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My friend Peter page 3



A Central Somerville Ave. project page 11



A walk in the woods page 13

Somerville Traffic and Parking Committee discuss safety concerns

By Cathleen Twardzik



The city was asked update signs to use the phrase "no motorized vehicles" all along the Community Path. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

The Somerville Traffic and Parking Committee regular meeting occurred virtually on November 4 at 6 p.m. At that meeting, safety was a paramount concern.

It must be noted that the police chief will be able to attend the next meeting and will discuss whether to "resume issuing" tickets, instead of warnings due to significant moving violations that put public safety at risk. That includes "running red lights" and speeding.

Along with Councilor Naima Sait, bicycle parking was finished adjacent to Neighborhood Produce after the Broadway at Boston Avenue intersection work was "completed." In more detail, at that location, the committee

Continued on page 4

City ushers in a new era with clock tower restoration project

By Harry Kane

Somerville's landmark clock tower at City Hall is under repair, and it's about time! It will cost roughly \$3.85 million to restore the clock tower over the coming months.

The clock tower is a universal symbol of change and progress. It represents time's passage and carries spiritual significance as it relates to synchronicity and divine timing, embodying the principles of order and precision. The clock tower is a reminder of the past and continuity for the future.

"This work is an important step in maintaining and protecting the structure and architectural details of our historic City Hall – originally constructed in 1852," the city said in a statement.

Continued on page 4



After 20 years of being non-functional, the city is renovating the clock tower at City Hall.

— Photos courtesy of The City of Somerville

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Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan, and city staff invite you to an open house to learn more about flood relief and water quality improvement efforts planned for Winter Hill, Ten Hills, and the surrounding neighborhood. Wednesday, November 13, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Mystic Activity Center (530 Mystic Avenue). The open house will feature multiple stations describing different aspects of the project. Drop-in anytime during the event to review the preliminary design, talk with project team members, ask questions, and share your feedback. Following the event, information about the preliminary design will also be available on the project website at somervillema.gov/mysticoutfall.

Community members are invited to celebrate the development of Boynton Yards Park, the first of three civic spaces that will ultimately deliver over two acres of publicly accessible and sustainably designed civic and open space for the Somerville community. The new 22,360 sq. ft. park features a splash pad, open lawn, native plantings, and is a part of the larger Boynton Yards development. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Thursday, November 14, from 2 to 3 p.m., at Boynton Yards, located between 101 South St. and 808 Windsor St. The event will be held rain or shine.

Happy birthdays this week: Happy birthday to Joe Lynch, who is celebrating this week. He is a great guy, well-known resident who cares about the city. We wish him a great birthday *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of November 13 – November 19 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday November 13	Sunny	47°/33°	2%	3%	NE 11 mph
Thursday November 14	Partly Cloudy	44°/37°	25%	17%	N 9 mph
Friday November 15	Cloudy	51°/37°	16%	11%	NW 13 mph
Saturday November 16	Partly Cloudy	51°/35°	9%	1%	NW 10 mph
Sunday November 17	Partly Cloudy	55°/43°	14%	10%	NW 9 mph
Monday November 18	Partly Cloudy	58°/41°	22%	15%	SW 11 mph
Tuesday November 19	Partly Cloudy	55°/40°	18%	15%	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: *Leave them there!*

Andrew H says:

You're doing the right thing Jimmy! Leaf litter is just fine on the ground and in fact plays an essential part in local ecology! Pollinators such as bees use leaves and dead flowers as shelter against the winter snow, plus, as you mentioned, most of it turns into fresh soil in the spring to help kickstart and spring time garden! I never judge a person for nature existing on their property.

Response to: *Firefighters battle large house fire in Somerville*

Steve Keenan says:

What an amazing effort by the SFD. SFD is the best!

Response to: *Arts at the Armory – A Moving Story*

nelson salazar says:

The city has not experience in running a non-profit such as the Arts at the Armory. There is no way that the Somerville Arts Council has or will have the strength to run a place or have as many events as the Armory is presently having. There must be something that we dont know. I wonder where the Somerville Arts Council's board stands on this but but it is time that the city aka Somerville Arts Council and the Armory come up with a solution that benefits the community.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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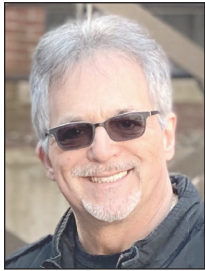
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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

My friend Peter



So far, the worst part about being a senior citizen has been seeing friends of mine pass away. Recently, my friend Peter Hughes passed away recently and I wanted to write a short story about our friendship.

It started when him and his family were tenants in our house. Peter was a regular fixture at many city events. He never missed the parade or senior picnic. He al-

ways gave me a big hug when he saw me. Peter loved music and liked to sing along with his radio and tapes. He lived at the Clarendon Hill apartments for a few years. I performed at their Christmas and St. Patrick's Day parties. Peter would always sing along to every song. He was always in a good mood and used to enjoy the crowds at city events.

Peter worked at the Walnut St. Center. My friend Peter had a string Somerville family as a support system.

I send my condolences to Pet's family and loved ones. He will not be forgotten.



Firefighters battle large house fire in Somerville

At around 11:30 a.m., Friday morning, a fire broke out at a 3-family home at 74 Raymond Ave, Somerville. When firefighters arrived the blaze was burning at the back of the house. Heavy smoke and fire could be seen from Powder House Circle. Three alarms were struck calling surrounding fire

companies to assist Somerville. Fire crews fought gusty winds adding to their fight. Fire reportedly also spread to a second triple decker. One woman trapped on the third floor and was rescued by firefighters. The fire is under investigation.

— Photos by The Times Staff



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Somerville Traffic and Parking committee discuss safety concerns

CONT. FROM PG 1

wanted to ensure that a bike rack was constructed into the concrete and not into the pavement, which is the case.

"The administration" assists with bicycle parking for sizable "licensed" public happenings within Somerville.

Brad Rawson, Director of Mobility of Somerville was asked to put in signs for speed limits, and update signs to use the phrase "no motorized vehicles," which includes mopeds and scooters – all along the community path, as well as at each of its entrances.

"It's good to hear about the graphical thing being on the table here. I think that could make a big difference – because, in the order, it talks about scooters. There are two very different types of scooters, right? Think of your classic Vespa, Chao, you know, moped-looking scooter. There's also the stand on electric scooter, right, that you see all around town. And I think it's just really important that that's where a graphical approach could bear fruit, where relying on words would not," said Councilor Jake Wilson.

Further, Rawson is being asked to set up speed humps, as well as additional traffic slowing methods, along Bonair Street next

to the Edgerly School.

Now, "We're collecting some baseline data consistent with our standard operating procedures, making sure that we've benchmarked existing conditions for speed and volume. And then, the next start of our process is to move into the deciding conversations and public notifications. It is our expectation that this would be implemented in calendar 2025," said Rawson.

However, "At this time, I cannot specify whether that would be spring or fall. We typically do a batch of speed humps in the spring, if contractor availability permits, and in the fall as well. And as you all know, we've just completed a part of our fall deployment. Schools score really highly in the city's criteria for traffic calming," he said.

What are the next steps in this process? "It is our expectation that Bonaire near the Winter Hill at Edgerly will score highly for those reasons, so we look forward to providing more clarity on next steps in the months ahead," said Rawson.

"It is our expectation that this will score highly. We know that we have an increased volume of vulnerable road users as well as some cut-through traffic in the neighborhood. So again, we are observing these

conditions," he said.

The Council was updated on the situation of executing the Parking and Curb Use Study, and the July 2024 proposals of the Somerville Alliance of Safe Streets (SASS) were briefly discussed.

Of utmost importance, Rawson was asked to place "a raised crosswalk at the intersection of Boston and Kidder Avenues."

There is "an interesting condition at the corner of Kidder and Boston, where Boston splits off as a one-way pair, running in both directions away from Kidder, whereas Kidder is a two-way street. Now, Kidder has received traffic calming, prioritized because of the proximity to the school," said Rawson.

Importantly, "I can't promise any specific intervention at this moment. We do have many locations around Somerville where stop sign compliance is a concern, with higher speed turns are a concern, and we also do know that there is some cut-through traffic that uses this Kidder to Boston, to Morrison, to Cedar connection," he said.

The issue of the intersection of Broadway and Boston Avenue becoming less dangerous was discussed. Specifically, the

Director of Engineering and Rawson – will "explore" ways to guarantee that the raised sidewalk in that location becomes safer.

"[That location] is opposite Kelly's Diner at the other corner of Boston and Broadway. This location was built by Greenline Extension as part of their required ADA path of travel on that side of the Ball Square intersection," said Rawson.

In more detail, "In order to make the grades work, they were forced to create some vertical curbs within the overall curb extension to try to achieve a level landing on the approach to the crosswalk along Broadway between this location and Kelly's and ultimately the business district over towards Josephine. So, these types of ramps are a standard engineering technique. We have many of them around the city, but this one I think is causing more challenge in part because of its newness," he said.

Finally, "I don't have a specific remedy or a specific timeline for you this evening, but engineering, DPW, and mobility will be reviewing everything going into the wintertime, and I hope to have more specific information on this location soon," said Rawson.

City ushers in a new era with clock tower restoration project

CONT. FROM PG 1



A windstorm last September caused damage to one of the clock faces.

City Hall had three distinct building campaigns, including the addition of the 1924 clock tower. Now, 100 years later, the clock tower is in need of repair, said Ralph Henry, Deputy Director of Capital Projects.

Last September a windstorm dislodged one of the clock faces. At the time of the storm, the clock was non-functional. The tower gradually fell into disrepair and has not been operational for over 20 years.

Funding through the American Rescue Plan Act will now allow the city to repair the landmark clock tower to match its original grandeur.

The project was pursued under emergency procurement, which requires contractors to bid, Henry explained.

Suffolk Construction Company won the

contract and will complete the work in two phases. Phase one covers the clock tower renovation and repair, which has already begun and will last through the Winter.

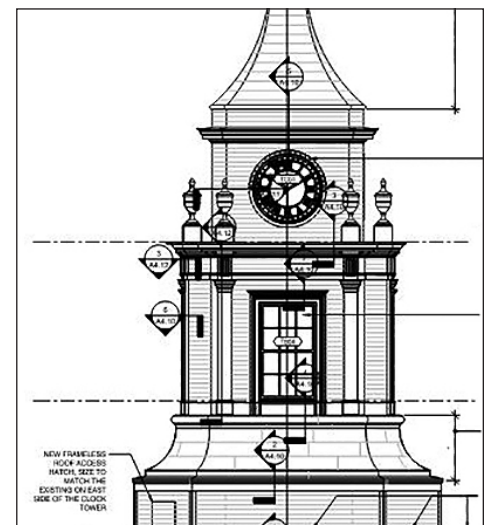
The roof work will be completed in the Springtime with a replacement of the slate roof as well as rubber roofing around the clock tower, as part of phase two.

Suffolk Construction Company – a national enterprise with headquarters in Boston – is ranked as the eighth on this year's list of green contractors on Engineering News-Record's annual "Top 100 Green Building Contractors." The company was ranked ninth last year.

The overall height of the clock tower with the spire and weather vane is approximately 62 ft. high.

The original clock mechanism was man-

ufactured by E. Howard & Co. – a clock manufacturer in the Boston area.



A second door is being added so maintenance staff can safely access either side of the roof without climbing over sections of the newly replaced slate roof.

Tufts University Department of Music Presents 'Small Jazz Ensembles'

The Tufts University Department of Music presents "Small Jazz Ensembles" in the Fisher Performance Room at the Granoff Music Center on Sunday, November 24, at 8:00 p.m. Paul Ahlstrand and Nando Michelin ensembles. Fisher Performance Room.

This event will be livestreamed at go.tufts.edu/musiclivestream.

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus. For more information, please visit go.tufts.edu/musicevents or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617.627.3679.

Ceremonial ribbon cutting honors veterans at Henry Hansen Memorial Park

By The Times Staff

Honoring veterans and remembering soldiers of Somerville who served in the U.S. Armed Forces protects their legacy and inspires future generations to learn from the past to safeguard the future.

The city held a rededication ribbon cutting ceremony on November 7 at Henry Hansen Memorial Park to pay tribute to veterans for their service and sacrifice.

The park is dedicated to native Marine Sgt. Henry O. “Hank” Hansen and all Somerville veterans who are willing to sacrifice their lives to preserve our country’s democracy and freedoms, said Arn Franzen, Senior Project Manager of Parks and Open Space.

“Today we remember and pay tribute to Sgt. Henry Hansen, a son of Somerville, who gave his life in service during World War II,” said Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “His bravery and sacrifices deserve lasting recognition.”

Sgt. Henry O. “Hank” Hansen was a Magoun Square resident killed in action just one week after participating in the first flag-raising on Iwo Jima’s Mount Suribachi.

The park, located at 70 Partridge Ave., at the corner of Medford Street, was designed where community members can gather, reflect and enjoy their surroundings. The park features a garden, benches, a granite memorial tablet and a sculpture “tree” bearing information about World War II.

The memorial wall at the park prominently honors Sgt. Hansen’s life and service. New plaques recognize each of the branches of the U.S. Armed Services – a reminder of all the many men and wom-

en who have served in different capacities with courage and dedication.

The wall reads: “This Park is dedicated to the memory of United States Marine Corps Sergeant and Magoun Square native Henry Hansen, as well as to honor the sacrifice and memory of all the residents of Somerville who have served in our nation’s Armed Forces.”

The addition of the seating walls, benches and café tables invite neighbors and visitors to pause and spend time. A water bottle filler station was also added to encourage sustainability.

Henry Hansen Memorial Park was originally developed in 2005 by the Somerville Department of Veterans’ Services, and it featured wood informational displays and a granite memorial to honor Somerville native, Sgt. Henry Hansen.

“It is a place that not only honors our past but also looks towards our future,” said Mayor Ballantyne.

In keeping with Somerville’s commitment to environmental stewardship, the city designed the park with permeable surfaces to improve stormwater management, LED lighting to reduce energy consumption and 100 percent native planting to support the city’s sustainability goals.

“How wonderful to have a park designed that pays tribute to our veterans and also at the same time creates this wonderful place for our community members to gather, to connect and to enjoy being part of this wonderful community,” said Ward 5 City Councilor Naima Sait.

Director of Veterans’ Services Jerome Thomas thanked everybody who helped in the process. “It’s a beautiful location,” Thomas said. “It’s an honor to be able to do this right around Veterans Day.”

Henry Oliver “Hank” Hansen was born December 14, 1919 to Henry T. and Madeline T. (Dwyer) Hansen of Alpine Street in Somerville. He grew up on Nashua Street in Magoun Square with three brothers and one sister, and attended Somerville schools. After he graduated in 1938, Hansen enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, rising to the rank of Sergeant during World War II. He was one of the members of the combat patrol that climbed, captured and raised the first of two U.S. flags atop Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima on February 23, 1945.

Two of Sgt. Hansen’s family members were in attendance at the ceremony. Thomas Hansen, nephew of Sgt. Henry



The City of Somerville recently held a rededication ribbon cutting ceremony at Henry Hansen Memorial Park to pay tribute to our local veterans. — Photos courtesy of The City of Somerville

Hansen said: “It’s good to see everyone here on a great day, a great celebration for a great cause.” Sgt. Hansen’s Grandnephew Patrick Stehr was also in attendance.

“Henry’s remarkable courage, dedication and sacrifice embody the very best of what it means to serve and protect,” said Grace Bryan, Historic Events Manager at the Somerville Museum.

“Hank’s patrol became part of one of the most iconic moments of WWII—the first flag raised atop Mount Suribachi,” said Bryan. “While the world remembers the second flag-raising, it was Hank and his fellow Marines who made the first one happen. That flag wasn’t just a symbol of victory; it was a symbol of the sacrifice and valor of those who fought there.”

Veterans’ Services initiated the renovation discussion, but oversight was provided by the Public Space and Urban Forestry Division. Construction started in May 2024.

“A lot of young people don’t know much

about World War II,” said Luisa Oliveira, Director of Public Space and Urban Forestry. “These kinds of spaces are very important to remind people about the sacrifices that have been made in the past, to get to where we are today.”

The new park design was driven by community process with funding provided by the Somerville Community Preservation Act and the Massachusetts Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations Communities Grant Program.

The State’s PARC Grant Administrator Melissa Cryan and Jahan Habib, Chair of the Planning Board from the Community Preservation Committee were both in attendance.

“This is a wonderful space for both neighbors and residents of Somerville to enjoy,” said Habib.

The park was designed by D.J. Chagnon and CBA Landscape Architects, LLC. The construction was completed by J.J. Phelan & Son Co., Inc.





Beacon Hill Roll Call

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

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' votes on roll calls from budget vetoes by Gov. Maura Healey. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

\$1.5 MILLION FOR BEST LENDING PRACTICES AND FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS (H 4800)

House 135-23, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of the entire \$1.5 million for the operation of a grant program for best lending practices, first-time homeowner counseling for nontraditional loans and at least ten foreclosure education centers.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$1.5 million was eliminated.

"I am striking language for an earmark not consistent with my [budget] recommendation," said Gov. Healey in her veto message. "The reduction in the item incorporates the amount of the stricken earmarked funds. This funding level will continue to support consumer counseling programs."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$1.5 million. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Yes

\$250,000 FOR FINANCIAL LITERACY (H 4800)

House 154-4, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of the entire \$250,000 for a competitive grant program to school districts to support the implementation of financial literacy standards for students in kindergarten through grade 12.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$250,000 was eliminated.

"I am vetoing this item to an amount consistent with my [budget] recommendation," said Gov. Healey in her veto message. "Other sources of funding for financial literacy appropriated in this budget will mitigate the effects of this veto."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$250,000. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Yes

\$2 MILLION FOR INCREASING PARTICIPATION IN ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES (H 4800)

House 154-2, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of \$2 million

(reducing funding from \$3.3 million to \$1.3 million) for a program to increase student participation and performance in advanced placement courses, particularly among underserved populations, to prepare students for college and career success in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and English.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$2 million was eliminated.

"I am reducing this item to an amount consistent with my [budget] recommendation," said Gov. Healey in her veto message.

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$2 million. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

Here are the unofficial results on the five questions on the November ballot.

According to the Secretary of State's website:

Elections results are often separated into two categories: unofficial and official.

Unofficial results are announced by local poll workers shortly after the polls close on Election Night. These results are typically shared with media organizations and may even be posted online by local election officials. Unofficial results are subject to change as additional ballots are counted and tallies are confirmed. The secretary of state does not publish unofficial election results on its website.

Official results are final election results that have been certified by local city and town clerks and submitted to the secretary of state's office which reviews them and then publishes them on its website.

QUESTION #1 (approved 71.6 percent to 28.4 percent) asked voters if they approved of a proposed law that would allow the state auditor to audit the Legislature.

SUPPORTERS REACT: "We're grateful that more than 71 percent of Massachusetts voters stood up for a more transparent and accountable Legislature focused on making life better in the commonwealth," said a spokesperson for Yes on 1. "Our campaign brought together advocates, community leaders and everyday people from across the political spectrum who worked together to pass

this important reform. We especially thank Auditor Diana DiZoglio for championing this issue, and the voters for overwhelmingly supporting it."

OPPONENTS REACT: "Consistent with how the Legislature has moved forward with every voter-approved ballot question in the past, we will consider next steps regarding how to best respect the Question 1 election results in a manner that aligns with the fundamental principles of the Massachusetts Constitution, including separation of powers," said Senate President Karen Spilka and House Speaker Ron Mariano in a joint statement.

In the meantime, State Auditor Diana DiZoglio wasted no time in notifying House Speaker Ron Mariano and Senate President Karen Spilka, a mere three days after the election, that she is reviving her audit of the Legislature which met a roadblock in March 2023 when the two legislative leaders refused to provide her office with information for the audit. This refusal led to the ballot question which was championed by DiZoglio.

In a November 8 letter to Mariano and Spilka, DiZoglio said the audit "will cover all of the topics we were unable to fully review in our previous audit, due to your refusal to participate in the audit process." DiZoglio set a deadline of November 11 for the Legislature to provide the materials she requested.

"Our work will start with a review of high-risk areas, such as state contracting and procurement procedures, the use of taxpayer-funded nondisclosure agreements, and a review of your balance forward line item - including a review of all relevant financial receipts and information," DiZoglio wrote. "Section 12 of Chapter 11 of the General Laws of the General Laws requires organizations being audited to provide our audit team with books, documents and other records pertaining to the audit. We may also make inquiries regarding audit issues with the members of your staff responsible for the functions involved in this audit, and request, from management, written confirmation of statements your staff made to us during the audit."

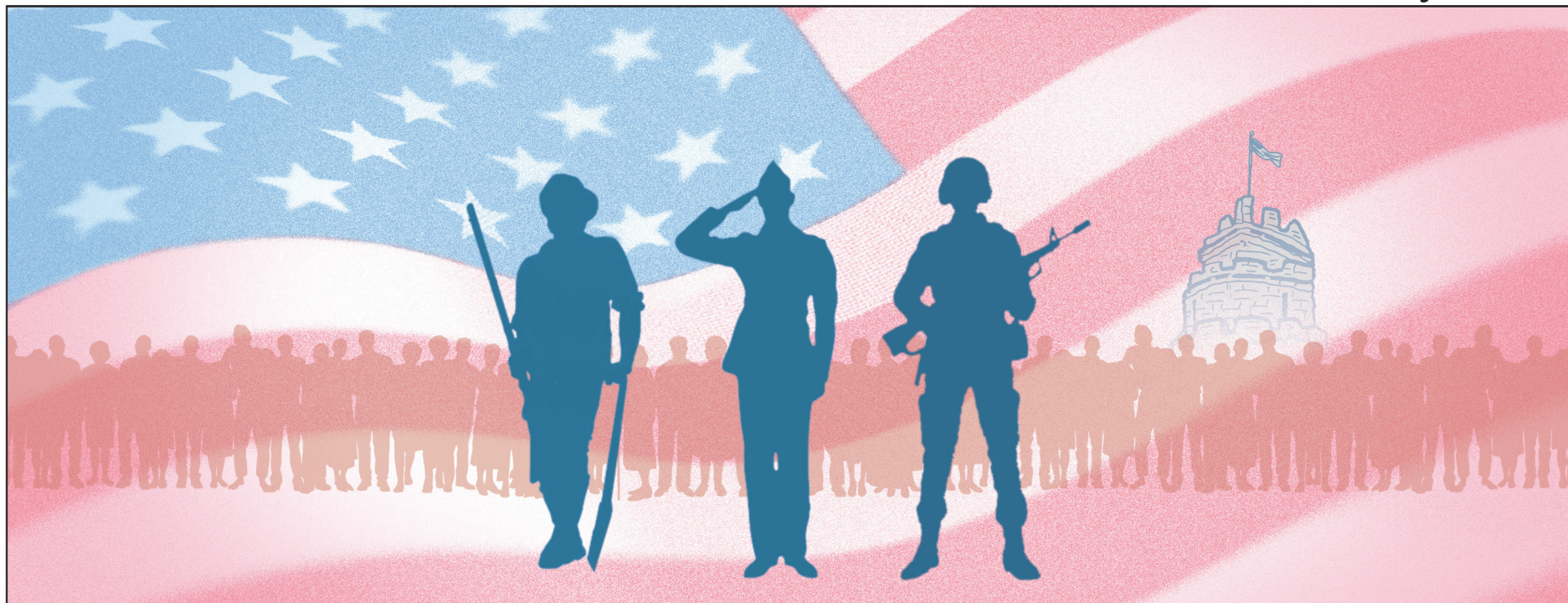
In March 2023, House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy) said in a letter to DiZoglio, "That your office has the legal authority to conduct an audit of the General Court is a claim entirely without legal support or precedent, as it runs contrary to multiple, explicit provisions of the Massachusetts Constitution, and is wholly unnecessary as the public currently has full and ready access to the House's financial information."

"All of the House's accounts are available on the Commonwealth's Financial Records *Continued on page 16*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville gratefully honors its veterans.

Our View Of The Times



We see them every year and we regard them with awe and deepest admiration. Stoic and humble in countenance, they seem to simply play their part in our ritualistic celebration of their courageous contributions to the wellbeing of our nation. The wellbeing of ourselves as a society.

The flesh and blood reality is even more awe-inspiring as we realize how fragile life truly is, and yet these brave men and wom-

en each took a stand and declared that no harm should come to their fellow countrymen. Not on their watch.

Veterans Day is a time when each of us has a rare opportunity to reflect a small fraction of that magnificent commitment to humanity back upon the heroes who helped to make us all so much safer in a sometimes savage world.

Those of us who never served in the mil-

itary cannot know the hardship, privation, and sacrifice that these people have made on behalf of all of us.

Some have made the supreme sacrifice. It is for them most of all that we bow our heads and utter prayers of solace and of gratitude for the precious gifts that they have laid before us. Those of liberty and a future free from fear of enemies both seen and unseen.

We must endeavor to express our thanks at every possible opportunity. Veterans Day is one opportunity, but there can be many more if we choose to make them. It is up to us to do just that. It is vitally important that we do so.

We can take a stand and commit ourselves to celebrating the contributions of our beloved champions, one and all, each and every day to come.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

and many more. Happy birthday to a former Alderman At-Large, amongst her many other accomplishments, **Helen Corrigan**. We wish her the very best of birthdays. A big happy birthday to **Joseph McKeon**, we wish him the very best. We hope he has a great day. Happy birthday to a great friend of ours, **Malitta Knaut**. A great person. We wish her the very best. Happy birthday to **Diane Johansen**, we wish her the very best on this her birthday. Happy birthday to **Joshua Lewin**, of **Juliet** in Union Square. We wish him the very best. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Elena Clamen**, **Jerry Di-Giovanni**, **Cheryl Bertocchi**, **John Kane**,

Antonette Almeida, **Dottie Bowman**, **Antonette Biondo**, **Tanya Kalousdian**, **Richard Berner**, **Jim Powers**, **Sandrine Jeffreson**, **Meghann Viens**, **Philip D'Arcangelo** and **Dennis Biondo** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Food For Free will be holding an open house on **Thursday, November 14**, 8:30-10:00 a.m. at Food For Free's **Packing and Distribution Center**, 59 Inner Belt Road, Somerville. Meet their team, tour their space, and learn about volunteer op-

portunities at Food For Free. Feel free to bring a friend or two who might be interested in learning more about the work we do across Eastern Massachusetts.

With the days growing shorter and temperatures dipping colder, the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is in critical need of new or lightly used jackets for their clients currently living outside. If you have any adult sized coats hanging in your closet that you don't wear, please consider dropping them off at the Somerville Homeless Coalition admin office located at 255 Elm Street, Suite 204 during the hours listed below. Drop Off Hours: Monday-Friday,

9 a.m. – 1 p.m., 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. Each coat donated provides warmth, dignity, and safety for our neighbors having to face the harsh New England winter conditions.

Order a **festive wreath** from **Next Wave / Full Circle** during their annual wreath fundraiser. Wreath pick up is at NWFC on December 4 from 3 to 7 p.m. and they cost \$25. <https://trst.in/W0Ur6B>

It is once again time for **MAMAS FREE STORE** at the **East Somerville Community School**, 50 Cross Street on Saturday **November 16**, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Free clothing for all ages. *Continued on page 18*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#949

1. What date is World Kindness Day celebrated on?
2. When is National Take a Hike Day?
3. When is National Play Monopoly Day?
4. Who plays Barbie in the 2023 film?
5. What is the name of John Travolta's character in the 1977 film *Saturday Night Fever*?
6. What U.S. state is home to Acadia National Park?
7. What NFL team does Joe Burrow quarterback for?
8. What color shirt does Tiger Woods wear when playing in the final round of a tournament?
9. Which toy was invented by John Lloyd Wright?
10. What team did Drake Maye play for in college?
11. What guitarist performed on the Michael Jackson song *Beat It*?
12. What is Prince Harry's official name?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. A "jiffy" is about one trillionth of a second.
2. The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

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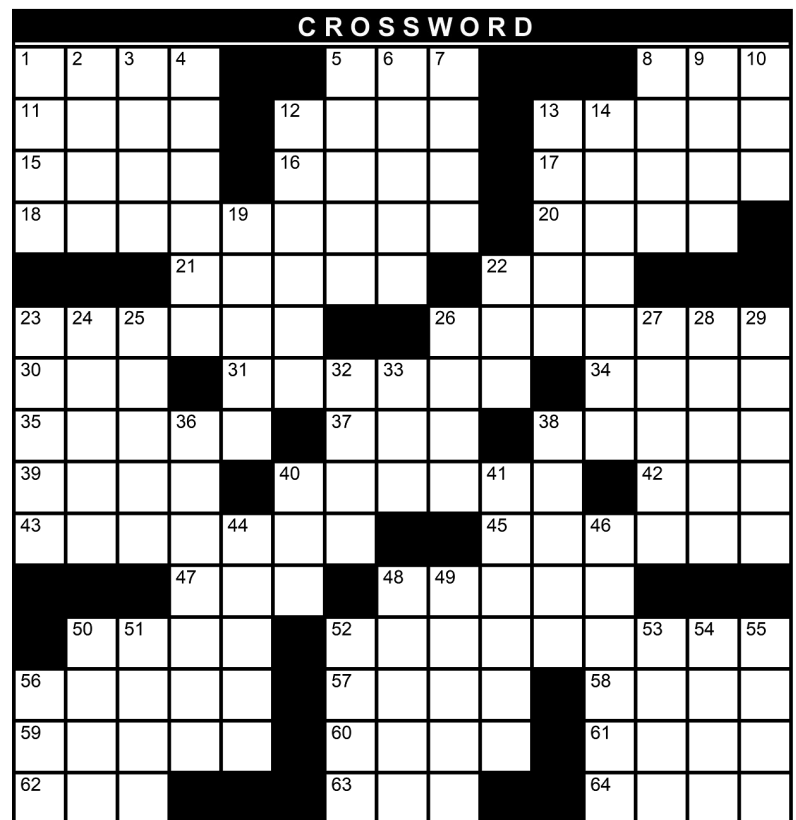
ACROSS

1. As opposed to Ave.
5. Male turkey
8. The National ____ Show
11. Suggestive look
12. Transversus abdominis location
13. Milan's La ____ opera house
15. Curved molding
16. Welcoming sign
17. Crossword entries
18. Skillet-cooked batter
20. Bristles on grass
21. Talked like a pigeon
22. Scepter's partner
23. A way to steal gas
26. With two maxima, in statistics
30. All Nippon Airways
31. Tip of lion's tail
34. Body, breath and mind workout
35. Garments
37. Singer Benatar
38. Unethical loaner's practice
39. Copycat
40. Pie nuts
42. Honey maker
43. Like Old Glory
45. Time for an egg hunt
47. "As if!"
48. Battle of the ____, a.k.a. Ardennes Offensive

50. Moldy appetizer
52. Green bean ____
56. Thanksgiving football regulars
57. Cream-filled cookie
58. Chieftain in Arabia
59. Poem at a funeral
60. Of two minds
61. Not ever, poetically
62. Oui in French
63. Ensign, for short
64. Make them meet

DOWN

1. Coalition
2. Emmet Brickowski's brick
3. Zig or zag
4. Make wet



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

B	U	G	S		P	A	S		R	S	V	P		
E	P	I	C	S		U	L	T		P	A	L	E	O
T	O	R	A	H		S	E	A		U	T	U	R	N
A	N	D	R	E	W	S		R	O	B	E	R	T	S
			Y	A	H			Y	E	L	L			
H	O	T		F	E	T	A		D	I	S	C	O	S
A	P	E	S		L	A	R	D		C	H	A	S	M
N	I	N	E		P	O	D	I	A		A	N	T	I
K	N	E	A	D		S	M	O	G		G	A	I	T
S	E	T	T	E	E		A	R	A	B		L	A	H
						I	R	O	N		T	E	A	
F	R	E	E	M	A	N		F	E	R	R	E	L	L
O	U	T	D	O		I	R	E		R	E	T	I	E
R	E	N	D	S		O	I	L		Y	A	C	K	S
D	D	A	Y			N	O	T		S	H	E	S	

5. Safari hat
6. Mountain nymph
7. "Cobbler, cobbler, ____ my shoe"
8. Repair a sock
9. Cutlass or Delta 88, for short
10. "Now we're cooking with ____"
12. "La cerveza m s fina"
13. Bunch of #42 Across
14. Football regulars on Thanksgiving
19. They're made for walking
22. Tin Man's remedy
23. "The Forsyte ____, " pl.
24. Not suitable in certain circumstances
25. Fruit-cutting device
26. 2nd letter of Greek alphabet
27. Skeptic's MO
28. Come to terms
29. Extra sweatshirt, e.g.
32. Hightailed it
33. Cul de ____
36. Prepping a turkey
38. Cell phone bill item
40. Teacher's favorite student
41. Infamous Baby Face
44. Verse
46. Tranquil
48. Noble one
49. Internet patrons
50. Digestive aid
51. Fish eggs, pl.
52. ____ d'Ivoire
53. Bad luck predictor
54. What Pinocchio did
55. Makes mistakes
56. Bovine hangout

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Somerville names city square in honor of Vietnam veteran and lifelong ironworker Francis 'Franny' Dacey



The City of Somerville has honored the late Francis "Franny" Dacey, a 25-year member of Local 7 and a veteran of the U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne Division who served in Vietnam. Franny was a lifelong resident and has been honored with a city square named after him at the intersection of Delaware and Pearl streets.

Franny passed in 2007 after serving in the U.S. Army in Vietnam followed by 25-years of service as a member of Iron Workers Local 7. His mother, M. Denise McKenzie, and brother, Kevin Dacey, attended the ceremony to dedicate the square in honor of Franny.

President of Local 7 Frank Murray, Business Agent Daniel McWilliams, Retired Iron Worker and Veteran Jerry Yanovitch, Ironworker Tom Ward and Retired Iron Worker and Veteran Donald "Spider" Lockhart were all proud to stand by Dacey's family as the City of Somerville shared this honor with them.

Middle grades Climate Change Clubs launch in January

High school student mentors are currently co-designing a curriculum with educators for the new middle grades Climate Change Clubs launching in January.

Students in grades 6–8 will explore emerging challenges caused by climate change, then take a look at creative technology, science, and engineering solutions currently in development — many of these technologies are being developed right here in Somerville. The program begins in January, 2025 at all K–8 district schools.

For the last two years, middle grades students have been participating in a range of STEM-focused, free after-school clubs, including Girls Who Code, FIRST® LEGO® League, and an intramural robotics league.

Current programs are run and supported by on-site educators, members of the SHS Robotics team, and the SPS curriculum administrators. Read more about STEM in SPS.

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #317

This article first appeared in the July 22, 2020, edition of The Somerville Times.

The Dilboy Post

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

It was exactly one century ago in 1920 when 155 veterans from World War I returned home from France. Early on, they founded and named The George Dilboy Post 529 V.F.W. honoring one of their heroic brothers in arms, Army Private George Dilboy. He was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions above and beyond the call of duty and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Somerville honors him with a memorial in front of City Hall and the George Dilboy Memorial Stadium.



These founding veterans had just witnessed the horrors of World War I, the war to end all wars. Little did they know that another world war would develop in less than 20 years, followed by many other brutal conflicts. Suffering through trench warfare, poison gas attacks, and battles at sea, these World War I soldiers and sailors were thankful to be home and alive.



The Post members established the creed "protect the home – feed the hungry – comfort the sick." Through the years, most members swore that if they returned home, they would try to improve life for themselves, their

families and friends. They have done this for 100 years. Their membership increased from the original 155 to a high of 4,400 during the 1950's, making it the largest Post in New England.

Over time, living up to its creed, the Post has sponsored hundreds of community projects. Its members created renowned junior military marching bands and decorated many veterans' graves. The Dilboy Post *Continued on page 20*

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, November 20, 2024**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_DNNSVE8XSlm_ETbofdi5FA
Webinar ID: 814 2814 3884

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:

- 25 Atherton Street** Carr Schoolhouse Condo Trust seeks zoning relief from the maximum front setback for an accessory structure to an Apartment Building in the Urban Residence (UR) zoning district, which requires a Hardship Variance.
- 22 McGrath Highway** Twin City Plaza, LLC proposes a substantial renovation to an existing façade in the Commercial Business (CB) zoning district, which requires Site Plan Approval.
- 76-78 Powder House Blvd** Adam Jaroszewski seeks a Hardship Variance for relief from SZO Article 3.1.18.c.iii, in order to convert a portion of the lot frontage to driveway in the Neighborhood Residential (NR) District.

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.

11/6/24, 11/13/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB # 25-26**

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

Somerville Parks Tree Health Program 2025

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, November 13, 2024**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **1:00PM Wednesday, December 4, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all bids if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Felisa Gárate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

Felisa Gárate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406

11/13/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

RFP# 25-13 Regional Network of Resilient Community Centers Assessment

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites proposals for:

RFP# 25-13 Regional Network of Resilient Community Centers Assessment

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Tuesday, November 12, 2024**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 2:00pm**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any minor informality in the RFP process, and accept the proposal(s) deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.

Please email jremy@somervillema.gov for more information.

Jordan Remy
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

11/13/24 The Somerville Times

Notice of Intent

The following vehicles will be sold
Pursuit to M.G.L. 255 S.39A

- 2008 Ford Edge 2FMDK38C08BA67974
- 2004 Toyota Sequoia 5TDBT44A54S220683
- 2014 Ford Focus 1FADP3K20EL279541
- 2005 Toyota Camry 4T1BE32K75U966190
- 2003 Honda Civic 2HGES26743H550268

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**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court**

MIDDLESEX Division Docket No. MI24P1270EA

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Estate of:
Richard C Giles
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Also Known As: **Richard Clayton Giles**

Date of Death: **February 08, 2024**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Mark W Giles of Somerville MA**
First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

[x] a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

[x] **Mark W Giles of Somerville MA**
First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve [] with [x] without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

11/13/24 The Somerville Times

Learn more about new ordinance to help renters access benefits of green energy upgrades

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville's Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) invite you to a virtual community meeting to learn more about a proposed Rental Registry and Energy Disclosure ordinance designed to improve rental unit energy efficiency, affordability, and healthiness, as well as advance the city's climate action and affordable housing efforts.

When: Wednesday, November 20, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. **Where:** Online via Zoom

How to Join: Register for the meeting here or go to somervillema.gov/rred

Attendees will get updates on the proposed ordinance, the community feedback process and the feedback received, discuss the preliminary implementation plan, and have opportunities to ask questions and give additional feedback. Once finalized, the proposed ordinance will be submitted to City Council for approval. For questions about this initiative, please contact Garrett Anderson at ganderson@somervillema.gov and 857-270-4403.

About the Rental Registry and Energy Disclosure

Roughly two-thirds of Somerville residents are renters, and the City of Somerville is determined to improve their access to the energy savings and health benefits of green energy upgrades often out of reach to renters—especially low-income renters. The proposed ordinance will strengthen two-way communication between landlords and the city, while improving landlord access to energy efficiency and weatherization resources. In passing this ordinance, Somerville would be joining more than 60% of US cities in creating a rental registry. The energy disclosure component would be the first of its kind in Massachusetts, and increase awareness about energy efficiency in rental units.

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Inefficient lobbies and public art: The Central Somerville Avenue Project

By Katherine Davis

On November 4, the Central Somerville Avenue project met for a second time upstairs in Bow Market to hold its Topic Summary Public Meeting, this week's workshop's focus being on buildings and land use.

In particular, the meeting's topics centered heavily on the synergy between the commercial and artist spaces in the proposed area, Dan Bartman saying that there is a significant "need for spaces that allow people that are doing different jobs to interact with one another."

There are currently a lot of what the group has labeled as "inefficient lobbies" that restrict third space opportunities for differing groups to mingle, and while a part of this issue is being addressed by the building of the Community Center, that space in particular meant to be more for teenagers and young adults, who do not have as many available places to hang out and be social, maybe, as adults do beyond their everyday workplaces.

The creation of "efficient lobbies" with the Central Somerville Avenue project will hopefully not only help to keep a designated space for younger groups to utilize, but also increase community interaction between the clean tech industry and the artist industry.

Both of the spaces being interwoven in the Central Somerville Avenue project's

prospective plans are going to be creating "noise and vibrations" that the other will ultimately have to put up with. Whether from the clean technology industry grinding down parts, or from the artist industry working in a recording studio, both parties will be contributing to the sounds of Somerville.

What makes this important beyond just the sounds of the city is that both groups have to be able to work in the same area, but if one is unknowingly interrupting the other, it may cause disruptions to the flow of the sector. Therefore, in the building plans there has to be an inclusion of solutions regarding sound proofing and layout to provide minimal disruption to each group, which will most likely be discussed further in later meetings.

Included in this remodel is the ability for outdoor and indoor spaces to be used equally, "we want outdoor space just as much as indoor space" says Bartman. This covers not only activity areas, but blank wall space that will ultimately come with the creation of new buildings. Normally ground level spaces in commercial buildings are given as much visibility as possible for passersby to be able to look inside. However, due to the type of industrial space being created for the clean technology industry, not all ground level floors are going to be visible to passersby beyond the wall.

This opens up the possibility for displaying public art and/or rotating displays of



The Central Somerville Avenue project recently met to discuss issues concerning buildings and land use issues.
— Photo by Bobbie Toner

public art, or even for blank wall spaces that contain window space to have a window art program with rotating art exhibits for passersby to take in and appreciate. Bartman emphasized that "This needs to be thought of as an arts district ... everything that's a part of it has the opportunity for being designed as a piece of public art that adds to the character of the neighborhood."

One of the smaller and more simple ways they are considering making the neighborhood more distinguishable is with custom street signage that can be recognized and

associated with the particular area. While there are some concerns regarding what the process will look like if signage becomes damaged, since it would be custom to the area and less accessible in a short amount of time from a Department of Public Works perspective, there are still many opportunities beyond this for turning the public and clean technology space into a place for public art, self-expression, and community building for many years to come.

For more information: <https://voice.somervillema.gov/cen-som-ave>.

Join Somerville's Boynton Yards Park ribbon cutting ceremony

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development invite the community to the ribbon cutting ceremony for 808 Windsor Street and Boynton Yards Park on Thursday, November 14 at 2 p.m.

EVENT DETAILS:

When: Thursday, November 14, 2 p.m.

Where: Boynton Yards Park, Between 101 South Street and 808 Windsor Street.

The event will be held in the new half-acre park designed to bring community and vitality to Boynton Yards. The civic space features a splash pad, central lawn, native planting beds, and thoughtfully designed amenities to create an inviting public gathering space for neighborhood residents, workers, and visitors alike.

Boynton Yards Park is one of three planned civic spaces that will total over two new acres of accessible, sustainably designed public areas in the Boynton Yards neighborhood's full build-out. It is one of a few recently finished Somerville parks that is setting a new standard for development-born public spaces.

The new building, 808 Windsor Street is a Leed Platinum, purpose-built building spanning 11 floors and offering state-of-the-art R&D lab/office space and ground floor retail. Amenities include below grade parking, a bike storage room, gym and locker room facilities, conference room and outdoor terrace. 808 Windsor is the second of four master planned life science buildings at Boynton Yards, spanning 7 acres and including residential, retail, arts, and public spaces. Boynton Yards is a short walk from the Union Square T station.

Please join in celebrating this milestone in the development of a vibrant city neighborhood.



Bob's Discount Furniture Grand Opening

On Friday, November 8, Bob's Discount Furniture, the 9th largest U.S. furniture chain with 189 stores across 24 states, held the grand opening of its new flagship experience in Somerville, Mass. (38,012 square foot store), bringing approximately 20-25 new jobs to the region.

Bob's donated \$46,000 to the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. This donation is from Bob's Café Collections for a Cause program – funded by the generous donations of guests and a dollar-for-dollar match from Bob's. Boston Children's Hospital, a CMN member hospital, accepted the donation.

Bob's also presented \$2,500 checks (\$5,000 total) to the Greater Somerville Homeless Coalition and East Somerville Community.



Bob's Discount Furniture celebrated their newest location in Somerville, MA on Friday, November 8, with a grand opening event. The location is Bob's first flagship experience store. Bill Barton, President and CEO, Bob's Discount Furniture (center) helps Brad Sirois-Szafir, Store Manager (center, right) cut the ribbon for the new store alongside store employees, community partners, and Katjana Ballantyne, Mayor of Somerville. Also in attendance were Nick Vassilakos, Divisional Vice President, and Roger Dunlap, Senior Vice President of Retail.



Bob's Discount Furniture presented a \$2,500 Random Acts of Kindness donation to East Somerville Community School, representing their commitment to supporting schools. Berenice Mace-Diaz, Principal, alongside Katjana Ballantyne, Mayor of Somerville, (center) accepted the donation from Nick Vassilakos, Divisional Vice President, Roger Dunlap, Senior Vice President of Retail, Brad Sirois-Szafir, Store Manager, Bill Barton, President & CEO and Bill Foppiano, Regional Sales Manager (left to right).

Food For Free receives refrigerated van from Whole Foods Market

Food For Free, the leading food rescue and distribution nonprofit dedicated to providing reliable access to fresh and nutritious food to Eastern Massachusetts communities, is now the recipient of a new refrigerated van. The vehicle was gifted to the Somerville and Cambridge-based nonprofit organization through Whole Foods Market's Nourishing Our Neighborhoods program to support picking up fresh food and redistributing it to those in need.

"This refrigerated van will be an asset to our food rescue and distribution efforts for years to come," says Tim Cavaretta, Director of Operations at Food For Free. "We are so grateful for Whole Foods Market's investment in our shared mission to increase access to healthy foods in the communities we serve."

Food For Free acquires rescued, donated, and purchased food from a number of sources to meet the increased demand to ensure everyone in the community--regardless of age, income, or ability--has consistent access to nutrition. Founded in 1981 as one of the nation's first food rescue organizations, Food For Free now serves more than 132,000 Massachusetts residents who are food insecure and distributes over 6.2 million pounds of nutritious fresh and prepared foods annually.

"We're so thrilled to expand our relationship with Food For Free and further support their food rescue efforts to nourish the community," said Jonny Rose, Senior Specialist, Community Giving & Engagement for Whole Foods Market. "This van will help transport rescued food to neighbors in need and also reduce food waste, creating a long-term positive impact within the community."

Whole Foods Market launched Nourishing Our Neighborhoods in September 2020 and has donated more than 50 refrigerated vans to food rescue partners organizations to transport food to communities across the U.S. and Canada. These food rescue partners Recipient organizations participate in the company's Grocery Rescue Program - picking up food from their stores weekly and redistributing it to feed neighbors fresh, high-quality food as quickly as possible. To learn more about Whole Foods Market's Nourishing Our Neighborhoods program, visit: <https://media.wholefoodsmarket.com/community-giving/nourishing-our-neighborhoods/>



A chance walk in the woods, after a tough week

By Jeffrey Shwom

For folks that know me, another random bus story adventure is par for the course. I love taking public transportation, even if it takes longer, and especially if it takes me to a place I have never been. I once took an overnight bus, then high speed train to Toronto, just to try it.

In an effort to get fresh air, enjoy the windy, dry fall we have been having, and shake off the week, I decided to take the MBTA to my second cousin's coming of age religious ceremony in Lexington.

Relationships are a compromise, and with the desire that my partner would join me (and mostly for the free bagels and cookies after the ceremony), I left the car at home for her to meet me later. A normally 20-minute drive down Route 2 was an hour and 40-minute adventure, on one community path, two forms of transit, and a walk in the woods.

Some leaves are still green on the Somerville Community Path as the wind whisked by my red beanie on leg one into Davis from Magoun around 8:30 a.m. On the platform, the Alewife train said 12 minutes and since the bus runs every 65-70 minutes, I was afraid I would miss the transfer.

The Bedford VA Hospital 62/76 bus, the only MBTA bus line that has a slash, showed up 4 minutes late thankfully, around 9:10, thanks to the driver ordering a small regular at Dunks downstairs.

The bus route weaved on and off Route 2, through Arlington Heights on Mass. Ave, and dropped me off near the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library in Lexington, at 9:30-ish. At a fork in the



road. Literally.

Google Maps (i.e. Robert Frost) told me to take the road less traveled and stroll away from Mass. Ave. down Marrett Rd. Mr. Frost had been spot on ... I really was doing the nonsensical and walking, taking a train, then bus, then walking again under an overpass to a place of worship ... a total of 8 miles where three were on foot.

I took a left on Bacon Street onto a dirt road, with a mailbox, indicating that the closest recognized place was quote "down the road a piece" at Meadow Mist Farm. Instantaneously, I felt like I was in Southern New Hampshire as a small pickup with a friendly waving driver came by, kicking up dirt and my blossoming imagination.

I turned onto an unmarked path, 20 inches wide, and kept the sun to my left. All of a sudden, I'm in the middle of a meadow with tall golden meadow hay moving gently and then quickly with the cool wind. The path is worn and empty. Leaves with dark and light hues, some wet and some dangerously dry, lay under foot. For about 2 minutes, I was alone, freer than I have felt this whole difficult week, and beaming with the beaming sun. It was quiet, it was serene. There was no noise, no refreshing of social media or news ... just refreshing air and a sense of being lost. This time, happily lost.

Then, the male mountain biker, decked out in cycling gear, graciously announced his presence behind me and rode by me as I ducked into a small cover along the side of the path. He too knew this gem. The moment was gone, short and ethereal.

I came back to reality with the drone of a nearby landscaping company. I walked a bit to the path's end and realized I was in some random subdivision at the end of Dunback Meadow. It was only 9:50.

The last mile was louder as I walked under Route 2 and dangerously across a down ramp to a side road, where the sidewalk ended. I got my pumpernickel bagel, saw my family and drove back in the Volkswagen, in a much shorter time.

It just goes to show you that taking a random bus from a station you've never ridden from can lead to an adventure, both urban and suburban, that you did not realize was possible. And a chance, if even for a minute, of reprieve and respite during this windy, breezy, hot and cold fall in New England.



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Ms. Cam's

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Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Wednesday, November 13 | 7. The Bengals |
| 2. Sunday, November 17 | 8. Red |
| 3. Tuesday, November 19 | 9. Lincoln Logs |
| 4. Margot Robbie | 10. North Carolina Tar Heels |
| 5. Tony Manero | 11. Eddie Van Halen |
| 6. Maine | 12. Henry Charles Albert David |

Open houses, tours available for incoming PK and K families in Somerville Public Schools

The Somerville Public Schools' (SPS) annual school enrollment period for prekindergarten and kindergarten students will open on January 3, 2025, and SPS staff are gearing up to make sure Somerville families are ready and able to enroll students. All students who will be 4 years old by August 31, 2025 are eligible for the district's PK program. All students who will be 5 years old by August 31, 2025 are eligible for kindergarten.

This month, SPS staff will hold virtual and in-person information sessions to provide details and answer questions about the enrollment process, and a series of three Open Houses are planned in December and January at our PK-8 schools.

The Enrollment Office team is also available to answer questions and support families during business hours at Central Administration. The office is located at 167 Holland Street (Third Floor). Parents and guardians are advised to make an appointment by emailing enroll-ment@k12.somerville.ma.us or calling 617-629-5670. The Enrollment Office has open hours Monday through Friday. Visit their website to find more about hours: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/enrollment>



Enrollment Information Sessions

Wednesday, November 13

9-10:00 a.m.: Prekindergarten Information Session. Online via Zoom. Register at: <https://k12somerville.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwoceyurDovHdGxWOUJL-GEiMX02uK92R5Dt#/registration>

5:30-6:30 p.m.: Prekindergarten / Kindergarten Joint Information Session, East Somerville Community School library, 50 Cross St.

9-10:00 a.m. Kindergarten Information Session, online via Zoom. Register at: https://k12somerville.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqceqsrz0iHNyeneeYvwMByCtTDRIX-C1ce?_x_zm_rtaid=zmiRTBWERjqRM5DZicd46g.1727726430835.27bca2b13098f589bb968dd0440ca735&_x_zm_rtaid=630#/registration

Local community groups can request an additional session if interested. Please contact the Enrollment Office directly with inquiries.

Open Houses

Incoming SPS families are welcome to attend upcoming Open Houses at schools that include classrooms for grades PK-8. A full list of schools and locations is available at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/schools. Open Houses are scheduled as follows:

- Friday, December 6 – tours at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon.
- Thursday, January 9 - tours at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon.
- Thursday, January 30 - tours at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon (snow date only if necessary, Friday, January 31).

PK & K Enrollment Process

The enrollment portal for Somerville Public Schools will open on January 3, 2025.

Prekindergarten families who enroll by February 21, 2025 will be assigned a school based on a lottery system with no criteria for assignments.

Kindergarten families who enroll by February 21, 2025 will be eligible for the first round of school assignments through a lottery system based on Somerville School Committee policy, which prioritizes sibling preference and proximity (school to which your address is connected).

Families who enroll before February 21, 2025 will receive their assignments by the week of March 17, 2025.

Families who enroll after February 21, 2025 will be assigned a school based on seat availability.

When the online system is open, it will be available at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/enrollment. More information will be released prior to the online enrollment date, and information can always be found on the Enrollment page. Families who are unable to access online services and/or families needing additional support should contact the SPS Enrollment Office at 617-629-5670 or enrollment@k12.somerville.ma.us.

Community Schools Afterschool Program Registration

IMPORTANT: Families who are interested in enrolling their students in the Community Schools Afterschool program, run by Somerville Public Schools, will need to register through a separate registration system. The Community Schools portal will be open for Somerville Public Schools students, as follows:

Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Afterschool Registration: March 18 – 28, 2025

Afterschool assignments are based on seat availability at schools and through a weighted enrollment system. For more information, visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/CommunitySchools.

Community Schools Afterschool is only one option available to families in Somerville. Community Schools is part of the SPS system, though there are costs associated with participation. For other available afterschool programs please visit Somerville Hub Connect website, updated by the City's SomerPromise Department.

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

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.”

QUESTION #2 (approved 59 percent to 41 percent) asked voters if they approve of a proposed law that would eliminate the current requirement that in order to get a high school diploma, a student must pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests in mathematics, science, technology and English.

SUPPORTERS REACT: “In passing Question 2, Massachusetts voters have proclaimed that they are ready to let teachers teach, and students learn, without the onerous effects of a high-stakes standardized test undermining the mission of public education: to prepare all students for future success as citizens, workers and creative, happy adults,” said Massachusetts Teachers Association President Max Page and Vice President Deb McCarthy in a joint statement. “For years, educators in classrooms across the commonwealth have been voicing concerns about the harmful impact of the MCAS graduation requirement. Students who were passing their courses were being denied diplomas because of this requirement. Educators were forced to narrow the curriculum in order to teach to the high-stakes test.”

OPPONENTS REACT: “While we are disappointed with the result, the discussion about educational equity and academic standards does not end with this vote,” said John Schneider, Chair of Protect Our Kids’ Future: Vote No on 2. “Eliminating the graduation requirement without a replacement is reckless. The passage of Question 2 opens the door to greater inequity. Our coalition intends to ensure that door does not stay open. We believe all of us, working together, should take a comprehensive look in a timely fashion at setting statewide graduation standards to properly prepare our students for college and workforce expectations. We hope the teacher’s unions will join us in that effort.”

QUESTION #3 (approved 53.8 percent to 46.2 percent) asked voters if they approve of a proposed law that would allow drivers for Lyft and Uber, and any other companies that use a digital network to connect riders to drivers for pre-arranged transportation, to collectively bargain to create negotiated recommendations concerning wages, benefits and terms and conditions of work.

SUPPORTERS REACT: “We are thrilled that Massa-

chusetts rideshare drivers have made history by winning the option to join together in a union,” said Mike Vartabedian and Roxana Rivera, co-chairs of the Yes on 3 Campaign, in a joint statement. “These drivers desperately need a voice in the workplace. Now, we can finally create a path toward ensuring the rideshare industry creates jobs that are sustainable and that allow everyone who does this work full-time to live and care for their families with dignity.”

OPPONENTS REACT: There was no organized group opposing Question 3.

QUESTION #4 (rejected 42.9 percent to 57.1 percent) asked voters if they approve of a proposed law that would allow persons aged 21 and older to grow, possess and use certain natural psychedelic substances for the treatment of PTSD, anxiety and depression. The substances could be purchased at an approved location for use under the supervision of a licensed facilitator.

SUPPORTERS REACT: “We spoke to tens of thousands of Massachusetts voters and heard broad agreement that natural psychedelics should be more accessible to those who cannot find relief through traditional medication and therapy,” said a spokesperson for Massachusetts for Mental Health Options. “We understand there were concerns about the home grow provisions, and those concerns likely led to tonight’s result. But we have made hugely important strides on this issue of psychedelic therapy, and we will keep fighting to find new pathways for all those who struggle with their mental health. We look forward to working with legislators in the new session to continue advocating for access, for hope and for healing.”

OPPONENTS REACT: “Voters across Massachusetts came together to reject the passage of Question 4 in recognition of the negative impacts it would have to our neighborhoods, roads, hospitals, children, pets and public safety across the state,” said Caroline Alcock Cunningham, campaign manager for the Coalition for Safe Communities. “After being outspent by 80 to 1 from a flood of funding that came primarily from organizations with a direct financial interest in Question 4’s passage, Massachusetts voters decided to overwhelmingly reject this poorly written and misguided ballot question.”

QUESTION #5 (rejected 35.6 percent to 64.4 percent) asked voters if they approve of a proposed law that would gradually increase, over the course of five years, the current \$6.75 per hour minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker, as follows: To 64 percent of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2025; 73 percent of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2026; 82 percent of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2027; 91 percent of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2028; and 100 percent of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2029.

SUPPORTERS REACT: “Our campaign this year was

just another step toward winning what is inevitable: a future in which all Massachusetts service workers are paid a full, fair minimum wage with tips on top,” said Saru Jayaraman, President of One Fair Wage. “We will never stop. Just like in places like Michigan and Washington D.C. put the issue on the ballot three times in over ten years before workers finally won the raise they deserve despite corporate restaurant spending and attacks. We will continue the fight and ultimately win One Fair Wage plus tips for all Massachusetts workers. This year in Massachusetts we fought an uphill battle against millions of dollars in corporate influence, false claims and fear tactics, and we came closer than anyone thought possible. The fight for fair wages is far from over, and we will continue organizing to ensure that every worker in Massachusetts receives the dignity and respect they deserve.”

OPPONENTS REACT: “This victory is because of the tireless work of tipped employees across Massachusetts who passionately advocated for their profession and asked voters to listen to the people most impacted by this ballot question,” said Chris Keohan, spokesperson for “No on 5.” “We thank the voters of Massachusetts for overwhelmingly rejecting this ill-conceived ballot question that was pushed by an out-of-state organization without the support of the very workers they purported to be representing.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“We are excited to announce over \$4.5 million for eleven cities and towns as part of the first round of funding of the fiscal year 2025 Complete Streets Funding Program. These grant awards will assist municipalities with the implementation of Complete Streets projects, which will greatly improve safety, connectivity and access for all roadway users. We look forward to working together with local leaders as they begin planning and implementing their projects.” — *Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt announcing the awarding more than \$4.5 million to some cities and towns for the Complete Streets Funding Program to fund local multimodal infrastructure projects that improve travel for pedestrians, public transit users, bicyclists and people using other forms of transportation.*

“The SAFE and Senior SAFE grants are a smart investment in fire protection, fire prevention and fire safety for the most vulnerable members of our communities. — *State Fire Marshal Jon Davine on the awarding of \$2 million in grants to support fire and life safety education for children and older adults, the people most vulnerable in the event of a fire at home.*

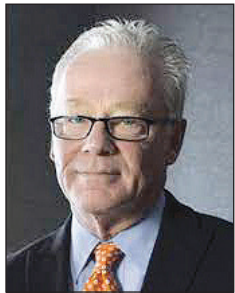
“As we confront an unprecedented fall fire season, I’m asking all our residents to protect themselves, their neighbors and their communities by refraining from any outdoor activities that involve open flames, sparks and embers or other heat sources. — *Gov. Healey asking residents to refrain from any outdoor activity that could cause or contribute to brush and wildland fires.*

Continued on page 17

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.

Arts at the Armory – A Moving Story



I have written this Op-Ed to bring to the community's attention the fact that Somerville is in danger of losing its largest arts organization due to a lack of urgency and mismanagement by the City of Somerville. If you are interested in learning more, please read on.

The iconic Armory building, located on Highland Avenue in Somerville, has been a landmark for over one hundred years. First used as a military headquarters and drill hall, then as an outlet for the Registry of Motor Vehicles, in 2004 it was repurposed by a developer, with huge support from the Somerville community, as a center for the arts.

What started out as a hopeful vision for the entire arts community, soon ran into financial woes, not only for the developer, but for the Arts at the Armory non-profit, its anchor tenant since 2008. Recognizing that the Arts at the Armory was an integral part of the Somerville arts scene and worth saving, in 2018, the Curtatone administration tasked his team and asked some Somerville folks to take a look at the management, financials and possible future strategies for, not only the Arts at the Armory organization, but the actual building itself. I, and a half dozen

of interested arts community residents and businesses, got to work under the Arts at the Armory Advisory Committee. And the findings weren't good.

That would be a tragic loss for all of Somerville, not just the arts community

After months of deep diving into the workings of the building management and the Arts at the Armory organization, the conclusion was that both the property owner and the non-profit business plans had failed. The property owner was also keenly aware of the failed business plan. They decided they would sell the property for development or lease to the highest bidder, dissolve their relationship with their tenant, Arts at the Armory, and get out. Once again, the Curtatone and the City Council at that time, acted fast. The City of Somerville took the property by eminent domain in the summer of 2021 to save not only the building, but to keep alive the Arts at the Armory for the greater good (not to populate it with city offices/needs or most favored tenants). Things

looked a little brighter. The Arts at the Armory organization was moving fast as well. They formed a Board of Directors, hired a new Executive Director, re-established their good standing as a non-profit which had been lost prior to the formation of a Board of Directors, began to generate revenue and developed a short and long-term business plan.

The Arts at the Armory organization has made huge strides in the intervening years. The organization has more than tripled in budget size while growing efficient staffing and organizational structures, and offering increasingly robust programming and services. Reaching 250,000 people through 750+ events each year, they have become what the Somerville community envisioned all those years ago, and then some. A stellar performance space, a function venue, smaller spaces for rent at affordable rates, a community gathering center and a funky cafe, used and enjoyed by all walks of life in Somerville. Despite the two-year interruption caused by the pandemic, they've managed to obtain enough funding to invest over \$550K into improvements to the main performance hall and cafe areas. The upgraded Performance Hall was recently nominated by Boston Music Awards for best 250+ capacity live music venue (voting ends Nov. 22nd). But there is still a problem that threatens their future in Somerville: the building owner.

After a one-and-a-half-year period without a lease, the City of Somerville, the building owner, recently provided Arts at the Armory with a license agreement that has yet to be countersigned by the City. The lease status of the other Armory tenants is also uncertain. Along with dramatic increases in rent, lack of building management or capital plan, and lack of support by the City and the Somerville Arts Council, the lack of a lease document creates instability and potential revenue loss to its tenants. Despite three and a half years of study, the City is again stating that the findings for a sustainable business plan is not yet ready for public consumption.

Meanwhile, the Arts at the Armory remains in limbo and is now considering relocating, perhaps even outside the City of Somerville. That would be a tragic loss for all of Somerville, not just the arts community.

Something tells me that if the City cannot, with all its resources, even manage to produce a draft plan in over three years, it should not consider running the business aspect of the Armory property in the future. Perhaps Arts at the Armory, an organization with a proven track record of success, is a much better choice.

Joe Lynch
Former Chair
Arts at the Armory Advisory Committee

Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 16

"The Name a Snowplow Contest has been a major success the last two years, with great submissions from schools across the commonwealth. This contest is a fun way for kids to learn about public works and for our snow and ice crews to connect with their communities. We are excited to receive creative names for our plows this year." — Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver announcing the third annual "Name A Snowplow Contest" for statewide elementary school students to solicit names for 12 MassDOT snowplows that will be in service for the upcoming 2024-2025 winter season. The entry deadline is December 6 and students can register at <https://www.mass.gov/name-a-snowplow-contest-2024-25>. Last year's winners include Flower Plower, Edward Blizzardhands, Glacier Gobbler, Polar Pathmaker, Snow B Wan Kenobi, The Snolar Express, Sleetwood Mac, Snow Place Like Home, Snow-hemian Rhapsody, The Mayplower, Snow Monstah, Fast and Flurryous.

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of November 4-8, the House met for a total of four hours and three minutes and

the Senate met for a total of 56 minutes.

Mon Nov. 4	House 11:01 a.m. to 12:47 p.m. Senate 11:17 a.m. to 11:31 a.m.
Tues. Nov. 5	No House session No Senate session
Wed. Nov. 6	House 11:02 a.m. to 12:09 p.m. No Senate session
Thurs. Nov. 7	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:12 a.m. Senate 11:11 a.m. to 11:53 a.m.
Fri. Nov. 8	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

ages. They need all hands-on deck for this event. Even if you are unable to help out on the day of the event, they need a lot of help organizing and sorting clothes ahead of time. If you have time and space available in your schedule, please email askyourmamas@gmail.com to get connected with ways to help. They need gently used/like new Mens/Masc boots for MAMAS free store. Please drop all donations at **Connexion Church**, 149 Broadway this **Wednesday, November 13**, between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. If you have boots but are unable to donate them during this time, please email askyourmamas@gmail.com for alternative arrangements.

The **City of Somerville** is now accepting applications from residents ages 16 and older to join the city's **Participatory Budgeting process** as **Budget Delegate Volunteers**. Applications are due **Wednesday, November 20**. To apply, please complete the application by going to the web address below, or call 617-625-6600 ext. 2107 with any questions or to receive a paper application. Application link: <https://bit.ly/4fc0k9g>.

Join **Groundwork Somerville** to learn about mound-style gardens and convert a row-style garden bed into this more sustainable alternative. **November 17**, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 198 South St., Somerville. Stay and celebrate the closing of the Fall season with cider and donuts, make some crafts with us, and share what you want to see in your community spaces.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, **The Somerville Department of Health and Human Services**, and the **Somerville Public Library** invite the Somerville community to join us for the annual **Transgender Day of Remembrance/Resilience** in honor of those members of the community who have lost their lives to violence. **Wednesday, November 20**, 5 – 6 p.m., **Central Library**, 79 Highland Ave. For more information about LGBTQ+ programming, events, and information, please contact LGBTQ+ Services Coordinator **Izzy Starr** at istarr@somervillema.gov

The next public **Community Meeting** regarding **231-249 Elm Street** and **6-8 & 12 Grove Street** (the Development project from the Burren to Dragon Pizza) will be on **November 20**, 6 p.m. at **Somerville Community Baptist Church**,

31 College Ave. The property owner and developer will be engaging in a discussion regarding the project. This is the third conversation they've hosted, and meeting notes from the previous two can be found here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A9Ta_NOJpXJu8CYrukOx-59GG4dB9XB43QXXcmpIk3PM/edit?fbclid=IwY2xjawGgXCllHRuA-2FlbQIxMAABHW5qOnyp06QBe-MHXcJmkJVBIjqHIKYT4oCoKB-Ne78M5nDyXJvk8tQqVrnw_aem_v_OSNDXePKtMZP0d-sni8Q&tab=t.xdfnq4icm70m.

Somerville is taking a step toward greater sustainability and energy equity with a proposed **rental registry and energy disclosure ordinance**. The proposed ordinance will strengthen two-way communication between landlords and the city, while improving landlord access to energy efficiency and weatherization resources. Attend a virtual meeting on **Wednesday, November 20**, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. to get updates on the proposed ordinance, the community feedback process and the feedback received, discuss the preliminary implementation plan, and have opportunities to ask questions and give additional feedback. Once finalized, the proposed ordinance will be submitted to **City Council** for approval. Online via Zoom, to register visit somervillema.gov/rred

The **10th Annual Holiday Stroll** will take place on **Saturday, December 7**. A celebration of **Union Square** sparkle, discovery, and holiday delight that is sure to jumpstart your holiday shopping and get you exploring all that the "38th coolest neighborhood in the world" has to offer! Dozens of locally-owned businesses await you with everything needed to stuff your stockings, deck your halls with local art, tantalize your taste buds, and more. Come on down to unwrap Union Square in all its wintry wonderment.

Are you a **Somerville business** or property owner interested in brightening up your building's exterior? The **Somerville Arts Council** is looking for partners who would like to host a vibrant mural on their property. This is a unique opportunity to collaborate with local artists and enhance the character of our community through stunning public art. If you're interested in learning more about how they can work together to make your building a canvas

for creativity, please reach out directly to discuss potential partnerships and project possibilities. <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/resources/calls>.

The holidays are just around the corner which means the **Somerville Homeless Coalition's Holiday Gift Drive** is now in full swing. This time of year can be especially difficult for their clients and their families which is why they host this drive each year to help spread the joy of the holidays to our less fortunate neighbors. At the moment, they still have 114 clients without a matched sponsor which is why they are asking for your help to make sure that everyone gets to be a part of this year's festivities. If you are interested in providing a gift for a client(s) contact 617-623-6111.

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

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

East Somerville Main Streets is calling for vendors to participate in their **Cozy Holiday Market** on **December 6** from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the **parking lot of Dea-**

no's Pasta, 15 Garfield Ave. If you're interested, please fill out the form <https://forms.gle/mJppkmhXAYj44peRA>. Dec 06, 2024, 5:30 – 8 p.m. The Cozy Holiday Market invites you to savor a warm drink while exploring a variety of artisans, materials, and charming supplies to prepare for the winter ahead. Gather with friends, family, and even bring your pets to relish in the cozy atmosphere. Unearth that festive, ugly sweater from the back of your closet and capture memorable moments with Santa. Embrace the joy of the season and have fun at our cozy market.

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

Davis Square Farmers Market is now open. **Every Wednesday through November 22**, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. visit the Davis Square Farmers Market, across from American Flatbread at **44 Day St**. Visit: www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis. This long-running market features over two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers offering a vibrant selection of delicious produce, protein, baked goods, ready-to-eat meals, alongside a host of other locally made products. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match.

Is your **teen** looking to make some **extra money**? The city's **Snow Shoveling Program** is hiring youth to assist shoveling seniors and homeowners with disabilities out after snowstorms this winter. Teens and homeowners are paired for the season. After each storm, the homeowner will contact their assigned youth to request shoveling services. Somerville teens ages 14 to 19 are welcome to apply. Looking for snow shoveling services? Apply online or contact **Debby Higgins** at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

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

Medical Equipment Program: Through the generosity of the

Continued on page 19

Reminder: Green Line Service suspended between Lechmere and Union Square November 11 – 17

Following up on the previous announcement on October 17, the MBTA is today reminding riders that Green Line service will be suspended between Union Square and Lechmere November 11 – 17. This service suspension will be extended between Park Street and Union Square as well as East Somerville beginning at 8:30 p.m. through the end of service on November 15, continuing all day through the weekend of November 16 – 17.

Riders can find complete information at mbta.com/GreenLine. More information on these service changes and alternate travel options is below:

November 11 – 17: Between Lechmere and Union Square

- Riders should note there will be no shuttle bus service to Union Square. Green Line Union Square Branch riders can instead use area bus routes, including the 86, 91, and CT2 between Union Square and East Somerville station on the Medford Branch. These bus routes also travel to Sullivan Square on the Orange Line. In addition, Route 87 travels between Union Square and Lechmere.
- Riders using local buses during these service changes should budget extra time. For example, a rider traveling to Park Street from Union Square should budget at least 10 minutes of travel time in addition to their regular commute.
- Beginning at approximately 8:30 p.m. through the end of service on November 15, continuing each day November 16 – 17:
 - Between Park Street and Union Square / East Somerville
 - Free and accessible shuttle bus service will replace trains between North Station and East Somerville. The shuttle will also serve Sullivan Square for an additional Orange Line connection.
 - Green Line service between Medford/Tufts and East Somerville will be fare-free.
 - Riders should note that there will be no shuttle bus service between North Station and Park Street. Riders should instead utilize the Orange Line for parallel service through North Station and Park Street.
 - Riders are also reminded that Orange Line / Green Line connections can also be made via the Winter Street Concourse, which connects Park Street and Downtown Crossing stations.
 - Riders should note there will be no shuttle bus service to Union Square. Green Line Union Square Branch riders can instead use area bus routes, including the 86 and 91 between Union Square and East Somerville station on the Medford Branch. These bus routes also travel to Sullivan Square on the Orange Line. In addition, Route 87 travels between Union Square and Lechmere.



This service change is in place to perform lighting work and prepare this Green Line area for upcoming Track Improvement Program work taking place in December. The Track Improvement Program will replace tracks and ties to alleviate speed restrictions along the line while crews maximize the outage by performing signal work and station amenity upgrades, including new lighting, painting, tiling, power washing, and more.

The MBTA understands how these service changes affect riders' daily travels during this period, but we are committed to improving your travels long term with more reliable, timely, and safe service. We thank riders for their patience as we deliver this important work and for continuing to ride our system.

More information is also available through in-station signage and public announcements. Transit Ambassadors and MBTA staff will be available on-site to offer information and assistance during these service changes. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA on X @MBTA for up-to-date service information.

Riders are also encouraged to connect with MBTA staff at the following upcoming Track Improvement Program pop-up event:
Tuesday, December 3, Station Pop-Up, Medford/Tufts, 4 – 6 p.m.

For more information, please visit mbta.com/TrackProgram or connect with the T on X @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

— MBTA

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 18

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and from the direction of Mayor Ballantyne, the Council on Aging can provide Durable Medical Equipment at no cost to Somerville residents. Residents with a documented need for medical equipment must be over the age of 60, or have a permanent disability, and must be otherwise unable to afford or access needed medical equipment. We currently have available: Commodes, Bath Benches,

Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies and Transport Wheelchairs (wheelchairs are intended for transport and are not self-propelling or self-breaking.) For additional information, or for an application, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

The Council on Aging Flu and COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Dates at the Holland St. Senior Center, 167

Holland St. Senior Only Clinics, please register by calling the COA directly at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300. For clinics open to the general public, please register via the City of Somerville website. November 18 (ages 19+) noon – 2:00 p.m., December 12 (ages 19+) 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Both flu and COVID-19 vaccines are conveniently offered at multiple locations across Somerville, improving access for all residents. If you do have

health insurance, please bring proof of coverage. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Walk-in appointments are limited.

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



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week

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

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

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

Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 9

was the first to formulate an Installation Team to create other VFW Posts throughout Massachusetts. They equipped and furnished veterans' hospital wards and rooms across the state from Chelsea to Holyoke. They also contributed to many deserving charities and relief drives.

Somerville's city seal proclaims, "Honorably Purchased from the Pawtuckets 1639," They were the Native American Indians who inhabited the Mystic River Valley. It is an honor that very few cities can claim.

During WWI, Americans exhibited Indian head profiles and images on their shoulder patches, vehicles, and equipment. During WWII, young airborne troops sporting Mohawk haircuts, prayed with General Eisenhower just hours before leaping into the French

skies over Normandy. They spearheaded the D-Day invasion yelling "Geronimo!" in honor of the great Native American Chief. It was a declaration of their proud American heritage.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars' sponsorship of Somerville sports has been almost endless. From Golden Gloves Boxing at Dilboy Field, to amateur baseball, basketball, golf, hockey and road races for all ages.

Most interestingly, the veterans of the All-American Dilboy Post gave Boston its first professional football team, The Boston Redskins. The team played in Boston for their first few years and then moved to Washington, D.C. It is there that they have been honoring America and the American Native Indian since 1937 as our Capitol's team ... The Washington Redskins!

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Reflecting the natural world...

— Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in History

November 13

- 1474 – In the Swiss-Burgundian Wars, Swiss infantry shatters the army of Charles the Bold at Héricourt near Belfort, countering his march to Lorraine.
- 1835 – Texans officially proclaim independence from Mexico, and calls itself the Lone Star Republic, after its flag, until its admission to the Union in 1845.
- 1851 – The London-to-Paris telegraph begins operation.
- 1862 – Lewis Carroll writes in his diary, "Began writing the fairy-tale of Alice– I hope to finish it by Christmas."
- 1907 – Paul Corno achieves the first helicopter flight.
- 1914 – The brassiere, invented by Caresse Crosby, is patented.
- 1945 – Charles de Gaulle is elected president of France.
- 1956 – The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously strikes down two Alabama laws requiring racial segregation on public buses.
- 1982 – The Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated in Washington, DC.
- 2000 – Articles of impeachment passed against Philippine President Joseph Estrada.

2024 Somerville High School Fall Sports Roundup

2024 GREATER BOSTON LEAGUE CHAMPIONS: Girls Soccer, Girls Cross Country, and Boys Cross Country, Cheer

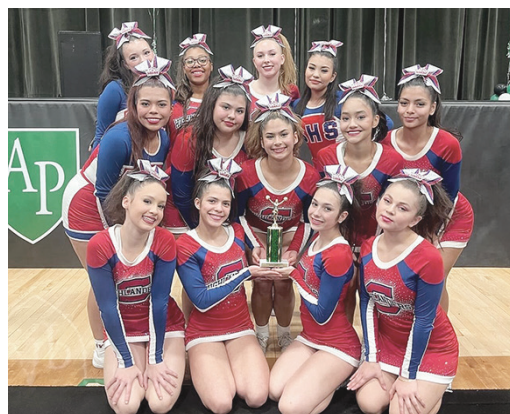
20 Student-Athletes named Greater Boston League All-Stars

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Tournament Information (MIAA):

- ♦ **Volleyball:** Lost to 3-2 to Grafton High School in a thrilling match in the first round of tournament play.
- ♦ **Girls Soccer:** Lost 6-0 to a strong Billerica team in the first round of the tournament
- ♦ **Boys Soccer:** Won 3-1 in the first round of the tournament vs Chelmsford. The team advanced to the Round of 32 where they lost 3-2 in a hard-fought match to Natick.
- ♦ **Volleyball (13-7):** It was an amazing season for the girls' volleyball team, finishing with a stellar 12-8 record— After coming so close in previous seasons, the team finally earned a well-deserved spot in the MIAA state tournament. Their hard work, determination, and dedication paid off, making this year one to remember. GBL ALL-STARS: Alexis Bowie, Cate Timmins.
- ♦ **Girls Soccer (11-5-3):** It was another incredible season for the girls' soccer team, as they secured back-to-back Greater Boston League (GBL) championships. Their consistent performance and dedication led them to qualify for the MIAA tournament for the third consecutive year, showcasing their dominance and growth as a program. GBL ALL-STARS: Leila Smee, Delia Richardson, Caitlyn Logue, Wendy Santos.
- ♦ **Boys Soccer (10-7-1):** The boys soccer team had another strong season, though they fell just short of defending their GBL title from last year. The team's resilience and effort earned them a spot in the MIAA tournament for the third consecutive year. GBL ALL-STARS: Gabriel Dos Reis, Imani Mixon.
- ♦ **Girls Cross Country (6-1):** The girls cross country team had a strong season, finishing with only one loss and earning the title of GBL champions. The team's success sets the stage to continue to have a strong presence in the GBL. GBL ALL-STARS: Greta O'Sullivan and Marlee Thrasher.
- ♦ **Boys Cross Country (7-0):** The boys cross country team had yet another undefeated season, marking their fourth straight GBL championship. Their consistency has solidified them as a dominant force in the league. This incredible streak reflects the hard work of the athletes and coaches. GBL ALL-STARS: Oliver Wicks, Henry Zarecor, Robert Leoni, Henry Omura.
- ♦ **Golf (7-6):** The golf team had a great season, highlighted by six student-athletes, qualifying for the MIAA state tournament. GBL ALL-STARS: Emmett Easton and Magnus Anell.
- ♦ **Football (3-6):** It has been an exciting year for the football team, who started strong with a 3-1 record in September. The team has shown tremendous growth throughout the season. The team will finish out the season with the annual Thanksgiving football game against Cambridge on Wednesday, November 27th at 6:00PM at Dilboy Stadium. GBL ALL-STARS: Gavin Fucile, Rockson Thapa, Mateus Fernandes, Marcos Pineda.
- ♦ **Unified Basketball:** It's been a fantastic second year for the unified basketball team, an undefeated 4-0 record so far. The team had an outstanding comeback win (58-56) against Lynn Tech at home with a packed gym. They wrapped up their season at a jamboree in Malden on November 12.

♦ **Cheer:** The cheer team has truly brought the energy this year. Their hard work and dedication have been evident in every performance. The team placed 2nd at the 2024 Cheer Invitational at Austin Prep. The team also came in first place at the Greater Boston League (GBL) competition on November 10.

Indira Evora ,
Assistant Athletic Director
Somerville High School



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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Endicott College Professor Richard Oxenberg Wrestles with God in a new book 'God: A Dialogue'

I met Richard Oxenberg at Endicott College where I have taught for 15 years. Oxenberg, a professor of philosophy at Endicott has a new book out *Two Philosophers Wrestle with GOD: A Dialogue*.

The book concerns a series of conversations that he had with another distinguished philosopher Jerry Martin. Martin has claimed he had an actual conversation with God. Oxenberg and I have talked about his book on a number of occasions; so I decided to interview him.

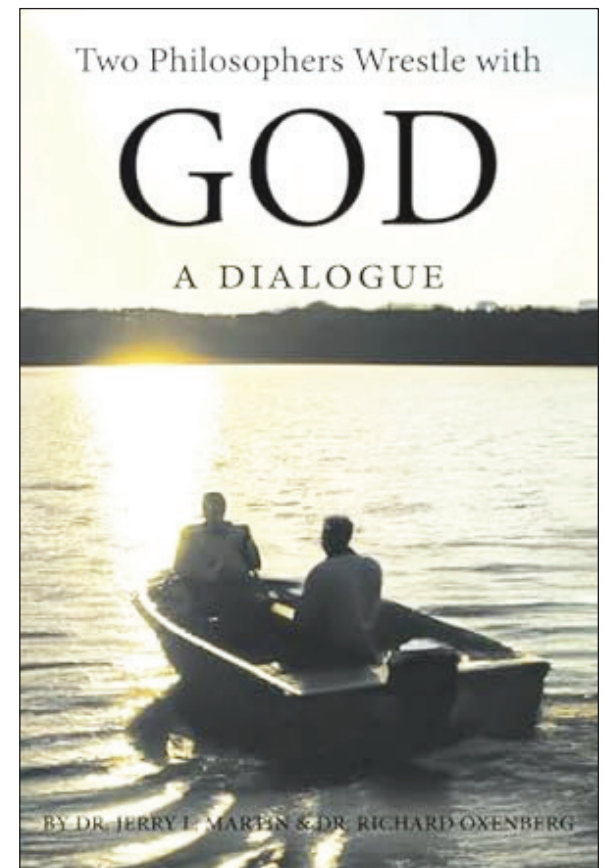
Doug Holder: Could you say a little bit about how this book came about?

Richard Oxenberg: Yes. I first met Jerry Martin at an American Academy of Religion conference in Atlanta in 2010. He was facilitating a group discussion called *Theology Without Walls*, which I attended. The participants were considering the question of whether and how it might be possible to do theology outside of traditional confessional boundaries; in other words, to develop a theology that would draw from multiple religious traditions rather than be confined to one. I was intrigued by the idea and later googled Jerry Martin's name to learn a little more about him. I discovered a website in which Jerry told a strange story of having engaged in a series of conversations with God. I read it with some fascination and, of course, not a little skepticism. Part of what lent it credence, though, was that Jerry Martin had some very impressive credentials. He had spent years as the chairman of the philosophy department at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and had served as head of the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington.

Sometime later I ran into Jerry again at another American Academy of Religion conference, this time in Boston. We ended up talking with one another for quite some time about our views of religion and about some of Jerry's experiences. He was very friendly and affable and we remained in contact. Eventually, he published a book of his conversations with God, called *God: An Autobiography as Told to a Philosopher*. After reading it, I again had many questions. At some point we decided to sit down together and record our conversations about his experiences. This book is the result.

DH: In your book *God: A Dialogue* you discuss a conversation you had with a noted philosopher Jerry Martin, who claimed to have had a conversation with this almighty deity. Did you ever feel that Dr. Martin was pompous or unstable?

RO: So, no, my strong impression of Jerry is that he is an earnest, highly intelligent, rational person who



has had an extraordinary experience and is doing his best to report it as he experienced it. What actually accounts for these experiences is another question. In Jerry's book, he writes as if he and God are just two people having a simple conversation with one another, and I'm sure that's how Jerry experienced it. My own suspicion, though, is that what is actually going on is something more psychologically and spiritually complex. We explore some of these questions in the second dialogue in the book.

DH: Have you ever heard voices which might have been from another dimension or realm?

RO: No, I've sometimes had what I've come to think of as "epiphanies" – moments of insight when I feel I've come to understand something at a profound level. But I've never heard otherworldly voices.

DH: Dr. Martin claims that we are 'instruments of God.' If we are instruments of God, does that imply we have no free will? An instrument to me seems like a puppet.

RO: I don't recall Jerry ever speaking of us as "instruments of God." Actually, he speaks of us as partners with God. The way it is presented in Jerry's book, God depends upon us for God's own development and even self-awareness. At one point, God says to Jerry, "I live through each individual life – inspiring, guiding, being blocked, whispering, coaching, feeling joy, and suffering." Continued on page 23

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Michael Minassian lives with his wife in Southern New England. He is a Contributing Editor for *Verse-Virtual*, an online poetry journal. His poetry collections *Time is Not a River*, *Morning Calm*, and *A Matter of Timing* as well as a chapbook, *Jack Pays a Visit*, are all available on Amazon. For more information: <https://michaelminassian.com>.



Lilacs Come Undone

The dream is a slow waterfall—
birds fly through the mist,
they wear casual suits
made from feathers and bones.

Rain falls and shimmers
in the sunlight
like a school of fish
turning together in the sea.

Inside a burning house
bees play violins—
I eat chocolate cake
at the kitchen table.

My friend knocks on the front door,
bringing a bouquet of weeping women,
drowsy with sleep and grief,
like lilacs come undone.

I wipe away words
floating in the air,
the library of my mind
holds a snapshot of verse.

— Michael Minassian

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

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

Jerry then says, "So one dimension of your story is the personal co-partnering." And God responds, "Not just one dimension - the crucial dimension."

At another point, Jerry says to God, "I want a strong sense of Divine Providence," and God responds, "No, you have to give that up. I do not write the script. We are all players trying to discover our lines. I have a very special role and it involves guiding the human players toward the right action."

So, as envisioned in Jerry's book, we are not at all like puppets. God is working with us and through us and, in some sense, even in dependency on us, to achieve a good result. We definitely have free will, and the way we exercise it determines how successful the world will be.

DH: God, according to Martin, talked about the arrogance of "human reason." Does this imply that reason is a hindrance to a strong connection to God?

RO: It is not reason that is a hindrance, but arrogance. The phrase "the arrogance of human reason" refers to the presumptuous notion that only what human reason has thus far come to understand can possibly be true. Authentic reason is not arrogant but humble and aware of its limitations. Until Einstein, Newton's theory of gravity was the best understanding of gravity that human reason had thus far arrived at. Then Einstein came along and developed another and superior understanding. And it seems to me entirely likely that at some point Einstein's theory will itself be replaced by something even better.

So, it is foolish to think that what we now know is all there is to know. Indeed, there are many mysteries that modern science has yet to resolve. Perhaps the most significant of these is the relationship between mind and matter, sometimes called the "mind-body" problem. Modern science has given us a highly materialistic view of reality that takes no account of features of mind that we know through introspection, such as thought, feeling, desire, and volition. An "arrogant" rationalism, rooted in modern science, might be inclined to dismiss the subjective dimension of reality, given that scientific reasoning has thus far been unable to find a place for it. And indeed, we have philosophers who refer to the mind as an 'epiphenomenon' of the brain, in other words, just a strange side-effect of neurological processes without substantial reality. In this way, they basically dismiss all that is meaningful in life.

So, it is not reason that needs to be overcome but arrogance. The model for this in philosophy is Socrates. Socrates was certainly a great devotee of reason, but at the same time he was famous for saying, "I know that I don't know." In fact, it is reason itself, properly applied, that should prevent us from becoming arrogant. Authentic reason is aware of its own limitations.

DH: It seems that God agrees with scientists that the Universe was created through the "Big Bang." And in fact, he created the Universe because of the loneliness of the void.

RO: Yes, one of the basic themes of Jerry's revelations has to do with what philosophers sometimes call "the paradox of the One and the Many." At the very foundation of reality is a primordial Unity that expresses itself in almost infinite diversity. As Jerry's book presents it, what scientists know of as "the Big Bang" is the emergence of our diverse universe out of this more primordial divine Unity.

A distinction is made in Jerry's book between the God

of this world, who is the one who primarily speaks to Jerry, and what comes to be called the "God Beyond God," which is the primordial Unity itself. The God of this world is an instantiation of the God Beyond God, but unlike the latter, which is eternal and quiescent, the God of this world is temporal and engaged in a project.

As Jerry's book presents it, among the first experiences of the God of this world upon emerging from the God beyond God is an experience of loneliness. When I first read this, it seemed very strange, especially in light of our common conception of God as fully self-sufficient. But the more I thought about it, the more it made sense to me. After all, loneliness is an experience we all have. If everything arises from God, then loneliness itself must have its roots in something about God. As I came to think of it, loneliness might be recognized as resulting from the fragmentation of the divine Unity that occurs when the One gives rise to the Many. Each separated individual feels itself bereft of the eternal Unity it enjoyed prior to individuation. That sense of separation is experienced as loneliness, and this loneliness gives rise to the desire for love, through which we seek to overcome the division between self and other and return to an experience of unity. So, the God of this world emerges with a project, which is to create a loving world.

DH: God remarks that there is a "God Beyond God"—so behind God is a sort of mentor. So, is God, the creator, an apprentice?

RO: This is related to my answer to the last question. I'm not sure the word "apprentice" is quite right, but the God of this world emerges with a project arising from the God Beyond God. In Jerry's book, God says at one point, "This is the ultimate story, the ultimate meaning of it all ... I have a project to complete ... It is in the nature of reality that the world, the totality of worlds plus Me, is here for a purpose. There is a goal ... The goal is completeness, connectedness, to create the many and pull them back into the one."

So, this is God's job, so to speak, God's essential project. As presented in Jerry's book, it is necessary for the primal Unity—the "God Beyond God"—to create the many, for it is only through creating the many that it is able to fully actualize and express itself. But the creation of the many presents a problem, as it leads to discord, alienation, conflict, loneliness, and all forms of suffering. This problem can only be resolved through the establishment of a loving world, a world that functions in harmony with itself. This is the ultimate goal.

As Jerry and I discuss in our dialogue, when God says that the goal is to "create the many and pull them back into the one," God does not mean to bring them back into the original primal Unity, but rather to establish a harmonious, loving, concord among the many, as opposed to a conflictual discord. And this is an ongoing project. It is not a project that is going to come to an end at some point in time, but a project to be pursued at every moment of time. Every moment presents us with opportunities for furthering concord or discord and we fulfill ourselves (and God fulfills Godself) as we promote concord.

DH: What are God's greatest wishes for humanity?

RO: Well, it may sound a little trite, but the ultimate wish of God is for a loving world. In Jerry's book, God

says to Jerry, "Love is what fully actualizes a thing. A person comes into full personhood only in a loving relationship, in loving and being loved. That is true of the whole world, and of Me as well." In another place, God says, "Love is the basic force of the universe. I enter the world out of love. The world yearns for Me, and turns to Me, out of love. Love forms the bond between man and woman, one neighbor and another, and the orders of nature. It is love that pulls all of nature upward, and heals the soul and repairs the breaches in the world. Even on the level of physics, it is love that holds the world together and provides its energy."

So, God's wish is for a world fully integrated in love. According to the God who speaks in Jerry's book, this is what all the different religions are pointing to in their various and imperfect ways. One of the great theological challenges of our time is to recognize this about the different religions and have them move from a posture of hostility toward one another to a posture of mutual respect for one another, and, beyond this, to a recognition of their commonality. And this brings us back to my answer to the first question. As I said, when I first met Jerry he was facilitating a group discussion about a project he was calling, "Theology Without Walls." According to Jerry, it was God who asked him to initiate this project. Its purpose is to have the diverse religions come to recognize their common ground and common purpose. Ultimately, that purpose is to foster a loving world.

DH: Why should we read your book?

RO: This book is really a companion piece to Jerry's original book, *God: An Autobiography as Told to a Philosopher*. That book is fascinating because of the picture of God it presents. I've tried to give an idea of that picture in my previous answers. As Jerry's book presents it, there is a single divine reality underlying all the world's religions. This God has a project, which is ultimately to foster a loving world, although that may express it too simplistically. Part of this project, and consistent with it, is the fostering of justice, beauty, artistic creativity, education, intellectual advance. The ultimate project is to fully actualize the potentialities latent in reality itself, potentialities that are only fully actualized through harmony and love. So, this is a basic theme of Jerry's book.

One drawback of Jerry's book is that its ideas are not presented systematically. Jerry was intent on recording his conversations with God just as he experienced them, and as a result—though Jerry's book is very readable—the overall message of the book may seem a little obscure. What I tried to do in my dialogues with Jerry was to ask questions and make proposals that would help us bring out the underlying message of Jerry's book in a more systematic way. I think this is one of the values of my book with Jerry.

I think anyone interested in thinking deeply about religion and spirituality would find both Jerry's original book and my book of dialogues with Jerry worthwhile. As one commentator wrote about my book with Jerry, "This collection of both candid and profound conversations will delight any reader with an interest in spiritual matters and the big questions of life's meaning and purpose."

I think that about says it. Thanks for your questions, Doug!

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