



Inside:



Graduation day 1971

page 3



Join the circus

page 13



Full Circle graduation

page 15

'Homans Lot' to become outdoor community space



The City of Somerville is teaming up with CultureHouse to create an outdoor community space at the former "Homan's Lot."

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is announcing a partnership with CultureHouse to transform 350 Medford Street in Gilman Square, known colloquially as the "Homans Lot," into a dynamic outdoor community space called "Gilman Park" from June through September 2024. This initiative will bring a vibrant, inclusive gathering space to life, fostering connections among residents, local organizations, and businesses.

"This summer we are bringing the Homans Lot to life with the energy and creativity of our community," said Mayor Ballantyne. "We are so excited to partner with CultureHouse to bring vibrant, creative activities to the heart of Gilman Square. This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to tap into CultureHouse's deep knowledge of Somerville's cultural ecosystem to enhance our public spaces and foster a stronger sense of community." *Continued on page 4*

Linda Marks to debut 'Sanctuary' project at The Burren

In a frenzied world with a dire shortage of optimism, Linda Marks is eager to share her recipe for hope. The concept of sparking optimism the world over is more than a platitude for the Boston-area singer, songwriter, and instrumentalist, whose compassion and tenderness shines throughout her latest record, *A Recipe For Hope*.

Marks will celebrate the record's release with a June 23 performance at The Burren in Somerville. The show doubles as the premiere of her *Sanctuary* music video, which interweaves the firsthand accounts of domestic violence survivors with Marks' gentle lyricism.

Marks' band includes virtuosic Memphis-based violinist Alice Hasen (who will open the show with Will Gatlin on guitar), and Doug Hammer, who will alternate with Marks on *Continued on page 4*



Linda Marks shares "A Recipe For Hope" on June 23, 3:30 p.m., at The Burren, 247 Elm St., Somerville. — Photo by Ellen Snyder

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

The Somerville High School Athletics Department invites community members to attend a dedication ceremony for Kevin Raymond on Thursday, June 13, at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.) at 3:00 p.m. A bench in front of SHS will be dedicated to Kevin at the ceremony. Light refreshments will be served inside the high school following the ceremony. For any questions, please reach out to Nicole Viele, Supervisor for Health and Physical Education, at nviele@k12.somerville.ma.us.

FY25 Budget Hearings continue the next meeting will be Monday, June 17. Cut night is Tuesday, June 18. You can view the meeting live and find meeting materials at the following link: <https://somervillema.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Join the city's Mobility Division and the Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee to learn the basics of urban biking, map out your commuter route, and join a group ride. Ownership of a bike is not required – free BlueBike codes will be available. This event will be held on Thursday, June 13, at the Somerville Public Library Central Branch (79 Highland Ave.) from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Register here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4lqAOaxl_HH4vOEoSr3lMeCL81k2Ld-beDrIG_JN5lt4ozg/viewform?usp=sf_link Link can also be found on the city's website.

Celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

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

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday June 12	Partly Cloudy	79°/62°	23%	17%	SE 9 mph
Thursday June 13	Sunny	84°/68°	5%	2%	S 12 mph
Friday June 14	Thunderstorms	55°/62°	75%	66%	SW 13 mph
Saturday June 15	Sunny	78°/55°	10%	6%	NNW 9 mph
Sunday June 16	Partly Cloudy	77°/62°	2%	1%	N 10 mph
Monday June 17	Partly Cloudy	84°/66°	8%	3%	SW 14 mph
Tuesday June 18	Partly Cloudy	90°/70°	10%	5%	SW 10 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: *Obituary: Stanley M. Koty, III*

Dana J Gordon says:

So sad to hear this. Sending much love and prayers to you all!

Response to: *Summer of '24*

Mike Bonanno says:

I worked Revere Beach at the Dodgem Cars back in the day. I may make an appearance on Old Orchard Beach myself this summer.

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

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Arrow Paper Fire 50th anniversary

June 10, 2024 marked the 50th anniversary of the tragic Arrow Paper Fire where Firefighters Joseph Reilly and Robert Brickley lost their lives.

You can read more about them at <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/132954>.

— Photo by Bobbie Toner

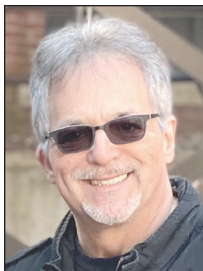


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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

Graduation day 1971



I graduated from Somerville high school in 1971. Graduation day was an epic time. Me and my best friend Charlie walked from Ball Square all the way to Dilboy Stadium.

Things were different back then so we got buzzed while we walked.

We entered the packed stadium and sat in our designated seats. I said a quick hello to my parents who were in the au-

dience. On stage were the principal and vice principal to pass out the diplomas. Of course, they passed them out in alphabetical order. As soon as they got around to the D's I got anxious. But it soon turned to anxiety when they passed over my name. All I could think of was the horror going through my parents' mind. They probably said "I knew he wasn't going to graduate!"

I was known as a rebel rouser in high school. I was at the hippie brewing through. I was at the helm of the walkouts for the dress code in for no heat and they



knew my face and they knew me. I figured this was a good way of them getting back at me for being a troublemaker in my three years at the high school.

My mother and father had to sit through the entire alphabet. When they finally got through the W's I was ready to slap someone silly. As soon as they got through the rest of the students' names, they called my name last I stormed up to the stage and ripped the diploma out of the vice principal's hand. I gave them the

proper thank you with an Italian swear! (it rhymes with Kung Fu)

I had a lot of fun at Somerville High. I was in almost every music class that they had to offer with fantastic teachers such as Mrs. Mary Carafotes, Andy Smith and Connie Limberakis.

Despite the lackluster graduation ceremony, my high school years were full of bell bottoms, long hair and peace signs.

Oh, one more thing. My last name was spelled wrong on my diploma.



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Somerville Police Dept Crime Log May 28 – June 3

Assault

On 5/30/24 at approximately 7:23 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Sydney St. for report of a fight involving a gun. During the fight, one of the males brandished a silver handgun then they both fled the area. One male fled down Sydney St. on foot while the other male fled down Taylor St. on a bike. Officers canvassed the scene and located two live rounds of 9mm ammunition and a cardboard box with blood droplets on it.

Commercial Breaking and Entering

On 5/30/24 at approximately 6:22 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a building on McGrath Hwy. for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the property manager who stated someone had slept there overnight and left several belongings behind. The property manager observed a male party leaving the property toward the train tracks.

Residential Breaking and Entering

On 5/31/24 at approximately 6:23 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Sewall St. for a report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated medication was stolen from her room.

Arrest

On 5/29/24 at approximately 1:24 p.m., Somerville Police responded to 165 Broadway for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was attacked by a male with a knife. The victim suffered an injury to his chin. Officers then located the male suspect nearby and recovered a screwdriver from his possession. He was then placed under arrest.



— Somerville Police Dept.

'Homans Lot' to become outdoor community space CONT. FROM PG 1

Since City Hall is right next door to this fantastic community space, I'm looking forward to visiting throughout the summer."

Gilman Park aims to be a central hub for community engagement, providing a hangout spot for residents and a platform for local businesses, artists, and creatives to showcase their talents and offerings. The primary goals of this activation are to reconnect Gilman Square with the rest of Somerville, support the area's vibrancy, and explore potential future uses for vacant sites throughout the city.

The city and CultureHouse will collaborate closely with residents, local business owners, institutions, artists, and creatives

in and around Gilman Square to curate a diverse and engaging lineup of events and activities. This includes partnerships with non-profit organizations and businesses to deliver programming that will captivate and benefit the community.

"Revitalizing and transforming underutilized spaces into places for gathering that uplift and strengthen communities is at the core of what we do," said Aaron Greiner, Executive Director at CultureHouse. "And the Gilman Square project is extra special for us as Somerville has been CultureHouse's home base since its founding in 2018. We have built long-term relationships with the community and

understand firsthand the critical need for this outdoor space. We're excited for all the unique, fun, and diverse programming our partners will bring to the space and hope to help inform a long-term vision for using the site and other underutilized public spaces in Somerville."

Gilman Park will be opening on Saturday, June 15, with an opening party that will include a beer garden by Winter Hill Brewing Company, food vendors, a vintage market, and lawn games. A calendar of programming will be updated throughout the summer at culturehouse.cc/projects/gilman-park/.

Funding is available to compensate programming partners

who contribute to making Gilman Park a vibrant and engaging space. Interested parties can find more information about programming opportunities and application details at the following link: [Programming Information and Application](https://culturehouse.cc/projects/gilman-park/).

About CultureHouse

CultureHouse is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving livability in local communities by transforming unused spaces into vibrant social infrastructure. They create lasting change through community engagement, building designs, operating experimental pop-up spaces, and impact reports detailing the project's next steps. Learn more at culturehouse.cc/

projects/gilman-park/ City of Somerville's Gilman Square Plan Implementation

The Gilman Square Station Area Plan, released in 2014, identified the Homans Lot as one of several lots that could be better activated to serve the Gilman Square neighborhood. The city works with the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council on implementation of several aspects of the plan. In 2021, the city also convened the Gilman Square City Redevelopment Parcels Civic Advisory Committee (CAC) to specifically provide insight into the use and development of City-owned parcels, focusing primarily on the Homans lot.

Linda Marks to debut 'Sanctuary' project at The Burren CONT. FROM PG 1

piano, Doug Rich on bass, David Jackson on guitar, and Willie Sordillo on saxophone.

During the performance, Marks will debut a collaborative music video for Sanctuary that features images from local nonprofits Casa Myrna and RESPOND Inc. These visuals – gifted and used with permission – emphasize that domestic violence "transcends all boundaries: age, race, gender, so-

cioeconomic background, and geography," as Marks reflects. Both RESPOND, Inc and Casa Myrna contributed stories from survivors that led to the lyrics for "Sanctuary." The video premiere is the first in a series of events between June and October comprising Marks' Sanctuary project.

As a beacon of light for abuse survivors, Sanctuary presents a key component of Marks' vision

for a more tender and understanding world. But domestic violence is only one of the global issues that Marks confronts in her recent work; songs addressing the devastation caused by wars, the looming threat of gun violence, and the value of mental health are all key ingredients in Marks' recipe.

The Sanctuary project rollout begins with the June 23 release show at The Burren, followed by

the release of a global version of Sanctuary on August 23.

In addition to Marks' work as a singer and lyricist, the global version of the track features seven more performers from around the world, tapping peers from Greece, India, Israel, Germany, and the U.S. to provide instrumentals and vocals that deliver Marks' far-reaching message.

The rollout continues in the

fall, when Marks will host a September 15 benefit show for Casa Myrna and RESPOND Inc. at One Broadway Collaborative in Lawrence. The project culminates with a live streamed performance of Sanctuary on October 1 in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

For tickets: <https://tickets.24hourmusic.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=1353>.

Food For Free awarded grant from The Greater Boston Food Bank

Food For Free, the leading food rescue and distribution nonprofit dedicated to providing reliable access to fresh and nutritious food to Eastern Massachusetts communities, has received a \$34,000 grant from The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB).

The Community Investment Grant will support the Somerville and Cambridge based nonprofit's year-round efforts to improve local food systems, bolstering GBFB's network of food distribution agencies and advancing hunger-relief efforts across the region.

The annual grant program, originally founded in 2013, has now been investing in GBFB partner agencies for over a decade. This investment aims to strengthen Food For Free's ability to rescue food that would otherwise go to waste and create new distribution channels to reach underserved populations. The grant will be used to fund the purchase of a 2020 Isuzu box truck, which will further the nonprofit's ability to transport fresh and prepared food to the organization's more than 150 community partners serving residents struggling with enough to eat.

A GBFB partner, Food For Free acquires rescued, donated, and purchased food from a number of sources to meet the increased demand to ensure everyone in the community – regardless of age, income, or ability – has consistent access to nutrition.

Founded in 1981 as one of the nation's first food rescue organizations, Food For Free now serves more than 150,000 Massachusetts residents who are food insecure and distributes over 6.2 million pounds of nutritious fresh and prepared foods annually.

"This truck will be an asset to our food rescue and distribution efforts for years to come," says Tim Cavaretta, Director

of Operations at Food For Free. "We are so grateful for The Greater Boston Food Bank's investment in our longstanding partnership and shared mission to increase access to healthy foods in the communities we serve."

This grant coincides with GBFB's fourth annual report on food insecurity, equity, and access in Massachusetts. The 2024 study, "Food Equity and Access in Massachusetts: Voices and Solutions from Lived Experience," reveals consistently high rates of food insecurity in the state and sustained disparities in food access for communities of color and households with children.

"Greater Boston Food Network's network of dedicated agency partners continue to inspire us to be innovative in our efforts to address food insecurity across Eastern Massachusetts," says Catherine D'Amato, President and CEO at GBFB. "With sustained inequities in food access across our region, we aim to continue to invest in those communities facing a heightened need for food and drive progress towards hunger relief through strategic grantmaking to our network of agency partners. As the cost of living in our region continues to rise, we look forward to seeing how these funds bolster Food For Free's ability to provide nutritious meals to our neighbors across the region."

About Food For Free:

Food For Free is a Cambridge and Somerville-based non-profit organization dedicated to providing eastern Massachusetts with reliable access to fresh and nutritious food. Food For Free accomplishes its mission through food rescue, partnerships with schools, colleges, and community food programs, and our own direct service programs. In the last year, Food For Free distributed over 6.2



Income-Restricted Units For Rent in Somerville at 205 Beacon St

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and 717-719 Washington St, LLC are pleased to announce 2 income-restricted units for rent through the City of Somerville Inclusionary Housing Program

Unit Information

Address: 205 Beacon Street

Units:

- Unit 102 is a 2 bedroom unit with a monthly rent of \$1,194
- Unit 202 is a 2 bedroom unit with a monthly rent of \$2,090



Watch an informational video about the unit at somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing

Who can apply?

Both units are reserved for households of 2 or more people.* That means... You can apply if all working adults in your household earn less than:

Income Limits		2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people
Unit 102 (Tier R1 - 50% AMI)	Minimum	\$28,665			
	Maximum	\$65,300	\$73,450	\$81,600	\$88,150
Unit 202 (Tier R2 - 80% AMI)	Minimum	\$65,301 -	\$73,451 -	\$81,601 -	\$88,151 -
	Maximum	\$104,200	\$117,250	\$130,250	\$140,700

*Exemptions and restrictions may apply. All the information you need is in the application packet.

How to apply:

The last day to apply is June 26, 2024

Apply online at somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing	To request a paper application Call: (617) 625-6600 X 2566 Email: inclusionary@somervillema.gov	Pick up a paper application at any city building
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Return applications by June 26, 2024

- Fax: 617-591-3235
- Email: inclusionary@somervillema.gov
- Mail or drop off: City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Ave., Somerville, MA 02145

When is the lottery?

There will be a lottery to decide who has the first opportunity to qualify to rent these units on Wednesday, July 3, 2024 on Zoom.



Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact the ADA Coordinator, Adrienne Pomeroy, at 617-625-6600 x2259 or apomeroy@somervillema.gov.



YARD SALE

Household items and lots more!

Saturday and Sunday
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
20 Kensington Ave.



Beacon Hill Roll Call



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

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' votes on roll calls from the week of June 3-7. There were no roll calls in the Senate last week.

\$6.5 BILLION HOUSING PACKAGE (H 4070)

House 145-13, approved and sent to the Senate a bill which supporters said includes \$6.5 billion in bond authorizations, tax credits and several policy initiatives that promote housing production, facilitate the development of affordable housing and preserve public housing in Massachusetts.

Provisions include \$2 billion to support the repair, rehabilitation and modernization of over 43,000 public housing units across Massachusetts; \$200 million to support innovative and alternative forms of rental housing including single person occupancy units, transitional and permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness, housing for seniors and veterans and transitional units for persons recovering from substance use disorder; \$60 million to modify homes of individuals or families with disabilities or seniors so that they may maintain residency or return home from institutional settings; \$20 million to establish a veterans supportive housing program to develop and preserve supportive housing for veterans and their families experiencing homelessness; \$50 million to create a new Healthy Home program to provide grants and loans for programs to make homes habitable; and \$50 million for the acquisition, rehabilitation and sale of distressed properties.

"I'm incredibly proud of the investments included in this bill, which together make the largest investment in affordable and middle-income housing, as well as critical infrastructure related to housing production, in the history of the commonwealth," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "Given that Massachusetts is one of the most expensive states in the entire country to buy a home or rent an apartment, the funding and tax credits provided by this bill will be crucial as we work to ensure that every Massachusetts resident can afford to live here, work here and raise a family here."

"This comprehensive bond bill will help address the commonwealth's undeniable housing crisis," said Rep. Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston), the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee. "By putting billions of capital resources towards constructing new homes and towards rehabilitating our aging public housing infrastructure, we will be making a difference to the thousands of residents who live in these facilities. The policies also contained in this legislation will help incentive housing production, increase affordability options for residents and help alleviate the

pressure on the housing inventory as a whole."

"[This] is the largest housing investment in state history and meets the moment for our state's housing landscape and people struggling with housing availability," said Rep. Jim Arciero (D-Westford), House Chair of the Housing Committee. "Massachusetts is amidst a housing crisis that has affected every corner of our state, from renters to homeowners to first-time homebuyers purchasing their first home looking to set down roots for their family. This comprehensive bill provides tools in the toolbox for our communities including investments in state infrastructure to accommodate the need to replenish our housing stock and build deeply affordable to market rate housing.

Despite repeated requests from Beacon Hill Roll Call, only two of the 13 representatives who voted against the bill responded to our requests asking them to share the reason they voted against it. The two who responded were Reps Bill Driscoll (D-Milton) and David DeCoste (R-Norwell).

"This legislation does not protect our residents from increased rents and further inflated housing costs when it comes to accessory dwelling units (ADUs)," said Driscoll. "As it stands now, if passed by the Senate and signed by the governor, the section on ADUs opens the door to corporate entities and investor-owned properties building ADUs by right and not specifying support for owner occupied and expanded family housing."

DeCoste said he voted against the bill because of a provision that creates the Tenants Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA). The website advocating for TOPA explains that the program would allow cities and towns the local option of providing tenants in multi-family buildings the right to match a third-party offer when their homes are being sold. Tenants can designate their rights to a non-profit or local housing authority, or partner with an affordable housing purchaser.

"TOPA hurts small property owners," said DeCoste. "It will lead to more rental properties being sold to large out of state property holding companies because small property owners cannot overcome the timing obstacles."

The 11 representatives who did not respond to our requests are: Reps. Fred Barrows (R-Mansfield), Nicholas Boldyga (R-Southwick), Angelo D'Emilia (R-Bridgewater), Paul Frost (R-Auburn), Susan Gifford (R-Wareham), Steven Howitt (R-Seekonk), Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica), Norman Orrall (R-Lakeville), David Robertson (D-Tewksbury), Michael Soter (R-Bellingham), Alyson Sullivan (R-Abington)

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

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

WAIVER FROM MBTA COMMUNITIES ACT (H 4077)

House 27-130, rejected an amendment that would waive the requirements of the MBTA Communities Act for cities and towns that have met their Chapter 40B affordable housing threshold. The Chapter 40B law enables local Zoning Boards of Appeals to approve affordable housing developments under flexible rules if at least 20 percent to 25 percent of the units have long-term affordability restrictions.

The MBTA Communities Act, according to the state's website, requires that an MBTA community "must have at least one zoning district of reasonable size in which multi-family housing is permitted as of right and meets other criteria" including minimum gross density of 15 units per acre; and a location not more than 1/2 mile from a commuter rail station, subway station, ferry terminal or bus station. No age restrictions can be applied and the district must be suitable for families with children.

"My amendment would waive the MBTA Communities Act for towns and cities that have met their 40B affordable housing threshold," said amendment sponsor Rep. Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica). "Unfortunately, the majority party defeated the amendment as they don't care about the negative impact that thousands of new housing units will have on suburban communities' infrastructure, education systems and public safety personnel."

Rep. Jim Arciero (D-Westford) said the amendment goes against the spirit of taking up this law for housing production. He noted that the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities has been diligently working throughout the state and thus far over 70 communities are in compliance, another 50 have submitted plans for review, while 11 have been rejected. He argued that with this implementation still moving forward, we need to see it through with this law.

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

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

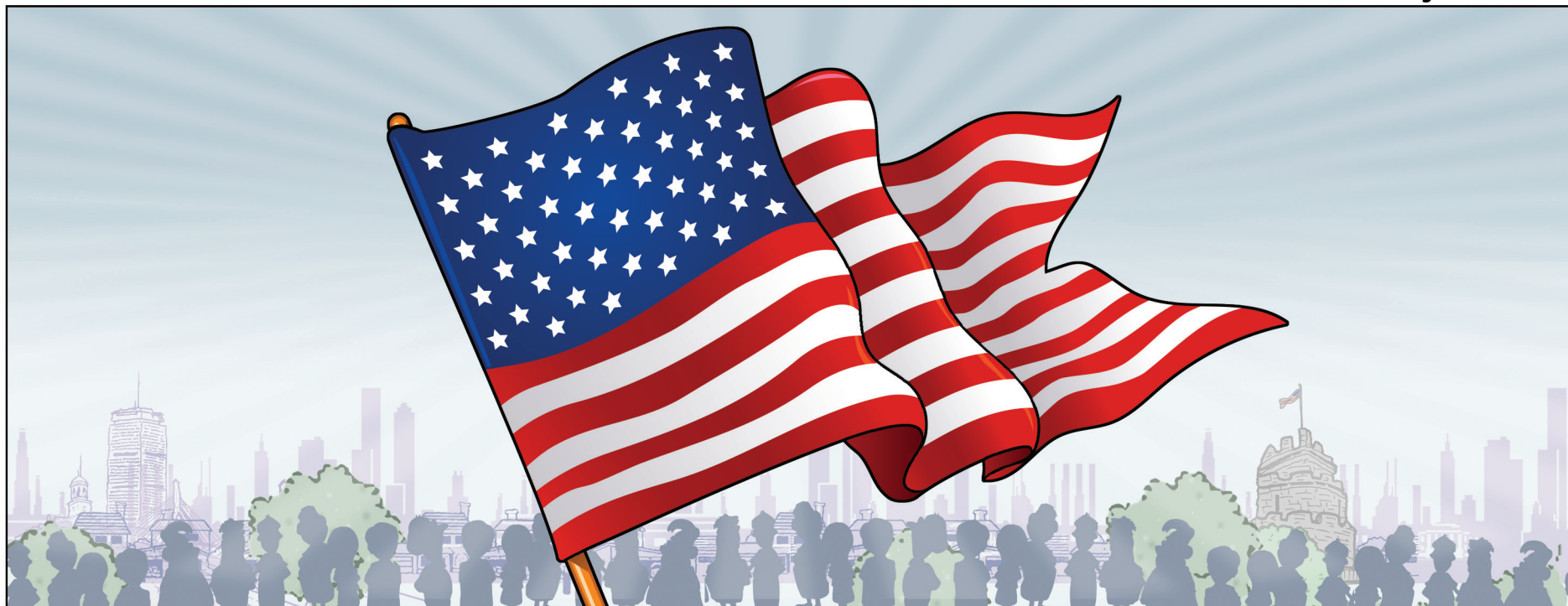
APPEAL MBTA COMMUNITIES ACT (H 4707)

House 32-126, rejected an amendment *Continued on page 12*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville honors the national flag's special day.

Our View Of The Times



You won't get the day off from work or school or grocery shopping or ... anything, really. There'll be no three-day weekend or big picnic to mark the occasion. But for many, the significance of the day will ring loudly in their hearts and minds.

Flag Day is not an official federal or state holiday, but June 14 is the date designated by proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson back in 1916 as a day to official-

ly honor the stars and stripes that we solemnly revere today.

President Harry S. Truman signed a Congressional act into law in 1949 recommending a voluntary observance of Flag Week. This year, Flag Week falls on June 9-15.

Of course, as most locals know, the Colonial Army led by General George Washington was formed on January 1,

1776, and its first flag, The Grand Union Flag, was raised on Prospect Hill in what was then Charlestown, and is now part of Somerville.

Therefore, we can take pride in this special aspect of our civic heritage. As it is with so many other historic events and traditions born in this part of the country, the birth of our nation's colors can be added to the sprawling list of firsts established

by our forebearers.

While some place more importance on this occasion than others, it is an indisputable fact that the flag symbolizes patriotism and love of country. Many fought and died defending the ideology and values it represents. One thing is certain, among other things, it represents unity. Something so precious and fragile, and yet so vital for our very survival.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

birthday to **Steve Mirabella**. We wish him many more. Happy birthday to **Linda Spinosa**, who celebrates this week. We hope she enjoys her day. Happy birthday to former Somerville resident **Gail Chambers**, who is celebrating this week as well. We hope she has a great day. Happy birthday to one of our former writers, **Jack Nicas**. As always, we wish him the best. Happy birthday, Jack, hope you have a great day. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Al Sharpe, Amanda Esteves, Donna Amenta, Stephanie Hirsch, Donna M. Quinn, Shawn M Lynch, Rebekah Gewirtz, Gretchen Ann Graham,**

Martin Janet and Pindi Singh a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Our condolences to the friends and family of **Stanley M. Koty, III**. **Calling Hours** will be held in the **George L. Doherty Funeral Home**, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on **Thursday, June 13** from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A **Funeral Mass** for Chip will be celebrated in **St. Clement Church**, Somerville, **Friday morning June 14**, at 10:30 a.m. Relatives and friends please meet at Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Chip's memory can be made to: **Herren Project**, P.O. Box 131, Portsmouth RI, 02871. Full obituary can be found here: <https://www.dohertyfuneralservice.com/>.

Festa Junina: Brazilian Harvest Festival takes place this **Saturday, June 15**. Festa Junina is a traditional harvest celebration in Brazil. This **Growing Center** event will include craft stations (root printing, lantern making, making dance accessories), participatory **Quadilha** dancing, traditional foods and music by **Trio Let's Vamos**. It will also feature numerous **Kamishibai** created and presented by **Yumi**

Izuyama, interweaving her Japanese and Brazilian roots. Supported in part by funding from the **Somerville Arts Council**, a local commission supported by the **City of Somerville** and the **Massachusetts Cultural Council**. **Somerville Community Growing Center, Saturday, June 15**, 1:00 - 4:30 p.m., 22 Vinal Ave. Rain Date: Sunday, June 16.

Join **Union Square Main Streets** for the **Keeping Small Strong Reflect & Refine Community Workshop** on **Thursday, June 20**, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 10 Prospect St. on the 7th floor. This culminating event allows you *Continued on page 16*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#927

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Jennifer Garner and Bradley Cooper got their big breaks in which TV show? | 7. Why did pirates wear earrings? |
| 2. What are the three layers of the planet? | 8. Name two countries that allow you to take a nap during work hours? |
| 3. Who wrote the song <i>We Are the World</i> ? | 9. What bird has eyes bigger than its brain? |
| 4. What was the first satellite to enter space called? | 10. What reptile cannot stick its tongue out? |
| 5. Seismology is the study of what? | 11. What English word has the most definitions? |
| 6. When a gas changes into a liquid, it is called what? | 12. What is the hottest pepper in the world? |

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.
- Hershey's makes one million miles of Twizzlers every year.

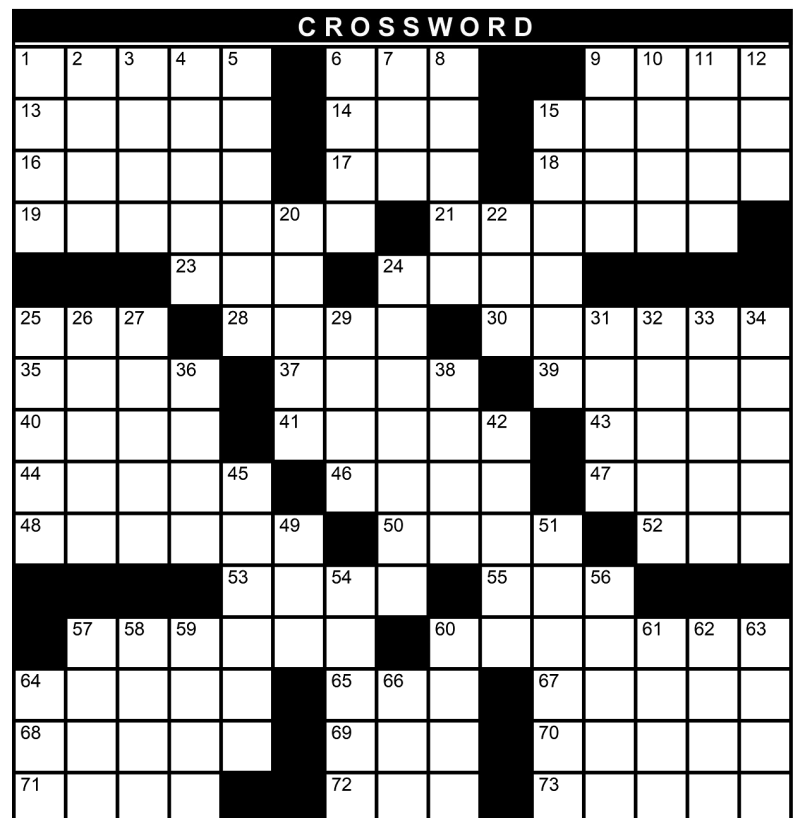
STATEPOINT CROSSWORD SUMMER BLOCKBUSTERS

ACROSS

- Molten rock in earth's crust
- Scarlett Johansson's 2013 voice only role
- Jezebel's idol
- Not silently
- Pro vote
- Italian bowling
- Proclaimed as true without proof
- Rob Manfred's org.
- Savory taste sensation
- Tom Cruise's 1986 blockbuster
- It featured the song "What Was I Made For?"
- Wrath, e.g.
- Milton Bradley's "The Game of ____"
- General Post Office
- A woodwind
- Group of trained professionals, pl.
- Icy precipitation
- Concert units
- Charles Dickens' Heep
- Scandinavian capital
- Rebroadcasted
- Khrushchev's domain, acr.
- What the gang did in 1988's "A Fish Called Wanda"
- Exploding star
- Clarified butter
- Airport surface
- Highway hauler
- Breed
- Miss Muffet's repast
- Not flow
- Tim Burton's 1989 and 1992 title character
- It featured the song "Summer Lovin'"
- Popular fashion magazine
- Road in Rome
- Comment to the audience
- Deposit the ashes
- Giant Hall-of-Famer Mel ____
- Canine skin infection
- Humble and docile
- Name badges, acr.
- Streamlined

DOWN

- Bonkers
- Sir Mix-_____-____
- Kind of boots in the '60s



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 4. One M in MMR vaccine | 33. Drawing support |
| 5. Slowly and gracefully, in music | 34. 2001 blockbuster ogre |
| 6. Mass number | 36. Type of rich soil |
| 7. Snake-like reef dweller | 38. "Keep this information" button |
| 8. Teacher of Torah | 42. Name-chooser |
| 9. "Oppenheimer" subject | 45. Wyatt Earp and such |
| 10. Popular smoothie berry | 49. Cuban dance syllable |
| 11. Pinnacle | 51. Letter-resembling supports |
| 12. Hula dancer's necklace | 54. End of a poem |
| 15. B in FBI | 56. Primary |
| 20. Open up | 57. Like certain china |
| 22. Half of NFL | 58. Malaria symptom |
| 24. a.k.a. Hansen's disease | 59. Ankara native |
| 25. 1990 Swayze/Moore blockbuster | 60. Gangster's pistols |
| 26. Trattoria staple | 61. Cosine's buddy |
| 27. Petroleum tanker | 62. U2 member |
| 29. It premiered in the U.K. on 6/6/76, with The | 63. Vigor's partner |
| 31. Chemical cure | 65. It would |
| 32. Revered Hindu | 67. Comic book cry of horror |

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

OBITUARY

Stanley M. Koty, III



Stanley M. Koty III, affectionately known as “Chip”, of Queen Creek, Arizona, formerly of Somerville, MA passed away suddenly at home on May 31, 2024. He was 44 years old at the time of his passing.

Beloved husband of Carrie (Corley) Koty, Chip was born in Stoneham and raised in Somerville. He was the son of Gay (Russell) Koty and the late Stanley M. Koty Jr. of Somerville. In addition to his devoted mother, Chip is survived by his siblings Russell and his wife Michelle of Billerica, Alison Fernandes and her husband Mark of Canton, and Caroline and her fiancé James Graziano of Somerville. He was the cherished uncle of Gianna, James,

Addison, Summer, and Brynn. Chip is also survived by his loving aunt and uncle, cousins, and countless friends. Along with his beloved father, he was predeceased by his grandparents, aunts and uncles. A Somerville High School and Babson College graduate, Chip most recently spent 10 years working for Epsilon in Wakefield, MA. Chip dedicated much of his adult life to assisting others in finding recovery and found his “home” in Narcotics Anonymous. He was a loyal friend and confidant who loved fiercely and selflessly, never passing judgment. Evident by countless car rides and subsequent conversations with other recovering addicts, together he and his friends traveled the country to conventions, spreading messages of hope in recovery. Many will even say that Chip had a hand in saving their lives. In his happiest times, he was clean and sober and took pride in helping others find their way. Chip never gave up on a person struggling with addiction, and the same can be said for his own recovery. Chip learned to appreciate nature and thoroughly enjoyed going for hikes or “adventures” around Arizona.

He would find joy in reminding his family and friends at home how warm it was there while we were in the middle of a blizzard or how it “rained for five minutes today.” His sense of humor was second to none and he was unapologetically hilarious. Through his goofy exterior was a brilliant man who could carry on an intelligent conversation about just about anything. His sense of Somerville Pride was unparalleled; he carried it wherever he went and made sure everyone knew where his heart was. Chip will be deeply missed

for eternity by all who loved him. Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Thursday, June 13th from 4pm – 7pm.

A Funeral Mass for Chip will be celebrated in St. Clement Church, Somerville, Friday morning June 14, 2024, at 10:30AM. Relatives and friends please Meet at Church. In Lieu of flowers, donations in Chip’s memory can be made to:

Herren Project-P.O. Box 131, Portsmouth RI, 02871

Juneteenth flag-raising ceremony and Frederick Douglass reading

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) invite the Somerville community to attend the city’s annual Juneteenth flag-raising event at the Somerville City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave) from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18.

Alongside the flag-raising, artists from The Art of Black Dance & Music will lead an African Drumming performance and share a photo display on the history of their organization. Somerville youth, local leaders, and activists will also deliver remarks commemorating this important holiday.

RSJ is also partnering with the Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS), Bow Market, and the Somerville Museum to host the annual reading of Frederick Douglass’ famous address, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” The reading and discussion will take place on Thursday, June 27 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. upstairs at Bow Market (1 Bow Mkt Wy). Doors will open at 5:15 p.m. Interested community members are encouraged to RSVP online as space at the venue is limited.



The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #306

Somerville Standards

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

In 1872, our city established its first city seal. After the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775, Colonial troops withdrew to fortify Prospect Hill. This hill became known as General Washington’s “Citadel,” his command post during the “Siege of Boston.” This was the first location in America to celebrate our flag, the Grand Union, before the constellation of stars on it began to grow. It was raised in the presence of the General.



The seal was a depiction of General Washington standing on Prospect Hill with a Union Flag unfurled. On his left, was a view of Boston focusing on the State House. On his right, was a view of Charlestown centering on the Bunker Hill Monument. There were two concentric circles surrounding this image. In the inner circle, the inscription read “Somerville, founded 1842, Established a city in 1872.” In the outer circle, the inscription was the city motto “Municipal Freedom Gives National Strength.” For a century, the seal was a representation of General George Washington being honored by Somerville.



In celebration of its 100th birthday in 1972, the city designed a new city seal emphasizing the oldest and revered stone building in Massachusetts, “The Old Powder House.” The wording stayed the same, but the central portion of the seal was changed to today’s Powder *Continued on page 20*

LEGAL NOTICES

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



**City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, June 20, 2024**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_utYiN_IRTzmiweWh8mf1WA](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?meetingRef=us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_utYiN_IRTzmiweWh8mf1WA)
Webinar ID: 820 5803 2430

TO CALL IN

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

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

0 Kensington Ave 74M Property Owner, LLC seeks a Major Amendment to a previously-issued Site Plan Approval (P&Z 21-023) for a Civic Space in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use (ASMD) district.

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

6/5/24, 6/12/24 The Somerville Times

**NOTICE OF MCP PHASE I INITIAL SITE INVESTIGATION,
TIER II CLASSIFICATION,
AND CONCEPTUAL PHASE II SCOPE OF WORK**

**23 CUMMINGS STREET
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
RTN 3-38166**

A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has occurred at this location, which is a Disposal Site as defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, §2 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. To evaluate the release, a Phase I Initial Site Investigation was performed pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0480. As a result of this investigation, the site has been classified as Tier II pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0500. On **10 June 2024**, **Greystar Development East, LLC** filed a Tier II Classification Submittal with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). To obtain more information on this Disposal Site, please contact **Heather A. Ballantyne, P.G., (NH), LSP, Haley & Aldrich, Inc., 465 Medford Street, Suite 2200, Boston, Massachusetts, 617.886.7400**.

The Tier II Classification Submittal and the Disposal Site file can be reviewed at **MassDEP Northeast Regional Office, 150 Presidential Way, Woburn, MA, 01801, 978-694-3200**, or online at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/wastesite>.

Additional public involvement opportunities are available under 310 CMR 40.1403(9) and 310 CMR 40.1404.

6/12/24 The Somerville Times

**NOTICE OF INITIAL SITE INVESTIGATION AND
TIER CLASSIFICATION**

**170 INNER BELT ROAD
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MASSDEP RTN: 3-38167**

A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has been identified at this location, which is a disposal site as defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, §2 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. To evaluate the release, a Phase I Initial Site Investigation was performed pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0480. As a result of this investigation, the Site has been classified as Tier II pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0500. The site owner filed a Tier II Classification Submittal with the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) on or before **June 10, 2024**. To obtain more information on this disposal site, please contact **Jedd Steinglass, LSP of Woodard & Curran, 12 Mountfort Street, Portland, Maine 04101, (207) 558-3732**.

The Tier Classification Submittal and the disposal site file can be reviewed at The MassDEP Northeast Regional Office, 150 Presidential Way, Woburn, Mass., (978) 694-3200 or online at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/wastesite/3-0038167>.

Additional public involvement opportunities are available under 310 CMR 40.1403(9) and 310 CMR 40.1404.

6/12/24 The Somerville Times

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

Kiwanis Club of Somerville Award Twelve Scholarships

The Kiwanis Club of Somerville awarded twelve \$1,000 scholarships to deserving Somerville High School students this week. The students were selected from among seventy-five applicants for the annual awards. Six of those students were able to join us today for the club's annual scholarship luncheon at the Mount Vernon Restaurant.

Other scholarship recipients unable to attend included Jinell Jovel Perez, Victoria Dutra, Lola Andrew-Blondin, Daniel Campos, Atticus Kaye, and Diego Magana Marroquin.

President Dawn Austin and Program Chairman Anthony Ciccariello who is also a former Somerville High School Headmaster, praised the students and the members of the selection committee for their work reviewing the applications, which included a question, "how do you plan to continue community service in your life?"

Pictured L-R: Kiwanis President Dean Austin; First row-Sophia Robbins, Yasmin Nazhar, Emely Portillo-Pena; Second row- Christopher Hopkin, Kyle Ray-Dutra and Kiwanis Scholarship Chairman, Past President Anthony Ciccariello.



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Healey-Driscoll administration awards nearly \$15 million in Skills Capital Grants

The Healey-Driscoll administration announced that it is awarding nearly \$15 million in Skills Capital Grants to 65 high schools, colleges, and educational institutions. This funding, announced at Assabet Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, will support schools and institutions to upgrade technology and instructional lab spaces, expand career programs for young people and adults, and increase capacity in workforce training programs across Massachusetts.

Of these funds, Somerville High School, Center for Career and Technical Education received \$204,897 to upgrade technology and instructional lab spaces, expand career programs for young people and adults, and increase capacity in workforce training program.

“We want to ensure that what students learn in school helps

them get where they want to go, while also meeting our workforce needs,” said Governor Maura Healey. “These Skills Capital Grants will ensure our students and adult learners have access to innovative technology, equipment, and spaces to gain the skills they need to prepare them for successful careers in high demand industries.”

“Schools receiving Skills Capital Grants partner with local businesses and align curriculum and credentials with industry standards, ensuring our students are prepared for when they enter the workforce,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “These grants are a win for our students, schools, employers and local communities.”

The Skills Capital Grants are awarded by the state’s Workforce Skills Cabinet, which brings together the Secretariats of Ed-



ucation, Labor and Workforce Development, Economic Development, and Health and Human Services. This Cabinet works to align education, economic development, and workforce policies to meet employers’ demand for skilled workers in every region of Massachusetts. The competitive grants are awarded to educational institutions that demonstrate partnerships with local businesses, as well as align curriculum and credentials with industry demand to maximize hiring opportunities.

“As an initiative of the Workforce Skills Cabinet, the Skills Capital Grants provide valuable

resources for our vocational schools to benefit students and adult learners with hands-on tools and equipment,” said Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Lauren Jones. “The Healey-Driscoll Administration appreciates partnering with awarded schools to collaborate in preparing our future workforce with critical skills training for career paths in fields like manufacturing, construction, and other trades.”

Skills Capital Grants have improved learning experiences across several high demand fields, including to purchase training equipment aligned with

current industry-standard technology and workforce demands in the automotive industry. The funds have also been used to modernize and expand instructional lab spaces to increase enrollment in HVAC programs and purchase new equipment to provide specialized training for careers in offshore wind projects, green technologies, and energy efficiency. Further, some organizations have used funding to purchase virtual reality equipment to help students with disabilities earn credentials that lead to professions in the health services industry, including certified nursing assistants.



Food For Free awarded grant from The Greater Boston Food Bank CONT.

FROM PG 5

million pounds of nutritious food to 25 communities throughout Eastern Massachusetts. To learn more, visit them at www.foodforfree.org, or follow Food For Free on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @foodforfreeorg.

About The Greater Boston Food Bank:

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) is the largest hunger-relief or-

ganization in New England and among the largest food banks in the country. As the food bank for Eastern Massachusetts, GBFB is feeding people in 190 towns across the region, distributing the equivalent of nearly 90 million meals through a network of 600 dedicated food distribution partners and programs. A member of the national Feeding America network,

GBFB's mission is to end hunger here. The organization remains committed to the belief that access to healthy food is a human right regardless of an individual's circumstances. Through policy, partnerships, and providing free, nutritious, and culturally responsive food, GBFB is committed to addressing the root causes of food insecurity while promoting racial,

gender and economic equity in food access. For more information and to help them help others, visit them at GBFB.org, follow them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gr8bosfoodbank/>, Twitter: @gr8bosfoodbank) and Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/gr8bosfoodbank/>, or call them at 617-427-5200.

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Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

that would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to develop and promulgate regulations allowing a city or town affected by the zoning provisions of the MBTA Communities Act to appeal for relief from those provisions. Any appeal would have to be based on at least one of the following criteria: the community's inability to meet the drinking water supply or wastewater requirements necessary to support the housing units authorized by the law's zoning provisions; the inability of municipal transportation infrastructure to safely accommodate the increased population attributable to this housing development; any adverse environmental impacts attributable to the development of housing units under this act; and any adverse impacts on historic properties.

"This amendment would have provided communities with some flexibility in dealing with the MBTA Communities Act by offering an appeals process based on a narrowly defined set of criteria that reflect legitimate concerns about the law," said amendment sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "This was a very modest request to assist communities impacted by this law. While it would not have guaranteed a successful appeal, it would at the very least have allowed municipal leaders an opportunity to make their case for relief from the law's zoning provisions."

Rep. Ruth Balser (D-Newton) urged rejection of this or any amendment that at this early stage in the implementation of this law, undermines it. She noted we should give it a chance to work. She said that 70 communities have already figured out how to make it work for them and other communities should be given a chance to do so.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment allowing an appeal. A "No" vote is against the amendment.)

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

COUNT MOBILE HOMES (H 4070)

House 29-127, rejected an amendment that would allow cities and towns to count mobile homes as homes that count toward the Chapter 40B law that enables local Zoning Boards of Appeals to approve affordable housing developments under flexible rules if at least 20 percent to 25 percent of the units have long-term affordability restrictions.

"Mobile home parks should be considered affordable housing units under 40B and allow a community which has them to use those units towards their ten percent affordable housing stock the state expects them to reach, exceed or maintain," said Rep. Paul Frost (R-Auburn). "Most mobile home parks were originally built as affordable housing units for those returning from World War II. They are affordable to buy and live in and therefore they should count as such."

Rep. Jim Arciero (D-Westford) said the amendment is

an attempt to bypass the 40B law and allow cities and towns a way to circumvent the requirement for providing affordable housing in their community. He said attempts to avoid production of affordable housing statewide, as this amendment seeks to do, are counter to the intent of the 40B laws.

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

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

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT: WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR THE NEWS INDUSTRY - As the news industry rapidly evolves and struggles with financial challenges, the local media ecosystem continues to adapt. Join MASSterList and the State House News Service for a two-part program that will explore the insights of some of Boston's leading journalists and media figures about what they do, how the landscape is changing and what the future holds for the news industry. The event is at the MCLE Boston (Downtown Crossing), June 25, 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Get tickets at: <https://masterlist.com/media-2024/>

CHILD CARE FOR CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE (S 422/H 669) - The Elections Laws Committee has recommended passage of a bill that would allow a candidate for public office to use campaign funds for childcare while the candidate is campaigning on his or her own behalf or attending events directly related to his or her campaign.

Under current law, candidates are prohibited from using campaign funds for their personal use. The state's Office of Campaign and Political Finance has classified childcare, while performing campaign duties, as a personal expense rather than a campaign expense.

"Too many women, people of color and other parents have struggled to run for office while being the caretakers for their family, trying to balance caregiving with campaigning," said co-sponsor Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville). "For many, this was too big a hurdle and they never ran. I would have never been able to run a successful campaign without the help of my friend who volunteered to take care of my young children for free. This bill will allow more women and people of color to run for office."

"Prospective legislators with children should not have to choose between their families and public service," said co-sponsor Rep. Joan Meschino (D-Hull). "This bill helps break down the economic barrier of childcare and opens new doors to make the path to elected office more accessible. The committee's favorable report is exciting."

"Our campaign finance laws are organized around the

concept of spending that enhances a candidate's political future," said Rep. Mike Connolly (D-Cambridge). "Allowing childcare as a campaign expense fits well within that framework because ensuring access to childcare will enable a broader group of people, particularly women and parents in working families, to more fully participate in the political process."

FUNDING FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (S 2806) - The Senate approved a \$1.24 billion bond bill to invest in information technology (IT) upgrades, improvements and new projects across state government. The House has already approved a different version of the bill and a House-Senate conference committee will likely try to hammer out a compromise version.

Provisions include \$750 million to improve service delivery to the public; \$200 million for technology and telecommunications infrastructure improvements and maintenance; \$200 million to support the security of the state's IT Infrastructure; and \$25 million for AI projects.

"Today the Senate is investing in a safer, more efficient and modernized digital experience for residents and state employees alike," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "Our technology infrastructure is a lynchpin for nearly every service and resource our state delivers, and enhancing it is a fundamental step to increase access and create systems that work for everyone."

"I'm pleased the Senate has proactively moved to upgrade and improve upon the quality and efficiency of the commonwealth's informational technology for Massachusetts state agencies across the board," said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. "Cyberattacks have been occurring with increasing frequency on governmental entities, so we can never be too vigilant in safeguarding our IT system and telecommunications infrastructure. It's critical for residents and businesses of our state to navigate the many portals of the state governmental website safely and effectively."

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"After a stay in the hospital, most patients are eager to get back home. These grants will allow patients to return to their homes and communities sooner and in a safe and supported environment." — Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll on the awarding of \$1.1 million in grants to acute care hospitals across Massachusetts to expand the Hospital to Home Partnership Program which provides specialized expertise to hospitals to support discharges directly to a patient's home, rather than to a skilled nursing facility or other long-term care setting.

"As leaders of coastal communities, we are all concerned about the escalating impacts we're witnessing due to the climate crisis. Through this new alliance, we can further collaborate with one another as we work to protect our communities. Coastal towns and cities *Continued on page 13*

Join the circus this summer!

You don't have to run away to join the circus!

For 39 years, children, teens and adults have learned circus skills with the OPENAIR Circus of Greater Somerville. Everyone is welcome to learn new skills and join the circus community!

Classes include Acro-Yoga (for adult/child pairs), Baton Twirling*, Devil Sticks*, Diabolo*, Hula Hoops*, Juggling*, Poi*, Stilting*, Tiny Tots Trio (ages 3-6), Unicycling and Yo-yo. Classes with asterisks are offered at beginning and intermediate levels.

Classes will be held 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays at Prospect Hill and Wednesdays at Powderhouse Park. Classes will start June 25 and end July 25, with rehearsals the week of July 29 and performances the first weekend of August.

Registration is free. A donation of \$30 per child, \$50 per family is suggested but not required and includes as many classes as the student wants.



Equipment loans are also free so students can practice at home. Some items are in limited supply so registering early will help the circus obtain additional supplies if necessary.

View the schedule and register at www.openaircircus.org.

The Circus is committed to supporting the health and safety needs of all members of our community and has elected to maintain infectious disease precautions. All participants will be required to be masked and try to maintain social distancing. Masks will be available.



Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 12

are on the front line of experiencing climate impacts and we each bring a powerful and important perspective to the work ahead.” — Salem Mayor Dominick Pangallo announcing the formation of the Massachusetts Coastal Communities Alliance, a network of mayors, town managers, administrators, and other local officials from 21 coastal cities and towns in the state.

“Legislators have committed to 2050 emissions reduction goals and used lofty rhetoric about the urgency of the climate crisis, then fallen short when it comes time to pass bills into law. We need a specific plan to phase out our dangerous fossil gas system as quickly as possible.” — Dan Zackin, Legislative Coordinator for 350 Mass., a grassroots organization working to end fossil fuel dependency and secure a transition to a clean energy future.

“Our small and diverse businesses play such a critical role in our communities and our economy, and our administration has been committed to lowering barriers for them to do business with the state. We’re proud of the progress reflected in this report and look forward to continuing to

work with these incredible businesses across our state.” — Gov. Maura Healey upon releasing the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report from the state’s Supplier Diversity Office demonstrating continued growth and progress in promoting equity and diversity in awarding state contracts.

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?

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

end of an annual session.

During the week June 3-7, the House met for a total of 10 hours and 52 minutes and the Senate met for a total of four hours and nine minutes.

Mon. June 3	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Senate 11:18 a.m. to 1:01 p.m.
Tues. June 4	No House session No Senate session
Wed. June 5	House 11:01 a.m. to 9:27 p.m. No Senate session
Thurs. June 6	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:13 a.m. Senate 11:22 a.m. to 1:48 p.m.
Fri. June 7	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

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FINANCIAL

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PROFESSIONAL/HELP WANTED

Curriculum Dev't Specialists sought by The Little Butterfly dba WorldSong Schools Winter Hill in Somerville, MA to coordinate the planning, design, and dev't of the curriculum for toddlers and preschoolers. Master's degree in Edu., Teaching, ECE or related, + 6 mon. full-time work exp. in the ECE field. Email resume to wenrui@whill.worldsongschools.com. Attn: Wenrui Li. Ref#CDS04.

Reader Advisory: The National Trade Association we belong to has purchased the above classifieds. Determining the value of their service or product is advised by this publication. In order to avoid misunderstandings, some advertisers do not offer employment but rather supply the readers with manuals, directories and other materials designed to help their clients establish mail order selling and other businesses at home. Under NO circumstance should you send any money in advance or give the client your checking, license ID, or credit card numbers. Also beware of ads that claim to guarantee loans regardless of credit and note that if a credit repair company does business only over the phone it is illegal to request any money before delivering its service. All funds are based in US dollars. Toll free numbers may or may not reach Canada.

Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Alias | 7. They believed it improved eyesight |
| 2. Crust, mantle and core | 8. Italy and Spain |
| 3. Lionel Richie and Michael Jackson | 9. Ostrich |
| 4. Sputnik1 | 10. Crocodile |
| 5. Earthquakes | 11. Set |
| 6. Condensation | 12. Carolina Reaper |

Full Circle High School graduation ceremony

The graduation ceremony for Somerville's Full Circle High School was held at the Somerville Theater on June 5. This and other Somerville school graduations can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@SomervilleEdTV>. — Photos by Daniel Lancaster



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

to: Share your thoughts on what will ensure Union continues to thrive, hear from neighbors like you about what their priorities are, learn more about what USMS has been up to this past year with the AR-PA-funded, keeping Small Strong pilot all while enjoying delicious foods + real conversations with your neighbors. For free tickets visit <https://www.simpletix.com/e/keeping-small-strong-reflect-refine-commun-tickets-172069>

A Docent Tour of Prospect Hill Tower will be held on **Thursday, June 23**, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and **Saturday, June 15**, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at 68 Munroe St. From **May through October**, three historic sites in Somerville, **Milk Row Cemetery** (Somerville Avenue), **Prospect Hill Tower** (above Union Square), and **Old Powder House** (Nathan Tufts Park), are open to the public on certain days and evenings. Inclement weather cancels any event. For full schedule and more information on the Docent Program: <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/docent-program>

Over **80 Somerville union members and community supporters** gathered at **Somerville City Hall** on **Thursday, May 30**, just prior to **Mayor Katjana Ballantyne's fiscal-year-2025 budget presentation**. Frustrated by low wages and resulting short staffing, Somerville municipal employees and firefighters called on Mayor Ballantyne to come to the table and negotiate with city employees for better wages, local hire, and an end to expensive subcontracting. To continue to build pressure, **SMEA members and supporters** will do the following: hold a **rally on Tuesday, June 18**, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., at Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave). The city councilors will cut items from the mayor's proposed budget that same night at 6:00 p.m. You can RSVP and get involved at SupportSMEA.org.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the **City of Somerville's Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ)** invite community members to attend the **Juneteenth flag raising ceremony** on **Tuesday, June 18**, on the **City Hall concourse** (93 Highland Ave.) from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The flag-raising will also feature an African Drumming performance and photo display by **The Art of Black Dance & Music**, as well as remarks from Somerville youth, local leaders, and activists.

Love games? Drop-in at **East Branch Library** and enjoy a variety of games: **Apples to Apples Junior, Blokus, Checkers, Chess, Connect4, HeadBanz, Jenga, Mancala, Parchese**, and more. This event will be held on **Monday, June 17**, at Somerville Public Library East Branch (115 Broadway) from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Community members are invited to join the **Somerville Big Gay Dance Party** in **Union Square** on **Saturday, June 22**, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. This year's theme is **DINOSAURS!** Bring your most rawr-tastic outfits. Sounds by **DJ Live**, **Drag performances by Amanda Playwith** and **Lily Rose Valore**, **LGBTQ+ organizations** will be tabling. This event is free and open to all LGBTQ+ individuals and allies.

Beginning in July, public charging stations will charge **25 cents per kilowatt-hour**. Fees will be used to directly support the city's electric vehicle programs and expand our station network. For more information, reach out to SustainaVille.ma or visit somervillema.gov/electric-vehicles.

Tuesday, June 18, at the **Ralph and Jeny Center, Somerville Cambridge Elder Services** will host their **annual cookout**. Featuring cheeseburgers, hot dogs and a variety of salads. Bingo begins at 10:00 a.m. with the cookout to follow. This is a free event and space is limited. Please RSVP to **Debby Higgins** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov Bingo cards are sold \$1 for 3 cards.

Parkour Generations Americas is hosting the **2024 American Rendezvous (ARDV)** event on **Friday, June 21**, to **Sunday, June 23**, 15 Properzi Way. An annual gathering and one of the most influential parkour events in North America. Several portions of the event will be hosted in Somerville. This is a great event to work with coaches and participants from across the globe for a weekend of shared experiences and great training. Some things participants can expect: Meet and Greet session to kick off the event on Friday. Two and a half days (16+ hours) of coaching from some of the world's most experienced parkour instructors from around the world, dis-

counted food from local restaurants and vendors. A "Kids-only" setup and schedule for ages 8-13 years. More information on the event can be found at americanrendezvous.com.

On **Saturday, June 15**, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., **The Dojo** is hosting a **Vendor Pop-up Shop**. The event will highlight local businesses and artists from the Greater Boston area. There will also be fun activities such as Bingo and trivia with exciting prizes. Stop by The Dojo at 15 Properzi Way, Somerville, to have fun this weekend and see what The Pop-up Shop is all about. Other upcoming events: **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., the **Somerville Bike Kitchen**, a volunteer-run bicycle repair cooperative, hosts open-shop nights at The Dojo. Go to maintain your bike or learn more about cycling. Upcoming Bike Kitchens: **June 13, 18 and 20**.

This year's **4th of July Fireworks Celebration** will take place **Thursday, June 27**. Join **Mayor Katjana Ballantyne** and the **Arts Council** for the **Anniversary of 4th of July Fireworks Celebration** with live entertainment at **Trum Field**. Festivities begin at 6:00 p.m., with **DJ Philip Tan** spinning some tunes. There will be live music performance by funk band **Search Party**. There will be food vendors like **Nibble Kitchen, Italian Wizard** and can't forget the fried dough!

The Gallery at Somerville Public Library presents **The "Paint Your Pride" Tiny Art Show, Saturday June 15, Central Library, 79 Highland Ave** 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. Stop by anytime in June to take a look at what our community has created, but we especially join them for this reception to celebrate the artists and their work.

The city's **Inclusionary Housing Program** has two **income-restricted rental opportunities** at **205 Beacon Street**. One apartment will be offered to households with an annual gross income at or below 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI), and the other apartment to households with an annual gross income within 51 and 80% AMI. Applications must be submitted by **Wednesday, June 26**, at 2:00 p.m. Learn more and apply at somervillema.gov/inclusionary.

The **Somerville High School Track**

Team needs help to go to **Nike Nationals** this year in **Oregon**. There is a **GoFundMe account** organized by **Marcus Odilon**. The team has qualified for the nationals once again and would love to see their hard work pay off by performing nationally and representing the school. Go to: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-somerville-tracks-trip-to-nationals>.

As the weather changes hats, and gloves, essential items such as sunscreen, bug spray, and rain ponchos will become vital to keep the **Somerville Homeless Coalition's most vulnerable clients** safe and healthy while they're out in the unpredictable New England weather. Donations can be made through their Amazon wish list or by submitting a donation inquiry. For more information visit, **Client Needs**: <https://bit.ly/SHClientNeeds>.

Somerville's annual **Water System Flushing Program** began on **Thursday, May 16**, and continues **through late October**. This program consists of flushing pipes at high velocities to clean water mains and maintain the highest possible water quality. Flushing will take place **Mondays and Thursdays** between 6:00 p.m. and midnight to minimize potential disruptions to water service. Temporary drops in water pressure and/or discolored water can occur. In these cases, though the water may be discolored, it is safe to drink. Until the water runs clear, it is advisable to avoid washing laundry, especially white fabrics. Learn more at: somervillema.gov/hydrantflushing.

Attention **all artists, makers, and more** in the greater Somerville area! **Somerville Public Library's Comix Con** returns this July and they are looking for local artists to sell their pins, prints, unique art objects and more. They are celebrating fandoms of all types and want you to be a part of their Con. Please fill out this form to be considered for a spot in their **Artists Alley**: tinyurl.com/splccvapp.

There are still lots of open spaces for students interested in the **Summer Music program**, the **Middle Grades Robotics program**, and the **Career and Technical Education middle grades program**. **Rising 9th graders** should check out the **Summer Success program** to get ready for high school. All programs are run by **Somerville Public Schools** and are free. Learn more and *Continued on page 17*

Book review – Seizing Control: Managing Epilepsy and Others’ Reactions to It, by Laura Beretsky

By Dennis Fischman

In 2019, Laura Beretsky (https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/46712004.Laura_Beretsky) was filling out a job application, and she had to decide whether to check the box for people with disabilities.

Laura had had epilepsy for years, and in 2014, she had undergone two brain surgeries to put her seizures in the rearview mirror. She could have left that disability box unchecked: to avoid explanations and escape the stigma that her new employer might attach to people like her. She had reason enough to choose silence. A previous employer had downgraded her work evaluation and essentially forced her out of her job after observing her having

epileptic seizures in the workplace.

But Laura decided to go public about it. She got the job.

This book is a continuation of the courageous decision to speak out about "epilepsy and others' reactions to it" (as the subtitle of the book proclaims). It is a public service to those of us who know little about the disease AND to those who have gone through it.

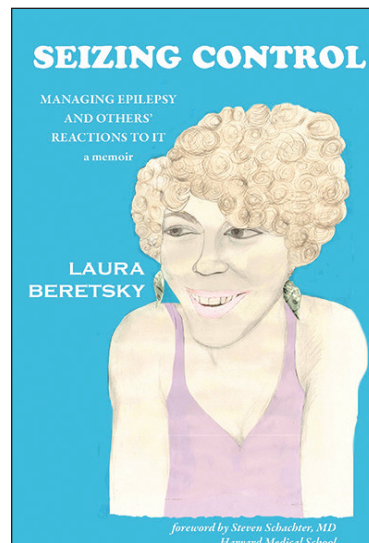
Read this book and you will learn about the disease, the diagnosis, the treatment, and the personal care that recovery from surgery required. You will also get a visceral sense of what it feels like to know a seizure is coming on.

You'll go through Laura's process of making difficult choices that not everyone in her life (medical advisers or family mem-

bers) agreed with, and in some cases, never knowing whether they were the right choices or not. You'll find out a bit about what it was like to be her husband and her children going through these experiences without having a choice in the matter: she is crystal clear about how difficult that was for all of them.

You will also find out what people did to support Laura that wasn't helpful, and the things that definitely were, and she will point you toward places you can go for more information and/or to get involved in advocacy for people with disabilities.

Full disclosure: I know Laura as a fellow resident of Somerville, MA, and as a former member of the Somerville Grant Writers and Fundraisers Group. We had



"Seizing Control: Managing Epilepsy and Others' Reactions to It" By Laura Beretsky Haley's, 2024, 197 pages



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

mostly fallen out of touch before the events described in this book, however, so her story was all new to me. What I did rec-

ognize was her voice: wry, smart, honest, troubled by troubling things and cheered by cheerful news, and dedicated to making a better world.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 16

register: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/summer>.

The **Somerville Junior Police Academy** is back. Hosted by **SPD** and **Somerville Recreation**, the program will include classroom training, hands on police tactics, physical training, and more. Registration is open at: <https://somervillema.myrec.com/>.

A reminder that **yard waste pickup** has begun. 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. Get stickers free of charge at the **DPW Building** (1 Franey Rd.), at the entrance desk at **City Hall** (93 Highland Ave.), or by emailing 311updates@somervillema.gov.

The **2024 street sweeping season** has resumed and will continue **through December 31**. Check signs in your neighborhood for sweeping days. Visit somervillema.gov/sweeping for a full schedule and to sign up for complimentary street sweeping reminders by text, email, or phone. For more information on street sweeping procedures, visit park-somerville.com.

Call to Artists for Somerville Art Council's Inside-OUT Gallery. The ArtBeat 2024 Wild Exhibit deadline is June 20. Exhibit Theme: Wild. To view submission guidelines and apply, go to the Google Form Application here: <https://forms.google/CrsDHsagUFmrQ58a7> To accompany this year's **ArtBeat 2024 festival**, **Somerville Art Council's Inside-Out Gallery** in **Davis Square** invites Somerville based artists of all ages, Somerville residents, and/or artists maintaining work spaces in Somerville to submit work for a group exhibit that fits their interpretation of the word, 'WILD'.

Join **Union Square Main Streets** and **50+ of your favorite local food producers** for the **20th Annual Union Square Farmers Market**, 66-70 Union Square. Shop local on **Saturdays through October 26**, except September 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the Union Square Plaza. The market provides visitors and residents with top-quality, fresh, and local produce at fair prices; encourages active lifestyle values; educates consumers about farming and locally sourced foods; and gives customers opportunities to interact directly with farmers. For more information about the Union Square Farmers Market, visit unionsquaremain.org/2024-fmseason. SNAP customers

get \$1 for \$1 match up to \$15. See the Market Manager tent for more info.

Davis Square Farmers Market is now open. **Every Wednesday through November 22**, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. visit the Davis Square Farmers Market, across from American Flatbread at **44 Day St**. Visit: www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis. This long-running market features over two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers offering a vibrant selection of delicious produce, protein, baked goods, ready-to-eat meals, alongside a host of other locally made products. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match.

The **COA** is offering **free taxi rides** to Somerville residents over the age of 60. Rides are available to go to the grocery store, farmer's market, and pharmacy in Somerville and routine medical appointments in the surrounding communities. To best accommodate the needs of everyone in the city and to maximize the use of our funding, they will be capping the number of rides per week. To ensure the health and welfare of every resident of Somerville, exemptions will be made for chemotherapy and radiation appointments. To find out more information or

to schedule your ride, please call **Connie Lorenti** at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319. All rides must be booked two business days in advance. This program is funded through **ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding**.

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

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

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Upcoming events:

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

City of Somerville Fireworks – Thursday evening, June 27th at Trum Field. Join us for an evening of music, celebration and spectacular fireworks! If you would like to join the COA in our reserved seating area, please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319. Limited transportation available.

Cookout – Tuesday, June 18th at the Ralph & Jenny Center. Somerville Cambridge Elder Services will host their annual cookout. Including cheeseburgers, hot dogs and a variety of salads. Bingo begins at 10:00 a.m. with the cookout to follow. This is a free event and space is limited. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov. Bingo cards are sold \$1 for 3 cards.

Archie Richards Sing-A-Long – Thursday, June 20th starting at 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Love Songs with Archie Richards. The songs begin with those from the 1890s, like Down by the Old Mill Stream. They carry on with Heart and Soul and Stormy Weather and end with the gorgeous songs of Jerome Kern, Richard Rodgers and George Gershwin. You will have the lyrics in hand; you already know the tunes. Lunch will be served at noon. Please reserve your spot for the event and lunch by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321. Portuguese Lunch from J&J Restaurant and performance is brought to you at no cost by the Somerville Cambridge Elder Services Multicultural Meal Program, a City of Somerville ARPA funded program.

Climate Change and You: Fire Safety – Wednesday, June 12th from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. As temperatures rise and we experience a hot-

ter climate, the SCOA is hosting a three-part series in how we, as individuals, can adapt to climate change. In June we have invited Captain Tim Bakey from the Somerville Fire Department. To RSVP, please call Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317. Pizza lunch will be provided, Grab-n-Go meals will also be available.

FriendshipWorks – Thursday, June 13th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. FriendshipWorks aims to reduce elder isolation by connecting volunteers with older adults for friendship and support. Phil Fonseca, Friendly Visiting Manager for FriendshipWorks will be speaking all about what the program has to offer. RSVP by contacting Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov

Knitting Group – Tuesdays, June 18th and 25th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. If you would like to learn how to knit socks, stop by the Holland Street Center! Needles and yarn will be provided. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

Movie Day – Wednesday, June 26th starting at 1:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. This month's movie is My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3. Starring Nia Vardalos, John Corbett & Lewis Mandylor. After the death of the family's patriarch, Toula attempts to locate her father's childhood friends in Greece for a family reunion. Rated PG-13 with a running time of 1 hour and 32 minutes. \$2 per person for a pizza lunch at 12:30 p.m. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

LCR Game Day – Friday, June 14th starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

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

Bingo – Thursdays, June 6th, 13th & 27th starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Multicultural Meals Program – Thank you to Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES), recipient of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from the City of Somerville. SCES has used this funding to provide free, hot lunch-

es to Somerville's older adults at both the Holland Street and Ralph and Jenny Senior Centers since September of last year. While this program concludes at the end of June, we look forward to a continued partnership and meal program sponsored by SCES. Beginning in July 2024 lunches will be catered by City Fresh!

Thursday, June 13th, Portuguese – J&J Restaurant, Holland Street Center

Tuesday, June 18th, SCES BBQ, Ralph & Jenny Center

Thursday, June 20th, Portuguese – J&J Restaurant, Holland Street Center

Tuesday, June 25th, Chinese – Greater Boston Chinese, Ralph & Jenny Center, Golden Age Center

Thursday, June 27th, Italian – Alfredo's Italian Kitchen, Holland Street Center

All are welcome! Registration is required as space is limited. You will need to register on a weekly basis. Each week call the COA Registration line at 617-625-6600, ext. 2323, Monday thru Wednesday to reserve your spot for the following week.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive a virtual copy of our monthly newsletter, please contact Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen Bastardi at mbastardi@somervillema.gov. If you would like to become part of our Google Group, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

The Council on Aging's Senior Transportation Program

The COA is offering free taxi rides to Somerville residents over the age of 60. Rides are available to go to the grocery store, farmer's market, and pharmacy in Somerville and routine medical appointments in the surrounding communities. To best accommodate the needs of everyone in the city and to maximize the use of our funding, we will be capping the number of rides per week. To ensure the health and welfare of every resident of Somerville, exemptions will be made for chemotherapy and radiation appointments. To find out more information or to schedule your ride, please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319. All rides must be booked two business days in advance. This program is funded through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding.

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

6:30 AM Chair Yoga w/Janine Duffy
 7:00 AM Finance Committee of the Whole 5-30-24
 9:00 AM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 9:30 AM Memorial Day Ceremony
 10:00 AM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 11:00 AM Porchfest 2024
 12:00 PM School Committee Meeting 6-10-24
 3:30 PM SPSPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 4:30 PM SomerViva en Espanol
 5:00 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 6:40 PM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 7:00 PM Porchfest 2024
 8:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 8:30 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 9:00 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 10:33 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 11:00 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

12:40 AM SPD Ride Along
 1:00 AM Finance Committee of the Whole 5-30-24
 7:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
 7:30 AM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 8:35 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 9:00 AM SomerViva em Português
 9:30 AM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 10:30 AM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 12:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 1:00 PM Memorial Day Parade 2024
 1:34 PM Memorial Day Ceremony
 2:02 PM SomerViva en Espanol
 2:30 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 7:00 PM City Council Meeting - LIVE

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

12:30 AM Senior Circuit: Mental Health

1:00 AM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 1:30 AM City Council - Special Meeting 5-30-24
 2:32 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
 8:00 AM City Council - Special Meeting 5-30-24
 9:02 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 9:30 AM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 11:10 AM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 11:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 12:00 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 1:00 PM School Committee Meeting 6-10-24
 4:00 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 5:00 PM SPSPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 6:00 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 8:00 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 9:00 PM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 9:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 10:00 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 11:00 PM Memorial Day Ceremony
 11:30 PM Memorial Day Parade 2024

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

12:05 AM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 12:30 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 1:00 AM Jane's Walk 2024
 7:00 AM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 7:30 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 8:00 AM Jane's Walk 2024
 9:35 AM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 10:00 AM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 11:00 AM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 12:00 PM School Committee Meeting 6-10-24
 3:00 PM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 4:04 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 4:35 PM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 5:00 PM City Council - Special Meeting 5-30-24

6:02 PM Finance Committee Meeting 6-10-24
 8:00 PM Porchfest 2024
 9:00 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 9:30 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 10:00 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 11:40 PM Glen Park Ribbon Cutting

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

12:00 AM City Council Meeting 6-13-24
 7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 7:30 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 8:00 AM Porchfest 2024
 9:00 AM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 10:00 AM SomerViva em Português
 10:30 AM Driver's License Info Session em Português
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 1:30 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 3:03 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 3:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 4:00 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 4:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 5:00 PM City Council - Special Meeting 5-30-24
 6:02 PM SomerViva em Português
 6:30 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 7:30 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 8:00 PM City Council Meeting 6-13-24

MONDAY, JUNE 16

12:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 1:00 AM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 7:00 AM Jane's Walk 2024
 8:35 AM Imagining Climate Forward 2050
 9:00 AM SomerViva em Português
 9:30 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 10:00 AM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 11:00 AM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 12:00 PM City Council Meeting 6-13-24
 4:00 PM Somerville Civic Day 2024

4:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 5:00 PM Memorial Day Parade 2024
 5:35 PM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 6:00 PM Memorial Day Ceremony
 6:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 7:00 PM School Committee Meeting 6-10-24
 10:00 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 10:30 PM Memorial Day Parade 2024
 11:05 PM Imagining Climate Forward 2050
 11:30 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

12:00 AM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 1:00 AM Memorial Day Parade 2024
 1:34 AM Memorial Day Ceremony
 2:02 AM Women's History Month Celebration 2024
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II
 8:00 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 8:30 AM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 9:00 AM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 10:00 AM Porchfest 2024
 11:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 11:30 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 PM Somerville Civic Day 2024
 1:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting 6-10-24
 2:30 PM Imagining Climate Forward 2050
 3:00 PM City Council Meeting 6-13-24
 6:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 7:30 PM SomerViva em Português
 8:00 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 9:00 PM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 9:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting 6-10-24
 11:00 PM Porchfest 2024

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

12:00 AM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 1:00 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 1:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld
 2:00 AM City Council - Special Meeting 5-30-24

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

8:00 AM Brown School Spring Concert
 9:30 AM SHS Class Day 2024
 11:30 AM SHS Graduation 2024
 1:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 2:00 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 3:11 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 5:00 PM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert
 6:00 PM Brown School Spring Concert
 7:30 PM SHS Class Day 2024
 9:30 PM SHS Graduation 2024
 11:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

12:00 AM Brown School Spring Concert
 1:15 AM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert
 2:00 AM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 8:00 AM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 10:00 AM WSNS Spring Concert
 11:30 AM WHCS K-3 Spring Concert
 12:00 PM SHS Class Day 2024
 2:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 3:00 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 4:11 PM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert
 5:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Milton
 6:05 PM SHS Graduation 2024
 8:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 10:00 PM WSNS Spring Concert
 11:30 PM WHCS K-3 Spring Concert

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

12:00 AM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 1:00 AM Healey School 4-8 Spring Concert
 1:30 AM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 8:00 AM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 9:00 AM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship

10:30 AM Healey School K & 1st Spring Concert
 11:00 AM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 12:00 PM SHS Graduation 2024
 1:30 PM Argenziano School PK-4 Spring Concert 5-30-24
 2:00 PM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert
 3:00 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Ensemble Spring Concert
 4:00 PM SHS Softball vs Chelsea
 5:30 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 6:00 PM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 7:00 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 8:30 PM Healey School K & 1st Spring Concert
 9:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 10:00 PM SHS Graduation 2024
 11:30 PM Argenziano School PK-4 Spring Concert 5-30-24

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

12:00 AM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert
 1:00 AM ESCS gr. 3-8 Ensemble Spring Concert
 2:00 AM SHS Softball vs Chelsea
 3:30 AM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 8:00 AM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 9:00 AM SHS Class Day 2024
 11:00 AM SHS Graduation 2024
 12:30 PM Healey School 4-8 Spring Concert
 1:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Milton
 2:05 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 2:30 PM Argenziano School PK-4 Spring Concert 5-30-24
 3:00 PM Healey School K & 1st Spring Concert
 3:30 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Ensemble Spring Concert
 4:05 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 6:00 PM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 7:00 PM SHS Class Day 2024
 9:00 PM SHS Graduation 2024

10:30 PM Healey School 4-8 Spring Concert
 11:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Milton

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

12:05 AM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 12:30 AM Argenziano School PK-4 Spring Concert 5-30-24
 1:00 AM Healey School K & 1st Spring Concert
 1:30 AM ESCS gr. 3-8 Ensemble Spring Concert
 2:05 AM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 8:00 AM SHS Graduation 2024
 9:30 AM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 11:00 AM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 12:00 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 1:30 PM Healey School 4-8 Spring Concert
 2:00 PM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert
 3:00 PM Argenziano School PK-4 Spring Concert 5-30-24
 3:30 PM Brown School Spring Concert
 5:00 PM Kennedy School Spring 4-8 Concert
 6:00 PM SHS Graduation 2024
 7:30 PM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 9:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 10:00 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 11:30 PM Healey School 4-8 Spring Concert

MONDAY, JUNE 17

12:00 AM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert
 1:00 AM Argenziano School PK-4 Spring Concert 5-30-24
 1:30 AM Brown School Spring Concert
 3:00 AM Kennedy School Spring 4-8 Concert
 8:00 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 10:00 AM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 10:30 AM Healey School K & 1st Spring Concert
 11:00 AM SHS Class Day 2024
 1:00 PM SHS Graduation 2024

2:30 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 4:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 5:00 PM Brown School Spring Concert
 6:30 PM WHCS Spring Concert K-3
 7:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 9:00 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 9:30 PM Healey School K & 1st Spring Concert
 10:00 PM SHS Class Day 2024

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

12:00 AM SHS Graduation 2024
 1:30 AM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 3:00 AM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 8:00 AM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 9:00 AM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 9:30 AM Healey School 4-8 Spring Concert
 10:00 AM SHS Baseball vs Milton
 11:05 AM Healey School K & 1st Spring Concert
 11:30 AM Kennedy School Spring 4-8 Concert
 12:30 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Ensemble Spring Concert
 1:05 PM SHS Graduation 2024
 2:30 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 4:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 5:00 PM Brown School Spring Concert
 6:30 PM WHCS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 7:00 PM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 8:00 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 8:30 PM Healey School 4-8 Spring Concert
 9:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Milton
 10:05 PM Healey School K & 1st Spring Concert
 10:30 PM Kennedy School Spring 4-8 Concert
 11:30 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Ensemble Spring Concert
 12:05 AM SHS Graduation 2024
 1:30 AM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 3:00 AM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9



House depiction. The 30-foot stone structure was built in 1703-1704 by French Huguenot, John Mallet. He deeded it in 1747 to the Province of the Massachusetts Bay Colony where it was secured as a gunpowder magazine.

Through the years, it was protected by one of Ben Franklin's early lightning rods rising from its roof. On September 1, 1774, the site was attacked by British troops who captured the Colonial's gunpowder which was stored there. This was eight months before Lexington, making it the dress rehearsal to the American Revolution.


This year is the 320th anniversary of its construction, and September 1st will be the 250th anniversary of the British attack.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Mr. and Mrs. Pigeon at home... — Photo by Denise Provost

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

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER 

By Bobbygeorge Potaris

Why did the dad get an extra pair of golf pants for Father's Day?
He got a hole-in-one.

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On This Day in History
June 12

- 1442 – Alfonso V of Aragon is crowned King of Naples.
- 1812 – Napoleon Bonaparte and his army invade Russia.
- 1849 – The gas mask is patented by Lewis P. Haslett.
- 1901 – Cuba agrees to become an American protectorate.
- 1931 – Gangster Al Capone and 68 of his henchmen are indicted for violating Prohibition laws.
- 1963 – Black civil rights leader Medgar Evers is assassinated by a gunman outside his home in Jackson, Mississippi.
- 1967 – The Supreme Court rules that states cannot ban interracial marriages.
- 1977 – David Berkowitz gets 25 years to life for the Son of Sam murders.
- 1985 – The U.S. House of Representatives approves \$27 million in aid to the Nicaraguan Contras.
- 1991 – Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines begins erupting for the first time in 600 years.

Somerville Homeless Coalition's Project SOUP Food Pantry awarded Community Investment Grant from The Greater Boston Food Bank

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB), the largest hunger-relief organization in New England, awarded their Community Investment Grant to the Somerville Homeless Coalition's (SHC) Project SOUP to support its ability to empower food insecure neighbors in the area, bolstering GBFB's network of food distribution agencies and advancing hunger-relief efforts across Eastern Massachusetts in response to the continuing hunger crisis in the state.

The annual grant program, originally founded in 2013, has now been investing in GBFB partner agencies for over a decade. This investment aims to bolster and sustain our food pantry's volunteering initiatives so we can provide critical support to our clients experiencing hunger and homelessness in the Somerville community.

As a GBFB partner, Somerville Homeless Coalition has provided healthy food options and case management support at our food pantry for nearly 40 years. As an agency of only 34 employees, we heavily rely on the support of our 250 volunteers to help sustain our programs as the demand for services continues to grow. This grant provides crucial funding for our Volunteer Coordinator position whose job is to oversee and strategies all of our volunteering efforts. This position is vital to ensure that we have the necessary support and resources needed across our offered food pantry programs.

"The Greater Boston Food Bank is among the most valued partners for Project SOUP. Without their flexibility, dedication, and consistency; Project SOUP would not be able to serve the most food insecure residents of Somerville" - Chris Ritter, Food Pantry Manager. This grant coincides with GBFB's fourth annual report on food insecurity, equity and access in Massachusetts. The 2024 study, "Opportunities to Improve Food Equity & Access in Massachusetts," reveals consistently high rates of food insecurity in the state and sustained disparities in food access for communities of color and households with children.

"GBFB's network of dedicated agency partners continue to inspire us to be innovative in our efforts to address food insecurity across Eastern Massachusetts," said Catherine D'Amato, president and CEO at GBFB. "With sustained inequities in food access across our region, we aim to continue to invest in those communities facing a heightened need for food and drive progress towards hunger relief through strategic grantmaking to our network of agency partners. As the cost of living in our region continues to rise, we look forward to seeing how these funds bolster SHC's ability to provide nutritious food options to our neighbors in Somerville."

About Somerville Homeless Coalition:

The mission of Somerville Homeless Coalition is to provide



homeless and near-homeless individuals and families with individualized supportive services and tailored housing solutions to obtain and maintain affordable housing. In short, our mission is in 'finding everyone a home.'

We advance this mission each day through our emergency response initiatives that include Street Outreach to the unsheltered, a 16-bed Adult Homeless Shelter, and a Food Assistance Program - Project SOUP. Other programming focuses on the prevention of hunger and homelessness through a combination of services, such as comprehensive housing search and case management; homeless prevention assistance; and, the provision of afford-

able housing that is paired with regular wrap-around home-based support promoting the stability of clients for tenancy preservation. To connect with SHC follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. You can also visit our website at www.shcinc.org

About The Greater Boston Food Bank:

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) is the largest hunger-relief organization in New England and among the largest food banks in the country. As the food bank for Eastern Massachusetts, GBFB is feeding people in 190 towns across the region, distributing the equivalent of nearly 90 million meals through a network of 600 dedicated food

distribution partners and programs. A member of the national Feeding America network, GBFB's mission is to end hunger here. The organization remains committed to the belief that access to healthy food is a human right regardless of an individual's circumstances. Through policy, partnerships, and providing free, nutritious, and culturally responsive food, GBFB is committed to addressing the root causes of food insecurity while promoting racial, gender and economic equity in food access. For more information and to help us help others, visit us at GBFB.org, follow us on Facebook, Twitter (@gr8bosfoodbank) and Instagram, or call us at 617-427-5200.

SPD to host National Night Out

The Somerville Police Department will be hosting National Night Out this year. It will take place on Tuesday, August 6, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., at Trum Field.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Metaphors Are Not Enough

Poetry and Prose by The Somerville-based Streetfeet Women

Metaphors Are Not Enough
Poetry and Prose by *The Streetfeet Women*
(2020)

Reviewed by *Off the Shelf* Correspondent Karen Klein

My first reaction on reading this book was what an incredible group of women.

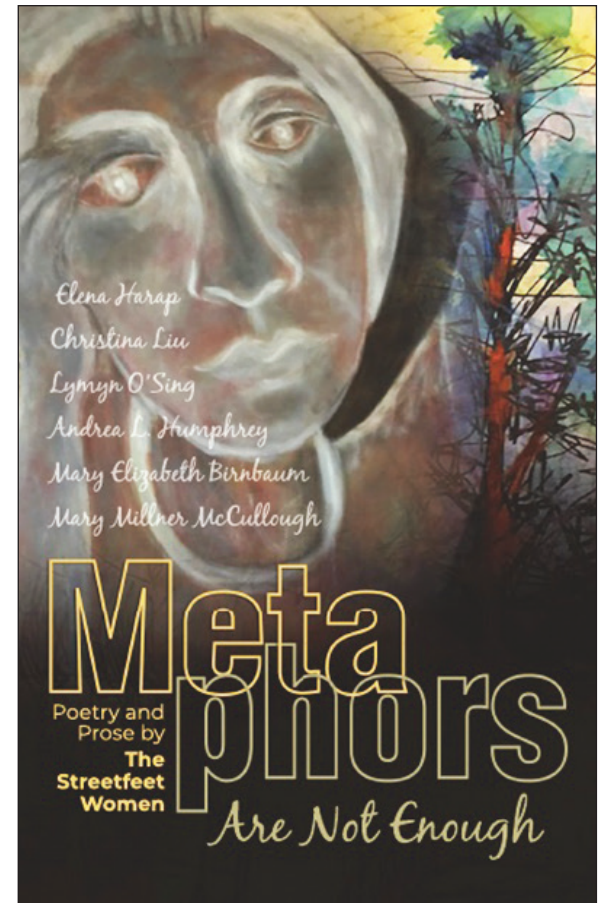
My second reaction: I wish I were one of them. I predict you will, too, when you read this amazing anthology of their poetry, prose, and plays.

The Streetfeet Women were multicultural before that became popular in the USA. In Somerville, MA's, Winter Hill in 1980 a Black American, Mary Milner McCullough, and a White American, Elena Harap, began their literary partnership with *Portraits of Sisters*, a production of poems, music and dance performed by a multicultural group of women. In 1982, they became formally known as "The Women's Touring Company a part of Streetfeet Workshops of Mission Hill."

Starting first with local performances in the Greater Boston area, tour they did: to Nairobi, Kenya for the Conference on the Decade of Women in 1985 and to Beijing, China for the Fourth UN World Conference on Women in 1995. Although some women have belonged for a while and new women, including Asian American women, have joined the group, their core has remained active in writing and performing from 1982 until at least 2020 when this anthology was published. And it's very informative.

An impressive list of performances, readings, publications, and awards from 1981-2019 is included at the end as well as brief biographies of the current members with their pictures and a list of Former Streetfeet members, both those still living and those deceased. Individual acknowledgements by Mary Millner McCullough, Elena Harap, Lymyn O'Sing, Andrea L. Humphrey, Christina Liu, Mary Elizabeth Birnbaum gratefully show appreciation for those who have helped them and there is a general acknowledgement for poet and author Kathleen Spivak, "always a vocal cheerleader for Streetfeet" and website designer, Kim McCullough.

All the visual artists whose work is included are listed by name. The book's title is taken from a poem, *Absolution*, by Christina Liu in 2019; the full stanza from which it is excerpted is The metaphors are not enough, are not beating flesh. Your other pulse, the poem moves to beautifully expressed eroticism, but what I have quoted expresses the viscerally physical nature of the writers' engagement. They put flesh



on the language, directly and unsparingly telling the necessary and essential stories about racism, sexism, how economic inequality is entangled in all our histories and our lives. As might be expected, their poems, plays, and stories focus on these issues on the lives of women, pulsing with questions and truths about female identity, self-knowledge, and mothers.

Editing and producing the book is a joint effort of members of the group who have chosen to divide the texts into five thematic sections: Freedom and Justice, Identity and Culture, Intimacy and Love, Friendship, Evolving Worlds, but several of the texts could fit easily into many of the sections as the themes overlap and interconnect. Larger political issues of Justice, Freedom, Culture are always linked to the personal lives and literary work of the contributors.

For example, Mary Elizabeth Birnbaum's poem *On What It Means to Be a Woman* evokes images of the natural world and unites with them:

We humans rear up,
as if to grow tree-like into the sun,
But what I, human female--
mammal--seal sister--mean by woman,
t two souls have shared my one body;
I've been earth with a living ocean.

In contrast, Christina Liu's wickedly satirical poem *Perfect* mocks the usual stereotypical *Continued on page 23*

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Faith Blake is an emerging poet whose work enquires into the ways language can play, move, and liberate. She has studied Biology at Tufts University, and Education at Stanford University. Faith leads youth programs in the Boston area and lives in Arlington, MA.



Iceland Psalm

Your hot womb. A burning generous mother. Stone wails arrival into sky, shapes a mind. Elements cement into foam algae cone of light lookingest eyes peer-appear from the angled crystal cave I see you out there seeing me. A raft of pilgrims aflame yearn to see the expanse within as without.

Dilate. We unpollinated propagations of lumpy somethings. Bastards of true sight.

When purity grips in a shackle of idealism, your quaking envelope invites rest. Lavish on my brain the picture of our place here. Fetch me home from disquieted quiet, as one of your ignorant sheep just over the next shadowy moraine. There will always be

one more sheep,
one more tender
newborn head of mosses.

Tenderness lies in me too. Tenderness amid last year's tangled crisp.

Spangled poses like dancers frozen into stone in early tawny twilight. And do they sing. Once, twice, caresses of water over and over and over stone wearing away and making mother the earth shouts into me I happen. And we happen. I hear them as a bacterium

on a mute barnacle
surrenders to the sloping groan
moody swelling whistle song — her sweet cetacean's lullaby.

— Faith Blake

To have your work considered for the *Lyrical* send it to:
Doug Holder, 25 School St., Somerville, MA 02143. dougholder@post.harvard.edu

Somerville community invited to attend dedication ceremony for Kevin Raymond

The Somerville High School (SHS) Athletics Department invites community members to attend a dedication ceremony for Kevin Raymond on Thursday, June 13, at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.) at 3:00 p.m.

Kevin was an SHS Alumni Class of 2015. He was an SHS student, a four-year member of the Highlander football program from 2011-2015, and was a co-captain of the program his senior year.

Kevin was an inspiration to his teammates and encouraged a strong work ethic on the field.

In 2014 he was the recipient of the Bubba Castor Coaches Award for his coachability, selflessness, and leadership on the field. Kevin was also an integral member of the Kennedy Pool staff as part of the lifeguarding and WSI team.

A bench in front of SHS will be dedicated to Kevin at the ceremony next week.

Light refreshments will be served inside the high school following the ceremony.

For any questions, please reach out to Nicole Viele, Supervisor for Health and Physical Education, at nviele@k12.somerville.ma.us.



Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

expectations of/for women: acquiesce to all men and elders. My orgasms always/ coincide with the other. I then make toast I never /snore. But the poem closes with her wish for herself: To walk solitary on city streets. To smile for no one. and ends with her puzzlement about the possibility of female freedom: What is this?

Lymin O'Sing's prose *Healing Through Ancestors* connects her identity through talismans of Chinese culture: Taichi, calligraphy "Writing with a brush is a meditation....Each stroke is one breath or one movement, never repeated or painted over....In my meditation, my elders came to me, even though my crude, awkward calligraphy made them laugh. I had no idea how much I needed the power of the ancestors, their magic, and their wisdom, their evolved transformative souls." In another of O'Sing's pieces *To Get Close to My Mother*, she explores her complex relation to the "battle-worn mother of eight children" who didn't want to be female, but was trapped by it. "Deep inside, she was a man who didn't want the messy side of tears or to be bogged down by that sentimental romantic femininity... She was not the cuddling type because there were just too many wounds." But her mother "always had to wear full make-up to go out to the men's world." Very successful in that world as a published writer, journalist, her mother presented not only a personal, but a professional challenge to her daughter as O'Sing is also a writer. She explores every possible way to describe her mother, concluding "There were just too many images" of that "ninety-eight-pound dragon lady with her Parker Pen as her sword."

Elena Harap's prose reminisce, *Minutes of the Meeting*, presents the challenge of a dual religious identity that also has a nationalism attached to it. She finds old records of meetings of her Jewish father's family meetings, her paternal grandparents Moses and Yetta, names "that seem to have power to define" transformed from the Yiddish Moishe and Yehovoid at Ellis Island where to their relief they were "liberated from a life under the threat of pov-

erty and pogroms." Her father married a Protestant and was not close with his natal relatives who disapproved of his marriage. When she finally met her father's siblings, Harap felt her "tribal identity" which "while it didn't detract from my individual sense of self, gave me a grounding which has lasted ever since."

Mary Millner McCullough's humorously serious *DNA and Mayonnaise* tweaks the problems and discoveries that DNA testing produces. One of her women friends "turned sixty and became JEWISH right in front of me, in my kitchen." "I knew she was Jewish but none of that was part of the equation of our friendship. I'm Black, she's Jewish. The only identity that counted was that we were women." In her fictionalized story, her daughter gives her a DNA test kit and she uses it. When the results come back, her daughter calls her and exclaims "You're white!"

Her two plays, *Twilight Time* and *Smoked Oysters* have their characters express hard emotional truths about racism and aging. *Smoked Oysters* brings in death and old age. The main character, Ulysses, refuses to believe that his wife is dead, insisting "She left me." He refuses to get dressed to go to her funeral, but with a poignant awareness says, "I don't like the lonely in old." In *Twilight Time*, Celeste, the wealthy white woman goes to the home of her Black maid Eunice, recently deceased, for a condolence call. The dialogue between Celeste and Nora, Eunice's daughter, reverberates with Celeste's misunderstanding of her relationship to her maid, claiming deep friendship while never acknowledging the racial and economic power imbalance. Celeste expected that Nora would replace her dead mother as her maid, but Nora has other ambitions and is going away to get an education. When Celeste remonstrates with her, Nora lashes back: "You came to my house and you took my mother away. She was my beautiful fairy godmother but when she went to work for you, she became the tired old witch."

Yet McCulloch is too perceptive about the complexities

of human relationships to leave with a stand-off between the women as the easy answer. Nora admits that Celeste and Eunice shared something she didn't understand: "You might even have been---friends." *Calypso*, an excerpt from Andrea Humphrey's forthcoming novel, *The Curve of the Stone*, is a dialogue between two teenagers, both now working in the same Woolworth's who meet again after having been in grade school together. Nel is white, as a sales associate, has a locker for her things, while Pam is black and hangs her things in the broom closet. But Pam is a "Cleaner. I clean shit. Same as my mom for fifteen years." Nel doesn't understand, remembering Pam was in honors math, saying "you should be a cashier." The continuity of racial injustice is both acknowledged and overcome by female friendship. Both girls know their boss is a sexual predator and quit their jobs. Nel acknowledges that her father made her break her grade school friendship with Pam.

These writings express hard truths. So does the work of co-founder, Elena Harap in her courageous poem about abortion ironically titled *Birth Control* with its sympathy for both the mother who doesn't-want-to-be-one, aware of "the bucket of tissue on the clinic floor, remains of what they have made" and the young GYN who both consoles her and performs the procedure. I am impressed by the way so many of these writers express contradictions while containing both sides without denying either one. Each of their writings is dated; Harap's poem *A Lifetime Barely Readies You* was written from 1984 to 2019. In it she directly confronts the three decades of ambition she swallowed and realizes The fiery images of old age are flashing/toward you//and you may live to shuttle outwards, approaching that iridescent green, that subtle orange.

The voice of the other co-founder, Mary Millner McCullough closes my review. She said "Your voice has value in the world. Speak." Their voices do have value. My gratitude for their speaking, their gift to all of us.

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