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Panic in Davis Square

A community searches for answers



The question of how best to handle the homelessness issue in the Davis Sq. still remains unanswered. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

By Nirvana Ragland

Davis Square, long known for its indie theaters and bustling cafes, finds itself at a crossroads. The Somerville neighborhood's residents and business owners are seeking solutions as more people without homes seek shelter in the area's parks and doorways, sparking community-wide debates about public space and social services.

The Somerville Police Department has implemented a 24-hour directed patrol of Davis Square and Seven Hills Park in response to escalating concerns over public safety and open drug use. Despite these efforts, residents and business owners report ongoing issues.

"Our staff is terrified to bring trash to our rear dumpster because addicts have" *Continued on page 4*

Mushroom mongering

A chat with THE mushroom shop

By Jeffrey Shwom

THE mushroom shop, located on Medford Street at Central Street opposite the multi-colored row houses at 135-145 Medford Street, is a unique, corner spot. The front metal door is adorned with cheeky, witty and funny stickers like "Mushrooms are people too," "Don't you dare give up" and a mushroom shaped teapot.

It is a unique concept, if we think about one store for one type of fungi. To be clear, these are not special mushrooms like we are being asked to vote on for the 2024 referendum on November 5. As the website states, these folks specialize in "Picking our own wild mushrooms, serving the best quality cultivated mushrooms, sourcing wild mushrooms from the Pacific Northwest, and" *Continued on page 4*



THE mushroom shop in Somerville offers a wide variety of edible fungi for your enjoyment.

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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. 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>.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to Amanda Fee. We wish her the very best on her birthday. A special happy birthday to Diane Suffredini, who is celebrating this week. We wish her the best and hope she has a great year. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Gene Beraldi, Candy Feldt, John Blute, Diane Sylvester Ames and Katie Marsh, 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 *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of October 29 – November 5 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday October 30	Cloudy	71°/56°	10%	5%	SE 12 mph
Thursday October 31	Partly Cloudy	79°/64°	7%	2%	SW 12 mph
Friday November 1	Partly Cloudy	74°/44°	22%	14%	WSW 13 mph
Saturday November 1	Sunny	51°/34°	1%	1%	NE 9 mph
Sunday November 3	Sunny	57°/44°	6%	2%	SW 7 mph
Monday November 4	Cloudy	61°/51°	22%	18%	SW 9 mph
Tuesday November 5	Rain	65°/51°	40%	31%	WSW 15 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: *Lyrical Somerville – October 23*

Elizabeth Anne OConnor says:

I am so proud of you, Lexi! Your poem is beautiful and you have worked so hard to make your goals happen!

Response to: 'The Biographer' Poems by David M. Katz

DAVID M. KATZ says:

I'm most grateful for Dennis Daly's perceptive review of my new book, THE BIOGRAPHER.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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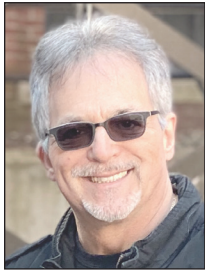


Sufi Utterances for peace

The Tufts University Department of Music presents "Sufi Utterances for peace: Qawwali Mehfil performed by Ghayoor-Moiz-Mustafa Qawwal & Brothers" in the Distler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Wednesday, November 6, at 6:30 p.m. Qawwali is a form of Sufi devotional voice and instrumental performance, originating in South Asia. Each performance is unique as these classically trained vocalists, who are amongst the most exciting contemporary practitioners, interweave verse-chorus sequences that are rich in poetic and spiritual symbolism in Urdu, Farsi, Hindi, Poorvi, Arabic, Punjabi. Event is co-sponsored by the Harvard University History Department, Tufts Center for South Asia and Indian Ocean Studies (CSAIOS), Departments of Music; Religion; Race Colonialism & Diaspora (RCD); English; & Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies (TDPS), The Toupin Bolwell Fund, Center for the Humanities at Tufts (CHAT), The University Chaplaincy, Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Office of Institutional Inclusive Excellence & The Graduate Student Council.

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

The 1967 Dodge Dart



One of the most important parts of a teenager's life is getting their driver's license.

I had taken the road test twice and flunked. My dad was in the car with us but I was the one who kept failing those road tests. The third time I didn't take dad. I didn't tell anyone I was taking the road test again. Bingo! Third time was a charm. I think about it every time I drive past the armory on Highland Ave. It's where lots of Somerville's teenagers got their driver's license.

I went home and showed my new license to my father. I asked to take the car for a ride. He let me so I went and picked up my friend Charlie. It was a 1967 Dodge Dart

with a small 225 Slant six. We headed toward Route 2. We drove up the big hill and we're now facing that great Boston skyline. As I increased the speed, Charlie read the speedometer, "60, 70, 80, 90, 100!" The gas pedal was almost pinned down. Then Charlie shouted "120!"

The speedometer was buried. We were flying. I was crazy for driving so fast.

We started for home and parked in the driveway as my first death ride was finished.

I gave dad back his car so he could take it to get his haircut. When he returned home, he commented on the amount of gas that was used on our short ride. He slapped his keys on the kitchen counter and said, "The gas tank was full! Where the hell did you go. China?"

No dad. Just Arlington.



Apply today to become a Budget Delegate Volunteer

The City of Somerville is now accepting applications from residents ages 16 and older to join the city's Participatory Budgeting process as Budget Delegate Volunteers. Budget Delegate Volunteers will work with city staff to review Participatory Budgeting idea submissions and determine which 20 ideas will be voted on by their fellow residents. No previous finance or budgeting experience is required; all residents will be given training and background as needed.

Delegate meetings will be mostly held

virtually, with some in-person meetings required. Delegates will attend a two-hour orientation, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 9, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Weekly virtual meetings will take place on following Thursdays through March 13, 2025.

To apply, please complete the application here or call 617-625-6600 ext. 2107 with any questions or to receive a paper application. Applications are due Wednesday, November 20.

Budget Delegates will sit on at least one

subcommittee:

- + Community-Wide Resources
- + Parks & Green Spaces
- + Streets & Sidewalks
- + Arts & Culture
- + Education

Once the subcommittees are formed, Budget Delegate Volunteers will review and research each idea, in consultation with City staff, and narrow down a smaller selection to research further and grade based on need, impact, and feasibility.

With these criteria in mind, as well as

feedback from city staff on project cost, the subcommittees will select the final 20 allotted proposals for the ballot. All city residents will have the opportunity to vote on the selected proposals in April 2025.

The current list of ideas is available for the public to look at here. Residents can also stay up to date on one-time or seasonal volunteer opportunities, as well as process updates, via the Participatory Budgeting E-Newsletter. Sign up at somervillema.gov/PB.

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Mushroom mongering – A chat with THE mushroom shop CONT. FROM PG 1

carrying European truffles.”

We asked Owner Tyler Akabane: why mushrooms? “I love them. It is such an undernoted and under-appreciated kingdom of life out there, especially in the US.” Kingdom of life? This is when things started getting interesting. “Wild foraging is a big part of my history and the joy of them. Picking wild mushrooms. I teach classes. We go out to the woods. I teach people how to safely do it and teach people the dangerous stuff.”

The store opened on Winter Hill in 2022. “Somerville had the right vibe...good food scene. We were doing delivery services (then known as Mushrooms for my Friends). Somerville was always our busiest spot.” The 433 Medford Street location offered something attractive too, a corner walk-in and historic ceiling trim. “Most



spots do not have that much character.” The interior, for example, has tin molding that is “100 years old or something.” The store employs 5 people at this time.

In terms of an adjective, Tyler constantly described mushrooms as meaty. “For me, if I do not have meat on the plate, mushrooms fill the gap or savory quality.” Then, things got a bit evolutionary. “Hundreds of millions of years ago, plants, animals and fungi were in the same kingdom. Plants split off and years later, mushrooms and animals separated. In terms of DNA, animals and mushrooms are pretty closely related, sharing 50-60% of their DNA.”

For the vegetarian leaning folks out there, he continued to lean into how mushrooms are better than plant-based meats. “There is something about faux meat products that are not real. They are sympathized. Mushrooms are what they are. They have different flavors and different textures. Lots of variety.”

These varieties include 15 different species carried at THE mushroom shop. Think white chanterelles, lobster mushrooms, Hen-of-the-wood (which some say looks like a roosting bird), chicken of the woods (a great substitute for chicken, lobster, or crab), and matsutake (a.k.a. pine mushroom). Tyler educated me that only a half dozen restaurants or so in the area are



using matsutake, a coveted Japanese mushroom known for its spicy, distinct flavor.

The storefront is not the only spot to sample these cultivated and curated mushrooms. June Bug, a wood fired restaurant in Union Square, has a “Pizza Pal” on some Thursdays that makes a main course and appetizer. THE mushroom shop’s collaboration in previous weeks included a classic rustic sourdough toasted with lots of mushrooms and a matsutake pumpkin pizza.

They have two more dinners coming up, including a first Wednesday and Thursday event at Field & Vine on 11/6 and 11/7, dubbed “The Annual Mushroom Dinner,”

featuring four mushroom-inspired plates.

How do folks start their mushroom journey? “We suggest using something familiar. Maybe a recipe you’ve done but change the mushroom to something exotic.” Sauteing and putting them on heat is always good. As for him, where might the next mushroom journey take him? “I really want to go to Yunnan, China. It is a big mountainous region with a wide variety of mushrooms. I would like to go with other mushroom or tea enthusiasts, not the kids.”

Visit www.the-mushroom-shop-somerville.com. Free street parking and poles for bikes are nearby.

Panic in Davis Square – A community searches for answers CONT. FROM PG 1

taken to literally tossing their used needles over our fence,” said Ian Judge, theater director for the Somerville Theatre. “These same street people regularly defecate and urinate on our back and side doors, meaning we are the ones who have to clean it up.”

Judge’s concerns echo those of many in the community. The theater has had to increase security measures, adding cameras and incurring higher maintenance costs to clean up needles and garbage left near their property.

Not everyone sees the situation as dire. Gene, an MBTA worker who declined to give his last name, offers a different perspective. “I have to regularly tell people who are shooting up in the train station that they must leave, but in my opinion, they’ve never been violent or posed a threat,” he said.

The issue has sparked debate about potential solutions. Some community members advocate for medical supervision sites where people can use drugs under the watch of trained health workers to prevent overdoses and deaths. Others worry such

measures could draw more people with drug addiction to the area.

“My worry is policies are gonna act like a magnet to bring people here,” said one resident at a recent Davis Square Neighborhood Council meeting who previously served on the neighborhood taskforce. “If you accommodate this behavior, you’re going to get more of it.”

The situation has also impacted local institutions. The Somerville Library recently reduced its hours of operation, closing from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday due to safety concerns after patrons and workers were harassed and some reported being physically harmed.

Elizabeth King, a 90-year-old homeowner who has lived in Davis Square for over 65 years, sees multiple facets to the issue. “There are many layers to the situation in Davis Square, and people are passionate about it,” she said. “You have these people who have lived here for so long and they have seen it change, they have a version of it that they’re used to and then you’ve got these young students who go to school in the area that come here too.”

King rents out two of the floors of her home to Tufts students but finding housing in downtown Somerville still proves to be difficult according to many who showed up at the neighborhood council meeting back in late September.

The Davis Square Neighborhood Council, formed earlier this year, has grown quickly. At its September meeting in the West Branch Somerville Public Library, more than 30 people packed the room, with some standing against walls and sitting on the floor.

Elaine Almquist, who led the council meeting, saw familiar faces and newcomers alike. “We have longtime residents sitting next to college students and new homeowners,” she said. “Each person brings their own concerns about the neighborhood.”

The meetings focus on pressing neighborhood issues: housing costs, business development, street safety, and the problems in Seven Hills Park. The park, which sits beside the Davis Square train station, has become a particular worry for residents.

“We spent over 30 minutes discussing Seven Hills Park alone,” Almquist explained. “People are proposing everything from safety measures and addressing drug use to organizing community activities in the park and removing shrubbery that might be used as cover for illicit activities.”

The city plans to reopen overnight warming centers this winter, offering bathrooms, sleeping spaces and meals to people without homes. Meanwhile, the council continues its monthly meetings, scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on the last Monday of each month at the West Branch Library.

“We need solutions that work specifically for Davis Square,” said Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis. “While homelessness and drug use are national problems, our job is to make our neighborhood better for everyone who lives and works here.”

The next council meeting is expected to take place on November 6, with a continued focus on Seven Hills Park safety and winter preparations. Residents can find meeting details on the Davis Square Neighborhood Council website or posted in the Somerville library.

City Council discusses the need for crossing guards

By Katherine Davis

On Thursday, October 24, the Somerville City Council held its regular meeting to cover a number of topics city-wide. Some of these fell under the securement of third-spaces for teens in the city, others were regarding the securement of a permit for Trick-or-Treat on October 31. A few of the more unique discussions are as follows:

Councilor McLaughlin requested that order #24-1514 be sent to be discussed in Public Health and Safety. This order is in direct reference to the recent protests, counter-protests, and a bomb threat that was called in over the Drag Queen Story Hour that is regularly held at the Somerville Public Library. This order calls for relevant departments to discuss strategies and safety protocols in advance to ensure a safe environment for everyone during an event that may draw protests. Some methods are already in place with city employees and activists, and conversations are being made with the community and allies about ways the library might be able to prepare for something like this to happen again in the future. While Drag Queen Story Hour has been held at the library before without any incidents, from here on out it is important to prepare for the worst-case scenario to keep all community members safe.

Councilor Mbah and Councilor Pineda Neufeld requested that order #24-1529 be covered and sent to the Parking and Traffic departments for discussion. This was in response to an incident on October 23 at the intersection of Curtis St. and Powder House Blvd., where during peak school drop-off hours there was no crossing guard

or police assistance. The insurance of the safety of students, as well as the families and adults who drop them off, is a critical responsibility of the city according to the Council. This intersection is an extremely high-traffic area during school drop-off hours, and the lack of traffic control created a very hazardous situation for students, especially where the weather was foggy and the low-visibility only added risk. While the school administration had relocated a crossing guard to try and help cover this, there was no immediate assistance provided by the Somerville Police Department, despite the fact that, the Council noted, efforts were made to contact them for some time. The lack of officers at the intersection, despite being visibly out in detail across the city, represents a concerning gap in where resources are placed in regard to public safety, said Councilor Mbah. "Believe it or not, I actually had to be the crossing guard because I saw the assistant Principal crossing the kids, so I was like 'no you can't be doing this,' so I took it and stepped in to help in that event." Therefore, a plan of action should be presented to the City Council before the next meeting, along with commitment from the city departments to help prevent similar incidents in the future.

In the Public Communication portion of the City Council meeting, Councilor Wilson briefly relayed information provided by Tufts University regarding their 2024 Accountability Report. From 2015 to 2024, the enrollment of undergraduate students has increased from around 5,196 to 6,877, which is about a 32% increase over the course of 8 years. In those



The lack of a crossing guard or police assistance at the intersection of Curtis St. and Powder House Blvd. prompted an inquiry at the behest of City Councilors Mbah and Pineda Neufeld. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

years, the University has built housing for 207 undergraduate students, and has a dorm in the works that will be providing housing for another 398 undergraduates. Councilor Wilson noted that he "loves seeing Tufts building housing, but it's not keeping up with the growth of the student body," which Somerville ultimately bears the burden of housing a portion of the student population off campus. This is important to the city because in regards to Tufts' student body growth, there are over 1,600+ Tufts students living in Somerville. They often live together in coalitions of roommates in what are typically 3+ bedroom rental units, and there is a shortage of those units in the city. "Families can't compete with students because children don't pay rent, so in defense of families,

I'm calling on Tufts to please do more to house their students, please build more dorms, thanks." Councilor Burnley Jr. added to Councilor Wilson's request of Tufts, saying that while he is also grateful the University is building the new dorm, how they build the dorm is also important to the City of Somerville. Recently there was a protest by carpenters because Tufts had chosen to go with a non-unionized project approach to the new dorm, so the Councilor "does want to also remind them [Tufts] that despite that being on the Medford side, we do hold a vested interest in public institutions in our city, taking the most ethical approach to construction." Tufts University plans to have finished construction of the new dorm on Boston Avenue in Medford by the Fall of 2027.

Tufts University Department of Music Presents Tufts Third Day Gospel Choir

The Tufts University Department of Music presents Tufts Third Day Gospel Choir in the Cohen Auditorium, Aidekman Arts Center, on Friday, November 15, at 5:00 p.m. Tufts Third Day Gospel Choir presents its fall concert under the direction of David Coleman.



The Aidekman Arts Center is located at 40 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus.

For more information, please visit go.tufts.edu/musicevents or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617-627-3679.

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com



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tinyurl.com/svmz6a4w

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.

Somernova: Round Three



By Chris Dwan

The conversation around the fate of the low brick industrial buildings along Somerville Ave between Park and Church Streets (AKA American Tube Works [1], AKA the Ames Envelope Complex [2], AKA “Somernova” [3]) has entered a new and hopefully more productive phase. Mayor Ballantyne’s administration has started something they call the Central Somerville Avenue Plan [4] – a city-led process to:

- Update the city’s master planning map (adorably called “Somervision” [5]), changing the designation for this land into a coherent block of “transform,” rather than a plot-by-plot patchwork of “enhance” and “conserve.”

- Update baseline zoning to strengthen protections for Arts and Creative Enterprises (ACE) in the underlying Fabrication (FAB) zoning, citywide.

- Host a public process to gather feedback on the desired mix of uses and to identify dealbreakers.

- Create a zoning “overlay” to guide the Rafi Properties [6] (the owners) in their third proposal to build a large, integrated campus.

The administration’s timeline is aggressive. They intend to power through a series of community meetings in the coming weeks, and then place a series of zoning items before the City Council in its six remaining meetings of 2024. That would be ridiculously fast if we were starting from zero, but we’re not. We’ve been at this a

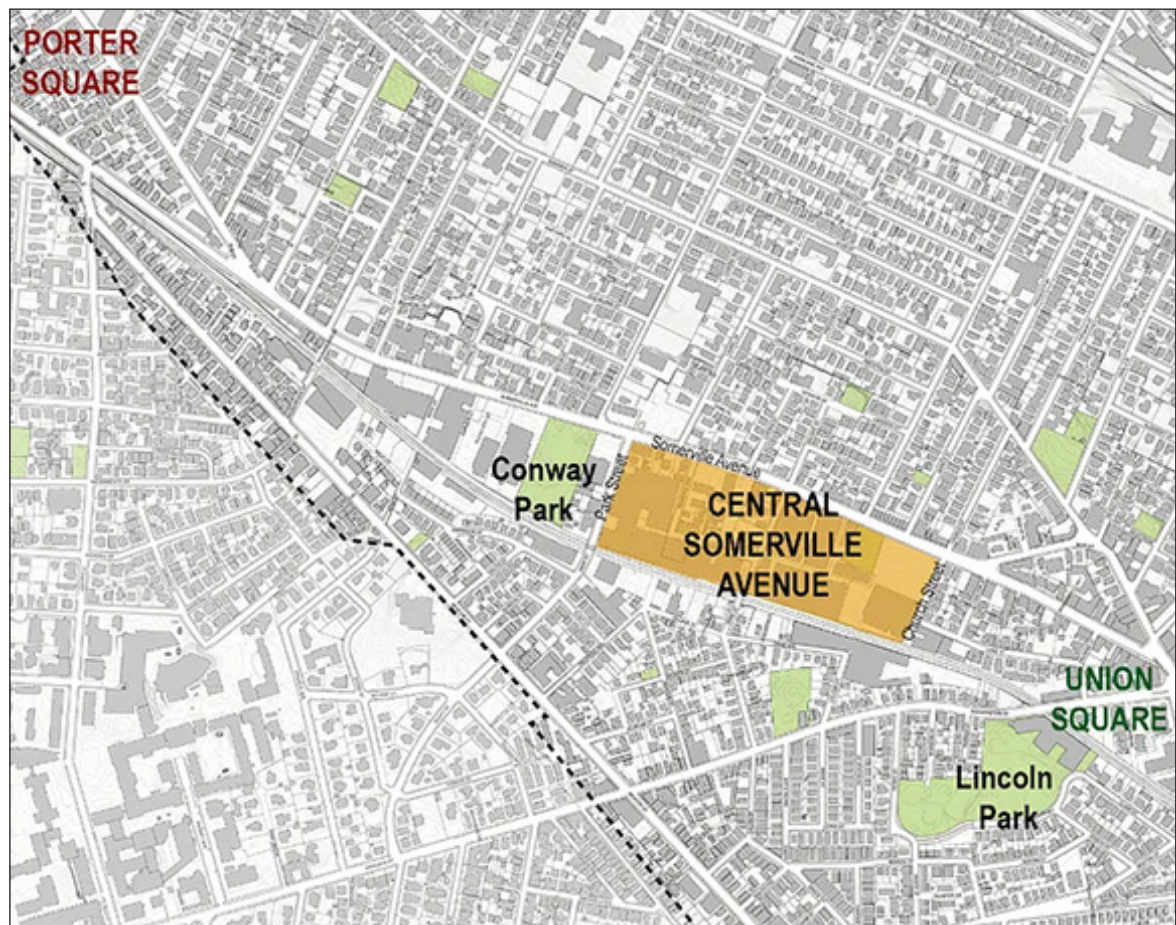
while and speaking only for myself, I hope this time is the charm.

This is my sixth piece about this proposal. I published Somernova and Fabrication Districts [7] and Somernova more than a year ago after Somernova/Rafi hosted a fractious and confusing public meeting that, despite notionally being based on thousands of hours of conversation, still seemed to catch much of the community by surprise. Since then I have written Keep No On the Table for Somernova [8], Somernova [9], and finally Somernova: Round Two [10] – plus innumerable posts on social media [11].

Hundreds of people have collectively spent thousands of hours trying to figure this thing out. Artists have organized under the banners of Don’t F with FAB [12] and Art Stays Here [13]. The Union Square Neighborhood Council [14] (USNC), originally created to negotiate a Community Benefits Agreement [15] with US2 [16], formed a negotiating committee that has subsequently struggled to define its role. YIMBYs [17] have pushed for the project to include housing and to move as fast as possible. Abutters have asked for mitigations to address short and long term negative impacts on our quality of life.

Through all of this, the staff at Rafi / Somernova have, from what I can tell, met with anybody willing to take the time and have evolved the proposal based on that input. From my perspective, they genuinely seem to be trying to do right by the community while still keeping the project viable from a business perspective.

I’m glad that the administration has stepped in – though I do wonder what other initiatives this will push into 2025 and be-



The “Central Somerville Avenue” project stretches from Park to Church Street.

yond (hello, Union Square Plaza and Streetscape [18]). We’re trying to thread a needle here: Development is necessary to bring needed resources to the city, especially given the recent biotech bust, the construction slowdown, the regional oversupply of lab space, and recent reductions in state and federal funding. At the same time, development is one of the drivers of displacement. When older, cheaper spaces get knocked down, the people using them move away and they tend not to return if and when the inevitably more-expensive replacements become available.

Put another way, the majority of the concerns that have been raised are valid, though the idea that there has not been enough opportunity for feedback is laughable. There is no simple solution here. It’s time

to centralize the conversation, make some compromises, put it to a vote, and then let the development team decide whether it’s still worth their time and money to do the project.

Links:

[1] <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/MA-01-SM2>

[2] https://somervillenews.typepad.com/the_somerville_news/2010/02/somervilles-paper-making-factory-to-close-after-nearly-a-century-in-business.html

[3] <https://somernova.com/>

[4] <https://voice.somervillema.gov/cen-som-ave>

[5] <https://www.somervision2040.com/>

[6] <https://rafiproperties.com/>

[7] <https://medium.com/@fdmts/somernova-and-fabrication-districts-1dccc94f1d7c>

[8] <https://medium.com/@fdmts/keep-no-on-the-table-for-somernova-1da0779e1a47>

[9] <https://medium.com/@fdmts/somernova-f74852b225ca>

[10] <https://medium.com/@fdmts/somernova-round-two-04e70acdc5ad>

[11] <https://x.com/somershade1>

[12] <https://www.dontfwithfab.org/>

[13] <https://www.artstayshere.org/>

[14] <https://sites.google.com/view/usnc>

[15] <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/community-benefits-committee-ordinance>

[16] <https://www.discoverusq.com/>

[17] <https://somervillyimby.org/>

[18] <https://voice.somervillema.gov/union-square-p-and-s>

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Happy Halloween, Somerville!

Our View Of The Times



For some of us it feels like forever since we've shaken off the cares and concerns that seem to be bearing down so heavily as we observe the divisions and discord that has been so prevalent in our society over the past few years.

The local election is just around the corner, and the national election is coming up next year. The balance of power in Washington will be in play, and more than ever

it seems as though so much will be at stake in that particular election cycle, no matter which side we align with.

But first comes an old friendly tradition: the celebration of Halloween. We are treated to the sights and sounds of kids dressing up and role playing, going door-to-door gather their sweets, and just plain having fun in the doing.

Grown-ups have their celebration tradi-

tions too. Maybe it would be smart to cut loose a little bit this time around – safely, of course. Let out a little steam and spend at least one day when we don't quite take the world as seriously as we normally do. Somehow it seems like this just might be what we all need.

So, take this advice and join in with the kids a little. Wear a silly costume. Cut loose at a festive party. Be a kid again your-

self, if only for this one day.

We often spend too much time at odds with each other. Let's consider uniting for once, in the name of good clean fun. It couldn't hurt, and it just might ease a few unwanted tensions.

And, of course, safety comes first for all of us. Watch out for the little ones as they head out trick-or-treating, and keep an eye out for some of the big ones too!

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

best of birthdays.

The **Council on Aging Halloween Party** takes place on **Thursday, October 31, 10:30 a.m.**, at 167 Holland Street, Somerville. Enjoy music, a costume contest and trick or treating with the COA staff. Lunch to be served at noon following Trick or Treat. \$5 per person RSVP to Debby by calling 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Early Voting for the November 5 Presidential Election will take place at **Somerville City Hall** on **Thursday, October 31, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.** and

Friday, November 1, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more election information visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/elections>.

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 **November 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/votesomerville 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.

The **Somerville Internet Volunteers Committee** is hosting a virtual public hearing before the **City Council** on **Wednesday, October 30, at 6:00 p.m.**, discussing the necessity for the city to fund a feasibility study on municipal-operated broadband internet service. SMC recommends Somerville residents tune in

to this conversation and learn about how such a move could potentially narrow the digital divide and bring benefits to everyone in the city. Here is the link to register for Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Somerville lost a legend this week with the passing of **Ron Perry Sr.** He was a fantastic player and coach. He still holds scoring records at **Somerville High School**. Our condolences go out to his family and all who knew him.

November 1-3 at the **Armory, Buffalo Tom Presents: Please Come to Boston Festival!** More info and *Continued on page 18*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#947

1. What artist recorded the song *Ghostbusters*?
2. What is the deadliest spider in the world?
3. What New Hampshire city holds the Guinness World Record for the most lit jack-o'-lanterns on display in one place?
4. What vegetable was once thought to have magical powers on Halloween?
5. What historic weather event occurred on Halloween in 1991?
6. What type of phobia is Samhainophobia?
7. What do you call a man who practices witchcraft?
8. Which Irish band has a hit song named *Zombie*?
9. What is another name for a witch's kettle or pot?
10. Which monstrous hurricane was called "Frankenstorm"?
11. What's another name for a lycanthrope?
12. Which first lady was the first to decorate the White House for Halloween?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Dolphins give each other names.
2. Frank Sinatra was offered the starring role in *Die Hard*.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

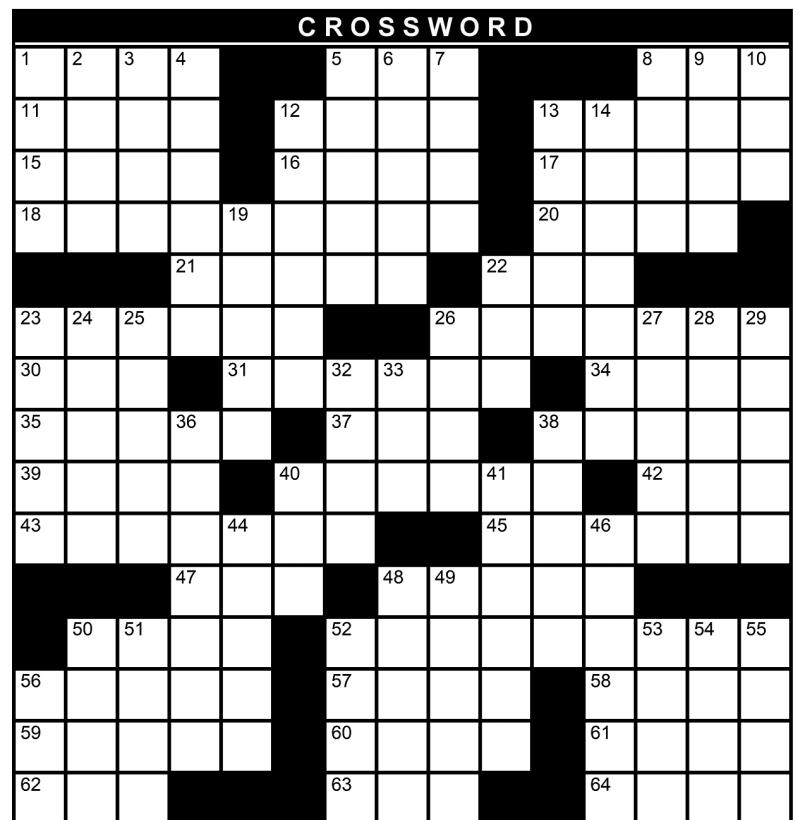
FAMOUS BUILDINGS

ACROSS

1. Performer's time to shine
5. Selfie, e.g.
8. One of five Ws
11. Très _____, or very stylish
12. Mandolin's cousin
13. Knitter's unit
15. Aren't, colloquially
16. Mimicked
17. Like House with Oval Office
18. The Hunchback's home (2 words)
20. Listening devices
21. Flirtatious stares
22. Salt, in Spanish
23. _____ State Building
26. TV shows, e.g.
30. Will Ferrell's "Funny or _____"
31. Steve McQueen's "The Great _____"
34. Toss a coin
35. _____ & Young financial services company
37. Kimono tie
38. Sweating room
39. Short skirt
40. Batter (2 words)
42. Lake, in French
43. Anise seed (1 word)
45. _____ of Versailles or Buckingham _____
47. _____ of war
48. Sinbad the Sailor's home
50. Not good
52. St. Basil's in Moscow or St. Paul's in London
56. The Parthenon in Athens is made of this
57. Capital of Norway
58. Aeneas' lover
59. More slippery
60. Animal protein
61. Independent chieftain
62. High degree
63. TV program interruptions
64. Retired, abbr.

DOWN

1. CAT or PET, e.g.
2. Key Tower, tallest building in this Buckeye state
3. Laundry room fire hazard
4. Type of local tax
5. Pupa, pl.
6. Things
7. Give up a state
8. Dam-like structure
9. Not misses
10. Football's extra point
12. Soup scoopers
13. Make a solemn promise
14. *Burj _____, tallest building in the world
19. Wading bird
22. "Monkey _____, monkey do"
23. Bodily swelling
24. Rice wine
25. 1/100th of Finnish markka
26. Rotisserie skewer
27. Spurious wing
28. Cancer-treating machine, acr.
29. _____ Needle, Seattle
32. For boys and girls
33. Lawyers' org.
36. _____ Chapel, Vatican City
38. Flat replacement
40. "_____, borrow or steal"
41. Eventual outcome
44. Leonhard _____, Swiss mathematician (1707-1783)
46. Portable stairs
48. Headquartered
49. Road-tripping guide
50. Carve in stone
51. Emptiness
52. Vegetative state
53. Ice crystals
54. Passage in a coal mine
55. Voldemort's title
56. Small amount of drink



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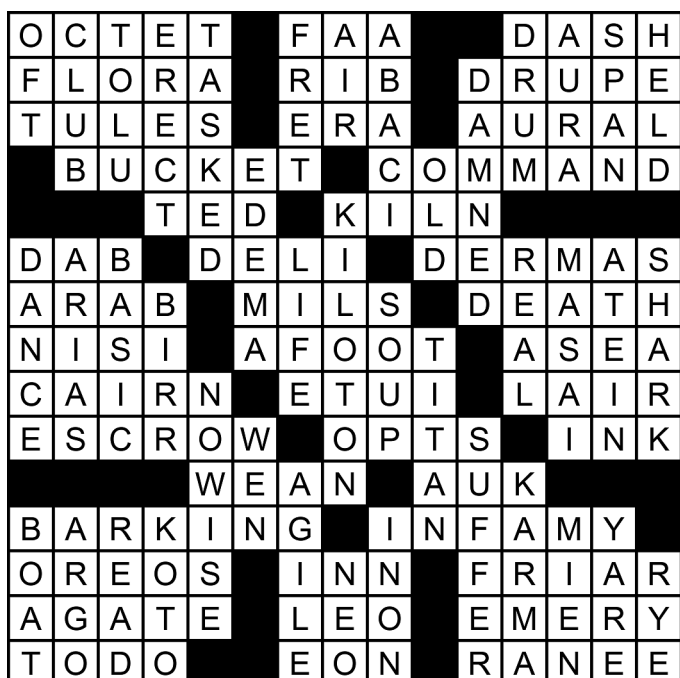
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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

OBITUARY

Ronald S. Perry



Ronald S. Perry of West Roxbury, passed away peacefully, on Friday, October 25, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. Beloved husband of the late W. Patricia (Craddock) Perry. Devoted father of Maryellen (Perry) Collins and her husband, Bernie, Ronald K. Perry and his wife, Sheila and Patrice (Perry) Berens and her husband, Michael. He also leaves behind nine treasured grandchildren, Dr. Andrew Collins and his husband, Dan Batchelder, Christine Collins Bunnell and her husband, William, Megan Collins Schmitt and her husband, Michael, Matthew Perry and his wife, Katie, Jessica Perry, Dr. Cassandra Perry, Alicia Perry, Caroline Berens and Emma Berens. He also leaves behind nine cherished great-grandchildren.

Ron was the son of the late Manuel Perry and the late Tio-linda (Roque) Perry, who both emigrated from the island of San Miguel, the Azores, Portugal. Ron was the beloved brother of the late Alfred Perry and his late wife, Jean and the late Walter R. Perry and his late wife, Lor-

raine. Ron attended Somerville High School '50, the College of the Holy Cross '54 and then entered the United States Marine Corps. A standout athlete in both basketball and baseball, Ron led Somerville High to the New England basketball championship in 1950 and was a key factor in two national championships, baseball '52 and basketball '54, for Holy Cross.

From 1957-1972, Ron made his mark at Catholic Memorial in West Roxbury, as a teacher, coach and mentor to innumerable young men. While at CM, his basketball teams won three MA state titles and amassed a record of 292 wins, 34 losses. He also successfully coached the baseball team during this time to both Catholic Conference and tournament appearances. Starting in 1972, Ron returned to Holy Cross, serving more than a quarter century as the Department's athletic director, overseeing 26 men's and women's sports programs, including during the implementation of Title IX. Both CM and Holy Cross were Ron's second homes and sources of great joy and fulfillment throughout his life, especially in his later years.

As talented and passionate of an athlete and coach as Ron was, his greatest strength and joy was his family. Ron met his wife, Pat, on a blind date and she would go on to become the love of his life, mother of their three beloved children and wife of almost 60 years. Nothing speaks to Ron's

familial devotion more than his care for Pat, who suffered a stroke and required close care for the last several years of her life. He loved his children and grandchildren just as much, embodying a steady and dependable presence, quiet kindness and constant source of wisdom and advice. Despite his athletic reputation and successes, to his family, he was just "Grampy" and they admired and loved him just as much as he did them.

Ron was a classic Bostonian, an avid sports fan with a Boston accent to match, but a soft spoken, stoic demeanor and deeply good character, guided by a strong faith. A class act until the end, he only ever had positive things to say about people. A life well-lived and well-loved, Ron's remarkable legacy will live on through the many lives he touched in his over 90 years.

Visiting Hours will be held on Friday, November 1, from 4 to 8 PM, at Gormley Funeral Home, 2055 Centre St., WEST ROXBURY. Funeral from the Gormley Funeral Home, Saturday, November 2, at 10 AM, followed by a Funeral Mass, St. Theresa of Avila Church, 2078 Centre St., West Roxbury, at 11 AM. Interment in St. Joseph Cemetery. To live stream the Funeral Mass, go to www.sttheresaparishboston.com. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ron's memory to Catholic Memorial High School, 235 Baker Street, West Roxbury, MA 01232.

Tufts University Department of Music Presents Sunday Concert Series: Jazz Divas and Women Who Rock

The Tufts University Department of Music presents "Sunday Concert Series: Jazz Divas & Women Who Rock" in the Distler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Sunday, November 3, at 3:00 p.m. A fun and inspiring journey through the lives and music of groundbreaking women in American popular music from early blues and jazz singers like Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday to sixties songwriters and rockers like Joni Mitchell and Carole King. Celia Slattery, voice and guests. This event will be livestreamed at go.tufts.edu/musiclivestream.

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus. For more information, please visit go.tufts.edu/musicevents or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617-627-3679.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #316

This article first appeared in the October 23, 2019, edition of *The Somerville Times*.

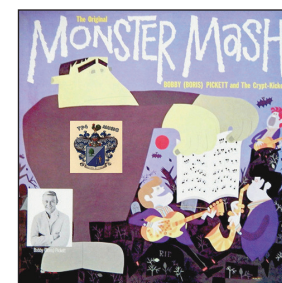
All Hallows' Eve

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Halloween, the last day of October and the day before the Christian, All Saints Day, had its origin in ancient Celtic lore. It was considered a time of year when both good and evil spirits and ghosts flourished. Bonfires were lit, masks were made, jack-o-lanterns were carved out, and witches were said to have haunted the skies on brooms. Most of these fables and myths never crossed the ocean, but some unfortunately took root here.



Some say the Mystic River's name was originated from old women who gathered medicinal and mystical herbs along its shore. They gathered them to help the sick, but suspicious minds accused them of being witches. In 1648, Margaret Jones of Charlestown was the first woman in the Massachusetts Bay Colony to be executed for witchcraft. This occurred forty-four years before the Salem Witch Trials. Governor Winthrop of Ten Hills presided at her trial.



During the American Revolutionary War, Somerville's hills were a prison to over 4,000 prisoners of war, half British troops and half German/Hessians. Through the years, ghost stories have flourished about their stay there.

Washington Irving, the author of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, a Halloween classic, wrote a short story titled, *The Devil and Tom Walker*. It takes place along the edge of the Mystic River where he lived. In this tale, Tom sells his soul to the devil in exchange for Captain Kidd's treasure, which is said to be buried near Ten Hills.

For fifty-seven years, *The Monster Mash*, by Bobby Boris Pickett, has delighted those who enjoy *Continued on page 11*

LEGAL NOTICES

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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, November 19, 2024** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nN7Gk-jTRC64RfBrAmxvZw

Webinar ID: 873 8828 6015

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT**Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties****HP24-000107 – 47 Columbus Ave**

Applicant: David Dinklage and Dominique Stassart

Owner: David Dinklage and Dominique Stassart

The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter a LHD property by replacing wood gutters.

DETERMINATIONS OF PREFERABLY PRESERVED (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)**HP24-000061- 33 Cedar Street**

Applicant: Beantown LLC

Owner: Beantown LLC

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

HP24-000076 - 35 Cedar Street

Applicant: Mazel Tov LLC

Owner: Mazel Tov LLC

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

Case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>.

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

10/30/24 The Somerville Times

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, 10/30/24 The Somerville Times

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING****Removal of Public Shade Trees****City of Somerville**

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 87, the City of Somerville will hold a **virtual public shade tree hearing on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.** using Zoom software to consider the removal of the following 22 public shade tree(s):

- **13 Tufts Street** - One red maple: 8" diameter, fair condition
- **17 Tufts Street** - One callery pear: 17.5" diameter, fair-good condition
- **31 Tufts Street**
 - One callery pear: 7" diameter, poor condition
 - One green ash: 10" diameter, fair condition
- **45 Tufts Street** - One callery pear: 12.5" diameter, fair condition
- **49 Tufts Street** - One callery pear: 10.5" diameter, fair-good condition
- **50 Tufts Street**
 - Two zelkova: 7.5" diameter, fair condition, 14" diameter, fair condition
 - Two Norway maple: 10.5" diameter, poor-fair condition, 14" diameter, fair condition
 - Two green ash: 12" diameter, fair condition, 7" diameter, poor-fair condition
 - Seven callery pear: 5.5", fair condition, 3.5", fair condition, 3.5", fair condition, 4", poor condition, 3.5", poor condition, 8", fair condition, 6", poor-fair condition
- **53 Tufts Street** - One callery pear, 12.5" diameter, poor condition
- **61 Tufts Street** - One callery pear, 7" diameter, poor-fair condition
- **163 Glen Street** (on Tufts Street)- One callery pear, 14" diameter, fair condition

Trees are proposed for removal as part of a streetscape improvement project. 40 replacement trees will be planted. More information on the project plans will be provided during the hearing.

The trees identified above have been posted for public inspection. **In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 87, any objections to the removal of any of these trees must be submitted in writing to the Tree Warden prior to or at this public hearing.** Documents may be sent via email to: trees@somervillema.gov, or mailed to: 1 Franey Rd., Somerville, MA. 02145. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this Public Shade Tree Hearing will be conducted via remote participation. A recording of this hearing will be available upon request to trees@somervillema.gov.

Registration URL: <https://tinyurl.com/2dmd8wbw>

Webinar ID: 874 4520 9703

10/30/24 The Somerville Times

**SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**

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

Notice of Meeting and 45 Comment Period

The Somerville Housing Authority (SHA) announces a **PUBLIC HEARING** regarding the **2025 Federal 5-Year & Annual Plan and 2026 State Annual Plan on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.**

Location: Mystic Activity Center,
530 Mystic Ave,
Somerville, MA 02145

The Plan(s) and related documents will be available during regular business hours at the **Somerville Housing Authority**, 30 Memorial Road and the **City of Somerville, Housing Division**, 50 Evergreen Ave, Somerville and on the Somerville Housing Authority's website at www.sha-web.org.

A forty-five (45) day review and comment period will commence on Monday, November 4, 2024. Any questions may be directed to Adam Garvey, Deputy Director at 617-625-1152 ext. 306 or adamg@sha-web.org.

10/30/24 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_YmAQF7wdQifN17bdCb7xQ
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, 10/30/24 The Somerville Times

**SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**

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

**ADVERTISEMENT
REQUEST FOR DESIGN SERVICES (RFS)**

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority invites sealed proposals from registered Engineering firms to provide professional design and construction administration services for the replacement of windows (43 Single, 38 Triple) and painting of the window guardrails at the Weston Manor (AMP-2) elderly building in Somerville, Massachusetts.

The Estimated Construction cost is \$395,000.00

The Award is subject to HUD requirements and guidelines. A briefing and site inspection is scheduled for **10:00AM on Thursday, November 7th, 2024**, at Weston Manor, 15 Weston Avenue, in Somerville, Massachusetts.

Response to this RFS must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m., Thursday, November 14th, 2024.

The RFS may be obtained by emailing ryan@sha-web.org.

Questions must be sent in writing to ryan@sha-web.org no later than Friday, November 8th, 2024.

10/30/24 The Somerville Times

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**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/join/9JN3G81THatXS88yFrmGw>
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, 10/30/24 The Somerville Times

Somerville performance at the GBL Championship Meet

Somerville ran the table at the Greater Boston League (GBL) Championships last week. Both teams won in convincing fashion, with the Boys Team besting runner up Medford, 35-55, out of the eight (8) team field. The Girls Team held off a determined challenge by Medford again, also copping the GBL crown 53-62. Somerville placed six (6) runners (4 Boys/2 Girls) in the top ten to garner All Star status. The Teams now turn their attention to the MIAA Division 1 Championship Meet at Northfield Mountain on November 9.



Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

celebrating Halloween. Bobby was born in Somerville in 1938 and grew up on Winter Hill. He captained the Somerville High School's basketball team and worked at the Somerville Theatre with his father. After a failed acting start in California, he joined a rock band where he produced a record ... It was a smash ... It was The Monster Mash and on Halloween "it's the hit of the land!"



Scrapheap Showdown: Catch My Drift

By Erica Dakin Voolich

On October 20, 17 high school students on six teams gathered in the Breed Memorial Hall at Tufts University to compete in the Somerville Math Fund's 18th annual Scrapheap Showdown, Catch My Drift.

The students had the challenge to build a wind powdered craft to sail across the floor. When they arrived the wind tunnel was built with seven 8 ft. banquet tables, two end to end on each side and 3 across the top at the narrowed backend was a powerful fan. They needed to build a wind craft to put into the tunnel and when the fan turned on the craft needed to travel at least across the finish line made from tape on the floor 16 feet from the fan. There were bonus points if their craft was able to go beyond the finish line at the end of the tables to other floor markers.

The usual pile of interesting "junk" was in the scrapheap in the middle of the room with some extra stuff to possible choose for wheels. They built and tested bases and tested out whether they rolled easily before building sails – all out of a variety of materials.

The students worked for two and a half hours and then it was time to test their crafts against each other using the wind tunnel. The first round was without any weight and successive rounds carried rolls of pennies, first 1 and then 3, 6, 8, 10 and finally 11 rolls. The first time a team didn't reach the finish line, they were given a chance in the next round to continue with more weight before being eliminated.

We started with six teams and four survived the first two rounds of competition. Two teams got bonus points for going well beyond the finish line in the early rounds. We continued to add weight and there was cheering for each of the crafts and encouragement to get across that finish line in their voyages. We kept putting more weight on each of the wind crafts. One team, the Highland Hijackers (4th), was eliminated after 8 rolls of pennies.

We were left with 3 teams to decide who came in first, second and third for the prizes. Ten rolls of pennies, one team, Bob the Builders, crossed the finish line and the other two had their first time not crossing so they could participate in the next round with 11 rolls. With 11 rolls, no team crossed the finish line completely, two almost made it. Bob the Builder was first place almost crossing, Calculus Crusaders was second, almost crossing, and third, not crossing the line was Nacho Av-

erage Team.

First place was "Bob the Builder" (Serena Wong, Bhavroop Kaur and Rafael Ronen). Second was Calculus Crusaders - "The Return" (Liam Beretsky-Jewell, Daragh Keane and Emmanuel Mateo). Third Place was Nacho Average Team (Julian Barney, Chris Montiel and Sebestien Ungár). Fourth was "Highland Hijackers" (Ail El-Saua, Nitish, Rayan Afif Chaouch).

The teams chose their prizes in the order they finished. The prizes donated were three sets of two tickets to the RedSox (donated by Sam Voolich) for a game in April 2025, three \$50 gift cards donated by Charlie's Kitchen, and three \$50 gift cards donated by Dragon Pizza.

The other participating teams were Momo Monsters (Ahon Shakir, Pranjala Acharya, Manreet Kaur) and "Gatsby Party" (Yuvraj Rattan, Zail Khan).

Designers and refiners of the challenge were members of the Somerville Math Fund Board: Fred Bernardin, Sanford Bogage, Adam Foster, Richard Graf, Dan Oshima, Chase Orsello, Jesse Stern, Erica Voolich, Susan Weiss. Amy Weiss designed the tee-shirt and Monica Fernandes designed the sponsor flyer; and Susan and Sanford designed the student recruiting and registration materials, and Sanford managed registration for this event. Rogers Foam donated foam of various shapes and sizes to our scrapheap.

Michael Morgan and Patricia Murphy-Sheehy (Head of Math Department) at Somerville High helped with suggestions and distribution help of registration materials. The math teachers at Somerville High School, recruited student teams. Bill Trudell videoed the event for Somerville Cable EdTV Channel 15. And we look forward to the video of the event uploaded to YouTube produced by Joe Constantine by EdTV for Somerville.

Again, Tufts University was our wonderful host donating their gym space for a Sunday event. Last year was our second year back after a three-year COVID hiatus. This was our 18th Scrapheap Showdown and Tufts has been our host for all of these events.

Thanks to our generous sponsors, this activity was both a fund raiser for a scholarship and three teacher grants, provided prizes for the students and allowed the students to participate without paying any registration fee as students did in the past. We offered different levels of sponsorship for the event.

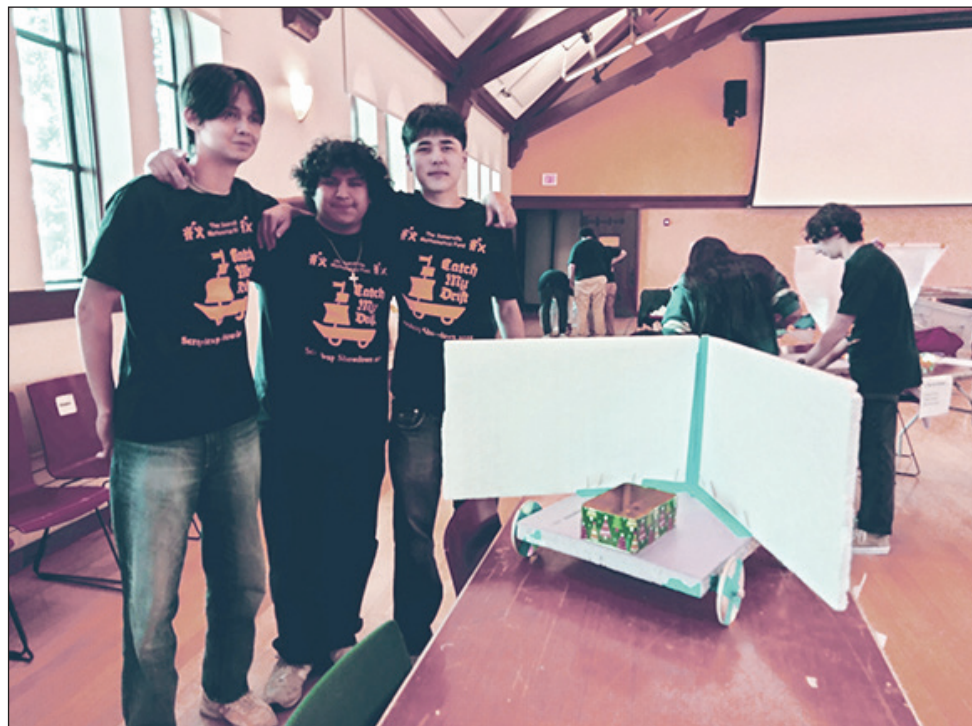
Thanks to all of our *Continued on page 13*



1st Bob the Builder.



2nd Calculus Crusaders.



3rd Nacho Average Team.

Somerville Homeless Coalition conducts dental drive

By Cathleen Twardzik

The holiday season is upon us, and with it, comes copious candy and a smorgasbord of sugary and sticky snacks. All that sugar subjects Somervillians to tooth tartar.

For anyone who could be assisted, the Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC) is holding a dental drive from October 21 to November 1. However, you are encouraged to continue to drop off dental products after that date because your assistance will still help people.

Oral hygiene is paramount, and you can help the coalition to improve individuals' dental health by dropping off needed supplies to their food pantry at 165 Broadway in East Somerville.

Alternatively, you can donate items via this link: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Importantly, please drop off items, such as: toothbrushes, toothpaste (all sizes), mouthwash (travel size), dental floss, toothbrush covers and other items.

"This is the second year that we are hosting the Halloween Tooth Care Drive. Due to the impact and success of the 2023 drive, we have decided to incorporate the Halloween Tooth Care Drive as an annual event, [which is] held at the end of October to early November," said Paul Murphy, Development and Communications Manager at the Somerville Homeless Coalition. Murphy has been there for almost three years.

What is the most important goal or part of this program? "The goal of this

drive is to collect and distribute crucial dental hygiene products to the clients at our food pantry, Project SOUP, who otherwise have difficulty obtaining or purchasing these products. This is due to a lack of funds or having to prioritize purchasing food items for themselves and their families, instead. By having these items available at our pantry, it helps to improve the health and wellbeing of our clients," said Murphy.

The SHC is quite versatile in the ways they benefit some Somerville residents. "We support our food pantry clients each day by offering monthly visits to our pantry for grocery support, a home delivery service to get food to our housebound clients, and offering case management services to support our pantry clients in areas beyond food insecurity. Outside of Project SOUP, we support those [individuals] experiencing homelessness or facing eviction – through our Outreach, Engagement Center, Adult Shelter, Housing Assistance, Homelessness Prevention and Supportive Housing programs," he said.

Each year "4,545" people utilize their food pantry during the year.

Importantly, "Once the drive is over, we will continue to be in need of essential hygiene products such as diapers, shampoos, body wash, shaving razors/cream and feminine hygiene products. Having [those] items is essential to the well-being and health of our clients, especially as we head into the colder winter months, said Murphy.



Needed dental supplies and additional items, according to the Somerville Homeless Coalition.

What may be added to the toothcare drive next year? "We hope to expand the drive by building a more comprehensive list that has more than just the basic essentials (i.e.: toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, [and] mouthwash). [That] includes toothbrush covers/cases, whitening strips, plaque removal tools and mouth guards for sleeping," he said.

From containers chock full of candy on Halloween to the Thanksgiving cranberry sauce, dental hygiene remains even more of a key concern during the holiday season.

So, please donate all the dental products that you can before and after the drive officially ends to the Somerville Homeless Coalition's food pantry, which is located at 165 Broadway in East Somerville on the following days and times: Tuesdays from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

It is essential to note that they are closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Scrapheap Showdown: Catch My Drift CONT. FROM PG 12

wonderful donors whose donations will make one scholarship available next spring and three teacher grants in January.

Gold Level (one year of a college scholarship)

East Cambridge Savings Bank, Jasper J. Lawson, PhD. & Associates, Julie Schneider, and Tufts University.

Silver Level (one teacher grant)

Mr. and Mrs. Donald F. McGoldrick, Winter Hill Bank and a long-term anonymous sponsor.

Bronze Level (supporting Somerville Math Fund work):

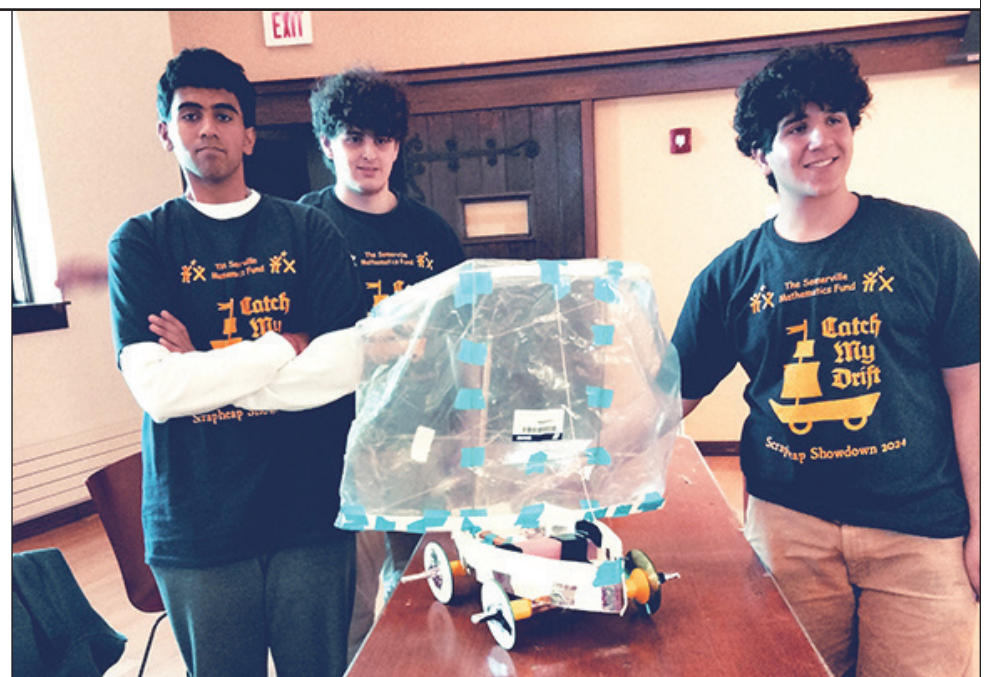
Charlie's Kitchen, A Member of the Somerville High School Faculty, Midé

Technology Corp, a couple of long-term anonymous sponsors, and Sam Voolich.

The Somerville Mathematics Fund was chartered in 2000 to celebrate and encourage mathematics achievement in Somerville. On January 7th, we will be looking for teacher grant applications; and in April, we will be looking for scholarship applications.

For more information or to volunteer or to make a donation, call 617-666-0666, e-mail mathfund@gmail.com, or go to www.somervillemathematicsfund.org.

These are links in this press release to the pictures from the event that you can include when you post on line. Link to each team mentioned.



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Ms. Cam's

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Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Ray Parker Jr. | 7. A warlock |
| 2. The funnel-web spider | 8. The Cranberries |
| 3. Keene | 9. Cauldron |
| 4. Cabbage | 10. Hurricane Sandy |
| 5. The Halloween Blizzard of 1991 | 11. Werewolf |
| 6. Fear of Halloween | 12. Mamie Eisenhower |

The Center for Arts at the Armory to host the best of New England farms and food

The Center for Arts at the Armory (CAA) announces that it will host and manage the 15th Annual Somerville Winter Farmers Market (SWFM) every Saturday beginning November 2 through April 12. This weekly market offers the best locally grown and regionally produced agricultural items, including vegetable produce, cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, pastries, and sweets. Each market will feature more than 30 weekly vendors and several rotating guest vendors while welcoming an anticipated 1,000 visitors every Saturday.

The mission of the Somerville Winter Farmers Market is to bring healthy, local food and products to all customers regardless of economic status. In addition to cash, credit and debit, SNAP / EBT is also accepted and the market provides a free \$15 match so that SNAP / EBT customers can receive up to \$30 worth of food for only \$15. The market is also participating in the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP), which allows qualifying customers to receive between \$20 worth of free farm-fresh fruits and vegetables from participating HIP vendors.

"We are proud to offer a weekly market that serves our community during the long, winter months and also provides economic opportunities for local farms and businesses. With food being a way to highlight different cultures, our vendors also reflect the rich diversity of our local community. We always have live music by local musicians, so the market is the place to be on winter Saturday mornings!" says Stephanie Scherpf, CAA Co-Director / CEO.

"The SWFM fosters a community for our vendors and customers during the cold and potentially isolating months of the year. We want to continue to provide local, healthy, and affordable food in a time when food insecurity has been on the rise," says Juliana Soltys, CAA's Market Manager. "Please join us in cultivating a sustainable food system by supporting local businesses and farmers."

The market will welcome back much-loved vendors, including Red Fire Farm, Heron Pond Farm, Winter Moon Roots, Brookford Farm, The Good Food Farm, and Freedom Food Farm, each with a wide array of produce and winter greenhouse greens. Kimball Fruit Farm will be selling apples and other root vegetables, and Mycoterra & Traveling Cap Mushroom Co. will provide mushrooms this year. Cheeses will be available from Bell & Goose Cheese and Round Table Farm, while savory meats will be available from specialty vendors like Stillman Quality Meats and Lilac Hedge. Fresh artisanal pastries will return from Mariposa Bakery, while frozen tamales will again be available from a market favorite, Tex Mex Eats.

Delectable desserts and confections will be offered by Mama Jean, Big Little Pies, Swanski's Bakeshop, with chocolate specialties from Tick Tock Chocolates and Sueños Chocolates. The Nada Cart & Chiqui's Kitchen will offer empanadas, and Mother's Kitchen will be back to offer Indian meal kits and prepared products.

Thus far, generous grant and sponsorship support for this season's SWFM has been provided by The City of Somerville, Somerville Health Foundation and Mt Auburn Hospital Community Benefits Program.

The Center for Arts at the Armory is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143. To learn more and for a complete listing of vendors, weekly specials, and live entertainment, please visit www.somwintermarket.org. You can find the market on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SomervilleWinterFarmersMarket, and on Instagram @SomWinterMarket.

*Please note that the Somerville Winter Farmers Market will not be held on November 30, 2024, or December 28, 2024.



Mystic View Task Force announces election of Bob Nesson as President

At its recent annual meeting, Mystic View Task Force elected Bob Nesson of Somerville to be its president. Nesson is a documentary filmmaker with numerous credits as a producer and director. He is also a part-time faculty member at Emerson College, where he teaches courses on documentary filmmaking that focus on social and environmental issues. A long-time member of MVTF, Nesson says, "I'm proud to take on this role for an organization that since its origins in the late 1990s has played a vital role in shaping the development of Somerville's Assembly Square."

In the late 1990s, MVTF led a public

process to formulate an alternative vision to expanding big box retail use at Assembly Square, the site of a once cutting-edge Ford assembly plant that had been turned into a mall. The solution the participants arrived at was medium-density, mixed-use urban neighborhood based on mass transit that could boost the city's tax revenues, increase the number of diverse, high-paying jobs and amount of public open space, and maximize pedestrian access to the shoreline of the Mystic River.

To realize this goal, MVTF played a critical role in raising millions in funding for an Orange Line stop at the site. Work-

ing with the Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership, MVTF also helped to rally support for the Green Line Extensions, keeping pressure on the state to fund and build them.

Although early phases of work at Assembly Square have made great progress, two-thirds of potential new development at the 143-acre site remains, including redesign and redevelopment of the original mall area, the current Home Depot site, and Draw 7 Park. Great opportunities for robust sustainable development and enhanced open space.

The potential of Somerville's transformational districts, including As-

sembly Square and Inner Belt, could be greatly enhanced by design and construction of Phase III of the Urban Ring project. An electrified rail based Urban Ring Phase III would unify the greater Boston transit system, integrating the large environmental justice populations of the Lower Mystic to Lynn sub-region with economic opportunities in Boston and Cambridge, and directly linking Harvard LMA and MIT Kendall, two of the leading research districts in the US.

MVTF plans to use its knowledge and experience to further progress in these areas.

Sublime/Somernova host retirement party for cement

On Monday, October 21, Sublime Systems and Somernova hosted a one-of-a-kind retirement party in Somerville. The event celebrated the retirement of a material that has defined construction for the last two centuries: ordinary portland cement (OPC).

Sublime Systems, a leader in sustainable cement technology and a proud tenant of Somernova, celebrated the 200th anniversary of the patent for OPC by bidding farewell to this high-carbon material and welcoming the future of low-carbon cement.

This event marked a pivotal moment in construction and climate innovation as we work to replace OPC, which is responsible for 8% of global CO2 emissions, with

Sublime's breakthrough alternative. Sublime's carbon-free cement, developed at Somernova, a 7.4-acre campus for innovation and community in Somerville's Union Square, is the first step toward transforming the industry.

The current version of Sublime's low carbon cement is poured outside their HQ at Somernova. Sublime will continue to develop and improve the cement over time and pour subsequent patches next to it.

Somernova, owned and operated by Rafi Properties, is home to a dynamic mix of tenants including Greentown Labs, Form Energy, Aeronaut Brewing, and many more, all united by their commitment to innovation and making the world a better place.



Rotary Food Drive

On Saturday, October 26, the Somerville Rotary Club had its Annual Food Drive. With the continued cooperation of the Porter Square Star Market Somerville Rotary has been able to be visible at the store with our tables and signs accepting food, health and personal toiletries donations.

This allows the club to assist several nonprofits in giving a helping hand to so many needy individuals in the Somerville community. Shown below are several Rotary Officers, members as well as friends that volunteer their time. Rotary is once again so pleased with the huge amount of

food supplies, gift cards and cash that was donated by caring store customers.

Somerville Rotary has also for the past two years asked for food supplies for animals, and much was donated. Rotary members are a committed group of people who want to make positive changes in our community and the world.

Our thanks to all that participated.

Gene Ferraro
Lindsay Allen
CO-President
Somerville Rotary Club



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Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

tickets here: <https://the-center-for-arts-at-the-armory.ticketleap.com/>. Buffalo Tom will perform one full album each date with comedy by Eugene Mirman, Dave Hill, readings by Tom Perotta, Bill Janovitz and more, and a special Sunday morning session of Punk Rock Aerobics with Hilken Mancini. There will be surprise guests, films, wine/beer plus unique Buffalo Tom merch items for sale throughout the weekend. Tickets are \$70 for a one-day pass, and a 3-day VIP pass is \$237 and includes a limited edition bundle of commemorative poster, tote bag and hat. Check out Buffalo Tom's website for more info.

Community members are invited to celebrate the renovation of Henry Hansen Park honoring Sgt. Henry O. "Hank" Hansen, a Magoun Square resident killed in action just one week after participating in the first flag-raising on Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi. New park features include a memorial wall and plaques honoring Sgt. Hansen and main branches of the armed services, a seating wall, water bottle filler, native landscape plantings, and more. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Thursday, November 7, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. at Henry Hansen Park, located at 70 Partridge Ave. at the corner of Medford St. and Partridge Ave. Learn more about the park and the ribbon cutting.

Hazardous Waste Drop-Off takes place Saturday, November 2. The next monthly Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day is at the DPW, 1 Franey Rd., 9:00 a.m. – noon.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) invite residents to participate in a series of public meetings on the Central Somerville Avenue project. The series of hybrid meetings, hosted by the Planning, Preservation and Zoning (PPZ) division, is part of efforts to preserve and grow the artist, maker and climatetech industries. OSPCD is proposing a Five Point Plan, including clarifying zoning language, creating a research and development district, updating the SomerVision map, creating an Urban Design Framework, and writing a zoning overlay district. For future meetings and project information, please visit voice.somervillema.gov/cen-som-ave.

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/>.

Gallery @ SPL Presents: Timid Taxidermy with Samantha Lipsky, November 1. Join a reception to celebrate SPL's newest exhibit featuring the work of local artist Samantha Lipsky. Original paintings by Lipsky are inspired by curious creatures on the Internet and the dark comedy series *Bad Sisters*. This event will be held on Saturday, November 1, at the Central Library (79 Highland Ave.) from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Office of Sustainability are announcing the renewal of the Somerville Community Choice Electricity (Somerville CCE) program, with new, stable prices from December 2024 through January 2028. Interested residents can learn more about the program and sign up by visiting cce.somervillema.gov.

Somerville Community Growing Center, 22 Vinal St., will be holding the **Wreath Project. Bow Making** on Saturday, November 2, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., Sunday, November 3, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. All welcome to a workshop to learn how to make bows for the annual wreath making project. Contact: Kristen at kristen_antunes@yahoo.com.

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.somervillema.gov/departments/elections>.

CAAS's Somerville Movement Meeting: We keep us safe: no matter who the president is. Join your neighbors to build community and power. Register here: bit.ly/Somerville-Renters, Saturday, November 9, at 10:00 a.m., **East Somerville** (Register for location). Masks will be mandatory when not eating or drinking. Registration will close at 9:00 a.m. on **Thursday, November 7**. Space is limited. Childcare and breakfast will be provided.

The **Somerville Winter Farmers Market** is back at the **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. on **Saturdays**, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. **from November 2 to April 12**. More info available on their website: <https://www.somwintermarket.org/>.

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 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.

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Somerville Public Schools celebrates Massachusetts STEM Week

The Somerville Public Schools is celebrating Massachusetts Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Week (October 21 – 25) with the announcement of a new middle grades after-school Climate Change Clubs program for grades 6–8.

This year, SPS is expanding programming for middle grades students to include a STEM-focused look at Climate Change technologies and solutions. The Climate Change Clubs will launch at all K–8 schools for students in grades 6–8.

High school students are co-designing the curriculum and will work as mentors in partnership with school-based staff. Clubs will be run in partnership with the SPS Climate Change Curriculum Committee, made up of SPS educators, and a climate advisory group, whose members come from industry and higher education. Students can expect to explore emerging challenges from climate change, then take a look at technology, science, and engineering solutions currently being developed.

Along with exploration of emerging climate technology industries, many of them local to Somerville, students will look for creative ways to solve climate change. The program begins in January, 2025 and culminates in April during the City of Somerville's Sustainville Week celebrating Earth Day and the progress of the City's Climate Forward Plan.

The expansion of STEM programming isn't new to the district: over the last two school years, STEM and robotics programming in SPS has increased, with some existing programs doubling in membership over the last year. In 2023, SPS launched a series of new STEM programs for students in grades 5-8. With a growing interest in middle grades summer STEM programming, the district launched the Somerville Robotics League, an after-school STEM program designed and implemented by high school students from the Somerville High School Robotics Team. In addition, SPS fielded new FIRST Lego League teams and supported a new chapter of Girls Who Code.

Here at SPS we like to say, "Every week is STEM Week!"

Existing STEM programming in SPS includes:

The model of success: SPS STEM after-school clubs

In 2023, SPS launched a series of new STEM programs for students in grades 5-8. With a growing interest in middle grades STEM programming, the district launched the Somerville Robotics League, an after-school STEM program designed and implemented by high school students from the Somerville High School Robotics Team. In addition, SPS fielded new FIRST Lego League teams and supported a new chapter of Girls Who Code. Here at SPS we like to say, "Every week is STEM Week!"

SHS Robotics Team Doubles in Size

The SHS Robotics Team competes in the FIRST® Robotics Competition, a yearly international competition that challenges high school students to design, build, and program robots to compete in a game. This year, the team has almost doubled in size, with 18 new students. There are a wide range of opportunities for students and the team organizes itself into work groups, including the competition drive team, software team, electrical team, mechanical team, and marketing team.

New Girls Who Code program for grades 5-8

In Spring 2024, SPS launched the Girls Who Code program for students of any gender identity in grades 5-8. Students met weekly for 10 weeks to learn basic computer coding skills culminating in a showcase of student work. The program was made possible by a Somerville Math Fund grant with materials provided by the Somerville Foundation and in collaboration with the City of Somerville Fabville.

FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL) for middle grades sees jump in participation

Expanding upon its existing participation in FIRST® competitions for high schoolers, the district created FLL and has seen a big jump for the middle grades league in the last year. Each of our four teams has adult coaches, SHS student mentors, and SPS educators. There are currently 25 students involved in FLL.

Somerville Robotics League – Intramural Robotics Teams at all K-8 schools

Students in grades 5–8 across the district can now join intramural robotics teams at each school. These teams follow a curriculum designed and implemented by students on the SHS Robotics team, and are mentored by SHS Robotics team members. Teams compete with their peer teams from across the district throughout the year.



Second Step Social-Emotional Curriculum Rollout

This year, more* classrooms are adopting the Second Step (Social Emotional Curriculum) programs for early learning through Grade 8 students. This research-based program is designed to promote school success, school connectedness, and a safe, respectful school climate, while also addressing problem behaviors by teaching self-regulation and social-emotional skills and by addressing bullying and unsafe behaviors. Second Step programs are developmental and sequential, building on skills and gradually becoming more complex as students get older. The programs provide clear, school-wide norms for prosocial behavior (behavior intended to help others). For more information Social Emotional Learning in SPS, visit the Student Services webpage: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/central-administration/student-services/social-emotional-learning>

LETTER 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.

Dear Mayor Ballantyne:

I am a lifelong Somerville resident and have lived at Cobble Hill since 1995 after I retired from the old Bradlees department stores. I have been very happy here and hope to have many more years living here. This is my home to the end.

I have met so many good people at Cobble Hill and the staff here are always excellent. When something is wrong, it gets fixed. That is why I think the city should leave Cobble Hill's assets alone. Our trees have taken generations to grow. They have been very well cared for by management and should not be taken away. Besides the beauty they provide, the trees provide fresh air, and we all need that.

I think it would be fine if the city wants to put apartments, stores, a laundromat and restaurants at 90 Washington Street. This way everyone can enjoy themselves. However, I don't think a public safety building is a good idea. Fire and safety vehicles will be very noisy. It will be hard to deal with as residents will be stressed listening that noise day and night. I know because I used to live in Union Square where they have fire and police.

Cobble Hill is beautiful and meets our needs. It is an excellent place to come and live and retire. Please don't ruin it.

Respectfully,

Mary Smith

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Life and art, once again...

— Photo by Denise Provost

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BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in History

October 30

1270 – The Seventh Crusade ends by the Treaty of Barbary.

1838 – Oberlin Collegiate Institute in Lorian County, Ohio becomes the first college in the U.S. to admit female students.

1905 – The czar of Russia issues the October Manifesto, granting civil liberties and elections in an attempt to avert the burgeoning support for revolution.

1925 – Scotsman John L. Baird performs first TV broadcast of moving objects.

1938 – H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds* is broadcast over the radio by Orson Welles' Mercury Theatre as many panic believing an actual Martian invasion is underway.

1953 – U.S. Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower formally approves a top secret document to maintain and expand the country's nuclear arsenal.

1961 – The USSR detonates "Tsar Bomba," a 50-megaton hydrogen bomb, the largest explosive device of any kind ever detonated.

1974 – The "Rumble in the Jungle," a boxing match in Zaire saw Muhammad Ali knock out previously undefeated World Heavyweight Champion George Foreman.

Somerville Parks and Recreation free programs currently available

Morning Walk Program

Morning Walk Program is now available at Dilboy Stadium. Enjoy wonderful morning walks along the Dilboy Track from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Monday through Thursday.

Adult Programs

Adult Pickup Basketball for Women

An opportunity for women in the community to get together and play some pick-up basketball. Fall Session at the Argenziano School Gym, Monday, 11/18, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Program Registration Link: https://somervillema.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30503.

Teen Programs

LGBTQIA+ Art Club

Powderhouse Teen Space open on Thursdays after school from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Each week, Teen Art Mentor will have an activity planned and supplies available for teens. This program will allow for teens to express themselves, showcase their art, and possibly learn some new creative outlets. We are excited to officially bring back an LGBTQIA+ specific art program. Snacks will be available, drinks, and a safe space to hangout with your friends, and make some new ones!

Mindfulness for Teens 13-18yrs old

This will be a 6-week program on Thursdays, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m., from October 10 to November 14.

Each week we will offer free catered dinner from the Neighborhood Restaurant from 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. Location: Founders Rink (570 Somerville Ave Somerville MA 02143) This program will focus on learning and practicing mindfulness strategies and activities, including decorating and using your own journal, meditation, body scans, mindful movement, outdoor activities and practices, and more! They will offer snacks each week, and as always, the opportunity to hang out with your friends, and meet new ones, while practicing mindfulness – a tool that could benefit all of our lives! Program Registration Link: Somerville, MA Parks & Recreation: Mindfulness for Teens 13-18 (myrec.com).

Teen Volunteer Program

Teens 13-18 years old, Wednesdays October 18 – November 20, 3-4:30 p.m.

Program Registration Link: Somerville, MA Parks & Recreation: Teen Volunteer Program (myrec.com)

Fall Volo Volleyball Clinic

Teens 12-18 years old

Fridays, September 20-October 25, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Grab and Go Sandwiches provided.

Program Registration Link: Somerville, MA Parks & Recreation: Fall Volo Volleyball Clinic for Teens (myrec.com)

Youth Programs:

Basketball Clinic Grades 4-8, East Somerville Community School.

Program Registration Link: Somerville, MA Parks and Recreation: Pride Girls Basketball Clinic (myrec.com) This program focuses on teaching the fundamentals of basketball and fine tuning the skills that they already have. They will learn dribbling skills, shooting skills, and many other basketball basics.



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.

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](https://www.instagram.com/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



Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Kevin Gallagher is a poet, publisher, and political economist living in Greater Boston. His latest book is *And Yet it Moves*. Gallagher edits *spoKe*, a Boston-based annual of poetry and poetics. He was born in Somerville and now works as a professor of global development policy at Boston University.



Wake Up at Alewife Again

For Mark Pawlak

By the time I find my way back to Davis Square

I say at this point

I'm so late for work what's another hour?

Go up Holland Street to Zembla book shop.

Denise Levertov is working up the hill.

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sends her their books

and she turns them down to these shelves.

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with a note from J. Laughlin for just five bucks.

Eggplant parm sandwich from Sessa's deli.

Park bench in front of the library.

Watch the cars speed by with a slurred sound.

— Kevin Gallagher

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

Poet Joey Gould

Recently I caught up with Joey Gould, a well-admired poet in Massachusetts and beyond. Gould is all about breaking the traditional labels that have been entrenched in our society. From their website,

"Joey Gould is the author of *The Acute Avian Heart* (2019, Lily Poetry Review). Joey is a long-time contributor to Mass Poetry, for which they assist the Poetry Festival Planning Committee, lead workshops for Student Day of Poetry events around Massachusetts, write web articles for MassPoetry.org, and judge slams for Louder Than a Bomb MA. Their work has appeared in *Paper Nautilus*, *Drunk Monkeys*, *The Compassion Anthology*, *Memoir Mixtapes*, and *District Lit*, amongst others. They have twice been nominated for Bettering American Poetry and once for a Pushcart Prize. Since their first public reading as a fellow of Salem State University's Summer Poetry Seminar, they have performed in The Poetry Circus, Elle Villanell's Poetry Bordello, and The Poetry Society of New York's Poetry Brothel. In addition to their Mass Poetry work, they have taught workshops for the Salem Poetry Seminar and Salem Lit Fest. They write 100-word reviews as poetry editor for *Drunk Monkeys*. Most important, they like Pusheen and painting their nails."

Doug Holder: You have been with the Mass. Poetry Festival for a long time now. What do you view as your most important contributions?

Joey Gould: I would like to think that my work at Mass Poetry resulted in poetry reaching people. I think first of a Student Day of Poetry workshop I taught wherein a teenage student wrote a poem that resulted in a stunned silence and then a standing ovation from the class. That's the power of poetry, in the excitement and the community poetry can create. I also fondly recall sitting at the Mass Poetry check-in table at the entrance to the Peabody Essex Museum, listening to headliner Nikky Finney read to a packed crowd, and then hearing people describe how incredible the reading was. I think, foremost, Mass Poetry's mission that I strive to embody is the cultivating of passion for poetry in Massachusetts and beyond. The festival has always been carried by a community of committed volunteers who want to hear more poems.

DH: You have led a number of poetry workshops over the years. What is your method? What do you emphasize?

JG: In my workshops, I build a collective understanding by sharing some poems and asking what the group thinks poetry is and can achieve. I try to listen and transcribe more than force my own understanding on the cohort. I've run many distinct workshops for second graders up to adults, and perhaps my favorite is *Ode, Snap*, where we read a few poems (including Ross Gay's *Ode to the Flute* and Ada



Limón's *How to Triumph Like a Girl!*) and then start a poem with a palimpsest of Limón's first line: "I like ____ best". It works for all ages and it highlights that poetry can be, out of many things, an expression of thankfulness or joy.

DH: You have had a poetry book out from the Lily Press, *The Acute Avian Heart*. I read you are a bird-watcher. What do our feathered friends teach you?

JG: Birds have many lessons to teach. They're social. Aesthetically, they're often lovely and musical. Music calms and focuses me, and bird song itself inspires me. Wood thrushes can harmonize with themselves! Visually, they can be stunning. Have you seen a cardinal on the fence post in the middle of a snowy field? They teach me how to observe. Birdwatching is a way to slow my neurodivergent self down. They also have deep symbolic and metaphorical value, both in collective consciousness and in my own lived experience. Here, I'm thinking of "the bluebird of happiness" and my personal obsession with starlings, who are master mimics but have a reputation as household pests. So, like anything that goes in my poetry, any bird is useful on a few different levels: as sound/phoneme, as an anchor for the poem in an image that reader might know, and as a cultural reference to the catalogue of things a bird symbolizes. Not that I always know the totality of meanings any image, any bird will suggest. Once, after a reading, an audience member told me they think of their mother every time they see a robin. That's a lesson – that something you see every day can have many diverse meanings to another person.

DH: You describe yourself as a non-binary poet. How is this sensibility reflected in your own work?

JG: My queerness is much of my public identity, partly because it's inherent to me and partly because it's how much of the world might either judge me or simply classify me. Calling myself "queer" reclaims the word from people who called me that word as an insult in my youth. My second book, *Penitent>Arbiter*, is a treatise on the arbitrary way binaries are constructed. Is every person a man or a woman? Is everything right or wrong? Continued on page 23

2024 Presidential Election next Tuesday

The Massachusetts general election is Tuesday, November 5. Voters will elect the U.S. President and Vice President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, and more. There are also five statewide ballot questions and one City of Somerville ballot question. To view a sample ballot, go to <https://www.somervillema.gov/elections>. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Look up your polling location online or call 311 (617-666-3311).

City of Somerville Ballot Question

Increasing CPA Surcharge

The Somerville ballot question proposes increasing the Community Preservation Act (CPA) surcharge from its current rate to 3%. This surcharge funds projects related to affordable housing, historic preservation, open space, and recreation.

Statewide Ballot Questions

Auditor's Authority to Audit the Legislature

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

Elimination of MCAS as a High School Graduation Requirement

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 order to receive a high school diploma. Instead, 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.

Unionization for Transportation Network Drivers

This proposed law would provide Transportation Network Drivers ("Drivers") with the right to form unions ("Driver Organizations") to collectively bargain with Transportation Network Companies ("Companies")— to create negotiated recommendations concerning wages, benefits and terms and conditions of work.

Limited Legalization of Certain Natural Psychedelic Substances

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).

Minimum Wage for Tipped Workers

This proposed law would gradually increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker, over the course of five years.

For all information about voting in Somerville, go to [somervillema.gov/elections](https://www.somervillema.gov/elections).



Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

Is everyone a penitent (criminal/wrongdoer) or an arbiter (judge/injured party)? In the first poem, I introduce a non-binary character before any gendered characters. Western society's many binary constructions (right v left, Black v white, religious v secular) fail spectacularly under the least scrutiny. It's also something we all struggle with in conflict: I'm right, you're wrong. You hurt me, I punish you. When is real life ever that simple?

DH: Tell us about your connection with the legendary, bohemian poet Joe Gould. Gould was related to Robert Lowell — a confessional poet — do you consider your work confessional?

JG: I love this question. The Joe Gould who graduated from Harvard in 1911 and hung out with Greenwich Village luminaries such as e.e. cummings and Alice Neel has no relation to me, but one of my first awakenings to poetry was my sister bringing home cummings's *no thanks*, which contains a hexameter sonnet that starts: "little joe gould has lost his teeth and doesn't know where/ to find them." What a fascinating first line! Who was this person? It turns out he was a fascinating man who was chronicled in *The New Yorker*, the process of which became a movie, *Joe Gould's Secret*. Some of my friends ask what my secret is or how my *Oral History of Our Time* is coming along when I see them. His life has become part of my story. In my early poet days, one hundred years after Gould's graduation from Harvard, I wrote a set of poems about how I'm not the first poet with my name. It's a strange thing to contend with.

I feel like I am a confessional poet, in the sense of what my friend Bleah Patterson calls "surreal confessional ... a blending of the century old surrealist and mid-century confessional forms." I often set confessional speakers based on my own self in places like the Sinai during exodus or a woodshed during a thunderstorm in the 1800s to explore how I would act as a character in the situation.

DH: Any future projects?

JG: My work in progress, my desert, imagines a modern version of *The Binding of Isaac*, set in a surreal version of Acadia/Bar Harbor, Maine. I spent five months in Knoxville, writing at Sundress Academy for the Arts' Firefly Farms. I wrote about the sheep on the farm and the trails through the woods. It's been magical, and now that I'm back in Massachusetts I have to add what I wrote to the existing manuscript. Firefly Farms is where I met Patterson. I'm lucky to have had the space and time, and hopefully I put together a book that furthers our collective understanding of fatherhood, especially a fatherhood acculturated to monotheistic religion, often problematically.

I'm also working on a set of math poems, which hope to portray how math underpins beauty in music, space, and theory. There are poems that use math as a metaphor, and that's cool, but I also want the interest focus to be math itself. There are so many interesting ideas in topology, perspective geometry, wheel theory.

I work with the Boston chapter of The Poetry Brothel. Our lovely recurrent performance space in Somerville is upstairs at Bow Market. I'm lucky to collaborate with

such incredible poets, artists, musicians, practitioners, and dancers.

Study: Mom on One of the Last Fine Days of Fall

Mom looks small in the yard with her tall thin rake sweeping up the trees as they crumple apart, her hopeless defense against the fade of fall, & I help her bag the stricken giants' guts. The day is chill-- as crisp as a glass of wine, nearly bitter like anything savory-- so we're locking up the world for winter & then, when she goes in there are boxes, always more boxes of his stuff to give or file or toss, but at least she can be outside that mess for a while longer, trading the extinguished light for the waning reds & oranges of fall. Raking as a tribute-- not a chore—collecting deaths, making them seem containable & neat.

—Joey Gould

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