



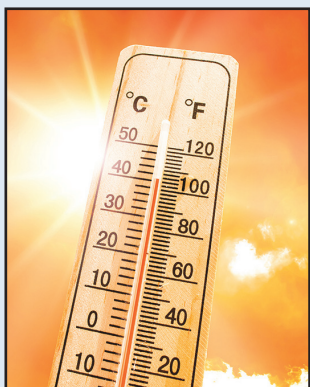
### Inside:



**Revere Beach** page 3



**Pollinator Action Plan** page 5



**Beating the heat** page 9

## New agreement for Fire Alarm Unit union announced



The City of Somerville and representatives of the city's Fire Alarm Unit have come to an agreement on better wages and benefits for the union. — Photo courtesy of Somerville Firefighters Local 76

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne on behalf of the City of Somerville has reached a new agreement with the union representing its Fire Alarm Operators for a new contract, providing improved wages and benefits for a valued set of city workers.

The city's Fire Alarm Unit provides 24/7 dispatch for the Somerville Fire Department, and its contract is negotiated by Somerville Firefighters Local 76. The new three-year contract will cover the city's 2024 fiscal year (FY24: July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024), as well as FY2025 and FY2026.

A package of improvements for existing employees start with a 9% cost of living increase over the life of the contract (equaling a 3% cost of living increase each year of the contract retroactive to July 1, 2023). Additional stipends and step increases will further build wages and include new base *Continued on page 4*

## The Somerville Community Growing Center celebrates 30 years

On Friday, May 31, the last day of the Somerville Growing Center's 30th Anniversary fundraising campaign, with the generosity of friends and supporters, they reached and surpassed their goal of raising \$30,000 in support of their programming and administration.

They raised \$30,534, with more coming in. In celebration of 30 years of serving the city the City Council presented the Growing Center with a citation at their June 13, 2024 City Council meeting. You can view that City Council meeting at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SomervilleCityTV>.

The community are invited to join in the 30th Anniversary celebration with the FUN-raising Party on Saturday, June 22, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., 22 Vinal Ave. This event will feature live music, dancing, crafts, archival activities and even mini-interviews.



The Somerville Growing Center will be celebrating its 30th anniversary and the reaching of its fundraising goal on Saturday, June 22.

### Bay State Skating School

LEARN TO SKATE CLASSES for Recreational • Figure • Hockey Skating Skills



Over 50 Years Experience Children (4-18 years)



The safety of our customers and staff is our #1 priority! Cambridge, Brookline, Cleveland Circle, Medford, Newton-Brighton, Quincy, Somerville, Waltham, West Roxbury, Weymouth

781-890-8480 • [www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org](http://www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org)



## T.J. SILLARI, INC.

Over 50 Years Experience

Plumbing • Heating • Gas Fitting • Industrial Work • Water Heater Replacement • Complete Drain Service

Residential - Industrial - Commercial

625-9877

Proud to be a Somerville resident

Master Plmb. Lic. #6106

## BUSINESS BANKING

With a Complete Line of Online and Mobile Banking Services Business Banking is...

**Better Than Ever!**



617-666-8600

1-800-444-4300

[winterhillbank.com](http://winterhillbank.com)

A Mutual Bank Serving the Community Since 1906.





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.

City buildings will be closed **Wednesday, June 19**, in observance of **Juneteenth**. Trash, recycling, and yard waste collection will be delayed by one day beginning Wednesday. No street sweeping on Wednesday.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FY25 Budget hearing:** Vote on approval of revised budget will take place **Thursday, June 20**, at 7:00 p.m. This meeting of a **City Council Committee** will be conducted via remote participation. They will post an audio recording, audio-video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels. You can view the meeting live and find meeting materials (including an agenda closer to the meeting) at the following link: <https://somerillema.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> The public may also attend in person in the **City Council's Chambers at Somerville City Hall** (93 Highland Ave.).

\*\*\*\*\*

RSJ is 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 open at 5:15 p.m. Interested community members are encouraged to RSVP online as space at the venue is limited. [www.somervillemuseum.org](http://www.somervillemuseum.org). *Continued on page 7*

## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of June 19 – June 25 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
<b>Wednesday</b> June 19	Partly Cloudy	95°/71°	3%	2%	SW 13 mph
<b>Thursday</b> June 20	Partly Cloudy	95°/73°	30%	26%	SW 12 mph
<b>Friday</b> June 21	Thunderstorms	82°/67°	31%	27%	E 11 mph
<b>Saturday</b> June 22	Rain	75°/64°	40%	31%	NE 9 mph
<b>Sunday</b> June 23	Rain	86°/70°	45%	39%	S 15 mph
<b>Monday</b> June 24	Thunderstorms	85°/66°	55%	42%	SW 13 mph
<b>Tuesday</b> June 25	Sunny	83°/65°	11%	6%	NW 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: 'Homans Lot' to become outdoor community space

SomervilleTom says:

More feel-good rubbish. While the "progressive" leadership of the city posture over and over about "affordable housing", the city flatly refuses to encourage high-density affordable housing at this vacant lot literally adjacent to the new GLX station and the high school.

The city very successfully found ways to demolish the building that stood here. The city successfully finds ways to surround the Union Square GLX station with expensive luxury condos that only investors and the 0.1% can afford.

This space can and should be built out with 3-6 story townhouses and similar residential structures. The new construction should include sidewalks, balconies and porches, and similar amenities that make urban living attractive. The city can and should use public funds to ensure that these new residences remain affordable for the lifetime of the structure.

This high-profile announcement leaves me with a very strong impression that Ms. Ballantyne values press releases and publicity over actual action to address the very real issue of housing affordability in Somerville.

Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

"Mr. Feel Good" has weighed in. \* yawn \*

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

## The Somerville Times

[news@thesomervilletimes.com](mailto:news@thesomervilletimes.com)

[www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)

Phone: 857-488-5138

@somervilletimes

[www.facebook.com/thesomervilletimes](http://www.facebook.com/thesomervilletimes)

Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

Editor – Jim Clark

Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner

Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Molly Rains, Fernando Cervantes Jr., Ryan DiLellio, Kyle Dante

Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte, Dorothy Dimarzo, Joe Creason, Bob Doherty, Ross Blouin  
Photographer: Claudia Ferro

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

A proud member of the following newspaper organizations:



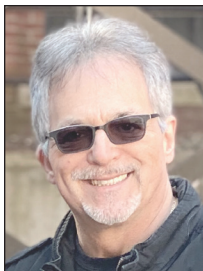
© 2024 The Somerville Times except where noted. All rights reserved.

Follow us on X/Twitter  
[@somervilletimes](https://twitter.com/somervilletimes)



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

# Revere Beach



Growing up in the 60s and 70s, Revere Beach was the place to go in the summer. I even worked there for a while. We used to take the blue line to get there. But we went

there with our parents when we were smaller. That's where we first found love with Revere Beach and all its amusements in attractions.

Here are some reader comments.

"Every June a few friends and I would skip school on a hot day and go to Revere Beach. Always had a blast!"

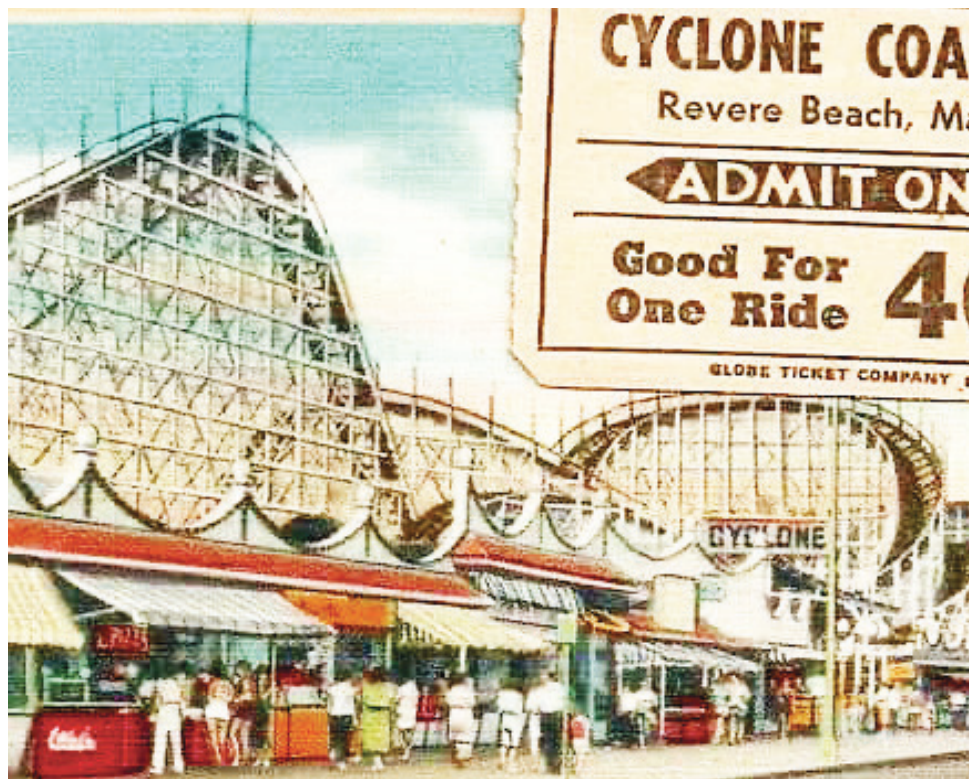
"We went once a year to the Revere Beach Amusement Park with my mom when we were kids in the 60's. She'd sit in the front Cyclone car with my older broth-

er Big Dave. I always thought she was a bad-ass mom when she rode the Cyclone! To a 10-year-old, that thing was terrifying! And there goes my mom! Up that steep first hill with the cars clankity-clanking all the way to the top! Then it came roaring down the track with my mom smiling and leading the charge and the whole car full of people screaming! RESPECT! Ma was tough as nails!"

If Revere Beach was your destination today, you could hop on the Green Line and grab the Blue Line.

The summers I worked on the Dodge'Em cards are among my favorite memories.

Today a visit to Revere Beach will find condos and parking meters. If you're going to Kelly's roast beef good luck trying to find a place to park. Maybe you can leave the car home and take the T. Either way the beach itself is worth the trip.



## Parkour Generations Rendezvous

Parkour Generations Americas is hosting the 2024 American Rendezvous (ARDV) event on Friday, June 21 to Sunday, June 23, 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. More information on the event, including times and locations, can be found at [americanrendezvous.com](http://americanrendezvous.com).

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.
- 10-12 modules of workshops covering a range of parkour-related topics including modules about strength and conditioning, recovery and recuperation, nutrition, mental training, and the spiritual/philosophical side of training.
- Discounted food from local restaurants and vendors
- A "kids-only" setup and schedule for ages 8-13 years



**Are You Sitting On A Fortune?**

Call Our Team at CRG To See What Your Home Is Worth.

617-764-4342

699 Broadway Ave, Somerville, MA 02144



**For sale**



1988 Corvette convertible. White, 24,743 miles. Runs great.  
\$12,500. 617-594-3539

## Somerville Police Dept Crime Log June 4 – June 11

### Assault

24032985: On 6/5/24 at approximately 3:50 p.m., Somerville Police responded to 60 Washington St. for report of a past assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated while she was walking home, a male on a bike pushed her causing her to fall. The victim sustained minor injuries.

### Robbery

24033387: On 6/6/24 at approximately 10:38 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Canal Ln. for report of a past robbery. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the reporting party who stated her juvenile son was robbed while near the basketball courts. She stated her son got into an argument with several other juveniles. While they were arguing, an older male party approached the victim and took his phone and hoodie.

### Assault

24033813: On 6/8/24 at approximately 8:08 p.m., Somerville Police responded to 406 Highland Ave. for an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was involved in a traffic altercation with a male party operating a red Hyundai Sonata with extensive rear damage. During the altercation, the driver stuck his hand out the window and displayed a firearm or knife at the victim.

### Assault

24033752: On 6/8/24 at approximately 2:02 p.m., Somerville Police responded to 460 Mystic Ave. for an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she was involved in an argument with a female party known to her. During the argument, the other female grabbed the victim by the neck and pushed her. Officers identified the female suspect.

**Other Crimes:** 2 Package thefts + 2 MV thefts + 2 MV vandalisms + 2 Bike thefts + 1 Car break

— Somerville Police Department



## 2024 Somerville gun buyback initiative

The Somerville Police Department and the Middlesex Sheriff's Office will partner to host the Somerville gun buyback initiative Saturday, June 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It will take place on Franey Rd. adjacent to the Somerville Department of Public Works yard, 1 Franey Rd. The regional initiative includes several communities in the Middlesex County over the past couple of years. The focus is on providing residents with a safe and secure way of removing un-wanted firearms from their homes.

The Somerville Police Department and Middlesex Sheriff's Office ask that the following steps be taken for anyone interested in disposing their firearms at the event.

- Please bring firearms unloaded with the safety engaged in a bag, box or case. The bag, box or safe should be transported to Franey Rd. inside the trunk of your vehicle.
- When you arrive at Franey Rd., you will see officers standing by a table adjacent to DPW. Please allow those officers to remove the firearm from the trunk of your vehicle.

Please note the following details for the event:

- Receive up to \$200 in gift cards per firearm.
- BB guns/Air Guns and ammunition do not qualify for gift cards but can be turned in for disposal.

The Middlesex Sheriff's Office and Massachusetts State Police will safely destroy all guns collected at the event.

The Somerville Police encourages residents to take advantage of this opportunity to help prevent accidents and injuries in our homes and community.



## New agreement for Fire Alarm Unit union announced CONT. FROM PG 1

wage increases for employees with 10- and 20-years of service, as well as additional increases to existing longevity stipends that recognize length of service.

In addition, the city has agreed to a significant increase of 24% to the starting salary of new employees that better aligns the city's starting salary for these positions with those seen in the market, which will make Fire Alarm Unit jobs more competitive and help improve the city's recruitment

and retention efforts for these positions. This change for new hires brings their salaries more in line with the pay scale that applies to existing fire alarm operators.

"We approach all of our labor negotiations with a deep appreciation for the work our union employees do for the people of Somerville, and we try to make sure to sign contracts that allow all city employees to move forward together," said Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "The Fire

Alarm Unit answers calls that save people's lives. It provides an essential service, and this new contract adds important compensation and benefits improvements so that Fire Alarm service can continue to be a rewarding career."

A significant new benefit introduced in the contract is an eight-week paid family and medical leave program. This means employees requiring leave for needs such as family health issues or maternity and paternity

leave would have access to eight weeks of paid leave above and beyond standard sick, vacation, and personal time. The new benefit will reduce the likelihood that employees will face unpaid leave if their available accruals are not sufficient. The Fire Alarm Unit is the second bargaining unit to enter the program, joining the city's custodial workers.

The new contract also adds an additional week of vacation when an employee reaches 25 years of

service, and compensation for the Juneteenth national holiday.

Finally, the new agreement establishes a new work schedule designed to increase staffing flexibility along with a rolling vacation day accrual system, which will help the city better track and account for this benefit.

The Fire Alarm Unit has voted to accept the new contract, leaving only the City Council to fund the cost of the contract before it takes effect.

# Pollinator Action Plan draft submitted

By Parker Garlough

In a meeting on Monday June 10, the Pollinator Action Plan Advisory Committee presented a draft of their plan to support pollinators native to Somerville. The plan includes proposals for residential landowners, landscaping businesses, municipal entities, and schools. The meeting primarily focused on recommendations for homeowners.

Residents were invited to give input, which will be taken into account before the final version of the plan is released on July 8. This plan, when finalized, will be the culmination of about six months of efforts – the committee has been working since early 2024.

The committee used scientist-gathered and electronically crowdsourced data to find patterns in pollinator populations and pollinator-plant relationships in Somerville. 299 pollinator species were observed, including many types of bees, moths, butterflies, wasps, beetles, flies, and one species of hummingbird. The majority had increasing or stable populations, but several were decreasing.

Offshoots, Inc. owner Kate Kennen emphasized that plants native to this region are often the most beneficial, but other plants can also play a role in supporting pollinators. Some plants are visited by many different species of pollinators – for example, goldenrod supports 40% of re-

corded pollinator species in Somerville.

To support residents who want to create pollinator gardens, the committee made recipe cards that describe which plants grow well together. They noted that residents without the space for a garden plot may also participate – even pots containing a single plant can support pollinators. They also intend to encourage residents to decrease mowing frequency during the summer, allowing flowers to grow in their yards. Next year, they plan to introduce a No-Mow May initiative to support native bees emerging from hibernation.

One meeting attendee raised concerns about the lack of policy recommendations described by the committee at Monday's meeting. The Action Plan goes into greater detail on changes the city could make to support pollinators.

Some relate to use of public land, such as existing parks. In addition, several ordinance changes are proposed, such as using zoning ordinances and the Green Score program to encourage native planting, reconsidering the overgrowth ordinance and potentially loosening it, and removing certain exceptions to the outdoor lightning ordinance in order to better reduce light pollution.

The Pollinator Action Plan also contains recommendations for other groups that have the capacity to support pollinators, including professional landscapers. It suggests that they refrain from raking,



mowing, and cutting back perennials. In addition, they are encouraged to use composted leaf mulch rather than back mulch, and to leave some patches unmulched. The plan also recommends planting native plants in landscaped areas.

Libraries and schools are invited to pitch in as well: libraries, the Action Plan says, can create an annual display of pollinator

resources and host educational events. Tufts is expected to continue its pollinator research and educational outreach. K-12 schools are recommended to plant pollinator habitat, then incorporate those spaces into their curriculum.

On July 8, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., the Advisory Committee will meet at City Hall to finalize the Action Plan.

## SPD takes part in Special Olympics Torch Run



On Saturday, June 8, our Somerville Police Department Community Affairs Unit was able to participate in the final leg of the Special Olympics Torch Run. They were able to join hundreds of other departments and help escort the torch on the final part of its journey. Once at the games, they were able to help cheer on the athletes. They also had the honor of giving out medals to the athletes that placed top of their event.

— Photo courtesy of Somerville Police Dept.



### Bunker Hill Community College

With over 50 years of academic excellence, Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) is Massachusetts' largest community college, serving 16,000 diverse students annually. With campuses in Charlestown and Chelsea, BHCC offers associate degrees, certificates, early college and dual enrollment, community education, and industry-specific training. BHCC is renowned for its diversity: 65% of students identify as people of color, over half are women, and more than 600 international students represent 90 countries and 65 languages. BHCC is designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI).

### AFFIRMATIVE ACTION and EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY

Bunker Hill Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, genetic information, maternity leave, and/or national origin in its education programs or employment pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 151B and 151C, Titles VI and VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Americans with Disabilities Act, and regulations promulgated thereunder, 34 C.F.R. Part 100 (Title VI), Part 106 (Title IX) and Part 104 (Section 504). Inquiries concerning application of the above should be directed to Nahomi Carlisle, Esq., Associate Vice President, Chief Equity and Compliance Officer, Affirmative Action Officer and Section 504/ADA Coordinator, at 250 New Rutherford Avenue, Charlestown Campus, Room A307, Boston, MA 02129, phone: 617-228-3311; email [nahomi.carlisle@bhcc.edu](mailto:nahomi.carlisle@bhcc.edu).

Bunker Hill Community College  
250 New Rutherford Avenue, Boston, MA 02129  
[bhcc.edu](http://bhcc.edu)

# Beacon Hill Roll Call



Volume 49 – Report No. 24 • June 10-14, 2024 • Copyright © 2024 Beacon Hill Roll Call. All Rights Reserved. By Bob Katzen

Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)

**THE HOUSE AND SENATE:** *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' and senators' votes on roll calls from the week of June 10-14.

**REVENGE PORN AND TEEN SEXTING (H 4744)**  
House 155-0, Senate 38-0, approved and sent to Gov. Maura Healey a bill that would prohibit the posting of sexually explicit images of another person online without their permission— commonly referred to as “revenge porn.” The practice is often used by ex-spouses or ex-partners.

Massachusetts is one of only two states that does not have a law about this crime. The measure makes it illegal to break this new law and establishes a sentence of up to 2.5 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$10,000; increases the upper limit of the fine for criminal harassment from \$1,000 to \$5,000; allows a victim to petition the court for a harassment prevention order against a person who has violated this statute; and extends the statute of limitations to pursue criminal charges for certain domestic violence offenses from six years to 15 years.

The measure adds coercive control to the definition of abuse. Coercive control is a nonphysical form of abuse that includes a pattern of behavior intended to threaten, intimidate, harass, isolate, control, coerce or compel compliance of a family or household member in a manner that causes the targeted individual to fear physical harm or to have a reduced sense of physical safety or autonomy. Examples of coercive control include threatening to share explicit images, regulating or monitoring a family or household member's communications and access to services, and isolating a family or household member from friends or relatives.

Another provision changes current law under which minors, under 18 years of age, who share explicit images of themselves or other minors, can be charged with violating Massachusetts child pornography laws and are required to register with the Sex Offender Registry. The bill allows minors to be diverted to an educational program that would provide them with information about the consequences of posting or transmitting indecent visual depictions of minors.

“The House has heard the urgent call of survivors to enhance protections and ensure that our laws keep up with technology,” said Rep. Mike Day (D-Stoneham), House chair of the Judiciary Committee and lead House sponsor of the measure. “But the House does not just listen, we act.”

“After so many years of hard work, we are finally at a stage

where we can bring closure to those who continue to suffer the consequences, and live under the threat of, revenge pornography and abusive control,” said Sen. John Keenan (D-Quincy), lead Senate sponsor of the legislation. “We are sending a message that this kind of activity will not be tolerated in our commonwealth ... Once this bill is signed into law, we will be able to rectify and prevent so many injustices across Massachusetts.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Didn't Vote
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

## PARENTING (H 4762)

House 156-0, approved and sent to the Senate a bill that supporters say would ensure legal parentage equality by protecting LGBTQ+ families, and children born through surrogacy and assisted reproduction, in forming the legal bond of a parent-child relationship.

Supporters said that parental rights and responsibilities are broad and include the ability to attend and make decisions during medical appointments, manage a child's finances, participate in educational decisions and provide authorizations for a child's travel. They noted that while Massachusetts legalized same-sex marriage 20 years ago, LGBTQ+ residents continue to face significant barriers in obtaining full legal recognition as a parent.

“Today marks a major advancement in the reinforcement of equal rights for LGBTQ+ families in the commonwealth, assuring that children born through assisted reproduction and surrogacy have a clear route to establish their legal parentage,” said Rep. Kay Khan (D-Newton), a lead sponsor of the bill. “A child's relationship to their parents is core to their overall stability and well-being, and it is from that relationship that so many rights and responsibilities flow.”

“The [bill] is a critical piece of legislation for so many families in the commonwealth, particularly LGBTQ+ families,” said Rep. Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury), a lead sponsor of the bill. “By updating the commonwealth's parentage laws, we will provide clarity, security and equality in the matters of parentage, reflecting the evolving realities and complexities of assisted reproduction, surrogacy and LGBTQ+ parenthood that has to date left many families vulnerable.”

“What we are doing today is giving a tune up to our statutory structure to reflect the modern and contem-

porary ways that people become parents whether they are straight or gay,” said Rep. Sarah Peake (D-Provincetown). “This is a bill that is good for everyone in the commonwealth of Massachusetts.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Didn't Vote

## OPIOIDS (H 4743)

House 153-0, approved and sent to the Senate legislation that supporters say will cover the licensure of recovery coaches who help people with substance use, make opioid overdose reversal drugs more accessible, protect harm reduction providers and remove barriers that new mothers in recovery face at the time they give birth.

Provisions include establishing recovery coach licensing and oversight within the Department of Public Health; and requiring that all health care plans cover recovery coach services and opioid overdose reversal drugs, such as Naloxone, without cost-sharing or prior authorization.

The bill protects public health or harm reduction organizations and their agents who provide drug-checking services, such as needle exchange programs, to reduce the risk of accidental overdose, from civil liability or professional disciplinary action and from being criminally charged or prosecuted for possession of drug paraphernalia and illegal possession of controlled substances.

Another provision removes “physical dependence upon an addictive drug at birth” from the conditions necessitating a child abuse and neglect report, essentially exempting pregnant people taking medications prescribed by their doctor from automatic investigation by the Department of Children and Families.

“The bill passed today builds on the commitment of the House to support individuals and communities across the commonwealth who are dealing with the effects of the opioid crisis,” said Rep. Adrian Madaro (D-East Boston), House chair of the Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

“This legislation builds on our historical commitment to reducing stigma and providing comprehensive support for individuals in recovery,” said Rep. Jim O'Day (D-West Boylston), lead sponsor of the bill. “By embracing harm reduction strategies, patient education and compassionate care, we are advancing public health and offering renewed hope to those affected by substance

*Continued on page 16*

# COMMENTARY

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Get ready for some hot weather, Somerville.

## Our View Of The Times



It's been getting pretty darn hot lately. And it's looking like we'll be facing a good little stretch of even more hot weather in the days and – yes, even maybe – the weeks to come.

There's little to be done about it other than exercising a little common sense to minimize dangers of heat stroke. Watch your activity levels, get plenty of water, etc. Just be careful and do the right things.

You'll make it.

We love it when the winter thaws and the explosion of life in the natural world around us takes place in the springtime, and many of us love to lounge and loll in the vibrant warmth of a hot summer day. But it is important to keep in mind that moderation is the key to good health and personal safety.

Here are some ways you can stay cool:

- + Check out the Somerville Parks and recreation Department for info about public access to swimming pools in the city: <https://somervillema.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>.

- + Many parks and playgrounds have water play features or sprinklers. To find a splash pad in your neighborhood, visit <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1EaOgn8UezO2Mlx->

QIZXw-8EcmPoylPwIc&ll=42.394374631727295%2C-71.11074153435386&z=14. For additional heat safety tips, visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/keeping-cool-hot-weather>.

Please be careful while you're out there, and also exercise a little caution while you're indoors. The heat is everywhere, but we can beat it.

### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Celebrating their birthdays this week: We wish a very happy birthday to a great person and longtime resident of Somerville, **Paula LeBlanc**. We wish her the very best. Happy birthday to a good guy, **Jonathan Buck**, who celebrates this week. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Donna M. Gilberti, Gail Chambers, Chris Marshall, Kathi Mullins, Terra Yan, Kenneth Lonergan, Marie Kearns, Hugo A Volpe and John O'Rourke** a 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

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**.

\*\*\*\*\*

On **Saturday, June 22**, at 7:00 p.m., join the **Center for the Arts at the Armory Spotlight Series** for a performance by saxophonist **Ravi Coltrane**, featuring

**Gadi Lehavi** and **Ele Howell**. More info and tickets visit <https://artsatthearmory.org/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CultureHouse** has its next **pop-up space**. They have been working with the **City of Somerville** to transform the vacant lot in **Gilman Square** (also known as the Homan's lot) into a three-month outdoor community space. **Gilman Park** is a gathering space for local organizations, a hangout space for residents, and an opportunity for development for local businesses, artists, and creatives. The park will be open all summer from **June 15 to September 9**. Join in for lawn games, vendor

markets, beer gardens, food, workshops and music performances. Keep an eye on the website for more information <https://culturehouse.cc/projects/gilman-park/>. CultureHouse is looking for artists, creatives, non-profit organizations, and local businesses to participate in collaborative programming at Gilman Park Interested groups should fill out the Program Interest Form. For questions, email [rishika@culturehouse.cc](mailto:rishika@culturehouse.cc). **Small Mart** is hosting bi-weekly vendor markets all summer at Gilman Park. If you are interested in joining the market, please visit <https://culturehouse.cc/projects/gilman-park/>.

Continued on page 21

# FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

# Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#928

1. What is celebrated on Juneteenth?
2. What is the name of the Boston Celtics' mascot?
3. In what year were the Boston Celtics founded?
4. What is the most points scored by the Celtics (in regulation) in a single game?
5. What is the name of the famous pink sand beach in the Bahamas?
6. Which Boston Celtic won five NBA Most Valuable Player Awards?
7. What was the name of Drew Barrymore's character in *E.T.*?
8. What flavor did Baskin-Robbins introduce to commemorate America's landing on the moon on July 20, 1969?
9. What is the name of the annual music festival held in Indio, California?
10. In which outdoor game do players try to throw small bags into holes on a raised platform?
11. What is sometimes called Christmas Disease?
12. What male vocalist had a 70s No. 1 with *You've Got A Friend*?

Answers on page 14

## The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Honey is the only food that does not spoil.
2. Dr. Seuss invented the word "nerd."

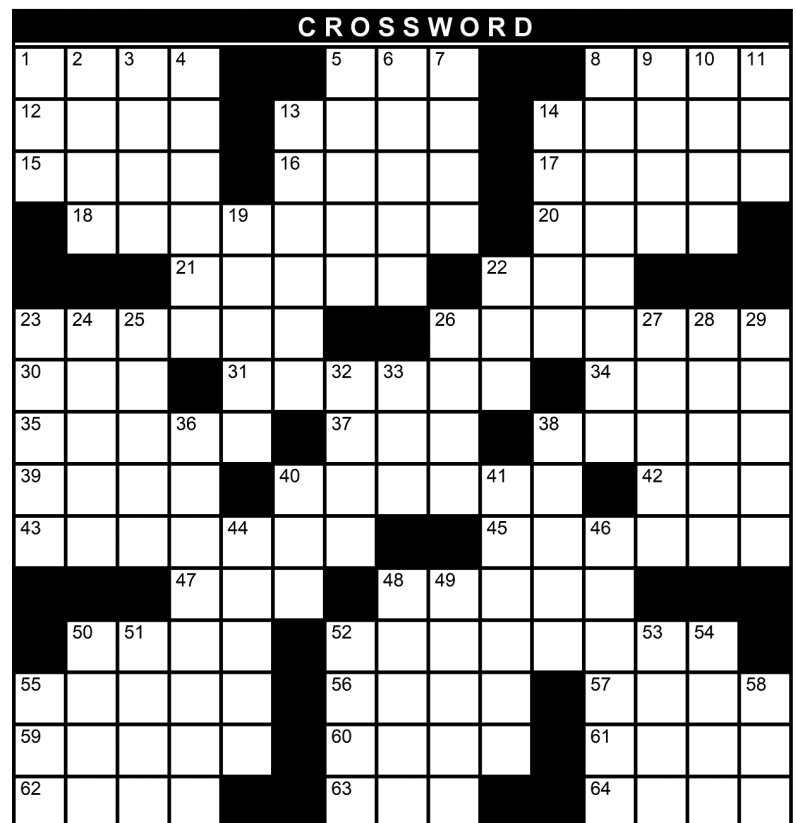
### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD THE 4TH OF JULY

#### ACROSS

1. South American palm berry
5. Chi preceder
8. Tatted cloth
12. "Knee high in July"?
13. Hole-making tools
14. Sign in (2 words)
15. Discharge
16. Violin's Renaissance predecessor
17. Nursemaid in India, pl.
18. On the grill on the 4th?
20. Tropical tuber
21. Propelled like Argo
22. "Fresh Prince of \_\_\_\_-Air"
23. \*#18 Across, picnics and such
26. Yellow ride
30. Not well
31. Heavy lifting injury
34. "Brave New World" drug
35. Feudal estates
37. Storm center
38. Rand McNally book
39. Singer-songwriter Amos
40. Deserving veneration
42. Giant "Master Melvin"
43. Y on Periodic Table
45. Unkind one, slangily
47. Clairvoyant's gift, acr.
48. "\_\_\_\_ under the rug"
50. Cry like a baby
52. Number of stripes on Old Glory
55. Birch bark vessel
56. Object of Frodo's obsession
57. Norse war god
59. Cut mission short
60. Fairy tale beginning
61. Tangerine/grapefruit hybrid
62. MTV's "\_\_\_\_d" (2003-2015)
63. Like Willie Winkie
64. "Team" homophone

#### DOWN

1. Fighter pilot
2. Toothy groomer
3. Operatic solo
4. Openings
5. Between once and thrice
6. Viva voce
7. Maroon's home
8. \*As opposed to Patriot
9. Lab culture
10. Type of salmon
11. Short for ensign
13. Not sympathetic
14. Potentially allergenic glove material
19. Tubs
22. Farm cry
23. Number of stars on Old Glory
24. "The Waste Land" poet
25. Heads-up
26. Wedding cake layer
27. 2-dotted mark
28. Stradivari competitor
29. Moisten, as in a turkey
32. 500 sheets
33. Largest Fourth of July pyrotechnics display loc.
36. Celebratory combustible
38. Highly skilled
40. Break bread
41. Come into view
44. Even smaller than #7 Down
46. Dined elsewhere (2 words)
48. Use a shoe polish
49. Grimace in pain
50. Hindu Mr.
51. Before long, to Shakespeare
52. Think, arch.
53. Part of a seat
54. World's longest river
55. Upper limit
58. Jodie Foster's "\_\_\_\_'s Island"





SWITCH & GET  
\$25

**Off First Month of New Service!**  
USE PROMO CODE: **GZ590**



**Consumer Cellular**

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR **888-804-0913**

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

© StatePoint Media

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



Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.



# Extreme heat expected in Somerville June 18-21

Extreme heat, that is unusual for our area this early in the summer, is expected in Somerville and the region this week. The National Weather Service has issued a Heat Advisory for Tuesday afternoon, and an Excessive Heat Watch for Wednesday afternoon through Friday evening. Community members are urged to take precautions to stay safe and healthy as temperatures are currently expected to rise well into the 90s, possibly approaching 100 degrees this week.

Temperatures are forecast to feel hotter than 100 degrees at times, potentially rising to a heat index (how temperatures feel) of 106 degrees. Taking steps to keep cool and safe is very important during excessive heat.

Heat safety tips and ways to keep cool in and around Somerville are included below. Safety tips are also available in multiple languages on the city's Keeping

Cool in Hot Weather webpage: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/keeping-cool-hot-weather>.

**Importantly:**

Never leave children or pets unattended in a car or vehicle, even if the windows are open.

Drink plenty of fluids. Avoid alcoholic beverages and drinks with caffeine or large amounts of sugar.

Reduce time spent in direct sun and wear sunscreen, a hat, and sunglasses when outside.

Limit outdoor activity to the morning and evening hours. Avoid strenuous activity during the hottest part of the day, which is typically 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Follow city social media pages and contact 311 for the latest information on places you can visit to cool off.

**Take Care of Yourself and Others:**

Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored clothing.

Take frequent breaks if working outdoors. Take your breaks in the shade if you can.

Check on relatives, friends, and neighbors who don't have air conditioning, who spend much of their time alone, or who are more likely to be affected by the heat. These groups may include older adults, infants and children, people with chronic medical conditions, and people who are pregnant.

If you see individuals out in the heat who appear immobile or disoriented, please call 9-1-1 so they can receive the necessary help.

If you don't have air conditioning, you can seek relief from the heat in air-conditioned City buildings.

The Somerville Public Libraries are air conditioned and will be open regular hours Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.



The East Branch will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday. All other library branches are closed on Wednesday in observance of Juneteenth.

Seniors can visit the Somerville Council on Aging's Holland Street Center, which will be open for its regular activities during normal hours Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. All Council on Aging senior centers are closed on Wednesday in observance of

Juneteenth.

For parents/guardians: You can help avoid burns by checking if playground equipment is hot to the touch. If so, it is too hot for a child's bare skin. Additionally, limit playtime at peak sun exposure time and familiarize yourself with the signs and symptoms of heat illnesses.

**Learn to Recognize Signs and Symptoms of Heat Illnesses:**

*Continued on page 12*

## Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



### Truro Vineyards

No matter the season, I make a point to stop off at Truro Vineyards when I have the chance. It's beautiful year-round, but especially so during the spring and summer months. Check out the website for special events like, paint and sip, wine and dine, live music, and a schedule of food trucks.

They offer a variety of wines, red, white, and rosé. The estate grown grape varieties include Cabernet Franc and Merlot. For their other varieties of wines, grapes are sourced from other vineyards around the country. Regardless of your preference, either red or white, they are worth trying and I'm sure you will be impressed either way.

No worries for those of you who are not into wine but like different types of spirits, they have you covered. On a recent trip, I picked up some gin and amaro, perfect for making Negronis.

There is also rum and whiskey to try out. They also offer cocktails for your enjoyment which really showcase their craft. The staff's dedication to their job is evident in their knowledge and exceptional customer service.

So, if you find yourself in the area check it out, you won't be sorry. I especially like the rum aged Malbec and the reserve Cabernet Sauvignon offered as their limited release wines. If oysters are on your menu, the Sauvignon Blanc is a perfect pairing. Just be sure to double check the website for hours of operation.

Truro Vineyards  
11 Shore Road  
North Truro, MA 02652  
1-508-487-6200  
[trurovineyardsofcapecod.com](http://trurovineyardsofcapecod.com)

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



# LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
KATJANA BALLANTYNE  
MAYOR  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on **Tuesday, July 9th, 2024 at 6:30 pm**. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

**REGISTER ONLINE**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_EW0gntKnr1aEDrCB7gPiVv](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EW0gntKnr1aEDrCB7gPiVv)

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

- 15 registered voters requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to include 8 Park Street, 10 Park Street, 504 Somerville Avenue, 7-9 Properzi Way, 15-27 Properzi Way, 29 Properzi Way, 26-32 Park Street, 8-14 Tyler Street, 40 Park Street, 15 Dane Street, 7-9 Tyler Street, 30 Dane Street, 24-28 Dane Street, 460 Somerville Avenue, 444 Somerville Avenue, 440 Somerville Avenue, and 502 Somerville Avenue in the Somernova Innovation Sub-Area.
- 14 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend the Zoning Ordinances to add section 8.4.19, Somernova Innovation Sub-Area.
- 14 registered voters requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 228, 230, 232, 234, 236 Pearl Street from Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) to Mid-Rise 6 (MR6).
- 14 registered voters requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 136 School Street from Urban Residence (UR) to Mid-Rise 6 (MR6), 95 Highland Avenue from Neighborhood Residence (NR) to MR6, and 97, 99-99A, 101-103, and 107 Highland Avenue from Mid-Rise 5 (MR5) to MR6.
- Mo Rizkallah requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 5 Homer Square from Neighborhood Residence (NR) to Urban Residence (UR).
- Requesting ordainment of an amendment to the Somerville Zoning Ordinance to add Section 8.5 Interim Planning Overlay District (IPOD) and the Brickbottom sub-area.

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

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

6/19/24 The Somerville Times

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



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP# 24-15 Networked Geothermal Feasibility Study**

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites proposals for:

**Networked Geothermal Feasibility Study**

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Monday, June 17, 2024**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Thursday, August 1, 2024**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any minor informality in the RFP process, and accept the proposal(s) deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.

Please email [jremy@somervillema.gov](mailto:jremy@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Jordan Remy  
Senior Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3400**

6/19/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
INVITATION FOR BIDS  
IFB #24-16**

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, Invites Sealed Bids For:

**Water Damage Remediation - Winter Hill Community School**

A bid package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, June 19th, 2024**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:30 pm, Tuesday, July 9th, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Sonia Castro [scaastro@somervillema.gov](mailto:scaastro@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Sonia Castro  
Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3407**

6/19/24 The Somerville Times



**SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
LICENSES AND PERMITS  
PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits on **Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 6:00 PM**, on a petition for a New Flammables License.

New Flammables License, Building 2 Owner LLC, 808 Windsor Street, storing 3,549 gallons.

This meeting will be held by remote participation, using the Zoom Webinar platform.

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. To attend and be heard, enter the link exactly as it appears below into your internet browser. You will then be asked to register for the meeting.  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Ok1YbrguSNyFu4nVZ3KH6A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ok1YbrguSNyFu4nVZ3KH6A)
2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to [publiccomments@somervillema.gov](mailto:publiccomments@somervillema.gov), or send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

**KIMBERLY M. WELLS  
CITY CLERK**

6/19/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
INVITATION FOR BIDS  
IFB #24-10**

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, Invites Sealed Bids For:

**Urban Horticultural Management Program**

A bid package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, June 19th, 2024**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **1:00 pm, Monday, July 8th, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Sonia Castro [scaastro@somervillema.gov](mailto:scaastro@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Sonia Castro  
Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3407**

6/19/24 The Somerville Times

Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website: [www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)

## So Many Great Items to Bid on – Starting with 'A' for Arts at the Armory

Local businesses, friends and supporters have been so generous in supplying Arts at the Armory's auction with fantastic items just waiting to be bid on.

Within the auction platform, you can toggle between "bid" and "buy" – bid if you want to engage in bidding, or buy the item outright for a set price.

This online auction ends on June 30 at midnight and is part of Arts at the Armory's June campaign with a goal to raise \$10,000 by the end of the month.

Don't be shy and snag yourself or a loved one some great items and support the Center for Arts at the Armory in the process. Go to: <https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/bid/7217>.



## LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)



### LEGAL NOTICE

City of Somerville  
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)  
WFD-25.1

The City of Somerville, Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)  
invites sealed proposals for **FabVille Lab Manager**

Funds for the FabVille Lab Manager are provided by the Economic Development Division of the City of Somerville Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development.

Bid Number WFD-25.1

Request for Proposal (RFP) package will be posted and available for download on the City of Somerville website beginning at **10:00AM, Wednesday June 19, 2024** at [www.somervillema.gov/wfd](http://www.somervillema.gov/wfd).  
Print copies available upon request to [WFD@somervillema.gov](mailto:WFD@somervillema.gov).

An electronic PDF file should be emailed to email [WFD@somervillema.gov](mailto:WFD@somervillema.gov) and proposal packages must be submitted no later than **12:00 PM, Friday July 12, 2024** for responses to WFD-25.1 to the above email address.

Please contact the City of Somerville's Workforce Development staff, by email at [WFD@somervillema.gov](mailto:WFD@somervillema.gov), for information and proposal packages.

Thomas F. Galligani Jr.,  
Executive Director  
617- 625-6600, x 2500

6/19/24 The Somerville Times

# Good Food For All returns for a 7th Year

Union Square Main Streets proudly presents the 7th Annual Good Food For All campaign June 22 – 29. Back for a 7th year, local businesses, farmers market vendors, and community members have teamed up for this week-long, community campaign to raise awareness and funds for the local SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the successor to Food Stamps) match available at the Union Square Farmers Market.

Since 2005, USMS has raised more than \$83,000 to match SNAP dollars, making it possible for more neighbors to participate in and enjoy the bounty of our Farmers Market.

How much does this matter? During the 2010 Union Square Farmers Market season, the market issued \$164 in SNAP and match per market. In the 2023 season, the average SNAP and match issued per market was \$1,562, which represents an 852% increase.

This season, demand for the match increased 23% in just the first month. While this increase shows that fresh food continues to be a priority for all neighbors, it also means Good Food For All is even more important than ever.

To support the significantly increased number of neighbors struggling with food security throughout Somerville, USMS invites members of the community to come to the table to help ensure that all people have access to fresh, local food. How does it work?

- + Shop, dine, or play at any of the participating local businesses between June 22-29
- + Purchase their featured item or promotion
- + Participating businesses then donate proceeds

Every Saturday at the Union Square Farmers Market, SNAP customers receive a dollar-for-dollar match, up to \$15, for healthy, fresh, local food.

"Supporting neighbors and prioritizing inclusive public spaces matter a lot to our community, making the 7th year of this campaign a hallmark here," said Jessica Eshleman, executive director of Union Square Main Streets. "Dozens of generous



Square businesses, market vendors, and sponsors – as well as a wide array of individuals – coming together to sustain a more inclusive farmers market is an inspiring expression of the equity-driven values that keep Union a welcoming place for all."

Direct donations to the USFM SNAP match at [www.unionsquaremain.org](http://www.unionsquaremain.org) are also encouraged to help meet this year's fundraising goal of \$25,000. Donations are tax-deductible and make these outcomes possible:

- + \$15 = one SNAP match for one family
- + \$60 = SNAP match for one family for one month
- + \$150 = one SNAP match for ten families
- + \$800 = all the SNAP match funds needed for a typical Saturday farmers market
- + \$3,200 = SNAP match funds anticipated to be needed for one month

"Hutchins Farm is very proud to be a long time SNAP match program participant. We signed up long ago as a way to ensure that there were less barriers to shopping with us," said Liza Bemis, owner of USFM vendor Hutchins Farm.

"We are proud of how thoughtful Union Square Main Streets' market management has been around inclusion, including finding translators! The SNAP match program has greatly increased our ability to provide fresh produce to the Union Square Community." One recipient shared how important the SNAP match is to them saying,

"Having the SNAP match gave me the opportunity to eat more nutrient-dense foods which greatly improved my health and inspired me to start volunteering with local farms. Coming to the market has made both my physical and mental health much stronger. I'm grateful that the market and vendors have prioritized the SNAP match to make it more inclusive for me."

Good Food For All is made possible by its 2024 sponsors East Cambridge Savings Bank, Eversource, Somerville Family Dental, Union 346, The Neighborhood Restaurant and Bakery, Naveo Credit Union, USQ, and donors who have already contributed to help sustain the SNAP Match [3]. The Union Square Farmers Market [6] is made possible thanks to generous support from Boynton Yards, a DLJ and Leggat McCall Project, its 2024 Season Sponsor.

Learn more about Good Food For All at <https://www.unionsquaremain.org/good-food-for-all>.

### About Union Square Main Streets, Inc.:

Union Square Main Streets works to strengthen the dynamic neighborhood of businesses and people in Union Square. We take a four-part approach: promoting and celebrating its unique and spirited character; advocating for and assisting local businesses; working to create welcoming public spaces; and fostering connection and collaboration among diverse stakeholders and partners. More information is available at [www.unionsquaremain.org](http://www.unionsquaremain.org).

## New Fire Lieutenants



Newly promoted Somerville Fire Lieutenants Matthew Kane (L) and Michael Finnegan (R) pose with Chief Charles Breen following their swearing in. Both Lieutenants were promoted at the June 13 City Council meeting.

— Photo courtesy of Somerville Fire Dept.

Want to write local Somerville stories?  
Call 857-488-5138  
and speak to the Assignment Editor

# Somerville resident Elizabeth Bryant honored by Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts

Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts (GSEMA), the largest girl serving organization in Massachusetts, is proud to recognize Elizabeth Bryant of Somerville with the GSEMA President's Award for the GSEMA First Aid Instructors.

GSEMA recently celebrated the dedication and skills of its 4,000 active volunteers at its annual Volunteer and Donor Recognition Celebration, which took place on Sunday, May 19. The 2024 class of GSEMA Volunteer Recognition Honorees included over 130 volunteers.

Bryant was awarded with the GSEMA President's Award for the GSEMA First Aid Instructors. The GSEMA President's Award recognizes the efforts of a service team, committee, or volunteer team whose exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience surpassed team goals and resulted in sig-

nificant, measurable impact toward reaching the council's overall goals.

GSUSA and GSEMA recognitions are awarded based on an individual or group's exemplary service in support of delivery of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through nominations that are reviewed by GSEMA's Volunteer Recognition Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

For more information on Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts, please visit their website, [www.gsema.org](http://www.gsema.org), or follow their social media channels, Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/girlscoutsemass/>), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GirlScoutsEMass/>), and LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/girlscoutsemass/>), for the latest updates on the organization.

**About Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts**



Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts President's Award recipient Elizabeth Bryant.

Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts (GSEMA) is 30,000 strong, with 20,000 girls and 10,000 volunteers in 178 communities in eastern Massachusetts, building girl scouts

of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. GSEMA is the largest girl serving organization in Massachusetts and the 10th largest Girl Scout council in

the United States. Girl Scouts is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. To volunteer, reconnect, donate, join, or learn more, visit [www.gsema.org](http://www.gsema.org).

## Extreme heat expected in Somerville June 18-21 CONT. FROM PG 9

### Heat cramps

Look for: heavy sweating during intense exercise, muscle pain, or spasms

If you have heat cramps: stop physical activity, move to a cool place, and drink water or a sports drink. Wait for cramps to go away before you do any more physical activity and get medical help if cramps last longer than one hour, you're on a low-sodium diet, or you have heart problems.

### Heat exhaustion

Look for: heavy sweating; cold, pale, and clammy skin; a fast, weak pulse; nausea or vomiting; muscle cramps; tiredness or weakness; dizziness; headache; fainting

If you expect heat exhaustion, move to a cool place, loosen your clothes, put wet towels on your body or take a cool bath, and sip water. Get medical help if you are vomiting, your symptoms

get worse, or your symptoms last longer than one hour.

### Heat stroke

If someone is showing signs of heat stroke call 911 immediately. Heat stroke is a medical emergency. Signs of heat stroke include a body temperature over 103°F; hot, red, dry, or damp skin; a fast and strong pulse; nausea; headache, dizziness or confusion; and possible unconsciousness. While waiting for help to arrive, move the person to a cool area and help cool them down with wet towels or a cool bath. DON'T give them fluids.

### Tips For Pet Parents:

Don't leave pets outside for long periods of time.

Provide plenty of fresh water and, if outside, leave the water in a shady area.

Don't let dogs linger on hot asphalt during high temperatures.

Know the symptoms of over-

heating in pets, which include excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor, or collapse.

Animals with flat faces, like Pugs and Persian cats, are more susceptible to heat stroke since they cannot pant as effectively. These pets, along with pets that are older, overweight, or have heart or lung diseases, should be kept cool in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.

Don't leave pets unsupervised around a pool or other body of water.

Again, never leave your pet in your car or vehicle, even if the windows are open.

### Stay Cool In and Around Somerville:

Many Somerville city parks have water features that run from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The water sprays are on timers and stop for

20 minutes between cycles. Click here to see an interactive map of Somerville parks with water features. Water feature information is also available in multiple languages under the "Stay Cool Outside" section of the City's Keeping Cool in Hot Weather webpage.

Please note: Dilboy Pool is currently undergoing repairs and is closed until later this summer. The Latta Brothers Memorial Pool is a state-managed pool and is not scheduled to open until June 22. The water features at North Street Veterans Playground, Grimmons Park, and Hoyt Sul-livan Playground are also currently closed for repairs.

With access to the Green Line and other public transportation, you can also visit nearby communities that offer water features or pools:

### Parks in Arlington

Places to stay cool in Boston  
Cambridge Waterplay Map  
Medford Parks and Playgrounds

### State-managed Swimming Pools, Wading Pools and Spray Decks

During hot weather, more people cool off in and around bodies of water. Learn how to keep yourself and others safe in and around water by reviewing Water Safety tips provided by the Commonwealth at [mass.gov/water-safety](http://mass.gov/water-safety).

### Sign up for City Alerts:

Community members are encouraged to sign up for city alerts to receive timely information about emergencies and other important community news. You can sign up to receive alerts in your preferred language via phone, text, email, or all three. You can update your alert preferences at any time. Visit [somervillema.gov/alerts](http://somervillema.gov/alerts).

# Somerville stresses commitment to 'Safe Streets' plan

The City of Somerville is accelerating its ongoing efforts to make city streets safer by ensuring forward-looking design and safety practices are embedded throughout all street improvement projects citywide. This includes reemphasizing the city's commitment to complete the Somerville Bicycle Network plan's 40-mile priority network by 2030.

Following a vote by the City Council on June 13 supported by the Ballantyne administration, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne announced that the City of Somerville has adopted a "Safe Streets" Ordinance that advances pursuit of the city's Vision Zero goals. In 2017, the city committed to and began working toward Vision Zero goals, which aim to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries from our transportation system by making our streets safer and more accessible for people of all ages and abilities. This work has greatly accelerated in recent years, and the new ordinance codifies this community priority.

"Building safe streets is urgent, life-saving work. And while we've made great progress, there is still much more to be done. Our 'Safe Streets' ordinance commits us to continue accelerating the pace of change. I want to thank our resident-advocates, members of Council, and city staff for their partnership in continuing to chart a bold path forward," said Mayor Ballantyne.

The "Safe Streets" Ordinance furthers the city's efforts to accelerate street safety and accessibility improvements by reaffirming Somerville's Complete Streets

approach to street improvement projects, formally incorporating the goals of the city's Bicycle Network Plan into street design processes, and ensuring work to increase the number of accessible parking spaces continues. The ordinance also includes an easily accessible annual reporting process to document progress toward Vision Zero, accessibility, and Bicycle Network Plan goals.

"A few years from now, we are going to look back at this moment as a major turning point in the safety of our streets. No one should have to risk their life to travel around Somerville, and no matter how you get around – walking, biking, wheelchair, car, whatever – this Ordinance is going to make it safer to do so," said Somerville City Council President Ben Ewen-Campen.

"After years of advocacy, the Safe Streets Ordinance has enshrined a generational commitment to the safety and accessibility of all road users," said Councilor Willie Burnley. "By transforming the structure of our streets, the City of Somerville will redouble its efforts to ensure that every neighbor and family can enjoy the city that they love without fear of an accident."

Among the ongoing commitments codified by the ordinance are:

- The incorporation of complete street elements (including but not limited to pedestrian-focused design features, transit-focused elements such as improved bus stops, and traffic calming installations) to all street improvement projects

- The execution of goals for ac-



cessible pedestrian and transit infrastructure detailed in the city's Vision Zero Action Plan and the ADA Title II Transition Plan

- Completion of the Somerville Bicycle Network Plan's 40-mile priority network by 2030

- Annual reporting outlining progress toward safer streets including progress and expenditure on protected bicycle facilities

#### More About Somerville's Commitment to Vision Zero

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

The city's Vision Zero Action Plan outlines a strategy for eliminating deaths and serious injuries from our transportation system and details the actions the city

will take. It was developed by a team of city staff and dedicated resident volunteers on the Vision Zero Task Force, including representatives from advisory and advocacy committees from Somerville and the Greater Boston region. The objectives, strategies, and actions set forth are intended to be ambitious, specific, actionable, and measurable.

To learn more about Vision Zero in Somerville visit [somer villema.gov/visionzero](http://somer villema.gov/visionzero).

#### More About Somerville's Bicycle Network Plan

The City of Somerville developed a citywide bicycle network plan so that people of all ages and abilities can ride a bicycle to anywhere in the city safely and comfortably. The Somerville Bicycle Network Plan, completed in 2023, was developed through a one-and-a-half-year public engagement, research,

and analysis process.

The Plan maps out steps to expand and upgrade the current 30-mile network of bicycle facilities to a total of 88 miles that will create safe and connected routes to better protect bike riders of all ages. A total of 40 miles of bicycle improvements are designated on high-priority routes to be installed or upgraded by 2030, with the remaining miles to be completed over the full 20 years of the plan. The network includes a mix of protected bike facilities, off-street paths, and traffic-calmed backstreet "Neighborhoods" routes. As part of implementation, the city will hold public engagement processes before installing any facilities identified in the Plan.

To learn more about the city's Bicycle Network Plan visit [somer villema.gov/bicyclenet-work](http://somer villema.gov/bicyclenet-work).

Visit us online at [www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)  
 Facebook at [www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1](http://www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1)  
 and follow us on X/Twitter at [@somervilletimes](https://twitter.com/somervilletimes)

# CLASSIFIEDS

Place your classified ad today – only \$1 per word! E-mail: [ads@thesomervilletimes.com](mailto:ads@thesomervilletimes.com)

## AUTOS WANTED

**CASH FOR CARS!** We buy all cars! Junk, high-end, totaled-it doesn't matter! Get free towing and same day cash! NEWER MODELS too! Call 1-866-258-6720

## FINANCIAL

**WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC** Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free Consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 855-428-7954

## FOR RENT

Apartment for rent: Somerville, 1 bedroom available 7/1/2024. W/W, EIK. \$1500./month. Call Jim, 617-429-0947

Warm Weather Is Year Round In Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. Email: [carolaction@aol.com](mailto:carolaction@aol.com) for more information.

## FOR SALE

**YOU'LL WANT TO USE THIS TIMESHARE.** Orange Lake, Florida. Near Disney. Weeks 8 & 9 (February) One floor living with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, full kitchen, laundry. Purchase both for \$19,000. Call 978.371.2442 or email [carol@actionunlimited.com](mailto:carol@actionunlimited.com)

## HEALTH & FITNESS

**VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS!** 50 Generic Pills SPECIAL \$99.00. 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 888-445-5928 Hablamos Español

Dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400+ procedures. Real dental insurance - not just a discount plan. Get your free Information Kit with details! 1-855-526-1060 [www.dental50plus.com/ads#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/ads#6258)

Attention oxygen therapy users! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. Free info kit. Call 877-929-9587

## HOME SERVICES

Ageing Roof? New Homeowner? Got Storm Damage? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-878-9091

Water damage cleanup & restoration: A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold growth in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-888-872-2809

## MISCELLANEOUS

**4G LTE HOME INTERNET** Now Available! Get GotW3 with lightning fast speeds plus take your service with you when you travel! As low as \$109.99/mo! 1-877-452-1183

**CARING FOR AN AGING LOVED ONE?** Wondering about options like senior-living communities and in-home care? Caring.com's Family Advisors are here to help take the guesswork out of senior care for you and your family. Call for your FREE, no-obligation consultation: 1-844-556-4158

**DISH NETWORK \$59.99 for 190 Channels!** Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100. Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-833-800-0411

**DISHTV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet.** Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some Restrictions Apply. Promo Expires 01/31/2024. 1-877-494-7039

**ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER!** LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-723-0883

**FREE HIGH SPEED INTERNET** for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping and handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-877-559-8698

**HUGHESNET SATELLITE INTERNET** Finally, no hard data limits! Call Today for speeds up to 25mbps as low as \$59.99/mo! \$75 gift card, terms apply. 1-877-459-1615

**SAFE STEP** North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower

package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe-Step 1-844-610-9711

**SWITCH AND SAVE UP TO \$250/YEAR** on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. Limited time offer: get 50% off on any new account. Use code GIFT50. For more information, call 1-866-926-5071

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase\* Call 1-855-948-6176 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule free LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-833-610-1936

**BATH & SHOWER UPDATES** in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 855-761-1725

Donate Your Car to Veterans Today! Help and Support our Veterans. Fast - FREE pick up. 100% tax deductible. Call 1-800-245-0398

HughesNet - Finally, super-fast internet no matter where you live. 25 Mbps just \$59.99/mo! Unlimited Data is Here. Stream Video. Bundle TV & Internet. Free Installation. Call 866-499-0141

Become a published author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing trusted since 1920. Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Call for free author's guide 1-877-729-4998 or visit [dorranceinfo.com/ads](http://dorranceinfo.com/ads)

**DISHTV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet.** Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 12/31/24. 1-866-479-1516

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-in tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our free shower package & \$1600 off - limited time!

Financing available. 1-855-417-1306

MobileHelp, America's premier mobile medical alert system. Whether you're home or away. For safety & peace of mind. No long term contracts! Free brochure! 1-888-489-3936

Free high speed internet if qualified. Govt. pgm for recipients of select pgms incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet. Android tablet free w/one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping. Call Maxsip Telecom! 1-833-758-3892

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get free info package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971

Diagnosed with lung cancer & 65+? You may qualify for a substantial cash award. No obligation! We've recovered millions. Let us help! Call 24/7 1-877-707-5707

Replace your roof w/the best looking & longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! 3 styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off install + Additional 10% off install (military, health &

1st responders.) 1-833-370-1234

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, we're cutting installation costs in half and offering a FREE safety upgrade! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 3/31/24 Call 1-844-501-3208

*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

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. The ending of slavery in the United States         | 6. Bill Russell     |
| 2. Lucky the Leprechaun                               | 7. Gertie           |
| 3. 1946   | 8. Lunar Cheesecake |
| 4. Jayson Tatum and Larry Bird, both scored 60 points | 9. Coachella        |
| 5. Harbour Island                                     | 10. Cornhole        |
|   | 11. Hemophilia B    |
|   | 12. James Taylor    |

## COMMENTARY

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

## Poor, low-income workers and allies will bring our demands to Washington DC on June 29

By Jenny Bonham-Carter

Did you know that there are about 140 million poor and low-income people in the US – white, black, Hispanic, Asian and Native American - making up 40 percent of the national population and that poverty is the 4th leading cause of death in America?

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival was founded in 2017 to address these issues. The Poor People's Campaign is a highly diverse umbrella movement lifting from the bottom up, bringing together many organizations and individuals nationwide, working from grassroots-to policy level to build power for change.

Poverty is also a reality in Massachusetts where 1 in 3 people are poor or low income, low wage workers. The Greater Boston Food Bank reports that out of our state population of 7 million, 2 million people are food insecure. The Massachusetts chapter of the Poor People's Campaign is organizing people around these issues in our state.

On Friday June 29th the National Poor People's Campaign is holding a Mass Poor People's and Low Wage Workers Assembly and Moral March on Washington DC and to the Polls. Poor and low-wage workers, impacted people, and allies will join us in the nation's capital to demand that those running for elected office this year embrace a moral public

policy agenda that includes our 17 demands:

- Abolishing poverty as the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S
- A living minimum wage of at least \$15 +/-hour (indexed for inflation)
- Full and expanded voting rights
- No more voter suppression
- Guaranteed workers' rights & labor rights
- Healthcare for all
- Affordable, adequate housing
- Strong social welfare and safety net programs
- An end to gun violence, profit and proliferation
- Fully protected women's rights
- Environmental justice that secures clean air & water

• Justice for all Indigenous nations

• Fully-funded public education

• Just immigration laws

• Addressing militarism and the war economy

• Standing for peace not war; an immediate cease fire in Gaza that allows humanitarian relief, the release of all hostages, and peace with justice; and an end to genocide around the world

• An end to hate, division, and the extremist political agenda

Our goal after the June 29th march is to reach 15 million poor and low wage infrequent voters nationally through intensive organizing and outreach. If all poor and low wage people in Massachusetts voted they would make up one-quarter of the electorate

with a significant impact to follow. That's why Massachusetts will participate in this voter registration drive.

What can you do?

Come to the march in DC on June 29. Massachusetts PPC are organizing buses so that everyone who wants to will be able to go.

Watch and share the June 29 event online if you can't come in person.

To get involved in our work and/or to receive our newsletter, please email [massachusetts@poorpeoplescampaign.org](mailto:massachusetts@poorpeoplescampaign.org). For more information, see [www.poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org).

Jenny Bonham-Carter is a Somerville resident and the Music- and Arts (Theomusicology) Coordinator for the Massachusetts Poor People's Campaign

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

The city left a dumpster of trash that was overflowing outside of the Edgerly building (which is being used for the Winter Hill School) since Thursday, June 13th. Overflowing trash has sat on city property in a residential area for 3 days in the hot sun, residents have called all weekend requesting the dumpster to be emptied and have no action was taken.

We had to deal with rats over the week-

end because the city did not want to pick up the trash, lovely, thank you.

And the city had a nerve sending out a flyer telling residents to take responsibility for reducing the rate population. Sending a condensing card as if residents had to be told about closing trash lids, not to leave food around, replace barrels if there are holes (as if Somerville has replacements) but my favorite Somerville actually ex-

pects residents to sweep puddles, really? Maybe the city could just take some action, actually get someone who doesn't like rodents to rid the rats. And maintain any/all black boxes and not just put them out and forget them.

Before sending out any more flyers, the city should ensure that they are taking action first.

A message to the Somerville Administration, why don't you stop worrying about

the bike lanes and putting dumb islands in the middle of roads, AND start taking care of issues that will actually affect people's health such as the population increase of rats which are now running around during the day not just at night. Why not start thinking about ALL of the residents and not just a small group...

*Fed up, Long Time Resident*

## Somergloom Festival – August 23 and 24

The feel-gloom event of the year returns for two full nights on two stages at The Center For Arts At The Armory, 191 Highland Ave, Somerville.

Somergloom is a celebration of musical performances that fall in the genre realm of doom and gloom metal, and encompasses a wide range of artists.

The first, announced headliners: BIG|BRAVE, Royal Thunder and Spiritual Poison (ft. Ethan McCarthy of Primitive Man)

Many more bands and artists still to be revealed! <https://link.dice.fm/Somergloom>



## Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

use disorders. Together, we are forging a path towards a healthier, more supportive future for all.”

“As families across Massachusetts know all too well, the impact of opioid addiction can be utterly devastating for the individual and for their loved ones, which is why a continued focus on combating substance use is a critical responsibility that we have as elected officials,” said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy).

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Didn't Vote

### VETERANS BENEFITS (S 2817)

Senate 38-0, approved a package designed to benefit veterans in the Bay State by broadening the definition of a veteran, increasing tax credits and state benefits for which they are eligible and modernizing the services on which they rely.

Provisions include requiring a public school district to provide support services to a military-connected student when a parent or guardian is called to active duty; allowing Gold Star Family spouses to remarry without the penalty of losing their annuity benefit; increasing from \$2,000 to \$2,500 the amount of a tax credit for each qualified veteran hired by an employer; eliminating the fee for specialty license plates for veterans; increasing local flexibility for veterans property tax exemptions; and allowing municipalities to increase the property tax obligation of a veteran in exchange for volunteer services.

Other provisions include modernizing statute language for inclusivity and standardization to ensure gender-neutral and inclusive language while removing antiquated references; allowing veterans to be reimbursed for visits to outpatient behavioral health providers; providing consistent care to veterans by codifying medical assistance benefits; and creating a working group to study and make recommendations on the use of psychedelics as an alternative therapy for mental health treatments for veterans.

“Very few are brave enough to raise their hand and pledge to defend our nation and the values that we hold dear, no matter the cost,” said Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield), chair of the Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. “It is on us - as a commonwealth - to always remember, recognize and honor that sacrifice however we can.”

“As a commander in the United States Naval Reserves and an Iraq War veteran, it is my great privilege to serve in a body that commits itself time and time again to honoring our nation's armed service members,” said Sen. Mike Rush (D-Boston), vice chair of the Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. “This legislation passed by the Senate maintains our state's promise to our service members and their families that they will be honored as they

have done for us.”

“We don't rest on our laurels in Massachusetts,” said Sen. John Cronin (D-Fitchburg). “This bill modernizes our laws to ensure that the commonwealth remains second to none delivering veterans services and ensures our vets have the support needed to repatriate into our communities.

The House has approved a different version of the measure and a House-Senate conference committee will work to hammer out a compromise version.

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes
----------------------	-----

### MERCHANT MARINE DAY (S 2817)

Senate 38-0, approved an amendment designating June 12 as United States Merchant Marine Day in recognition of the establishment of the United States Merchant Marine on June 12, 1775.

The amendment was approved last week on June 13 and if eventually approved again by both branches, will not take effect until June 12, 2025.

“I co-sponsored this amendment because it rightfully acknowledges the Merchant Marines, who deserve equal recognition among other branches of service,” said Sen. Mike Brady (D-Brockton). “It honors those who have served our country with distinction, affirming their importance.”

“I was honored to co-sponsor and vote for [this amendment]” said Sen. Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence). “This amendment would recognize the service of Merchant Marines by installing their flag at veteran cemeteries and the Statehouse as well as creating a Massachusetts Merchant Mariner Medal. I was proud to see the Senate pass the amendment with unanimous support.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes
----------------------	-----

### ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**SALES TAX HOLIDAY (H 4751)** – The House and Senate approved a measure designating August 10 and August 11 as a sales tax holiday weekend for the Bay State, allowing consumers to buy most products that cost under \$2,500 without paying the state's 6.25 percent sales tax. State law currently calls for a 2-day sales tax holiday every year. This bill simply sets the specific dates.

“I was happy to sponsor the legislation establishing this year's sales tax holiday,” said Rep. Jerry Parisella (D-Beverly). “This bill emphasizes the Legislature's commitment to supporting local jobs and businesses. Consumers have

faced higher prices for goods due to inflation, so this tax-free weekend is a great opportunity to provide individuals, families and businesses across the commonwealth with some relief.”

“The sales tax holiday provides significant relief to families during a time of year where their checkbooks are already stretched from the purchase of back-to-school supplies and other family expenses,” said Senate sponsor Sen. Susan Moran (D-Falmouth). “It's also a vital tool in bolstering our economy, especially for our cherished small businesses, who often operate on thin margins.”

“The sales tax holiday is a great opportunity for residents to get out and support the local businesses in their community and get some shopping done during a time of year when people are gearing up for the fall,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “I'm glad we worked together in the Legislature to get this done for residents again this year.

“Each year, the Legislature's temporary suspension of the sales tax aims to boost revenue for small businesses and enhance affordability for consumers,” said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy).

### REQUIRE ALARMS IN RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOLS HOT TUBS AND SPAS (H 2389)

The House gave initial approval to legislation that would require alarms in all existing, newly-renovated and newly-constructed residential swimming pools, hot tubs and spas. The measure would impose a fine of between \$100 and \$500 on violators.

“I sponsored this legislation in order to bring a higher level of safety to the commonwealth regarding swimming pools,” said sponsor Rep. Angelo Puppolo (D-Springfield). “The installation of a swimming pool alarm is a simple measure that can save a person's life. An alarm, when activated, detects when someone enters the pool so that no person is unnoticed whether they are an adult or child.”

### 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://massterlist.com/media-2024/>

### DISABILITY PENSION FOR POLICE OFFICERS

(H 2536) – The House gave initial approval to a proposal that would provide a 100 percent regular compensation pension benefit for police officers who have suffered a Violent Act Injury – defined as “a serious *Continued on page 22*



# Five-year anniversary of Nibble Kitchen restaurant and business incubator

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council are inviting the community to NibbleFest, a celebration of Nibble Kitchen's five-year anniversary at Bow Market, on Sunday, June 30, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Bow Market (entrance by 345 Somerville Ave).

To celebrate five fantastic years, Nibble Kitchen will host pop-ups from some of their favorite Chefs-in-Residence, past and present. In addition to delicious food, there will be live music courtesy of Juan Carlos Ruiz, and activities including the Test Your Nose! game, and face painting.

Culinary Pop-Ups at NibbleFest are scheduled to include:

- Boukan'nen Afro-Haitian Cuisine
- Brazil Green (serving vegetarian and vegan food)
- Elen's Bakeshop (Colombian baked goods and sandwiches)
- BanglaAdda Bengali Cuisine
- Petra Jordanian Cuisine
- Riti's Kulfi Ice Cream
- Taquisimo Tacos
- Nagomi Bento
- Carolicious Gourmet

Upcoming Nibble Events

Now - October 26: Find Nibble Kitchen at the Union Square Farmers' Market every other week (66-70 Union Square Plaza, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.); Nibble Kitchen will feature two vendors every other week.

June 27: Nibble graduate Edwin Orellana will be selling his

gourmet Salvadoran pupusas at the Somerville Fireworks Fourth of July celebration (Trum Field, from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m.). Edwin developed his Dos Manos pupusa business when in the Nibble program.

July 13: Find Nibble Kitchen at ArtBeat (Davis Sq., 11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.), one of the largest festivals of the season. Our Nibble staff and chefs will be at the center of the festival on the main Traffic Island, better known as Nibble Island!

**The Somerville Arts Council and the Launch of Nibble**

Nibble was launched a decade ago, as part of Somerville Arts Council's ArtsUnion initiative, which has transformed Union Square, Somerville through innovative cultural economic development work. Nibble started with Union Square international market tours; next came a blog and then a book. We then added cooking classes, and a culinary entrepreneurship program. Next came Nibble Kitchen, which is located in the heart of Union Square, where our Nibble work all began.

**About Nibble Kitchen- Global Eats by Local Peeps**

Nibble is a Somerville Arts Council/City of Somerville initiative that celebrates cultural diversity through food and promotes economic development. Five years ago, Nibble expanded to launch a brick-and-mortar restaurant and business incubator



called Nibble Kitchen, which offers a rotating global menu featuring chefs from Somerville's diverse community.

Nibble Kitchen also offers cooking classes to the public, and serves as home base for Nibble chefs vending at the Union Square Farmers Market and Somerville Arts Council festivals. All chefs at Nibble Kitchen are graduates of the Nibble Entrepreneurship Program. Go to [www.nibblesomerville.com](http://www.nibblesomerville.com) for

the restaurant schedule, entrepreneur profiles, and much more information about the program. **Nibble and Economic Development**

Since the inception of the Nibble program ten years ago, Nibble graduates have opened a total of six restaurants, including three at Bow Market: Carolicious Gourmet, Taquisimo, and Nagomi's Bento (to open within the next two months), as well as 10 food businesses. These restaurants

and food businesses employ over thirty employees, creating an economic ecosystem that supports Somerville's diverse population.

Other Nibble participants past and present derive income vending at Nibble Kitchen, as well as vending at Festivals and Farmers Markets, and teaching cooking classes. Nibble also plays a significant role in placemaking by propelling culinary tourism and ensuring that Somerville stays diverse and delicious.

## Apply now for Somerville Community Preservation Act funds

Applications are now open for Somerville Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to support open space/recreation and historic preservation projects.

Applicants should note the following deadlines:

- Sunday, July 14, 2024: Eligibility Determination Form Due
- The Eligibility Determination form allows the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to determine if a proposed project qualifies for CPA funds. The CPC will contact applicants to let them know whether their proposal is eligible. Projects that do qualify will then be invited to enter the full application process.
- Friday, August 30: HPC Advisory Review Request Form required for all Historic Preservation projects
- Sunday, September 15, 2024: Full Application Due

All application instructions and forms are available at [somervillema.gov/CPA](http://somervillema.gov/CPA).

Please contact Roberta Cameron, Community Preservation Act Manager, with questions at [rcameron@somervillema.gov](mailto:rcameron@somervillema.gov).



## 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.

**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.

**Knitting Group** – Tuesday, June 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.

**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** – Thursday, June 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 lunches 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 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.

**Veteran's Group** – Meets the 4th Tuesday of each month (June 25th) starting at 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Project Outlook, Low Vision Group** - Meets the 4th Thursday of each month (June 27th) from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Project Outlook is a group of residents with low or no vision who enjoy getting together for camaraderie, socialization and enjoy a meal together. Project Outlook has been active for over 30 years. Come join in the conversation, we look forward to meeting you. All are welcome. For

more information and to RSVP please contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

**Tech Time Drop-in Hours** – Every Tuesday in June starting at 9:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. RSVP by contacting Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov

### JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

**Coffee & Conversation** – Every Monday in June from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center. Join us as we discuss a range of topics. No books – no test – just friendly conversation and good coffee. Grab-n-Go lunch available. Please contact Maureen Bastardi at mabstardi@Somervillema.gov or call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 to RSVP.

**Coffee & Conversation** – Every Thursday in June from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Join us as we discuss a range of topics. No books – no test – just friendly conversation and good coffee. Please contact Maureen Bastardi at mabstardi@Somervillema.gov or call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 to RSVP.

### 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 19**

7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice III  
 8:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol  
 8:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan  
 9:00 AM Juneteenth Flag Raising  
 10:00 AM Memorial Day Parade 2024  
 10:34 AM Memorial Day Ceremony  
 11:02 AM Talking Business: Night Life  
 11:30 AM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin  
 12:00 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair  
 1:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol  
 2:00 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares  
 4:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting 6-10-24  
 6:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan  
 7:00 PM Juneteenth Flag Raising  
 8:00 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024  
 8:30 PM SomerViva en Espanol  
 9:00 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares  
 11:00 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair

**THURSDAY, JUNE 20**

12:15 AM City Council Meeting 6-13-24  
 6:30 AM Finance Committee Meeting 6-10-24  
 9:00 AM Juneteenth Ceremony 2024  
 10:00 AM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair  
 11:30 AM Memorial Day Ceremony  
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health  
 12:30 PM SomerViva en Espanol  
 1:00 PM Pride Flag Raising 2024  
 1:30 PM School Committee Meeting 6-10-24  
 7:00 PM Special City Council Meeting - LIVE

**FRIDAY, JUNE 21**

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Mental Health  
 12:30 AM Juneteenth Ceremony 2024  
 1:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol  
 2:00 AM People's History Walking Tour of

7:00 AM Davis & Ball Squares Jane's Walk 2024  
 8:33 AM SomerViva em Português  
 9:00 AM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024  
 10:04 AM Talking Business: Night Life  
 10:30 AM Pride Flag Raising 2024  
 11:00 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024  
 11:30 AM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin  
 12:00 PM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing  
 1:00 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair  
 2:30 PM SomerViva em Português  
 3:00 PM Driver's License Info Session em Português  
 4:30 PM Finance Committee of the Whole 6-18-24  
 7:00 PM Juneteenth Ceremony 2024  
 8:00 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community  
 9:40 PM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking  
 10:00 PM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond  
 11:10 PM Porchfest 2024

**SATURDAY, JUNE 22**

12:00 AM Pride Flag Raising 2024  
 12:30 AM SomerViva en Espanol  
 1:00 AM Memorial Day Ceremony  
 1:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan  
 2:00 AM Women's History Month Celebration 2024  
 7:00 AM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares  
 9:00 AM Porchfest 2024  
 10:00 AM Senior Circuit: Mental Health  
 10:30 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024  
 11:00 AM Special City Council Meeting 6-20-24  
 2:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan  
 3:00 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair  
 4:15 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm

5:05 PM Juneteenth Ceremony 2024  
 6:00 PM Jane's Walk 2024  
 7:33 PM SomerViva em Português  
 8:00 PM Pride Flag Raising 2024  
 8:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin  
 9:00 PM School Committee Meeting 6-17-24

**SUNDAY, JUNE 23**

12:30 AM Pride Flag Raising 2024  
 1:00 AM Special City Council Meeting 6-20-24  
 7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy  
 7:30 AM SomerViva en Espanol  
 8:00 AM Porchfest 2024  
 9:00 AM Congressional Update  
 9:30 AM Pride Flag Raising 2024  
 10:00 AM Juneteenth Ceremony 2024  
 11:00 AM Porchfest 2024  
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health  
 12:30 PM SomerViva em Português  
 1:00 PM Finance Committee of the Whole 6-18-24  
 4:00 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community  
 6:00 PM Porchfest 2024  
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health  
 7:30 PM Congressional Update  
 8:00 PM Juneteenth Ceremony 2024  
 9:00 PM Special City Council Meeting 6-20-24

**MONDAY, JUNE 24**

12:30 AM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair  
 2:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol  
 2:30 AM Jane's Walk 2024  
 7:00 AM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024  
 8:04 AM SomerViva an Kreyol  
 8:35 AM Pride Flag Raising 2024  
 9:00 AM Congressional Update  
 9:30 AM Somerville Civic Day 2024  
 10:00 AM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm

11:00 AM Porchfest 2024  
 12:00 PM Special City Council Meeting 6-20-24  
 3:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan  
 4:00 PM School Committee Meeting 6-17-24  
 7:00 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin  
 7:30 PM Museo Inmigrante: What Being an Immigrant Means to Me  
 9:00 PM SomerViva en Espanol  
 9:30 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares  
 11:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan

**TUESDAY, JUNE 25**

12:00 AM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America  
 1:06 AM Talking Business: Night Life  
 1:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol  
 2:01 AM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024  
 6:30 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II  
 7:30 AM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm  
 8:30 AM Memorial Day Ceremony  
 9:00 AM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair  
 10:30 AM SomerViva en Espanol  
 11:00 AM Pride Flag Raising 2024  
 11:30 AM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin  
 12:00 PM Finance Committee of the Whole 6-18-24  
 4:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan  
 4:30 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community  
 6:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin  
 7:00 PM Congressional Update  
 7:30 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair  
 9:00 PM Memorial Day Ceremony  
 9:30 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares  
 11:30 PM Talking Business: Night Life  
 12:00 AM School Committee Meeting 6-17-24

# EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19**

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  
 5:03 PM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert  
 6:00 PM Brown School Spring Concert  
 7:30 PM School Committee Meeting 6-17-24  
 10:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin  
 11:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship

**THURSDAY, JUNE 20**

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  
 7:30 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising  
 8:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show  
 10:00 PM WSNS Spring Concert  
 11:30 PM WHCS K-3 Spring Concert

**FRIDAY, JUNE 21**

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 22**

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 23**  
 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 School Committee Meeting 6-17-24  
 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  
 8:30 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising  
 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 24**

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 Healey School 4-8 Spring Concert  
 5:30 PM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking  
 6:00 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin  
 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 25**

12:00 AM School Committee Meeting 6-17-24  
 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

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26**

12:04 AM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing  
 1:00 AM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising  
 1:30 AM WSNS Spring Concert

# Somerville's Fourth of July celebration



Get ready for summer fun at Somerville's Fourth of July celebration. Enjoy live music, food, and of course, a big, bold fireworks display. Head to Trum Field on Thursday, June 27, at 6:00 p.m. (rain Date Friday, June 28).

Due to large crowds and noise associated with the fireworks, the City recommends that attendees leave pets at home and avoid bringing unnecessary bags or backpacks, all of which are subject to inspection.

For more information, call 311 (617-666-3311). Learn more at: [somervilleartsandcouncil.org/fireworks](http://somervilleartsandcouncil.org/fireworks)

# Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Front porch goddess... — Photo by Denise Provost

## BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why did the fish blush?  
Because it saw the ocean's bottom.

## On This Day in History

### June 19

- 0240 – Eratosthenes estimates the circumference of Earth using two sticks.
- 1778 – General George Washington's troops finally leave Valley Forge after a winter of training.
- 1846 – The New York Knickerbocker Club plays the New York Club in the first baseball game at Elysian Field, Hoboken, New Jersey.
- 1862 – President Abraham Lincoln outlines his Emancipation Proclamation.
- 1867 – Mexican Emperor Maximilian is executed.
- 1885 – The Statue of Liberty arrives in New York City from France.
- 1934 – The National Archives and Records Administration is established.
- 1958 – Nine entertainers refuse to answer a congressional committee's questions on communism.
- 1963 – Soviet cosmonaut, Valentina Tereshkova, becomes the first woman in space.
- 1968 – Over 50,000 people march on Washington, D.C. to support the Poor People's Campaign.

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

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Kick off the start of summer with your friends and neighbors at the **Growing Center**. This spring marks the **30th Anniversary** of the beginning of our programming, and they want to celebrate. Join in for live music (and dancing) by Somerville-based band **Lunatic Neighbor**, **Forge ice cream** samples drizzled with our own maple syrup, birthday card making, pollinator rafts, button making, archival activities, an interview station, and a pay-what-you-want bake sale. This event is free and open to all, 22 Vinal Ave **June 22, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Share your **Growing Center Memories**. Do you have any photos from your experiences over the years at the Growing Center, whether from 1994 or last week? Or maybe some images of plants that you got from the Center that flourished? Or know someone who was around during some of the early years who may have photos? You can email them in jpeg format to [30th@thegrowingcenter.org](mailto:30th@thegrowingcenter.org) Or visit their website to other options [www.thegrowingcenter.org](http://www.thegrowingcenter.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Historic Somerville stickers** are available. Collect all of the Historic Somerville Stickers. You can pick them up at **local businesses**, including **Mudflat** in East Somerville, 81 Broadway.

\*\*\*\*\*

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 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 **ARPA-funded**, keeping **Small Strong** pilot all while enjoying delicious foods + real conversations with your neighbors. For free tickets visit <https://www.simplertix.com/e/keeping-small-strong-reflect-refine-community-tickets-172069>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Families are invited to join in as the East Branch kicks off their **Children's Summer Reading Program** with Mr. Vinny's Shadow Puppets. Mr. Vinny (of the acclaimed **Toe Jam Puppet Band**) will host an evening of magical storytelling told through shadows. Best for ages 5+ and families. **June 27, East Branch Library**, 115 Broadway. The East Branch is

a one-room library. This event will be in the children's area and library lights will be dimmed during the performance. For more info, contact **Meghan**: [mforsell@somervillema.gov](mailto:mforsell@somervillema.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

Due to **extreme heat** the **Civil War Monuments, Burials, and Restoration at Milk Row Cemetery** talk scheduled for June 20 has been cancelled along with the **Docent Tour: Milk Row Cemetery**, 439 Somerville Ave., scheduled for Thursday, June 20, **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>.

\*\*\*\*\*

On **June 12**, **SHS alumni and staff** of past and present attended the dedication and memorialization of the 4th floor chemistry lab classrooms in honor of Mr. Joe Tarello. Mr. Tarello was chair of the Science department and taught at Somerville High for an incredible 53 years. To watch the dedication, visit <https://www.youtube.com/@SomervilleEdTV>.

\*\*\*\*\*

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](http://somervillema.gov/electric-vehicles).

\*\*\*\*\*

Each month, **The Dojo at Somernova** hosts **Gaming is Not a Crime: Youth-Stream**. Come build community through playing your favorite games. The event features cash prizes and pizza and starts at 6:00 p.m. The Dojo at Somernova, 15 Properzi Way, Somerville. **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. Stop by and maintain your bike or learn more about cycling. Upcoming Bike Kitchens: 6/20, 6/24.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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, discounted 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](http://americanrendezvous.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

Get ready for summer fun at **Somerville's Fourth of July celebration**. Enjoy live music, food, and of course, a big, bold fireworks display. Head to **Trum Field** on **Thursday, June 27**, at 6:00 p.m. (rain Date Friday, June 28). Due to large crowds and noise associated with the fireworks, the city recommends that attendees leave pets at home and avoid bringing unnecessary bags or back-packs, all of which are subject to inspection. For more information, call 311 (617-666-3311). Learn more at: [somervilleartscouncil.org/fireworks](http://somervilleartscouncil.org/fireworks).

\*\*\*\*\*

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](http://somervillema.gov/inclusionary).

\*\*\*\*\*

Help stop **black swallow-wort** this summer. Have you seen this invasive weed in your area? Black swallow-wort (BSW) is an aggressive weed that's harmful to native plants, butterflies, birds, and more. BSW has shiny green leaves that come in pairs, thin green pods, and small dark purple flowers that grow in clusters. BSW can often be found around fences and shrubs in late May and early June. If you see BSW, **dig it up** by the root and seal it in a trash bag.

\*\*\*\*\*

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: [somerville-ma.gov/hydrantflushing](http://somerville-ma.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**: [ti-nyurl.com/splccvapp](http://ti-nyurl.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 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/>.

# Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 16

and permanent personal bodily injury sustained as a direct and proximate result of a violent attack upon a person by means of a dangerous weapon, including a firearm, knife, automobile, explosive device or other dangerous weapon.”

“When a police officer is involved in an incident where they have been shot, stabbed or beaten so violently that they are no longer able to work, they should not have to suffer financial devastation as well,” said sponsor Rep. Jessica Ann Giannino (D-Revere). “Their life has already been altered by their physical disability. They should not suffer a financial penalty for stepping up and protecting the communities they serve, nor should their family. These violent crimes are thankfully few and far between, however when an officer is injured serving and protecting so severely that they can no longer work and provide for their family, they should be covered, one hundred percent.”

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

“It is always a joy to celebrate National Women Veterans Appreciation Day at the Statehouse to honor the remarkable women who have served in our armed forces. We recognize the immense contributions and sacrifices they have made, and their ongoing service to our community, state

and country.” — Gov. Maura Healey.

“Maximizing the use of this technology to bolster the Department of Correction’s range of rehabilitative programming will further help to prepare individuals for their next step toward successful reentry. I commend the [department] for their continued efforts to identify innovative ways to offer continuous programming that improves lives and meaningfully impacts recidivism.” — Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy announcing the successful implementation of an innovative tablet program that equips incarcerated individuals with personalized electronic devices for access to a wide range of online courses to accelerate education, job skill training and self-improvement programs.

## 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 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 10-14, the House met for a total of 11 hours and 26 minutes and the Senate met for a total of five hours and 41 minutes.

Mon, June 10	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Senate 11:09 a.m. to 11:29 a.m.
Tues, June 11	No House session No Senate session
Wed, June 12	House 11:02 a.m. to 3:12 p.m. No Senate session
Thurs, June 13	House 11:02 a.m. to 6:04 p.m. Senate 11:12 a.m. to 4:33 p.m.
Fri, June 14	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

## Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

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 parksomerville.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.gle/CrsDHSagUFmrQ58a7> To accompany this year’s ArtBeat 2024 festival, Somerville Art Council’s Inside-Out Gal-

lery 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](http://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](http://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.



# OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

## Interview with Somerville artist Karen Moss

# Lyrical

## SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Recently I had a chance to talk with Karen Moss at her space in the Miller Street Studios in Somerville, Mass. I was introduced to her work at "Open Studios" – an event that the Somerville Arts Council puts on yearly. She told me that her work is always "about something" often touching on the social and the political issues of our time.

According to her website:

"Boston-based artist Karen Moss explores social, historical and environmental issues through a variety of media including drawings, paintings and collage."

**Doug Holder:** How has it been for you at the Miller Street Studios in Somerville?

**Karen Moss:** Well, I have only been here for a year. I was pressured to leave my Braintree Street Studio in Allston – there is a robotics company in its place now. I love being at Miller Street – and the landlord seems to love artists! Some 50 years ago I started at the Vernon Street Studios in Somerville. I was one of the three first tenants. Maude Morgan helped us find a space, so I guess I got my first start in Somerville.

**DH:** A lot of your work makes a political statement. You explore Native Americans, banned books, the subtext of children's stories, colonialism, etc.

**KM:** There are a lot of different aspects to my work. I use political ideas as well as humor and pop culture. Some of my work is lighthearted. My work is about something, it has a narrative quality.

**DH:** Was your childhood full of creativity?

**KM:** In a show I presented, *Life Before TV*, I explored my own childhood before the birth of TV. As a child I drew all the time. I had a vivid imagination. I was influenced by children's literature. It seems to me that most kids stop drawing, as reading and writing takes over their time. I always kept drawing. The kids I hung out always created imaginary projects. Until second grade I grew up in Jamaica Plain. There were a lot of parents who were involved in the arts, so it was a rich environment for me. My parents encouraged my creative side. In second grade we moved to Newton and again I was around creative kids. My mother, Norma Canner was once an actress and dancer on



Broadway, so she always encouraged my creativity. There was a documentary made about her, *A Time to Dance: The Life and Work of Norma Canner*.

**DH:** Would you characterize your own work as dramatic?

**KM:** Some of it is a little dramatic. For instance, the *Finger Print Project*. This was a project that involved interviewing people in prison. I interviewed the bodyguard of Huey Newton (Black Panthers) "Big Bob," as well as Meekah Scott, a member of the Framingham Eight, a group of women in Framingham State Prison who killed their abusers in self-defense. The fingerprints were the art. When you pressed one print, text would appear next to it.

**DH:** Tell us about your banned books project?

**KM:** This was a project where I painted people who were reading banned books. Many of the people I selected randomly, others I knew. The books chosen dealt with racism, gender, and sexuality. One of my subjects was a guard at the Rose Museum at Brandeis University. He was reading a book by James Baldwin. Another subject was a young trans person who was reading the book *The Perks of Being a Wildflower*.

To find out more about Moss go to: <https://www.karenmoss.com/>. There will be an opening for Karen's work at Gallery Kayafas in Boston, July 5, at 1:00 p.m.

Gloria Mindock is editor of Červená Barva Press, author of six poetry collections and three chapbooks. Her poems have been published and translated into eleven languages. Her recent book, *Grief Touched the Sky at Night* (Glass Lyre Press, 2023), won the International Impact Award, the Speak-up Talk Radio International Firebird Award, the Book Fest Award, the Independent Press Award and numerous awards from the Outstanding Creator Awards. Publications include: *Ibbetson*, *Gargoyle*, *The James Dickey Review*, *Growth: Journal of Literature, Culture, & Art* (Macedonia), *Constellations*, *Lily Poetry Review*, and *KGB Lit*. Gloria was the Poet Laureate in Somerville, MA in 2017 and 2018.



### Good-bye

I always liked getting lost in cornfields.  
You never could find me.

The stalks bothered my skin so stayed  
hidden only for a little while.

Miles and miles of corn, sticking up  
from flatness, reaching for the sky.  
You could never understand my love for this.

So many bad storms.  
Lightning scaring the horses.  
They break loose and run  
in the field.  
Appreciating freedom like me  
as we swallow the sky.

— Gloria Mindock

First published in *Veritas Review*, Harvard

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

## Family Fun Day

Get the crew together and head to Trum Field for Somerville Recreation's annual Family Fun Day. There's something for everyone with an array of activities including face painting, games, a magic show, music, and more.

This event is free to all on Saturday, June 22, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Learn more at <https://www.somervillema.gov/events/2024/06/22/family-fun-day>.



# The Somerville Times

To advertise in our Business Directory,  
call 857-488-5138.

Let your customers find you in  
Somerville's most widely read newspaper!

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**Monica Calvo Realtor®**  
Real Estate Professional  
Cell: 617-605-3308

Email: mcalvo@relocationnewengland.com  
Web: remaxpartnersrelocation.com

**RE/MAX**  
PARTNERS RELOCATION  
44 Park ST  
Andover MA 01810  
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated



*Wedding & Event*  
**Photo & Video**  
— Harry Kane —

KANE FILMS  
www.KaneFilms.net  
860-840-3737  
HarryKaneFilms@gmail.com



Lic 57726 B



**Tennyson Norman**  
Electrician

License & insured  
tennysonnormannorman@gmail.com  
857-417-0982



Juscelia LoRusso  
617.686.8095

*Cakes for all occasions*

facebook.com/JusceliasCakes  
facebook.com/Juscelia.Lorusso

**The Law Offices of  
Richard G. Di Girolamo**

**Richard G. Di Girolamo, Esquire**  
**Anne M. Vigorito, Esquire**  
**Breanna L. Rolland, Esquire**

**ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW**

**Real Estate Law**  
**Zoning**  
**Civil Litigation**  
**Criminal Defense**  
**Family Law**  
**Personal Injury**

**TELEPHONE: (617) 666-8200**  
**FAX: (617) 776-5435**  
**EMAIL: digirolamolegal@verizon.net**  
**424 BROADWAY, SOMERVILLE, MA 02145**

Martin B. Dropkin  
Nancy G. Matza  
Tel: 617-623-4600




Attorneys at Law  
Fax: 617-625-7315

**DROPKIN & MATZA LLP**  
Attorneys at Law

424 Broadway  
Somerville MA 02145

**Bankruptcy**  
**Family Law**  
**Immigration**  
**Personal Injury**  
**Business Law**  
**Estate Planning and Probate**  
**Real Estate**  
**Elder Law**  
**Civil Litigation**

mdropkin@dropkinmatza.com



Closed Wednesday

**Alibrandi's Barber Shop**  
Men & Boys Haircuts

"Best Somerville Barber"

194 Holland St, Somerville, MA 02144  
617-628-4282

**T. J. SILLARI, INC.**

Over 50 Years Experience  
Proud to be a Somerville Business Resident



- Plumbing • Heating
- Gas Fitting • Industrial Work
- Water Heater Replacement
- Complete Drain Service

Residential - Industrial - Commercial

Master Plmb. Lic. #6106 **625-9877**



**Bobbie Toner – Real Estate Consultant**  
Bobbietoner@aol.com 857 488 5138

Telephone: (617) 625-2244  
(617) 625-4344

Fax: (617) 625-4350

**EDWIN J. SMITH**  
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW  
**RUMERY & SMITH**

403 HIGHLAND AVENUE  
SOMERVILLE, MA 02144  
edsmithlaw@gmail.com

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