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Somerville City Council calls for justice for Deanna and Charline



The Somerville City Council will be introducing a resolution seeking justice for the unsolved murders of Deanna Cremin, Charline Rosemond, and other victims.

As the community marks the 30th anniversary of the unsolved murder of Deanna Cremin and the 16th anniversary of the unsolved murder of Charline Rosemond, the Somerville City Council will introduce a resolution calling for renewed investigative efforts, transparency, and justice for these victims and others.

Sponsored by Councilors Jesse Clingan and JT Scott, the resolution urges the Middlesex District Attorney's Office and the Massachusetts State Police to apply modern forensic advancements and investigative resources to these long-standing cold cases.

"The families of Deanna Cremin and Charline Rosemond have endured decades of pain without answers," said Councilor Scott. "This resolution is a call for renewed urgency and *Continued on page 4*

Bike Travel Film Festival returns to the Somerville Theatre

By Jeffrey Shwom

Bike and travel enthusiasts attended the 15th Annual Ciclismo Classico Bike Travel Film Festival at the Somerville Theatre, on Tuesday, March 18. Guests watched eight short films, including scenes of grasslands of the Central Plains, a foursome's ride through The Balkans, adventure biking in Socotra off the coast of Yemen, and a mountain biking community in the Navajo Nation in Arizona. The audience then voted for their favorite film on paper voting cards. When asked if they biked that night, about one-third of the crowd gleefully raised their hands.

In her introduction, Lauren Hefferon, owner of Ciclismo Classico [1], said the festival represents "a variety of travel, of people, of *Continued on page 11*



The Bike Travel Film Festival was held at the Somerville Theatre on Tuesday, March 18.

— Photos courtesy of Jeffrey Shwom



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

Community members are invited to attend **Somerville's fourth annual Women's History Month celebration** to honor the many contributions of women throughout our history. This year's speakers include Mayor Ballantyne, Mass State Auditor Diana DiZoglio, City Council President Judy Pineda-Neufeld, School Committee Chair Ilana Krepchin, and Amanda Nagim-Williams, Director of Somerville's Racial and Social Justice Department. Plus, enjoy light re-freshments and music from DJ L'Duke. The event will take place on **Wednesday, March 26**, at **Somernova** (29 Properzi Way) from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Learn more

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrating-womens-history-month-at-somernova-tickets-1259609348469?aff=oddtcreator&fbclid=IwY2xjawJJ1ZVleHRuA-2F1bQIxMAABHZjMwNUItHsvI9uJ592ZIGI7YHaaHm-WB8wORiT7tms8Ou8rmmr-8I-mXHHw_aem_YWWUJofk-gFerxntpEqmSA.

Central Broadway Zoning Study Presentation on March 26.

Last year, the cities of Somerville and Medford underwent a zoning study for the Broadway Corridor to help shape zoning and policy changes. Now, a final study document is here based on research, analysis, and public engagement with stakeholders from both communities. Join city staff for a presentation of the study and a Q&A session. This hybrid event will be held on **Wednesday, March 26**, at the **Arthur D. Healey School** (5 Meacham St.) *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of March 26 – April 1 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday March 26	Rain	42°/31°	50%	41%	NW 11 mph
Thursday March 27	Sunny	50°/35°	4%	2%	WNW 13 mph
Friday March 28	Partly Cloudy	55°/37°	10%	6%	NW 15 mph
Saturday March 29	Rain	41°/35°	42%	37%	NE 11 mph
Sunday March 30	Rain	43°/40°	49%	39%	E 11 mph
Monday March 31	Rain	47°/40°	60%	52%	NNE 12 mph
Tuesday April 1	Partly Cloudy	51°/36°	22%	16%	NW 13 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: Councilors pass home rule petition in hopes of ending forced broker's fees in Somerville

Caroline Westrick says:

I applaud this effort. Landlords currently have no incentive to negotiate the fee because they are not paying it. If this is passed, the landlords who choose to pay the full fee and incorporate it into rent rather than negotiating, shopping around, or listing it themselves, will then have a higher cost apartment and may have a harder time renting their units. Allowing the person who pays the fee to negotiate the price allows the free market to work.

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

ML says:

Right on! It's disheartening hearing so many scapegoating immigrants for everything, including in this comments section. Housing costs too high? Blame immigrants. Government benefits programs underfunded? Blame immigrants. First of all, undocumented immigrants do not qualify for most government benefits. What's making housing costs high are the limited supply of housing and out-of-control rental market.

Second of all, we SHOULD be helping immigrants as much as we can. Many have had to flee situations of violence you probably can't even imagine. Read about what's going on in Haiti right now, for example. If we didn't spend \$ on Israel and other military operations that destabilize countries, there wouldn't even be as many refugees!!

Hala says:

Somerville for Palestine does wonderful work. This rally really shows how much our community wants to help our immigrant population. Don't hate on a group cause they want to help people whether Palestinian or from somewhere else. Great job everyone one.

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

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138



Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

Editor – Jim Clark

Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner

Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Harry Kane, Jeffrey Shwom and Cathleen Twardzik

Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte, Dorothy Dimarzo, Bob Doherty
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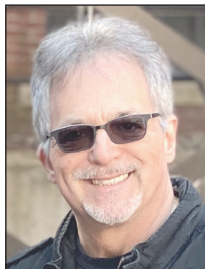
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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

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.

Hangin' up the park



Powder House Park has a history that dates back to the Revolutionary War in the 1700's. It also has another history that dates back to the 1970's when it was

the cool place to hang around.

When Archie rode a flaming skateboard from "up top" all the way "down bottom" to College Ave., that was historic. You can see more history if you look at a tree down bottom that has the initials "JF" and someone else's initials that are now unreadable. "JF" was a kid who dated my sister. He was quite the Romeo.

Yes, the park is a treasure trove of memories. I walk my dog up there a few times a day. I'm lucky to live a short 3 minute walk to the park so I am up there a lot. In the old days I could run home from the park in 2 minutes flat, if I had to. A couple of weeks ago at the annual Spring Cleanup I had the pleasure of being assigned to clean up Powder House Park. (much like the police force back in the late 70's!) I went to Home Depot and bought one of those "grabbers," because I don't bend down too good these days. My job was pretty easy because the park is kept pretty spotless by the city. Nevertheless, I picked up every little piece of paper, cigarette butt and other refuse I could find. Mission accomplished! Some of my friends joked that I would probably find an old tall can of Budweiser

beer that I left up there years ago. Joke's on them because I didn't! (it was a bottle of Haffenreffer Private Stock!)

I spent many hours at the park in my youth with my friends Bud, Jack, and a fellow known merely as "GIQ."

I was never in with the real tough guys that hung there, but I was friendly enough with a few of them to be able to spend time up there without getting into any hassles. It got pretty hairy on Friday and Saturday nights. When it turned nutty, we would go back to our own home base, which was the corner of Bay State and Kidder. That was our safe zone. We could always duck into Mike, Teddy, or Charlie's house.

There were so many kids hanging around the top of park at one time, the city sent a crew up to completely get rid of all the shrubs and bushes. They figured they would eliminate hiding places and such, and allow the cops to monitor activity as they drove by.

At times there were groups of maybe 50 kids up top on a weekend night. The cops would come up, make them empty out the beers, and disperse everyone. They would pop over to Goodell Drug and pick up some smokes, and go back up top a half hour later. One of the cops was affectionately known as Barney, as in Andy Griffith's sidekick, Barney Fife. All in all he was a pretty fair guy.

One of the former tough guys is now a grandfather and is close to retiring from the job he has had for over 30 years. Sever-



al of the other tough guys have been holding down respectable positions around the city. It's funny, because when I see these guys, sometimes I think of how they used to wear their Powder House Park embroidered jackets and wreak havoc with their pals. One of them said he still has his jacket in his closet.

Powder House Park was a place where I set off cherry bombs, tried out new skateboards, and hung around with a crowd of kids. Today it is where I walk my dog, take brisk walks, and host the Mayor's annual Senior Picnic. Boy, have times changed.

I can still picture some of the kids that hung up at the park like "Bolo," "Myrtle,"

and "Ment."

Luckily, I stopped hanging around parks and corners and joined Somerville's summer programs such as Project STAR and Somerfest. I started spending my time with actors, singers, and musicians. My band, The Tools, actually played a concert at Powder House Park in 1978 with 2 other bands.

I used to pick up six packs and head to the park. Nowadays I head to the park and pick up after the dog. But everyday I look around that beautiful park and thank God that I am still here to enjoy its beauty and it's history. There are as many memories up there as there are trees!

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Somerville Police Dept Crime Log March 11 – 17

Residential Breaking and Entering

25013820: On 3/13/25 at approximately 8:59 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Concord Ave. for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated his bicycle and electric scooter were stolen from the common basement area.

Assault

25013665: On 3/12/25 at approximately 12:50 p.m., Somerville Police took a lobby report regarding a past assault. The victim stated she was at her workplace and was assaulted by a co-worker during an argument.

Arrest

25014486: On 3/16/25 at approximately 3:38 p.m., Somerville Police responded to the area of 771 McGrath Hwy. for report of shots fired. Upon arrival, officers located five spent shell casings in the area of 11 Blakeley Ave. Officers then spoke with a witness who stated he heard loud bangs then observed a male party walking down Cross St. toward Blakeley Ave. Shortly after, officers located a male party matching the description and located a handgun in his backpack. He was placed under arrest.

Arrest

25014132: On 3/14/25 at approximately 4:16 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Elm St. for a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she was in her bedroom and observed a male party staring at her. She yelled at him and the male fled out of the house. Officers were then given a suspect description and located the male in a nearby business. He was then placed under arrest.

Assault

25014139: On 3/14/25 at approximately 7:18 PM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Foley St. for report of a past assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she got into an argument with her co-worker two days prior and was assaulted by her.

Residential Breaking and Entering

25014305: On 3/15/25 at approximately 6:11 PM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Broadway for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated numerous documents were missing from her apartment.

Other Crimes: 2 Vandalisms • 1 Bike theft • 1 MV theft • 1 Car break

— Somerville Police Department



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Somerville City Council calls for justice for Deanna and Charline

CONT. FROM PG 1

commitment to solving these cases.."

Deanna Cremin, a 17-year-old Somerville resident, was tragically murdered in 1995. Despite extensive investigative efforts, her case remains unsolved. Similarly, in 2009, Charline Rosemond was brutally murdered in Somerville, and her case remains open, leaving her loved ones without closure.

The resolution highlights the need for renewed efforts on these cases. It also calls for increased collaboration with federal

agencies such as the FBI and emphasizes the importance of community engagement – through public awareness campaigns, monetary rewards, and anonymous tip lines– to generate new leads.

"We are inviting all friends, family, or anybody that wants to see justice for these two Somerville women, to come up to Somerville City Hall Thursday night", says Charline's sister Rose. "We need to show resolve; we won't give up until the guilty are held accountable."

Furthermore, the City Council is calling for a public update from the Middlesex District Attorney's Office on the status of these cases to reaffirm transparency and accountability while respecting the confidentiality of ongoing investigations.

"We cannot allow these cases to be forgotten," said Councilor Clingan. "The families deserve answers, and the community deserves to see justice served. We stand with them in demanding action."

The resolution will be introduced at the

upcoming City Council meeting on March 27, 2025. All are invited to attend.

Somerville City Council Calling for Justice on milestone anniversary.

Thursday March 27, 7:00 p.m.
Somerville City Hall Council Chambers
93 Highland Avenue 2nd Floor
Somerville, MA. 02143

— Friends of Deanna Cremin

City proposes major zoning changes to support arts and climate tech in Somerville

By Carlie Lombardi

Somerville city officials presented a sweeping set of zoning changes last week in a joint meeting of the Land Use Committee and Planning Board. The proposals aim to support the city's creative community and growing climate tech sector while laying the groundwork for the redevelopment of the former Ames Business Park, now known as Somernova.

The four proposals would update use definitions, create a new zoning district, and establish a master planned overlay zone. Together, they aim to:

- Refine arts and creative enterprise (ACE) zoning by better-distinguishing art studios, arts education, coworking spaces, and artist housing. Coworking and incubators would be removed from ACE categories and reclassified under office uses.

- Redefine research and development (R&D) by separating biomedical lab uses from general R&D and eliminating the outdated "lab building" designation. This change intends to steer large-scale laboratory buildings away from mid-rise neighborhoods and concentrate them in appropriate districts.

- Create a new R&D zoning district that supports mid-scale commercial development for hardware and climate tech innovation, such as startups coming out of

Greentown Labs and MIT's Engine.

- Establish an Arts and Innovation Subarea within the Master Plan Development Overlay District, allowing for flexible redevelopment at the Somernova site. The subarea would mandate civic spaces, community centers, business incubators, and a minimum of 60,000 square feet of dedicated arts space.

"This work is not trivial," said Tom Galigani, executive director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development. "It's the result of years of conversation between the city, property owners, and community partners."

The city's planning staff emphasized that the changes were driven by concerns about rising rents, displacement of artists, and the need for affordable creative and entrepreneurial spaces. The amendments would expand support for artist housing, permit arts related home businesses city-wide, and increase arts space requirements from 5% to 10% in certain zones.

The new subarea would also require a teen center, business incubator space, and improved public mobility planning. Residential uses would be limited to no more than 15% of the total development in the overlay area.

The proposed amendments were the subject of extensive public comment during the joint hearing, with residents, artists, business owners, and advocacy



groups weighing in. While many of the city's efforts to protect arts spaces and foster innovation, others urged caution around building height, traffic impacts, and ensuring that promises are backed by strong community agreements.

Public comment will remain open until

March 31 at 7 p.m. Comments can be sent by email at publiccomments@somervillema.gov and planning@somervillema.gov.

No votes were taken during the hearing. City officials emphasized that these proposals are just the first step in a larger planning and public engagement process.

Community invited to Central Broadway Corridor Zoning Study presentation

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Division of Planning, Preservation and Zoning are inviting residents, business owners, and community members to attend a public presentation on the Central Broadway Corridor Zoning Study. Light refreshments and snacks will be provided for in-person attendees.

City staff will present key takeaways from the study, followed by a Q&A session. The event will be held in a hybrid format, allowing for both in-person and virtual participation.

- **Date:** Wednesday, March 26, at 6 p.m.
- **Location:** Cafeteria, Arthur D. Healey School, 5 Meacham St.
- **Virtual Option:** Join via Zoom at us02web.zoom.us/j/81459907399

This event will provide an overview of the study's findings, which propose a vision for increased density and transit-oriented development along the corridor. The study is the result of extensive research, analysis, and public engagement with local stakeholders.

To review the study in advance, please download it here. For questions, please contact Stephen Cary at scary@somervillema.gov.



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All information is kept completely confidential.

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' votes on roll calls from recent debate on the House rules. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

MORE TIME TO READ BILLS (H 2024)

House 23-128, rejected a House rules amendment that would require bills be made available to House members and the public no later than noon two days prior to consideration and also sets an amendment deadline of 5 p.m. the day after the bill is released, or one day prior to consideration. For example, a bill released on a Monday by noon would have an amendment deadline of 5 p.m. on Tuesday, and the House would debate and vote on the amendments and the bill on Wednesday.

"Under current House rules, there is a same day amendment filing deadline of 5 p.m. for bills that are released by noon," said amendment sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "This gives members very little time to review legislation, draft amendments and file those amendments. The House and joint rules offer a perfect example of why this rule should be changed, as members essentially had about five hours to review more than 200 pages of documents, try to understand what was and wasn't in either rules proposal, and then draft amendments before the 5 p.m. filing deadline. The current process simply doesn't provide enough time for members to review legislation and offer amendments."

Rep. Jessica Giannino (D-Revere) said that extending the bill distribution timeline to two days can and will slow down the entire legislative process. She argued that this introduces unnecessary delays, especially in situations that demand swift action, such as emergencies or rapidly developing circumstances in need of legislative action. She noted that the current one-day rule strikes a better balance between maintaining transparency and allowing efficiency and noted the House must ensure our legislative operations remain agile.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment requiring that members have two days to read legislation before voting on it. A "No" vote is against the amendment.)

Rep. Christine Barber No
Rep. Mike Connolly No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven No

KEEP COMMITTEE POLLS OPEN FOR TWO HOURS (H 2026)

House 23-128, rejected a House rules amendment that would require House committee polls to be open for at least two hours or until all committee members have vot-

ed. Committee polls are used to record which members favor or oppose a bill that was heard by the committee.

"When voting to advance legislation, it is important that the members understand the bill they're voting on so they can make an informed decision," said amendment sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "That is not always possible with the short turnaround time required of some polls, especially when the bills under consideration have been redrafted, are lengthy or are technical in nature. Providing a two-hour window to respond to a poll is a reasonable compromise that will help to ensure that each member feels comfortable with their vote without hampering the committee's ability to move legislation in a timely fashion."

Amendment opponents offered no arguments. But earlier that day, the House voted against a similar amendment to the joint House-Senate rules. At that time, Rep. Kathy LaNatra (D-Kingston) said, "In Massachusetts, we have a full-time, professional Legislature, which requires preparation and preparedness. When a poll is released by a committee chair, that should not be the first time we are reading a piece of legislation. Committee polls should remain at the chair's discretion, ensuring decisions reflect urgency rather than arbitrary deadlines. Committees I have been on have provided days to review language. We must, however, always maintain our ability to act for our constituents when the time arises."

Rep. Mike Moran (D-Brighton), a member of the House Rules Committee who helped write the House rules package, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call to explain why he and the Democrat House leadership voted against the amendment.

(A "Yes" vote is for the two-hour minimum. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber No
Rep. Mike Connolly No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven No

NOTIFY REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMITTEE POLLS AT LEAST 12 HOURS IN ADVANCE (H 2024)

House 23-128, rejected a House rules amendment that would require all House committee members to be notified at least 12 hours in advance if the committee is going to poll members electronically.

"When a poll is released with a tight deadline to respond, there is always a danger that a committee member may not see it until after the poll has closed because they may

be tied up in a constituent meeting, attending a municipal event in their district or driving to the Statehouse and unable to review their e-mails," said amendment sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "This amendment simply provides members with advance notice of an upcoming poll so they can plan their schedule accordingly and provide a timely response."

Amendment opponents offered no arguments. But earlier that day, the House voted against a similar amendment to the joint House-Senate rules. At that time, Rep. Christine Barber (D-Somerville) said, "As full-time legislators, committee work and committee votes are a major part of our role. Requiring a 12-hour notice for an electronic poll would not increase the efficiency of our legislative process and [would] only slow down our work to address critical issues."

Rep. Mike Moran (D-Brighton), a member of the House Rules Committee who helped write the rules package, once again, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* to explain why he and the Democrat House leadership voted against the amendment.

(A "Yes" vote is for the 12-hour minimum. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber No
Rep. Mike Connolly No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven No

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

ALLOW REMOTE ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS (H 62) - The House and Senate approved and sent to Gov. Maura Healey legislation that would extend, until June 2027, the current law that allows cities and to offer remote participation at public meetings through June 2027. The option, first adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent state of emergency, was due to expire on March 31. The extension applies to public bodies and representative town meetings.

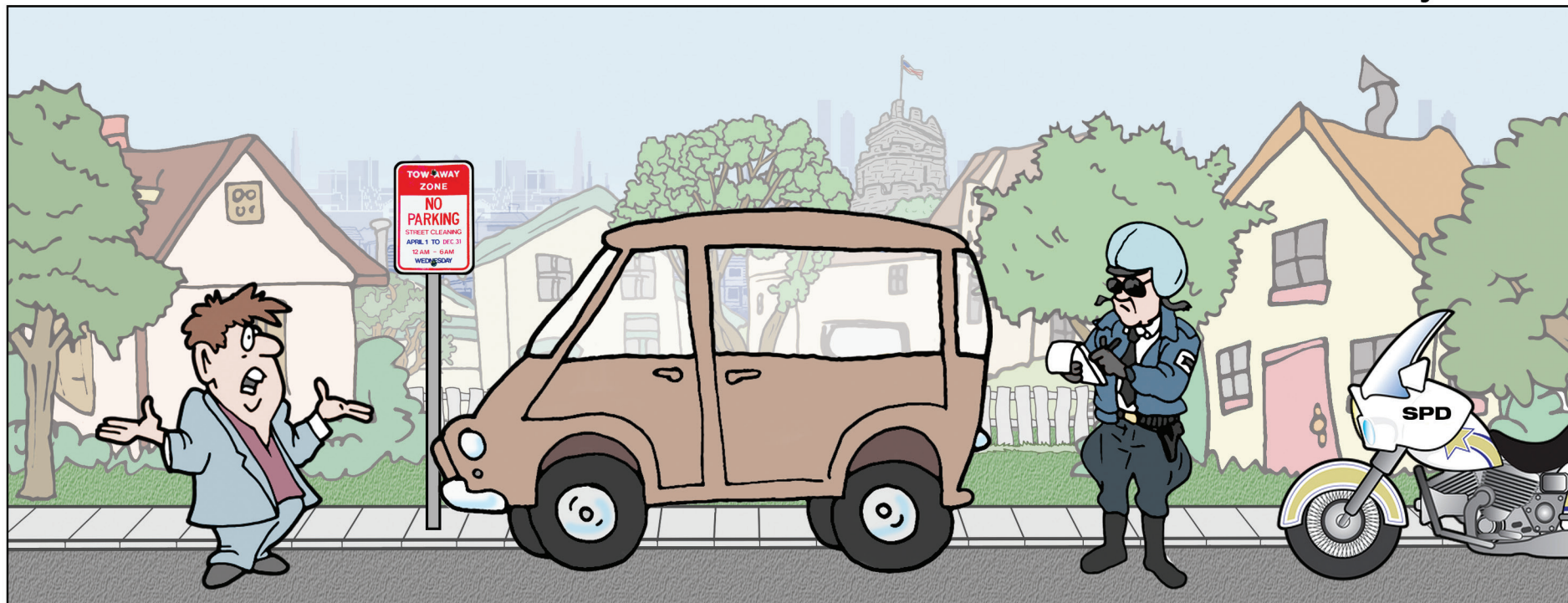
"I voted for this legislation because it has substantially increased resident participation and engagement in local government and has made it easier for public bodies to manage their meetings with both equity and transparency," said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. "It's been clear from municipalities across the commonwealth that they want to continue to offer this expanded access."

"I have heard loud and clear from my colleagues, and the communities we represent, that hybrid *Continued on page 12*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Remember, Somerville, street sweeping resumes on April 1 and parking restrictions apply.

Our View Of The Times



Spring has finally arrived, and with it comes the inevitable regular street-sweeping activities throughout the city.

As inconvenient and annoying it may be to comply with schedule, it is an inescapable fact of life for us all and we must make the adjustment accordingly.

Practically speaking, the Traffic and Parking department is doing its best to keep city residents informed and ready to

make sure they avoid the \$50 fine that has been mandated for those who fail to comply with the parking regulations.

The city has provided complete schedules on various web pages as well as offering email re-minder services and access to scheduling data on its 311 phone line. You can also go to <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/sweeping> for more information.

So all in all, there is little excuse for getting caught with your car being parked in the wrong place at the wrong time. The information is out there, and you can mark your calendars, set your phone apps, tell your mom to call and remind you, etc.

We can grouse and moan about the inconvenience, but let's face facts. We all want our streets to be safe and clean, and

complying with these reasonable regulations isn't so much to ask of us, is it?

Just get out there when the time comes, put the ignition key in the slot and you know the rest. Nothing could be simpler and aggravation will soon fade away.

Consider it your small contribution to keeping our great little city looking as good as possible. Pitch in and do your part, or at least be ready to pay the price if not.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

and online at 6 p.m. Learn more <https://voice.somervillema.gov/broadway-corridor>.

Happy birthday this week to the following: First, a very happy belated birthday to former Somerville resident **Michael Sullivan**, who now resides in Worcester. We hope he had a great birthday. Happy birthday to **Pat Scrima**, a great guy and another former resident. We hope he enjoys his birthday. Happy birthday to **Sue Pye**. We hope she has a wonderful birthday. A big happy birthday to **Karen Michelle**, we wish her the best and we hope she has a great day. Happy birthday to **Tyler Hart**, of the famous Harts. We wish him a great

birthday. We wish a happy birthday to all of our Facebook friends such as **Beth Redmond, D.J. Dabenigno, Maureen D Kelley, Brittany Roberts, Christine Andrade McSheehy, Jim Halloran, Megan Donovan, Kathleen Kennedy, Christopher John, Daniel M Rivera, and Charles Ryan**, who are all celebrating this week. To all the others we may have missed and yes, we must admit there are a few more out there. We sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Join the city for a **free flu vaccination clinic** and an **info session on how to obtain a driver's license in MA**, hosted by

the **Somerville Health and Human Services Department, SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs**, and **ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union)** of Massachusetts. To schedule an appointment in advance: <https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/somerville?site=soia-office-of-immigrant-affairs> **SomerViva Office**, 42 Cross St., Somerville, Thursday, March 27, 4:30 – 6 p.m.

The **Somerville Arts Council** in conjunction with the **City of Somerville's Public Space and Urban Forestry Division** is seeking an experienced working metal artist for a public art project to design

and build an entry gate for the **Glen Park Community Garden** on Franklin Street. Download call here <https://somervilleartsCouncil.org/>.

On **Saturday, March 29**, at 7:30 p.m., **G Rockwell Band** is coming to the **ROOTED Café at Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. An award winning multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, composer and bandleader, G Rockwell has performed and competed on stages across the country. He is the only musician to have won three Freshgrass competition awards. More info available on our website:

Continued on page 21

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#967

- Which flower is an indicator of prevernal season, blooming even with snow cover?
- What significant change occurs to the Earth's axis during early spring?
- What event is celebrated as the new year in Karnataka, India, during spring?
- What is celebrated on the first day of spring in the Persian calendar?
- Al Pacino played which character in *The Godfather* series of films?
- In which *Star Wars* movie did Yoda die?
- How many members in a NASCAR pit crew can actively work on a car?
- What does the term "black flagged" refer to in NASCAR?
- What is the name of the deepest point in the ocean?
- Which band had the hit *American Woman*?
- Beds are Burning* appeared on which Midnight Oil album?
- Which band were the Farriss brothers in?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- Basenji dogs are the only breed that doesn't bark.
- You can't hunt camels in Arizona.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

FORMER RULERS

ACROSS

- London native, e.g.
- Major news network, acr.
- Elect democratically
- Dharma teacher
- Henry _____, a serial husband
- Mosaic artist
- Cracked open
- Between ids and super-egos
- More unfriendly
- Babylonian ruler, code creator
- Minute bit
- Cavern or cave
- Not amateur
- Sapodilla tree gum
- Akhenaton or Tutankhamun
- Be bedridden
- a.k.a. crown vetch
- Viracocha, the eighth Sapa _____ of Kingdom of Cusco
- Like some peppers
- ____-been
- Trots and canters
- And others, for short
- Shred of clothing
- Aptitude test, acr.
- a.k.a. sodium carbonate
- In ignoble manner
- One behind plate, for short
- Patrick Swayze/Demi Moore movie
- George Lucas' warrior-monk
- Egypt's famous queen
- Capital of Tunisia
- Military status
- "High" time
- River in India
- Rainbows, e.g.
- Al Capone, e.g.
- Difficult situation
- Striped stinger
- Biblical paradise

DOWN

- Ho-hum
- Indian royal
- Mosque V.I.P.
- Plane road
- "Sometimes a cigar is just a _____"
- She turned to stone
- Not yet final, legally speaking
- Second-longest reigning British monarch
- Spaghetti aglio and _____
- Do like bees?
- Go wrong
- Top of a mountain, e.g.
- #8 Down's headdress, e.g.
- Untwist a rope
- Third degree
- Lawyers' loads
- Informed of latest trends (2 words)
- Homeric epic
- Exterminator's target
- Liquorice flavor
- Based on number 8
- Rash
- Mohammad Reza _____ Pahlavi
- Get calories
- Robert Graves' "I, _____"
- Comprehend
- Medicinal amt.
- Kindle editions
- Not quite right
- Posture
- Unfriendly stare
- From this time
- Equinox month
- Concludes
- Underwater hermit
- Arnold Lobel's "Frog and _____"
- Tug-of-War equipment
- Soon, to a bard
- Burton of gothic horror genre

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

CROSSWORD												
1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19					20			
			21					22				
23	24	25					26			27	28	29
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	50	51				52				53	54	55
56						57				58		
59						60				61		
62						63				64		



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

L	A	M	P			S	K	A			T	A	P	S					
E	V	I	L		A	M	E	N			P	A	L	E	O				
S	O	D	A		B	E	L	T			A	N	G	E	L				
S	W	I	S	S	A	L	P	S			T	Z	A	R					
				M	I	S	T	Y			P	E	A						
A	B	L	A	T	E				M	A	N	N	I	S	H				
S	E	A		A	D	D	S	U	P		I	N	T	O					
S	A	T	Y	R		O	P	T			C	A	T	E	R				
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T	H	I	S	T	L	E					E	U	R	O	P	E			
				E	V	E				K	A	R	M	A					
				A	I	M	S				C	A	R	I	B	B	E	A	N
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S	C	O	T	T						P	O	O	L			I	S	M	S
T	O	N	E							S	O	W				T	E	S	T

OBITUARY

Lindsay Jean Huber



Lindsay Jean Huber, 69, passed away on March 5th, 2025 at her home in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire. Lindsay was preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Barbara Huber, her sister Nancy Coutoumas, and her brother Keith

Huber and her best friend in life Kathleen Mckenna. Lindsay is survived by her Brother Kenneth Huber, wife Lorraine Huber, Brother Richard Huber, wife Pat Huber, Nephews Ryan, Kyle, Scott and his wife Jennifer Huber, Eric Coutoumas and his wife Tricia Kimball, and niece Brittany Huber, as well as several great nieces and nephews. In life Lindsay loved spending countless hours on the New Hampshire and Maine Sea Coasts. Lindsay began her career at Boston Children's Hospital and went on to become a Psychiatric Nurse and worked for several hospitals and health institutions where she was an advocate for many patients who suffered

with Psychiatric Illness. For everyone who knew Lindsey they were always blessed with the outpouring of love that she bestowed upon them. Lindsay helped and supported so many of those in need throughout the course of her life and will always be remembered for her love and generosity. Lindsay loved her family and was always very much supportive of all of her nephews and her niece. Lindsay loved helping anyone who was in need more than anything else in this world. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made in Lindsey's name to the Cross Roads House www.crossroadshouse.org. Words of remembrance and Internment will be private.

Suspicious fire in Somerville



A suspicious fire involving a portable toilet occurred at 68 Dover Street at approximately 4:53 AM on Saturday, March 22, 2025. This is one of several suspicious fires that have occurred in the neighborhood in the past year. Anyone who may have information about this incident is asked to contact Captain Tim Bakey at 617-625-6600, ext. 8405.

It would be appreciated if the residents of Day Street, Dover Street, Orchard Street, or Meacham Road neighborhood could check their security cameras between the hours of 12 and 5:30 a.m., Saturday March 22, for the presence of any pedestrians walking through the neighborhood. If your camera has any useful footage please contact Captain Bakey at: tbakey@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 x8405.

**The Somerville Times
Historical Fact of the Week**



Eagle feathers #325

This article first appeared in the April 13, 2022, edition of The Somerville Times.

The Reunion

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

A reunion has been described as a gathering of friends, relatives, or associates on a special date or interval who honor the act of uniting again after a long separation. In our grand country, the historic time to remember should be the year 1775 and its following day of January 1, 1776.



The historic place to remember where the American spirit of 1776 was incubated was Charlestown/Somerville's Prospect Hill and the seven forts surrounding it. If the first Revolutionary War leaders and soldiers wanted to reunite, Somerville might be its historic choice!

It would be an ageless reunion, of course, because it would be 250 years later. They might greet each other with, "Hey, you all look the same. It seems like yesterday we were here, or you haven't changed a bit."



But then, the tears would slowly flow when the foggy memories cleared. They would remember the British attack on the old Powder House, Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill, the long siege of Boston, and the bitter and bloody eight-year war which followed. During the first year of the war, Prospect Hill, meaning panoramic view, became General Washington's essential American fortress. It was from this height that he observed the enemy and

Continued on page 22

LEGAL NOTICES

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

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.

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FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as
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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, 3/19/25, 3/26/25 The Somerville Times



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

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

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, April 15, 2025** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_V99RiXdETly5sGbxM4DFgQ
Webinar ID: 899 1548 4989

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT**DETERMINATIONS OF PREFERABLY PRESERVED (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)****HP24-000125 - 8 Bolton Street**

Applicant: Julian Lewis, Eaglebrook Capital
Owner: Stephen Ober

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

Case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email historic@somervillema.gov 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.

3/26/25 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on **4/8/2025 at 12:00PM**. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Neil Dang/AC Hotel Marriott unit #310B; McDonnell Scott unit #362MZ; James Capobianco unit #4682. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

3/19/25, 3/26/25 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, April 2, 2025**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_s8TraMkQS1ee2rQaXaoMEg
Webinar ID: 840 9283 0999

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:

282 McGrath Highway 181 Bonfire Corp., d/b/a Bonfire Boston, seeks a Special Permit to establish a Restaurant use in the Small Business Overlay District where the underlying zoning district is Neighborhood Residence.

103 Washington Street Clover Leaf Capital Holdings, LLC seeks a Major Amendment to a previously issued Special Permit (ZBA 2017-54) under prior SZO \$4.4.1 and \$5.3.8.

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

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospdc/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.

3/19/25, 3/26/25 The Somerville Times

**SHA Provider Grants Request For Proposals Fiscal Year 2025**

The Somerville Housing Authority now be accepting proposals from established agencies to enter into a contract to provide direct services to SHA tenants for the SHA Fiscal year: April 2025, through March 2026.

Multiple grants in the amounts of \$1,000.00 - \$50,000.00 may be awarded. The application deadline is April 23, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

Interested parties can download information from our website <https://www.sha-web.org/bids.aspx> after March 31, 2025, 11:00 a.m.

3/26/25 The Somerville Times

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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.

Marking Transgender Day of Visibility: Somerville's Commitment to Safety and Dignity



By Mayor Katjana Ballantyne

As we approach this year's Transgender Day of Visibility, we must reckon with the fact that our transgender and nonbinary community members have never been more visible – but instead of being supported and celebrated in their identities, our trans friends, family, and neighbors have had a target painted on their backs.

The trans community is seen, but increasingly not respected and appreciated. Sometimes we fear people who show us something about the way the world is, especially ways the world is

that we hadn't or didn't want to see. And instead of opening our hearts and minds to get to know these people who are very similar and different to us, we might do something called Othering to members of our community instead of greeting them and learning more about ways we can work together. (Othering means to treat individuals or a group as different and inferior, often driven by fear and hatred and leading to exclusion, marginalization, denigration, and aggression.)

For this year's Transgender Day of Visibility, I feel it is imperative to reaffirm Somerville's unwavering support for our transgender and non-binary community members. We see you. You are a cherished part of this community. You belong here.

Across the nation, a storm of hostility is being unleashed against transgender people; turning lives into political battle-

grounds and sowing fear where there should be safety. In 2024 alone, 617 anti-trans bills were introduced, making it the fifth consecutive record-breaking year for bills targeting trans rights. This year, 796 bills have been introduced. This year, 5 bills have been introduced at the Massachusetts state level. This is an abhorrent record for our country.

Much of this legislation directly targets children, from restricting access to gender-affirming care to banning books that reflect their identities. This legislation has a tangible harmful effect on people's lives, from their abilities to play sports, use the restroom, go to work, and serve our country, among many other impacts. These efforts are attacks on people's dignity, safety, and right to exist.

They also open the door to attacks on the rights of all and the fabric of society as a whole. It is a well-worn pattern for some pow-

er seekers to stoke hatred and fear of others – any convenient others available. History shows they do this to distract us from or to get people to accept despicable actions and harmful policies. It's easier to, say, shut down the Department of Education that serves more than 70 million school children and college students and others if enough of the public is instead focused on fearing the .06% of the U.S. population (1.6 million aged 13+) who identify as transgender and are simply seeking to live their lives with dignity and respect. Ultimately, harming others harms ourselves.

But while others work to erase rights and sow division, Somerville remains a counterweight; a place where dignity, respect, and safety are not up for debate. I back that commitment with action, and am proud to have created a full-time

LGBTQ+ Services Coordinator who connects residents to essential services and supports. We are launching mandatory staff training, led by the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, to ensure that City Hall is a place of true inclusion.

The stakes are high. Our own Youth Risk Behavior Survey data shows that gender non-conforming students in Somerville are three times more likely to have considered suicide than their peers and five times more likely to have attempted it. The research consistently shows that when we use trans youths' chosen names and pronouns, they have better mental health outcomes. This crisis is real, and it demands our action.

Visibility is about more than being seen, it is about being safe, supported, and free to live as you are. In Somerville, that will never be up for debate.

Bike Travel Film Festival returns to the Somerville Theatre

CONT. FROM PG 1

experiences." Biking, in general, is "the way to see and explore where you live, no matter where" you ride. Camera usage varied in each film from professional to more amateur, with Cycling across America at 10.2 mph director Kate Osborne using her cell phone to document most of her 3,659-mile journey from San Francisco to the coast of North Carolina.

The audience chuckled at the shortest film, a 3-minute self-deprecating comedy by Brennan M Guerriere, who "lives out his Vermont weekend warrior dream of biking to his local ski hill" 40 miles away in the hopes of channeling the energy of Göran Kropp, a Swede known for his 8,000-mile journey by bike from Sweden to Nepal that included climbing Mount Everest.

Libertad, one of the more moving films,

follows Christa Castillo, a Guatemalan woman who "turns to the mountain bike to help women find healing and freedom" as part of the World Ride's [2] Guatemala program.

The film festival returned to the Somerville Theatre for the second time in three years, and from the sounds of it, wants to return to the theater next year. Joy Spadafora, Film Festival Coordinator and the other host for the evening, told us "We used to have it at the Regent Theatre. My predecessors had a relationship with the Somerville Theatre. We got a positive vibe from them and the staff. We like that it is T accessible, for folks living in Cambridge and Boston."

The raffle portion, after intermission, was entertaining as well, with some moviegoers claiming, in good fun, a biased

bucket that focused too strongly on tickets starting with the number five. Shortly after some initial groans, there were many cheers by those with tickets that started with the number seven, as hosts handed out cycling shirts, tune-ups at area bike shops, and gift certificates for a Ciclismo Classico tour. The proceeds of the raffle went to The Pan-Mass Challenge ride, which benefits Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Hefferon, who started her bike tour company 37 years ago, told us in the lobby pre-show that coming together as a community and shared interest is "always good ... we can never beat it right?" To her, "bicycling is really high, it's really booming and it's really neat to see all the people coming who are aspirational cyclists."

As guests filled out of the lobby onto Holland Street, a few donned helmets and



Lauren Hefferon (L) and Joy Spadafora (R) ask the audience to raise their hands if they biked that night.

flashing lights, and rode off into the night, some onto the bike path, and some with dreams of faraway adventures and perhaps their own documentary films.

Links:

[1] <https://ciclismoclassico.com/>

[2] <https://world-ride.com/>

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

meetings have increased access, engagement and transparency in local government,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “There is no reason that a family obligation, a car breakdown, a disability or any other life circumstance should get in the way of making your voice heard on an issue you care about in your community.”

“One of the lessons we learned from the pandemic was that using technology for public meetings expands access and civic participation across government,” said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). “With this extension, we are removing barriers to participation and residents will continue to be able to be active participants in governmental decisions remotely.”

\$10.4 MILLION FOR INTERNET UPGRADES FOR PUBLIC HOUSING – The Healey Administration announced \$10.4 million in grants to upgrade Internet access in some 8,000 public and affordable housing across 26 Massachusetts communities.

The projects will install modern cabling in each unit, increasing residents’ access to high-quality, reliable and affordable broadband service. The Residential Retrofit Program prioritizes ISPs that offer affordable quality service to decrease the cost of access.

“When residents are better connected, it opens a world of new possibilities in both their professional and private lives,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “The Residential Retrofit Program is a transformative investment in communities across the state and demonstrates Massachusetts’ commitment to advancing the Internet for everyone.”

STATE’S FIRST POET LAUREATE – Gov. Healey and the Mass Cultural Council announced that the Bay State is now accepting applications to fill the new role of Poet Laureate of Massachusetts.

Gov. Healey created the new position in February when she signed an executive order establishing the position. This honorary position is designed to promote poetry and creative expression across the state, serve as the governor’s ambassador of the arts and inspire the next generation of writers. The poet laureate will be eligible for an honorarium provided by the Mass Cultural Council.

The Poet Laureate will be charged with encouraging the appreciation of poetry and creative expression across Massachusetts, participating in public readings and other statewide literary and cultural events, composing poetry for ceremonial occasions and advising the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on an outreach program for schools focused on the celebration and advancement of poetry.

“I was proud to sign an executive order establishing our first-ever state Poet Laureate,” said Healey. “We’re excited to be opening the application so that local poets from across the state can apply for this historic position. This

is an opportunity to spread the gift of poetry, celebrate the talent in our state, stoke the fires of imagination and tell our stories.”

“The Mass Cultural Council, the commonwealth’s state arts agency, believes in the Power of Culture and recognizes poetry as a strong and vital art form that inspires connection, fosters empathy and gives voice to diverse experiences,” said Mass Cultural Council Executive Director Michael Bobbitt. “Poetry has the unique ability to capture the essence of human emotion, challenge perspective and build bridges between communities. This new voice will help to enrich our cultural landscape, remind us of our rich legacy of profound writers and strengthen the creative spirit of the commonwealth.”

To apply for the position or for more information go to: <https://massculturalcouncil.org/artists-art/poet-laureate/application-process/>

\$5.7 MILLION FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION - Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper announced the granting of \$5.7 million in funding for farmland preservation. The funding is aimed at protecting 400 acres of farmland through the state’s Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program. Another \$500,000 will be granted to help existing Massachusetts APR farmers restore land that was previously unsuitable for farming.

“Massachusetts farmers are some of the strongest and most resilient people I’ve met,” said Tepper. “Between extreme weather, high costs and now a tariff war, our farmers deserve our support more than ever. Our programs are designed to keep existing farms strong and revive unused land for farming. This means better food security and a healthier environment for everyone in Massachusetts.”

DIRECTOR OF FAIR HOUSING - Whitney Demetrius joined the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities as the state’s first Director of Fair Housing. The position was established by the Healey Administration’s Affordable Homes Act to support fair housing initiatives, including enforcement, testing, outreach and education, as well as collaborating with other state agencies to advance fair housing policies and programs.

“A crucial part of ensuring our commonwealth is truly livable is addressing the barriers to fair housing and housing choice,” said Demetrius. “I am eager to work collaboratively in this role to carry out the vision of this administration, putting fair housing at the forefront of our path forward.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Hundreds of people proudly took to Beacon Hill today in a display of support and solidarity at this pivotal moment when the immigrant community is under constant attack. We are incredibly proud of this year’s Immigrants

Day at the Statehouse, and for the policymakers, immigrants and advocates who inspired attendees. We must use this momentum to show the nation that Massachusetts will firmly oppose hate and tirelessly fight for immigrant rights.” — Elizabeth Sweet, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition criticizing the Trump Administration’s immigration policies and calling on state leaders to pass essential reforms to protect immigrants who call Massachusetts home.

“Edith Nourse Rogers was ahead of her time. She saw a future where women could serve their country and receive the benefits they earned—and she made it happen. Her legacy is all around us, in the women who wear the uniform today and in the veterans who continue to serve their communities. Massachusetts is proud to recognize her contributions and to honor the women who followed in her footsteps.” — Gov. Healey declaring March 19 as Edith Nourse Rogers Day honoring the life and legacy of the former Massachusetts Congresswoman who transformed opportunities for women in the military.

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?

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

During the week of March 17-21, the House met for a total of one hour and 18 minutes while the Senate met for a total of one hour and 14 minutes.

Mon. March 17	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:19 a.m. Senate 11:26 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.
Tues. March 18	No House session No Senate session
Wed. March 19	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. March 20	House 11:01 a.m. to 12:01 p.m. Senate 11:04 a.m. to 12:04 p.m.
Fri. March 21	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Pop-up chocolate factory opens in Davis Sq.

By Jeffrey Shwom

Sometimes, we all just need a piece of chocolate or something with chocolate in it to make us feel. To comfort us. To be a part of our memories. Well, Sarah Shapiro, owner, founder and “chocolate maker extraordinaire” of Wild Child Chocolate [1] in Davis Square is sharing her four distinct chocolates and social tasting events to help us experience all of the things.

Her four chocolate bars have the same three ingredients: cacao beans, sugar and cocoa butter. “That is it. All four bars taste really really different.” The countries of origin include Belize – with cherry, raisin, and passion fruit notes – Thailand, Ivory Coast, and Peru. All are between 65% and 73% cacao.

As she packaged small squares of chocolate with her branded stickers Shapiro explained, “They allow for conversations like, ‘so which is your favorite? What does it taste like?’” It helps create some sense of how “the land and subspecies and each bean makes the difference in the flavor, and fermentation in the farm and my roasting and when I add sugar. It is genetics or the environment.”

In early March, Sarah opened Wild Child Chocolate as a “long-term pop-up factory” at 260 Elm St., in the Davis Square courtyard between Starbucks and

Chipotle. A long time ago, the space was Sugidama’s first Davis Square location. Wild Child Chocolate has a more flexible lease while the building owner Asana plans a redevelopment project called 7th Spoke [2]. Wild Child Chocolate has no connection to Wild Child in Union Square [3].

The chocolate is the culmination of her life’s journeys, through a Chicago confiserie, time at a caramel business in Bristol, UK, and everything in between. We asked how chocolate connects people. “What is the human experience of consuming chocolate? It spans across need. Sometimes, you need a Snickers bar. Often, it is an opportunity to share. As a little kid, we are learning to share. Learning what it means to be a part of the community. Chocolate is a consummate luxury treat. There is so much joy that is involved in that process. People have good memories of the consumption of chocolate. Beyond the emotional “I just need to feel better, I need chocolate, chocolate is a connecting item. It does the work. I am just here to give it a plate to do the work. I am the plate.”

Shapiro is planning multiple events and workshops, like Truffle Together: In-Person Truffle Making for Groups. “Activities are an opportunity to connect. I have a truffle-making class that can be customized to your needs, your group of friends.



Sarah Shapiro of Wild Child Chocolate in Davis Square.

— Photos courtesy of Elli Bock



There is a virtual version.” Victoria Kichuk, owner of Cocoa Beantown, a chocolate tour and event company, hosted Singles Mingle Chocolate Tasting on March 20 within Shapiro’s space. “Victoria is a mega connector. For her, it is natural for her to talk consumption, flavor and people.”

Shapiro has spots for her 4Questions Single-Origin Chocolate Tasting Event too, where guests sample her certified Kosher for Passover chocolate. As a note, all Wild Child Chocolates are vegan and, in her words, are “prepared in a kosher house,” but only the 4Questions chocolate line is certified kosher.

At the end of the day, “It is all chocolate. People leave happy. There is nothing bad about it. Fascinating, so often in adulthood, our preferences are cloaked in the choices we make. When you sit in a room of people, when you say I prefer this origin, that origin, it is very clear how our taste

senses indicate preferences for food.”

Long term, Shapiro told us openly, “I don’t know if we will be here for six months or three years. We are open to having that flexibility in our contract. My other half, business partner and personal partner, Ben Bromberg Gaber, is definitely a mover and shaker, a squeaky wheel type. We needed a venue. We said, ‘Let’s talk to everyone.’ I am the maker and he is the shaker.” They reached out to the city’s Economic Development team, who suggested the space. “It was a fortuitous moment” for all. And for all of us, too.

Visit www.wildchildchocolate.com. This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Links:

- [1] <https://www.wildchildchocolate.com/>
[2] <https://www.7thspokesomerville.com/project-updates>

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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Crocus | 7. Five |
| 2. It tilts towards the Sun | 8. Penalty on a driver or declared unfit to continue racing |
| 3. Ugadi | 9. Challenger Deep |
| 4. Nowruz | 10. The Guess Who |
| 5. Michael Corleone | 11. Diesel and Dust |
| 6. Return of the Jedi | 12. INXS |

Book review: 'The Tainted Cup' by Robert Jackson Bennett

By Dennis Fischman

Writing a science fiction murder mystery is difficult. As I pointed out in my review of Arkady Martine's fine example *A Memory Called Empire* [1], to play fair with the reader, the science fiction has to be clear and convincing – a world we can imagine, whose rules make sense. Simultaneously, the means and motives have to fit within that world (while being recognizable to us pitiful humans of the 2020's).

The Tainted Cup, by Robert Jackson Bennett [2], is the perfect blend of science fiction and murder mystery, with main characters you can care about and at least one femme fatale I ended up pitying.

Here's the setup: in a far-flung corner of a galactic empire, an

Imperial officer who's seemingly been stuck there as a demotion shows up dead in his own home – with a tree growing up and through his body. Who killed him, why, and how?

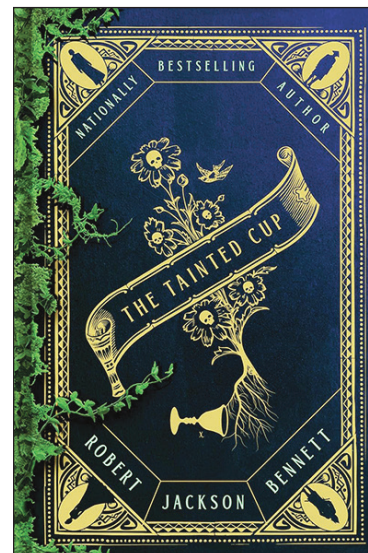
Some might object that this is fantasy, not science. I think, instead, that it follows classic science fiction author Arthur C. Clarke's Law: "any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." As you follow the investigation, you learn what is and isn't possible in this world, so you can try to solve the mystery yourself.

The investigators are a crotchety, brilliant, autistic woman with a penchant for blindfolding herself, and a young bisexual man who's been genetically altered to have a perfect memory (even for documents written in a language

he doesn't read!). The homage to Holmes and Watson is apparent, but I think Ana Dolabra may owe something to Ann Cleeves' [3] Vera Stanhope, too.

I have only two criticisms: there is no accounting for why the world is organized along medieval aristocratic lines except that it's customary to do that in the borderlands of fantasy and science fiction. I could easily imagine a capitalist version of the same thing. So, why?

Also, the big reveal is a "You're probably wondering why I called you all here today" type confrontation, which is a dated plot device. The excuse is that our heroes need to extort a confession from the wrongdoer, and that works, but it's still too conventional for a novel that's inventive in other ways.



The Tainted Cup
by Robert Jackson Bennett
Del Rey, 2024

I am looking forward to the next of the series [4]!

Links:

- [1] <https://www.thesomerville-times.com/archives/130909>
- [2] <https://www.thesomerville-times.com/archives/136417>
- [3] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/213618143-a-drop-of-corruption>
- [4] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/150247395-the-tainted-cup>



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

<https://www.thesomerville-times.com/archives/130909>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/213618143-a-drop-of-corruption>

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Tax Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: Tired of long IRS phone waits or wondering if your tax issue is stuck in limbo? There's a faster way to get answers!?

A: Instead of mailing letters or sitting on hold, you can now handle many tax issues through the IRS's secure online portal—and the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) offers a similar tool. In my experience, these portals often lead to faster resolutions, fewer delays, and a lot less frustration!

Through the IRS or MassTaxConnect portal, you can:

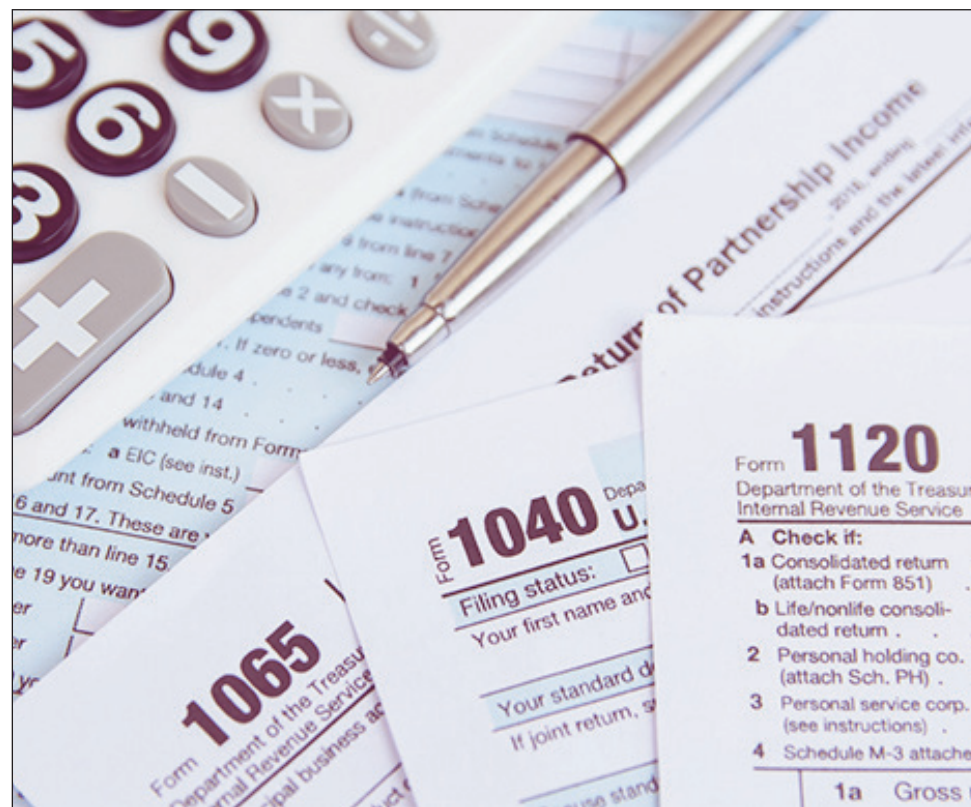
- View your account balance and payment history
- Check the status of your return or refund
- Respond to notices or upload documentation

- Set up payment plans
- Update your address or contact info
- Authorize your tax professional to help

If you've never created an account before, setting one up requires identity verification—but once you're in, it's a powerful tool for avoiding long wait times and keeping your tax matters on track.

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.



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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.

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.

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.

De-Cluttering Group – will meet on Wednesdays, March 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.

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.

Sharing your stories – Monday, March 31st. A workshop where we will discuss turning your favorite life stories into a blog. If you have any questions or to RSVP contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@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.

Knitting Group – Every Tuesday in March from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Have you always wanted to learn how to knit or are you a knitter looking to find other friends who knit? Look no further than Knitting with Natasha. Join a supportive and fun group as we learn more about knitting while knitting together! Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

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

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

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

Brown Bag Supplemental Food Program – PICK UP Thursday, March 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. For an application contact

Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

General Nutrition Classes – Monday, March 31st from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. via Zoom and 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in person at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Wednesdays, March 5th, 12th and 19th in person at our Holland Street Center from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. RSVP to Mary Marshall by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2316 or email Mary at Headtofitness10@yahoo.com.

Project Outlook – Thursday, March 27th at our Holland Street Center from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Project Outlook is a group for low vision and blind seniors to gather, socialize and enjoy dinner together. RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Virtual Reality Experiences – Mediation Experience, Monday, March 31st starting at 11:00a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Join us as we travel to different destinations and learn interesting facts about each place. Using ARPA funding directed to the Council on Aging by Mayor Ballantyne, the COA has partnered with Rendeever, a Somerville based company focusing on the benefits of virtual reality in older populations. Studies have found that virtual reality can help reduce stress, decrease isolation, reduce pain and lower fall risk. Virtual reality is a 3D, computer generated simulation that is accessed through wearing a headset. RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

General Exercise / Holland Street Center – Every Monday in March starting at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and every Wednesday in March starting at 9:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. RSVP to Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov

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.

Three-dozen artists and musicians launch fundraiser to support preservation of their workspaces in Somerville

Over three-dozen artist and musician tenants at Central Street Studios announce their preservation campaign fundraiser in support of helping to secure their affordable artist workspaces at 57 Central Street in Somerville. The fundraiser is in support of the Arts and Business Council of Greater Boston purchasing the 4-floor property at 57 Central Street, with a mission of keeping it as affordable artist workspaces, with support from the City of Somerville.

Through its Cultural Land Trust initiative, the Arts and Business Council also preserved Western Avenue Studios in Lowell, a campus of 350 affordable artist work and live/workspaces, and a creative space in Worcester.

"We are so appreciative to be part of this process of preservation of this wonderful community asset," shares Jim Grace, Executive Director for Arts and Business Council. "The leadership of the owners, the City of Somerville, and artists are a testament that these spaces can be permanently saved when all the parties work together."

A 4-person ownership group, including Paul and Karen Morse, along with Nancy Dutton and David Benson, purchased the 6600+ square foot property in 1983. "David and I were woodworkers in the Fort Point Channel area," Morse says. "We could see artists being priced out of the area and 57 Central Street in Somerville came on the market. We were able to purchase it and use one floor for our woodworking studio and the other three as artist workspaces. Since 2003, the woodworking shop downsized to just a quarter floor, turning even more space into artist studios to this day, and hopefully, long into the future."

"It has always been our desire," shares owner Karen Morse, "for 57 Central Street to be a place where artists thrive. We've nurtured this creative community space for over forty years. Now it's time for Jim Grace and the Arts and Business Council to steward it into the future."

The 4-floor artist community boasts over 25 individual studios that serve over 3-dozen artists including painters, photographers, woodworking, jewelry makers, fiber artists, literary artists, sculptors, musicians, floral artists, video installation artists, illustrators, and others.

"We are so grateful to the longtime owners of Central Street Studios for choosing to keep the building as artist studios," shares Jack Gruman, a video installation artist and Somerville native. "Getting Jim

Grace and the Arts and Business Council on board means our workspaces can stay affordable, which is key," he shares.

"This is what arts preservation can look like when everyone shows up with a shared commitment to community," said Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "The Arts and Business Council, the current owners, and the artists are doing something remarkable: protecting a creative space, not just for today's artists, but for generations to come. We're proud that Somerville could support this acquisition, because when we protect affordable artist workspace, we're preserving the culture, creativity, and collaborative spirit that define our city."

"At a time when affordable art spaces are disappearing left and right, this outcome at 57 Central is like a dream come true. The owners of this building could easily have sold to the highest bidder, but instead they're showing what is possible when owners stick to their values and work collaboratively with the artist community, the City, and the non-profit community to build a sustainable future for the extraordinary artistic community at 57 Central."

"A collaborative solution has proven to work," shares Ethan Dussault, #ARTSTAYSHERE volunteer and Somerville business owner and resident. "When artists, nonprofits, owners, developers, funders and government all work together toward the same goal -- we can preserve the affordable artist workspaces we have. We applaud the Arts and Business Council, the City of Somerville, the owners and the artists for all doing their parts. And now the community can do its part by supporting the artists' fundraiser, too."

The online fundraiser aims to raise \$100,000 to help bridge the gap of funding by the Arts and Business Council and the City of Somerville (see details below).

Along with the GoFundMe online fundraiser, the artists will host an in-person community Preservation Party, April 21, 7-9pm at Warehouse XI in Somerville's Union Square. Attendees will hear firsthand about the value of affordable artist workspaces, and the value of artists to our communities. Artists from Central Street Studios will showcase their artwork, offer on-site advocacy stations, and launch their auction that evening. Attendance is free with RSVP here: <https://preservecentralstreetstudios.eventbrite.com>

"Artists and musicians rely on workspaces like these, and the intent of owners like



Central Street Studios, 57 Central Street, Somerville.

ours to provide places where we can create, grow as artists, and develop our creative practices," explains Lena Warnke, a member of sidebody Band who rehearses at Central Street Studios and will perform at the acclaimed Boston Calling music festival this May. "We need room for our instruments, room to play music, room to write, and record. Central Street Studios is our creative backbone."

Central Street Studios artists will thank donors in the following ways:

- + Donations of \$5-99 will be thanked on the artists' website and via social media
- + Donations of \$100-249 choice of limited-edition, hand-printed campaign poster or t-shirt
- + Donations of \$250-499 the above, plus limited edition #ARTSTAYSHERE placard
- + Donations of \$500-999 the above, plus engraved name on Silver Paintbrush Circle permanent placard on site at Central Street Studios
- + Donations of \$1000+ the above, plus engraved name on Gold Paintbrush Circle permanent placard on site at Central Street Studios, plus private in-person studio tour with artists
- + Donations of \$5000+ the above, plus engraved name on Platinum Paintbrush Circle permanent placard on site at Central Street Studios, plus private in-person studio tour and dinner with the artists

All donations are tax-deductible.

Donations \$1000+ may be made online through the artists' GoFundMe online fundraiser, or via pledge form through the Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston.

Donate by Check (instead of online)

Please make checks payable to the Arts and Business Council of Greater Boston and include your name, address, phone number & mail to: Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston, 15 Channel Center Street, Suite 103, Boston, MA 02210

Donate Stocks and Bonds

Gifts of publicly-traded securities are welcome and may save you income and capital gains tax, too.

A gift of publicly-traded securities could be right for you if:

- + you own publicly-traded securities that you've held for at least one year
- + some of these securities have increased in value since you bought them
- + some of these securities may provide you with little or no income
- + you would like to make a gift to support this project

Donate with Donor-Advised Funds

Donor-Advised Funds (DAF) are an increasingly popular way to make a charitable gift. DAFs can provide you with immediate tax benefits while making your charitable giving easier. Just contact your Donor-Advised Fund administrator to recommend a grant to this project. You can recommend that your favorite public charities, such as Preserve Central Street Studios through Arts & Business Council (ABC), receive grants from your Donor-Advised Fund. Most Donor-Advised Funds have a minimum grant recommendation, or you can recommend distributing the entire balance of your Donor-Advised Fund for a cause important to you. ABC is grateful for grants from Donor-Advised Funds. Make your DAF gift at <https://dafwidget.com/>.

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26		12:30 AM	Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality	1:30 PM	Sanctuary Cities/Federal Challenge	7:00 AM	National Donor Day 2025
7:00 AM	COA: General Seated Exercise	1:00 AM	Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community		Announcement	7:25 AM	City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
7:30 AM	Preserving Black History: Panel & Discussion	7:00 AM	COA: General Seated Exercise #2	2:10 PM	National Donor Day 2025	8:00 AM	Preserving Black History: Panel & Discussion
9:05 AM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology	7:30 AM	Preserving Black History: Panel & Discussion	7:00 PM	City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis	9:35 AM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology
9:30 AM	Construction Advisory Group Meeting	9:05 AM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology	7:30 PM	SomerViva em Português	10:00 AM	Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
12:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 3-24-25	9:30 AM	School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona	8:00 PM	Sanctuary Cities/Federal Challenge Announcement	11:30 AM	SomerViva em Português
3:30 PM	School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona	10:00 AM	City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen	8:45 PM	Preserving Black History: Panel & Discussion	12:00 PM	City Council Meeting 3-27-25
4:00 PM	SomerViva an Kreyol	10:30 AM	Sanctuary Cities/Federal Challenge Announcement	10:30 PM	School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona	4:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen
4:30 PM	Community Meeting: Public Safety	11:30 AM	Mental Health Matters: Teen Mental Health	11:00 PM	Museum of Bad Art Tour	5:00 PM	Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality
6:00 PM	Mental Health Matters: Teen Mental Health	12:00 PM	SomerViva em Português	SUNDAY, MARCH 30			
6:30 PM	School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona	12:30 PM	Finance Committee Meeting	12:00 AM	City Council Meeting 3-27-25	7:00 AM	Chair Pilates & Cardio Throwback
7:00 PM	National Donor Day 2025	5:00 PM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips	7:00 AM	Chair Pilates & Cardio Throwback	7:30 AM	SomerViva an Kreyol
7:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen	5:30 PM	School Committee Meeting 3-24-25	8:01 AM	Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality	8:00 PM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology
8:00 PM	SomerViva em Português	8:30 PM	School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona	8:30 AM	Mental Health Matters: Teen Mental Health	8:30 PM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
8:30 PM	Sanctuary Cities/Federal Challenge Announcement	9:00 PM	Community Meeting: Public Safety	9:00 AM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips	9:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 3-24-25
9:10 PM	City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo	10:30 PM	Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner	9:30 AM	SomerViva em Português	TUESDAY, APRIL 1	
10:00 PM	Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality	SATURDAY, MARCH 29		10:00 AM	City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen	12:00 AM	School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
10:30 PM	Construction Advisory Group Meeting	12:00 AM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology	10:30 AM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology	12:30 AM	City Council Meeting 3-27-25
THURSDAY, MARCH 27		12:30 AM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips	11:00 AM	Sanctuary Cities/Federal Challenge Announcement	7:00 AM	COA: General Seated Exercise
1:00 AM	School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona	1:00 AM	Mental Health Matters: Teen Mental Health	12:00 PM	Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality	7:30 AM	Mental Health Matters: Teen Mental Health
1:30 AM	Finance Committee Meeting 3-11-25	1:30 AM	Sanctuary Cities/Federal Challenge Announcement	12:30 PM	School Committee Meeting 3-24-25	8:00 AM	Sanctuary Cities/Federal Challenge Announcement
7:00 AM	Chair Pilates & Cardio Throwback	2:10 AM	National Donor Day 2025	3:30 PM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips	9:00 AM	SomerViva em Português
7:30 AM	Sanctuary Cities/Federal Challenge Announcement	7:00 AM	Construction Advisory Group Meeting	4:00 PM	Construction Advisory Group Meeting	9:30 AM	Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
8:10 AM	National Donor Day 2025	9:30 AM	School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona	6:30 PM	SomerViva em Português	11:00 AM	SomerViva em Português
8:30 AM	School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona	10:00 AM	Mental Health Matters: Teen Mental Health	7:00 PM	City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen	11:30 AM	City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen
9:00 AM	SomerViva em Português	10:30 AM	SomerViva em Português	7:30 PM	SomerViva em Português	12:00 PM	Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality
9:30 AM	City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen	11:00 AM	Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community	8:00 PM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology	12:30 PM	Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
10:00 AM	Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair	1:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 3-24-25	8:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen	2:30 PM	Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2024
11:30 AM	City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis	1:00 PM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology	9:00 PM	Preserving Black History: Panel & Discussion	4:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 3-24-25
12:00 PM	Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality	1:00 PM	Cosmetology	10:35 PM	National Donor Day 2025	7:00 PM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
12:30 PM	School Committee Meeting 3-24-25	FRIDAY, MARCH 28		11:00 PM	Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair	7:30 PM	SomerViva em Português
7:00 PM	City Council Meeting - LIVE			12:00 AM	Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality	8:00 PM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology
				12:30 AM	Community Meeting: Public Safety	8:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26		12:00 AM	Boys' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	10:00 PM	Middle School Track and Field Meet	3:00 PM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology
8:00 AM	Girls' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	1:06 AM	Girls' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	10:30 PM	SHS Art: Empty Bowls Fundraiser	4:00 PM	Middle School Track and Field Meet
9:00 AM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology	8:00 AM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology	11:00 PM	HTCs Much Ado About Nothing	4:30 PM	SHS SomerStars 2025
9:30 AM	Boys' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	8:30 AM	Middle School Track and Field Meet	SUNDAY, MARCH 30			
11:00 AM	HTCs Much Ado About Nothing	9:00 AM	Girls' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	12:30 AM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology	5:31 PM	SHS Art: Empty Bowls Fundraiser
1:00 PM	Middle School Track and Field Meet	10:00 AM	Boys' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	1:00 AM	SHS SomerStars 2025	6:00 PM	Girls' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final
2:00 PM	SHS SomerStars 2025	11:06 AM	SHS Art: Empty Bowls Fundraiser	8:00 AM	SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game	7:00 PM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology
3:00 PM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology	11:30 AM	HTCs Much Ado About Nothing	9:30 AM	SHS Class Cup Challenge	7:30 PM	Boys' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final
3:30 PM	SHS Baseball vs Revere	1:00 PM	SHS SomerStars 2025	10:00 AM	HTCs Much Ado About Nothing	9:00 PM	HTCs Much Ado About Nothing
5:30 PM	SHS Art: Empty Bowls Fundraiser	2:01 PM	SHS Softball vs Chelsea	11:30 AM	SHS Hockey vs Assabet Valley	11:00 PM	Middle School Track and Field Meet
6:00 PM	Girls' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	3:30 PM	SHS Baseball vs Marblehead	1:30 PM	Middle School Track and Field Meet	TUESDAY, APRIL 1	
7:00 PM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology	6:00 PM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology	2:00 PM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology	12:00 AM	SHS SomerStars 2025
7:30 PM	Boys' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	6:30 PM	Middle School Track and Field Meet	2:30 PM	Boys' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	1:00 AM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology
9:00 PM	HTCs Much Ado About Nothing	7:00 PM	Girls' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	4:00 PM	SHS SomerStars 2025	1:30 AM	SHS Baseball vs Revere
11:00 PM	Middle School Track and Field Meet	8:00 PM	Boys' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	5:00 PM	Girls' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	3:30 AM	SHS Art: Empty Bowls Fundraiser
THURSDAY, MARCH 27		9:06 PM	SHS Art: Empty Bowls Fundraiser	6:00 PM	SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game	8:00 AM	School Committee Meeting 3-24-25
12:00 AM	SHS SomerStars 2025	9:30 PM	HTCs Much Ado About Nothing	7:30 PM	SHS Class Cup Challenge	10:30 AM	Boys' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final
1:00 AM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology	11:00 PM	SHS SomerStars 2025	8:00 PM	HTCs Much Ado About Nothing	12:00 PM	Girls' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final
1:30 AM	SHS Baseball vs Revere	SATURDAY, MARCH 29		9:30 PM	SHS Hockey vs Assabet Valley	1:00 PM	Middle School Track and Field Meet
3:30 AM	SHS Art: Empty Bowls Fundraiser	12:01 AM	SHS Softball vs Chelsea	11:30 PM	Middle School Track and Field Meet	1:30 PM	SHS Art: Empty Bowls Fundraiser
8:00 AM	HTCs Much Ado About Nothing	1:30 AM	SHS Baseball vs Marblehead	MONDAY, MARCH 31			
10:00 AM	SHS SomerStars 2025	8:00 AM	School Committee Meeting 3-24-25	12:00 AM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology	2:00 PM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology
11:00 AM	Middle School Track and Field Meet	10:30 AM	Boys' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	12:30 AM	Boys' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	3:00 AM	Boys' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final
12:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 3-24-25	12:00 PM	Girls' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	2:00 AM	SHS SomerStars 2025	4:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 3-24-25
2:30 PM	Boys' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	1:00 PM	Middle School Track and Field Meet	3:00 AM	Girls' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	7:30 PM	Boys' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final
4:00 PM	Girls' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	1:30 PM	SHS Art: Empty Bowls Fundraiser	8:00 AM	Girls' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	9:00 PM	Girls' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final
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10:00 PM	SHS SomerStars 2025	4:00 PM	SHS SomerStars 2025	11:00 AM	HTCs Much Ado About Nothing	11:00 PM	HTCs Much Ado About Nothing
11:00 PM	Middle School Track and Field Meet	5:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 3-24-25	1:00 PM	Middle School Track and Field Meet	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2	
FRIDAY, MARCH 28		7:30 PM	Boys' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final	2:00 PM	SHS SomerStars 2025	12:31 AM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology
		9:00 PM	Girls' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final			1:00 AM	SHS SomerStars 2025

Mayor Ballantyne announces transformation of Founders Rink into all-ages recreation hub

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne today announced the transformation of Founders Ice Rink into a multi-purpose recreation hub serving all ages. This exciting development comes after a successful pilot period showcasing the community's demand for diverse recreational activities.

The Administration is proposing a significant upgrade following the rink's seasonal closure with the installation of a multi-purpose gym floor. The estimated \$168,000 for this upgrade requires funding approval by the City Council and has been submitted for consideration.

The safer, multi-use surface, will allow for a broader range of activities while retaining the option to revert back to an ice rink in the future. This transformation addresses the community's pressing need for accessible recreational space and builds upon the success of recent programming initiatives. Because Somerville is a two-rink community, Veterans Memorial Rink, which is next door to Founders, will also continue to offer ice hockey and skating to the city and region.

"Founders will be a game changer for us," said Mayor Ballantyne. "We are filling the gap from what Founders was to what it can be, restoring access to vital recreational opportunities for all Somerville residents. We still have a long-term goal to establish a community center in our city, but we also need solutions right now. Founders makes smart use of current resources to provide the recreation space that residents need today."

Recent successful programs demonstrated the community's enthusiasm for

diverse recreational offerings at the site. Popular pickleball sessions for all ages, a well-attended Fall Festival, and a dynamic Women in Sports Day featuring local high school volunteers drew significant participation. And when summer camp spots filled up this past summer, staff quickly set up the SomerSpot program at Founders providing 44 children with enriching summer camp programs who otherwise would have been turned away.

Somerville's two ice rinks have traditionally served both local athletes and residents for ice sports, as well as regional users including hockey leagues. The administration is confident Veterans Rink, as well as rinks in neighboring communities, can continue to well serve Somerville ice users and regional hockey leagues, which serve both Somerville and area players, while Somerville residents interested in other activities gain access to Founders.

"Together these two rinks can serve the full range of activities from hockey and ice skating to dance, pickleball, indoor weather-protected senior fitness, teen clubs, and more," said Ballantyne.

The Founders recreation hub will feature an expanded program lineup, including:

- + Fitness and Wellness: Zumba, yoga, cardio, senior walking, and dance classes
- + Sports: Futsal, badminton, volleyball, basketball, street hockey, lacrosse, tennis, and pickleball
- + Community Events: Dances, inclusive bike days, roller skate nights, and themed parties like the upcoming 80s Glow Party in May



+ Youth and Teen Programs: After-school and summer programming with a focus on both sport/fitness as well as games and puzzles and creative arts

+ Intergenerational Programs: Activities designed to increase cooperation, interaction, and knowledge between any two generations.

The center will offer programming in spring, summer, and fall throughout the day, catering to various age groups: preschoolers and seniors in the mornings, teens in the afternoons, adult athletics in the evenings, and family-friendly activities on weekends. The spring schedule will be posted soon to somervillema.myrec.com.

"Our vision is to create a vibrant recreation hub for all ages," said Parks & Recreation Director Sue Yerkes. "We want to provide consistent space for a broad range

of activities, complementing the existing outdoor field and water play areas and creating a new gathering place where people can make community connections."

All are Invited to Take the Recreation Survey

Whether you or your family are regular participants in Parks and Recreation programming or you haven't tried a program yet, the city wants to better understand how to meet your needs. Your feedback will help staff adjust existing recreation programs and develop new ones. The survey should take about five minutes. The survey is available in multiple languages at bit.ly/somervillerecsurvey.

Visit the Somerville Parks and Recreation website at <https://somervillema.myrec.com> for info on upcoming programs and more.

7th grade Girls Basketball Champions

"After four years of coaching this team and a very disappointing loss in the finals two years ago, we finally WON the 7th grade girls basketball metrowest 'Championship' tournament," said Coach Israel Garcia. Garcia praised the team, "These girls deserve to be CHAMPIONS. They work hard, relentless, teamwork and pride."

Pictured top row L-R: Coach Ronald Freeman, Reese Freeman, Mika Dimagiba, Trinity Stiles, Gia Spires, Olivia Spires, Gianna Stiles, Maria Garcia, Coach Israel Garcia.

Bottom row L-R: Arielys Lopez, Aria Bruce, Leilah Denning.



Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com
 On Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1
 and follow us on X/Twitter at [@somervilletimes](https://twitter.com/somervilletimes)



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week



Q: I think I've been discriminated against. What should I do?

A: Call Shannon Lawler at the City of Somerville's Housing Division, 617-625-6600 X2569. She will help you figure out your rights and how to get what's coming to you.

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.

Tufts University Department of Music Presents
'Sound Icon: Infinity of Lists'

The Tufts University Department of Music presents "Sound Icon: Infinity of Lists" in the Distler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Thursday, April 3, at 8:00 p.m.

Founded and directed by Jeffrey Means, the Sound Icon sinfonietta presents a special event featuring the premiere of Infinity of Lists by Ken Ueno. Also featured are works by Tufts Composers T.J. Anderson, Julia Soojin Cavallaro, Carlos Mauro Gálvez, John McDonald, and Yixiao Wang. This event will be livestreamed at go.tufts.edu/musiclivestream.

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus. For more information, please visit go.tufts.edu/musicevents or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617.627.3679.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Help! I'm just a little house, and I'm getting squashed!... — Photo by Denise Provost

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why do bees have sticky hair in the spring?
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On This Day in History

March 26

- 1799 – Napoleon Bonaparte captures Jaffa, Palestine.
- 1804 – Congress sends Indians east of the Mississippi River to Louisiana.
- 1832 – Famed western artist George Catlin begins his voyage up the Missouri River aboard the American Fur Company steamship Yellowstone.
- 1885 – Eastman Film Co. manufactures the first commercial motion picture film.
- 1942 – The Germans begin sending Jews to Auschwitz in Poland.
- 1950 – Senator Joe McCarthy names Owen Lattimore, an ex-State Department adviser, as a Soviet spy.
- 1953 – Dr. Jonas Salk announces a new vaccine against polio.
- 1954 – The United States sets off an H-bomb blast in the Marshall Islands.
- 1979 – The Camp David treaty is signed between Israel and Egypt.
- 1982 – Ground is broken in Washington D.C. for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
- 1989 – The first free elections take place in the Soviet Union. Boris Yeltsin is elected.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

<https://artsatthearmory.org/events/g-rockwell-band/>.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the **City of Somerville staff** invite you to **Somerville's third annual Civic Day**. Come learn about city services and local government via free activities, and enjoy local eats and entertainment on **Saturday, April 5**, from noon to 4 p.m. at **City Hall** (93 Highland Ave.) and on the **City Hall concourse**. In the event of inclement weather, all outdoor activities will be moved inside to Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.). To learn more, visit somerville-ma.gov/civicday.

PorchFest 2025 will take place on **Saturday, May 10**, from 12 to 6 p.m. (inclement weather date: Sunday, May 11). Applications are now open. Submit by **Thursday, April 10** at 11:59 PM. Application submission does not guarantee participation. Certain streets will be restricted for performances to ensure safety. View the restricted street map on our website or view the streets listed below. View how to submit your application for consideration <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/>.

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>.

 Summer is coming! Check out the **city's summer programming** by visiting tinyurl.com/sville2025summer today.

 Plan ahead as **parks close temporarily for tree maintenance**. Proactive maintenance is essential for healthy tree growth and preserving Somerville's urban forest. The **Somerville Parks Tree Program** is gearing up for its sixth year to provide a comprehensive health assessment to 327 trees throughout ten parks this spring. To do this work, temporary park closures are required. Residents are encouraged to check for park closures before

planning an outing to city parks. Learn more here <https://www.somervillema.gov/treehealth>.

 Calling all members of the **Somerville music community!** Join the **Somerville Arts Council** for a meeting 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. **Monday, March 31**, 6:30 – 8 p.m., at **The Jungle**, 6 Sanborn Court.

Street sweeping in Somerville resumes on Tuesday, April 1. Somerville's street cleaning program is an essential public works program that not only keeps our city cleaner but also reduces the risk of flooding and icing due to clogged storm drains. Signs indicate time and date of no parking due to sweeping. The street sweeping season runs from April 1 until December 31 each year. On designated street sweeping days, vehicles must be moved from the side of the street being swept, as noted on signs posted on each street. The penalty for not complying with street sweeping parking regulations is a \$50 fine.

Drum Your Heart Day, Saturday April 26, at **Gilman Art Park**, Medford St., Somerville. Bring a bucket or metal or a drum and everyone will drum together led by a core of drum artists. Beginning around 1 p.m. Celebrate, protest, express yourself to the universe the good we know we need to overcome hate and prejudice from our neighborhoods across America. Gilman Art Park has been and continues welcoming artists to show Temporary Public Art until June, possibly through this Summer. On the first Saturday of June there will be a celebration honoring all the artists who have contributed their works to this temporary field of free expression.

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

 On **Friday, April 25**, **GLOWBALL** will transform the **Armory 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 Mudflat Cup Show 2025. National juried show by **Kyle Scott Lee**. If you are interested in purchasing any of the cups, please email kate@mudflat.org with your inquiry. Visit <https://www.mudflat.org/projects-8> to view.

 Save the date: **Somerville Open Studios 2025** will take place on **Saturday and Sunday, May 3–4**, from 12 to 6 p.m. each day, at artists' studios and homes throughout Somerville. Nearly 400 artists in 118 locations citywide will open their studios to the public. Map, artist, and (soon) trolley info at <https://www.somervilleopenstudios.org/> **The SOS First Look Show** at the **Somerville Museum** will be open **from April 24 through May 17**.

 Join puppeteer **Leigh Baltzer** and her puppet friends for a morning of stories, songs, and even learn about puppet styles. This program is intended for children ages 3 to 7, but all are welcome. This event will be held on **Saturday, March 29**, at the **East Branch Library** (115 Broadway) from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

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 **Thursday, April 3**.

 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.

Small Mart is back at The Crystal Ballroom, 55 Davis Square on **Friday April 4, 2025** with a special night market. They'll have 30+ local vendors plus tarot reading and on site mending, a full bar, and DJ **Johnny Stevens** from **Soulelujah** spinning vinyl all night long. 5–10 p.m. Free entry, all ages, wheelchair accessible.

Somerville Open Studios 2025 will take place on **Saturday and Sunday, May 3–4**, from 12 to 6 p.m. each day, at artists' studios and homes

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

organized his early soldiers of all ranks in preparation to assault them.

Who were they? They were the patriots who had already fought and spilled their blood since April 19 at Lexington. The last American to die that day was at the base of Prospect Hill. He was sixty-five-year-old James Miller who said, "I am too old to run." It was the first time Prospect Hill was stained with the blood of an American patriot. Younger men fled before the advance of the British Redcoats, but only James showed that the gray hairs of age outdared the red blood of youth.

These patriots all touched Prospect Hill:

- General Israel Putnam – Fought at Bunker Hill and fortified Prospect Hill.

- Colonel Thomas Knowlton – Fought at Bunker Hill and was the father of America's Army Rangers.

- General Charles Lee – Commanded the left wing of the American Army during the siege of Boston.

- Doctor General Joseph Warren – Was a martyr at Bunker Hill. Somerville was almost named after him.

- General Nathanael Greene – Was Washington's southern commander during the eight-year war.

- Colonel William Prescott – Was the

American commander at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

- General Henry Knox – Was the Father of American Artillery. He built Cobble Hill's fort and was Fort Knox's namesake.

- Colonel Paul Revere – Evaded Somerville capture on the way to complete his ride to Lexington. He also commanded guards, delivering 4,200 captured British and Hessian prisoners to Winter and Prospect Hills.

- Captain Nathan Hale – Was a school teacher, American Ranger and American spy. His famous words were, "My only regret is that I only have but one life to give

for my country."

- General John Paterson – Was Commander of Fort #3 at Union Square which protected the road to Cambridge.

- General Artemas Ward I – Commanded American troops until General Washington arrived at Prospect Hill.

- General George Washington – Took official command of the new American Army at Prospect Hill under the first American Union Flag on January 1, 1776.

These were the young and old leaders and soldiers of 1775 and 1776. This reunion would have been a reunion of America's first "Band of Brothers!"

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

throughout Somerville. Nearly 400 artists in 118 locations citywide will open their studios to the public. Map, artist, and (soon) trolley info at <https://www.somervilleopenstudios.org/>

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 their bio to sign up. Lots of adult programming happening at the library for the week of **March 30 – April 5**. Don't miss our **Take Home a Blackout Poetry Kit starting April 1** at all three branches, and Learn to make **Bengali Ghugni with Chef Afruza on Saturday, April 5**, at the East Branch. Visit <https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/>

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>.

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.

Registration for **SPS free summer programs starts tomorrow**. They have a wide range of programs open to any SPS student at different grade levels. Check out the summer webpage to learn more: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/summer>. Registration runs **from Monday, March 24 through April**.

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-pack of frozen home-delivered meals**. This new meal delivery option is ideal for consumers who want the convenience of home-deliv-

ered 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://somervilleymca.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 informa-

tion 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: somerville-ma.gov/alerts. Having trouble signing up? You can call 3-1-1 (617-666-3311) for assistance.

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

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/>.

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



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Poet Deborah Priestly returns to the Out of the Blue Gallery

Article by Off the Shelf Correspondent Parma Chattopadhyay

On March 24, from 6 to 9 p.m., Co-Founder of Out of the Blue Community Arts, Deborah Priestly, hosted the first of several poetry nights at the Out of the Blue Art Gallery in studio performance space B6 on the Basement Floor of the Armory at 191 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143.

All are welcome to attend, with a \$10 suggested donation, but no one will be turned away due to lack of funds. Light snacks and non-alcoholic beverages will be available to all who attend.

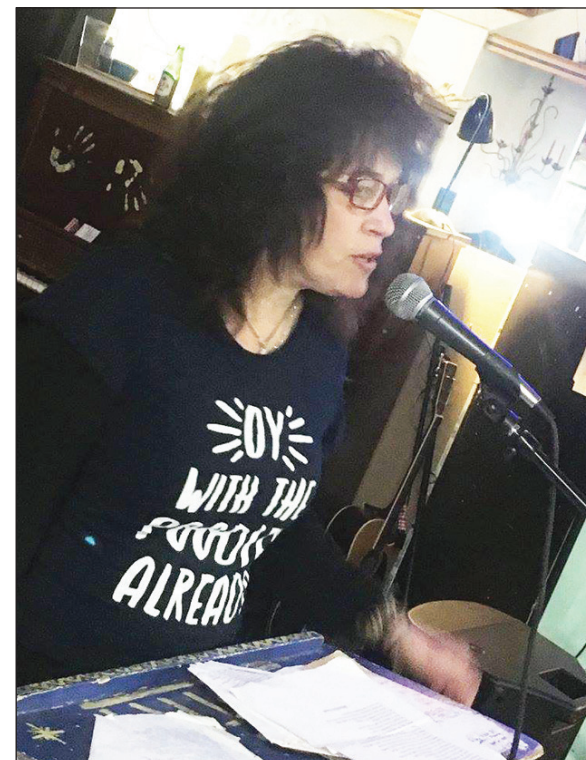
During the nights of her poetry series, she will have a couple of her artworks showing which have graced the Gallery for several decades. She will be MC-ing the night, and call poets up to the stage in the order that they sign up.

Please note that we do have a couple of hours for this memorable event, and if time is needed, we can go all the way to 10 p.m.

The gathering is poetry-centered, although light un-amped music is welcome. There is a guitar as well as acoustic hand drums at the Gallery for everyone's use, as has always been customary at the Gallery through its nearly 40 years in the Camberville area. Folks are welcome to bring copies of their poems to distribute to the audience.

Deborah Priestly has a memorable footprint in the Camberville arts scene. She is the author of *The Woman Has a Voice* (Ibbetson Street Press) and worked alongside Timothy Gager to produce *Out of the Blue Writers Unite*, a collection of short stories and poetry from Boston-based writers.

The Out of the Blue Art Gallery hosted Stone Soup Poetry for many years at its former locations in Cambridge, while several of these poets have attended literary events at our newer Somerville location. It hosted literary nights featuring Jack Powers, Brother Blue, and his wife Reverend Blue. It has also worked



alongside BARCC, On the Rise, and the Women's Center to develop inclusivity across all demographics.

Deborah Priestly graduated from Emerson College in creative writing and dance. She also worked at Boston University as an office manager, and was deemed an "Art Angel" in Harvard Square, giving proceeds of her art sales to the disabled and homeless. She helped found the Gallery in the early 1990s, and since then curated the Open Bark Poetry series for 25 years.

For the last 5 1/2 years, and since the Gallery moved from its second location in Allston to its current one in Somerville, she has spent some time working on herself and budding into her future projects.

Welcome Deborah Priestly on the 24th, bring your poetry game, and thanks for celebrating the history of Out of the Blue.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Alexander Levering Kern is a poet, editor, university chaplain, Quaker educator, and interfaith community organizer. Author of *What an Island Knows* (Shanti Arts, 2024) and a forthcoming poetry collection from Červená Barva Press, Alex is editor of the anthology *Becoming Fire: Spiritual Writing from Rising Generations*.



Founding editor-publisher of *Pensive: A Global Journal of Spirituality & the Arts* (www.pensive.com), Alex serves as Northeastern University's founding Executive Director of the interfaith Center for Spirituality, Dialogue, and Service. Recently selected for a Residency at T.S. Eliot House in Gloucester, Massachusetts and as an Advisory Council member of the New England Poetry Club.

The Larger Life Is

— after "Winter Morning" by James Crews

When I pause in the busyness of midweek
to write you a love letter, dear world out my window,
sometimes I hear only the rumble drum drum
of the recycling bins, the hiss of air brakes
from the dump truck nearby, as if our lives
were just squeezed loose from a hot air balloon,
but when I open my eyes, my ears, my mouth,
I can taste & see that you are good, oh precious life,
as dear as the tears of yesterday
that well in my eyes, knowing this life is not forever,
but maybe another is waiting within:
a wider horizon beyond the veil,
out over the rooftops of Somerville
past the great bell tower of Saint Catherine's
just up the hill, and down the green corridors
of light in the woods — and yes, maybe heaven
is not far away, nearer, perhaps,
than I am to myself, made all the sweeter
because I share it with you.

— Alexander Levering Kern

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

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

Tufts Third Day Gospel Choir

The Tufts University Department of Music presents "Tufts Third Day Gospel Choir" in the Cohen Auditorium at the Aidekman Arts Center on Friday, April 4, at 5:00 p.m. Join the 220-voice Tufts Third Day Gospel Choir as they present their spring concert under the direction of David Coleman.

Tickets are \$7 for general admission seating, visit www.tuftsdramadancetickets.com to purchase. This event will be livestreamed at go.tufts.edu/musiclivestream.

The Aidekman Arts Center is located at 40 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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ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
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403 HIGHLAND AVENUE
SOMERVILLE, MA 02144
edsmithlaw@gmail.com



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