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## City releases draft Master Plan for Armory building



A draft of the City of Somerville's Armory Master Plan has been released, with a final version expected to be adopted by next month. — Photo courtesy of Arts at the Armory

After an extensive community process, the City of Somerville has released a draft Somerville Armory Master Plan, a roadmap of how to best preserve and envision a future for the Armory building, located at 191 Highland Ave., as a thriving community arts center for years to come.

In 2021, to prevent pandemic impacts from forcing the sale of the Armory building by its previous owner, and the eviction of its tenants, the city purchased the building to protect its use as an arts center. The city has frozen or accepted reduced rents from all tenants in the three years since, making it easier for all to weather pandemic closures and the inflation that came in the years since. Meanwhile, a commitment was made to develop long-range plans to transition the space from a private building to a public community center that *Continued on page 4*

## Shopping locally is key

By Cathleen Twardzik

Small Business Saturday is November 30, in just a few days. That's why it's paramount to shop locally in Somerville at small places, such as Magpie.

So why shop locally in more detail? "We think shopping locally is important to support local artists and keep your neighbors employed. Shopping locally supports generations of community [members]," said Heaven Euvrard, Co-Manager/Consignment Sales Magpie. She has worked at the shop for more than two years.

Magpie is located at 416 Highland Ave. Contact the shop at 978-895-7264. Also, their website is: magpie-store.com.

What is her favorite part of operating the gift shop? It is "meeting local artists and seeing their expressions when they are able to sell their art in the store. I remember how I felt selling *Continued on page 4*



Start shopping at smaller stores to support Somerville's economy. — Photo by Cathleen Twardzik

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

We here at *The Times* wish everyone a happy and safe **Thanksgiving holiday**. As we approach holiday gift shopping don't forget to shop local to support local businesses. City offices will be closed on **Thursday, November 28**, and **Friday, November 29**, for Thanksgiving. Trash, recycling, and yard waste collection will be delayed by one day. All **Somerville Public Library** locations will be closed after 5 p.m. on **Wednesday, November 27**, all day **Thursday, November 28**, and all day **Friday, November 29** for the Thanksgiving holiday. Regular hours will resume on Saturday, November 30. The **Council on Aging** will be closed on **November 28** and **Friday, November 29** in observance of Thanksgiving.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville varsity football team** has a home non-conference game vs. **Cambridge Rindge and Latin** (Cambridge, MA) on **Wednesday, November 27**, 6 p.m., at **Dilboy Stadium**. Tickets can be purchased on-site before the game.

\*\*\*\*\*

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **Jason Fucile**. We wish Jason the very best birthday. Happy Birthday to **Peter Forcellese**. We wish him a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to **Lisa Hastings**, celebrating her birthday this week. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Brian Kirk**, **Kim Volz**, **Joseph Di Pietro**, **Nancy Robinson Faulkner**, **Lee Grassia Anderson**, **Linda Chaille Nixon** and **Dorothy Derbishian O'Malley** a very happy birthday. We hope *Continued on page 7*

## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of November 27 – December 3 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
<b>Wednesday</b> <i>November 27</i>	Partly Cloudy	50°/36°	5%	3%	W 12 mph
<b>Thursday</b> <i>November 28</i>	Rainy	43°/35°	93%	84%	E 11 mph
<b>Friday</b> <i>November 29</i>	Partly Cloudy	45°/30°	17%	11%	NW 13 mph
<b>Saturday</b> <i>November 30</i>	Sunny	40°/25°	4%	2%	W 17 mph
<b>Sunday</b> <i>December 1</i>	Partly Cloudy	41°/25°	7%	3%	W 13 mph
<b>Monday</b> <i>December 2</i>	Sunny	39°/23°	4%	1%	WNW 11 mph
<b>Tuesday</b> <i>December 3</i>	Sunny	39°/25°	3%	1%	WNW 12 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: **Dr. Audrey Evans and the Antifolate Revolution That Changed Cancer Therapy**

Karen Klein says:

Very informative. Thanks, Ian. Good to learn about the complexities of treatments.

### Response to: **Somerville unveils guide to transforming private land into public spaces**

Dog says:

Privately-owned space that is functionally public? Meaning Somerville doesn't pay for the space, but it gets to tell the owner that the space needs to be for everybody and dictates the terms? Must be nice to have cake and eat it too.

### Response to: **The Beauty in Simplicity: Neighborhood Produce's contribution to the City of Somerville**

Marigo Farr says:

Great story!

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

## The Somerville Times

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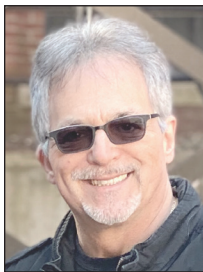
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Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Thankful in '24



If you're a Somerville resident like me, we have a lot to be grateful for. I'm grateful that there aren't more bad roads, construction and detours. Personally, I'm grateful for my reasonably good health. I'm glad my kids' grandmother is still with us and more importantly with it. I'm glad I can pay my parking tickets over the phone. I just can't get that street cleaning schedule down.

I'm grateful that my primary care doctor is within walking distance from

my house.

I'm grateful that I was around for Johnny D's.

I'm thankful for my car's remote starter and heated seats. I'm thankful for METV which broadcasts vintage TV shows. I'm grateful for my trusty washing machine we bought at Sears 35 years ago.

I'm grateful for everyday McKinnon's Market stays open. I'm thankful that I can use the remote without looking at it. I'm grateful that I got to enjoy The Venice Cafe and Kay and Chips restaurants.

I'm especially grateful for the memories I have of friends I lost recently, Bobby, Peter, Richie. And Kenny. Happy Thanksgiving.



## Join Somerville's annual holiday celebrations

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council (SAC) warmly invite the Somerville community to join in the City's 2024 holiday celebrations. The city will illuminate City Hall concourse with festive Christmas tree and menorah lighting events that will include snacks, refreshments, entertainment and gifts for children. The community is also invited to see the creativity and holiday spirit of their neighbors by embarking on either a self-guided or SAC-led Illuminations Tour. More details about each event are available below.

### Christmas Tree Lighting

Date: Thursday, December 5 (Rain date: December 12) Start Time: 5 p.m.  
Location: City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave)

### Menorah Lighting

Date: Thursday, December 26 (Rain date: December 30) Start Time: 6 p.m.  
Location: City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave)

### Holiday Gift Drives

Join in spreading holiday cheer – each year the city supports annual holiday gift drives. Check back soon on the city website for how you can contribute.

### Illuminations Tour

Dates: December 12, 2024-January 2025: Illuminations map available to take a self-guided tour  
Check back soon at [somervilleartscouncil.org/illuminationstour](http://somervilleartscouncil.org/illuminationstour) for more information on the Illuminations Bike Tour.

For more information on the city's holiday events, please call 311 (617-666-3311 from outside the city). For more information on the SAC Illuminations Tour, please email Iaritza Menjivar at [imenjivar@somervillema.gov](mailto:imenjivar@somervillema.gov).



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## Somerville Police Dept Crime Log November 12 – 18

### Residential Breaking and Entering

24071523: On 11/14/24 at approximately 5:20 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Warren Ave. for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he left his residence and when he returned, noticed his door was damaged and a guitar was stolen.

### Arrest

24071166: On 11/13/24 at approximately 11:56 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Broadway for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with an employee who stated a male party was getting his haircut then got up and attacked another employee. Officers placed the male suspect under arrest.

### Robbery

24072484: On 11/18/24 at approximately 10:45 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Chuckie Harris Park for a fight. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was attacked by a group of males and his cellphone was stolen. The victim suffered injuries to his face.

### Assault

24072164: On 11/17/24 at approximately 5:36 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Broadway for report of an injured party. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was involved in a fight with another male. The victim suffered injuries to his face.

### Assault

24072582: On 11/19/24 at approximately 9:20 a.m., Somerville Police responded to Somerville Ave. and Park St. for a check condition. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she was in a shared Uber with another female and was attacked during the ride. The victim suffered injuries to her eye.

### Residential Breaking and Entering

24071792: On 11/15/24 at approximately 6:20 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on North St. for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a few days prior she was in her living room and noticed a male party walk into her apartment. The suspect then left the residence. Nothing was reported missing.

Other Crimes: 1 Vandalism + 1 MV vandalism + 1 MV theft + 1 Bike theft + 2 Package thefts

— Somerville Police Department



## City releases draft Master Plan for Armory building

CONT. FROM PG 1

would best serve the full Somerville community as an arts and culture hub into the future.

To ensure a plan that would serve the full community and adhere to state laws governing the fair use of public assets, the City's Economic Development division and the Somerville Arts Council partnered to develop a master plan informed by community input. The draft plan was developed through an in-depth community engagement process. It included stakeholder interviews, focus groups, research, and several public meetings in which robust debates about the building were held.

That draft plan is now available for community members to review and provide feedback online. A public hearing for further input will occur at the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday,

December 10, at 6 p.m. online via Zoom. A meeting agenda and instructions to join will be posted soon to [somerville-ma.legistar.com](http://somerville-ma.legistar.com).

"It's easy to forget now just how dire the situation was back in 2021. The city stepped in to be sure this vibrant space was not converted into condos, offices, or other private uses. And not only did we save the building and help the tenants get through the pandemic, we now have an opportunity to realize a long-term community goal. Together, we can now plan for a public arts hub as a place to create and experience arts and culture for years to come," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "The work now is to ensure we have a strong plan that serves this diverse, creative, forward-looking community. I want to thank the many community members who helped drive this work forward and look forward to ad-

ditional feedback."

A foundational component of the plan is the creation of a community-based board of governance. There will be a team of advisors that supports and governs the building, with the goal of ensuring it not only serves its many tenants, but the community as a whole. To launch the revitalization of the building as quickly as possible, the governing board is proposed to first be situated within the City structures and work toward independent financial stability over time.

"The community wants to see diverse uses in this space serving all ages as well as multiple creative and cultural arts from dance and theater to crafts, music, talks, and more. From rehearsal, studio, teaching, and gallery space to event and community space, the Armory is poised to build on its strong foundation as an arts

and community hub. The public's vision and ownership of this plan will help the Armory grow into even broader access and activity for artists and the public alike," said Somerville Arts Council Director Greg Jenkins.

The final draft of the plan is expected in December 2024. Upon approval of a final plan, the City can take key next steps: namely, releasing a Request for Proposals (RFPs) to lease space to current and potential tenants. There are close to 20 different spaces within the Armory building. Spaces may be appropriate for a small publishing company, a media arts studio, a theatre rehearsal space, a photographic collaborative – any cultural business or non-profit.

To learn more and review the draft plan, please visit [voice.somervillema.gov/armory-master-plan](http://voice.somervillema.gov/armory-master-plan).

## Shopping locally is key

CONT. FROM PG 1

my first piece of art in store, and it is such a gratifying feeling. I love helping others get that feeling," said Euvrard.

The shop has an interesting history. "Magpie started in the early 2000s when five friends were influenced by the Bazaar Bizarre. They loved the idea of

a place to get hand-crafted items and thought, 'Why not make a storefront for these items instead of waiting for the yearly fairs and markets?' Now, David Sakowski remains as the owner," she said.

Magpie's best-selling items include

"cards, incense matches or candles, stickers and local prints."

However, "We also sell stationary items like notebooks, sketchbooks [and] pens. Individual cards, as well as sets. Further, they sell, "Tea towels, mugs, puzzles, apothecary items, trinkets and DIY kits,"

said Euvrard.

So, unlock the door to increasing the number of purchases that you make at Magpie, and small businesses around Somerville. Maybe even try to complete all your holiday shopping at such establishments.



# Climate change and electric vehicle charging stations: The Central Somerville Avenue Project

By Katherine Davis

On Monday, November 18, the Central Somerville Avenue Project group met to go over the summaries from that morning's workshops on infrastructure and zoning in the proposed development area.

Starting the meeting off, Dan Bartman noted that there is a potential adjustment to the Somervision map as there is discussion regarding changing part of the campus of SomerNova to be included in the Enhancement district of Somervision. These maps are there to imply the intent of what kind of policy is applied to different types of areas around the city, since it relates to the amount or developmental activity that may or may not happen. Bartman assured the attendees that the redevelopment scale in this potential location is nowhere near the size of that of Assembly Square, it is a much smaller project.

Starting with notes from the Engineering Department of Somerville, that morning the department presented three aspects of infrastructure to focus on: wastewater and sewage systems, drinking water and fire hydrants, and lastly stormwater management. The department said that the sewage system itself has enough capacity to absorb the 1.6 million square feet of proposed development.

They also covered stormwater management strategies regarding issues of surface level flooding that already affect the surrounding neighborhood of the campus, some ideas being a Blue Roof where water storage is able to be brought in and held

onto for reuse, or a Green Roof where vegetation and the dirt that vegetation grows out of provides a medium to collect water. Lastly, some local pipes will likely need to be replaced and fire hydrants will need to be tested, however that is the common practice of any new development and is not particular to the Central Somerville Avenue campus.

Tying into the engineering aspect of the development, that morning's workshop included notes from the Office of Environment and Sustainability that covered much of Climate Forward 2050's goals for the city of Somerville. There are only five years until the 2030 target that aims for 50% of homes and commercial buildings to be fully electric, 40% of passenger vehicles to be electric, and 10% of commercial vehicles to be electric.

The proposal from the Rafi development board states an intent to construct buildings that, in the future, are capable of switching over to 100% electric. They also plan on converting 25% of the existing parking spaces from the first build into electric vehicle charging spaces, Bartman saying the goal is to be "building buildings and parking spaces that are ready for that future that we want to get to as we all continue to adapt and change into that condition."

There is a major push for the elimination of burning carbon with this project, and they are looking into reusing materials from the existing buildings to help eliminate waste from the project itself. Another important note brought up regarding en-



The city's Climate Forward goals were, among other things, discussed by the Central Somerville Avenue Project group at their recent meeting.

vironmental impact was towards minimizing the heat island created by paved areas. While rising sea levels are a global issue, the most threatening direct impacts on Somerville's infrastructure and community, with regard to climate change, are the heat island and storms with water events. More information on climate efforts and Somerville can be found at [Somervillema.gov/climateforward](http://Somervillema.gov/climateforward).

Proposed building heights are still being discussed, with more information being added to the [voice.somervillema.gov](http://voice.somervillema.gov) website with examples of potential heights of proposed buildings and more. The area itself is considered commercial "in intent and nature," but there is the chance for the "adaptive reuse of a his-

toric building for artist reasons" to which artists could build up residential density by working on something that provides a community benefit from them living in the particular area.

There is also a discussion that the group intends on facilitating that considers the potential motor vehicle traffic that could be caused by the new development.

Since more needs to be covered, the Central Somerville Avenue project group intends to continue meeting beyond the currently scheduled workshops, with additional dates to be added soon. The scheduled meeting for December 2nd has been rescheduled to Monday, December 16, at 6 p.m. both in person at Bow Market and on Zoom.

## Historic New England awards Somerville Museum Community Preservation Grant

Historic New England has announced the recipients of the 2024 Community Preservation Grants, the Somerville Museum being among them.

Each year, one Herbert and Louise Whitney Fund Community Preservation Grant is awarded to a small to medium-size heritage preservation organization in each New England state. Historic New England is committed to telling the whole story of the region's history. These grants support projects that save and expand the stories shared in our communities. This year, Historic New England awarded grants of \$1,250 to six organizations.

In expectation of Rev250 events, the Somerville Museum is launching History Lines: A Map of Colonial and Revolutionary Medford and Somerville. The map will have links to audio tours, translations, and other resources to highlight the area's history from pre-Colonial times through the early-nineteenth century.

The endowment fund that supports Historic New England's Community Preservation Grants Program is named in honor of Herbert and Louise Whitney to recognize their deep appreciation and love of all things New England, in particular the Bishop family farm in North Woodstock, Connecticut.





# Beacon Hill Roll Call



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Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://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.

## \$2.4 MILLION FOR SCHOOLS PLANNING EXPANDED SCHOOL DAYS OR SCHOOL YEARS (H 4800)

House 133-24, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of the entire \$2.4 million for grants to cities, towns and regional school districts for planning and implementing expanded learning time by making school days and/or school years longer.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$2.4 million was eliminated.

"I am vetoing this item because funding is intended for 2024 summer month programming, which cannot be implemented at this point in the fiscal year due to the need for a spring application window," said Gov. Healey in her veto message.

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$2.4 million. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

## \$1.1 MILLION FOR STEM STARTER ACADEMY (H 4800)

House 155-2, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of \$1.1 million (reducing funding from \$4.7 million to \$3.6 million) for the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) Starter Academy programs to be implemented at Massachusetts community colleges to benefit student populations identified by the department as having expressed a high level of interest in STEM majors and STEM careers but are underperforming on STEM academic assessments.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$1.1 million was eliminated.

"I am reducing this item to an amount consistent with my [budget] recommendation," said Gov. Healey in her veto message. "This budget sustains and adds substantial new funding across community colleges to support the goals of this program."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$1.1 million. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes  
Rep. Mike Connolly Yes

Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes

## \$500,000 FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER (H 4800)

House 134-24, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of \$500,000 for the Massachusetts Information Technology Center, a secure state office building in Chelsea that houses multiple state agencies, including IT-centric operations for the Department of Revenue, the Department of Criminal Justice Information Systems and the Firearm Records Bureau.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$500,000 was eliminated.

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

Supporters of the governor's veto said the state signed an impact fee agreement in 1993 to pay the city of Chelsea \$500,000 per year for 30 years, to cover the costs to the city of the new infrastructure that had to be built in to accommodate the new development. They noted the 30 years were up in 2023 and argued the \$500,000 is no longer needed.

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$500,000. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

## ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**CLEAN ENERGY AND CLIMATE (S 2967)** - Gov. Healey signed into law climate/energy legislation that supporters say will make systemic changes to the state's clean energy infrastructure which will help the state achieve its net zero emissions by 2050 goals, and also expand electric vehicle use and infrastructure, and protect residents and ratepayers.

"Accelerating clean energy development will create good jobs, lower costs, attract more businesses to Massachusetts and grow our climatetech economy," said Healey. "This legislation includes important provisions to lower energy costs for families and businesses, including expanding bill discounts to middle-class households and increasing access to clean energy measures that reduce customer expenses such as solar, heat pumps and electric vehicles. These reforms will also end the years-long delays for solar, wind and other critical electric infrastructure, which play a critical role in our ability to be a global leader

in clean energy and climatetech."

"This legislation advances critical updates for the siting and permitting of clean energy infrastructure, ensuring a supportive and reliable electric grid and building out electric vehicle charging infrastructure, among so many other things," said Rep. Jeff Roy (D-Franklin), House Chair of the Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy. "By overhauling outdated state permitting and siting processes, the commonwealth aims to secure an equitable, accelerated buildout of clean energy generation and infrastructure that we need to reach our climate goals and power our electrified clean energy future."

"This comprehensive law is a reminder of the power Massachusetts has to advance groundbreaking climate solutions—no matter who is in power in D.C.," said Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton), chair of the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change. "The law includes a wide range of policies that move us closer to net-zero emissions, including essential reforms to our gas system. By preventing gas investments that are both imprudent and contrary to our climate mandates, the bill will keep costs down and prevent wasteful spending of ratepayers' hard-earned money."

**\$3.9 BILLION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE (H 5100)** - Gov. Healey signed into law a \$3.9 billion economic development package that supporters say would make bold investments in life sciences, climate tech, AI and small businesses, "building on Massachusetts' national leadership and creating an environment where businesses and workers thrive."

The package increases the annual tax credit authorization for the life sciences industry from \$30 million to \$40 million. Other provisions include \$400 million for the MassWorks Infrastructure Program to support public infrastructure projects and create jobs; \$150 million for library construction projects; \$103 million for AI in systems across the state; \$100 million for infrastructure improvements in rural communities; \$21 million for resilience in agriculture and fishing; and \$40 million for food science innovations.

"Massachusetts is the best state in the nation to live, work, go to school, raise a family and build a future, said Healey. "That's in large part due to our commitment to investing in cutting-edge industries that produce transformative innovations and make life better for people. The [bill] builds on this leadership, positioning us to the global hub for climate innovation and applied AI, while also growing our already world-renowned life sciences industry, culture and tourism sectors."

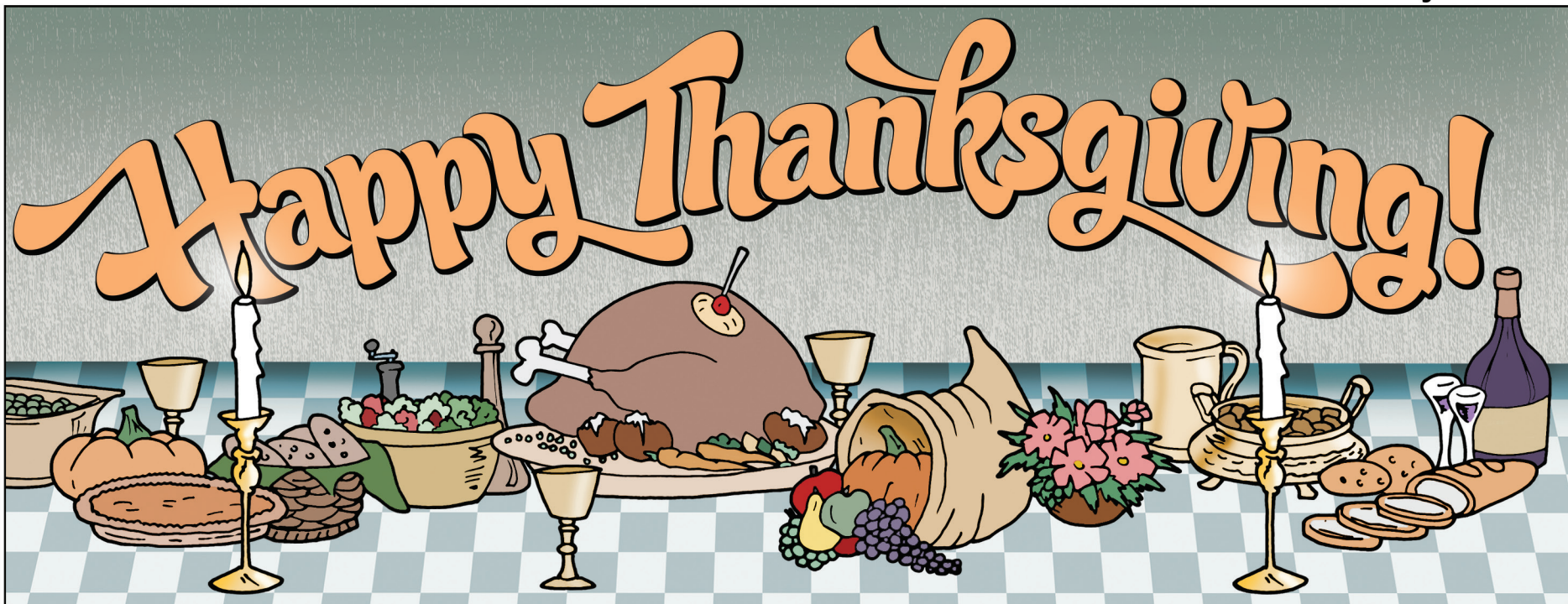
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# COMMENTARY

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Happy Thanksgiving to one and all!

## Our View Of The Times



Giving thanks for our blessings is normally an easy thing to do. We may often get caught up in the day-to-day trappings of scratching out a living, ducking misfortune, and seeking out an occasional highlight to add to our mental scrapbooks. Usually, though, we come around to feeling and expressing that special sense of appreciation and gratitude that comes in moments of quiet reflection just in time

to validate ourselves as worthy recipients of such blessings.

Thanksgiving Day gives us that little nudge we sometimes need to take stock in what is most important for us and to share in the sense of appreciation that we feel amongst one another.

Of course, for those of us who may be blessed with material abundance, it is also important to help the less fortunate who

may be in need as the winter holiday season unfolds. Consider giving a little of your time or money to make another's life a little better, particularly during the winter months to come.

For those among who may be struggling to keep it all together, remember to look at what is good in life and remain faithful that change for the better is always waiting just around the corner.

Sadly, in spite of most people's best intentions, many in the Native American community be-moan the occasion as glossing over the troubled relationship their ancestors had with the "new world" settlers.

Still, may this holiday provide a meeting ground for all of us. One in which we can share in the goodness of life and fellowship between us all. There's no better way to express our gratitude.

### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **28th Annual Gobble Gobble Gobble** is a family-friendly 4-mile turkey trot that takes place every year on **Thanksgiving Day** at 9 a.m. Presented by the Somerville Road Runners, the Gobble Gobble Gobble road race starts and ends in **Davis Square** (at the heart of Somerville), features a unique 4 mile course, and offers a fun opportunity to start Thanksgiving on a high and healthy note. Proceeds benefit **Somerville Homeless Coalition, Somerville Track PAC, Stride for**

**Stride and Dilboy VFW Veterans Relief Fund.** For race details, visit <https://srr.org/gobble>. Beginning around 8 a.m., detours will be in place around the start and finish lines in Davis Square. (Holland St. at Elmwood St./Elm St. at Grove St.) MBTA bus service may be temporarily modified. Visit [mbta.com/bus](https://mbta.com/bus) for details. Any traffic delays are expected to be brief and the entire race is expected to be complete by approximately noon.

\*\*\*\*\*

SAC and the **Inside-Out Gallery** present **Vernon Street Studios 50th Anniversary Retrospective Exhibit**, curated by **Steven Cabral**. This showcase was a

part of Steven's community benefit project as a **Somerville Arts Council LCC 2024 Visual Arts Fellowship Awardee**. Inside-Out Gallery, Vernon Streets Studios 50th Anniversary Exhibit, **1 Davis Square, Somerville**. Learn more about the participating artists here: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/insideout/vernonstreet50>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Don't miss the **Somerville High School student performance of Mamma Mia!** **Thursday, December 5**, at 8 p.m., **Friday, December 6**, at 5 p.m., **Saturday, December 7**, at 2 p.m., **Saturday, December 7**, at 7 p.m. Visit the **Highlander Theatre**

**website** to learn more and purchase tickets: <https://www.highlandertheatre.org/>

\*\*\*\*\*

This month, the **Somerville Public Library**, 79 Highland Ave., is pleased to display the artwork of local artist **John Ruyman** in the **Gallery @ SPL** with their exhibition: **Narrative Spaces**. Join them for a reception celebrating the exhibit. To learn more about the gallery <https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/adults/gallery-spl>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The community invited to see the creativity and holiday spirit of their neighbors by embarking on either *Continued on page 21*



# FUN & GAMES

## Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#951

1. What popular Thanksgiving vegetable was the first to be grown in space in 1995?
2. According to Merriam-Webster, when was the term "Friendsgiving" first circulated?
3. Which Native American tribe celebrated the first Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims?
4. Which retailer was the first to host a Thanksgiving Day parade?
5. When did the Mayflower officially depart England for America?
6. What was the first official act of legislation by the Pilgrims?
7. Which city's Thanksgiving Day Parade ends with Santa Claus getting a key to the city?
8. What was the first balloon character in the Macy's day parade?
9. Who is the winner of the tradition of breaking the wishbone of a turkey?
10. What is Giving Tuesday?
11. When is Giving Tuesday?
12. Why since 1971 have the people of Nova Scotia given the city of Boston a Christmas Tree?

Answers on page 13

### The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Pope John Paul II was an honorary Harlem Globetrotter.
2. *Mulan* has the highest kill-count of any Disney character.

#### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

##### SPORTS

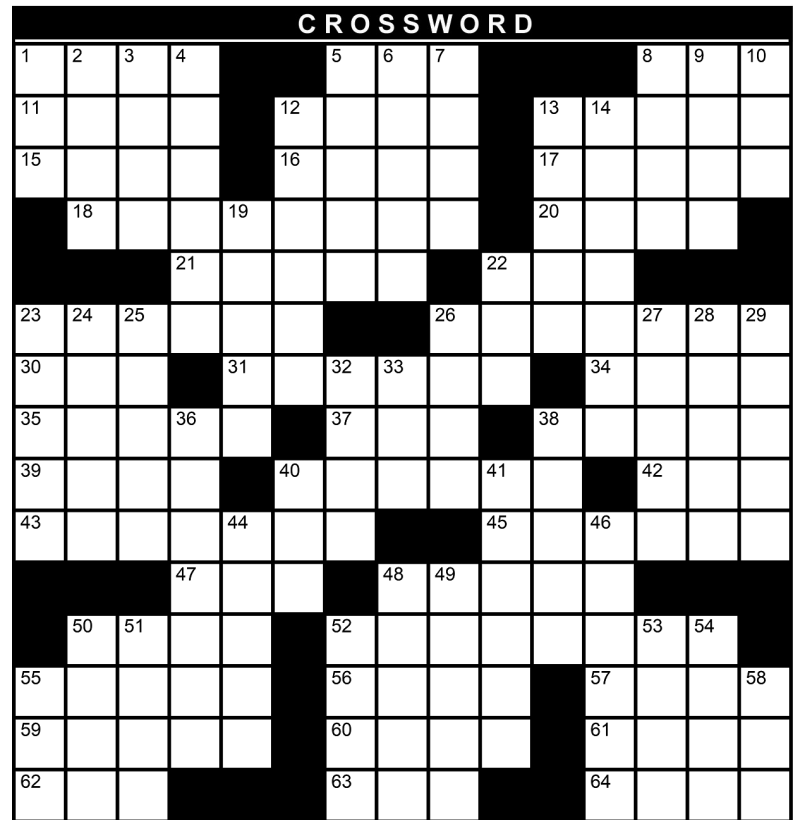
##### ACROSS

1. Combat vehicle
5. Semi
8. Biathlon gear, sing.
11. Keiko of "Free Willy"
12. Ashi Waza and jugodi sport
13. Audience's approval
15. Tandoori bread
16. Ned Stark's daughter, "Game of Thrones"
17. Röntgen beams
18. Warning track sport
20. Monetary "thank you," pl.
21. Indigo dye shrubs
22. "Arabian Nights" bird
23. Destroyer
26. Danced to certain Polish music
30. Crematorium container
31. One without magic powers in Harry Potter stories
34. Largest volcano in Europe
35. Do nothing (2 words)
37. Singer Yoko
38. Be at the helm
39. Tropical tuber
40. Player who delivers in a crucial sports moment

42. Recipe qty.
43. Display proudly (2 words)
45. Smells
47. Lake, in France
48. Clean a spill (2 words)
50. #8 Across, pl.
52. \*Cornerback and direct snap sport
55. Russian pancake
56. Pasta option
57. Go cold turkey
59. Reward for multiple sports championships, pl.
60. "Breaking Bad" victim
61. The Beehive State
62. King Kong, e.g.
63. Type of lightbulb, acr.
64. Spooky

##### DOWN

1. Boatload
2. Riyadh native



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3. Collegiate sports grp.
4. Topeka native
5. Not urban
6. Short poems of pastoral life
7. Hockey score
8. Powerful shot in hockey
9. 11th letter of Roman alphabet, pl.
10. Elvis' "\_\_\_\_ Now or Never"
12. White and black stork
13. Glorify
14. Gully and deep mid wicket sport
19. Foe
22. Fish eggs
23. Corrodes
24. Heap of "David Copperfield"
25. Preface
26. Scheme
27. Mr. T's TV show "The \_\_\_\_"
28. Olden days constipation treatment
29. Bag of nails and baby ton sport
32. Eagle and mulligan sport
33. African migrator
36. Turkey and split sport
38. Woody perennial
40. Chlorofluorocarbon, abbr.
41. He gets a flag?
44. Reprieve in a desert
46. Not light-transmitting
48. Dots and dashes code
49. Did like goo
50. Women's underskirt
51. Plural of cow, arch.
52. Sports transgression
53. Plucked string instrument
54. Pinocchio, e.g.
55. Type of undergarment
58. Olden day "your"

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

### Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:





## Ribbon cutting at Goodwill Store



After an extensive renovation, the Goodwill Store in Davis Square reopened for shopping and donating on November 1. Attending the ribbon cutting two weeks later were, from left, City Councilor Kristen Strezo, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Goodwill President and CEO Joanne Hilferty, City Councilor Jake Wilson, and City Councilor Wilfred Mbah. Goodwill, a community-based nonprofit, has been a presence in Somerville since the 1950s and has been at its current location since 1990. Check it out at 230 Elm St.

## Kickstarter campaign launches to build new comedy theater in Somerville



A new improv comedy theater is coming to Somerville, MA. Sort of. Union Comedy, currently at 593 Somerville Ave, has found a new home at 73 Bow Street. Before moving, however, there is some work to be done, and a stage to be built. The theater has launched a Kickstarter campaign in the hopes of raising \$50,000 to build a vibrant performance space for the improv comedy community, performers and audience alike.

The theater will be a welcoming venue offering much more than its current space allows, with weekly shows, comedy classes, and events designed to foster community and highlight local talent. With a larger audience capacity, a green room for performers to gather pre-show, bar & lounge, and infrastructure updates, the space aims to become a comedy destination for Union Square and beyond.

Backers can choose from exciting rewards like mystery designed t-shirts, contributing to a time capsule, naming the bar and more. The campaign runs until December 9, 2024. Support the campaign and learn more at <https://tr.ee/2024-union-comedy>.

## The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



### Eagle feathers #318

This article first appeared in the November 25, 2020, edition of *The Somerville Times*.

### Thanksgiving - 420 years

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

In the autumn of 1621, the custom of Thanksgiving in America was first announced by Governor Bradford of the Plymouth Colony. This tradition was created to give thanks for the survival of the European immigrants who fled religious and self-governing intolerance and survived the grueling sixty-six-day voyage across the stormy Atlantic Ocean.



The arduous voyage took place one year earlier and was comprised of 102 over-crowded Pilgrims who had endured the harsh winter elements, diseases and a drastic food shortage on the freezing Atlantic coast. It took the lives of half of its population.

This first Thanksgiving Day was a celebration in gratitude for the first harvest in their new world. Much of their gratitude was for Myles Standish, the military leader of the Plymouth Colony. He was the protector of the Colony and the fifth signer of the Mayflower Compact. He was sent northward by the original Plymouth Colony to attempt to make peace with non-hostile natives and request their help in order for the settlement to survive.



Standish, nine of his men, and three natives sailed in shallops up the coast from Plymouth, past today's Boston harbor to the base of the Mystic River. Here, they disembarked and explored roughly five miles inland. It brought them to today's West Somerville and Medford area where they scouted and made contact with peaceful natives. It was a successful mission exploring and creating new friendships with indigenous tribes.

Standish was the first European to explore what is now Somerville. Plymouth Colony was in a particularly precarious way and truly needed this success to survive. It was at this time that the First Thanksgiving

Continued on page 11



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## NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

**Date of Publication:** November 27th, 2024  
 City of Somerville  
 93 Highland Ave  
 Somerville MA, 02143  
 617-625-6600

On or after November 27th, 2024, the City of Somerville will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the following project:

**Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title:** Neighborhood Infrastructure and Improvements

**Purpose:** The project will focus on making improvements in underserved and income eligible areas.

**Location:** Income eligible low- to moderate-income census tracts.

**Project/Program Description:** The project will focus on making infrastructure, streetscape, and multi-modal safety improvements including traffic calming, ADA improvements, and utility improvements in underserved and income eligible areas. The activities identified will be aimed at benefitting areas that serve a minimum of 800 low- to moderate-income residents. As a result of the densely populated nature of Somerville's neighborhoods, OSPCD is confident that most activities will serve a much higher number of low- to moderate-income persons. It is likely that this tiered review will cover no more than three different infrastructure projects.

**Level of Environmental Review Citation:** 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)(2)

**Tier 2 Site Specific Review:** The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Contamination and Toxic Substances [24 CFR 50.3(1) & 58.5(i)(2)], Endangered Species [Endangered Species Act of 1973], Floodplain Management [Executive Order 11988], Historic Preservation [National Historic Preservation Act of 1966], Noise Abatement and Control [Noise Control Act of 1972], Wetlands Protection [Executive Order 11990], and Environmental Justice [Executive Order 12898].

**Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any):** Once sites are selected, tier 2 reviews will be conducted to ensure that they: are not located in a FEMA designated flood area; are not near or containing hazardous, toxic, or radioactive materials; do not suffer from adverse environmental conditions; will not be adversely harmed by the proposed action as well as the surrounding neighborhood; do not adversely affect a Massachusetts historically significant site; do not have an adverse effect on endangered or threatened species, or critical habitats; are not subject to adverse noise levels; are in the proximity of explosive/flammable hazards. If the described Tier 2 review does identify any of these scenarios, HUD guidelines will be followed to best mitigate the concern.

**Estimated Project Cost:** HUD Funding: \$50,000 Estimated Cost: \$50,000

The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)(2). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, City of Somerville, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA and may be examined or copied Monday - Wednesday 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Thursday 8:30 A.M. - 7:30 P.M. or Friday 8:30 A.M. -12:30 P.M. or can be requested through an email to [mrubin@somervillema.gov](mailto:mrubin@somervillema.gov).

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development. All comments received by December 13th, 2024, will be considered by the City of Somerville prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Somerville certifies to HUD that Alan Inacio, the Certifying Officer, in his capacity as Director of Finance and Community Development, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Somerville to use HUD program funds.

### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Somerville's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Somerville; (b) the City has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the HUD Office of Community Planning and Development at Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building 10 Causeway Street, 5th Floor Boston, MA 02222-1092, (617) 994-8350 or via email: [ma\\_webmanager@hud.gov](mailto:ma_webmanager@hud.gov). Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Alan Inacio, Director of Finance and Community Development, City of Somerville, Certifying Officer

11/27/24 The Somerville Times



## City of Somerville PLANNING BOARD

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

### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, December 5, 2024**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

### TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/81255740142>  
 Webinar ID: 812 5574 0142

### TO CALL IN

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

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

**20-23 Cummings Street** Greystar Development East, LLC proposes a Master Plan in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use (ASMD) special district, which requires a Master Plan Special Permit.

**20-23 Cummings Street** Greystar Development East, LLC seeks waivers from dimensional standards for building height, floor area ratio, and front setback, proposing occupancy of commercial space greater than 10,000 square feet in leasable floor area in the Assembly Square Mixed-use district and modifications to the provisions of Section 11.2 Motor Vehicle Parking, all which requires a Special Permit.

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

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

11/20/24, 11/27/24 The Somerville Times



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

**RFP# 25-30 On-Call Real Estate Development and Relocation Services**

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

### On-Call Real Estate Development and Relocation Services

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: **Monday, November 25, 2024**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Monday, December 16, 2024**.

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](mailto:jremy@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Jordan Remy**  
 Senior Procurement Manager  
 617-625-6600 x3400

11/27/24 The Somerville Times

### Notice of Intent

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

- 2014 TOYOTA COROLLA VIN# 2T1BURHE 0E C226652
- 2016 NISSAN PATHFINDE R VIN# 5N1AR2MM8G C644000
- 2006 HONDA CIVIC VIN# 2HG FA16576H526731
- 2007 VW JE TTA VIN# 3VWE G 71K37M159285
- 2009 ACURA TL VIN# 19UUA96589A004750
- 2010 KIA FORTE VIN# KNAFU4A24A51275498

To satisfy the debt owed to Cityside Enterprises Inc.  
 617-776-6111

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### Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com) on **12/10/2024 at 12:00PM**. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Jessica Cheney unit #1402; Stella Burke/U.S. Postal Service unit #1512; Campbell Chesterfield unit #2023. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

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**Date of Publication:** November 27th, 2024  
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 93 Highland Ave  
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 617-625-6600

On or after November 27th, 2024, the City of Somerville will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the following project:

**Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title:** Green Infrastructure

**Purpose:** The City will Operate a tree planting program.

**Location:** Income eligible low- to moderate-income census tracts.

**Project/Program Description:** The City will operate a tree planting program in eligible low- to moderate-income census tracts. Activities identified will be aimed at benefitting areas that serve a minimum of 500 low- to moderate-income residents. Given the densely populated nature of Somerville's neighborhoods, OSPCD is confident most activities will serve a much higher number of low- to moderate-income residents. This program is operated citywide, but CDBG funds are only used for trees planted in CDBG-eligible areas. The planting process for city trees may involve some ground disturbances.

**Level of Environmental Review Citation:** 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)

**Tier 2 Site Specific Review:** The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Contamination and Toxic Substances [24 CFR 50.3(1) & 58.5(i)(2)], Endangered Species [Endangered Species Act of 1973], Floodplain Management [Executive Order 11988], Historic Preservation [National Historic Preservation Act of 1966], Noise Abatement and Control [Noise Control Act of 1972], Wetlands Protection [Executive Order 11990], and Environmental Justice [Executive Order 12898].

**Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any):** Once sites are selected, tier 2 reviews will be conducted to ensure that they: are not located in a FEMA designated flood area; are not near or containing hazardous, toxic, or radioactive materials; do not suffer from adverse environmental conditions; will not be adversely harmed by the proposed action as well as the surrounding neighborhood; do not adversely affect a Massachusetts historically significant site; do not have an adverse effect on endangered or threatened species, or critical habitats; are not subject to adverse noise levels; are in the proximity of explosive/flammable hazards. If the described Tier 2 review does identify any of these scenarios, HUD guidelines will be followed to best mitigate the concern.

**Estimated Project Cost:** HUD Funding: \$50,000 Estimated Cost: \$50,000

The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)(2). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, City of Somerville, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA and may be examined or copied Monday - Wednesday 8:30 A.M to 4:30 P.M., Thursday 8:30 A.M. - 7:30 P.M. or Friday 8:30 A.M. -12:30 P.M. or can be requested through an email to [mrubin@somervillema.gov](mailto:mrubin@somervillema.gov).

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development. All comments received by December 13th, 2024, will be considered by the City of Somerville prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Somerville certifies to HUD that Alan Inacio, the Certifying Officer, in his capacity as Director of Finance and Community Development, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Somerville to use HUD program funds.

#### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Somerville's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Somerville; (b) the City has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the HUD Office of Community Planning and Development at Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building 10 Causeway Street, 5th Floor Boston, MA 02222-1092, (617) 994-8350 or via email: [ma\\_webmanager@hud.gov](mailto:ma_webmanager@hud.gov). Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Alan Inacio, Director of Finance and Community Development, City of Somerville, Certifying Officer

11/27/24 The Somerville Times

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## Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 9

was celebrated. It was at this dinner that 90 Native Americans, Standish (the only lawman in New England,) and 51 other pilgrims hailed their newfound friendship and partnership.

In 1872, the same year that Somerville became a city, the cornerstone was laid for the Myles Standish Monument on Captains Hill overlooking Plymouth Bay in Duxbury. At the time, the 116-foot-tall shaft, with a 14-

foot statue of Standish at the top, was rivaled only by the Washington Monument as a United States monument to an individual.

So, when we sit down with families and friends this difficult year of 2020, let's be thankful for all our blessings and remember that what is now our City of Somerville played a small part in making this great holiday.

Happy 404th birthday to Plymouth!



### 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, December 4, 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](mailto:ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov).

#### TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/wn\\_QBqJauXg006aiQ0-R6HcVQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/wn_QBqJauXg006aiQ0-R6HcVQ)  
 Webinar ID: 844 3407 4866

#### 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:

**483 Broadway** Tavis Babbitt seeks zoning relief from the minimum number of stories requirement in the MR4 district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

**483 Broadway** Tavis Babbitt seeks zoning relief from the story height requirement in the MR4 district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

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](mailto:ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov).

11/20/24, 11/27/24 The Somerville Times



### CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB #25-31

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, Invites Sealed Bids For:

#### Repair & Maintenance of Door Systems

A bid package may be obtained online at:

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/procurement-and-contracting-services> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at

<http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, November 27th, 2024**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2pm, Monday, December 16th, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

**Note:** Non-mandatory group site visit 12/9/2024 - see bid pkg for details.

Please email Sonia Castro [scastro@somervillema.gov](mailto:scastro@somervillema.gov) for more info.

**Sonia Castro**  
 Procurement Manager  
 617-625-6600 x3407

11/27/24 The Somerville Times

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



## LEGAL NOTICES

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FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

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617-625-6600

On or after November 27th, 2024, the City of Somerville will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the following project:

**Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title:** Small Business Resiliency

**Purpose:** Provide technical assistance to small businesses in the East Somerville and Union Square areas.

**Location:** Income eligible areas including East Somerville, Winter Hill, and Union Square. Specific addresses and locations will be subject to environmental reviews once identified.

**Project/Program Description:** This is a technical assistance program, and will support small businesses in the East Somerville and Union Square areas. The technical assistance will provide small businesses that provide direct services to clients of whom a minimum of 60% reflect the target populations that follow: women/minority owned businesses, immigrant/non-native English speaking, low-moderate income entrepreneurs. The businesses may receive things such as: one-on-one consulting, coaching, and mentoring, direct financial assistance to help do things such as acquire property/clear structures/build, expand, or rehab a building/purchase equipment, provide operating capital or lease negotiations, or train new/existing entrepreneurs to understand fundamental business concepts.

**Level of Environmental Review Citation:** 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)(2)

**Tier 2 Site Specific Review:** The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Contamination and Toxic Substances [24 CFR 50.3(1) & 58.5(i)(2)], Endangered Species [Endangered Species Act of 1973], Explosive and Flammable Hazards [24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C], Floodplain Management [Executive Order 11988], Historic Preservation [National Historic Preservation Act of 1966], Noise Abatement and Control [Noise Control Act of 1972], Wetlands Protection [Executive Order 11990], and Environmental Justice [Executive Order 12898].

**Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any):** Once sites are selected, tier 2 reviews will be conducted to ensure that they: are not located in a FEMA designated flood area; are not near or containing hazardous, toxic, or radioactive materials; do not suffer from adverse environmental conditions; will not be adversely harmed by the proposed action as well as the surrounding neighborhood; do not adversely affect a Massachusetts historically significant site; do not have an adverse effect on endangered or threatened species, or critical habitats; are not subject to adverse noise levels; are in the proximity of explosive/flammable hazards. If the described Tier 2 review does identify any of these scenarios, HUD guidelines will be followed to best mitigate the concern.

**Estimated Project Cost: HUD Funding:** \$150,000 **Estimated Cost:** \$150,000

The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)(2). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, City of Somerville, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA and may be examined or copied Monday - Wednesday 8:30 A.M to 4:30 P.M., Thursday 8:30 A.M. - 7:30 P.M. or Friday 8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. or can be requested through an email to [mrubin@somervillema.gov](mailto:mrubin@somervillema.gov).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development. All comments received by December 13th, 2024, will be considered by the City of Somerville prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION**

The City of Somerville certifies to HUD that Alan Inacio, the Certifying Officer, in his capacity as Director of Finance and Community Development, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Somerville to use HUD program funds.

**OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Somerville's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Somerville; (b) the City has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the HUD Office of Community Planning and Development at Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building 10 Causeway Street, 5th Floor Boston, MA 02222-1092, (617) 994-8350 or via email: [ma\\_webmanager@hud.gov](mailto:ma_webmanager@hud.gov). Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Alan Inacio, Director of Finance and Community Development, City of Somerville, Certifying Officer

11/27/24 The Somerville Times



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

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, December 5, 2024** at 6:30 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

**REGISTER ONLINE**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_cvS0G2tSSR2F3FsejD-rww](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cvS0G2tSSR2F3FsejD-rww)

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

- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Sections 2.1 and 11.1 of the Zoning Ordinance to improve the regulation of bicycle parking.
- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Section 3.2.6 Building Types of the Zoning Ordinance to allow the building types permitted in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) zoning district to also be permitted in the Urban Residence (UR) zoning district.

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

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

11/20/24, 11/27/24 The Somerville Times

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Essex Probate and Family Court  
36 Federal Street  
Salem, MA 01970**

**Essex Division**

**Docket No. ES24D1281DR**

**SEPARATE SUPPORT SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING**

**Virgilia Mayelin Peralta  
vs.  
Rene Francisco Peralta**

**To Defendant:**

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Separate Support requesting that the Court

establish that such living apart from the defendant is for justifiable cause.

grant him/her custody of the child(ren)

order Plaintiff to be able to apply for passport for minor child(ren)

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:

**Virgilia Mayelin Peralta  
108 Franklin Street  
Apt 25  
Lynn, MA 01902**

your answer, if any, on or before **12/30/2024**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

**WITNESS, Hon. Frances M. Giordano, First Justice of this Court.**

Date: November 7, 2024

**Pamela A. Casey O'Brien  
Register of Probate**

11/27/24 The Somerville Times

## Tufts University Department of Music Presents 'Sunday Concert Series: Tufts Symphony Orchestra'

The Tufts University Department of Music presents "Sunday Concert Series: Tufts Symphony Orchestra" in the Distler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Sunday, December 8, at 3 p.m. Under the direction of John Page, Tufts Symphony Orchestra plays Mahler's 1st Symphony.

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



# LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)



## NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

**Date of Publication:** November 27th, 2024  
 City of Somerville  
 93 Highland Ave  
 Somerville MA, 02143  
 617-625-6600

On or after November 27th, 2024, the City of Somerville will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the following project:

**Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title:** Parks and Open Space Improvements

**Purpose:** Enhancing urban environment through additional and improved recreational spaces.

**Location:** Income eligible areas including but not limited to East Somerville, Winter Hill, and Union Square. Specific addresses will be assessed in the site-specific reviews.

**Project/Program Description:** This project will create and revitalize quality recreational open spaces in the city's most densely populated and under-served neighborhoods. The City will focus its parks and open space activities on the low-to-moderate-income neighborhoods that demonstrate the greatest need and lack of suitable green space and recreational amenities.

**Level of Environmental Review Citation:** 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)

**Tier 2 Site Specific Review:** The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Contamination and Toxic Substances [24 CFR 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)], Endangered Species Act of 1973, Floodplain Management [Executive Order 11988], Historic Preservation [National Historic Preservation Act of 1966], Wetlands Protection [Executive Order 11990], and Environmental Justice [Executive Order 12898].

**Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any):** Tier 2 reviews will be conducted to ensure projects comply with the above listed federal regulations. Sites will be reviewed to ensure they are not located in FEMA designated flood area and that there are not on-site or nearby hazardous, toxic, or radioactive materials that could harm the health and safety of occupants. Project sites will be evaluated to determine that the site and surrounding neighborhood do not suffer from adverse environmental conditions and that the proposed action will not create an adverse and disproportionate environmental impact or aggravate an existing impact. The Massachusetts Historical Society/State Historic Preservation Officer will be consulted to ensure the project does not adversely affect a historical site and when relevant, Tribal Historical Preservation Officers will also be consulted. Sites will be reviewed to ensure projects do not have an adverse effect on endangered or threatened species or critical habitats. Due to potential ground disturbances, potential effects on endangered species, important farmland, and wetlands will also be reviewed. If adverse conditions are identified related to the above listed regulations, HUD guidance will be consulted to ensure proper mitigation occurs for each project site.

**Estimated Project Cost: HUD funding:** \$300,000, Total estimated project cost: \$300,000

The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(1). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, City of Somerville, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA and may be examined or copied Monday - Wednesday 8:30 A.M to 4:30 P.M., Thursday 8:30 A.M. - 7:30 P.M. or Friday 8:30 A.M. -12:30 P.M. or can be requested through an email to [mrubin@somervillema.gov](mailto:mrubin@somervillema.gov).

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development. All comments received by December 13th, 2024 will be considered by the City of Somerville prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Somerville certifies to HUD that Katjana Ballantyne, the Certifying Officer, in her capacity as Mayor of Somerville consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Somerville to use HUD program funds.

### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Somerville's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Somerville; (b) the City has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the HUD Office of Community Planning and Development at Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building 10 Causeway Street, 5th Floor Boston, MA 02222-1092, (617) 994-8350 or via email: [ma\\_webmanager@hud.gov](mailto:ma_webmanager@hud.gov). Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Katjana Ballantyne, Mayor of Somerville, Certifying Officer

11/27/24 The Somerville Times



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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, December 17, 2024** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

### TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_26go3GiRRVvIM7UjtM-9K0](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_26go3GiRRVvIM7UjtM-9K0)

Webinar ID: 864 4773 8484

### TO CALL IN

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

### ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

### DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

#### HP24-000104- 42 Vinal Avenue

Applicant: Morse Constructions  
 Owner: Alexandra Fitzsimmons & Sean Brann  
*The Applicant seeks to demolish an accessory structure constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.*

*Case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) with inquiries.*

11/27/24 The Somerville Times

## Tour PK-8 schools in December and January

December 6, January 9, and January 30. Everyone is invited to take a tour of one of our prekindergarten through grade 8 schools on three dates, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. during School Open Houses.

Tours will last about an hour and start at 9, 10, 11 a.m. and noon. Community members are invited to drop in.

Tours of Somerville High School are scheduled for February 12 and 13.

Please visit the Learn About our Schools page for more details: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-departments/enrollment-office/learn-about-our-schools>

## Ms. Cam's Olio Answers

From on page 8

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. The potato            | 8. Felix the Cat  |
| 2. 2007                  | 9. The one who breaks off the bigger part wins                          |
| 3. Wampanoag             | 10. A global generosity movement that encourages people to do good      |
| 4. Gimbels               | 11. The Tuesday after Thanksgiving in the U.S.                          |
| 5. September 6, 1620     | 12. To thank them for their assistance after the 1917 Halifax Explosion |
| 6. The Mayflower Compact |   |
| 7. Detroit               |   |



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617-625-6600

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**Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title:** Housing Acquisition and Rehabilitation

**Purpose:** Create and Preserve Affordable Housing

**Location:** This program will be conducted citywide, and once specific homes/addresses have been identified, further environmental review will be conducted for those specific sites.

**Project/Program Description:** The goal of this program is to assist low-income households that will participate in the 100 Homes program. CDBG funds will primarily be used to undertake rehabilitation work for income eligible residents, but funds may also be used to fund housing acquisition on a limited basis. The housing rehab program assists low- and moderate-income residents across the city in creating cleaner/safe housing, addressing code violations, and critical rehab needs, and lowering housing costs through energy efficient upgrades.

**Level of Environmental Review Citation:** CFR Part 58.35(a)(3)

**Tier 2 Site Specific Review:** The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994, Contamination and Toxic Substances [24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)], Explosive and Flammable Hazards [24 CFR Part 51], Floodplain Management [Executive Order 11988], National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Noise Control Act of 1972, and Environmental Justice [Executive Order 12898].

**Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any):** Once sites are selected, the following process will occur to ensure compliance with all relevant federal regulations: sites will be reviewed to ensure they are not located in FEMA designated Special Flood Hazard area and that there are not on-site or nearby hazardous, toxic, or radioactive materials that could harm the health and safety of occupants; project sites will be evaluated to determine that the site and surrounding neighborhood do not suffer from adverse environmental conditions and that the proposed action will not create an adverse and disproportionate environmental impact or aggravate an existing impact; the Massachusetts Historical Society/State Historic Preservation Officer will be consulted to ensure the project does not adversely affect a historical site, and when warranted, relevant tribal historical preservation officers will be consulted; site noise and proximity to explosive/flammable hazards will also be reviewed when warranted by federal regulation. If review identifies areas that require mitigation to address any of the federal regulations reviewed during the Tier 2 review, HUD guidance will be followed to ensure best mitigation practices.

**Estimated Project Cost: HUD Funding:** \$400,000. Estimated Cost: \$400,000.

The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per CFR Part 58.35(a)(3). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, City of Somerville, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA and may be examined or copied Monday - Wednesday 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Thursday 8:30 A.M. - 7:30 P.M. or Friday 8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. or can be requested through an email to [mrubin@somervillema.gov](mailto:mrubin@somervillema.gov).

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Katjana Ballantyne, Mayor of Somerville, Certifying Officer

11/27/24 The Somerville Times

## Celebrate Somerville and shop local on Small Business Saturday



Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is inviting the community to celebrate Small Business Saturday this Saturday, November 30, by shopping locally and supporting the vibrant small businesses that make our city unique. From artisan shops and cozy cafes to family-owned stores and specialty services, Somerville's small businesses are the heart of the Somerville community and play a vital role in its economic vitality.

"Somerville's small businesses are so much more than places to shop – they are the places we gather, connect, and celebrate," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "When you shop locally, you're not just supporting business owners; you're supporting your neighbors, their families, and the future of our community. This Saturday, I encourage everyone to explore the unique offerings of Somerville and keep your dollars local."

For those looking to discover new spots to shop or explore, the City of Somerville has an interactive business map at [explore.somervillema.gov](http://explore.somervillema.gov). The map highlights a wide array of businesses, helping you plan a shopping day that's uniquely Somerville.

## SCALE Grants Support Workforce Development, Out of School Youth

The Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE) recently received hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant funding that will support workforce development and career training, adult English Language Learning and Adult Basic Education programs, and support for out of school youth ages 16–24.

In addition to SCALE's core programs, grant funding will expand programs such as the Paraprofessional Educator Program, create new access for training and licensure in health careers and early education, and provide mentorship, internships, and financial literacy classes for students.

To learn more about SCALE and access their programs, visit their website: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/adult-learning/somerville-center-adult-learning-experiences-scale>.

## Tufts University Department of Music Presents 'Tufts Chamber Music'

The Tufts University Department of Music presents "Tufts Chamber Music" in the Distler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Monday, December 2, at 8 p.m. Students present works for strings, winds, brass, and piano.

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



# Nibble Entrepreneurship Program accepting applications

By Jeffrey Shwom

Enrollment for the 2025 Nibble Entrepreneurship Program has begun and will run until December 22, 2024.

Entrepreneurs receive business development instruction and mentoring, teach classes, try their restaurant ideas and concepts at Nibble Kitchen restaurant (Bow Market in Union), festivals, and farmers markets, receive hands-on experience and training, and gain access to bilingual business workshops. This is the 12th year of the program.

Workshops are held once a week, on Tuesday evenings, beginning January 7, 2025 for 8 weeks and the program hopes to include 8 to 14 participants. The program also puts a priority on low-moderate income Somerville residents who make cuisine from their native countries, who have cooking experience, and who speak English or are enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

Per their website, "The Nibble Entrepreneurship Program focuses on serving

immigrant and historically underserved communities." According to statistics, immigrant-owned businesses in the United States fuel the economy and, according to every US Census conducted since 1880, "are twice as likely to start a new business compared to those born in the U.S. – often those businesses are food related."

Anthony Baum, Program Coordinator, shared, "The Nibble Culinary Arts Initiative is important for our community because it provides a platform for members of underrepresented communities to proudly showcase their culture, while also utilizing their skills and passion for food as an opportunity to pursue not only cultural representation, but also to support equitable economic development via small business ownership.

There is a belief that to experience a culture other than your own you need to travel; Nibble helps to show that rich cultural (and culinary) diversity exists right here in Somerville, and helps to reinforce to members of our underrepresented communities that Somerville is a place where their story,



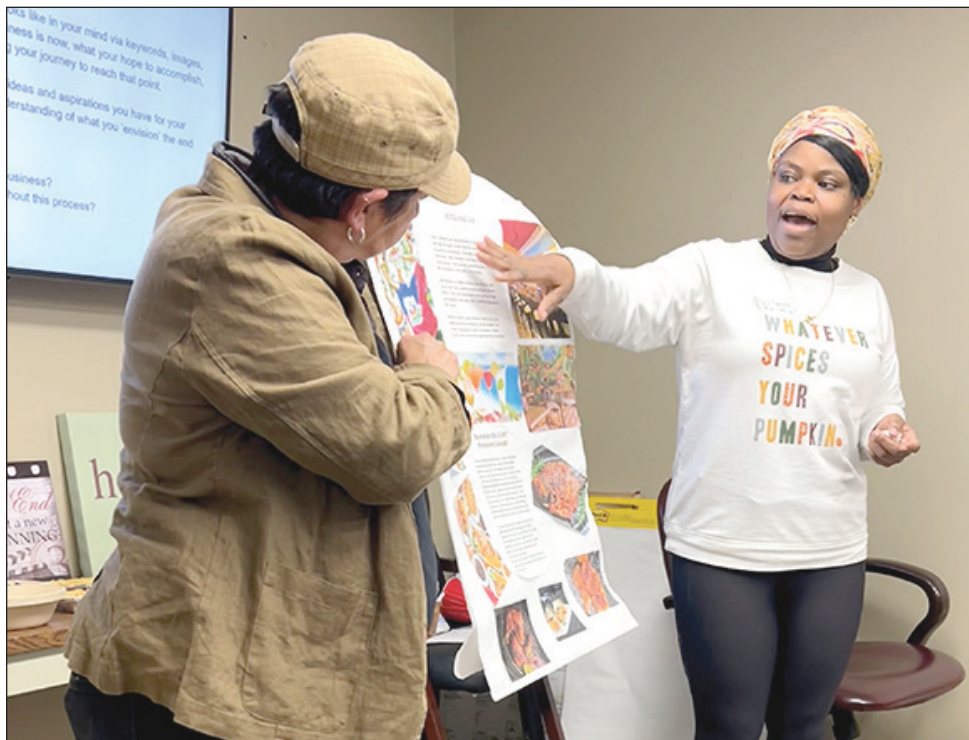
The full cohort for the 2024 Nibble Entrepreneurship Program Workshop Series plus our great translators. — Photos and captions courtesy of Tony Baum, Nibble Kitchen

culture, and cuisine are deeply valued."

True to its mission, Nibble Kitchen offers this program for \$100, with financial support if qualified. This represents a fraction of the costs of attending culinary

school or other job training programs.

Questions and comments can be directed to the Somerville Arts Council at 617-625-6600, x 2985 or [abaum@somervillema.gov](mailto:abaum@somervillema.gov).



Nibble participant Myrlande Michel presenting her vision for her food business 'Boukan'nen Afro-Haitian Cuisine' during a workshop lead by Chef Amanda Escamilla, owner of Tex Mex Eats.



Nibble participant Elorm Praise Dela-Seshie presenting her business pitch and signature dish for her Ghanaian restaurant concept, Molu, to a panel of judges at the final workshop of the series: the Business Pitch and Tasting Competition.

## 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: <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://somerville.k12.ma.us/sites/default/files/SPS%20STEM%20Week%202024.pdf>



# CLASSIFIEDS

Place your classified ad today – only \$1 per word! E-mail: [ads@thesomervilletimes.com](mailto:ads@thesomervilletimes.com)

## AUTOS WANTED

**CASH FOR CARS!** We buy all cars! Junk, high-end, totaled-it doesn't matter! Get free towing and same day cash! NEWER MODELS too! Call 1-866-258-6720

## FINANCIAL

**WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC** Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free Consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 855-428-7954

## FOR RENT

Apartment for rent: Somerville, 1 bedroom available 7/1/2024. W/W, EIK. \$1500./month. Call Jim, 617-429-0947

Warm Weather Is Year Round In Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. Email: [carolaction@aol.com](mailto:carolaction@aol.com) for more information.

## FOR SALE

**YOU'LL WANT TO USE THIS TIMESHARE.** Orange Lake, Florida. Near Disney. Weeks 8 & 9 (February) One floor living with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, full kitchen, laundry. Purchase both for \$19,000. Call 978.371.2442 or email [carol@actionunlimited.com](mailto:carol@actionunlimited.com)

## HEALTH & FITNESS

**VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS!** 50 Generic Pills SPECIAL \$99.00. 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 888-445-5928 Hablamos Español

Dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400+ procedures. Real dental insurance - not just a discount plan. Get your free Information Kit with details! 1-855-526-1060 [www.dental50plus.com/ads#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/ads#6258)

Attention oxygen therapy users! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. Free info kit. Call 877-929-9587

## HELP WANTED

High Alpha Innovation Inc. seeks Program Manager in Somerville, Massachusetts. Responsible for leading programs with corporate and university

patterns to ideate, design, and launch new ventures and venture studios. BS degree in Bus Mgmt, Econ, Fin, Social Studies or related discipline related fields & 6 yrs exp req. Salary: \$201,739. Send res. To S. Evans, High Alpha Innovation, 830 Massachusetts Ave., Ste 1500, Fl. 4, Indianapolis, IN 46204 w/ ref to TRPA. EOE.

## HOME SERVICES

**Aging Roof? New Homeowner? Got Storm Damage?** You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-878-9091

Water damage cleanup & restoration: A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold growth in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-888-872-2809

## MISCELLANEOUS

**4G LTE HOME INTERNET** Now Available! Get GotW3 with lightning fast speeds plus take your service with you when you travel! As low as \$109.99/mo! 1-877-452-1183

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# Brickbottom and Joy Street Open Studios 2024

Brickbottom Artists Association and Gallery and Joy Street Studios presented their annual Open Studios, featuring over 65 artists in The Brickbottom Artists Building and roughly 20 at Joy Street Studios.

Artistic conversations, cheerful artists and art characters, and smells of incense and old things greet its guests. Rosamond Purcell's Compound (stu-

dio C510) featured a whole wall of reclaimed materials from a junkyard in Maine. Brickbottom artist David Colombo's watercolor of Lynch Family Skatepark with the backdrop of Boston Sand & Gravel Company at 100 Chestnut Street inside Triangle Coffee Bar, an addition this year.

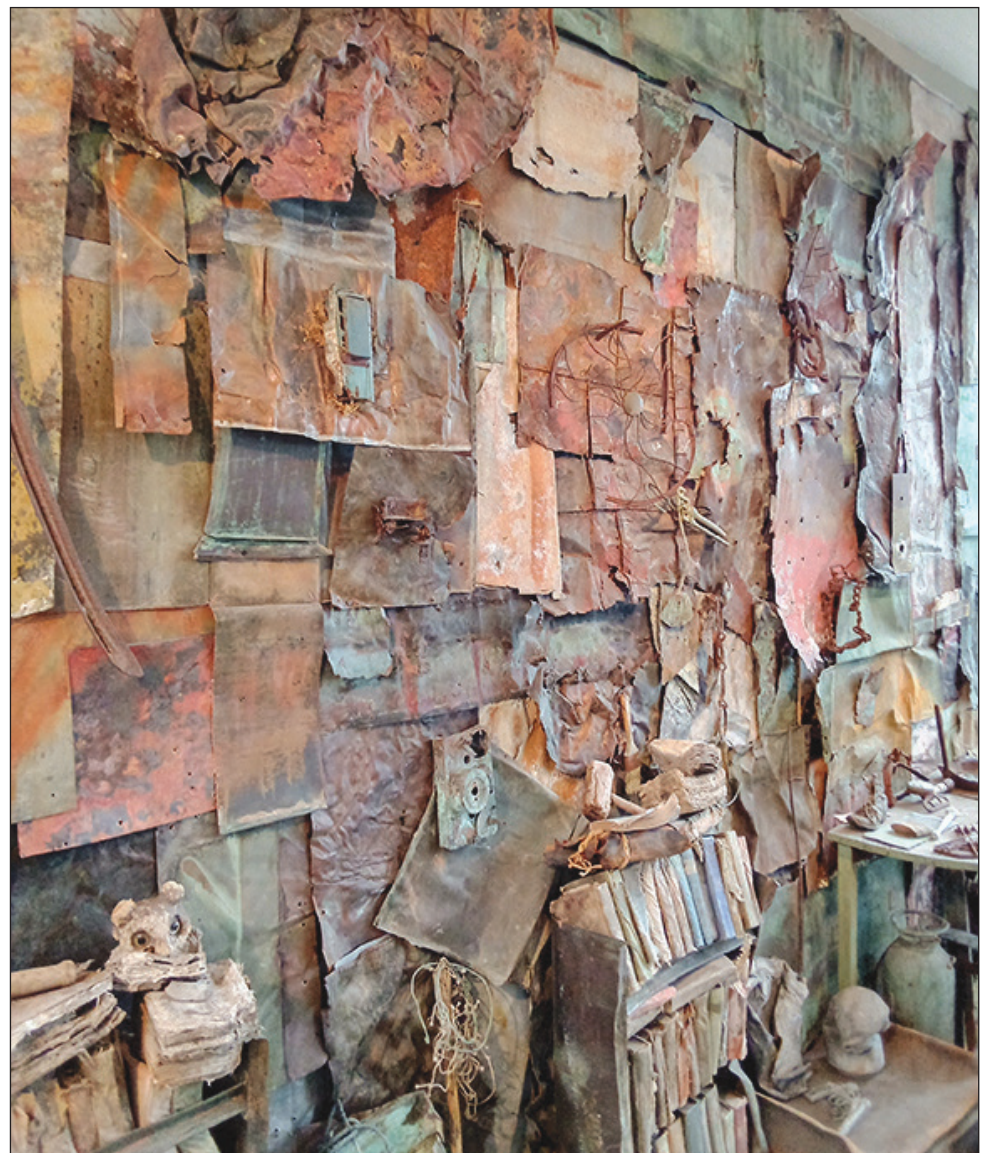
— Text and photos by Jeffrey Shwom



Hallway art.



David Colombo, *Celebrating Cimmerian Mirth*.



Rosamond Purcell wall art.







## MBTA announces on-street opportunities for riders to learn about the December 15 launch of Phase 1 of Bus Network Redesign

The MBTA's Bus Network Redesign is a major initiative aimed at improving bus service reliability, frequency, and connectivity throughout the region. The initiative's first phase will go live on December 15. Phase 1 will launch four new Frequent Bus Routes by increasing service on Route 86, Route 104, Route 109, Route 110, and Route 116/117 in Chelsea, Everett, Revere, Malden, Somerville, Cambridge, Allston, Brighton, and East Boston.

Beginning next week and through December 20, MBTA staff will be available at many bus stops along the routes that will be experiencing changes and at the following stations:

Malden Center • Wonderland • Maverick • Airport • Sullivan Square • Harvard

Staff will assist riders by answering questions and helping them navigate their routes, stops, and schedules as well as distributing materials available in 12 languages. MBTA teams will be at locations generally Monday through Friday from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. with additional timeslots to be determined. Interpreters will be available at many stations.

### Many Phase 1 Materials Are Available

The MBTA's December outreach builds on engagement in November to bring awareness and information to riders at key bus stops impacted by the improvements. More than 25 tabling and station events provided answers to thousands of rider questions and shared resources in multiple languages. Schedules for specific bus routes impacted by these changes are now available online as a PDF at [mbta.com](http://mbta.com) on the Phase 1 Service webpage.

In addition, the MBTA has developed a number of community and individual resources to assist riders in navigating these changes, including rider booklets and flyers.

The Phase 1 Rider Booklet is available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Russian, Italian, Vietnamese, and Khmer. The graphic booklet describes why and how routes are changing and improving. It includes easy-to-read route maps and schedules.



## Atomic Comedy's Indie Improv Night at the Armory

This past Thursday, a laughing audience took in Atomic Comedy's Indie Improv Night at ROOTED Café in Somerville at the Armory. Three acts included players

from Stop That Baby! (like Addy Gover, Emma Hobbs, Harry Pearce, and Drew Briggs) and the Atomic Comedy All-Stars (Amy Clare Parker). Sketches included a

town in New Jersey with only coast land everywhere, three Elton Johns (one who was Melting John) and a raspy-voiced school janitor who mixed dangerous chemicals to

give to adults and children. Hosted every Third Thursday of the month by Addy, who also organized a monthly LGBTQ+ Improv Comedy Community Meetup.



— Photos by Jeffrey Shwom

## \$1 million CPPI Grant Supports Inclusion

Congratulations to the Somerville Public Schools Early Education and Care Department, SPS Somerville Family Learning Collaborative, and the City of Somerville Somer-Promise Department for writing a successful MA Dept. of Early Ed. and Care CPPI grant to collaborate on strengthening Somerville's mixed delivery preschool system for 3 to 5-year-olds through the Somerville Partnership for Young Children (SPYC).

The funds will go toward expanding access to high-quality inclusive preschool and child care for children in Somerville by providing translation services, family engagement, curriculum, professional development, coaching, and student intervention and special education services on-site at private and non-profit daycare centers in Somerville.

The work expands capacity to support very young children with special needs, as well as improving kindergarten-readiness and, ultimately, translates into higher academic outcomes for all students.

Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1](https://www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1)





**Somerville Fair Housing Commission**  
*Question of the week*



**Q:** I'm moving out of my apartment. How can I ensure I get my full security deposit back?

**A:** When you move in, walk through the unit with the landlord and make a note of any damages already in the unit. This document is called a "Statement of Condition." When you are preparing to move out, do another walk-through, comparing lists. If there are any damages, you can repair these yourself before moving out, or the landlord will be able to deduct the cost of repair from your security deposit. Clean the unit thoroughly; all rooms should be swept and vacuumed, trash taken out and all items removed

*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.*

# Somerville through the eyes of Denise



A touch of nature...

— Photo by Denise Provost

## MSBA Building Project update: Eligibility phase almost complete

Pending final certification of our enrollment projections through the MSBA (currently in process), Somerville Public Schools has completed all of the requirements in Phase 1 of the MSBA building project.

Once enrollment projections are certified this month, we anticipate that our project would be included in the MSBA Board's December meeting. At that meeting, the MSBA Board will vote on whether to invite SPS into the Feasibility Study phase of the project.

Ongoing updates are available at [www.somervillema.gov/msba](http://www.somervillema.gov/msba).

Visit us online at [www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)

## BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What are turkeys thankful for on Thanksgiving?  
Vegetarians

## On This Day in History

### November 27

- 0043 – Octavian, Antony and Lepidus form the triumvirate of Rome.
- 1826 – Jedediah Smith's expedition reaches San Diego, becoming the first Americans to cross the southwestern part of the continent.
- 1862 – George Armstrong Custer meets his future bride, Elizabeth Bacon, at a Thanksgiving party.
- 1904 – The German colonial army defeats Hottentots at Warm bad in Africa.
- 1954 – Alger Hiss, convicted of being a Soviet spy, is freed after 44 months in prison.
- 1967 – Lyndon Johnson appoints Robert McNamara to presidency of the World Bank.
- 1973 – US Senate votes to confirm Gerald Ford as Vice President of the United States, following Spiro Agnew's resignation.
- 1978 – San Francisco mayor George Moscone and Harvey Milk, the city's first openly gay supervisor, assassinated by former city supervisor Dan White.
- 2001 – Hubble Space Telescope discovers a hydrogen atmosphere on planet Osiris, the first atmosphere detected on an extrasolar planet.

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Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

a self-guided or SAC-led Illuminations Tour. Illuminations Tour is **December 12, 2024 – January 2025**. The Illuminations map will be made available to take a self guided tour. Information on the **Illuminations Bike Tour** will be available soon at [somervilleartscouncil.org/illuminationstour](http://somervilleartscouncil.org/illuminationstour). For more information on the SAC Illuminations Tour, please email **Iaritza Menjivar** at [imenjivar@somervillema.gov](mailto:imenjivar@somervillema.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

Somerville's **Christmas Tree Lighting** will take place **Thursday, December 5**, on the **City Hall Concourse** (93 Highland Ave.) Activities begin at 5 p.m. Special gifts will be available for children. The event includes live entertainment and light refreshments. On **Thursday, December 26**, the **Menorah Lighting** takes place on the **City Hall Concourse** (93 Highland Ave.) at 6 p.m. Traditional songs and sing-alongs. Special gifts will be available for children. Light refreshments will be served.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Somerville Music Spaces Holiday Fundraiser Concert** takes place on **Sunday, December 8**, 4:30 – 6 p.m. 1060 Broadway C101B, Somerville. This holiday concert is a program of original music by **Andrew James Safioleas**. All proceeds will be donated to the **Toys for Tots** program. Ticket donations can be made here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-fundraiser-concert-presented-by-top-quality-music-llc-tickets-1045443338167>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday, November 30**, is **Small Business Saturday**. As the holiday gift shopping season intensifies, it's important to remember that our local merchants are depending on us all to do our best to shop local.

\*\*\*\*\*

Free **COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics** are happening soon: **Thursday, December 12**, at the **Council on Aging** (167 Holland St.) from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and **Tuesday, December 17**, at **Central Branch Library** (79 Highland Ave.) from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn more and register for a vaccine clinic. <https://www.somervillema.gov/vaccinations>.

\*\*\*\*\*

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 drop-

ping 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 – 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. The cost is \$25. <https://trst.in/W0Ur6B>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Snow emergency parking** is on the **even side of the street** all winter this season unless posted signage says differently. For every snowfall, property owners are responsible for shoveling their sidewalks down to the pavement within six daylight hours after the snow stops. To get snow emergency announcements, sign up for alerts or update your information at [somervillema.gov/alerts](http://somervillema.gov/alerts) or by calling 311 (617-666-3311).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville (MAMAS)** is holding their next **Supermarket Sweep** on **Saturday, December 7**, at 11 a.m. Help support food security in Medford and Somerville by donating or volunteering. Volunteering with Sweep means meeting at the **Stop n' Shop near Foss Park** in Somerville and delivering grocery cards to neighbors no car required. If you're interested, email [askyournmamas@gmail.com](mailto:askyournmamas@gmail.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

November is **Native American Heritage Month**. Celebrate Indigenous voices with this book list curated by **Somerville Public Library librarians**: <https://tinyurl.com/2ayjkw3>. You can visit library locations to find some of these titles and others on display, or place one on hold right from the book list.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Flea Holiday Market** is back. Find that unique gift for that unique person. They will have two jam-packed floors of gift buying goodness featuring curated vintage wares and artisan creations. 12th annual Holiday Market at the **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave, Somerville. **Sip 'n shop** starts at **noon on December 1 and December 15**.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Creative Mending: Hand Embroidery**, **Thursday, December 12**, 6 p.m. at the **East Branch Library**, 115 Broadway. The

class will cover several basic embroidery stitches that can be used to embellish your clothing and hide (or highlight) holes and stains. Suitable for beginners with little or no embroidery experience, or those who want a refresher on the basics. This program is intended for adults. Registration required: visit <https://tinyurl.com/yc8btuw4>. Questions? Contact **Liam**: [lokeefe@somervillema.gov](mailto:lokeefe@somervillema.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

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. Have some free time on Saturday, December 7? Sign up for a volunteer shift here: Sign up for a volunteer shift here: <https://signup.com/go/SzokFwT>.

\*\*\*\*\*

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>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Nutcrackers: A Colorful History with Mary Woodward**, **December 5**. Join historian Mary Woodward to learn about the history of nutcrackers – a story that spans from the Stone Age to the Industrial Age. This virtual event will be held on **Thursday, December 5**, online via Zoom from 7 to 8 p.m. Register at <https://somervillepubliclibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/nutcrackers-a-colorful-history-with-mary-woodward/>

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

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 Deano's Pasta**, 15 Garfield Ave. If you're interested, please fill out the form <https://forms.gle/mJppkqhXAYj44peRA>. 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**, (except Nov. 30 and Dec. 28). The Center for the Arts at the Armory is proud to offer a weekly winter market with 71+ local food vendors with the best locally grown and regionally produced foods, including fresh produce, cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, tamales, pastries, chocolate, skincare products, and more. The market accepts SNAP/EBT and HIP benefits. They also offer a \$15 SNAP match to customers each week. More info available on their website: [www.somervillefarmersmarket.com](http://www.somervillefarmersmarket.com)

Continued on page 22



Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

"From day one, we have set out to make Massachusetts the best place for individuals to pursue rewarding careers and for companies to start, scale and succeed," said Economic Development Secretary Yvonne Hao.

"[We] celebrate the signing of the ... economic-development bill, which provides vital support to key industries through the infusion of close to \$4 billion into the state economy to ensure that the commonwealth remains competitive," said Brooke Thomson, President and CEO of Associated Industries of Massachusetts.

\$3.2 MILLION FOR APPRENTICESHIP GRANTS

Gov. Healey announced \$3.2 million in Grants for Registered Apprenticeship Opportunities in Workforce to 29 organizations to train and place 514 apprentices across the state.

"Registered Apprenticeship creates more rewarding and equitable career pathways for all of our residents, while addressing our greatest workforce challenges," said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll.

"Registered Apprenticeship increases access and opportunity for untapped, diverse talent to pursue a career supported by technical training combined with on-the-job training," said Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Lauren Jones.

ers individuals, especially underrepresented workers in fields like construction and high-tech industries to advance in a career with meaningful wages, benefits, and the skills employers need."

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"I think it's absolutely appropriate that there be enforcement and deportation of individuals who commit crime, including violent crime. That's very, very important. We recognize it would be devastating if there were mass raids, here and across the country, that took out people who've been working in this country for a long time, who have families and kids here."

"I am joining with Sen. Peter Durant in asking Gov. Healey to make public safety a priority by allowing ICE to do their jobs. It is outrageous that an illegal immigrant was arrested for forcible rape of a child and then released back on to our streets. I cannot believe that she is turning a blind eye to protect migrants who have attacked children."

"Your voice matters, and this is your opportunity to help us build on our successes and strengthen our movement for the future. Together, we can ensure the Massachusetts Democratic Party continues to represent and advocate for the values that matter most to our communities."

"Our Lottery customers are passionate sports fans and super proud of our teams. By partnering with the Celtics on this exciting instant ticket, we are a state of winning for players both on and off the court."

er Deb Goldberg, Chair of the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission, commemorating the team's latest title run with the launch of the Celtics Banner 18 instant ticket game, a \$10 ticket that is on sale now at Lottery retailers across the state.

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers.

Mon Nov. 18 House 11:04 a.m. to 11:26 a.m. Senate 11:08 a.m. to 11:59 a.m.

Tues. Nov. 19 No House session No Senate session

Wed. Nov. 20 No House session No Senate session

Thurs. Nov. 21 House 1:00 a.m. to 11:46 a.m. Senate 11:06 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.

Fri. Nov. 22 House 11:00 a.m. to 11:01 a.m. No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

https://www.somwintermarket.org/ \*\*\*\*\*

Davis Square Farmers Market is now open. Every Wednesday through November 27, 12:00 - 6:00 p.m. visit the Davis Square Farmers Market, across from American Flatbread at 44 Day St.

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.

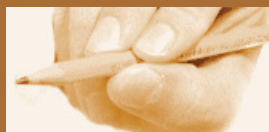
\*\*\*\*\* Somerville Public Schools is hiring substitute teachers for all of their PK-12 schools. For more information or to apply visit https://somerville.tedk12.com/hire.

\*\*\*\*\* Through the generosity of the 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.

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.

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





OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Women and Children First'  
by Alina Grabowski

*Women and Children First*  
By Alina Grabowski  
Zando Books, New York  
320 pages. \$16.99.

Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Ed Meek

*A creative literary take on the mystery novel*

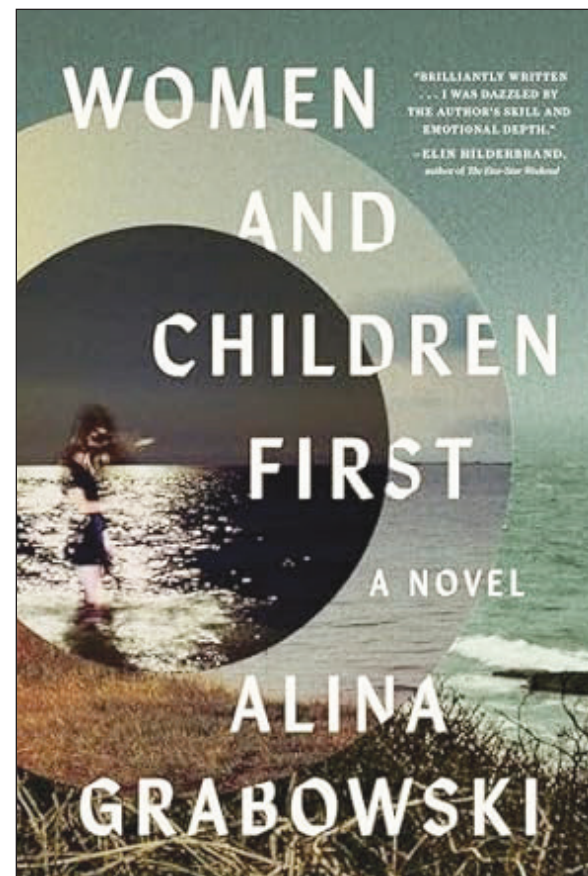
In Egypt when someone dies, relatives hire professional mourners to help the family and friends grieve. Jews sit shiva for seven days after the death of a close one. For many of us though, there is a funeral mass and service. Then, we are expected to get on with our lives. Alina Grabowski delves into the way women in a small town process the tragic death of a high school girl.

In an interview with a local journalist, Ali Goad, in Austin, Texas, Grabowski describes her novel as exploring "how a community processes a tragedy ... focusing on "the complexities of memory." The novel is written from the points of view of ten women, each of whom gets her own chapter. The first five chapters lead up to and include the death of Lucy, a high school student, and the last five chapters deal with the aftermath. Each of the women has a connection to the main character. The chapters function like long short stories that are cleverly linked. Each chapter is a mini-mystery: who is this person and how is she linked to Lucy? The novel is a kind of giant puzzle with the pieces fitted together as you read along.

The advantage of novels with multiple points of view is that we are introduced to a number of characters rather than stuck with one voice. Although Holden Caulfield of *The Catcher in the Rye* starts out as a very entertaining narrator, after a hundred pages, the reader begins to get sick of him calling everyone a phony. On the other hand, what happens with multiple points of view is that we find ourselves drawn to some characters more than others. Grabowski is a talented writer who creates the voices of a range of women, from teenagers to forty-something moms. However, she is more convincing with teens and young women than she is with the older ones.

Grabowski says that although the novel focuses on a mystery it is "primarily literary fiction." As a result, the emphasis is on character, not plot. "Great character makes great fiction," the writer Bill Kittredge once said and Grabowski is skilled at creating character. In her attempt to make the novel realistic, she often undercuts what would be climaxes in other novels. Grabowski often backs away from conflict giving us characters that are compelling but what happens is sometimes a letdown.

My favorite character is Mona, a caustic thirty-



year-old who is living in the house her mother left her and working in a bar. She has great lines like: "If only I could look at everything in life and know its interior contents. I would have dated significantly fewer musicians." Another strong character Marina describing a high school girl, says, "She smiles with the innocent menace teenage girls have been perfecting for centuries. What an age! To be so convinced of your allure and so ignorant of its consequences." These are the kinds of insights that make fiction so enjoyable. Maureen, the principal of the high school says, "But a girl and a child are not the same. A child is a pet. A girl is prey."

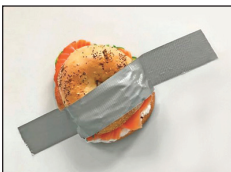
The characters all react differently to the death of Lucy. Many are trying to get away from the problems engendered by the tragedy. Two high school mates of hers literally run while her mother doesn't want to face or even find out what really happened.

Grabowski has her thumb on the current zeitgeist with compelling women who each have power in their own world and who are often reacting to men who disappear or let them down.

There's an embarrassing viral video that may have caused Lucy to take risks she might not otherwise have engaged in. The title, of course, is a reference to the Titanic. At the beginning of the book, an epigraph tells us that the only reason that they say "Women and children first" is to test the strength of the lifeboats. Alina Grabowski's promising and well-written debut novel is well worth diving into.

Lyrical  
SOMERVILLE  
edited by Doug Holder

I got this idea for a poem from a great ad for smoked fish. It is in response to the duct taped banana that recently sold for millions of dollars on the art market.



Portrait of a Bagel with Duct Tape

A true work of art--  
much more intricate  
than a rotting banana,  
yes, ...a true work of art...

the lox,  
the doughy bagel  
artfully sprinkled  
with a rain of seeds.

It has the subversive value of Duchamp's great work  
(My face became flushed when I saw his overturned toilet)  
I can eat this artist's work right up,  
a conceptual piece  
in the pit  
of my stomach.

A true work of art--  
much more intricate  
than a rotting banana,  
yes, ...a true work of art...

the lox,  
the doughy bagel  
artfully sprinkled  
with a rain of seeds.

It has the subversive value of Dali's great work  
(My face became flushed when I saw his overturned toilet)  
I can eat this artist's work right up,  
a conceptual piece  
in the pit  
of my stomach..

— Doug Holder

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