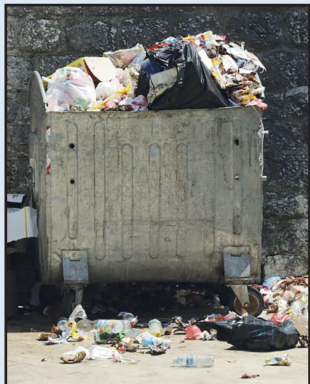




Inside:



The junk drawer
page 3



The ongoing battle with harmful rodents
page 5



SHS soccer is on a roll
page 19

Padres Latinos bridges gaps, lifts up Latino youth and moms, and advocates



Padres Latinos is providing support systems for Portuguese and Spanish-speaking Somerville parents in Somerville.
— Photo courtesy of Padres Latinos

By Jeffrey Shwom

Uplifters, supporters of youth, skills trainers, information sharers, bridge makers, art exhibit curators and turning moms into superwomen. Those are just some of the terms that scratch the surface of the impact Padres Latinos (Padres) has had on Latino parents and the community.

Padres is a group of more than 300 Portuguese and Spanish-speaking Somerville parents who, as their website states, "have been supporting each other by sharing information, resources on education, housing, health, and community."

Like many mutual aid organizations, Padres was born during tough times, when there was no plan for opening in-person classes during Covid-19 in 2020. Sonia Conde, one of the three *Continued on page 4*

Good Trouble at HONK! Festival 2024

By Harry Kane

For the 19th year, activist street bands gather to honk their horns and rally the residents in a commitment to promoting peace, social justice and civic engagement at the annual HONK! Festival.

The grassroots movement showcased 30+ groups performing unplugged at the weekend festival in Somerville and Cambridge over the weekend from October 4-6.

Good Trouble Brass Band is the music group that started it all. The Somerville activist-centered, New Orleans style Brass Band formed in 2003 at an anti-war protest against the Second Gulf War. The music group has continued to grow and remain true to its activist mission throughout the past 21 years. The "brassroots revolution," has now become a worldwide phenomenon.

In 2006, members of the Good Trouble Brass Band, formerly known as Second *Continued on page 4*



Good Trouble Brass Band (current photo).

— Photos courtesy of HONK! Festival

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

Community members are invited to a **neighborhood meeting** tonight, **Wednesday, October 9**, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., to discuss **public safety and homelessness** in the broader Seven Hills/ Davis Square area. Join **Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Police Chief Shumeane Benford, Health and Human Services staff** and more for an up-date and discussion on these issues. All members of the community including individuals and businesses are invited. The meeting will take place at the **Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave.**

All city offices are closed **Monday, October 14**, for **Indigenous Peoples' Day**. Trash and recycling pickup will be delayed by one day.

Western Pearl Street Reconstruction First Community Meeting: Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clinagan, Ward 1 Councilor Matt McLaughlin, and city staff invite you to a community meeting to discuss the Western Pearl Street Reconstruction project. **Wednesday October 9, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.** Register in Advance: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_s1NbOii8Q3icQ891feLQRg

Happy birthday greetings this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **City Councilor Will Mbah**. We wish him a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to **Valerie Spinale**. We hope she has a great day. Happy birthday to **Steve Hardy**, we *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of October 9 – October 15 as provided by the National Weather Service

| DAY | CONDITIONS | HIGH/LOW | PRECIPITATION | HUMIDITY | WIND |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| Wednesday <i>October 9</i> | Partly Cloudy | 66°/45° | 5% | 2% | W 11 mph |
| Thursday <i>October 10</i> | Sunny | 58°/44° | 6% | 3% | NW 13 mph |
| Friday <i>October 11</i> | Sunny | 66°/52° | 5% | 2% | NW 10 mph |
| Saturday <i>October 12</i> | Partly Cloudy | 72°/43° | 1% | 1% | NW 14 mph |
| Sunday <i>October 13</i> | Partly Cloudy | 62°/51° | 17% | 12% | S 9 mph |
| Monday <i>October 14</i> | Partly Cloudy | 59°/38° | 22% | 18% | W 13 mph |
| Tuesday <i>October 15</i> | Sunny | 57°/39° | 14% | 11% | NW 11 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: City Councilors request ticketing enforcement for moving violations

Voicemail comment says:

Motorist want to respond to City Councilors request, ticketing enforcement for moving violations, Did the traffic enforcement data include cyclist or was that conveniently left out . How many cyclist were pulled over and given tickets or warnings? With all the extra time it takes me to get from one end of the city to the other, I see cyclist blowing through red lights, speeding, going the wrong way on one way streets and not stopping at crosswalks. Are they are suppose to follow the same laws as motorist or not? The law works for all or none. PS. How are those carbon emissions doing?

Anthony says:

The uptick in warnings seems to be happening same time as the city wide speed reduction, thus more warnings as the rules had changed. Wandering how more enforcement ties into defending the police.

Lauren C says:

I have lived at the corner of Summer St and School Street for 1-1/2 years, with my window looking directly at the intersection. From people being on their phones at the red light, and then people honking horns to get them to go at the green! Now we have stop signs while they fix the lights, and the majority of the time people aren't even stopping. I've seen many "almost" collisions, with cars, bikes and pedestrians. Not to mention the speed with which people are flying through. I wish for one day a cruiser would be sitting hidden to see how many people make turns on red from Summer to School (School is one way, and Summer is two way, so not legal), and just blow through the stop signs, and the speed with which they go. I am all for actual tickets!

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

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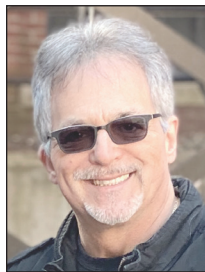
The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

The junk drawer



This article first appeared in the January 21, 2012 edition of The Somerville Times

It may be in your bureau, nightstand, or coffee table. Maybe it's in the kitchen or dining room. It's the junk drawer. It's the place where bits and pieces of our past accumulate. It's the stuff that we just can't part with. All clumped together. It may be in a plastic bin in the back of your closet, but we all have that place that holds the things we have kept.

Actually, I have several different places that house my stuff. In there is my plastic Somerville High School ID, with a guitar pick-sized hole in it. A key and a lock that doesn't match. The ignition key (with the Plymouth logo on it) from an old Dodge. My brother's fourth grade school picture. More photographs, matchbooks, cuff links, business cards, buttons, a bow tie, two old MBTA tokens, and a Somerville tie clip with the Powder House on it. I also saved my draft card and the very last report card from Somerville High School in 1971. It wasn't pretty, but at least I graduated. There is also a receipt for my ortho-

pedic shows I had to wear in the eighth grade. Lots of old stuff, stuffed into drawers and boxes.

My parents' old jewelry box, minus any real valuables, is still on the bureau. It was in my parents' large bureau that we have kept upstairs (maybe because it's all too old and heavy to move). The drawers still have some of their things in it. A few religious medals, some Masonic pins, and the Western Union telegram that my mother, sister, brother and I sent to my father congratulating him for 30 years at his job at WR Grace. It was dated 12/5/77. A plastic shoehorn that has been hanging around the house for decades. Sometimes it shows up in the kitchen and sometimes it makes its way back upstairs.

I wonder what would happen if I called the number scribbled on the back of this folded old Dunkin Donuts napkin? A yellow plastic 45 rpm disc that fit inside a record sits next to a silver coin my mother brought me from Mexico. I also have a postcard I sent home to mom when I was living in Florida in the early 80's.

There have been many times I have tried to clean the drawers, and somehow certain items are just glanced over and left alone. To me, they have become precious heir-



looms. When I'm gone my kids will look at the things and decide whether to keep it or throw it out. I will have to make them aware of the various drawers and boxes.

Look at this! It's a few old checks from Bay Bank. I also found some Art Award ribbons from the Art Fair at St. Clements. I think that was the year I won for drawing a "whirly bird helicopter." It was underneath a kerchief slide clip from Boy Scout troop 71.

We also have a small wooden music box

that still plays, "east side, west side" (The Sidewalks of New York). Inside is a relic that has been there for many years. It is a small piece of wood with some writing scrawled on it. It says, "October 12, 1946... Somerville does it again...beats Medford 20-12 ... piece of goal post."

I can see myself sitting in a rocking chair in a few years with a box of my treasures on my lap. I am still adding things to my collection of stuff. There are some things that we just cannot throw away and never will.

Tufts University Department of Music Presents 'Tufts Composers: New at Noon #1'

The Tufts University Department of Music presents "Tufts Composers: New at Noon #1" in the Distler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Friday, October 25, 2024 at 12 pm. What Is This Sloppy Music? 'Mozart' (Mozahrt) was apparently once used as a nickname for 'sloppy people'. Taking inspiration from W.A. Mozart's striking Minuet in D, K.355, Tufts Composers have cobbled together solo instrumental pieces in response to its challenges – cleaned up just in time for performance. Music by Wolfgang M., Julia Cavallaro, John McDonald, Maximilian Stadler, Thomas Stumpf, Melinda Tian, Angela Tsou, Christopher Walton, and Yixiao Wang. With pianists Thomas Stumpf, John McDonald, Jimmy Wang, and other performers TBA. This event will be livestreamed at go.tufts.edu/musiclivestream.



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Good Trouble at HONK! Festival 2024 CONT. FROM PG 1

Line Social Aid and Pleasure Society Brass Band, founded the first HONK! Festival in Somerville.

The festival started in Davis Square with 13 bands every October and has expanded to various parts of Somerville and Cambridge, explained Mary Curtin, media relations and original band member.

“We’re fortunate that, in this 19th year of the HONK! Festival, we’ve been able to bring together many different strong and inspiring versions of music, arts and activism locally, from across the U.S., and this year from Belo Horizonte, Brazil,” said John Bell, a founding member of the HONK! Festival committee. “As always, the support from our communities – including the cities of Somerville and Cambridge, and community groups and businesses, both local and from the larger Boston area – has been essential for the success of the festival.”

Good Trouble’s mission is to fight for social justice. The band performs at protests, rallies, marches and local community events.

Aleksandra Burger-Roy, a spokesperson and musician in Good Trouble says the most pressing global concern is the war in Gaza and the injustice against the Palestinian people.

“It really brings me great pride that my predecessors were able to really grow this fantastic movement of music and activism together,” Burger-Roy said.

The band hopes to bring a bit of music to the streets of Somerville and beyond, in the hopes of creating a more passionate, just and fair world, Burger-Roy added.

The band name is derived from a maxim of the late civil rights icon and former United States Representative John Lewis, who said: “Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.” The next year in 2019, Lewis said: “When you see something that is not right, not just, not fair, you have a moral obligation to say something. To do something..”

That is the sentiment that Good Trouble Brass Band wants to instill in people with their presence at protests, rallies and marches.

“We always want to make good trouble and live Representative Lewis’s legacy, and continue his fight for a more just world,” Burger-Roy said.

Good Trouble’s musical style is rich in the New Orleans tradition with heavy improvisation and jazz influences. There is a strong connection with the African American culture from New Orleans.

“We want to honor those musicians and recognize them by spreading their music around,” Burger-Roy said.

Burger-Roy plays the mellophone, which is similar to a French horn, and also plays trumpet, trombone and tuba.

Their sheet music is more of a guideline



Second Line Social Aid and Pleasure Society Brass Band (The origins of the band).

and there is a good amount of improvisation.

“We love taking that liberty in how we play,” Burger-Roy said. “It reflects our values of guidance without strong-arming.”

For Burger-Roy and the others that honk, their music mirrors the way protests happen. At a protest, Burger-Roy says a lot of people from different walks of life come together for the same cause, with each individual having their own take on the situation, many of whom may not see everything the same way.

“Like that, we bring together a whole bunch of different instruments playing something slightly different, having our own take on the music, but still playing towards a common goal,” Burger-Roy said.

Good Trouble Brass Band had 30 band members playing at HONK! Festival over the weekend. Some 20 members are considered core members and there are 15 members who come and go.

The movement that started in Somerville has grown across the country and to other parts of the world. There are HONK! Festivals in Brazil, Canada and Australia.

Another Somerville band that performed at HONK! Festival is Emperor Norton’s Stationary Marching Band. They are a joyful cacophony of Balkan, Klezmer and funk, with a tasteful thrash of metal thrown in for good measure, according to their website’s description.

Emperor Norton’s Stationary Marching Band has been playing in HONK! Festival since the 2nd annual event. Their band featured 16 members during this weekend’s festivities.

“We don’t always have the same amount of people in every gig,” said Chuck Lechien, Jr., founding member of the band. “But everybody always comes for HONK! because it’s their favorite time of year.”

Padres Latinos bridges gaps, lifts up Latino youth and moms, and advocates CONT. FROM PG 1

passionate, organized and astute Volunteer Coordinators we spoke to, told us she learned the Somerville School Committee voted against reopening “because they had (state level only) data that African Americans and Latino parents were not going to send their kids to school. I felt like someone (was) making this position on my behalf without asking.” This coming from the granddaughter of a slave in Peru, who has an intimate understanding of the cycle of poverty and how immigrants think and process. “We...started a small group of 10, 12 parents. We started communicating to each other and shared letters to send to the school committee to ask them to reconsider this data.”

Paula Magnelli, one of two Padres’ Community Group Representatives on the School Construction Advisory Group for Winter Hill and Brown Planning, emphasized they use data-driven approaches, methods and observational research.

“I had been reading social studies articles about how the more traditional parent organizations associated with American schools did not tend to include Latino parents. I found some studies recommending that groups should be in the language... so I started collecting names. When I joined Sonia’s group...I brought the experience of working within the community in the school, trying to make it less segregated.”

While early work focused on advocating for school opening, and setting up translation interpretation and internet services for the kids, the current work transcends all.

Through seven coordinators, Padres sets goals for children to go to post-secondary education. They provide resources to make sure the children have a roof over their head, food on the table, money to pay rent, and good welfare. They also provide leadership building for more than 15 mom leaders. Sonia relates, “Once they realize

they have this power, they feel super, you know, (like) superwoman. They feel like... they can go against anyone and to get a spot for an afterschool program (for their child). So, we not only create leaders, but we also educate them on the resources.” This includes encouraging financial and English literacy. It includes overcoming ideas of poverty and breaking down the preconceived notions within these moms that their children should, say, only strive for a job at Dunkin Donuts or McDonald’s, to help pay the bills.

Furthermore, Padres are tireless advocates for the whole wellbeing of the child, their families, and the community. This includes advocating for more Latino school staff, getting children in front of people that look like them, and breaking down stereotypes. The goal in the long term, Sonia says, is that “we have more Latinos at different schools, we have more kids in high school that when they are in 10, 11

grade, they have a path to work for ... either college or any other education.”

They provide technical and emotional support to children and especially their moms. Paula explained, “sometimes, we hold the hand. Sometimes we encourage, sometimes we reassure. It is not just, oh, I’ll help you with a form. Sometimes we are a friend, Sometimes we are a cheerleader. So it is more than that because people trust us, right?”

Ivan Abarca, another volunteer coordinator, said Padres are considering transitioning into a non-profit. “We’re seeing the impact that we’re having in the community. So we think that, if we can get access to some independent resources ... our impact will be greater.”

Sonia concluded with a strong message of leadership in Somerville. “We are the bridge. We want to connect the east with the west, the English with the Spanish. Padres Latinos is the bridge.”

Rodent Issues Special Committee update

By Katherine Davis

The Rodent Issues Special Committee held their regular meeting on Monday, September 30, to cover the ongoing issue of any city – rodents. While rodents, especially rats, are present in any city, they only continue to thrive because of human activities such as open top and easily accessible outdoor trash cans, yard debris, overgrown vegetation, and more. Taking a few extra steps can make the difference for you and your neighborhood.

The Committee covered multiple orders:

- That the Environmental Health manager prepare a written report for the next meeting of this Council's Special Committee on Rodent Issues, on the number of Residential Rodent Control Assistance Program requests submitted from January 1, 2024 to date, including the average waiting time for inspections and bait station installation and a plan of action to expedite the process.

- That the Directors of Constituent Services, Inspectional Services and Health and Human Services jointly prepare a written report for the next meeting of this Council's Special Committee on Rodent Issues, on the number of rodent complaints received from January 1, 2024 to date, including the information detailed within.

- That the City Solicitor review Ordinance 11-038 (Rodent Control) and provide opinions for the next meeting of this Council's Special Committee on Rodent Issues on 1. Whether city inspectors may enter onto private property; 2. How much time must elapse subsequent to the issuance of a citation for the city to "cause the work to be performed and charge the owner of the property and place a lien against the property for expenses incurred"; and 3. The minimum amount of time that may be imposed pursuant to 11-038 (e).

- That the Director of Inspectional Services inspect the area at the intersection of Broadway and Glen Street for rodent activity.

- That the Environmental Health Coordinator discuss the current contract with the pest control company that administers the city's rat abatement program.

The Environmental Health Coordinator, as well as the Environmental Health Manager, gave a compact presentation containing an overview of the data collected within the last 10 months regarding updates and current possible solutions to aid pest control within the city of Somerville. As of September 24, there have been 487 calls about rodent issues made to the 311 line. However, this number does not include those who failed to report, as well as the upcoming final months of this year.

At the moment, the data shows 240 fewer calls have been made than in 2023. According to the presentation, 264 properties in Somerville have been given two months of free rodent monitoring and control, with more treatment scheduled for the remainder of the year, along with the completion of 405 requests since January 1st. The average wait time for a response is about 2-3 weeks, but the committee emphasized that this is across the entire year, where it may take longer in the warmer months where rodents thrive the most, resulting in a longer waiting time as more calls come in. Furthermore, there have been 1,401 inspections with those properties, the installation of more than 525 Terrablox bait stations, the filling of rodent burrows, and carbon monoxide treatments.

Some updates provided to the committee were:

- The discussion of an ongoing study at the Somerville high school that began this past month. This controlled study is a shared grant with Cambridge and is looking at rodent fertility with the use of Bell



The City of Somerville Rodent Issues Special Committee continues its efforts to mitigate rodent infestation in the city.

IQ boxes and Evolve pellets, observing both burrowing characteristics and feeding activity.

- 2841 rodent violations were from residential trash, 708 were from vegetation & overgrowth neglect, 388 were from commercial trash, and 140 were from rodent and pest control. These include but are not limited to the previously reported 311 calls.

- The piloting of another alternative treatment, the A24 traps, has seen both positive and negative results. On one hand the traps have resulted in 8 kills in the last 2 months and automatically reset, so there is no need to refill the bait. On the other hand, the monitoring is done with Bluetooth and only allows one person to connect at a time, making it difficult to monitor cross-department, and one would have to dispose of dead rats by hand, meaning the need for regular checking of traps by the department across the city.

- While the committee and its members work hard to minimize the rodent issues within the city, it is also a responsibility as a community member to do one's part and follow some of the suggested steps provid-

ed by the Rodent Control and Public Education department. Some of the simpler things one can integrate into their daily routine are:

- Regularly check trash cans for signs of rodent presence such as gnawing or droppings, and periodically clean trash cans to help discourage feeding.

- Compost properly, following the guidelines provided by the city on the City of Somerville website.

- Store boxes, equipment, and firewood about 18 inches off of the ground and away from walls to discourage nesting in the small spaces.

- Repair water leaks and dripping to prevent the formation of standing water.

The city is continuing to work on alleviating the major rodent infestations and issues, and encourages all community members to use the 311 line to report rodent sightings on private and public property. For more tips and guidelines, as well as educational resources, visit the Rodent Control and Public Education page on the City of Somerville website under the Board of Health.

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Excellence in History Award

SHS History teacher Adda Santos and local celebrity Phil Reavis will join Somerville Museum staff on a trip to Alabama next week to accept the 2024 Excellence in History Award for Massachusetts from the American Association of State and Local History.

The award celebrates the Somerville Museum exhibit Above and Beyond: The Remarkable Life of Somerville Olympian Phil Reavis. Museum staff worked with students in the Somerville High School Local History Club, led by teacher Adda Santos, in order to bring this exhibit to life. Phil Reavis is a Somerville native, Olympic athlete, and longtime educator.

Beacon Hill Roll Call



Volume 49 – Report No. 40 • September 30-October 4, 2024 • Copyright © 2024 Beacon Hill Roll Call. All Rights Reserved. By Bob Katzen

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

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week. This week, *Beacon Hill Roll Call* looks at Question 1, one of the five questions on the ballot that will be decided directly by the voters in November.

The question asks voters if they approve of a proposed law that would allow the state auditor to audit the Legislature.

The actual language of the proposal is as follows:

“The department of the state auditor shall audit the accounts, programs, activities and functions directly related to the aforementioned accounts of all departments, offices, commissions, institutions and activities of the commonwealth, including those of districts and authorities created by the General Court and the General Court itself, and including those of the income tax division of the department of revenue, and for such purposes, the authorized officers and employees of the department of the state auditor shall have access to such accounts at reasonable times and the department may require the production of books, documents, vouchers and other records relating to any matter within the scope of an audit conducted under this section or section 13, except tax returns.”

The long trip of this question to the ballot started in 2023 when Diana DiZoglio, the newly-elected state auditor, announced she had launched an audit of the Massachusetts Legislature – something she promised in her 2022 campaign.

“As I committed, my office has begun an audit of the state Legislature,” said DiZoglio. “We hope this will increase transparency, accountability and equity in an area of state government that has been completely ignored. Historically, the Legislature has been a closed-door operation, where committee votes have been hidden from the general public and legislation has been voted on in the dark of night.”

House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy) responded. “That your office has the legal authority to conduct an audit of the General Court is a claim entirely without legal support or precedent, as it runs contrary to multiple, explicit provisions of the Massachusetts Constitution, and is wholly unnecessary as the public currently has full and ready access to the House’s financial information,” said Mariano in a letter to DiZoglio.

“All of the House’s accounts are available on the Commonwealth’s Financial Records Transparency Platform (“CTHRU”) webpage, which can be viewed at www.macomptroller.org/cthru,” continued the letter. “There are no expenditures of the House that are not posted on

CTHRU and available for public inspection. Additionally, the House adopts rules for each legislative session, including a rule that requires all House accounts to be independently audited on an annual basis in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and that the audit report be filed with the House Clerk for public inspection.”

Enter Attorney General Andrea Campbell. In November 2023, Campbell’s office stepped in, saying the auditor “does not currently have the legal authority to audit the Legislature without the Legislature’s consent.”

“Massachusetts has one of the least transparent legislatures in the country, and a legislative audit would shine sunlight on an infamously opaque body,” DiZoglio told Beacon Hill Roll Call last week. “This ballot measure would simply provide parity so that the Legislature receives the same type of audit conducted of all other state entities.

Our incredible bipartisan coalition of advocates and activists agree, including Progressive Massachusetts, Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts, Act on Mass, the Massachusetts Voter Table, the Massachusetts Democratic Party’s State Committee, the MassGOP, the Coalition to Reform our Legislature, the Pioneer Institute, Mass-Fiscal Alliance, Our Revolution and more. Most recently, the Boston Globe Editorial Board endorsed a yes vote on Question 1, saying it’s ‘simply the right thing to do.’”

Here are the official arguments, gathered by the secretary of state, by each side of the question.

IN FAVOR: Written by Neil Morrison, Committee for Transparent Democracy, 617-297-8476 www.audit-thelegislature.com

“A Yes Vote on Question 1 expressly authorizes the state auditor to audit the Massachusetts Legislature. The state auditor is independently elected by the people of Massachusetts to audit every state entity to help make government work better. The State Legislature is the only state entity refusing to be audited by the state auditor’s office.

Legislative leaders claim it is sufficient for the Legislature to conduct audits of itself through a procured private vendor. However, the Massachusetts Legislature is continuously ranked as one of the least effective, least transparent legislatures in America and is one of only four legislatures that exempts itself from public records laws. Support

for this initiative will help the state auditor’s office shine a bright light on how taxpayer dollars are spent to help increase transparency, accountability and accessibility for the people of Massachusetts.

Vote “Yes” to expressly authorize the state auditor to audit the Legislature.”

AGAINST: Written by Jerold Duquette, Professor of Political Science, Central Connecticut State University, 860-832-2964 www.masspoliticsprofs.org

“A legislative audit conducted by the state auditor, who is an executive branch official, without the Legislature’s consent would violate the separation of powers and legislative supremacy described in and required by the Massachusetts Constitution. The performance audits conducted by the state auditor measure administrators’ performance in achieving the legislatively determined goals of the public policies they administer.

The state auditor cannot substitute her interpretation of those goals for the Legislature’s without compromising the constitutional independence and preeminence of the Legislature. If enacted, Question 1 would make the state auditor into a political actor and a potentially influential participant in the legislative process, two roles that would clearly compromise the state auditor’s ability to carry out her fundamental constitutional duty to conduct credible, independent, objective and nonpartisan audits of state government departments and programs.”

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

FOSTER HOMES AND DOGS (H 4911) – The House and Senate gave final approval to and sent to Gov. Maura Healey a bill that would ban the Department of Children and Families (DCF) from prohibiting placement of a child in a foster home solely based on the presence of any specific breed of dog in the home. The bill also updates animal cruelty and abuse reporting regulations for human services employees or contractors.

Supporters said that currently DCF is allowed to prohibit placement of a child in a home with German Shepherds, Pit Bulls and Rottweilers.

“Current DCF regulations for foster homes impose a blanket ban on certain breeds of dogs,” said sponsor Rep. Jack Lewis (D-Framingham). “Instead of eliminating countless prospective families, this bill empowers DCF to undertake a holistic review of the family, child and dog to ensure appropriate placement. This bill also amends reporting laws for animal abuse, extending *Continued on page 23*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville proudly celebrates Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Our View Of The Times



With the passage of time, more and more cities and states in America are officially recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day in lieu of the traditional observance of Columbus Day.

Somerville has been onboard for a few years now, and more of our neighboring communities across the Commonwealth, including the City of Boston, are joining in each year.

Three years ago, the Biden administration announced its proclamation endorsing the nation's adoption of the occasion.

Not everyone agrees with the abandonment of Columbus Day. Some of those who are of Italian ancestry in particular are taking umbrage with the situation, taking it as a slight to their national heritage. This point of view would seem to be unfairly skewed, however, since the primary rea-

sons for this relegation have everything to do with the explorer's own actions in the New World, and nothing at all to do with his particular nationality.

As the historical record becomes clearer over time, we must learn to adapt and revise our perceptions in regards to figures of historical import.

As Americans we are completely free to celebrate and honor anyone we wish to. Ei-

ther as a society in its entirety or in smaller groups who share common interests.

The history of America's native peoples deserves to be celebrated and honored just as much as those who came to resettle on this continent.

In the meantime, Indigenous Peoples' Day provides a much-needed opportunity to shed light on a segment of our society that has for too long been neglected.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

wish him a great day. Happy birthday to Naomi Harrison, daughter of Kaitlin Denk. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Lusann Wishart, Sue Casazza Smith, Alan Ball Blydenburgh, Phyllis D'Anna, George Bevans, Pamelibra Bono Bromberg, Mary Marshall and Ron Sensale Johnson a happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Don't miss the College Fair at Somerville High School this Thursday. Meet representatives from over 50 colleges and

universities. **Thursday, October 10, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.** In the cafeteria at Somerville High School. See the complete list of schools at: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/ccr>.

A Latin American and Caribbean Heritage Month Celebration takes place on **Saturday, October 12, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.**, at East Somerville Community School, 50 Cross St., Somerville. This event will showcase the rich cultural contributions of Latin American and Caribbean communities through music, dance, food, and art. Enjoy live performances, interactive activities, and delicious traditional food.

Bring your family and friends to honor and celebrate the diversity that makes our community unique.

The Ward 6 City Hall Meeting has been rescheduled and will now be held on **Monday, October 21**. The meeting will take place at the **Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave.**, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please join in as well for a half-hour meet and greet with pizza and snacks starting at 6:00 p.m. with the mayor, staff, and your neighbors. To learn more, visit somerville-ma.gov/communitymeetings.

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

The **Somerville Community Growing Center** will be holding their **Salvage Sale and Markers' Market** on **October 19, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**, **22 Vinal Ave.** An innovative yard sale in *Continued on page 18*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#944

- The first toilet flush ever heard on American TV occurred on which show?
- What law-themed show was Meghan Markle an actress on?
- How many players are on each side of the net in beach volleyball?
- In colonial times, what were apples called?
- What's the name for the science of growing apples?
- When is World Vegetarian Day?
- What is the flower symbol for October?
- Which country celebrates Thanksgiving on the second Monday of October?
- Which poet wrote *The October Night*?
- What month is Breast Cancer Awareness Month?
- What event caused the U.S. stock market to crash on October 29, 1929?
- Who was the first person to break the sound barrier?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- It's impossible to tickle yourself.
- Queen Elizabeth II was a trained mechanic.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

WORLD SERIES

ACROSS

- End of WW2 conference location
- No longer is
- Cake with rum
- ____ Asinoff, author of "Eight Men Out"
- Invoice qty.
- Fox crime drama, 2005-2017
- Baseball player's representative
- Pastrami's partner
- With irregular edge
- Last year's World Series winners
- Brave contender
- Certain tray content
- Fail to mention
- Nocturnal flyer
- Team homophone
- Last year's MVP Corey ____
- Iranian monarch
- Proactiv target
- "Superman" star
- Head of family
- Button-up or button-down
- Singles
- Graduates
- Symphony member
- Number in a baseball lineup
- Say again
- Brezhnev's country
- PST plus three
- Mouth off
- Brewed beverage
- Fall ____

- Two-time World Series MVP winner in 1970s
- Two under on one hole in golf
- Brewed alcoholic beverage
- Grind down
- #72 Across, in the olden days
- 2003 World Series winner or Marvel leader, Stan
- Plural of #62 Down
- Eject
- ____ excellence
- Noise of contempt

DOWN

- 1984, e.g.
- Pond plant
- Right to a property

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



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- Polynesian kingdom
- Affirm to be true
- TV's "Storage ____"
- Comedian Schumer
- Iron setting
- Bora ____
- Any day now, formerly
- Superlative of better
- Not in port
- Loud singer
- Actress ____ Perlman, pl.
- ____ the season!
- Double-decker
- Wilde of "The Picture of Dorian Gray" fame
- Blue or gray swimmer
- Drink like a cat (2 words)
- Reply from a tunnel
- Eon, alt. sp.
- Robin Williams in "Aladdin"
- 0 and 2, e.g.
- Set to zero
- Touch to score
- Son of Aphrodite
- T in Ferrari TR
- Uses #53 Across
- ____ Chi
- Break for Congress
- Dandruff manufacturer
- Ohio city
- ____ pit
- Nordic native
- Malaria symptom
- A whole bunch
- Crowd's derision
- Performer's time to shine
- Aroma
- Egg holder
- Grazing field

Solution in the next edition of *The Somerville Times*.

Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | O | N | G | | | P | S | I | | | | E | W | E | | | | | | | |
| S | T | A | R | | | P | L | A | N | | | I | S | L | A | M | | | | | |
| P | I | S | A | | | R | O | T | C | | | N | A | U | R | U | | | | | |
| | | | | | | C | A | M | B | O | D | I | A | | U | G | L | Y | | | |
| | | | | | | | | M | O | U | S | E | | | | | E | R | R | | |
| E | G | R | E | S | S | | | | | W | R | E | A | T | H | S | | | | | |
| R | U | E | | | | S | T | R | I | A | E | | | | | D | I | E | T | | |
| A | N | T | S | Y | | | | A | C | L | | | S | A | B | L | E | | | | |
| S | N | I | T | | | | | A | S | Y | L | U | M | | | | | E | V | E | |
| E | Y | E | B | A | T | H | | | | | | T | A | S | T | E | R | | | | |
| | | | | | | A | P | E | | | | Q | U | A | R | T | | | | | |
| | | | | | | M | E | S | A | | | R | U | S | H | M | O | R | E | | |
| T | A | P | I | R | | | | | | | A | R | E | A | | | | R | I | B | S |
| A | T | I | L | T | | | | | | | T | A | R | N | | | | M | O | A | I |
| T | E | C | | | | | | | | | E | N | S | | | | | S | T | Y | X |

October is Bullying Prevention Month

Somerville Public Schools strives to create positive learning communities in each of our schools. They promote every student's social and emotional development by teaching practices called SEL (Social Emotional Learning).

Visit the new SEL page to learn about initiatives that support productive and empathetic conflict resolution and prevention: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/central-administration/student-services/social-emotional-learning>

As part of Bullying Prevention Month, SPL also recommends families and students take a look at the resource material on their Bullying Prevention page. Any student or community member who witnesses or experiences bullying is urged to report it to a trusted administrator or educator, or to report it anonymously through the SPS website: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/ReportBullying>.



Dorothy's Corner BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Stuffed Artichokes

The artichoke is a great appetizer that can be made ahead the day before or the morning of your gathering. Of course, I don't usually wait for a gathering as an excuse to make these. I was very lucky as a child as these were practically a staple in my house. If given the choice of sweets or an artichoke for a snack, I chose the artichoke.

There are many different ways to serve these delicious vegetables that are high in antioxidants. The small artichokes are very tender and are often steamed, grilled or baked and served as a side dish or often added to salads. I also use the small marinated artichokes in a jar to serve as an antipasto.

For those of you who are not familiar with preparing an artichoke for stuffing, I have included a link for you to watch a video to familiarize yourself with the process. <http://youtu.be/aDxaIU-Jzd5Y> (Preparing Artichokes-Martha Stewart Cooking Show via YouTube)

A good tip for choosing an artichoke, make sure the leaves are tight, they are uniform in color with minimum or no brown spots visible and heavy for its size.

- 2 large artichokes
- 1-1/2 cups of seasoned bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan Cheese
- 1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. Kosher Salt
- 2 Tbl. dried parsley
- 2 medium garlic cloves, finely minced

- or run through a garlic press
- Kettle of hot water
- Olive oil for drizzling

In a medium bowl, add bread crumbs, cheese, pepper, salt, parsley and garlic. Blend well, making sure the garlic is evenly disbursed throughout your mix and put aside. Fill your kettle about 3/4 of the way and boil. Prepare the artichokes by cutting the stem flush with the bottom of the artichoke. Place the artichoke on a flat surface to make sure it stands on its own, if not, trim if needed. Peel the stem, chop it into small pieces and add to the stuffing mix. Repeat for each additional artichoke. Never waste the stem, it's an extension of the heart in the center of the artichoke! Cut the leaves of the artichoke, refer to the above video if needed. Rinse the artichoke in cold water while spreading the leaves, allowing the water to flow through. Invert and let the remaining water drain out. Since I'm only making two of these, and plan to stuff and cook right away, I didn't use acidulated water since they didn't have enough time to oxidize. However, if you decide to make more than two, I highly recommend soaking the artichokes in acidulated water.

Have a 3 quart pot ready to place the stuffed chokes into. Using 1/2 the mix, I start stuffing the outside leaves using a spoon to spread the leaves open all while adding the stuffing. The stuffing falls right in between the leaves, it's much easier using this technique. I typically stuff the first 2-3 rows using



a spoon. Once the leaves are stuffed, place the remaining stuffing mix over the top of the choke and press with your hand to work the stuffing around the center of the artichoke. Place the stuffed artichoke into the pot. Repeat with the second artichoke. You want a tight fit so that neither of the artichokes tip over. Once secure in the pot, pour the hot water into the side of the pot, filling it half way up the artichokes. Now, with the remaining water, pour over the artichoke itself slowly using a fine stream of water, making sure you don't flush the stuffing out of the leaves and wet the whole top of the choke. This will moisten all the stuffing, which is important to ensure even cooking. Once finished, drizzle

olive oil over the top of each choke, about a tablespoon for each one. Turn the heat onto medium/high, once the water starts to slightly boil, cover and turn heat to medium, simmer for about 35 minutes. To check if cooked, use a sharp knife and punch into the center of each choke, there should be little resistance and easily go through the bottom of the artichoke. If not, just cook additionally in 5 minute increments until cooked through. Once cooked, remove from heat and let stand for 5 minutes before removing to a platter. Serve at room temperature. Serves 2.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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



**City of Somerville
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, October 16, 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/j/6BnW80RtqL2KgTESfnHA>
Webinar ID: 861 5179 7613

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:

- 2 Village Terrace** Village Terrace Condominium Association seeks an Administrative Appeal of a code violation notice (File #23-018998) issued by City of Somerville Inspectional Services regarding a chicken coop.
- 44 Josephine Ave, Apt 2** Whitney Larsen and Philip Shafnacker seek to extend an existing nonconforming projecting porch in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) zoning district, which requires a Special Permit Finding.
- 16-20 Medford Street** Dmitry Vasilyev and Patrycja Missiuro seek an Administrative Appeal of the Building Official's issuance of a Building Permit, B24-000161, and the Building Official's subsequent denial of a Request for Enforcement to revoke that Building Permit.
- 241 Willow Avenue** Tony and Elizabeth Malandain seek to further extend the existing nonconformity for the required rear setback in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) district, which requires a Special Permit Finding.
- 9-15 Taylor Street** Taylor Mystic LLC seeks relief from the minimum parking requirements in the Urban Residence zoning 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.

10/2/24, 10/9/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR**

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee** and the **Somerville Planning Board** will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, October 17, 2024** at 6:30 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

REGISTER ONLINE

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hulJfnEGRja9fA0Nb0J8MQ

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comments concerning the following:

- Walter Tauro requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 282 McGrath Highway from Neighborhood Residence (NR) to Small Business (SB) Overlay District.
- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Sections 2.2.1, 3.1.16, 3.2.15, 4.1.13, 4.2.13, 4.3.13, 4.4.14, 5.1.15, 6.1.11, 6.2.13, 6.3.11, 6.4.14, 9.2.6.h, 9.2.14.b.v, and Table 9.1.1 of the Zoning Ordinance to streamline the regulation of daycare services and permit additional daycare operation in the Residential, Mid-Rise, and Commercial zoning districts.
- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Sections 1.1.4, 2.1.1, 3.1.18, 3.2.17, 4.1.15, 4.2.15, 4.3.15, 4.4.16, 5.1.17, 6.1.13, 6.2.15, 6.3.13, 6.4.16, 7.2.9, 7.3.9, 8.2.4.c, 9.2.3, 9.2.6, 11.2.4, 11.2.5, 11.2.6, 11.3, 12.1.7, 15.2.1, and Table 9.1.1 of the Zoning Ordinance to address various parking requirements.
- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Articles 2-7, Articles 9-11, Article 13, and Article 15 of the Zoning Ordinance to make corrections, clarifications, and regulatory framework improvements.
- Charles DeCecca requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 501 Mystic Valley Parkway from Neighborhood Residence (NR) to Urban Residence (UR)

Zoning amendments may be viewed online by searching the Somerville City Council's [online meeting calendar](#) for the address or item number.

Final language of the above amendments may be modified by the City Council during the legislative process. Persons unable to attend the hearing may provide comments by email to the Planning Board and the City Council at publiccomments@somervillema.gov. Comments must be received no later than 12 Noon the day of the Hearing to ensure they are conveyed to the Committee for inclusion with the hearing testimony. The Chair(s) may opt to extend the period for written comments, in which case additional comments will be accepted until the date indicated. This information can be found in the minutes of the meeting.

10/2/24, 10/9/24 The Somerville Times

Public Notice

Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 and M.G.L. c. 21 §§ 26 - 53, notice is given of a 401 Water Quality Certification application for the Mystic River Exposed Pipe and Bank Repair at Mile Post 1062.64 Project, which consists of routine maintenance primarily within an existing maintained right-of-way accessed from Mystic Valley Parkway in Medford, Massachusetts, and continuing to workspace within the right-of-way by Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC, 2601 Market Place, Suite 400, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110. This routine maintenance will be on Algonquin's existing J-1 natural gas pipeline and ensure continued safety, reliability, and capacity of the natural gas system in the Medford area.

Additional information may be obtained from the Applicant's Representative: Katelyn Wheeler, SWCA Environmental Consultants, 8 Science Park Drive, Scarborough, Maine, (207) 509-4386 or via email at katelyn.wheeler@swca.com. Written comments should be sent to MassDEP Central Regional Office, Division of Wetlands and Waterways, 8 New Bond Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01606, within twenty-one days of this notice.

Any group of ten persons, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment who submits written comments may appeal the Department's Certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing.

10/9/24 The Somerville Times



Section 00 11 13
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID
MGL c.149 Over \$150K

The **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Facade Cleaning at Bryant Manor at Bryant Manor (667-4) in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **REVERSE ARCHITECTURE**.

The Project consists of but not limited to: cleaning the concrete and brick masonry facade. Areas to be cleaned include all vertical brick and concrete surfaces, including both sides of concrete balcony walls. The contractor will supply lifts and equipment as required to reach all building surfaces.

Balcony access will be coordinated with the Awarding Authority in advance.

The work is estimated to cost **\$328,750.00**.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at www.biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, General Building Construction, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until **24 October 2024 at 3:00PM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates), and made payable to the **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at www.biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled
Date and Time: 10/15/2024 at 2:00PM EDT
Address: 75 Myrtle St, Somerville, MA 02145
Instructions: Meet at front entrance

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

Nashoba Blue Inc.
433 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
978-568-1167

10/9/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #25-04**

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

Argenziano Kitchen Expansion

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **10/02/2024**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **10/23/2024 3:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Andrea Caruth at acaruth@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required. Prevailing wage applies.

Andrea Caruth
Deputy Chief Procurement Officer
617-625-6600 x3400

10/9/24 The Somerville Times

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LEGAL NOTICES

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



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Application of Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices Indoors for AYT Foods LLC d/b/a The Blue Elephant at 719 Broadway.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7EuzXCbuRIGzr3IHyaEYg

You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

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

10/9/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Application of Adult-Use Marijuana Retail Establishment License for Core Empowerment LLC d/b/a Seed at 500 Medford Street.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7EuzXCbuRIGzr3IHyaEYg

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LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

10/9/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Application of Alteration of Premises for Kajal and Kevin II LLC d/b/a Liquor Junction at 14 McGrath Highway.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7EuzXCbuRIGzr3IHyaEYg

You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

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THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

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

10/9/24 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, October 17, 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_5kz_-c6NRHmNDpEFaoHIOg
Webinar ID: 844 0929 4699

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:

120 Beacon Street Animal Care Innovations Ltd. seeks to establish a Veterinarian Use on a Pedestrian Street in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) 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 Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov.

10/2/24, 10/9/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Application of All Forms Alcohol, Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices and Performers Indoors and Outdoors, Outdoor Public Sidewalk and Parklet Seating, Sunday Hours, and 2am License for H and P Restaurant Group LLC d/b/a Gauchao Brazilian Cuisine at 102 Broadway.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7EuzXCbuRIGzr3IHyaEYg

You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

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

10/9/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Application of Change of Officers/Directors, Transfer of Stock, and Change of Ownership Interest for RCSH Operations INC d/b/a Ruth's Chris Steak House at 375 Revolution Drive.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7EuzXCbuRIGzr3IHyaEYg

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THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

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

10/9/24 The Somerville Times

LEGAL NOTICES

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

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage dated February 2, 2023 by Building Alliance Group LLC to Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Three Trust u/d/t dated October 25, 2022 (recorded with Middlesex County (South) Registry of Deeds in Book 80884, Page 355), said mortgage recorded with the Middlesex County (South) Registry of Deed in Book 81222, Page 147, and which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 p.m. on the 4th day of November, 2024 on the premises at 30 Richdale Avenue, Somerville, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

To wit:
Property Address: **30 Richdale Avenue, Somerville, Massachusetts 02145**

The land in Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon, and bounded and described as follows:

Being the lot numbered 12 on a plan of land belonging to Heirs of Oliver Tufts, made by Chas. D. Elliot, E&S., dated March, 1885, and recorded with the Middlesex South District Deeds in Book of Plans 45, Plan 40, being described as follows:

- NORTHEASTERLY by Richdale Avenue, forty (40) feet;
- SOUTHEASTERLY by lot numbered 11 on said plan, eighty (80) feet;
- SOUTHWESTERLY by land now or formerly of the Boston & Lowell Railroad, forty (40) feet;
- NORTHWESTERLY by lot numbered 13 on said plan, eighty (80) feet.

Being the same premises conveyed to the herein named grantor(s) by deed recorded with the Middlesex Norfolk County Registry of Deeds herewith [Book 81222, Page 144].

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens and rights of any tenants and parties in possession, if there be any, or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. The successful bidder will pay all costs of recording the foreclosure deed and any other foreclosure documents including, without limitation, all state and county excise stamp fees, and shall also be responsible for any Title V inspection and repair requirements.

Terms of sale: A deposit of Twenty-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check to Baker, Braverman & Barbadoro, P.C., 1200 Crown Colony Drive, Suite 610, Quincy, MA 02169 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Three Trust u/d/t dated October 5, 2022
Present holder of said mortgage
By his Attorneys,
Baker, Braverman & Barbadoro, P.C.
1200 Crown Colony Drive, Suite 610
Quincy, MA 02169

10/9/24 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT IFB #25-18

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

Asset Preservation Project for 1895 Bldg

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **10/09/2024**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **11/05/2024 2:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Filed sub-bids for following DCAMM categories are due by **10/23/2024 at 1:00pm:**

- Masonry Work
- Miscellaneous and Ornamental Iron
- Waterproofing Damproofing and Caulking
- Roofing and Flashing
- Painting
- Plumbing
- HVAC
- Electrical Work

Sealed general bids with DCAMM certification General Construction are due by **11/05/2024 at 2:00pm.**

Please contact Andrea Caruth at acaruth@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required. Prevailing wage applies.

Andrea Caruth
Deputy Chief Procurement Officer
617-625-6600 x3400

10/9/24 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT IFB #25-17

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

Asset Preservation Project: 90-92 Union Square Building

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **10/09/2024**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **11/07/2024 2:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Filed sub-bids for following DCAMM categories are due by **10/23/2024 at 2:00pm:**

- Masonry Work
- Waterproofing Damproofing and Caulking
- Roofing and Flashing
- Painting
- Electrical Work

Sealed general bids with DCAMM certification General Construction are due by **11/07/2024 at 2:00pm.**

Please contact Andrea Caruth at acaruth@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required. Prevailing wage applies.

Andrea Caruth
Deputy Chief Procurement Officer
617-625-6600 x3400

10/9/24 The Somerville Times

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SHS Math Department Highlighted at Conference

Somerville High School Mathematics Department Head Trish Murphy-Sheehy presented at a National Council Supervisors of Mathematics (NCSM) conference. In speaking about Somerville High School, Ms. Murphy-Sheehy discussed strategies that bolster mathematics learning and reduce obstacles for all SPS students. You can see the slides and handout for this event. Ms. Murphy-Sheehy is pictured third from the right. Photo credit: Concentric Math



COMMENTARY

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

A century in the making: Pay equity law helps to close the wage gap

By State Representative
Christine P. Barber

It's 2024, and yet, for every dollar a man makes in Massachusetts, a woman earns 84 cents. Despite major efforts to address women's equality in the workplace over many decades, significant gender and racial wage disparities for workers persist and contribute to the wealth gap. Recently, the National Women's Law Center found that for every dollar white men earn, Black women earn 59 cents and Latinas just 53 cents.

These data points are not only startling, but unacceptable. My frustration over these numbers led me to work with other legislators, advocates, and business groups to take steps to make real changes to the wage gap in Massachusetts.

The current phase of this work began in 2016, when the Massachusetts legislature passed the groundbreaking Equal Pay Act. This law took important steps to start to close the wage gap by defining comparable work in industries. Massachusetts became the first state to ban employers from using an applicant's salary history during the hiring process. Often, using salary history can confine women and people of color to lower wages and inhibit them from obtaining

competitive salaries during their careers. Since the 2016 law, eighteen other states have adopted similar legislation to ban the use of salary history. We have seen the effects of this law, including major companies rethinking their pay structures. Yet, inequalities continue to persist.

To address these continued challenges, I filed a bill this session, H.1940 An Act relative to transparency in the workplace, to require employers to collect data on wages to identify gender and racial salary gaps.

As Vice Chair of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators, I supported this bill to become one of our top priorities this legislative session. Our bipartisan Caucus is made up of the 62 House and Senate women legislators in Massachusetts. While we come from various parts of the state and have different backgrounds, we work closely together to support issues that impact women and girls in the Commonwealth. This year, one of the Caucus's strategic priorities is Elevating Women's Economic Opportunity and Eliminating Barriers. This goal centers on advancing women's economic stability and creating paths for future job growth. The pay transparency bill fit squarely within this objective. Working with women leaders, advocates, business groups and other legis-

lators, we were able to build broad support to help draw attention to this bill and pass it in the House and Senate.

A few weeks ago, Governor Healey signed the Frances Perkins Equity Act into law, named after the first female United States Secretary of Labor who was also from Massachusetts. This law is a critical next step to achieve true pay equity.

The Frances Perkins Equity Act requires employers to disclose the salary or hourly pay range in job postings and when offering a job promotion or transfer. After the Equal Pay Act was passed in 2016, companies began to ask for salary expectations rather than salary histories, and research found that women and people of color often asked for less money and therefore often continued to earn less.

The new law also includes my data collection bill, which requires employers to collect data on salaries by gender and race, to help address inequalities and identify solutions to mitigate them. We cannot change what we do not measure, which is why formal reporting is a critical step to closing the wage gap.

The Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act is another step forward to ensure economic empowerment for women, and is vital to creating a stronger workforce



in Massachusetts. By closing the wage gap, not only will our workplaces and communities become more equitable, but Massachusetts will be more competitive with other states. I am proud that Massachusetts is continuing to foster an environment where all people can thrive and where gender and racial wage gaps are eradicated for all workers.

Christine P. Barber is State Representative for the 34th Middlesex District, which includes neighborhoods in Medford & Somerville. She is Vice Chair of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators.

Ward 6 City Hall meeting rescheduled to Monday, October 21

The Ward 6 City Hall Meeting has been rescheduled and will now be held on Monday, October 21. The meeting will take place at Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave., on Monday, Oct. 21, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please join us as well for a half-hour meet and greet with pizza and snacks starting at 6:00 p.m. with the mayor, staff, and your neighbors.

Community members are invited to join Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis. Join us to get an overview of the latest City news, learn more about City programs and initiatives, meet your neighbors, find ways to get involved, and talk with elected officials and City staff. Mayor Ballantyne and City staff share updates on projects in greater Davis and Powder House Square area, citywide initiatives, and a look at neighborhood crime stats followed by a roughly 20-minute open Q&A.

The meeting will be held in person. Additional ward meetings including an all-virtual, all-ward meeting and an all-ward meeting in Spanish are still upcoming. Please see somervillema.gov/communitymeetings for more info. All meetings will be recorded for later on-demand or TV viewing.

PLEASE NOTE: Community members are invited to a neighborhood meeting at the same location, Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave., on October 9, to discuss public safety and homelessness in the broader Seven Hills/Davis Square area. Join Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Police Chief Shumeane Benford, Health and Human Services staff and more for an update and discussion on these issues. All members of the community including individuals and businesses are invited.

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Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. All In the Family | 7. Marigold |
| 2. Suits | 8. Canada |
| 3. Two players | 9. Robert Frost |
| 4. Winter bananas or a melt-in-the-mouths | 10. October |
| 5. Pomology | 11. Black Tuesday |
| 6. October 1 | 12. Chuck Yeager |

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.

Davis (aka Danger) Sq. meeting October 9



By Jack Connolly
Jackconnolly422@gmail.com

For well over a year, Davis Sq merchants, employees, area residents, and passersby on the way to the T station have constantly alerted the city with 311 calls, emails to elected officials, and in person meetings with city staffers, to the myriad number of ongoing problems in the Davis

Sq area. What's happening, one might inquire?

How about addicts routinely injecting themselves midday in the Davis Sq. Plaza, unhoused people camping out on Meacham St. next to Bright Horizon Day Care, some unhoused people living under a tarp on the Path, while other individuals squabble and scream at all hours over drug deals gone bad and who knows what else? How about CVS locking up personal care item shelves due to wholesale daily brazen shoplifting, or how about the overflowing trash barrels in the plaza, and how about the wholesale littering of the Davis Sq. Plaza by the day trippers' sitting and lounging on the subway light shaft opposite 7-Eleven?

It finally took two violent stabbings within 5 days of each other right in the middle of Davis Sq. to get the city's attention, especially since local TV and radio stations have reported the violence.

Join the dozens of concerned Davis Square residents, business owners, employees and patrons of Davis Square businesses who already plan on attending the Wednesday night October 9 meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Baptist Church at 31 College Avenue.

The mayor, police, chief, and other city officials will be there to engage the Davis Sq. Community.

Let's hope they abandon the routine Ward community meetings agenda where there is a long speech by the mayor, and then in-

roduction of department heads with a few questions; The Davis sq. Community deserves to hear early in the meeting what the city is planning to do about the Davis Sq. problems, and take all the questions and concerns from the attendees without a long delay.

The mayor and her city team should be prepared to inform the public of what the plan is to make Davis Square safer for all; The last time I checked, isn't the primary responsibility of the government to provide for public safety?

Plan on going to tell the city folks you concern, your complaints, and what you feel day to day, as you go about your business in and around Davis Sq.

Plan on asking why the only time you seem to see public safe-

ty officials in Davis Sq. is when there is an overdose, and Narcan must be administered, as was the case last Friday in the middle of the afternoon.

Plan on asking why there are so many empty store fronts in Davis Square?

Plan on asking why the two development projects in Davis Sq. by Scape and Asana are on hold?

Before everybody leaves the meeting, someone better plan on asking, who is going to oversee and be responsible for making Davis Square safe again?

Jack Connolly is a native Somerville, a Davis Sq. resident and insurance agent: He is also a former Somerville Ward Six and At Large Alderman (known now as City Councilor).

Boston DSA condemns Somerville library harassment and supports LGBTQ+ siblings

Boston DSA, today and every day, stands in solidarity with our LGBTQ+ siblings. Yesterday, known far-right groups protested a scheduled drag queen story hour at the Somerville Public Library, which culminated in a bomb threat. These right-wing provocateurs screamed at community members to repent and that they were "devils," accused them of molesting children, and told them that they were going to hell.

Upon receiving news of the bomb threat, one immediately told volunteers and attendees that this was proof that nobody wanted them in Somerville. Boston DSA members, including Somerville City Councilor Willie Burnley Jr., joined those in other organizations to provide support, escorts, and safety for the families arriving at the event. Once forced to clear the property because of the bomb threat, these volunteers from Boston DSA as well as many other arriving community members rallied across the street, drowning out the far-right activists continuing to protest.

At a time when right-wing extremists across the country are attacking the rights and safety of the LGBTQ+ community, it is disheartening to see such an attack in our own community. This serves as a reminder that fascists pose a threat even in the heart of a progressive state such as Massachusetts. This is far from the first time that we have seen attempts locally to disrupt a drag story hour – in December 2022, our comrades were part of the group that successfully protected a drag queen story hour at the Fall River Public Library from a violent attack by neo-Nazi group NSC.

We stand unflinchingly against the conservatives menacing our community yesterday. The transphobic, far-right demonstration was called by Christine Doherty, an organizer for the "CORR North" branch of the right-wing Massachusetts/Rhode Island hate group CORR and Operations Director in the local fascist group Super Happy Fun America. Also present was Sue Ianni, another officer in Super Happy Fun America. Ianni participated in the right-wing insurrection attempt in Washington, D.C. on January 6th, 2021. In addition to spewing anti-LGBTQ+ hatred, Ianni shouted at one of our comrades, who was wearing a kippah, to "get out of my country." We want to make it clear that their bigoted actions and rhetoric do not represent the values of our local community or neighbors.

We are proud of DSA's work to stem this onslaught and expand our collective rights. Our endorsed Somerville City Councilors, Willie Burnley Jr. and J.T. Scott, are champions for the rights of LGBTQ+ people and helped lead the fight to make Massachusetts a safe haven for gender-affirming medical care. We support free Medicare for All, including gender-affirming care and abortion on demand and without apology, and DSA chapters are fighting to protect trans rights and bodily autonomy across the country. We will continue to show up to protect our communities. Right-wing hatred and violence have no place in Somerville, Boston, or anywhere.



Boston DSA
Democratic Socialists of America

HONK! Fest 2024

The HONK! Festival of Activist Street Bands returned for another year of reclaiming the streets for horns, bikes and feet. This free 3-day festival took place from October 4 to October 6 in Davis Square.





Photos by Bobbie Toner



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

two parts: the first a curated, seasonal-themed sale featuring salvaged housewares, clothing, jewelry, books and decorative items; the second, a craft/artisan fair offering everything from locally-designed clothing, original artwork and prints, to handmade jewelry and other treasures. More about the event at www.thegrowingcenter.org/yard-sale. To find out more about donating to the "Salvage Sale" portion, visit bit.ly/sss-give-24. To Volunteer, go to bit.ly/scgc-volunteer. To become a craft/art vendor, visit bit.ly/sss-sell-24 to register.

Volunteer Appreciation Herb Workshop: Thursday, October 17, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m., The Somerville Community Growing Center, 22 Vinal Ave. Join them for a volunteer appreciation event where they will make herbal fire cider or a shrub, with the help of an herbalist student and GC volunteer. Bring a small clean glass jar with a lid if you have one but we will have extra. No need to sign up just stop by.

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.

The **9th Curated Vintage Market at Bow Market** will take place on **Sunday, October 13**, 1 Bow Market, 12:00 – 8:00 p.m.. The market will have **80+ vintage vendors** from New England and beyond gather to bring the best and baddest vintage finds to the heart of Union Square.

Save the date for **SomerStreets: Monster Mash** on **Sunday, October 20**, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. (rain date 10/27) on **Somerville Ave. between School St. to Warren Ave.** A free and family friendly event.

On **October 20**, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., during **SomerStreets: Monster Mash**, visit **Milk Row Cemetery** to learn about our city's history from those who lived

it. Friendly ghosts will share their stories from the early days of Somerville during this free event, which includes an activity for kids. The **Somerville Museum** is looking for a few more "ghosts" to participate in the event. The role involves wearing period clothing (provided) and using a basic script to play an 18th or 19th-century character. Volunteers should be comfortable standing for several hours and interacting with community members. Contact **Grace Bryan, Historic Events Manager**, at grace@somervillemuseum.

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

To celebrate a decade of success, **Assembly Row** will host their first-ever drone show on **Saturday, October 19, 355 Artisan Way**. Sponsored by **Capital One Café**, this public event kicks off at 3:00 p.m. Enjoy a variety of activities, including free play at **Club Volo**, live music on **The Lawn**, and drinks from our **Downeast Cider pop-up**. The festivities will conclude with a **150-drone light show** at 7:00 p.m. Family-friendly fun includes a bouncy house obstacle course and a **Touch-A-Truck area** sponsored by Millennium Companies, along with photo ops, giveaways, special deals, and more.

Ward-based **City Hall Community Meetings** are back this fall. Hear from Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and city staff to find out what's happening in your neighborhood, how to get involved, and ask questions about issues that are important to you. All ward meetings are in-person and will begin at 6:30 p.m.. All Ward Meeting in Spanish: **Tuesday, October 15, East Somerville Community School Cafeteria**, 50 Cross St. This meeting will also be livestreamed on the City of Somerville YouTube page and shared on the Spanish language Facebook page fb.com/SomervilleCiudad. Ward 2 (S. Union Sq., Perry and Lincoln Park neighborhoods, Beacon St. area, and more): **Wednesday, October 16, Argenziano School Cafeteria**, 290 Washington St.. For additional accommoda-

tions, please call 311 (617-666-3311). To learn more, visit somervillema.gov/communitymeetings.

Brickbottom Artists Association will hold the **Glyphs** opening, **Thursday, October 10**, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., 1 Fitchburg St. **Jo Sandman's** exhibition of abstract shape as expressions of visually poetic language or glyphs, including collage, mixed media sculpture, and photography from the 1950s until 2014.

Halloween costume party at the **Central Library, October 19**, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., 79 Highland Ave. Celebrate Halloween at this special all-ages after-hours costume party. Dress up and swing by for a haunted house, music and dancing, face painting, a photo booth, crafts, karaoke, refreshments, a costume parade and more.

The **Elections Department** is looking to hire multiple **inspectors** for the upcoming **November 5 Presidential Election** and will be holding a brief information session where you can learn some basic knowledge of the polls. The hours the polls are open to voters are from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, November 5**. Register to attend an information session on **Tuesday, October 8**, at **City Hall** (93 Highland Ave.) at 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. If you can't make an information session but would like to learn more, please call the **Elections Office** at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200. <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/elections>.

The **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is gearing up for its annual **Somerville 5K Road Race** on **October 5**, to support the most underprivileged neighbors experiencing homelessness this year. For 29 years, supporters from across the Greater Boston area have run throughout the streets of Somerville in solidarity to ensure that our clients receive the critical resources and services they need on their journey to securing a forever home. Visit <https://somervillehomelesscoalition.org/>.

Somerville Public Schools are now in session for the **2024/2025 school year**. Visit **SPS district website calendar** for more information: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/events/calendar>. Visit the **2024–2025 School Year Calendar page** for an English, Spanish, Portuguese, or Haitian Creole calendar to print: [**dar**. Visit the **Food and Nutrition Services Department page** for school meal menus. Breakfast and lunch are free for all students: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/fnsd>.](https://somerville.k12.ma.us/schoolyearcalen-</p>
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Register to vote for the **November 5 election**, one of three ways: **online** at somerville-ma.gov/register tovote, **in person** at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.), or by **calling the Elections Department** (617-625-6600 ext. 4200) and requesting a voter registration form. The in-person registration deadline is **Saturday, October 26**, by 5:00 p.m. or online by midnight. Your registration can also be mailed and will be accepted with a postmark of **October 26** or earlier.

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

Did you know that **SNAP and WIC benefits do not cover diapers**? This leaves many families to make difficult decisions between food, diapers, and other needs. The annual **Metro-Boston Diaper Drive, from October 6 to 19**, gives all donated diapers to the **Somerville WIC office**, which serves Cambridge, Somerville, Arlington, Watertown, Lexington, Bedford, Lincoln and Belmont. Please visit mbdiapers.org to make a donation. In addition, drop off donated diapers to any of the **Somerville Library Children's rooms through October 19**.

The **2024-25 Racial and Social Justice Youth League Cohort application** is now live through **Wednesday, October 16**. This is an exciting paid opportunity for Somerville youth to bring youth concerns to the forefront and help shape the future of our city: http://bit.ly/YouthLeague_24.

The **Somerville Arts Council** is looking for **3-4 passionate community members** to join its **Board** and help shape the city's vibrant arts scene. As a Board member, you'll provide guidance, network with artists, and play a role in funding local arts initiatives. They're especially interested in those with experience in music, literature, or public art. Submit your statement of interest by **October 10**. Learn more <https://www.somervillema.gov/news/join-somerville-arts-council-board>

Continued on page 19

Girls Varsity Soccer on winning streak

By Harry Kane and Marco Antonio Osoy

Girls Varsity Soccer has a winning record this season and they are on the path to victory! Highlanders have won five of the last six games.

“So far, this season has been going great,” said Head Coach Marco Antonio Osoy.

This season, Girls Varsity Soccer has seven wins, three losses and one tie.

At the beginning of the season the Highlanders suffered a big loss against Revere. “It was just a bump in the road, but we have managed to recover from that,” Coach Osoy said.

They’ve had a high percentage of ball possession, which has helped them win games, says Coach Osoy.

“We are a very competitive team,” he added. “The girls have worked really hard to get to where we are right now.”

Coach Osoy has team dinners on some Friday’s and there’s lots of good food and bonding. “They love pupusas,” he says. “We just have a good time...and we just have fun.”

Leila Mahoney recently moved up from JV to Varsity this year, and she has been doing phenomenal, Coach Osoy said.

Beatrice Calvert has also been moved up from JV to Varsity to fill-in as the back-up goalkeeper position.

Sophomores Anika Johnson and Camila Plata have the highest number of goals on the team. Camila Plata has scored 22 goals and Anika Johnson has scored 18 goals.

The team has scored a total of 57 goals.



Boys Varsity Soccer mid-season update

By Harry Kane and Tiago Moreira

The opportunity to play soccer in front of family, school members and excited crowds helps the player’s development as an extension of the classroom.

This year the theme for Boys Varsity Soccer is how to be an ideal team player. There are three directives for achieving this goal. Players must be smart, humble and hungry, explains Head Coach Tiago Moreira.

“It’s a soccer family; it’s beyond what’s on the field,” Moreira said.

So far this season, Highlanders Boys Varsity Soccer has won eight games, lost three and tied one.

Every team day they meet for breakfast at the school and talk about the upcoming game, Moreira explains. Having breakfast together allows the team players to engage and talk about what has been going well and the opportunities that lie ahead.

Coach Moreira explains that completing more passes means the Highlanders will have more ball possession. That usually translates into winning.

“They have been fantastic with ball possession, where they completed over 200 passes in most of the games that we won,” Moreira said.

Coach Moreira says that the team has done well this season during the second half in the games. Part of the reason the Highlanders have persevered during the second half is their good fitness, he explained.

The Highlanders have five captains: Marco Hoxholli, Francisco Santos Landaverde, Imani Mixon Vazquez-Dodero, Anthony De Souza and Jose Lopez Mejia.

Seniors Landaverde and Mejia have been captains for three years, and they both have been on varsity for all four years. This is Vazquez-Dodero’s second year as captain.

Last year the team won the Greater Boston League Championship and they lost in the first round of the MIAA playoffs to Brockton.

“Their leadership is contagious, it’s admirable,” says Moreira.

One of the best players this year is Jose Guevara Alvarado, who has scored 14 goals.



“He is a perfect example of a player who has developed over the years...and you can see it is paying off this year,” Moreira said.

Gabriel Dos Reis has a total of 12 goals. Francisco Santos Landaverde has 8 assists for the year and Marco Hoxholli has 6 assists.

Goalkeeper Imani Mixon Vazquez-Dodero has also played on the field this year. That is not typical. Vazquez-Dodero and Rafic Miller share the goalkeeper position.

The team has a total of 44 goals so far this year.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 18

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.

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. **October 10, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.** Clinics open to the general public, please register via the City of Somerville website. **October 21** (ages 19+) noon-2:00 p.m., **November 18** (ages 19+) noon – 2:00 p.m., **December 12** (ages 19+) 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

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

Party Under The Harvest Moon

On Friday, October 18, hundreds of supporters, donors, and community members will unite at Party Under The Harvest Moon, an annual celebration hosted by Food For Free to celebrate community spirit and raise awareness and funds to fight food insecurity across Eastern Massachusetts. The event goal is to raise \$115,000.



Party Under The Harvest Moon raises critical funds to support the nonprofit's innovative programs that serve more than 132,000 Massachusetts residents facing food insecurity and distributes 6.2 million pounds of nutritious fresh and prepared foods annually. This year, guests will hear from community partners and enjoy live music by Bubble Wave.

There will be appetizers and refreshments, a raffle, wine toss, and more. During the event, the nonprofit will present its inaugural Community Partner Award to Harvard University, celebrating the organization's 10-year investment in Food For Free's Heat-n-Eats program and commitment to reducing food waste and feeding those in need.

Party Under The Harvest Moon will take place from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at MIT's Walker Memorial Morss Hall, located at 142 Memorial Drive in Cambridge. Ticket prices range from \$75 for individuals to \$1,000 for groups. For more information or to reserve tickets, visit: www.foodforfree.org/harvest-moon.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Art and life...

— 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 9

- 0028 – The Temple of Apollo is dedicated on the Palatine Hill in Rome.
- 1779 – The Luddite riots being in Manchester, England in reaction to machinery for spinning cotton.
- 1781 – Americans begin shelling the British surrounded at Yorktown.
- 1888 – The Washington Monument, designed by Robert Mills, opens to the public.
- 1941 – President Franklin D. Roosevelt requests congressional approval for arming U.S. merchant ships.
- 1946 – Eugene O'Neill's play *The Iceman Cometh* opens at the Martin Beck Theatre in New York.
- 1949 – Harvard Law School begins admitting women.
- 1950 – U.N. forces cross the 38th parallel in South Korea and begin attacking northward towards the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.
- 1999 – Last flight of the Lockheed SR-71 "Blackbird" stealth reconnaissance aircraft.
- 2006 – North Korea reportedly tests its first nuclear device.

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 p.m. Grab and Go Sandwiches provided

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

Fall Open Gym for Teens

Teens 12-18 years old, 3 Otis St, through October 2.

Program Registration Link: Somerville, MA Parks and Recreation: Fall Open Gym for Teens (12-18 years old) (myrec.com) Somerville Parks and Recreation Teen Programming is excited to bring back free Open Gym for Teens this fall on Wednesday nights from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Parks and Rec provides sports equipment, staff, and music, and teens bring yourselves and some friends!

Learn To Play Pickleball for Teens

Teens 12-18 years old, Founders Rink, 370 Somerville Ave, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

October 9–October 29

Program Registration Link: Somerville, MA Parks and Recreation: Learn-to-Play Pickleball for Teens 12-18 (myrec.com) Free pilot 4-week program, Learn-to-Play Pickleball for Teens 12-18. They will have an amazing coach present each week to teach rules, run skills and drills, and help facilitate games. Already know how to play. Show up, practice, and play with other teens. They have the courts, staff, paddles, balls, nets, and snacks! Come by, have fun, and check out their facility.

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.

Middle School Intramural Flag Football

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Healey School Soccer Field, September 17 – November 7, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Grade 6-8. The middle school intramural sports leagues are school-based teams that compete with other Somerville Public schools in a recreational setting. Teams work on skills and sportsmanship in a fun, structured environment, overseen by Parks and Recreation staff.

Flag Football

Joe Mackey Field (Healey School Playground), September 17 - November 7, Tuesdays and/or Thursdays, 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Program Registration Link: Somerville, MA Parks and Recreation: Middle School Intramural Flag Football (myrec.com).





OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Almost Bluing for X-tra
Whiteness Timothy
Gager Poems'*Almost Bluing for X-tra Whiteness**Timothy Gager Poems*

Big Table Publishing, 2024

73 pages

Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Lo Galluccio

Is the title ironic? Is it meant to mimic a toothpaste or detergent commercial? X-tra Whiteness suggests not race in this book, but some kind of gleam. Or maybe Gager is playing on the theme of whiteness, and even including race. After several readings, I'm still not sure but the title, it's pop and its ambiguity, drew me to this collection, without a doubt.

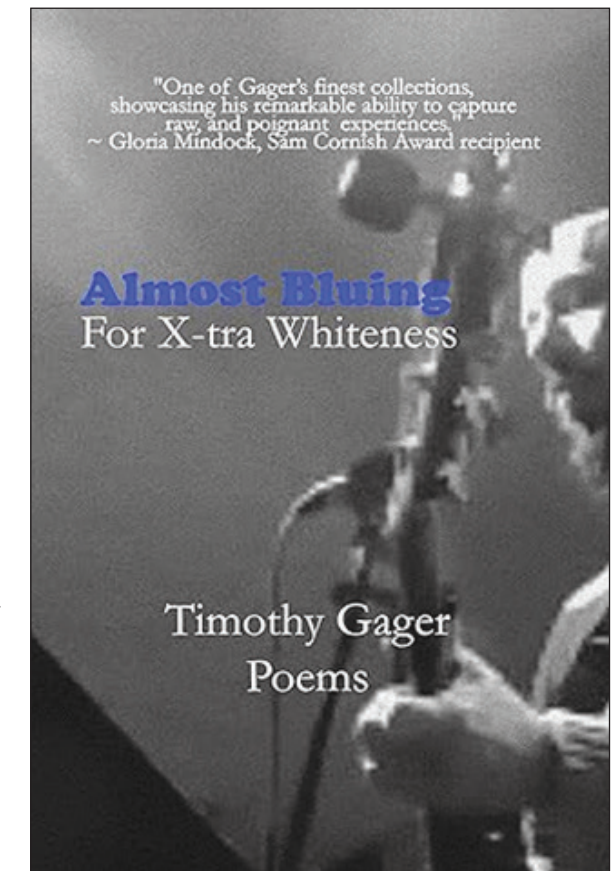
The book's divided into four sections, the first, *Blue*, contains poems most of which are elegiac poems to loss: the loss of a pure, true love, the death of his beloved father, its blue meaning bereft, blue as in the blues, to be blue, sad, as Nick Cave mentions in his lecture on love songs like the Portuguese word *saudade*. Here is tangible sorrow, even desolation, a sense that the world has broken apart into a void.

In *Dependents*, Gager posits that rescue when it comes, comes too late to save anybody. "Listen/smother me with a pillow/Don't worry, no one will come/.../and when they finally come...it'll be too late." p. 11.

In *After You Go* he writes: "we send to the sky our grief/when writing letters/to the deceased." p. 13. This affirms both the sense of futility and awe that accompanies a close relative or friend's passing. Certainly, a testament to mortality and our inability to stop death. And later, "No one makes/our longings/into a song." There seems no compensation, no silver lining to this black cloud. There is a nostalgic poem to three past New Year's Eves with the lost partner, now gone: 2020, 2021 and 2022, where in a Cape Cod Airbnb it begins to drizzle, "right before the sky fell down." p. 17.

Gager deftly deals in worldly concrete specifics, often juxtaposed with more abstract forces, nature, the sky. In 1/1 he insists that his love is "one of one" and that since they no longer converse, "...I no longer recite." p. 19. A sense of mute longing that is however,

Pine, tall and straight as truth, Myrtle and Oak
Soon I find the rhythm of my swing
When I pause there are twenty trees at my feet
And you there with adze and auger saying
Build it, build the craft of your spirit



undercut by the playful, imaginative language with which Gager crafts these "blue" poems. They are, as he writes in *It Sunk* "...my best pieces, /wreckage after implosion." p. 23.

Part 2, is a shorter section entitled *X-tra-White*. It begins with a poem called *Reflections: A 17 Year old Drug Addict 40 Years Later*, a meditation on getting clean and losing bad habits of addiction, a little shoplifting, badmouthing others which amount to an "empty echo of lunacy –" and the harsh violence or violated foundation "struck, strike, striking,/of permanence." The addict recovers through an act of faith as God is summoned and gives one more chance, so the addict "started to clean." p. 29. This is an ode to recovery without going into the painful steps sobriety requires. In contrast, in a combative mood, there is indulgent excess that is a "reply to someone who said, there's a lot of selfish going around here." In response to this reprimand, the narrator licks sweet syrup and heaps on bacon, "sticking my tongue" *Continued on page 23*

Go and fly on the broad back of the sea
Run from me and this immortality
You need the spark of your mortality
She laughed and blew a great wind in my sails

— Sebastian Lockwood

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Poet Sebastian Lockwood's new collection, *Written in Granite*, has fourteen poems and four stories. Folded in with the text are a series of paintings and photographs that reflect the themes of the poems and stories. Many of the poems are woven into the short stories. The stories are set in 1862 in the Fox Tavern at Hancock Inn, New Hampshire. Three of the stories feature three famous women, two of whom knew each other. Emily Dickinson, as *The Woman in White* in, *Rooks & Indian Pudding* and Helen Hunt Jackson in *The Woman with an Owl On Her Head* knew each other well and were powerful friends. Fly Rod Crosby was an extraordinary sportswoman and fellow sharpshooter with Annie Oakley and Calamity Jane. Here are some excerpts:



DUENDE

Tell me to dance on the rim of the well
To chance with Death on the lip of the source
To ask that Spirit to come out and play
So we dance to a slow chicanery
We danced the Bull's slow death to cape and sword
Then how the Muse sang in me, the words came
A bestiary, a menagerie
Words torn like salt on a wound, words torn
From a soul on fire, as the spirit says
Duende comes from the heart of your heart
And so we slow danced till the end of time
Told tall tales and sang the long sad sagas
Listened to the heckling call of Crows
Kissed heaven and thanked Duende for this!

Calypso's Craft

Now you hand me the double-headed axe
So sharp it can whisper hair from your cheek
And its haft of Olive wood and that smell
Home, hearth, sweet bed and Penelope
You take me to you grove of special trees

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

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

the timeframe in which human services employees or contractors can report animal abuse.

Lewis continued, "As co-chair of the Protecting Animal Welfare Caucus, I am proud to spearhead the passage of this bill in the House. There is an urgent need for supportive foster families in the commonwealth, and this bill will open many loving homes to adoptive and foster children."

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"When employers violate our laws, including crucial protections for sick time that enable workers to take care of themselves and their families, vulnerable workers across the commonwealth are unfairly harmed. I am proud of my team for their work, which will not only provide meaningful financial restitution to these workers but will also remind employers that Massachusetts is serious about protecting its workforce." — *Attorney General Andrea Campbell announcing close to \$1 million in citations against five employers for their failure to comply with Massachusetts' sick time law and other worker protections. The citations include over \$690,000 in restitution for impacted workers and over \$274,000 in penalties.*

"Our parks come alive in the fall, and we want everyone to have the best opportunity to experience the beauty

of Massachusetts' natural landscapes. The new interactive foliage map will make it easier than ever to enjoy the season, whether you're planning a weekend getaway or a day trip to one of our parks." — *Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner (DCR) Brian Arrigo announcing the rollout of a new interactive Fall Foliage Map designed to allow residents and visitors to better plan their foliage viewing by providing updates on peak foliage conditions at DCR properties across Massachusetts.*

"We want Massachusetts to be the best and healthiest place in the world not just for some, but for all families, all women and all people in our state. Birth centers have a critical role to play in ensuring that women receive high-quality care each step of the way in their pregnancies." — *Gov. Healey announcing \$1 million in grants to increase capacity and accessibility for freestanding community birth centers in the Bay State.*

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constit-

uent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of Sept. 30 - October 4, the House met for a total of 17 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 39 minutes.

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Mon. Sept. 30 | House 11:00 a.m. to 11:07 a.m. Senate 11:09 a.m. to 11:18 a.m. |
| Tues. Oct. 1 | No House session No Senate session |
| Wed. Oct. 2 | No House session No Senate session |
| Thurs. Oct. 3 | House 11:03 a.m. to 11:13 a.m. Senate 11:10 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. |
| Fri. Oct. 4 | No House session No Senate session |

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

directly on/the sizzle of a steak." When something is stolen from us sometimes our impulse is to steal more from the world, in a desperate and seemingly justifiable greed, "I'm waiting to eat more/of what the world owes me." He wants, "More/Bring it/Some more." p. 31. Dunno, is Gager suggesting that X-tra whiteness in\our society means, addiction/recovery/country music/abuse/death...some of the themes in this section. He ends this part with a "found" poem that takes excerpts from Twitter, *In Their Own Words on NYE, 2022*, drawing upon the tweets of female public personas that range from Michelle Obama (*On Knitting*) to Marjorie Taylor Greene (*Saying Stupid as Fuck Things*) to Margaret Atwood (*On New Year's Day*) – the kind of piece that gives us verifiable documentation of the way social media voices can scream at us for good or ill.

In Part 3, *Re(a)d*, Gager moves into a more redemptive sequence of poems on matters of the heart. The first, title poem plays with the homophones, "red" and "read" and suggests that we read or interpret that bold valentine of love in a hypnotic, playful way. There is rhythmic music to it: "heart/red red/heart/red red/heart/red/heart/red." p. 44. Here is something almost primal about how fragile and trancelike a beating heart is. In *Picturing One Great Love*, the poet pines to paint a portrait of the beloved and ends with the plea, "Can I finish one drawing/Please... just one?" p. 45 Longing can trick us with its endless myriad tugs, no matter how clearly we see and want the vanished love object to materialize. And there is also a coming to terms with the reality of not possessing – the sanity of it – by acknowledging our lack of control.

In *Acceptance Poem*, he pens an ode to serenity, a con-

cept familiar to many recovered addicts (or members of 12 step programs of all kinds.) As he puts it: "A goal is to have no expectations/Please accept this distance/a gift, where serenity lives/as prospects crucified us." p. 51 Same as prey he suggests we survive with grace like birds, "hummingbirds, bluejays, sparrows and finches." There is poignant beauty in the poem *Into the Silent Sea*, where "the moon was not full today;/it was shaped like a heart,/seen from the bottom, light diffracted,/in a way that made you nauseous.../ that sickness that a state of isolation brings as he still feels "like an incredible ship/sunken and abandoned." p. 47.

This section ends with a poem for which Gager was nominated for a Pushcart prize, a narrative poem about a visit to Star Island in 2024 that juxtaposes the calm beauty of a "white gull, blue water/the calmness of the completed" with the brutal excavation for a grave back home. The piece ends with a moment of seemingly perfect harmony though, a bird joining the choir by the sea, and the poet's astonishment that "a piece of congruence, /swiftly the flash of/" could be real. "Damn, it can be," he asserts.

The final section, *Blu-ing*, as distinct from the first section, *Blue*, is where the poet takes on other themes, objects, even humor. It's as if "Blu-ing" were the poet's ability to compensate for or distract from the underlying grief by looking at the world with some jauntiness and resilience. It begins with *Abecedarius*, in compressed form, a poem whose lines copy the sequence of the alphabet. Only this one is just seven lines, that run from letters A to X, a lovely mysterious piece that lives "under voracious waters,/ xeric, your zone." Someone, and I forget who, said that a

few poems should contain exotic or unfamiliar words, so I looked up "xeric," and it means arid. With the big currents turned back, the poet is dwelling in a paradoxically safe, dry space, under a deluge. The poems *Almost Famous* and *Literary Action Figures* give us some comical relief; the first about how Boston's so called famous eating joints are actually not known outside of the locale and the second is a look back to childhood toys and a sibling spat about a Barbie whose hair is pulled out, and a "Bukowski doll" and the favorite, a Kurt Vonnegut figure, who defies his sick sister's destructive tendencies. Real or fictional it gives some insight into the writer's psychic literary pantheon.

In *Recipe Dumb-Ass Men Use to Cook Women*, Gager catalogues the obnoxious ways men can turn off women in their ego-centric stupidity, including lying and "proclaiming distaste toward/ the dirty bourgeoisie./ p. 69. A simple fave of mine is the closing poem, a list poem called, *Things You Find in Miami Beach*, that includes "a hairless cat" and "Hot as fuck/white/sand." In the end, he leaves us with a slice of the world, an ode to escape on a popular Florida beach.

This is a marvelously composed collection that includes both the sacred and the profane. It's about love, loss, mortality, addiction, recovery and survival and it's both a good time read and enlightening literature about the state of our humanity. From the particle of deep loss to a wider field of understanding and acceptance, Gager takes us on a carefully executed poetic journey that leaves us wiser and well sated. I've frankly missed out on a lot of Tim's fiction work, but I'm very happy to have found this, his latest offering. I feel both alive and awakened by it.

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