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Ballot measure could increase property taxes to benefit Community Preservation Act



A proposed property tax increase could bring in more revenue for the Community Preservation Act, which in turn invests in Somerville's public spaces, among other things.

By Parker Garlough

Somerville voters may see a new referendum on the ballot this November. The proposed ballot measure would increase the surcharge that is collected from property owners for the Community Preservation Act from 1.5% to 3% of their property taxes. If enacted, the average single-family home would pay \$93 each year.

The Community Preservation Act, which has been operating in Somerville for 10 years, established a fund to construct and improve upon affordable housing, and outdoor recreation areas, as well as maintaining historically significant buildings.

In the past ten years, CPA has established more than 80 affordable housing units and is in the process of constructing more than 150 more, CPA manager Roberta Cameron said *Continued on page 4*

Celebrating Amy Lowell: Garden Poetry from a Poet Gardener

Come to the Somerville Growing Center on Saturday, July 20, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., to gather, listen, and celebrate the garden poetry of Amy Lowell. This special event will focus on poetry by and in connection to Amy Lowell, with readings from Jennifer Clarvoe, Lloyd Schwartz, and Denise Provost.

Conversation and an open mic will follow, where all are welcome to share poems from, in, or about the garden.

Jennifer Clarvoe's first book, *Invisible Tender* (Fordham, 2000), won the Poets Out Loud Prize and the Kate Tufts Discovery Award. The Rome Prize in Literature supported writing for her second book, *Counter-Amores* (University of Chicago, 2011). She has held fellowships from the Sewanee Writers Conference and the James Merrill House. Retired from Kenyon College, *Continued on page 4*



The Somerville Growing Center will be hosting a celebration of poet Amy Lowell, featuring readings by notable local poets, This coming Saturday, July 20.

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A Poetry Reading: Celebrating Amy Lowell takes place on **Saturday, July 20**, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. (Rain Date: July 21, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.). Visit the **Somerville Community Growing Center** in celebration of the garden poetry of **Amy Lowell**, with readings from **Jennifer Clarvoe**, **Lloyd Schwartz**, and **Denise Provost** in a garden setting. Conversation and an open mic will follow. Presented by the **NE Poetry Club**. More info at nepoetryclub.org.

On **Sunday, July 21**, from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., visit the **Arts at the Armory** for the **Wicked Good Aht Market**. The Aht Dept. would like to invite you to join them for a day of artistic celebration, community spirit, and fun activities at the Somerville Armory. See what your community's artists have to offer. This free event will feature 25+ local art vendors. More info available on their website: <https://ahtdept.com/events>.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **Leeann Rollins**. We wish her the very best for her birthday. Happy birthday to **Richard Nilsson**. We wish him a very happy birthday. Happy Birthday to **Somerville School Committee member, Andre Green**. We wish him a great birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Paul Burke**, **Joey Sainato**, **Christine Desrochers-Broderick**, **Richard Spinosa**, **Joseph Cottier**, **Joanne Ruggiero Contaldi**, **Nancy McCarty**, **Susanne Sordillo**, **Cheryl Chaille Horan** and **Alice Galvin** a very happy birthday. *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of July 17 – July 23 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday July 17	Thunderstorms	92°/72°	50%	41%	SW 12 mph
Thursday July 18	Partly Cloudy	85°/66°	22%	16%	WSW 11 mph
Friday July 19	Sunny	84°/66°	3%	1%	NW 9 mph
Saturday June 20	Partly Cloudy	86°/69°	4%	2%	SW 9 mph
Sunday July 21	Partly Cloudy	86°/64°	12%	8%	W 9 mph
Monday July 22	Sunny	82°/65°	9%	6%	SSW 10 mph
Tuesday July 23	Partly Cloudy	85°/71°	21%	17%	SSW 11 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: Tufts Street reconstruction community open house

Cole says:

It's named after Nathan Tufts who owned a bunch of land in the area.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Photographer: Claudia Ferro

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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Docent Tour: Milk Row Cemetery

Thursday, July 18, 6:00 p.m. at Milk Row Cemetery, 439 Somerville Ave., Somerville.

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. Volunteers provide guided tours and information about the sites during open hours. The Docent Program was started at the Cemetery in 2012, and in 2017, it expanded to include the two additional historic sites. All sites are ADA accessible.



Inclement weather cancels any event. Check somervillemuseum.org/calendar for updated information. For full schedule and more information on the Docent Program: <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/docent-program>.

Questions? Contact Grace Bryan, Historic Events Manager, at grace@somervillemuseum.org.

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

Big Hair



I can honestly say that through the years I have been influenced by current trends. In the 60's I wore bell bottoms pants, love beads, and I grew my hair long.

I bought into most of the fads of the 70's and 80's. My female counterparts had huge hair and dressed like Pat Benatar. I wore Members Only and Nehru jackets. I kept up with the hit songs and hot bands and wore platform shoes.

Men getting permanents was big in the 70's and spilled over into the 80's. That's when I got mine. In 1985 I was talked into getting a perm. Bon Jovi was still rocking his big do and I was in a band so I went for it. The first couple of weeks it



was tight curls. Then a few weeks later it was starting to get wild. I could comb it so it was really big as you can see in the photo. I could actually even get it more poofed out than that.

I was playing in the band The Hypnotics in St. Petersburg, Florida, in 1985 and I was flying home for Christmas. My father who hated beards had special instructions for my mom who went to meet me at the baggage claim. He actually told my mother to "leave him there" if I had a beard. He was very surprised when he saw that although I was clean shaven, I had a big head of curls. He didn't say much on the way home.

I particularly enjoyed women's fashions especially during the 1980's. Yes, I always fell victim to trends and fads. I kept up pretty well at it.

I have a few social media friends commenting on the subject of big hair:

"I got one around 1983, tight waves."

"I had a big hairdo during the Disco era. Lots of hairspray."

"It was fun being in our 20's in the 70's. Now, being in our 70's in the 20's ... not so much."

"Somerville had some very hot ladies with their poofed up hairdos. The bigger the better."

"I looked like a Chia-Pet!"

I really enjoyed the big hair era. Now I'm in the grey hair bunch.

One thing is for sure. Big hair, small hair or hairless, Somerville girls rock.



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Authorities investigating multiple shootings, seeking information

Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan and Cambridge, Medford and Somerville Police Departments have announced ongoing investigations into six separate shootings that have occurred in these communities since June 10, 2024.

“As a result of these shootings multiple homes and vehicles were hit and one person was seriously injured. Every time a gun is illegally fired in our neighborhoods it creates the risk of death or serious injury for innocent people. In these cases officers recovered 60 shell casings resulting from the 60 shots fired in congested areas, this type of chaos creating violence simply cannot go unaddressed. I have assigned multiple prosecutors to work with our police partners to identify the perpetrators. I urge the public to join us in putting an end to this dangerous behavior by providing any information that they may have to the police.” said District Attorney Ryan

On June 10, at approximately 11:23 p.m. the Somerville Police Department responded to Fennell Street where the homeowner had reported to 911 that his home had been shot at twice. The bullets came through his living room window while he was on the couch. The investigation revealed that a male had approached the home on foot and then fired a gun, loaded with 9 MM ammunition, into the home.

The individual was apprehended a short time later and the firearm was recovered. Detectives learned that the firearm had been stolen in Reading prior to the shooting. The defendant, Sebastian LePage, 25 of Somerville, was arraigned and held without bail in Somerville District Court on June 14, 2024.

On June 26, Middlesex investigators responded to three separate unrelated shootings.

Around midnight, Somerville Police responded to Summer Street outside of Union Square for reported gunshots. They recovered 33 shell casings from two different caliber weapons. Investigators found bullets lodged in a vehicle and in four homes. The potential use of an automatic weapon is being investigated given the sound of gunshots in rapid succession captured on nearby video. On the same day, a man was shot inside a vehicle on East Albion Street in Medford. He was transported to an area hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

At 10:37 p.m., Cambridge Police responded to Newtowne Court for reported gunfire. Officers found six casings and one bullet fragment. At the time of the shooting there were two large groups of people in the parking lots. The preliminary information suggests that the guns may have been fired into the air. *Continued on page 5*

Ballot measure could increase property taxes to benefit Community Preservation Act CONT. FROM PG 1

at a City Council meeting on Thursday. They also partner with multiple housing assistance organizations.

CPA is responsible for implementing the Outdoor Recreation Plan, and they invest in the preservation of historic landmarks such as the Prospect Hill tower. In 2023, they contributed funding to 4 outdoor recreation areas, including the Somerville Junction Park expansion. In addition, they

contributed funding to 6 historic preservation projects, including the facade of Mudflat Studio.

The proposed surcharge increase would mitigate a revenue shortage that prevents the CPA from granting urgently needed requests for funding, said Cameron. In addition, it would compensate for the increasing cost of land and construction.

The majority of CPA's funding does not come from this

surcharge: since 2014, it has generated \$24 million in funding from local revenue (primarily the surcharge), \$7 million from state funds, and \$300 million from other sources, such as grants. However, a decrease in local revenue could put other revenue sources at risk, Cameron said.

Low-income households may apply for a total exemption to the surcharge, and this would continue to be true if the surcharge in-

crease were implemented. Councilors worried that residents may not be aware of this exemption, and that the application process could place undue difficulty on families that qualify.

At the same City Council meeting on Thursday, councilors also approved a resolution in support of the decriminalization of certain natural psychedelics – which will be on the ballot statewide – and a resolution pledg-

ing to work with the Cannabis Control Commission to secure a license for an establishment where customers could consume marijuana onsite, which would be the first of its kind in Massachusetts if granted. Other topics discussed included service issues on the D and E branches of the Green Line, summer recreation programs for children, and the Week of Visibility for Non-Monogamy (July 15-21).

Celebrating Amy Lowell: Garden Poetry from a Poet Gardener CONT. FROM PG 1

where she taught for almost thirty years, she lives in Somerville, Massachusetts. She has completed a new manuscript of poems, *PIANO PIANO*.

Lloyd Schwartz is Somerville's Poet Laureate, Frederick S. Troy Professor of English Emeritus at UMass Boston, editor of Elizabeth Bishop, and music and arts critic for NPR's *Fresh Air* and WBUR's website. He's been awarded NEA, Guggenheim, and Academy of American Poets fellowships and the Pushcart and Daniel Varoujan Prizes in poetry, and the Pulitzer Prize for Criticism. His poems have been selected for *The Best and The Best*

of the Best American Poetry. His latest book is *Who's on First? New and Selected Poems*.

Denise Provost. Besides long service in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, Denise Provost has published two poetry collections: *Curious Peach* (2019) and *City of Stories* (2021). Her poems have appeared in such journals as *Ibbetson Street*, *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *Light Quarterly*, *qarrtsiluni*, and *Poetry Porch*. Provost received the Maria C. Faust Sonnet 2012 Competition Best Love Sonnet award, and New England Poetry Club's 2021 Samuel Washington Allen Prize. She was elected co-president of the New



England Poetry Club in 2022.

The Growing Center, 22 Vinal Ave, Somerville, MA 02143. The

Growing Center is fully accessible. In case of rain, the event will be rescheduled to July 21

from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. For additional info, go to: <https://www.thegrowingcenter.org/2024>.

Somerville passes budget for Fiscal Year 2025

On June 20, 2024, the Somerville City Council passed the Ballantyne administration's proposed \$360 million Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget, delivering on Mayor Katjana Ballantyne's key investments in schools, City services, and workforce equity.

"Through the FY25 budget, we're sustaining the historic investments of the past two years while affirming our resources and dedicated staff can continue driving our community forward," said Mayor Ballantyne. "I'm grateful for the invaluable support of our City Council. Along with all of our fantastic public servants, I'm ready roll up my sleeves and get to work implementing our new budget."

Highlights of the FY25 budget include:

- More than 36 new, net full-time-equivalent positions for Somerville Public Schools

Funding for union contracts, closing gender gaps, and ensuring fair and competitive wages for City workers.

- New City staff positions to help better meet the needs our communities. Newly funded roles include:

- Homelessness Coordinator, to address issues impacting Somerville's unhoused residents.

- Wage Theft Coordinator, a role championed by the City Council to help ensure local workers are fully compensated.

- Civilian Crossing Guard Supervisor, to support safe routes to school.

- A robust array of programming and service initiatives to help protect our residents' health, safety and well-being including:

- Outfit and staffing of new Assembly Row fire station.

- A curbside composting pilot to advance climate action goals for energy efficient waste management (funded off budget).

- A transition away from rodenticide in City and School buildings to safer approaches to rodent control.

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

The final budget was passed with minor changes to the Mayor's May 30, 2024, proposal. To read more about the City of Somerville's FY25 budget, please visit somervillema.gov/budget.



Authorities investigating multiple shootings, seeking information

CONT. FROM PG 4

On July 4, Cambridge police responded to two additional shootings:

At 9:58 p.m., police responded to Clark Street for reported gunshots. Six casings were recovered.

Moments later, police responded to Washington Street where 15 casings of a different caliber were recovered.

According to witnesses several people and vehicles were in the area at the time of the shootings.

To address the ongoing concerns with the repeated acts of gun violence in our communities Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan has filed An Act relative to the reckless discharge of firearms in partnership with Representative Marjorie C. Decker in order to create a new felony offense that specifically addresses

instances where a shooter acts "without regard for the risk of serious bodily injury to another" but shoots intentionally or recklessly and "hereby causes a substantial risk of serious bodily injury." This bill, currently pending before the legislature, addresses a shortfall in our law where one or more people fire a weapon without regard for the safety of those who are close by and who are put at risk by the reckless or highly dangerous use of deadly force.

The possibility of these shootings being related is being investigated. Any information about these incidents should be reported to Cambridge Police at 617-349-3370, Somerville Police at 617-625-1600 ext. 7250 or Medford Police at 781-391-6767.

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# of Units	Unit Size	Square Feet	AMI	Rent*	# built out for Mobility Impairments	# built out for Deaf/Hard of Hearing
3	Studio	385 - 440	50%	\$748	-	1
1	3-Bedroom	1,123	50%	\$874	1	-
3	Studio	356 - 468	51% - 80%	\$1,418	-	-
1	Studio	440	81% - 110%	\$2,088	-	-
1	3-Bedroom	1,121	81% - 110%	\$2,884	-	-

*No utilities included in rent. All utilities paid for by the tenant (gas is not a utility at this property)

Minimum Income Limits for 50% AMI Units

Unit Size	AMI	Minimum Household Income
Studio	50%	\$21,442
3-Bedroom	50%	\$32,163

Maximum Income Limits

(set by the HUD + based on Household Size + AMI)

Household Size	50% AMI	51%-80% AMI	81%-110% AMI
1	\$57,100	\$57,101 - \$91,200	\$91,201 - \$125,664
2	\$65,300	\$65,301 - \$104,200	\$104,201 - \$143,616
3	\$73,450	\$73,451 - \$117,250	\$117,251 - \$161,568
4	\$81,600	\$81,601 - \$130,250	\$130,251 - \$179,520
5	\$88,150	\$88,151 - \$140,700	\$140,701 - \$193,882
6	\$94,700	\$94,701 - \$151,100	\$151,101 - \$208,243

* 2024 Area Median Incomes for the Boston, Cambridge, Quincy, MA-NH MSA

Asset Limit: \$75,000 (excluding restricted assets)

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Hard applications will be available at the entrance of the City Hall Annex located at 50 Evergreen Ave. Somerville; Somerville City Hall located at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville; and all Somerville Public Library branches.

Fully completed + signed applications must be submitted online or received (not postmarked) no later than **5pm on Thursday, August 1st, 2024**

Mailed to:

Maloney Properties, Inc.

Attn: The Guild Lottery

27 Mica Lane, Wellesley, MA 02481

Or emailed to: TheGuild@MaloneyProperties.com

Information Sessions:

Wednesday, July 3rd, 2024 at 12:00PM

Wednesday, July 10th, 2024 at 6:00PM

Join Zoom Meeting

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Passcode: 587214

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Equal Housing Opportunity



Beacon Hill Roll Call



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

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' and senators' votes on roll calls from the week of July 8-12.

PROTECT PRIVACY OF PEOPLE SEEKING REPRODUCTIVE AND GENDER AFFIRMING CARE (H 4844)

House 159-0, approved and sent to the Senate a bill that would prohibit the sale of cellphone data collected during an individual's visit to Massachusetts health care facilities that offer reproductive and gender affirming care. Currently, data brokers are allowed to sell data that tracks the location of cellphone users.

Supporters said that since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, location data firms have been selling location information related to patients' visits to Planned Parenthood facilities. They noted the information could be used to target and harass individuals and providers of these services.

"To ensure the protections for patients, providers and their families established by this Legislature truly exist, it is essential that we likewise protect digital footprints of those seeking, receiving and providing abortion and gender-affirming care," said Rep. Kate Lipper-Garabedian (D-Melrose). "This legislation is the first step in providing that protection at a time when more than 20 state legislatures have banned or severely restricted access to abortion and gender-affirming care."

"We know that purchasing location data to target Planned Parenthood patients or providers is part of the anti-abortion playbook, not just in restrictive states but everywhere," said Dominique Lee, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts. "Now is the time to strengthen data privacy so that cellphone location data cannot be used to target people traveling to and from our health centers, or to target anyone seeking health care that is protected in our state."

"With the passage of today's bill, the House has made important progress to address the evolving threat to abortion patients and providers," said Rebecca Hart Holder, President of Reproductive Equity Now. "In the two years post-Dobbs, hostile actors have targeted the location data of patients and providers in all 50 states, and now, we are increasingly concerned that this data will be weaponized against those seeking and providing care in Massachusetts."

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

Rep. Christine Barber Yes

Rep. Mike Connolly Yes

Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes

\$2.86 BILLION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE (S 2856)

Senate 40-0, approved a \$2.86 billion economic development package that supporters say would make bold investments in life sciences, climate tech, AI and small businesses, building on Massachusetts' national leadership and creating an environment where businesses and workers thrive.

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

Provisions of the Senate version include \$225 million over five years for the Life Sciences Breakthrough Fund to reauthorize the Life Sciences Initiative; \$200 million for the Clean Energy Investment Fund to facilitate research and development, commercialization and deployment of climate technologies; \$200 million for the Massachusetts Offshore Wind Industry Investment Trust Fund to support the growth of the offshore wind industry; \$400 million for MassWorks public infrastructure projects that spur economic development and help support job creation; \$100 million for the Rural Development Fund to provide financial assistance for infrastructure and community planning efforts in rural communities; \$100 million for local economic development grants for economic development in cities and towns; and \$90 million to support the redevelopment of underutilized, blighted or abandoned buildings.

Other provisions include \$115 million for the Massachusetts Tech Hub to establish key industry consortia across the state; \$100 million for the Applied AI Hub program to facilitate the application of AI; \$99 million for flexible grants to support advanced manufacturing initiatives; \$25 million for capital grants to advance research, commercialization and training in robotics; \$25 million through MassVentures for small business technology grants to help early-stage companies commercialize new technologies; \$35 million for grants to Community Development Financial Institutions to help disadvantaged and underserved businesses; and \$10 million for Biz-M-Power matching grants to small businesses with capital needs.

Non-fiscal provisions include new laws to allow local communities to opt-in and allow bars and restaurants in the city or town to responsibly offer happy-hour drink discounts; allow local breweries and distilleries to sell their products alongside local wineries at farmers markets; increase opportunities for a more diverse public sector

teaching force; and raise from 17 to 18 the age at which persons can be tried as a juvenile. The hike would apply to many crimes for which 18-year-olds would be tried as juveniles instead of as adults but would not change existing law that allows 18-year-olds charged with the most serious offenses, including first- or second-degree murder, to be prosecuted and sentenced as adults.

"Massachusetts is home to great talent, industry and education, but we must act now to remain competitive in a changing global and national economy," said Sen. Barry Finegold (D-Andover), Senate Chair of the Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. "This economic development bill bolsters our state's competitiveness by strengthening sectors we already excel in and creating pathways to secure the lead in emerging fields."

"Life sciences and climate technology are synonymous with Massachusetts because of the past decade of strong investment," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "The Senate's action today ensures that we build on that leadership in the coming decade, amplifying the diverse and thriving economic ecosystem that enables people to stay in our state to build careers and families."

"I'm excited the Senate has created long-term investments in key sectors of our state's economy by passing this economic development bond bill," said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. "With ambitious initiatives in life sciences, robotics, artificial intelligence and other cutting-edge disciplines, we lay a strong foundation for the new and global economy for generations to come. While we look to the future, the bill also reinforces the traditional economic drivers of the commonwealth, notably small business, education and advanced manufacturing."

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

REDUCE SHORT-TERM CAPITAL GAINS TAX (S 2856)

Senate 5-34, rejected an amendment that would reduce the short term capital gains tax from 8.5 percent to 5 percent over a three year period from 2025 to 2027.

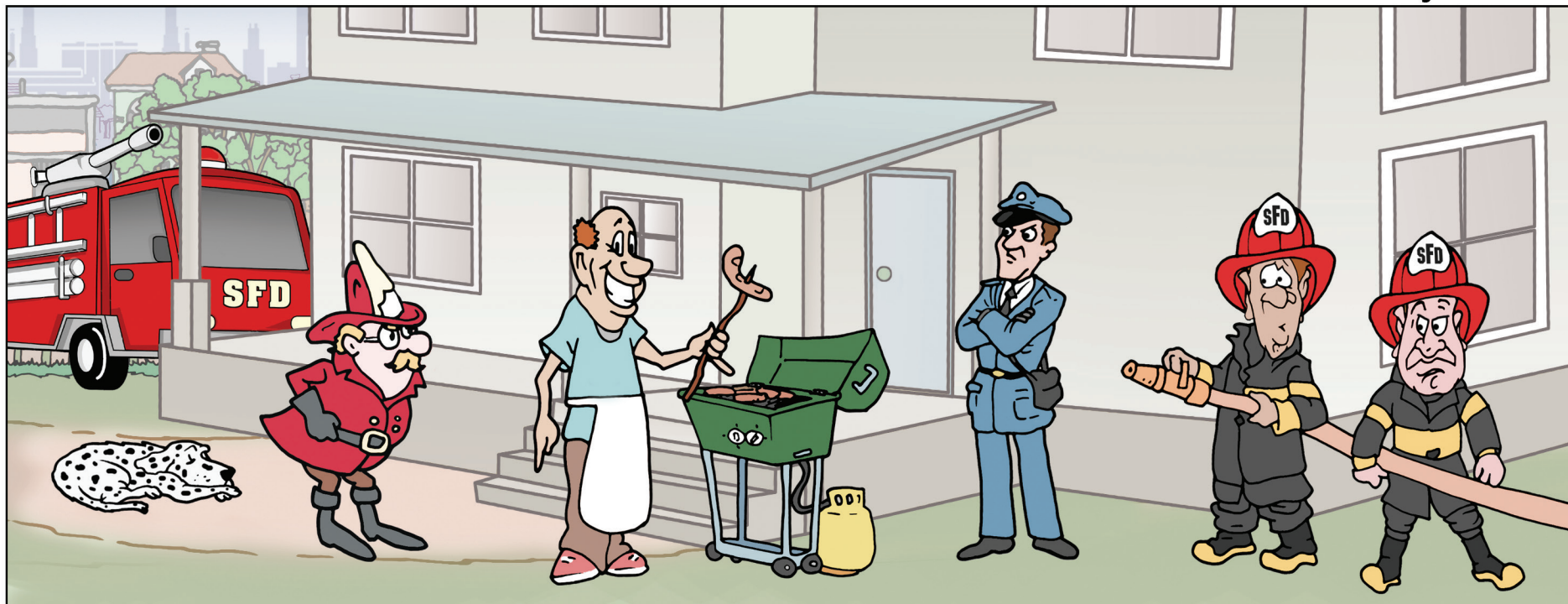
"We have the highest short term capital gains tax in the Northeast and amongst the highest in the nation," said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) who supported the amendment. "Lowering it could help business investment and actually provide economic activity."

Continued on page 19

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Let's all be careful with that outdoor grilling.

Our View Of The Times



Summertime is a great time for outdoor gatherings celebrations. Part of the fun is indulging in the pleasures of grilling and sharing good food and drink with family and friends.

But certain safety measures must be followed to make sure that these grand epicurean hoedowns don't end in catastrophic property – and personal – damage caused by fire gone out of control. Especially con-

sidering how dry and combustible everything is during these recent heat waves.

It is important to remember that charcoal, wood, electric, and propane grills are not allowed on porches, balconies, fire escapes, or roofs. Also, propane tanks are not allowed to be stored in or on any residential building at any time.

Fire control professionals advise us that grills should be kept clean to prevent grease

fires. Grilling should be done on ground level, ten feet away from any combustible walls or structures, and they should not be used under any overhangs. And a grill should never be left burning unattended.

Also, outdoor fireplaces, fire pits, and chimineas are prohibited in the City of Somerville, which is a densely populated city, with an older housing stock predominantly constructed of wood frame dwell-

ings which are built closely together.

With this density of the houses, it is imperative that all outside burning and fires are prohibited to prevent fires from starting and spreading to multiple houses. All fires used for cooking should be on a charcoal briquette grill or a propane gas grill.

And please, watch where you drop those cigarette butts. If you must smoke, do it safely.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

On **July 20**, the **Somerville Public Library** will host its fourth annual library-wide **Comix Con**, a free event for all members of the community. Join the SPL for a fan-themed day with programming from your favorite fandoms, stalls with local artists and vendors, cosplaying, and more. More information on programming and vendors can be found here: <https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/comixcon2024>.

The **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is dangerously low on inventory for diapers sizes 4, 5, 6 and they need your help to keep their little clients dry and clean while they're on the go with their families this summer. Any and all donations to support their baby clients and their families is greatly appreciated and can be made directly through our **Amazon Wishlist**: bit.ly/SHCBabyNeeds. Already have diapers to donate? Please drop off all diaper donations at our food pantry located at 165 Broadway, East Somerville. Check their hours <https://somervillehomeless-coalition.org/food-security/>.

Heat safety tips and ways to **keep cool** in and around Somerville are available in multiple languages on the city's **Keeping Cool in Hot Weather webpage** at somer-villema.gov/keepcool.

The final **"Slice of the City"** takes place **Monday, July 22, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Trum Field Playground**, 1 Franey Road (at Cedar St.). Drop-in style. The mayor, City Council, and city staff will be present to mingle with residents. Join them to celebrate Somerville's open spaces, engage with the city outside of formal meetings, and of course – enjoy some pizza. For

more information and rain locations, visit: <https://www.somervillema.gov/slice>.

As you plan your next barbecue, picnic, or pool day, let's work together to keep our community **rat-resistant** and maintain a clean and safe environment for everyone. Visit www.somervillema.gov/rodent-saway for more information. To report trash overflow and rodent issues/sightings, please call 311 (617-666-3311).

The **Somerville Community Growing Center** is looking for **weekend waterers**. Help them keep the center green and growing through *Continued on page 21*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#932

1. What is the name of the main court at the U.S. Open?
2. The Olympic Torch is used to light what?
3. A race was held in the 1896 Olympic Games in honor of whom?
4. Where did Pheidippides run?
5. How many players compete in the U.S. Open women's singles tournament?
6. Who has won the most Wimbledon men's singles titles?
7. Which player has the fastest serve ever recorded in tennis?
8. Who is known as the King of Clay?
9. Where was the first winter Olympics held?
10. When were the Olympic gold medals last made entirely of gold?
11. When is world emoji day?
12. When is National Ice Cream Day?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

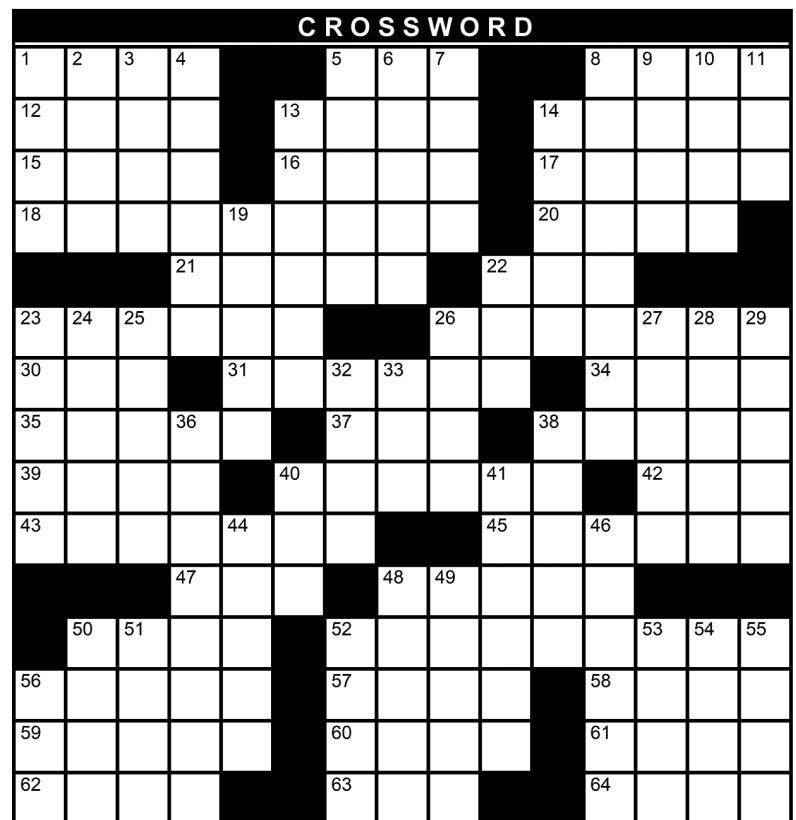
1. The most common password is "123456."
2. The "dot" over the letter "i" is called a title.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

SUMMER OLYMPICS

ACROSS

1. Delhi dress
5. Individual Neutral Athlete at 2024 Olympics, acr.
8. Mother in #48 Down
12. Joie de vivre
13. Fodder holder
14. External
15. ____ Grey tea
16. Gulf V.I.P.
17. Edible cannabis substance
18. Famous Olympics basketball team (2 words)
20. 90 degrees on compass
21. Like Al Yankovic
22. Popular deciduous tree
23. College treasurer
26. Balaclava (2 words)
30. Compass point between E and NE
31. Nullify
34. Diva's delivery
35. Smart ones?
37. Two halves
38. That is, in Latin
39. First queen of Carthage
40. What ivy does
42. ____ chi
43. Hindered
45. Alternative form of a gene
47. Band aid
48. Diet inspired by prehistory
50. European erupter
52. Michael Phelps predecessor
56. "In the Hall of the Mountain King" composer Edvard ____
57. Black and white killer?
58. U.S. lake
59. From then on
60. Bank claim
61. Decomposes
62. Against, prefix
63. a.k.a. acid
64. State of vexation



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



DOWN

1. Bird feeder morsel
2. a.k.a. Daminozide
3. Hard to find

4. Family addition, pl.
5. Archer or shooter, e.g.
6. Homer's classic
7. Accepted behavior
8. a.k.a. Cassius, 1960 gold medal winner
9. Greek H's
10. Landlord's due
11. Heat unit
13. Certain style of humor
14. Obelus, pl.
19. "The end justifies the ____"
22. ____ out, as in a win
23. Mardi Gras souvenir
24. Dark
25. Full of cattails
26. Petals holder
27. Rocky ridge
28. Like certain rug
29. Swimmer Ledecky
32. Like 23 out of Michael Phelps' 28
33. "Wheel of Fortune" request (2 words)
36. Nadia of perfect 10 fame
38. Archipelago
40. Large edible mushroom
41. Like Bosnia and Herzegovina or Bulgaria
44. Mental portrait
46. Trotters
48. 2024 Olympics host city
49. Formed a curve
50. Sportscaster Andrews
51. Windshield option
52. Gangster's gal
53. Xander Schauffele club option
54. South American monkey
55. Gusto
56. Geological Society of America

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Join Somerville's Annual National Night Out event

Community members looking for a night out this summer can look no further than the City of Somerville's annual National Night Out Event hosted by the Somerville Police Department and the Somerville Office of Parks and Recreation.

The free event, set to take place on Tuesday, August 6, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Trum Field (541 Broadway), will include a diverse array of family-friendly activities including:

- ♦ Water slides
- ♦ Moon bounces
- ♦ Face painting
- ♦ Balloon animals
- ♦ Petting zoo
- ♦ DJ
- ♦ Pizza
- ♦ Raffles (free to enter)
- ♦ Lawn games
- ♦ Shopping at over 40 local vendors
- ♦ Giveaways



Additionally, the first 150 attendees to arrive will receive a free backpack and school supplies to get ready for the upcoming school year.

"National Night Out is a fantastic opportunity for our community to come together, meet our local police officers, learn about community resources and enjoy a fun-filled evening," said Mayor Ballantyne. "We look forward to seeing everyone there."

National Night Out is a nationwide initiative promoting police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Attendees can register by scanning the QR code on the event flyer or by visiting somervillerec.com. While registration is not required to attend, it is encouraged for prize eligibility.

Dorothy's Corner BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Summer Salad

During the hot summer months, I prefer to eat on the lighter side. Salads are a big part of my lunch menu. I usually have most of the items listed below on hand. Sometimes I have left over grilled chicken, grilled steak, or even roasted vegetables that I like to incorporate into my salads. For additional protein garbanzo beans or edamame beans can be added for texture and color. You can add just about anything for a fun, not so boring and nutritious salad. The sky is the limit!

- 5 oz Container of Mixed Greens
- 2 Cups Tuscan Kale, Cleaned and Julienned
- 1/2 English Cucumber, Chopped
- 2 Tablespoons Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 1/2 Teaspoon, Kosher Salt
- 1/4 Teaspoon, Freshly Ground Black Pepper
- 2 Medium Tomatoes, Sliced into 1/4"

- Rounds
- 2 Oranges, (Naval or Cara Cara) *see preparation below
- 8 oz Mozzarella, Sliced 1/4" Rounds
- 6 Pieces Precooked Bacon, Chopped
- 1 Cup Fresh Basil, Julienned
- 1/8 Cup Balsamic Glaze
- Finishing Salt, Such as Maldon Flake
- Sea Salt, optional

In a large bowl, add the mixed greens, kale, cucumber, olive oil, salt, and pepper. Blend well. Place the well-blended greens onto a large serving platter and spread out the mixture evenly.

*Cut off the top and bottom of the oranges. With a sharp knife, starting at the top of the orange, cut the peel and pith following the contour of the orange down to the bottom. Repeat until the orange is completely peeled. If there is any of the pith left, make sure it is trimmed off so that the fruit will not taste bitter.



Once they are peeled, slice the oranges into 1/4" rounds. Each orange will yield 5-6 slices. Pour the orange juice produced by slicing the oranges over the greens. Fan out the orange slices, tomato slices and the mozzarella slices onto the platter. Add the chopped bacon, if using, or substitute garbanzo

beans or edamame beans for a vegetarian option. Add the basil. Drizzle the balsamic glaze over the platter. Add the finishing salt at this time, if using.
Serves 3.

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

Somerville supports regulated psychedelic-assisted therapy in Massachusetts

Last Thursday, the Somerville City Council passed a resolution to support the "Natural Psychedelic Substances Act," a question on the November ballot that would bring psychedelic-assisted therapy to Massachusetts. Councilor Willie Burnley Jr. introduced the resolution.

"In the midst of this national mental health crisis, we have a duty to offer our neighbors' the best resources possible to improve and save their lives." Councilor Willie Burnley Jr. said, "I'm proud to stand up on behalf of Somerville to ensure that Massachusetts veterans, residents, and patients have access to vitally needed mental health treatments." MMHO educational outreach director Graham Moore, who addressed city councilors before the vote and who lost his best friend to suicide in Somerville in 2013, shared, "I am eternally grateful to Councilor Burnley and his colleagues for standing up for veterans, hospice patients, and others suffering severe distress by endorsing compassionate and commonsense reform."



The current options for treating mental health issues are limited and often aren't helpful to veterans with PTSD and patients confronting end-of-life anxiety. Veterans are facing a PTSD crisis, as more than 6,000 veterans die by suicide each year and countless more struggle with the trauma from their service. Current laws and medical practice allow dying patients to access medications for physical pain but offer little to address the mental suffering that is part of an end-of-life diagnosis.

This ballot question would allow adults 21 and older to access natural psychedelic substances whose tremendous therapeutic potential in mental health has been attested to by leading medical research institutions such as Mass General and Johns Hopkins. In fact, the FDA recently called psilocybin a "breakthrough therapy" for treatment-resistant depression - meaning that it may demonstrate a substantial improvement over what's currently available. Many veterans suffering from PTSD have found healing and help with natural psychedelic medicines where other treatments have failed. Retail sales will not be permitted through this ballot question.

About Massachusetts for Mental Health Options

Massachusetts for Mental Health Options is dedicated to advocating for accessible, innovative mental health treatments. Our coalition supports the establishment of a therapeutic framework that recognizes the potential of psychedelic medicine to heal and transform lives. Please visit <https://maformentalhealth.org/> for more information.

Local nonprofit launches new program to increase technology access for older adults

Somerville and Cambridge residents can access free technology assistance through a new program offered by nonprofit Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES). The Technology Access Program (TAP) launched on July 1 with the goal of helping older adults use technology to find information, services and social connections easily and quickly.

Building on SCES' popular Tech Support Coach Volunteer Program, TAP will partner with local organizations to host free drop-in sessions, open labs and skills workshops. Home visits conducted by trained Technology Access Coordinators will be available by appointment.

TAP sessions will help participants better understand how to access and use technology available to them. Sessions will be tailored based on the needs of the audience but will broadly cover topics like internet connectivity and setup, app installation,

connecting to telehealth appointments, or finding medical information and resources online.

TAP Manager Colin Barr says that improving access to technology will ultimately lead to better health and social outcomes for participants. Having access to technology, including a reliable internet connection, helps people connect with others, engage with their communities and receive important information and resources.

"We are fighting for digital equity," said Barr. "There are major discrepancies in how people access technology, especially when we consider age and income. TAP will help bridge this gap and mitigate the negative effects of isolation and loneliness among people who are less connected to others."

TAP will hold drop-in help sessions every Tuesday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. and skills workshops every Monday from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Somerville



Council on Aging located at 167 Holland Street in Somerville.

TAP is available for Cambridge and Somerville residents ages 60 and older. The program is open to participants at all skill levels, including those who are completely new to different forms of technology. Information about

SCES' other services, like home delivered meals, health benefits counseling and caregiving support will be available.

For more information, call SCES at 617-628-2601 or email info@eldercare.org. If your organization is interested in hosting a workshop or part-

nering with TAP, please contact TAP Manager Colin Barr at colin.barr@eldercare.org or 617-628-2601 x1007.

SCES' Technology Access Program is made possible through funding from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech.

ArtBeat 2024 goes 'Wild'

ArtBeat, Somerville's annual multicultural arts showcase, returned on Saturday, July 13. For this year's theme, artists and attendees explored all that is "wild". The festival featured 100 vendors and community groups, music, dance, theater, food, and much more.





Photos by Bobbie Toner



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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Arthur Ashe Stadium | 7. Sam Groth |
| 2. The Olympic Cauldron | 8. Rafael Nadal |
| 3. Pheidippides | 9. Chamonix, France |
| 4. From Marathon to Athens, Greece | 10. 1912 |
| 5. 128 | 11. July 17 |
| 6. Roger Federer, with 8 titles | 12. July 21 |

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.

Focus Group - Friday, August 2nd from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Please join the City of Somerville Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) for a focus group on the potential rental registry and energy disclosure ordinance. We are looking for tenants and landlords to join us. Focus group participants will be eligible for a gift card. What is the rental registry and energy disclosure ordinance? The potential ordinance proposes to require residential and commercial landlords to register their units with the City of Somerville and share information about the energy use of each unit. This information would be publicly available and accessible. The intention is to make this information transparent and available for potential tenants making housing decisions. Why is OSE hosting focus groups? OSE wants to hear insights from those most impacted by this potential ordinance.

Lockboxes for Seniors - What is the Lockboxes for Seniors program? The Lockboxes for Seniors program is intended to provide Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) access to your residence in the event of an emergency where you are unable to open the door. A key to your residence will be stored in a secure metal storage device, like a realtor's lockbox, at your residence. The access code to the lockbox will only be available to Police, Fire, or EMS personnel and used only during an emergency. Who is eligible? The program is targeted towards Somerville community members who live alone and are aged 65+, or those who are disabled and/or

suffer from major medical illness at any age. Individuals living in apartment complexes or other facilities with maintenance staff are not eligible for this program. How do I know this is safe? A member of the Somerville Fire Department will install and demonstrate how the lockbox operates and answer any questions you may have. The four-digit combination on the lockbox will only be available to responding emergency personnel in the event of an emergency. Who should I contact for more information? For more information, please contact Debby Higgins at the Council on Aging via E-mail at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or by telephone at (617) 625-6600 ext. 2321. There is no charge to participate in the program if you meet the established target criteria. The Council on Aging will verify eligibility for services. This program is designed for those who are at most significant risk for falls or have limited mobility. All participants will be required to provide a spare house key to be used in the lock box as well as a safety inspection of the property.

Summer Olympics Event – Wednesday, July 31st starting at 10:00 a.m. and running to 11:45 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Travel the world and enjoy fun and easy games while winning fun prizes! Try your hand at modified golf, archery, ping pong and much more. Let the games begin! Lunch at noon, \$3 per person. Space is limited. To RSVP, please contact Michelle Deutsch by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

Farmers Market Coupons for Older Adults – Coupon distribution at the Holland Street Center is tentatively planned for Thursday, July 18th, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services Nutrition program is distributing free farmer's market coupons for eligible older adults in July. Available through the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. Eligible participants will receive a coupon booklet worth \$50 to use to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables at area farmers' markets. Applicants must be Cambridge or Somerville residents, aged 60 or older or disabled and living in elderly housing with a congregate meal program, and income at or below 185% of the Federal poverty levels. Income is self-declared, do not bring proof of income. Coupon booklets are limited one per person, while supplies last. Booklets must be picked up in person. Identification with proof of address and a date of birth is

required to receive coupons. If someone is unable to come to a distribution site, they can send someone with a proxy form. Contact SCES Nutrition Department at 617-628-2601. SCES is an equal opportunity provider.

Blood Pressure Clinic – Thursday, July 25th starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Celeste Gearhart, Director of Public Health Nursing will be at the COA the last Thursday of the month to take your blood pressure. She will also share heat safety resources as we head into the summer months. Celeste will return on August 29th.

Caregiver Support Group – Friday, July 19th & 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Are you a caregiver of an older adult and would like a safe place to discuss the challenges, stresses, strengths and joys that come along with caregiving? Sign up for our Caregiver Support Group. RSVP by contacting Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

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.

COMMENTARY

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

More Housing: Necessary but not enough or soon enough



By State Senator Pat Jehlen

The next two and a half weeks in the legislature are going to be packed!

Monday I wrote about important pieces of the Senate's version of the Housing Bond Bill [1]. This is about why the bond bill is not enough. Following will be

newsletters about the immediate emergency, and possible solutions to keep people in their homes.

WE NEED MUCH MORE SOONER!

Housing is the biggest problem for most individuals, most families, most communities, most businesses in our state. The crisis demands both funding and more tools.

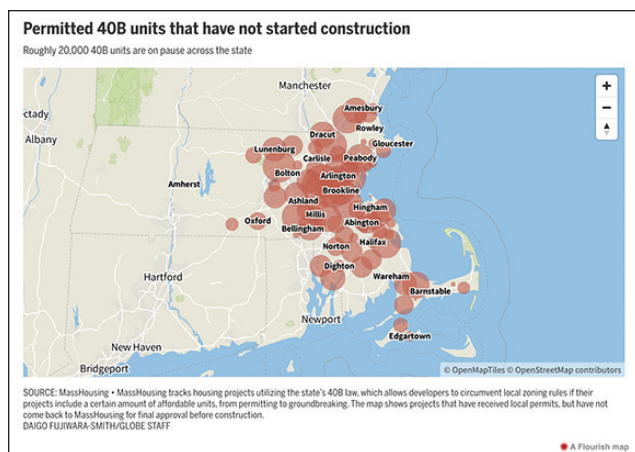
The McKinsey study [2] projected that we need 125-200 thousand new units by 2030. The administration says their bill could enable construction/preservation of up to 45,000 units over 5 years [3].

And that assumes that all the bonding is issued for this purpose.

The bill authorizes \$5.1 billion in long-term capital spending on housing, but the state is currently limited to about \$400 million a year in capital spending on housing [4] under its latest five-year capital budget. The bond authorization doesn't mean the state will sell all the bonds. It only designates priorities and creates a menu of ways to spend bond money that the governor's office can choose from.

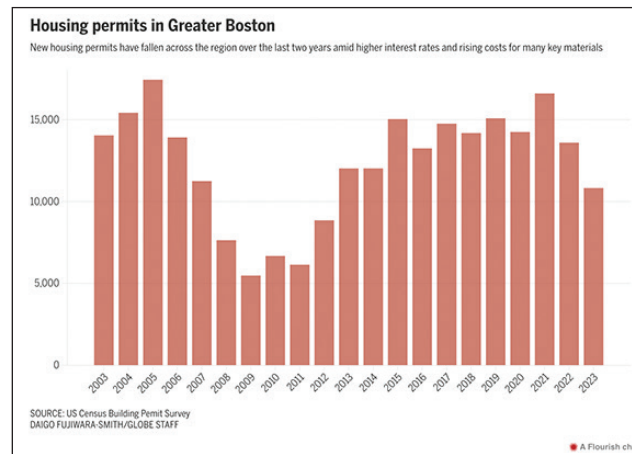
(The bill is certainly a bigger commitment than Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen made. She announced the Fed would provide \$100 million to support affordable housing [5] across the country over the next 3 years. But can't offset the cost of the Federal Reserve's high interest rate.)

We need private investment to build most of the new housing, but costs are so high that it's hard. The Globe just reported that, due to high interest rates and construction costs, even permitted mixed income housing developments are stalled [6].



Through the first five months of the year, building permits for fewer than 5,000 units were issued across Greater Boston. "That's down a bit from the same time in 2023,

which itself was the slowest year for new housing production in more than a decade."



Note: An alert reader pointed out this New York Times article about the dramatic costs imposed by elevator rules [7]. It's the first I've heard of it, but would like to know what others know and think.

BUILDING MORE HOUSING IS NECESSARY BUT NOT SUFFICIENT: THE SOMERVILLE EXAMPLE

Building new units, especially affordable ones, is crucial. But it's going to take decades and a lot more money to build the housing we need to be built, and for the supply to increase enough for reduced prices to trickle down. So far, while we are doing everything possible in Somerville to increase new housing units, both affordable and market rate, increased production has not stopped unaffordable increases.

Somerville, the most densely populated city in New England, has 20% inclusionary zoning, which means developers building more than 18 units must include 20% low or moderate income units, with lower requirements for fewer units. There is no single-family zoning in Somerville, and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs=small extra apartments on lots that already have buildings) can be built "as of right" - without a special permit.

Somerville is building thousands of new units, adding height and density. For example:

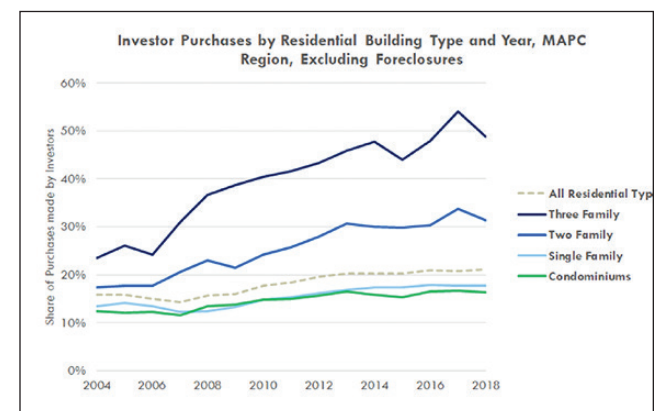
- Assembly Row (over 1400 new condos and apartments in buildings of 20 or more stories)
- Union Square (two new buildings, 25 and 6 stories, will have 450 units, 87 of them affordable; one is taller [8] than all but two buildings in Cambridge [9])
- Boynton Yards (450 apartments in 24-story buildings are going up)
- Clarendon Hill development will add 375 units as well as rebuilding a public housing project.

Gov. Healey recently announced Affordable Housing grants to Somerville Community Corporation [10] to help build

1. 115 all-affordable family homes, 16 units deeply affordable, replacing the long-closed Star Market
2. 60 all-affordable homes, 18 units deeply affordable, in Union Square

3. 92 all-affordable homes, including at least a dozen deeply affordable. (part of Phase II Clarendon Hill Reconstruction, which will upgrade 216 public housing units, adding 80 moderate-income units and 295 market-rate units.

Despite this progress, in the past 5 years, average rent increased [11] by 34-58%, or over twice as much as inflation [12]. And from 2021 to 2022, the median sale price went up 44.4% [13]. (p. 105)



MEANWHILE, WE'RE LOSING NATURALLY AFFORDABLE HOMES

A recent report, Homes for Profit: Speculation and Investment in Greater Boston [14], shows that investors are purchasing increasing numbers of homes, outbidding potential homebuyers and raising rents. In Greater Boston, half of 3-families and a third of 2-families are sold to investors. (see previous newsletter: Who's Buying Homes? [15])

Large investors know that they can raise rents, evicting tenants or pricing them out - to justify their high payments. They can pay cash with no conditions.

We Buy Ugly Houses [16] says they are America's #1 home buyer.

We aren't just losing affordable housing. We're losing home-ownership opportunities for the middle class. Three years ago, Bill White (then Somerville Councilor at Large) told me the percentage of 2-family homes with residential property tax exemptions had dropped from 60% to 56% in the previous 5 years. Homes are eligible for a residential property tax break if the owner lives there. Homes owned by absentee landlords or speculators are not eligible. For 3-family homes residential exemptions have dropped from 41% to 32%; even condos have gone from 58% to 56%.

Bill White concluded that "residential ownership has dropped over the last 5 years...We lost 675 resident-owned multi-families."

NEXT: WHAT WE NEED RIGHT NOW!

Stay tuned and stay in touch.

Links:

- [1] [https://mailchi.mp/electpatjehlen/senate-passes-housing-bond-bill?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/electpatjehlen/senate-passes-housing-bond-bill?e=[UNIQID])

Continued on page 17

COMMENTARY

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

Arts at the Armory Should Uphold Its Commitment to Inclusivity

As members of Shalom Somerville, a grassroots coalition of Somerville residents, workers, and students dedicated to fostering an inclusive, respectful, and civil community in our city, we were deeply concerned and disappointed by the recent inclusion of the film *Israelism* in the Performance Opportunity Program (POP) series at Arts at the Armory.

Arts at the Armory claims to select content for the POP series based on how applicants incorporate values of inclusivity, community, and creativity. However, the decision to screen *Israelism* and the exclusionary manner in which the event was held starkly contradict these values.

Israelism is a documentary about two young American Jews who were raised to uncondi-

tionally love Israel. As they learn about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, they come to believe that Israel is an oppressive force and adopt anti-Zionist views.

The film presents a one-sided and biased portrayal of Israel, ignoring the complex history of the Jewish people, Jewish American relationships with Israel, and the diverse and multicultural societies within Israel. Instead of critiquing specific policies or political leaders, *Israelism* attacks the very idea of a Jewish state. Denying the Jewish people the right to establish their own nation in their historic and cultural homeland, while simultaneously promoting a Palestinian state on the same land, is hypocritical and antisemitic.

The American Jews depicted in the film are reduced to antisemit-

ic caricatures, portrayed as brain-washed supporters of Israel. This narrative evokes centuries-old European antisemitic tropes suggesting that Jews are somehow different, untrustworthy, and not loyal to their home countries. It erases our Jewish American experience and attempts to "other" us as not quite American enough. We reject the judgment of American Jewish "dual loyalty" to Israel.

During the film screening and panel discussion, the behavior of the event organizers was equally troubling. The Somerville Armory is a public building, and its facilities are accessible to all, regardless of national origin or creed. However, several organizers wore yellow vests as uniforms to pose as security, and repeatedly attempted to block entry of peaceful, pro-Israel attendees.

This exclusionary gatekeeping behavior undermines Arts at the Armory's stated objectives to provide an inclusive venue and exacerbates divisions within our community. It also ignores Somerville's stated values of promoting inclusivity and honoring our community's diversity.

We are concerned the organization's leadership will continue to promote antisemitic programming and permit organizers to block members of the general public with opposing views from entering the Armory. In our correspondence with Arts at the Armory, the organization disavowed their curatorial responsibility to ensure the art they sponsor aligns with the organization's values. They claim curation is akin to censorship. We disagree. While art can be

controversial, it is critical to distinguish between controversial (e.g., cultural appropriation) and offensive (e.g., blackface). While art should open minds and invite new perspectives, propaganda reinforces false narratives. Arts at the Armory should know the difference. As a community, we must work together to create spaces where diverse viewpoints are respected and all members feel safe and included.

If you agree, write to Arts at the Armory at director@artsatthearmory.org and operations@artsandthearmory.org, and to Mayor Ballantyne at mayor@somervillema.gov, to tell them that discrimination has no place in Somerville.

Emma Lebwohl
on behalf of Shalom Somerville

Upcoming events at the Growing Center

Vegetable Fermentation Workshop: Simple Preservation You Can Do At Home, Thursday, July 18, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Flora Spivak will discuss and demonstrate simple techniques for making sauerkraut and pickles at home. Sample recipes provided. Come learn and/or share your own experience and knowledge of these traditional methods of preserving food. Contact: Flora at sfspivak@gmail.com.

Hidden Colors of Nature 1: Solar dyeing and crafting with plants for all ages!. Saturday, July 20, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Rain Date: Sunday, July 21)

A family friendly event, for all ages. Childrens' story read by Yumi Izuyami. Explore dyeing yarn with plants using the power of the sun. Please bring a glass jar, if possible, to take home to see yarn change color over time (there will be some extras). Second session on August 3 (Rain Date: August 10). Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org.

More Housing: Necessary but not enough or soon enough CONT. FROM PG 16

[2] <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.mass.gov/doc/future-of-work-in-massachusetts-report/download>

[3] <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/the-affordable-homes-act-research-and-analysis#production-and-preservation>

[4] <https://www.wbur.org/news/2024/06/26/massachusetts-senate-housing-bill-maura-healey>

[5] <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2024/06/24/business/yellen-announces-efforts-boost-housing-supply-high-prices-create-crunch/>

[6] <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2024/07/05/business/housing-construction-costs-suffolk-downs-greater-boston/>

[7] <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/08/opinion/elevator-construction-regulation-labor-immigration.html>

[8] <https://www.bizjournals.com/boston/news/2023/07/21/somerville-cambridge-new-towers.html>

[9] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_tallest_buildings_in_Massachusetts,_exclusive_of_Boston

[10] <https://www.somervillecdc.org/news/exciting-news-on-affordable-housing-grants/>

[11] <https://www.renthop.com/average-rent-in-somerville-ma>

[12] <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>

[13] chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.tbf.org/-/media/tbf/reports-and-covers/2022/october/gbhrc2022_interactive_web.pdf

ports-and-covers/2022/october/gbhrc2022_interactive_web.pdf

[14] <https://homesforprofit.mapc.org/report>

[15] [https://mailchi.mp/electpatjehlen/whos-buying-homes?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/electpatjehlen/whos-buying-homes?e=[UNIQID])

[16] https://www.webuyuglyhouses.com/boston/wbuh1-we-buy-ugly-houses/?utm_source=google_search&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=843345003&utm_term=we%20buy%20ugly%20houses&utm_content=506900018386&keyword=we%20buy%20ugly%20houses&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQiAnrOtBhDIARIsAFsSe51sbqm6D8e_jEYofvYZggBqf3E6V5WtAS5ha-Os73fxNjn_YbaPx3GIaAj7nEALw_wcB

Mayor Emeritus Eugene Brune honored by the Somerville Museum

On Friday, July 12, the Somerville Museum honored Mayor Emeritus Eugene Brune, for over 30 years of service as a Trustee and for his ongoing commitment and contributions to the Museum. It was a wonderful event with a large and joyous crowd of family and friends who joined together to celebrate Gene, on his birthday, 95 years young!

The high point of the afternoon was the announcement by Trustee Regina Pisa that by vote of the Board of Trustees, the front gardens would henceforth be named

the "Eugene C. Brune Somerville Museum Gardens." This naming was made possible by a very generous donation by an anonymous donor. A birthday citation was also presented to Gene by Mayor Balantyne which included the signatures of the City Council as well.

The impetus for this event came from the Museum's fundraising committee, with Gene's permission, with an appeal to donate \$95 for Gene's 95th birthday. The money raised were to support the Museum's summer programming and ongoing

operations. The goal was to raise \$10,000 in less than three weeks, but to everyone's amazement, over \$17,000 was raised.

Donors were also asked to send one word to describe Gene and why he should be honored. The adjectives submitted to describe Gene were inspiring and heartfelt.

Kevin Pryor, a gentleman that was a part of Gene's team during his 10 years as mayor, wrote:

"After I made my donation for your event, I was asked to describe you in one word. I choose

humility. Along with my words, I wrote you are a person who accomplished more than any man or woman for the City of Somerville and Middlesex County. Gene never bragged, never sought attention or publicity, always did things with the kindness of his heart and for the greater good, and not for notoriety. Gene did it all with class and dignity."

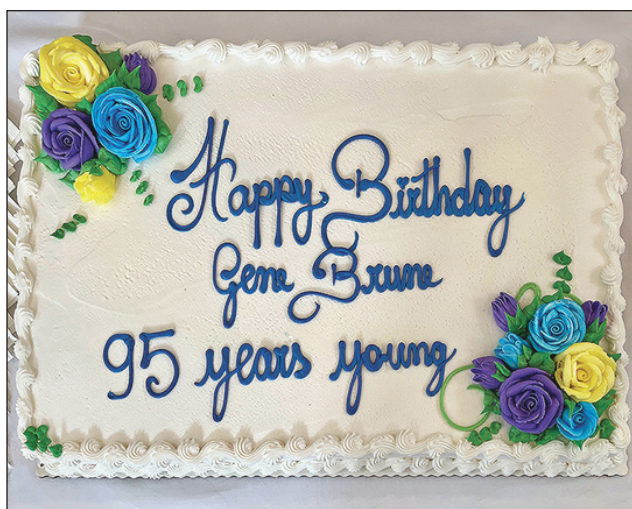
The Museum's Trustees and members know firsthand what a gem the Museum is in our City with so much history stored within its walls and are proud of

its varied programming spanning the history, art and culture of Somerville.

We hope you will help by becoming a member of the Museum and/or by sending a donation to the Somerville Museum, One Westwood Road, Somerville, MA 02143. You can also contribute online at <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/donate>.

With appreciation,

Evelyn M. Battinelli
Trustee and Director Emeritus





Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

Amendment opponents said the Legislature recently passed, and Gov. Maura Healey signed into law, the largest tax cut in state history. They noted that the tax cut package included a reduction in the short-term capital gains tax.

"Only last year, we passed significant tax reductions," said Sen. Pat Jehlen.(D-Somerville). "We don't yet know all the impact. We need enough revenue to meet our needs for housing and transportation. Those investments are much more important than tax cuts for our economic future."

(A "Yes" vote is for the reduction in the short-term capital gains tax. A "No" vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

REDUCE THE SHORTAGE OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS (H 4842) – The House approved and sent to the Senate a bill that supporters say would streamline the process for foreign-trained dentists to obtain a dental hygienist license in the Bay State. These dentists would have to have at least five years of experience as a dentist in their country and must have obtained a certificate of registration, certifying them as a dentist, from their country's board of dental examiners or similar board. Massachusetts would only license the dentist as a dental hygienist if it determines that competency requirements in the foreign country are equal to those

required of applicants in the Bay State.

"This proposal would benefit immigrants who are foreign-trained dentists, providing them with an accelerated pathway towards a hygiene license and helping to alleviate the labor shortage in the field of dentistry," said sponsor Rep. Tackey Chan (D-Quincy).

"Massachusetts continues to contend with a shortage of qualified dental hygienists, and this bill would create a new pipeline for foreign-trained dentists to help stem the workforce shortage," said Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS) President Dr. Abe Abdul. "Oral health is critical to overall health. Increasing the number of dental care providers translates into less wait times and greater availability of appointments for patients, allowing them to receive high-quality care."

"The Massachusetts Dental Hygienists Association (MDHA) is excited to collaborate with the MDS on crucial language in the legislation that enables foreign-trained dentists to take required exams and apply for dental hygiene licenses, said MDHA President Amanda Berthiaume. "We are committed to supporting these new hygienists by providing them with opportunities, through an MDHA membership, to help them succeed. This legislation is a first step in addressing the dental professional shortage in Massachusetts."

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many leg-

islators 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 on 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 July 8-12, the House met for a total of four hours and 43 minutes and the Senate met for a total of twelve hours and 49 minutes.

Mon. July 8	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. Senate 11:16 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.
Tues. July 9	No House session No Senate session
Wed. July 10	House 11:02 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. No Senate session
Thurs. July 11	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:47 a.m. Senate 11:01 a.m. to 11:46 p.m.
Fri. July 12	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne presents



Somerville's Annual FREE Outdoor Movie Series 

THURSDAY, JULY 11 *Wonka* (2023) 
LINCOLN PARK • ARGENZIANO SCHOOL

THURSDAY, JULY 18 *THE MUMMY* (1999) 
LINCOLN PARK • ARGENZIANO SCHOOL

THURSDAY, JULY 25 *GOOD Burger* (1997) 
LINCOLN PARK • ARGENZIANO SCHOOL

FINDING DORY (2016)  **THURSDAY, AUGUST 1**
SEVEN HILLS PARK • DAVIS SQ.

Barbie (2023)  **THURSDAY, AUGUST 8**
SEVEN HILLS PARK • DAVIS SQ.

The Outsiders (1983)  **THURSDAY, AUGUST 15**
SEVEN HILLS PARK • DAVIS SQ.

More info at: SOMERVILLEMA.GOV/MOVIEFEST





YART SALE

AUGUST 10
12PM - 6PM
2024

Rain date: Aug 11

somerilleartscouncil.org/yartsale

Want to write local Somerville stories?
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BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER 

By Bobbygeorge Potaris

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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Somerville back yards - an endangered species... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

July 17

- 1453 – France defeats England at Castillon, France, ending the Hundred Years' War.
- 1762 – Peter III of Russia is murdered and his wife, Catherine II, takes the throne.
- 1791 – National Guard troops open fire on a crowd of demonstrators in Paris.
- 1801 – The U.S. fleet arrives in Tripoli.
- 1815 – Napoleon Bonaparte surrenders to the British at Rochefort, France.
- 1944 – Field Marshall Erwin Rommel is wounded when an Allied fighter strafes his staff car in France.
- 1946 – Chinese communists attack the Nationalist army on the Yangtze River.
- 1960 – American pilot Francis Gary Powers pleads guilty to spying charges in a Moscow court.
- 1966 – Ho Chi Minh orders a partial mobilization of North Vietnam to defend against American airstrikes.
- 1987 – Lt. Col. Oliver North and Rear Adm. John Poindexter begin testifying to Congress regarding the Iran-Contra scandal.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

the fall. Flexible watering time around weekend events/weather. Commitment: weekly, 12 hours, sub list available. Need to have taken the volunteer orientation. Onsite watering training and written instructions given. Email paula@thegrowingcenter.org.

The **Department of Public Works** and **Somerville Public Library (MA)** are hosting a **Touch a Truck** in West Somerville on **July 19** and a **DPW Truck** will visit in **East Somerville** on **August 14**. More information: <https://somerville-publiclibrary.assabetinteractive.com/>.

The city's annual **SomerMovie Fest** is returning with a lineup of six family-friendly films to be shown in parks around Somerville. Kick off the season and watch *The Mummy* (1999) this **Thursday, July 18**, at **Lincoln Park – Argenziano School** at 8:30 p.m. All screenings are free to attend and will begin at dusk. Closed captioning is available. For exact times and to learn more, visit www.somerville.ma.gov/moviefest.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the **Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)** are pleased to announce that applications are currently being accepted for **nine income-restricted apartments** at **The Guild**, located at **154 Broadway**. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on **Thursday, August 1**. All applications will be reviewed by **Maloney Properties**. To download an application and learn more, please visit The Guild's website <https://www.maloneyaffordable.com/rental-properties/the-guild/>.

Container Gardening Workshop with **Green City Growers** takes place at the **Central Library, Monday, July 29**, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. 79 Highland Ave. In this workshop, learn everything you need to know to get started with container gardening. Topics will include how to determine how much light your location gets and how that impacts what you can grow; types of containers; soil and fertilizers; when and how much to water; plant spacing; as well as determining whether to direct seed or buy transplants. Stop by with questions and leave with a small container and plant.

CultureHouse has its next popup space. They have been working with the **City**

of Somerville to transform the vacant lot in **Gilman Square** (also known as the Homan's lot) into a three-month outdoor community space. **Gilman Park** is a gathering space for local organizations, a hangout space for residents, and an opportunity for development for local businesses, artists, and creatives. The park will be open all summer **from June 15 to September 9**. Join in for lawn games, vendor markets, beer gardens, food, workshops and music performances. Keep an eye on the website for more information <https://culturehouse.cc/projects/gilmanpark/>. CultureHouse is looking for artists, creatives, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses to participate in collaborative programming at Gilman Park. Interested groups should fill out the Program Interest Form. For questions, email rishika@culturehouse.cc. **Small Mart** is hosting biweekly vendor markets all summer at Gilman Park. If you are interested in joining the market, please visit <https://culturehouse.cc/projects/gilmanpark/>.

Moth Night at the **Growing Center**, 22 Vinal Ave, Tuesday, July 23, 7:45 – 9:30 p.m. Join **Earthwise Aware** at the Growing Center to help celebrate Moth Week with a nighttime moth count. As part of the **EwA participatory science program** studying local pollinators at the Growing Center, this is a special survey after dark. For more information, visit the **EwA Urban Nature Participatory Science** site: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/ewa-urban-nature-participatory-science-1116609>.

Mark your calendars for **August 10** for the **Somerville Arts Council's** annual citywide **Yart Sale**. Explore an entire city's worth of front yards, driveways, and porches transformed into mini art galleries and bustling markets. Here's what you can expect: paintings, photography, handmade objects, band merch, art supplies, art tools, collectible items, plants, art supplies, frames, vintage clothes, etc. Your purchases help support the vibrant local art community. This citywide event is fun for all ages, we highly encourage you to bring your friends and family. Interested in registering as an art vendor? Check out <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/yartsale>.

Share your **Growing Center Memories**. Do you have any photos from your experiences over the years at the Growing

Center, whether from 1994 or last week? Or maybe some images of plants that you got from the Center that flourished? Or know someone who was around during some of the early years who may have photos? You can email them in jpeg format to 30th@thegrowingcenter.org Or visit their website to other options www.thegrowingcenter.org

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

The **Somerville Arts Council** is calling all local arts vendors, volunteers, businesses and community organizations for **SomerStreets events**. For information on how to table please visit: somervilleartscouncil.org/somerstreets. **SomerStreets** is an annual series that takes place one Sunday per month in the months of **June through October**. It's the **City of Somerville's** take on the internationally renowned Open Streets concept, closing busy city streets to vehicles, and opening them up for cycling, walking, dancing, running, and arts programming.

Join **Boston Lindy Hops** on **Wednesday, July 17**, 608 Somerville Ave. for **Somerville Stomp**. They will kick things off from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. with a **Community Hour**, hosted by **Alexander Graber-Tilton**. Come share a meal with fellow dancers, maybe grab someone to practice a few moves with. From there, we'll have three hours of DJ-ed music with lots of space for dancing, and the opportunity to enjoy bar grub, spirited drinks, and good company.

Docent tours take place **from May through October** at three historic sites in Somerville, **Milk Row Cemetery** (Somerville Avenue), **Prospect Hill Tower** (above Union Square), and **Old Powder House** (Nathan Tufts Park), they 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/docentprogram>.

Somerville Recreation is gearing up for a summer packed with weekly programming for local teens. There's something for everyone, programs include pickup

soccer, volleyball and basketball clinics, pickup flag football, open gym, and Friday crafting at the **Powderhouse**. Programming began on July 1, is free, and open to Somerville teen ages 12-18. The whole family can join the fun during scheduled events like **National Night Out** on **Tuesday, August 6**. Get the full Teen Summer Guide to sign up for a specific program or learn more about all programs and events <https://somervillema.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>.

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

Join **Femmechanics** from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., **July 18**, for **"grrreasetime" Night** at **The Dojo**. Femmechanics is a group of FTW (femme/trans/women/non-binary) people who bike in the Boston area. Femmechanics is dedicated to building community, teaching and learning from one another, and creating safer, inclusive spaces for FTW folks to empower themselves within the bike world. Join Femmechanics for an open shop time, called **Grrrease Time**, where you can come learn more about working on your bike and help others do the same. This space is open to everyone who identifies as femme and/or trans and/or women and/or non-binary, not just feminine of center folks! Located at **The Dojo**, 15 Properzi Way, Somerville.

Check out the **free summer meals** for **Somerville youth through August 16**. **Argenziano/Lincoln Park**, 290 Washington St. Breakfast around 9:30 a.m. **Dilboy Pool Parking Lot**, 324 Alewife Brook Pkwy, Lunch Starting 10:00 – 10:15 a.m. **Blessing of the Bay Boathouse**, 32 Shore Drive, Lunch 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. **Founders Skating Rink at Conway Park** (near the basketball courts), 570 Somerville Ave. Breakfast and lunch 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. **Foss Park**, 49 Fellsway W., Lunch starting 11:15 – 11:45 a.m.

On **Sunday, July 20**, **Boston Bouldering Project** is hosting **Summer of Climb Boston**, a daylong celebration of all things climbing, presented by **Arc'teryx** and **Jackalope**. Get psyched *Continued on page 22*

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

for an epic bouldering competition, with \$10,000 in cash prizes and an invitation for four winners to attend Squamish Academy in British Columbia, along with an artisan village, live DJ sets, local food vendors, and more. Those interested can register to compete at www.boulderingproject.com/location/somerville. Not competing, but still want to attend? Reserve a free ticket on the site to join in on the fun.

Somerville Flea is back. Opening day will be held August 4 at 52 Holland St. Join in as they celebrate their 12th year smack dab in the middle of Davis Square. Vintage vendors, artisan makers, farm stand and DJ. Find that treasure you never knew you even existed. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sundays, August through October.

The Somerville Public Library is encouraging our community to connect with nature and our collections. While previous adult summer reading challenges at the SPL have been bingo cards, this year, they are offering a raffle. With challenges like "Read outside," and "Read a book about a particular animal," you can live out this year's theme through the library. Additionally, you can check out our curated book displays at the Central Library, or our booklists online for some inspiration. For more information visit https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/.

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

As the weather changes, 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.

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

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

Join Union Square Main Streets and 50+ of your favorite local food producers for the 20th Annual Union Square Farmers Market, 6670 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/2024fmseason. SNAP customers get \$1 for \$1 match up to \$15. See the Market Manager tent for more info.

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

The Somerville Mobile Farmers Market opened for the season on Thursday, July 11, selling fresh, local produce through October 26. The mobile market accepts cash, debit cards, SNAP, Fresh Connect, WIC Farmers Market Coupons, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons. All are welcome. Find the Mobile Farmers Market at the following locations: Thursdays: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., Clarendon Hill Towers (1372 Broadway), Fridays: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Council on Aging (167 Holland St.), 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., East Branch Library (115 Broadway), Saturdays:

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Mystic Housing Development (25 Memorial Rd.).

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 6176256600 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 6176256600, ext. 2321.

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'The Trapeze of your Flesh'
by Charles Rammelkamp

The Trapeze of your Flesh
Charles Rammelkamp
Blaze VOX Books
ISBN: 978-1-60964-465-9
174pp \$20

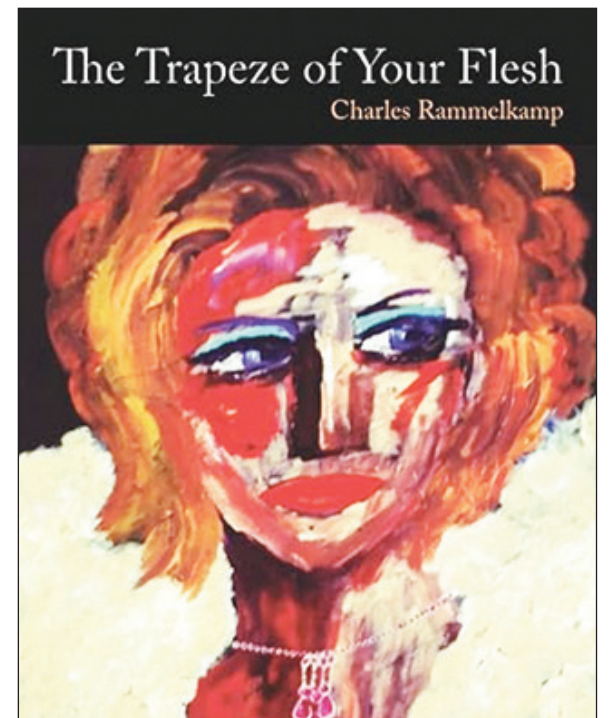
Review by g emil reutter

Rammelkamp brings us on a journey into the history of burlesque and stripping from Boston to the west coast and Europe. It is a romp from the late 1800's up until the 00's. As much as the poems are energetic, frenzied one may say, there are many written with a sublime sadness. Through the tassels, g-strings, feathers and sex, these are performers whose lives are documented by Rammelkamp.

Abuse in many forms rears its ugly head in many of the poems concerning minors dancing in shows, domestic violence, homicide, yet through it all there is no doubt Rammelkamp conducted extensive research in this collection that throughout maintains the energy of a carnival.

There are the characters, many who became household names even appearing in various television and movie productions and yet other arrested for indecent exposure. The adult entertainment industry no matter the name is a dangerous life and surely not easy. There is the mix of politicians throughout the collection: a mayor of Boston, governor of Louisiana and of course all of the entertainers claimed to have slept with JFK and Sinatra. There is even a sighting of Dick Nixon at one of the clubs. Ironic that the assassin of JFK was murdered by a burlesque club owner.

This collection of poems is not only a documentation of many of these forgotten performers but also of the venues across two continents, many in red light districts that have been demolished. Today's gentlemen's clubs, an oxymoron, pale when compared to



the origin of the art of the tease. Who would have thought after three centuries of scandal, of abuse, of rip-roaring entertainment that once again two adult entertainers are at the center of a political payoff to influence an election?

These narrative poems record a history of the underbelly of the entertainment industry. They have always been here yet never honored with a well written documentation of all things burlesque. Just maybe, *The Trapeze of your Flesh*, will make it into the Burlesque Hall of Fame in Las Vegas.

You can find the book here: <https://www.amazon.com/Trapeze-Your-Flesh-Charles-Rammelkamp/dp/1609644654>

g emil reutter is a writer of poems, stories and occasional literary criticism. He can be found at: <https://gereutter.wordpress.com/about/>

Lyrical
SOMERVILLE
edited by Doug Holder

Kacy Fallon is a proud mom, military wife, writer, and educator. Her work has appeared in *PANK Magazine*, *Euphony*, *50-Word Stories*, *Ghost Town*, and *Boston Poetry Magazine*, among others. She earned her MFA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University. Kacy is an adjunct professor of English at Endicott College in Beverly, MA, where she previously served as the Director of the Writing Center. She currently lives in Kennebunk, Maine with her husband and three children.



Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin

All my childhood, I felt like I was staring out my two-story window, watching life unfold, daydreaming for hours, wishing the reality was as good as my dreams. From my two-story window, I was watching as we, my mom and me, tripped down the front slope, walking our golden cocker spaniel puppy, and I was holding the leash with one hand, and my other hand was in my mom's. And from this window, I was listening to the older kids, the cooler kids, the ones across the street, throwing yet another house party. From my window, I am climbing down the tall tree that scratched at my windowpane, and I'm hoping to emerge somewhere new when my feet leave the bark and touch land. This is the window where I imagined kissing my best friend's boyfriend at the curb as his truck sputtered, keys in the ignition. At this window, I dreamed of my friend Matt wrestling me down our snow-packed front walk: his warm fingers, our warm breaths, the snowflakes in the lamplight, ice under us when we went down, together. Staring out my two-story window, I remember calling down to my three best friends, one prettier than the next, "Wait for me! I'm coming," and we were walking to Frostie Freeze in the shortest shorts we could find; it was our first summer wearing makeup. From this window, I see so clearly how my fiancé and I fought with a cheap tent in the front lawn, trying to set it up before our first camping trip, and the diamond keeps distracting me, keeps catching the sun so brilliantly, and my mother is looking on, smoking a cigarette on the

driveway, smiling, but the soil is too soft from the late afternoon rain so the peg slips, and we're falling, laughing, then we're kissing on top of the collapsed tent like nothing else ever happened in this spot, but I'm watching from my two-story window, and I know better, because I was there but here too, look-

ing down at all these memories, touching my lips to feel my smile, but my happiness was damp with the knowledge that these moments will pass, that innocence always fades, that life just goes on and on, and it goes too fast.

— Kacy Fallon

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