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'Safe Streets' ordinance recommended by city councilors



The proposed Safe Streets ordinance would address the needs of non-drivers on Somerville city streets.

By Parker Garlough

The Somerville City Council's Legislative Matters Committee recommended that the Somerville City Council pass the Safe Streets ordinance, which would require that the needs of non-drivers are accounted for in street enhancement projects, and that Somerville would construct 29 miles of separated bike lanes by 2030.

The ordinance aims to appropriately accommodate all road users. Each time a street is reconstructed, repaved, or rehabilitated, the city would be required to incorporate elements that benefit cyclists, pedestrians, and transit users.

One aim for the committee's discussion was to clarify what types of road work would fall under this ordinance. Councilor At *Continued on page 4*

A Texan kid learns his history through 'Días de Consuelo'

By Mina Rose Morales

Mexican-American comic book writer and illustrator Dave Ortega narrates in *Días de Consuelo* his family's experience during the Mexican Revolution. It recounts his grandmother's childhood growing up in Mexico while the revolution was unfolding. He revisits the ongoing conversation the U.S. is having about the border and immigration. Ortega a native from El Paso, Texas is a Somerville transplant. While living in Somerville, he interviewed his grandmother for *Días de Consuelo*.

The comic begins with an image of Ortega conversing with his grandmother over the phone while living in Somerville. He asks her what she remembers about the war. She describes it as very bad. She goes on to describe the pivotal *Continued on page 4*



Dave Ortega's comic art illuminates his family's history as immigrants from Mexico.

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

Mayor Ballantyne submitted the FY25 Budget to the City Council on Thursday, May 30. The upcoming meetings to discuss the budget can be viewed on the city's website. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 6, at 6:00 p.m., the City Council Committee will be conducted via remote participation. This meeting will include the budgets for Health and Human Services, Inspectional Services, Emergency Management, Fire, Fire Alarm, Police, Animal Control, and E-911. You can view the meeting live and find meeting materials at the following link: <https://somervillema.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Congratulations to the class of 2024! We wish them the best in the next exciting chapter of their lives.

A Docent Tour of Old Powder House will be held on Thursday, June 8, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Liberty Ave. and Powderhouse Terrace. 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>.

Celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of June 5 – June 11 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday June 5	Partly Cloudy	85°/64°	18%	15%	SW 12 mph
Thursday June 6	Rain	71°/64°	90%	79%	S 10 mph
Friday June 7	Rain	75°/61°	31%	24%	ENE 10 mph
Saturday June 8	Rain	70°/52°	46%	36%	SW 9 mph
Sunday June 9	Rain	71°/58°	52%	41%	SW 10 mph
Monday June 10	Partly Cloudy	76°/58°	22%	12%	SW 9 mph
Tuesday June 11	Rain	72°/64°	31%	25%	SE 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: Somerville Police update on the Pro-Palestine and Pro-Israel Protests at City Hall on May 20, 2024

Laura says:

So, assault and violent threats are acceptable, as long as police do not perceive physical injury?
Okay, got it.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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Volunteer docents needed

Whether you want to learn more about local history, meet your neighbors, or simply get outside, we would love to have you join the 2024 Somerville Docent Program.



For over ten years, three historic sites in Somerville – Milk Row Cemetery (Somerville Avenue), Prospect Hill Tower (above Union Square), and Old Powder House (Nathan Tufts Park) — have been open to the public on certain days and evenings from May through October. During the two-hour opening times, volunteers provide guided tours and information about the sites. All sites are ADA accessible, and all openings are free and open to the public.

There is no prior experience required: simply bring your enthusiasm, reliability, and a commitment to be trained. To register your interest, contact Grace Bryan, Historic Events Manager at grace@somervillemuseum.org. To learn more about the Docent Program, visit somervillemuseum.org/docent-program.

Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

Summer of '24



Now that Memorial Day is in the rear window, as the unofficial the start of summer I wanted to make this summer memorable. It will include a couple of nights at old Orchard

Beach in Maine for sure. Everything else is up in the air which is not bad. Especially since I'm retired I don't have to get up and go to work thankfully.

I asked for readers to share their plans for the summer. Each quote is a new person's comments.

"lol ... a summer free of medical procedures!!!! YAAAAAY!!!! Maybe me and my dog will go camping in our teardrop trailer."

"Just attended a beautiful wedding at Searles Castle last week. Planning an Au-

gust trip up as well as a visit to Kelly's Revere Beach! Also hoping the hubby takes me to the ocean ... and lets me play in the water for more than five minutes! Ha-ha!"

"I'm going to the Green River Festival in Greenfield MA. I will be camping and watching the bands at the Franklin Fairgrounds."

"Family visits in August - my son and his fiancé from France, my other son and wife from CA. Hoping to all go sailing together!"

The best part of this time of year used to be simply getting out of school for the summer. In the old days we would always have a string interest in projects such as building go carts and riding our bikes.

We had a trailer for a few years until my sons' music took up their weekends. It was one of my favorite times.

I worked on the Dodgem cars at Revere Beach for two summers and that was a blast.



We spent a lot of summer weekends at Old Orchard Beach which still has many of the old trine attractions, games and amusement rides as Revere Beach had. Old Orchard Beach and York Beach are

popular places for Somerville people. You may know someone up there.

How will this summer be remembered? Hopefully we all have good health and happiness.

Somerville community invited to Immigrant Workers' Rights Fair

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Somerville's SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs, and the Somerville Worker Center, in partnership with the Brazilian Worker Center and the Brazilian Women's Group, are announcing a free immigrant workers' rights fair on Saturday, June 8, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Somerville Worker Center located at 530 Mystic Ave, Suite 111.

The fair will feature two workers' rights presentations, one at 11:30 a.m. in Spanish and one at 1:30 p.m. in Portuguese.

Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with staff from local workers' rights organizations on a diverse array of topics including wage theft, safety at work, workers' compensation, domestic workers' rights, human trafficking, tax filing and deferred action.

Advocacy groups currently expected to attend the Immigrant Workers' Rights Fair include:

Boston University Human Trafficking Unit • Brazilian Women's Group • Brazilian Worker Center • Greater Boston Legal Services • Justice at Work • The Massachusetts Attorney General's Office • The Somerville Worker Center

Spanish and Portuguese interpretation will be available, and multilingual staff will be on-site. If you need interpretation in additional languages, please email somerviva@somervillema.gov or call 311 at 617-666-3311 at least seven days in advance of the date of the event.

Registration is not required, but is encouraged at the below links:

English: tinyurl.com/2kmkvpx • Portuguese: tinyurl.com/4s58ee2s • Spanish: tinyurl.com/yeywxa4w

For more information or if you have questions, please contact somerviva@somervillema.gov or call 311 (617-666-3311).



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Somerville Police Dept Crime Log May 21 – 27

Assault

On 5/22/24 at approximately 4:57 p.m, Somerville Police responded to Great River Rd. for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she was involved in an argument with a male party. During the argument, the male party spit at her. Officers identified the male suspect.

Commercial Breaking and Entering

On 5/21/24 at approximately 1:56 p.m, Somerville Police responded to a construction site on Mystic Ave. for a report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated several high priced construction items were stolen from the site over the weekend.

Assault

On 5/26/24 at approximately 6:54 p.m, Somerville Police responded to Assembly Row for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the reporting party who stated two teenage males on bicycles approached them and began cursing at them. One of the teens then struck the reporting party's son with his bike.

Residential Breaking and Entering

24030793: On 5/27/24 at approximately 1:13 PM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Sycamore St. for a report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated multiple tools of his were stolen from the basement.

Arrest

On 5/27/24 at approximately 2:00 p.m. Somerville Police responded to a residence on Gilman S.t for report of shots fired. Upon arrival, officers spoke with a witness who observed an altercation outside his house in which a male party discharged a firearm in the direction of another male. The round ricocheted off the pavement and struck a bedroom window. No injuries were reported. Officers later identified the suspect and he was placed under arrest. Officers recovered a loaded handgun from his residence.

— Somerville Police Dept.



'Safe Streets' ordinance recommended by city councilors CONT. FROM PG 1

Large Willie Burnley, Jr., one of the sponsors of the ordinance, said that he aimed to ensure that the city would not avoid basic repairs for fear of inciting a major reconstruction project they could not afford. When defining "improvements," the bill notes that "routine maintenance" is exempt.

In the past five years, the Somerville Police Department reported over 2,500 vehicle crashes, of which 17% involved at least one non-motorist.

The Safe Streets ordinance

would additionally require the creation of 29 miles of separated bike lanes by 2030, and at least 3 miles per year. Bike lanes created in the process of other road reconstruction projects would count towards this total.

The total number of miles, 29, was determined using the Bicycle Network Plan. The ordinance's sponsors took into account where bike lanes were already set for construction by other entities, and this ordinance would ensure that the rest of the plan was accomplished at a steady pace.

This legislation would also institute regular road safety campaigns, conducted by the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, to ensure that all road users are aware of traffic laws and best safety practices.

The ordinance was amended and was recommended for approval by the City Council.

At the same meeting, the Legislative Matters Committee also discussed a request to install cameras on the outside of Somerville fire stations, but did

not move forward with it due to concerns about how the footage would be used and stored.

Fire Chief Charles Breen said the cameras would improve security. Some incidents of theft and vandalism of employees' cars have occurred in the past, but none in recent years. Additionally, the installation of cameras would eventually allow for the dispatch team to be able to close doors remotely in addition to opening them, which currently cannot be done to safety concerns.

Under Breen's plan for the

cameras, the dispatch would be able to see only live footage, and recordings would be stored with the Somerville Police Department, who would be able to access it for investigative purposes. There was also a section that noted that officers could view and download footage, without specifying a purpose or a time frame. This raised questions surrounding potential misuse.

Breen was urged to return with a revised version of the camera installation request, with stricter parameters for footage use.

A Texan kid learns his history through 'Días de Consuelo' CONT. FROM PG 1

moment in their family that changed their history forever.

"We crossed into the U.S. in 1925," said Consuelo.

From then on, Consuelo goes into detail explaining everything that led up to the family's decision to leave their homeland. The revolution drove them out and brought them to Ortega's hometown: El Paso. Throughout his comic, Ortega briefly pauses the story to offer history lessons about the revolution and to explain his family dynamics before resuming the main narrative.

"I did not have a childhood," recalls his grandmother.

Readers learn through one of Ortega's explanation pages that his great-grandfather was lost because of the war. They never found him despite his great-grandmother's efforts to look for him. His grandmother describes how it was growing up without a father because of the war. She explains that her father a once warm musician turned cold by the war and his new life in the U.S. Through these details, readers understand the impact war has on families and its role in triggering one of the earliest waves of Mexican immigration into the U.S. In a way,

Ortega's details help readers sympathize with immigrants, especially children.

He also includes other barriers Mexican immigrants faced upon arrival: "El Paso was enjoying a long boom phase since before the turn of the century and the new Anglo population erected [grand neo-classical buildings] in their determination to claim the city as their own and erase Mexican architecture."

Ortega concludes his comic with an image of him returning to El Paso. He refers to his family's immigration story as devout Mexicans at the end of a pilgrimage.



Mayor Ballantyne submits FY25 budget

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne’s proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget plan puts schools and worker equity front and center and delivers strong supports for core services, social progress, and the most vulnerable. From reading and math interventionists and embedded counselors for the schools to resources for alternative response, homelessness, affordable housing, seniors, and a shift to rodenticide-free rodent control, the carefully crafted \$360M budget makes strategic strides on community priorities amid a tighter funding year. The budget will be formally submitted to the City Council on Thursday, May 30.

Strengthening our schools

Avoiding regional trends toward school cuts and layoffs, the city-supported school budget will add more than 36 net full-time-equivalent school positions, including 26.6 that would have been lost to expiring federal pandemic funding. It also funds a range of critical educational investments ranging from core academics to mental health supports. In total, the FY23, FY24, and proposed FY25 school budgets would combine to grow school funding by 27% over the three years.

“As our youth continue to climb back from profound pandemic impacts and prepare for their futures, we must provide the resources they need. That includes comprehensive core learning, enrichment, out-of-school time activities, and family, health, and mental health supports that will best help them thrive, develop, learn, and prepare for success. To do this, the schools, School Committee, and Administration, worked to dedicate resources to support our children from cradle to career and college readiness,” said Mayor Ballantyne.

Advancing worker equity, delivering on community priorities

Meanwhile, the city budget addresses pressing needs for worker equity, recruitment, and retention including funding for union contracts, closing gender gaps, and ensuring fair and competitive wages. The budget is also designed to deliver strong support for both core services (roads, parks, waste removal, etc.) and efforts to advance the community’s goals for progress such as affordable housing, homelessness supports, senior programs, alternative response, climate action, community health, ADA advancements, and more.

“I am proud to submit a budget that squarely reflects our community’s values and our clear and constant goal: to create a thriving, more equitable Somerville today

and for generations to come,” said Ballantyne. “To achieve that across the board, we must shore up the bedrock resource that makes all city functions possible: our workers. We must pay our union and non-union workers fairly and equitably. It is both the right thing to do, and it makes good economic sense. Worker turnover and vacancies are costly and harm service delivery. And in Somerville, we are striving to lead the way in addressing pay gaps – including gender gaps. We cannot accept unequal pay for equal work, and this budget is designed to take that on.”

Strong growth and AAA bond rating deliver progress despite new challenges

The budget does however reflect a changing economic environment. Somerville’s strong local economy will spare the city from the needed cuts and layoffs other communities are weighing. But resourceful budgeting and tough decisions were still required due to rising fixed costs— such as a record increase in health insurance rates – and an uncertain economic forecast.

Somerville is still producing enviable, record new growth for a city of its size, with \$13M projected for the coming fiscal year. The city also recently had its AAA bond rating reaffirmed by Standard & Poor’s. This top bond rating is beneficial because it lowers the interest fees charged to the city and that will save tax payers hundreds of thousands of dollars over time. But as the commercial real estate market slows, construction related fees and tax revenues are projected to decline. State tax law changes are also expected to lower local revenue.

“Sometimes going to community meetings can leave you wondering if you’re making an impact. Well, the residents and staff who put in the time to create our Somerville Vision Plan goals made a huge difference by prioritizing community-driven development to create local revenues. Between those plans, the city delivering on them, and our strong and careful financial management, we are set up to keep advancing our services and goals despite adjusting to new challenges this year,” said Ballantyne.

Building on and strengthening prior investments

To maintain progress with fewer new large investments, the FY25 budget carries forward and strategically strengthens the new staff and resources that the Ballantyne administration made in the prior two years.

The fiscal year 2023 and 2024 budgets added new resources – in some cases unprecedented new resources, such as 16 new Health and Human Service staffers. Oth-



er investments focused on the schools, affordable housing resources and initiatives, infrastructure maintenance and planning, social workers and services, mobility and transportation access, sustainability, community health, facilities management,

youth and out-of-school-time programming, inspectional services, ADA compliance, senior services, street and park trees, language justice, green building management, and many other needs and community priorities.

Continued on page 11



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

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

Unit Information

Address: 205 Beacon Street

Units:

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



Watch an informational video about the unit at [somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing](https://www.somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing)

Who can apply?

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

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

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

How to apply:

The last day to apply is June 26, 2024

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

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

When is the lottery?

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



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



Do you have questions about this unit or the income-restricted housing program?

We can answer your questions during our weekly office hours:

Every Thursday from 5:30-7:30 pm on Zoom

Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81106664399>

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators' votes on roll calls from the recent debate on the Senate's \$55.9 billion version of the fiscal 2025 state budget. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

STATE FLAG, SEAL AND MOTTO (S 4)

Senate 30-9, approved an amendment providing \$100,000 to establish a new advisory commission, under the governor's charge, to propose a new state flag, seal and motto within one year. The commission would be authorized to request proposals from professional designers and solicit a public competition for people to submit designs.

The current seal portrays an indigenous person on a shield. The crest above it, which is also the state's military crest, features an arm holding a sword. The motto is roughly translated from Latin as "By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty."

This would not be the first commission to try to tackle this project. In November 2023, a commission that was first formed in 2000, issued a report but without any specific recommendation on changes to the flag, seal and motto.

"The imagery on our state seal and flag has long been viewed by indigenous people and others as racist, symbolizing white supremacy and ethnic cleansing perpetrated against the indigenous peoples of this region," said amendment sponsor Sen. Jason Lewis (D-Winchester). "I was proud to sponsor and help lead the passage of an amendment ... that would establish an advisory commission to design a new seal, flag and motto for the commonwealth. Our collective symbols of identity matter, and if they marginalize some of our fellow residents and perpetuate harmful stereotypes, then they should be reconsidered and replaced."

"The current flag, seal and motto convey the subjugation of Native Americans through violence, and our indigenous residents have told us the pain and harm that result," said Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham). "We should never be afraid to learn and move forward from our historical mistakes. It's rarely a compelling argument to say, 'it's always been this way.' Several communities in my district strongly support an update that better reflects our shared values and hope to have the new flag, seal and motto swiftly, before our towns have to invest more resources printing an antiquated design that will soon be changed."

"Symbols have weight," said Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). "They have meaning. They have power. With this amendment, Massachusetts moves necessarily forward in the process of creating a new state flag, seal

and motto that reflect the mutual respect and connection we want and need between all people who share the commonwealth today."

"The Massachusetts Legislature is currently working to address critical, urgent issues such as the commonwealth's housing crisis, the rising cost of living, our changing climate and more," said Sen. Mike Moore (D-Millbury). "While there are valid arguments to be made that the state seal, flag and motto are due for modernization, a special commission created to study the issue met for almost three years before issuing a report in 2023 that made no specific proposals. With so many more pressing issues affecting the everyday lives of Bay Staters, do we just keep creating commissions?"

"Given the current fiscal state of the commonwealth, using taxpayer funds to recommission a commission for a new flag, seal and motto is wasteful," said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). "Over two years were spent by the previous commission to reveal no concrete plan forward or even consensus if changes are needed. That commission decided to turn this issue over to the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office because of a lack of consensus. There are countless other priorities troubling the residents of Massachusetts and in my opinion, elected officials should be focused on those, not this."

"My decision to vote no ... was informed by the fact that a commission already exists for the purpose of designing a new seal, flag and motto for Massachusetts," said Sen. Mike Brady (D-Brockton). "Moreover, I have concerns about the necessity of allocating an additional \$100,000 for another commission. I believe that existing resources should be utilized efficiently, prioritizing essential services such as funding for our police, firefighters and teachers."

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

\$655,553 MORE FOR NARCAN (S 4)

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment increasing funding by \$655,553 (from \$644,447 to \$1,300,000) for the distribution of Narcan to cities and towns and community organizations. Narcan is the brand name for a life-saving overdose-reversal drug.

"If we have learned anything from the past 25 years of this opioid epidemic, it's that Narcan saves lives," said amendment sponsor Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield). "Just last year, 9,000 overdoses were successfully reversed from Narcan. It is critical that as the demand for Narcan increases and as our drug supply becomes more deadly –

that we as a Legislature provide .. Adequate funding to keep pace with the needs of our communities and most importantly keep people alive. The unfortunate truth is you cannot treat someone who is dead."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$655,553.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

COMBAT ANTISEMITISM (S 4)

Senate 40-0, approved an amendment that would require the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to make resources, curriculum and professional development available to schools on antisemitism and the harm that it causes. The amendment also establishes and regulates a special commission on combating antisemitism in the Bay State.

"It is deeply disturbing and truthfully infuriating to know that Massachusetts is among those five states that cumulatively make up almost half of our country's antisemitic acts of hate," said amendment sponsor Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield). "We pride ourselves for being an inclusive and welcoming state here in the commonwealth. That regardless of your background, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or religion, we accept you as you are and will treat you with kindness and respect. But for too many of our Jewish friends and neighbors, we are not living up to our promise."

Velis continued, "Hate in all of its forms must always be condemned, and yet antisemitism has persisted in countless forms for over 2,000 years dating back to biblical times. Tragically, antisemitism continues to not only exist, but is becoming increasingly normalized. I am proud to be a part of a legislative body that is willing to overwhelmingly speak out in the strongest possible way against it and educate others about the harm that it is causing."

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

FERTILITY PRESERVATION TREATMENTS (S 4)

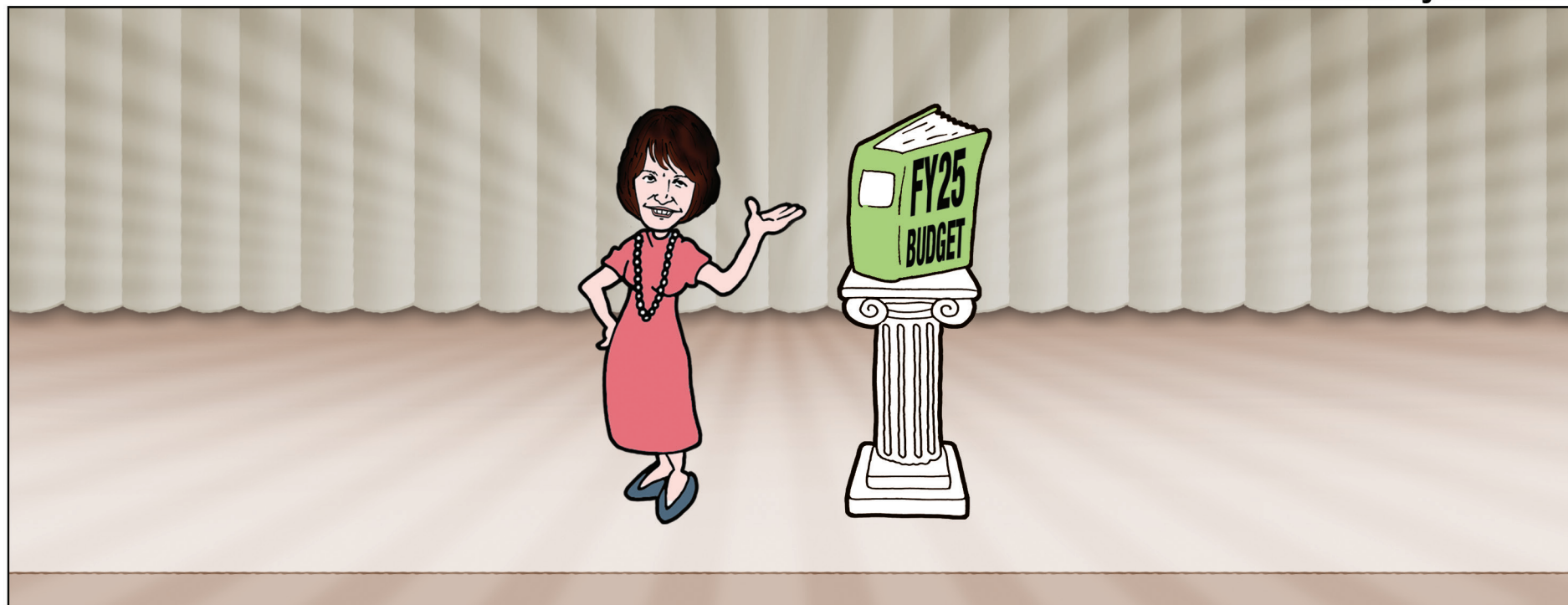
Senate 40-0, approved an amendment that would require health insurance companies to cover fertility preservation treatments for individuals who have a medical diagnosis or who are going through treatments that may impact their fertility.

Supporters said the change would have a minimal impact on premiums. They noted that the Massachusetts Center for Health Information and Analysis reviewed the proposal and found that it would likely increase *Continued on page 16*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



The FY2025 Budget has been submitted.

Our View Of The Times



Mayor Ballantyne has submitted her proposed budget for the fiscal year 2025. City officials must now work together to hammer out a final budget, one that comes as close as possible to serving the wants and needs of as many of us as is practical and doable.

Naturally, a lot of debate and discussion will be in the picture as diverse interests push and pull their way into and back out

of the turbulent times ahead.

General government, public safety, culture and recreation, pension and fringe, debt service, schools, overlay reserve, state assessments, and other miscellaneous expenditures are all part of the big picture.

Serious issues face the city, and how we manage the financial resources we have is as important now as it ever was before. There are ongoing problems to

be confronted and public safety issues to be carefully considered. Adequate funding is needed for emergency management, fire, fire alarm, police/911, and police/animal control. How best should we allocate these funds for police and fire protection? For health and education? Any number of important issues that the city faces are in play as part of this budgeting process.

It's a massive, complicated job, seeking out the big picture, seeing it clearly and then applying good sense in whatever final plans may come from it. It is no simple or easy task.

Certainly, the average citizen should get into the process too. Go to some of the meetings. Voice your concerns and opinions, and demand responses. After all, whose money is it, really?

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

birthday to **Carolyn Pedersen**, we wish Carolyn a great day. Happy birthday to **Suzanne Bremer**, of Prospect Hill. Happy birthday to **Beth Chamberlain**, we hope Beth has a great day. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Richard DiPinto**, **Dell E. Fisher**, **Paul Harvey**, **Roz Cummins**, **Nicole Alves Bairos**, **Chris Argeropoulos**, **Elizabeth Rodrigues Fula**, **Charlie McCarthy**, **Gavin House**, **Len Tower**, **Rand Wilson**, **Etty Casazza** and **Kevin Tortorella** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, **Somerville's SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs**, and the **Somerville Worker Center**, in partnership with the **Brazilian Worker Center** and the **Brazilian Women's Group**, are announcing a free **immigrant worker's right fair**. The fair will feature two workers' rights presentations, one at 11:30 a.m. in Spanish and one at 1:30 p.m. in Portuguese. **Saturday, June 8, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** The Somerville Worker Center, 530 Mystic Avenue, Suite 111. For more information or if you have questions, please contact somerviva@somervillema.gov or

call 311 (617-666-3311).

 Over **80 Somerville union members and community supporters** gathered at **Somerville City Hall** on **Thursday, May 30**, just prior to **Mayor Katjana Ballantyne's fiscal-year-2025 budget presentation**. Frustrated by low wages and resulting short staffing, Somerville municipal employees and firefighters called on Mayor Ballantyne to come to the table and negotiate with city employees for better wages, local hire, and an end to expensive subcontracting. To continue to build pressure, SMEA members and supporters will do the following: hold a

standout on Tuesday, June 11, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., in **Union Square**, and hold a **rally on Tuesday, June 18**, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., at **Somerville City Hall** (93 Highland Ave). The city councilors will cut items from the mayor's proposed budget that same night at 6:00 p.m. You can RSVP and get involved at Support-SMEA.org.

Somerville Prevention staff will host a **Narcan Distribution Event** to distribute free overdose prevention information and harm reduction materials, including Narcan, Fentanyl test strips, CPR face shields, and syringe *Continued on page 21*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#926

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What was the first band to play a concert at Gillette Stadium? | 7. Which villain is known for saying, "Why so serious??" |
| 2. What band was the first to play a concert on Fenway Park's Diamond? | 8. In which 1970's film would you find the line "You talkin' to me?" |
| 3. Which American author wrote <i>Salem's Lot</i> ? | 9. What is the only mammal capable of true flight? |
| 4. In which book does the character Lady Catherine de Bourgh appear? | 10. here would you find the "Spanish Steps"? |
| 5. What do you call a cocktail consisting of coconut milk, rum, and pineapple? | 11. For which sport is the America's Cup awarded? |
| 6. What was the name for chocolate consumed by Aztecs? | 12. What is the "perfect score" in a game of Ten Pin Bowling? |

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. One-quarter of your body's bones are in your feet.
2. Americans eat approx. 13 billion hamburgers each year.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

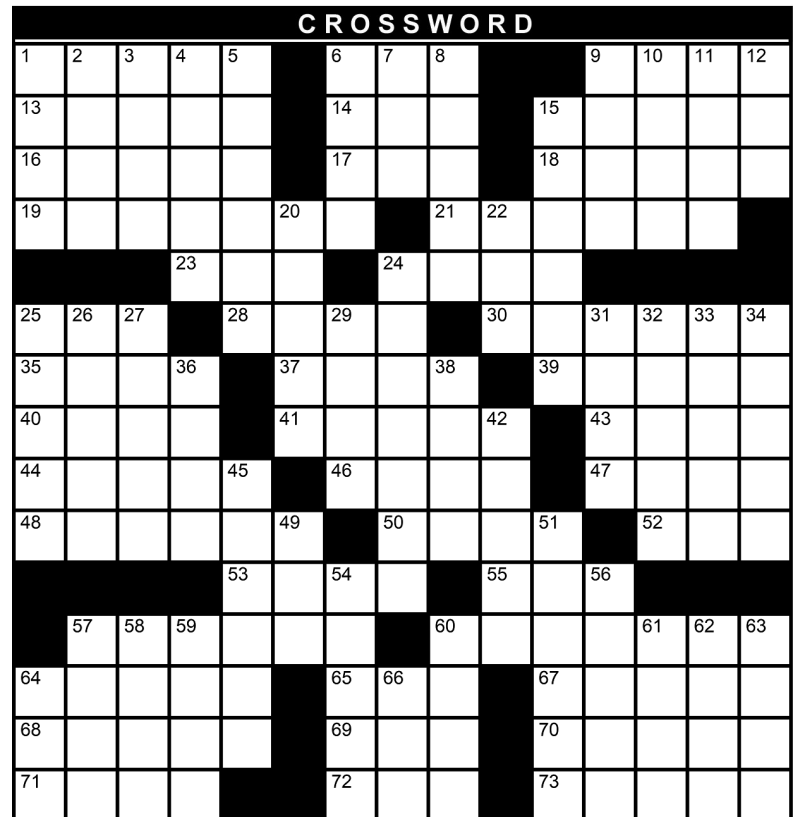
SPACE

ACROSS

1. House pest
6. Emergency responder, acr.
9. Meme dance moves
13. Below, prefix
14. Swimmer's distance
15. Not urban
16. Take a base
17. Grazing spot
18. Stressful or unnerving
19. Clint Eastwood's "Space ____"
21. First U.S. space station
23. Salty dog's domain
24. Fail to mention
25. Spermatozoa counterpart
28. Ukrainian person, e.g.
30. State of submission
35. Network of nerves
37. Muscle or strength
39. ____ Mara, Africa
40. Shapeless form
41. Cliffside dwelling
43. Saturn's environs, sing.
44. Poetic feet
46. Darn a sock, e.g.
47. Per person
48. Rendezvouses
50. Mine entrance
52. After-tax amount
53. Litter's littlest
55. French vineyard
57. Sun's outer layer, not beer brand
60. Second S in ISS
64. Ancient Celtic priest
65. Sun kiss
67. "Mea ____," or "my fault"
68. "From the Earth to the Moon" author
69. In the past
70. Judge
71. Education station
72. Order's partner
73. Food between meals

DOWN

1. Reduced Instruction Set Computer
2. "I'm ____ you!"
3. Not many (2 words)
4. Dungeness and snow, e.g.
5. Circles of light around sun and moon



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 6. 90-degree pipes, e.g. | 7. ____ Jamison, the first African-American woman in space | 34. ____-year |
| 8. Tetanus symptom | 9. Two-fold | 36. Opposite of flows |
| 10. Diva's solo | 11. Prickle on a wire | 38. Solar ____, sun's emission |
| 12. Sylvester Stallone's nickname | 15. Johnny Cash's "Get ____" | 42. Authoritative proclamation |
| 20. Churchill/Roosevelt/Stalin meeting site | 22. Model-builder's purchase | 45. Walked with long steps |
| 24. Gorge oneself | 25. Planet's path | 49. Solar System center |
| 26. Type of consonant | 27. Skeleton, archaic | 51. Parcels |
| 29. Attention-getting interjection | 31. Like pink steak | 54. Birth-related |
| 32. Of the Orient | 33. Jousting pole | 56. One-eighty |
| | | 57. Manitoba native |
| | | 58. Couple's pronoun |
| | | 59. Dorothy Hamill's turf |
| | | 60. Jon of "Game of Thrones" |
| | | 61. Pelvic parts |
| | | 62. Petroleum-exporting grp. |
| | | 63. Police informer |
| | | 64. VHS successor |
| | | 66. Palindromic title |

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

East Somerville Main Streets awarded \$60,000 Cummings Grant

East Somerville Main Streets is one of 150 local nonprofits that will share in \$30 million through Cummings Foundation's major annual grants program. This Somerville-based organization was selected from a total of 715 applicants during a competitive review process. They will receive \$60,000 over three years.

East Somerville Main Streets (ESMS) builds investment, connection, and pride in Somerville's most diverse neighborhood. ESMS strengthens the East Broadway Business District by providing customized technical assistance to immigrant small business owners. The nonprofit also celebrates the neighborhood's unique cultural heritage and brings neighbors together through celebrations like Carnaval and Foodie Crawl.

"This grant makes a huge difference for our community and the small business owners we serve," said Executive Director Lindsay Allen, "together we will fight displacement, grow businesses, and enrich the character of our neighborhood. A three-year commitment from the Cummings Foundation means that we can honor our community's history, celebrate our cultural fabric, and prepare our residents and small businesses for the future."

East Somerville Main Streets will use this support to sustain the work of our staff as they grow our partnerships with local businesses and design community-building events. This support comes at a critical time for a changing neighborhood.



Dorothy's Corner BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Shrimp and Pasta Salad

This dish is perfect for any hot summer day and can be served either hot or cold. Not only that, it can be ready in under 30 minutes, or be made ahead and can be assembled within minutes. This salad packs great flavors and texture with a kick of heat. Certainly, a new favorite in my house. Serves 4.

- 1 lb. shrimp (any size)
- 8 oz. pasta (rotini or bow tie)
- 1/2 lb. asparagus, grilled or roasted
- Harissa (1 1/2 tbs. + 1 tsp.) divided
- Zest of one lemon
- 3 tbs. lemon juice
- 2 tbs. olive oil, divided
- 2 tbs. sundried tomatoes in olive oil, reserving 1 tbs. of the oil
- 1 tsp. salt, divided
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper, divided
- Parsley for garnish

Clean and devein the shrimp. In a small bowl, add 1 1/2 tablespoons of the harissa and lemon zest and mix thoroughly. Toss the shrimp into the mixture making sure all the shrimp is coated, and set aside. Cook the pasta according to package instructions.

In a large bowl, add the lemon juice, sun dried tomatoes, the reserved oil, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and 1/8 teaspoon black pepper. Drizzle the remaining olive oil over the asparagus and season with the remaining salt and pepper.

Preheat the grill and add the shrimp and asparagus. Turning both after about 2 minutes, then grill for an additional 2 minutes, remove and set aside. Once the pasta is cooked, drain it, reserving about 1/4 cup of pasta water. Toss the pasta into the sundried tomato mixture and toss well.

Add a little pasta water to the bowl to help distribute the sauce evenly. Cut the asparagus into 1" pieces and add to the pasta. Taste to see if additional sea-



soning is needed. Divide the pasta into 4 bowls and add the shrimp. Garnish with parsley. Enjoy!

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

Fueling the Future: Somerville to implement charging fees for electric vehicles

The City of Somerville is announcing that starting Monday, July 1, 2024 a fee of \$0.25 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) will be implemented at all City-owned electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, aligning with neighboring communities including Boston, Cambridge, Medford, and Arlington.

Every month, 2,300 drivers charge at one of Somerville’s public electric vehicle charging stations. The new program, Charge4Charge, aims to incentivize space turn over, reduce misuse and vandalism of stations, and promote the longevity and functionality of Somerville’s public charging station network, ultimately encouraging the conversion to electric vehicles. This new fee structure is part of a larger public information campaign by the city to promote EV charging etiquette due to frequent reports of misuse and vandalism of the stations.

“Every time a station is damaged, it is replaced with a new station – which can take over four weeks. We know how important it is to provide accessible, working, charging stations for both current and potential electric vehicle drivers. This is an important and necessary step for Somerville to support the transition to electric vehicles,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

In addition to promoting more responsible use of the charging stations, Somerville’s Charge4Charge program will allow the city to offset costs associated with the charging network including maintenance, licensing, and purchasing new stations, and reinvest them into improving the public charging network.

Investing in additional charging opportunities within walking distance of homes and key destinations could have a substantial impact on the feasibility of purchasing an EV for numerous residents, helping the city reach its ambitious Climate Forward goals.

For more information, including locations of Somerville’s EV chargers, please visit: somervillema.gov/electric-vehicles.



Mayor Ballantyne submits FY25 budget CONT. FROM PG 5

The proposed FY25 budget not only maintains the deep investments that were made over the past two years with the support and advocacy of the Council. It bolsters those investments with inflation adjustments and limited tactical new investments so that these resources and staff can continue to propel the community forward. Beyond this, a summary of proposed targeted but limited new investments is below. Some investments are proposed as part of the budget. In order to help close a budget gap, others are funded outside the budget by strategic use of stabilization and reserve funds.

Investing to Deliver Core Services and Advance Progress

Proposed Positions:

- A Public Safety for All Initiative Program Manager to advance Public Safety for All initiatives including alternative emergency response, anti-violence, civilian oversight, and accountability efforts (funded off budget)
- A Homelessness Coordinator to address

issues affecting our unhoused residents

- A conversion of a half-time Deputy Director for the Office of Housing Stability to full-time to expand services to residents at risk of displacement and advance affordable housing initiatives and policies
- A Wage Theft Coordinator championed by the City Council to help ensure local workers are fully compensated
- A DPW Facilities Coordinator to maintain our assets
- A Construction Liaison & Design Manager to bolster capacity and engagement for infrastructure management, upgrades, and planning
- A Civilian Crossing Guard Supervisor, to support safe routes to school
- Make the grant-funded Community Health Worker Manager a permanent position to support the health needs of vulnerable community members
- A part-time IT Specialist to expand management and service capacity for city computer systems

Proposed Programming and Services:

- Outfit and staffing of new Assembly Row fire station
- Increased Teen Center and Recreation Dept. part-time staffing and programming funds to offer more out-of-school time options
- A transition away from rodenticide in city and school buildings to safer approaches to rodent control
- A contract to maintain our green stormwater infrastructure that supports our climate action goals and reduces flooding impacts
- A transition of the Taxi to Health program and the Council on Aging multicultural performance and lunch series off of expiring pandemic relief funding (ARPA) and onto the city budget to provide needed services and enrichment for our seniors and persons with disabilities
- A curbside composting pilot to advance climate action goals for energy efficient waste management (funded off budget)
- Roof repairs and Central Library carpet replacement (funded off budget)

• Additional funding for the Affordable Housing Fund (AHTF): \$3.3M addition to the fund bringing its total to nearly \$30M

- Funding for Human Resources FMLA services management to best support this federal requirement
- Customer-centric training for public-facing staff to help ensure our residents receive accurate, courteous, and efficient customer service
- Strengthening our financial stability
- And finally, to gird the community for changing economic winds and to close a \$3.2 million dollar budget gap created by lower revenue projections, the city made careful, tactical use of reserves. Most notably, we used \$1.8 million dollars of reserves to mitigate debt service costs, as planned in the FY23 Capital Investment Plan.

To read the mayor’s budget letter, see the proposed FY25 budget, watch the mayor’s presentation, and participate in the public hearing, go to somervillema.gov/budget.

— City of Somerville

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SomerStreets: Carnaval 2024

SomerStreets: Carnaval returned to East Somerville for its fourteenth year with free activities and entertainment on Sunday, June 2, 2024. The event included a parade, delicious food, family activities, over 30 vendors, live music, and performances from Esh Circus, Grooversity, Capoeira, Timba Messengers. SomerStreets is Somerville's annual series of street festivals that close busy streets to cars and open them to the community. SomerStreets: Carnaval is hosted by the Somerville Arts Council and East Somerville Main Streets.





Photos by Claudia Ferro



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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. The Rolling Stones, 2002 | 6. Xocoatl |
| 2. Dropkick Murphys, live-streamed for free, Streaming Outta Fenway | 7. The Joker |
| 3. Stephen King | 8. Taxi Driver |
| 4. <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> | 9. The bat |
| 5. Pina Colada | 10. Rome, Italy |
| | 11. Sailboat racing |
| | 12. 300 |

State budget approved by the Senate

Senator Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville) is happy to announce the Massachusetts Senate has unanimously approved a \$57.999 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25). Following robust and spirited debate, the Senate adopted over 400 amendments, and took 43 roll call votes. A fire alarm Thursday night delayed the final vote till shortly after midnight on Friday.

"This budget reflects our commitment to investing in families and workers across the state by funding crucial initiatives in education and transportation to boost our economy and help people thrive," said Senator Jehlen. "I am grateful for the work of my colleagues on this budget and am excited to see investments in our community."

The Senate's budget continues responsible and sustainable planning for the future by continuing to grow the Rainy Day Fund, already at a historic high of over \$8 billion. The Senate's proposal would build the Commonwealth's reserves to a healthy balance in excess of \$9 billion at the close of FY25.

Fair Share Investments

Thanks to the voters of Massachusetts and the thousands of people who campaigned for the Fair Share Amendment in 2022, the budget includes \$1.3 billion in revenue from that surtax, all dedicated to strengthening our state's economy by expanding access to quality public education and transportation infrastructure. It is likely, based on higher-than-expected April returns, that more Fair Share money will be available in December for one-time investments, also in education and transportation.

"It's important that the Senate's budget includes funding generated from the Fair Share ballot initiative voters approved in 2022," said Senator Jehlen. "The Senate budget clearly invests these funds in crucial initiatives for education and transportation, keeping our promise to the voters."

Notable Fair Share education investments include:

- \$170 million for Universal School Meals

- \$150 million for the Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) program to provide monthly grants to early education and care programs, which is matched with \$325 million in funds from the General Fund and the High-Quality Early Education & Care Affordability Fund for a total investment of \$475 million

- \$117.5 million for MassEducate to provide free community college across the Commonwealth

- \$105 million to expand financial aid programs for in-state students attending state universities through MASSGrant Plus, which is in addition to the \$175.2M for scholarships funded through the General Fund

- \$80 million for childcare affordability, creating more than 4,000 new subsidized childcare seats and expanding access to subsidized childcare to families making 85 per cent state median income

- \$65 million for early education and care provider rate increases, to increase salaries for our early educators

- \$15 million for the CPPI Pre-K Initiative, matching \$17.5 million in funds from the General Fund, for a total of \$32.5M to support the expansion of universal pre-kindergarten, including in Gateway Cities

- \$10 million for wraparound supports to boost community college and state university student persistence, which is matched with the \$18 million in SUCCESS funds from the General Fund, for a total of \$28 million

- \$10 million for early literacy initiatives

- \$7.5 million for school-based mental health supports and wraparound services

- \$5 million for Early College and Innovation Pathways

In K-12 education, the Senate follows through on the commitment to fully fund and implement the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) by Fiscal Year 2027,



investing \$6.9 billion in Chapter 70 funding, an increase of \$319 million over FY24, as well as increasing minimum Chapter 70 aid from \$30 to \$110 per pupil, delivering an additional \$40 million in resources to school districts across the state. With these investments, the Senate continues to provide crucial support to school districts confronting the increasing cost pressures that come with delivering high-quality education to all students.

Notable Fair Share transportation investments include:

- \$127 million to double operating support for the MBTA

- \$63 million in debt service to leverage additional borrowing capacity

- \$60 million in operating support for MassDOT

- \$125 million for Roads and Bridges Supplemental Aid for cities and towns

- \$120 million for Regional Transit Authorities

- \$4 million for expanded mobility options for the elderly and people with disabilities

- \$24.5 million for Commuter Rail capital improvements

- \$23 million for low-income fares at the MBTA

- \$15 million for municipal small bridges and culverts

- \$7.5 million for ferry trans-

portation

Senator Jehlen's Adopted Amendments

The budget includes funding for fare-free buses at Regional Transit Authorities, and for a low-income fare for the T. Senator Jehlen's amendment requires the T to study the feasibility of fare free bus pilots in MBTA communities and report on it before the next budget. This study would be used to work toward implementing pilots in the next budget year.

Senator Jehlen's amendment increased funding for Jumpstart, which pays college students to work in pre-school programs, helping programs like HeadStart and Elizabeth Peabody House in the second Middlesex district, and encourages students to consider careers in early education.

Her amendment for Dementia Care Coordination provides \$300,000 to help over 1,000 families and reduce hospitalizations, emergency department visits and delay long-term care placements.

Another amendment from Senator Jehlen provides \$100,000 for the Building Pathways training program, which helps recruit, retain and promote under-represented groups in the building trades.

Local Wins

The budget includes multiple local earmarks for the second Middlesex district sponsored by Senator Jehlen:

- \$75,000 for Community Action Agency Somerville. CAAS' mission is to help local families and individuals achieve financial security while working to eliminate the root causes of economic injustice

- \$75,000 for the Center for Teen Empowerment, Inc. This program creates youth leadership jobs and helps teen voices reach city policymakers

- \$100,000 to fund a program in Somerville to help older adults waiting for housing assistance to afford their rent

- \$50,000 to the Somerville Homeless Coalition. This funding allows them to keep their basic needs closet well stocked with supplies like toiletries and clothes

The FY25 Senate budget was approved as amended and moves to a Conference Committee. The committee will look at both Senate and House versions of the budget to reconcile the differences between the two proposals before it moves to the Governor.

— Office of State Senator Patricia Jehlen

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

premiums by just two cents per member per month.

"Tragically, many Massachusetts residents who are receiving treatment for cancer, sickle cell disease or other serious health conditions must also contend with the prospect of not being able to have biological children," said amendment sponsor Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton). "Fertility preservation techniques are available, but without insurance coverage, they can be cost-prohibitive. I sponsored this amendment because in the commonwealth, reproductive health care is a right enjoyed by all, and the cost of fertility preservation should not be a barrier to starting a family for patients going through radiation or chemotherapy."

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

\$914,000 FOR VETERANS' HOMES (S 4)

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment providing \$914,000 to combat veterans' homelessness by maintaining and operating three veterans' homes and providing counseling and benefits to disabled veterans and their families.

"Veterans' homes are an indispensable resource for those who have given so much in service of our country," said amendment sponsor Sen. John Cronin (D-Lunenburg). "The funding ... will stabilize three veterans' homes in North Central Mass, allowing residents to access the supports and wraparound services they need to live meaningful lives. We owe it to our veterans to ensure that they have every possible tool to thrive."

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

RENAME THE OFFICE OF ELDER AFFAIRS – Gov. Maura Healey filed legislation that would change the name of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs to the Executive Office of Aging and Independence. The proposal also replaces outdated language in the state's lawbooks, including changing "elderly persons," to "older adults" and "handicapped" to "adults with a disability." The new legislation also incorporates gender-neutral language into current law.

"The Executive Office of Elder Affairs was established more than 50 years ago and was one of the nation's first state agencies dedicated to addressing the needs of older people," said Healey. "Today, the agency has evolved to offer programs and services that support 1.7 million older residents and nearly 1 million family caregivers. Our administration is committed to meeting the changing needs of today's older adults, and I am thrilled that this name change better reflects those that we serve."

"The new name ... mirrors the values and goals of our old-

er adult population and our commitment to support the vibrancy, independence and dignity of our family members, friends and neighbors as they age," said Health and Human Services Secretary Kate Walsh.

RESTRICT CARRYING GUNS (H 2305) – The House gave initial approval to a bill that would prohibit anyone, except on-duty law enforcement officers, from carrying a firearm in any state or local government-owned building, polling place or demonstration. The measure imposes up to a \$1,000 fine and/or up to a 2-year prison sentence on violators and allows law enforcement officers to arrest, without a warrant, anyone who violates this law. Rep. Marjorie Decker (D-Cambridge), the sponsor of the bill, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking her to comment on the passage of her proposal. Supporters say the bill will make government buildings, polling places and demonstrations safer and reduce the number of deaths and injuries from guns. Opponents say the bill would violate their Second Amendment right to bear arms.

VETERANS' PREFERENCE (H 3515) – The House gave initial approval to legislation that would amend the state's current veterans' preference law which places veterans who pass the exam at the top of the eligibility list for civil service positions. The current order is: disabled veterans, veterans and spouses or single parents of veterans who were killed in action or who died from a service-connected disability incurred during wartime service, provided that the spouse or parent has not remarried. The amendment would add members of the Massachusetts National Guard and Reserves of the United States Armed Forces with no less than two years of continuous service to the list.

Supporters said these two new categories should be added in order to help these additional veterans who risk their lives to protect the nation. Rep. Meghan Kilcoyne (D-Clinton), the sponsor of the bill, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking her to comment on the passage of her proposal.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"As Massachusetts seeks to address soaring housing prices and rising rents that harm our residents, families and businesses, my office has unique tools to help address the crisis, and we intend to do our part. By establishing the Housing Affordability Unit and appointing Esme Caramello, who has deep expertise in housing, my office is committed to using all of our tools to ensure more safe and affordable housing opportunities for all." — Attorney General Andrea Campbell announcing the appointment of Esme Caramello to lead the newly established Housing Affordability Unit created to advance the statewide interest in expanding the availability of housing and particularly affordable and multi-family housing, across the state.

"In Massachusetts, we're proud to have significantly ex-

panded access to higher education, including historic increases in financial aid. But work remains to ensure that students of all backgrounds have the resources and support they need to start and succeed in their higher education journey. This investment reflects our commitment to enhancing educational opportunities and experiences for all students, particularly for our Black and Hispanic students." — Gov. Healey announcing \$1.3 million in Higher Education Innovation Fund grants to projects that are collaborations between all 15 Massachusetts community colleges, state universities and private institutions of higher education, to advance racial equity.

"Over the last 50 years, instant tickets have become a leading product for lotteries across the country, and it all started here in Massachusetts. The new retro ticket is a fun way to celebrate this milestone and to recognize the significance of the original ticket on the entire industry." — State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, Chair of the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission, announcing the Lottery is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its groundbreaking introduction of the world's first instant ticket with the launch of *The Instant Game*, a \$2 ticket named in honor of the original \$1 ticket that debuted May 29, 1974.

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week May 27-31 the House met for a total of four hours and 23 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 18 minutes.

Mon. May 27	No House session No Senate session
Tues. May 28	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:07 a.m. Senate 11:21 a.m. to 11:24 a.m.
Fri. May 31	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. May 30	House 11:05 a.m. to 3:22 p.m. Senate 11:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.
Fri. May 31	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Second Annual Feet Keep the Beat Festival

Now in its second year, Arts at the Armory's Feet Keep the Beat Festival announces that it has commissioned eight local percussive dance artists and one Musical Director to create an evening length work to be premiered on August 2 in the Armory Performance Hall. The Feet Keep the Beat Artists will also lead free dance jams and community workshops throughout the festival week. Returning from last year's festival are artists Anjali Nath and Ariaki Dandawate (Kathak), Rebecca McGowan and Jackie O'Riley (Irish), Yosi Karahashi (Flamenco) and Antonio Tran (Flamenco guitar), as well as Joh Camara (West African), Lekisha Limage (Step), and Ryan Casey (Tap), who are new to the festival this year.

The festival is being produced and presented by Arts at the Armory led by Co-Director/CEO Stephanie Scherpf and Co-Director/COO Jess White. Once again, Arts at the Armory is collaborating with Deborah Mason, who is serving as Artistic Advisor to Feet Keep the Beat, and is also bringing her lauded Boston Tap Party Showcase to the Arts at the Armory Performance Hall on August 3rd, the night after the Feet Keep the Beat premiere.

"I am thrilled to build on what we started last year," says Scherpf. "The Feet Keep the Beat artists are outstanding, and this new format allows us to more deeply support them while asking them to explore the interconnectedness of the various percussive dance forms, which is what is at the true heart of Feet Keep the Beat. In the end, it's a living metaphor for society – once again, the arts lead the way and show us how to communicate and collaborate with others while upholding our cultural traditions at the same time. This new world premiere will tell the story of how feet have been keeping the beat over time, and across cultures and geographies."

On Monday, July 29, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at ROOTED Armory Café there will be a free Traditional Irish Session. On Wednesday, July 31, from 7:00 p.m. at ROOTED Armory Café, there will be a free Flamenco Tablao led by Yosi Karahashi and Antonio Tran. On Sunday, August 4, Arts at the Armory will host a free Feet Keep the Beat community workshop from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Tickets for the August 2 premiere of a new evening length Feet Keep the Beat are available at: <https://the-center-for-arts-at-the-armory.ticketleap.com/feet-keep-the-beat/>.

Lead funding support for Feet Keep the Beat has been provided by Movement Arts Creation Studio. Arts at the Armory is currently accepting sponsorships from businesses and individuals who would like to support this vital program and be associated with its intercultural brand.

The Center for Arts at the Armory is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143.



Central St. between Summer St. and Highland Ave. to become one-way (northbound)

Beginning on Monday, June 17 or soon after, the segment of Central Street between Summer Street and Highland Avenue will become a permanently one-way northbound (travel from Summer St. north toward Highland Ave.) street for vehicle traffic. This change will facilitate the implementation of a new design and construction of streetscape improvements on Central Street (Summer St. to Highland Ave.).

Over the summer and fall, construction crews will be working to:

Construct a new 12-foot-wide travel lane + Install sidewalk-level cycle tracks in each direction + Prepare tree pits for new plantings + Deliver additional improvements
This work follows the installation of new water, sewer, and drainage utilities along the same stretch of Central Street last fall.

About the Conversion to One-Way Vehicle Traffic

City contractors will install the required signage associated with this change prior to implementation. Message boards will also be placed at key points along Central Street and Highland Avenue to alert people to change in traffic pattern.

During the initial phase construction (beginning June 17, or soon after), Central Street will be closed during work hours (typically weekdays, 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) until the first layer of asphalt is installed.

Access will be retained for residents and notification will be provided prior to paving. Afterwards, the roadway will reopen during normal work hours while construction continues. Emergency services and other essential city operations were consulted during the design process and have been notified of the implementation timeline.

For more information, visit somervillema.gov/springhill. If you have questions, please email construction@somervillema.gov or call the Engineering Division at (617) 625-6600 x 5400.

More on the Spring Hill Sewer Separation Project

Somerville's Spring Hill neighborhood has historically been served by a combined sewer system, which collects both wastewater and stormwater runoff in the same pipes. Through the Sewer Separation project, the city is working to upgrade these systems by installing new storm drains that separate stormwater from the existing combined sewer. In addition to the underground utility improvements, this project will also install street safety improvements and green infrastructure throughout the neighborhood. Green infrastructure includes trees as well as drainage features designed to mimic natural processes such as irrigated planting areas, bioretention basins with select soils and plants that catch and filter stormwater.

This project is one in a series of actions the city is undertaking to reduce water pollution, address flooding, and modernize Somerville's infrastructure. Construction began in 2022 and is expected to continue through 2025.

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: 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.

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

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

Health & Wellness Fair - Wednesday, June 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Come and visit vendors featuring: Wellness tips, Healthy snacks, Alternative Therapies, AARP, MBTA, Somerville Housing, The Growing Center and much more. Optional lunch served at noon. For additional information or to RSVP please contact Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov

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 Hig-

gins 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.

Spend the Morning at the Spa –Friday, June 7th at the Cosmetology Department at Somerville High School. The Council on Aging is traveling to Somerville High School Cosmetology and Culinary Departments for a morning of spa treatments and a delicious breakfast. Participants will be able to choose from: a hair wash & style for \$5, a facial for \$10 or a manicure for \$5., paid directly to the Cosmetology Department. We will enjoy breakfast prepared by the Somerville Culinary Department. Breakfast will be \$7 paid at time of reservation. Transportation will leave the Holland Street Center. To RSVP, please contact Connie Lorenti by calling at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

Climate Change and You: Fire Safety – Wednesday, June 12th from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. As temperatures rise and we experience a hotter climate, the SCOA is hosting a three-part series in how we, as individuals, can adapt to climate change. In June we have invited Captain Tim Bakey from the Somerville Fire Department. To RSVP, please call Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317. Pizza lunch will be provided, Grab-n-Go meals will also be available.

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

Asian Tea – Monday, June 10th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center. This group is bilingual in English and Cantonese. This month's event will feature a demonstration of the General Exercise and Tai Chi (Taijifit) classes offered through the Somerville Council on Aging. Work on strength, flexibility, balance and meditative movements to improve mobility, the mind and live a healthier life. RSVP to Maureen by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov

Knitting Group – Tuesdays, June 11th, 18th and 25th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our

Holland Street Center. If you would like to learn how to knit socks, stop by the Holland Street Center! Needles and yarn will be provided. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

Memory Café – Tuesday, June 4th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. A Memory Café is a safe space for those with cognitive decline and their caregivers. It is a place to gather and socialize without stigma or judgement. In June we will be enjoying a mini concert of musical memories by musicians John & Linda. RSVP by contacting Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov

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

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

The Council on Aging's Senior Transportation Program

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

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

7:00 AMSPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 8:00 AM Memorial Day Parade 2024
 8:34 AM Memorial Day Ceremony
 9:02 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 9:30 AMSchool Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 10:00 AMFinance Committee of the Whole 5-30-24
 12:00 PM City Council - Special Meeting 5-30-24
 1:02 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 3:00 PM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 4:04 PM Dilbooy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 4:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 5:00 PM City Council - Special Meeting 5-30-24
 6:03 PM SomerViva en Espanol
 6:30 PM Memorial Day Parade 2024
 7:04 PM Porchfest 2024
 8:00 PM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 8:30 PMSPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 9:30 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 11:03 PMSchool Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 11:32 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

12:00 AM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 2:00 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
 8:00 AM SomerViva em Português
 8:30 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 9:00 AM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 9:30 AMBroadway Corridor Meeting Public Results
 10:40 AM Dilbooy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 11:00 AM Memorial Day Ceremony
 11:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 PMFinance Committee of the Whole 5-30-24
 2:30 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 3:00 PM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 4:00 PMSPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 5:00 PM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America
 6:06 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 6:30 PM SomerViva en Espanol

7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 7:30 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 8:00 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 9:00 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 11:00 PM SomerViva en Espanol
 11:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 AM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 2:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 6:30 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I
 7:05 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 7:30 AM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
 8:40 AM Dilbooy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 9:00 AMSPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 10:00 AM Memorial Day Ceremony
 10:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 11:00 AM Somerville Civic Day 2024
 11:30 AMSchool Committee Update: Emily Ackman
 12:00 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 1:45 PM Glen Park Ribbon Cutting
 2:00 PM City Council Meeting 5-23-24
 5:08 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 7:00 PM Memorial Day Parade 2024
 8:00 PM Imagining Climate Forward 2050
 8:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 9:30 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 10:30 PM City Council - Special Meeting 5-30-24
 11:32 PM Talking Business: Night Life

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

12:00 AM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 12:30 AM School Committee Meeting 5-20-24
 6:30 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 7:00 AM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 9:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 9:30 AM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024

10:35 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 11:00 AM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 12:00 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 1:00 PM City Council Meeting 5-23-24
 4:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 5:00 PM Memorial Day Parade 2024
 6:00 PM Porchfest 2024
 7:00 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 7:30 PM SomerViva en Espanol
 8:00 PMFinance Committee of the Whole 5-30-24
 10:00 PM Porchfest 2024
 11:00 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

12:00 AM City Council - Special Meeting 5-30-24
 1:02 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 1:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 2:00 AMDriver's License Info Session em Português
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II
 8:00 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 8:30 AMSchool Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 9:00 AM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 9:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 10:00 AMFinance Committee of the Whole 5-30-24
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 PM Porchfest 2024
 1:30 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 3:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 4:00 PM City Council - Special Meeting 5-30-24
 5:03 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 5:30 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 7:03 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 7:30 PM Imagining Climate Forward 2050
 8:00 PM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 8:30 PM SomerViva en Espanol
 9:00 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 10:00 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares

MONDAY, JUNE 10

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 AMFinance Committee of the Whole 5-30-24
 2:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 7:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
 7:30 AMSchool Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 8:00 AM Memorial Day Ceremony
 8:30 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 9:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 9:30 AMFinance Committee of the Whole 5-30-24
 11:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 12:00 PM School Committee Meeting 5-20-24
 4:00 PM Memorial Day Parade 2024
 5:00 PMSchool Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 7:00 PM School Committee Meeting - LIVE
 11:00 PMSchool Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 11:30 PM Memorial Day Ceremony

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

12:00 AM City Council Meeting 5-23-24
 7:00 AM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
 8:10 AM Dilbooy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 8:30 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 9:00 AM Jane's Walk 2024
 10:33 AM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 11:00 AM Porchfest 2024
 12:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 12:30 PM Somerville Civic Day 2024
 1:00 PMFinance Committee of the Whole 5-30-24
 3:00 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 5:00 PM SomerViva em Português
 5:30 PMDriver's License Info Session em Português
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 7:30 PM Porchfest 2024
 8:30 PM School Committee Meeting 6-10-24

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

12:00 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 12:30 AMSchool Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 1:00 AM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

8:00 AM SHS Class Day 2024
 10:00 AM SHS Graduation 2024
 12:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Milton
 1:30 PM Argenziano School PK-4 Spring Concert
 2:00 PM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert
 3:00 PM Brown School Spring Concert
 4:30 PMSchool Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 5:00 PM Kennedy School Spring 4-8 Concert
 6:00 PM SHS Class Day 2024
 8:00 PM SHS Graduation 2024
 10:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Milton
 11:30 PM Argenziano School PK-4 Spring Concert
 5-30-24

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

12:00 AM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert
 1:00 AM Brown School Spring Concert
 2:30 AMSchool Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 3:00 AM Kennedy School Spring 4-8 Concert
 8:00 AM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 10:00 AM WSNS Spring Concert
 11:30 AM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 12:00 PMIntramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 1:00 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 2:00 PM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert
 3:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Milton
 4:15 PM SHS Graduation 2024
 6:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 8:00 PM WSNS Spring Concert
 9:30 PM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 10:00 PMIntramural Girls' Basketball Championship

11:00 PMIntramural Boys Basketball Championship

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

12:00 AM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert
 1:00 AM SHS Baseball vs Milton
 2:15 AM SHS Graduation 2024
 8:00 AM Brown School Spring Concert
 9:30 AM SHS Class Day 2024
 11:30 AM SHS Graduation 2024
 1:00 PMIntramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 2:00 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 3:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 5:00 PM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert
 6:00 PM Brown School Spring Concert
 7:30 PM SHS Class Day 2024
 9:30 PM SHS Graduation 2024
 11:00 PMIntramural Girls' Basketball Championship

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

12:00 AMIntramural Boys Basketball Championship
 1:00 AM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 3:00 AM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert
 8:00 AM SHS Graduation 2024
 9:30 AMIntramural Boys Basketball Championship
 11:00 AMIntramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 12:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Milton
 1:05 PM Brown School Spring Concert
 2:20 PM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert
 3:00 PM Argenziano School PK-4 Spring Concert
 5-30-24
 3:30 PMSchool Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 4:00 PM WHCS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 4:30 PM WHCS Spring Concert K-3
 5:00 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford

7:00 PM SHS Graduation 2024
 8:30 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 10:00 PMIntramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 11:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Milton

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

12:05 AM Brown School Spring Concert
 1:20 AM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert
 2:00 AM Argenziano School PK-4 Spring Concert
 5-30-24
 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 PMIntramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 3:00 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 4:00 PM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert
 5:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Milton
 6:05 PM SHS Graduation 2024
 8:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 10:00 PM WSNS Spring Concert
 11:30 PM WHCS K-3 Spring Concert

MONDAY, JUNE 10

12:00 AM SHS Class Day 2024
 2:00 AMIntramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 3:00 AMIntramural Boys Basketball Championship
 8:00 AM Spring String Fling
 9:00 AM SHS Softball vs Chelsea
 10:30 AM WHCS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 11:00 AM WHCS Spring Concert K-3
 11:30 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 1:05 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 3:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Revere

5:00 PM SHS Graduation 2024
 7:00 PM Spring String Fling
 8:00 PM SHS Softball vs Chelsea
 9:30 PM WHCS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 10:00 PM WHCS Spring Concert K-3
 10:30 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

12:05 AM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 2:00 AM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 4:00 AM SHS Graduation 2024
 8:00 AMSchool Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 8:30 AM SHS Class Day 2024
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 12:30 PM Argenziano School PK-4 Spring Concert
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 1:00 PMIntramural Girls' Basketball Championship
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 3:30 PM SHS Baseball vs Milton
 5:00 PM Argenziano School PK-4 Spring Concert
 5-30-24
 5:30 PM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 6:00 PMSchool Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 6:30 PM SHS Class Day 2024
 8:30 PM SHS Graduation 2024
 10:30 PM Argenziano School PK-4 Spring Concert
 5-30-24
 11:00 PMIntramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 12:00 AMIntramural Boys Basketball Championship
 1:30 AM SHS Baseball vs Milton
 3:00 AM Argenziano School PK-4 Spring Concert
 5-30-24
 3:30 AM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert

Teen Summer Fair at Somernova



Somerville Parks and Recreation and The Dojo at Somernova co-hosted the first indoor Teen Summer Fair this past Friday, May 31. In partnership, they were able to offer a variety of entertainment including an extreme bouncy house, Photo Booth, henna tattoos, photo key chains, video game tournament, scavenger hunt, live performances including the SHS Step Team, and a variety of ways to win prizes.

There was also catered food from the Neighborhood Restaurant, Daddy Jones Restaurant and Bar, and Leone's Pizza and Subs.

Although the purpose of the Teen Summer Fair was to entertain teens and their families, they also had over 20 community partners table at the event to showcase all the support in the Somerville Community this summer. This included free family field trips, teen jobs, volunteer opportunities, free sports leagues, free teen summer programs, and more.

More than 420 teens, their families, and community members attended the event, having fun and educating themselves of all Somerville has to offer the teen community.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Home office with a view... — Photo by Denise Provost

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By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in History

June 5

- 1099 – Members of the First Crusade witness an eclipse of the moon and interpret it as a sign they will recapture Jerusalem.
- 1637 – American settlers in New England massacre a Pequot Indian village.
- 1783 – Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier make the first public balloon flight.
- 1872 – The Republican National Convention, the first major political party convention to include blacks, commences.
- 1900 – British troops under Lord Roberts seize Pretoria from the Boers.
- 1940 – The German army begins its offensive in Southern France.
- 1947 – Secretary of State George C. Marshall outlines "The Marshall Plan."
- 1956 – Premier Nikita Khrushchev denounces Josef Stalin to the Soviet Communist Party Congress.
- 1967 – The Six-Day War between Israel and Egypt, Syria and Jordan begins.
- 1968 – Sirhan Sirhan shoots Democratic presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy after Kennedy's victory in the pivotal California primary election.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

disposal boxes. Staff will be located in front of 90 Union Square between the benches and bus stop. Saturday, June 8, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Join the city's Mobility Division and the Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee to learn the basics of urban biking, map out your commuter route, and join a group ride. Ownership of a bike is not required – free BlueBike codes will be available. This event will be held on Thursday, June 13, at the Somerville Public Library Central Branch (79 Highland Ave.) from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Register here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4lqAOaxl_HH-4vOEoSr3lMeCL81k2Ld-beDrIG_JN-5lt4ozg/viewform?usp=sf_link Link can also be found on the city's website.

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 Play with and Lily Rose Valore, LGBTQ+ organizations will be tabling. This event is free and open to all LGBTQ+ individuals and allies.

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

Somernova will hold the first Super Smash Bros. Tournament at the Dojo. Join in for an epic night of gaming and competition on Wednesday, June 5, at 6:00 p.m. Get ready to show off your skills, battle it out with other players, and see who will come out on top as the ultimate Smash Bros. champion. Other upcoming events: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., the Somerville Bike Kitchen, a volunteer-run bicycle repair cooperative, hosts open-shop nights at The Dojo. Go to maintain your bike or learn more about cycling. Upcoming Bike Kitchens: June 6 and June 11. Parkour Teen Jams at The Dojo: Every Thursday

from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. This is a flexible time for teen community members to use the pop-up training space at The Dojo @ Somernova and connect with fellow community members in the process. Upcoming Teen Jams: June 6 and June 13. All events will be held at The Dojo, 15 Properzi Way.

This year's 4th of July Fireworks Celebration will take place Thursday, June 2. Join Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Arts Council for the Anniversary of 4th of July Fireworks Celebration with live entertainment at Trum Field. Festivities begin at 6:00 p.m., with DJ Philip Tan spinning some tunes. There will be live music performance by funk band Search Party. There will be food vendors like Nibble Kitchen, Italian Wizard and can't forget the fried dough!

Applications are available for an income-restricted homeownership opportunity through the city's Inclusionary Housing Program at 72 Berkeley Street #3 in Spring Hill. The unit is a two-bedroom condominium available for purchase to households making at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Applications should be submitted by Thursday, June 13, at noon. Learn more and apply at somervillema.gov/inclusionary.

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

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

As temperatures rise and we experience a hotter climate, the SCOA is hosting a

three-part series in how we, as individuals, can adapt to climate change. In June they have invited Captain Tim Bakey from the Somerville Fire Department. To RSVP, please call Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317. Wednesday, June 12, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. Pizza lunch will be provided, Grab-n-Go meals will also be available.

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

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

Culture House is looking for artists, creatives, non-profit organizations, and businesses in and around Gilman Square to bring the Gilman Park to life through events from June through September 2024. They have funding available to compensate programming partners. Find more information about programming and how to apply visit culturehouse.cc/projects/gilman-park. They are working with the City of Somerville to transform a vacant lot in Gilman Square, Homan's lot, into a three-month outdoor community space to open in June. Gilman Park will be a gathering space for local organizations, a hangout space for residents, and an opportunity for development for local businesses, artists, and creatives. The goal of this activation is to connect Gilman

Square with the rest of Somerville, bring back vibrancy, and test out future uses for vacant sites in Somerville.

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 our Con. Please fill out this form to be considered for a spot in their Artists Alley: tinyurl.com/splccvapp.

There are still lots of open spaces for students interested in the Summer Music program, the Middle Grades Robotics program, and the Career and Technical Education middle grades program. Rising 9th graders should check out the Summer Success program to get ready for high school. All programs are run by Somerville Public Schools and are free. Learn more and register: https://somerville.k12.ma.us/summer.

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

A reminder that yard waste pickup has begun. Yard waste should be put out with your trash and recycling on your normal pickup day and be in either a paper bag or a trash barrel with a "Yard Waste Only" sticker. Get stickers free of charge at the DPW Building (1 Franey Rd.), at the entrance desk at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.), or by emailing 311updates@somervillema.gov.

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

Call to Artists for Somerville Art Council's Inside-OUT Gallery. The ArtBeat 2024 Wild Exhibit deadline is June 20. Exhibit Theme: Wild. Continued on page 23



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Director, Playwright and Artistic Director Kate Snodgrass: A Theatre Hero

Interview with Doug Holder

I have always admired the work of Kate Snodgrass. I have attended and reviewed many of the plays she put on when she was the artistic director of the Boston Playwright's Theatre. As a teacher myself, I can appreciate the work she has done hatching the minds and careers of many young theatre professionals

Kate Snodgrass is a Boston-based playwright and theatre director. She was the artistic director of the Boston Playwright's Theatre until 2022. She was a professor of the practice of playwriting in the English Department of Boston University. Snodgrass won the 2012 Elliot Norton Award for excellence in theatre.

She co-founded the Boston Theatre Marathon. Snodgrass is a former Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival National Chair of the Playwriting Program, and a former vice president of StageSource, Inc.

This is only the tip of the iceberg in the accomplished career of Snodgrass.

Doug Holder: You have been described as a theatre hero. What do you feel were your 'heroic' efforts for the stage over your long career?

Kate Snodgrass: Yeah, the word "hero" is suspect, isn't it? When I think of a hero, I think of someone being afraid for her own life but trying to save others anyway. That's not me. I wasn't afraid (except when I thought no one would show up at the theatre). I did a job because I had/have a passion for new works for the stage. I still want all of us dramatists to have equal opportunities, for all of us to be able to see our work on stage with wonderful actors/directors/designers and in front of an audience. It's a goal designed for Sisyphus, and the one thing I can say for myself is that I haven't given up. Yet.

I have taught playwriting for many years, but again, the heroism of that is suspect, too. Can any writing be taught? I don't know, but I believe playwriting can be "learned" with experience and dedication. It's the students themselves who make their decisions on whether or not to walk through the door that's just been opened, so if they get better, it's on them. I wish I could take the blame for all the good plays my students wrote, but ... then I would have to take responsibility for all the bad ones. Nope, "hero" doesn't fit here either. If anything, I'm a worker: Sisyphus again.

DH: Do you think opportunities for theatre production have increased or decreased in the Boston area, since you first cut your teeth in the biz?

KS: Yes, I think opportunities for new work



have increased in Boston over the last 30 years. I came to writing for the theatre later than most (in my 40s). I was an actor first, and back then (1970s-80s) new plays were everywhere. It was thrilling – Shepard, Pinter, Shange, Fornes, Shaffer. But when I first moved to Boston in 1987, new plays were not so prevalent. Elliott Norton had retired, and NY shows were no longer coming to Boston to "try-out." Plays were being written, but they weren't getting produced.

This is why Bill Lattanzi (a wonderful playwright and friend) and I talked the local theatre companies into staging the Boston Theater Marathon (back in 1999). We hoped that it would encourage the producers to consider commissioning lesser-known playwrights. I'd like to think that the BTM has helped. And thanks to the unflagging resolve of workshops like Playwrights' Platform and the like, Boston writers are still at it. The Huntington and ART are producing new works while the smaller fringe companies – thank goodness! – are relying on new work (Moonbox, Company One, Fresh Ink, Teatro Chelsea, Sleeping Weazel, to name only a few).

Now if we can just talk some of the mid-sized companies (SpeakEasy or The Lyric Stage, for example) into taking a chance! I know that they are trying to stay afloat financially during this difficult time after the Pandemic, so I give them a nominal pass for now, but...still. New work is the beating heart of the theatre, and the excitement of it

Continued on page 23

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Howie Good's newest book, *Frowny Face*, is a collection of his prose poems and handmade collages from Redhawk Publications. He co-edits the online journal *UnLost*, dedicated to found poetry.



A Plea

Both my parents are dead.

All my aunts and uncles, too.

And several older cousins.

Even a nephew, from an overdose.

Sometimes in the cold of night

I feel like I'm just waiting my turn.

Promise that when it takes me,

you'll wear a black arm band on your left arm,

the arm nearest the heart.

— Howie Good

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

To view submission guidelines and apply, go to the Google Form Application here: <https://forms.gle/CrsDHsagUFm-rQ58a7> To accompany this year's Art-Beat 2024 festival, Somerville Art Council's Inside-Out Gallery in Davis Square invites Somerville based artists of all ages, Somerville residents, and/or artists maintaining work spaces in Somerville to submit work for a group exhibit that fits their interpretation of the word, 'WILD'.

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

information about the Union Square Farmers Market, visit unionsquaremain.org/2024-fmseason. SNAP customers get \$1 for \$1 match up to \$15. See the Market Manager tent for more info.

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

This month, join the **Somerville Public Library** and the **City of Somerville Health and Human Services Department** to "Paint Your Pride!" in a joy-filled series of community art events. For a list of upcoming "Paint Your Pride!" events visit <https://somervillepubliclibrary.org>.

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 CONT. FROM PG 22

sells tickets. Surprise!

DH: Can you tell us about the germ of the idea for the 10-minute play marathon you developed?

KS: Bill and I wanted to connect living playwrights with living companies, period. We thought, if an artistic director actually **KNEW** a playwright and had success (even with a 10-minute play) with that writer, they would be encouraged to produce a longer work. Production is where playwrights learn their craft. And it is not a solitary journey; it's filled with other artists learning their crafts, too. Designers, directors, actors, and writers need to be produced in front of an audience! Bottom line. Readings can only go so far until you hit a wall of confusion. Plus, when we approached the producers at a StageSource (the long-time organization of New England producers and theatre artists) meeting, to their credit all of them said "Sure!" I suspect they thought it would not go on for long, but here we are in the 26th year of the BTM and counting. Considering that it's a charity event (no one gets paid), and no one theatre benefits from the proceeds, the community itself benefits and so does the audience.

DH: There is art and craft in writing a play. How does a playwright bring out the art in his or her work? Does good craft bring good art?

KS: Wow. What a question! I'll try, but ... Yes, there is an art and craft to writing a play. The craft, I suspect, is gleaned by the playwright over time and experience in how an audience perceives the story itself and the way that particular story is told. These are two different things, and they are symbiotic. The three-dimensional space of the theatre

is different than, for example, the way we perceive a film or a novel. This is why production is so vitally important to a playwright. What will the audience feel when they're sitting across from me? How far can I go, and when?

As for bringing out the "art"? Personally, I don't think about this when I begin to write; I write because I have a singular point of view or because I want to discover how I truly feel about a certain subject (or person or thing or ... you name it). "Art" is for the audience to decide. But craft is different. Craft CAN be learned and must be exercised, so we must keep writing to learn the best way to convey our messages. All this has to do with our choices of characterization, of plotting, of theme, etc. Learning how to tell a story using your own "voice" seems daunting, but it's not difficult. If we stay true to the truth of our vision, "voice" comes naturally.

Finally, good craft doesn't necessarily bring good art in my opinion. Just look at your television. There are plenty of well-crafted stories out there. But are they art? Does that make them as complex and deeply moving (see tragedy/comedy) as, say, the statue of David? As the Mona Lisa? As Hamlet? As ... Woyzeck? Only time will tell us about "art." My money is on "craft."

DH: One of your well-known plays, *Haiku*, deals with a young autistic woman, who in moments of lucidity is able to recite beautiful haikus that she wrote. I think in some ways that happens with all writing and art. I know when I write a poem there is a kind of haze and confusion at first, and then a burst of clear, creativity comes through this goes back and forth in the process.

KS: Yes, the writing experience is just that! Confusion, questioning, and then if we're lucky, if we keep at it...we lose ourselves for moments at a time when everything is effortless and "right." We find the truth as only we know it.

DH: What do you think you accomplished as the artistic director of the Boston Playwrights' Theatre?

KS: This is a difficult question to answer. I suppose my accomplishments will show themselves over time. I'm proud of the work I did, of the students that I helped (or hindered), of the community connections that we made, of the nationally-recognized playwrighting program which I oversaw. You can view our students' works all over the country – in theatres and on the screens – and I'm proud to have been associated with the difference those writers are making. I hope that the work at BPT will continue in my stead over time and that BPT will be able to help even more writers find their place in the world.

DH: Now that you are in retirement, what does the future hold?

KS: Another difficult question! I'm always asking myself "How can I help?" whether it's about the theatre or the environment or some lost cause (democracy, I fear). Right now, I'm still in the shallows but not yet swimming. For the theatre, I might write another play; time will tell. For myself, I'm taking a French class and just finished my second semester in French (whew!). I hope to travel. I hope to read. I hope to play the piano. I hope to paint. Now that I don't have to sign any academic applications, I'm free! It's somewhat daunting, but also, you know ... exciting. I'm taking suggestions.

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