost duty to ensure such statistics

are current, not just on our platform but also on other relevant platforms.

Having recently revised our article with the latest statistics, I wanted to share this so you might consider a similar update.

For your reference and to verify the latest statistics, kindly visit our page: <https://worldanimalfoundation.org/advocate/animal-shelter-statistics/>.

imal-shelter-statistics/.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Best Regards,

Kane Rosario,
Asst. Outreach Manager
World Animal Foundation

Public land use hearing held CONT. FROM PG 1

at 501 Mystic Valley Parkway, for example:

A blind resident attended, and she was worried about the impact of a building with parking causing safety issues for her to use the nearby bus and T stops because the presence of more cars would become a problem. Other residents were also concerned about the number of accidents that have already taken place at the intersection where the new housing building (501 Mystic Valley Parkway) would potentially be located.

A number of residents believe that people don't need parking in that area because they utilize public transportation in lieu of using a private vehicle.

One resident said, "Parking generates traffic."

"I notice that the large majority of people expressing support for the project don't live in this neighborhood," said another resident. She said that too many car accidents already occur near her home, which is near where the proposed building would

be located, and therefore, she believes that the accident problem would worsen.

It's time for the other side of parking minimums. A mother and resident of Somerville was concerned because her small child is disabled and needs accessible parking. Therefore, a parking minimum would be challenging in her situation.

"I notice that the large majority of people expressing support for the project don't live in this neighborhood"

Yet, a community member with non-disabled children presented the conundrum of not having a parking space if she took her children somewhere. She said that it would be a burden to walk several blocks

with all their "stuff" if she lost her parking spot closer to the building.

After considerable discussion, one resident said, "If it [weren't] a hard problem, [then] we wouldn't be here [at the meeting]."

Parking may or may not be expanded because, "The discussions are still ongoing, but the goal is to create a balanced solution that supports transit-oriented development while addressing concerns about parking availability. The city is considering reducing parking minimums to encourage the use of public transit, but residents who need parking will still have access. Specific plans for the number of parking spaces will depend on further deliberation," said Munns.

What stage is the project in? It "is still in the committee stage, where the zoning map amendment is under consideration. The potential building on this site would likely include residential units, [al]though specifics about the project's final design and usage are still being discussed," she said.

No vote was taken at the meeting.

However, "The next possible vote could take place at a subsequent land use committee meeting, [al]though, no specific date has been set, yet. The date will be shared on all city communications channels, once confirmed," said Munns.

To view the proposed zoning amendment online, then, use the link: somervillema.gov/parkingminimum "or through the Somerville City Council's online meeting calendar."

If you would like to view the meeting in its entirety, then, please follow the following link: somervillema.granicus.com/player/clip/2585?view_id=1&redirect=true.

If you're a resident and still have questions about this hearing's topic, then, October 31 at 7:30 p.m. will mark "the deadline for submitting public comments regarding the 501 Mystic Valley Parkway zoning amendment. Residents and stakeholders can email their comments to the city at publiccomments@somervillema.gov before that time," she said.

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COMMENTARY

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Somerville Underground, Digging Deep to Build Our Future



From the Mayor's Desk By
Mayor Katjana Ballantyne

Violent storms have dominated the national news, putting a stark focus on the resilience of our communities and our stormwater infrastructure. While Somerville hopefully never experiences something as tragic or devastating as the hurricanes that just battered the Southeast United States, we can't ignore that climate change will bring us more unpredictable and heavier storms in the future.

Somerville is a growing community that has older infrastructure, and that, combined with threat of more powerful storms makes upgrading our sewer system a priority. It's easy to forget about the sewer system when it is working, but it is critical to public health and safety. Providing a system that handles sewerage and stormwater runoff is a best practice for a city. We do not have the luxury of hoping our aging pipes can handle the challenges of what will be thrown at them in the years to come. I can however report that – even with much more to do – Somerville has made notable progress in the generational overhaul of these

critical systems.

Our sewer system is old and outdated. Some of our sewer system along Summer Street is made out of brick and mortar “pipes” that were built in 1886. That makes them 15 years older than the Boston Red Sox. Sports fans in those days were still wearing tailcoats and top hats.

I don't think I need to get graphic about what goes into our sewers other than to say people deserve to have full confidence that, when they flush their toilets, it's the start of a one-way journey to the Deer Island wastewater treatment facility. But climate change and the age of our system are making that less of a sure thing. Modern systems route stormwater and sewer flows through separate pipes. Our older system collects all the runoff from rainstorms and puts it into our combined sewer pipes in many parts of our city.

We've seen street flooding and basement backups throughout the city and particularly in Union Square during heavy downpours when the system got overwhelmed. With more intense storms, we have also seen an increase in Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) that discharge sewage-contaminated stormwater to Alewife Brook and the Mystic River.

But we are using innovative solutions to address these issues. For the past five years, we've used robot cameras to inspect our 181 miles of pipes and then repair them before they collapse;

and begun the long process of separating the stormwater from the sewage, running those flows through two parallel lines. Often, we use what is known as trenchless technology that costs a fraction of what emergency digging efforts cost, avoids midnight sewer service interruptions, and digging up entire sections of streets.

For the southern two-thirds of our city, stormwater and sewage separation work has involved a massive three-stage project.

Providing a system that handles sewerage and stormwater runoff is a best practice for a city

The first stage started with the Somerville Avenue sewer and streetscape work in Union Square. That work wrapped up last year and included a massive stormwater pipe designed to carry flows from as far away as Davis Square. We're nearly done with the second stage: the Spring Hill sewer separation project. For that, we're lining the old pipes to prevent leakage and collapse, as well as installing new parallel lines for stormwater collection and removal. This Spring Hill work is scheduled to wrap up in late 2025.

It will all culminate with the third stage: the Poplar Street Pump Station project, which

involves the installation of a four-million-gallon underground tank. Thanks to an agreement we made as part of the Green Line Extension project, this pump station will link Somerville's runoff with an MBTA-owned set of pipes and will be able pump 50 million gallons of stormwater per day.

I cannot overstate how important it is that these projects also include Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) in addition to the traditional “gray” infrastructure. This means that all three stages of projects, as well as our most recent pipeline rehabilitation project in West Somerville, include bio-basin bump-outs and underground tree wells that collect, store, and treat stormwater before it enters the system, which helps both our stormwater management and the environment.

However, once in a generation infrastructure like this comes with a price tag. The Somerville Avenue project cost \$72 million, the Spring Hill project will cost \$38 million, and the Poplar Street Pump Station will cost \$113 million. The Turner Building Cost Index, which is a measure of construction and labor prices, estimates that project costs have increased over 50% in the past decade. As costly as this work may be today, it will be even more expensive tomorrow, and we have reached our legacy infrastructure's operational limits.

These investments create a system that will serve us for another

100-plus years. But we are not done. Additional sewer separation is needed to further reduce legacy flooding and leverage the full potential of the Poplar Street Pump Station. More significantly, Somerville is partnering with Cambridge and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) to develop a plan to reduce and potentially eliminate CSOs to the Alewife, Mystic, and Charles Rivers. To be clear, CSO mitigation is a regulatory requirement, and the state and federal agencies will mandate those system improvements; however, Somerville is fully embracing this effort as a roadmap to update our system.

While we all can clearly see the above-ground construction sites for these projects, it's easy to miss the scale and importance of the work that is being done underground. It is also important to appreciate the complexity of that underground work. It must be coordinated with maintenance or replacement of other utilities including water, gas, electric, and telecommunications – all while avoiding or minimizing service interruptions to our residents and businesses.

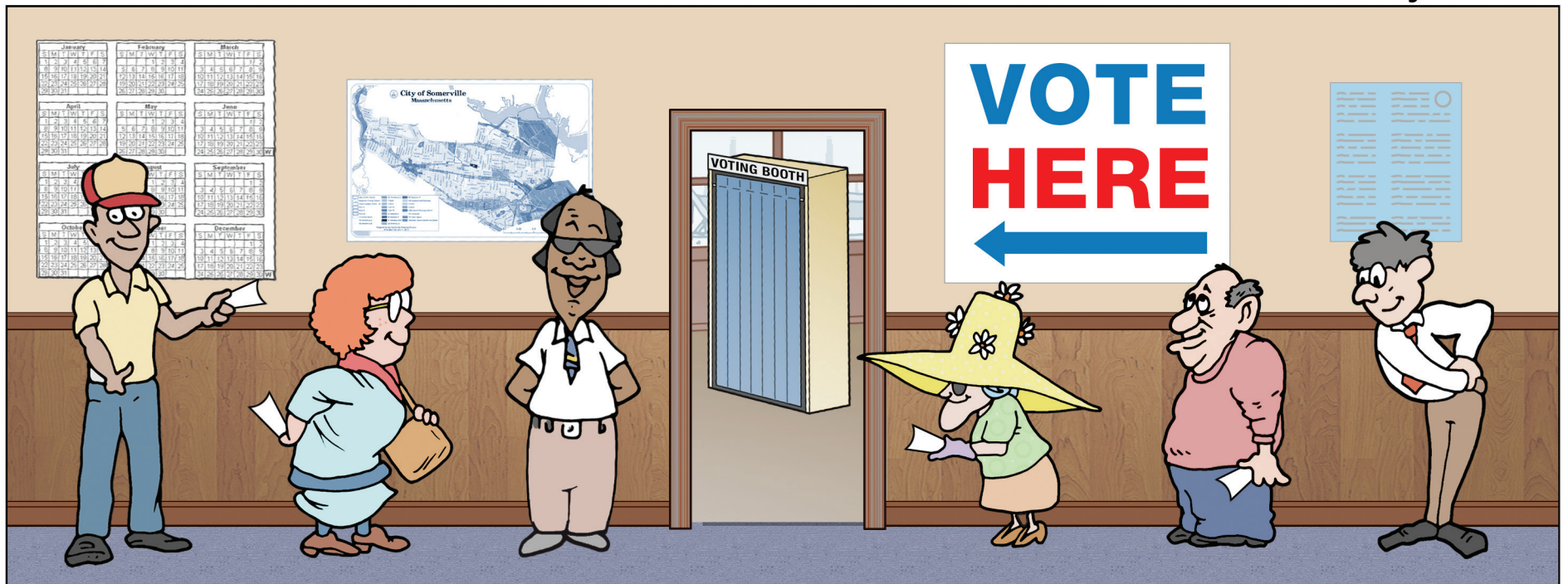
So, when you get slowed down by a detour or construction site as we do this work, know this is us, the Somerville community, at work adapting our sewer system for basic and changing needs. We are the generation ensuring Somerville will remain a healthy, well-operating, more resilient city long into the future.

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com
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COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Let's all get out there and vote on November 5.

Our View Of The Times



As we all contend with various travails of daily life, then do our best to give the little ones some semblance of normalcy as they look to celebrate Halloween, we are triply tasked with searching our souls for the right answers to questions posed at the ballot box next month.

For some of us the choices are blessedly clear, while others may have difficulty culling the wheat from the chaff amidst all of

the conflicting messages put forward on each side of almost every issue. Politics as usual, really.

As we are tasked with choosing our next president, along with a number of important ballot issues, it is clearly quite a special election. Every eligible voter should consider it his or her duty to vote and do the thing that makes life in this land such a precious gift: help to decide

the course that we are to follow in the immediate future, and play their parts in writing the historical record for what is to follow.

Every single vote does count, be assured of that. Vote by mail ballots can be returned by mail to Somerville Elections Department, or through one of five drop boxes located around the city.

So, don't let a little rain or chilly weath-

er or anything else stop you. From the troops at Valley Forge straight through to our humble present-day letter carriers, service to one's country should not be hindered or halted due to a bit of inconvenient inclement weather. Or almost anything else, actually.

Let it be so for us as well. We are no less important, so let's get out there and make our choices count.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

such as Stephen Bertoncini, David La-Croix, Harry Lasseur, Kip Lyall, Patricia Capadanno, Diana Riel, Dorothy O'Malley, Jeffery Varney, Nicholas Cubides, Erin DiBenedetto and Russell Chiary a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

The Somerville Homeless Coalition is holding the Halloween Tooth Care Drive from October 21 to November 1. Have any extra toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss or other dental hygiene products hanging around the house? SHC is col-

lecting essential dental hygiene products and distributing them to their clients who need them most. All donations can be dropped off at our admin office located at 255 Elm Street, Suite 204, and requested items include toothbrushes, toothpaste (all sizes), dental floss, toothbrush covers, mouthwash (travel size)

Register to vote for the November 5 election one of three ways: online at somerville-ma.gov/registertovote, in person at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.), or by calling the Elections Department (617-625-6600 ext. 4200) and requesting a voter registration form. The in-per-

son registration deadline is Saturday, October 26, by 5:00 p.m. or online by midnight. Your registration can also be mailed and will be accepted with a postmark of October 26 or earlier.

Early Voting for the November 5 Presidential Election will take place at Somerville City Hall on Wednesday, October 23, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., October 24, Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., October 25, Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., October 27, Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., October 28, Monday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., October 29, Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

and October 30, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the Somerville Commission for Women, RESPOND, Inc., the Somerville Public Library, and the Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) invite residents to attend the city's annual Domestic Violence Vigil on Wednesday, October 30. This annual vigil is dedicated to commemorating the lives lost to domestic violence in the past year, recognizing the strength of survivors, and renewing our community's dedication to eradicating domestic violence.

Continued on page 13

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#946

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What movie did Dua Lipa's <i>Dance The Night</i> appear in? | 7. When is National First Responders Day? |
| 2. What kind of doctor invented cotton candy? | 8. When is National Make a Difference Day? |
| 3. What state banned margarine for 72 years to protect their dairy farmers? | 9. The Night Watch's cloaks from <i>Game of Thrones</i> were made from what? |
| 4. What common kitchen spice is often touted for its anti-inflammatory properties? | 10. Taylor Swift won her first Grammy for what song? |
| 5. What animal is constitutionally protected in Florida? | 11. Where did the term Grand Prix originate? |
| 6. What day is World Vegetarian Day? | 12. Which planet shares its name with an element? |

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.
- The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch a year.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

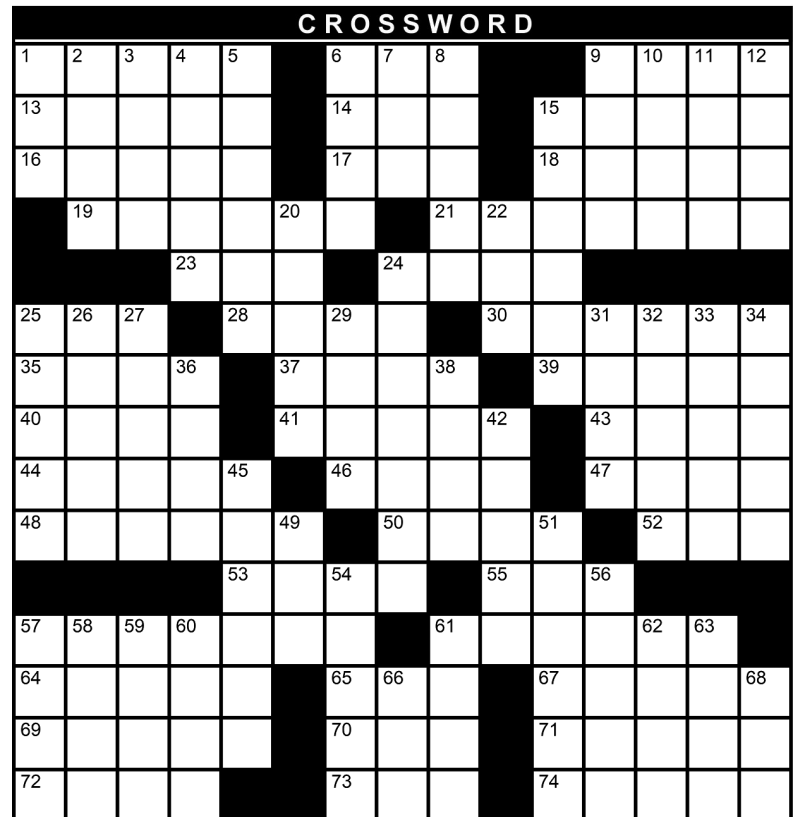
FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

ACROSS

- Eight performers
- Air traffic control controlling org.
- 100-meter race
- Fauna, Merryweather and _____, fairy godmothers
- Adam's body part in Bible
- Stone fruit
- Type of bulrush, pl.
- "Dawn of a new _____"
- Pertaining to ear
- "_____ list"
- "Your wish is my _____"
- Actor Danson
- Pottery oven
- Migos: "Look at My _____"
- Cold cuts counter
- Inner skin layer, pl.
- Riyadh native
- One thousandth of a liter, pl.
- "Till _____ do us part"
- Inconclusive
- Where there's trouble?
- On a cruise, e.g.
- Man-made stone pile
- Purse for a formal affair
- Animal house
- When a 3rd party holds assets
- Prefers
- Desk well content
- Withdraw gradually
- Black and white sea bird
- "_____ up the wrong tree"
- "A date which will live in _____"
- Certain monochromatic cookie, pl.
- Weary traveler's destination
- Robin Hood's companion Tuck
- September stone
- Tolstoy of "War and Peace" fame
- Salon file
- Hurly burly
- Immeasurable period
- Raja's wife

DOWN

- Oftentimes, poetic abbreviation
- "Welcome to the _____"
- Cough syrup balsam
- Not slouching



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



- Assigned a chore
- Worry
- "I'm walkin' on _____"
- Old-time calculators
- Ringo Starr's instrument
- Ambience
- Bridge, e.g.
- Kept together
- Fitzgerald's "The Beautiful and the _____"
- Possible allergic reaction
- "What's _____ is new again"
- One thousand tons
- "_____ like no one is watching"
- La Scala solos
- Fundamental
- "_____ is like a box of chocolates"
- Madrid's Club de Fútbol
- Kenyan warrior
- Dined at home
- "Jump the _____," what Fonzie did
- 100 cents in Ethiopia
- "No _____ for you!"
- Previously an Oiler
- In no manner, archaic
- Skin cyst
- Bear pain
- Quick and light on one's feet
- Deserved consequence
- "You're gonna need a bigger _____"
- Jason's vessel
- Use a book
- Japanese zither
- Involved (2 words)
- Demeanor
- Ready and eager
- New, prefix
- J.D. Salinger's "Catcher in the _____"

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Somerville invites kids of all ages to 'Truck O' Treat' at City Hall

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, along with Somerville's Department of Public Works and Parks and Recreation Office, invite all local ghosts and ghouls to "Truck O'Treat" on Thursday, October 24, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. outside City Hall (93 Highland Avenue). In the event of inclement weather, the event will be moved to Thursday, October 31.

Costumes are encouraged at the family-friendly event, which will include safe Trick-or-Treating on the City Hall concourse, a spooktacular visit from a decorated City of Somerville truck, refreshments and more.

For more information, please contact Midalys Rosario by emailing mrosario@somervillema.gov or calling 617-625-6600 x2054.



Dorothy's Corner BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Ropa Vieja

Ropa Vieja, or old clothes as translated to English, is one of Cuba's national dishes. This dish is perfect for serving a group of people since it can be made ahead and is perfect for a buffet or served family style. Packed full of flavor the tender flank steak takes on the smoky flavor of the cumin and paprika and has a slight acidic flavor from the wine and tomato purée that make it a perfect marriage of flavors. Recipe courtesy of Fermin Rojas.

- 2 lbs Flank Steak
- 3 Bay Leaves
- 4 Garlic Cloves, finely minced, plus 3 crushed whole cloves
- 1 Large Onion, small diced
- 1/2 tsp Black Pepper, more to taste
- 1/2 tsp Salt, more to taste
- 1 Red Bell Pepper (cut into 1/2" strips)
- 1 Green Bell Pepper (cut into 1/2" strips)
- 1/4 tsp Garlic Powder
- 1 Tablespoon Cumin
- 1 tsp Smoked Paprika
- 1 tsp Dried Oregano
- 3 Tablespoons Olive oil, plus 1 Tablespoon Olive Oil
- 1 Cup Dry White Wine, such as Vinho Verde or Riesling
- 1 Cup Tomato Purée
- 1 1/2 Cups Reserved Beef Stock

There are two methods that can be used for cooking the flank steak until tender so it can be shredded. The first method is placing the flank steak in a pressure cooker and covering with water enough water to cover, then add

bay leaves, garlic cloves or just use beef stock. You may need to cut the flank steak into a couple of pieces to fit into the pressure cooker or stock pot. Bring up to temperature and cook for 45 minutes.

Reserve the stock and put the steak aside until it cools enough to shred, about 20 minutes. For the second method, place the flank steak into a 6 quart pot, cover with water, add bay leaves, and garlic cloves, or just use beef stock. Bring to a boil, cover and simmer until tender, about 2 1/2 hours.

Reserve the stock and let the steak cool for about 20 minutes before shredding. Over medium heat, in a sauté pan, add 1 tablespoon olive oil, green and red peppers, a pinch of salt and the 1/4 teaspoon of garlic powder and cook until the peppers are soft and not mushy and has maintained their bright colors, about 10-15 minutes. Do not brown the peppers. Transfer to a serving plate and put aside. In the stockpot, add 3 tablespoons of olive oil and onion and cook until translucent, about 12 minutes.

Add the minced garlic, salt, pepper, cumin, paprika, and oregano and cook for about 2 minutes. Add the wine and tomato purée. Bring to a simmer and add the shredded flank steak. Bring back to a simmer and reduce the wine and tomato purée, this will take about 1/2 hour. Add the 1-1/2 cups reserved beef stock and reduce, this will take another 30-45 minutes. *Stir often during the reduction process to assure nothing sticks to the bottom of the pot. Adjust heat as needed. There should always be a slight bubbling going on



through this cooking process.

Make sure there's not too much liquid in the pot, it should not be a soupy consistency, but should be moist with some liquid in the bottom of the pot. Taste and adjust seasoning if needed. Serve with the peppers either over the top or on the side. For a side, serve with Cuban style black beans and rice.

<http://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/63333> Serves 6-8.

Save the remaining beef stock to use for up to 5 days in the refrigerator or freeze up to 3 months.

Visit Dorothy's website at <http://ddimarzo2002.wix>.

LEGAL NOTICES

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

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

Response for Proposals-Rooftop Antennas

Bryant Manor
75 Myrtle Street, Somerville Ma. 02143

1. INTRODUCTION

This Request for Proposal is issued by the Somerville Housing Authority (herein after the "Authority") to solicit proposals for the lease of available rooftop and penthouse space. These spaces are available for the installation and operation of communication facilities. These facilities are not limited to, Cellular Telephone, Personal Communication Systems, Paging, Land Mobile Radio, and Internet Antenna's. The lease of these spaces will be on a nonexclusive basis.

2. PREMISES TO BE LEASED

The Authority has rooftop and penthouse space for lease at Bryant Manor located at 75 Myrtle Street in Somerville, Ma. Included in this document is a layout of the roof at this site.. Specific locations on the roof or penthouse for installation of equipment will be viewed in the field and negotiated as such.

3. LEASE TERM

Lease terms must be at least five years with extensions if desired.

4. LEASE RATES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULES

The monthly rent is due on the first of every month.
The monthly rent is subject to negotiation as is the yearly escalator.

There will be a walkthrough on October 30th, 2024 at 10:00 AM at 75 Myrtle Street Somerville. Any questions please contact Brian Langton at 617 625 1152 Ext.331 or email BrianL@sha-web.org

10/16//24, 10/23/24 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, November 7, 2024**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planningboard@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YmAQF7wdQiiF17bdCb7xQ
Webinar ID: 812 0403 2633

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

35 McGrath Highway 35 McGrath Highway Realty Trust proposes to develop a nine (9)-story Lab Building in the High Rise (HR) district, which requires Site Plan Approval.

720-722 Broadway DiCamillo Associates, LLC, seeks to develop residential housing in a General Building in the MR4 zoning district, which requires a Special Permit.

720-722 Broadway DiCamillo Associates, LLC, seeks to develop a 4-story mixed-use General Building in the MR4 zoning district, which requires Site Plan Approval.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>. Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov.

10/23/24 The Somerville Times

**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, November 6, 2024**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iRDN3G8lTHatXS88yFrmGw
Webinar ID: 825 3438 1238

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:

3 Emerson Street Linda Gritz and Michael Katz seek zoning relief from the sum of side setbacks for front driveway access in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

200 Inner Belt Road NRL WSC 200 Inner Belt Prop, LLC seeks to install a noncompliant sign in the Commercial Industry (CI) zoning district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

22 Highland Avenue Kenneth and Christine Chan seek to establish a Bar, Restaurant, or Tavern principal use in the Small Business (SB) Overlay District, which requires a Special Permit.

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.

10/23/24 The Somerville Times

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFQ # 25-24****Architectural & Engineering Design Services for
Green Line Crossing between Inner Belt and Brickbottom**

The City of Somerville is seeking a design consultant/firm to develop and analyze the six established alternatives for the crossing, plus any additional alternatives identified by the design consultant, assist the City with the selection of the preferred alternative, obtain necessary approvals and permits for the preferred alternative, and then prepare design documents and assist the City with bidding of the approved alternative. Qualified design firms will meet the requirements outlined in the RFQ available on the City's website as of October 23, 2024 at:

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/procurement-and-contracting-services> and at <https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/33100/home>.

The deadline for submission of applications is **November 13th, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.**

Thupten Chukhatsang
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

10/23/24 The Somerville Times

**SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS
PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's **Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works** on **Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at 6:00 PM**, on a petition for a public hearing on the Somerville Internet Task Force.

76 registered voters submitting a petition for a public hearing on the Somerville Internet Task Force 2019 Report and a Feasibility Study on Municipal Broadband, pursuant to Section 8 of the City Charter.

This meeting will be held by remote participation, using the Zoom Webinar platform.

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. To attend and be heard, enter the link exactly as it appears below into your internet browser. You will then be asked to register for the meeting.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3C1U7sNpQf0jVsMcdig_sQ

2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to publiccomments@somervillema.gov, or send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143. 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 Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS, CITY CLERK

10/23/24 The Somerville Times

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE 2023-2024 CAPER**

The City of Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development is preparing its 2023-2024 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) as mandated by the federal Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This report discusses how the City spent CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds across the most recent program year. **The City seeks feedback on the draft report, which will be available at**

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/office-strategic-planning-and-community-development-ospcd/ospcd-administration> starting September 11, 2024.

- The City will hold a public hearing on **November 6th, 2024 at 6:00 PM** to present the draft plan and receive comments. Members of the public may attend this hearing at the **Somerville Public Library Auditorium, 79 Highland Ave.**
- Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville should contact Adrienne Pomeroy, at APomeroy@somervillema.gov.
- Interpretation into other languages may be available upon advance request by contacting the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs at somerviva@somervillema.gov or calling 311 at 617-666-3311.
- Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the draft CAPER to Miranda Rubin (mrubin@somervillema.gov) at the City's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (City Hall, 3rd Floor). All comments received by **November 7th, 2024**, will be incorporated in the final Report.

10/23/24 The Somerville Times

TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS

IN THE SOMERVILLE TIMES,

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BY 12 PM MONDAY

PHONE: 857-488-5138

LEGAL NOTICES

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

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on **11/12/2024 at 12:00PM**. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Doris Perdomo unit #0831; Rodney Elissaint unit #1262; Rene Warlene unit #256MZ; Carl Esperance unit #318B. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

10/23/24 The Somerville Times

TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE SOMERVILLE TIMES, CONTACT US BY 12 PM MONDAY PH: 857-488-5138

Somerville Redevelopment Authority Special Meeting October 23

This meeting will include the 90 Washington Street Demonstration Project Plan. Executive session to discuss Cobble Hill Center LLC vs. Somerville Redevelopment Authority.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this public meeting of the SRA is being conducted via remote participation. Wednesday, October 23, 2024, from 12:00 to 1:30 pm.

The meeting will be held using Zoom Webinar. To register in advance: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-webinar/register/WN__wQGb7pOTCCEu-7398tUi5g

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact the ADA Coordinator, Adrienne Pomeroy, at 617-625-6600 x2059 or ada@somervillema.gov.

There will be an audio-video recording of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website.

SHS Girls Varsity Volleyball headed to MIAA Tournament

By Harry Kane and Steve Walker

Girls Varsity Volleyball had a slow start this season, but lately it's been just the opposite. The team has been on a winning streak and is headed to the playoffs.

The squad is 13-6 at the moment. They have won their last 6 games and are finishing off the season later this week.

"That's the best record we've had in a bunch of years," said Coach Steve Walker.

Coach Walker said that last year was a transitional year, with three sophomores moving up from JV to Varsity.

"We had some very talented athletes that we thought could make the jump, so we brought them up last year and got them some Varsity playing time, which resulted in some growing pains," Coach Walker said.

Those players helped prepare the team for this year.

"Now, we have a very strong group, who has played together for a year," Coach Walker said.

Early in the season, Highlanders started off slow with 1 win and 3 losses.

"Even though we started off a little slow, we knew we had potential, we had room to grow and we had something to build on," Coach Walker said.

Then they got three wins, and Coach Walker saw the potential of



Team Captain Alexis Bowie spiking the ball. Bowie is the Middle Blocker and Opposite Hitter. — Photos courtesy of SPS Athletic Department

getting into the MIAA Tournament. To reach the playoffs, the team must finish first or second in the league or win half of the 20 games.

"That tenth win was always our first goal," said Coach Walker. "And then once that happened, we talked about how every win after that just helps increase our record, increase our standings."

There are three captains on the Highlanders team: Astrid Blair, Josslyn Marujo and Alexis Bowie.

"They've just been phenomenal leaders, on and off the court, whether it's running team bonding days, or just making sure we stay focused on the court. Their attention to detail is

just fantastic," said Coach Walker.

Early on in the season, Somerville Highlanders lost to the Malden Golden Tornados. But roughly three weeks later on October 3, Somerville went to Malden, and they won 3-1. That was the turning point for the team.

"That was the real eye-opening moment," said Coach Walker. "I think that was a big moment for us."

That game started their seven-game winning streak and propelled the Highlanders into the playoffs.

As a team, the Highlanders are averaging over 10 kills per game, 3 aces per game and 8 assists per game.



Team photo of Highlanders Girls Varsity Volleyball.



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024
CITY OF SOMERVILLE
OFFICE OF BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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

WARD ONE

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

WARD TWO

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

WARD THREE

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

WARD FOUR

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

WARD FIVE

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

WARD SIX

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

WARD SEVEN

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

ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024

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

Electors of President and Vice President, Statewide

A Candidate for Senator in Congress for the Commonwealth,

A Candidate for Representative in Congress for the Seventh Congressional District,

A Candidate for Governor's Council for the Sixth Councilor District,

A Candidate for Senator in General Court for the Second Middlesex District,

A Candidate for Representative in General Court for the Twenty-Sixth Middlesex District, (To be voted in Ward One Precincts One Through Four and in Ward Two Precinct 1A)

A Candidate for Representative in General Court for the Twenty-Seventh Middlesex District, (To be voted for in Ward One Precinct 4A, Ward Two Precincts One, Two, Three and Four, Ward Three Precincts One through Four, Ward Four Precinct 2A, Ward Five Precincts One through Four and Ward Six Precincts One, Two, Three and Four)

A Candidate for Representative in General Court for the Thirty-Fourth Middlesex District, (Ward Four Precincts One, Two, Three and Four, Ward Six Precinct 3A and Ward Seven Precincts One through Four)

A Candidate for Clerk of Courts Middlesex County

A Candidate for Register of Deeds for the Middlesex Southern District

QUESTION 1 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY: This proposed law would specify that the State Auditor has the authority to audit the Legislature.

A YES VOTE would specify that the State Auditor has the authority to audit the Legislature. A NO VOTE would make no change in the law relative to the State Auditor's authority.

QUESTION 2 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY: This proposed law would eliminate the requirement that a student pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests (or other statewide or district-wide assessments) in mathematics, science and technology, and English in order to receive a high school diploma. Instead, in order for a student to receive a high school diploma, the proposed law would require the student to complete coursework certified by the student's district as demonstrating mastery of the competencies contained in the state academic standards in mathematics, science and technology, and English, as well as any additional areas determined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. A YES VOTE would eliminate the requirement that students pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) in order to graduate high school but still require students to complete coursework that meets state standards. A NO VOTE would make no change in the law relative to the requirement that a student pass the MCAS in order to graduate high school.

QUESTION 3 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY: The proposed law would provide Transportation Network Drivers ("Drivers") with the right to form unions ("Driver Organizations") to collectively bargain with Transportation Network Companies ("Companies")-which are companies that use a digital network to connect riders to drivers for pre-arranged transportation-to create negotiated recommendations concerning wages, benefits and terms and conditions of work. Drivers would not be required to engage in any union activities. Companies would be allowed to form multi-Company associations to represent them when negotiating with Driver Organizations. The state would supervise the labor activities permitted by the proposed law and would have responsibility for approving or disapproving the negotiated recommendations. The proposed law would define certain activities by a Company or a Driver Organization to be unfair work practices. The proposed law would establish a hearing process for the state Employment Relations Board ("Board") to follow when a Company or Driver Organization is charged with an unfair work practice. The proposed law would permit the Board to take action, including awarding compensation to adversely affected Drivers, if it found that an unfair work practice had been committed. The proposed law would provide for an appeal of a Board decision to the state Appeals Court. This proposed law also would establish a procedure for determining which Drivers are Active Drivers, meaning that they completed more than the median number of rides in the previous six months. The proposed law would establish procedures for the Board to determine that a Driver Organization has signed authorizations from at least five percent of Active Drivers, entitling the Driver Organization to a list of Active Drivers; to designate a Driver Organization as the exclusive bargaining representative for all Drivers based on signed authorizations from at least twenty-five percent of Active Drivers; to resolve disputes over exclusive bargaining status, including through elections; and to decertify a Driver Organization from exclusive bargaining status. A Driver Organization that has been designated the exclusive bargaining representative would have the exclusive right to represent the Drivers and to receive voluntary membership dues deductions. Once the Board determined that a Driver Organization was the exclusive bargaining representative for all Drivers, the Companies would be required to bargain with that Driver Organization concerning wages, benefits and terms and conditions of work. Once the Driver Organization and Companies reached agreement on wages, benefits, and the terms and conditions of work, that agreement would be voted upon by all Drivers who has completed at least 100 trips the previous quarter. If approved by a majority of votes cast, the recommendations would be submitted to the state Secretary of Labor for approval and if approved, would be effective for three years. The proposed law would establish procedures for the mediation and arbitration if the Driver Organization and Companies failed to reach agreement within a certain period of time. An arbitrator would consider factors set forth in the proposed law, including whether the wages of Drivers would be enough so that Drivers would not need to rely upon any public benefits. The proposed law also sets out procedures for the Secretary of Labor's review and approval of recommendations negotiated by a Driver Organization and the Companies and for judicial review of the Secretary's decision. The proposed law states that neither its provisions, an agreement nor a determination by the Secretary would be able to lessen labor standards established by other laws. If there were any conflict between the proposed law and existing Massachusetts labor relations law, the proposed law would prevail. The Board would make rules and regulations as appropriate to effectuate the proposed law. The proposed law states that, if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect. A YES VOTE would provide transportation network drivers the option to form unions to collectively bargain with transportation network companies regarding wages, benefits, and terms and conditions of work. A NO VOTE would make no change in the law relative to the ability of transportation network drivers to form unions.

QUESTION 4 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY: This proposed law would allow persons aged 21 and older to grow, possess, and use certain natural psychedelic substances in certain circumstances. The psychedelic substances allowed would be two substances found in mushrooms (psilocybin and psilocyn) and three substances found in plants (dimethyltryptamine, mescaline, and ibogaine). These substances could be purchased at an approved location for use under the supervision of a licensed facilitator. This proposed law would otherwise prohibit any retail sale of natural psychedelic substances. This proposed law would also provide for the regulation and taxation of these psychedelic substances. This proposed law would license and regulate facilities offering supervised use of these psychedelic substances and provide for the taxation of proceeds from those facilities' sales of psychedelic substances. It would also allow persons aged 21 and older to grow these psychedelic substances in a 12-foot by 12-foot area at their home and use these psychedelic substances at their home. This proposed law would authorize persons aged 21 or older to possess up to one gram of psilocybin, one gram of psilocyn, *Continued on page 13*

Continued from page 12

one gram of dimethyltryptamine, 18 grams of mescaline, and 30 grams of ibogaine ("personal use amount"), in addition to whatever they might grow at their home, and to give away up to the personal use amount to a person aged 21 or over. This proposed law would create a Natural Psychedelic Substances Commission of five members appointed by the Governor, Attorney General, and Treasurer which would administer the law governing the use and distribution of these psychedelic substances. The Commission would adopt regulations governing licensing qualifications, security, recordkeeping, education and training, health and safety requirements, testing, and age verification. This proposed law would also create a Natural Psychedelic Substances Advisory Board of 20 members appointed by the Governor, Attorney General, and Treasurer which would study and make recommendations to the Commission on the regulation and taxation of these psychedelic substances. This proposed law would allow cities and towns to reasonably restrict the time, place, and manner of the operation of licensed facilities offering psychedelic substances, but cities and towns could not ban those facilities or their provision of these substances. The proceeds of sales of psychedelic substances at licensed facilities would be subject to the state sales tax and an additional excise tax of 15 percent. In addition, a city or town could impose a separate tax of up to two percent. Revenue received from the additional state excise tax, license application fees, and civil penalties for violations of this proposed law would be deposited in a Natural Psychedelic Substances Regulation Fund and would be used, subject to appropriation, for administration of this proposed law. Using the psychedelic substances as permitted by this proposed law could not be a basis to deny a person medical care or public assistance, impose discipline by a professional licensing board, or enter adverse orders in child custody cases absent clear and convincing evidence that the activities created an unreasonable danger to the safety of a minor child. This proposed law would not affect existing law would allow property owners to prohibit the use, display, growing, processing, or sale of these psychedelic substances on their premises. State and local governments could continue to restrict the possession and use of these psychedelic substances in public buildings or at schools. This proposed law would take effect on December 15, 2024. A YES VOTE would allow persons over age 21 to use certain natural psychedelic substances under licensed supervision and to grow and possess limited quantities of those substances in their home and would create a commission to regulate those substances. A NO VOTE would make no change in the law regarding natural psychedelic substances.

QUESTION 5 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY: This proposed law would gradually increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker, over the course of five years, on the following schedule: • To 64% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2025; • To 73% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2026; • To 82% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2027; • To 91% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2028; and • To 100% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2029. The proposed law would require employers to continue to pay tipped workers the difference between the state minimum wage and the total amount a tipped worker receives in hourly wages plus tips through the end of 2028. The proposed law would also permit employers to calculate this difference over the entire weekly or bi-weekly payroll period. The requirement to pay this difference would cease when the required hourly wage for tipped workers would become 100% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2029. Under the proposed law, if an employer pays its workers an hourly wage that is at least the state minimum wage, the employer would be permitted to administer a "tip pool" that combines all the tips given by customers to tipped workers and distributes them among all the workers, including non-tipped workers. A YES VOTE would increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker to the full state minimum wage implemented over five years, at which point employers could pool all tips and distribute them to all non-management workers. A NO VOTE would make no change in the law governing tip pooling or the minimum wage for tipped workers.

QUESTION 6 Shall this City of Somerville amend its acceptance of the Community Preservation Act (Sections 3 to 7, inclusive of chapter 44B of the General Laws) as approved by the City Council, a summary of which appears below?

SUMMARY: The City of Somerville accepted the Community Preservation Act (Sections 3 to 7 of Chapter 44B of the General Laws of Massachusetts) and established a "Community Preservation Fund" with a dedicated funding source. Fund monies may only be spent on affordable housing, open space, and historic preservation, as follows: to (1) acquire, create and preserve open space, which includes land for park and recreational uses and the protection of public drinking water well fields, aquifers and recharge areas, wetlands, farm land, forests, marshes, beaches, scenic areas, wildlife preserves and other conservation areas, (2) rehabilitate and restore land for recreational use, (3) acquire, preserve, rehabilitate and restore historic buildings and resources, (4) acquire, create, preserve and support affordable housing and (5) rehabilitate and restore open space and affordable housing that was acquired or created with community preservation funds. In the City of Somerville, the funding source currently is a 1.5% surcharge on the annual property tax assessed on real property. The City of Somerville has adopted the following exemptions from the annual surcharge: (1) property owned and occupied as a domicile by any person who qualifies for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in Somerville as defined in Section 2 of the Act; (2) \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property; and (3) \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of class 3, commercial property and class 4, industrial property as defined in Section 2A of Chapter 59. This amendment will increase the surcharge from 1.5% to 3%. This amendment will take effect starting in fiscal year 2026, which begins on July 1, 2025. At least 10% of the funds for each fiscal year will be spent or reserved for later spending on each of the Act's three community preservation purposes: (1) open space, (2) historic resources and (3) community housing. The surcharge will continue to be calculated in the same manner by multiplying the real estate tax on the parcel by the adopted percentage. A taxpayer receiving a regular property tax abatement or exemption will also receive a pro rata reduction in the surcharge.

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

10/23/24 The Somerville Times

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

The **2024 Somerville Domestic Violence Vigil** will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the **East Somerville Library** (115 Broadway). If there is rain, the vigil will move indoors to **Connexion**, 149 Broadway. The event is free and open to the public. Light food and refreshments will be provided. There will be American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation at the event. If you would like to attend, please consider RSVPing in advance here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/city-of-somerville-2024-domestic-violence-vigil-tickets-1038275519027?aff=oddtcreator>.

Mayor **Katjana Ballantyne** is pleased to share that the **City of Somerville** has created a new web page where voters can look up their current address to verify their ward and polling place ahead of the No-

vember **2024 Presidential Election**. The portal is designed to provide Somerville voters with localized, precise ward and polling place information so you know where to go on **Election Day**. To use the portal, visit www.somervillema.gov/vote-somerville and start typing your address into the search bar. Simply keep typing until you see a match, and then click on the correct matching address. The portal will then display your ward, precinct, and polling place with address, as well as the names and contact information of your city, state, and federal officials.

Docent tours take place from **May through October** at three historic sites in Somerville: **Milk Row Cemetery** (Somerville Avenue), **Prospect Hill Tower** (above Union Square), and **Old**

Powder House (Nathan Tufts Park). They are open to the public on certain days and evenings. Inclement weather cancels any event. For full schedule and more information on the **Docent Program**: <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/docentprogram>.

The second **Tavern Talk** hosted by the **Somerville Museum** at **Aeronaut Brewing** takes place on **Sunday, November 3, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.** **Tavern Talk: Vitamin B for Victory: How Beer Helped Win World War II**. In this special presentation by **Dan Breen, PhD**, follow the course of American beers from the Solomons to Bastogne, as the Greatest Generation marched towards victory with Lagers in hand. For tickets and more information visit <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>.

www.somervillemuseum.org/.

Local Somerville non-profit arts organization **Around Hear** is holding a **fall concert** in partnership with the **Somerville Housing Authority** on **Saturday, October 26, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**, at the **Mystic Activity Center**, 530 Mystic Ave. Somerville. Free, open to the public, listeners of all ages are welcome, refreshments served. Write, draw, move while you listen, after-concert pizza party.

Arts at the Armory will present a screening of **The Rocky Horror Picture Show** on **Monday, October 28**. Dive in to this classic musical-horror flick once again this year in the **Performance Hall**, 191 Highland Ave. Costumes and call backs are highly encouraged. *Continued on page 23*

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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Barbie | 7. October 28 |
| 2. A dentist | 8. October 26 |
| 3. Wisconsin | 9. Ikea rugs |
| 4. Turmeric | 10. White Horse |
| 5. The Florida Panther | 11. The name of a prestigious horse race in Paris |
| 6. October 1 | 12. Mercury |

COMMENTARY

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

A Few Reflections on the Countdown to Nov. 5th



By Ken Brociner

It's now less than two weeks before one of the most pivotal moments in the 248 year history of our country. If Trump wins the election – or if he successfully steals it – the foundations of our (highly imperfect) democracy will be blown to bits. Trump has made it crystal clear that he will violate the basic principles of the Constitution from day one. And given how many Republican senators couldn't muster up the courage to remove him from office during his two impeachment trials, Trump would almost certainly be far more dangerous than ever before. He's already announced that he'll seek to prosecute and jail anyone who he sees fit to silence.

Like many of the hundreds of thousands of people around the country who are volunteering to help elect Kamala Harris – and stop Trump- I've been making several hours of phone calls to voters in swing states on a daily basis.

Along with countless contemporaries of mine from the Sixties generation, I've gone to more demonstrations in Washington D.C. and the Boston area than I can remember. Many of these protests have been extremely intense – especially those during the Vietnam war. But these days my main form of activism involves sitting in a comfortable chair in my study waiting for the Democratic National Committee's "Scale to Win" Dialer to connect me to

another swing state voter. The wait between calls rarely lasts longer than 10 seconds. As soon as I hear the chime that indicates that someone has already picked up their phone, I ask if "I can please speak to "Anthony" or "Maxine?" (or whoever) and then identify myself as a "volunteer in the Kamala Harris campaign." My interactions with people range from very friendly – and often inspiring – to people who are rude, hostile, or profane – just like the candidate they are supporting. Fortunately, the "End Call" tab is always one click away.

Even though common wisdom is that going door to door is the most effective way to reach voters, my own experience has been that I've been able to speak to a lot more people per hour with the DNC's "Scale To Win" Dialer than I ever have by knocking on doors.

Strangely, even though I'm far away from the frontlines of any demonstration, I'm feeling just as intensely engaged and motivated as I ever have in the more than fifty years I've been politically active. The mere thought of Donald Trump ever sitting in the Oval Office again has been more than enough to keep me glued to my chair for hours on end, day after day.

If you aren't already volunteering to Elect Kamala and Stop Trump, the information to get started asap is provided at the end of this article.

In the October 9 issue of *The Somerville Times*, the Boston chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America had an article entitled "**Boston DSA** condemns Somerville library harassment and supports LGBTQ+ siblings." In the article, the DSAers rightfully condemned "the far-right groups {that had} protested a sched-

uled drag queen story hour at the Somerville Public Library which had culminated in a bomb threat."

Of course, it's all well and good that Boston DSA stood up against the intolerance and actual threats of violence posed by those far-right groups. However, the oh so principled DSA also issued a mindboggling expression of solidarity ("without conditions"-see below) with none other than Hamas 48 hours after it massacred 1,200 people and took more than 250 hostages in Israel on Oct 7, 2023!

"In the wake of the Israeli invasion of Gaza [the fact is that Israel's ground invasion of Gaza actually began on Oct 27] we are inspired by the courage of the Palestinian people. We call upon everyone in the Boston area to express clear support for the Palestinian resistance, without conditions." (Boston DSA, Oct 9, 2023).

Naturally, Boston DSA is so "principled" that it wouldn't even think of supporting Kamala Harris, despite the fact that Trump is, as most Democrats have finally come around to publicly acknowledging, an out-and-out fascist!

I have always really enjoyed the **Honk Festival**. The joyful, free-spirited atmosphere of the Festival vividly reminds me of the Counterculture and radical movements of the Sixties and early Seventies. But for those too young to have lived through that era, it's worth noting that often times there were points of tension between those people who stressed alternative lifestyles and those who were more oriented towards trying to end the war in Vietnam and achieve radical political change.

Until 2016, I always saw the Honk Festival as a near perfect synthesis of these two tenden-

cies. But what really struck me about it that year was the near total absence of any sense (by the bands, the signs, and the thousands of people who were walking around Davis Square) that in a few weeks our country was going to hold an election of great consequence, an election that would determine whether Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump would become the next president of the United States.

Sure, we all thought that Trump was very unlikely to actually win. And Massachusetts was obviously going to provide Hillary Clinton with all of its electoral votes. But still. The Festival was held only a few short weeks before the election – and walking around Davis Square that day, you would be hard pressed to see – or hear – any evidence of that.

So a few weeks ago, I went to the Honk Festival with this in mind. Of course now the political situation is very different than it was in 2016. As anyone who had been paying even the slightest attention had to know, Donald Trump and Kamala Harris were (and still are) essentially tied in each and every one of the seven swing states (according to every reputable poll).

I can't claim to have listened to every band that played at this year's Honk Festival. But at about 6 pm on Saturday, I walked over to check out a number of them. In doing so, I did hear one band shout "Vote! Vote!" - but even there, I didn't hear any specific references to the upcoming presidential election. Then I decided to walk from one end of Davis Square to the other. Again, I didn't see a single sign with Trump's name on it (or Kamala Harris's for that matter). On Sunday morning, a friend of mine watched the entire parade as it passed through Davis Sq. and she told

me she too didn't see or hear any references to what will be the most consequential election in the lives of every single person there.

True, Massachusetts is a solidly Blue State. But in this day and age, it's fair to say that most people know that you can help elect Kamala/stop Trump by either phoning, texting, writing postcards, or by travelling to a swing state to canvass door to door. Yet as far as I could tell, there weren't any urgent messages at the Festival to encourage people to do any of those things.

The annual Honk Festival (which is always held in October) does a very job of combining music, a spirit of political and cultural rebellion and a commitment to social justice. But it seems to me that it's been failing to rise to the occasion when all-important elections are only a few weeks away.

To be honest, I had thought about walking around Davis Square with a sign on my front and back (a "sandwich board") but felt too self-conscious to do so. My bad! I definitely should have.

But this is exactly what I would written on both sides of that sign.
Help elect Kamala and stop Trump!!
Save our democracy!
Make calls to voters in swing states
Call anytime of the day or evening
Computers do the dialing, scripts are provided
Google: "Easy Calls for Harris-Walz"

*Ken Brociner has lived in Somerville since 1975. His columns, essays and reviews have appeared in *In These Times*, *Dissent*, *The Boston Phoenix*, *the Somerville Journal* and *Somerville Times*, among other several other publications.*

SomerStreets 'Monster Mash' 2024

The final SomerStreets festival of the year, the spooky and fun "Monster Mash," took place last Sunday on Somerville Ave. between School St. and Warren Ave. The family friendly event featured a Halloween Parade led by School of Honk, the Good News Gus interactive puppet show, parkour, pumpkin carving with Somerville Recreation, spooky games with Event Them, Knucklebones, Cate the Greata, Felice the Magician, a crafts and vintage market with Blue Bandana Relics and Tiny Turns Paperie, and the day find the Wicked Awesome Dancing Witches of Greater Boston.





Photos by Bobbie Toner



Beacon Hill Roll Call



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Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week. This week, *Beacon Hill Roll Call* looks at Question 3, one of the five questions on the ballot that will be decided directly by the voters in November.

The question asks voters if they approve of a proposed law that would allow drivers for Lyft and Uber, and any other companies that use a digital network to connect riders to drivers for pre-arranged transportation, to collectively bargain to create negotiated recommendations concerning wages, benefits and terms and conditions of work. Drivers would not be required to engage in any union activities.

Companies would be allowed to form multi-company associations to represent them when negotiating with the union. The state would supervise the labor activities permitted by the proposed law and would have responsibility for approving or disapproving the negotiated recommendations.

WHAT SUPPORTERS SAY: “Voting ‘Yes’ on Question 3 is about giving these Massachusetts rideshare drivers what nearly every other worker in the state has: the option to join a union,” Roxana Rivera, co-chair on the Yes on 3 Coalition told *Beacon Hill Roll Call* “We know this is what our state’s rideshare drivers want. A recent driver survey showed 95 percent support for the option to join a union and Question 3 won’t force any rideshare drivers to join the union if they don’t want to. Seventy percent of voters support Question 3, according to a just-concluded poll of likely 2024 voters. Nationally, unions are more popular than they’ve been in generations.”

On its website, the “Vote ‘Yes’ on 3 Committee” says, “The option to join a union is guaranteed for most workers but rideshare drivers don’t have that choice. Drivers are struggling to support their families despite working in a billion-dollar industry. After expenses, they take home less than \$15 an hour, the minimum wage, with no protections against arbitrary deactivations that make it impossible to support their families. Vote ‘Yes’ on Question 3 to ensure drivers can challenge these unfair practices.”

WHAT OPPONENTS SAY: Paul Craney, a spokesperson for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, told *Beacon Hill Roll Call* that although the alliance is not a ballot questions committee, “[we] authored the voter guide (red book) summary because we are ideologically opposed to the ballot question and wanted to make sure the voters had both sides of the story available to them before making a decision.”

Craney continued, “No group from the affected industries

has stepped forward to oppose this ballot question. The way this ballot question is currently written potentially violates state and federal labor law and if passed by the voters, would most likely result in a prolonged legal battle before this potential law is changed.”

On its website, the alliance says, “The passage of this question will allow state government to set the wages for these private companies, and ultimately force drivers to pay dues into a union they don’t want and that they have little control over. This is possible because this question artificially lowers the threshold required to call a unionization vote from the normal 30 percent of employees to just 2.5 percent. Not only is this unfair to drivers, but this is also a violation of long-established federal labor laws and will likely open the state up to lawsuits and litigation in the future, if passed.”

OFFICIAL ARGUMENTS: Here are the official arguments, gathered by the secretary of state, for each side of the question.

IN FAVOR: Written by Roxana Rivera, United for Justice, www.DriversNeedUnion.org

“A ‘Yes’ vote will give Massachusetts rideshare drivers, who work for companies like Uber and Lyft, the option to join a union while also maintaining driver flexibility and independence. The option to join a union is guaranteed for most workers but rideshare drivers currently don’t have that choice. Vote ‘Yes’ to allow rideshare drivers the option to choose a union.”

AGAINST: Written by Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, www.massfiscal.org

“Drivers and riders urge ‘No’ on Question 3 which would raise the prices for all riders, funding union pockets, not drivers’ pockets. This law gives politicians the right to set rules with no accountability and creates a new radical labor category that is inconsistent with federal labor law.

Drivers in Massachusetts already receive base [pay] of \$32.50 per hour with yearly increases; paid sick leave; paid family medical leave; healthcare stipend; on-the-job injury insurance; anti-discrimination protections; domestic violence leave; anti-retaliation protections; and an appeals process.

Question 3 does not really create bargaining for workers. Drivers will have no control over leadership of the union and will pay significant dues without real representation. This proposal is not fair to drivers and allows just 2.5 percent of drivers to force unionization and leaves many driv-

ers without a voice.”

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

DON’T MISS THIS HEALTH CARE EVENT - The Steward Health Care bankruptcy has shocked Massachusetts’ healthcare system, creating challenges and raising questions about the future of primary care, urgent care and behavioral health.

On Oct. 30, join top executives, legislative leaders, regulators and advocates for a discussion on the system’s vulnerabilities and potential policy solutions at the Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) Conference Center in Boston. This event is hosted by the State House News Service and MASsterList.

For More information and/or to register:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/urgent-treatment-mass-health-care-after-steward-tickets-1038286622237?aff=oddtcreator>

CLIMATE AND ENERGY BILL – Rep. Jeff Roy (D-Franklin) and Sen. Mike Barrett (D-Lexington), co-chairs of the Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, announced that their conference committee is finalizing details of a compromise version of different versions of House and Senate bills that make changes in the comprehensive climate and clean energy siting and permitting practices.

“We are proud to announce that we have reached an agreement in principle that resolves the differences between the House and Senate versions of the comprehensive climate and clean energy siting and permitting legislation,” said Roy and Barrett in a joint statement. “Massachusetts must continue to be a national leader in the effort to combat climate change, a prerequisite for which will be transitioning to a clean energy economy and creating high-quality jobs in the process. That’s why our respective teams are working diligently to file the conference report in the coming days, with the goal of sending these critical reforms to the governor’s desk for her signature as soon as possible.”

“Gov. Healey is excited that the Legislature has reached an agreement on this critical climate bill that will strengthen Massachusetts’ global leadership in creating clean energy jobs and reducing costs,” a spokesperson for Healey said. “She looks forward to receiving it.”

“For Massachusetts to truly be a leader on climate change, equitable siting reform and curbing the expansion and overspending in our gas system must be priorities for lawmakers,” said Caitlin Peale Sloan, Vice *Continued on page 19*

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 18

President of the Conservation Law Foundation Massachusetts. “We’re eager to see what is included in this bill and will continue to advocate for the necessary changes to slash climate-damaging pollution, meet our climate targets and ensure new clean energy infrastructure avoids burdening those of low to moderate-income and communities of color.

\$19.2 MILLION FOR PREPAREDNESS AGAINST TERRORIST ACTS – The Healey administration announced that state agencies and Regional Homeland Security Advisory Councils representing all areas of Massachusetts will receive \$19.2 million to strengthen the state’s resilience and preparedness against terrorist acts.

“This grant program allows our administration to identify evolving threats to our state and invest in measures to be better prepared to prevent and respond to threats and critical incidents,” said Gov. Maura Healey. “We’re grateful to the Biden-Harris Administration for prioritizing the safety of our communities through these investments.”

“Preparedness is our greatest protection against threats,” said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy. “Collaboration across all levels of government combined with the necessary funding ensure that our cities and towns are prepared to respond and equipped to prevent potential emergencies. This grant is critical to safeguarding our communities and ensuring a coordinated, effective response in times of need.”

\$1.75 MILLION IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION GRANTS – Gov. Healey announced the awarding of \$1.75 million in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants to 45 municipalities across Massachusetts to fund 29 clean energy initiatives that help municipalities meet their own climate goals and share the benefits of climate action equitably.

“Massachusetts’ cities and towns are on the front lines fighting climate change, and we are committed to supporting their efforts through funding like Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants and more broadly through our Green Communities Program,” said Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. “These grants will help municipalities reduce their use of harmful fossil fuels, protect local governments from energy price volatility and help build more resilient communities.”

“Energy efficiency and building decarbonization is core to our strategy to combat climate change and lower energy costs,” said Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Elizabeth Mahony. “With this funding, 45 communities will get another chance to reduce their energy needs and municipal budgets. The energy manager seed funds

will help many communities who want to act but lack the resources to plan expansive energy projects leverage additional funding.”

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE SEEKS INPUT ON DRAFTING OF ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCES REGULATIONS - Attorney General Andrea Campbell’s office announced it is seeking public feedback on the drafting of consumer protection regulations for assisted living residences in Massachusetts. Members of the public can provide comments to the office through an online form, available here.

“We know the best way to serve our constituents is by listening to them,” said Campbell. “Every resident of an assisted living facility has the right to live in a safe and habitable environment, free from abuse, neglect and exploitation. Our older adults deserve to age safely with dignity and respect, which is why creating consumer protection regulations for assisted living facilities is so important and responsive to their advocacy.”

Assisted living residences are designed for older adults who can live independently in a home-like environment, but may need help with daily activities like housekeeping, bathing or medication assistance. According to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, more than 17,000 people currently live in these residences in Massachusetts and have various options available to them.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“We shouldn’t pollute our air and endanger our health just by doing everyday yard work. We have better options. It’s good to see more cities and states across the country take action to improve our health and quality of life by switching away from dirty gas lawn mowers and leaf blowers.” — *Janet Domenitz, MASSPIRG Education Fund Director, unveiling a study showing nationwide progress on transitioning away from gas-powered lawn equipment.*

“The significant decline in recidivism rates reflects the Department’s focus on evidence-based practices and strategic interventions designed to support successful reentry into society. Reducing recidivism not only benefits those who are reintegrating but also enhances public safety across Massachusetts.” — *Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy on the release of the Department of Corrections’ Annual Recidivism Report showing that the recidivism rate decreased from 29 percent to 26 percent.*

“Our noses are to the grindstone, we’re trying to identify the right people through the [request for proposals] process to plan, address and get it online. Because once we go online, we want it to be perfect.” — *State Treasurer Deb Goldberg on the expected launch of the state’s Lottery online in April 2026. The original launch date was supposed to be*

in late 2025.

“I’m excited to announce the launch of Uplift Salem, our guaranteed income pilot program to help directly address poverty in our community and contribute to the growing evidence from across the nation about the efficacy of these types of initiatives... Hopefully, the outcome of this year-long effort will be to add to the momentum for greater state and federal support for these programs, and most importantly, to lift up some of our most vulnerable neighbors here in Salem.” — *Salem Mayor Dominick Pangallo on the launch of Uplift Salem, a guaranteed income pilot that will invest \$500 a month in 100 Salem residents for one year. Participants will be able to spend the cash however they want. The total cost of the pilot, which is funded through American Rescue Plan Act dollars and a private contribution through UpTogether, is \$685,000.*

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 October 14-18, the House met for a total of one hour and 32 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 29 minutes.

Mon. Oct. 14	No House session No Senate session
Tues. Oct. 15	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:11 a.m. Senate 11:19 a.m. to 11:33 a.m.
Wed. Oct. 16	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. Oct. 17	House 11:04 a.m. to 12:26 p.m. Senate 11:06 a.m. to 11:21 a.m.
Fri. Oct. 18	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Somerville Lions celebrate 'Monster Mash'

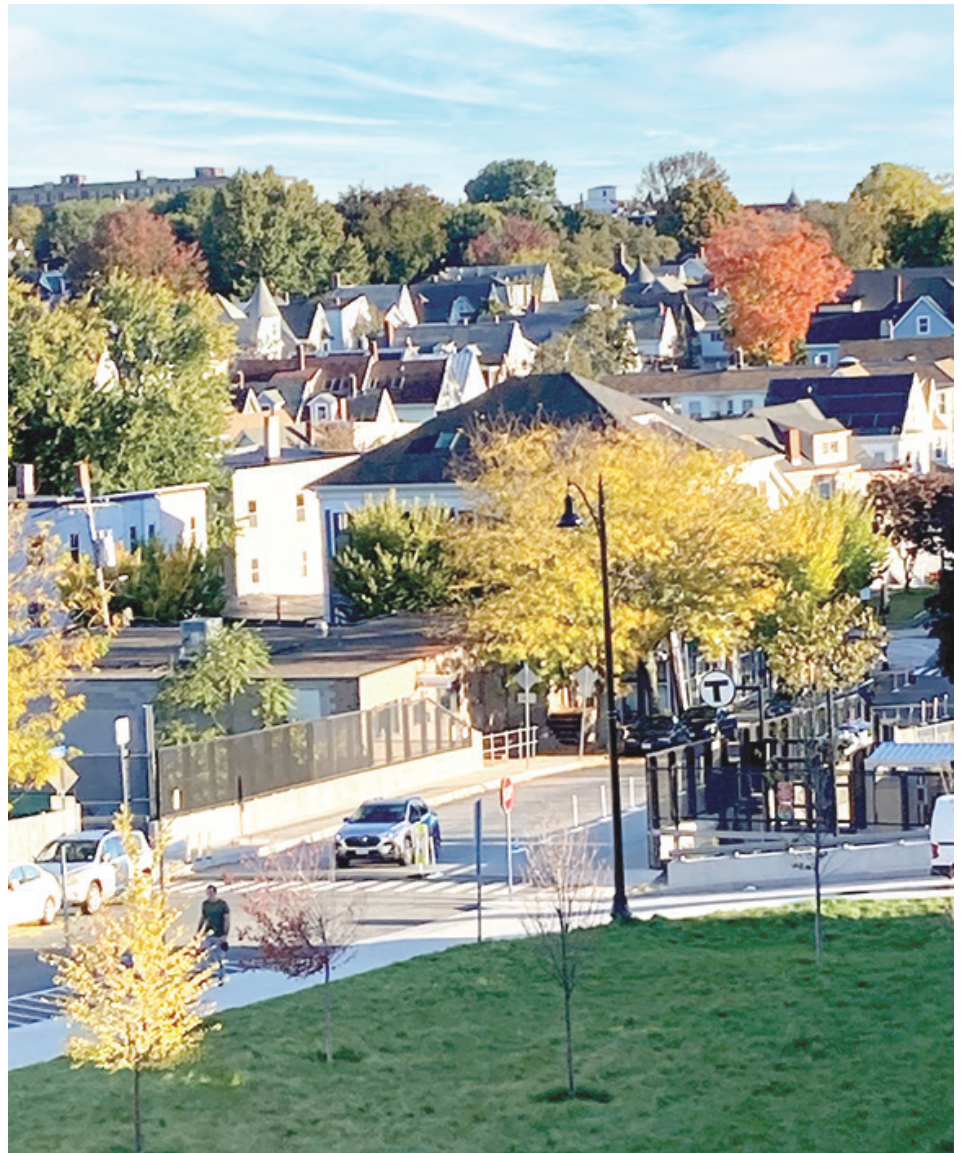


The Somerville Lions Club members once again joined several other organizations in the city to celebrate Monster Mash.

The Lions Club members with the help of the Lions 33K members and our eye mobile were able to examine several members of the Somerville Community in testing their eyes, also looking for problems with glaucoma as well as checking their blood pressure.

The Somerville Lions Club are always pleased to also assist the Somerville school children that are in need of eye glasses with parents that do not have the resources to purchase them by having the Somerville Lions club purchase the glasses for them as well as the examination.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Central Hill sunrise...

— Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What do you call two spiders who get married in October?

Newly-webs.

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

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On This Day in History

October 23

1694 – American colonial forces led by Sir William Phips, fail in their attempt to seize Quebec.

1707 – The first Parliament of Great Britain meets.

1783 – Virginia emancipates slaves who fought for independence during the Revolutionary War.

1861 – President Abraham Lincoln suspends the writ of habeas corpus in Washington, D.C. for all military-related cases.

1929 – The first transcontinental air service begins from New York to Los Angeles.

1952 – The Nobel Prize for Medicine is awarded to Ukrainian-born microbiologist Selmart A. Waksman for his discovery of an effective treatment of tuberculosis.

1954 – An agreement is signed providing for West German sovereignty and permitting West Germany to rearm and enter NATO and the Western European Union.

1973 – A U.N. sanctioned cease-fire officially ends the Yom Kippur war between Israel and Syria.

Bob's Discount Furniture's new flagship Sneak Peek

On Friday, October 18, Bob's Discount Furniture hosted an invitation-only VIP Sneak Peek of its new flagship experience in Somerville, MA, in advance of its Grand Opening weekend starting on Friday, November 8.



Bill Barton, President & CEO of Bob's Discount Furniture (right) toasts the opening of the company's flagship experience location in Somerville alongside Rachel Nadkarni, Director of Economic Development, City of Somerville (center) and Felicity Beal, Director of Development, Greater Somerville Homeless Coalition (left) – Bob's newest community charity partner.



Joe Andruzzi, three-time Super Bowl Champ, former New England Patriot, and Chief Engagement Office of the Joe Andruzzi Foundation, attended Bob's VIP Sneak Peek event in Somerville. Joe poses with Bob's first-ever Little Bob plushie.



Bob's was honored to welcome stakeholders and community guests to their exclusive VIP Sneak Peek event on Oct. 18th. Felicity Beal, Director of Development, Greater Somerville Homeless Coalition addresses the crowd. The Greater Somerville Homeless Coalition is Bob's first charitable partner in Somerville.

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Upcoming events:

Celebrate Halloween at the Council on Aging – Thursday, October 31 starting at 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. \$5. per person. Enjoy music, a costume contest and trick or treating with the COA staff. Lunch will be served at noon following the Trick or Treat. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Virtual Reality Experience – Friday, October 25 at 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Using ARPA funding directed to the Council on Aging by Mayor Ballantyne, the COA has partnered with Rendevar, a Somerville based company focusing on the benefits of virtual reality in older populations. Studies have found that virtual reality can help reduce stress, decrease isolation, reduce pain and lower fall risk. Virtual reality is a 3D, computer generated simulation that is accessed through wearing a headset. In a small group, we will travel to different destinations and learn interesting facts about each place. Space is limited, but you will have many opportunities to participate in this two-year pilot program. RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318.

Jewish Family & Children's Service – Friday, October 25 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Betsy Englander, LCSW, is the Mental Health and Wellness Engagement Manager at Jewish Family and Children's Service (JF&CS) in Waltham, MA. She provides training for older adults and the people who work with and care for them on a wide range of mental health issues, from social isolation to

ambiguous loss to social aggression, among many others. In this presentation, she will share information and answer questions about the many programs offered within JF&CS's Services for Older Adults, which range from care management that enables older adults to age in their home, to support groups for people dealing with grief, caregiving and the challenges of aging in general. For more info please contact Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

Technology Workshops – Monday, October 28 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Scams: How to avoid scams, what to look for and how to protect yourself online. You can also RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Tech Time – Drop-in Hours – Every Tuesday in October starting at 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Receive assistance for all of your phone, tablet and computer questions. RSVP by contacting Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Knitting Group – Tuesday, October 29 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Needles and yarn will be provided. In September Natasha is available to assist you with knitting help; from reading a pattern to learning new knitting techniques. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

Overnight trip:

Christmas New York Style – Sunday, December 8 – Monday, December 9 Two days and one night accommodation, roundtrip transportation, full breakfast buffet, touring of the Hudson River Valley & a ticket to the Radio City Rockettes show. Price: single room, \$819, double room \$659 per person and Triple/quad room \$639 per person. Refunds unavailable after November 8. Payments accepted by check, made payable to SCOA. For more information contact Connie Lorenti at 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.



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'The Biographer'
Poems by David M. Katz*The Biographer*

Poems by David M. Katz

Dos Madres Press

Loveland, Ohio www.dosmadres.com

ISBN: 978-1-962847-07-0

71 Pages

Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Dennis Daly

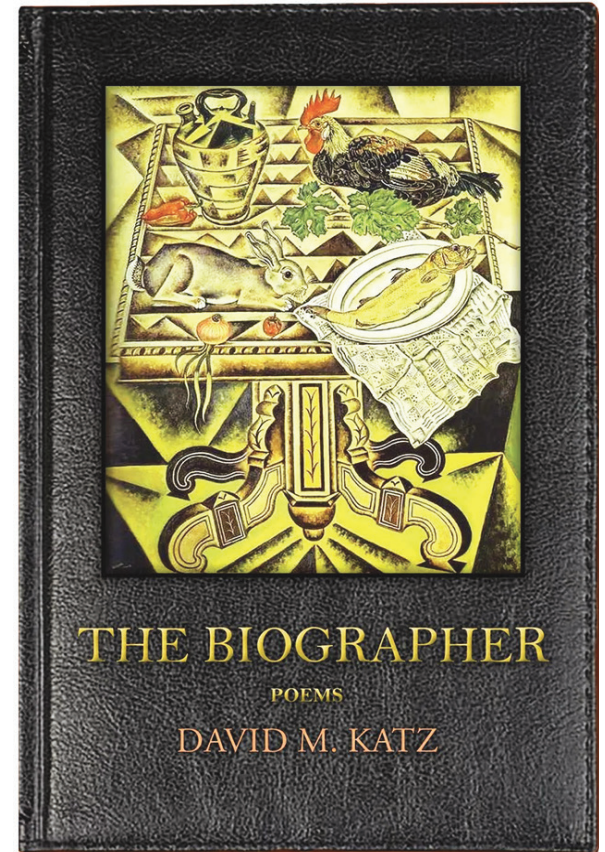
Spectral power belongs to ages and cultures long past. But here and there evidence emerges of its elusive endurance in the form of poetic techniques such as projection and personalization. Here imagination (Cotton Mather aficionados take notice) provides the proper venue with insight, empathy, and understanding as value added attachments. In his new book of poetry, *The Biographer*, David M. Katz haunts his set of chosen characters with his mnemonic underpaintings. He merges his rich emotional values with the objective facts of his characters, real or fictional.

Katz's first poem, *His Last Book*, hooked me with its third person objectification of the artist getting old. Sentimentality and emotional pain are met head on. But they are contained and given purpose. Rather than bathos and mawkishness, the poet elicits an identifiable hard-bitten reality that one can recognize immediately. The poet introduces his protagonist empathically and with reflective preciseness,

... he realized
He was no longer young. He recognized
A periodic feebleness of mind,
A lack of balance, tendency to slip
And wobble in his steps, rise in the night
Repeatedly to pee: of scant concern
In themselves, these irksome little symptoms,
Annoying as mosquito bites,
Together made it seem to him as if
There were just two things in the universe
That mattered: his life and the end of it...

In his poem, *The Altitude*, Katz fills in the unknowable (read spectral) blanks between father and son. The speaker, no older than five, looks up the length of his father and nurtures the beginnings of an evolutionary understanding of the man. A moment of drama creates a mnemonic guidepost on which the son attaches facts – both real and quasi-imaginary. Here is the heart of the poem,

... Suddenly I pitched
Forward like a ship, the mica chips
In concrete hurtling up at me before



My arm grew taut. My father's hand had held
Me back from falling, though he didn't seem
To notice, and we took a slow next step.
My eyes rose up and saw, beneath his hat,
A jaw, a nose, and something like a smile.

Generally, I am not fond of poems dealing with substance abuse, alcoholism or otherwise. *Are You Still Drinking, Dad?*, Katz's piece on this very subject, jolted me beyond any personal biases. Dealing with the disease's phenomenon of quitting and relapse, Katz ghosts his persona with both unspoken and spoken connections that re-live intense, emotional hurts. But it is more than that. Missed opportunities caused by human failings are the bedrock of mortality. This Shakespearean sonnet is, pardon the expression, top shelf and my favorite poem in the collection. The last lines nail the irreversible pain and are not to be missed in any review. So here they are,

... He might have had one shot,
A rye to ease the future shock a bit;
Sweet Gypsy Rose; cheap peach or apricot
Liqueur. I said I'd be a father soon,
And he was miles away across the phone
On some highway with a cowboy tune
Fading behind. He always drank alone.
It's now or never, Dad, I might have said.
Before my son was born my dad was dead.

Continued on page 23

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Lexi is a passionate writer and first-generation student from Maine, nearing her senior year as a Creative Writing major at Endicott College. With a deep love for poetry and storytelling, she explores her emotions through her work, seeking to share her experiences in hopes that others can find comfort amid the madness.

**Hopeful Romantic**

I perfume my skin with the scent of temptation

Sugar, apples, and cinnamon

My, how Oscar Wilde would be proud.

A gentle hum within the night

Of his breaths falling in and out

A particular melody, and it's my favorite sound.

Gentle whispers into my hair

As we move in slow motion

Not like the world will care

But I feel solace while in your arms.

You wake me gently in the night

Kiss me while you doze

Hoping to keep this moment all to myself

though perhaps the moon can also know.

— Lexi O'Neil

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

The Tesseracte Players will lead the charge and make sure you don't miss a moment of the raucous ride. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. The viewing starts at 8:00 p.m. Come early and enjoy wine, beer, and a new food menu from the **Hall bar**. Visit <https://artsatthearmory.org/>.

Visit the **Somerville Bike Kitchen**, a volunteer-run **bicycle repair cooperative**, hosting **open-shop nights** at **The Dojo** (15 Properzi Way, Somerville). Come maintain your bike or learn more about cycling. **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. **Every Thursday** from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. join **Parkour Generations Boston** for **Teen Jams at The Dojo**. This is a flexible time for teen community members to use the pop-up training space at The Dojo @ Somernova and connect with fellow community members in the process.

Are you an **emerging artist** looking to share your artistic skills with your community? The City of Somerville, through the **Somerville Arts Council (SAC)**, invites emerging artists (or a group of artists working as a team) to submit project concepts to be considered for a commission to create a temporary public artwork. This opportunity is funded in partnership with the **New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA)**, making it public program. \$750 for Finalists. \$15,000 Selected Project budget. Applications are due on **October 31**, by 11:59 p.m. Apply here: www.somervilleartscouncil.org/TemporaryPublicArt.

East Somerville Main Streets is gearing up for their **Fall Clean-Up** on **Saturday, November 2**, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Join them at 115 Broadway, **East Branch Library**, as they clean and beautify the neighborhood. Pastries and coffee will be provided.

The **Elections Department** is looking to hire multiple **inspectors** for the upcoming **November 5 Presidential Election**. The hours the polls are open to voters are 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, November 5**. If you would like to learn more, please call the **Elections Office** at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200. <https://www.somerville-ma.gov/departments/elections>.

Join **Union Square Main Streets** and **50+ of your favorite local food producers** for the **20th Annual Union Square Farmers Market**, 6670 Union Square. Shop local on **Saturdays through October 26**, except September 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the **Union Square Plaza**. The market provides visitors and residents with top-quality, fresh, and local produce at fair prices; encourages active lifestyle values; educates consumers about farming and locally sourced foods; and gives customers opportunities to interact directly with farmers. For more information about the Union Square Farmers Market, visit unionsquaremain.org/2024fmseason. SNAP customers get \$1 for \$1 match up to \$15. See the Market Manager tent for more info.

Davis Square Farmers Market is now

open. **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. This long-running market features over two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers offering a vibrant selection of delicious produce, protein, baked goods, ready-to-eat meals, alongside a host of other locally made products. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match.

Somerville Public Schools are now in session for the **2024/2025 school year**. Visit the SPS district website calendar for more information: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/events/calendar>. Visit the **2024/2025 School Year Calendar page** for an English, Spanish, Portuguese, or Haitian Creole calendar to print: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/schoolyearcalendar>. Visit the **Food and Nutrition Services Department page** for school meal menus. Breakfast and lunch are free for all students: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/fnsd>.

Somerville Public Schools is hiring **substitute teachers** for all of our PK-12 schools. For more information or to apply visit <https://somerville.tedk12.com/hire>.

The **Somerville Flea** is back at **52 Holland St**. Join in as they celebrate their 12th year smack dab in the middle of Davis Square. Vintage vendors, artisan makers, farm stand and DJ. Find that

treasure you never knew you even existed. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Sundays, August through October**.

All Wednesdays during the school year are now **early release days**. You may talk to your child's teacher or school administrators if you have any questions about drop-off and pickup. **Prekindergarten**: 12:00 p.m., **Grades K–8** (except Next Wave): 1:00 p.m., **Next Wave/Full Circle**: 12:10 p.m., **Somerville High School**: 1:33 p.m.

The **Council on Aging Flu and COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Dates** at the **Holland St. Senior Center**, 167 Holland St. **Senior Only Clinics**, please register by calling the COA directly at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300. For clinics open to the general public, please register via the **City of Somerville website**. **November 18** (ages 19+) noon – 2:00 p.m., **December 12** (ages 19+) 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Both flu and COVID-19 vaccines are conveniently offered at multiple locations across Somerville, improving access for all residents. Both vaccines are available with no out-of-pocket costs, and we accept those without health insurance. If you do have health insurance, please bring proof of coverage. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Walk-in appointments are limited.

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

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

Tread-worn spooks flutter past, still in grand context, but not as certain, not as noble in Katz's mysterious poem *The Code*, written in memory of John le Carre. The real world is fading into the spectral by half and the activities of the spectral seem confused and leaderless. The poet has withdrawn his added details and leaves his audience in the dark or to their own Kafkaesque devices. The poem opens this way,

They were muttering in half-understood languages,
Half-wanting to be known, half wanting to know,
Half not and half-not. They were in the lobby,
Exchanging the code, partly overheard, the bellhops
Inured to it by now as they hustled
To the ever-ringing bell in their tight red coats...

Notice, everything appears compromised in this piece except the bell, which seems to signal the need for intervention. Katz's title poem and masterwork, *The Biographer*, A

Verse Novella, spans twenty-six pages of compelling and imaginative narrative. The poet outdoes himself. He first creates a persona worthy of his truly American story. Then he essentially possesses the persona, not in a hostile way, but in a way that merges both biographer and subject in a dual adventure of creation and kaleidoscopic life.

Telling the story of an abandoned foundling, adopted on board ship on the way to Ellis Island, Katz's persona intimates her techniques of biography referring to her subject's newly found (and soon lost) parents,

... While Shmuel gazed, Ida
longed desperately to be off her feet. Their
Internal lives
are of course, my own creation, as is
the bulk
of any biography, a story
based

on a handful of facts. I have seen,
in fact, a creased,
anonymous photo of a pushcart
from that time
with a grimaced father, mother, and
little girl posed
in front of it...

Katz's narrative continues in a rapid, almost dream-like fashion, elucidating the life of vagabondage, independence, fame and activism. The reader, along for the ride, can do nothing but marvel at both the external and internal goings-on.

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