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Joint meeting tackles school repairs, budget struggles, and emergency planning



A joint meeting was held last week to discuss the many pressing issues facing Somerville schools.

By Carlie Lombardi

On Monday, March 3, the School Committee's Building Facilities and Maintenance Committee held a joint meeting to address pressing concerns about school infrastructure, budget constraints, and emergency planning for potential school closures.

The discussion stressed the need for urgent repairs, long-term capital investments, and the challenge of ensuring student safety in the face of limited resources.

Major school infrastructure challenges

One of the primary concerns raised was the deteriorating condition of several school buildings, particularly at the Winter Hill and Brown Schools. The city is in the process of hiring an Owner's Project Manager (OPM) to oversee the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) *Continued on page 4*

The art of theft – the missing pieces of Gilman Art Park

By Alexi O'Neil

Gilman Park is a small area on Pearl Street where artists have been able to place their work for decades. After becoming a finalist for an art-fueled grant through the city of Somerville last month, artist Robert (Bob) Smith has come forward to announce his heartbreak over his missing sculptures.

Despite having a relationship with the Culture House and long-standing agreements with the city of Somerville and their Department of Public Works (DPW), huge investments into the park have disappeared. Smith is heartbroken, originally having contacted the DPW, no party is able to answer for the stolen artwork.

After being given advice by the city workers, he filed a police report, and there is *Continued on page 4*



The recent theft of public art in the Gilman Park area has left some local artists saddened and concerned. — Photos courtesy of Robert Smith



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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.

Somerville's Council on Aging St. Patrick's Day Luncheon takes place on **Thursday, March 13**, starting at 11 a.m. at the **George Dilboy Post**, located at 351 Summer Street. \$10 per person. Join in for a performance by the **Rebecca McGowan School of Irish Dance** and a special meal (corned beef and cabbage). Reserve your spot for the event and lunch by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

The **Rás na hÉireann USA 5K**, takes place on **Sunday, March 16**, at 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/>.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: a big Happy Birthday to Dennis Fishman, you can enjoy his book reviews published here every other week. We hope Dennis has a great birthday. Happy birthday to former Alderman and a great guy, Jack Connolly. We hope he has a great birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Peggy Stevenson-Mayo, Denize Ramos, Donald Coutoumas, Kiette Murphy Jones, Jim Halloran, Okie Oconnell, Patrick Fitzgerald, Kristin Gore and Maria Parziale Pacheco a very happy birthday. To all those that are also celebrating this *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

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

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday March 12	Partly Cloudy	47°/35°	2%	1%	NW 12 mph
Thursday March 13	Cloudy	46°/38°	26%	21%	SSE 9 mph
Friday March 14	Cloudy	40°/42°	21%	15%	NE 10 mph
Saturday March 15	Cloudy	62°/42°	21%	14%	SW 14 mph
Sunday March 16	Rain	66°/51°	48%	39%	SW 20 mph
Monday March 17	Partly Cloudy	57°/40°	42%	36%	SW 12 mph
Tuesday March 18	Rain	53°/35°	6%	3%	SW 12 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: **Davis Memories**

Paul says:

I also have great memories of growing up around Davis SQ (Gorham st) going to the movies on Sat 17 cents, pop corn a nickel, and penny candy. Fulton's Fish market you could smell a 1/2 mile away. Hopping a ride on the freight and riding all the way to Washington st. East side

Response to: **Councilors pass home rule petition in hopes of ending forced broker's fees in Somerville**

TheoNa says:

This is more of a "feel good" proposal. Landlords will just factor their cost into the rent. Renters will instead just be paying for broker fees throughout the year rather than in a lump sum payment in their first month.

Response to: **Fred Berman of OHS awarded citation at City Hall**

marla says:

Well deserved, and I hope he enjoys his retirement!

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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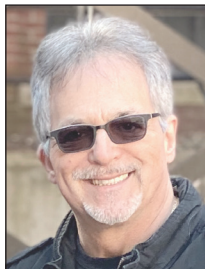
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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

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

1960 revisited



My parents bought our house in 1960 for about \$15,000. We moved from Ball Square to Davis Square.

We would go to St. Clement's school where the nuns taught. Surely the stuff nightmares are made of. We got our phone number back then, too, when we used the phone abbreviations MO, PR, and SO. If you recall this, you're about as old as me.

There were no T stations and many main streets had overhead electric power wires. President Kennedy would bring an optimistic and youthful light to the country.

In Somerville, we were paying 28 cents for a gallon of gas. Here are some reader comments:

"I grew up in Somerville 1957. Graduated high school in 75. Great years."

"Yes when it was a family-oriented city,

when neighbors new each other, kids played in the street, you could park anywhere and not get a ticket."

"Born and raised. Still here after 74 years."

"1958 to 1991"

"My Somerville roots run deep! Born there in 1957 and lived there until 1983. I'm so grateful for the experiences that made me who I am today! I kept my Somerville family home until 2017. Best town ever!"

"East Somerville from 1947 till leaving for the Army in 1965."

"Yes I was there. I was born and raised there in Somerville. Left in 1990 to Maryland. Visit often enough."

"Yes I grew up in Somerville. I went to Prescott Elementary, Cummings Elementary, Southern Jr. High, and graduated from Somerville High in 1972."

"Born 1942 lived on Waterhouse St., Electric Ave., and Bromfield Rd."

"Went to IC grammar school and grad-



uated Somerville High in 1961. Still have four girlfriends from those days!"

"Yup. 1953 till 1975. Parents lived there for their whole lives."

Here's the most memorable comment I received. "Born and raised. Still here after

80 years."

I'm lucky and grateful that I was able to hold onto our house since 1960, with many ups and downs. Right now, I'm up, enjoying my neighborhood and my life-long Somerville friends.

'Ballaké Sissoko, Kora Tales' film screening

The Tufts University Department of Music presents Ballaké Sissoko, Kora Tales film screening in the Distler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Thursday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m. The Tufts University Department of Music presents the story of the kora, one of Africa's most iconic instruments, featuring kora player Ballaké Sissoko.

Co-written and co-directed by Lucy Durán and Laurent Benhamou, this screening is part of the International Symposium on the Musical Arts of Africa (ISMAA), taking place at the Granoff Music Center March 28-29, 2025. More info at: <https://humanities.tufts.edu/international-symposium-musical-arts-africa-coit-phelps-lecture-2025>.

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

For more information, please visit go.tufts.edu/musicevents or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617-627-3679.



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The art of theft – the missing pieces of Gilman Park

CONT. FROM PG 1

now some investigation into the park and its artists, considering this isn't the first theft from an artist in the area. Smith shared with me some of his biggest concerns when it comes down to being a public artist: theft, natural damages (caused by weather and animals), and critics. Despite the possible setbacks, Smith has persisted in his sharing of art, often being complimented frequently by community members on how grateful they are to experience it.

Smith referred me to Martha Friend, another well-known artist of the area, who had huge sculptures stolen in the middle

of the night. These were weighted projects that took teams of multiple people to install, so the shock was heavy. She had just visited the park last Thursday evening, and the artwork was gone when she returned the following afternoon.

This causes stress and strain on artists: they've dedicated their lives, time, and finances in producing artwork for the city's projects only to have the work go missing without a trace. Friend recalls stories where artists have left pieces on local bike paths, only for those to also disappear. Artists like Smith and Friend are working towards a mutual goal of self-expression, and with tensions rising between artists and their missing pieces, this can cause unease.

Smith has been more positive since opening an investigation, and the Somerville police and DPW have been nothing but supportive about coming to a conclusion about where their commissioned art pieces are going. Smith hopes, despite the financial loss, that someone is enjoying his stolen work rather than assuming it has been destroyed or disposed of. Friend continues to work with local artists on a collective mission of embracing artistic expression for ages to come, and both have future plans to continue their relationships with Culture House and the city of Somerville for their art-driven initiatives that they can offer.



Joint meeting tackles school repairs, budget struggles, and emergency planning

CONT. FROM PG 1

project. However, cost estimates will not be available until Fall 2025, delaying key decisions on renovations and new construction.

Additionally, the roofs at the Healey and West Somerville Neighborhood Schools were identified as high-risk areas that need immediate attention. If these roofs fail, entire classrooms could become unusable. To address these risks, officials are prioritizing infrastructure upgrades based on urgency, potential impact on school programs, and the most cost effective.

Budget constraints and capital investment plan

City officials emphasized the growing challenges in securing funding for school repairs and new construction. Two major financial obstacles include:

- Lower than expected revenue growth, which limits available funds for long term capital projects.

- A \$30 million liability from the 90 Washington parcel judgment, further straining the city's financial outlook.

Despite these constraints, the city is working closely with Somerville Public Schools to develop a five-year capital improvement plan (CIP) that prioritizes urgent school repairs while balancing other essential projects, such as road paving and park construction.

Lack of emergency swing space for schools

One of the most concerning discussions centered on the lack of swing space for students in the event of a school closure. This issue became evident when the Winter

Hill School faced structural issues, leaving students and staff scrambling for alternative locations.

Currently, the Cummings School is the only city owned property considered a potential swing space, but it requires significant renovations, including a new roof and updated HVAC systems. The city has also reached out to the Archdiocese to explore the availability of the vacant Catholic school buildings, but no firm plans have been established.

School committee members urged the administration to develop a formal swing space plan to avoid future disruptions to student learning.

Renovations and classroom conversions

Beyond major repairs, the committee

discussed specific classroom improvement projects:

- The Healey School Room 208, currently used for small group learning and intervention services, is in need of extensive renovations. Due to capacity constraints, this project has been delayed until Summer 2026.

- The Argenziano School is receiving a new classroom addition this year, which has been prioritized over other renovations.

- The installation of lockdown blinds at Somerville High School is underway, with some delays pushing back the installation timeline.

The School Committee's School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee will meet next on March 31.

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Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

Somerville unites in solidarity with immigrants: 'We are here because the U.S. was there'

On Saturday, March 8, 200 Somerville residents rallied in support of our immigrant neighbors in front of the East Somerville Library for two hours in 30-degree temperatures. The rally featured Somerville residents sharing their immigrant stories and loudly declaring their existence here. Many local organizations shared their ongoing work and commitment to support immigrant communities during national attacks on immigrants and undocumented people. Rally attendees joined calls for an end to deportations and ICE raids, for Maura Healey to declare Massachusetts a Sanctuary State, to uphold Somerville's sanctuary city status, and for city elected officials to affirm immigrants' important role and right to be in our city and schools.

The rally was organized by Somerville for Palestine and other supporting organizations included Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville (MAMAS), Cosecha MA, Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS), Somerville Educators Union, Somerville Educators for Sanctuary Schools, Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW), Connexion Church, Padres Latinos, Brazilian Women's Group, TPS Alliance of MA, and The Welcome Project.

Doris of the Temporary Protected Status Alliance of Massachusetts shared how solidarity is essential during these times of increased attacks on immigrant and undocumented people: "An attack on one is an attack on all. We are living through difficult times where fear is being imposed on our communities, leaving immigrant families terrified. Yet, I stand here to call on all of us to unite. Unity is our most powerful tool to overcome the hateful policies targeting our people."

Speakers spoke in English or Spanish, and interpreters assisted interpreting to make sure all of the speakers' words were heard in English and Spanish. Two speakers spoke in Portuguese as well. The rally featured chants, songs, speeches, and poetry. Many of the signs supporters held read "Immigrants Matter," "No Borders, No Walls, Freedom for All," and "No One Is Illegal on Stolen Land".

Oscar, a Guatemalan resident of Somerville and member of the Party of Socialism and Liberation, shared how our commitment to our immigrant neighbors is connected to the struggle for liberation: "Both here at home and in Palestine where families are ripped apart by violent raids every

single day and night. In Palestine, people have survived and persevered through a genocide. A genocide that was meant to strike fear and divide the Palestinian people. But did it? No, it did not. Instead, they organized and resisted the brutal Israeli government. And that is what we must do as well here at home: resist."

Nicole Eigbrett, Co-Executive Director of Asian American Resource Workshop, provided key connections between these struggles:

The Asian diaspora in Somerville and Boston is diverse, but the root cause of why many of us migrated here are intertwined with neighbors from Central and South America and the Caribbean: U.S. militarism and imperialism. Just like the Wars in Southeast Asia, with 2025 marking the 50th anniversary – U.S. militarism has fueled violence and political instability in El Salvador, Haiti, Brazil, Honduras, and countless other nations – and most recently, 466 days of genocide in Gaza. The movement for immigrant justice must also be a movement to end U.S. militarism globally.

Neda, a Palestinian resident of Somerville and the daughter of Palestinian refugees, further connected these parallels and encouraged people to get involved, "In these times of uncertainty, it's easy to become overwhelmed with fear, but as my mom told me, always look for the helpers. In every trying time, in every moment of need, look around and you will find people who will help, support, protect, and stand by you, with you, and for you. If you can, become the helper. Join a local organization like Somerville for Palestine, MAMAS (Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville), and Somerville community fridges, to name a few."

Cesar, a seventh-grade math teacher at the East Somerville Community School and a member of the Somerville Educators for Sanctuary Cities, affirmed the importance of creating an educational environment where all children and families are welcome: "We believe that all children and families in our sanctuary city, regardless of immigration or documentation status, have a right to an equitable educational environment where they are welcomed, respected, cherished, and protected."

Somerville is a sanctuary city, and has been for 30 years. A sanctuary city is a municipality that does not prosecute or arrest immigrants solely for

Continued on page 6



Jovana Calivillo a lead organizer with Somerville for Palestine and of the rally sharing her story growing up as a Mexican immigrant.

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.



COMMENTARY

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

Say 'NO!' to 25 story Tower in Davis Square



By Jack Connolly
Jackconnolly422@gmail.com

Several community meetings have been held by Copper Mill LLC, the proposed developers of the Elm St./Grove St location currently occupied by the Burren, McKinnon's Market and Dragon Pizza. The most recent meeting was held on February 12th before a standing room only crowd at the Community Baptist Church. The developers stated that the city encouraged them to meet with the community to get reaction to their proposal for a 500-unit, 25-story [put height in feet here] tower. The developer claims that this size and scale are necessary to make the development profitable and that there would be no compromise on the proposed number of apartments and building height. By the way, this is the third attempt at redeveloping this site by the owner

and development team after two failed previous attempts.

A development of this magnitude does not align with the current residential and commercial landscape in the Davis and Porter Sq. neighborhoods.

But let's stop right there. Why isn't the City of Somerville Special Planning and Community Development Office organizing and conducting these meetings? Why hasn't the city taken any formal position on this development proposal which runs counter to community planning for Davis Square in SomerVision 2040, and the draft Davis Square Commercial Area Plan? Take a hard look at those studies – this proposal is totally inconsistent with the long standing Davis Sq. history of community-led planning efforts for our City and our neighborhoods.

The Copper Mill proposal for a massive Davis Square 25 story tower is nothing more than a PR campaign by Copper Mill hoping to get the neighborhood on board, while our Somerville elected officials hide in the background.

To date, Copper Mill has made NO application to the City, NO formal plans or impact studies focusing on traffic, shadow impacts,

construction impacts, etc. Yet the city and the neighborhood is being asked to "trust them (Copper Mill)" and override current zoning and planning efforts to grant approval for what would be the largest single development in the history of Davis Square.

A project of this size deserves a thorough review, complete with planning studies, community meetings, and revised zoning for the future of Davis Square – not just for the benefit of one property owner.

Sadly, none of the elected city councilors who were present at the last meeting (including Ward Six Councilor and two Mayoral candidates) made any substantive comments about the size and scale of the project or impacts on the community. If Copper Mill was looking for neighborhood reaction, it was evident from the size of the crowd and testimony given that there are many residents and business owners who have serious concerns about the proposed project. And if Copper Mill is unwilling to compromise on the size and scale of the project, why put us all through the charade of community 'engagement' meetings?

Have you been around Davis Square lately?

Have you seen the empty storefronts, streets and sidewalks that are falling apart and creating trip hazards, broken trash receptacles, public safety concerns, and littered streets that continue to daily deteriorate.

Copper Mill and the property owner have contributed to the decline by failing to rent empty storefronts in their block, leaving them in disrepair, plastered with flyers and graffiti. They claim the building is beyond its useful life and can't possibly be repaired. Despite this, Copper Mill just announced plans to open one of the Elm St. storefronts as a marketing office for their 'dream' development. Copper Mill claims that the tower will be a new "gateway" to Davis Square, and somehow magically revitalize the entire commercial district by adding luxury units that will command rents in the \$3,000 to \$5,000 per month range, while "temporarily" displacing local businesses including the Burren, McKinnon's and Dragon Pizza. In return, they only plan to provide the minimum 20% affordable housing units in return – WHAT A DEAL!

Construction impacts for a building of this 25 story scale and type would only exacerbate existing problems in the Square, with

traffic and congestion disrupting existing businesses for several years and making it even more difficult for patrons of Davis Square to enjoy local restaurants and entertainment spots. How does this make things better for small business owners struggling to survive?

Most Somerville residents agree that we need more affordable housing and that new construction, especially near transit, will help achieve that goal. Likely most residents also agree that our desire to create more housing doesn't mean giving a blank check to any developer who shows up with a plan, no matter how large and disruptive it is to neighborhood residents, property owners, and businesses.

In my humble opinion, the City administration should right away step out of the shadows, OPPOSE the Copper Mill development, and work with the Davis Sq. area community to create a BALANCED GROWTH approach for the entire Davis Square commercial district and surrounding neighborhood.

Jack Connolly is a native Somerville, a Davis Sq. resident and insurance agent. He is also a former Somerville Ward Six and At Large Alderman (known now as City Councilor).

Somerville unites in solidarity with immigrants: 'We are here because the U.S. was there'

CONT. FROM PG 5

violating federal immigration laws. Nearly 30% of Somerville residents are immigrants, meaning this issue is close to heart for many.

Neda shared: "There is a poem in Arabic that translates to English as: 'the spears are stronger together and when separated are broken one after one.' Look around you today, at all the friends and allies here and know that these are not the only people who will fight for you. Lean on each other, stay united, and fight together. Together we are undefeatable. Together, we will

thrive. Together, we belong."

Eigbrett, leader of AARW and longtime Somerville tenant organizer, concluded her remarks by sharing, "There's a saying in the SEA [South East Asian] community that goes, 'We are here because the U.S. was there.' But now here is our home, and we immigrants have the right to remain. Join us in fighting the U.S. deportation machine and the legacies of imperialism that created it."

Somerville for Palestine is an inclusive local, community-led group who formed

in response to Israel's U.S.-funded genocide against the Palestinian people and is united in steadfast advocacy for Palestinian liberation. Our coalition members represent a diversity of faiths, races, ages, gender identities, abilities and cultural heritage, all standing in explicit solidarity with Palestinians in their struggle for freedom, self-determination, and full human and civil rights from the River Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea.

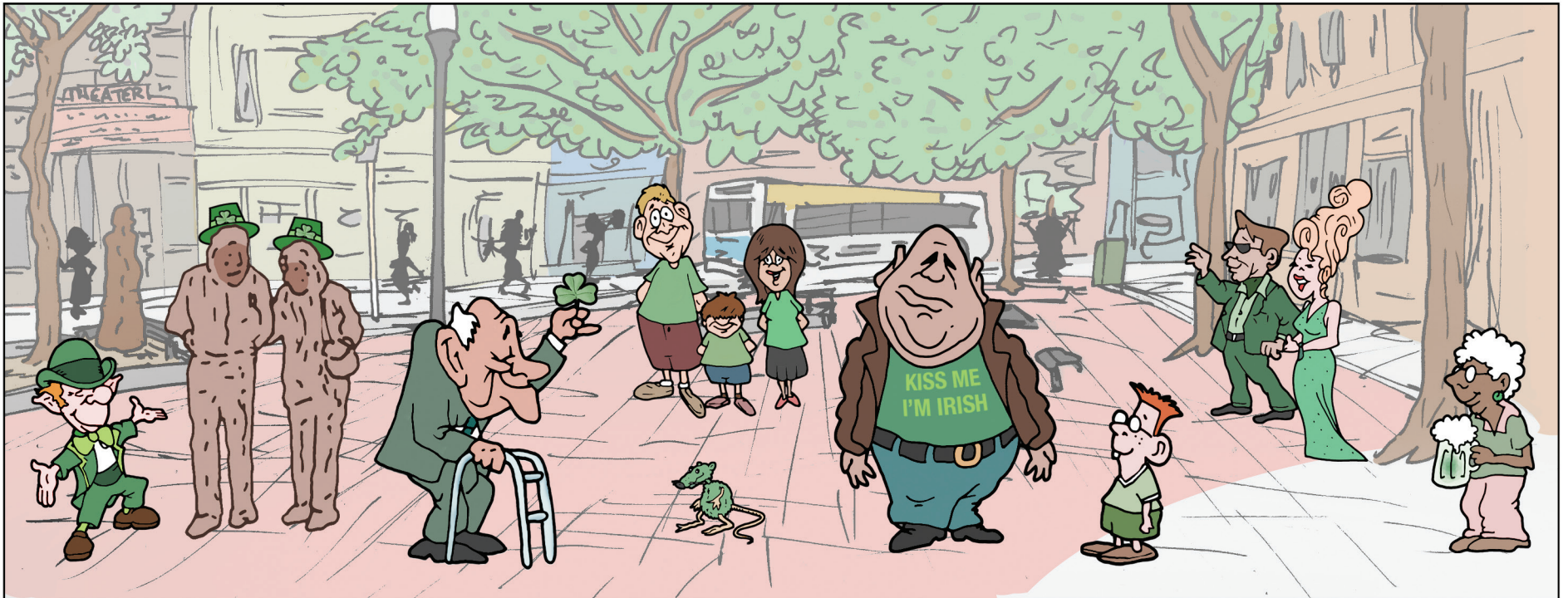
— Somerville for Palestine



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Happy St. Patty's to one and all!

Our View Of The Times



It's a tradition that most of us have a lot of fun with. Whether one is of Irish lineage or not, St. Patrick's Day stands for a recognition of Irish and Irish American culture, and in many ways its resulting fusion.

The religious origins of the day have, for some, been obscured and often all but forgotten in favor of the prominent displays of the color green, eating and drinking, and numerous parades. The day has been cele-

brated on the North American continent since before the American Revolution, and is actually an official holiday in neighboring Suffolk County. Ask any of our Boston brethren and they would – to a single soul – be aware of this fact.

And so, in Somerville, too, there are plenty of willing celebrants of diverse heritage. While it's true that there are a lot of Irish families in the city, and its history is

full with contributions by them, just about everyone likes to join in on the "wearing of the green" and all that comes with it.

Falling on a Friday this year, the occasion runs straight into the weekend, which both heightens the revelry and calls for moderation. At least it's on a Friday, a day when restraint is often less important.

Many restaurants and night spots in the city will be marking the occasion with spe-

cialty-themed fare and festivities. There will be many opportunities for celebration.

As the old Irish proverb says, "May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, the foresight to know where you are going, and the insight to know when you have gone too far." So enjoy the corned beef and cabbage, the green beer, the fine Irish whiskey, and all the rest. But prudently, please.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

week, we wish them a happy birthday.

Liam Mannion, proprietor of Sally O'Brien's, and former City Councilor Bob McWatters invite the public to celebrate Irish Heritage and hoist a pint of Guinness on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, at Sally O'Brien's, 335 Somerville Ave. Sally's will have plenty of corned beef and cabbage, Irish music, and pints of Guinness flowing all day. Stop in and hoist a Guinness with Liam and Bob in honoring the patron Saint of Ireland. All are welcome to join the festivities.

Municipal scholarships are available

for high school seniors. Seven \$1,000 municipal scholarships are available for high school seniors graduating in 2025 through the City of Somerville Municipal Scholarship Committee. Applicants must be residents of Somerville who have been accepted to an accredited post-secondary institution. Students are asked to complete a profile and answer three short essay questions by March 31. Learn more and apply: https://www.somervillema.gov/somerville-municipal-scholarship-2025

Women's Movements Event on March 15. Celebrate Women's History Month

at the Central Library. Activities include a documentary viewing on women's movements and the history of protests and make your own protest sign. Plus, meet Patrice R. Green, Curator for African American and African Diasporic Collections at the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America. This event will be held on Saturday, March 15, at Central Library (79 Highland Ave.) from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Learn more and register to attend: https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/

Calling all members of the Somerville music community! Join the Somerville

Arts Council for two meetings to discuss the future of our local music ecosystem. From venues and rehearsal spaces to recording, come together to find solutions to these critical issues. Meeting 1: March 23, 4 – 5:30 p.m., Somerville Music Spaces, 1060 Broadway C101B. Meeting 2: March 31, 6:30 – 8 p.m., at The Jungle, 6 Sanborn Court.

Somerville Little League 2025 Spring registration is open. Go to www.somervillelittleleague.org to register.

On Friday, April 25, GLOWBALL will transform the Armory Continued on page 21

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#965

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What traditional Irish dish combines mashed potatoes and cabbage? | and hurling? |
| 2. Who were the first to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in North America? | 7. What's the tagline for the breakfast cereal Lucky Charms? |
| 3. In Gaelic, what does the word "balach" mean? | 8. What structure in Rome will turn green on St Patrick's Day? |
| 4. On what instrument do you play piobaireachd music? | 9. Which song is known as the unofficial anthem of Dublin, Ireland? |
| 5. Which renowned Irish poet won a Nobel Peace Prize for Literature in 1995? | 10. What NBA team wears shamrocks on their uniforms? |
| 6. What popular Irish sport is a cross between soccer, rugby, | 11. What is a shillelagh? |
| | 12. What alcohol do you find in an Irish Coffee? |

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Chickens and ostriches are the closest living relatives of the T-Rex.
2. More than two-thirds of millennials sleep nude.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

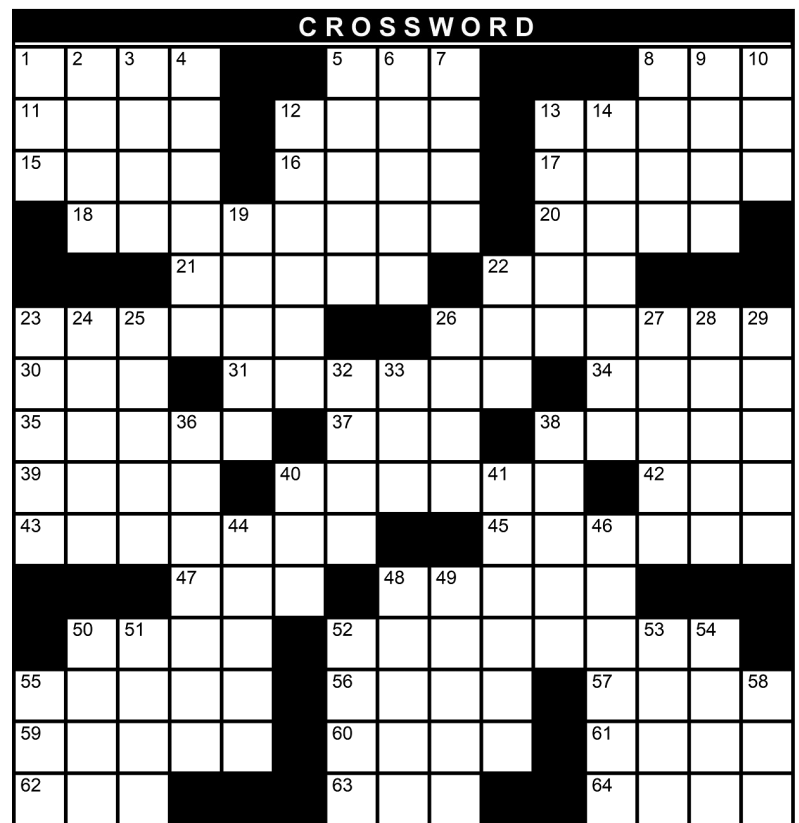
THE 1980s

ACROSS

1. "Sunday Bloody Sunday" author, with The
5. Saget of "Full House" fame
8. Last month
11. "Howdy, ____!"
12. Hurtful remark
13. Actor Hudson of Winston Zeddemore fame
15. Give the cold shoulder
16. Musical based on 1980s rock "Rock of ____"
17. Comedy horror "____ Hell"
18. Transparency, to Gorbachev
20. Slangy "Follow me!"
21. Coffee shop order
22. Pro vote
23. Heart abnormality
26. Act out Civil War battle, e.g.
30. Eisenhower, familiarly
31. Mediterranean island
34. Small island
35. Oscar-winning "Tootsie" actress Jessica ____
37. Not hers
38. Dionysus' pipe-playing companion
39. Not on land
40. Water pipe
42. Dog tags, e.g.
43. First lunar phase (2 words)
45. Higher education reward
47. Biblical mother
48. What "I love Lucy" did in the '80s
50. Name of the Blue Ox
52. Gull-winged sports car
55. Party handout
56. Smoothie berry
57. Clickable image
59. Follows orders
60. Mixed breed canine
61. Air Jordan, e.g.
62. "Cheers" setting
63. Byron: "Maid of Athens, ____ we part"
64. Dispatched

DOWN

1. Ambulance squad, acr.
2. "Shoot!"



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- | | |
|--|---|
| 3. Person of French descent | 29. To the point |
| 4. Preserve, as in body | 32. Sound unit |
| 5. Prejudiced one | 33. Duran Duran's hit |
| 6. Falstaffian in body | 36. Hand-held "Tetris" device (2 words) |
| 7. Cr me de la cr me | 38. Give sheep a haircut |
| 8. "Do ____ others as..." | 40. Gardening tool |
| 9. Property right | 41. Quick and skillful |
| 10. ____ Aviv | 44. Sets, in cricket |
| 12. Bridge-like structure | 46. Metamorphic rock |
| 13. Wedding singer, e.g. | 48. Happen again |
| 14. Ceausescu's country | 49. Fill with spirits |
| 19. Pasta accompaniment | 50. Rum cake |
| 22. "Owner of a Lonely Heart" band | 51. Affirm |
| 23. Arrigo Sacchi's Associazione Calcio ____ | 52. ____ Maggie Smith |
| 24. Tsar's edict | 53. Pain |
| 25. Re-establish | 54. "High" time |
| 26. Zwieback | 55. Watch chain |
| 27. Up and about | 58. Nothing but this in basketball? |
| 28. Blinky, Pinky, Inky and ____ | |

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



Phony phone arrest scams target residents

By The Times Staff

A sophisticated scam operation that targets individuals has City Councilors concerned.

The phony phone arrest scam was brought up in conversation at the latest City Council Meeting on February 27 with the aim of warning residents and bringing awareness to these harassing calls.

“There have always been scammers,” said Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott. “Particularly, they prey on residents who may not have English as a first language or some of our elderly residents.”

Councilor Scott received a scam call allegedly from the Middlesex Sheriff’s Office explaining that he failed to appear for jury duty. Councilor Scott said that the scammers then said he would be arrested.

“This is clearly a shakedown, it’s clearly a scam,” he said.

Scammers who prey on residents by posing as trusted members of law enforcement may attempt to demand payment for things like failing to appear for jury duty, according to a press release from the Middlesex Sher-



Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott has been sounding the alarm about a malicious phone scam currently taking place locally.

iff’s Office.

The crank caller apparently provided a name, badge number and said they were on a recorded line. Councilor Scott said that the caller ID on his cell phone was the number from the Middlesex Sheriff’s Office.

“It looks very legitimate,” Councilor Scott said. “Nobody is going to arrest you for missing jury duty,” he later added.

Councilor Scott says he contacted the Sheriff’s office after the crank call and told his story. According to the Sheriff’s Office,

this issue was “happening a lot.”

“If it’s happening a lot, I would like to make sure our residents know about it,” said Councilor Scott. “Just like many of the other scams that our council has raised awareness of over the years, this is one that is particularly alarming.”

Law enforcement professionals will never contact individuals over the phone to pay non-existent fines or fees for missing jury duty, according to a press release from the Middlesex Sheriff’s Office.

‘Towering Chariot scenes - The Art of the Festival’

By Jeffrey Shwom

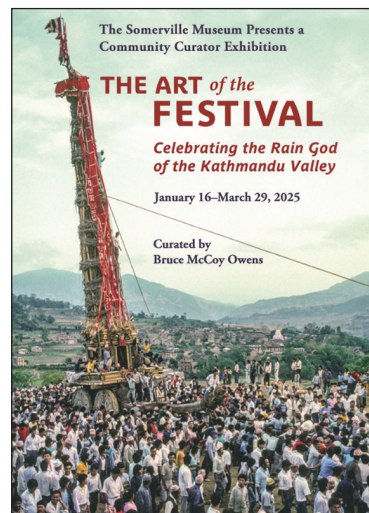
Scenes of a towering structure made of wood, trees, and other materials, being precariously dragged and coordinated by hundreds of religious devotees, adorn the walls of the Somerville Museum.

The Art of the Festival - Celebrating the Rain God of the Kathmandu Valley continues through March 29. The exhibit was curated by Bruce McCoy Owens,

Associate Professor of Anthropology, Emeritus at Wheaton College.

Per the Museum, the nearly 1,400-year-old chariot festival “is devoted to a rain god who is honored by both Hindus and Buddhists ... known by many names, Buṃgadyah and Rāto Matysendranāth foremost among them.”

More info at: <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/the-art-of-the-festival>



The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #324

This article first appeared in the March 4, 2015, edition of *The Somerville Times*.

Hidden Henry Hansen

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

It has been eighty years since the United States landing on Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945.



At an appalling cost of nearly 6,800 lives and 17,000 injured, the month-long struggle proved to be the toughest in Marine Corp’s history. The battle was highlighted by the early American flag raisings on the island’s highest peak, Mt. Suribachi. It was a photo of the second and larger flag raising by Associated Press photographer, Joe Rosenthal, that became a national, iconic image. Two American flags would be flown on that day. First, a small flag was raised under fire and combat. Hours later, a larger, more visible flag was raised after the elevation had been secured.



On February 23, six-year veteran, twenty-five year-old Sergeant Henry Hansen of Somerville, along with his lieutenant and another sergeant, led their forty-four man platoon in seizing the hill. After Hansen shot holes in a long section of water pipe, he fed a rope through and secured the ensign. Together, the three men then raised the first American flag over the soil of the Japanese empire. This was the first foreign flag to do so in a thousand years and was recorded by a marine photographer. The Marines had lost 2,000 men in the first three days, while fighting their way to the foot of Suribachi. They reached its base on February 22, George Washington’s birthday.

As far as Hansen was concerned, this *Continued on page 12*

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**City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, March 20, 2025**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?meetingid=86203312556>
Webinar ID: 862 0331 2556

TO CALL IN

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

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

- 120 Middlesex Ave** DWCH Assembly Row, LLC seeks a Major Amendment to a previously issued Master Plan Special Permit (MPSP2020-0003) in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use (ASMD) district.
- 33 Mystic Ave** Stellamoon LLC proposes to develop a six (6) story general building in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use district, which requires Site Plan Approval.
- 33 Mystic Ave** Stellamoon LLC seeks a waiver from the lot area dimensional standard in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use district, which requires a Special Permit.
- 33 Mystic Ave** Stellamoon LLC seeks a waiver from the floor area ratio (FAR) dimensional standard in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use district, which requires a Special Permit.
- 33 Mystic Ave** Stellamoon LLC seeks a waiver from the building height dimensional standard in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use district, which requires a Special Permit.
- 33 Mystic Ave** Stellamoon LLC seeks a waiver from the lot area per dwelling unit dimensional standard in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use district, which requires a Special Permit.
- 375 Harold Cohen Way** Street Retail, LLC, seeks a Site Plan Approval with Special Permit to develop an 8-story general building in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use District (ASMD) subject to Assembly Square Planned Unit Development-Preliminary Master Plan, Case # PB 2006-59 (as amended), and is seeking waivers for dimensions of maneuvering aisles, an updated TIS, a scale model, minimum parking requirements, and the right of first refusal.
- 375 Harold Cohen Way** Street Retail, LLC, seeks a Major Amendment to Assembly Square Planned Unit Development-Preliminary Master Plan, Case # PB 2006-59 (as amended), to incorporate Block 9 Design Guidelines for 375 Harold Cohen Way.

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

3/5/25, 3/12/25 The Somerville Times



**City of Somerville
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, March 19, 2025**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?meetingid=87683703408>
Webinar ID: 876 8370 3408

TO CALL IN

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

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

- 11 Garfield Avenue** Julia Marsh Rabin seeks zoning relief to construct a two-story addition at the rear of the property with a roof deck, add a shed dormer to the existing roofline at the rear of the building, and construct an entry canopy above a rear entry door in an Urban Residence (UR) zoning district, which requires a Hardship Variance.
- 11 Garfield Avenue** Julia Marsh Rabin seeks zoning relief to construct a Projecting Porch on a non-conforming building type in an Urban Residence (UR) zoning district, which requires a Special Permit.
- 181 Pearl Street** 181 Pearl St. LLC seeks relief from SZO Section 2.4.5.b.i.a, regarding principal entrance requirements on façades, which requires a Hardship Variance.
- 181 Pearl Street** 181 Pearl St. LLC seeks relief from SZO Section 4.1.16.a.i., regarding sidewalk width requirements, which requires a Hardship Variance.

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

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

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

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB 25-48**

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

Ash Tree Treatment

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, March 12, 2025**. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **2:00 PM Wednesday, March 26, 2025**. 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 contact Felisa Gárate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

Felisa Gárate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406

3/12/25 The Somerville Times



**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION –
HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
Project File No. 607981**

A live virtual Public Informational Meeting (PIM) will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Roadway Reconstruction project on McGrath Hwy in **Somerville and Cambridge, MA**.

WHEN: **6:30-8pm, Tuesday, March 25th, 2025**

WHERE: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed roadway reconstruction project. Updates on design progress since the last public information meeting will be provided. All views and comments submitted in response to the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of reconstruction of McGrath Hwy (Route 28) between Broadway in Somerville and Third Street in Cambridge. The current design proposes to remove the McCarthy Overpass and replace it with at-grade signalized intersections. The project focuses on improving community connectivity between different neighborhoods and accommodation for all roadway users through provision, expansion, and enhancement of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities. The project also includes safety improvements, increased green space, physical separation of bicycles and pedestrians from motor vehicles wherever feasible, and the removal of a physical and visual barrier (the overpass) within the community.

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the meeting.

This meeting will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR
3/12/25 The Somerville Times

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER



The **Somerville Board of Health** will host a public hearing to allow community input on proposed tobacco/nicotine sales regulations. The hearing will be at the regularly scheduled Board of Health meeting on **March 20th at 6 P.M.**

Proposed changes to the regulations include barring the sale of tobacco products to a person born on or after January 1, 2005; establishing a definition for oral nicotine pouches and restricting the sale thereof; and establishing fines and penalties for violations of state and/or local laws.

Nicotine-Free Generation (NFG) proposes a definitive, streamlined approach to tobacco control. NFG policy prohibits the sale of nicotine products to anyone born after a chosen date (e.g. January 1, 2005). Sellers may continue to sell to those born before this date who may already use nicotine products. A copy of the draft regulations can be found at <https://www.somervillema.gov/events/2025/03/20/board-health-meeting-and-public-hearing>

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MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **53 Concord Realty LLC** to CCG Fund 1, LLC, dated February 29, 2024, and recorded in the Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds in Book 82532 at Page 116, as assigned to Churchill Funding I, LLC, by assignment dated March 1, 2024, and recorded in said Deeds in Book 82569 at Page 532, and as further assigned to **Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB**, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for Residential Mortgage Aggregation Trust, by assignment dated March 13, 2024, recorded with said Deeds in Book 82570 at Page 468, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at Twelve o'clock noon on the 8th day of April A.D., 2025, on the premises below described being known as **53 Concord Avenue**, Somerville, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage as set forth below:

To wit: "The land in Concord Avenue in Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts being shown as Lot numbered two (2) on a plan made by Mason and Elliot Surveyors, dated May 15, 1872 and recorded with Middlesex South District Deeds, Plan Book 20, Plan 21, together with any buildings thereon, bounded and described as follows: Southerly: by said Concord Avenue, forty and 50/100 (40.50) feet; Westerly: by Lot# 3 on said plan, eighty-eight and 62/100 (88.62) feet; Northerly: by Lot# 23 on said plan, forty and 52/100 (40.52) feet; and Easterly: by Lot# 3 on said plan, eighty-five and 35/100 (85.35) feet."

The above premises will be sold subject as above and to the following: any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal assessments and liens; any and all outstanding water and/or sewer charges; any and all covenants, easements, restrictions, rights, reservations, conditions and/or other enforceable encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage; and to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession, if any of the aforesaid there be.

Terms: Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000.00) will be required to be paid in cash or by certified check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale as earnest money, with an additional deposit of Fifteen Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$15,000) to be paid within five (5) business days after the sale to bring the total deposit to \$20,000. The successful bidder (other than the mortgagee) shall also be responsible for a one percent (1%) buyer's commission payable to the auctioneer at the time of closing. The balance of all amounts due is to be paid in cash or by certified check within thirty (30) days of the sale at the Law Offices of Ford & Paulekas, LLP, 280 Trumbull Street, Hartford, CT 06103. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE AGGREGATION TRUST

By: /s/ David A Hill, Jr.
David A. Hill, Jr.
Its Attorney

Attorneys for Mortgagee:
Ford & Paulekas, LLP
280 Trumbull Street
Hartford, CT 06103
(860) 527-0400

Dated: March 10, 2025

3/12/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT RFP #25-33

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

CMMS/EAM and Associated Implementation and Configuration Services

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 **03/12/2025**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **04/16/2025 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.

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

3/12/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL COMMITTEE 167 HOLLAND STREET, 3RD Floor SOMERVILLE, MA 02144 RFP #S2026-01

The School Committee of the City of Somerville invites sealed proposals for:

A Vendor to Provide An Enrichment Based Afterschool Program for Students in the Somerville Public Schools for the period August 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

Each Proposal shall be submitted in two separate sealed envelopes clearly marked "Price Proposal for Vendor Services for the Afterschool Enrichment Program" and a "Non-Price Proposal for Vendor Services for the Afterschool Enrichment Program" in accordance with the Request for Proposal and Contract Documents which may be obtained at the Finance Office, Somerville School Department, 167 Holland Street, 3rd Floor, Somerville, MA 02144 on or after **March 12, 2025** between the hours of Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

All Proposals shall be filed no later than 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at the Finance Office, Somerville School Department, 167 Holland Street, 3rd Floor, Somerville, MA 02144. Proposals will be reviewed by an Evaluation Committee which may include possible interviews with the proposal finalists.

Please contact Leah Arredondo (larredondo@k12.somerville.ma.us) or call 617-629-5218 to receive the proposal and register as a proposal vendor.

The School Committee of the City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part or parts thereof, and to award the Contract or not to award the Contract, as the School Committee deems to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville School Department.

Patricia Durette,
Interim CFO
Somerville Public Schools

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2016 Hyundai Sonata Vin# 5NPE24AF3GH344705
2005 Acura TSX Vin# JH4CL95875C023321
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CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL COMMITTEE 167 HOLLAND STREET, 3RD Floor SOMERVILLE, MA 02144 BID #S2026-02

The School Committee of the City of Somerville invites sealed bids for:

Curriculum Materials: Textbooks, Library Books, Consumable Materials, E-Books and Online Curriculum Materials That Align to the Massachusetts DESE Curriculum Frameworks.

The IFB package may be obtained by emailing Leah Arredondo in the Finance Office, larredondo@k12.somerville.ma.us or can be picked up at the Somerville School Department, Finance Office, 167 Holland Street, 3rd Floor, Somerville, MA 02144 on or after **Thursday, March 13, 2025 @ 10 a.m.**

Sealed bid responses will be received no later than **2 p.m., Friday, March 28, 2025** at the Finance Office, Somerville School Department, 167 Holland Street, 3rd Floor, Somerville, MA 02144 at which time and place they shall be publicly opened and read aloud.

The School Committee of the City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part or parts thereof, and to award the Contract or not to award the Contract, as the School Committee deems to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville School Department.

Patricia Durette,
Interim CFO
Somerville Public Schools

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City of Somerville, Massachusetts KATJANA BALLANTYNE MAYOR

SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE TO HOLD A VIRTUAL COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PLAN HEARING Plan establishes the annual funding priorities for Community Preservation Act program

The Somerville Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is holding their annual Community Preservation Plan public hearing on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. The Community Preservation Plan establishes the annual funding priorities and allocates money to the three categories that Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds can support.

Please join the FY26 Community Preservation Plan Public Hearing via Zoom Webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_s_J6r-ZAT6KWhoxQ14MIAA
You can also dial in using your phone. United States: (646) 931-3860
Access Code: 826 1737 0463

Interested persons may provide comments to the Community Preservation Committee at the hearing and by submitting written comments by Friday, March 31st, 2025 by email to rcameron@somervillema.gov. You can also share your ideas by taking the Community Preservation Committee survey at www.somervillema.gov/cpa. For more information on the CPA and how to apply for CPA funds, visit the City's website at www.somervillema.gov/cpa.

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact the City's ADA Coordinator, Adrienne Pomeroy, at 617-625-6600 x2059 or ada@somervillema.gov.

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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, April 1, 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/join/register/WN_zw5TCFVWRze3hM7iyPqAyA

Webinar ID: 863 9032 0546

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****HP25-000001 – 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, constructing an attached addition, and constructing a detached Backyard Cottage.

DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)**HP24-000095 - 142 Cross Street**

Applicant: JAC Investments LLC

Owner: JAC Investments LLC

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.

3/12/25 The Somerville Times



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION –
HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

**Project: Somerville – Bridge Replacement, Bridge # S-17-016,
Webster Avenue over MBTA & BMRR
Project File No. 611940**

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed project in Somerville, MA.

WHEN: 6:00 p.m., Thursday, March 20, 2025

WHERE: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project includes the replacement of Webster Avenue Bridge No. S-17-016 (3GF) over the MBTA & BMRR and reconstruction of each roadway approach between Prospect Street and Everett Street, exclusive of the intersections. In addition to the replacement of the bridge, Newton Street will be realigned west and east of the bridge, eliminating the skewed intersection by splitting the intersection into two “tee” intersections. Newton Street (West) will intersect Webster Avenue south of the proposed bridge and accommodate two-way traffic. Newton Street (East) of Webster Avenue will intersect with Webster Avenue north of the proposed bridge and remain one-way eastbound. The work along each section of Newton Street will be less than 500 ft in length.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT’s policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7210, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Major Projects, Project File No. 611940. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is hosted.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT’s Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

3/5/25, 3/12/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville City Council’s Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, March 20th, 2025** at 6:30 pm.

This meeting will be held in the Committee Room, on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, and by remote participation, using the Zoom platform. 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/register/WN_C5siX4QNSp2BtmDLXovTuQ

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

- John Fragione and Agostino Feola, Trustees of Frala Realty Trust, requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 295-297 Medford Street and 93 Walnut Street from Mid-Rise 3 (MR3) to Mid-Rise 4 (MR4).
- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Articles 8 and 12 of the Zoning Ordinance to establish a new Arts & Innovation sub-area of the Master Planned Development Overlay District
- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Articles 2, 3-6, and 9 of the Zoning Ordinance to revise the regulations for arts and creative enterprise, office, and residential uses.
- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Articles 6, 9, and 10 of the Zoning Ordinance to establish a new Research & Development zoning district.
- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Articles 2, 4-6, 8, and 9 of the Zoning Ordinance to revise the regulations for laboratory uses and buildings.

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

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

3/5/25, 3/12/25 The Somerville Times

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Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

action was entirely fitting for a soldier who was accustomed to flags. He had grown up in the shadow of Prospect Hill in Somerville, where General George Washington had ordered and observed the first American flag raising 170 years before. He was also his company’s flag, or Guide Arm Bearer, during training.

After the first flag raising, both his lieutenant and platoon sergeant were ordered back aboard ship to report their actions, leaving Henry as senior man

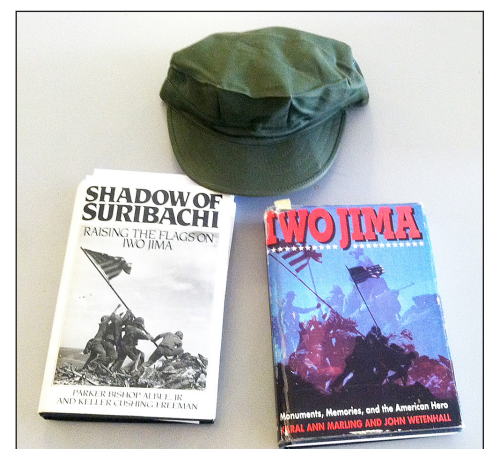
that afternoon. Four hours later, he and others were filmed and photographed raising the second, larger flag, and taking down the first, smaller flag. He participated in both actions, but was only credited for the first raising.

His favorite headgear was an identifiable soft, field cap, which he wore during both flag raisings. He was the only marine to do so. If you look at Joe Rosenthal’s famous still photo, you will not see him; but if you observe the Ma-

rine’s “filming” of the flag raising, you can clearly spot him wearing his trademark field cap.

Hansen’s Lieutenant, who helped raise the first flag, and the second flag’s filmmaker were killed on March 3, Somerville’s birthday. Sergeant Henry Hansen was killed two days before from a machine gun burst, on March 1, 1945, the tenth day of the battle.

Eighty years ago, Sgt. Henry O. Hansen raised “The Flags of Iwo Jima.”



LEGAL NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

City of Somerville
 Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)
 RFP# 25-PS1 CD
 RFP # 25-ESG CD

The City of Somerville, Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) invites sealed proposals for the **2025-2026 HUD Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Program Emergency Solutions Grant Program**

Community Development Block Grant Program. Proposals must be for programs that provide Public Services to low- and moderate-income residents of the City of Somerville. Bid Number [RFP # 25-PS1 CD](#)
Emergency Solutions Grant Program. Proposals must address the needs of homeless individuals and families in the City of Somerville. Funds for the Emergency Solutions Grant are provided by the federal Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act. Bid Number [RFP # 25-ESG CD](#)

Request for Proposal packages for both programs will be posted and available for download on the City of Somerville website beginning at **8:30 A.M. Wednesday, March 12, 2025**, at www.somervillema.gov/CDBGFRFP and www.somervillema.gov/ESGRFP
 Print copies are available upon request to Julie Melgar at OSPCD@somervillema.gov.

An electronic PDF file should be emailed to OSPCD@somervillema.gov and Public Services proposal packages must be submitted no later than **12:00 P.M. Friday, April 11, 2025**, for Emergency Solutions Grant **12:30 P.M. Friday, April 11, 2025**, for Community Development Block Grant

Please contact Julie Melgar, Program Compliance Officer, by email Jmelgar@somervillema.gov, for information and proposal packages.

Thomas Galligani, Executive Director
 617- 625-6600, x 2531

3/12/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
 SCHOOL COMMITTEE
 167 HOLLAND STREET, 3RD FLOOR
 SOMERVILLE, MA 02144
 REBID #S2025-03**

The School Committee of the City of Somerville invites sealed bids for an Anatomage Table Convertible Including Accessories for the Center for Technical Education at Somerville High School.

Every bid shall be submitted in accordance with the Specifications which may be obtained at the Finance Office, Somerville School Department, 167 Holland Street, Somerville, MA 02144 on or after **March 11, 2025**.

All bids shall be filed no later than **2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26, 2025** at the Finance Office, Somerville School Department, 167 Holland Street, 3rd Fl., Somerville, MA 02144 at which time and place they shall be publicly opened and read aloud.

The School Committee of the City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part or parts thereof, and to award the Contract or not to award the Contract, as the School Committee deems to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville School Department.

Patricia Durette,
 Interim CFO
 Somerville Public Schools

3/12/25 The Somerville Times

Tax Tip of the Week

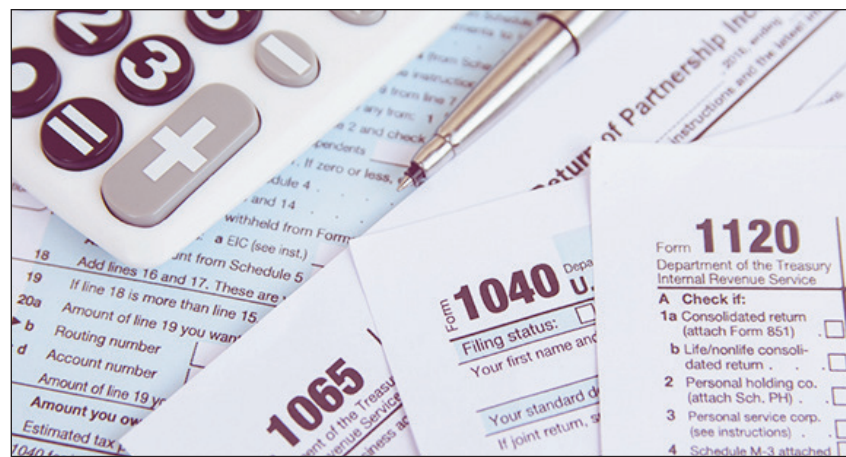
By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: What happens if I owe taxes at the end of the year and can't pay?

A: If you can't pay your tax bill in full, don't panic— the IRS offers options to help. These programs allow taxpayers facing financial hardship to manage their payments in a way that works for them, with reasonable interest rates applied to unpaid balances.

Your Four Main Options:

- **Installment Plan** – Pay over time (up to 72 months) if you owe \$50,000 or less. For debts over \$50,000, installment plans are still possible but require additional documentation and approval.
- **Extension to Pay** – Get up to six months to pay your taxes in full if you qualify.
- **Offer in Compromise (OIC)** – Settle your tax debt for less than what you owe, but approval is difficult.
- **Currently Not Collectible (CNC)** – The IRS may pause collection efforts if you can't afford any payments; however, interest and penalties will continue to accrue during this period.



Bottom Line: If you can't pay your taxes, taking one of these IRS-approved actions is almost always better than doing nothing. Similar programs are available for Massachusetts state taxes. Consider applying for a payment plan or extension first, and if you believe you qualify for OIC or CNC, consult a tax professional for guidance.

Have questions about your taxes? I'd be happy to help! I'm Vincent Hicks, a CPA based here in Somerville with over 20 years of experience. Feel free to email or call me at vhicksconnect@gmail.com (859-553-0788).

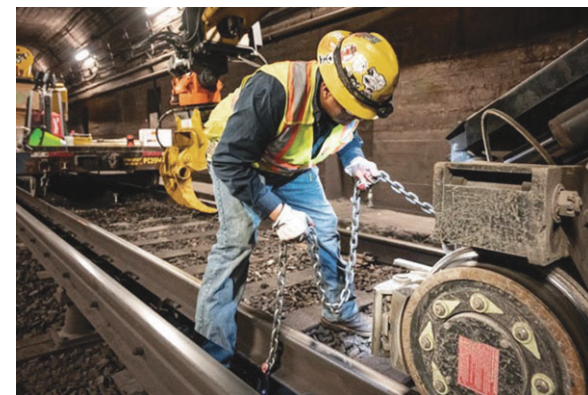
Disclaimer: This column provides general tax information and should not be considered tax or legal advice. Tax laws change frequently, and individual circumstances vary. For personalized guidance, consult a tax professional.

Red Line Hi-Rail Access Tunnel Project virtual public meeting

The MBTA will host a virtual public information meeting on Tuesday, March 18, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. regarding the Red Line Hi-Rail Access Tunnel Project.

The MBTA is building a new access tunnel for hi-rail vehicles that will enable shorter and less frequent Red Line shutdowns, faster commutes, and bring the MBTA closer to a state of good repair.

A hi-rail vehicle is a work truck equipped with a hydraulic set of train wheels in addition to rubber tires, allowing it to operate on railways and surface streets.



Right now, the only access tunnel for these vehicles is near Charles/MGH station.

At this meeting, the project team will provide an update on the project's progress, outline its benefits, and answer questions.

Accessibility:

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency. The MBTA provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request, as available. Such services include interpreters in American Sign Language and additional languages other than English, CART, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices, and materials in alternate formats or languages.

ASL interpretation will be provided. For accommodation and/or language assistance, please email the Public Engagement team at publicengagement@mbta.com.

Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting. For services that typically require extra time to arrange including CART and interpretation or translation in additional languages other than English, requests should be made at least 10 business days prior to the meeting date.

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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Colcannon | 7. "They're magically delicious" |
| 2. Bostonians on March 17, 1737 | 8. The Colosseum |
| 3. Boy | 9. Molly Malone |
| 4. The bagpipe | 10. The Boston Celtics |
| 5. Seamus Heaney | 11. Walking stick |
| 6. Seamus Heaney | 12. Irish whiskey |

A look behind the curtains of 'Much Ado About Nothing'

By Liam Beretsky-Jewell

Thursday, March 13, will be opening night for the Highlander Theatre Company's second major production of the 2024-2025 school year. Dozens of students have been hard at work putting their spin on a Shakespearean classic: *Much Ado About Nothing*, a drama-filled romantic comedy that explores themes of love, sabotage, and deception, following the tangled love affairs of two young couples.

Tickets are pay-what-you-can and can be bought on the HTC website or at the door before the show. Performances will take place in the high school's Centennial Auditorium at 81 Highland Ave.

A Shakespearean classic set during a more contemporary time

Much Ado About Nothing represents a departure from the more contemporary works that HTC has put on in recent years, taking the audience on a journey narrated entirely in Shakespearean English.

Although *Much Ado* is traditionally set in the 16th century, HTC's spin on the show is set "in a time period that's more contemporary – basically not Elizabethan and not cell phones," said Deneen Scully, who is helping coordinate costumes for the show. She says the costumes are "not of a certain time period. The students have kind of made their own style, so it's kind of a romanticism, but with a little bit of edge. They're going for kind of timeless vibe."

The students have been "reworking existing pieces that we have and adding to or changing them, putting things together that maybe didn't always go together," said Deneen.

She describes the plot as "a comedy – it's

really witty, it's funny, and the actors are really larger than life. As we like to say, in Shakespeare, tragedy is where everyone dies at the end, and comedy is where everyone gets married. This is definitely everyone gets married." However, aside from its happily-ever-after ending, *Much Ado* deals with some more serious themes. "It's really all about masks and deception, and how we decide who we trust," Hunter said. "And, in some ways, how we decide who we let deceive us." The play deals with themes of sabotage and bias, where "both the good guys and the bad guys play tricks on each other, but we think some are good and some are bad."

Much Ado is director Hunter's first time working with HTC, and she has learned a lot about the theater's practices from working with long-time theater students such as senior Anya Miller, who is stepping up as stage manager of this production. Hunter says the production's "biggest success is just how incredibly talented and professional all the performers, and particularly the technical crew, are. It's been really exciting to work with them."

A number of the tech crew heads this year are also relative newcomers to HTC, including freshmen Natalie Zielinski (lighting) and Mi'sol Membreno-Gomez (set).

A cast perspective on the play

The shift to working on an Elizabethan-era play has the greatest impact on the cast, who must engage in dialogue written almost 500 years ago – a challenge the cast are ready to take on. "To be honest, this is Shakespeare, so I don't always know what's going on sometimes, but that's okay, because it's interesting,"



Students putting the final touches on a wedding scene.

— Photos by Liam Beretsky-Jewell

said Serena Wong, a senior performing as Ursula in the play and helping with set crew. "I think there is value in doing old works with fancy language like Shakespeare. It's been a great challenge!"

Students are excited to be working on this classic. "I actually really like this show. It's my favorite Shakespearean play, and I'm really excited to be working on it," said Natalie Zielinski, the head of lighting.

Much Ado will be HTC's first Shakespearean production since before the COVID-19 shutdown. "I'm very happy to have the opportunity to do Shakespeare because I haven't in high school before," remarked Calla Taylor, a senior who is playing Hero. *Much Ado* will be the last full-length production in high school for Calla and her fellow senior cast members, making it a bittersweet experience. "This really is my last show here, which is kind of crazy, and very surreal. I'm excited for new things, but it's also going to be really sad to be leaving this community," she said, reflecting on her time working with HTC over the past four years. She plans to continue pursuing theatre in college.

The environment backstage

One thing that consistently comes across on stage during HTC's productions is the high degree of harmony between the cast members and crew. It is a testament to the students' dedication and the positive environment evident backstage and during rehearsals.

"I feel like we're very respectful towards each other. It's a very pleasant place to be," said Natalie, shortly before the group convened for a surprise celebration of assistant stage manager Michala Thomas' birthday. "It's very fun. We have a very chaotic, but fantastic environment," said Serena Wong,

referencing the joking and dancing that help them get through long afternoons of work and rehearsals.

These rehearsals sometimes run late into the evening, which has helped contribute to the strong sense of community and kinship among the cast and crew. "I think it actually kind of brings people closer together. When you're like having dinner together every night ... When you're spending that much time together," explained Calla.

What the audience should know leading into opening night

Shakespeare's works have a reputation for being somewhat hard to follow. To some, the plot and dialogue of *Much Ado* may come across as a "little confusing at first, but if you're paying attention, you get it, and it's a comedy," said Natalie. Director Hunter hopes the audience will be "pulled in" to the show. "The students have done a good job really inhabiting their characters," she explained. She acknowledges that some may feel intimidated by Shakespeare, but believes the fun and light-hearted nature of *Much Ado* will help "make Shakespeare feel more accessible" and enjoyable to people.

Calla added, I think if [people] come in with an open mind, ready to enjoy it, they'll have fun. I think it should be a great show."

This slightly abridged version of *Much Ado* has a runtime somewhere in the ballpark of 90 minutes.

Showtimes are as follows:

Thursday, March 13, at 7 p.m.

Friday, March 14, at 5 p.m.

Saturday, March 15, at 2 p.m.

Saturday, March 15, at 7 p.m.

Tickets available at: <https://www.highlandertheatre.org/>



Students celebrating the birthday of assistant stage manager Michala during afternoon rehearsals.

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

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

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

Cultural Series Event – featuring Line Dancing Fun with DJ Hank Tuesday, March 18th 11:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. \$5 per person. Lunch will be served at noon (roast beef sandwiches, turkey chili & mixed veggies). Reserve your spot for the event and lunch by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

St. Patricks Day Luncheon – Thursday, March 13th starting at 11:00 a.m. at the George Dilboy Post located at 351 Summer Street. \$10 per person. Join us for a performance by the Rebecca McGowan School of Irish Dance and a special meal (corned beef and cabbage.) Reserve your spot for the event and lunch by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Chronic Disease Self-Management Program – Mondays, March 31st, April 7th, 14th, 28th and May 5th and 12th starting at 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center. This program offers supportive workshops designed to help participants build confidence in managing their health and leading active, fulfilling lives. The workshop will be conducted in both Mandarin and Cantonese. RSVP by calling Yi Lam at SomerViva, 781-808-7346.

Shamrock Yarn Art – Monday, March 17th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Join Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Registered Art Therapist, Erica Curcio for a relaxing and crafty afternoon! RSVP by calling Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov

FDIC Money Smart Identity Theft & Medical Identity Theft – Friday, March 14th starting at 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Representatives from Northern Bank will conduct a presentation on financial exploitation as part of their Money Smart series. RSVP to Natasha Naim by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

Intergenerational Fun with Tufts University Students – Friday, March 28th. Game Day followed by pizza starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Friday, April 4th. Arts & Crafts followed by pizza. Additional dates include Friday, April 18th and 25th. RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

CHA presentation on Rehabilitation Therapies – Friday, March 14th at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Cambridge Health Alliance will discuss physical, occupational and rehabilitation therapies and why they are important to your overall health. RSVP to Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

Senior Fraud with the Dept. of Homeland Security – Tuesday, March 25th at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Sean Garvey, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigation will be doing a presentation on common frauds and will be available to answer questions on senior fraud. RSVP Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Movie Day: Irish Wish – Friday, March 21st, starting at 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. This months movie is Irish Wish starring Lindsay Lohan and Ed Speleers. The running time is 1 hour 33 minutes. RSVP Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov - \$2.00 Pizza Lunch served after the movie.

De-Cluttering Group – will meet on Wednesdays, March 12th, 19th, 26th, April 2nd, 9th & 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Looking for assistance with taking control of your clutter. This six-week group teaches you how to address your mess and skills on how to let go of items. This group is open to Somerville and Cambridge residents. RSVP by calling Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

Having Fun with Kitchen Gadgets – Wednesday, March 19th, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. This month we celebrate National Nutrition Month with a strong focus on eating healthy, being mindful of our overall health, and having the right tools on hand to accomplish the task. RSVP to Mary Marshall by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2316 or email Mary at Headtofitness10@yahoo.com.

Food Safety Bingo & Prizes – Thursday, March 20th, starting at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon. To make a lunch reservation call 617-625-6600, ext. 2323. Lunch is free, voluntary donations are appreciated, \$3 is suggested. Presented by dedicated SCES nutrition staff.

Do you have nutrition questions? – Thursday, March 27th, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at our Holland Street Center. Meet with a registered dietitian from Somerville Cambridge Elder Services. If you are interested in setting up a free one-on-one consultation with SCES dietitian, call 617-628-260, ext. 3054. Reservations required limited spots available.

Left, Right, Center Game Day – Friday, March 7th, at our Holland Street Center starting at 10:30 a.m. LRC (Left, Right, Center) is a fun, fast-paced dice game that you won't be able to put down! Players roll the dice to determine where they pass their chips. The last player with chips is the winner and wins the center pot. RSVP by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Friendly Caller Program - We have many wonderful volunteers who are waiting to give you a call. Whether you are looking to make a new friend or would just like a friendly chat to look forward to every week, this program has you covered. Call Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 to learn more about the program and to sign up.

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 become part of our Google Group, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

The Ralph & Jenny Senior Center has a new phone number. You can reach the center by calling the city number at 617-625-6600, ext. 2336.

COMMENTARY

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

Somerville – a city of hope

By Jeffrey Shwom

In the past 6 months of covering our city through the newspaper, my smile has grown wider and my faith in our city has grown stronger. People care here. People want and build community here. People stand up for what they believe in here. Even if standing up amplifies the differences, big and small, between us.

It's important to acknowledge that some people are staying inside these days because of fear. Fear of being themselves, fear of being from where they are from, and fear of the unknown and uncertainty. The thing that I hang my hat on is that, together, Somerville is a stronger city than any other. Our four square miles may be the toughest, most resilient mileage in the country. Because deep down, we care about each other, we care about the world, and we care about humanity. And we do it all in a very Somervillen way.

From Rev. Jordan's work in East

Somerville at Connexion to the many Somerville businesses I've interviewed that are owned by Somerville residents. From the city programs that feed people and nurture community to the mayor's recent lawsuit against the Federal government. For Padres Latinos advocating on behalf of families to Jimmy Del Ponte's Life in the Ville articles. And from the feeling you get when you walk into the Burren and get that blast of a fiddle or guitar or chatter from the bar... something strong lives here.

For those who are more liberal than conservative, the new paradigm and norms that seem to be being set from Washington and social media feel like an affront to who we are. For those who are more fiscally conservative, this may seem like the greatest chance to reduce fraud and waste and change the past for the better. Differences aside, it feels like a different time here in town than before. Maybe because this city is filled with survivors of a pandemic. Filled with folks who remember Slumer-

ville or are annoyed by that moniker. Some of us are filled with the memories of the restaurants and places that we've known and loved that have closed or have moved upward. Whatever way we experience life here, we are a city of older and recent immigrants, we are a city of understanding, and it's my belief that we are a city of love.

I still feel so encouraged to experience life in a very Somerville way.

While I have lived through, as a musician and resident, the closure of many creative institutions in town (Johnny D's, Bull McCabe's, Thunder Road Music Club), I recently enjoyed the packed crowd at Sally O'Brien's on a Thursday night with musicians who had played at those closed venues. With the closing of Buddy's Diner or Joshua Tree, I see a strong Brazilian-influenced Oliveira's Steak House, an expanding La Posada and Dave's Fresh Pasta, and women-owned Vinal Bakery. Ball Square Bowling closed (thanks for the memories, Butch) and now we have a train station. Walgreen's and Star Market shutter in

Winter Hill and the community gathered to talk about real change for its future (not without compromise, for sure). With the need for new schools in Winter Hill and Ball Square, I see advocacy, discussions (sometimes tough), and a willingness to move forward together for the betterment of our children.

I see an ever-changing world in an ever-changing landscape. The one thing that stays constant is Somerville. It's a place for artists, students, retail workers and regular paycheck folks. It's a place for advocacy, a sanctuary, a home away from home (wherever home may be). I see it when kids run around Lexington Park, when Porchfest pops up on an always cloudy-to-start, sunny-to-finish afternoon, and when folks use HONK! as a platform to speak up. We need, more than ever, to use our voices, our togetherness, our intention for taking care of each other to make our city stronger and to make it what it is, an ever-growing and evolving American experiment.

Book review: 'Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone' by Benjamin Stevenson

By Dennis Fischman

I'm the kind of mystery reader who rarely solves the mysteries myself. Pieces of the puzzle come together for me but not the whole picture – plus, I get caught up in the characters (if they're sympathetic) and the writing (if it's any good).

But I immediately recognize the building blocks of mystery fiction, especially the classic cozy or what my mystery book club has taken to calling the "murder cabin": [1] things like a group of people, connected to one another, isolated from the rest of the world, each of them with secrets, some of them not really the person they pretend to be. And then they start dying.

If you're an old fan like me, you will appreciate the new twists Benjamin Stevenson puts on this

classic plot in *Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone* [2]. What's more, you will like the protagonist, Ernie Cunningham. He's a reader like us.

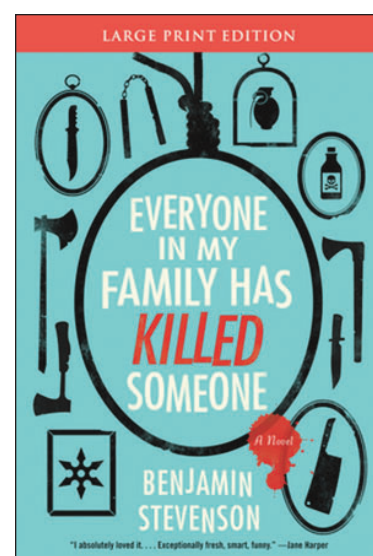
Ernie reads – and writes about – mysteries. In the front of the book, he includes the membership oath of the Detection Club, a 1930 organization that included such big names as Agatha Christie (who wrote about Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple), Dorothy Sayers (Lord Peter Wimsey), and G.K. Chesterton (Father Brown).

Another member was Ronald Knox [3], author of "10 Commandments of Detective Fiction," the classic rules about authors playing fair with their readers. And Ernie Cunningham promises to play fair with us and even go beyond the rules: right in the prologue, he tells all the pages on

which "deaths in this book either happen or are reported to have happened." And he is telling the truth, but the truth is slippery.

Here's the setup for the story: Ernie's family is gathering at a ski resort on the day his brother, Michael, is supposed to be released from prison. No spoiler here: you learn quickly that Michael killed a former cop who, years ago, shot their father, Robert, and that it was Ernie's refusal to lie for Michael that got him convicted.

Now Michael is supposed to arrive – but shortly before he does, another, unidentified corpse shows up in the snow. Who is "Green Boots," as they call the dead man? Who killed him, and why? And is his death by a particularly awful method connected to the other depredations of a serial killer the police have called "Black Tongue"?



Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone by Benjamin Stevenson Harper Large Print, 2022



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

lodge. There's intrigue with the police, a secretive business deal, and a wide range of testimony that makes you wonder what it means to tell the truth.

Author Benjamin Stevenson manages to play fair and play the readers for fools *Continued on page 19*

Somerville senior Sam Ryan wins MAVA graphic design contest

The Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA) has named Sam Ryan, a senior graphic design student at Somerville High School, as the winner of this year's Connecting for Success (CFS) conference graphic design contest.

Ryan's design was selected as the top choice from over 80 submissions through a rigorous three-round, double-blind selection process. The final decision was made by the conference steering committee, composed of leading education administrators from across Massachusetts. Connecting for Success is the premier professional development conference for vocational, technical, and agricultural educators in the state.

An 18-year-old student at Somerville High School, Ryan has distinguished himself as both a top scholar and a creative talent. A straight-A student, he placed eighth nationwide in the SkillsUSA National Competition for Advertising Design last year, and will be recognized as Somerville's Most Outstanding Vocational Student by the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA) during an awards ceremony in April. His exceptional abilities extend beyond academics; he excels in both graphic design and interpersonal skills.

Outside the classroom, Ryan is a dedicated member of his school's robotics team, which competes in the prestigious FIRST Robotics Competition. Additionally, he works at the city's public fabrication lab, where he assists makers in bringing their projects to life in a collaborative, high-tech workspace. Beyond his technical

pursuits, Ryan is also a talented writer, having authored an 85,000-word historical fiction novel.

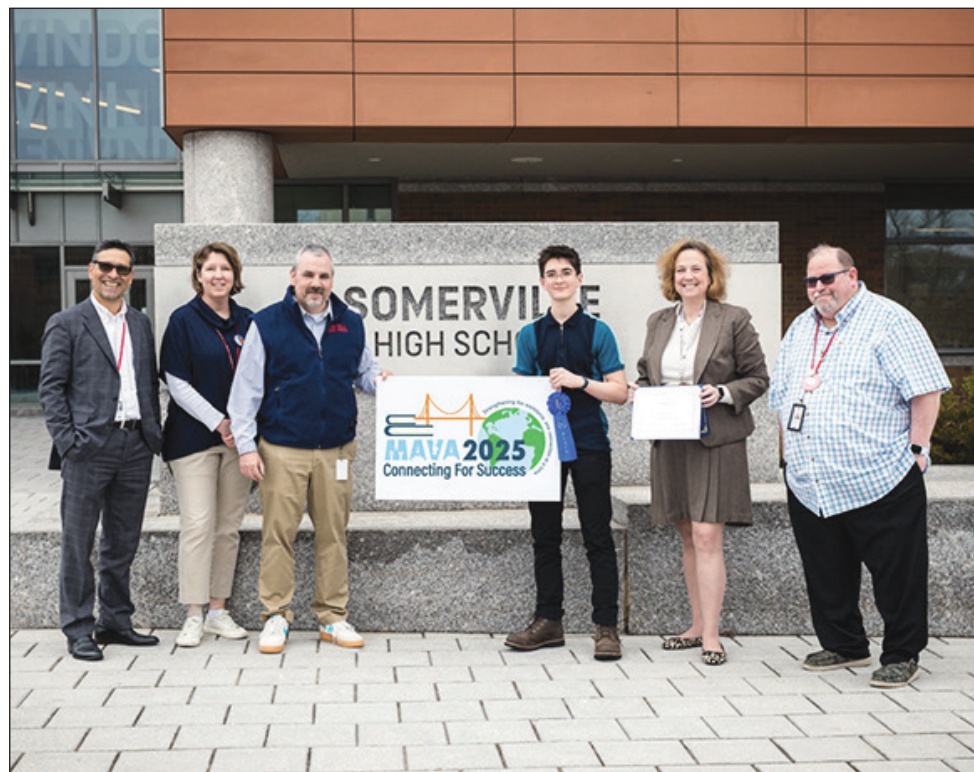
Ryan's winning graphic logo was inspired by the diverse career paths available to vocational students and visually depicted a bridge from a Massachusetts Career and Technical Education (CTE) student's education to employability in the workforce. His design cleverly integrates tools symbolic of the Massachusetts Department of Education's Chapter 74 programs into the "MAVA" acronym, visually linking education, represented by books, to the broader world of work represented by a globe.

Using Adobe Illustrator, Ryan refined multiple drafts through extensive feedback and critique sessions with instructors and peers. After his design was selected as the winner, he collaborated with Allison Cammarata, MAVA's Connecting for Success Marketing and Communications Coordinator, to finalize the logo's presentation.

"The most challenging part of the process was selecting the right tools to incorporate into the acronym," said Ryan. "But in the end, it's the part of the design that I'm most proud of."

Upon learning of his victory, Ryan expressed excitement and gratitude. "I'm proud to be recognized for my work," he said. "This achievement builds my portfolio and professional confidence, which will help me as I continue to pursue design."

Ryan plans to further his education after high school, with aspirations to attend college and major in either graphic design or



Somerville High School student Sam Ryan won MAVA's Connecting for Success (CFS) conference graphic design contest.

writing/communications.

Reflecting on his experience, Ryan offered advice to other young designers: "I believe that creative ideas bring the most meaningful and personally resonant change into the world. We live in a time when connection and change are needed, and imaginative individuals may be the ones to pioneer the new. So be creative and be intentional!"

When asked about the impact of Career and Technical Education (CTE) on his learning experience, Ryan said, "Participating in a CTE program lets me explore my passions, helping me discover my place in the world while sparking curiosity in ways

that traditional subjects may not."

He also expressed gratitude to his teachers, Richard McElroy and Gary Bunker, for helping him build a strong foundation in graphic design.

About the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA)

MAVA is a non-profit professional organization dedicated to advocating for high-quality vocational, technical, and agricultural education in Massachusetts. With more than 71 member schools and over 51,000 students enrolled in state-approved programs, MAVA is committed to strengthening the future workforce through education-industry partnerships.



CFS Chair G. White presents check to Ryan.



Ryan and Instructor R. McElroy.

When garden meets grapes: Elevating vegetable dishes with perfect wine pairings

By Sylvia Ba

Have you ever wondered why a glass of wine tastes so much better when paired with the right dish? While it's true for any cuisine, wine pairing for vegetable dishes in particular can be a game-changer – and not just benefitting those living a vegetarian or vegan lifestyle, but rather everyone who enjoys gastro gifts from the garden.

The art of wine pairing, once thought to be reserved for meat and seafood dishes, has evolved to embrace vegetarian cuisine. Understanding how to pair wine with vegetarian dishes is an art that can elevate your dining experience to new heights. Here, we delve into the nuances of wine pairing with vegetarian food, considering ingredients, cooking methods, and seasoning. Whether you are hosting a dinner party or enjoying a quiet meal at home, these tips and examples will help you choose the perfect wine to complement your vegetarian dishes.

Understanding the Ingredients

Vegetarian dishes often feature a variety of vegetables, grains, legumes, and plant-based proteins. Each ingredient brings its own flavor profile, from the earthy tones of mushrooms to the sweetness of roasted bell peppers. When pairing wine, consider the dominant flavors of the dish. For instance:

- **Mushrooms:** Earthy and umami-rich mushrooms pair well with Pinot Noir or Chardonnay. For example, mushroom risotto's creamy texture and deep umami flavors of a well-made mushroom risotto are beautifully complemented by a Pinot Noir, whose earthy undertones enhance the dish's richness.

- **Tomatoes:** The acidity and sweetness of tomatoes complement well with Sauvignon Blanc or Chianti. The savory and slightly tangy tomato sauce used in eggplant parmesan pairs excellently with Chianti. Its bright acidity and red fruit flavors balance the dish's robust flavors.

- **Greens:** Leafy greens like spinach and

kale, with their slight bitterness, match nicely with crisp whites like Pinot Grigio or Grüner Veltliner. Take Kale and Apple Salad with Lemon Vinaigrette as an example, the fresh, slightly bitter kale, combined with sweet apple and tangy lemon vinaigrette, pairs beautifully with Grüner Veltliner. The wine's crispness and slight peppery notes enhance the salad's flavors.

- **Root Vegetables:** Sweet and earthy root vegetables, such as carrots and beets, pair wonderfully with wines like Merlot or Zinfandel. The sweet, earthy flavor of roasted beets pairs harmoniously with the smooth, fruity notes of Merlot.

Cooking Methods

The way a dish is prepared can significantly influence its wine pairing. Here are some common vegetarian cooking methods and corresponding wine suggestions:

- **Grilling:** Grilled vegetables often have a smoky, charred flavor. Pair them with robust wines like Syrah or Malbec. The smoky, charred flavors of the grilled vegetables find a perfect match in Malbec, whose robust fruit flavors and tannins stand up to the boldness of the dish.

- **Roasting:** Roasting enhances the sweetness of vegetables. Consider wines with a hint of sweetness or spiciness, such as Riesling or Grenache, like Roasted Butternut Squash Soup. The sweet, creamy flavors of roasted butternut squash soup are complemented by the slight sweetness and acidity of Riesling, balancing the richness.

- **Stir-frying:** Stir-fried dishes, especially those with Asian influences, pair well with aromatic whites like Gewürztraminer or light reds like Gamay. The aromatic and slightly spicy flavors in stir-fried tofu or vegetables are enhanced by Gewürztraminer. This wine's floral and lychee notes, along with its slight sweetness, balance the dish's flavors.

- **Raw:** Fresh, raw dishes such as salads or crudité's benefit from crisp, light wines like Sauvignon Blanc or Rosé. The fresh

tomatoes, basil, and mozzarella in a Caprese salad pair nicely with a crisp Rosé, whose acidity and light fruit flavors enhance the dish's freshness.

Seasoning and Sauces

Seasonings and sauces can dramatically alter the flavor profile of a dish, impacting the wine pairing. Here are some examples:

- **Herbs:** Fresh herbs like basil, cilantro, and mint call for wines that enhance their freshness. Think of Sauvignon Blanc or Vermentino for your favorite Pesto Pasta. The fresh basil in a vibrant pesto sauce pairs beautifully with Vermentino, whose citrusy and herbaceous notes complement the herb's freshness.

- **Spices:** Spicy dishes, whether it's a dash of chili or a complex curry, pair well with slightly sweet wines like Riesling or off-dry Chenin Blanc. The heat and aromatic spices in a chickpea curry are balanced by an off-dry Chenin Blanc, whose slight sweetness tempers the spice.

- **Creamy Sauces:** Creamy or cheesy sauces, often found in vegetarian pastas or casseroles, pair excellently with full-bodied whites like Chardonnay or Viognier. The rich, creamy sauce in fettuccine Alfredo finds a perfect match in Chardonnay, whose full body and buttery notes complement the dish's richness.

- **Tangy Sauces:** Tangy sauces, such as vinaigrettes or lemon-based dressings, match nicely with high-acidity wines like Albariño or unoaked Chardonnay. The tangy lemon and fresh herbs in a quinoa salad pair well with the high acidity of Albariño, enhancing the dish's bright flavors.

Pairing wine with vegetarian dishes is a rewarding endeavor that opens up a world of flavors. By considering the ingredients, cooking methods, and seasonings, you can create harmonious pairings that elevate your meals. Whether you're enjoying a simple weeknight dinner or hosting a lavish gathering, these wine and vegetarian food pairings will impress and satisfy you.



Wine consultant Sylvia Ba is a vinicultural expert with the "VinoVoss" – an AI Sommelier smartphone app and web-based semantic wine search and recommendation system developed by BetterAI. VinoVoss picks the perfect wine every time, for any occasion, courtesy of a highly advanced artificial intelligence assist. With a master's degree in wine business from Burgundy School of Business, as well as diverse background and experiences in Europe and Asia, she currently offers expertise in marketing, research, purchasing, and copywriting for clients in the wine industry all over the world. Sylvia's experience includes working as a junior editor for a leading Chinese wine media outlet and as a fine wine salesperson for ASC Fine Wines, the largest fine wine importer in China. She also served as Export Manager for Vinum Hadrianum, an artisanal winery in Abruzzo, Italy. Reach her at www.vinovoss.com.



Book review: 'Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone' by Benjamin Stevenson

CONT. FROM PG 17

at the same time, and I marvel at his ability. This first book in a series [4] is well written, fiendishly well plotted, funny at times, gripping at times, thoroughly informed about the

mystery genre ... and I didn't believe a word of it. It required me not only to suspend disbelief but to hang, draw, and quarter disbelief. If you're willing to go along for the ride, I think

you will enjoy it too.

Links:

[1] <https://www.thesomerville-times.com/archives/138646>

[2] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/61284044-ev>

everyone-in-my-family-has-killed-someone

[3] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9803641-ronald-knox-and-sherlock-holmes?>

from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=eGxoAY-Vpz8&rank=6

[4] <https://www.goodreads.com/series/357394-ernest-cunningham>



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week

Q: If a person is a member of a protected class, do I HAVE to rent to them?

A: No. What you have to do is to treat them the same way as any other tenant who applies. Show them the apartment, check their references and their credit, and do not pass them over just because they are (for instance) unmarried, or Salvadoran, or veterans.

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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BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Tree on life support...

— Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

March 12

- 1609 – The Bermuda Islands become an English colony.
- 1664 – New Jersey becomes a British colony.
- 1789 – The United States Post Office is established.
- 1863 – President Jefferson Davis delivers his State of the Confederacy address.
- 1884 – Mississippi establishes the first U.S. state college for women.
- 1894 – Coca-Cola is sold in bottles for the first time.
- 1912 – Juliet Low founds the Girl Scouts in Savannah, Georgia.
- 1930 – Gandhi begins his march to the sea to symbolizes his defiance of British rule in India.
- 1933 – President Roosevelt makes the first of his Sunday evening fireside chats.
- 1945 – Diarist Anne Frank dies in a German concentration camp.
- 1959 The U.S. House of Representatives approves the statehood of Hawaii.
- 1985 – The United States and the Soviet Union begin arms control talks in Geneva.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Performance Hall into an immersive **Glow-in-the-Dark Rave** created by DJ Adam Gibbons with hypnotic visuals by Jay Medina, all in support of **The Center for Arts at the Armory**. GLOWBALL is an anti-gala—there will be no speeches, formal presentations or auction. There will be pop-up performances by **Samba Viva** and **Sidy Maiga** on djembe. This year’s honorees: **Rachel Strutt**, Lifetime Achievement Award; **Clay Fernald**, Community Arts Advocate; and **Nelson Salazar**, Outstanding Artist. GLOWBALL tickets include complimentary international bites, glow-in-the-dark accessories and face painting by **Arty Mari**. This will surely be Somerville’s most illuminating party of 2025. <https://artsatthearmory.org/glowball/>

The **Somerville Arts Council’s ArtBeat 2025 Calls for Talent** are now available. The Somerville Arts Council invites musicians, street performers, circus artists, installation artists, buskers, craft vendors, and more to participate at ArtBeat 2025. Festival date and new time: **Saturday, July 19**, 1 – 9 p.m. (Rain date: Sunday, July 20), **Davis Square**, Somerville. The main festival will take place from 1 to 7 p.m., but music and food will continue in **Seven Hills Park** from 7 to 9 p.m. Visit <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/artbeat/calls/>.

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 after 5:00 p.m. on **Saturday, March 15**, 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.

Save those **milk/juice and other ½ gallon cartons!** The **Somerville Community Growing Center** needs lots of these recycled containers as material for art projects for events, such as Festa Junina hats and pollinator puppets. Please rinse out and cut off the top and bottom to flatten. Contact **Yumi** at yumiisu65@gmail.com for drop-off arrangements.

The **Somerville Community Growing Center** is holding **DIY Milk Jug Greenhouses** on **Sunday, March 16**, 1 – 2 p.m., 22 Vinal Ave. There is still time to get a head start on planting by doing some winter sowing of hardy, cool season plants. Growing Center volunteers will walk you through the process of making and planting your own mini greenhouse to take home. Seeds, soil, and empty jugs will be provided.

The **Somerville Homeless Coalition’s Amazon Wish Lists** are updated monthly with the most requested items from their food pantry to meet the needs of their clients experiencing food insecurity. If you would like to learn more and donate through our wish lists, please see the link here: <https://bit.ly/SHCLinks>.

Looking for some fun this **April Break**? Join the Somerville **Recreation Department** for an action-packed **April Vacation Program** filled with games, arts and crafts, sports, and a field trip to **Chunky’s Movie Theater** by registering on their website. Located at the **West Somerville Neighborhood School**, the full day program begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. Spots may fill fast, so don’t miss out and sign up today for a week of friendship and nonstop fun: <https://somervillema.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>

Community Health Worker Division Hours are held every other **Thursday at Connexion** (149 Broadway, Somerville, MA) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. They will provide hygiene kits, snacks, and referrals to internal and external partners for the following services: ESL, Housing, SHC, SNAP and MassHealth. Next hours will be held on **March 20**.

Reminder: Return Your 2025 City of Somerville Census. Last month, Somerville’s 2025 census made its way to resident mailboxes. Annual participation in the census is essential for keeping an accurate population count and it updates or maintains your status as an active voter for upcoming elections. The 2025 census form also includes an application to vote by mail in Somerville’s preliminary and city elections this year. Completed census forms can be returned via the postage-paid return envelope included in the mailing, by scanning the form and emailing it to census@somervillema.gov, or in

person at **City Hall** (93 Highland Ave.). Please call 311 (617-666-3311) with any questions.

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 any questions.

Senior Fraud with the **Department of Homeland Security** takes place on **Tuesday, March 25**, at 10:00 a.m. at the **Holland Street Center**. **Sean Garvey**, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigation, will be giving a presentation on common frauds and will be available to answer questions on senior fraud. RSVP by calling **Molly Pagliuca** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Subscribe to the **Somerville Public Library’s email newsletter** for monthly updates about the goings-on at the library. Subscribing takes less than five minutes, and if it turns out to not be your thing, unsubscribing is easy. Visit the linktree in our bio to sign up.

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>.

ance-on-suspected-avian-flu-cases-reported-across-massachusetts.

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.

Join the **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave., for their monthly recurring events this March. **Somerville Winter Farmer’s Market (Hall)**, Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Smut Slam, the first Tuesday of every month** at 7:30 p.m. **Nova Comedy Collective’s Nebula Night (Cafe)**, Friday, March 14, at 8:00 p.m. **Atomic Comedy Indie Improv Night (Cafe)**, Thursday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m. and **Show Me Your Bits Comedy (Cafe)**, Friday, March 21, at 7:30 p.m. More info available for each event on their website. <https://artsatthearmory.org/upcoming-events>.

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.

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

You can download a helpful packet of **Know Your Rights** resources and information in the language of your choice below. **Somerville Public Schools** have also created a list of resources on the **One Somerville Resource** page, which can be found here <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-departments/somerville-family-learning-collaborative-sflc/one-somerville-resources>.

SCES is teaming up with **City Fresh Foods** to offer a five-



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville Artist Carol Moses brings math and logic to her work

Interview conducted by Doug Holder

Recently, I caught up with Somerville artist Carol Moses. Moses has been affiliated with the Vernon Street Studios, and Brickbottom for many years. From her website:

"Carol Moses paints in watercolor and oil, on paper and canvas. The artist also produces series of photographic portraits with interviews of the subjects. With an affinity for math and logic, and a background in cultural anthropology and linguistics, communication and connection are at the forefront of both the non-representational painting work and the portrait/interview series."

Doug Holder: What is your connection to Somerville and how do you view it as a city of artists?

Carol Moses: Somerville has such a strong history of artist buildings, in particular Brickbottom and Vernon St. I have been affiliated with both for many years. The idea and the reality of artists working together in factory and industrial spaces is so powerful; they find lower-cost places and make them productive in a powerful way. There are so many other artists throughout the city, in homes and in shared spaces, and the Somerville Arts Council is a strong, effective, accessible presence.

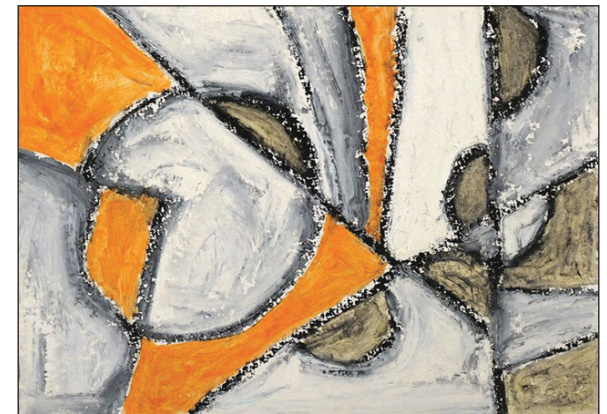
DH: Since I am interviewing you, I am especially interested in your image/interview project.

CM: How would the content be different from a newspaper or magazine article?

Why do you ask the same questions of all of your subjects?

My *Image and Interview* project started with the portraits, not the text. I was exposed to Felix Nadar's work – portraits of his contemporaries. I was impressed from a variety of perspectives: the nature of the portraits – the casual and sincere approach yet still extremely dignified images; the subjects included a lot of French intellectuals important to my early years, and Nadar numbered women among his contemporaries worthy of attention. I immediately thought "I'd like to make portraits of my contemporaries!" feeling that my own peers were worthy of close attention.

As I began to think of doing that portrait photography, I decided to also interview the people. I am curious about people, and what they think about themselves and about the meaning of life. I began scribbling questions on little scraps of paper and stuffing them in my back pocket. By the time I embarked on the project, I had a huge pile of these. I reviewed them, and found many duplicates, and came up with a final list of about 30 questions. I did not want to make the focus be on people's social status or identity – more reflections about what they thought



"We Come in Peace" by Carol Moses.

about themselves and about life, and the world. As they are conceived, they are suitable for people of almost any age or situation, and ask universal queries.

So how they'd differ from a journalistic focus for magazine or newspaper – They are not focused on a social identity, or a current achievement about the person. They aren't triggered by a public view of who the person is; they allow that to unfold, from the person. When I do the project, I do not share the questions ahead of time, so that people won't prepare lofty or admirable topics, but rather respond in chatting in company with me, at the time. (For the same reason, I don't publish the interviews online, so the questions will be fresh for future subjects.) I assure people they may pass on any question they don't wish to answer, and occasionally they do. I also say there is no "gotcha" going on – I am not intending to show anyone up as foolish; I only invite people whom I feel positively about, and find interesting, to shine a light on them from the process. People who participate often express great pleasure in the process, and what they thought about.

The reason I ask the same questions is I think it makes the project cohesive – I have many strong feelings about how similar we human beings are in a good way, and have other painting work focused on this theme. Also I think artistically, having a constraint, a boundary, elucidates the differences more than shaping individualized, personal questions would. I like the flow of the exhibit so that as one walks around, and reads the interviews, the ideas and experiences echo and flow through the exhibit as a whole. You may be familiar with the so-called Proust Questionnaire – parlor game set of questions from the late 1800's. Although many parts are dated, I think the fact of its enduring use reflects the virtue of using a repeated structure applied to varied individuals.

DH: You have written that in your watercolor paintings you have rejected the artistic and symbolic work and have gravitated to science. Explain.

CM: From her website:

Continued on page 23

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Robert K. Johnson, now retired, was a Professor of English at Suffolk University for many years. His poems have appeared in a variety of magazines. Two of his most recent full-length collections of poetry are *FROM MIST TO SHADOW* and *WINTERBERRIES*. Dorian Brooks' poems were also included in *WINTERBERRIES*.



Song For My Sister (1925-2011)

I see an old film and remember
watching it with college friends;
an old pop song brings back
a girl I once dated--all
such mementoes stir memories
of people I have known.

But you, Jean, come to me
in sunlight or in shadows
any time you want to.

And always
I beg you to stay longer,
stay and hurt me with love.

— Robert K. Johnson

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

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

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/heatingassistance.

Somerville High School students are invited to bring their SHS ID to the

Somerville YMCA on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. for free. There are free movie nights. On Sundays, students will have access to the basketball and exercise areas (including the weight room). Visit their website to learn more. https://somervilleyymca.org/news/somerville-teens-after-hours/. Somerville YMCA asks that students go to their website to register before visiting. 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 somerville-ma.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 is available on their website: https://www.somwintermarket.org/.

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: Comodes, Bath Benches, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies, and Transport Wheelchairs. 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 CONT. FROM PG 22

“At a young age Moses gravitated towards logic, math and science, rejecting artistic and symbolic enterprises. Instead she studied the nuance and minutiae of her surroundings finding patterns in the natural world.”

In this case, the bio material above may seem to indicate I rejected artistic and symbolic work in art. In fact, in my youth, I was not doing art, and I was uncomfortable with realms that weren't literal and factual. I struggled with symbolism in literature, and felt confused and alienated by most art, feeling at home with numbers, equations, and science. I was mesmerized by the natural world, and could spend ages closely observing grass, soil, tiny insects, or looking at pond water under my microscope, and I imagined happily living among animals. As an adult, I expanded my interests and attractions, and became interested in mark-making, colors, and patterns, creating them and considering their interactions and connections.

DH: You also create word paintings. Are the words that you paint more stream-of-consciousness than linear?

CM: What does painting add to the words?

I'm a pretty verbal person. I often found myself, while painting, writing notes of multiple-line titles next to the work I was painting on. One day, I decided to write the things I was thinking on the painting paper, with my pens. I'm not sure how to say if they are stream of consciousness, yes, I guess so, or linear, yes, also. They were written at one sitting, not composed then transferred. There were just disquisitions on what I was working through in my mind. I've previously said that painting served as a funnel to unpack things in my head; my head would be full, stuff tumbling around, and I'd have to get ahold of paint, and get it out, unwrap it, untangle it, settle it into patterns. I used to work in software as my day job. I would include painting reproductions in my portfolio of technical writing, and coding samples, because I felt it was math-y, logical.

Anyway, back to the writing – I would untangle my ideas by writing words, then paint around, over, between the words to reinforce or support the ideas. I think mostly the painting has its own value, and works well with the text.

DH: Why should we view your work?

CM: I don't go around saying to anyone “you should view my work” but I'll address what value I think it has. I think it's an incredibly rich field of patterns, colors, structures that resonate. I think they can be ennobling, calming, stimulating, reassuring by turns. A very few pieces are about painful disturbances, and I think they look distressed, painful. I have been extremely pleased that children often feel drawn to my work, and not just animal-y pieces. I think it means that there is truth and reality there. I feel that I create scenes, environments, snapshots of the natural world, the built world, and of our inner world. Places to be, places that you can be, a human world. I have often said that a lot of my focus is about connection – alienation, distance, fear, and lack of connection; tentative connection; space for everyone where we need not connect, but exist in amity; tense and stressed connection; and consumingly intimate connections. I think the situations I'm communicating often resonate with viewers inner states.

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