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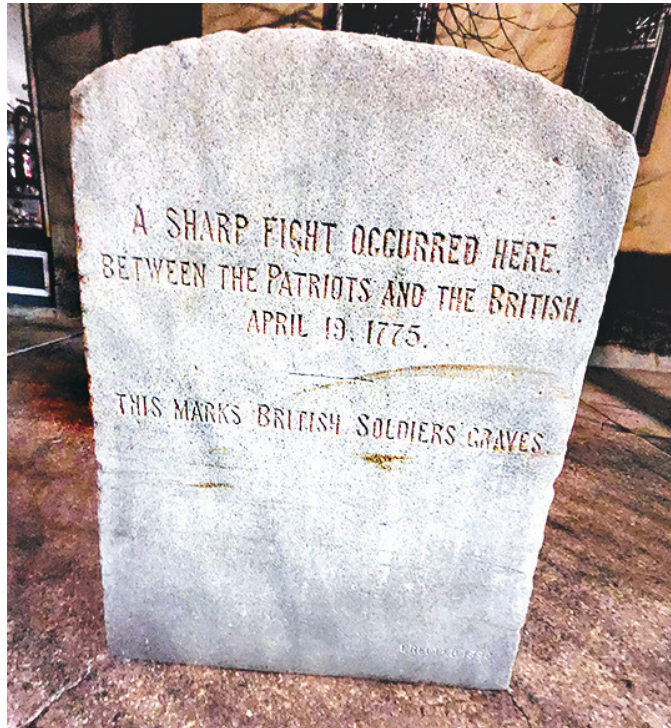


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The Battle of Beech and Elm Street



By Terence Clarey

On a sidewalk, near the curb between a bicycle shop and a three-story apartment building, on Elm Street, Somerville, just east of its intersection with Beech and Willow Streets, stands a small granite marker, usually obscured by parked cars, with these words chiseled on its face:

A SHARP FIGHT OCCURRED HERE
BETWEEN THE PATRIOTS AND THE BRITISH
APRIL 19, 1775

THIS MARKS BRITISH SOLDIERS GRAVES

This marker is one of the few remnants that tell of this small event; part of a far grander event which occurred 250 years ago this month. The date, April 19, 1775, was, of course, the day of the Battle of Lexington and Concord between British soldiers and local colonial militia, which began the war that would culminate in the birth of a nation. Although this "sharp fight" was a small piece of a much larger story, had things *Continued on page 4*

Elfland clean-up led by volunteers

By Jeffrey Shwom

A Ball Square-area resident, seeking out "the joy of crafting and sharing with other people," organized an impromptu cleanup of Elfland at Cedar and the community path. Jessica Rayno and about eight volunteers came together midday on a Tuesday with helping hands and supplies to recover, restore, and add to the art exhibit, a collection of miniature buildings and figurines started by an eight-year-old.

Volunteers dropped off and poured gravel, righted fallen structures, and took some wood items home to renovate. Rayno and her husband, who live in Medford, donated a thrifted white tree with fairy lights and solar panels, and another volunteer took home artwork to install hangers, so that it could be placed on the fence behind.

"Seeing community art out and about is just a way for us to bring beauty to our *Continued on page 11*



A number of local volunteers, led by Jessica Rayno, recently undertook the task of renovating the Elfland at Cedar art installation. — Photos by Jessica Rayno



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The Somerville Arts Council and the Program on Georgian Studies at the Davis Center at Harvard are thrilled to continue their successful Exchanging Notes initiative, which began in the spring of 2023. This project aims to bring together artists and performers from Georgia and Somerville, Massachusetts. The 2025 Artist in Residence at the Davis Center is Mishiko Sulakauri, an artist from the capital city of Tbilisi with a background in street art. While in the area, they have invited Mishiko to Somerville where he will paint a mural at Warehouse XI, 14 Homer Sq., Somerville in Union Square. See the freshly painted mural on April 23, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. and also enjoy a night of Georgian cuisine and multicultural mingling. Space is limited. Please RSVP for this event via this link: <https://daviscenter.fas.harvard.edu/about/people/mishiko-sulakauri>.

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 *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of April 23 – April 29 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday April 23	Partly Cloudy	70°/47°	1%	0%	W 11 mph
Thursday April 24	Sunny	67°/54°	2%	1%	ESE 12 mph
Friday April 25	Partly Cloudy	71°/55°	3%	2%	ESE 11 mph
Saturday April 26	Rain	66°/47°	51%	43%	SW 14 mph
Sunday April 27	Partly Cloudy	60°/47°	3%	1%	NW 13 mph
Monday April 28	Partly Cloudy	72°/52°	2%	0%	NW 12 mph
Tuesday April 22	Partly Cloudy	77°/59°	8%	4%	SW 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: 20-Year Remembrance of Senator Charles 'Charlie' Shannon

Courtney O'Keefe says:

I was privileged to spend my summer internship at Sen. Shannon's office in 2001 assisting with public relations. He was an exceptional example of what a public official should be. Rest in peace, Senator.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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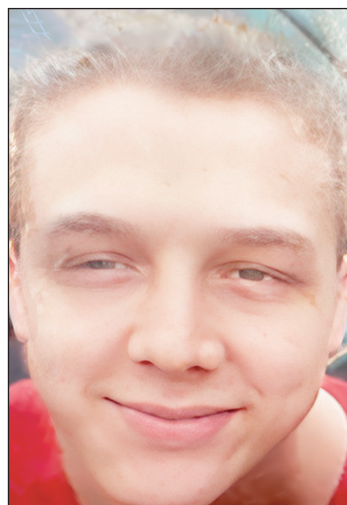
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OBITUARY

Darin James Carney



Darin James Carney
June 7, 1994 – May 21, 2024

A funeral mass will be held for Darin on April 24, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Monica Church, 331 Old Colony Avenue, South Boston, a five-minute walk from Andrew Station on the Red Line. He will be laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett at a later date.

Darin loved and was loved by

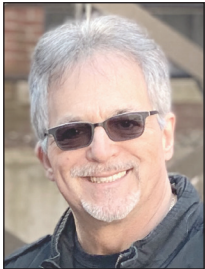
his mother Megan Fewtrell, his father Jason Carney, his grandparents Frederick Fewtrell and Leslie Baldner, the late Denise Carney and Joseph Carney and the late Shane O'Neil who was his brother. All from Somerville, MA. Darin also had many other treasured family and friends.

Come to remember Darin who was a shining light in our lives and will continue to be forever.

Life in the  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.

The Buggy



The songs *Happy Together*, *Something Stupid*, and *Groovin'* were playing on our transistor radios as we listened to WRKO AM.

It was the summer of 1967 and four Somerville kids ages 11-14 were excited to have been on furlough from the local adolescent detention center. Actually, we were on summer vacation from St. Clements Parochial School.

The Three Vigneau brothers, Stevie, Charlie and Andre, and me decided to build a buggy. We started with a long thick plank for the body, and went searching for wheels. The shopping carts from Stop 'N Shop had two small wheels in the front and two larger ones in the back. We needed four large rear wheels. That meant we needed to commandeer two shopping carts and get them over to my yard on Hall Ave.

The four of us visited the alley next to the Davis Square Stop 'N Shop and "borrowed" two shopping carts. We brought the carts to my backyard and removed the

four wheel that we needed.

We had big plans for our buggy. We gathered all the parts and started assembling it. Mr. Vigneau was a carpenter so his garage had all the hammers, saws, nails and screws we needed. I believe we purchased the axles at Tags in Porter Square. We sawed the legs off one of our old kitchen chairs for the back seat.

The wheels, and seat were attached, and our buggy was starting to take shape. We hooked up a rope to the front wheels for steering. That's when our project really took off.

The friendly man across the street, Lou Simoneau, came into our yard to check out the banging. He immediately shared some suggestions on how to spruce up our buggy. Next thing you know, we had a working steering mechanism complete with a car steering wheel! He also gave us a piece of leopard print fabric and showed us how to make a functioning canopy for the back seat. The final touch was part of an old lamp we used as a hood ornament. Cool!

Mr. Simoneau took the time to help us kids make our buggy something special.



He was a very soft spoken and patient man who had time for four rambunctious kids on a hot summer day.

We were so proud of our buggy. We nicknamed it "The Munster Mobile."

Yes, that summer of 1967 was special, as the small plastic transistor radio blared the hits while we built our buggy. We were *Happy Together* working on our buggy. We

did *Something Stupid* by stealing shopping carts for wheels, but in our slick, two-seater, leopard canopied buggy with a steering wheel and a brass hood ornament, we were sure *Groovin'*!

Too bad we forgot to put brakes on our buggy. It met its demise at the bottom of "Oscar's Hill." Rest in peace "The Munster Mobile."

Tufts University Department of Music Presents Tufts Arab Music Ensemble

The Tufts University Department of Music presents "Tufts Arab Music Ensemble" in the Distler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Tuesday, April 29, at 8:00 p.m.

The Tufts Arab Music Ensemble presents a selection of instrumental and vocal music representative of a wide range of genres within the Arab world. Naseem Alatrash, director.

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

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

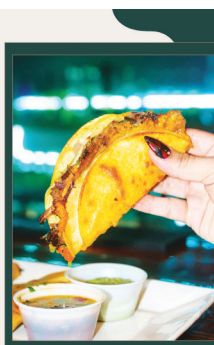


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Somerville Police Dept Crime Log April 8 – 14

Arrest

25019004: On 4/8/25 at approximately 12:57 p.m., Somerville Police responded to 165 Broadway for a fight. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she got into an argument with a male party. During the argument, the male punched her in the face. Officers located the male nearby and he was placed under arrest.

Assault

25019600: On 4/10/25 at approximately 11:15 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Davis Sq. for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he got into an altercation with a male in a vehicle. The male suspect then exited the vehicle and struck the victim with a baseball bat.

Residential Breaking and Entering

25019415: On 4/10/25 at approximately 8:30 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence in Davis Sq. for a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated his house keys were stolen from inside his apartment.

Assault

25020131: On 4/13/25 at approximately 9:30 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Broadway for a report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a group of teens came in and began causing a disturbance. As the teens were exiting, one of them slapped the victim.

Residential Breaking and Entering

25010138: On 4/13/25 at approximately 9:59 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Warner St. for a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the residents who stated they left their apartment and when they returned, observed a window open and jewelry and cash missing.

Assault

25020371: On 4/14/25 at approximately 7:36 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Broadway for a report of threats. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he got into an argument with a male party known to him. During the argument, the male party brandished a knife and pointed it at the victim.

Other Crimes: 1 Moped theft + 4 Bike thefts + 6 Package thefts + 3 MV vandalisms

— Somerville Police Department



The Battle of Beech and Elm Street

CONT. FROM PG 1

played out differently, it could have changed the course of the battle and later events.

The story is well known to almost every American adult with even the slightest familiarity with American history. General Thomas Gage, Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and Commander of British military forces in the thirteen colonies, was hoping to repeat his success of the previous September, when he launched a pre-dawn raid to seize gunpowder collected by colonists at the Powder House in Somerville (then part of Charlestown). They were angry at the British government's recently enacted policies that the colonists felt curtailed their political, economic, and personal liberty, including stationing soldiers in Boston.

In that raid, British soldiers were rowed up the Mystic River to Ten Hills, Somerville, where they marched overland to the Powder House, which stands today near Tufts University, seized the powder, and returned to Boston without any opposition. He had hoped to deprive the colonists the means by which they could launch any hostile action against British soldiers or loyalist citizens, and by doing so, keep the peace.

On April 19, 1775, Gage planned to row a force of 800 soldiers, across the Charles River to Cambridge, landing them near

Lechmere, and then have them march to Concord, where his intelligence told him weapons and supplies were being stored by the colonists.

Unfortunately for Gage, Boston Silversmith Paul Revere, and his network of spies found out about his plan and Revere slipped out of Boston and went on his famous ride, where he and others alarmed the countryside. Another problem for Gage was delays and mistakes that caused the British to get underway much later than hoped. So, when the red-coated British troops approached Lexington, on the road to Concord, the sun was already coming up.

The British were met by a handful of militia collected on the village green in Lexington, and after a tense few moments, the British fired on the militia, leaving eight colonists dead and ten wounded. Not expecting any serious opposition, the British marched confidently on to Concord, where they seized and burned supplies they deemed a threat to the military government. The conflagration appeared so great to the militia from Concord and other area communities, who were observing from the hills overlooking the town, that they thought the British were burning it. A large number approached the North Bridge to reach the center of town and attacked a small force of British troops

guarding the bridge.

With the countryside now fully aroused after hearing the news of Lexington and now Concord, the British troops beat a hasty retreat to Boston. They soon came under attack by colonial militia from surrounding towns. After enduring near constant attack, the beleaguered British troops were met by a relief force in Lexington under the command of General Lord Sir Hugh Earl Percy, who had brought artillery with him.

After regrouping, the British continued their long retreat to Boston. In Arlington, then called Menotomy, they were met by even more colonial attacks from behind trees, stonewalls, and houses. As the British forces approached the intersection of what is now Rindge and Mass Ave. in Cambridge, the British routed several colonials, and it was here that Percy was faced with a crucial decision. When Percy's reinforcements had left Boston earlier that day, they had marched out across what was then known as Boston Neck through Roxbury, Brookline, and Allston. They crossed the Charles River near Harvard Square over what was then called the "Great Bridge," where the bridge that connects Allston and Cambridge stands today.

The question now was whether the British troops should return the way they came or turn left on Beech Street, a few

hundred yards from the recent skirmish, and go right on Elm, and march to the Charlestown Peninsula to be ferried over the Charles to Boston? Percy had originally hoped to camp on Cambridge Common, but Percy received intelligence that a large force of militia was waiting for the British at the Great Bridge, and decided to take the shorter route through Charlestown.

So, after a brief stop at a tavern near the corner of Beech St and Mass Ave, Percy led his troops down Beech to where the small granite marker stands today. Before doing so, he had unlimbered some cannon, which he had done earlier at Lexington to keep colonials at bay while the British regrouped for their return to Boston.

But for the small granite marker, the history books and accounts of participants are scant on what exactly happened next, but there is evidence that it may have resulted as part of a hastily devised plan by General William Heath, who had been put in nominal command of American forces by colonial leaders earlier in the day. The plan was to try to force Percy toward the Great Bridge, where over 1000 American colonists were waiting. By doing so, he could have defeated Percy's force and compelled them to surrender. As Allen French writes,

"It is satisfactory to believe that not only had Heath prepared his ambush at the Cambridge bridge, but

Continued on page 5

Committee weighs equity in youth sports, crossing guard shortages, and basic income pilot

By Carlie Lombardi

At the April 16 meeting of the Committee on Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families, and Vulnerable Populations, Somerville councilors and community members discussed three major issues affecting local residents: the creation of a middle school girls intramural hockey program, the shortage of crossing guards amid recent pedestrian injuries, and the future of the city's guaranteed basic income (GBI) pilot.

Advocates push for a girls only hockey program

Community members, led by parent advocate Annette McKee, urged the city to create a free intramural hockey program for middle school girls in the 2025-2026 school year. McKee emphasized the gender, cultural, and financial barriers that prevent many girls from accessing hockey in Somerville, noting that girls often leave the sport around age 13 due to the lack of all-girls teams.

Councilor Lance Davis, who coaches girls' hockey in Cambridge, voiced strong support. "Girls' hockey is one of the greatest sports that exists. It's so supportive, so focused on lifting each other up," he said. Councilor Davis and Kristen Strezio called on the mayor's office to commit funding and resources to launch the program.

Representatives from Parks and Recreation affirmed their commitment to inclusive programming and talked about recent efforts to add more offerings for girls, teens, seniors, and unhoused residents.

However, staff also talked about the importance of planning to ensure long-term program success.

City responds to pedestrian safety concerns and staffing gaps

Following three recent incidents in which children were struck by cars near schools, the committee also addressed public safety and staffing gaps in the city's crossing guard program. Councilor Strezio cited dangerous driving behaviors near school, including frequent illegal left turns at Highland and Vinal, and called for immediate short-term solutions.

Sergeant McCarey reported that Somerville currently has 35 crossing guards out of 57 funded positions, with 10 new hires in training. He noted that the city has offered flexible shifts and is working with Human Resources to recruit more candidates.

"At the moment where we're at such a low number, we will do anything to put a body at a corner, even if it's one day a week," McCarey said. While recruitment remains a challenge, retention is strong, with most current guards expected to return next year.

Mobility Director Brad Rawson added that long-term traffic calming strategies, including raised crosswalks and curb extensions, are making an impact, with pedestrian crashes declining from over 50 in 2019 to around 30 last year. He stressed that such design interventions remain a vital part of the city's safety strategy.



Support for a girls only hockey program was among the topics covered by the Committee on Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families, and Vulnerable Populations at its recent meeting.

Guaranteed Basic Income pilot nears end

The final agenda item centered on the city's Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) pilot, which provided \$750 per month to 200 households over the past year. Funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the program aimed to support residents facing housing instability and financial hardship.

ARPA Director Erica Schwarz and Program Manager Jenny C. reported that the majority of participants are spending the funds monthly on essentials like rent, food, and debt repayment. "The unrestricted nature of the funds allowed participants to address their most urgent needs with dignity and flexibility," Schwarz said.

As the pilot ends in June, city staff are working to connect recipients with housing, legal, and financial services. However, legal and funding limitations mean the city cannot continue the program in its current form without additional support.

Officials expressed concern about how the end of the program will affect families. "We don't want to put anyone in a worse position," Strezio said, asking for more data in future meetings about the demographics of participants and their feedback on what helped most.

The GBI discussion will continue in May, with hopes of identifying sustainable ways to support Somerville's most vulnerable residents.

The Battle of Beech and Elm Street

that he tried to make sure Percy should be forced into the trap ... Let Heath have the credit, and the minutemen who perceived the crisis the honor, that a body of them stood out in the open, prepared to fore the regulars to take the southern road."

Apparently, it seems that some Cambridge militia was sent to get onto the Charlestown Road to force Percy to the Great Bridge because as the British approached the intersection, they were fired on by a handful of militia who showed themselves in the road to Charlestown. Other groups of colonists fired on the redcoats, and Percy quickly placed two cannon on a hill behind the Timothy Tufts house, where the bike shop stands today, and was able to clear a path for the British. The decision to use the cannon was suc-

cessful in clearing the road ahead, but the British took several casualties who were left behind after they cleared the intersection. The column would eventually make it back to Boston.

Had the situation not been as chaotic and had Heath been able to coordinate better with other commanders, this "sharp fight" might have had a more consequential impact on history as opposed to being nothing more than one skirmish of many. It is interesting to hypothesize about how history might have unfolded differently had the American colonial militia been able to prevent the British from returning to Boston, as it was a sizeable portion of the entire British force occupying Boston. The siege of Boston may have had a different character, and the evacuation of Bos-

CONT. FROM PG 4

ton might have happened much sooner. Either way it may be that more comprehensive details of this small part of a great

historic event 250 years ago, may never be revealed, and the small marker will be all that remains as witness to history.



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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 House sessions. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

CONSOLIDATED EDUCATION AMENDMENT (H 4005)

House 151-4, approved a consolidated amendment adding \$46.2 in education funding to the \$1.3 billion supplemental budget. Much of the funding was for education projects and programs proposed by individual representatives for their local districts.

"This consolidated amendment provides critical funding for a variety of education-related programs and projects at both the state and municipal levels, including \$15 million to assist communities with regional school transportation costs," said Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "These initiatives are funded with excess ... surtax revenues, which is in keeping with the will of the voters to use this money to supplement spending for education and transportation-related initiatives."

Amendment opponents said that the amendment was full of pork barrel spending proposed by representatives for projects in their own district. They noted that the money should be used for education projects for all cities and towns, including fully funding special education costs for all the cities and towns in the state.

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$46.2 million. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION AMENDMENT (H 4005)

House 134-20, approved a consolidated amendment adding \$28.8 million in transportation funding to the \$1.3 billion supplemental budget. Much of the funding was for transportation projects and programs proposed by individual representatives for their local districts.

"This consolidated amendment includes funding for multiple transportation-related initiatives across the state, providing cities and towns with the funding needed to carry out essential transportation infrastructure repairs and maintenance," said Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "When the voters approved the [surtax] amendment in 2022, they were clear that these revenues should be spent only on transportation and education, and this consolidated amendment upholds the will of the voters."

"We are seeing the necessity for overrides pop up all across the commonwealth and in multiple towns of the 6th Plymouth District, dominated mostly by school operational budgets," said Rep. Ken Sweezey (R-Hanson). "I believe that the ... funds would have been best used on education in the dire situation we find ourselves in rather than the disproportionate amount we funneled to transportation and the MBTA."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$28.8 million. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE PROPOSES \$61.4 BILLION FISCAL 2026 STATE BUDGET

The House fired the second shot in the long battle over the state budget for fiscal year 2026 that begins on July 1. Gov. Maura Healey fired the opening volley in January when she filed her version of the spending package.

The House Ways and Means Committee last week unveiled its own \$61.4 billion version, a plan whose combined traditional and wealth surtax spending is about 6.4 percent higher than the fiscal 2025 budget Gov. Healey signed last summer. Debate on the House version is scheduled to begin the week of April 28th.

After the full House approves a version of the spending plan, the Senate will follow suit with its own version. Then a House-Senate conference committee will eventually craft a compromise plan that will be presented to the House and Senate for consideration, and when approved, will be sent to the governor.

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION PROGRAM (S 765)

The Financial Services Committee held a hearing on a bill that would create a Massachusetts Foreclosure Prevention Program to assist homeowners in avoiding foreclosure through supervised pre-foreclosure conferences between creditors and borrowers regarding foreclosure alternatives.

Conferences would result in a report, and foreclosures can only proceed with a Certificate of Compliance, contingent on a creditor's good-faith efforts to negotiate. Judicial enforcement provisions allow sanctions against non-compliant creditors, including interest tolling, penalties or dismissal of foreclosure actions. The program would be funded by the Foreclosure Prevention Fund, supported by

creditor fees to cover administrative costs such as conference monitors and outreach initiatives.

"With Massachusetts foreclosures on the rise, updated state laws that better protect homeowners are long overdue," said sponsor Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield). "In the Pioneer Valley, more than half of all renters are 'cost burdened,' spending 30 percent or more of their income on housing. This trend is even worse for communities of color in the region, such as Springfield where we continue to face serious housing stability challenges."

DIVEST STATE RETIREMENT FUNDS FROM FIREARMS COMPANIES (H 49)

A bill heard by the Public Service Committee would require the Massachusetts Pension Reserves Investment Management (PRIM) Board to divest direct investments with companies that derive more than 15 percent of revenues from the sale or manufacture of ammunition, firearms or firearm accessories used for civilian purposes.

"It is crucial that we take a stand against gun violence, which is now the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to nineteen," said State Treasurer Deb Goldberg. "This bill takes a fiscally responsible approach in divesting from an industry that has repeatedly refused to work toward protecting our communities."

She noted that while this represents only a minuscule fraction of the state's investment portfolio, divestment from ammunition and firearms sends a clear message to the victims and survivors of gun violence everywhere that Massachusetts stands with them.

SENIORS' FINANCIAL STABILITY (S 471)

The Elder Affairs Committee's hearing included legislation that would require the state treasurer to develop and periodically review and update model curriculum to support seniors' financial literacy and stability, in consultation with the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the Massachusetts Councils on Aging and AARP Massachusetts.

"Massachusetts is among the three states where older people are most likely to be financially insecure," said sponsor Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville). "Older people are the fastest group of unsheltered people, and among the most likely victims of scams."

LIQUOR LICENSE SUSPENSION (H 390)

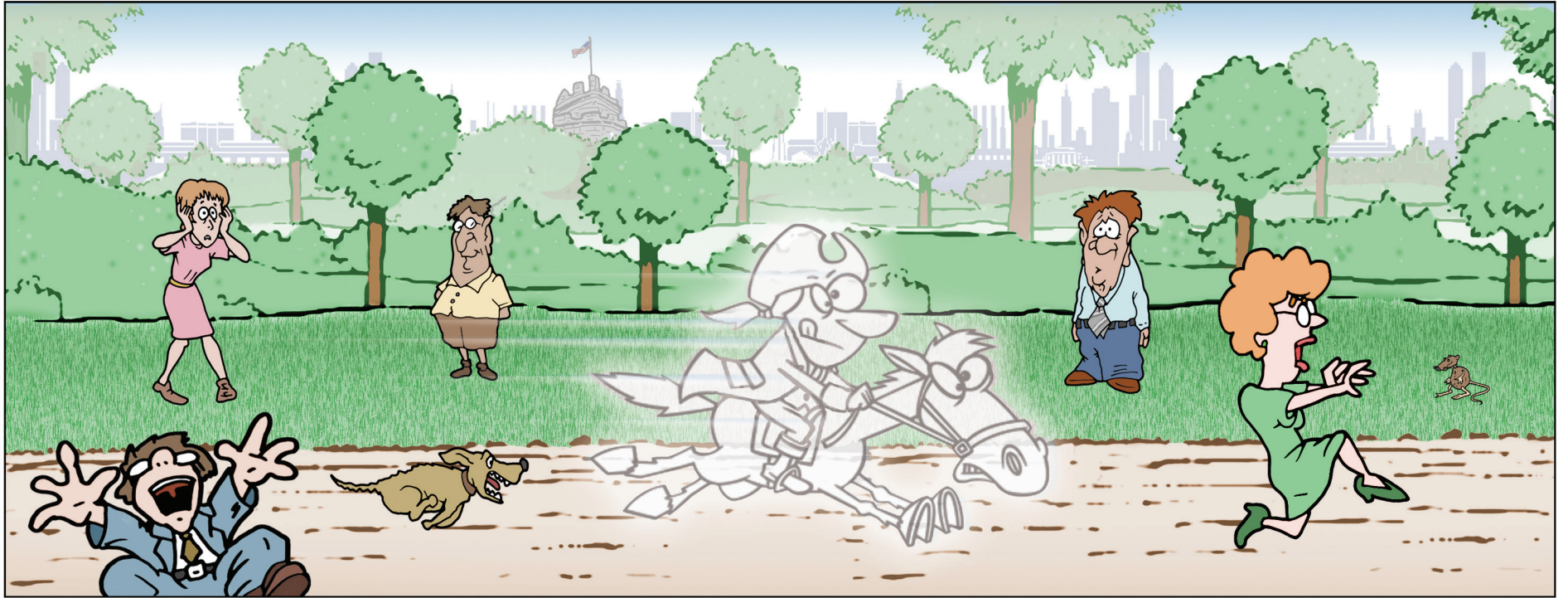
Current law suspends the liquor license of and closes down for a period of time, any package store that is found guilty of selling to a minor or an intoxicated individual. However, in big box stores, supermarkets, gas stations and other places in which liquor sales are not their primary business, a violation results only in the closing of

Continued on page 16

COMMENTARY

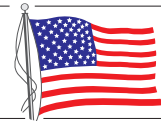
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



What would the ghost of Paul Revere be warning us about today?

Our View Of The Times



On each Patriots' Day, we look for ways to remember with reverence the exploits of the brave men and women who made the American Revolution the success it eventually became.

Locally, we especially honor those who fought the battles of Lexington and Concord, and of Menotomy. And, of course, the lauded "Midnight Ride of Paul Revere" is a fundamental part of the

American saga.

Revere's fateful ride through Somerville, Medford, and Arlington, warning of the approach of British forces, thrills us and fills us with pride, knowing that we often tread the same paths that he did as we go about our own present-day lives.

It's interesting to imagine what the great man might wish to warn us about today, were he to suddenly appear amongst us,

tearing through the streets, proclaiming that which he felt we needed to know.

Would he be shocked by the political divisions that have been tearing at the very fabric of our Republic in recent years? Would he lament the increasing lack of civility and respectful discourse that has become so palpable and commonplace these days?

The brilliant cartoonist Walt Kelly

coined the phrase "We have met the enemy and he is us" in his *Pogo* comic strip. It is doubtful that Mr. Revere would be shouting about the approach of the Redcoats in this day and age. But is it possible that he'd be shouting about us instead? Are we ourselves the enemy at our own gate?

It's up to each one of us to determine that very thing and act upon it. Too much too expect? Who's to say?

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

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/>.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to Mike Moccia of Ball Square Café. We wish him a great day. Happy birthday to Anthony Fraser, who grew up in East Somerville. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Benjamin Holmes, Celia Miller-Saltman, Jim Ospenson, Susannah Buzard, Blake Maddux, Sylvia Cabrera, Tina Kneeland, Bella Khadijah, Angelma-

rie DiNunzio, Kate Sherlock Guiliano, Debbie Shansky Murray, Dom Panzino, Joseph DeSousa and Chris Lavelli a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Join a Town Hall with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley on Wednesday, April 23, at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Address provided upon RSVP. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/town-hall-with-congresswoman-ayanna-pressley-tickets-1318960088129?aff=ebsdoporgprofile>.

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.

Joshua Sariñana's upcoming exhibition, *Mental Mapping*, will be showcased on Thursday, April 24, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. for a reception at SomArt @ the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., Second Floor, Suite 2A, Somerville. The exhibition runs from April 1 through June 22. This exhibition delves into the intersections of neuro-science, artificial intelligence, and visual storytelling. *Mental Mapping* explores how internal networks, such as memory, perception, and emotion, shape the way we experience and navigate the world. <https://www.joshuasarinana.com/mental-mapping>. *Continued on page 21*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#971

- How did Pope Francis chose his name? Marathon route, what area is known as the Scream Tunnel?
- Where did Pope Francis live? 8. In what year did actor Will Ferrell run the Boston Marathon?
- Who is credited with founding Earth Day? 9. When was the longest Opening Day game in major league history played?
- What was the environmental disaster that partly inspired the creation of Earth Day in 1970? 10. Who was the first U.S. President to throw out the first pitch to start a season?
- Which Hollywood actors spoke to crowds in Union Square in New York City on the first Earth Day? 11. What city is the original game of Monopoly modeled after?
- Which president created the EPA? 12. Which of U2's songs is a tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.?
- On the Boston

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- There are 293 ways to make a change for a dollar.
- The average person has four to six dreams a night.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

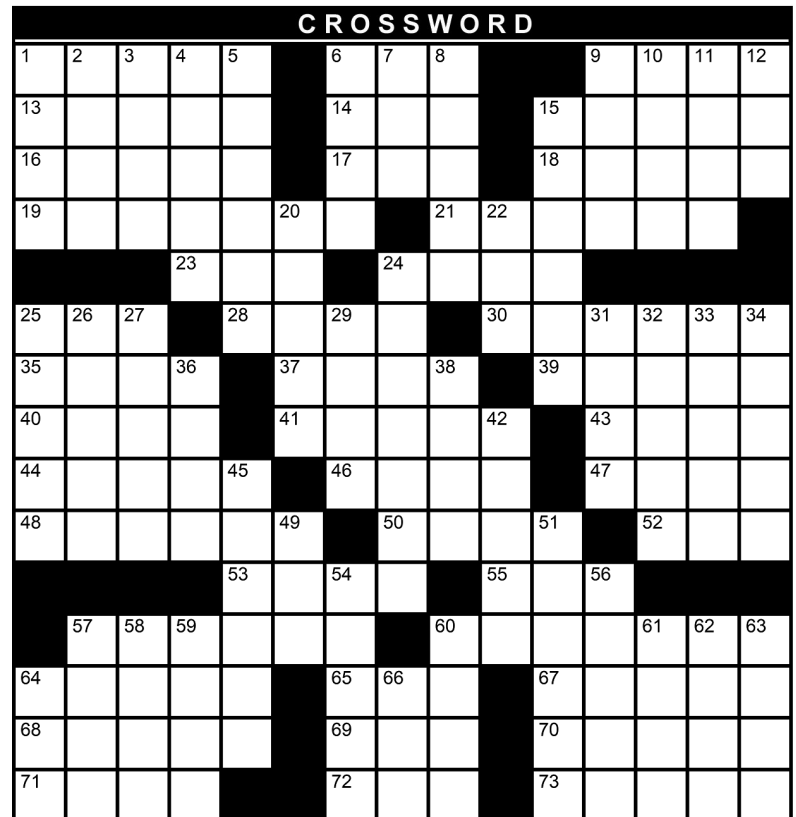
FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

ACROSS

- Little rascal
- Center of activity
- d'Ivoire lead-in
- Tree, in Latin
- Common ____ or ____ of Good Feelings
- Supreme Teutonic god
- Large violin family member
- Gravely ____ or ____ at ease
- Speak up
- Holiday ____ or ____ weather
- Butter ____ or ____ tape
- Zeppelin lead-in
- Batman's ____ or ____ Cod
- What, in Oaxaca
- Whimper
- Smells
- Defender of skies
- Like debatable point
- Stem to ____ or ____ parent
- Ill at ____ or ____ up
- Famous fabulist
- Brain wave
- Opposite of digest
- "Will be," to Doris Day
- Kitchen ____ or ____ or swim
- Willie ____ or ____ Mandela
- To, archaic
- Had a meal
- Voyeur's glance
- Anger management issue
- Passenger ____ or ____ post
- Grammatically ____ or ____ answer
- Past participle of bear
- Go wrong
- Empower
- Assumed name
- Barn sound
- Fair attractions
- Catch one's breath
- Coniferous tree
- Baker's raiser

DOWN

- Bursas
- Rowing ____ or ____ cut
- Willing and ____ or ____-bodied
- Relating to mole
- Temporarily, Latin (2 words)
- Rightful ____ or ____ apparent
- Dot-com address
- Craft wood
- Native Egyptian, in Roman times
- Related to ear
- Hyperbolic tangent
- Opposite of WSW
- Suitors
- Possible allergic reaction
- Tax person's designation, acr.
- Shut down (2 words)
- Dancing ____ or ____ bee
- Cell phone bill item
- Art class support
- Things to lament
- Singer-songwriter Redding
- The press, e.g.
- Are not





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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



- Garner ____ or ____ eyes
- Come clean, with up
- Tattered and ____ or ____ apart
- Outdoor entertainment area
- Pith helmets
- Not paleo
- Solar system model
- Japan to U.S., in WW2
- "Sesame Street" regular
- The North ____ or ____ dancer
- Van Gogh's famous botanical subject
- Flying biter
- Eat ____ or ____ to pick
- Cocoyam
- Prompt box comments
- Multiple choice challenge
- Raise the ____ or ____ none
- Beluga yield

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

SustainaVille Week 2025: Mayor Ballantyne celebrates climate progress, announces new policies

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne invites residents to celebrate SustainaVille Week 2025, a weeklong series of free events from May 3–9 showcasing Somerville’s climate progress and engaging the community in the next steps toward a carbon net-negative future.



“We are building a thriving, resilient, and sustainable Somerville,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “This SustainaVille Week, we celebrate how far we’ve come, and recommit to leading with bold, inclusive action rooted in justice, compassion, and equity.”

Climate forward dashboard launched

This year’s celebration coincides with the release of a new public dashboard tracking real-time progress on all 77 actions in the city’s updated climate action plan, Climate Forward 2024. Already, the city has begun work on 60% of the plan’s actions in just one year.

Explore the dashboard: somervillema.gov/climatedashboard

Key Climate Policy Updates

In alignment with Climate Forward, the city is launching its first curbside food waste collection pilot, prioritizing neighborhoods with high rodent complaints. More details will be announced in the coming months.

The Administration has also proposed the first update in 25 years to the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change (CEUCC). The ordinance, unanimously advanced by the City Council’s Open Space, Environment, and Energy Committee, would nearly double the Commission’s size and expand representation to include youth and Somerville Public Schools.

“When I imagine Somerville in 2050, I see a vibrant, healthy community. This updated Commission will help get us there,” said Mayor Ballantyne.

SustainaVille Week 2025 Events

All events are free and open to the public. Full event details: somervillema.gov/sustainavilleweek

LeGUp Consortium: HEET Kickstart Panel

Date/Time: Monday, April 28 | 1–2 PM

Where: Virtual Panel

About: Panel discussion of Somerville’s networked geothermal study. RSVP for stream link.

Climate Convening 2025

Date/Time: Saturday, May 3 | 4:30–6:30 PM (Rain date: May 4)

Where: Somerville Community Growing Center, 22 Vinal Ave

About: Gathering of local climate and environmental justice advocates.

Bilingual Learn to Bike Workshop

Date/Time: Monday, May 5 | 6–8 p.m.

Where: 24 Dane Street

About: Beginner-friendly bike skills + group ride. Bluebikes and pizza provided! Instruction in English and Spanish.

SustainaVille Sips: Home Electrification & Retrofits

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 7 | 6–8 p.m.

Where: West Branch Library, 40 College Ave

About: Peer-to-peer event with Somerville’s Net Zero Heroes + refreshments.

E-Mobility Expo

Date/Time: Friday, May 9 | 12–6 p.m.

Where: Davis Square, 44 Day Street Parking Lot

About: Try out e-bikes, EVs, and more. Learn how Somerville is electrifying transportation.

CEUCC Public Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 13 | 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Where: City Hall Annex & Hybrid

About: Public meeting on Somerville’s energy and climate planning.

The complete plan can be viewed on somervillema.gov/climateforward. For questions, please contact Naomi Gross, Community Engagement Specialist, ngross@somervillema.gov.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



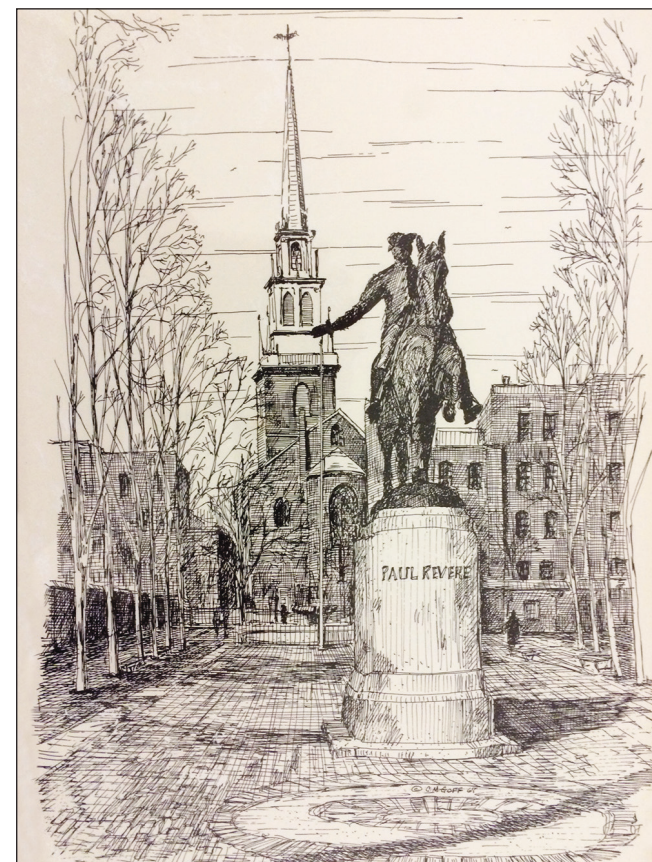
Eagle feathers #327

This article first appeared in the April 27, 2016, edition of The Somerville Times.

Patriots’ Day

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

This past week, historic-minded citizens celebrated Patriots’ Day at Foss Park. It was a beautiful day, and a larger than normal crowd attended. They came to observe the reenactment of Paul Revere’s historic ride. Period children’s games were played and samples of food from the era went fast. The high school band’s music filled the air with patriotic tunes and colonial-dressed volunteers complemented the true meaning of what this holiday is about ... Patriotism.



In the early 1800’s part of the twenty-six mile long Middlesex Canal flowed along the base of Winter Hill through what is now Foss Park and East Somerville. The source of the canal was drawn from the historic Concord River, and its celebrated water flowed through the park for over fifty years.



When the British invaded the countryside to confiscate powder and guns from the colonials, their high watermark was the famous bridge that arched the Concord River. Starting at its waters edge, the Americans chased the British into full retreat until they passed through Somerville into Charlestown.

The 1774 attack and plundering of our *Continued on page 15*

LEGAL NOTICES

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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, May 6, 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 2025, 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_4s2lBRljQ66HJzuErnNJaQ

Webinar ID: 864 6024 6012

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

HP25-000004 – 80 Hinckley Street

Applicant: Eric Kortz
Owner: Peter Doherty
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter a LHD property by removing the rear mudroom, installing an awning on the rear, and replacing the vinyl windows.

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

HP25-000008 - 6 Wheatland Street

Applicant: Adam Dash Assoc.
Owner: NPO Properties LLC
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

DETERMINATIONS OF PREFERABLY PERSERVED (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HP24-000119 - 60 Franklin Street

Applicant: Pablo Picker-Picker Construction
Owner: Shelley J Milligan
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

*Case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email historic@somervillema.gov to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email historic@somervillema.gov with inquiries.*

4/16/25, 4/23/25 The Somerville Times

Legal Notice

The following vehicles will be sold
Pursuit to M.G.L. 255 S.39A

- 2002 Toyota Camry Vin# 4T1BE32K22U579252
- 2006 Ford E150 Vin# 1FTRE14L46DA83985
- 2013 Ford Taurus Vin# 1FAHP2D88DG197982
- 2013 Hyundai Veloster Vin# KMHTC6AD7DU142641
- 2004 Honda Element Vin# 5J6YH285X4L012520
- 2006 BMW X3 Vin# WBXPA93466VWD28680
- 2011 Land Rover LR4 Vin# SALAK2D47BA569733
- 2010 Mazda 3 Vin# JM1BL1SG0A1188532
- 2010 Toyota Corolla Vin# 2T1BU4EE7AC290527

To satisfy the debt owed to
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4/16/25, 4/23/25 The Somerville Times



**SOMERVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING**

**THE SOMERVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE WILL CONDUCT
A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT'S FY2025 BUDGET**

Wednesday, May 7, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.

In the **EAST SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**-50 Cross Street

To watch the Budget Hearing live from home:

Use the following web address and choose GOVTV: www.somervillema.gov/tv

THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

Ihana Krepchin, Chair
Somerville School Committee

Dr. Sarah Phillips, Vice Chair
Finance and Facilities Subcommittee

Dr. Rubén Carmona
Superintendent of Schools

For questions regarding the Budget Hearing, please contact your School Committee Ward Member:

<https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/somerville-school-committee>

Budget information will be posted on the Somerville Public School website prior to the Budget hearing here:

<https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/central-administration/finance-and-facilities>

STATE-WIDE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM

PUBLIC HEARING

**THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL
CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING TO
DETERMINE PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHOOL
CHOICE PROGRAM FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR**

MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

4/16/25, 4/23/25 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 30, 2025**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, 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_HTGLnaSvSWS5Tmap9vsk_Q
Webinar ID: 815 6753 5100

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:

238 Summer Street Mary Agner and Denis Moskowicz seeks relief from SZO Section 3.1.7.b, regarding the minimum sum of side setbacks, which requires a Hardship Variance.

56 Webster Avenue Triad Alpha Partners, LLC seeks an extension of time on a previously granted special permit (ZBA #2008-65) and a modification to the conditions of its approval.

22 McGrath Highway Juice Joint LLC. seeks to establish a Formula Business principal use in the Commercial Business (CB) district, which requires a Special Permit.

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

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

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

4/16/25, 4/23/25 The Somerville Times



**City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, May 1, 2025**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planningboard@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nM3JSLxmSP6Jzw84n3g0g
Webinar ID: 898 6072 8392

TO CALL IN

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

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

74 Middlesex Ave Leone's Donut Shop, Inc. seeks to establish a Formula Business principal use in the Assembly Square Mixed Use (ASMD) district, which requires a Special Permit.

362-368 Mystic Ave Haze of Somerville, LLC proposes to establish a Cannabis Retail Sales use in the Mid-Rise 5 (MR5) zoning district, which requires a Special Permit.

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

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

Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov.

4/16/25, 4/23/25 The Somerville Times

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LEGAL NOTICE
City of Somerville
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)
Office of Housing Stability (OHS)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - RFP # 25-Flex-SomerVIP OHS

The City of Somerville Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) invites sealed proposals to administer the Flex Fund and Somerville Voucher Incentive Program (SomerVIP) Fund.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) package for a contract to administer the Flex and SomerVIP Funds will be posted and available for download on the City of Somerville website starting **Wednesday, April 23, 2025** at <https://www.somervillema.gov/OHS/25-Flex-SomerVIP-RFP/>. Print copies are available upon request to Bia Moreira bmoreira@somervillema.gov

Interested parties should email Bia Moreira bmoreira@somervillema.gov and Ellen Shachter, eshachter@somervillema.gov stating their intent to submit a proposal and posing any questions they might have regarding this RFP using the subject line, "**Questions RE: Flex-SomerVIP Funds RFP.**" Responses to questions will be shared with all organizations indicating such intent to submit. **The deadline for indicating intent/posing questions is May 5, 2025.**

To be considered for funding, proposers must submit an electronic PDF file containing the proposal package by email to bmoreira@somervillema.gov and eshachter@somervillema.gov no later than **4:30pm on Wednesday, May 14, 2025**. Please use the subject line "**Proposal in Response to RFP to Administer the Flex and SomerVIP Funds**"

Thomas Galligani, Executive Director,
 Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
 617- 625-6600 x2531, tgalligani@somervillema.gov

4/23/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB# 25-66

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

Pre-Cast Concrete Curb Procurement and Installation

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing/bids, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **04/24/2025**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **05/08/2025 2:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

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

5% Bid Deposit required.

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

4/23/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #25-67

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

Cross Connection Control Program

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **04/21/2025**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **05/08/2025 12:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact PCS at jremy@somervillema.gov for more information.

Jordan T. Remy
Senior Procurement Manager
 617-625-6600 x3400

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 PHONE: 857-488-5138**

Elfland clean-up led by volunteers

CONT. FROM PG 1

community and to take pride and ownership in it," Rayno explained on a Zoom call. "It's just a way to connect with our neighbors through a shared art experience."

Elfland [1] had fallen into slight disrepair. Many of the items laid flat on the ground and were strewn about. When Rayno heard about and saw the shape of Elfland, she took action to organize. Rayno created a Facebook event [2] called "Restoring Elfland Together." She expressed, "I've seen some complaints about Elfland looking a little worse for wear. The winter took its toll, and we could use some love from us in the community. I'm a local artist and crafter and truly believe in the power of art, and that Elfland is a staple in our



community- let's rebuild it together!" She encouraged folks to make a new elf land decoration, restore one of the original buildings, or come to the clean-up day on April 15.

Rayno is by no means the sole steward of the public exhibit. Elfland was first located on a gravel lot where Somerville Gas was demolished in preparation for a housing project [3]. "Elfland was started by a local 8-year-old boy and some elves. Organically grown in an empty lot at the corner of Summer and School Streets, it epitomizes the creativity of Somerville residents," according to the Somerville Museum [4]. The museum hosted Elfland temporarily before it was moved to its current home in Davis Square. In terms of its recent state, Rayno said, "I wanted to get us started, but I want to encourage other people to make things and bring and clean it up and continue with landscaping and just make it like a whole community."

Rayno used to be a corporate product manager for over a decade before she changed careers. She is the owner of The Cozy Artist [5], which creates art expe-

riences for people. We asked why this art space was important and why she felt connected. "I'm close to Somerville and Davis Square. I see it as part of my community, even though the town name isn't the same. It's all the same area, and everybody's there. There are so many things going on in Davis Square. And a lot of renovations are happening there. So, just to bring it back to the community, just is meaningful to me." Rayno has professional connections to Davis, too, as she hosted two bring-your-own craft nights at Diesel Cafe this winter and is hosting another event in April.

As I walked by to take in the new and improved art, two folks on a walk remarked positively about the changes. "They did a really good job," two passersby said. They even took time to adjust one of the structures so it would not fall over in the early spring wind. Community stewardship at its best.

Links:

- [1] <https://www.instagram.com/elfland.somerville/>
- [2] <https://www.facebook.com/>



- events/1173613774474707/
- [3] <https://traxboston.com/projects/1-strathmore-2/>
- [4] <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/elfland>
- [5] <https://www.cozyartistcrafts.com/>



Somerville Patriots' Day Colonial Fair 2025

The 250th Patriots' Day Commemoration took place at Foss Park on Monday. Attendees enjoyed colonial games and activities, delicious refreshments, and a chance to greet Paul Revere.





Photos by Claudia Ferro



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MISCELLANEOUS

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Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olio

Answers

- To honor St. Francis of Assisi, known for humility and care for the poor
- In a two-room guest house at the Vatican
- Senator Gaylord Nelson
- The Santa Barbara oil spill in 1969
- Paul Newman and Ali MacGraw
- Richard Nixon
- Wellesley College
- 2003, with a time of 3:56:12
- April 5, 2012, the Cleveland Indians and Toronto Blue Jays, 16 innings
- William Howard Taft
- Atlantic City
- Pride (In the Name Love)*

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: So why is everybody talking about Roth accounts when it comes to retirement savings?

A: Roth accounts – like a Roth IRA or Roth 401(k) – have become a popular way to build retirement savings that you can withdraw tax-free later on.

Here’s how it works: with a Roth, you pay taxes on the money before you contribute it. Then, that money grows tax-free – and when you retire, you can take it out without paying any taxes on it, no matter how much it’s grown.

Roth accounts:

- + Let your money grow tax-free after you pay taxes up front
- + Allow tax-free withdrawals in retirement—ideal when every dollar counts

- + Help protect against future tax hikes
- + Don’t require you to withdraw from your account at age 73 (for Roth IRAs)
- + Pair well with traditional pre-tax accounts for more flexibility later

Think of it as giving your future self one less tax bill to worry about.

Any questions? I’d be happy to help.

I’m Vincent Hicks, CPA, based in Somerville with over 20 years of experience. Reach out at vchicksconnect@gmail.com or (859) 553-0788.

Disclaimer: This column provides general financial information and should not be considered legal, investment, or tax advice. Individual situations vary. Always consult a qualified professional for personalized guidance.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

Before Democracy’s Door is Bolted: A Cry for New Democratic Leadership

Letter to the Editor:

It is no longer necessary to enumerate the many ways Donald Trump has violated his oath to uphold the Constitution. We all know: America’s democracy is gasping for air.

Despite the crisis, Massachusetts’ federal legislators – though principled and well-intentioned – continue to follow an outdated political playbook, while Trump gleefully tramples historic norms, defies constitutional mandates, dismantles institutions, and ignores court rulings when it suits his – and Project 2025’s – authoritarian aims.

Democracy is out of time.

Since our current political leaders have failed to meet the moment, a new generation must rise to the challenge. We urgently need bold, unrelenting voices—young leaders with the moral clarity and urgency this moment demands—to challenge the Democratic status quo and reclaim the party with a singular focus on halting our descent into autocracy while strengthening the guardrails of democracy.

I urge Democratic politicians with a plan to save our democracy to announce their campaigns without delay. The path forward will not be easy. But democracy’s door remains ajar. There is still time to restore the democracy we cherish – before he bolts it shut.

Hayward Zwerling
Somerville

Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 9

Powder House was, in effect, a dress rehearsal for the battle at Lexington and Concord nine months later. After this event, Paul Revere wrote to a friend, “The spirit of liberty was never higher than at present.” Revere’s ride prevented a repeat.

On his midnight ride through what is now Somerville, Revere was nearly captured by British cavalry. This original path toward Cambridge was diverted by way of Winter Hill to Medford, Arlington, and Lexington. If he had been caught, American history would have been rewritten.

Somerville was almost named after Revere’s close friend, Dr. Joseph Warren, slain hero of the Battle of Bunker Hill. Because Revere performed Warren’s dental work, he identified his friend’s body.

In 1777, after American victories in New York and Vermont, forty-two hun-

dred English and German prisoners were held captive at Winter Hill and Prospect Hill. They were brought here under guard of Colonel Paul Revere.

Paul Revere was not only a soldier, sailor, patriot and spy. He was also a businessman. His foundry produced cannons and bells, some of which still hang in this city. He provided the USS Constitution with bolts, spikes, blocks, and copper for her hull. He was the first to roll copper over the dome of the Massachusetts State House. Early on, he was an engraver and a silversmith who did much work for Elias Hasket Derby of Somerville, the nation’s first millionaire. Derby Street on Winter Hill honors his name.

Through the years, Revere’s name has emblazoned our city’s parks, apartment buildings and businesses. Paving stones on which he galloped through East Somer-



ville were at one time built into a city hall memorial fountain. Stone markers at Cobble Hill and the crown of Winter Hill make note of Revere’s ride.

Cyrus Dallin, one of America’s foremost sculptors, wanted to give a statue of Revere to Somerville reminiscent of the one he

created at the Old North Church in Boston. This grand gesture never materialized, however, due to lack of funding.

Unlike most cities whose interest in the marathon has eclipsed Patriots’ Day, Somerville is unique ... it has Paul Revere’s lore.

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

the liquor department. A bill, sponsored by Rep. Steven Howitt (R-Seekonk) and heard by the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee, would amend current law so that the entire establishment is closed down.

Supporters said current law creates an unfair disadvantage to the liquor stores and argued the bill levels the playing field.

“As licenses to sell alcohol have expanded into big box stores and supermarkets, the small, in most cases, family owned ‘packies’ have suffered,” said Howitt. “If any liquor store is caught selling to a minor, they may face closure for a few days, not the case for liquor-selling big box stores, gas stations and supermarkets. Should this occur in one of these retailers, only the alcohol department is shut down for a suspension period.”

Howitt continued, “This bill would shut down the whole business, just as a liquor store. It would also ensure that these big stores would be mindful, as small liquor stores are, that this is serious business, not just a small additional merchandise department in their stores.”

“HERSTORY” PHOTO EXHIBIT HONORING TRAILBLAZING WOMEN - Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) announced the opening of HER-story, a photo exhibit honoring 91 trailblazing women who have shaped the history of Massachusetts and the nation. The exhibit will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays, in Spilka’s ceremonial office on the third floor of the Massachusetts Statehouse, directly outside the Senate Chamber.

Photos include Phillis Wheatley, the first African American author of a published book of poetry and a strong supporter of America’s fight for independence; Frances Perkins, workers’ rights advocate and the first woman to serve in a presidential cabinet; Elberta Futrelle Cope-land, the first woman publisher of the State House News Service and first woman to step foot on the floor of the Massachusetts House of Representatives; Margaret Marshall, anti-apartheid activist and the first woman to serve as Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court; Kitty Dukakis, longest-serving First Lady of Massachusetts and advocate for mental health and Holocaust awareness; and Therese Murray the first woman to be elected Senate president.

These photos replace the current hanging photos of past Senate presidents going back to 1780. The most recent presidents still have their portraits hanging in the Senate Reading Room including former Senate Presidents

Therese Murray, Bill Bulger, Tom Birmingham, Kevin Harrington and Bob Travaglini.

“Massachusetts residents have always been dynamic and diverse, but our Statehouse art has failed to fully represent them,” said Spilka. “It is our responsibility to make sure every resident can see themselves in the halls of power, regardless of their background. I hope that when women walk into this office, they know that they have a place in this building – and in shaping Massachusetts’ future. I’m so excited to be able to share this with residents, visitors and staff who come to the Statehouse.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“This project underscores Massport’s strong commitment to sustainability and reinforces our responsibility to minimize our environmental footprint across all of our facilities as we work toward achieving our Net Zero goal. Transforming this underutilized land at Worcester Regional Airport into one of the largest solar fields in the state is a win for the environment, a win for the community and a smart step toward a more resilient future.” — *Massport CEO Rich Davey announcing a new partnership with Kearsarge Solar to construct and operate a 20-megawatt solar field at Worcester Regional Airport.*

“By creating more opportunities for equitable access to high demand fields, we can grow the health care workforce at a rate that meets the needs of Massachusetts residents. Our strategy for improving access to higher education is intimately linked with our goal meeting workforce needs and I am grateful to our community colleges for continuing to partner with us on expanding pathways to success through higher education and training for our learners.” — *Education Secretary Dr. Patrick Tutwiler announcing that \$9.7 million has been awarded through the Community College Nursing Grant to expand workforce training in critical health care professions across Massachusetts. This funding will support noncredit Certified Nursing Assistant and Medical Assistant training programs at each of the state’s 15 public community colleges, serving approximately 1,125 students in the state.*

“At its core, this bill is about investing in and strengthening our public higher education system by bringing educator salaries in line with the national average. It ensures that every student— regardless of background— learns in a classroom supported by educators and staff who are respected and fairly compensated.” — *Senator Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence) on his bill to provide fair compensation for faculty and staff at the state’s public colleges and universities.*

“No child should ever experience abuse or neglect. Today’s event serves as an important reminder to look beyond the statistics. Behind every number is a story of a child that is experiencing harm and it’s on us to ensure that we’re speaking up against abuse of all kinds, but especially when it’s against our most vulnerable.” — *Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll at an event, sponsored by Children’s Trust, which is dedicated to ending child abuse and neglect in Massachusetts. The event called attention to Child Abuse Prevention Month and emphasized the urgent need to invest in the family support workforce. The annual Step Up for Kids event featured a display of 70 children’s shoes on the steps of the Grand Staircase at the Statehouse, each pair representing the average number of children confirmed as abused or neglected every day in Massachusetts.*

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 April 14-18, the House met for a total of ten minutes while the Senate met for a total of 16 minutes.

Mon. April 14	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:03 a.m. Senate 11:09 a.m. to 11:18 a.m.
Tues. April 15	No House session No Senate session
Wed. April 16	No House session. No Senate session
Thurs. April 17	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:07 a.m. Senate 11:05 a.m. to 11:12 a.m.
Fri. April 18	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

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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.

Somerville High School students report a lack of climate change-related education – and a desire for more

By Liam Beretsky-Jewell

Note: This is the first in a series of articles exploring climate change education in Somerville Public Schools

In recent years, several states have adopted standards requiring climate change education to be included in the curricula of K-12 public schools, including New Jersey [1], Connecticut [2], and New York [3]. However, Massachusetts has yet to adopt such standards, and the implementation of climate change-related education remains in the hands of local school districts, through the curricula they choose to purchase or design, and the classes they offer or require.

As I approach the end of my 14th and final year attending Somerville Public Schools, I have begun to reflect on my academic experience, particularly as it relates to climate change education. Anecdotally, I feel that I have received a fairly low level of education on the matter through required courses – classes that all students must take to graduate. Beyond my personal experience, I wanted to get a better understanding of other students' experiences and their interest in weaving more climate change-related material into parts of the curriculum, so I surveyed students attending Somerville High School (SHS). This data was collected from 7 different classes, including 4 humanities and 3 STEM-related classes, in which teachers issued the brief Google Forms survey to their students. A total of 98 students responded to the survey, which included two multiple-choice questions (using a 1-5 scale).

Most students (86.7%) reported receiving a low to moderate level of climate change education in man-

datory classes (rated 1–3). Additionally, 84.8% expressed moderate to high interest (rated 3–5) in receiving more such education.

This data aligns with findings from other similar surveys issued to students nationally, such as an October 2022 EdWeek Research Center survey [4], in which 65% of the 1,055 high schoolers surveyed indicated a desire to learn about how climate change will affect the future.

SHS does currently offer Environmental Science courses at the advanced placement and college preparatory levels, which offer a wealth of climate change-related content. These courses are among the optional elective courses offered by SHS; students can choose to take them to fulfill credit requirements needed to graduate, but the courses are not mandatory. However, in the upcoming 2025-2026 school year, enrollment in [Environmental Science] courses actually decreased compared to this year," explained Marianna Hosking, the SHS Science Department chair. "I'm curious about why the enrollment in these courses is so low," she explained, given the demonstrated interest in climate education indicated in the survey.

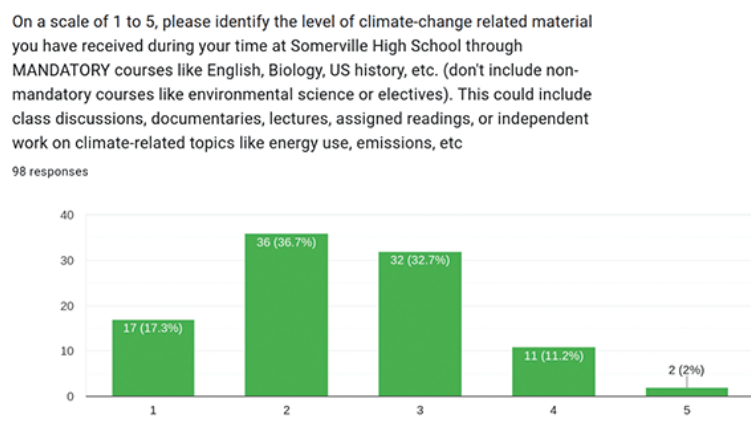
The survey also included an optional open-response section, where students could share their thoughts on climate education. Nathan Travers, a current freshman, wrote, "I think climate change is a very important issue, as we [continue] down this path of bad decisions." Nico Brian, a current sophomore, expressed a similar sentiment, stressing that "climate education is necessary if we intend to have a well-informed youth that votes in the best interests of both themselves and the public." Sihah Mahdiat, a

junior, added, "Having a focus on environmental justice in Somerville would be awesome."

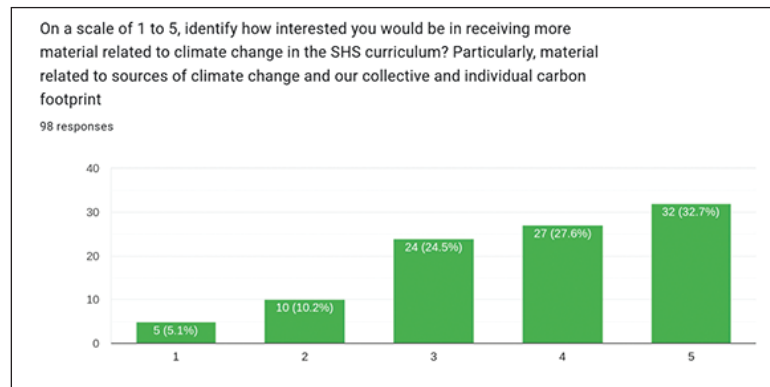
What explains the gap between expressed interest in climate education and actual enrollment in related classes? A significant factor is that environmental science courses only fulfill science credit requirements. Hosking illustrated a typical dilemma that students face: "I'm a student, and I'm interested in the climate course, but I don't have more science credits I need to take, and I do need history credits." She further explained, "There isn't necessarily room for every student who wants to take environmental to fit that in their schedule when they're taking a variety of other courses, so we can't really make it mandatory from that standpoint."

Additionally, most SHS students follow a "default track" in order to fulfill the 15 science credits needed to graduate, explained Maureen Quigley, the SHS environmental science teacher. "[The SHS program of studies] doesn't say you have to take bio, then chem, then physics." However, this pathway is reinforced by "the culture at [SHS]." She notes that there are 14 sections of physics at SHS this year, compared to just 3 sections of environmental science, which can be taken as an alternative. Many students may see this path as the most practical, especially with college in mind. Hosking added, "When we're thinking about what colleges want to see ... I think [students] want to make sure that they have bio, chem, and physics on their resume, and that's really important."

Given these barriers, the science department has made great efforts to promote environmental science courses, to help provide an outlet for the interest that clear-



The first of the two multiple-choice questions.



The second of the two multiple-choice questions.

ly exists surrounding this topic. "We've tried very hard to try to recruit students to those courses," Hosking stressed. "Current students [have written] letters to their peers. [Ms. Quigley] has done presentations to try to sell the course ... We had the elective fair this year and tried to highlight the course that way," but interest in the course remains low.

As Ms. Quigley and other district faculty have recommended, it may take new interdisciplinary courses, or curriculum and policy changes to help fill this gap. "I don't think we're doing enough. I think there's a desire in Somerville to make things better, to be progressive." In her experience speaking to students, "there is a strong desire for classes about environmental science, environmental justice, environmental policy ... but very few students have access to it."

The next article in this series will discuss potential solutions, including interdisciplinary environmental science classes or the integration of environmental science into existing curricula, as well as some barriers that may make these solutions challenging.

Links:

- [1] <https://www.nj.gov/education/climate/learning/grade-band/>
- [2] <chrome-extension://efaid-nbmnnnibpcajpcgcldefindmkaj/https://wp.cga.ct.gov/cwseo/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/The-Connecticut-School-Climate-Policy-.pdf>
- [3] <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S2430>
- [4] <https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/teens-know-climate-change-is-real-they-want-schools-to-teach-more-about-it/2022/11>

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, April 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.

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 April 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 April 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 April 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.

Let's Celebrate Older Americans Month – Thursday, May 1st starting at 11:00 a.m. at the Dilbooy Post located at 351 Summer Street. Doors open at 10:15 a.m. \$10. per person. Lunch will be stuffed chicken, salad and vegetables. The 2025 theme, Flip the Script on Aging, focuses on transforming how society perceives, talks about and approaches aging. We encourage individuals and communities to challenge stereotypes and dispel misconceptions. Reserve your spot for the event and lunch by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Poetry Class at the COA – meets on Wednesday, April 23rd and 30th from noon to 1:00 p.m. Free of charge. Learn more about how to create your own poems at the Somerville Council on Aging, led by Somerville poet, Shirley Ware. Learn the art of writing poems in a nurturing, creative environment. Grab-n-Go lunch is available upon request. RSVP to Natasha Naim by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

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.

General Exercise / Holland Street Center – Every Monday in April starting at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and every Wednesday in April 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.

Asian Tea: Chronic Disease Self-Management Program – Mondays, April 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.

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.

Crochet with Anna – Monday, May 5th, 12th &

19th from 11:00 a.m. to noon. We will provide hooks, yarn and patterns. Crochet has become increasingly popular over the last few years. If you are a beginner crocheter or haven't crocheted for a long time, join Anna, in a fun and welcoming environment. RSVP to Natasha Naim by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

Tech Time – Open Hours, Every Tuesday in April starting from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Receive assistance with all your phone, tablet and computer questions. RSVP by contacting Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Bingo – Tuesday, April 29th at our Ralph & Jenny Center, starting at 10:00 a.m. Lunch is available following Bingo. \$1. per bingo card. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Bingo – Thursday, April 24th starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Lunch is available following Bingo. \$1. per bingo card. 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, April 24th 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, April 28th 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, April 2nd, 9th, 16th & 30th in person at our Holland Street Center from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. RSVP to Mary Marshall by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2316 or email Mary at Headtofitness10@yahoo.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

7:00 AM Chair Pilates & Cardio Throwback
 7:30 AM SomerViva: Know Your Rights - Nepal
 8:00 AM Patriots Day Celebration 2024
 8:33 AM SomerViva: Gran Festival Drapo Ayisyen 17 Me
 9:00 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 9:30 AM School Committee Meeting 4-7-25
 12:30 PM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 1:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting 4-8-25
 4:00 PM Patriots Day Celebration 2024
 5:00 PM Construction Advisory Group Meeting
 7:30 PM Special City Council Meeting 4-16-25
 9:00 PM SomerViva: Know Your Rights - Nepal
 9:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen
 10:00 PM Mental Health Matters: Teen Mental Health
 10:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
 11:05 PM Women's History Month Celebration

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

7:00 AM COA: General Seated Exercise #2
 7:30 AM Women's History Month Celebration
 8:30 AM City of Somerville Civic Day 2025
 9:00 AM Construction Advisory Group Meeting
 11:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality
 12:30 PM SomerViva: Gran Festival Drapo Ayisyen 17 Me
 1:00 PM City Council Meeting 4-10-25
 4:30 PM SomerViva em Português
 5:00 PM Women's History Month Celebration
 6:00 PM Start By Believing Proclamation
 6:30 PM SomerViva: Know Your Rights - Nepal
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality
 7:30 PM SomerViva: Gran Festival Drapo Ayisyen 17 Me
 8:00 PM City of Somerville Civic Day 2025
 8:30 PM SomerViva em Português
 9:00 PM Construction Advisory Group Meeting
 11:30 PM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

7:00 AM SomerViva em Português

7:30 AM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 8:45 AM Start By Believing Proclamation
 9:00 AM City of Somerville Civic Day 2025
 9:30 AM Construction Advisory Group Meeting
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality
 12:30 PM SomerViva: Gran Festival Drapo Ayisyen 17 Me
 1:00 PM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 1:30 PM School Committee Meeting 4-7-25
 4:30 PM Mental Health Matters: Teen Mental Health
 5:00 PM Special City Council Meeting 4-16-25
 6:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality
 7:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen
 8:00 PM SomerViva: Gran Festival Drapo Ayisyen 17 Me
 8:30 PM City of Somerville Civic Day 2025
 9:00 PM Mental Health Matters: Teen Mental Health
 9:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting 4-8-25

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

1:00 AM Patriots Day Celebration 2024
 1:35 AM Start By Believing Proclamation
 2:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 4-8-25
 8:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 8:30 AM Patriots Day Celebration 2024
 9:03 AM SomerViva: Know Your Rights - Nepal
 9:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen
 10:00 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 10:30 AM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 11:00 AM School Committee Meeting 4-7-25
 2:00 PM Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology
 2:30 PM Women's History Month Celebration
 3:30 PM SomerViva em Português
 4:00 PM Mental Health Matters: Teen Mental Health
 4:30 PM SomerViva: Know Your Rights - Nepal
 5:00 PM Patriots Day Celebration 2024
 6:00 PM City of Somerville Civic Day 2025
 6:30 PM SomerViva: Gran Festival Drapo

Ayisyen 17 Me
 7:00 PM Community Meeting: Public Safety
 8:30 PM SomerViva em Português
 9:00 PM City of Somerville Civic Day 2025
 9:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 10:00 PM SomerViva: Know Your Rights - Nepal
 10:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
 11:05 PM Start By Believing Proclamation
 11:30 PM Preserving Black History: Panel & Discussion

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

1:05 AM School Committee Meeting 4-7-25
 7:00 AM Chair Pilates & Cardio Throwback
 7:30 AM SomerViva: Gran Festival Drapo Ayisyen 17 Me
 8:00 AM Women's History Month Celebration
 9:00 AM City of Somerville Civic Day 2025
 9:30 AM Mental Health Matters: Teen Mental Health
 10:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 4-8-25
 12:40 PM Start By Believing Proclamation
 1:00 PM Sanctuary Cities/Federal Challenge Announcement
 2:00 PM City Council Meeting 4-10-25
 5:30 PM SomerViva em Português
 6:00 PM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 6:30 PM SomerViva: Gran Festival Drapo Ayisyen 17 Me
 7:00 PM Construction Advisory Group Meeting
 9:30 PM Mental Health Matters: Teen Mental Health
 10:00 PM SomerViva: Know Your Rights - Nepal
 10:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen
 11:00 PM SomerViva em Português

MONDAY, APRIL 28

12:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
 7:00 AM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 7:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 8:00 AM Women's History Month Celebration
 9:00 AM SomerViva: Gran Festival Drapo Ayisyen 17 Me
 9:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Lance Davis
 10:00 AM City of Somerville Civic Day 2025

10:30 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 11:00 AM Patriots Day Celebration 2024
 11:35 AM National Donor Day 2025
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality
 12:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen
 1:00 PM Construction Advisory Group Meeting
 3:30 PM SomerViva em Português
 4:00 PM Preserving Black History: Panel & Discussion
 5:40 PM Start By Believing Proclamation
 6:00 PM SomerViva: Gran Festival Drapo Ayisyen 17 Me
 6:30 PM Senior Circuit: Virtual Reality
 7:00 PM School Committee Meeting 4-28-25

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

12:00 AM Patriots Day Celebration 2024
 1:00 AM City Council Meeting 4-24-25
 7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 7:30 AM Patriots Day Celebration 2024
 8:00 AM SomerViva: Know Your Rights - Nepal
 8:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen
 9:00 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 9:30 AM School Committee Update: Superintendent Dr. Carmona
 10:00 AM School Committee Meeting 4-7-25
 1:00 PM Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology
 1:30 PM Women's History Month Celebration
 2:30 PM SomerViva em Português
 3:00 PM Mental Health Matters: Teen Mental Health
 3:30 PM SomerViva: Know Your Rights - Nepal
 4:00 PM Patriots Day Celebration 2024
 5:00 PM City of Somerville Civic Day 2025
 5:30 PM SomerViva: Gran Festival Drapo Ayisyen 17 Me
 6:00 PM Community Meeting: Public Safety
 7:30 PM SomerViva em Português
 8:00 PM City of Somerville Civic Day 2025
 8:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 9:00 PM SomerViva: Know Your Rights - Nepal
 9:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo
 10:06 PM Start By Believing Proclamation
 10:30 PM Preserving Black History: Panel & Discussion

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

8:00 AM Capuano School Kindergarten Spring Informance
 9:00 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Lynn Classical
 11:00 AM All-City Middle School Spring Concert
 12:00 PM SHS Girls LAX vs Everett
 1:30 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Revere
 2:30 PM HTCs Much Ado About Nothing
 4:00 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game
 5:10 PM Capuano School Kindergarten Spring Informance
 6:00 PM Capuano School Kindergarten Spring Informance
 7:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Medford
 8:30 PM SHS Softball vs Lynn C
 10:30 PM SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Medford

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

12:00 AM HTCs Much Ado About Nothing
 1:30 AM SHS Girls' LAX vs Revere
 2:30 AM SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Malden
 8:00 AM SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Medford
 9:30 AM Capuano School Kindergarten Spring Informance
 10:04 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Medford
 11:30 AM All-City Middle School Spring Concert
 12:01 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Revere
 1:00 PM Girls' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final
 2:00 PM MSBA Logo Award Ceremony at SHS
 2:30 PM Middle School Track and Field Meet
 3:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Medford
 4:30 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Revere
 6:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Lynn Classical
 7:30 PM Capuano School Kindergarten Spring Informance

8:04 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Lynn Classical
 9:30 PM All-City Middle School Spring Concert
 10:00 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Revere
 11:00 PM Girls' Middle School Intramural Futsal Final

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

12:00 AM SHS Softball vs Lynn C
 1:45 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Medford
 8:00 AM Capuano School Kindergarten Spring Informance
 9:00 AM All-City Middle School Spring Concert
 10:00 AM SHS Girls' LAX vs Revere
 11:00 AM SHS SomerStars 2025
 12:00 PM SHS Class Cup Challenge
 12:30 PM SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Medford
 2:00 PM HTCs Much Ado About Nothing
 3:30 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Revere
 4:30 PM SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Malden
 6:05 PM Capuano School Kindergarten Spring Informance
 7:00 PM All-City Middle School Spring Concert
 8:00 PM SHS Softball vs Lynn C
 10:00 PM SHS Class Cup Challenge
 10:30 PM SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Medford

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

12:00 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Lynn Classical
 1:30 AM MSBA Logo Award Ceremony at SHS
 2:00 AM Middle School Track and Field Meet
 3:00 AM SHS SomerStars 2025
 4:00 AM Capuano School Kindergarten Spring Informance
 8:00 AM SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Medford
 9:30 AM Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology
 10:00 AM SHS Softball vs Lynn C

12:00 PM SHS Girls LAX vs Everett
 1:00 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game
 3:30 PM SHS Jazz Band Live at the Burren
 4:30 PM Capuano School Kindergarten Spring Informance
 6:00 PM SHS Softball vs Lynn C
 8:00 PM SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Medford
 9:30 PM Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology
 10:00 PM SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Malden

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

12:00 AM MSBA Logo Award Ceremony at SHS
 12:30 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Lynn Classical
 2:00 AM SHS Girls' LAX vs Revere
 8:00 AM Capuano School Kindergarten Spring Informance
 9:00 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Medford
 11:00 AM All-City Middle School Spring Concert
 12:00 PM SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Medford
 1:30 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Revere
 2:30 PM HTCs Much Ado About Nothing
 4:00 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game
 5:10 PM Capuano School Kindergarten Spring Informance
 6:00 PM Capuano School Kindergarten Spring Informance
 7:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Lynn Classical
 9:00 PM All-City Middle School Spring Concert
 10:00 PM SHS Softball vs Lynn C

MONDAY, APRIL 28

12:00 AM SHS Girls LAX vs Everett
 1:30 AM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game
 3:10 AM Capuano School Kindergarten Spring Informance
 8:00 AM SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Medford

9:30 AM SHS Softball vs Lynn C
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 11:00 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

12:10 AM SHS Girls LAX vs Everett
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 3:00 AM Capuano School Kindergarten Spring Informance
 8:00 AM Capuano School Kindergarten Spring Informance
 9:00 AM All-City Middle School Spring Concert
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 8:00 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Revere
 9:00 PM SHS SomerStars 2025
 10:00 PM SHS Class Cup Challenge
 10:30 PM SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Medford



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week



Q: My wife and I are in our 70s. We want to buy a small home just for the two of us but we don't want to break into our retirement investments to do it. Is it possible to get a mortgage at our age? I think we have good credit, never checked yet. We are both retired.

A: Age and "legitimate source of income" are both protected classes covered by state and federal fair housing laws. Lenders may not discriminate on those grounds. They may not even ask how old you are. Like any potential borrower, you'll be judged on whether you have a record of paying bills promptly, how much other debt you're currently carrying, and whether you have sufficient dependable income to handle the proposed housing expense. Income from social security and retirement funds will qualify just fine.

(from Edith Lank's column in the Rochester, NY Democrat & Chronicle).

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.

Parent-organized meetings for families with student in Special Education Programs

April 30 and May 13. Somerville Special Education Parents Advisory Council is hosting several in-person social events to build community and support.

Visit the Somerville SEPAC website for more information or email SomervilleSEPAC@gmail.com.

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



I do not have cobwebs in the apartment – they are eco-dream catchers.

The "Original"
All Types Vent Cleaning
Restaurant Hood Cleaning
Dryer Vent/ HVAC Cleaning
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Licensed and Insured
in Massachusetts
We travel all over
Massachusetts
Call today to find out
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Call Jimmy 857-366-3761

To advertise in
**The
Somerville
Times**
call
Bobbie Toner
857-488-5138

**Somerville through
the eyes of Denise**



Twilight... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

April 23

- 1348 – The first English order of knighthood is founded.
- 1789 – President George Washington moves into Franklin House, New York.
- 1856 – Free Stater J.N. Mace in Westport, Kansas shoots pro-slavery sheriff Samuel Jones in the back.
- 1896 – Motion pictures premiere in New York City.
- 1915 – The ACA becomes the National Advisory Council on Aeronautics (NACA), the forerunner of NASA.
- 1945 – The Soviet Army fights its way into Berlin.
- 1950 – Chiang Kai-shek evacuates Hainan, leaving mainland China to Mao Zedong and the communists.
- 1954 – The Army-McCarthy hearings begin.
- 1969 – Sirhan Sirhan is sentenced to death for killing Senator Robert Kennedy.
- 1971 – The Soviet Union launches Soyuz 10, becoming the first mission to the Salyut 1 space station.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Poetry Class at the COA – meets on **Wednesday, April 23 and 30**, from noon to 1:00 p.m. Free of charge. Learn more about how to create your own poems at the **Somerville Council on Aging**, led by Somerville poet **Shirley Ware**. Learn the art of writing poems in a nurturing, creative environment. Grab-n-Go lunch is available upon request. RSVP to **Natasha Naim** by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

Around Hear: Spring Break Concert, Saturday, April 26, 2 – 3:30 p.m., Mystic Activity Center, 530 Mystic Ave. Somerville. Free. Open to the public. Listeners of all ages are welcome. Refreshments served, write, draw, move while you listen. After-concert pizza party. Come join in for a concert of music so uplifting, you might find yourself flying around the room. Between musical flights of joy by Telemann and Beethoven, we will be sharing a set of songs from our evolving “Superdoves!” project: a combination adventure novel+song cycle. And exciting news: besides having two incredible human guest musicians joining us for this program, **Flappy the Pigeon** will be on hand (literally) to teach us all about her magnificent but often misunderstood species.

The Dark Side of Light Pollution, April 24. In recognition of **Massachusetts Space Week**, join in for a discussion of light pollution and the effects on the natural nighttime landscape. This event will be held on Thursday, April 24, at the **Central Library** (79 Highland Ave.) from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Tufts Community Sports Day, April 27, 1 – 3 p.m. Families are invited to Tufts University for a fun event with Tufts student-athletes, student groups, and local community organizations. The event is free, and families can visit whatever activities they are interested in. Find more information on the registration page. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdF-ox-ZaxiiPp6lbEz1mdbs9dUp1LaEhJ6UT-PRayZ7fpOxJkA/viewform>.

Stop by the Library to share some poetry with us for **National Poetry Month**. Join them on **Tuesday, April 29**, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the **Central Library Auditorium**, 79 Highland Ave., registration encouraged. <https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/> The Somerville Public Li-

brary will be hosting an open mic night in the Central Library Auditorium. You're welcome to bring and read your own poetry or a work by another poet!

Watch a special screening of **Counted Out**, a documentary that explores how math shapes our world. The movie lasts 90 minutes (with Spanish subtitles), and a discussion follows. Recommended for staff, caregivers, and students in grades 6 – 12. You can register in advance, but that is not required. Brought to you by the **Academic Department, Equity & Excellence Department, and Somerville Family Learning Collaborative.** **Wednesday, April 30.** 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. **SHS Highlander Forum**, 81 Highland Ave. Spanish interpretation will be provided during the discussion.

Help celebrate e-mobility during **SustainaVille Week**. SustainaVille Week returns May 3 – 9, with a full lineup of events celebrating sustainability and climate action in Somerville. Community members are invited to participate in an **E-Mobility Expo** to showcase their own electric rides – whether it's an e-bike, electric vehicle (EV), scooter, or some other electric transport. The expo will take place on May 9 at the **Day Street Lot** in Davis Square (44 Day St.) from noon to 6 p.m.

PorchFest 2025 will take place on **Saturday, May 10**, from 12 to 6 p.m. (inclement weather date: Sunday, May 11). Visit <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/> for more information and a map of bands.

This May, the Union Square Neighborhood Council is holding its bi-annual election for the USNC board. All members are invited to vote in the election, as well as run for a board seat. (If you have any questions about the USNC or what it means to be a member, please consult their website at: sites.google.com/view/usnc. The election will be held in person as follows: **Day 1: Saturday, May 17**, 8 am – 12 p.m., **Argenziano School**, 290 Washington Street. **Day 2: Tuesday, May 20**, 7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m., [TBA] Somerville. The deadline to sign up to be a candidate is this **Friday, April 25**.

Thinking about **running for local office**? Starting **May 5**, nomination papers for Mayor, Councilor at Large, Ward Coun-

cilor, and School Committee will be available to take out. To begin the process, make an appointment with the Elections Department to pick up your nomination papers. A separate appointment is required to return them. Appointments are available **from May 5 through June 9**. Important deadlines: **June 9** at 5 p.m., Last day to take out nomination papers, **June 11** at 5 p.m. Deadline to submit completed papers to the **Board of Election Commissioners**. For more information, visit [somervillema.gov/elections](https://www.somervillema.gov/elections).

Attend a **School Committee Meeting**. Dates and times for school committee meetings are listed on the SPS district website calendar. Visit the School Committee website for information and find meeting details on the **City of Somerville Events page**: <https://www.somervillema.us/events/calendar>.

Voting is now open for the city's second **Participatory Budgeting cycle**. Residents aged 12 and up can now vote on their favorite city improvement ideas. Voting is open **through Wednesday, April 30**. Learn more and cast your vote at: www.somervillema.gov/pb.

April marks the start of **construction season** in Somerville. From sidewalks on Holland Street to the Clock Tower at City Hall, there is a lot of work to keep up with. The city's monthly construction newsletter is one of the ways we work to make sure you know what is happening, where it's happening, and how it ultimately benefits our city. <https://www.somervillema.gov/construction#newsletter>.

Street sweeping in Somerville resumed 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 the 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. Check the signs on the streets where you park and visit www.somervillema.gov/sweeper for more information.

Somerville Animal Control is in need of towels/blankets/linens. They can arrange a porch pickup if you message them on Facebook or they can be dropped off at the police station at any time.

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**.

The **Somerville Open Studios 2025 Fashion Show** takes place on **May 2** at the **Crystal Ballroom** in Davis Square. Doors open at 6 p.m. for cocktail hour, and the wearable art fashion show begins at 7 p.m. Free to all, open seating. RSVP here: <https://www.somervilleopenstudios.org/artwear-the-sos-2025-fashion-show/>.

East Somerville's Spring Clean-up will take place on **April 26**. Pastries and coffee are provided by **Ola Cafe**. 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., 115 Broadway, **East Branch Library**.

Registration for **SPS free summer programs** is now open. 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://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/summer>. Registration runs **from Monday, March 24 through April**.

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://www.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-delivered meals but are not able to be at home each weekday to receive *Continued on page 22*

Somerville invited to open house sharing western Pearl Street concept design options

The western segment of Pearl Street (between McGrath Highway and Medford Street) sits in the center of the Gilman Square Neighborhood, not far from Somerville High School, the MBTA Green Line Station, Community Path, and Ed Leathers Park. It is home to many residents, a variety of local businesses, and serves many different purposes.

Currently, some of the sidewalks are in poor condition with cracked concrete panels, and the roadway needs to be repaved. Fortunately, this part of Pearl Street is prioritized for reconstruction through Somerville's Pavement and Sidewalk Management Program (somervillema.gov/paving). However, instead of just rebuilding the street as is, the city is looking to reimagine it – prioritizing safety and accessibility.

Like many streets in Somerville, Pearl Street is relatively narrow, meaning we have limited space with which to meet a wide range of community needs, from safer crossings and protected bicycle facilities to better bus stops and curbside access for motor vehicles. This is why community engagement is critical to the success of the project and has informed the initial concept designs.

Learn more about the design at May 7 community open house

The city gathered feedback from community members about their safety concerns and priorities for the street through community meetings and events, surveys, on-street outreach, and small business vis-

its in the fall of 2024.

As a next step in the process, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan, Ward 1 Councilor Matt McLaughlin, and City staff are excited to invite community members to come to an open house to learn more about the project, review the preliminary concept design options, and share their input.

When: Wednesday, May 7 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. (Inclement weather date: May 8)

Where: Ed Leathers Park between Skilton Ave. and Walnut St.

At the outdoor open house, community members can explore different stations describing aspects of the design and talk directly to the project team about their questions and comments. Pizza will be provided.

If community members cannot attend, there will be multiple other ways to share feedback, such as through an online feedback survey, a virtual office hour, a street outreach pop-up, and more.

Visit somervillema.gov/westernpearl for more details.

More about the project

Along with new sidewalks and new street pavement, the Western Pearl Street Reconstruction Project will bring a range of safety and accessibility improvements, including but not limited to:

Crosswalk improvements

When the City reconstructs the street, new crossings can be installed, raised crosswalks or intersections can be incorporated, and all crossings will have accessi-

ble curb ramps. The city also incorporates "Clear Corners" where parking is restricted within 20 feet of a crossing. Parked vehicles near crosswalks can block views of people crossing the street. By ensuring vehicles aren't parked too close, the city can increase visibility for all users and reduce the likelihood of crashes.

Protected bike lanes

Protected bike lanes separate people biking from motor vehicle traffic. They increase comfort for people of all ages and abilities biking, reduce overall crash and injury risk, eliminate the threat of "dooring" from parking vehicles, and reduce potential conflicts with people driving and biking.

Western Pearl Street is designated in the city's Bicycle Network Plan for protected bike lanes in both directions. However, due to its narrow nature, to allow for bicycle travel in each direction, the city would either have to remove all curbside access or make the street one-way the street for motor vehicles. During outreach last fall, the city asked community members if they preferred options that either explored two-way bicycle travel with no curb access or designs that made the street one way for bikes or cars to preserve curb access on one side for some parking, expanded bus stops, shorter crossings, or tree bump-outs. The city plans to present concept design options informed by the community's feedback.

Trees

The city aims to install new trees and

create more space for existing trees to increase the health and longevity.

Bus-rider experience improvements

The MBTA Route 80 bus currently travels on Western Pearl Street. We are exploring ways to create more waiting space at bus stops and reduce bus delay by allowing buses to stop in the travel lane rather than having to pull over and pull back into traffic. As part of Bus Network Redesign, the MBTA is planning to remove the Route 80 from Pearl Street, however, there is no schedule at this time for this change.

Parking regulation changes

There can be trade-offs between safe, sustainable transportation options and parking, given the limited space on the city's streets. At the same time, many residents, health service providers, and business operators currently rely on (and will continue to rely on) access to parking. Within this in mind, the city is looking at creative ways to approach regulating curb use in the project and area and aims to work with local businesses, community service providers, and neighbors on strategies that make the best use of limited parking resources.

More about Somerville's Commitment to Vision Zero

In 2017, Somerville formally adopted Vision Zero as part of the city's strategy and planning process. Vision Zero is a worldwide advocacy campaign focused on reducing and eliminating transportation injuries and fatalities.

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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.

The **Somerville Growing Center** will host *Earth Day: Rooted in Resilience*, **Saturday, April 26, 2 – 4 p.m.**, Rain date: Sunday, April 27. Continue to celebrate, following the morning events at **South Street Farm** with Groundwork Somerville. Demonstrations of vermi-

composting and making ink from natural materials. Explore volunteer opportunities with the Growing Center and activism with local climate and justice focused groups. Visit the **Pollinator Gardens** and make native seed balls. Pot up a **Red Fire Farm herb seedling** to take home (limited supply). Exchange garden supplies with other gardeners. Check their social media for updates and details! <https://www.thegrowingcenter.org/>

City Alerts are a great way for those who live, work, or own a business in Somerville to receive important city information that affects your neighborhood. City Alerts provide information about emergencies

(including snow emergencies), construction and road closures, water service interruptions, community news, and more. To sign up, visit somervillema.gov/alerts and click on the button for your preferred language. Step-by-step sign-up instructions are available at: somervillema.gov/alerts. Having trouble signing up? You can call 3-1-1 (617-666-3311) for assistance.

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 docu-

mented 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. For additional information or for an application, please contact **Debby Higgins** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

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



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Slice of Life: 3 AM of the Soul

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Our poet Michael Coles writes: "This poem was written in response to Marge Piercy's *Barbie Doll*, a beautifully written piece of feminist literature from 1971. Piercy's poetry inspires many women and still upholds modern feminist ideals. *Barbie Doll* details experiences such as bullying and body dysmorphia, both of which I have struggled with, and which most if not all women have struggled with as well. The assignment that prompted me to write this poem was to write a poem as if attending the funeral of the narrator from the *Barbie Doll* poem. It is crucial that all women across the world are reminded how truly unique and beautiful they are, and that beauty standards are nothing, but a social construct made to empower men and weaken women. You are gorgeous and perfect exactly as you are, no matter your size or shape, no matter the color of your skin, no matter what."



Mournful

An untimely death
 Her presence will be missed,
 Preceded by many—
 And in my heart, preceded by all.
 Her upturned nose,
 Which before was wider and flatter,
 Still contained bruises
 Barely peeking through warm-toned foundation.
 She had often frowned in bathroom mirrors
 As strangers smiled at her,
 Charmed by her unique looks.
 Her legs, covered by a beautiful silk nightgown.
 In life, they worked hard to support her body,
 Bigger to have more to work with,
 To get her from here to there to over yonder,
 To help her run in flower fields
 And to jump into warm ocean,
 Now forever still and hidden.



I have had a number of friends who lost loved ones over the past few months. When I first lost Dianne— my wife — she spoke to me — through subtle ways--through birds (we agreed on those as messengers), my dreams, my cat Klezmer, and even her voice — when I was in the limbo between sleep and wakefulness As the years went by — I felt less connected. The other day, while in bed," I asked the universe, god, or a benevolent spirit, "Is Dianne still here?" It was of course a rhetorical question, during my 3AM night of my soul. Just after I asked

the question, the cat jumped on my bed and started sniffing furiously, and my Alexa turned on and started to say something — I couldn't hear it — but I was surprised because I didn't prompt it, and it was in the next room. Now of course, this can be explained logically. But I chose to believe it was Dianne — she is still around — her spirit hovers over my bed, my bald, and freckled head. So, for those of you who have lost a loved one — he, she or they — they are there, accept that ethereal stroke of your hair... "Ah! Sweet mystery of life..."

She wore long, cover-up skirts to the beach
 Blushing with embarrassment and hiding her legs,
 While her friends were jealous of her full figure.
 A beautiful woman lay in the casket before me

But she was hiding in the shell of a Barbie doll.
 To no woman a happy ending.

— Michael Coles

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