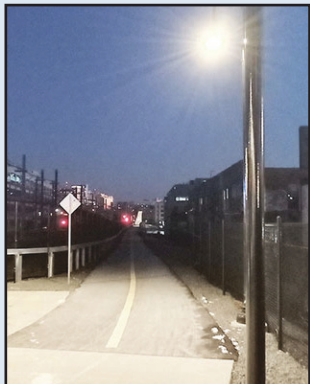




Inside:



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page 17

Federal immigration policies impact East Somerville



The latest federal immigration policies are proving to have a significantly adverse effect on small businesses in East Somerville. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

By Carlie Lombardi

On Thursday, February 13, the Somerville City Council held a meeting to discuss the impact of the new federal immigration policies. The council discussed the concerns from East Somerville's small business community, which is facing challenges due to these policies.

Ward One Councilor McLaughlin led the discussion, focusing on how the policies may be causing fear within the immigrant community and negatively affecting local businesses.

During the meeting, McLaughlin touched upon various concerns over the visible decline in business activity, particularly in East Somerville, a neighborhood known for its immigrant owned businesses. He noted that many local

Continued on page 4

Lumentation ... just a click, snap and photo away

By Jeffrey Shwom

At the corner of Lowell Street and Highland Avenue, Lumentation is one of those walk-by-and-look-twice businesses. A few folks still think it is Somerville Quick Stop that closed a few years back. "People ask do you sell chips, cigarettes, earbuds? Convenience store stuff," remarked manager Imaza Jeffries. When you walk inside, however, the first thing you'll notice is that the fridges are filled with much different items ... film.

Per their website, "Lumentation is a team of passionate photographers and filmmakers dedicated to providing fast, affordable, and reliable photo developing and printing services using an online marketplace. Lumentation is focused on making film photography fun and accessible

Continued on page 11



Lumentation offers quality photo developing and printing services via an online marketplace.

— Photo by Jeffrey Shwom

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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.

The Somerville Police Department (SPD) has produced a list of unclaimed bicycles that are currently being stored at SPD headquarters located at 220 Washington St. Any owner of an unclaimed bicycle who seeks to reclaim it is encouraged to contact Somerville Police at 617-625-1600 as soon as possible. Bicycles remaining in the possession of SPD will be treated as municipal property and will be disposed of in any manner consistent with city surplus property and MGL c. 30B § 15, including but not limited to disposition at less than fair market value to a charitable organization.

Visit the Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., on Tuesday, February 25, for The Moth StorySLAM with doors at 6:30 p.m. and show at 7:30 p.m. Listen to true stories or share your own at this open-mic storytelling competition. This month's topic is OBLIVIOUS: Prepare a five-minute story about naïveté. Missing the social cues and movie references. The joke going over your head at the brunch table. The flirting attempt that you were clueless about. Tell about your tragic miscalculations, cringe-worthy regrets, and blissful moments of ignorance.

Happy birthday this week to the following: Happy birthday to Sean Fitzgerald, who is celebrating this week. We wish Sean a great day. Happy birthday to Christine Resmini. We hope she has a great day as well. Happy birthday to great guy, Eamon Fee, who celebrates this week. Happy birthday to Celia *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of February 12 – February 18 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday February 19	Sunny	30°/11°	5%	3%	WNW 11 mph
Thursday February 20	Rain	29°/18°	30%	24%	NW 7 mph
Friday February 21	Sunny	34°/14°	6%	3%	NW 15 mph
Saturday February 22	Sunny	35°/23°	5%	2%	WNW 9 mph
Sunday February 23	Cloudy	40°/23°	8%	5%	NW 8 mph
Monday February 24	Rain	41°/30°	30%	25%	WSW 19 mph
Tuesday February 25	Cloudy	44°/31°	22%	16%	W 12 mph

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

Somerville Community Path post-storm



A view of Somerville's Community Path after the storm of February 16.

— Photo courtesy of Hayward Zwerling

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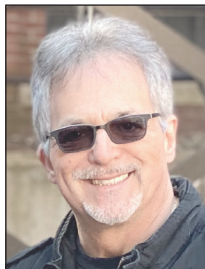
Want to write local Somerville stories?

Call 857-488-5138 and speak to the Assignment Editor

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.

Five and dime



Back in the days of ample parking spaces every square had a “five and dime” store.

In Davis Square there were two, Woolworths and Grants. I started as a stock boy and worked my way up to the luncheonette making grilled cheeses, hot dogs and ice cream treats. Let’s toss around some memories of those stores of yore.

“I used to spend hours in stores like that as a kid, they had everything you could possibly need, from toys to clothes to household items, and the best part was the five and dime section where you could buy all sorts of treats and trinkets for just a few cents, those were the days.”

“Used to go to lunch with family then buy baby turtles around 1960”

“That was a great place mom always

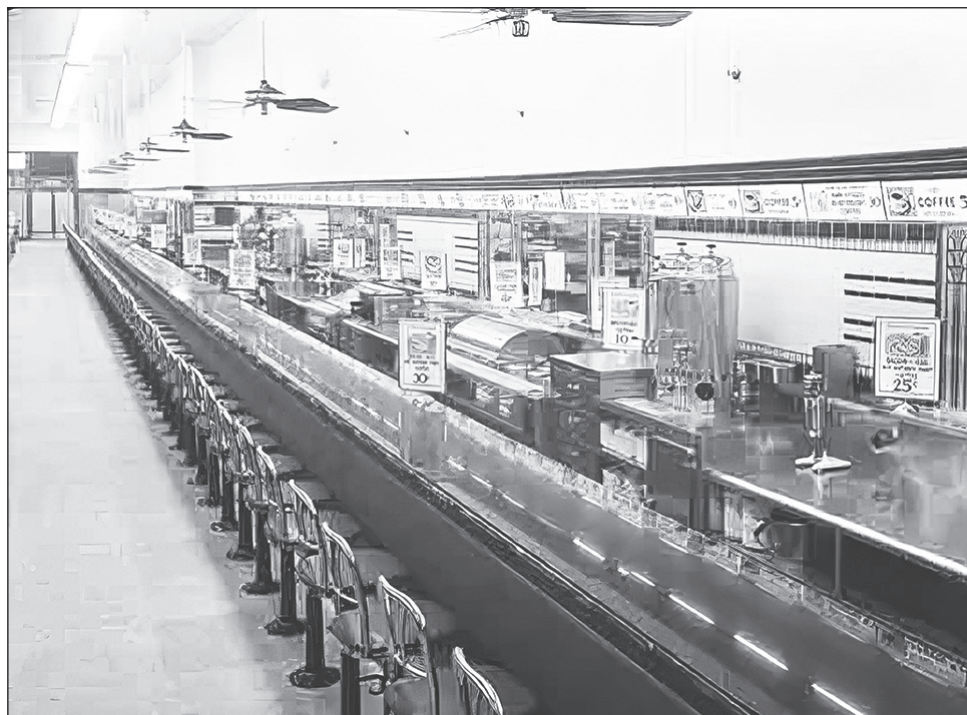
took me when we went shopping together when I was small.”

“Oh, I loved getting my weekly allowance (25 cents!) on Saturday back in the day and heading for the Woolworth store! This was long before Walmart and was a wonderland for kids ... celebrity/sports hero notebooks, toys, it amazes me how little things cost back then ... even gas was in the teens and dropped to 9 cents one time in a gas war!”

“Yes! My aunt and I would go there to the restaurant counter on Wednesday to eat on occasion, ‘cause it was meatloaf with mashed potatoes with gravy and green beans, our favorite! Great memories! Miss her!”

I guess the closest thing we have to Woolworths is perhaps Target or Walmart.

One of my favorite things about those days was the photo booth. I still have a couple of those photos someplace.



A New Cooperative Espresso Bar

310 Highland Ave. (inside Razor's Barbershop)
Mon - Sat 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Mention you saw this ad in The Somerville Times and receive 10% off your purchase.



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ANNOUNCEMENT

315 Broadway, in conjunction with Micozzi Management are pleased to announce an **Affordable Rental Open Waitlist Opportunity**

The application period for a one-bedroom (1BR) Affordable Rental Waitlist will begin on 2/14/2025 at 2pm and end on 3/14/2025 at 2pm.

315 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02145

Located in the Winter Hill neighborhood of Somerville, the units offer open-concept floor plans and modern features. Parking is available based on availability and for an additional fee.

Maximum Annual Income

80% AMI	1 Person	2 Persons
Income	\$91,200	\$104,200

Eligibility Requirements

- The rental unit must be used as the renters’ primary residence.
- Income and residency restrictions will apply throughout tenancy. Income eligibility will be reviewed annually.
- Head of households claiming full-time student status are not eligible.
- Total Household Liquid Assets cannot exceed \$75,000

Applications will be available beginning on 2/14/2025 at 2pm. To obtain an application, please contact Micozzi Management and reference “315 Broadway 80%”

Telephone: 617-254-5576 ex 112 or email: eburkart@micozzimanagement.com

Completed applications must be submitted to Micozzi Management at eburkart@micozzimanagement.com

or mailed to 159 Cambridge Street, Suite 2, Allston, MA 02134 by 3/14/2025 at 2pm.

Applications received after the deadline will not be added to the waitlist. All qualified applications will be ranked by date and time received. All mailed applications will receive a 7-day grace period.



Somerville Police Dept Crime Log February 4 – 10

Assault

25006942: On 2/7/25 at approximately 12:58 a.m., Somerville Police responded to Assembly Row for a fight. Upon arrival, officers observed an unconscious male on the ground suffering from multiple injuries. Officers spoke with several witnesses who stated the victim was involved in a fight with two males and one female. During the fight, the suspects repeatedly punched and kicked the victim then fled the area.

Arrest

25007158: On 2/8/25 at approximately 2:50 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Somerville Ave. for report of a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she was sleeping and awoke to a male party opening the door to her back porch. The victim screamed and the suspect fled the area. Officers were given a description of the suspect and located him nearby shortly after. He was placed under arrest.

Other Crimes: 2 MV vandalisms + 2 Vandalisms + 1 Package theft + 1 MV theft

— Somerville Police Department



Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Do your part - Leave a message on our tip hotline answering machine – All calls are confidential –Your Privacy is Assured. If you choose, you can leave your name and phone number and your call will be returned (not required). Also, if you prefer you may e-mail directly with your crime tip. We will follow up on all information provided to the best of our ability.

Thank you for your assistance.

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

Text-A-Tip

Text a Tip to the SPD from anywhere!

- 100% completely anonymous • Easy and secure
- Text messages can be sent from anywhere at any time

Simply text the phone number "TIP411" (847411) and put "617spd" at the beginning of your text message. If your message requires an emergency response PLEASE DO NOT TEXT and instead call 9-1-1.

Powered by:



Federal Immigration policies impact East Somerville

CONT. FROM PG 1

establishments, from restaurants to bars, are experiencing a noticeable drop in customers. According to McLaughlin, the fear among undocumented and naturalized immigrants of being targeted or mistaken for undocumented individuals has led many to avoid public spaces, causing an effect on the local economy.

Local restaurant owner Daniel Bojorquez, who owns La Brassa in East Somerville, shared his personal experience during the meeting. He explained how the immigration policies have created a feeling of isolation in the neighborhood. He mentioned that during recent monthly meetings with other local business owners, many have noticed the huge decline in foot traffic and were worried about potential closures. "The whole street feels like a ghost town," he said, describing the impact on Broadway, one of the neighborhood's main commercial areas.

The new federal immigration policy increases immigration enforcement in cities like Somerville, even though Somerville is a sanctuary city. Under Somerville's Welcoming City Ordinance, local police do not help federal agents enforce immigration laws based only on immigration sta-

tus. However, ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) can still operate on its own in the city. The ordinance allows arrests for crimes but protects law abiding people from being detained for their immigration status. Residents should know that they can safely go about their daily activities without fear of being questioned about their immigration status, and also that undocumented individuals have legal rights under the ordinance.

McLaughlin called for the community to show support for local businesses, stressing that their struggles impact the entire city's economy. "Even if you don't think these policies affect you directly, they are affecting our tax revenue, which in turn affects our ability to serve the community," he stated. He urged residents to visit and support East Somerville businesses, noting that about 75% of them are immigrant owned and offer some of the best cuisine and services in the city.

The councilor's overall message was simple but powerful: "Come and eat." Supporting Somerville's businesses means preserving the heart of the community and ensuring that its culture and economy continue to thrive.



Somerville achieves AAA bond rating for third consecutive year

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is proud to announce that for the third year in a row, the City of Somerville has received the highest possible long-term debt rating of 'AAA' from S&P Global Ratings. This rating reaffirms the city's financial strength and ensures lower borrowing costs for critical infrastructure investments that benefit residents.



"Securing a AAA bond rating for the third consecutive year is a powerful affirmation of Somerville's financial management and our commitment to responsible, forward-thinking investments," said Mayor Ballantyne. "This rating isn't just about strong numbers, it's about delivering real benefits to our residents, ensuring we can invest in schools, roads, affordable housing, and climate resilience for less, which stretches our taxpayer dollars further. I want to thank Finance Director Ed Bean and our dedicated public servants for their steadfast commitment to working with my administration to keep Somerville on solid financial ground."

Somerville's financial strength recognized

S&P's report for 2025 underscores Somerville's expanding tax base, strong economic outlook, and disciplined budgeting as key factors in securing another AAA rating.

The 2025 S&P report highlights Somerville's:

- Growing property tax base driven by residential stability and regional demand for life sciences space and housing
- Consistently positive financial performance, with revenue outpacing expenses and budget surpluses increasing reserves
- Strong liquidity and available reserves, exceeding most comparably rated municipalities
- Long-range planning focus, incorporating sustainability, climate risk mitigation, and cybersecurity protections
- Debt and pension management efforts, including a plan to fully fund pension liabilities by 2033 and a \$29.3 million OPEB trust

Somerville's 2025 budget of \$397 million represents a 7% increase from the previous year, aligning with recent financial trends. Despite a slowdown in certain projects due to interest rates, large-scale development remains on track, and the city continues to take a financially conservative approach to budgeting.

AAA rating ensures more affordable investments for residents

The AAA rating secures the city's ability to borrow at the most favorable interest rates, making key public projects more affordable. This includes:

- School renovations and new construction
- Infrastructure improvements, including roadwork, bike lanes, and transit access
- Affordable housing initiatives
- Sustainability and climate resilience projects
- Investments in municipal structures and facilities like fire stations, parks, and playgrounds

The AAA rating also enhances Somerville's attractiveness to investors, reinforcing its reputation as a secure and thriving economic hub in Greater Boston. This strong financial standing will continue to support the city's vision for sustainable growth and equitable development that creates jobs, housing, and tax revenues that fund community needs and goals, as outlined in SomerVision 2040 and the Somerville Climate Forward Plan.

Affordable Housing Open Waitlist Opportunity Avalon at Assembly Row/AVA Somerville

*Free Translation/Language Assistance
Available Upon Request*

Avalon at Assembly Row and AVA Somerville are a non-smoking community with common grill areas and covered bike storage.

Open waitlist opportunity for affordable rental units for households earning at or below 50% and 80% of Area Median Income (AMI)
Liquid Asset Limit: \$75,000 per household

Head of household claiming full-time student status are not eligible.

Low-Moderate-Income Guidelines Apply
We will be accepting applications for studio, 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom apartments!

Applications for Disabled Accessible and Hearing-Impaired units (ADA) units will also be accepted.

Documentation of need will be required upon reaching the top of the waiting list.

Open Application Period:
3/20/2025 at 9AM-6/20/2025 at 5PM

Applications will be ranked by date and time received.

To Submit a Completed Application Online starting: 3/20/2025 at 9AM

Visit: <https://www.avaloncommunities.com/massachusetts/somerville-apartments/avalon-at-assembly-row-affordable-program/>

Paper applications available by request at
AssemblyRow@AvalonBay.com or

at Avalon at Assembly Row – 333 Great River Road,
Somerville, MA 02145

*In addition to rent, Avalon at Assembly Row and AVA Somerville Residents are responsible for gas heating and cooking, electric, water heating (gas), sewer, water, phone, and cable utilities. Additional fees for parking and pets may apply. Credit check required.

Voucher Holders are encouraged to apply.

Household Maximum Income Limits (50 AMI% Program)	
One (1) Person \$57,100	Two (2) People \$65,300
Three (3) People \$73,450	Four (4) People \$81,600
Five (5) People \$88,150	Six (6) People \$94,700
	Seven (7) People \$101,200

Household Maximum Income Limits (80 AMI% Program)	
One (1) Person \$91,200	Two (2) People \$104,200
Three (3) People \$117,250	Four (4) People \$130,250
Five (5) People \$140,700	Six (6) People \$151,100
	Seven (7) People \$161,550

Applicants with disabilities may request modifications to the rental unit and/or accommodations to our rules, policies, practices, or services, if such modifications or accommodations are necessary to afford equal opportunity to use and enjoy the premises. AvalonBay Communities, Inc. does not discriminate in the selection of applicants on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, ancestry, children, familial status, genetic information, marital status, public assistance reciprocity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran/military status, or any other basis prohibited by law.

To pick up a paper application please visit:
Avalon at Assembly Row and AVA Somerville
333 Great River Road, Somerville, MA 02145
(617) 658-3840



Beacon Hill Roll Call



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

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senator's votes on roll calls from the week of Feb. 10-14. There were no roll calls in the House last week.

\$425 MILLION FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (EA) SHELTER SYSTEM (S 16)

Senate 33-6, approved a fiscal 2025 supplemental budget that includes \$425 million to fund the state's emergency shelter system and make some changes to tighten eligibility for it. The vote was almost strictly along party lines with all Republicans voting against it and all but one Democrat voting for it. The Democrats say the measure makes major reforms. The Republicans say while the bill includes some reforms they have long sought, it does not go far enough, and they all voted against it.

The House has already approved a different version of the bill and a House-Senate conference committee will likely hammer out a compromise version.

The bill would cap capacity in the system at 4,000 families for the period Dec. 31, 2025 through Dec. 31, 2026. There were more than 6,000 families relying on the system at the end of January.

Other provisions reduce the maximum length in a shelter from nine to six consecutive months; phase out the use of hotels and motels for emergency housing by the end of this year; require a report on strategies to prevent homelessness and promote stable rehousing; and make temporary respite sites available to families that appear eligible for the system for up to 30 days upon arrival in Massachusetts.

"Today we struck a balance between our fiscal responsibility to Massachusetts taxpayers and our moral obligation to moms, dads and kids who are in a difficult moment," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "We prioritize Massachusetts families in need, ensure transparency in the program and lay the groundwork for long-term solutions to homelessness."

"I'm pleased that the Senate has passed this supplemental budget to provide funding and further clarify supportive services for unhoused families in the commonwealth," said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. "The Senate has largely concurred with the House in making these important but necessary changes to the family shelter system. These adjustments will allow families to transfer out of these temporary housing units more readily, continue our track of providing sustainable employment and provide a glide path for exiting the system."

Rodrigues continued, "This bill strikes a balance by supporting families in crisis, while responsibly managing taxpayer dollars as we redouble our efforts to move the EA shelter system towards a fiscally sustainable future. Going forward, this legislation also puts more stringent reporting requirements from the Administration, so the Legislature can continue to track and monitor the EA shelter program."

"I strongly oppose spending an additional \$425 million on the unaccountable, unsustainable EA shelter program," said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). "For years, I have sounded the alarm bell that the right to shelter law is in desperate need of reform. Yesterday, the Legislature embarrassed itself by loudly rejecting amendments to prioritize Massachusetts residents in shelters and to perform background checks. We've seen countless cases of rape, assault, drug trafficking and even death in the shelters."

Sen. Patrick O'Connor (R-Weymouth) said he voted against the bill, as he has voted against every spending bill that has included exorbitant funding for our shelter system since a migrant crisis emerged in late 2023. "Simply put, our state cannot afford to keep pouring massive sums of money into this unsustainable system," said O'Connor. "We need serious reforms to our EA shelter system and our Right to Shelter law, which is why I've also filed a bill to restrict the right to shelter to Massachusetts residents - as was the original intent of the law. It is my hope that we will achieve significant reforms to the EA shelter system that will ensure its long-term fiscal sustainability and protect this valuable resource for Massachusetts residents."

"For the last three years, the Senate and legislature has been spending billions of dollars for the shelter program riddled with active criminals, yet they still refuse to impose comprehensive background checks," said Paul Craney, executive director of the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. "How many more years will it take before the Legislature finally sees the value in national and international background checks is unknown. What is known is that the Senate is happy to join the House in spending more of our taxpayer money to bail out the failed shelter program."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill. A "No" vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

BROADER BACKGROUND CHECKS (S 16)

Senate 38-0, approved an amendment that would require the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Police, to study the feasibility of conducting a National Crime Information Center background check for each adult or

beneficiary applying for the emergency shelter program.

"It should be our goal to verify that individuals with violent criminal backgrounds are not endangering others in our temporary emergency shelter system," said amendment sponsor Sen. Michael Moore (D-Millbury). "If adopted, this amendment would help us review each applicant's history more thoroughly, including offenses from outside of the commonwealth."

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

PRIORITY TO BAY STATE RESIDENTS (S 15)

Senate 8-30, rejected an amendment that would require that the state prioritize giving long term shelter to legal Massachusetts residents whose initial cause of homelessness and application for shelter occurred while they were residing legally in Massachusetts."

Amendment supporters said it is fair to give Bay State residents priority over people who recently came here from other states.

Sen. Peter Durant (R-Spencer), the sponsor of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking him to comment on the defeat of his amendment.

Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport) said the amendment is extremely broad and applies not only to emergency assistance but to all state-funded housing programs. He noted it could cause confusion and negatively impact residents at state housing. He asked senators to imagine a single mother with a child fleeing a domestic violence situation in a neighboring state. This would prohibit them from seeking safe shelter in Massachusetts.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment giving priority to Massachusetts residents. A "No" vote is against giving priority.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

12-MONTH RESIDENCY REQUIRED (S 15)

Senate 6-32, rejected an amendment that would require that to be eligible for benefits under the emergency assistance shelter program, an applicant must have resided in Massachusetts for twelve consecutive months immediately prior to the date of their application. The applicant must also provide an acceptable form of verification such as tax returns; a MA REAL-ID; a utility bill; a lease or mortgage; or pay stubs showing Massachusetts employment. The residency requirement would *Continued on page 12*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



President's Day has come and gone once again.

Our View Of The Times



The President's Day holiday puts us in mind of those great leaders who governed throughout our country's tumultuous history: The American Revolution, the Civil War, two world wars, the Great Depression, the Civil Rights movement, Vietnam, and so on.

Greatness was thrust upon certain holders of that office by events that shaped their legacies, while others are

relegated to general obscurity due to a lack of conflict and controversy during their times in office. Each one's tenure in office should be regarded as equally important. In as much as big events could have elevated their place in history at a moment's notice.

The man or woman who assumes the role of Commander and Chief of our nation must be ready willing and able to rise

to the occasion when called upon to do so. Each one of us, whoever we may have supported in the past, has searched our hearts to determine who we feel will best fill those shoes every time we vote.

Most of us are confident that our favored candidates will be up to the task. Others see a lack of integrity or the skills required to do the job well among those who choose to run.

Let us hope that each holder of the office in the future will rise to the occasion and realize the potential they may have to become as great as the others who have gone before them. The right choices will be as important in the future as in any other time in our nation's history.

It's not an easy job, as everyone must surely realize. Let us on this day honor those who step up to that challenge.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Taylor, we hope she has a great day. Happy birthday to local realtor **Sammy Alves**, who is celebrating this week. We wish her a nice day. Happy birthday to a good guy, **Elio LoRusso**, who is celebrating this week as well. Happy Birthday to **Rod Kreimeyer**. We hope Rod has a great day. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Barbara L Amaral**, **Sheila Borges-Foley**, **Jason Rabin**, **David Tiger Williams**, **Lauren Daddio**, **Wayne A Fournier**, **Wayne A Fournier** and **Las Carolinas** a very happy birthday. To all those that are also celebrating this week, we wish a happy birthday.

Join **WCVB Channel 5 News Reporter Danae Bucci** kick off the **5th Annual Rolling Lunar New Year Celebration at Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. A free community celebration for all ages, **Sunday, February 23**, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., doors open at 11:20 a.m. By **Korean American Citizens League of New England**. Enjoy live performances, Korean food, games, drummers, lion dance and more.

Broadway Supper Club returns with an all new show. After a highly successful December debut, PR Productions is thrilled to announce the return of Broadway Sup-

per Club, an exciting live entertainment and dining experience celebrating the music and stories of Broadway performers. The next performance will take place on **Thursday, February 20**, at 8 p.m. at **Premiere on Broadway**, located at 517 Broadway, Somerville, MA. Tickets are available for \$35. The upcoming show will once again showcase an outstanding lineup of performers from both Boston and New York City, including **Peter Romagna**, **Marissa Miller**, **Morgan Billings Smith**, and **Joshua Pemberton**. The show offers an up-close experience with artists who have appeared in productions such as *The Sound of Music* on Broadway,

national tours of *Wicked*, *Miss Saigon*, and *Elf the Musical*, and at numerous theaters across the country. Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite and at www.premiereonbroadway.com.

Make Your Own Slime. Saturday, February 22, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m., **Central Library**, 79 Highland Ave. Have a gooey, messy good time making your own slime. All materials will be provided. This event is recommended for children age 6 and older.

Our condolences go out to the family of **Anne (Guilfoy)**

Continued on page 16

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#962

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Who was the first person born in the 21st century to win an Academy Award? | Constitution? |
| 2. What sport was featured on the first curved U.S. coin in 2014? | 7. Which instrument has forty-seven strings and seven pedals? |
| 3. What president implemented Social Security? | 8. Which game involves players drawing and guessing words? |
| 4. Which U.S. president went by the nickname "Dutch"? | 9. Which movie won the 2023 Academy Award for Best Picture? |
| 5. Which president has a middle initial that literally stands for nothing? | 10. Which company is known for the slogan "I'm Lovin' It"? |
| 6. Which Washington D.C. museum is home to the U.S. | 11. What element are diamonds made from? |
| | 12. Which two countries share the longest international border? |

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- The King of Hearts in a deck of cards has no mustache.
- Animals that lay eggs don't have belly buttons.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THE OSCARS

ACROSS

- 1/10
- European tourist tax, acr.
- "Germinal" author ...mile
- Bye, in Paris
- Bigheadedness
- Relating to wine, arch.
- Tabletop mountains
- H+, e.g.
- Large key on the right
- "___ Boys"
- "Emilia PÉrez" leading actress
- H in HMS, sometimes
- Kids' get-away
- Like certain Four
- Queen of Carthage
- Razzed
- Scary fairytale creature
- Soft drink
- Like certain egg order
- Sir Mix-____-____
- Sean Baker's original screenplay
- Loyal, arch.
- Caldecott award
- Ascus, pl.
- AI's learning material
- Harry ____, once of One Direction
- Wearing footgear
- At 2024 Oscars, Ryan Gosling sang "I'm Just ____"
- Sushi restaurant libation
- Unit of length of yarn
- This year's Academy Awards host
- Elphaba and Galinda story
- Antique shop item
- Metal-bearing rock
- Mountain nymph
- Southeast Asian org.
- Lavatory, abbr.
- ___ Theatre
- Whimper
- Sodium hydroxide
- Follow

- Scottish cap
- Barbara of "I Dream of Jeannie"
- Not yet final, at law
- Mold a mind
- Like ear of corn that is ready to cook
- Bride's cover
- Opposite of hence
- Polynesian kingdom
- Zn
- "I'm ___ you!"
- Property right
- Acronym, abbr.
- Evening worship
- "All My Children" vixen
- Invoice qty.
- Colossus, pl.
- Fizzes
- End of a shoelace
- "The Brutalist" leading actor
- Spanish lady
- Old, in Scottish
- Go stealthily
- Related on mother's side
- Chalame't's role
- Et alibi, abbr.
- St. Louis' Gateway
- Garlicky mayonnaise
- Acne, technically
- Famous frat house
- Crack
- Grassy mound
- Ohio metropolis
- Yorkshire river
- Tea or beer
- Iranian money
- We have
- Mature elvers
- Dabu-____, chili pepper condiment
- Operator's equip.
- Jamie Foxx won Best Actor in 2005 for this biopic
- Yellow #5, e.g.

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

CROSSWORD													
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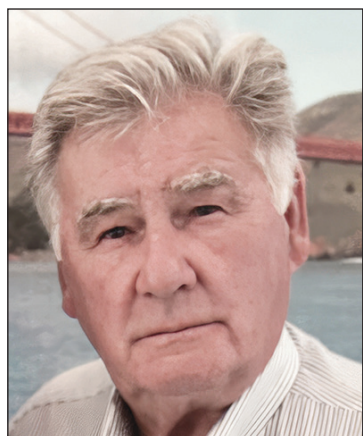
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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

F	A	R	A	D		N	B	A		S	H	A	D	
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OBITUARY

Joseph Aloysius Bryan



Joseph Aloysius Bryan

January 19, 1939 — February 17, 2025
Andover

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Joseph Aloysius Bryan III, who left us on February 17th, 2025, at the age of 86. Beloved husband of Linda Cecchini-Bryan of Andover, formerly of Somerville. Devoted father to Beth Bryan

of Florida, Ruth-Anne Bryan of Andover, Mack and his wife Kayla Bryan of Texas. Loving son of the late Ruth, Joseph, and Helen Bryan all of Medford. Grandfather of Tyler Almeida of Connecticut. Beloved brother of Neil Gillis and his late wife Peggy of Concord, Jane Gillis Ryle of Medford, Eileen Gillis of Revere, Nancy Russell and her late husband David of Maine. Predeceased by Ann Collins of Florida, Robert Gillis and his wife Kay of California and the late Maureen Chamberlain and her husband Stephen of Revere. Loving nephew of the late Thomas, Joseph, John, James, William, Robert, Genevieve Bryan, Helen Gillis, and Veronica Tracy. Adored uncle of countless nieces and nephews.

Sonny/Joe/Red was raised in Medford and as he would say “summer in Charlestown.” He was the best storyteller, the

funniest person in any room, and a man whose presence could light up even the darkest days. His quick wit, larger-than-life personality, and endless supply of jokes and tales made him unforgettable to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Joe dedicated his life to hard work and service, spending his career with the Teamsters Local 525, the City of Somerville DPW, and Joseph’s Transportation, where he drove his favorite ladies around town. Whether on the job or at home, he took pride in everything he did, always making those around him feel like family. Above all else, Joe was a devoted father, a loyal friend, and a man whose kindness and humor left an everlasting mark on the world. Though our hearts are heavy, we take comfort in the many stories, laughs, and memories he leaves behind.

He is now reunited with those who passed before him, no doubt sharing stories and laughter as he always did.

In honor of his memory, we encourage everyone to share a story, tell a joke, and spread a little of the joy he brought into this world. Rest easy, Sonny/Joe/Red. Your stories will live on forever

A visitation for Joe will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, from 4:00-8:00PM at Paul Buonfiglio and sons funeral Home 128 Revere Street, Revere, MA. A Funeral service will be Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:00AM, followed by Funeral mass at 11:00AM at Saint Anthony’s Church 250 Revere Street, Revere, MA.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation in Joe’s name to the American Kidney Foundation give.kidneyfund.org

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Vegan Cauliflower Gratin

This is a great recipe if you have a craving for a rich, dairy free, yet cheesy, and delicious substitute for the real thing. It’s so satisfying that you will want to go back for seconds!

- 1 Large Head of cauliflower, cut into florets
- 2 Tbs. Olive oil
- 1 Tsp. Kosher salt
- 1 Tsp. Freshly ground black pepper

The “Cheese” Sauce

- 2 Cups raw cashews
- 1/3 Cup nutritional yeast
- 1-3/4 Tsp. Kosher salt
- 3/4 Tsp. Granulated garlic
- 1 Tsp. Dijon mustard (such as Grey Poupon)
- Zest of one lemon
- 4 Tbs. Lemon juice

- 1/2-1/2 Tsp. Cayenne pepper, optional, but highly recommended
- Reserved soaking liquid from cashews (1-1/4) to (1-1/2) cups
- 1 Tbs. Vegan butter, butter the bottom and sides of a 13” x 9” baking dish
- 1/3 Cup panko bread crumbs

Boil about a quart of water, and add it to the 2 cups of cashews and cover by two inches. Let the cashews soak for 1/2 hour and set aside.

Preheat oven to 400°. Line a baking sheet with parchment. Wash and dry the cauliflower florets, and toss in the olive oil, salt, and pepper. Roast for about 20 minutes.

Drain the cashews and reserve the liquid. Add the cashews to the blender, add the nutritional yeast, salt, garlic, mustard, zest, lemon juice, cayenne, and about 1 cup of the reserved liquid.

Blend until incorporated. If the mixture is too thick, add more liquid until you get to a pancake consistency. Pre-



pare the baking dish, and add the roasted cauliflower and spread it out evenly.

Ladle 2 cups of the “cheese” mixture over the cauliflower and top with the Panko. Place into the oven for an additional 10-15 minutes until the Panko is slightly browned. The cheese recipe yields 3 cups. Use leftovers to top some pasta for a creamy mac and cheese,

or eggs Florentine and sprinkle some smoked paprika to garnish.

To reheat the cheese, add some hot water, a little at a time to the mixture. Place over the hot, poached eggs or add it to hot pasta. Serves 6–8.

Visit Dorothy’s website at <http://ddimarzo2002.wix.com/thymethief>.

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com
On Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

LEGAL NOTICES

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

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES (PCS) DEPARTMENT
RFS 25-50**

The City of Somerville, through its PCS Department, invites sealed responses for:

**Owner's Project Management Services
for the Design and Construction of the
New PreK-8 Winter Hill Community Innovation School**

The City seeks services of a qualified "Owner's Project Manager" (OPM) as defined in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 149, Section 44A½ and as further defined by the provisions of this RFS, to provide Project Management Services for the design and construction of the Winter Hill Community Innovation School in Somerville, Massachusetts ("Project").

The OPM will represent the City during the feasibility study and schematic design phases of the project initially. Subject to the approval of the Project by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "MSBA") and further subject to continued funding authorized by the City, the contract between the City and the OPM may be amended to include continued Project Management Services through design development, construction documents, bid and award, construction and final closeout of the potential Project. A potential approved Project may include a renovation of the existing school, a renovation and addition of the existing school and/or new construction. The estimated total project costs of an approved potential Project may range from \$125 million to \$150 million- dollars depending upon the solution that is agreed upon by the City and the MSBA and that is ultimately approved by a vote of the MSBA.

The RFS may be obtained on the PCS Department's website: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/procurement-and-contracting-services> on or after **Wednesday, February 19, 2025**. There will be a briefing session at the WHCIS at 115 Sycamore Street in Somerville on **Tuesday, February 25, 2025** at 11:00 a.m. Please confirm the time and location with the PCS Department by consulting the above referenced web page 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Responses will be received at the above office until **Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.** More details are available in the RFS. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please direct questions to Angela M. Allen, Chief Procurement Officer amallen@somervillema.gov or call 617-625-6600 ext. 3400.

2/19/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #25-51**

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

Security Monitoring for Schools and City Buildings

The bid package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, February 19th, 2025**. Sealed bids will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:30 PM, Wednesday, March 19th, 2025**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor informality in the bid process, and accept the bid(s) deemed to be in the best interest of the City of Somerville.

Please email tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov for more information.

Required: 5% Bid Deposit, DCAMM Certification and Update Statement for Electronic Security Systems, MA Prevailing Wages.

**Thupten Chukhatsang
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400**

2/19/25 The Somerville Times



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

**THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, March 4, 2025** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zlKxlP4R06tjgis8nM2Dw

Webinar ID: 822 0548 0435

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

HP25-00001 – 148 Morrison Avenue

Applicant: ThoughtCraft Architects LLC

Owner: M. Leighton Collis and Catherine Collis

The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter a LHD property by demolishing the rear portion of the building and constructing an attached addition.

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

HP24-000111 – 15 Chester Place

Applicant: Law Office of Richard G. DiGirolamo

Owner: Bronwyn & Anthony Mastrangelo

The Applicant seeks to demolish a building that is at least 75 years of age.

HP24-000119 – 60 Franklin Street

Applicant: Picker Construction- Pablo Picker

Owner: Shelley J. Milligan

The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

Case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>.

Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email historic@somervillema.gov to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email historic@somervillema.gov with inquiries.

2/12/25, 2/19/25 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.storage-treasures.com on **3/11/2025 at 12:00PM**. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Bijou Mengulwa unit #1432; Mikhael Twyman unit #1953; Susan Robinson unit #279B; Niangelinette Torres Jordan unit #4342. 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.

2/19/25 The Somerville Times



ADVERTISEMENT

SHA Job No. 2501: (AMP-1)

The **Somerville Housing Authority**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from contractors for the SHA Job No. 2501: (AMP-1) Mystic View Apartments Asphalt Shingle Roof Replacement Phase 4, for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville MA, in accordance with the documents prepared by EHA Design, Inc.

The Project consists of, but is not limited to: Furnish all labor, materials, equipment, and supervision necessary for the complete replacement of the shingle roofing at (AMP-1) Mystic View Apartments Asphalt Shingle Roof Replacement Phase 4, located on 5-15-25 River Road and 10-20-30 River Road, Somerville, MA 02145.

The work is estimated to cost: **\$430,000.00**.

All bidding "Requests For Information" (RFI's) shall be forwarded to Peterd@ehadesign.com by Friday, February 28, 2025 for general bids.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149. & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive and federal wage rates established by the Davis Bacon Wage Act and the Secretary of Labor, under the Provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations, as amended. The higher of the two rates shall be paid. The project is subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an online bidder. All bids shall be submitted online at www.biddocsonline.com, by the date and time specified.

General Bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) for the category of Roofing, and general bids must be accompanied by a DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility, and Update Statement.

General Bids will be received electronically at www.biddocsonline.com until **2:00 p.m., on Thursday, March 6, 2025**, and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five percent (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the **Somerville Housing Authority**. A one hundred percent (100%) Payment Bond will also be required.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at www.biddocsonline.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost) or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

A pre-bid conference / site visit will be held at the rear Modernization Office of the **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, Massachusetts 02145, on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 1:00pm**. It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders attend.

2/19/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB #25-41**

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

Central Hill Campus Korean and Vietnam Memorial Installation

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, February 19, 2025**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **2:00PM Wednesday, March 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 email Felisa Garate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required. Massachusetts Prevailing Wages apply.

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

2/19/25 The Somerville Times

LEGAL NOTICES

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

Probate and Family Court Department
Summons by Publication

SUFFOLK Division.

DOCKET NUMBER: SU25A0104SJ

Maryuri B. Gonzalez Musun
V.
Inmer E. Musun Garcia

A Complaint for Dependency filed on **January 29, 2025**, has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff, *Maryuri B. G. Musun* against the above-named Defendant, Inmer E.M. Garcia seeking a Judgment of Dependency with determination relative to Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, pursuant to G.L. c. 119, §39M. The said defendant cannot be found within the Commonwealth and his/her present whereabouts are unknown; personal service on said defendant is therefore not practicable. The said defendant has not voluntarily appeared in this action.

The Defendant is required to serve upon Plaintiff: *Maryuri B. G. Musun* or his/her attorney: *Kevin R. McCarthy*, Esq- 76 Canal St., Ste. 200, Boston, MA 02114, phone number: (617)-723-0011 his/her answer, if any, to the complaint, within 7 days after service of this summons upon him, exclusive of the day of service. The Defendant is also required to file an answer in the office of the Register of this Court at Suffolk Probate and Family Court, either before service upon plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, if represented by counsel, or within a reasonable time thereafter.

ORDER OF NOTICE

It is **ORDERED** that a copy of this summons be:

Served, with by publishing a copy of the summons in a Newspaper in Somerville, MA, a publication circulating in the geographical area where the Defendant is last known to have moved, at least Seven (7) days prior to hearing date.

This matter shall be scheduled for Administrative Hearing on March 6, 2025.

Witness, **Brian J. Dunn**, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this *31st day of January*

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register

2/19/25 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits on **Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 6:00 PM**, on a petition for a New Used Car Dealer Class 2 License and New Garage License:

Assembly Square Auto Sales, 37 Mystic Avenue, New Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, 1 vehicle inside and 18 vehicles outside, Monday - Sunday: 8am to 8pm and New Garage License, 1 vehicle inside, 18 vehicles outside for washing vehicles and storing unregistered vehicles, 7 days a week: 8am-8pm.

This meeting will be held by remote participation, using the Zoom Webinar platform.

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. To attend and be heard, enter the link exactly as it appears below into your internet browser. You will then be asked to register for the meeting.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/PTu-OS-WRgCqtoLMpkHFu0>
2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to publiccomments@somervillema.gov, or send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS
CITY CLERK

2/19/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #25-47

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

FY 2025 West Broadway Complete Streets Project

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **2/13/2025**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **03/06/2025 2:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

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

5% Bid Deposit required.

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

2/19/25 The Somerville Times

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

Lumentation ... just a click, snap and photo away

CONT. FROM PG 1

to everyone – from the professional to the first-time photographer.” They do this with classes, film development and scanning, and most importantly, through their commitment to growing and learning together with their customers.

Imaya was our cheerful tour guide, who expressed gratitude that all of the Lumentation staff, their students, and the customers in general come to photography in different ways. She explained Lumentation champions the idea that “anyone can get into it.” She explained that, “we are in a pretty unique position to see into their lives, before they do. The customers learn something new every time they come here. It is interesting to see our community graduate. If they started at disposable cameras, they want to dip their toe into their own camera and see them build their curiosity and skills. I have had people who I remember helping when I first started. Now, they are taking different photos.”

Imaya started working here after she graduated college in 2023. “I myself had no experience in film photography until I got my summer disposable cameras developed here after I graduated from college. In the email where they shared the scans,

they had (information about the Camera Basics) class.” That was her introduction to Jim DanDee, the owner. Jim has taught at Emerson and Boston University and has a movie making background. Javier Molina, Lab and Media Specialist, got interested in photography and film photography because of his older brother as a child. “He is from Florida. He has a different upbringing and perspective that he brings to the team.”

Besides the film fridge, a front desk for ordering and other film supplies like cameras and accessories, the current Your Moments projection mapping exhibit on display is the embodiment of Lumentation's approach of bringing the community into the fold. “This (exhibit) is based on the artists themselves choosing. We use a projection mapping tool to be able to broadcast the photos that we have developed here.” Your Moments represents the “highs to the lows” of 2024, including a still of the final moment of a New Year's Eve party and two landscape images of a salt marsh in Yarmouth, MA.

One of the goals of the owner is to keep analog film going. Imaya told us, “The fridges and this projection mapping exhib-



it speaks to Jim's goal of keeping this old photography practice alive in the modern era and merging new modern tools with analog, old way of taking photos. He is not anti-technology but how do we find a balance between the two to showcase film in new and exciting ways?”

I asked what the most interesting format that they are developing currently is. “We started doing 4x5 developing. One photo, one shot on one sheet (the size of maybe six 35 mm exposures). All the more detail. All the more you can blow this up (make it bigger without losing detail).”

Lumentation offers two classes. Camera

Basics covers everything to know about operating a manual camera. “How to understand exposure. To get to the right film choices. It is a real comprehensive class.” The second, B&W (Black and White) night is a hand developing class. “You bring a black and white roll that you shot. It is circle time. We develop it all together. Jim also goes through the process of home development yourself.”

Visit www.lumentation.com or the store at 219 Highland Avenue.

Note: this interview has been edited and condensed for clarity and brevity

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

not apply to victims of domestic violence or to any person whose living situation has been affected by a fire or other natural disaster that occurred in the Bay State.

Amendment supporters said the amendment is fair and reasonable and makes it easy to prove a 12-month residency.

Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester), the sponsor of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking him to comment on the defeat of his amendment.

Sen. Will Brownsberger (D-Belmont) said the amendment is unconstitutional and immoral. He said that the U.S. Supreme Court and the state's Supreme Judicial Court have ruled that a state cannot discriminate against people who have not lived in the state very long.

(A "Yes" vote is for the 12-month residency requirement. A "No" vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF SHELTER PROGRAM (S 15)

Senate 6-32, rejected an amendment that would have required an independent review of the emergency assistance housing program by the Inspector General, to help identify savings and potential cost recovery.

"Two things about the emergency assistance shelter system are clear. First, the costs have skyrocketed well beyond the point of sustainability, and second, we would benefit from fresh eyes and an independent review of the system to help improve the program's financial sustainability and effectiveness," said amendment sponsor Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham). "We need this review, particularly as additional changes are made to further restrict access to the system, even as we have not seen any cost savings by prior access restriction changes, perhaps because those further imposed rules and restrictions raise administrative costs. The Inspector General and his team are trained experts in this type of work, and it is squarely within their jurisdiction to do the work described in this amendment."

Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport) said the Inspector General's office is an independent body not beholden to the Legislature and already has the power to inspect any state agency. He said that it is not the role of the Legislature to direct the Inspector General on what to inspect.

(A "Yes" vote is for requiring the review. A "No" vote is against requiring it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

INVESTIGATE SECURITY LAPSES AND SHORTCOMINGS (S 15)

Senate 6-32, rejected an amendment that would require

the Senate Committee on Post Audit and Oversight to investigate the emergency housing assistance program's security lapses and shortcomings which amendment supporters say have compromised public safety, health and security.

"There are still so many unanswered questions about the emergency shelter system," said amendment sponsor Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). "We still don't have answers on the process to admit families into shelters, where money is being spent and how public safety issues are addressed. The purpose of the Senate Committee on Post Audit and Oversight is to audit the performance of legislative programs, like the emergency shelter system. This amendment would have provided transparency to both the Legislature and the public and it is unfortunate that it was not passed."

Amendment opponents said it's not the job of senators to direct a Senate committee on how to do its job. They noted that the bill itself already makes safety reform a priority and includes background checks.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment. A "No" vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

ADOPT JOINT HOUSE-SENATE RULES FOR 2025-2026 SESSION (S 15)

Senate 39-0, adopted and sent to the House for consideration joint House-Senate rules for the 2025-2026 session.

Provisions include increasing the time for notifying the public about joint committee hearings from 72 hours to five days; requiring that all first meetings of a conference committee be open to the public and media; requiring at least one full day between a conference committee report filing and a legislative vote on the report; requiring sponsors of all bills to submit bill summaries which must be made publicly available alongside the bill text; changing the name of the Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy to the Committee on Climate, Utilities and Energy; the Committee on Elder Affairs to the Committee on Aging and Independence; and the Committee on Agriculture to the Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries.

"These changes would provide more opportunity to residents to participate in the Legislature's work, encourage greater insight into bills being considered by the Legislature and provide more transparency on legislators' positions on issues that impact Massachusetts residents," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland).

"This comprehensive rule proposal was a collaborative effort that makes the work we do here in the Senate more transparent, more efficient and respectful to the needs of members and residents," said Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem), Chair of the Senate Committee on Rules. "We are proud of the Senate's work, and we want people to know what

is going on in The People's House. These measures take meaningful steps towards a more transparent Legislature and allow for more access to information by members of the public about our work, including easier participation."

(A "Yes" vote is for the rules package.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

MORE TIME TO READ CONFERENCE COMMITTEE BILLS (S 15)

Senate 5-33, rejected an amendment that would allow members 48 hours to read the conference committee version of a bill. A conference version of a bill is the compromise version that is hammered out by a joint House-Senate committee when the House and Senate approve different versions of legislation.

"I voted for this amendment ... because it ensures that both the appointed conference committee members and the public have sufficient time to understand and evaluate complex bills before they are voted on," said Sen. Kelly Dooner (R-Taunton). "By setting a clear deadline and allowing more time to analyze the final conference report, this change promotes transparency to the public and helps prevent the Legislature from acting without proper deliberation and input from our communities."

Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester), the sponsor of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking him to comment on the defeat of his amendment.

Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem) said the bill itself already allows one calendar day for members to read a conference committee bill and argued that it is a sufficient amount of time.

(A "Yes" vote is for the 48 hours. A "No" vote is against the 48 hours.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

REQUIRE ROLL CALL ON CONFERENCE COMMITTEE BILLS (S 15)

Senate 9-29, rejected an amendment that would require that a roll call vote be held on all conference committee versions of a bill.

"Constituents frequently ask how I have voted on major bills and how my colleagues have voted," said amendment sponsor Sen. John Keenan (D-Quincy). "This amendment sought to ensure the people we represent know how we vote on important matters like conference committee reports."

Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem) said this new rule is not necessary because members already have the opportunity to ask for a roll call vote when a conference committee bill comes before the Senate for a vote.

Continued on page 13

Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 12

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment requiring a roll call vote. A “No” vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

EXPAND CONFLICT OF INTEREST BAN (S 15)

Senate 38-0, approved an amendment to a rule that would prohibit legislators from purchasing, directly or indirectly, the stock or other securities of any corporation or association, knowing that there is pending before the Legislature any measure specially “granting the corporation or association any immunity, exemption, privilege or benefit or any measure providing for the creation of, or directly affecting any, contractual relations between the corporation or association and the state.”

The amendment would expand the ban to include any immediate family member of a legislator.

“Public service needs to be as far removed from unfair financial incentives and advantages as possible,” said amendment sponsor Sen. John Keenan (D-Quincy). “The commonwealth already prohibits legislators from buying stock based on the information they learn through their work at the Statehouse, but this amendment, which the Senate adopted on a unanimous roll call vote, will also prohibit legislators using this information to sell stock and will restrict their family members from making similar financial transactions based on knowledge legislators have gained as a result of their positions.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment expanding the ban to apply to immediate family members.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

AG CAMPBELL JOINS LAWSUIT TARGETING ELON MUSK

– Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell, along with twelve other Attorneys General, filed a lawsuit challenging the exercise of executive power by Elon Musk. The lawsuit argues that President Trump has violated the United States Constitution by creating a new federal Department without Congressional approval and by granting Musk sweeping powers over the entire federal government without seeking the advice and consent of the Senate.

“The President cannot create a new department to restructure the federal government and certainly cannot give unchecked power to a billionaire friend without Congressional action,” said Campbell. “Our lawsuit seeks to put an end to the ongoing corruption and abuse of power at DOGE that threatens funding for crucial needs such as healthcare, education and more.”

U.S. ATTORNEY LEAH FOLEY’S OFFICE COLLECTS MORE THAN \$60 MILLION IN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL ACTIONS

– United States Attor-

ney Leah Foley announced that the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Massachusetts collected \$60.17 million in criminal and civil actions in fiscal year 2024, including \$19.56 million in criminal actions and \$40.6 million in civil actions.

“The American people deserve a government that is both accountable and effective in protecting their hard-earned tax dollars,” said Foley. “These substantial recoveries reflect our unwavering commitment to protecting taxpayer dollars, holding wrongdoers accountable and securing justice for victims of fraud and other offenses. Whether through civil enforcement, asset recovery or criminal prosecution, our office will continue to aggressively pursue those who seek to defraud the government and exploit the public.”

\$158 MILLION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

– Gov. Maura Healey announced \$158 million in low-income housing tax credit and subsidy awards for fourteen affordable housing projects across the state. These awards are aimed at supporting the production and preservation of 1,138 affordable units for seniors and families across the state.

“High housing costs are one of the biggest challenges facing Massachusetts residents,” said Healey. “Our administration is refusing to kick the can down the road. We need to increase housing production across the state to lower costs – and these affordable housing awards will help us get there. Because of our tax cuts package, we are able to give out more funding than ever before, which will directly support the creation of more than 1,000 affordable homes for seniors and families across our state.”

EXCLUDE TIPS FROM TAXABLE INCOME

– Rep. Michael Soter (R-Bellingham) filed legislation that would exclude tipped wages from taxable income. The measure is aimed at providing tax relief for service industry workers who rely on tips as a major source of their earnings. Supporters said that by excluding tipped wages from state income tax calculations, the bill would allow workers in restaurants, hospitality and other tipped professions to take home more of their income.

“This last election, the service industry made it clear that they would rather keep tips than have the government set an hourly rate,” said Soter. “This is an industry full of hard-working individuals that deserve to keep all their hard-earned money by not taxing tips. These servers and the industry were hit the hardest after COVID, and this would give much relief to these hard-working citizens who deal with such unpredictable weekly incomes.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES – BY THE DOLLAR EDITOR

The state’s Office of Campaign and Political Finance released figures showing that committees that supported or opposed the five questions on the November 5 ballot spent a total of \$25.2 million. Here is the breakdown:

Question 1 (passed): Give State Auditor the Authority to Audit the Legislature
Supporters: \$414,808
Opponents: \$0

Question 2 (passed): Elimination of MCAS as High School Graduation Requirement
Supporters: \$950,000
Opponents: \$5,318,258

Question 3 (passed) Unionization for Uber, Lyft and other Transportation Network Drivers
Supporters: \$7,259,067
Opponents: \$0

Question 4 (failed) Limited Legalization and Regulation of Some Natural Psychedelic Substances
Supporters: \$7,723,405
Opponents: \$128,803

Question 5 (failed) Minimum Wage for Tipped Workers
Supporters: \$889,526
Opponents: \$2,515,568

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 Feb. 10-14, the House met for a total of eight minutes while the Senate met for a total of 15 hours and 59 minutes.

Mon Feb. 10 House 11:03 a.m. to 11:09 a.m.
Senate 11:30 a.m. to 11:57 a.m.

Tues. Feb. 11 No House session
No Senate session

Wed. Feb. 12 No House session
Senate 11:05 a.m. to 8:05 p.m.

Thurs. Feb. 13 House 11:02 a.m. to 11:04 a.m.
Senate 10:04 a.m. to 4:36 p.m.

Fri. Feb. 14 No House session
No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Billie Eilish | 7. Harp |
| 2. Baseball | 8. Pictionary |
| 3. Franklin D. Roosevelt | 9. Everything Everywhere All at Once |
| 4. Ronald Reagan | 10. McDonald's |
| 5. Harry S. Truman | 11. Carbon |
| 6. The National Archives in Washington, DC | 12. Canada and the U.S. |

Somerville Community Path lighting bids under evaluation

By Jeffrey Shwom

The unlit stretches of the Somerville Community Path Extension on both sides of East Somerville Station may see a brighter tomorrow, as the City of Somerville closed solicitations by contractors to install nighttime lighting. According to the Closed Bids listed on The Procurement and Contracting Services Division's website, solicitation for "Community Path Extension – Additional Lighting" along a half mile stretch is under review. The estimated cost of the contract is \$580,000. Work could commence as soon as March. As of print time, city officials had yet to respond, with the city website stating "under evaluation."

From the Bid Package [1], the scope of work includes construction services to install "luminaires along approximately 2600 feet of the path to be attached underneath the existing rub rails along the fence separating the path from the railroad." Heading towards Boston, the area starts on the Walnut Street side of the McGrath Highway overpass and extends to Poplar Street, near the start of the bridge that goes up over the Union Square Green Line (GLX) track, near the Brickbottom Artists Building. Some parts of the area are currently unlit at night, making travel hazardous and especially when the path has snow or ice.

"We need them so much!" exclaimed Rebecca, a Ball Square resident and fre-



Bids are being accepted for improvements to the lighting on Somerville's Community Path.

— Photo by Bobbie Toner



— Photo by Jeffrey Shwom

quent bike path commuter. "I feel safe walking alone except in the very dark spots and for biking, I slow down because I am afraid of hitting a pedestrian who doesn't wear lights or reflective gear."

The contract designs were prepared with engineer Arup US, Inc., the same firm who, according to their website [2], created the "assessment report providing recommendations that shaved 19 months off the (GLX) schedule and reduced the estimated project's cost by \$700M."

As previously reported [3] in 2022, the lights got value-engineered out of the MBTA project but Somerville city officials foreshadowed that once they took control of the Community Path

post-completion of the Green Line station, lighting would be installed. Other items deemed too expensive when the project price tag dropped from \$3 billion to \$2.3 million included the glass structures for the stations.

Links:

[1] <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing/bids/ifb-25-22>

[2] <https://www.arup.com/projects/mbta-green-line-extension/>

[3] <https://mass.streetsblog.org/2022/09/12/photos-a-construction-tour-of-somervilles-community-path-and-new-light-rail-line>

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of *The Somerville Times* do not reflect the views and opinions of *The Somerville Times*, its publishers or staff. Readers are invited to send letters to the editor to *The Somerville Times*. Please email your letters to News@TheSomervilleTimes.com or mail them to 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. *The Somerville Times* Reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and length. All letters must include an name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

Community Generosity in Somerville

February 2025

Dear Editor,

Somerville residents, your generosity in 2024 was extraordinary! Together, you

donated over 875 thousand pounds of clothing and household goods to Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries, a community-based nonprofit organization.

Last year, Goodwill served more than 6,600 people in its job training programs and career services, helping individuals facing barriers find jobs and create new lives.

Donating to Goodwill is an easy way to reuse and recycle, and it provides those who need to stretch their budgets in today's economy access to quality goods at affordable prices. Your donations make a difference.

Please continue to bring your gently used clothing and household items to the

attended trailer inside the Goodwill store, at 230 Elm Street in Somerville. (open 10 am to 5 pm daily)

Thank you for supporting Goodwill!

Joanne K. Hilferty
President and CEO
Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Twardzik. Anne is the mother of one of our own reporters, **Cathleen Twardzik.** We wish them peace and comfort as they grieve their loss. She will be missed by many.

The **Somerville Public Schools** conducts **preschool screenings** for children 3 to 5 years old who live in Somerville. These screenings check a child's development and help identify children who may need further evaluation for special education services. Participation in the screening process is free and optional for parents. Details: **February 26**, and **April 30**, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., **Capuano Early Childhood Center**, 150 Glen St. Screenings are by appointment only and for Somerville residents. Fill out the online Screening Intake Form <https://forms.gle/wBDGVxziMH5ZQdua9>. (The form should take 2–5 minutes to complete.) Register by phone at (617) 629-5670 ext. 3657.

The city is holding **COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Clinics**: **Thursday, February 20**, at the **Council on Aging** (167 Holland St.) from 4:30 to 6 p.m. **Thursday, February 27**, at the **SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs** (42 Cross St.) from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Learn more and register here <https://www.somervillema.gov/vaccinations>.

The **Somerville Commission for Women (SCW)** seeks five members, and Somerville residents are encouraged to apply. The SCW serves as a centralizing force in the **City of Somerville** and the community which will deal with all women's issues providing information, referral, guidance, and more to public agencies and organizations engaged in activities and programs intended to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against women because of their status as women or minority women. All applications are due **Friday, March 21**. Interested candidates should submit a statement of interest by email to sflythe@somervillema.gov or by mail to **Steven Flythe, Deputy Director, Department of Racial and Social Justice**, City of Somerville, 167 Holland Street, Suite 208, Somerville, MA 02144. Please contact Steven Flythe at 781-808-7502 or sflythe@somervillema.gov with questions.

The **Rás na hÉireann USA 5K**, takes place, **Sunday, March 16**, 11 a.m. Rás

na hÉireann is the most genuine Irish race this side of the Atlantic. Everyone is invited to Somerville, all runners and walkers, to celebrate life, the coming of spring, and to enjoy a memorable race and St. Patrick's Day celebration. The **Ras na hÉireann U.S.A. 5Km** is open to all, from beginners to international stars. To register visit: <https://www.theraceofireland.com/>.

State health officials are informing the public that **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza**, which rarely infects humans, is suspected to be affecting wild and domestic birds in several Massachusetts municipalities. Here are precautionary steps you can take: Avoid handling birds and other wildlife and keep dogs and pets leashed and away from wildlife. Learn more and stay up to date on state guidance: <https://www.mass.gov/news/state-officials-provide-updated-guidance-on-suspected-avian-flu-cases-reported-across-massachusetts>.

The **Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC)** and **Families First** are partnering to offer the **Power of Parenting**, a free 12-week program connecting parents and caregivers of children ages 3 to 8. Learn about your child's developmental stages and behaviors, strengthen your caregiving skills, and discover self-care techniques. Programs begin **March 4**. Learn more and apply now: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLS-fgFd1kLIE91KxC8QLMQYt01fW-wQZEOJy6Irm185zeczYVWmHw/viewform>.

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**.

Winter can stretch budgets to the breaking point. With increased costs for food, heating, housing, and transportation, many Massachusetts families are facing tough choices. If you or your family need help accessing food, don't wait – call **Project Bread's** toll-free **FoodSource Hotline** today at 1-800-645-8333.

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 pre-

liminary 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.). Contact 311 (617-666-3311) with any questions.

Made In Massachusetts, a 3+ hour chronological journey through over 100 years of filmmaking in Massachusetts will screen on **Sunday, March 9**, at 1:00pm at the **Somerville Theatre** in Davis Square, Somerville. MIM features clips from over 200 movies and television shows shot in the state starting with films from the silent era and going all the way through 2024. Highlighting cities and towns from Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville to Concord, Martha's Vineyard, Great Barrington, and everywhere in-between. Featuring stars from James Cagney, Elizabeth Taylor, Steve McQueen, and Paul Newman to Harrison Ford, Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds, Kerry Washington, and all the Afflecks and Wahlbergs you can handle. Admission is free, with donations gladly accepted to support the Independent Film Festival Boston (IFFBoston). Q&A with filmmakers **Adam Roffman** and **Vatche Arabian** to follow.

Important tips for **staying safe and warm** in the current cold weather: 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).

Join the **Growing Center** for the **Maple Boil Down** and experience the process of boiling sap into maple syrup. Learn

the process from the tapping of maple trees at **Tufts University** to the making of maple syrup. Connect with other folks in the community. Get into the spirit and order your t-shirt ahead of time at bit.ly/fcgc-store. This event is free and open to all. **Saturday, March 1**, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., **Somerville Community Growing Center**, 22 Vinal Ave, Somerville. Rain Date **Saturday, March 8**.

The **SHS Athletics Department** honored **Jerry Knight** as the first inductee to the **Somerville High School Athletics Ring of Honor**. He was chosen for his amazing contributions to the Somerville High School athletic community. Watch the video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pk7OTv7Es>.

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**, running through **February 28**. **Brickbottom Artists Association**, 1 Fitchburg St., Somerville, MA. <https://brickbottom.org/>.

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**.

LEGO® Brick's 67th Birthday and **LEGO Discovery Center Boston** is celebrating by launching a brand-new event called **LEGO Creativity Academy through March 3**. Event URL and tickets: <https://www.legodiscoverycenter.com/boston/whats-inside/events/creativity-academy/>.

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).

The **Somerville Homeless Coalition** invites you to join them for a special celebration on **Thursday, March 27**, at 6 p.m., **Crystal Ballroom**, 55 Davis Sq, as they commemorate

Book review: 'The Woman in Cabin 10' by Ruth Ware

By Dennis Fischman

There's a name we in the Somerville Public Library's mystery book group [1] have given to a certain type of mystery novel. We call it "a murder cabin."

The murder cabin is a descendant of a type of classic mystery from the Golden Age of Mystery, a hundred years ago. In those celebrated novels, a group of people have been collected in an isolated place: on an island, as in Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* [2], or in a country house [3] (like Peter Wimsey's family home, Riddlesdale Lodge, in *Clouds of Witness* [4]). Somebody gets killed – perhaps, more than one – and only the people in that place can be the suspects.

Today, in the age of cell phones and the internet, it's harder to keep your suspects in one place and prevent them from conspiring with outsiders (or calling for help!) You must invent a weather disaster that makes communication impossible. Or, the one who severs all the electronic connections with the outside world has to be the murderer.

The contemporary murder cabin mystery also shares some features with (oddly enough) the

contemporary cozy mystery [5]. The heroine and sleuth tends to be a young-ish woman, working in a small shop or a niche field. Her love life is a mess. And she gets thrown into solving the mystery either to clear her own name, or that of a friend, when the legal authorities are on the wrong trail.

These days, the mistress of the murder cabin thriller is author Ruth Ware. Back in 2015, she wrote *In a Dark, Dark Wood* [6], with a group of friends on vacation in the English countryside. When one of them is murdered, they are stuck with one another until they figure out whodunnit. Let me say that the murderer is the type of personality I think I might have met once or twice in real life and feel grateful never to have rubbed the wrong way (shivering). I disliked pretty much all the characters but still wanted to know what had happened, and all the clues were there in case I had been smart enough to put them together properly.

Ware followed up her debut novel with *The Woman in Cabin 10* [7]. This time, the cabin is not a log structure in the woods but a suite on a luxury liner, heading out from Britain into the North Sea.

One of the guests is Lo (Laura)

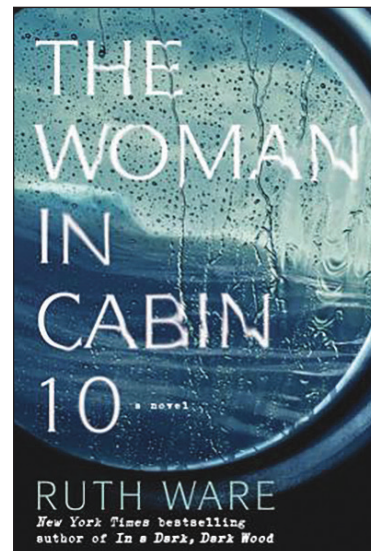
Blacklock, an aspiring journalist who has taken a turn in her career and works for a travel magazine.

One of the guests is a woman whom Lo meets her first night on board, and never again. This bothers Lo tremendously, because the owner, the captain, the security chief, the staff, and all the other guests say they've never seen the woman she's talking about. And, that first night, outside the mystery woman's cabin, Lo heard the sound of a splash...

One of the guests is not who they seem to be. And at least one of them is a murderer.

As with the previous book by Ruth Ware, I enjoyed this one and wouldn't stop reading it until the end. Lo Blacklock, despite multiple problems with mental health and addiction, was someone I could care about (and I'm pleased to see that for the first time ever, Ware has returned to one of her characters – Lo stars in *The Woman in Suite 11* [8], to be released in 2025).

Still, I felt the book could have been trimmed by about a quarter if Ware could resist telling us in detail about how it feels to have a monster hangover or having your head bashed against



The Woman in Cabin 10, by Ruth Ware. Thorndike Press, 2016, 515 pages (large print).

a wall, etc. But that is my taste, and I know other members of the book group who want to follow the *Perils of Pauline* – sorry, the low points of *Lo Blackstock* – in detail. Whether your tastes are more like theirs or like mine, however, this book will keep you flipping the pages.

Links:

- [1] <https://www.somerville-publiclibrary.org/adults/book-social-groups>
- [2] https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/16299-And_Then_There_Were_None?ac=1&from_



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

[search=true&qid=NMuFyjM-WO1&rank=1](https://www.goodreads.com/search=true&qid=NMuFyjM-WO1&rank=1)

[3] <https://crimereads.com/the-enduring-appeal-of-the-country-house-murder/>

[4] https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/192888-Clouds_of_Witness

[5] <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/131574>

[6] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/27834600-in-a-dark-dark-wood>

[7] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/30002384-the-woman-in-cabin-10>

[8] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/220161593-the-woman-in-suite-11>

Move over Duke Ellington - big band funk

With the TVs turned off, and the horns and brass held high, the crowd at Sally O'Brien's took in the BT / ALC Big Band (www.btalc.com) for two sets of big band funk and soul. A 12-piece band led by Brian Thomas and Alex Lee Clark, every Second Thursday. The bar and music venue features residencies of long time Somerville and Cambridge bands like The White Owls (Dennis Brennan), Dub Apocalypse (a former mainstay at the since closed Bull McCabe's) and the Gravel Project (every third Thursday). Visit www.sallyobriensbar.com for showtimes and menu.

— By Jeffrey Shwom



SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Medical Equipment Program – Through the generosity of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and from the direction of Mayor Balantyne, the Council on Aging can provide Durable Medical Equipment at no cost to Somerville residents. Residents with a documented need for medical equipment must be over the age of 60, or have a permanent disability, and must be otherwise unable to afford or access needed medical equipment. We currently have available: Commodes, Bath Benches, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies and Transport Wheelchairs (wheelchairs are intended for transport and are not self-propelling or self-breaking.) For additional information, or for an application, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Lockboxes for Seniors – What is the Lockboxes for Seniors program? The Lockboxes for Seniors program is intended to provide Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) access to your residence in the event of an emergency where you are unable to open the door. A key to your residence will be stored in a secure metal storage device, like a realtor's lockbox, at your residence. The access code to the lockbox will only be available to Police, Fire, or EMS personnel and used only during an emergency. Who is eligible? The program is targeted towards Somerville community members who live alone and are aged 65+, or those who are disabled and/or suffer from major medical illness at any age. Individuals living in apartment complexes or other facilities with maintenance staff are not eligible for this program. How do I know this is safe? A member of the Somerville Fire Department will install and demonstrate how the lockbox operates and answer any questions you may have. The four-digit combination on the lockbox will only be available to 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 email 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.

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 ses-

sion will focus on different topics related to internet use and safety.

Knitting Group – Tuesday, February 25th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@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 afternoon! 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 began 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 meghan.ostrander@eldercare.org. Please contact SCES as soon as possible if you need special assistance to obtain the book.

Coffee & Conversation Groups – Every Monday in February from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. And Every Thursday in January at the Holland Street Center from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Join us for this staff-led discussion group which covers a range of topics thought up by participants. This is a friendly group, where all topics are discussed respectfully. RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

Looking for a location to chat with your friends? – Come to the COA on Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., the senior center is open, and the coffee is on as we wait for the start of Bingo.

Bingo – Tuesday, February 25th at our Ralph & Jenny Center – starting at 10:00 a.m. Lunch is available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Bingo – Thursday, February 20th & 27th starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Veteran's Group – Tuesday, February 25th at

our Holland Street Center starting at 10:30 a.m. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Book Club – Meets the 3rd Friday of each month (February 21st) starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Do you love books and want to discuss your love of reading with others? Consider joining the Book Club. The group meets in person and concurrently via Zoom. To RSVP or to inquire about the book club selection please call Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov as space is limited.

Brown Bag Supplemental Food Program – PICK UP Thursday, February 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. For an application contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

General Nutrition Class – Mondays, February 24th from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. via Zoom and 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in person at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Wednesdays, February 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th in person at our Holland Street Center from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. RSVP to Mary Marshall by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2316 or email Mary at Headtofitness10@yahoo.com.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Follow the Somerville Council on Aging on Instagram! You can find us under the Instagram handle: somervillecouncilonaging 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, FEBRUARY 19

7:00 AM MLK Celebration & Panel Discussion
 8:30 AM COA: General Seated Exercise #2
 9:00 AM National Donor Day 2025
 9:30 AM Finance Committee Meeting 2-11-25
 11:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 12:00 PM School Committee Meeting 2-3-25
 3:30 PM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 4:00 PM Construction Advisory Group Meeting
 6:30 PM Community Meeting: Public Safety
 8:00 PM National Donor Day 2025
 8:30 PM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 9:00 PM Construction Advisory Group Meeting
 11:30 PM SomerViva em Português

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

12:00 AM School Committee Meeting 2-3-25
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice III
 8:00 AM National Donor Day 2025
 8:30 AM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 9:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
 9:35 AM Finance Committee Meeting 2-11-25
 11:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality
 12:30 PM City Council Meeting 2-13-25
 4:00 PM National Donor Day 2025
 4:30 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner
 6:00 PM SomerViva em Português
 6:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting 2-11-25
 8:15 PM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
 8:45 PM City Council Meeting 2-13-25

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

8:00 AM WSNS 2025 Winter Concert
 9:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Methuen
 11:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Lynn
 12:33 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 1:30 PM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Latin Academy
 3:00 PM SHS Varsity Swim vs Medford
 4:00 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 5:00 PM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 6:30 PM SHS Class Cup Olympics
 7:00 PM WSNS 2025 Winter Concert
 8:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Methuen
 10:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Methuen

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

12:00 AM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Latin Academy
 1:30 AM SHS Class Cup Olympics
 2:00 AM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 8:00 AM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Framingham
 9:30 AM SHS Hockey vs Keefe Tech
 11:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Peabody
 12:30 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 1:30 PM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Lynn Classical
 3:00 PM SHS Varsity Swim vs Medford
 4:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Haverhill
 6:00 PM SHS Class Cup Olympics
 6:30 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett
 9:00 PM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Framingham
 10:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Keefe Tech

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality
 12:30 AM MLK Celebration & Panel Discussion
 2:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 7:00 AM Central Somerville Ave. Public Meeting
 9:00 AM Community Meeting: Public Safety
 10:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
 11:00 AM 2025 Midterm Ceremonies & Mayoral Address
 12:25 PM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
 1:00 PM School Committee Meeting 2-3-25
 4:30 PM Community Meeting: Public Safety
 6:00 PM MLK Celebration & Panel Discussion
 7:30 PM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 8:00 PM National Donor Day 2025
 8:30 PM Construction Advisory Group Meeting
 11:00 PM Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality
 11:30 PM Mental Health Matters: Veterans

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

12:00 AM Museum of Bad Art Tour
 1:00 AM National Donor Day 2025
 1:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 2:00 AM Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 7:00 AM COA: General Seated Exercise
 7:30 AM Community Mtg on Davis Sq Area Public Safety 10-9-24
 9:10 AM Finance Committee Meeting 2-11-25
 11:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
 11:30 AM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 12:00 PM School Committee Meeting 2-3-25
 3:30 PM Mental Health Matters: Veterans
 4:00 PM MLK Celebration & Panel Discussion
 5:30 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 6:00 PM 2025 Midterm Ceremonies

& Mayoral Address
 7:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting 2-11-25
 9:25 PM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
 10:00 PM Community Meeting: Public Safety
 11:30 PM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

12:00 AM City Council Meeting 2-13-25
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
 8:00 AM COA: General Seated Exercise #2
 8:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 9:00 AM National Donor Day 2025
 9:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
 10:00 AM MLK Celebration & Panel Discussion
 11:30 AM Mental Health Matters: Veterans
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality
 12:30 PM Community Meeting: Public Safety
 2:00 PM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 2:30 PM Domestic Violence Vigil 2024
 3:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
 4:05 PM Construction Advisory Group Meeting
 6:30 PM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality
 7:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
 8:00 PM National Donor Day 2025
 8:30 PM City Council Meeting 2-13-25

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality
 12:30 AM Central Somerville Ave. Public Meeting #5 12-16-24
 7:00 AM COA: General Seated Exercise
 7:30 AM SomerViva em Português

8:00 AM National Donor Day 2025
 8:30 AM Mental Health Matters: Veterans
 9:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 2-11-25
 11:00 AM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 11:30 AM School Committee Meeting 2-3-25
 3:00 PM MLK Celebration & Panel Discussion
 4:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
 5:00 PM National Donor Day 2025
 7:00 PM School Committee Meeting - LIVE
 10:30 PM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 11:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

12:00 AM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2024
 1:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
 2:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 2-11-25
 7:00 AM Community Meeting: Public Safety
 8:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
 9:00 AM Construction Advisory Group Meeting
 11:30 AM National Donor Day 2025
 12:00 PM City Council Meeting 2-13-25
 3:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
 4:00 PM Mental Health Matters: Veterans
 4:30 PM Museum of Bad Art Tour
 5:30 PM Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality
 6:00 PM Construction Advisory Group Meeting
 8:30 PM School Committee Meeting 2-24-25

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality
 12:30 AM Central Somerville Ave. Public Meeting #5 12-16-24
 2:30 AM SomerViva em Português

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

8:00 AM WSNS 2025 Winter Concert
 9:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Methuen
 11:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Lynn
 12:33 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 1:30 PM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Latin Academy
 3:00 PM SHS Varsity Swim vs Medford
 4:00 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 5:00 PM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 6:30 PM SHS Class Cup Olympics
 7:00 PM WSNS 2025 Winter Concert
 8:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Methuen
 10:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Methuen

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

12:00 AM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Latin Academy
 1:30 AM SHS Class Cup Olympics
 2:00 AM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 8:00 AM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Framingham
 9:30 AM SHS Hockey vs Keefe Tech
 11:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Peabody
 12:30 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 1:30 PM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Lynn Classical
 3:00 PM SHS Varsity Swim vs Medford
 4:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Haverhill
 6:00 PM SHS Class Cup Olympics
 6:30 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett
 9:00 PM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Framingham
 10:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Keefe Tech

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

12:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Peabody
 1:30 AM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 2:30 AM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Lynn Classical
 8:00 AM WSNS 2025 Winter Concert
 9:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Haverhill
 11:00 AM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Cambridge
 12:30 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 1:30 PM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Latin Academy
 3:00 PM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 4:30 PM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Framingham
 6:00 PM WSNS 2025 Winter Concert
 7:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Methuen
 9:00 PM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Cambridge
 10:30 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 11:30 PM SHS Class Cup Olympics

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

1:00 AM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 2:30 AM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Framingham
 8:00 AM WSNS 2025 Winter Concert
 9:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Haverhill
 11:00 AM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Framingham
 12:30 PM SHS Class Cup Olympics
 1:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Plymouth N
 2:30 PM SHS Varsity Swim vs Medford
 3:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Keefe Tech
 5:00 PM SHS Class Cup Olympics
 6:00 PM WSNS 2025 Winter Concert

7:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Haverhill
 9:00 PM SHS Class Cup Olympics
 10:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Plymouth N

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

12:00 AM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Framingham
 1:30 AM SHS Hockey vs Keefe Tech
 3:00 AM SHS Class Cup Olympics
 8:00 AM SHS Class Cup Olympics
 8:30 AM SHS Hockey vs Methuen
 10:05 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Plymouth N
 12:00 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 1:00 PM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song
 2:30 PM Brown School 2025 Winter Concert
 3:30 PM SHS Class Cup Olympics
 4:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Methuen
 6:00 PM SHS Class Cup Olympics
 6:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Methuen
 8:05 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Plymouth N
 10:00 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 11:00 PM SHS Chorus: An Evening of Song

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

12:30 AM Brown School 2025 Winter Concert
 1:30 AM SHS Class Cup Olympics
 2:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Methuen
 8:00 AM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Framingham
 9:30 AM SHS Hockey vs Keefe Tech
 11:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Peabody
 12:30 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren

1:30 PM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Lynn Classical
 3:00 PM SHS Varsity Swim vs Medford
 4:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Haverhill
 6:00 PM SHS Class Cup Olympics
 7:00 PM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Framingham
 8:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Keefe Tech
 10:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Peabody
 11:30 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

12:30 AM SHS Girls' Basketball vs Lynn Classical
 8:00 AM WSNS 2025 Winter Concert
 9:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Haverhill
 11:00 AM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Framingham
 12:30 PM SHS Class Cup Olympics
 1:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Plymouth N
 2:30 PM SHS Varsity Swim vs Medford
 3:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Keefe Tech
 5:00 PM SHS Class Cup Olympics
 6:00 PM WSNS 2025 Winter Concert
 7:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Haverhill
 9:00 PM SHS Boys' Basketball vs Framingham
 10:30 PM SHS Class Cup Olympics
 11:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Plymouth N
 12:30 AM SHS Varsity Swim vs Medford
 1:30 AM SHS Hockey vs Keefe Tech
 3:00 AM SHS Class Cup Olympics



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week



Q: My boyfriend and I want to move in together. Can a landlord refuse to rent to us because we're not married?

A: "Marital status" is a protected class under the Fair Housing laws. Except if you are looking to rent an apartment in a two-family house that the landlord lives in, they cannot discriminate against you because you're not married. And that goes for same-sex or opposite-sex couples, or any other configuration..

The 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.



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Want to write local Somerville stories?
Call **857-488-5138** and speak to the Assignment Editor

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Door to another world...

— Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What do you call a bee that lives in America?
A USB

On This Day in History

February 19

- 1408 – The revolt of Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, against King Henry IV, ends with his defeat and death at Bramham Moor.
- 1807 – Vice President Aaron Burr is arrested in Alabama for treason. He is later found innocent.
- 1847 – Rescuers finally reach the ill-fated Donner Party in the Sierras.
- 1902 – Smallpox vaccination becomes obligatory in France.
- 1925 – President Calvin Coolidge proposes the phasing out of inheritance tax.
- 1926 – Dr. Lane of Princeton estimates the earth's age at one billion years.
- 1965 – Fourteen Vietnam War protesters are arrested for blocking the United Nations' doors in New York.
- 1966 – Robert F. Kennedy suggests the United States offer the Vietcong a role in governing South Vietnam.
- 1981 – The U.S. State Department calls El Salvador a "textbook case" of a Communist plot.

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SCES nutrition department to host events in honor of National Nutrition Month

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services' nutrition team will once again lead a series of workshops and events in March in recognition of National Nutrition Month. Nutrition team staff members will host two Food Safety Bingo events at the Somerville and Cambridge Senior Centers to educate the community about important food safety protocols in a fun, interactive way. Participants will have the opportunity to win prizes during these "lunch & learn" events.

Food Safety Bingo

Tuesday, 3/18, 11 a.m., Cambridge Senior Center, 806 Mass Ave. Thursday, 3/20, 11:30 a.m., Somerville Senior Center, 167 Holland St.

Reservation information: Please call 617-349-6047 by 11 a.m. on March 13th to reserve lunch for the 3/18 event at the Cambridge Senior Center. Please call 617-625-6600 ext. 2323 to reserve lunch for the 3/20 event at the Somerville Senior Center. Lunch is free, although voluntary donations are appreciated; \$3 is suggested.

SCES Dietitian Consultation Hours

Thursday, 3/27, 1-4 p.m., Somerville Senior Center, 167 Holland St.

Monday, 3/31, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Cambridge Senior Center, 806 Mass Ave.

Reservation information: To participate in these drop-in sessions, please call Andrea Svartstrom at 617-628-2601 ext. 3054 to reserve a time slot as limited sessions are available.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 16

40 years of service to the Somerville and Greater Boston community. Enjoy specialty cocktails, delicious delights from local favorites **Redbones** and **Dave's Fresh Pasta**, and vibrant live music to sway to by **West of Willows** and **The Loomers**. <https://somervillehomeless-coalition.org/events/>.

This year's **Community Gospel Choir concert** will take place **Sunday, February 23, 5 p.m.** at the **Somerville Community Baptist Church**, 31 College Avenue, two blocks from the Davis Square T-station. The theme of this year's concert is "**Heaven.**" The singers will be accompanied by an ensemble of professional jazz musicians and the concert will be emceed by **Medford's former Poet Laureate Terry E. Carter**. For more information, see www.ilovescbc.org.

SCES is teaming up with **City Fresh Foods** to offer a five-pack of **frozen home delivered meals**. This new meal delivery option is ideal for consumers who want the convenience of home delivered meals but are not able to be at home each weekday to receive deliveries. Meal recipients can choose which weekday they would like to receive the frozen meals, with up to five meals in each bulk delivery. Each meal comes with bread, milk, and a dessert. Current SCES clients who are interested in receiving meals should call their office at 617-628-2601 or contact their case manager for more information.

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 somerville-ma.gov/heatin-gassistance.

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://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 and click on the button for your preferred language. Step-by-step sign-up instructions are available at: 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.

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 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

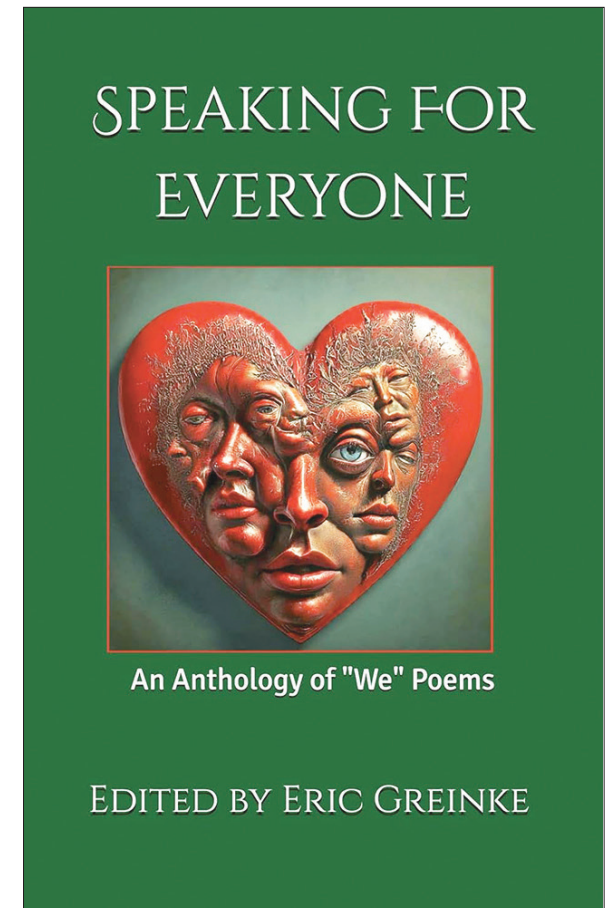
Speaking for Everyone: An Anthology of "We" Poems

Speaking For Everyone
An Anthology of "We" Poems
Edited by Eric Greinke
Amazon
ISBN: 9798332054433
181 Pages

Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Dennis Daly

Use of the third person plural in poetry not only draws the writer away from the overly fashionable confessional style of versifying but adds a sense of universality and transcendence to the wordcraft. The ability to connect the emotions and thoughts of a multitude suggests either deep arrogance (in bad poetry) or collective insight and consciousness (in good poetry). There are obvious pitfalls. For instance, "we" could simply be used as a metaphor for "I." Or the writer may project his revelations onto others without any real sapience. Eric Greinke's masterfully edited anthology entitled *Speaking For Everyone* avoids the pitfalls of this genre and, in his inspired choices of good poetry, bonds together the fears and hopes and commonalities inherent in the nature of mankind.

Greinke's informative introduction gives his anthology context and gravitas. All the poems includ-



ed were written in the past 60 years except three by Walt Whitman. According to *Continued on page 23*

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Carolynn Kingyens was born and raised in Northeast Philadelphia. She's the author of two poetry books, *Before the Big Bang Makes a Sound* (2020) and *Coupling* (2021), both published by Kelsay Books. In addition to poetry, Carolynn writes essays, reviews, and short fiction. Two of her short stories were selected for Best of Fiction 2021 and 2023 by *Across the Margin*, a Brooklyn arts and culture webzine. Her essay *There's A Tiffany In Every Dysfunctional Family*, about Somerville's own Tiffany Sedaris, the youngest sister of David and Amy Sedaris, can be read on her Medium page along with more essays ranging from true crime to *The Royal Family*. This poem was first published in *Red Eft Review*.



Cat's in the Cradle

My black, jade-eyed cat
and I press our noses
squarely against the coolness
of the kitchen's screen window
but for totally different reasons:
his, out of infinite pining
for feral-freedom,
hunting mice and birds
with reckless abandon
before his entrapment
and ultimate rescue
for the safe, mundane life
of an inside cat,
always ready to bolt;
and mine, for relief
from a searing hot flash
while stirring a large pot
of homemade sauce,
where I add sugar
to cut into the acidity

of garden variety tomatoes;
just the two of us,
side by side,
our heads leaning,
almost touching
while we stare out
into the vast, open darkness
of the backyard.

My life has begun to morph
to the mercy of middle age;
to the mercy of teenage daughters
with their scorched earth eye rolls
and ignored text messages
after spamming their phones
with sentimental mother-daughter
reels and memes,
a declaration of my love
despite the obvious thud
from the time in their lives
when I was present
but not fully present
long enough for their validated

resentment of me to seed -
take root, and then flourish
like Mimosa Pudica,
a type of foliage known
to quickly fold inward
and droop whenever touched.

If anything, middle age offers
perspective, however precarious,
like the time I swallowed a fly whole
while riding a Citi Bike
along the Gowanus canal
as a result of my mouth-breathing.

Now I'm learning new terms
like active listening, which,
according to the family therapist,
means being able to hold
the ball while listening
to difficult truths, without reacting,
just holding the ball
as heavy as regret.

— Carolynn Kingyens

Tufts University Department of Music Presents 'Tufts Composers: Tone Stampede 5'

The Tufts University Department of Music presents "Tufts Composers: Tone Stampede 5" in the Distler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Friday, February 28, at 8:00 pm.

Composers Marti Epstein, Arthur Levering, and John McDonald create a new-music rumble with new works performed by Ashley Addington and Sarah Brady, flute; Yoko Hagino and John McDonald, piano; Rane Moore, clarinet; Philipp Staudlin, saxophone; and Julia Cavallaro, mezzo soprano. 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.

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

Greinke, Whitman's theme of universality foreshadows the other pieces in this book. He's right. Looking back on the book's setup, Whitman's delightful poems do add ballast to the timelessness of Greinke's poetic ship.

W. D. Ehrhart's poem *The Cradle of Civilization* directs us back to our archaeological beginnings. The "we" persona examines the commonalities of birthright that presumably made us what we are. This begs a question: What happened? Ehrhart provides the answer with not a little irony. His "we" has a destructive side, an incomplete evolution of "our" souls. Presumably he cites the recent wars in Iraq. This pessimistic view is part and parcel of the human condition. The poet's lament ends this way,

How very far we've come
that we should come to such a place
not in gratitude and wonder
but with bombs and guns,
that we should not find this odd
that we should so believe our otherness
that we would rather kill and die
than search for common ground.

Alienation takes center stage in Eric Greinke's piece, *Flood Tide*. Adrift in a strange and terrible ocean, we swim through the waves of life, experiencing both pleasures and pains, but utterly confounded and beyond comprehension. Are we on course or deluding ourselves? Love comforts, but even that emotion is illusionary. In the end we die alone. Greinke's poem begins in measured time, in human time,

Another day surges over
the horizon, flotsam
sloshing through the dark
sluice. Loose pages
drift in pools, like
travelers, asleep beneath
the hills. There is no
bowl to contain our
tears, just flooded floors in
a hastily abandoned factory.

In his poem *The Man in the Booth in the Midtown Tunnel*, Doug Holder expands on the themes of isolation and

estrangement. Set in the New York tunnel which runs under the East River between Manhattan and Queens, the poem's objectified man devolves into a blur of fumes and pressure. Despite the continuous traffic the man loses his identity as he gains familiarity. The "we" persona, consoled by its multiplicity, can only observe a fading individual in isolation. Understanding has absented itself. Here is the heart of the poem,

And he
Has lost
His face
Long ago
In a blue
Uniform
And the sun
And the fresh air
Merely throw
Him hints
In our car
We pass him.
Faceless
And a blur
Phantoms behind
Thick plates
Of light-bleached
Glass.

In *Here, We Are Gathered*, a poem by Judy Kronenfeld, death descends onto our reclining faces like a soft pillow. The "we" persona notices each detail right up until the end. Details comfort. So do connections. We love to share images of illness and decrepitude until, well...just until. Then the bottom falls out into the mystery of individuality. The poet perceives the end is near,

But no, not quite there,
not quite then,
for there is esprit de corps
in Shearly Beloved—where everyone's
hair starts out frizzled, or orange, or white,
and highlights, lowlights,
ombre, sombre drown out the fear;
and even in the infusion center,
there is quiet communication, comparing

of wigs and scarves, hope-woven threads...

Universally experienced alienation perplexes mankind in Paul B. Roth's piece entitled *Strangers*. Here the faces of "we" experience the same anxieties, but separately. They individually share their photographs with others, hoping for a reaction or perhaps a tidbit of information. The results, always the same, are melded together in the third person plural. This "we" transcends time and territory. But in the end the self is still a stranger. A good night's sleep in Roth's reality never ends. He puts it this way in his prose poem,

We realized we were not waking up, nor were
we hitting ground, as if nothing were below us.
We slept on, unable to awake, unable to
unscramble the millions of neurological micro-
seconds that prevented our eyelids from
opening...

In Hayden Saunier's *Shape Shifting* we are all the same under our various coverings, Even this poem moves from second to third person. Thus, our multiplicity is real. Nothing we experience is unique. We are every other person struggling through this life and dealing with the paradoxes embedded in our human condition. The poet says,

Maybe you've heard this song,
how the screech owl sounds
like a horse's whinny
slight wind shifting through a sycamore
precisely like another
sleep-scented body shifting in its sleep
how those glugs and whirrs
from the amphibious
crowd at marsh and creek
match the murmurs and leaps
of your own underwater heart.
Every single thing's
like every other single thing...

Like Greinke's magnificent book we are all anthologized through history, each of us edited as a reminder to our fellow homo-sapiens to keep it going, to find life's final destiny. And, yes, we are all in this together.

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