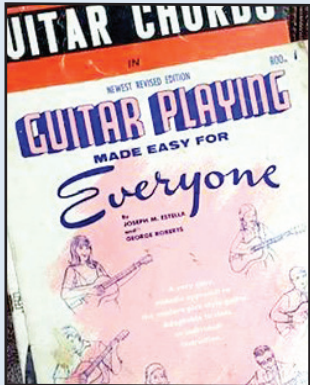




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Guitar Heroes
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Paint Cut Fold Stitch
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Happy birthday Lego!
page 17

Somerville officials remind immigrants to 'Know Your Rights'



Somerville city leaders are taking steps to both inform and protect vulnerable resident populations and let them know that they stand with them.

By Harry Kane

Many residents in Somerville expressed concerns regarding President Donald Trump's order to target undocumented immigrants, and while federal authorities are cracking down on high-risk individuals who pose a threat to national security or public safety in sanctuary cities, the new policy raises the specter of persistent raids by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents who have been tasked with implementing the presidential mass deportation directive amid a slew of executive orders.

In response to these enhanced targeting operations, Somerville City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin placed an order during the January 23 city council meeting for the immigrant affairs director at SomerViva to update the public *Continued on page 4*

Somerville Arts Council prepares for outdoor public art

By Jeffrey Shwom

The Times caught up with Iaritzza Menjivar, Events Manager with Somerville Art Council (SAC), to discuss two upcoming street art and outdoor public art projects they are planning for spring and summer 2025.

After a call for artists in the Fall of 2024, the Temporary Public Art by Emerging Artists [1] project is down to its finalists. The Temporary Public Art project is focused on newer artists, who have been practicing for less than 10 years, with special consideration for those who live in Somerville. This opportunity was funded with New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) Making it Public Program [2], which helps provide payment for artists through participating cities like Somerville. *Continued on page 22*



The "Care to the People" mural at CHA

— Photos courtesy of the Somerville Arts Council



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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.

After months of intensive work to identify ways to improve affordability for residents, small businesses, nonprofits, and artists in Somerville, the city's Anti-Displacement Task Force (ADTF) is ready to share their recommendations with the community. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) invite all to join an on-line community meeting presenting ADTF reports on Thursday, January 30, at 7 p.m., as well as to an in-person event this spring. For the link to the online meeting, online access to the reports, or to visit the ADTF SomerVoice web page, please visit www.voice.somervillema.gov/adtf.

The Somerville's City Council is holding a virtual public hearing in the Committee on Finance for community members to share Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) budget priorities on Thursday, January 30, at 6 p.m. online via Zoom:https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join-external-link/register/WN_rPdxpa12QpeHOcf1TpLKQg#/registration. Please note that comments must be received by noon on January 30 to ensure that they are received by the Committee. Any comments received after the deadline will be submitted to the City Council at its next meeting. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may provide comments by email to the City Council at publiccomments@somervillema.gov. You may also send comments by U.S. mail or deliver them in-person to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143. Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of January 29 – February 4 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday January 29	Snow	43°/16°	58%	43%	SW 10 mph
Thursday January 30	Sunny	26°/24°	2%	1%	WNW 13 mph
Friday January 31	Partly Cloudy	33°/20°	12%	6%	WNW 10 mph
Saturday February 1	Partly Cloudy	33°/28°	25%	15%	NW 13 mph
Sunday February 2	Rain	38°/30°	50%	41%	NE 12 mph
Monday February 3	Sunny	43°/29°	23%	13%	WSW 11 mph
Tuesday February 4	Partly Cloudy	36°/18°	15%	7%	W 14 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: Statement from Mayor Ballantyne on the ceasefire

Allan Poin says:

While admirable sentiments, why would anyone in the world think that the opinion of the mayor of Somerville on Gaza is important enough to justify an official statement?

Response to: Somerville community invited to participate in School Building Community Feedback Survey

Bill Gilman says:

The Winter Hill School closed nearly two years ago, and all we got was this extremely vague and misleading survey

Response to: Drop and give me 20

JimbDrury says:

Just wondering, being from Dot I was friendly with a John Glynn, he had a younger brother named Gerry.

John and I were very involved with amateur baseball and served on a number of boards together. I grew up in Somerville, then Dot and now live in Tennessee.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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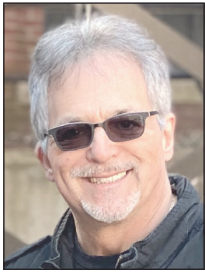
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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

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.

Guitar Heroes



In the 60's and 70's a lot of Somerville kids were starting rock groups. Many were self-taught but others took lessons. The city was cultivating a fine array of

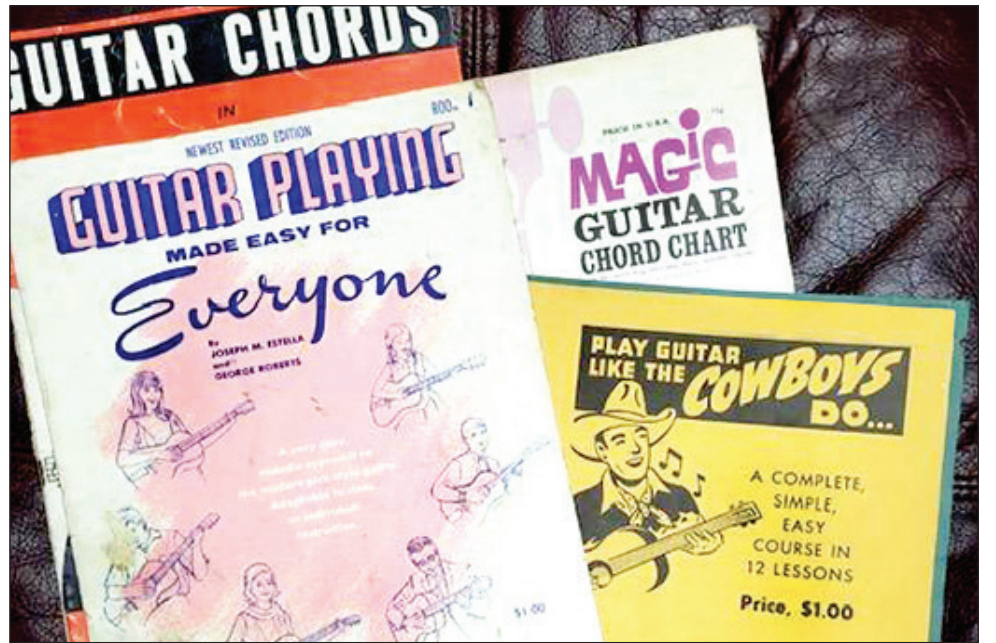
talented musicians. learned was the Spanish Malagueña, one of my dad's favorite sayings it was "that song cost me a fortune!" I think the lessons were a buck and a half.

I remember getting a face full of pipe smoke.

My first guitar was a small inexpensive one. It was my dad's test to see if I'd stay with it. I stayed at it and learned to play. My dad eventually bought me a nice new guitar. It was called a Harmony Master. Dad bought it from some guy in a bar room.

I remember practicing for a half hour each day. I bought 45 records and taught myself songs. My best friend Charlie also got his guitar for

Continued on page 9



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Somerville Police Dept Crime Log January 7 – 13

Assault

25002968: On 1/17/25 at approximately 9:48 a.m. a male party entered the station and stated that his juvenile son had an object thrown at his head by another student and it rendered him unconscious.

Residential Breaking and Entering

25002454: On 1/14/25 at approximately 3:27 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Bromfield Rd. for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he left for vacation and when he returned, noticed his bike was missing from the basement. Officers identified the suspect involved.

Other Crimes: 2 MV thefts + 5 Package thefts + 3 MV vandalisms + 2 Car breaks + 1 Bike theft



— Somerville Police Department

Somerville officials remind immigrants to 'Know Your Rights'

CONT. FROM PG 1

health and public safety committee to address immigrant rights and coordinate programming that can assist residents.

"While we are deeply concerned about potential federal overreach and its impact on families and our economy, we remain steadfast in our commitment to protect the lawful and constitutional rights of all who call our city home," said Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne in a written statement.

The Trump administration's mass deportation policy targets immigrants nationwide who cannot prove they have been in the country continuously for two years or more, according to a press release on the American Civil Liberties Union website on January 22.

Somerville has been a sanctuary city since 1987, and their resolution protects foreign-born residents, which accounts for over 20 percent of the city's population. In November of last year, the City Council approved a resolution reconfirming the sanctuary city status.

The city is taking proactive steps to assist residents in anticipation of increased immigration enforcement by the federal government by hosting "Know Your Rights" sessions for community members and businesses to learn their legal protections.

The Trump administration has deputized agents from other parts of the U.S. Department of Justice to "to help identify and apprehend" illegal aliens for mass deportations, according to a statement from the Department of Homeland Security.

"We are also doing the grim work of helping families create contingency plans for guardianship so that they can work to safeguard their children and assets in the event a parent or guardian is deported," said a spokesperson for the

City of Somerville.

Officials say strengthening economic and social support systems to mitigate the potential impact of increased immigration enforcement may address potential economic downturns caused by large-scale deportations.

"The city opposes mass deportations due to the expected national economic and social harms," said Mayor Ballantyne. "We are deeply concerned that mass deportation will drive up food and other costs, drain funds from other national needs, and endanger people who fled violence and crises at home."

Immigration law enforcement is not a local police function in Somerville, and while SPD will cooperate with federal agencies on criminal cases, immigration-related enforcement is excluded from local policing duties, according to the city.

"This separation allows our officers to focus on protecting public safety without undermining trust within our immigrant communities," said a spokesperson for the City of Somerville.

At the City Council meeting on January 23, City Councilor McLaughlin said, "I don't think people anticipated the speed and ferocity of how this was going to happen."

Councilor McLaughlin described the sudden onset of ICE agents who have been spotted in places like supermarkets, and the "threats" of ICE agents entering churches and schools to search for undocumented individuals.

"There's real fear out there in the community," Councilor McLaughlin said. "It's intentionally making people afraid to go about their day-to-day lives."

Councilor McLaughlin explained that immigrants have rights and are protected under the U.S. Constitution regard-

less of their status.

President Trump's executive orders to end birthright citizenship, allow ICE to enter schools and churches and punish cities that do not assist in his agenda is concerning, he explained.

"Now the rules have completely changed; we don't know what is true and what's not anymore, and if the president can just do whatever he wants," Councilor McLaughlin said.

SomerViva has provided a packet of "Know Your Rights" resources and a "Know Your Rights" webinar presentation session that helps Somerville residents understand immigration rights, which can be found on their website.

Having your rights card in your wallet if stopped by police or immigration, and choosing to "remain silent" is alright, explained Jessica Kiko, director of training at the Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition, in the webinar session.

The sessions help inform people of their rights, changes to the law, information on how to access legal services, and offer support for emergency planning, such as establishing legal guardianship should a parent be deported. These sessions are being held at multiple places and in multiple languages in coordination with area partners, according to the city.

"If you have submitted an asylum application, you cannot be deported until after an immigration judge has reviewed your application. And even then, if the immigration judge doesn't grant it, you have the right to file a timely appeal, and you cannot be deported while that initial appeal is pending," Kiko said in the webinar session.

The ACLU has sued the Trump administration over their "fast-track de-

portations" policy without fair legal process, according to a press release from January 22.

"People living in communities all across the United States are at risk of being separated from their families and expelled from the country with no legal recourse. This is an attack on communities, our Constitution, and fundamental American values," said Anand Balakrishnan, senior staff attorney with the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project.

City Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld relayed a story of how students were afraid to leave the high school after seeing an ICE van.

"This is happening today in our communities. Our youth are afraid," said Councilor Neufeld at the city council meeting.

Public schools in Somerville do not ask for families' immigration status, do not coordinate with ICE, do not allow ICE agents access into facilities without a criminal judicial warrant signed by a judge and do not share student records with ICE without a parent/guardian consent or court order issued by a judge, explained Councilor Neufeld.

"It's really important for folks to know their rights," said Councilor Neufeld.

"At Somerville Public Schools, we are deeply committed to supporting all of our immigrant students and families," said Superintendent of Somerville Public Schools Rubén D. Carmona in a January 23 email to SPS families.

City Councilor Jesse Clingan said that some residents he heard from are "panicked."

"We are all in this together," he said. "I think it's really important now more than ever that we band together and let our immigrant brothers and sisters know that we stand with them."

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City Council to hold Public Hearing for community input on next city budget

The Somerville City Council invites community members to share their priorities for the Fiscal Year 2026 budget at an upcoming virtual Public Hearing on Thursday, January 30, at 6 p.m. All interested community members are invited to attend and speak at this online Public Hearing hosted by the Somerville City Council's Finance Committee. Written comment may also be submitted.

The City's 2026 fiscal year (FY26) runs from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Input provided at this hearing will help inform Council advance priorities that will be shared with the Administration to consider as they develop the FY26 City budget. To learn more about the city budget, visit somerillema.gov/budget.

There are two ways to provide budget input to the City Council:

Join the Public Hearing online:

To attend and be heard, follow the link below to register for the meeting. After registering, you will receive an email with

instructions to join the webinar when it starts: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rPdxpa12Qpe-HOc1TpLKQg](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rPdxpa12Qpe-HOc1TpLKQg)

This link is also available by visiting somerillema.legistar.com and selecting the link for the January 30 Finance Committee.

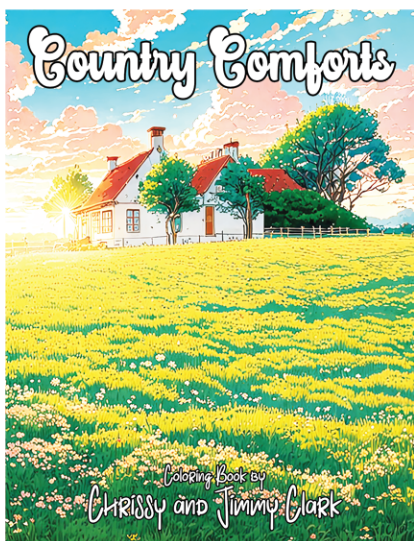
Comment in writing:

Persons unable to attend the hearing may provide comments by email to the City Council at publiccomments@somerillema.gov or by dropping them off at the City Clerk's Office at 93 Highland Ave. Comments received by 12 p.m. the day of the Hearing will be conveyed to the Committee for inclusion with the hearing testimony.

Comments submitted after this deadline will be accepted by the City Council on an ongoing basis, but it cannot be guaranteed that comments received after the deadline will be read prior to the hearing.



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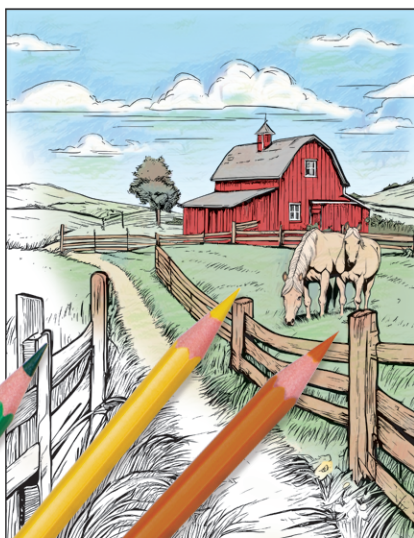
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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE: There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

MORE BILL SIGNED INTO LAW BY GOV. MAURA HEALEY - Here are some of the many bills that were signed into law by Gov. Healey following the end of the 2024 session:

REQUIRE BOATER SAFETY PROGRAM AND TEST (S 3011) – Gov. Healey signed into law a bill requiring anyone operating a boat in the state’s waters to take a state-sponsored boater safety course and then pass a boater safety exam.

The bill, known as the Hanson-Milone Act, is named after David Hanson who lost his life in a boating accident in 2010 and Paul Milone, the late harbormaster from Weymouth who was an advocate for boat safety. Both families were strong advocates for passage of the measure and attended the signing ceremony.

“I am so proud to see the Hanson-Milone Act finally become law,” said sponsor Rep. Kathy LaNatra (D-Kington). “Massachusetts is home to some of the most beautiful waterways in the world, but too often, a day of fun on the water ends in tragedy because someone operates a boat without proper safety training. This legislation establishes a straightforward program to make sure anyone operating a boat in the commonwealth has the necessary safety knowledge to keep themselves and others safe ... I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Hanson and Milone families for their relentless dedication and advocacy for this life-saving legislation.”

BLOOD BANKS (S 2994) – Gov. Healey signed into law legislation that would allow organizations registered as blood establishments with the federal United States Food and Drug Administration, to maintain a blood bank if the bank is approved by the Massachusetts Commissioner of the Department of Public Health and the Public Health Council.

Supporters said there are a number of blood banks that operate nationally that currently supply Massachusetts hospitals but may not draw or store blood here. They argued that this legislation is intended to address that inefficiency. Currently only the Red Cross, Center for Blood Research and hospitals are permitted to draw and store blood in the Bay State.

“This bill allows FDA-registered blood banks to operate in Massachusetts,” said sponsor Sen. Barry Finegold (D-Andover). “Establishments like the New York Blood Center provide supply to many hospitals across Massa-

chusetts, but they haven’t been allowed to collect donations here. This legislation changes that.”

ALLOW ELECTRONIC RECEIPT FOR DELIVERY OF FUEL OILS AND PROPANE (H 4132) – Gov. Healey signed into law a measure that would allow companies to send customers an electronic delivery receipt for the bulk sale of fuel oils and propane.

“This legislation modernizes the receipt system by allowing the vendor of bulk sale deliveries to utilize an electronic receipt, ticket or other form of recorded representation for the purchaser to review the sale item,” said House sponsor Rep. Jeff Roy (D-Franklin). “Massachusetts is one of the last states to update this antiquated system of delivery of receipts/invoices from bulk sales. In today’s world of technology, it only makes sense that the delivery of receipts/invoices can be safely and efficiently transmitted to the consumer without having to leave a paper bill at the door or mailbox. Many, if not most businesses, already operate this way and there is no good reason not to advance bulk sales in this direction as well particularly as the consumer would have a choice in the method of delivery.”

Supporters noted that customers frequently complain about the current practice of the company leaving bags with receipts on their doorknobs or in their mailboxes. They said leaving the receipts in a USPS mailbox is not permitted by law and also leaves consumers vulnerable to identity fraud. They also pointed out that leaving a plastic bag which might remain on the doorknob for several days is a clear signal to would-be criminals that the homeowner is not home and might be traveling.

ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A MASSACHUSETTS CABO VERDEAN CULTURAL CENTER (S 2995) – Gov. Healey signed a measure creating a 10-person special commission to study the feasibility of establishing a statewide Massachusetts Cabo Verdean cultural center in the city of Boston to represent the over 200 years history of Cabo Verdeans in the state.

Supporters, noting the long overdue measure coincides with the 50th Anniversary of Cape Verdean independence, said the center will provide a vibrant space for cultural expression, education, and unity.

Co-sponsors Sens. Lydia Edwards (D-Boston) and Liz Miranda (D-Boston) did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* to comment on their proposal being signed into law.

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

HEALEY FILES \$59.6 BILLION FISCAL YEAR 2026 STATE BUDGET – Gov. Maura Healey filed her third annual state budget, with a price tag of \$59.6 billion. She also proposed an additional \$1.95 billion in surtax spending that she says would stabilize the MBTA, enable critical investments in transportation and higher education infrastructure. The surtax revenue is from the constitutional amendment, approved by voters in 2022, that imposes an additional 4 percent income tax, in addition to the flat 5 percent one, on taxpayers’ earnings of more than \$1 million annually. Language in the increase requires that “subject to appropriation, the revenue will go to fund quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges and public transportation.”

“Our fiscal year 2026 budget proposal is a balanced, forward-looking blueprint that meets the needs of our residents and businesses while also taking care of their tax dollars,” said Gov. Healey. “We’re making historic investments in the infrastructure that our quality of life and economy depend on – stabilizing the MBTA, fixing our roads, bridges and regional transit and modernizing college campuses, all while creating good jobs,” said Governor Maura Healey. “This budget also prioritizes affordability and economic development – continuing the progress we have made in childcare, college affordability, tax cuts, housing, veterans services and more. We are able to build on this progress while controlling our spending and tightening our belts, just as families and businesses are doing across our state.”

“I hear from residents, business and local officials on a daily basis about the challenges they face,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “I’m proud of the way that this budget responds to those needs, while also making sure Massachusetts can sustainably support the programs and services on which everyone in Massachusetts relies. We’re fully funding the Student Opportunity Act to make sure our K-12 schools have equitable access to the resources their students and educators need, growing local aid, boosting Chapter 90 funding to improve roads and bridges and creatively investing in our infrastructure.”

The Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance was quick to criticize the proposal. The group said the budget includes a plan allowing municipalities to raise taxes on meals and hotels through local option taxes, an idea soundly rejected last year; a \$164 million tax hike by setting up a cap on the charitable deductions law approved by the voters in 2000; expansion of tobacco taxes to synthetic nicotine products; and extending the sales tax to candy.

“She’s literally taking candy from a baby,” *Continued on page 16*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Happy Groundhog Day...again?

Our View Of The Times



The quaint old custom of looking to an oversized rodent every February 2 for a generalized weather forecast for the following immediate future is warmly amusing to some, irksome to others.

Groundhog Day is a popular North American tradition observed in the United States and Canada. Its origins are traced to the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if a groundhog emerges from its burrow

on the given day and sees its shadow due to clear weather, it will go back into to its den and winter weather will continue for six more weeks. If it fails to see its shadow because of cloudiness, then spring will invariably arrive early.

Of course, studies have found no consistent association between a groundhog seeing its shadow and the subsequent arrival time of spring-like weather. Still, many are

so enamored of the legend that the annual ritual is played out with glee throughout many communities across the land.

Most notable among these celebrations is the famous Groundhog Day ceremony held at Punxsutawney in western Pennsylvania, centering on a semi-mythical groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil. News outlets nationwide file their annual tongue-in-cheek reports of the event,

as notably depicted in the popular film Groundhog Day.

One wonders how such an event held in Somerville might play out. Do we even have groundhogs native to our environs? Or would we gather around a trash barrel, awaiting a sign from some oracular rat as it rears its head upward?

Whatever prediction comes forth, may the weeks ahead be amenable to all.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Happy birthday this week to the following: Happy birthday to Denise Cosby, a local real estate agent. Denise published her book, *Murder at Harvard's Kirkland House-A Mother's Worst Nightmare*, which tells the real story of the murder of her son Justin. Happy birthday to our good friend and a great guy, former Alderman Bob McWatters. We wish him the very best and hope he enjoys his day. Happy birthday to John Arvantis, who is celebrating this week. Happy birthday to Jason Ribeiro. We hope he has a great day this week.. We hope he has a great day as well. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Cathy Palumbo Demasi, Edward

Hardy, Michael Kennelly, Maria Nella Nunes-Rollins, Geraldine Nevaras, Paula Monaco-DiNitto and Simon Shapiro 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..

The Somerville Warming Center is looking for donations for their clients. To see what is needed visit their facebook page or their Amazon wish list under Somerville Warming Center.

Important tips for staying safe and warm in the current cold weather: Dress in lay-

ers and cover as much exposed skin as possible when outdoors. Minimize time outside, including for pets. Check in on family and neighbors. Follow all safety precautions if using space heaters. Do not use a stove or oven as a heat source. Check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and make sure they are working and have fresh batteries. Learn more about carbon monoxide safety: mass.gov/info-details/carbon-monoxide-co-safety. Prevent frozen water pipes: somervillema.gov/frozenpipes. For more, visit: somervillema.gov/coldweather.

Registration is open now for The Artist's

Way writing workshop. From January 23 to April 24, the group will meet at Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave. in the Lavender Room on Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. More info and registration available visit <https://artsatthearmory.org/>.

On February 5 from 6 to 8pm, the Somerville Arts Council will be hosting a Volunteer Craft Night. A themed activity where people can design handmade cards which will be sent to the seniors at the Visiting Nurses Assoc. in Somerville. A wonderful way to meet other volunteers, have a few

Continued on page 21

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#959

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. How many moons does Neptune have? | Ponzi scheme in U.S. history? |
| 2. How many folds are in a chef's hat? | 8. Which travels faster: sound or light? |
| 3. What is James Bond's code name? | 9. What mineral can you add to water to make things float easier? |
| 4. Jim Henson is the creator of what cast of characters? | 10. What musician was awarded the first gold record? |
| 5. What is the name of the pet dinosaur on the TV cartoon <i>The Flintstones</i> ? | 11. Actor Nicolas Cage is the nephew of what famous director? |
| 6. The classic 1877 novel <i>Black Beauty</i> is about what kind of animal? | 12. Which number does every Major League Baseball player wear on April 15? |
| 7. Who was convicted of running the largest | |

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.
2. The U.S. Air Force introduced Bob Ross to painting.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

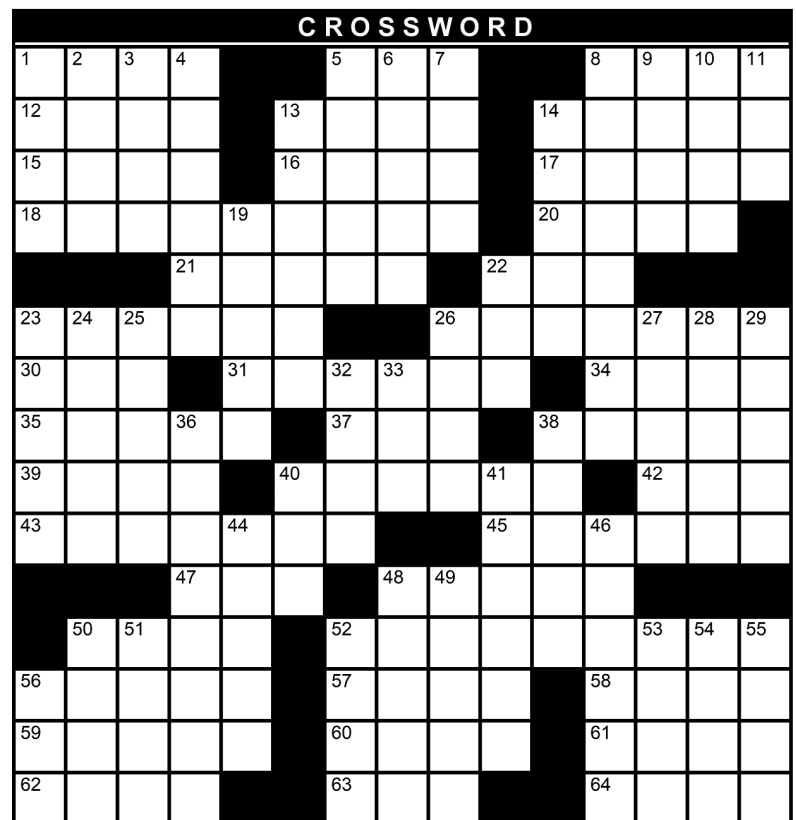
VALENTINE'S DAY

ACROSS

1. Past participle of spit
5. King Kong, e.g.
8. Greek portico
12. Not to be mentioned
13. Congeal
14. ____ cell carcinoma
15. Top of Kilimanjaro, e.g.
16. Periods of time
17. D-Day beach
18. Holiday the day before Valentine's Day
20. Shade of beige
21. Quantities on doctors' prescriptions
22. Not amateur
23. Letters to Juliet destination
26. Come to final conclusion
30. Ultimate Valentine's vow?
31. Purchaser
34. Zelensky's capital
35. Move a plant
37. High-____, as in an image
38. Tubular pasta
39. Not Visa or MC
40. Moving Valentine's Day date option
42. "Annie get your ____"
43. a.k.a. ladybird
45. Maximum
47. "Rub A Dub Dub" vessel
48. Suburb of Dallas
50. Skunk's defense
52. Sweet Valentine's gesture
56. Long stories
57. Rhythmic way of talking
58. Yours and mine
59. Send, as payment
60. The E of B.P.O.E.
61. A bit of water
62. Biblical paradise
63. Elfin
64. Sign of boredom

DOWN

1. Doe's mate
2. One of Three Bears
3. Cain's brother
4. Prom night garb



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 5. Bird of prey's nest | 32. Snob |
| 6. Make them in advance of Valentine's Day | 33. Gymnast's goal |
| 7. "Or ____?" | 36. *a.k.a. "love hormone" |
| 8. "Cupid" singer (2 words) | 38. Deck alternative |
| 9. Russia's Terrible one, e.g. | 40. Chicago baseballer |
| 10. Pearl Harbor island | 41. Defrauds |
| 11. Between Fla. and Miss. | 44. Explosion |
| 13. Ship's floating wreckage | 46. Pleasing notes succession |
| 14. Afrikaners' ancestors | 48. At the same time |
| 19. Group of nine singers | 49. Too much egg middle |
| 22. For each | 50. Newspaper piece |
| 23. All over the internet | 51. Five and ____ |
| 24. Possible allergic reaction | 52. Staff leader |
| 25. Lassoed | 53. Heavenly glow |
| 26. Baby's breath's partner | 54. Think, archaically speaking |
| 27. Texting vocabulary, e.g. | 55. Sport spectator's TV acronym |
| 28. Cupid's mom | 56. Before, old English |
| 29. Black tie ____ | |

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

'Paint/Cut/Fold/Stitch' exhibit at Brickbottom Gallery

Abstract painter and Brickbottom Artists' Building founding member Diane Novetsky has assembled a cohort of three inventive painters for a new exhibit of current abstraction at Brickbottom Gallery opening February 9 and running through February 28.

From the title, Paint/Cut/Fold/Stitch, one would expect an exploration of process and its relationship to the act of painting. This exhibit turns out to be much more – a catalogue of fresh approaches that include colorful mobiles that sway with life, art that deciphers the linear patterns produced via a sewing machine, and painting that merges dreamlike figurative vignettes with abstraction.

Three artists are veterans of the Boston scene and have shown widely. The newcomer is poet Denise Bergman who hits the ground running with *Danglers*, painted mobiles that rest on pedestals or dangle from the wall. Yildiz Grodowski creates semi-abstract paintings that play with figuration on canvas and panel. On-Kyeong Seong is an interdisciplinary artist who creates both two- and three-dimensional objects using cut fabric, machine stitching and paint. Curator Diane Novetsky is an abstract painter who uses bold, saturated colors and biomorphic forms evocative of the female body.

The artists display common formal concerns such as bold, unexpected color, biomorphic shapes and crisp geometry. Novetsky's shapes bend, twist, and rotate on the picture plane, contradicting volume with flatness. This fractured space is echoed in Bergman's dazzling arcs and zig-zags of color and Grodowski's overlapping, sensuous stains and glazes.

There is a dynamic synergy in the group ignited by the use of female forms or themes. Seong explores stitchery, a medium once considered to be a form of low art as it was usually produced by women. Her paintings are personal homages to needlework, restoring the art form to the serious consideration it deserves. This exhibit exudes a freshness and determination to open up existing boundaries.

All four artists work with paint on traditional substrates such as paper, cardboard, canvas, and clay. They are expressive colorists that intuitively use light, space and form with spirit and originality. But they depart from tradition by exploring unexpected paths that challenge our perceptions. In doing so, they are charting a new course in both painterly abstraction and figuration that is refreshing and timely.

Opening reception: Sunday, February 9, 3-5 pm

Poetry reading: Thursday, February 13, 7 pm

Closing event: Sunday, February 23, 3-5 pm

Brickbottom Gallery, 1 Fitchburg St, Somerville, MA, United States, Massachusetts 02143.



Denise Bergman, "Dangler #42," paper, acrylic, glue, 2022, 12" x 10" x 8"

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #321

This article first appeared in the April 30, 2014, edition of *The Somerville Times*.

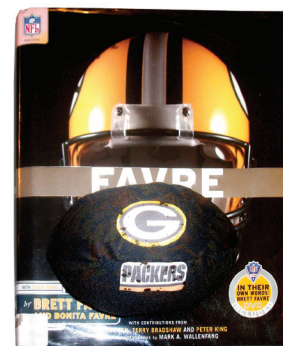
The Packers

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

The John P. Squire Company was established in 1842, the year the Bunker Hill monument was capped and the year Somerville broke away from Charlestown. Along with the North Packing & Provision Company, and the New England Dressed Meat and Wool Company, they made up the "Big Three." The first packing company specialized in beef products, the second in pork, and the third in lamb products. Their presence caused other spin-off companies to be born in the Union Square area which, when combined, made Somerville the undisputed meatpacking capital of New England. She was known as the Chicago of the east.



In the 1890's, the most modern of the three packing plants was Charles North's Packing & Provision Company. Its buildings, one of them rising to nine stories high, covered over thirteen acres along lower Medford Street, opposite today's Target store. It extended from Somerville Avenue to the Miller River, where it abutted the Squire Company on the Cambridge side. The livestock would arrive at the Boynton Yards by rail, followed by processing, and then the product was marketed worldwide. After a destructive fire in 1878, the North Company was rebuilt to become the most complete packinghouse constructed in the country. It was also the largest Somerville employer, with over 1,200 workers at that time.



For years the company's president and treasurer were the Swift brothers, who were very swift ... to say the least ... in revamping their future operations. They streamlined the business. Until then, cattle transportation was a world of cowboys, farmers, and teamsters. Gustavus F. Swift changed that. After moving to Chicago, he invented the refrigerated train car, which revamped

Continued on page 11

Guitar Heroes CONT. FROM PG 3

Christmas and we started a band. The first two songs we learned were *Gloria* and *House of the Rising Sun*.

The 70's and 80's saw a lot of talented musicians in many different bands such as Zenopon, Hobbit, Indescribably Delicious, Shadowfax, The Huns,

The Boize and many others. My musical career was 100% supported by my parents and fueled by The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and David Bowie.

Many fine Guitar teachers certainly nurtured the young musicians.

LEGAL NOTICES

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**City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, February 6, 2025**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gqa_US6aSq-Vn2SS1ykIDQ
Webinar ID: 843 2999 7563

TO CALL IN

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

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

- 53 Chester Street** John Greenip proposes to develop a four (4) story general building type along a Pedestrian street in the Mid-Rise 4 zoning district, which requires Site Plan approval.
- 53 Chester Street** John Greenip proposes to establish a Residential Housing principal use along a Pedestrian street in the Mid-Rise 4 zoning district, which a Special Permit.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>. Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov.

1/22/25, 1/29/25 The Somerville Times



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Removal of Public Shade Trees

City of Somerville

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 87, the City of Somerville will hold a **virtual public shade tree hearing on Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 12:00 PM** using Zoom software to consider the removal of the following three public shade trees:

299 Broadway Development

- **299 Broadway**- One honey locust: 19" diameter, fair-good condition
- **15 Temple Street (corner of Sewall St and Sewall Ct)**- One honey locust: 20" diameter, fair-good condition

Trees are proposed for removal as part of the development of 299 Broadway, a Chapter 40B affordable housing project. Five new street trees totaling 15" in caliper and 68 new trees within the property totaling 160" caliper are planned for replanting.

Edgerly Education Center ADA Parking Conflict

- **33 Cross Street on Bonair St**- One red maple: 4" in diameter, good condition

Tree is in conflict with proposed ADA parking space. A new tree will be planted adjacent if possible

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

Registration URL: <https://tinyurl.com/mf9ar4en>

Webinar ID: 857 0719 0451

1/22/25, 1/29/25 The Somerville Times



**City of Somerville
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_G0I5WwHyTvSf1dYT_79nKw
Webinar ID: 824 5488 8465

TO CALL IN

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

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

- 493 Medford Street** Charles Conway seeks zoning relief to install mechanical equipment in a frontage area, which requires a Hardship Variance.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.

1/22/25, 1/29/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB # 25-42**

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

On-Call Streetlight Repair

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, January 29, 2025**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **2:00PM Thursday, February 13, 2025**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all bids if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

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

5% Bid Deposit required.

**Felisa Gárate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406**

1/29/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB #25-46**

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

Spring 2025 & Fall 2025 Tree Planting and Related Services

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, January 29, 2025**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **3:00PM Thursday, February 12, 2025**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all bids if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

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

5% Bid Deposit required.

**Felisa Gárate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406**

1/29/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFQ #25-45**

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

Kennedy Schoolyard Renovation Design Services

An RFQ may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, January 29, 2025**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **1:00PM Wednesday, February 26, 2025**. 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 Felisa Gárate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

**Felisa Gárate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406**

1/29/25 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on **2/11/2025 at 12:00PM**. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Anderson Jacob unit #0181; Matina Williams unit #2123. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

1/22/25, 1/29/25 The Somerville Times

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CONTACT US BY 12 PM MONDAY
PHONE: 857-488-5138**

LEGAL NOTICES

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

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING REGARDING A MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENT PROPOSED BY HAZE OF SOMERVILLE, LLC

Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting for Haze of Somerville, LLC a proposed Marijuana Retail is scheduled for **February 10th, 2025 at 6:00 PM.**

Haze of Somerville - Simplicity Dispensary Community Outreach Meeting **Monday, February 10, 2025 - 6:00 – 7:00pm**

Google Meet joining info
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/df-dkbp-xww>
Or dial: (US) +1 406-838-3077 PIN: 329 403 296#

More phone numbers:
<https://tel.meet/df-dkbp-xww?pin=4176588980982>

The proposed Adult Use Cannabis Retail Store is anticipated to be located at 362-368 Mystic Ave, Somerville, MA 02145. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions at the end of the Google meeting.

1/29/25 The Somerville Times

Thin pins, big impact – Sunday at Sacco’s and Flatbread Company

By Jeffrey Shwom

The clangs, thumps, sounds of falling pins and cheers filled the brightly lit candlepin bowling alley Sunday morning, January 19. There were multiple multi-generational groups of families and friends enjoying a long weekend activity (and at least one birthday party).

Sacco’s Bowl Haven, a Somerville and New England institution, opened its doors in 1939 and still delights. Flatbread Company owns and operates the alley, serving wood fired pizza in Davis Square since 2010. Flatbread hosts multiple Benefit Bake Nights every month, where a portion of every pizza sold supports



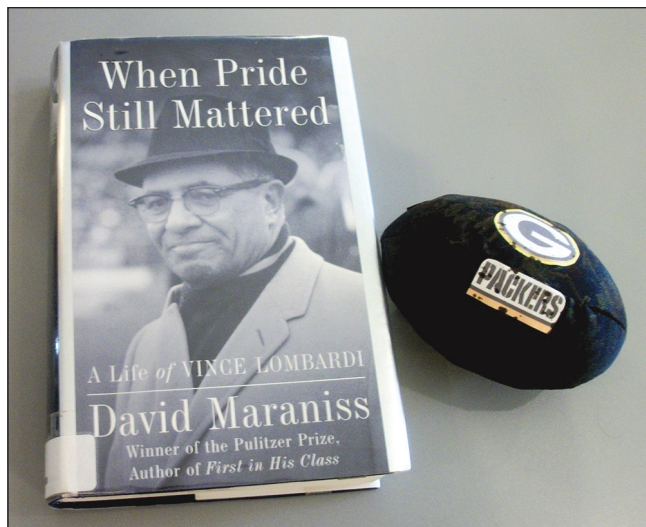
— Photos by Jeffrey Shwom

local causes.

For reservations and menus, visit

<https://americanflatbread.com/locations/somerville-ma/>.

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9



and centralized much of the meatpacking industry. Some of North’s many meat bi-products were soaps, margarine, and lard. Leaf lard was used in baking, sold in decorative tins, and found in every kitchen.

Work was always hard and dangerous in American packing plants. Today, it is still one of the most dangerous occupations. In 1919, a young meatpacker named Curly Lambeau solicited funds from his employer, The Indian Packing Company of Wisconsin. The money was to be used to outfit a new football team. Appreciating the help from his company and town, he named his team the Green Bay Packers. This all-American team went on to win more league championships than any other NFL team plus four Super Bowls. It is the only publicly owned team in the league. The Super Bowl Trophy honors Vince Lombardi, Green Bay’s most winning coach, and the son of a butcher. Green Bay’s games are played at Lambeau Field, named for their founder, an American meatpacker.

Unfortunately, because of their lard-saturated buildings, most of the prime Somerville plants met their demise by fire. The last was the J.P. Squire’s spectacular inferno that burned for two days from September 1–3, 1978. It was the only time that ten alarms were struck for a Somerville fire. Most of buildings are gone now, but not forgotten ... they were the cathedrals to the blue-collar workers of Somerville and Cambridge.



Somerville community invited to participate in school building feedback survey

The city is in the process of planning for Somerville's next new PK-8 (Pre-Kindergarten to 8th grade) public school building. Due to the broad and significant impacts, both the city and Somerville Public Schools are committed to a robust and inclusive community-wide engagement process as various options for this project are evaluated.

As the next step in this engagement process, all Somerville residents and members of the Somerville Public Schools community are invited to participate in a brief, 5-minute survey: <https://www.somervillema.gov/content/somerville-school-building-project-phase-one-community-feedback-survey>.

Survey participants will be asked to share their perspective on what is most important when it comes to the size, location, and features of our schools including features used by students from all schools and by residents as well. Participants will also be asked for their perspective on funding a future school building project as well as other municipal investment priorities.

The results of this survey will help inform decisions about the size, scope, and location of the school building project. This data will be used by city staff and shared with the members of the Construction Advisory Group ([somervillema.gov/cag](https://www.somervillema.gov/cag)), which has been tasked with developing a recommendation to the mayor on both the location and scope of a renovated or new school.

To learn more and take the survey in

either English, Spanish, Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, or Nepali, visit [somervillema.gov/school-buildingsurvey](https://www.somervillema.gov/school-buildingsurvey). For general assistance in taking the survey or interpretation support for other languages, please contact 311 (617-666-3311).

About the School Building Project

The City of Somerville is working with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to deliver a state-of-the-art school building project for students. This project would address the needs of the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (WHCIS) and potentially the Brown School.

While current and future WHCIS and Brown families will be the most directly affected, this project is a major commitment for the city and will have potential benefits and impacts for all Somerville's schools and residents.

Given the wide-ranging implications of decisions about the size, scope, and location of this school, it is important to hear as many voices as possible, including underrepresented families, families of incoming 0-5 year-olds, the full SPS community, and the broader Somerville community. The currently active community feedback survey is the next phase of this engagement process.

Meanwhile, the state has recently advanced the city's funding proposal (<https://www.somervillema.gov/news/state-advances-somervilles-funding-proposal-new-pk-8-school-building>). The



city can now start a formal procurement process to hire an Owner's Project Manager to oversee the project, and then a Design/Architecture firm.

More about the project including an anticipated timeline is available at [somervillema.gov/msba](https://www.somervillema.gov/msba).

About the MSBA

The MSBA strives to work with local communities to create affordable, sustainable, and energy efficient schools across Massachusetts. Since its 2004 inception, the Authority has made over 1,750 site visits to more than 250 school districts as part of its due diligence process and has made over \$16.7 billion in reimbursements for school construction projects.

About the Winter Hill Community Innovation and Brown School

The Winter Hill Community Innovation School (WHCIS) and the Brown School are the two oldest school buildings in the Somerville Public Schools. Students

and staff from the WHCIS were displaced from the Sycamore Street building in June 2023 after a non-structural piece of concrete fell from a stairwell ceiling. All WHCIS students are now attending classes at their interim location at the Edgerly Education Center at 8 Bonair Street.

The Brown School, the district's only K-5 school, is the oldest school building in the district, having been originally built in 1900. It is the only school in the district that does not have a cafeteria or gymnasium.

Learn More

Throughout the community engagement process, design, and construction of Somerville's next school building, information about the project, and additional opportunities to get involved will be shared widely through City and Somerville Public Schools channels.

For more information on the project visit [somervillema.gov/msba](https://www.somervillema.gov/msba).

Somerville's SomerViva records Know Your Rights training videos for residents

SomerViva organized and recorded Know Your Rights sessions to help Somerville residents understand their immigration rights and the rights their neighbors. You can find videos of these Know Your Rights informational sessions in Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Nepali below.

Español: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerviva-office-immigrant-affairs#Español>

Português: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerviva-office-immigrant-affairs#Portugues>

Kreyòl Ayisyen: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerviva-office-immigrant-affairs#KreyolAyisyen>

Nepali: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerviva-office-immigrant-affairs>

Mandarin: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerviva-office-immigrant-affairs>

Yue: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerviva-office-immigrant-affairs>

For additional information and resources visit SomerViva's website: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerviva-office-immigrant-affairs>

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我们会说您的语言

Have a great idea on how to teach math? These teachers do!

By Erica Voolich

Many teachers have great ideas on how to make their classrooms a better place for their students to learn math. The teachers' ideas frequently outrun the budget schools have for supplies and their own ability to subsidize their classroom. The Somerville Mathematics Fund tries to fill this need through the generosity of their donors with grants up to \$500.

Individual grants were funded by Jeremy Gale, Will Kuhlman, Jasper Lawson PhD Associates, Mr. and Mrs. Donald McGoldrick, and Winter Hill Bank. The Morris S. and Florence Bender Foundation funded a number of grants. The rest of the grants were funded thanks to the combined generosity of everyone who contributed to the Somerville Math Fund's annual fundraiser. The following teachers won grants to encourage and support mathematics achievement in the classrooms of Somerville.

The following teachers won grants to encourage and support mathematics achievement in the classrooms of Somerville.

The Math Fund wants to thank the Morris S. and Florence Bender Foundation for generously underwriting the following teacher grants:

- Karen Kolman, Healey School; Jenna DiNovis, East Somerville Community School; Charlotte Ross, Argenziano School; (District Math Interventionists), Math Intervention Materials across grade levels.
- Katie Starbuck, (Math Coach), Healey School and East Somerville Community School, Math Materials.
- Ava Strezynski, (K), Argenziano

School, Math Manipulatives.

• Julie Jones and Lauren McGlashing, Capuano School (K), Math Night for Capuano School.

• Olivia Johnson, (6th Math) East Somerville Community School, Wipebook Flipcharts.

• Cesar Urrunaga, (7th Math), East Somerville Community School, Scientific Calculators.

• Katherine Adelaide Downs, Healey School (pre-K), Manipulatives and Materials for Number Sense Materials.

• Julie Gallardo, Healey School (3rd SEI-1), Math Workshop and Intervention Materials.

• Ben Garton, Healey School (4th), Chess Sets.

• Roxane Scrima, (K), Kennedy School, Maker Bundle ChompSaw.

Jeremy Gale:

• Johanna Cooney, Brown School, (1st), STEM Materials and Bins.

William Kuhlman:

• Swetha Kalluri, Winter Hill Community Innovation School (Math Interventionist, 1-8), Math Recovery Number Sense.

Jasper Lawson, PhD & Associates

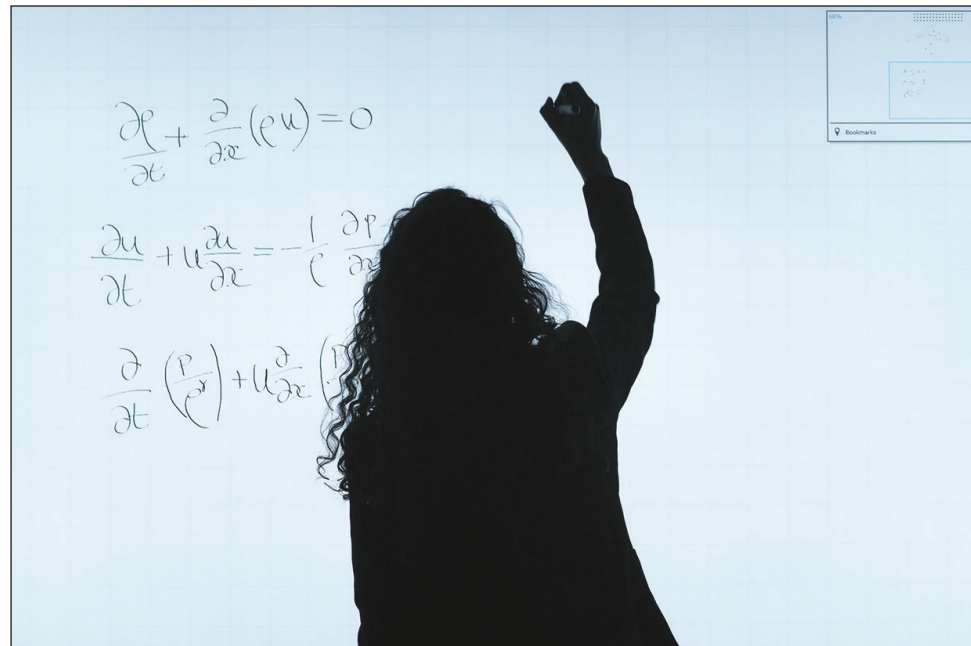
• Laura Peters, Somerville High School (STEAM and Robotics), Love to Code Chibi Chips.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald McGoldrick:

• Eleanore MacLean, (3rd), Winter Hill Community Innovation School, Math Manipulatives and Materials.

Winter Hill Bank:

• Andrea Palmer, Winter Hill Community Innovation School (K-8 Math Coach), Math Game Centers.



The following teachers' grants were supported by the generous donors who contributed to our annual fundraiser.

• Alyssa Mackey, (8th Math and Middle School Instructional Coach), West Somerville Neighborhood School, Wipebooks and calculators.

• April Luna, (6th Math and Science), Winter Hill Community Innovation School, Wipebooks Flipcharts.

• Maureen Mitchell, (3-6 Special Ed Resource Room), Winter Hill Community Innovation School, Math Manipulatives

• Melissa Moore, (7th and 8th Science), Winter Hill Community Innovation School, Math Manipulatives and Calculators

• Julie Scafidi, (7th and 8th Math), Winter Hill Community Innovation School, Wipebooks and Calculators

The Somerville Mathematics Fund was chartered in 2000 to celebrate and encour-

age achievement in mathematics in the city of Somerville, Massachusetts. Over twenty-four years, the Somerville Math Fund has awarded \$162,158 in teacher grants supporting four hundred ten teachers' projects in the city of Somerville along with emergency grants to East Somerville teachers after the devastating school fire.

On March 27, the fund will be seeking applications from students who reside in Somerville for college mathematics scholarships. Over twenty-three years, the Somerville Math Fund has awarded a total of \$709,000 in four-year mathematics scholarships to one hundred forty-three students. Links to the scholarship application form is available at www.somervillemathematicsfund.org For more information, to volunteer or to make a tax-deductible contribution, please contact Erica Voolich (617-666-0666 or mathfund@gmail.com).

It's time to fill out – and return! – the 2025 Somerville census form

All Somerville residents should be on the lookout for the 2025 annual City of Somerville census in their mailbox.

The 2025 census form also includes an application to vote by mail in Somerville's preliminary and city elections this year.

High census participation provides an accurate population count, which helps the city plan municipal services, apply for grants, and adapt as the population changes.

The Elections Department also uses the census to help keep voting rolls up to date.

It's easy to take part in the census. Just fill out the short form, be sure to sign and date the form, and then return it one of three ways:

mail it back in the provided postage-paid return envelope, scan the form and email is to census@somervillema.gov, or drop it off in person at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.).

Please contact 311 (617-666-3311) with any questions.



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FOR RENT

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FOR SALE

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

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Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. 16 | 8. Light |
| 2. 100 | 9. Salt |
| 3. 007 | 10. Perry Como |
| 4. The Muppets | 11. Francis Ford Coppola |
| 5. Dino | 12. Jackie Robinson's iconic No. 42 |
| 6. Horse | |
| 7. Bernie Madoff | |

'The Flying Ace' to be shown with live music at the Somerville Theatre

Can discrimination exist in an America where everyone is Black?

That's among the questions posted by *The Flying Ace* (1926), a rare surviving example of movies produced early in the 20th century for Black audiences in segregated cinemas.

The Flying Ace, named to the U.S. National Film Registry in 2021, will be screened in honor of Black History Month on Sunday, February 2, at 2 p.m. at the Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square, Somerville, Mass.

The screening will feature live music by Jeff Rapsis, a New Hampshire-based silent film accompanist.

The Flying Ace was produced by Norman Studios in Jacksonville, Fla., using professionals such as Laurence Criner, a veteran of Harlem's prestigious all-black theater troupe the Lafayette Players, but also many non-professionals for minor roles.

Films such as *The Flying Ace* were shown specifically to African-American audiences in areas of the U.S. where theaters were segregated.

Norman Studios was among the nation's top film production companies making feature length and short films for this market from the 1920s to the 1940s.

Filmed in the Arlington area of Jacksonville, Fla., *The Flying Ace* is a unique aviation melodrama in that no airplanes actually leave the ground. The mid-air scenes were filmed in a studio in front of neutral backdrops.

Although *The Flying Ace* may appear crudely made to modern audiences, in 2021 the movie was named to the U.S. National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

A live musical score for *The Flying Ace* will be created by accompanist Jeff Rapsis, a New Hampshire-based performer who specializes in music for silent film presentations.

The Flying Ace, a silent crime melodrama with an all-Black cast, will be shown in honor of Black History Month on Sunday, Feb. 2 at 2 p.m. at the Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square, Somerville, Mass.

Admission \$17 adults; \$13 members; \$12 seniors/children. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.somervilletheatre.com or call the box office at (617) 625-5700.

For more about the music, visit www.jeffrapsis.com.



Somerville releases Public Safety Task Force reports

Three critical task force reports addressing community safety, police oversight, and anti-violence strategies in Somerville are now available for public review. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the city's Office of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) invite the community to both share their questions in advance online and to join a public discussion on February 4.

The reports are the culmination of more than three years of community-based work dating back to the Public Safety for All survey that launched in 2022. To develop community-informed decisions about how to design public safety systems in Somerville, Mayor Ballantyne called for the creation of the task forces in 2023. Members included community members, city employees, elected officials, and experts in public safety. Supported by RSJ, each group received extensive training and opportunities to meet with regional and national experts working in their focus areas.

"Ensuring the safety of every member of our community is our most serious responsibility, and we can best do so by under-

standing the needs, gaps, and perspectives of the very people we are seeking to serve. These reports are not just paper. They are the vital product of meaningful collaboration between residents, experts, and city leaders and an important step toward creating public safety systems that reflect our community's values and needs," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "I'm grateful for the task forces' thoughtful recommendations and look forward to engaging the community in discussing these findings."

All three task force/working group reports are now available for public review online at somervillema.gov/psfa. Each details their findings and process and offers an executive summary of their recommendations.

The Anti-Violence Working Group report offers actionable strategies to enhance safety and community engagement. "Freedom means going to places without fear of violence," said an Anti-Violence Working Group Task Force member, capturing the core aspiration that shaped the group's community-driven solutions for address-

ing gun, gang, and traffic violence.

The Civilian Oversight Task Force, in its report, emphasizes the need for trust and accountability in policing. "Public safety depends on trust. Misconduct, or even the perception of misconduct, erodes trust," the report states. It proposes the creation of a Public Safety Oversight Commission to ensure transparency and fairness in local law enforcement practices.

The Public Safety for All Task Force report highlights the importance of systemic change. "Addressing implicit bias in police practices is crucial for building equity in public safety," the report underscores, offering recommendations to promote fairness and procedural justice in the City's public safety framework.

"This is a big moment for public safety in Somerville. With the help of so many of our neighbors and service providers from across the city, we now have tailored, community-specific recommendations that outline how Somerville can combat some of the biggest public safety concerns our community faces," shared Amanda Nag-

im-Williams, Director of RSJ. "This was a collaborative effort by both community members and city staff to get to this point, and RSJ looks forward to supporting the next phase of this work."

Join the Public Safety for All Report Release Event

Residents are encouraged to explore the reports and join task force members and City staff for an in-depth discussion of their findings and recommendations on Tuesday, February 4, at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave), starting at 6:30 p.m. This event will provide an opportunity for the community to engage in meaningful dialogue and ask questions about these essential efforts.

As part of the event, constituents have the opportunity to submit questions in advance. RSJ welcomes questions and comments about the reports, the process, or the findings through February 3 at 12 p.m. The form is available online here. Submitted questions and comments will be considered for discussion live at the February 4 event.

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

said alliance spokesperson Paul Craney. “Massachusetts residents already face some of the highest taxes in the nation, and this proposal exacerbates that burden. Taxpayers will have to spend \$25 million more dollars on candy to just pay for this tax. This budget doubles down on the state’s addiction to higher taxes and spending at a time when residents are already feeling squeezed and leaving for more tax friendly states. The governor is taking a giant leap in the wrong direction. The governor has become so desperate for higher taxes that she’s even proposing caps on tax deductions for Massachusetts charities. This tax relief law was approved by the voters in 2000. If that isn’t cruel, I don’t know what is.”

“This budget exemplifies the Healey-Driscoll Administration’s disregard for fiscal responsibility,” said Mass-GOP Chair Amy Carnevale. “Relying on one-time revenues while increasing spending is an unsustainable path, particularly given the unchecked financial strain caused by the emergency assistance shelter program and ongoing uncertainty over monthly tax revenues. Instead of charting a path toward stability, this budget doubles down on reckless spending and higher taxes.”

The budget now goes to the House which will craft and approve its own version and then it moves to the Senate which will offer a different plan. A House-Senate conference committee will eventually hammer out a compromise version that will be approved by both branches and sent to Gov. Healey who has the power to veto any spending and any other items. The House and Senate can then choose to override any of the governor’s vetoes.

HOLD DANGEROUS BON-CITIZENS FOR ICE INTERVENTION – Reps. Michael Soter (R-Bellingham) and Kenneth Swezey (R-Pembroke) have filed legislation they say will restore power to local and state law enforcement agencies by closing a loophole that prevents court officers and law enforcement officials from holding dangerous illegal non-citizens with ICE detainees beyond the time that the individual would otherwise be entitled to be released from state custody, allowing these individuals to walk free after committing significant crimes in certain situations.

“It’s essential that we equip our law enforcement with the resources, tools and support they need to keep our communities safe,” said Rep. Soter. “Both sides of the aisle are united in the belief that undocumented immigrants who come here to commit crimes should be returned to their home countries. The state and local authorities must be able to detain these criminals and give ICE the opportunity to take action.”

“The immigration issue in Massachusetts has gotten completely out of control,” said Rep. Swezey. “This piece of legislation is a very simple, common-sense first step in rectifying part of the issue. I am always proud to assist our law enforcement partners and am pleased to present this legislation with support from Sheriff Evangelidis

and Sheriff McDonald. I look forward to working on gaining additional support and pushing this bill across the finish line into law making our communities safer in the process.”

“[We are] monitoring reports of activities by Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the Greater Boston area,” said Kevin Brown, Executive Vice-President of 32BJ SEIU, the largest property service workers union in the country, with 185,000 members across the East Coast, including 20,000 in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. “We reaffirm our readiness to support our members’ rights and the rights of immigrants—our neighbors, friends, family members and co-workers, whose presence and work enrich our communities and our economies.”

Meanwhile, Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell joined ten other state attorneys general in issuing a joint statement commenting on a memorandum from a President Trump appointee at the U.S. Department of Justice addressing state and local involvement in federal immigration enforcement.

“It is well-established—through longstanding Supreme Court precedent—that the U.S. Constitution prevents the federal government from commandeering states to enforce federal law,” read the statement. “While the federal government may use its own resources for federal immigration enforcement, the court ruled in *Printz vs. United States* that the federal government cannot ‘impress into its service—and at no cost to itself—the police officers of the 50 states.’ This balance of power between the federal government and state governments is a touchstone of our American system of federalism.”

\$108 MILLION FOR MASSACHUSETTS IN SETTLEMENT WITH PURDUE PHARMA – Attorney General Andrea Campbell announced that she, along with a bipartisan coalition of states and other parties, has reached a \$7.4 billion settlement in principle with members of the Sackler family and their company, Purdue Pharma for their instrumental role in creating the opioid crisis. Up to \$108 million of the settlement funds will be distributed to Massachusetts.

The suit says that under the Sacklers’ leadership, Purdue invented, manufactured and aggressively marketed opioid products for decades, perpetuating waves of addiction and overdose deaths across the commonwealth and country.

“The Sackler family will forever be remembered as a symbol of greed, profiting off pain to destroy countless lives across the commonwealth and country,” said Campbell. “While this settlement cannot bring back the lives lost, it will bring in much-needed funds to begin to remediate the damage and ensure that the Sacklers can be held accountable for the lasting devastation they have caused. I am incredibly grateful to the families who turned their pain into purpose to inform our work in this space.”

DON’T MISS THIS “ENERGETIC” EVENT - Join Massachusetts energy leaders in government, industry and advocacy at the MCLE in Boston on March 26 for an important discussion about the state’s energy policy and its goals for a net-zero future, hosted by the State House News Service. With the return of a new Trump administration and policies hindering wind power development, the state’s plan to expand its offshore wind portfolio faces uncertainty.

While solar power offers potential, its scalability is limited by grid capacity issues and requires substantial investment. Other promising technologies like fusion and low-carbon hydrogen have yet to be implemented in the commonwealth. Tickets/more info: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/power-interruption-tickets-1219762716119?aff=oddtcreator>

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Today, freedom rings in our great nation. The heroic peaceful pro-lifers unjustly imprisoned by Biden’s Justice Department will now be freed and able to return home to their families, eat a family meal, and enjoy the freedom that should have never been taken from them in the first place.” — *Steve Crampton, Thomas More Society Senior Counsel on President Trump’s pardon of anti-abortion activists convicted of blockading abortion clinic entrances, including two Massachusetts women.*

“Once again, Donald Trump has shown contempt for the laws of the land, issuing sweeping pardons for nearly two dozen people convicted of violently barricading reproductive health care clinics and harassing and even injuring clinic staff and patients.” — *Reproductive Freedom Caucus on Trump’s pardons.*

“We condemn in the strongest possible terms President Trump’s directive that would allow ICE agents to raid and arrest students in our public schools. It is repulsive to our shared common values, and this cruel policy shatters the trust that families place in our educators and our public schools as safe havens and inflicts lasting trauma on innocent children.” — *Massachusetts Teachers Association President Max Page and Vice President Deb McCarthy on President Trump’s directive allowing ICE agents to make arrests in schools.*

“We know that municipalities rely on the Chapter 90 program to fund critical improvements to their roads and bridges. Under our bill, and with this new, mileage-based formula, every single city and town – including our small towns and rural communities – will see a significant increase in Chapter 90 funding. This means that local officials can put these dollars to work easing congestion, strengthening resilience, and improving safety and quality of life for all of their residents.” — *Gov. Maura Healey announcing that she is filing legislation to reform the Chapter 90 roadways program to substantially increase funding for municipal roads and bridges.*

Continued on page 22

LEGO® Brick's 67th Birthday celebration

LEGO® Brick's 67th Birthday and LEGO Discovery Center Boston is celebrating by launching a brand-new event called LEGO Creativity Academy this Thursday, January 30, through March 3.

During LEGO Creativity Academy, guests will stretch their imaginations and LEGO building potential with one-of-a-kind LEGO activities during this limited-time event. Master Model Builders Sean and Kaleb will teach builders how to make the seemingly impossible, possible, while learning the art of creating a perfect LEGO circle. Plus, experience unique build challenges, Master Model Builder talks, giant LEGO mosaic builds and more at LEGO Discovery Center Boston, operated by Merlin Entertainments.

Activities Include:

- ✦ Circle Masterclass: Learn how to master the art of building LEGO circles while building a LEGO burger with Master Model Builders
- ✦ Meet The Master Model Builder: Get to know Master Model Builders Kaleb and Sean, learn some cool tips and tricks on what it takes to become a Master Model Builder
- ✦ LEGO Fact Finder Hunt: Look out for the LEGO fun facts hidden around the attraction and complete the missing info in a LEGO passport
- ✦ Color Creations: Expand creativity skills with the single-color build challenge
- ✦ LEGO Art: Guest will show off their creativity and add to a giant LEGO mosaic
- ✦ LEGO Photo Props: Check out cool LEGO photo props, attach it to the LEGO stick and strike a pose
- ✦ Event URL & Tickets: <https://www.legodiscoverycenter.com/boston/whats-inside/events/creativity-academy/>.



SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Medical Equipment Program – Through the generosity of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and from the direction of Mayor Bal-lantyne, the Council on Aging can provide Du-rable 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 respond 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 featuring Music from the Anything Goes Trio – Thursday, January 30th 11:00 a.m. at the Dilboy Post located at 351 Summer Street. \$5 per person. Lunch (stuffed chicken) will be served at noon; the cost of lunch is subsidized by the City of Somerville. Reserve

your spot for the event and lunch by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Technology Workshops – The Council on Aging continues to strive to close the technology gap by partnering with Somerville Cambridge Elder Services to bring technology workshops to the COA. Each Monday session will focus on different topics related to internet use and safety.

Cultural Series Event – featuring Comedian David Shikes. Tuesday, February 18th 11:00 a.m. at the Dilboy Post located at 351 Summer Street. \$5 per person. Lunch will be served at noon (ham, mac & cheese, vegetable and salad) - the cost of lunch is subsidized by the City of Somerville. Reserve your spot for the event and lunch by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Valentines Day Luncheon – Thursday, February 13th starting at 11:00 a.m. at the George Dilboy Post located at 351 Summer Street. \$10 per person. Join us for an afternoon of music and a special meal (chicken parmigiana, pasta & salad.) Reserve your spot for the event and lunch by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Trivia & Tunes – Thursday, February 6th starting at 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Looking for something fun and new to do? Grab some friends and join us for the upcoming Trivia & Tunes game. Trivia & Tunes combines questions designed for seniors across a broad variety of categories with musical clues from artists like Sinatra, the Supremes, Dean Martin, Ella Fitzgerald and Elvis. Lunch will be served at noon. Lunch provided by Somerville Cambridge Elder Services, City Fresh Caterer. RSVP by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

On the Road with Social Services – Our Social Services Team is heading to Capen Court on Thursday, February 13th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. If you live at Capen Court, be sure to stop by with questions around food stamps, health insurance or other social benefits you may have or may be interested in learning about.

FDIC Money Smart – Friday, February 14th starting at 11:00 a.m., representatives from North-ern Bank will conduct a presentation on financial exploitation. This presentation will focus on computer and internet-based scams and how best to avoid them. RSVP by calling Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

Social Security Seminar – Thursday, February 6th at 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center or via Zoom. Social Security Public Affairs Specialist, Kentia Torres will be presenting on all things So-cial Security. This will be a virtual

presentation so you can join at home via Zoom or join with a group at the Council on Aging. RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov

Art Therapy – Monday, February 24th at 1:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Join Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Registered Art Therapist, Erica Curcio for a relaxing and crafty af-ternoon! Learn how to paint flowers that you will cut and collage on a homemade card. RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov

Learn to Manage Chronic Diabetes in a Free Virtual Class – The class begins on Tuesday, February 11th and continues for six weeks, meeting on Tuesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is a camera-on, interactive workshop that will take place over Zoom. Registration is required by Friday, February 7th. Participants will need to pick up a book from Somerville Cambridge Elder Services at 61 Medford Street by Monday, February 10th. For more information or to register please call Meghan Ostrander at 617-628-2601, ext. 3172 or email Meghan at me-ghan.ostrander@eldercare.org. Please contact SCES as soon as possible if you need special assistance to obtain the book.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected via our Facebook page - Informative, entertaining, lots of photos and updates. Vis-it 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 If you have any questions or need help following us, contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email her at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

If you would like to receive a copy of our monthly newsletter in the mail, please contact Connie Lorneti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319 or email Connie at clorenti@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

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 7:30 AM MLK Celebration & Panel Discussion
 9:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 9:30 AM 2025 Midterm Ceremonies & Mayoral Address
 11:00 AM First Flag Raising 2025
 12:05 PM Museum of Bad Art Tour
 1:05 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards
 2:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting 1-21-25
 5:30 PM City Council Spotlight: JT Scott
 6:00 PM SomerViva em Português
 6:30 PM School Committee Meeting 1-13-25
 8:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 8:30 PM Domestic Violence Vigil 2024
 9:25 PM First Flag Raising 2025
 10:30 PM MLK Celebration & Panel Discussion

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

12:00 AM Mental Health Matters: Veterans
 12:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
 1:05 AM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 7:00 AM 2025 Midterm Ceremonies & Mayoral Address
 8:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 9:00 AM First Flag Raising 2025
 10:05 AM COA: General Seated Exercise #2
 10:35 AM Construction Advisory Group Meeting #2 11-12-24
 1:00 PM Senior Circuit: Health & Wellness
 1:30 PM City Council Meeting 1-23-25
 4:05 PM Construction Advisory Group Meeting #2 11-12-24
 6:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
 7:05 PM Senior Circuit: Health & Wellness
 7:30 PM Central Somerville Ave. Public Meeting #5 12-16-24
 9:30 PM Central Ave. Public Meeting #4 11.18.24
 10:30 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

8:00 AM School Committee Meeting 1-13-25
 9:30 AM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 10:00 AM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 11:00 AM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Medford
 1:00 PM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Chelsea 1-21-25
 2:00 PM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 3:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Melrose
 5:00 PM School Committee Meeting 1-13-25
 6:30 PM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 7:00 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 8:00 PM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Medford
 10:00 PM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Chelsea
 11:00 PM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

12:30 AM SHS Hockey vs Melrose
 8:00 AM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 9:30 AM SHS Hockey vs Melrose
 11:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Medford
 1:00 PM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Medford
 3:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Medford
 4:30 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 5:00 PM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Medford
 7:00 PM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 8:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Melrose
 10:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Medford

12:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 12:30 AM MLK Celebration & Panel Discussion
 2:00 AM First Flag Raising 2025
 7:00 AM COA: General Seated Exercise
 7:30 AM Senior Circuit: Health & Wellness
 8:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
 8:35 AM 2025 Midterm Ceremonies & Mayoral Address
 10:00 AM MLK Celebration & Panel Discussion
 11:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 12:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting
 3:00 PM Central Somerville Ave. Public Meeting #5 12-16-24
 5:00 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner
 6:30 PM Construction Advisory Group Meeting #3 1-29-25
 8:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 9:00 PM City Council Meeting 1-23-25
 11:35 PM Henry Hansen Park Opening

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

12:00 AM 2025 Midterm Ceremonies & Mayoral Address
 1:30 AM Construction Advisory Group Meeting #3 1-29-25
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice III
 8:00 AM Central Ave. Public Meeting #4
 9:00 AM MLK Celebration & Panel Discussion
 10:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 11:00 AM Community Mtg on Davis Sq Area Public Safety 10-9-24
 12:40 PM Checking In w/Mayor Ballantyne: Street Safety
 1:00 PM First Flag Raising 2025
 2:05 PM Museum of Bad Art Tour
 3:03 PM School Committee Meeting 1-13-25
 4:30 PM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 5:00 PM Central Somerville Ave. Public Meeting #5 12-16-24
 7:00 PM Construction Advisory Group

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

12:00 AM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Medford
 2:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Medford
 3:30 AM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 8:00 AM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Lynn Classical
 9:30 AM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 10:30 AM Brown School 2025 Winter Concert
 11:30 AM SHS Hockey vs Melrose
 1:30 PM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Medford
 3:30 PM WSNS 2025 Winter Concert
 4:30 PM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 6:00 PM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Lynn Classical
 7:30 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 8:30 PM Brown School 2025 Winter Concert
 9:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Melrose
 11:30 PM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Medford

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

1:30 AM WSNS 2025 Winter Concert
 2:30 AM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 8:00 AM WSNS 2025 Winter Concert
 9:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Melrose
 11:00 AM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Medford
 12:30 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 1:30 PM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Lynn Classical
 3:00 PM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 4:30 PM Brown School 2025 Winter Concert
 5:30 PM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona

9:00 PM Meeting #3 1-29-25
 2025 Midterm Ceremonies & Mayoral Address
 10:30 PM Domestic Violence Vigil 2024
 11:25 PM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

12:00 AM MLK Celebration & Panel Discussion
 1:30 AM Museum of Bad Art Tour
 2:30 AM Checking In w/ Mayor Ballantyne: Street Safety
 7:00 AM COA: General Seated Exercise #2
 7:30 AM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2024
 9:00 AM Construction Advisory Group Meeting #3 1-29-25
 11:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 11:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
 12:05 PM Senior Circuit: Health & Wellness
 12:30 PM MLK Celebration & Panel Discussion
 2:00 PM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 2:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting 1-21-25
 5:30 PM 2025 Midterm Ceremonies & Mayoral Address
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Health & Wellness
 7:30 PM Mental Health Matters: Veterans
 8:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 8:30 PM Construction Advisory Group Meeting #3 1-29-25
 10:30 PM SomerViva em Português
 11:00 PM Central Ave. Public Meeting #4

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Health & Wellness
 12:30 AM Community Mtg on Davis Sq Area Public Safety 10-9-24
 2:10 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 7:00 AM COA: General Seated Exercise
 7:30 AM MLK Celebration & Panel Discussion
 9:00 AM Mental Health Matters: Veterans
 9:30 AM 2025 Midterm Ceremonies

6:00 PM WSNS 2025 Winter Concert
 7:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Melrose
 9:00 PM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Medford
 10:30 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 11:30 PM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Lynn Classical 1-24-25

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

1:00 AM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 2:30 AM Brown School 2025 Winter Concert
 3:30 AM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 8:00 AM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 9:00 AM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Medford
 11:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Medford
 12:30 PM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Medford
 2:00 PM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 3:30 PM WSNS 2025 Winter Concert
 4:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Melrose
 6:00 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 7:00 PM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Medford
 9:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Medford
 10:30 PM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Medford

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

12:00 AM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 1:30 AM WSNS 2025 Winter Concert
 2:30 AM SHS Hockey vs Melrose
 8:00 AM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 9:30 AM SHS Hockey vs Melrose

& Mayoral Address
 11:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 1-21-25
 2:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
 2:35 PM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 3:05 PM Construction Advisory Group Meeting #3 1-29-25
 7:00 PM School Committee Meeting - LIVE
 11:00 PM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 11:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4

12:00 AM First Flag Raising 2025
 1:05 AM Senior Circuit: Health & Wellness
 1:30 AM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner
 7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 7:30 AM Central Somerville Ave. Workshop #3
 8:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 9:00 AM Driver's License Info Session em Português
 10:30 AM MLK Celebration & Panel Discussion
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Health & Wellness
 12:30 PM 2025 Midterm Ceremonies & Mayoral Address
 2:00 PM City Council Meeting 1-23-25
 5:00 PM Museum of Bad Art Tour
 6:00 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 6:30 PM Mental Health Matters: Veterans
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Health & Wellness
 7:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 8:00 PM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 8:30 PM School Committee Meeting 2-3-25
 11:30 PM SomerViva em Português

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Health & Wellness
 12:30 AM Mental Health Matters: Veterans
 1:00 AM School Committee Meeting 2-3-25

11:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Medford
 1:00 PM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Medford
 3:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Medford
 4:30 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 5:00 PM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Medford
 7:00 PM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 8:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Melrose
 10:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Medford

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

12:00 AM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 1:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Medford
 2:30 AM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 8:00 AM WSNS 2025 Winter Concert
 9:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Melrose
 11:00 AM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Medford
 12:30 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 1:30 PM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Lynn Classical
 3:00 PM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 4:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Plymouth S
 6:00 PM WSNS 2025 Winter Concert
 7:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Melrose
 9:00 PM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Medford
 10:30 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 11:30 PM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Lynn Classical
 1:00 AM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 2:30 AM SHS Hockey vs Plymouth S



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week



Q: My landlord is refusing to fix the back stairway. Is there anything I can do about that?

A: Possibly! You didn't mention whether the back stairway is the second exit that's required for safety purposes. If it is, the landlord HAS to keep it in good order, and the city's inspectional services could fine him and force him to fix it. And there are laws saying he can't retaliate against you. Or it could be a Fair Housing issue. Did you recently start living with someone else, and is that person a member of a protected class? Or are you living with someone you're not married to and your landlord objects? Or did you recently have a child? If you suspect you're being discriminated against, call the city's Housing Department, 617-625-6600 ext. 2584 for advice.

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

Tour PK-8 Schools January 30

Everyone is invited to take a tour of one of SPS's prekindergarten to grade 8 schools during our School Open House date on January 30.

Just stop by a PK-8 school. Tours will last about an hour and start at 9, 10, 11 a.m., and noon.

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

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



The old sofa says farewell...

— Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What's an astronaut's favorite part of the computer?
The Space Bar.

On This Day in History

January 29

- 1813 – Jane Austen publishes *Pride and Prejudice*.
- 1861 – Kansas is admitted into the Union as the 34th state.
- 1865 – William Quantrill and his Confederate raiders attack Danville, Kentucky.
- 1918 – The Supreme Allied Council meets at Versailles.
- 1926 – Violette Neatley Anderson becomes the first African-American woman admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 1929 – The Seeing Eye, America's first school for training dogs to guide the blind, founded in Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1942 – German and Italian troops take Benghazi in North Africa.
- 1950 – Riots break out in Johannesburg, South Africa, over the policy of Apartheid.
- 1979 – President Jimmy Carter commutes the sentence of Patty Hearst.
- 1984 – The Soviets issue a formal complaint against alleged U.S. arms treaty violations.
- 1991 – Iraqi forces attack into Saudi Arabian town of Kafji, but are turned back by Coalition forces.

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Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

refreshments, and create art. Craft supplies will be available. While you are not required to make a card, we encourage people use their artistic prowess to make something wonderful for those in need. Since space is limited, please RSVP via the Eventbrite link <https://tinyurl.com/bdfvmdpe>. Location: **MudFlat Pottery School**, 81 Broadway, Somerville

Join the **Somerville Museum** for an unforgettable night of music with **The Muss**. The Muss is a vibrant Nepalese folk rock group that blends the raw energy of rock with the soulful essence of traditional Nepali folk music. With their electrifying tunes, heartfelt lyrics, and stirring performances, they aim to unite generations and celebrate Nepal's rich cultural legacy. **Somerville Jatra! The Ultimate Nepalese Folk Rock Experience with The Muss, Sunday, February 9**, 4 – 6 p.m., **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Avenue Somerville, Admission Free. RSVP <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>.

Know your rights as a renter and immigrant at the **Somerville Movement Meeting**. Register here: bit.ly/Somerville-Renters. **Saturday, February 1**, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., in East Somerville (register for location). Masks will be mandatory when not eating or drinking. Registration will close at 9 a.m. on **Thursday, January 30**. Space is limited. Childcare and breakfast will be provided. ESP: Protejamos nuestra comunidad de Somerville – Conozca sus derechos como inquilino e inmigrante. Regístrese aquí: bit.ly/Somerville-Renters.

Abstract painter and **Brickbottom Artists' Building** founding member **Diane Novetsky** has assembled a cohort of three inventive painters for a new exhibit of current abstraction at **Brickbottom Gallery** opening February 9 and running through February 28. **Brickbottom Artists Association**, 1 Fitchburg St., Somerville, MA. Paint/Cut/Fold/Stitch: Opening reception, **January 9**, 3 – 5 p.m.

The **Somerville High Trivia Team** is competing on GBH's **High School Quiz Show** this year. Congratulations **Ella, Calla, Jack, Sam, Nate, Oliver, Coach (and SHS History Teacher) Theodore Blake** and the rest of the **SHS Team**. Only the top 17 trivia teams in the state qualified for the annual tournament. Somerville's

first match will air on GBH and Youtube on **February 22**.

Mudflat is now accepting submissions for its upcoming exhibition, **The Mudflat Cup Show 2025**. Artists are invited to submit original, functional, and food-safe cup designs completed within the last three years. Works must be priced individually (not as a set) with a maximum price of \$180 and be ready for installation upon delivery. Artists may submit up to five entries, with one image per entry. No substitutions will be accepted. Apply by **February 5**. Apply at <https://www.cognitofirms.com/MudflatStudio/TheMudflatCupShow-2025JuriedShowApplication>.

Are you looking for a way to **get involved**? The **City of Somerville** needs board and commission members. Learn more and apply for current openings by visiting [somervillema.gov/besomerville](https://www.somervillema.gov/besomerville).

Calling all artists! East Somerville Main Streets is looking for a talented artist to create the **official poster for Carnaval 2025**. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your work, contribute to a vibrant community event, and gain exposure. Apply by **February 10** by visiting their website www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org.

A reminder that **Christmas tree pickup** is underway in Somerville **through Friday, February 14**. Trees can be placed curbside on your regular trash day after removing all decorations. Do not put trees in a plastic bag. Constituents should contact 311 (617-666-3311) if their tree has been out for over two weeks.

The **Somerville Theatre** will screen a rare vintage crime melodrama with all-Black cast. **The Flying Ace** (1926), added to U.S. National Film Registry, is to be shown with live music. Can discrimination exist in an America where everyone is Black? That's among the questions posted by **The Flying Ace**, a rare surviving example of movies produced early in the 20th century for Black audiences in segregated cinemas. **The Flying Ace**, named to the U.S. National Film Registry in 2021, will be screened in honor of Black History Month on **Sunday, February 2** at 2 p.m. at the Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square, Somerville. Admission \$17 adults, \$13 members, \$12 seniors/child-

ren. Tickets are available at [somerville-theatre.com](https://www.somerville-theatre.com) or at the door.

On **Friday, January 31**, at 8:00 pm, join in the **Armory ROOTED Cafe** for **Weathervane Playhouse** and **Max's House Productions Present: Max's House—The Seriously Silly Tour**. More info and tickets available here: <https://artsatthearmory.org/>. Max's House is a musical puppet show about reconnecting with the things that bring us joy (in this case, singing and dancing) and returning to the child-like curiosity we once had before making it a part of our career.

Tweens and Teens are invited to join the adventure with **Dungeons and Dragons** at the **Somerville Public Library**. Each session, players will be treated to a new adventure by our **Professional Dungeon Master, Dragoneye Zach**. Everything you need to play will be provided. There are two sessions each month. Registration is required and opens two weeks before each session. Register for the event here: <https://tinyurl.com/3wy8fwtu>. **February 22**, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. 79 Highland Ave.,

With the winter cold over the coming days, here are some important tips for **staying safe and warm**: Dress in layers and cover as much exposed skin as possible when outdoors, minimize time outside, including for pets, check in on family and neighbors, follow all safety precautions if using space heaters. Do not use a stove or oven as a heat source. Check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and make sure they are working and have fresh batteries. Learn more about carbon monoxide safety: mass.gov/info-details/carbon-monoxide-co-safety. Prevent frozen water pipes: [somervillema.gov/frozenpipes](https://www.somervillema.gov/frozenpipes). For more, visit: [somervillema.gov/coldweather](https://www.somervillema.gov/coldweather).

Low-income households may be eligible to receive help with winter heating costs through the **Fuel Assistance Program**. This program is part of the **Home Energy Assistance program (HEAP)** and serves residents of **Somerville and Cambridge**. Participants receive assistance with their heating costs **between November 1 and April 30**. Learn more about the program, check if you qualify, and apply for assistance today at [somervillema.gov/heatingassistance](https://www.somervillema.gov/heatingassistance).

Somerville High School students are

invited to bring their **SHS ID** to the **Somerville YMCA** on **Fridays** from 7 to 9 p.m. and **Sundays** from 2 to 4 p.m. for free. There are free movie nights. On **Sundays**, students will have access to the basketball and exercise areas (including the weight room). Visit their website to learn more. <https://www.somervilleymca.org/news/somerville-teens-after-hours/>. Somerville YMCA asks that students go to their website to register before visiting and this program is for ages 14 to 17 years.

City Alerts are a great way for those who live, work, or own a business in Somerville to receive important city information that affects your neighborhood. City Alerts provide information about emergencies (including snow emergencies), construction and road closures, water service interruptions, community news, and more. To sign up, visit [somervillema.gov/alerts](https://www.somervillema.gov/alerts) and click on the button for your preferred language. Step-by-step sign-up instructions are available at: [somervillema.gov/alerts](https://www.somervillema.gov/alerts). Having trouble signing up? You can call 3-1-1 (617-666-3311) for assistance.

With the days growing shorter and temperatures dipping colder, the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is in critical need of new or lightly used jackets for their clients currently living outside. If you have any adult sized coats hanging in your closet that you don't wear, please consider dropping them off at the Somerville Homeless Coalition admin office located at **255 Elm Street, Suite 204**, during the hours listed below. Drop Off Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., 2 – 5 p.m. Each coat donated provides warmth, dignity, and safety for our neighbors having to face the harsh New England winter conditions.

If you want to adopt-a-drain in Somerville, perform light maintenance as needed, and give it a creative name. Sign up for the **Adopt-a-Drain program** today by visiting [Somerville.mysticdrains.org](https://www.somervillemysticdrains.org).

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**. The Center for the Arts at the Armory is proud to offer a weekly winter market with 71+ local food vendors with the best locally grown and regionally produced Continued on page 22

Somerville Arts Council prepares for outdoor public art

CONT. FROM PG 1

Currently, they are “working with 3 finalists (and) we will choose one finalist in February to execute a project for this Spring / Summer.”

The second project, which is in its early phase, is an “Open Call for Businesses: Transform Your Space with a Mural!” [3] Examples include murals outside Highland Creole by Pascal Michel and “Care to the People,” the mural at Cambridge Health Alliance by artist Amanda Hill. SAC is “looking for grants to fund this project to partner up with businesses.” For businesses interested in this opportunity, the interest form can be completed at <https://beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/interest-form-for-mural-partnership-opportunities/>.

Since 2018, SAC has invited at least 10 artists from around the world to paint murals as part of its ongoing “Street Art Project.” A recent example of a past public art initiative is the 2024 “Wake Up” [4] mural that was created at 1 Osgood Street. “Wake Up, was directed by Andres Duarte (NXN) and guest artist Irma Caicedo

(ERRE) in collaboration with Brenda, Ray, Darragh, and Cori, teenagers from the Mayor’s Summer Youth Jobs Program. Beside the mural creation itself, there was engagement with the immediate community for their feedback and input, visits to culture institutions for inspiration and technique, and a community event where the mural was formally displayed. The title declares “a call to the community at large from the younger generation to encourage us all to reduce our ecological footprint.”

Per its mission, the Somerville Arts Council “cultivate(s) and celebrate(s) the creative expressions of the Somerville community. Through innovative collaborations and quality programming we work to make the arts an integral part of life reflective of our diverse city.” Programming includes the annual Porchfest, SomerStreets: Strike Up the Bands, Illuminations Tour and Ignite Festival.

As her last remark, Iaritzta reminded us there is “lots to come this year.” Visit somervilleartscouncil.org or follow on instagram (@somervilleartscouncil).



The “Wake Up” project.

Links:

- [1] <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/TemporaryPublicArt>
- [2] <https://www.nefa.org/MakingIt->

Public

- [3] <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/resources/calls>
- [4] <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/streetart/wakeup>

Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 16

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 Jan. 20-24, the House a met for a total of four minutes while the Senate met for a total of three minutes.

Mon. Jan. 20	No House session No Senate session
Tues. Jan. 21	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:02 a.m. Senate 11:15 a.m. to 11:17 a.m.
Wed. Jan. 22	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. Jan. 23	House 11:03 a.m. to 11:06 a.m. Senate 11:16 a.m. to 11:17 a.m.
Fri. Jan. 24	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

foods, including fresh produce, cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, tamales, pastries, chocolate, skincare products, and more. The market accepts SNAP/EBT and HIP benefits. They also offer a \$15 SNAP match to customers each week. More info available on their website: <https://www.somwintermarket.org/>.

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.

Snow emergency parking is on the even side of the street all winter, unless posted signage says differently. Sign up for alerts or update your information at somervillema.gov/alerts. You can call 311 if you need assistance. Flashing blue lights at major intersections indicate a snow emergency. Snow emergencies are announced

on the city’s website, social media feeds, CityTV, and via information shared with local media. For more information on the city’s snow policies, visit somervillema.gov/snow.

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.

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



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Spirit Burns' by Tina Jackson

History comes to life in this wonderfully told story

Full disclosure, I've been a fan of Tina Jackson since first reading her wonderful novel, *The Beloved Children*. That novel, like this one, brings history to life with characters so real, complex and interesting you find yourself compelled to keep reading to learn their full story.

Spirit Burns takes a rich and transformative moment in British history told from the point of view of the Suffragettes, an often-neglected driving force for change that fueled cultural and class upheaval in early 20th century Britain. The lives of the woman portrayed are offered in relation to the shocking need for women in that era to be released from the bonds, legal and cultural, that kept them subservient and far poorer than their male counterparts in British society.

Spirit Burns focuses on the lives of three women who represent Britain's stagnant class structure of the period in question. These women – a mill worker, a stage performer and a young lady of the upper class – all suffer from British society's endemic lack of opportunity for those of the "fairer sex to express themselves, manage their affairs and grow as active partners and competitors to the males who dominate and control their lives. Their at times militant struggle for the vote serves as an apt metaphor for all the power they were consistently denied on a day to day basis. Nothing holds them down more than the lock-tight grip of poverty and reduced opportunity that



was the lot of women up until the 1920's.

Miss Jackson is as deft with words as she is in building characters and events you can believe in. And most especially skilled, the reader will discover, in allowing language and common parlance to clearly portray distinctions in class and lifestyles.

Spirit Burns is literature at its finest! I recommend it unhesitatingly.

Lyrical
SOMERVILLE
edited by Doug Holder

Richard Wilhelm is a founding member of Somerville's Ibbetson Street Press. A longtime resident of our city, he paints prolifically in his spare time.



AN AMERICAN SCENE

The animals, tractor, plow and tools have been auctioned off.

Now, as the last of the furniture is humped from the house,

the tired patriarch, concealing his tears, feigns a cough.

Nothing left but yellowed curtains and an un-trapped mouse.

The old man tossed out the traps as they readied to go.

"Let the mouse live. I grant him right of domain."

Behind rusted barbed wire, a tattered scarecrow

leans into a desolate field in November rain

as if to listen to the half-cry of ghosts on the failed farm.

Where in summer the unknowing crickets sang as human

hearts sank,

bankers, lawyers, contractors see no harm,

await the bulldozers, cheap construction, money in the bank.

— Richard Wilhelm

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:

Doug Holder, 25 School St., Somerville, MA 02143. dougholder@post.harvard.edu

Tufts University Department of Music Presents
'Sunday Concert Series: Walking Shadows'

The Tufts University Department of Music presents *Sunday Concert Series: Walking Shadows* in the Distler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Sunday, February 2, at 3:00 p.m.

Edith Auner and Thomas Stumpf perform works for piano four hands by Brahms, Stumpf, and Schubert.

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

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus.

For more information, please visit go.tufts.edu/musicevents or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617.627.3679.



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