



### Inside:



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## Election Day across America and in Somerville



Somerville voted overwhelmingly to pass the Question 6 amendment to increase the property tax surcharge for funding of various programs of interest to city residents. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

By The Times Staff

In an election cycle that has been anything but ordinary, the 2024 Presidential Election has come to its conclusion. While the final call on who won the office of President of the United States is not clearly settled yet, at the time of our reporting, the results of other state and local races and issues have more officially been determined.

Democratic Senator in Congress Elizabeth Warren handily defeated Republican challenger John Deaton by a wide margin.

Among the ballot questions voted on in this election, Question 6, the amendment of the Community Preservation Act that would increase the property tax surcharge from 1.5% to 3% for funding affordable housing, open space, *Continued on page 4*

## Somerville artists rejoice in spirited celebration for Vernon Street's 50th Anniversary Open Studios

By Harry Kane

Supporting artists has been an important part of Somerville's diverse and creative history for a long time. For budding artists, showcasing work is validating, and growing the passion for creating impactful art can be an opening to finding a deeper meaning in life.

The 50th Anniversary of Vernon Street Open Studios is a milestone for the arts community and the City of Somerville. Visitors can expect to find a broad spectrum of fine art styles and craft media, including painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, glass works, fiber arts, jewelry, furniture and ceramics.

"When you're supporting creativity and culture, you're making your community stronger," said Heather Balchunas, artist and *Continued on page 12*



Artist David Palmquist works with oils and acrylic.

— Photo by Heather Balchunas.

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Free **Flu Vaccination Clinic** and an **Info Session** on how to obtain a driver's license in MA, hosted by the **Somerville Health and Human Services Department, SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs, and ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) of Massachusetts**. To schedule an appointment in advance: <https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/somerville?site=soia-office-of-immigrant-affairs>. **Wednesday, November 6**, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., SomerViva Office, 42 Cross St., Somerville, MA.

\*\*\*\*\*

Happy birthdays this week: We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Edward Robaczewski, Herc Kalos, Betsy Almeida Pesce, Ivy Powers, Peggy Foley Arbeene, Mary Bean Fitzgerald, Victoria Macrokanis, Donald Gallarelli, Elena** *Continued on page 7*

## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of November 6 – November 12 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
<b>Wednesday</b> <i>November 6</i>	Partly Cloudy	78°/50°	6%	3%	WSW 12 mph
<b>Thursday</b> <i>November 7</i>	Sunny	64°/43°	3%	2%	NW 10 mph
<b>Friday</b> <i>November 8</i>	Sunny	62°/44°	2%	1%	W 13 mph
<b>Saturday</b> <i>November 9</i>	Sunny	51°/38°	1%	1%	NW 10 mph
<b>Sunday</b> <i>November 10</i>	Sunny	58°/47°	25%	13%	SW 9 mph
<b>Monday</b> <i>November 11</i>	Rain	61°/45°	35%	21%	SW 11 mph
<b>Tuesday</b> <i>November 12</i>	Sunny	62°/42°	20%	11%	NW 10 mph

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

## TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

### Response to: **Obituary: Ronald S. Perry**

Telugu news says:

Ronald S. Perry, a celebrated athlete and long-serving athletic director at the College of the Holy Cross, passed away, leaving behind a legacy of excellence in sports and education. He was an All-American basketball and baseball player, playing a pivotal role in Holy Cross's NCAA World Series title in 1952 and leading the basketball team to the National Invitational Tournament championship in 1954. Perry's impact extended beyond his playing days, as he served as the athletic director for 26 years, significantly enhancing the college's athletic programs and facilities while nurturing countless young athletes.

### Response to: **Somernova: Round Three**

jobis says:

Thanks for covering this saga Chris.

### Response to: **The 1967 Dodge Dart**

Adam S. says:

Love it!

### Response to: **Boston DSA condemns Somerville library harassment and supports LGBTQ+ siblings**

Chris Bartley says:

You are full of bullshit Christine. Don't associate yourself with SHFA all you're asking for is hatred and allowing of hatred. I will never be associated with that group ever again. Protect Trans kids! ACAB! I will everyday denounce everything SHFA says or does until the day I die. Trans lives matter.

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

## The Somerville Times

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Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Leave them there!



Saturday morning:  
Remember when dad would be raking the leaves and he would let you jump into the pile? I don't. I don't remember my dad ever raking leaves, but I do recall jumping into piles of leaves somewhere. Maybe it was up Powder House Park. We also used to fill Johnnies Foodmaster bags with acorns for the sole purpose of whipping them at each other. I still have a rake in the cellar that is at least 40 years old. I have it used to rake the leaves out from in between the shrubs and plants in the spring, but rarely in the fall. It is kept mainly as a museum piece.

But today is the day that I might rake some leaves in my yard, and afterward I may trim the two trees out front. It is a duty I perform each spring and every Fall. I even borrowed the guy next door's big extended-length trimmer (I have a shorter version), but it has been in my side hall for almost three weeks. Today may be the day. The day after the tree clipping leaves the old body pretty sore. It's all that reaching and stretching to get the top leaves on the trees. But it is time, I fear. When the tree branches are cut, they will need to be picked up and stuffed into the waste barrels and yard bags. I hate that part even more. It's all that bending.

The city will be picking up yard waste pretty regularly for the next several weeks so I have no excuses. Yes, I do – I hate raking leaves. Everywhere you look are "Complete Yard Care" companies blowing, raking and gathering leaves from people's properties. It must be nice to be able to have someone do that work for you. I actually have a friend who has a thriving business which he started with just one lawn mower.

Here is my philosophy:  
The word is "leave." The Lord is trying to tell us something, "Leave" them there. Didn't you ever hear of mulch? I have never, ever raked the leaves from my yard in the Fall. But miraculously, every spring, most have disintegrated and the rest I can rake easily, because they are shriveled, wet and rotted. Some would say, that raking leaves is a job for my two able-bodied sons! I say, getting them to take the dog out and put their dirty socks in the hamper are major accomplishments and I don't want to push it.

I'm saving up the favors when it comes to those two. I may need them to actually carry, lift, push, roll or pull me in the future when I am shriveled, wet and rotted.

It is now 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. I am going to make some coffee and take out the dog (the boys won't be up until at least 10:00 a.m.). Then I will attempt to straighten up this pigpen we live in. I will empty the dishwasher and the



clothes dryer. I will get back to you later on either the success, or failure, of the tree trimming and perhaps a little raking. Remember, it's Saturday and there is a lot of college football on!

Saturday night:  
I spent three hours with the tree pruning thing and my muscles are aching (I know, wah wah!). I would jump into a nice hot Jacuzzi if the gaskets were not worn away. The last time I tried using it, it leaked through the floor and flooded the first-floor bathroom. The boys actually surprised the heck out of me by doing a great job of cleaning and straightening up the house. I jammed the cuttings into a barrel and two yard bags, but I did not do any raking.

My neighbors have been vigilant about raking over the last few weeks and the leaves just keep coming back. They are not finished falling yet – it is still fall, after all. I may drag the rake out when the trees are close to bare. I'll clear the leaves

off my sidewalk and stairs if it poses a walking hazard, but that's it. Why break a decades-long tradition of not raking? If you can't find your gloves, you will end up with a blister or two on your hands from the rake. All sensible signs point to leaving the leaves there.

There is, of course, the neatness factor to consider. The neighbors' properties do look nicer after the leaves are picked up, but it is only November and the trees are still dropping their colorful gifts. At Powder House Park it is basically raining leaves. To me it's crazy to rake until the leaves have stopped falling, not that I'm going to rake at all.

I never watched the game on Saturday, which is just as well, seeing as how Notre Dame lost. So as Frankie said in the 80's: "Relax, don't do it," unless you want to. Come Spring they will miraculously be gone anyway. I'm not raking unless I get the uncontrollable urge to jump into a pile of leaves.

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## Student Charlie Cards are back

All year. Every student in grades 7 – 12 received a free Metropolitan Boston Transit Authority (MBTA) pass from Somerville Public Schools to use during the 2024– 2025 school year.

Students ages 11 and younger ride for free on MBTA buses and trains.

Learn more about the pass program and its features.



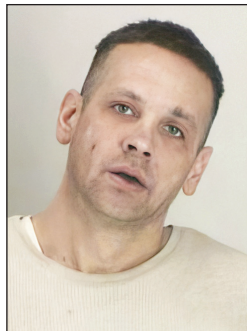


## FBI and Somerville Police arrest bank robbery suspect

On November 1, members of the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force and the Somerville Police Department arrested Conor Ezekiel (41) of Arlington, MA for a bank robbery that occurred in Somerville on October 28, at 11:45 a.m.

Ezekiel walked into the Winter Hill Bank at 5 Cutter St. in Somerville and handed the bank teller a note demanding money.

Ezekiel was given an undisclosed amount of cash and fled the area in a dark vehicle. Ezekiel was taken into custody in Boston without incident.



## Somerville Police seek information on shots fired

On November 1, at 4:27 a.m., the Somerville Police Communications Center received 911 calls for shots fired at 53-55 High St. Upon arrival, police located 23 shell casings across the street from 53-55 High Street and significant ballistic damage to 53-55 High St. There were no reported injuries as a result of this incident. Police learned the two subjects shooting at the dwelling fled on foot up High Street towards North Street. The Somerville Police Department Criminal Investigation Division is investigating the incident. Anyone with information regarding this investigation is urged to contact the Somerville Police at 617.625.1212 or by leaving a tip on the SPD Tip Line: <https://somervillepd.com/contact-us1/crime-tip>.

**Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210**  
 Help Keep Somerville Safe!

## Election Day across America and in Somerville CONT. FROM PG 1

and historic preservation – of particular interest for Somerville voters – passed, according to unofficial results provided at the time of this reporting.

Many Somerville voters felt that the Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a vital program for funding initiatives that strengthen neighborhoods and improve quality of life in the city by supporting affordable housing, creating more green spaces, and preserving historic landmarks.

The passage of Question 6 will increase Somerville's dedicated fund by way of a tax surcharge that will be matched by state funds.

Somerville's unofficial results are as follows:  
**Electors of President and Vice President**  
 Ayyadurai and Ellis (Independent) 102  
 De La Cruz and Garcia (Socialism and Liberation) 605

Harris and Walz (Democratic) 32,047  
 Oliver and Ter Maat (Libertarian) 167  
 Stein and Caballero-Roca (Green-Rainbow) 613  
 Trump and Vance (Republican) 4,435  
 Write-in 325  
 Blank 312

**Senator in Congress**  
 Elizabeth Ann Warren (Democratic) 32,459  
 John Deaton (Republican) 5,079  
 Write-in 205  
 Blank 863

**Representative in Congress, 7th District**

Ayanna S. Pressley (Democratic) 32,981  
 Write-in 910  
 Blank 4,715

**Councilor, Sixth District**  
 Terrence W. Kennedy (Democratic) 31,344  
 Write-in 517  
 Blank 6,745

**Senator in General Court, 2nd Middlesex District**  
 Patricia D. Jehlen (Democratic) 32,335  
 Write-in 549  
 Blank 5,722

**Representative in General Court, 1st District (26th Middlesex District)**  
 Mike Connolly (Democratic) 3,918  
 Write-in 81  
 Blank 760

**Representative in General Court, Middle District (27th Middlesex District)**  
 Erika Uytterhoeven (Democratic) 19,695  
 Write-in 407  
 Blank 3,471

**Representative in General Court, Last District (34th Middlesex District)**  
 Christine P. Barber (Democratic) 8,423  
 Write-in 162  
 Blank 1,689

**Clerk of Courts, Middlesex County**  
 Michael A. Sullivan (Democratic) 31,562  
 Write-in 455

Blank 6,589

**Register of Deeds, Middlesex Southern District**  
 Maria C. Curtatone (Democratic) 30,055  
 William "Billy" Tauro (Independent) 5,458  
 Write-in 155  
 Blank 2,938

**Question 1**  
 This proposed law would specify that the State Auditor has the authority to audit the Legislature.  
 Yes (Grant Authority) 27,424  
 No (No Change to Current Law) 8,530  
 Blank 2,652

**Question 2**  
 This proposed law would eliminate the MCAS testing requirement for high school graduation, instead requiring completion of district-certified coursework.  
 Yes (Eliminate MCAS Requirement) 23,618  
 No (Retain MCAS Requirement) 13,682  
 Blank 1,306

**Question 3**  
 This law would allow transportation network drivers to unionize and collectively bargain with companies regarding wages, benefits, and work conditions.  
 Yes (Allow Unionizing) 27,864  
 No (No Change to Current Law) 8,940  
 Blank 1,802

**Question 4**  
 This proposed law would allow persons over 21 to use certain natural psychedelics under licensed supervision and to grow and possess limited quantities.  
 Yes (Allow Regulated Use) 24,464  
 No (No Change to Current Law) 12,701  
 Blank 1,441

**Question 5**  
 This law would incrementally raise the minimum wage for tipped workers to the full state minimum wage over five years and allow tip pooling.  
 Yes (Incremental Increase) 21,914  
 No (No Change to Current Law) 15,247  
 Blank 1,445

**Question 6**  
 This amendment increases the property tax surcharge from 1.5% to 3% for funding affordable housing, open space, and historic preservation.  
 Yes (Increase Surcharge) 25,282  
 No (Retain Current Surcharge) 11,175  
 Blank 2,148

To see how each Ward voted, go to: <http://www.thesomervilletimes.com/downloads/election-totals11052024.pdf>.

These results do not reflect the winners nationally or statewide.

To stay updated on the latest results, visit us online at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com).



# City reaffirms commitment to end domestic violence – fosters culture of respect

By The Times Staff

The time has come to end senseless violence, said city officials at the annual vigil that honors victims of domestic violence.

The city held the vigil on October 30 to bring light to the victims of domestic violence, renewing their commitment to uphold justice. City officials recognized the strength of survivors and honored the lives of those individuals who passed, in front of the East Somerville Library at 6 p.m.

“As a community, we must come together to support those impacted by domestic violence and stand in solidarity with survivors and victims,” said Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “This vigil is a time for us to reflect, to remember, and to reaffirm our commitment to creating a safe and supportive environment for everyone in Somerville.”

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior perpetrated by another person within an intimate relationship in order to maintain power and control through intimidation, physical assault, battery or sexual assault.

Mayor Ballantyne says that prevention and support is critical, but that changing the culture which allows abuse to continue is at the core of the issue.

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the city encourages people to get involved in the cause by volunteering and advocating for stronger protections for survivors, or simply by listening to someone in need.

“Together we can break the cycle of abuse and create a future where everyone in our community feels safe, appreciated and heard,” said Mayor Ballantyne, while addressing the gathering at the vigil.

One in four women and one in seven men will experience physical violence with an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime, according to the CDC.

“Together we will continue to shine a light on the darkness and to work towards a future free from violence,” said Mayor Ballantyne.

Representative Christine P. Barber (D-34th Middlesex) said some positive changes have been made to support survivors of domestic violence. On June 20, 2024, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey signed a bill that classifies coercive control as a form of domestic violence.

“It was really a testament to the advocates and the survivors who told their

stories and worked for years to get this bill passed. I’m really grateful for all who stepped up to do that,” said Rep. Barber.

Domestic violence is a pervasive issue that demands our attention, empathy and collective action, explained Racial and Social Justice Commissions Coordinator Latoya Saulters. “We are committed to fostering safe environments and providing the resources necessary to support survivors and prevent future violence.”

“Each candle that we raise represents a life whose light was dimmed too soon by domestic violence,” said Amanda Nagim-Williams, Director of the Department of Racial and Social Justice. “Your presence and participation here tonight sends a powerful message: In our city survivors are not alone and not forgotten.”

Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan says that most of the fatalities in domestic violence cases are the result of individuals who suffered from mental illness.

This year in Middlesex County, there have been five fatal domestic violence cases, which cost the lives of seven people. “That is an immeasurable tragedy, especially because two of them are children,” said District Attorney Ryan.

“While you can certainly argue that anyone who takes someone’s life is struggling with a mental health issue, in all but one of these cases there was a very clear, documented history of mental illness,” said District Attorney Ryan.

Things have improved a lot over the decades, thanks to organizations like RESPOND, Inc. that partners with individuals, families and communities to end domestic violence.

“We gather to honor those whose lives have been tragically lost and to stand united as a community with a shared commitment to end domestic violence,” said Victoria Helberg, Chief Executive Officer of Respond, Inc.

“You are not alone,” said Helberg. “You deserve support, you deserve safety and a life free from fear. Believe in your strength and reach out for help, whether it’s through RESPOND, through the Somerville Police Department or any other local organization.”

Christina Morone from the Somerville Commission for Women said there is a ripple effect from domestic violence cases that can affect the entire community.

“Domestic violence robs individuals of their dignity, their

Continued on page 13



The team of city officials and advocates devoted to fostering safe environments who stand in solidarity with survivors and victims of domestic abuse and uphold justice for everyone in Somerville. Photograph courtesy of the City of Somerville. — Photos courtesy of The City of Somerville



One of the shirts created for the Clothesline Project, which hopes to bring awareness to the individuals who died as a result of domestic violence.





# 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.

## \$2.5 MILLION FOR PROGRAMS TO TREAT PRISONERS SUFFERING FROM MENTAL ILLNESS (H 4800)

House 133-25, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of the entire \$2.5 million for a prison program to treat prisoners, suffering from serious mental illness, with clinically appropriate long-acting injectable medications.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$2.5 million was eliminated.

"I am vetoing this item due to the availability of alternative resources," said Gov. Healey in her veto message. "This operating funding overlaps with alternative funding intended to support this purpose."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$2.5 million. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

## \$750,000 FOR THE TRANSFORMATIVE DEVELOPMENT FUND (H 4800)

House 134-24, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of \$750,000 (reducing funding from \$1 million to \$250,000) for the Transformative Development Fund which is designed to accelerate economic development in focused districts that are walkable and have dense environments; and that have the potential to attract investment, inspire a wave of growth and transform Gateway Cities and beyond.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$750,000 was eliminated.

"I am reducing this item to an amount consistent with my [budget] recommendation due to the availability of alternative resources," said Gov. Healey in her veto message. "MassHousing will maximize available alternative capital funding in the fiscal year 2025 Capital Investment Plan for the Neighborhood Hub Program that will serve the same purpose as the funding being vetoed."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$750,000. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

## \$300,000 FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP (H 4800)

House 156-2, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of \$300,000 (reducing funding from \$2 million to \$1.7 million) for the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership to maintain and promote manufacturing as an integral part of the economy, and for programs designed to assist small and mid-sized manufacturing companies.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$300,000 was eliminated.

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

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$300,000. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

## ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

### BREAST CANCER SCREENINGS (H 4918) – The

Senate approved and sent to the House a bill that would require health insurance companies to provide coverage for diagnostic examinations for breast cancer, digital breast tomosynthesis screening and medically necessary and appropriate screening with breast magnetic resonance imaging.

Supporters noted that although access to routine preventive screening mammograms is currently covered under the Affordable Care Act, this legislation would go further and require coverage for certain screenings and exams currently not uniformly covered by law.

"I am grateful to see this legislation, which I have worked on for nearly a decade, move forward," said sponsor Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem). "Early detection of breast cancer saves lives. This legislation makes those diagnostic exams used for early detection accessible and affordable, giving women the vital resources needed to catch breast cancer in its earliest stages. With this bill we are bolstering the commonwealth's commitment to providing higher quality, more equitable and more accessible healthcare for women."

"We know that in the fight against cancer, early detection is absolutely vital for the long-term success of the patients," said Sen. Michael Rush (D-Boston). "We also know that for one out of every ten women, initial mammogram screenings are not sufficient to detect possible

indicators of breast cancer. This legislation passed by the Senate ... ensures that all women in the commonwealth have access to the digital breast tomosynthesis and MRI screening they need to catch cancer early without facing financial barriers."

**DOWN SYNDROME (S 617) –** The Senate approved and sent to the House legislation that would require health insurance companies to provide coverage for the treatment of Down syndrome through speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy and applied behavior analysis services.

"Every child deserves a fair shot at learning, growing and thriving in their community—and that includes children with Down syndrome," said sponsor Sen. Julian Cyr (D-Provincetown). "Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy has proven transformative for so many, yet too often, access to this essential support is out of reach for those who need it most. By ensuring insurance coverage for at-home ABA therapy, this legislation will make a powerful difference for families across the commonwealth, lifting a burden that has existed for too long. It's about time we make this gold-standard care accessible to all, so every child has the chance to realize their fullest potential."

An estimated 5,000 people in Massachusetts live with Down syndrome. According to studies performed by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, speech therapy intervention improved decoding skills for word reading and had a positive impact on articulation in children with Down syndrome.

### APPOINTMENT OF ATTORNEY TO OVERSEE ELECTION DAY PROBLEMS -

Acting United States Attorney Joshua Levy appointed Assistant United States Attorney Lucy Sun as the District Election Officer who will oversee the handling of election day criminal complaints, threats of violence to election officials or staff and election fraud efforts.

"Every citizen must be able to vote without fear, intimidation or interference and to have that vote counted in a fair and free election," said Levy. "Similarly, election officials and staff must be able to serve without being subject to unlawful threats of violence. The Department of Justice will always work tirelessly to protect the integrity of the election process."

Anyone who sees a problem can call Levy's office in Boston at (833) 634-8669.

**\$24.6 MILLION TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY AND RESILIENCY –** The Healey *Continued on page 23*



# COMMENTARY

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Is it now or then?

## Our View Of The Times



Here we were again, setting our clocks and watches back an hour last Sunday. The days are growing shorter, and this will only shorten them further.

So, who thought this thing up anyway? Spring forward, fall back. Or is that fall forward, spring back? The only way we can ever be sure is if we're early or late for church Sunday morning, or whatever it is you do on Sunday morning.

To be fair, there's usually someone around smart enough to know the difference, if it isn't you yourself.

But back to the main question at hand, who did think this up?

Popular belief has it that it's all about farming and the agrarian lifestyle that dominated western societies for the past few hundred years. Digging a little deeper, it turns out that the whole thing was in-

vented by a gentleman from New Zealand named George Vernon Hudson, an entomologist (bug lover) who highly valued his daylight time and detested those who slept away those precious sun filled hours of summer. Long story short, he got the ball rolling, and some hundred or so years later we're still locked into that bug-loving cycle of spring forward (or backward) and back again. Year after year.

There is a lot to be said for getting that extra hour of sunshine going when spring finally ... springs. But how much fun is it when the reverse is the case and we suddenly end up plunged into darkness by late afternoon?

It's all above the average person's pay grade to know just what to make of it, and why we keep at it year after year.

It's just what we do, isn't it?

### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

**Clamen and Mark AuBuchon** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Childcare and breakfast will be provided.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mayor Katjana Ballantyne** and the **City of Somerville Department of Veterans' Services** are inviting the Somerville community to honor the service of all those who have served in U.S. Military this **Veterans Day**. On **Monday, November 11**, community members are invited to attend a wreath-laying ceremony at the **George Dilboy VFW Post 529** (351 Summer St.). The service will begin at 11 a.m. with a speaking program. The event will happen rain or shine. Following the ceremony, veterans and their families are invited to have lunch at the Dilboy Post.

For more information, please contact the Veterans' Services office at 617-625-6600 ext. 4700. City buildings will be closed Monday, November 11, in observance of Veterans Day.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Museum** will be holding their annual **Veteran's Day Commemoration, Monday, November 11, 2:30 – 3 p.m., Milk Row Cemetery, 239 Somerville Ave.** Join the **Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Mass, HM 10th Regiment of Foot** and **54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry** as they honor our veterans at the 1863 Civil War Monument and the gravesite of an un-

known British Soldier.

\*\*\*\*\*

Visit the **Somerville Community Growing Center, 22 Vinal Ave**, this weekend for the **Introduction to Plant and Wildlife Monitoring for Conservation** with **Earthwise Aware, Saturday, November 9, 2 – 3:30 p.m.** Join **Claire and Earthwise Aware (EWA)** citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Growing Center, and about EWA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies. Contact: **Claire O'Neill** at [oneill@earthwiseaware.org](mailto:oneill@earthwiseaware.org). **Qi Gong** with **Michael Saturday**, *Continued on page 18*



# FUN & GAMES

## Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#948

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. What country was the first to adopt daylight saving time in 1916?                           | One"?   |
| 2. Who served as both President and Vice President but was never elected to either office?     | 8. What is the name of the document signed on November 11, 1918 that ended World War I?                         |
| 3. How old do you have to be to be elected president of the U.S.?                              | 9. What type of coffee roast has a higher level of caffeine?  |
| 4. Which U.S. President had the middle name Milhous?   | 10. Which fast food chain got its start in a Shell gas station?   |
| 5. For what state was Jeb Bush elected governor?   | 11. Who was the first female country artist to have four albums debut at the top of the Billboard albums chart? |
| 6. Veterans Day was originally known as what?  | 12. What show had a man with extraordinary powers of his right arm, legs, and left eye?                         |
| 7. What is the name of the U.S. Army infantry division that was famously known as the "Big Red |   |

Answers on page 14

### The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. One man set a world record by putting on 260 T-shirts at once.
2. There is a metallic asteroid shaped like a dog bone.

#### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

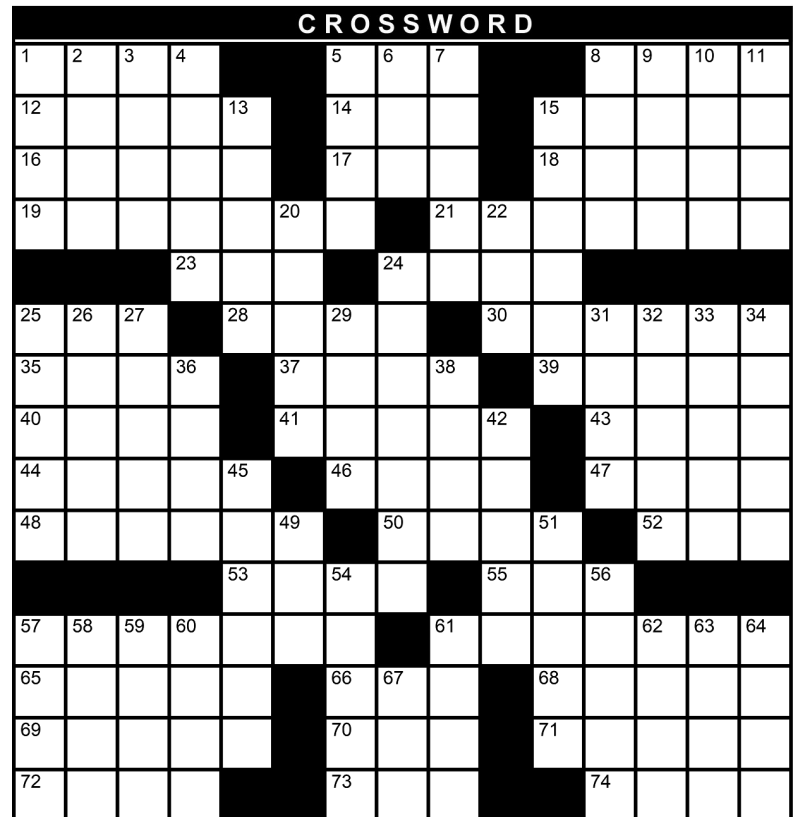
##### FAMOUS ACTORS

##### ACROSS

1. QA's focus, pl.
5. "Swan Lake" steps
8. Evite request, acr.
12. Long stories
14. Final, abbr.
15. Opposite of neo-
16. Synagogue scroll
17. Poseidon's domain
18. One-eighty
19. Mary Poppins and Maria von Trapp
21. Vivian Ward and Erin Brockovich
23. Kum Ba follower
24. Cry out loud
25. Stolen, slangily
28. Greek salad cheese
30. Popular clubs of the 1970s
35. Chimpanzees, e.g.
37. Porcine fat
39. Great divide
40. Cat o'how many tails?
41. Podium, pl.
43. Dead against
44. Work the dough
46. Urban haze
47. Manner of walk
48. Parlor piece
50. Riyadh native, e.g.
52. Sixth note
53. Common fairway club
55. Brewed beverage
57. "Red" Redding and Nelson Mandela
61. Ricky Bobby and Buddy
65. Beat the Joneses
66. Outrage
68. Adjust, as laces
69. Tears violently
70. Anointment liquid
71. Talks and talks and talks
72. a.k.a. Operation Neptune
73. "Just kidding!"
74. Billy Joel's "\_\_\_\_ Always a Woman"

##### DOWN

1. Between Phi and Kappa
2. Second word in a fairytale
3. Encircle
4. Like Freddy Krueger, e.g.
5. Boot-wearing feline
6. Draft pick



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



7. Impolite look
8. Miles per hour, e.g.
9. Insult
10. Between bleu and jaune
11. Connection between brain and spinal cord
13. Bundle of wheat
15. Like certain libraries
20. Pup
22. Hemingway's "The \_\_\_\_ Man and the Sea"
24. Railyard worker
25. Forrest Gump and Jimmy Dugan
26. Offer two cents
27. Doctrine
29. New Mexico town
31. Deep pile carpet
32. Atlantic Ocean/Pacific Ocean waterway
33. Ostium, pl.
34. Violet Crawley and Minerva McGonagall
36. Center of authority
38. "The New Look" main character
42. September stone
45. Phobos' brother, Greek mythology
49. Time period
51. Catwoman and "Jinx" Johnson
54. Vidalia one
56. Regions
57. Han Solo and Indiana Jones
58. Wished undone
59. Europe's highest volcano
60. Nelson, star of 8 films with Jeanette MacDonald
61. Matted wool
62. Write on tombstone, e.g.
63. Facebook button
64. More is \_\_\_\_?
67. Duran Duran's 1982 album

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.



# Join the Mystic River Outfall and Sewer Separation Community open house

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan, and City staff invite you to an open house to learn more about flood relief and water quality improvement efforts planned for Winter Hill, Ten Hills, and the surrounding neighborhood.

**When?** Wednesday, November 13, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Where?** Mystic Activity Center (530 Mystic Avenue).

Since our first community meeting in April, the project team has been performing initial field investigations, coordinating with state and federal partners, and developing preliminary designs.

The open house will feature multiple stations describing different aspects of the project. Drop-in anytime during the event to review the preliminary design, talk with project team members, ask questions, and share your feedback.

Following the event, information about the preliminary design will also be avail-

able on the project website at [sommerville-ma.gov/mysticoutfall](http://sommerville-ma.gov/mysticoutfall).

Other opportunities for community members to share feedback will include an online survey, virtual office hours with city staff (times and dates to come), on-street outreach/tabling, and more.

## More About This Project

The City of Somerville is making substantial systemwide investments to modernize its sewer and stormwater infrastructure. As part of this effort, the city will be rehabilitating the existing utilities in Winter Hill, Ten Hills, and the neighborhood west of Foss Park. To support stormwater management in this area and beyond, the city is also installing new drainage infrastructure and constructing a new stormwater outfall pipe that will discharge to the Mystic River. This project will reduce flood risk in the surrounding area and help maintain the water quality of local rivers.

In addition to the underground utility



improvements, this project will also include street safety improvements and green infrastructure (drainage features designed to mimic natural processes such as irrigated planting areas, bioretention basins with select soils and plants that catch and filter stormwater, new trees, etc.) throughout the neighborhood. This project is one of a

series of actions the city is undertaking to reduce water pollution, address flooding, and modernize Somerville's infrastructure.

Final design is anticipated to be complete during 2025. All schedules are preliminary and subject to change. Construction will follow design and is tentatively expected to be in 2026.

## Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



### Roasted Carrots and Cumin Yogurt

For this recipe I used tri-color carrots since that's what I received in my produce share. Feel free to use whatever carrots you have, or even parsnips. This is a great side dish that goes well with any protein of your choosing. It's even delicious served at room temperature.

I highly recommend using the pine nuts to add some texture and a nutty flavor. If you don't like pine nuts, use a nut of your choice. Serves 3-4 people.

- 1- 1/2 lbs. carrots, sliced on the bias 1/2" thick
- 2 tablespoons garlic honey \*see note
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 2 teaspoons cumin, divided
- 3/4 teaspoon ground coriander
- 3/4 teaspoon salt, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika

- 4 large mint leaves, minced, plus garnish
- 1/2 cup Greek yogurt
- 2 tablespoons toasted pine nuts, optional

Preheat oven to 400°. Add the sliced carrots to a large bowl and toss with 2 tablespoons of olive oil, and the garlic honey. \*If you don't have garlic infused honey, just add 1/2 teaspoon of garlic powder, 1-1/2 teaspoons of cumin, ground coriander, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and pepper. Toss well and add to a parchment covered sheet pan, making sure the carrots are single layered.

Place in the oven for 20 minutes. Meanwhile, place 1/2 cup of Greek yogurt in a small bowl, add 1/2 teaspoon cumin, 1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika, and the mint. Mix well. Add the carrots to a serving bowl or small platter, dollop the yogurt in the center of the plate or on the side.

Drizzle the final tablespoon of ol-



ive oil around the carrots, spread the nuts around, and add the mint garnish on the yogurt.

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







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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Application of Change of Officers/Directors and Transfer of Stock for New Reliable Market Inc d/b/a Reliable Market at 45 Union Square.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
  2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9JNfG8tZ91>
  3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to [licensing@somervillema.gov](mailto:licensing@somervillema.gov).
- Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

**THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.**

**ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**  
[LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV)

11/6/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Application of Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Sidewalk Patio Seating for Ola Gifts Café LLC d/b/a Ola Cafe at 112 Broadway.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
  2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9JNfG8tZ91>
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11/6/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Application of Transfer of All Forms Package Store License for Om Namah Shivaya Corp d/b/a Sav-Mor Spirits at 2153 Mystic Valley Parkway.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
  2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9JNfG8tZ91>
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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Application of All Forms Alcohol License, Entertainment by Devices Indoors, Sunday Hours, and Outdoor Private Patio Seating for K-Bok Korean Fried Chicken LLC d/b/a K-Bok Korean Fried Chicken at 249 Washington Street.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
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11/6/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Application of Transfer of All Forms Package Store License Om Namah Shivaya Corp d/b/a Sav-Mor Spirits at 325 Canal Street.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
  2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9JNfG8tZ91>
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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Application of Alteration of Indoor Premises for Soba Ya, LLC d/b/a Sugidama at 234 Elm Street.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
  2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9JNfG8tZ91>
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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
REBID IFB #25-04**

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

**Argenziano Kitchen Expansion**

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com), <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **11/07/2024**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **11/26/2024 1:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Andrea Caruth at [acaruth@somervillema.gov](mailto:acaruth@somervillema.gov) for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required. Prevailing wage applies.

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

11/6/24 The Somerville Times

## Somerville artists rejoice in spirited celebration for Vernon Street's 50th Anniversary Open Studios

CONT. FROM PG 1

volunteer coordinator at Vernon Street Studios.

To start the celebration, there will be a party at Bow Market on Nov. 13, from 6 to 9 p.m., with a sneak peek, teaser screening of the documentary called, *A Matter of Light*. The short film by Anne Continelli contains interviews from artists about the process of transforming a section of the industrial building into an artist workspace and explores how community art spaces have become cultural beacons critical to society.

The Open Studios event on December 7 and 8, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., on both days, will include a mix of high-caliber artists and newcomers who will open their studio doors for a tour through the halls of the historic 19th-century brick building that was once the Derby Desk Factory and is now co-shared with the Rogers Foam Corporation.

Artists at Vernon Street Studios welcome the public into their workspaces at 6 & 20 Vernon Street every Fall for Vernon Street Open Studios, and in the Spring, during the first weekend of May, as one of many participating venues in Somerville Open Studios.

When art enthusiasts arrive at Vernon Street Open Studios, there will be a map of all participating artists and artisans, Balchunas explained. "There's a little bit of something for everybody at Vernon Street."

Balchunas went to Massachusetts College for Art and Design and has been a member of the artist collective at Vernon Street Studios since 2008. In 2009, she created a work called *The Rosebud*. The painting captures the spirit of the iconic diner car, installed in Davis Square in 1941— the same year *Citizen Kane* was released and the United States entered World War II.

While *The Rosebud* painting has already been sold, all kinds of masterpieces will be displayed at Open Studios. Folks have an opportunity



"The Rosebud," by Heather Balchunas, 2009, acrylic on canvas, is a depiction of the iconic diner car in Davis Square. Her work has changed over the years from painting diners and blues singers to the beauty in nature.

to meet and greet the artists at the event and learn about their artistic process, and perhaps, purchase original artwork.

The celebration continues with a 50th Anniversary Retrospective Exhibit of Artists, Past & Present, at the Nave Gallery Opening Reception on December 3, and ending on January 9. The film, *A Matter of Light*, will be screened at the reception.

In the documentary, one of the founding members of Vernon Street Studios, Clara Wainwright, a fabric painter and sculptor, was interviewed. Wainwright fondly recalls how in 1973, Maud Morgan approached Jim Rogers of Rogers Foam Corporation about renting studio space at the factory building.

While Morgan decided not to use the space, she remained a very prominent and important figure in the Greater Boston area art world, Balchunas explained. In Cambridge, there is a Maud Morgan Arts Center for children, families and professional artists.

But as a result of the interaction between Morgan and Rogers, an initial group of 13 artists opened the artist studio at 20 Vernon Street and held the first Open Studios on February

24, 1974. Now, 50 years later, Vernon Street Open Studios is an established art exhibition.

"Having a space at Vernon Street has meant a great deal to me as a young artist," said Liv Cappello, a Somerville-based printmaker and new member of the artist collective. "After working from home for many years, having a space that is dedicated to my art has been inspiring and motivating, and being surrounded by such a talented community of artists has been a wonderful experience. I feel lucky to be here!"

Along with Balchunas, the three other coordinators at Vernon Street Studios are Steven Cabral, Suzanne Lubeck and Bekka Teerlink-Wright.

"Open Studios are ways for the public to engage in a very intimate way, because they are able to see where the artist creates their work," said Balchunas. "And in this milestone year, the Somerville community is as much a part of this celebration as the artists, because art is a shared process. We (the artists) are here because of that relationship, because it is only through this community support that art buildings such as Vernon Street Studios are able to endure and make it to our golden anniversary."



Artist Suzanne Lubeck is an abstract artist working in various mediums such as oil, encaustic and acrylic. — Photo by Heather Balchunas.



Vernon Street Studios is located at 6 & 20 Vernon Street in Somerville. The historic 19th-century brick industrial building houses over 100 artist studios. — Photo by Heather Balchunas.

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# Book review: 'A Memory Called Empire' by Arkady Martine

By Dennis Fischman

To combine a science fiction novel with a mystery takes both skill and art. For the book to satisfy readers of both genres, it has to create a world that differs from the one we know, but in ways that make sense to us. Once we know the culture and the technology of the world we're visiting between the covers of the book, we should be able to tell what's normal there and what's out of place, so we can play along with the detective.

Not many authors have written successful science fiction mysteries. Isaac Asimov pulled off the feat in his robot novel series [1], beginning with *The Caves of Steel* [2]. They are very dated, however, both in science and especially in social attitudes. More recently, China Miéville wrote *The City & the City* [3], about two realities that overlap in the same place ... and what happens when a crime committed in one has to be inves-

tigated in the other. It's fascinating, and I recommend it. It's not the final word, however.

In *A Memory Called Empire* [4], Arkady Martine updates the science fiction mystery. The story begins with Ambassador Mahit Dzmare, from a small independent world, arrives on the capital planet of the interstellar Teixcalaanli Empire. The former ambassador has died. The circumstances are not clear. Mahit has to figure out what happened, who she can trust (if anyone) in the imperial court, and how to keep herself from becoming the next victim.

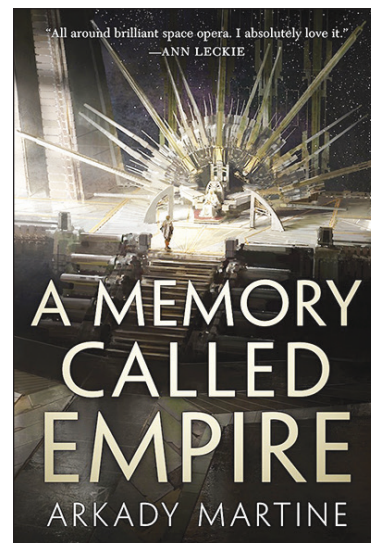
This is more than space whiz-bang. There's identity politics as well as palace intrigue. There is poetry as well as romance (between people of various genders).

Is it a mystery, really? Someone in the Somerville Public Library Mystery Readers' Book Club put this on our list, and I can see the logic to that. There is a murder,

and an investigation, and continued attacks on witnesses and on the investigator herself. There is a sidekick, and an interfering police force: two more staples of the mystery genre.

Yet all that is ultimately just plot, and the book is about things like the clash of two worlds and cultures, the way narrative reveals and conceals reality, what it means to be a self, what it means to be mortal...the themes of great fiction.

I gave *A Memory Called Empire* my highest rating. When I finished it, I wanted to read #2 in this series. I wanted to read the books the author's wife wrote about Dr. Van Helsing's granddaughter [5]. I want to read the scholarly work this author writes under the name AnnaLinden Weller [6]! I was not ready to leave her orbit, even if I didn't touch down on her world again for some time. The gravitational pull of the book is that strong.



*A Memory Called Empire*, by Arkady Martine  
Tor, 2019, 448 pages.

Links:

- [1] [https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/138551.The\\_Robot\\_Novels?ac=1&from\\_search=true&qid=sXQ04x-gt3T&rank=2](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/138551.The_Robot_Novels?ac=1&from_search=true&qid=sXQ04x-gt3T&rank=2)
- [2] [https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/41811.The\\_Caves\\_of\\_Steel?ref=nav\\_sb\\_ss\\_1\\_13](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/41811.The_Caves_of_Steel?ref=nav_sb_ss_1_13)
- [3] [https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4703581-the-city-the-city?ac=1&from\\_search=true&qid=uHKC8b-W3tG&rank=2](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4703581-the-city-the-city?ac=1&from_search=true&qid=uHKC8b-W3tG&rank=2)
- [4] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/37794149-a-memory-called-empire>
- [5] <https://www.goodreads.com/series/195107-dr-gre-ta-helsing>
- [6] <https://www.linkedin.com/in/annalinden-weller/>



Dennis Fischman is a member of the Somerville Public Library's Mystery Book Club and an inveterate reader.

## City reaffirms commitment to end domestic violence – fosters culture of respect CONT. FROM PG 5

security and sometimes their very lives," she said. Morone said that it is essential to remember that domestic violence is not just a private matter, it is a public issue.

"It is a violation of human rights, it's a threat to public health and a breach of our shared responsibilities to protect one another," Morone said.

The ceremony ended by honoring the lives of those individuals who passed between October 1, 2023 – October 30, 2024, as a result of domestic violence. Their names, age, city, and the date of their untimely death were read aloud. Each of the

29 candles represented the individuals who died in the State of Massachusetts this past year as a result of domestic violence.

Following the ceremony, the city asked if people would like to create a t-shirt in honor of a victim or survivor of domestic violence. The Clothesline Project is a visual display

of shirts with graphic messages designed by women survivors of domestic violence.

Any community can create their own Clothesline Project and participate in the broader movement. Creating shirts serves as a tribute and a means of conveying the message.





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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- |                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Germany               | 8. The Treaty of Versailles    |
| 2. Gerald Ford           | 9. Light roast                 |
| 3. 35 years old          | 10. Kentucky Fried Chicken     |
| 4. Richard Nixon         | 11. Carrie Underwood           |
| 5. Florida               | 12. The Six Million Dollar Man |
| 6. Armistice Day         |                                |
| 7. 1st Infantry Division |                                |



# Combining the communities of art and science: The Central Somerville Avenue Project

By Katherine Davis

On October 28 the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development kicked off its first meeting regarding the Central Somerville Avenue Project, the area also known as the stretch between Market Basket and Conway Park.

The idea of the Central Somerville Avenue Project is not new, the city and the impacted community have been working for around 4.5 years to preserve the artist/maker and also grow the climate tech industries simultaneously, the interim Director of Somerville's Planning Preservation and Zoning, Dan Bartman, saying "We're really trying to not redo everything, but bring all of those loose threads together and come to a consensus so that we can move forward into the future."

Opening discussion to the public is the next step in order to provide the necessary input needed by the Development Office to ensure the final plans for this area are handled with respect and efficiency. Mayor Ballantyne officially started the meeting by saying that the main concern of the Mayor's Office is, "How do we ensure that our city continues to thrive as a hub of innovation and economic growth while protecting the creative spaces that have been at the heart of our community for so long?"

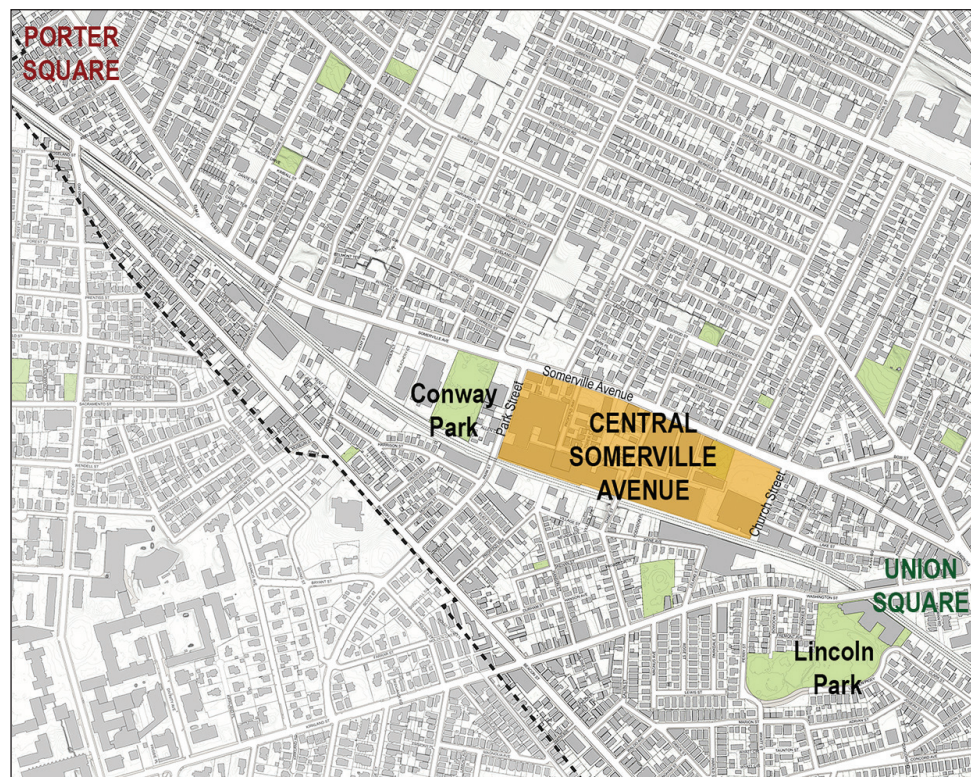
In order to accomplish the balance between the arts and science in the Central Somerville Avenue area, this meeting proposed a Five Point Plan:

1. Clarify zoning language addressing arts and office / laboratory uses.
2. Draft a research and development zoning district for start-ups and incubators.
3. Update the SomerVision map to accommodate potential redevelopment areas.
4. Create an Urban Design Framework to guide future development.
5. Write a zoning overlay district to allow for expansion of the research and development uses.

Speakers from the three stakeholders involved in this project gave presentations on the importance of this issue, and the multiple perspectives of who will be impacted by the changes that could or will ultimately occur with the Central Somerville Avenue stretch. These three groups that made up the Stakeholders panel were the Union Square Neighborhood Council (USNC), the #ArtStaysHere and Don't F With Fab movement, and lastly SomerNova.

The meeting also included a brief section on the history of the area, and an important note was made by the Senior Planner with the Planning Preservation and Zoning Division, Sarah White, which was that "You can't have the large industries without the small businesses, [and] without the residents, so it's this absolute constellation of moving parts and this symbiotic relationship between the big and the small and the medium and everything."

The plan moving forward for the project before the next meeting is straightforward.



The Central Somerville Avenue Project aspires to become a hub of artistic and technical innovation.

The first is to submit zoning amendments, which has already been completed. These are as follows: the Arts and Creative Enterprise and Office Use Category Changes, the Research & Development or Laboratory Use Category Changes, and the New "Research & Development" Zoning District. The second is to form a stakeholder group which involves consolidating prior work from the last 4.5 years, and determining the redevelopment potential of SomerNova.

The hope of the group is to have the project's drafts relatively wrapped up before the

Christmas holiday. Future meetings and key dates to mark on calendars are:

- + November 12, 2024 Central Somerville Avenue Topic Summary Public Meeting - Civic Space and Mobility
- + November 18, 2024 Central Somerville Avenue Topic Summary Public Meeting - Infrastructure and Zoning
- + December 02, 2024 Central Somerville Avenue Public Presentation of Drafts

To gain an in-depth understanding of the project and its processes, access presentation slides, and make your voice heard to the city, visit [voice.somervillema.gov](http://voice.somervillema.gov)

## Veterans Day Memorial Ceremony

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville Department of Veteran Services invite the Somerville community to honor the service of all those who have served in the U.S. Military this Veterans Day.

On Veterans Day, Monday, November 11, all community members are invited to attend a Veterans Day Wreath-Laying ceremony at the George Dilbooy VFW Post 529, 351 Summer St. The service will begin at 11 a.m. with a speaking program.

A wreath laying ceremony will follow. The event will happen rain or shine. At the conclusion of the ceremony, veterans and their families are invited to have lunch inside the Dilbooy VFW.

For more information, please contact the Somerville Department of Veteran Services by calling 617-625-6600 x4700 or emailing [veterans@somervillema.gov](mailto:veterans@somervillema.gov).





## COMMENTARY

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

# Future Perspectives on K-8 School Building Needs in Somerville: The Intersection of Equity Goals, and City Funding and Time Constraints



By Beatriz Gómez Mouakad

On October 8, 2023, the Somerville School Construction Advisory Group (CAG) held its first meeting. Formed by the Mayor's Administration, this group includes community members from the Benjamin Brown School and Winter Hill Innovation and Community School (WHICS) along with representatives from advocacy organizations like Padres Latinos de Somerville Public Schools and the Green New Deal for Somerville Schools. The goal of this group is to develop recommendations for a new school's location and scope, which include considering the Brown School to be part of a joint new facility.

While the establishment of the CAG is a promising step toward community involvement in school planning, it is crucial for the City to clarify its goals regarding school equity, municipal financial constraints, and project timelines. This clarity will enable the CAG to provide effective input. Specifically, the City must communicate school infrastructure needs that are not being addressed through the school district including those that support vulnerable students, highlight financial chal-

lenges posed by a growing list of deferred maintenance projects, and emphasize the urgency of initiating a new school building project without available temporary space for displaced municipal or school buildings.

## Community Support and School Equity

With rising construction costs due to labor shortages and increased material prices, the estimated cost of a new K-8 school may exceed the 2016 high school budget of \$256 million. The MSBA will fund only up to 50% of the new school's construction costs. To cover the remaining expenses, the City plans to seek a property tax increase similar to the 2016 proposition 2½ Debt Exclusion for the high school.

Securing community support for the debt exclusion ballot requires the City and SPS to demonstrate how the new school will meet the diverse needs of the student body across Somerville, including over 60% of whom are classified as high needs. Historically, constructing two separate schools incurs higher costs, as it necessitates additional support facilities (i.e. cafeterias and gyms). High-needs students also demand more specialty classrooms and support staff, increasing overall square footage and construction costs.

## Financial Challenges and Deferred Maintenance

Ensuring equity across the school system, especially in light of required community support

for the debt exclusion, is just one of the City's challenges. The City also faces the need to balance costs of new school construction with urgent renovations across existing buildings. The more modern school buildings from the 1990's and early 2000's like Healey, West, Kennedy, and Capuano require substantial upgrades, particularly for heating and cooling systems, which are nearing the end of their useful lives. The East Somerville Community School too has ongoing issues with its exterior and elevator that need to be addressed.

Moreover, the City's fire stations are in need of critical repairs. Although a request for \$17.3 million for fire station rehabilitation was included in the 2023 five-year Capital Improvement Plan, funding for these projects remains unallocated. Some stations, like the one in Union Square, operate in temporary structures, raising safety concerns. Teele Fire Station had to be taken out of service in 2023 due to structural concerns.

City Hall is facing considerable exterior and operational challenges, including a damaged clock tower, persistent leaks and failing cooling and heating systems that have created unfavorable working conditions for city staff. The City Annex also suffers from recurring leaks, disrupting essential departments, such as the Office of Housing Stability. The historic 1895 building, which could serve as a swing space during City Hall

renovations and accommodate over 300 city staff members that currently are un housed, is currently on hold. This space is crucial for replacing the inadequately maintained City Hall Annex and addressing the urgent need for suitable working conditions for City staff and need to centralize City Services to better serve the community.

## The Urgency of a New School Building

With WHCIS relocated to Edgerly School, SPS has lost its only swing space, forcing the relocation of administration to Tufts Tab Administration Building (TAB). This unexpected move incurs over \$1 million in leasing costs for an 18-month period, which may extend until a new school is completed, adding a potential \$4-5 million financial burden to the City.

The Benjamin Brown School, over a century old, has faced structural failures, leading to the relocation of hundreds of students in 2015 and displacing classrooms in 2018. Further incidents could result in more unplanned expenses. Coupled with a potentially stagnant commercial tax base, the City may struggle to absorb unexpected costs related to deferred maintenance of schools and municipal buildings.

Given the extensive list of deferred maintenance issues and operational disruptions, the City must expedite the construction of a new school building. The lack of extra space and the age of the Brown School compound the

risks associated with prolonged construction timelines.

## Conclusion

The formation of the CAG reflects the City's intention to involve the community in educational planning. However, for the CAG to provide valuable input, the City must clarify its goals regarding equity, finances, and timelines. Decisions about new school construction or renovation must account for the infrastructure resources needed to best serve vulnerable students and address existing educational disparities. The K-8 years are formative for students; waiting until high school to address these issues is too late.

With a growing list of deferred maintenance projects and lack of space, the City cannot indefinitely delay these decisions or fund all projects simultaneously. Some deferred maintenance needs could even threaten the operational status of schools. The City may need to consider selling properties to fund these initiatives. While community input is vital, the City must clearly outline its constraints to enable the CAG to make informed recommendations that benefit the entire Somerville community.

*Beatriz Gómez Mouakad is former Ward 5 City Councilor, member of Padres Latinos of Somerville, mother of two children in Somerville Public Schools and a Senior Project Manager for Planning and Construction in Healthcare.*

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# Somerville Mobile Farmers Market - bringing food to the people, for the people

By Jeffrey Shwom

A healthful, familiar sight was seen from Broadway in East Somerville to Clarendon Hill Towers on the Arlington line this past summer – a white city-owned van decal with yellow letters and green edges proclaiming The Somerville Mobile Farmers Market. Residents speaking in a multitude of languages are greeted with bins of seasonal local vegetables and, more importantly, a sense of community and ownership. The Somerville Mobile Farmers Market recently completed its 14th season of providing fresh, local produce to Somerville residents last week.

“Shoppers take pride in the market. It is a very regular thing,” said Gershom J.L., the mobile market assistant manager who lives in Ball Square. “Folks are often waiting in anticipation for the market to open. It is for them, and by them.”

Run by the City of Somerville’s Office of Food Access and Healthy Communities, The Market began its local community-driven approach in 2008. Sean O’Brien, Food Access Coordinator and Manager, told us, “People do not always have access to fresh, high-quality food. The mobile market was created when the Star Market left Winter Hill in 2008, when it created this deficit for people to get food. It also uncovered other food access issues.”

According to a 2024 Greater Boston Food Bank report titled “Food Equity and Access in Massachusetts: Voices and Solutions from Lived Experience,” 34% of Massachusetts residents run out of food or do not have sufficient funds to buy their monthly food. Somerville residents are

no exception to this statistic, and here is where the mobile market steps in.

Cash, SNAP, HIP, Massachusetts Farmers Market Coupons, WIC Coupons, and debit and credit cards are all accepted. Per Sean, “over 60% of our customers pay with some form of benefit,” with many customers accessing coupons and benefits from standup organizations and nonprofits like Somerville Cambridge Elder Services and Council on Aging. The program is additionally supported by funding that allows prices to be set at or below wholesale prices.

Furthermore, “it is a neutral, comforting space where people will talk about things. A lot of people speak lots of different languages. One customer, who is from Bangladesh, brought her daughter and very excitedly showed her daughter that this is where she gets her vegetables.”

All of the food comes directly from local farmers who grow with organic practices. These farms include Oakdale Farm (Rehoboth), Myers Produce (Hatfield), New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (Beverly) and World Farms (Lancaster). World Farms works with refugee farmers and New Entry with established family farmers and emerging farmers. This further creates a sustainable, inclusive local food ecosystem that feeds those who need access to food the most, right where they live.

For example, in 2024, the Market operated July through October at Clarendon Hill Towers, the Somerville Public Library East Branch, Council of Aging at the Tufts Administration Building, and Mystic Housing Development. In



The Somerville Mobile Farmers Market recently wrapped its 14th year of service to the community. — Photo courtesy of The Somerville Food Coalition

West Somerville, the market used to be at the North Street Housing Development. Due to its redevelopment, the Market moved to Clarendon Hill Towers. According to Sean, it is now “right in the middle of people’s community. People needed this. It is also the first market on a weekday afternoon, suggested by the staff there.”

Feedback is part of the growing (and funding) process. The Office of Food Access and Health Communities is participating in the Food Systems Assessment, being run by the Department of Health and Human Services. Gershom told us, “Last week, we surveyed around 20 people directly. Some reasons they say they shop are accessibility, convenience, they

like the prices, they like the quality. There are culturally relevant options.” Demand and food insecurity is up too. The 2023 season saw an over 60% increase in the number of transactions. Early data analysis of the 2024 season shows another 8-9% year over year increase in transactions and amounts of sales.

For Sean and Gershom, this work is personal. Sean was the chef de cuisine at Cuisine En Locale (formerly in the ONCE Somerville and Anthony’s space on Highland) and worked directly with local farmers. Gershom has experience in the public sector and studied Recreation and Leisure Studies at Southern Connecticut State University. It is, for Gershom, “all about working with the people.”

## Seen in Somerville on Halloween



This couple was spotted wearing hats on Halloween that precisely match the colors, shapes, signage, and vibe of Elly the Elephant, George the Giraffe, and Big Poppy on the Somerville Community Path.

## Aeronaut hosts Tavern Talk: ‘Vitamin B(eer) for Victory’

This past Sunday, guests drank local beer and listened to “Vitamin B for Victory: How Beer Helped Win WWII.” The sold out second “Tavern Talk,” facilitated by the Somerville Museum at Aeronaut, was presented by Professor Dan Breen (Brandeis University), who discussed how the U.S. government switched from its prohibition-guided discouragement of alcohol during WWI to the purchasing for example, of 3.2 beer for soldiers and sailors on all the fronts of WWII. Aeronaut and Museum representatives suggest this may become a regular event in 2025. Visit <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/calendar-events> for events.

— Jeffrey Shwom





## Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

**November 9, 11 – 12 p.m. or 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.** Come to the Center to experience the mindful movements of **Qi Gong** with a local practitioner who has been teaching for many years. Contact: **Michael** at [michaelsdream@gmail.com](mailto:michaelsdream@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Council on Aging** will be hosting **Rental Registry Presentation and Feedback Session** on **Tuesday, November 12**, at 11:30 a.m. at the **Ralph and Jeny Center** located at 9 New Washington Street. **Garrett Anderson** from the **Office of Sustainability and Environment** will give a short presentation on a proposed rental registry ordinance where landlords would be required annually on their rental properties disclosing information about the buildings and energy characteristics of the units for prospective tenants. He will be available after the presentation to receive comments and feedback from the community. He will also be available for office hours at the **Holland Street Center** on **November 8** from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to talk efficiency projects in people's homes as well as the rental registry.

\*\*\*\*\*

Show your **Highlanders Unified Basketball team** support on **Thursday, November 7**, as they continue their incredible season. It's been a fantastic second year for the team, an undefeated 3-0 record so far. The Unified Basketball team is made up of athletes with and without intellectual disabilities, who train and compete together while representing the high school. The team allows students who might typically be excluded from participating in sports to enjoy competing on a team. Learn more about Unified Basketball at the organization website or watch a video about **Unified Sports**: <https://vimeo.com/369963599>. <https://miaa.net/unified-basketball/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **10th Annual Holiday Stroll** will take place on **Saturday, December 7**, from 12 to 6 p.m. Keep an eye out for more information including festive offerings from your favorite businesses and ways to earn cash prizes by supporting local.

\*\*\*\*\*

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>.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

meetings and project information, please visit [voice.somervillema.gov/cen-som-ave](http://voice.somervillema.gov/cen-som-ave).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mayor Katjana Ballantyne** and the **Somerville Office of Sustainability** are announcing the renewal of the **Somerville Community Choice Electricity (Somerville CCE) program**, with new, stable prices from **December 2024 through January 2028**. Visiting [cce.somervillema.gov](http://cce.somervillema.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

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**. If you're interested, please fill out the form <https://forms.gle/mJppkmhXAYj44peRA>.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Is your **teen** looking to make some **extra money**? The city's **Snow Shoveling Program** is hiring youth to assist shoveling

seniors and homeowners with disabilities out after snowstorms this winter. Teens and homeowners are paired for the season. After each storm, the homeowner will contact their assigned youth to request shoveling services. Somerville teens ages 14 to 19 are welcome to apply. Looking for snow shoveling services? Apply online or contact **Debby Higgins** at [dhiggins@somervillema.gov](mailto:dhiggins@somervillema.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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**Medical Equipment Program**: 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. Residents with a documented need for medical equipment must be over the age of 60, or have a permanent disability, and must be otherwise unable to afford or access needed medical equipment. We currently have available: Commodes, Bath Benches, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies and Transport Wheelchairs (wheelchairs are intended for transport and are not self-propelling or self-breaking.) For additional information, or for an application, please contact **Debby Higgins** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

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The **Council on Aging Flu and COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Dates** at the **Holland St. Senior Center**, 167 Holland St. **Senior Only Clinics**, please register by calling the COA directly at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300. For clinics open to the general public, please register via the City of Somerville website. **November 18** (ages 19+) noon – 2:00 p.m., **December 12** (ages 19+) 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Both flu and COVID-19 vaccines are conveniently offered at multiple locations across Somerville, improving access for all residents. If you do have health insurance, please bring proof of coverage. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Walk-in appointments are limited.

\*\*\*\*\*

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



## Posto makes national list

By Cathleen Twardzik

Currently located in Davis Square, Posto is among the top 50 pizzerias in the country. In fact, it's number 41 in the "Top USA 2024" list at <https://www.50toppizzeria.it/50-top-usa-2024/> – the "Guide to the Best Pizzerias in the World."

Interestingly, the pizzeria refers to their food truck as "Posto Mobile."

In addition, enjoy happy hour at the restaurant's bar on Sundays to Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. During that time of day, you may select "one appetizer, one pizza and one dessert" from their happy hour menu. You'll get all that for only \$18 per person. Get there promptly to secure a seat because this is a bar-only deal on a first-come, first-served basis. No reservations are required.

If you were wondering why you read that the pizzeria is "currently" situated in Davis Square, then, ponder that no further. The restaurant is "moving to Assembly [Row]," said a Posto employee. However, no comment was given about the date of their move.

Impressively, their main menu is quite extensive, and it includes everything from red pizza, white pizza, pasta, salad and bruschetta.

There is also a separate beverage menu and a dessert menu.

Besides reserving a table at this eatery, which is located at 187 Elm Street, there are options for private events, such as: executive dinners, rehearsal dinners and baby showers. Contact the restaurant about your function at [info@postoboston.com](mailto:info@postoboston.com).

Pick-up and delivery are also available. Log onto Posto's website at Posto ([postoboston.com](http://postoboston.com)), or contact the establishment at: 617-625-0600 if you have any questions or want to order food.

However, new business hours have been set. Now, the restaurant is open on Sundays from 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Mondays to Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Thursdays to Saturdays from 4:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

So, it's time to eat delicious calamari, "Spicy Pesto Shrimp" or "Mini Cannoli Trio" at Posto. Let your tastebuds dance.



Posto, recently listed as one of the top 50 pizzerias in the country, will be relocating from its current Elm St. location to Assembly Row. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

## Governor declares November 3-9 Drowsy Driving Awareness Week

Maura Healy recently signed a proclamation to designate the first week of November as Drowsy Driving Prevention Week to recognize the consequences of sleep deprived and fatigued drivers on Bay State roadways. Drowsy Driving Prevention Week in Massachusetts runs from November 3rd to 9th. Senator Jehlen is working with AAA and the Drowsy Driving Prevention Project to spread awareness.

AAA research indicates drowsy driving is a serious traffic issue – in part because many drivers fail to realize when they're in danger of falling asleep. During a recent simulated nighttime driving experiment, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found 75% of participants who rated their level of drowsiness as low were, in fact, moderately or severely drowsy.

5 to 6 p.m. becomes increasingly dangerous, according to a AAA Northeast analysis of data from the Massachusetts IMPACT Crash Data Portal. From 2019 to 2023, there was a 38% increase in crashes in the 5 p.m. hour in the month of November (5,931) compared to October (4,267). For pedestrians, the danger is greater.

During the same five-year period, there was a 159% increase in pedestrian crashes in the 5 p.m. hour in November (106) compared to October (42).

"Please remind your loved ones to be careful on the road," said Marian Berkowitz. "We may be extra tired after changing the clocks back as our body adjusts to the time change and it will also be darker much earlier in the evening." Marian Berkowitz founded the Drowsy Driving Prevention Project in 2012 after she lost her brother Jim when he fell asleep at the wheel while driving back to his college and crashed into an oncoming bus.

Falling asleep behind the wheel can happen to anyone, like Alex Noel, son of AAA Northeast's Vice President of Public and Government Affairs, Mary Maguire.

"When my son was 17 and a new driver, he fell asleep at the wheel and was seriously injured in a horrific crash. But he survived and made a full recovery thanks to one key factor – he was wearing his seat belt," Maguire said. "Teens are often the most sleep deprived among us, and after Alex's crash, I began discussing the dangers of drowsy driving with my children and with teens



across our region."

AAA offers the following tips as drivers adjust to darker conditions:

- Prioritize getting at least seven hours of sleep before hitting the road. If you're fighting to stay awake following the time change, pull over to a safe location, lock your doors and take a quick nap.

- Keep your eyes moving. Don't just focus on the middle of the road- watch for flashes of light that might indicate the presence of another vehicle on top of hills, around curves and at intersections. If a driver of an oncoming vehicle fails to dim the lights, look down toward the right side of the road to see the white edge line and stay on course until they pass.

- Ensure lights and windshield wipers are in good working order. Check for yel-

lowing, clouding and other changes in appearance of lights. Make sure your wiper blades aren't leaving streaks and that you have enough wiper fluid.

- Beware of glare. Use your sun visor, invest in polarized sunglasses and leave extra room between you and the car in front of you when the sun is in your eyes.

- Decrease your speed to compensate for reduced visibility. Increase your following distance to four or more seconds behind the car in front of you — and more time if you're behind a motorcycle or if weather conditions are poor. Turn slowly at intersections, particularly in areas with poor street lighting or where pedestrians are likely to be present. Don't try to speed through a yellow light and turn at the same time.

— Office of Senator Patricia D. Jehlen





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



**Q:** How long after moving out should I expect my security deposit back?

**A:** Upon your moving out, your landlord should do an inspection of your unit. If there are any damages beyond normal wear and tear, he/she will get an estimate of the cost of repair. Within 30 days of the date you moved out or the last day of your lease, whichever is later, the landlord must send you a check for the full security deposit plus interest minus the cost of repairs, along with a receipt for any repairs. If they do not do so, you may sue them in Small Claims Court for up to three times the original security deposit. The Small Claims Advisory Service can also help you file your claim if you choose to do so (617-497-5690). Contact the Housing Division at 617-625-6600 x2564 for more information.

## SPS MCAS Scores remain relatively stable

Following the release of statewide MCAS scores last month, Somerville Public Schools has seen relatively stable MCAS scores compared to the previous school year. Overall, the district saw improvements in 5th grade and 8th grade science compared to last year, a particular highlight for SPS given recent investments in science and computer science curriculum and enrichment. We also saw an increase in the percentage of 8th grade students meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA and Math compared to last year. In both Math and ELA, percentages were similar to 2023, and combined ELA scores for grades 3–8 are on par with the state average.

# Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Country lane? Or view of Somerville?...

— Photo by Denise Provost

## BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What is the most popular college in November?  
The Electoral College.

## On This Day in History

### November 6

- 1429 – Henry VI is crowned King of England.
- 1860 – Abraham Lincoln is elected 16th president of the United States.
- 1891 – Comanche, the only 7th Cavalry horse to survive George Armstrong Custer's "Last Stand" at the Little Bighorn, dies at Fort Riley, Kansas.
- 1911 – Maine becomes a dry state.
- 1917 – The Bolshevik "October Revolution," led by Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky, seizes power in Petrograd.
- 1923 – As European inflation soars, one loaf of bread in Berlin is reported to be worth about 140 billion German marks.
- 1945 – The first landing of a jet on a carrier takes place on USS Wake Island when an FR-1 Fireball touches down.
- 1973 – Coleman Young becomes the first African-American mayor of Detroit, MI.
- 1986 – The Iran arms-for-hostages deal is revealed, damaging the Reagan administration.

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## SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

### Upcoming events:

**Medical Equipment Program** – 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. Residents with a documented need for medical equipment must be over the age of 60, or have a permanent disability, and must be otherwise unable to afford or access needed medical equipment. We currently have available: Commodes, Bath Benches, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies and Transport Wheelchairs (wheelchairs are intended for transport and are not self-propelling or self-breaking.) For additional information, or for an application, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

**Lockboxes for Seniors** - What is the Lockboxes for Seniors program? The Lockboxes for Seniors program is intended to provide Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) access to your residence in the event of an emergency where you are unable to open the door. A key to your residence will be stored in a secure metal storage device, like a realtor's lockbox, at your residence. The access code to the lockbox will only be available to Police, Fire, or EMS personnel and used only during an emergency. Who is eligible? The program is targeted towards Somerville community members who live alone and are aged 65+, or those who are disabled and/or suffer from major medical illness at any age. Individuals living in apartment complexes or other facilities with maintenance staff are not eligible for this program. How do I know this is safe? A member of the Somerville Fire Department will install and demonstrate how the lockbox operates and answer any questions you may have. The four-digit combination on the lockbox will only be available to responding to emergency personnel in the event of an emergency. Who should I contact for more information? For more information, please contact Debby Higgins at the Council on Aging via E-mail at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or by telephone at (617) 625-6600 ext. 2321. There is no charge to participate in the program if you meet the established target criteria. The Council on Aging will verify eligibility for services. This program is designed for those who are at most significant risk for falls or have limited mobility. All participants will be required to provide a spare house key to be used in the lock box as well as a safety inspection of the property.

**Cultural Series Event** – at the Dilboy Post – featuring Fill My Heart with Song -November 19th starting at 11:00 a.m. at the Dilboy Post located at 351 Summer Street. \$5 per person. A singalong concert with Joel Light and Dan Moore: Broadway tunes, classic hits and famil-

iar singa-longs. Lunch will be served at noon consisting of Greek chicken gyro, rice and salad. The cost of lunch is subsidized by the City of Somerville. Please reserve your spot for this event and lunch by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

**Flu and COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics** – Monday, November 18th (ages 19+) from noon to 2:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 12th (ages 19+) from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Clinics are open to the public, please register via the City of Somerville Website: [www.somervillema.gov](http://www.somervillema.gov) Clinics will be held at the Holland Street Senior Center located at 167 Holland Street.

**Virtual Reality Experiences** – Mediation Experience: Monday, November 18th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Join us and relax through guided mediation in a calm and serene virtual reality environment. Travel Experience: Friday, November 22nd from 11:00 a.m. to Noon. Join us as we travel to different destinations and learn interesting facts about each place. Both reality experiences happen at our Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Using ARPA funding directed to the Council on Aging by Mayor Ballantyne, the COA has partnered with Rendeer, a Somerville based company focusing on the benefits of virtual reality in older populations. Studies have found that virtual reality can help reduce stress, decrease isolation, reduce pain and lower fall risk. Virtual reality is a 3D, computer generated simulation that is accessed through wearing a headset. Space is limited, but you will have many opportunities to participate in this two-year pilot program. RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at [mpagliuca@somervillema.gov](mailto:mpagliuca@somervillema.gov).

**FDIC Money Smart: Financial Fraud** – Friday, November 8th starting at 11:00 a.m. Representatives from Northern Bank will conduct a presentation on financial exploitation. This presentation will include different types of financial exploitation along with tips and techniques for avoiding and addressing financial fraud. Please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 to RSVP or you can email Natasha at [nnaim@somervillema.gov](mailto:nnaim@somervillema.gov).

**Open Enrollment** – For Medicare beneficiaries is from October 15th until December 7th for changes effective on January 1st of 2025. To make an appointment to see a SHINE Counselor, contact either Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318.

**Senior Spa & Lunch Days** - Tuesday, November 12th and Tuesday, December 3rd. Somerville High School CTE Department has invited us back to be pampered and enjoy a delicious lunch. We will arrive at 10:00 a.m. for a treatment of your choice. Spa services include: Hair cut for \$5.00, Manicure for \$5.00 and a Facial

for \$10.00. We will conclude with a delicious \$7.00 lunch at the Culinary Department at 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP by calling Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319. Payment must be received to reserve your spot. Transportation will be provided, leaving from the Holland St. Senior Center.

**Beginners De-Cluttering Group** – Wednesdays, November 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. If you are worried about your clutter or are looking for tips and tricks on how to address your clutter, join the beginners de-cluttering group. Open to Somerville and Cambridge residents age 60 or older, this group guides you through an easy to follow four-week curriculum. To RSVP please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at [nnaim@somervillema.gov](mailto:nnaim@somervillema.gov).

**Eurythmy** – Wednesday, November 13th starting at 2:30 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. For more information and to register please contact Michelle Deutsch by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

### Overnight trip:

Christmas New York Style – Sunday, December 8 – Monday, December 9 Two days and one night accommodation, roundtrip transportation, full breakfast buffet, touring of the Hudson River Valley & a ticket to the Radio City Rockettes show. Price: single room, \$819, double room \$659 per person and Triple/quad room \$639 per person. Refunds unavailable after November 8. Payments accepted by check, made payable to SCOA. For more information contact Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319.

### Social media:

Stay connected via our Facebook page - Informative, entertaining, lots of photos and updates. Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCOA/>

Follow the Somerville Council on Aging on Instagram! You can find us under the Instagram handle: [somervillecouncilonaging](https://www.instagram.com/somervillecouncilonaging) If you have any questions or need help following us, contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email her at [dhiggins@somervillema.gov](mailto:dhiggins@somervillema.gov)

### Join our mailing list:

If you would like to receive a virtual copy of our monthly newsletter, please contact Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen Bastardi at [mbastardi@somervillema.gov](mailto:mbastardi@somervillema.gov).

If you would like to become part of our Google Group, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at [dhiggins@somervillema.gov](mailto:dhiggins@somervillema.gov).





OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Lunch in Chinatown'  
by Mary Bonina

Review by Off the Shelf correspondent Lee Varon

Mary Bonina's latest chapbook *Lunch in Chinatown* (Cervena Barva Press, 2024), is a window into the lives of immigrants who come to this country seeking a new beginning. In her work as an ESL teacher Bonina taught English to adult students from all over the world.

I wish everyone in our country could read *Lunch in Chinatown* and have a glimpse at how hard those coming to the U. S. struggle to learn the language and culture and forge a fresh start – many fleeing unspeakable atrocities in their native lands. In “the makeshift classroom” at the edge of Chinatown in downtown Boston, Bonina met with her students.

As you can imagine, with students from all over the world, all trying to learn English, lessons often go off-topic and into interesting new areas. Or as Bonina writes, “Someone always gets a discussion moving/ on a different track, a related subject,/ one that comes with its own set of problems.”

And sometimes Bonina, as teacher, becomes enthralled with the stories her students bring to class, as when Andre, one of the Haitian men in class, tells the story of when he met his wife in the streets of Port au Prince. You can almost feel the electrifying moment as: “He puts me on that bright street brimming with activity in Port / au Prince. I can see Giselle a young girl with her friends all standing / around her. They don't giggle. They feign aloofness/ And Andre approaches the group, as he approaches his English class:/ shyly and respectfully.”

Or in the powerful poem, *Teaching the Past Tense* when all of her students chime in with the names of the countries where they came from: “Haiti. Guatemala. Ethiopia. China.”

A benign run of the mill lesson ends with the dev-



astating stanza: “Hagos, the Ethiopian says – not somberly,/ just matter-of-factly– ‘My country./ Lots of people dead.’”

Bonina has a wonderful ability to mix short lyrical lines with longer prose-like lines. This reminded me of the way so many of her lessons must have gone – some short and to the point and others discursive and taking many twists and turns.

One of the most moving poems was the title poem *Lunch in Chinatown*. In this poem one of Bonina's students – Wei Wei – takes her arm as they walk , the day after Christmas, along the sidewalks “slippery with snow and ice.” Teacher and student are going to a restaurant to order Dim *Continued on page 23*

Lyrical  
SOMERVILLE  
edited by Doug Holder

Some years ago, I was the guest poet for the Voices of Israel organization. I traveled to Israel, lectured and gave workshops. I stayed on a kibbutz, and also at the home of poet/artist Helen Bar-Lev. I am glad to reconnect with her!



Helen Bar-Lev was born in New York in 1942. [www.helenbarlev.com](http://www.helenbarlev.com). She holds a B.A. in Anthropology, has lived in Israel over 50 years and has had more than 100 exhibitions of her landscape paintings, 34 of which were one-woman shows. Her poems and artwork have appeared in numerous online and print anthologies. Eight poetry collections, all illustrated by Helen. She is the Amy Kitchener senior poet laureate and was nominated for the Pushcart Prize in 2013 and is the Israeli representative for Imagine & Poesia. Helen is the recipient of the Homer European Medal for Poetry and Art. She is the winner of the Colori dell'Anima" Award 10th Edition for her poetic collection (Sanremo, Italy). She also has held these positions: Assistant President of Voices Israel, Chief Editor of *Voices Annual Anthology*, and Overseas Connections Coordinator. In October 2023 she was evacuated from her home in Metulla and now resides in Karmiel.

Uprooted

Amidst the sirens and missiles  
I see myself from a distance  
though the binoculars of terrorists  
the shock of evacuation  
the reluctance of relocation  
I imagine my house destroyed  
my paintings shattered

the books ashes  
the cats scattered  
the fragrance of the garden  
left to wither  
Little by little  
an unanticipated acceptance  
a letting-go of attachments

a gradual release,  
my past erased  
Prepared now,  
the stone of sorrow burdens  
but will not crush

© Helen Bar-Lev 2/2024



# Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

administration announced \$24.6 million in grants to 163 Massachusetts food system enterprises to help sustain Massachusetts' food production and distribution sectors.

"Our food system is an integral part of our economy, our landscape, our culture and public health," said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. "These investments will help ensure that farmers, fishers, schools, distributors and other stakeholders can continue to produce food and that all Massachusetts residents rely on."

"As food producers face growing threats from climate change, the [grant] program helps farmers and fishers build resilience so that they can adapt," said Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "From changing weather patterns to new invasive species to worker health concerns, our food producers must constantly innovate to remain sustainable, and we are proud to help them do so."

"As we learned from the COVID pandemic, food insecurity is a real problem in the commonwealth for too many families, said Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport). "I have made addressing this disparity a priority and have worked closely with the Healey-Driscoll administration to help grow and sustain food production for our farming communities in the state."

**\$7.8 MILLION TO ENHANCE SECURITY AT NONPROFITS** – Gov. Healey announced the awarding of federal funds to 56 nonprofits that are at heightened risk of an extremist attack in the Bay State.

"These faith-based and community nonprofits play such a critical role in our communities, and we are proud to deliver this funding that will help them implement security measures to keep their residents safe and ensure peace of mind," said Gov. Healey. "We're grateful to the Biden-Harris Administration for making this funding available to ensure these organizations can continue to serve those who depend on them, without fear or interruption."

"Protecting our communities means safeguarding the organizations that uplift, support and inspire us daily," said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy. "This funding reaffirms our commitment to protecting

these essential community spaces, ensuring they remain safe havens where people of all backgrounds can gather and feel secure."

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

"We are asking for the ability to form a committee to start a captive insurance plan or start a plan that would allow us to get assistance to fix these foundations. We are mirroring a plan that's already in place and working in the state of Connecticut. They've replaced over 1,000 homes. They use a \$1 a month surcharge on homeowners' policies, no more than \$12 a year. The first year alone, if we were able to put that together in Massachusetts, we'd raise close to \$22 million." — *Cynthia Poirier, an assessor in Brimfield and Holland, urging Gov. Healey to issue an executive order to create a committee to develop recommendations on providing assistance to the many Bay State homeowners dealing with crumbling concrete foundations, caused by pyrite or pyrrhotite minerals, which could eventually render their houses unlivable.*

"The Healey-Driscoll Administration recognizes the importance of providing support to homeowners whose concrete foundations are crumbling. We will continue to work together with our partners in the Legislature to evaluate potential solutions that would provide relief to homeowners." — *Karissa Hand, spokesperson for Gov. Healey, responding to a State House News Service question asking whether the governor is willing to issue the executive order to create a committee to explore providing assistance to homeowners dealing with crumbling concrete foundations.*

"The public should expect strong, clear and specific recommendations when our work is complete. We will approach thorny questions humbly, diligently and with an open mind. We will do our best to draw in voices that are not already represented on this commission, including but not limited to, Orthodox Jews, Israeli Jews and those who may have differing opinions about what counts as antisemitism." — *Rep. Simon Cataldo (D-Concord) co-chair of the newly established Special State Commission for Addressing Antisemitism, which held its first meeting last week.*

"The latest report ... underscores the main issue driving residents out of Massachusetts. Oppressive taxes aren't just a business community concern. This is a quality of life issue for everyone in the commonwealth. Our polling

shows 80 percent of people agree Massachusetts taxes are too high. The long-term consequences aren't hypothetical. If we don't turn the tide, we will continue to lose talented residents, families and entrepreneurs to states with more competitive taxes." — *Chris Anderson, president of the Massachusetts High Technology Council, on the release of the Tax Foundation 2025 State Tax Competitiveness Index, which ranked Massachusetts among the 10 worst states in the country (41st out of 50).*

## HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

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

During the week of October 28-November 1, the House met for a total of 50 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 54 minutes.

Mon. Oct. 28	House 11:13 a.m. to 11:14 a.m. Senate 11:11 a.m. to 11:49 a.m.
Tues. Oct. 29	No House session No Senate session
Wed. Oct. 30	House 11:05 a.m. to 11:17 a.m. No Senate session
Thurs. Oct. 31	House 11:06 a.m. to 11:43 a.m. Senate 11:10 a.m. to 11:26 a.m.
Fri. Nov. 1	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at [bob@beaconhillrollcall.com](mailto:bob@beaconhillrollcall.com)

# Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

Sum – "The air was bitter cold ,/ smoky and scented with ginger and sesame,"

Looking down, Bonina notices that her student "wore bright yellow summer shoes,/ like ballet shoes, but with hard soles." Wei Wei, she learns, had "worked as a doctor / in China's largest hospital."

It seems that her fear of falling on the slippery sidewalks

and holding onto Bonina is a metaphor for how these new immigrants hold onto these English language classes, and their teacher, to help negotiate living in their sometimes precarious and often confusing new world.

This is a richly imagistic and meaningful book of poems that speaks to our shared humanity beyond cultural and linguistic differences. Though only twenty- six pages, it is

packed full of memorable vignettes that resonate long after we close its pages.

Lee Varon is the author of *My Brother is Not a Monster: A Story of Addiction and Recovery*, and *A Kid's Book About Overdose*.

She is co-editor of *Spare Change News Poems: An Anthology by Homeless People and those Touched by Homelessness*.



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