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## Thousands gather at Powderhouse to condemn detainment of Tufts student



Protesters arriving at The Old Powderhouse around 5:30 p.m.

— Photos by Giacomo Ferraro

By Liam Beretsky-Jewell

Over 2,000 people gathered at the Powerhouse Square Park to attend a rally condemning the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainment of Rumeysa Ozturk. The Tufts Ph.D student was detained outside her West Somerville apartment on Tuesday, March 25, by ICE agents who had been surveilling her home from an unmarked vehicle the two previous days. Court records state that she was subsequently taken to a detention center in Louisiana, despite orders [1] from U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani that ICE not remove Ozturk from Massachusetts.

Ozturk, a Turkish national in the United States on a student visa, has been supportive of pro-Palestinian activism at Tufts, and *Continued on page 4*

## Three fitness trainers, one inclusive spot

By Jeffrey Shwom

Positive, welcoming, and supportive, with gym dog Barli close by. These words do not define many folks' previous experiences with fitness spaces. Luckily, Shannon Walsh, Owner of Expansive Strength & Fitness [1] on Cedar Street, and two other trainers who rent her space, create that environment and more. Shannon sat down with The Somerville Times to talk about her "haven where fitness meets inclusivity, laughter, and a profound sense of well-being."

ExSF says, "Forget the one-size-fits-all approach to fitness. At ExSF, we're all about building strength, enhancing mobility, and boosting cardiovascular health. Our focus isn't on shedding pounds; it's on the life-long routine of exercise that helps you feel stronger, move more freely, and improve your overall health."

A small familiar group of three was working through their individual reps, *Continued on page 18*



Expansive Strength & Fitness takes pride in offering a welcoming and encouraging environment for fitness training. — Photos by Jeffrey Shwom

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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 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](http://www.somervillema.gov/sweeper) for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to our good friend Ida Fasano. We're wishing her a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to Sissy McWatters-Ankenbauer, who is celebrating this week. We hope she had a great day. *Continued on page 7*

## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of April 2 – April 8 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
<b>Wednesday</b> April 2	Cloudy	44°/37°	2%	1%	NE 11 mph
<b>Thursday</b> April 3	Rain	63°/55°	68%	44%	SSW 15 mph
<b>Friday</b> April 4	Cloudy	65°/42°	22%	16%	NW 11 mph
<b>Saturday</b> April 5	Rain	47°/42°	60%	47%	NE 11 mph
<b>Sunday</b> April 6	Rain	50°/45°	71%	49%	E 11 mph
<b>Monday</b> April 7	Partly Cloudy	51°/33°	20%	12%	WNW 12 mph
<b>Tuesday</b> April 8	Partly Cloudy	49°/32°	4%	2%	NW 13 mph

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

## TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

### Response to: Message from Tufts University President

ML says:

This response sounds incredibly detached. "We realize that tonight's news will be distressing to some members of our community, particularly the members of our international community"...is it not distressing to you as administrators?! Why don't you have your students' backs in supporting their free speech to oppose a genocide?!

### Response to: Hangin' up the park

Elizabeth Hunter says:

Theatre@First will be offering free performances of The Tempest by William Shakespeare in Powder House Park on Fri/Sat/Sun at 7pm from June 6 to June 22 (rain dates June 27-29). Check out our website for more details!

Rabbit says:

We should have a reunion

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

Alice says:

I'm a transgender girl, and I sure appreciate this! I've always tried my best to unite left and right wherever I can – I hope that in the end, this entire country is unified and we are all a friendly community. I remain committed to transgender rights, women's rights, and all rights and liberty in general for everyone.

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

## The Somerville Times

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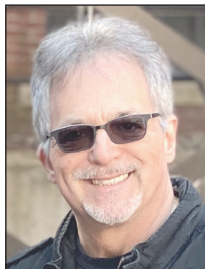
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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

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

# A great time of year



As the weather starts getting nicer, something is in the air. You can take a breath and smell optimism. The city is buzzing. Ahead of us are beaches, camping,

baseball and generally enjoying the outdoors. Many road races, outdoor festivals, and summer recreational programs are coming up.

Having worked near Somerville High School, I sense the excitement. There is much activity. Lots of things are happening, especially for this year's graduating class. Next year will mean college and the real world.

What does this have to do with a guy who graduated High School in 1971? It happens every year at this time. I remember counting the days until school was out. I see kids at the bus stop, walking with backpacks, hoodies and ear buds, and all I can do is go back to when that was me.

Of course, we had no iPods, or cell phones and dungaree jackets were more the style of the day, but we were the same energetic kids. This time of year sparks the

old mind to recall those magical memories of High School and friends we made there. This was definitely the best time of year to be a student. You could feel freedom. I am very happy for my own kids too as they get closer to the end of another school year. They worked hard for many months and now the end is in sight.

Twice last week I witnessed what I call Somerville Security. Now that's not some new local alarm company, it's what you feel when old friends see each other. We reminisce about old times. We speak of our crazy antics and funny stories that still seem so fresh in our minds. We can't believe that these recollections are 20, 30, 40 years or more in the past.

The warming temperatures start to get people out more. When we start mingling, the old friendships are revisited. Looking back also makes me think of a lot of clichés. "If I knew I was going to live this long, I would have taken better care of myself." "I wish I had saved more money." Would have, should have, could have is my go to phrase.

What we do have is history, and thanks to youth sports fundraisers, class reunions, and citywide events, we get to see our old



friends. For the most part, I can remember a lot of names and faces. Sometimes I have trouble connecting them to the right people.

This time of year seems to bring back thoughts of being young and hopeful. Like I said, it's in the air. Get out and be a part of the vast number of city events and celebrations. You will see your old friends and meet new ones.

Although it won't be me reaching the end of another school year, I am still excited for the students. I am genuinely hap-

py for the kids as they start talking about summer vacation plans because I was once there, and so were many of you. Next week is April vacation, a sort of testing out time for summer vacay.

As I sneeze from my springtime allergies, I think back 40 years to when that kid at the bus stop in front of Somerville High School was me. As I always say, let's enjoy our memories of yesterday while making new memories for tomorrow. Somerville Rocks!

## Learn about the New Math Curriculum: Grades 3 to 5 Families

Somerville Public Schools is excited to share information about their new math curriculum, part of our push for academic excellence in math learning. Families with children in grades 3 to 5 will want to save-the-date to attend one of three upcoming meet ups.

This will be an opportunity to get familiar with the new Illustrative Math Curriculum, learn strategies that parents and guardians can use to support their children at home, and connect with staff and other parents.

These events are for adults, but one of the events will provide childcare and pizza. Look out for registration information in the next few weeks. Thursday, April 10, 7 – 7:45 p.m. on Zoom. Registration required: somerville.k12.ma.us



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# Thousands gather at Powderhouse to condemn detainment of Tufts student

CONT. FROM PG 1

criticized the university's response to the movement in an op-ed [2] published in the school's student newspaper, *The Tufts Daily*.

Ozturk is now among a number of international students who have been arrested in connection with their expression of pro-Palestinian sentiments, such as Mahmoud Khali, a Columbia University graduate student [3]. Many view these arrests as targeted attacks on immigrant activists, particularly those who have been outspoken about their views on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The unusual, unexpected, and aggressive nature of Ozturk's arrest has generated widespread fear and frustration among Tufts students, neighbors, and fellow activists, prompting the rally in solidarity with her. The rally was organized by groups such as the Muslim Justice League, Palestinian Youth Movement, and Tufts Graduate Student

Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne also joined after issuing a statement [4] on social media expressing concern over the detainment, writing "I am deeply concerned to see a student with legal status detained by federal agents for what appears to be the exercise of free speech."

Similar sentiments, interpreting the situation as an attack on Ozturk's freedom of speech, were expressed by many at the rally.

Protesters held signs with messages like "literally the First Amendment," "When they come for one of us, they come for all of us," and "Our dignity is at stake," commenting on the chilling effect that Ozturk's detainment generated.

Many other protesters expressed concern over the implications that this situation may hold for other members of Somerville's large immigrant population. Amid the recent increase in deportation activity throughout Somerville and



Union, whose speakers addressed the crowd. Word of the event primarily circulated on social media platforms like Reddit and Instagram.

Attending the March 26 rally was a mix of Tufts students and neighbors from the surrounding area. The crowd also drew many from neighboring cities who traveled to the rally after hearing about it online. A number of activists from groups such as The Democratic Socialists of America, 5051, Refuse Fascism, and other organizations of similar orientation also attended, handing out signs and making announcements with megaphones.

surrounding communities, many signs criticized ICE directly, with messages like "deport ICE," "ICE are fascist cowards," "hands off," and "no Boogeyman in Somerville."

Speakers urged people in the crowd to "keep the door closed" if ICE shows up at their door and report suspected ICE activity, listing a number of organizations that provide immigrant protection services, such as the Luce hotline. An overarching feeling of shock rippled through the crowd, with neighbors and students explaining that the incident has shaken the local community to its core. "Now they're straight up kidnapping people off

the streets of Somerville," read one sign, accompanied by the chanting of phrases like "Immigrants are under attack, what do we do? Stand up, fight back."

The rally's primary focus was to condemn the detainment of Ozturk, and show solidarity for the student. Signs with the phrases "I stand with Rumeysa," "Save Rumeysa," and "This is not okay" were common sights. However, many also held Palestinian flags or signs expressing pro-Palestinian sentiments, including a number of the speakers. At one point, a speaker encouraged the crowd to begin chanting "From the river to the sea," a provocative slogan that has triggered conflict at other recent demonstrations.

However, the crowd remained orderly throughout the evening. Talking to protesters, one got the sense that some had primarily shown up to voice their concerns for Ozturk, while others were impassioned by issues of free speech, immigration,

neighborhood safety, the situation in Palestine, or a combination of these factors; it was a spectrum.

The rally began to disperse around 6:45 p.m., after the final speakers made closing statements. Similar rallies were held on March 27 in Harvard Square and in front of Somerville City Hall prior to a City Council meeting.

#### Links:

- [1] [https://www.bostonglobe.com/2025/03/26/nation/rumeysa-ozturk-court-ruling-ice-tufts-student-detained/?p1=BGSearch\\_Overlay\\_Results](https://www.bostonglobe.com/2025/03/26/nation/rumeysa-ozturk-court-ruling-ice-tufts-student-detained/?p1=BGSearch_Overlay_Results)
- [2] <https://www.tuftsdaily.com/article/2024/03/4ftk27sm6jkj>
- [3] <https://apnews.com/article/columbia-university-mahmoud-khalil-ice-15014bcbb921f21a9f704d5acdcae7a8>
- [4] [https://www.reddit.com/r/Somerville/comments/1jkhbzo/statement\\_from\\_mayor\\_ballantyne/?rdt=34551](https://www.reddit.com/r/Somerville/comments/1jkhbzo/statement_from_mayor_ballantyne/?rdt=34551)



# City Council tackles equity, accessibility, and charter reform

By Carlie Lombardi

On March 27, the Somerville City Council convened for a four-hour session addressing several critical issues, including racial disparities in city contracts, accessibility failures, affordable housing, and the approval of a new city charter. The meeting focused on the city's ongoing efforts to create a more accountable, inclusive, and responsive local government.

## Council condemns detainment of Tufts student

Early in the meeting, councilors delivered forceful statements condemning the recent ICE detainment of Rumeysa Ozturk, a Tufts student who had written an op-ed in support of Palestine. Councilors described the action as a violation of free speech and warned of the chilling effect on immigrants' rights and civic participation. The Council called for immediate support and solidarity from elected officials at the state and federal levels.

## Disparity study reveals contracting inequities

A newly released Disparity Study found that minority and women-owned businesses received less than 2% of city contracts from 2017 to 2022, despite making up over 26% of the available vendor pool. Consultants from Griffin & Strong recommended systemic reforms, including targeted programs and better data tracking. Councilors expressed outrage, emphasizing the urgent need for accountability, structural change, and immediate implementation of the study's recommendations to ensure there is equity in the city.

## Disability Commission incident sparks backlash

Councilors also responded to a March 18 incident where a city staffer abruptly ended a meeting of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities and removed attendees from City Hall. Commissioners detailed a history of limited access and disrespect. The Council referred the matter to the Committee on Appointments and Personnel Matters, stressing the need for urgent mediation and accountability.

## City Council pushes for justice in cold cases

Councilors introduced and passed a res-

olution calling for renewed investigative efforts into the unsolved murders of Deanna Cremin and Charlene Rosemond, two young women from Somerville whose killings remain unsolved decades later. March 30 marks the 30th anniversary of Cremin's murder, which continues to weigh heavily on the city.

Councilor Jesse Clingan, who represents the neighborhood where Deanna lived, gave a powerful speech urging the city and the Middlesex District Attorney's Office to be more transparent and aggressive in their pursuit of justice.

*"These were Somerville kids. We need to be the squeaky wheel. We cannot let these cases be forgotten"*

"These were Somerville kids," Clingan said. "We need to be the squeaky wheel. We cannot let these cases be forgotten."

Members of both families spoke during the meeting, sharing the emotional toll of decades without answers and asking for renewed forensic testing and cooperation with national databases and labs. Deanna's aunt, Sandy MacAuliffe, urged the city and state officials to send the DNA to labs in Texas that specialize in cold case analysis.

The Council confirmed that the District Attorney's Office has agreed to attend the April 9 meeting to provide a public update, within the limits of the active investigations.

## Housing, zoning, and charter reform

The Council reviewed public testimony on a proposed seven-story affordable housing development at 297 Medford Street, as well as zoning amendments related to the Somernova redevelopment. While opinions varied, many residents urged a strong community benefits agreement.

Later, the Council unanimously approved a Home Rule Petition for a new city charter, which now awaits review by



the mayor and state legislature before potentially appearing on the ballot.

## Other Highlights

+ Councilors voiced frustration with the unannounced closure of the Ginny Smithers Pool and demanded better communication from Parks & Recreation.

+ Councilor Willie Burnley Jr. requested overdue reports on the city's Welcoming Communities Ordinance compliance.

+ The Council backed a resolution in support of permanent daylight saving time, aligning with a national movement to end biannual clock changes.



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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.*

## Message from Mayor Ballantyne on Tufts Student Detainment and Mass Deportation

Dear Community,

We should all be deeply concerned that on Tuesday a Somerville resident and Tufts student with a valid student visa was taken away by federal agents for what appears to be the exercise of free speech rights. Whether you agree with anyone else's opinion or not, all Americans should be standing up for the right of each of us to share our views without the risk of being whisked away in an unmarked car by our national government. It's that simple. Rumeysa Ozturk must be immediately released and her visa restored, not just so that she can continue her studies but so that we can uphold the Constitutional rights of all.

We of course must stand against any and all hate speech be it anti-immigrant, antimuslim, antisemitism, anti-transgender, racist, sexist, or more. Hate has no home in Somerville. And to be clear, we are not privy to the detailed specifics on the allegations in this case. But what is public is that in this and similar cases, the federal administration has used the argument of antisemitism as grounds to suppress freedom of speech and to launch deportation without due process.

We must be clear-eyed about what is happening. The erosion of one person's rights can be used to groom us into accepting the erosion of everyone's rights. It can be hard to grasp that this is what is happening. But here we are.

We should all be alarmed by this detainment, which marks an escalation in the erosion of our civil liberties. We should all be alarmed by the intentional violation of our constitution and our legal frameworks. We should all be alarmed by the dehumanization of our neighbors, our family members, and our friends.

This is of course not the only detainment we've seen in our community. We must not forget the chaotic mass deportation actions separating families and hurting our national economy. We must not look away from the steady removal of legal status from authorized immigrants--people who came here seeking refuge from harm and to contribute to our communities.

We are living in a bait-and-switch moment where a focus on crime was promised. But instead visas for workers and students are being revoked, green card holders who've built their lives here are being detained, and people the government welcomed yesterday on all matter of visas and approvals, they now want to deport today.

It may feel abstract. Let me share just one heart-wrenching story. Recently an individual was taken from his Somerville home. He has no criminal record but is now in detention. His family is worried for him, and worried for themselves as they've been left without their loved one and the vital income he earned. But his partner was reduced to tears with worry on top of all that because now her neighbors think he was a criminal when he was not. Surely there is a more humane and productive way to reform immigration.

Somerville will continue to call for humane immigration reform. And as our rights are threatened in a variety of ways, Somerville will make use of the law and our voices to defend them. My administration recently filed a joint lawsuit with Chelsea against federal officials to do just that. We are suing to protect our right to direct local resources and ensure our police focus on local public safety and not on federal immigration actions. We also filed a formal brief to support another lawsuit to protect birthright citizenship. Our schools joined a suit to protect the Department of Education.

We will not sit by idly. We are actively working to ensure our residents are aware of their rights and the threats to their liberty. This is knowledge we all should have whether its for you or for others. Any and all immigrants should avail themselves of this information no matter the form of your authorization to be here.

Our Office of Immigrant Affairs – informed and supported by area nonprofits including the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Massachusetts – has held more than 60 Know Your Rights Trainings and outreach efforts since the start of the year. They work daily to connect people to information, resources, support services, and legal assistance.

I want to be sure that everyone in our community knows where to turn for assistance and information. Please see below for resources and supports that are available to all in our community.

We also do the heart-breaking work of offering support after a detainment as well. Our staff quickly check if a parent of a Somerville student has been detained, and we ensure the schools are ready to support the child. We also ensure residents are supported with legal referrals, information access, and any necessary food, housing, or social services if an income has been lost.

My administration remains committed to public safety and the rule of law. My office is in regular contact with our federal delegation and state officials on this case and others to be sure we take any lawful action we can to support our residents. We will continue ensuring our constituents have access to information about their rights, the resources offered by the city and local non-governmental organizations, and the space to civically engage and build Somerville's future together.

Sincerely,

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne

### **The City of Somerville offers a range of resources for its constituents:**

Immigrant Affairs: the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA) is able to support people who live or work in Somerville with referrals to city, state, and non-profit services; referrals to immigration legal services; and provision of resources and information including Know Your Rights information. To connect with SOIA, people can email [SOIA@somervillema.gov](mailto:SOIA@somervillema.gov) or visit SOIA's website at [www.somervillema.gov/SOIA](http://www.somervillema.gov/SOIA) for more ways to contact.

The City and Schools maintain a Know Your Rights resources page at [www.somervillema.gov/onesomerville](http://www.somervillema.gov/onesomerville).

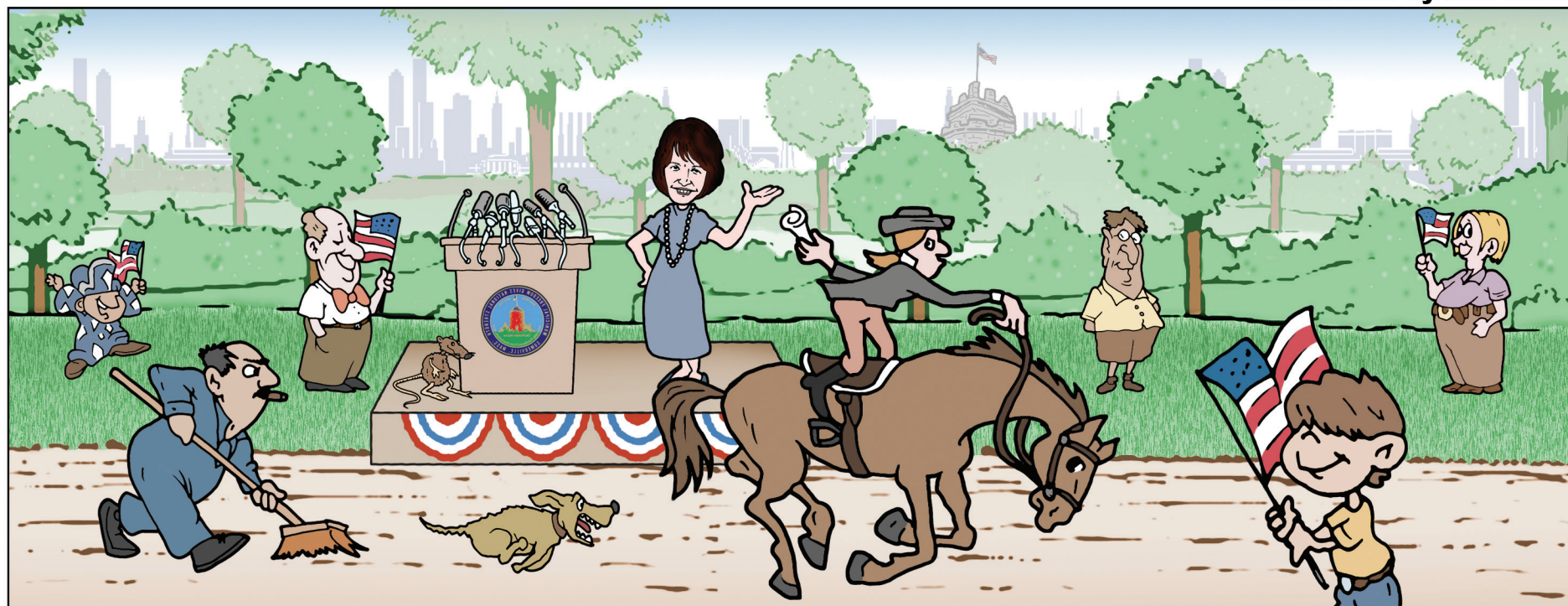
For businesses owners: The Economic Development division of the City of Somerville is able to provide businesses with information and resources on business owners' rights and responsibilities. To contact the Economic Development division, people can email [economicdevelopment@somervillema.gov](mailto:economicdevelopment@somervillema.gov).

For Tufts students, the university's International Center is available to provide additional student support and resources for their community, as well as to direct questions or concerns to partners on campus.

# COMMENTARY

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Patriot's Day is on its way!

## Our View Of The Times



It's not just another three-day weekend, folks. It's a huge part of our national – and regional – heritage.

Patriots' Day was established over 100 years ago to commemorate the Battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775, the first battles of the American Revolutionary War. Re-enactments are staged and speeches are given, and a generally festive air of patriotic zeal pervades.

It is also the day when the Boston Marathon is run. Almost as venerable as the holiday itself, for many the event is a symbol of the resilience of the American spirit. And ever since the terrible events that transpired so many years ago, that spirit has been bolstered by the resolve of all of us to remain ever vigilant and "Boston strong."

It's also just a nice time to get outdoors and enjoy some of the fine early spring at-

mosphere. After the frosty winter we all went through, it serves as an opportunity to drink in the warmth and regenerative power of the season.

If you will be heading out to enjoy some of the Marathon activities then we hope you will bring along a little Somerville Pride with you and represent the hometown spirit.

So be sure to give some consideration to

what the occasion is all about, and maybe join in the festivities at Foss Park on Monday morning. We can't guarantee it, but we'd bet dollars to tea bags that a warm tingle of patriotic exuberance may wash over you. Especially if you willingly give yourself over to the moment.

So, in a couple of weeks get ready to go mighty patriotic while enjoying the best of Somerville's recreational offerings.

### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Happy birthday to **Bruce Rollins II**, who also celebrates this week. We hope he enjoys his day as well. Happy birthday to **Chris Pedersen**. We hope he has a great day. Happy birthday to Linda Rock Coutoumas, who is celebrating this week. Happy birthday to **Cheryl Constantine Leatham**, who is also celebrating. We hope she is having a great day. We wish a happy birthday to all of our Facebook friends such as **Heather Ann, Michael R. Foster, Leo Connerty, Lyss Nicole, Rachel Fuller-DeAmato, Sarah Whitney, Liam Seward, Patricia O'Leary Shanahan, Carolyn Ryan and Jeanine Jenks Farley**, who are all celebrating this week.

To all the others we may have missed and, yes, we must admit there are a few more out there. We sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Create a woven mini masterpiece with your own mini loom made just for you by **The Beautiful Stuff Project**. All kinds of upcycled materials will be provided for you to use to weave, and TBSP staff will be on hand to coach you through the process. Bring yarn, fabric, paper, feathers and whatever else you might have at home to personalize your piece. The loom will be yours and you can take it home with you after the workshop. This pro-

gram is recommended for ages 5-9. Join in on **Saturday, April 5**, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the **Central Library Auditorium**, registration required. Contact **Annie** at [aschapira@somervillema.gov](mailto:aschapira@somervillema.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*  
Opening reception: **A Lens Full of Light**, photographs by **Gretchen Ann Graham and Julián Cancino**. **Saturday, April 5**, 6 – 9 p.m., **Washington Street Gallery**, 321 Washington St. A Lens Full of Light is a dual exhibition by photographers Gretchen Ann Graham and Julián Cancino, which explores the profound connections that shape life across generations. Connecting these two collections as

well are the names of the photographers' subjects, **Helen and Eleni**. Both names translate to "light" and "the bright one." This exhibit will feature both digital and silver gelatin prints, with several works on view for the first time. Exhibition dates: **March 28 – April 25**. Gallery hours: **Saturdays 12 – 4 p.m.** or by appointment

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Boston Women's Parkour Workshop**, **Saturday, April 5**, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., **Parkour Generations Boston, The Dojo at Somernova**, 15 Properzi Way. The Boston Women's Workshop celebrates the female parkour experience and is open to all women, trans women, *Continued on page 21*

# FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

# Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#968

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. In which month do we celebrate Earth Day?  | trayed Dorothy in <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> ?  |
| 2. Which spacecraft, famous for the quote "Houston, we have a problem," was launched on April 11, 1970? | 8. How much money did Judy Garland make per week on <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> ?                        |
| 3. What historic moment happened on April 15, 1912?   | 9. What is the traditional Italian name for a pizza topped with tomato sauce, mozzarella, and basil? |
| 4. Which famous playwright was born and died in April?  | 10. Which literary work begins with the famous line, "April is the cruellest month"?                 |
| 5. Which car did Ford first unveil on April 17, 1964?   | 11. How many tails does a Manx cat have?   |
| 6. What candy is shaped like a small bottle and comes in a variety of fruity flavors?                   | 12. Who became the first woman to head a major film production company alongside her husband?        |
| 7. How old was Judy Garland when she por-   |  |

Answers on page 14

## The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. On average, people fear spiders more than they do death.
2. Junk food is as addictive as drugs.

### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

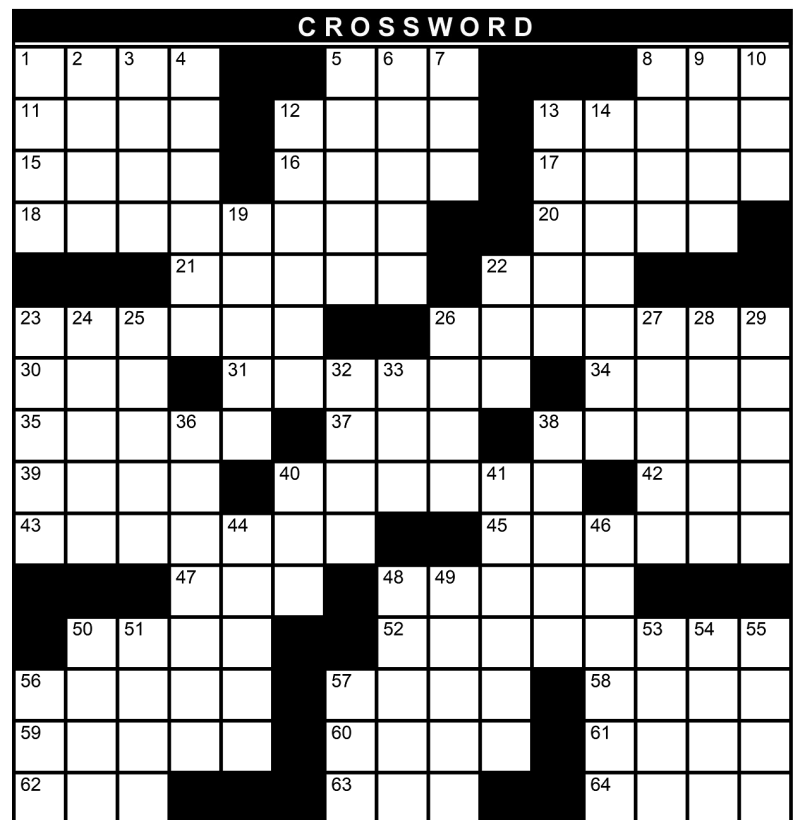
#### DESSERTS

#### ACROSS

1. Like some champagnes
5. Undergarment
8. Dashboard acronym
11. Poison ivy woe
12. Took to court
13. Milan's La \_\_\_\_
15. Afresh
16. Globes and such
17. SNL's forté
18. Ladyfingers+coffee liqueur
20. Grammy of sports
21. Jeweler's unit
22. Like walnuts on ice cream
23. Thin Mint or Carmel deLite
26. Apple dip
30. Nelson Mandela's org.
31. Profoundness, pl.
34. Frost-covered
35. Ticket leftovers
37. Pathetic \_\_\_\_
38. Lazybones
39. Samoan money
40. A in AU, Alabama
42. Heidi Samuel \_\_\_\_ Klum
43. Contaminating punch
45. Flammable anesthetics
47. a.k.a. acid
48. Military group
50. Jezebel's deity
52. Espresso+gelato
56. Forgo
57. Palo \_\_\_\_, CA
58. Sacred image
59. Southern cuisine pods
60. Show the guns
61. Small stream
62. "The Star-Spangled Banner" author
63. Toni Morrison's "\_\_\_\_ Baby"
64. Adeline or Addison, for short

#### DOWN

1. Troublesome child
2. Jasmine of "Aladdin," e.g.
3. Olympic cast-out
4. Smack
5. Anatomical sac
6. Overthrow by argument
7. Marketing creations
8. Wild onion
9. Clever tactic
10. Spanish sea
12. Evening party
13. See-through
14. Eggs+milk+sugar
19. Old \_\_\_\_, or unpopped popcorn kernels
22. Be, singular past tense
23. Uses a fishing reel
24. Like beer at a kegger (2 words)
25. Round openings
26. Cabbage, in France
27. "The House at Pooh Corner" author
28. African chieftain
29. Ancient Greeks' harps
32. Socket counterpart



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### Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



33. Bar bill
36. Filo dough+nuts+honey
38. Book opener
40. Uniting conjunction
41. Robin Hood in Disney's "Robin Hood" (2 words)
44. Keys
46. Mecca to Medina exodus
48. Type of lily
49. Happily ever when?
50. Make Alaska
51. Gossamer
53. Vinegar or lemon juice, to a chef
54. Communicated
55. James Bond's "For Your Eyes \_\_\_\_"
56. Asian cuisine pan
57. Astern

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



# Somerville street sweeping, yard waste pickup, and hazardous waste drop-off begin in April

Spring has sprung, and with it, essential seasonal services for our residents. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the Somerville Parking Department, and the Department of Public Works want to remind everyone of important upcoming services.

## Street sweeping resumed on April 1

Regular street sweeping schedules officially resume Tuesday, April 1, and will continue through December 31, 2025. This essential public works program not only keeps our city cleaner but reduces the risk of flooding and icing due to clogged storm drains. Residents and community members can check street signs to know when parking is unavailable due to sweeping. A recurring pattern was chosen in order to allow residents to plan ahead. 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. For more info regarding street sweeping procedures, visit [parksomerville.com](http://parksomerville.com) or call 311 (617-666-3311). The penalty for not complying with street sweeping parking regulations is a \$50 fine. Community members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the street sweeping schedule in areas where they park. The best way to do this is to read the signs on the street when you park. To learn more, visit [somervillema.gov/sweeping](http://somervillema.gov/sweeping).

## Yard waste pickup begins April 14

Yard waste pickup begins Monday, April 14, and runs through December 12. During collection week, yard waste should be put out with your trash and recycling on your normal pickup day and be in either a paper bag or a trash barrel with a "Yard Waste Only" sticker. To learn more, visit [somervillema.gov/yardwaste](http://somervillema.gov/yardwaste).

## Dispose of household hazardous waste April through November

Somerville residents can drop off household hazardous waste on the second Saturday of each month, April through November, from 9 a.m. to noon at the DPW yard (1 Franey Rd.). Accepted materials include motor oil, aerosol paint, household cleaning chemicals, rechargeable batteries, and more. Proof of residency is required. For more information and how to prep materials, visit [somervillema.gov/recycling](http://somervillema.gov/recycling).

## Sign up for reminders

You can use the Somerville Waste Wizard below to find out your next street sweep, yard waste pickup, or upcoming household hazardous waste drop-off. Sign up to receive complimentary street sweeping notifications via a method of your choice by selecting "Sign Up for Reminders" at [somervillema.gov/departments/sweeping](http://somervillema.gov/departments/sweeping)

For street sweeping, please remember that this is a courtesy service that may experience technical problems; it remains the drivers' responsibility to follow the posted signs and move their vehicle on time.

## Dorothy's Corner BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



### Farro and Roasted Vegetable Salad

This is a great dish to make for a group of people or just packaging up the leftovers for lunch for the week. It can be served with grilled chicken, a ribeye steak or even grilled shrimp. The options are limitless.

Farro can also be referred to as spelt, emmer or einkorn, depending on the region where it's grown around Europe. It's commonly used in soups and salads in Italian cuisine. It is firm in texture and has a nutty flavor. For more information about this ancient grain, please check out this link, <http://italianfood.about.com/library/rec/blr0002.htm>.

2 cups dried farro, prepare according to package, (yields approximately 5 cups cooked)

3 large shallots 1/2" dice

1/2 medium butternut squash 1/2" cubed or 1 large sweet potato 1/2"

cubed

1 medium fennel bulb 1/2" cubed, core removed

1 lemon, zested and juiced

6 Tbl olive oil, divided

Salt 2 tsp, divided, plus 1/2 tsp

Black pepper 1 tsp, divided

6 scallions, thinly sliced on the bias

1/2 cup fresh parsley, roughly chopped

Serves between 8-10

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Cook the farro according to package instructions and add 1 tsp of salt to the water. In a medium bowl, add the shallot, butternut squash or sweet potato and fennel. Add 3 Tbl of olive oil, 1/2 tsp salt and 1/2 tsp pepper to the bowl with the vegetables and mix well. Pour the mixture onto a lined baking sheet and spread out evenly. Roast for 18 minutes just until the squash is fork tender. Once the farro is drained and still hot, add the lemon zest and juice along with the remaining 3 tablespoons of olive oil and mix well. Add the vegetables and



1 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon pepper, parsley and scallions to the farro and carefully mix together not to break up the squash/sweet potato. The dish can

be served hot or cold.

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

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
Somerville  
OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES  
NOTICE OF TAX TAKING

TO THE OWNERS OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LAND AND TO ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT on **Thursday, the 17th day of April, 2025, at 10:00 o'clock A.M.**, at **Treasury, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143**, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, IT IS MY INTENTION TO TAKE for the City of **Somerville** the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and an incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same has been paid before that date.

Linda Dubuque, Treasurer/Collector of Taxes.

LIST OF PARCELS TO BE TAKEN

**Property Address:** 142 Cross Street  
**Assessed Owner(s):** JAC Investments, LLC  
**Tax Year:** 2022  
**Parcel ID:** 093-D.00001-000000  
**Alternative Parcel ID:** 05228170  
**Square Footage:** 2,507 (more or less)  
**Title Reference:** Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 64218, Page: 76.

Fiscal Year 2022 Taxes Remaining Unpaid: \$ 11,694.93  
Interest to Date of Taking: \$ 5,790.83  
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking: \$ 225.00  
Total for which Land will be Taken: \$ 17,710.76

4/2/25 The Somerville Times

**Property Address:** 113 Washington Street  
**Assessed Owner(s):** Nicole Bairos  
**Tax Year:** 2022  
**Parcel ID:** 104-A.00063-000000  
**Alternative Parcel ID:** 02037175  
**Square Footage:** 1,012 (more or less)  
**Title Reference:** Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 47166, Page: 553

Fiscal Year 2022 Taxes Remaining Unpaid: \$ 995.17  
Interest to Date of Taking: \$ 405.17  
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking: \$ 225.00  
Total for which Land will be Taken: \$ 1,625.34

4/2/25 The Somerville Times

**Property Address:** 82 Chandler Street  
**Assessed Owner(s):** Church of the Nazarene  
**Tax Year:** 2022  
**Parcel ID:** 016-C.00028-000000  
**Alternative Parcel ID:** 09200081  
**Square Footage:** 4,515 (more or less)  
**Title Reference:** Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 6535, Page: 247

Fiscal Year 2022 Taxes Remaining Unpaid: \$ 1,426.33  
Interest to Date of Taking: \$ 542.87  
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking: \$ 225.00  
Total for which Land will be Taken: \$ 2,194.20

4/2/25 The Somerville Times

**Property Address:** 357 Somerville Avenue  
**Assessed Owner(s):** Manhar Rana and Priti Rana, Trustees, Rana Family Revocable Trust  
**Tax Year:** 2022  
**Parcel ID:** 074-C.00027-000000  
**Alternative Parcel ID:** 18563041  
**Square Footage:** 4,386 (more or less)  
**Title Reference:** Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 66814, Page: 442

Fiscal Year 2022 Taxes Remaining Unpaid: \$ 2,508.02  
Interest to Date of Taking: \$ 336.19  
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking: \$ 225.00  
Total for which Land will be Taken: \$ 3,069.21

4/2/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
IFB #25-58

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

On-Call Repairs to Irrigation and Water Features

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) may be obtained online at [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com), <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, April 2, 2025**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **2:30PM Wednesday, April 23, 2025**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at [fgarate@somervillema.gov](mailto:fgarate@somervillema.gov) for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

Felisa Garate  
Procurement Analyst  
617-625-6600 x3406

4/2/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
IFB #25-57

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

Irrigation System Maintenance at Lincoln Park

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) may be obtained online at [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com), <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, April 2, 2025**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **2:00PM Wednesday, April 23, 2025**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at [fgarate@somervillema.gov](mailto:fgarate@somervillema.gov) for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

Felisa Garate  
Procurement Analyst  
617-625-6600 x3406

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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

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

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_V99RiXdETly5sGbxM4DFgQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_V99RiXdETly5sGbxM4DFgQ)  
Webinar ID: 899 1548 4989

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

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

HP24-000125 - 8 Bolton Street

Applicant: Julian Lewis, Eaglebrook Capital  
Owner: Stephen Ober

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

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

Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto: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](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) with inquiries.

3/26/25, 4/2/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
IFB #25-59

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

Landscaping Services at Lincoln Park

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) may be obtained online at [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com), <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, April 2, 2025**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **2:00PM Wednesday, April 16, 2025**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at [fgarate@somervillema.gov](mailto:fgarate@somervillema.gov) for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

Felisa Garate  
Procurement Analyst  
617-625-6600 x3406

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**KATJANA BALLANTYNE**  
**MAYOR**

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The **Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee** and the **Somerville Planning Board** will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 6:30 pm.**

This meeting will be held in the Committee Room, on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, and by remote participation, using the Zoom platform. To attend and be heard, enter the link exactly as it appears below into your internet browser. You will then be asked to register for the meeting.  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_djr\\_iA-BRle8NPCQwWLG6g](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_djr_iA-BRle8NPCQwWLG6g)

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

- 15 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend the Zoning Ordinance sections 3.1.8c, 3.1.9c, 3.1.10c, 3.1.13k, 3.1.13l, 3.2.12l. and 3.2.12m.
- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Articles 2-5 and 10 of the Zoning Ordinance to remove conflicts with the State Building Code.
- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Article 2 of the Zoning Ordinances to allow the Building Official to waive certain dimensional standards for means of egress.

Zoning amendments may be viewed online by searching the Somerville City Council's [online meeting calendar](https://www.somervillema.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx) (https://www.somervillema.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx) for the address or item number.

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

4/2/25 The Somerville Times



**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**

**Removal of Public Shade Trees**

**City of Somerville**

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 87, the City of Somerville will hold a **virtual public shade tree hearing on Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.** using Zoom software to consider the removal of the following 12 public shade tree(s):

- 350 Broadway on Dartmouth Street - Two callery pear: 13.6" diameter, fair condition, 9.3" diameter, fair condition
- 32 Florence Street - One callery pear: 4.8" diameter, fair condition
- 44 Franklin Street - One littleleaf linden: 16.0" diameter, fair condition
- 62 Franklin Street - One green ash: 12.4" diameter, good condition
- Opp 66 Franklin Street (across from) – Two honeylocust: 10.1" diameter, good condition, 8.2" diameter, fair-good condition
- 97 Washington Street on Franklin Street - One callery pear: 16.7" diameter, good condition
- 22 Mount Vernon Street - One Norway maple: 21.4" diameter, fair-good condition
- 57 Myrtle Street - One green ash: 14.8" diameter, good condition
- 41 Myrtle Street - One flowering cherry: 8.4" diameter, good condition
- 63 Perkins Street - One callery pear: 18.5" diameter, good condition

Trees are proposed for removal as part of a sewer rehabilitation project. Removals are required to make spot repairs to sewer mains. Replacement trees will be planted. More information on the project will be provided during the hearing.

The trees identified above have been posted for public inspection. **In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 87, any objections to the removal of any of these trees must be submitted in writing to the Tree Warden prior to or at this public hearing.** Documents may be sent via email to: [trees@somervillema.gov](mailto:trees@somervillema.gov), or mailed to: Vanessa Boukili – OSPCD, City of Somerville, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02143. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this Public Shade Tree Hearing will be conducted via remote participation. A recording of this hearing will be available upon request to [trees@somervillema.gov](mailto:trees@somervillema.gov).

**Registration URL:** <https://tinyurl.com/h2m7s8uz>  
**Webinar ID:** 831 1694 5434

4/2/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Application of Transfer of an All Forms Package Store License for Jerry's Liquors Inc. d/b/a Jerry's Liquor Mart at 329 Somerville Ave.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_dQSLVSYOSuqaypug0NJF9g](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dQSLVSYOSuqaypug0NJF9g)

You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to [licensing@somervillema.gov](mailto:licensing@somervillema.gov). Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

**THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.**

**ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**  
[LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:licensing@somervillema.gov)

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
 PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
 IFB #25-60**

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

**Somerville City-Wide Landscaping Services**

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) may be obtained online at [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com), <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, April 2, 2025**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **2:30PM Wednesday, April 16, 2025**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at [fgarate@somervillema.gov](mailto:fgarate@somervillema.gov) for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

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

4/2/25 The Somerville Times

## Preschool screenings for Children 3 to 5 years old

April 30. The Somerville Public Schools conducts preschool screenings for children 3 to 5 years old who live in Somerville. These screenings check a child's development and help identify children who may need further evaluation for special education services. Participation in the screening process is free and optional for parents.

- Next Date: April 30, 2025
- Time: 8:30 AM – 11:30 a.m.
- Location: Capuano Early Childhood Center, 150 Glen Street, Somerville, MA
- Assess your child's development in key areas.
- Identify potential learning needs early.
- Connect with educational professionals for guidance.



Screenings are by appointment only. If you are a Somerville resident and have concerns about your child's development, please fill out our Screening Intake Form <https://forms.gle/wBDGVxziMH5ZQdua9>, and someone will follow up with you. The form should take 2 to 5 minutes to complete.

To register by phone, please call Courtney O'Connell at (617) 629-5670 ext. 3657.

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# Somerville Museum presents 'History on the Line'

The Somerville Museum is proud to present History on the Line: a map, exhibit, and event series running through June 2025, exploring the untold stories of Somerville's revolutionary past. Funded by the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism's MA250 grant program, this dynamic initiative brings history to life in new and meaningful ways. The excitement begins on Patriot's Day, April 21, 2025, with a free community event at Foss Park – an opportunity to connect, learn, and celebrate Somerville's rich heritage together.

Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Executive Director of the Somerville Museum, comments: "The 250th Anniversary of the colonists' fight for liberation from British rule is a momentous milestone, and we are thrilled to amplify this story with diverse voices and perspectives. Somerville's rich history has shaped the vibrant community we know today, and how we tell that history will help define the future we want to create. This is an incredible opportunity to engage, reflect, and inspire – history is truly 'on the line.'"

History on the Line offers visitors a chance to experience the history of the American Revolution through the key sites, stories, and firsts local to Somerville. The official History on the Line Map and Exhibit pinpoints spaces, places, and people that helped shape the course of the war, while trolley tours and park events set those stories in motion. Across all programming, attendees have a chance to learn about the Revolution through personal, site-based, and event-based lenses, which help capture the nuances and localized meaning of a complex period of American history.

"By focusing on Somerville's Revolutionary past, we get a richer and more honest account of what the war meant to different people," said Dr. Paul Polgar, a lecturer in Tufts University History Department. "The Revolution was not a single, unified movement; it was a series of

overlapping struggles, full of ambiguity. Some fought for self-government, others for personal freedom. Some saw economic opportunity, others faced ruin. Looking at history from this local perspective challenges us to move beyond mythologized versions of the past and reckon with the Revolution in all its complexity."

For over a century, the Somerville Museum has held space for the stories that shape collective history. On the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, History on the Line programming channels a national story into a locally meaningful, community-minded experience. From family-friendly events in the park to fascinating historical deep dives, the wide-ranging and dynamic programming provides something for everyone to enjoy.

"As a former mayor and a museum trustee of 40 years, I consider the museum to be the gem of our city. Given Somerville's rich history, it is only right, and our duty, to preserve it for citizens young and old to take advantage of and enjoy," Former Mayor and veteran, Gene Brune said.

## EVENTS:

**April 10 | Tavern Talk | Tavern Culture and the Road Through Somerville to Lexington**

Join us at Aeronaut Brewery in Union Square for a drink and a lecture on New England's tavern culture and its relevance to the Revolutionary War. Tickets are available here.

**April 21 | History in the Park | Patriot's Day**

Join us in partnership with the City of Somerville for the annual Patriots' Day celebration at Foss Park! Play colonial games and activities, enjoy refreshments, and greet Paul Revere. This event is free to attend, no RSVP necessary. More information at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-revolution-on-tap-tavern-culture-and-the-road-through-somerville-tickets-1284449094819?aff=oddtcreator>

**April 25-27 | Trolley Tour | Revolution-**



## ary Line

Join us for an hour-long tour of critical revolutionary sites such as Paul Revere's ride through town and the marching route of the Redcoats! Tickets are available at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/trolley-tour-revolutionary-line-registration-1292791517229?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

**May 1 | History on the Line | Exhibition Opening**

Join us for the opening reception of the History on the Line exhibition at the Somerville Museum, which showcases Somerville's history as seen through lines of evolution. This exhibit showcases the special objects and artifacts that helped shape Somerville into the community it is today. More information at: <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/historyontghe-line-eventslist/event-four-cj77c>

**May 17-19 | Trolley Tour | Industrial Line**

Join us for an hour-long trolley tour of the brick alleys, workers' cottages, and railroad-side factories that shaped the city. Tickets link coming soon!

**June 22 | History in the Park | Blessing of the Bay**

Details coming soon! This event is free to attend, no RSVP necessary.

## About the Somerville Museum

Located in the heart of the city at the intersection of Central Street and Westwood Road, the Somerville Museum has served as the community's cultural institution for nearly a century. The Museum's Federal Revival building was constructed in the 1920's to house the growing collection of the Somerville Historical Society. In the 1980's, with a changing demographic and the need to expand the mission of the Society, a handful of committed individuals raised the funds to fully renovate and restore the building. The result was the newly consecrated Somerville Museum, which officially reopened in 1988.

While specializing in the visual arts — including many exhibits with both historical and local significance — the Museum also offers musical and lecture series, a number carried out in collaboration with Somerville's public schools. An important meeting place for local historical and cultural organizations, the Museum has a long tradition of encouraging hands-on learning projects for young and old alike.

As the only membership-supported, non-profit, volunteer-run, community-based cultural institution of its kind in Somerville, members and volunteers are always welcome.

## Tufts University Department of Music presents 'Kiniwe'

The Tufts University Department of Music presents Kiniwe at the Perry and Marty Granoff Music Center on Friday, April 11, at 8:00 p.m.

Kiniwe and guests will perform music and dance from the Ashanti, Ewe and Ga people of Ghana. Kiniwe will be joined by Emmanuel Agbeli, Mohammed Alidu, NEC's Mile Norvisi, and the Agbekor Drum and Dance Society.

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

For more information, visit [as.tufts.edu/music/musiccenter](https://as.tufts.edu/music/musiccenter) or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617-627-2253.



## 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.

## Statement by a friend of Rumeysa Ozturk

By Azra Rahim

In 2023, I was embraced by a supportive, compassionate community of storytellers, people who, like me, want to improve the lives of children through the stories we write. In this community, I found celebrated authors and editors, and newbies like me who aspire to change the world through the power of the pen. Another such newbie was my friend, Rumeysa Ozturk. Everyone who got to know Rumeysa through this circle loved her presence. One of these storytellers said that Rumeysa is, “the sweetest, softest and kindest soul.”

That sweet soul, a third-year PhD student at TUFTS who is in America on a valid F1 student visa headed out of her apartment to meet friends on what she thought was a normal evening about a week ago. As she was walking down a street in Somerville, she was abducted by ICE without any warning. They falsely claimed to be police when she became scared. Despite a court order not to remove her from Massachusetts, she was moved more than a thousand miles away to Basile, Louisiana, far away from her support network and legal team. It took her lawyer 24 hours to locate her.

And for the last week, Rumeysa’s loved ones and friends have endured a hateful smear campaign against her. Portraying her in this manner may make it easier for folks to look away as her first amendment rights are denied and her freedoms stripped. But anyone who knows Rumeysa will tell you that the things being said about her are patently false.

If you knew Rumeysa, you would know that she is a gentle, soft-spoken young woman who cares deeply for others. From making Turkish tea for her colleagues every morning at the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study & Human Development every morning to picking out pastries for her friends to break their fast, Rumeysa brought joy to everyone with simple acts of love. A col-

league commented that, “Rumeysa is a kind, gentle, and service-minded person.” She is known best for her warm welcoming smile as she places her hand over her heart. Among her writing friends, she is noted for selflessly offering to critique other people’s work and doing so with care and insight. One of her colleagues stated, “She made me feel seen.”

If you knew Rumeysa, you would know that she loves children and is a staunch advocate for their needs. Her PhD research revolves around the use of social media and how it affects the growth and development of adolescents and children. In recognition of her scholarship, she received a prestigious fellowship from her department, the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study & Human Development. She is also a re-

*If you knew  
Rumeysa, you  
would know that  
she is creative in all  
aspects of her life,  
not just her writing*

search assistant at the Tufts’ Children’s Television project.

She has served as a teaching assistant for several courses in the past and is scheduled to be teaching undergraduate students at present. It is commonly known in her department that she has a special skill in cultivating a passion for learning among those who she teaches. A fellow faculty member had this to say about her, “She goes above and beyond to help create an inspiring and inclusive learning environment where students feel valued and empowered.”

Her teaching and research work have a deep impact on her creative writing as an aspiring children’s author. She wants chil-

dren to be able to see themselves reflected in books and TV. She wants to build confident kids with a deep sense of pride in who they are and where they come from.

Like me, she loves reading children’s books, saying, “I find literature as a beautiful opportunity to connect about our own cultures and what’s beyond our own boundaries.” And in her personal life, like me, she adores being an aunt to her young niece and calls it, “the absolute best job in the whole world.”

If you knew Rumeysa, you would know that she is creative in all aspects of her life, not just her writing. A colleague of hers in the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study & Human Development says this about her, “she consistently offers creative and innovative ideas while remaining open to other’s perspectives, serving as a role model to our learning community.

If you knew Rumeysa, you would know that she is a bridge builder and peacemaker. In her writing, she says, “My goal and dream is to support a more inclusive children’s literature space and intercultural understanding.”

In her teaching, she goes out of her way to help young people in her classes to build strong peer relationships, knowing that these friendships will serve them well as they navigate the rigors of adulthood.

She is also known for her commitment to building interfaith relationships through her work with several chaplaincy groups on the TUFTS campus believing as she did in the sanctity of all religions and philosophies of life. One of the Chaplaincy staff described her as an “authentic and integrated human being.”

As the mayor of Somerville stated in her Op-Ed piece on March 26th earlier this year, the travesties that have occurred with Rumeysa, “open the door to attacks on the rights of all and the fabric of society as a whole. It is a well-worn pattern for some power seekers to stoke hatred and fear of others – any convenient others available. History shows they do this to distract us from or to get people to accept despicable

actions and harmful policies.”

The stakes are high. And now you know Rumeysa. Here is how you can help.

**1. Donate** to support her legal defense, living support, and medical and health-related needs. Rumeysa has asthma and the detention center has withheld her medications. Any amount helps, no matter how small. Every dollar goes toward securing Rumeysa’s freedom.

Scroll through the donations and you will see the names of your Somerville neighbors that have already donated. It is now your turn. Go to: <https://chuffed.org/project/justice-for-rumeysa-ozturk> | Justice for Rumeysa Öztürk | Chuffed | Non-profit charity and social enterprise fundraising.

**2. Share** the video of Rumeysa’s abduction and this campaign for justice widely with your networks.

**3. Advocate** by calling TUFTS to demand that they fight for their student’s release on bond. Call your state representative and demand that they move Rumeysa from the detention center in Basile, Louisiana back to Massachusetts.

**4. Educate Yourself** Start by watching John Oliver’s episode from March 10, 2025: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Hpgu7wSUQQ> Using comedy, Oliver drops truth bombs about detention centers, where detainees can languish for years without adequate food, health care or space (overcrowding is a big issue), all while making handsome money for wealthy, private owners. Detainees are required to cook and clean the detention center themselves, for \$1/day wages. And if they refuse to work, they are placed in solitary confinement.

Rumeysa’s family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors miss her deeply. We are waiting for Rumeysa’s release. We are speaking out for a student, a teacher, a powerful advocate for children and for a storyteller who has been silenced. We will continue to speak out on Rumeysa’s behalf until she returns to her community where she belongs.

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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. April               | 7. 16              |
| 2. Apollo 13           | 8. \$500/week      |
| 3. RMS Titanic sank    | 9. Margherita      |
| 4. William Shakespeare | 10. The Waste Land |
| 5. Ford Mustang        | 11. None           |
| 6. Nik-L-Nip           | 12. Lucille Ball   |

# Explore the 'Week of the Young Child'

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Superintendent Rubén Carmona, and Somerville's early childhood community invite Somerville caregivers, children, and educators to celebrate the Week of the Young Child from April 5 to 11.

The Week of the Young Child was designated by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families.

This week of celebrations will include programming and activities across the city, family-friendly specials in local restaurants, and will culminate in a community-wide celebration on Thursday, April 10, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on the Somerville High School concourse (81 Highland Avenue). The event will include family-friendly music, food, and activities.

"In Somerville, we believe every child deserves the strongest possible start, which only happens when an entire community works together," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "Week of the Young Child is a joyful reminder of what we can accomplish when families, educators, and city and community partners come together to support our youngest residents."



The city's collective approach to meeting the needs of young children has been supported by the First Five Steering Committee. This committee is composed of representatives from the City of Somerville, the Somerville Public Schools, and community partners.

"Week of the Young Child is a great way to celebrate the long history of early childhood work in Somerville," said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Rubén Carmona. "In Somerville Public Schools, we're committed to making sure our youngest learners have access to high-quality learning opportunities and to providing inclusive, multilingual programming and wrap-around services for families and we are grateful for strong partnerships between the Public Schools, the city, and multiple community partners."

## City of Somerville Youth and Family Supports

The One Somerville, Every Child umbrella tagline reflects Somerville's commitment to equity and its collective approach to supporting all children and youth in our city. Among the successes of the multilingual cross-sector work to support early childhood development from prenatal to school entry are: SomerBaby; Home Visiting; Play-groups; Developmental Screening; the Child Care Access and Affordability Program; Somerville Hub Connect; wraparound services; and the establishment of the Somerville Partnership for Young Children focused on expanding access to high-quality preschool in the city.

Our newest addition to support this goal is the establishment of a multi-tiered system of supports to ensure all partners in our mixed delivery system have the supports needed to ensure all young learners can thrive. The First Five Steering Committee facilitates the alignment of all these services.

For more information regarding any of the above programs or initiatives listed please visit the Somerville Hub Connect: <https://connect.somervillehub.org/>.

— City of Somerville

# Tax Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

**Q: I'm unmarried – does it really matter if I file as Head of Household instead of Single?**

**A:** Yes, it can make a huge difference!

For 2024, the standard deduction is \$21,900 for Head of Household vs. \$14,600 for Single, a \$7,300 advantage. Plus, you get wider tax brackets, meaning more income is taxed at lower rates.

To qualify, you must:

- Be unmarried (or considered unmarried) at year-end
- Pay over half the cost of your home
- Have a qualifying dependent who lived with you over half the year

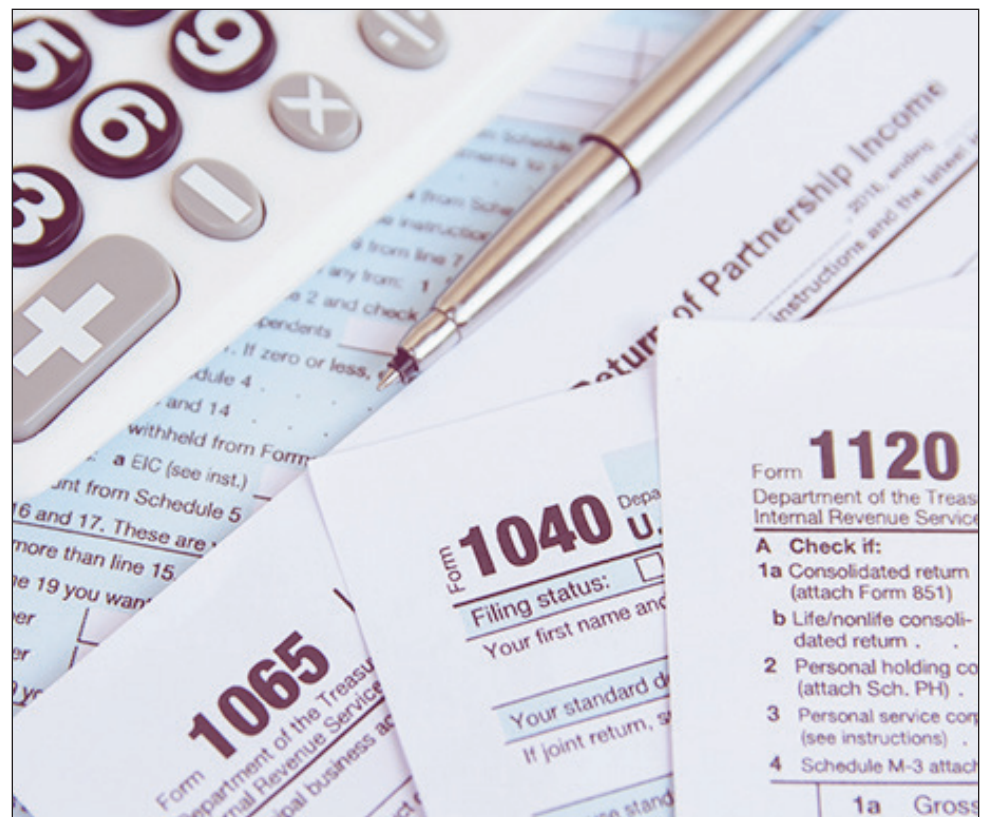
Here's what many miss:

If your child is away at college, the IRS treats that as a temporary absence, so they may still count as living with you. That means you may still qualify for Head of Household status, even if they weren't home most of the year.

Also, if your child is a dependent under age 17, you may qualify for the Child Tax Credit – worth up to \$2,000 in 2024.

**Have questions about your filing status?** I'd be happy to help. I'm Vincent Hicks, CPA, based in Somerville with over 20 years of experience. Reach out at [vhicks-connect@gmail.com](mailto:vhicks-connect@gmail.com) or (859) 553-0788.

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



# Math Meet, Pi, Pizza, and finally Pies – A great renewed way to celebrate a transcendental number

By Erica Voolich

Friday, March 14, was Pi Day (3.14). What better excuse is there to have a celebration of math with middle schoolers than  $\pi$ ? On Monday before Pi Day, students, teachers, and high school Math Club members celebrated  $\pi$  at Somerville High School by eating pizza while spending an afternoon taking a math contest and then estimating, creating, answering questions, and ending with Table Talk Pies for everyone.

The Somerville High School Math Club led by Michael Morgan organized the event. Instead of the usual math contest between Somerville's middle schools' math teams for the month of March, they invited the schools to come and have students take a math contest related to pi and circles written by the high schoolers and do some of the pi night activities the Somerville Math Fund has organized in the pre-pandemic past. While the eighth graders took the contest the seventh did the Pi activities and then the groups switched.

While enjoying pizza donated by the Somerville Math Fund, the students from the students from the Healey School, the East Somerville Community School, and the West Somerville Neighborhood school went around to a variety of pi math activities set up in the Lower Cafeteria at the High School.

These activities included: predicting bicycle wheel roll distance after one and a half revolutions, a guessing contest,  $\pi$  button design,  $\pi$  facts quiz, finding your birthday in  $\pi$ , drawing a cardioid or nephroid (curves from lines), and predicting circumferences in MM by the feel of objects in mystery boxes.



Estimating the amount of candy in jars.

Even though the Somerville Math Fund sponsored math night event was canceled by the pan-demic for three years, two years ago there were Somerville High School Math Club members who commented about remembering doing some of these events when they went over to either the Healey (2019) or the East Somerville (2018) for the Pi Family math night. So, for the last two years, the Math Club organized the Pi Day celebration and repeated the event this year at the high school for the middle school students.

Scott Weaver (East), Wil Jacques (Healey) brought students and helped Erica Voolich (Somerville Mathematics Fund) organize the activities for the event. Also bringing students was Alyssa Mackey from West.

In addition, Scott Weaver at the East Somerville Community School and Wil Jacques at Healey each organized a day of math/pi activities in all of his classes on Pi Day. All the East and Healey middle school students enjoyed Table Talk Pies to fuel their exploration of Pi and circles.

Table Talk Pies of Worcester generously supplied small pies for all who came that afternoon. Table Talk has generously supported this Somerville Math Fund event for twenty-one years (2 years off for Covid). When planning the first SMF  $\pi$  Night in 2003; the Math Fund called the Table Talk Pi Company and explained what  $\pi$  day was and Table Talk generously donated large pies for prizes and small pies for everyone. Twenty-one years later, Table Talk Pies is not only still donating to the Somerville Pi night celebration, but also to many more celebrations. This year Table Talk donated about 75,000 pies to schools and organizations celebrating Pi Day.

A big thank you to all the Math Club volunteers and donors who made this fun, educational event possible. It takes a community to celebrate  $\pi$  day!

The Somerville Mathematics Fund was founded in 2000 with the mission to celebrate and encourage mathematics achievement in Somerville, MA. They will award renewable college mathematics scholarships in May, and in January they awarded K-12 Teacher Grants. Also, they hold a high school engineering challenge (Scrapheap Showdown) in October. For more information, to make a donation, or to volunteer, visit [www.somervillemathematicsfund.org](http://www.somervillemathematicsfund.org) or [math-fund@gmail.com](mailto:math-fund@gmail.com) or call 617-666-0666.



Making Pi buttons at the Pi Night.



Drawing a cardioid with straight lines.



Estimating distance travel in 1.5 revolutions.



## 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.

## A Zoning Overlay – for Whom?

By Michael Carlson

As the Somernova development barrels toward approval in Somerville, Mass., with the promise of transforming a quiet industrial campus into 1.6 million square feet of commercial, research, and so-called innovation space, it's worth asking a basic question—Who is this for?

I first became aware of the proposal last October, when the city announced a series of public meetings to discuss proposed zoning changes. At the very first session, a senior city staff member asked me to move to the back of the room. The front, they said, was “reserved for stakeholders.” The irony wasn't lost on me: I live within 30 feet of the project site and had introduced myself as a direct abutter. But somehow, I wasn't considered a stakeholder. That moment stayed with me.

I've lived in Somerville for years. I've walked these blocks, watched triple-deckers turn into condos, and seen the arrival of high-end coffee shops, new rail stations, and growing corporate footprints. Change is part of life here, and I'm not opposed to it. In fact, transformative change is needed to build the affordable housing Somerville desperately needs and to create space for new enterprises. If that change happens in my backyard, so be it. But residents and longtime community members deserve a voice in what that change looks like. And from my very first meeting, it's felt like we've been quietly, consistently told to sit down and stay out of the way.

### Public Process Meets Private Interest

The irony is that we've already had this conversation—at length. When Somerville overhauled its zoning ordinance in

2019, it followed nearly a decade of workshops, working groups, and public hearings. It was, in other words, a public process. The resulting code emphasized clarity and predictability. It prioritized height and density near major transit hubs—not in the middle of residential neighborhoods.

Now, just a few years later, a single project seeks to bypass that work entirely.

The proposed Somernova redevelopment covers 7.4 acres between Union and Porter Squares. It would introduce buildings up to 200 feet tall into a neighborhood largely defined by triple-deckers and modest apartment buildings. It would replace the city's Fabrication (FAB) District – zoning initially intended to preserve old industrial spaces for artists and makers – with new zoning that does little to protect either. Just eight percent of the site would be reserved for arts-related uses, and even that figure can be negotiated down. Gone is the emphasis on adaptive reuse and local creativity. In its place: glass towers, corporate R&D, and a developer-led master plan – positioned as a hub for climate-focused and so-called tough-tech enterprises.

And the timing is curious: commercial real estate is still facing headwinds, and even as climate-focused enterprises gain urgency, public and private investment in tough-tech continues to retrench.

The developer is seeking a tailor-made zoning overlay that would sidestep many of the public review mechanisms that typically apply to developments of this scale. It would enshrine the developer's preferences into the city's zoning code—without offering a detailed final plan. And once granted, this zoning relief isn't easily undone.

With their real estate value dramatically increased by the upzoning, the developer could revise the project or sell it altogether. The city loses its leverage the moment it rewrites the rules.

### When Housing Means Hotels

One provision deserves special attention. The proposed ordinance reclassifies “lodging” – think hotels and motels—as residential housing. That language matters. Under the Massachusetts Housing Choice Act, zoning amendments that include residential uses can pass with a simple majority – just six of eleven City Council votes – instead of the two-thirds supermajority typically required. The inclusion of lodging as residential housing in this overlay triggers that threshold. The result is a faster, quieter path to approval for a project that will reshape an entire section of the city – without the kind of consensus-building or scrutiny that similar efforts once demanded and without requiring the developer to build a single residential housing unit.

### Growth Deserves a Public Mandate

Concerns about this approach – and the project more broadly – have been voiced by the city's own appointed experts. In an August 2024 letter to the Planning Board and City Council, the Somerville Urban Design Commission, a panel of design professionals, warned that the plan prioritizes building mass over open space, pushes public areas to the margins, and risks establishing a new precedent for density in the Somerville Avenue corridor—all without sufficient public debate. Their concerns are not abstract; they speak directly to how we build community, share space, and de-

termine who benefits when the rules are rewritten.

The City Council and Planning Board will ultimately decide whether this zoning amendment moves forward. While the Union Square Neighborhood Council – an all-volunteer group recognized by the city – has worked in good faith to represent community concerns, it does not have the political power or legal authority to shape zoning outcomes. Its role is limited to negotiating Community Benefit Agreements, which offer some mitigation but do not address the deeper structural questions at play – or substitute for a true public mandate.

This isn't a debate about whether Somernova should grow. It's about how it grows – and who gets to shape that future. Somerville doesn't need to rubber-stamp growth to prove it welcomes it. But it does need to honor the public process it worked so hard to build. This proposal asks us to bypass that process in favor of a single, developer-authored vision. If adopted, the new overlay would create ripple effects – in traffic, affordability, civic precedent, and neighborhood identity – for decades.

Before we rewrite the rules for 7.4 acres of Somerville, we should be clear about what's being given up—and by whom. When neighbors are literally asked to move to the back of the room, it's worth asking again:

Who is this for? Are we rewriting zoning to serve Somerville residents—or a developer?

*Michael Carlson is a Somerville resident and former chair of the Somerville Ward 2 Democratic Committee*

## Tufts University Department of Music presents Tufts Alumni Choral Weekend

The Tufts University Department of Music presents Tufts Alumni Choral Weekend at the Perry and Marty Granoff Music Center on Sunday, April 6, at 1:00 p.m.

Tufts Concert Choir and Chamber Singers welcome our choral alumni back to the Distler Performance Hall for a special performance. Jamie Kirsch, director. Concert featuring Tufts Concert Choir, Chamber Singers and Alumni in a special performance of Mozart's Mass in C Minor, KV 427.

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

For more information, please visit [as.tufts.edu/music/musiccenter](https://as.tufts.edu/music/musiccenter) or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617-627-2253.



# 4th Annual Women's History Month Celebration

On March 26, Somernova's 4th Annual Women's History Month Celebration brought the community together to celebrate the incredible achievements of women throughout history. The event was dedicated to honoring the amazing achieve-

ments of women. Attendees enjoyed chill beats, light bites and a Somernova spritz.

The Women's History Month Celebration featured inspirational speeches from Somerville and Massachusetts' community leaders including:

- Mayor of Somerville, Katjana Ballantyne
- Somerville City Council President, Judy Pineda Neufeld
- Massachusetts State Auditor, Diana DiZoglio
- Director of Racial and Social Justice,

City of Somerville, Amanda Nagim-Williams, J.D.

• Somerville Commission for Women, Alex Barbat

• Somerville School Committee Chair, Ilana Krepchin



— Photos courtesy of Somernova

## Three fitness trainers, one inclusive spot CONT. FROM PG 1

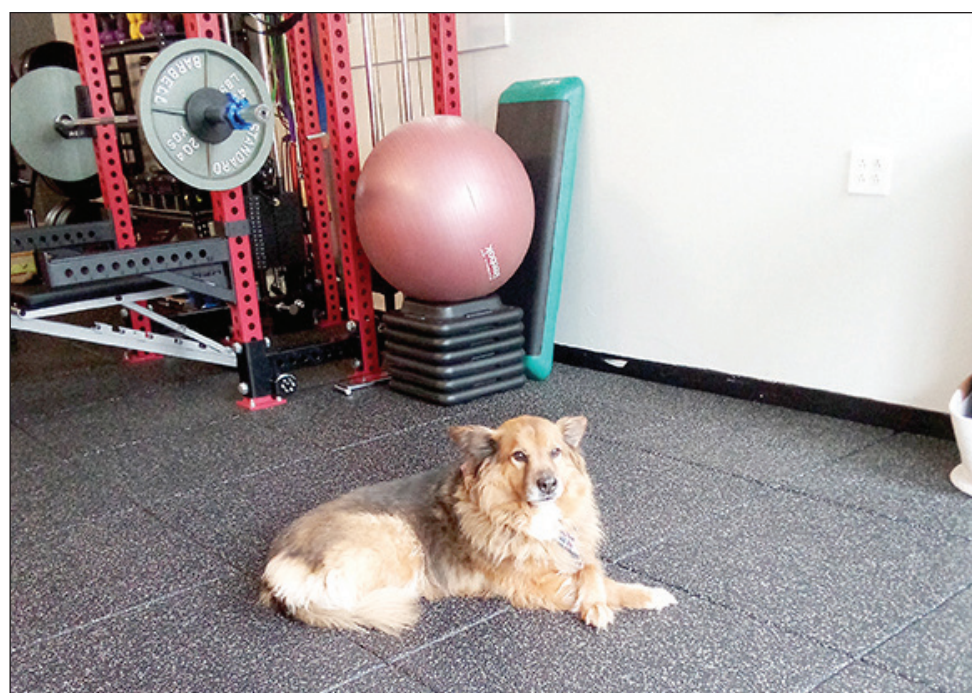
together, when I visited the space. Walsh taught "Strength," a class focused on max strength rather than reps and endurance. Folks were supportive and celebratory, with two-hand high fives being thrown and helpful, engaging instruction.

Much of the discussion, besides chatter about previous workout experience, was "getting to failure," the point at which the muscle group just cannot finish the group of exercises. All while Barli kept a watch on the door and the activities. Walsh said, "That's an ugly five, but good work!" as the group laughed. "I feel good about that," said one of the participants before the clean-up ensued. It's a tight space with the squat racks so it was a group effort to move around benches and equipment.

Three trainers, with three distinct brands, operate in the workable space. Walsh explained, "We all have our own brand. My brand is Expansive Strength & Fitness. The other Shannon has Shannon Wheel Fitness [2]. She focused on women going through life transitions like menopause, pregnancy, and injury. Chloe Zwiacher, who owns Coach Chlo [3], works with chronic pain, chronic fatigue,

hypermobility and neurodivergence. We are all friends and are very supportive of each. We talk about research, talk about a client, about schedule software. It is not a competitive environment. It is important to find like-minded coaches because I want this to be a non-judgmental space. I don't want to hear the whole 'earn your pizza' or 'summer bodies are built in the spring.' We want to stay away from toxic diet culture."

Shannon went further about shaming and negativity about our bodies. "A lot of marketing is about shame – 'your body is not good enough as it is.' We all try to uplift them and help them feel supported. We are not trying to get people through negativity. That positive atmosphere, it engenders a sense of safety. You do not need to be self-conscious. You feel okay coming into a gym, which can be a very scary place for people." She praised Somerville too, which "has a really great fitness community. My friend Hannah has a space at Bow Market, called Soft Space Wellness [4]. She is very wellness-focused. My friend Sean has a space in Teale Square [5]. They really helped me investigate the Somerville



inspections [for licensing]. They helped me choose equipment and deal with the stress of opening a new space. Somerville, this is a really great place to be."

Before we talked, Walsh asked her clients what they liked most about the space. She listed, "the camaraderie, the 'I do not need to be a big muscle man'" and the feeling that folks do not need "to be perfect to

be here."

**Links:**

[1] <https://www.expansivestrength.com/>

[2] <https://www.shannonwheelfitness.com/>

[3] <https://www.instagram.com/the-coachchlo>

[4] <https://www.softspacewellness.com/>

[5] <https://www.built-in-boston.com/>

# Council looks for pay increases tied to cost-of-living

By Jeffrey Shwom

The City Council continues to work on a city ordinance [1] that would increase city councilors, school committee members and the mayor's salary "by the percentage of the most recent annual cost-of-living percentage adjustment received by non-union city personnel."

Critics are concerned that councilors would be giving themselves an automatic annual raise and bypassing a semi-annual advisory board and the city's personnel department recommendations. This would start January 1, 2026, when the next elected city council convenes to avoid councilors setting their own salaries. In 2025, the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is 2.5% and if that were the case next year, a city councilor would see their salary go from \$40,000 to \$41,000. The mayor would go up from \$180,000 to \$184,500.

When asked for the rationale behind the use of automatic COLA, Councilor Ewen responded via text message, "I'm working on a revised draft that we will take up at a future meeting, hopefully in 2 weeks (April 8 finance committee, presumed). Happy to comment once I have new language to submit." When asked further about whether this ordinance could be perceived as a by-

pass to MCAB and public scrutiny, the councilor responded, "Happy to discuss once we have new language."

This comes on the heels of the Finance Committee recommending approval [2] of 250 non-union employees getting updated pay bands and a salary floor of \$65,000 (\$18 per hour), retroactive to January 5, 2025, at a cost of \$922,609. The previous salary floor for the lowest level non-union city employee was \$40,000. As part of this non-union employee conversation, the city received recommendations from the Municipal Compensation Advisory Board (MCAB) [3], which is convened every even year to evaluate compensation and allowances for certain city workers.

Overall, MCAB recommended no changes to salary of city councilors, school committee members and the mayor, based on documents received by The Times and received by City Councilors in January. For example, analysis showed that City Councilor compensation (\$40,000) is already significantly higher than the average of area municipalities (\$25,000). And based on the number of hours city councilors serve (approximately 600 hours total per year), their salary equated to \$67 an hour.

There has been frustration aired by other councilors as well about the lack of input they have. Per March 11 meeting



notes, "[Human Resource] Director Gill shared that the Municipal Compensation Advisory Board is planning to meet to discuss the topic of automated future increases for council salaries." On March 25, Councilor J.T. Scott further asked that given the last time this process hap-

pened, no city councilor had been asked for input. He was curious as to whether Anne Gill, Director of Human Resources, would engage any member of the city councilor before giving another set of recommendations. Ms. Gill stated, "we really have not discussed that quite yet."

## Links:

[1] <https://somervillema.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7157969&GUID=E2662096-2AE1-48CE-BD82-8BFBD9D452DA&Options=&Search=>

[2] <https://somervillema.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7257928&GUID=FD28A2BE-C180-4D53-B263-B7B657BDC4D5&Options=&Search=>

[3] <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/municipal-compensation-advisory-board#:~:text=Consisting%20of%20five%20members%2C%20three,subject%20to%20the%20approval%20of>

## Voting now open for Somerville's second cycle of participatory budgeting

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne invites all Somerville residents ages 12 and older to vote in the city's second cycle of Participatory Budgeting. Voting is open now through April 30 and residents will help decide how to invest \$1 million in community-generated projects to improve Somerville. Participatory Budgeting is about putting decision-making power directly in the hands of our community, and unsurprisingly, our residents have stepped up once again with vision and passion," said Mayor Ballantyne. "I'm energized not only by the ideas themselves but by the continued dedication of our budget delegates and city staff, who worked so thoughtfully to shape this year's ballot. I encourage every eligible resident to vote and help make their favorite proposals a reality."

Residents submitted over 700 ideas for Cycle 2. A team of volunteer budget delegates then worked closely with City staff to evaluate and refine the ideas based on feasibility, cost, impact, and community need. The final ballot features 20 project proposals across themes like pedestrian safety, youth programming, environmental resilience, public art, civic engagement, and more.

### 2025 Participatory Budgeting Ballot Highlights

To learn more about each proposal, including cost and location, visit [somervillema.gov/pb](https://somervillema.gov/pb). Highlights include:

- Safe Crossings for Kids – Traffic calming around schools and playgrounds
- More Bluebikes Stations – Three new stations with bikes in high-need areas
- Public Community Compost Pilot – Accessible, rodent-safe compost drop-offs
- SomerStories Murals – Community-centered murals celebrating local stories
- Bus Access for All
- Upgrading bus stops to be ADA-accessible
- Voting in the 'Ville
- New designs for "I Voted" stickers, plus civic engagement outreach
- Bike Network Guarantee
- One mile of separated bike lanes aligned with the city's Bicycle Network Plan
- Boost Somerville's Nutrition Security Network
- Expanded cold storage and food distribution
- Pollinator Gardens
- Native flora planted across parks to support pollinators
- Outsmart Somerville Rats! – More SMART boxes and rodent education efforts

### How to Vote

Somerville residents can rank their top five favorite ideas. The projects with the most votes will be funded until the \$1 million is allocated. Results will be announced later this spring, and project implementation will begin shortly thereafter.

**Vote Online:** Visit [somervillema.gov/pb](https://somervillema.gov/pb) or scan the QR code on Participatory Budgeting materials.

**Vote by Phone:** Call 311 (or 617-666-3311)

**Vote In Person:** Fill out a paper ballot at any Somerville Public Library branch or at City Hall.



**Somerville Fair Housing Commission**  
*Question of the week*

**Q:** I hear that April is Fair Housing Month. Why, and what does that mean?

**A:** In April, we come together as a community and a nation to celebrate the anniversary of the passing of the Fair Housing Act and recommit to that goal which inspired us in the aftermath of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's assassination in 1968: to eliminate housing discrimination and create equal opportunity in every community..

*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.*

## Somerville teens after hours program at YMCA

Fridays and Sundays. Somerville High School students, with SHS IDs, are invited to the Somerville YMCA on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. for free activities.

The program is open to students 14 to 17 years old. Any changes to the schedule or program will be posted on their website.

Visit the YMCA website to learn more and register: <https://somervilleymca.org/news/somerville-teens-after-hours/>



## Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Landscaping for a small front yard... — Photo by Denise Provost

### BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Did you hear about the guy who invented Lifesavers?  
He made a mint!

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

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

## On This Day in History

### April 2

- 1792 – The United States authorizes the minting of the \$10 Eagle, \$5 half-Eagle and 2.50 quarter-Eagle gold coins, the silver dollar, dollar, quarter, dime and half-dime.
- 1865 – Confederate President Jefferson Davis flees Richmond, Virginia as Grant breaks Lee's line at Petersburg.
- 1910 – Karl Harris perfects the process for the artificial synthesis of rubber.
- 1917 – Jeannette Pickering Rankin is sworn in as the first woman to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- 1931 – Virne "Jackie" Mitchell becomes the first woman to play for an all-male pro baseball team.
- 1932 – Charles Lindbergh pays over \$50,000 ransom for his kidnapped son.
- 1958 – The National Advisory Council on Aeronautics is renamed NASA.
- 1963 – Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King begins the first non-violent campaign in Birmingham, Alabama.
- 1982 – Argentina invades the British-owned Falkland Islands.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

and non-binary individuals (ages 14–70+). Participants from all movement backgrounds are welcome – whether you’re a parkour practitioner, athlete, movement enthusiast, or simply interested in joining a vibrant, diverse community of healthy, fit, and mobile movers. The event is open to all abilities and fitness levels, whether you’re an absolute beginner or a seasoned pro, there’s a space for you.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Don't miss the **SPS In-Person Recruitment Fair, April 8, 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. East Somerville Community School Gymnasium, 50 Cross St, Somerville, MA 02145** Meet staff and learn more about our district. Everyone is welcome. No registration needed. <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/jobfair>.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Massachusetts has a **thriving zine scene**, and you're invited to check out as many zine libraries in the Greater Boston area as you can. During the month of April, complete your **Zine Library Crawl passport** for the opportunity to win prizes. Zine Library Crawl passports are available at participating libraries. The Zine Crawl takes place **throughout the month of April**, all day, at the **Central Library, East Branch, and West Branch**. No registration required. Questions? Contact **Tim: tdevin@somervillema.gov**.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 The **Somerville Arts Council** in conjunction with the **City of Somerville's Public Space and Urban Forestry Division** is seeking an **experienced working metal artist** for a public art project to design and build an entry gate for the **Glen Park Community Garden** on Franklin Street. Download call here <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/>.

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
 On **April 10 at 7:30 p.m.**, Somerville's **Fair Housing Commission, Department of Racial and Social Justice, and Somerville Public Library** invite you to a film screening of **Segregated by Design** followed by a panel discussion of fair housing and discrimination with local experts. Food and drinks will be provided. Registration is required: <https://somervillepubliclibrary.org>.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Summer is coming! Check out the city's **summer programming** by visiting [tinyurl.com/sville2025summer](http://tinyurl.com/sville2025summer) today.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**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.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 On **Friday, April 25, GLOWBALL** will transform the Armory Performance Hall into an immersive **Glow-in-the-Dark Rave** created by DJ Adam Gibbons with hypnotic visuals by Jay Medina, all in support of **The Center for Arts at the Armory**. GLOWBALL is an anti-gala. There will be no speeches, formal presentations or auction. There will be pop-up performances by **Samba Viva** and **Sidy Maiga** on djembe. This year's honorees: **Rachel Strutt**, Lifetime Achievement

Award; **Clay Fernald**, Community Arts Advocate; and **Nelson Salazar**, Outstanding Artist. GLOWBALL tickets include complimentary international bites, glow-in-the-dark accessories and face painting by **Arty Mari**. This will surely be Somerville's most illuminating party of 2025. <https://artsatthearmory.org/glowball/>.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**The Somerville Arts Council's ArtBeat 2025 Calls for Talent** are now available. The Somerville Arts Council invites musicians, street performers, circus artists, installation artists, buskers, craft vendors, and more to participate at ArtBeat 2025. Festival date and new time: **Saturday, July 19, 1 – 9 p.m.** (Rain date: Sunday, July 20), Davis Square, Somerville.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**The Mudflat Cup Show 2025**. National juried show by **Kyle Scott Lee**. If you are interested in purchasing any of the cups, please email [kate@mudflat.org](mailto:kate@mudflat.org) with your inquiry. Visit <https://www.mudflat.org/projects-8> to view..

\*\*\*\*\*  
**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**.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**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.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Community Health Worker Division Hours** are held **every other Thursday** at **Connexion** (149 Broadway, Somerville, MA) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. They will provide hygiene kits, snacks, and referrals to internal and external partners for the following services: ESL, Housing, SHC, SNAP and MassHealth. Next hours will be held on **Thursday, April 3**.

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
 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://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://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 deliveries. Meal recipients can choose which weekday they would like to receive the frozen meals, with up to five meals in each bulk delivery. Each meal comes with bread, milk, and a dessert. Current SCES clients who are interested in receiving meals should call their office at 617-628-2601 or contact their case manager for more information.

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Somerville High School students** are invited to bring their SHS ID to the **Somerville YMCA** on **Fridays** from 7 to 9 p.m. and **Sundays** from 2 to 4 p.m. for free. There are free movie nights. On Sundays, students will have access to the basketball and exercise areas (including the weight room). Visit their website to learn more. <https://somervilleymca.org/news/somerville-teens-> *Continued on page 23*



## OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

## A Conversation with poet Jean Flanagan about the anthology 'The Silver Note: Poets of Arlington, Massachusetts'

Recently, the Ibbetson Street Press of Somerville, MA, published an anthology of Arlington Poets, titled *The Silver Note: Poets of Arlington, Massachusetts*. I spoke with one of the editors of this book, Jean Flanagan. Flanagan is the poet laureate of Arlington, MA, and is an accomplished poet and publisher.

**Doug Holder:** Do you think Arlington has been overlooked as a historic city, and a city of poets? If so, do you think this anthology in some way addresses that?

**Jean Flanagan:** Arlington is equally as important as Concord and Lexington to the American Revolution. The Battle of Menotomy was fought on what is now Massachusetts Avenue, the main street, in Arlington. The British were retreating to Boston and Patriot soldiers were converging along the road from neighboring towns. It was a running battle, where guerilla-like warfare behind trees, rock walls and houses, by the Colonials, and multiple flanking movements by the British, led to the high casualties in the day of battle.

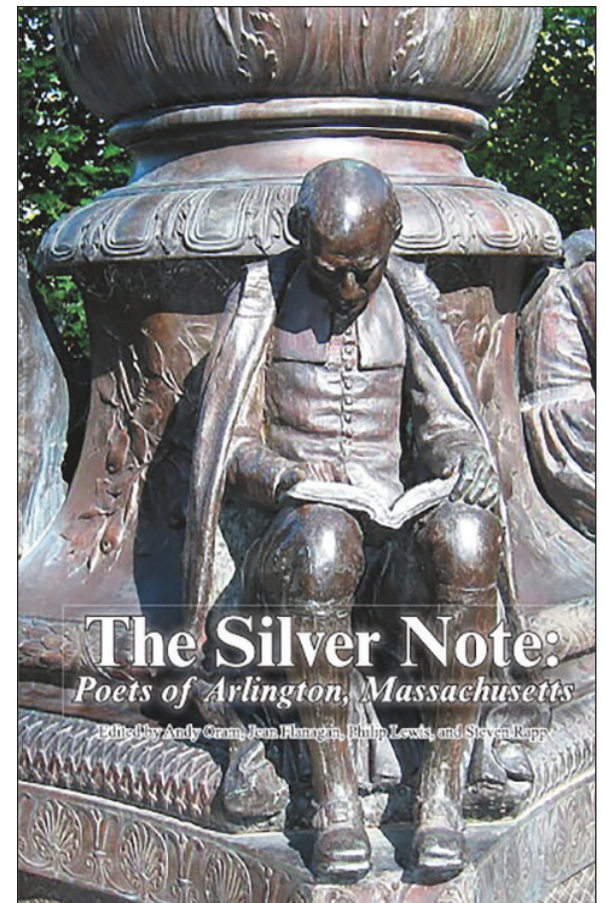
At the historic Jason Russell House, near the center of Arlington, 11 Colonials and 2 British soldiers were killed, one of the bloodiest encounters of the day of fighting.

The Arlington 250 will highlight Arlington as both an historic town, as well as a wonderful place to live, work and write poetry. The anthology addresses Arlington as a city of poets. The poets here have written poems about Spy Pond, the Reservoir, Menotomy Park, the Meadows, the Bike Path, Jason Russell House and other sites in town. The cover of the anthology is a photo of the Flagstaff, a sculpture by Cyrus Dallin.

**DH:** The anthology was edited by the poets Andy Oram, Philip Lewis and Steven Rapp. How was this collaboration? What were the criteria for poems to be published in this anthology?

**JF:** Led by Andy Oram, we worked well as a collaborative team. Each of us were assigned a group of poems and worked with the authors to prepare them for publication. Andy particularly focused on some of the historical selections. We also incorporated photos from some of the authors into the anthology. We worked closely with Steve Glines at Ibbetson Press, who kept us informed and cognizant about meeting deadlines.

As a group, we decided to take at least one poem from every poet. Poets could submit up to three po-



ems. We felt strongly that we wanted to be inclusive and to encourage town poets, no matter the level, to express themselves and to participate in a completed published product. I didn't want to say to anyone you are not a poet. My job as poet laureate is to engage an interest in poetry throughout the town which includes reading, writing, studying with other poets, and a ton of hard work.

**DH:** Spy Pond, among other locations, is a source of inspiration for some of the poems. What do you think this body of water evokes in poets? There seems to be something seminal about it.

**JF:** Spy Pond was formed more than 10,000 - 15,000 years ago when the Wisconsin Glaciers retreated and melted in New England. In 1960, a tusk of a 43,000 Woolly Mastodon was fished out of the pond. It is an ancient place that precedes any human habitation. In the 19th century, ice from Spy Pond was shipped around the world from its waters. Spy Pond still invokes many emotions whether it be the peace you feel walking around the pond, paddling a canoe or watching the fireworks on Town Day. The opportunity to write about nature, the birds that sweep in, the swans and ducks and

Continued on page 23

# Lyrical

## SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Emily (Pineau) Lacey's poetry has appeared in *The Bluebird Word*, *The Raven's Perch*, *Evening Street Review*, and elsewhere. She holds an MFA in creative writing from Solstice's MFA program at Pine Manor College.



### She Needs to Know

blue jay still on branch,

doesn't notice how stunning she is against

all the white.

She's safe from the chill,

less bird and more feather ball.

No need to think

about ice or snow

when your body is prepared.

She looks around like she's curious,

but she knows everything she needs

to know—

she calls out

anyway, waits for an answer.

— Emily (Pineau) Lacey

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

Doug Holder, 25 School St.; Somerville, MA 02143. [dougholder@post.harvard.edu](mailto:dougholder@post.harvard.edu)

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

after-hours/. Somerville YMCA asks that students go to their website to register before visiting. This program is for ages 14 to 17 years.

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Reminder: Return your 2025 City of Somerville census.** Last month, Somerville's 2025 census made its way to resident mailboxes. Annual participation in the census is essential for keeping an accurate population count and it updates or maintains your status as an active voter for up-coming elections. The 2025 census form also includes an application to vote by mail in Somerville's preliminary and city elections this year. Completed census forms can be returned via the postage-paid return envelope included in the mailing, by scanning the form and emailing it to [census@somervillema.gov](mailto:census@somervillema.gov), or in person at **City Hall** (93 Highland Ave.). Please call 311 (617-666-3311) with any questions.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Winter Farmers Market** is back at the **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. on **Saturdays**, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. **from November 2 to April 12.** The Center for the Arts at the Armory is proud to offer a weekly winter market with 71+ local food vendors with the best locally grown and regionally produced foods, including fresh produce, cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, tamales, pastries, chocolate, skincare products, and more. The market accepts SNAP/EBT and HIP benefits. They also offer a \$15 SNAP match to customers each week. More info is available on their website: <https://www.somwintermarket.org/>.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Through the generosity of the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**, and from the direction of **Mayor Ballantyne**, the

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Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

the places like Spy Pond is fodder for a poem. It also helps citizens get in touch with rhythms that transcend its suburban present back to of ancient days.

**DH:** Hemingway once wrote that the suburbs are a "land of broad lawns and narrow minds." But it seems here that the minds here are broad. Do you think there is a prejudice against suburban poets? The suburbs are sometimes viewed as a limbo, between vibrant cities, and rural areas, but one can write poetry anyplace.

**JF:** A poet can write a poem anywhere about anything. The suburbs are full of people with open minds who might work in the city all week and want the peace of walking the bike path or the Reservoir on a warm sunny weekend. Arlington is just as vibrant as a big city. There are gardens, fine eclectic restaurants, lively pubs and taverns and busy coffee shops. You can walk to many places and the MBTA buses run from Harvard Square to the Lexington Line. There's a stunning library and beautiful stone churches. Most of all, Arlington is a community made up of wonderful people (and families) from all over the world. Poets who come to Arlington also bring with them their own dreams histories, memories and journeys. All of these are deep depositories for new poems.

**DH:** I noticed that Steve Ratiner, the president of the New England Poetry Club had a poem in this collection. From a quick view I can see a number of NEPC people in this collection. Do you have close ties with the club?

**JF:** I have been a member of the New England Poetry Club for close to 50 years. I have known several of the past presidents. Mary Buchinger Bodwell and Hilary Sallick were the first readers at our New Book and Open Mic series that takes place the third Tuesday of the month at the Robbins Library. Helping Steven Rapp organize the series is part of my duties at Poet Laureate.

I met Steven Ratiner at a reading at the Open Studios of the Arlington Center for the Arts 35 plus years ago. Steven and I now organize the Red Letter Live readings

that evolved from many years of readings we organized to celebrate Arlington Center for the Arts Open Studios.

**DH:** The press that published this collection, the Ibbetson Street Press (that I founded with Dianne Robitaille and Richard Wilhelm) shares the same name as an early book of yours. What is it about this non-descript street in Somerville that inspired you? I lived on Ibbetson Street, and I found the name had a sense of music and poetry to it.

**JF:** My deceased husband was from Somerville. His parents were immigrants from Ireland. My mother-in-law's family used to visit their friends and family at a home on Ibbetson Street. I became close friends with one of my husband's cousins who related the stories that were told in the house on Ibbetson Street to me. The stories touched my soul and sparked my imagination. Ibbetson Street is a special place for me.

**Kathleen Scott Molds a Statue of Her Husband Robert**

Diary entry by Kathleen Scott on Feb. 18, 1912, "I was very taken up with you all evening. I wonder if anything special is happening to you. Something odd happened to the clocks and watches between 9 and 10 p.m."

I started a sculpture of you.  
 Clay hard and dark, thick as ice  
 I pounded, molded and pinched  
 Until your face began to appear  
 Gray as a snowy sky.

I felt a devastating cold.  
 The night our clocks stopped.  
 I worked to give you  
 Strong thighs to keep you  
 On your feet  
 Doubled your clothing

Closed your hand  
 Around a compass.

Cast in bronze your statue stands  
 For you  
 Who did not make it home.

— Jean Flanagan

*\*Previously Published in The Power of the Feminine I – Poems from the feminine perspective Volume 1 – 2024.*

**By the Sea at Eyeries**

Beyond the sea wall  
 all that remains of the fishermen  
 lost at sea  
 are remnants of their nets  
 blue, green, and red  
 and one orange plastic glove.

That morning as the sky started to darken  
 and the wind smacked against my windows  
 I searched for Jim's boat entering the bay.  
 When the clouds finally began to clear away  
 I cried with the others  
 by the water's edge  
 and pressed purple crystal rosaries  
 between my fingers and thumb  
 until they broke  
 and fell  
 one by one  
 into the rocky crags.

— Jean Flanagan

*\*Published in Muddy River Review – 2011.*

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