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Parking Wars

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A return to RESPOND

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Between porch and sidewalk

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Operation HOPE aims to eradicate veteran homelessness



Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, to the left is Secretary Jon Santiago (from the Executive Office of Veterans Services). — Photos courtesy of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

By Harry Kane

The City of Somerville won another victory in an ongoing battle for veterans' welfare, as a \$6.7 million award of federal funds trickles down to veteran service organizations statewide in a campaign to eradicate homelessness and enhance outreach for the mission at hand.

On July 11, The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced the award of federal funds for the HOPE campaign, which stands for Housing Outreach-to-Placement Effort. This is part of the broader \$20 million End Veteran Homelessness campaign.

"This funding will empower nonprofits to continue their vital work, offering veterans a chance to rebuild their lives with dignity and

Continued on page 4

'SomersStreets: Strike Up the Bands' hits the streets this weekend

The next installment of Somerville's SomersStreets festival series takes place on Sunday, August 4, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Gear up for an afternoon packed with excitement. Festivities will take place rain or shine on Highland Avenue from Central Street to Lowell Street. Enjoy live music and entertainment at two stages, interactive games, shop local craft vendors, and much more. Get ready for:

- A bouncy house
- Friend Dough and Artisan kulfi ice cream!
- Thrilling performances by Esh Circus and other roaming activities
- Daring Parkour demonstrations
- Fun activities with Somerville Recreation
- Interactive games by Event Them and Knucklebones

Continued on page 4



SomersStreets: Strike Up the Bands will be bringing fun, games, and live music this coming Sunday, August 4, to Highland Avenue.

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Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Somerville Police Department, and Somerville Recreation invite community members to **National Night Out** on **Tuesday, August 6**, at **Trum Field** (541 Broadway) from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Enjoy music and family-friendly activities, meet local officers, and more. National Night Out occurs annually and nationwide to promote police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Learn more and register to attend at somervillema.myrec.com. Registration is not required.








On **Friday, August 2**, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., the **Mystic Learning Center** is hosting a **Tropical Summer Party** at **The Dojo** at **Somernova** (15 Properzi Way, Somerville). The Party is free and will feature food, fun, music, summer activities, prizes, and so much more. If you're a young adult (14+), stop by The Dojo to celebrate with them.

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.**

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Wishing a very happy birthday to **Natalia Potaris**. We wish her a very special day. To **Kaitlin Denk**, we wish her a very happy birthday. *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of July 31 – July 23 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday July 31	Thunderstorms	82°/72°	61%	47%	SW 14 mph
 Thursday August 1	Thunderstorms	88°/72°	34%	23%	WSW 11 mph
 Friday August 2	Sunny	89°/71°	22%	16%	SSW 9 mph
 Saturday August 3	Thunderstorms	84°/71°	45%	35%	SW 9 mph
 Sunday August 4	Thunderstorms	86°/69°	46%	36%	SW 10 mph
 Monday August 5	Thunderstorms	84°/66°	37%	24%	WSW 10 mph
 Tuesday August 6	Rain	79°/67°	35%	21%	ENE 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: **Join Somerville's Annual National Night Out event**

Slaw says:

Photo depicts training for police dogs to attack people. State violence depicted as family friendly fun...

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Adult Summer Reading Challenge

Challenge yourself this summer with the Adult Summer Reading Challenge. This year, we're encouraging our community to connect with nature and our collections with our theme "Read, Renew, Repeat!"



While previous adult summer reading challenges at the SPL have been bingo cards, this year, we're 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.

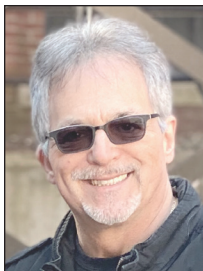
You can also check out our curated book displays at the Central library, or our online booklists for some inspiration!

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

Parking Wars



Have you seen those robot looking things all over the city? The one in the photo is on Holland St. in front of Harvard Vanguard. I hear they are all over the city.

Supposedly it takes a photo of illegally stopped or parked in a no parking zone. We are quickly running out of precious parking spaces in Somerville.

Here's what social media is saying. Comments are in quotes.

"I'll tell you what it is ... it's an absolute

waste of money! Can't give the workers a raise for over 3 years but let's pay to get a robot to take pictures of cars parked illegally. Terrible!" (agreed)

"They are there to see if you park in no parking. They send you a ticket if they catch you. Funny how they can do that but when there was talk about putting cameras through the city a lot of the new Somerville folks were screaming invasion of privacy but apparently these are not."

"I've been told my Handicapped placard no longer gets me free parking in a metered space. Glad I moved to NH!"

"Are they trying to take away parking

control officers' jobs. I mean how much did the taxpayers pay for these when we already have parking control officers that we pay to give parking tickets"

"Next thing you know, people are gonna put cameras on their porches so hard-working thieves get identified when stealing. What has this world come to?"

I'm glad my street has plenty of free parking you just have to watch out for street cleaning days. I guess there's no real answer to the question of when will they stop taking away parking spots for city folks.

By the way, they did a great job paving Highland Ave. near the high school.



It's OPENAIR Circus time!

OPENAIR Circus presents "Wild Discoveries," where students of circus arts show off what they've learned in summer classes. You're invited to watch stilters, jugglers, yoga-acrobats, and more. The shows will be at Prospect Hill Park in Somerville, on Friday, August 2, at 6:30 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday, August 3 and 4, at 2:30 p.m.

There is no admission fee, but donations are welcome.

Since the performance will be in the open park, blankets and folding chairs are encouraged.

For 40 years, children, youth and adults have enjoyed OPENAIR summer classes and shows, as well as parades and festivals.

For more on the OPENAIR Circus, visit www.openaircircus.org.

OPENAIR Circus is a Somerville Parks and Recreation partnership program.

COVID-19/Infectious Disease Precautions: OPENAIR Circus is committed to supporting the health and safety needs of all members of our community and has chosen to maintain a level of vigilance about contagious diseases which is higher than the legal minimums. We will require masks at our performances. Thank you in advance for respecting our community's policy.



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Operation HOPE aims to eradicate veteran homelessness CONT. FROM PG 1

respect," Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne said. "It is a testament to our collective commitment to leave no veteran behind."

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced the End Veteran Homelessness campaign in March of 2024, with funds allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act.

"No one who served our country should ever have to worry about having a roof over their heads," said Governor Maura Healey.

Veterans in Somerville welcomed the good news.

"This funding will significantly enhance our ability to connect with veterans who need housing and supportive services," said Veterans Services Secretary Jon Santiago.

Volunteers of America of Mas-

sachusetts, Inc., an organization that serves more than 650 veterans and their families annually, operates a transitional living center in Somerville called the Massachusetts Bay Veterans Center.

A press conference was held at MBVC on July 11, and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, and her team, were on hand to present the grant to help end veteran homelessness.

"We want Massachusetts to be the undisputed leader when it comes to serving, supporting and respecting veterans and their families," said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll.

The goal is to reach and identify all the veterans who may be struggling with homelessness, Driscoll explained.

"We are grateful to be a part of this amazing work and will



Melvyn Blanchard, in wheelchair. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.



Mayor of Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

continue to help our community members and friends at Mass Bay Veterans Home," Somerville Police wrote on Facebook.

President and Chief Executive Officer of VOAMASS Charles Gagnon said: "We have so many success stories as folks come through the Mass Bay Veterans Center, move into permanent housing, follow them with stabilization services, making sure they secure employment."

As part of an ongoing mission to end veteran homelessness, assisting in employment opportunities is important, which is why

Congress passed The Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans Act of 2017.

Since then, National Hire A Vet Day is observed annually on July 25, which hopes to remind and inspire employers to recruit and hire former military personnel.

It is a call to action for businesses to hire more of our nation's heroes. Brave men and women from the military return to civilian life, and finding a job can be challenging for transitioning veterans.

Some of the best jobs overall

for veterans entering civilian life include: Health Care Provider, Manufacturing Technician, Informational Technology Professional, Business Administrator, Human Services Representative and Engineer.

Military members retiring or separating from armed services total some 200,000 per year, according to the Department of Labor.

Director of Veterans' Services Jerome Thomas said Somerville has a little over a thousand veterans, according to the last census report.

'SomerStreets: Strike Up the Bands' hits the streets this weekend

CONT. FROM PG 1

• Unique finds from artisan and craft vendors

• Bring your water bottle and refill at the water buggy station provided by MWRA.

Music Lineup:

Armory Stage at 191 Highland Ave, curated by Citixen Joy.

2:10 p.m. – Grand Choice Records

3:15 p.m. – Bethel Adekogbe

4:20 p.m. – Laura Suárez

Central St. Stage at 154 Highland Ave featuring

2:30 p.m. – FM Collective

3:45 p.m. – Trio Let's Vamos

5:00 p.m. – The New Grown-

Ups

Road closures on Highland Ave from Central Street to Lowell Street from 11:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Expect MBTA reroutes from 11:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., more information at: www.mbta.com.

SomerStreets is 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 other modes of activity. Through SomerStreets, the city

and its community partners aim to promote and encourage easy access to physical activity, and reconnecting with neighborhoods and businesses and their unique cultural elements in a thriving urban environment.

SomerStreets builds on the Shape Up Somerville healthy living initiative. Similar open streets events take place all around the world, providing space normally taken up by automobile traffic for people to be more active.

SomerStreets is an annual series that takes places on Sundays during the summer and fall.



RESPOND welcomes back Jessica Brayden to support Philanthropy and Engagement during 50th anniversary celebration

RESPOND, Inc., the oldest domestic violence agency in New England, is thrilled to announce the temporary return of Jessica Brayden to support the Philanthropy and Engagement Department as the organization celebrates its 50th year of service. Jessica Brayden, former CEO of RESPOND, brings her extensive experience and dedication back to the organization to further its mission of supporting survivors of domestic violence.

Victoria Helberg, CEO of RESPOND, expressed her enthusiasm about Brayden's return, stating, "We are delighted to welcome Jessica back to RESPOND. Her deep understanding of our mission and her passion for supporting survivors will be invaluable as we celebrate this milestone year and continue to expand our reach and impact."

Jessica Brayden shared her excitement, saying, "It is an incredible honor to be invited back to RESPOND to support the work and organization that I am so passionate about. I look forward to spearheading all philanthropic efforts, with a special focus on the 50th anniversary gala, and contributing to our ongoing efforts to provide safety, support, and

opportunities for self-sufficiency for all survivors."

Greta Hagen, former Director of Philanthropy and Engagement, has transitioned to join Jane Doe Inc., the statewide coalition. RESPOND wishes her the best in her new role and thanks her for her many contributions.

As RESPOND marks its 50th anniversary, the organization reflects on its origins and growth. Founded in the 1970s by four women from Somerville who opened their homes as safe havens for women fleeing abuse, RESPOND has grown to support all survivors seeking safety and justice. Today, RESPOND provides comprehensive services, including healthy relationships and violence prevention programming to community members of all ages.

Under Brayden's leadership as CEO from 2008 to 2022, RESPOND saw significant growth, tripling the number of programs, budget, and staff. Her dedication to expanding opportunities for safety and self-sufficiency for survivors has left a lasting impact.

Since assuming the role of CEO in October 2022, Victoria Helberg has continued to propel RESPOND forward. Helberg



Jessica Brayden.

has expanded the organization's outreach and advocacy efforts, adding a wide array of programs for youth, including support for pregnant and parenting teens, as well as rapid and transitional housing units for youth. Her visionary approach to program

design and implementation has been instrumental for increasing the capacity of RESPOND's safe housing solutions programs and extending its services to more communities.

RESPOND is excited to move forward with the combined

strengths of Helberg's leadership and Brayden's renewed involvement, ensuring continued support and innovation for survivors of domestic violence.

For more information, please contact: Brielle Miller at 617-625-5996.

Rental registry and energy disclosure ordinance focus group

Focus Group - Friday, August 2 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. Feedback will guide city staff in the ordinance development and implementation.





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 22-26.

\$1.26 BILLION BOND FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (H 4889)

House 156-2, Senate 39-0, approved and sent to Gov. Maura Healey a bill that would invest in information technology (IT) upgrades, improvements and new projects across state government. The measure authorizes \$1.23 billion in bonded spending and \$400 million in anticipated federal funds.

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

"I am immensely proud of the dedication and effort demonstrated ... to bring this report to fruition," said Rep. Marcus Vaughn (R-Wrentham). "This achievement stands as a testament to the power of collaboration. By working together, we have shown our shared commitment to serving the best interests of the commonwealth."

"Government spending is wildly out of control and it's fiscally irresponsible to keep passing these boondoggle bills," said Rep. Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick), one of only two members to vote against the measure. "We need to reduce spending and taxes in order to lower the cost of living in the commonwealth. The path we're on is unsustainable and will lead to more businesses and taxpayers fleeing the state."

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

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

WAGE TRANSPARENCY (H 4890)

House 152-5, Senate 38-2, approved and sent to Gov. Healey a bill, named the Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act, in honor of the first woman to serve as U.S. Labor Secretary. The measure would require employers with 25 or more employees to disclose a salary range when posting a job position. The measure also would require employers with 100 or more employees to file annual employment data reports, including information on employee demographics and salaries, with the state.

"The 2016 Equal Pay Act was a huge step forward in closing pay gaps and it worked," said Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville). "One study from 2020 showed salary history bans alone increased pay by as much as 5 percent increase for all job changers, an 8 percent increase for women and a 13 percent increase for Black workers. This bill takes the next steps in providing more information for job seekers and ensuring that women and people of color enter wage negotiations with more information at their fingertips to secure better offers. With the data collected we'll learn about inequities that persist and be able to identify ways to solve them."

"True progress towards justice and equality demands that we not only acknowledge the critical importance of wage equity, particularly for women and people of color, but actively strive to achieve it," said Rep. Brandy Fluker Oakley (D-Mattapan). "By achieving wage equity, we empower individuals and strengthen our communities, fostering an environment where everyone can thrive and contribute to a more equitable future."

"I voted 'no' on the wage transparency bill because this is just another burden being unfairly placed on small businesses," said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). "The National Federation of Independent Businesses wanted the threshold to be 100 or more. Small businesses will inevitably be unaware of this law and receive fines and penalties that are significant, even though they're not operating with malicious intent. Massachusetts is already an increasingly difficult state to operate a business and this well-intentioned bill will only make it more difficult."

"Burdensome regulations and taxes already make Massachusetts one of the least friendly states in the country to run a business," said Rep. Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick). "In addition to the cost of compliance, DEI policies, such as so-called salary transparency mandates, crush innovation and stifle talent development. This bill is just the latest attempt to advance a toxic ideology that is destroying free market enterprise. Beacon Hill is killing small businesses."

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

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

DOG KENNEL SAFETY – OLLIE'S LAW (H 4919)

House 159-0, approved and sent to the Senate legislation that would allow the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources to establish rules and regulations for

dog kennels in the Bay State, to ensure animal welfare, protect consumers and keep kennel staff safe.

Requirements include, obtaining a license from the municipality, an annual inspection, dog to staff ratio specifications, injury reporting, indoor and outdoor physical facility requirements, insurance and minimal housing and care requirements.

Supporters said that currently, the state has no oversight of dog daycare or boarding kennels. They argued it is estimated that a dog is injured or killed every nine to ten days in Massachusetts at these kennels. They noted that many families in Massachusetts have suffered the loss or injury of an animal at a dog daycare or kennel that could have been avoided by commonsense regulations over these facilities.

"I filed this bill on behalf of my constituent, Amy Baxter, whose 7-month-old puppy was attacked by other dogs at a boarding kennel in my district," said Rep. Brian Ashe (D-Longmeadow). "Sadly, Ollie eventually succumbed to his many injuries. People assume these facilities are regulated by the state and have safety protocols in place. Many already do, however, far too many do not, leaving animals and staff at risk. I and the Coalition that was formed, wanted to do everything possible to prevent these types of situations from occurring again. I am proud of this legislation and know it will make a difference in the lives of pets and consumers."

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

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

BAN ELEPHANTS AND OTHER ANIMALS (H 4915)

House 155-0, approved and sent to the Senate legislation that effective January 1, 2025, would ban elephants, bears, lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs and other wild animals from being used in traveling circuses and other traveling shows in Massachusetts where they would be used to perform tricks, give rides or otherwise participate as an accompaniment for the entertainment of a live audience. Violators would be fined between \$500 and \$10,000. The ban would not apply to zoos or to performances that take place at other non-mobile, permanent facilities if the covered animal is a resident animal at the same facility in which the performance takes place.

"Massachusetts has long been a leader in promoting animal welfare by enacting laws to protect *Continued on page 12*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Don't let the West Nile Virus bug get you this summer.

Our View Of The Times



The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has announced that Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus has been detected in mosquitoes in Massachusetts for the first time this year.

While no human or animal cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) or Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) have been reported, they are strongly encouraging community members to take steps to protect themselves from mosquitoes and mosquito-borne illnesses. Among their recommendations:

• Avoid mosquito bites.
 • Apply insect repellent when you go outdoors.
 • Clothing can help reduce mosquito bites.
 • Be aware of peak mosquito hours.
 • Mosquito-proof your home.
 • Drain standing water.

- Protect your animals.
- Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools.
- Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for animal use and vaccinations to prevent WNV and EEE.
- If an animal is suspected of having

WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to the Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795, and to the Department of Public Health by calling 617-983-6800. For tips and info, visit: mass.gov/dph/mosquito

Play it safe and follow the DPH recommendations to stay safer and get through the summer without incident.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

We hope she had a great day. Happy birthday to **Ron Newman**, we hope he enjoys his day. Happy birthday to a local guy, **Zach Zasloff**. We wish him a great day. Happy birthday to **Alicia Lafuente**, we wish her the very best. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Daniel M. Kimmel, Cathy Driscoll-Kinnon, Nancy O'Meara Pino, Anthony Cataldo, Karen D'Amato, Mike Morrison, Sharon Breen, Tori Antonino, Michele Oliphant Spinale, Jane Sherrill, John Alan Roderick, Keith Anderson, Zach Corey** and **Montague Helen Kern** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed.

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>.

On **high-heat days**, it's best to limit outdoor activity to the morning and evening

hours if possible. Avoid strenuous activity during mid-day when temperatures are highest. If you are walking, running, cycling, wheeling, or doing other outdoor exercise during hot weather, have water with you, seek a shady area or route, and pace yourself. Be sure to take a break if you start to feel overheated, especially if you become lightheaded, confused, weak, or faint. For more heat safety tips and ways to keep cool in and around Somerville this summer, visit: somervillema.gov/keepcool.

The **City of Somerville** is alerting all registered voters that the Commonwealth

of Massachusetts has begun mailing a pre-addressed, postage pre-paid **Vote by Mail application** to every registered voter before each statewide election. If you have already applied to vote by mail for the upcoming election, you will not receive an additional application. Voters who prefer to apply online may do so at VoteInMA.com.

 Bring your **story-loving stuffed animal** to **East Branch Library**, 115 Broadway, **Friday, August 2**, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., for a **Teddy Bear Picnic Story Time**. They'll provide the stories and snack (donut holes)
 Continued on page 21

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#934

1. How many times has the USA hosted the Summer Olympics?
2. Which athlete has won the most Olympic medals in total?
3. Who lit the Olympic flame at the 1996 Atlanta Games?
4. What is the distance of the marathon race in the Olympics?
5. How many basketball games did Michael Jordan play?
6. The famous St. Peter's Basilica is located in which city?
7. A V8 engine has how many cylinders?
8. What was the name of the talking car in *Knight Rider*?
9. Prince sang about a little red what?
10. When were women first permitted to compete in the Olympics?
11. What is the first sense that a dog develops?
12. Which bread company did Sylvester Stallone advertise for?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Rainbows were once called "bows of promise".
2. The lint in the bottom of your pocket has a name, gnurr.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

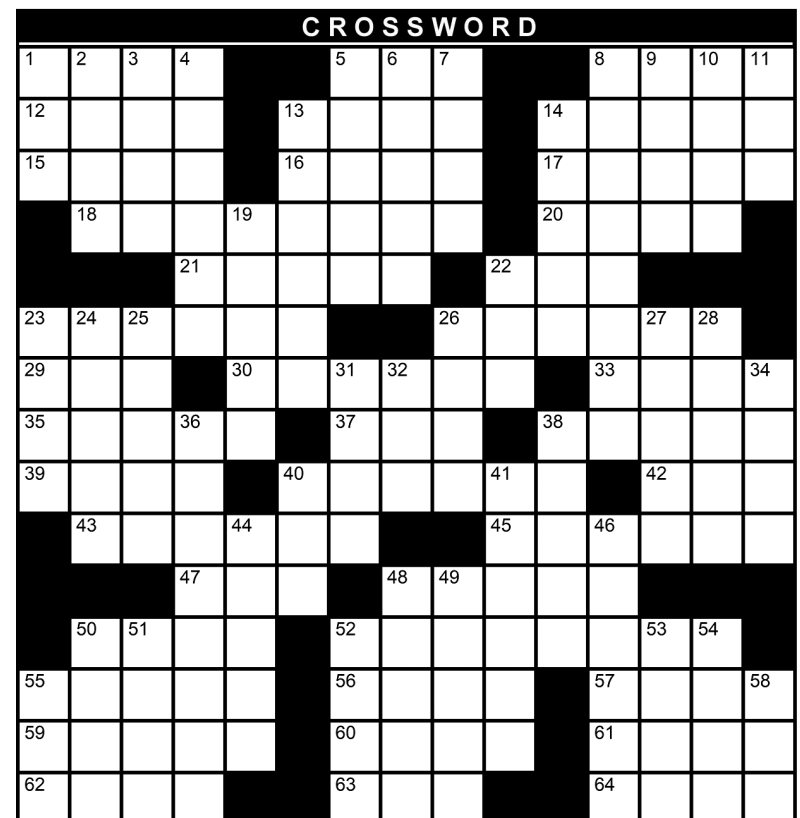
THINGS WITH BUTTONS

ACROSS

1. Genoa or storm jib
5. Pouch
8. Support for #1 Across
12. Gaelic language
13. Big-ticket ____
14. Flowerbed cover
15. Western Samoan money
16. Agrippina's slayer
17. Literature class homework
18. "The Curious Case of ____ Button"
20. God of thunder
21. Tight or rigid
22. Blunder
23. ____ control
26. Alarm clock delay
29. Edible tuber
30. Racecourses
33. Crew propellers
35. Often follows dark or back
37. ____-Town, or Chicago
38. Friend, south of the border
39. Singular of #25 Down
40. Containing uranium
42. Rip off
43. Sleeping sickness vector
45. Che Guevara's hat, pl.
47. Roman road
48. "And Then ____ Were None"
50. Hillside, in Scotland
52. Home ringer
55. Raccoon's South American cousin
56. Debate side
57. Spring in a mattress
59. Ar, atomic number 18
60. Black-tie occasion
61. Golfer's aim
62. Group with pressure
63. Stallone
64. Semiprecious variety of agate

DOWN

1. Collector's goal
2. Kuwaiti, e.g.
3. ____ of Man
4. Shanty
5. Flower trunks





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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



6. American Eagle's intimates brand
7. "Oh _'_'!"
8. Edible button
9. "The Sun ____ Rises"
10. "The Lion King" villain
11. Olden day "your"
13. More asinine
14. City area
19. Bulwark
22. Ems follower
23. Aimless walk
24. "Bravo! Bravo!", e.g.
25. Pall ____ and ____ of America
26. Largest organ of human body
27. Mobutu Sese Seko's nation
28. Cereal killer
31. Land measure
32. ____-cha-cha
34. Wails
36. Tall building people-mover
38. Of sour taste
40. All 50 states
41. Spanish airline
44. Make a logical connection (2 words)
46. Repeat an echo
48. Opposite of atonal
49. In a heated manner
50. Dull one
51. Angry display
52. Entertainingly eccentric people, Down Under
53. "On Golden Pond" bird
54. ____ of the valley
55. A baseball one has a button on top
58. Lexington airport code

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

To Whom It Concerns:

I am writing to express my frustration with the ongoing construction projects in Somerville, particularly those on Summer Street, Highland Avenue, and Washington Street between Beacon Avenue and Union Square. The overlap of these significant projects is lowering the quality of life for anyone living near these projects, which cover a significant area of town.

For months, Summer Street and Highland Avenue have been torn up, causing significant disruptions. Until recently, there had been no improvements despite the considerable inconvenience of poor road quality, lack of parking, and often, the

absence of sidewalks or bike lanes.

Currently, on Washington Street, multiple construction projects in a small area have effectively closed the street and both sidewalks for 6+ weeks, causing inconvenience and raising safety concerns.

There is rarely a police officer or even a construction worker guiding traffic around road-blocking projects. Workers actively block sidewalks, bike lanes, and parking without any accountability, often blocking all means of passing the construction zone on foot.

This lack of oversight and poor planning is unacceptable in our city and it's not a new problem. These issues reflect a larger problem with the city not considering the impact of large-scale projects, properly

vetting construction vendors, or giving adequate consideration to functional design and city planning. The Green Line Extension project, for example, faced delays of over a year due to mismanagement and construction failures, such as the need to widen more than two-thirds of the newly laid tracks due to oversight failures within a year of opening service. These problems could have been prevented with proper attention to the projects.

The city's inability to hire vendors that complete large projects on time, under budget, and safely is concerning. This negligence shows a disregard for residents' safety and well-being.

We need immediate changes in how

construction projects are managed, and they must be coordinated to prevent city-wide disruptions. I urge the City Council to take immediate action to address these issues and hold those responsible accountable for this mismanagement.

The residents of Somerville deserve better. It is time for the City Council to act responsibly and address these critical issues or we'll vote for someone who will.

I look forward to hearing what actions have been taken.

Sincerely,

Nick LaFleur
Ward 2

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Mussels

There are a few different ways to make mussels. Some recipes call for curry and coconut milk, or tomatoes with white wine aka mussels marinara, or a simple broth with garlic.

I like all of the aforementioned, but recently, I was reading through a cookbook where beer was used as a broth. I tried it and really liked it. However, I have made some changes to the original recipe by Melissa Clark, *Dinner In An Instant*.

The original recipe was written for an electric pressure cooker. I have adapted it for the stove top with a change of some ingredients.

- 2-3 lbs. Mussels
- 1 Tablespoon Olive Oil
- 3 Tablespoons Butter* see note below
- 1/4-1/2 Teaspoon Red Pepper Flakes (optional)
- 2 Shallots, thinly sliced
- 1/2 Fennel Bulb, thinly sliced
- 4 Garlic Cloves, thinly sliced
- 8 Oz Pilsner or Lager Beer, enjoy the

- other 4oz
- 1/2 Bunch Fresh Parsley, Rough Chopped

Use a large enough pot to hold all the mussels, or a large skillet with a cover. Add the olive oil and * 1 tablespoon to the pot over medium heat. Once the butter is melted, add red pepper flakes, the shallots and the fennel, and sauté for approximately 8 minutes until softened. Add the garlic. After about 30 seconds, add the beer and bring to a simmer, over medium heat. Once the mussels are rinsed and beards removed, make sure that the shells are closed and none are broken. If the mussels won't close when you tap it, don't use it. Once all the mussels are rinsed and cleaned place them in the pot and cover.

After about 3 minutes, give the pot a shake and leave on the stove top for an additional 2 minutes. After these 5 minutes, remove the cover and see if all the shells opened. If not, cook an additional 2 minutes. Remove the mussels with a slotted spoon to



a bowl. Add the remaining 2 tablespoons of butter and the parsley to the pot and mix well. Serve the mussels in smaller bowls, then spoon the broth over the mussels. Serve with a

crusty bread of your choice.
Serves 2-3 people.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage dated February 2, 2023 by Building Alliance Group LLC to Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Three Trust u/d/t dated October 25, 2022 (recorded with Middlesex County (South) Registry of Deeds in Book 80884, Page 355), said mortgage recorded with the Middlesex County (South) Registry of Deed in Book 81222, Page 147, and which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 a.m. on the 15th day of August, 2024** on the premises at 30 Richdale Avenue, Somerville, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

To wit:
Property Address: **30 Richdale Avenue, Somerville, Massachusetts 02145**

The land in Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon, and bounded and described as follows:

Being the lot numbered 12 on a plan of land belonging to Heirs of Oliver Tufts, made by Chas. D. Elliot, E&S., dated March, 1885, and recorded with the Middlesex South District Deeds in Book of Plans 45, Plan 40, being described as follows:

NORTHEASTERLY by Richdale Avenue, forty (40) feet;

SOUTHEASTERLY by lot numbered 11 on said plan, eighty (80) feet;

SOUTHWESTERLY by land now or formerly of the Boston & Lowell Railroad, forty (40) feet;

NORTHWESTERLY by lot numbered 13 on said plan, eighty (80) feet.

Being the same premises conveyed to the herein named grantor(s) by deed recorded with the Middlesex Norfolk County Registry of Deeds herewith [Book 81222, Page 144].

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens and rights of any tenants and parties in possession, if there be any, or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. The successful bidder will pay all costs of recording the foreclosure deed and any other foreclosure documents including, without limitation, all state and county excise stamp fees, and shall also be responsible for any Title V inspection and repair requirements.

Terms of sale: A deposit of Twenty-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check to Baker, Braverman & Barbadoro, P.C., 1200 Crown Colony Drive, Suite 610, Quincy, MA 02169 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Three Trust u/d/t dated October 5, 2022
Present holder of said mortgage
By his Attorneys,
Baker, Braverman & Barbadoro, P.C.
1200 Crown Colony Drive, Suite 610
Quincy, MA 02169

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

**THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, August 20, 2024** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aoiH8ZrOR7acuJWtRTxloA
Webinar ID: 869 7764 1243

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HP24-000061 - 33 Cedar Street

Applicant: Beantown LLC
Owner: Genevieve Hansen
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

HP24-000045 - 33 Vinal Avenue

Applicant: Niranjan Gawli
Owner: VINAL REI LLC
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

*Case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email historic@somervillema.gov to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email historic@somervillema.gov with inquiries.*

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**City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, August 15, 2024**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_U80JxX0aRbKmyJ3GUCw0JA
Webinar ID: 871 7286 1236

TO CALL IN

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

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

393 Highland Ave 393 Highland Ave LLC seeks a Special Permit to establish a fitness service use on the first floor facing a pedestrian street in the Commercial Core 4 (CC4) zoning district.

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

7/31/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB #25-03**

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

Catch Basin Cleaning for the City

A bid package may be obtained online at: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/procurement-and-contracting-services> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, July 31st, 2024**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **10:00 am, Thursday, August 15th, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Prevailing wage rates apply. 5% bid deposit required.

Please email Sonia Castro scastro@somervillema.gov for more information.

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

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

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on **8/13/2024 at 12:00PM**. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Ricardo Borsatto Faria unit #305B. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

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**Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com
and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1**

LEGAL NOTICES

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



**City of Somerville
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, August 14, 2024**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/wn_1-tTdMS_Rlynf2sD5BEIKA
Webinar ID: 896 7370 6806

TO CALL IN

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

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

181 Pearl Street 181 Pearl St LLC seeks relief from the façade build-out requirements, which requires a Hardship Variance.

126 Cross Street Silva Realty LLC, c/o Nick Spinelli, seeks an Administrative Appeal of the Building Official's calculation of an affordable housing Fractional Payment for the project at 126 Cross Street, associated with permit applications B20-001756 and C022-000110.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.

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LEGAL NOTICE

City of Somerville

Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)
SB-24.2

The City of Somerville, Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)

invites sealed proposals for the

Revitalization and Technical Assistance Grant Programs

Revitalization and Technical Assistance Grant Programs

Proposals must be for programs that assist with small business supports in the Union Square neighborhood.

Funds for Small Business Supports programming are provided by the City funds, or other available funds generated from development impact fees.

Bid Number **SB24.2**

Request for Proposal packages for both programs will be posted and available for download on the City of Somerville website beginning at July 31, 2024

at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/assistance-businesses>

Print copies available upon request to Adriana Fernandes at email EconomicDevelopment@somervillema.gov

An electronic PDF file should be emailed to email address and proposal packages must be submitted no later than

August 21, 2024 @ 4:30 PM
for responses to **SB4.2**
to the above email address.

Please contact the City of Somerville's Small Business staff, by email EconomicDevelopment@somervillema.gov, for information and proposal packages.

Thomas Galligani, Acting Executive Director
617- 625-6600, x 2500

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Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website: www.TheSomervilleTimes.com



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP 25-02**

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

Medicaid Billing & Collection Services

A RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/33100/home>, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, July 31, 2024**.

Sealed proposals will be received at the above office or via BidExpress until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, August 14, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Thupten Chukhatsang at procurement@somervillema.gov for more information.

Thupten Chukhatsang
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

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

Join the Somerville Licensing Commission

The City of Somerville is currently seeking applicants for one open alternate position on the Somerville Licensing Commission. We welcome applications from all Somerville residents ages 18 or older who meet the qualifications detailed below.

What is the Somerville Licensing Commission?

The Licensing Commission reviews and issues a range of licenses in Somerville. These include licenses to operate restaurants (both with and without alcohol service), liquor stores, private clubs, hotels, entertainment venues, and more. It also includes one-day special alcohol licenses, recreational marijuana retail licenses, and public and private outdoor dining licenses. In addition, the Licensing Commission develops license rules and regulations and addresses complaints regarding these licenses.

For more information on the responsibilities of the Somerville Licensing Commission, visit: somervillema.gov/departments/licensing-commission.

Who serves on the Commission?

The Commission has three regular members who are appointed by the Mayor. They are supported by representatives from the City's Police Department, Fire Department, Inspectional Services Department, and Clerk's Office.

What is an alternate member?

The Licensing Commission Alternate Member attends all meetings but is not a regular voting member. However, when a regular member is absent, or for any reason cannot vote on a license, the Alternate Member can be designated to vote on a license.

Who can join?

The open alternate position is available to any Somerville resident ages 18 or older, who has lived in Somerville for at least the last two years. Applicants cannot be involved, directly or indirectly, in the manufacture or sale of alcohol or cannabis products.

What abilities are needed?

Applicants must be able to evaluate all license applications that come before the Commission fairly, without any bias, and with full impartiality. Members must be able to research laws, policies, and procedures. Members must remain up to date on changes affecting the businesses before the Commission. Applicants with legal experience are encouraged to apply.

Continued on page 19

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

animals from abuse and neglect, but most of our current laws apply to domestic animals and common household pets," said co-sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "[The measure] would extend these same protections to exotic animals that are used in traveling exhibits and shows. These animals are often subject to cruel and inhumane treatment, including prolonged periods of confinement and other forms of neglect and abuse, all to provide entertainment. Several communities in Massachusetts have already implemented local bans, but a statewide ban on traveling animal acts is long overdue."

"I was deeply moved by the compelling evidence and public sentiment against the use of wild animals in traveling acts," said co-sponsor Rep. Carole Fiola (D-Fall River). "After taking a safari in Africa in 2019 ... seeing these animals in their natural state highlighted the unnatural inhumane treatment these animals face in traveling acts. Now, as a sponsor of this legislation, I feel a strong obligation to ensure we bring about significant change. With over two-thirds of Massachusetts voters in favor of banning wild animal acts, it's clear our constituents desire a future free of animal exploitation for entertainment. This bill, that has finally passed the House after 23 years of being filed, embodies that sentiment, underscoring our commitment to the humane treatment of animals."

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

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

FOSTER HOMES AND DOGS (H 4911)

House 156-0, approved and sent to the Senate a bill that prohibits the Department of Children and Families (DCF) from prohibiting placement of a child in a foster home solely based on the presence of any specific breed of dog in the home.

Supporters said that currently, DCF is allowed to prohibit placement of a child in a home with German Shepherds, Pit Bulls and Rottweilers.

"Current DCF regulations for foster homes impose a blanket ban on certain breeds of dogs," said sponsor Rep. Jack Lewis (D-Framingham). "Instead of eliminating countless prospective families, this bill empowers DCF to undertake a holistic review of the family, child and dog to ensure appropriate placement. This bill also amends reporting laws for animal abuse, extending the timeframe in which human services employees or contractors can report animal abuse.

"As co-chair of the Protecting Animal Welfare Caucus ... I am proud to spearhead the passage of this bill in the House. There is an urgent need for supportive foster families in the commonwealth, and this bill will open many loving homes to adoptive and foster children."

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

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

PHARMACEUTICAL ACCESS, COSTS AND TRANSPARENCY (H 4910)

House 158-0, approved a bill that supporters say would make major changes and reforms to the state's pharmaceutical system by lowering the cost of drugs at the pharmacy counter and improving oversight of the pharmaceutical industry. They said the measure protects patients and independent pharmacists by regulating the pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) industry; banning many of the industry's worst business practices; and reducing or eliminating co-pays for certain chronic conditions.

"Many folks in Massachusetts face cost barriers in access to the medications they are prescribed, especially for many of our most vulnerable residents who live with chronic disease," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "This bill aims to reduce the out-of-pocket cost of certain lifesaving drugs and ban certain business practices that are commonly used by PBMs to increase their own profits at the expense of patients."

"[The bill] would go a long way toward helping people in Massachusetts living with diabetes and other chronic conditions by reducing barriers to care, improving access to lifesaving and life-sustaining medication and reducing out-of-pocket costs for prescriptions," said Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition Board Chair, Hunter Limbaugh. "We are encouraged by its progress and will continue to advocate for our most vulnerable neighbors by working with the Massachusetts Legislature all the way to the governor's desk."

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

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

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

LONG TERM CARE AND ASSISTED LIVING (S 2889)

Senate 39-0, approved a bill making changes to the state's long term care and assisted living industry which supporters said will take "a powerful step towards delivering the high quality and safe care that Massachusetts seniors deserve by substantially strengthening oversight and enforcement while also requiring facilities to create outbreak plans should a health issue arise."

Provisions include allowing assisted living residences to offer basic health services such as helping a resident ad-

minister drops, manage their oxygen or take a home diagnostic test; requiring long-term care facilities to produce infection outbreak response plans; requiring the Department of Public Health (DPH) to inspect facilities every nine to 15 months and authorizing it to restrict or revoke licenses when facilities are failing to provide adequate care or not complying with regulations; allowing for a temporary manager to be appointed to bring floundering facilities into compliance; raising penalties that the attorney general can impose for the abuse and neglect of patients; and creating an LGBTQ+ bill of rights for aging residents to prohibit discrimination based on their LGBTQ+ identity or HIV status.

"Today the Senate took an important step forward to ensure that our aging residents have safe, equitable and high quality care," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "It is far too common—and unacceptable—for residents in assisted living facilities to receive subpar care. By boosting transparency and accountability, the Senate is continuing to create a compassionate commonwealth where all residents can age with dignity."

Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville), Senate Chair of the Committee on Elder Affairs, said the bill will improve care and stability in nursing homes and assisted living residences. "The pandemic revealed starkly the lack of nursing home preparedness for the spread of fatal diseases," said Jehlen. "Many of us knew someone or relatives of someone who passed during that disaster."

"Even homes with consistently high ratings lost many residents," continued Jehlen. "This bill offers measures to address issues in nursing homes and assisted living facilities; issues faced by the LGBTQ+ community when looking for care; bariatric care; and pooled trusts. It also ensures facilities that are not compliant with safe standards face consequences and are held responsible."

The House has already approved a different version of the bill and a conference committee will attempt to hammer out a compromise version.

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes
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ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

HEALEY SIGNS FIREARMS CHANGES (H 4885)

– Gov. Healey signed into law a bill that would change some of the state's gun laws.

Provisions include cracking down on untraceable "ghost guns;" banning firearms in additional public spaces like schools, polling places and government buildings; expanding the 2018 "red flag" law that allows school administrators and licensed health care providers to petition a court to temporarily take firearms away from someone deemed a threat to themselves or others

Continued on page 16

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.

Why not consider just cause eviction laws to ease the shelter crisis?

Last week, Governor Maura Healey announced sweeping changes to the Emergency Housing Assistance shelter system, with families facing homelessness due to no-fault eviction now among other groups receiving prioritization.

Migrant families will now be placed at a “temporary respite center” for five days, followed by a waiting list of at least six months for shelter. With a capacity of 7,500 families and a need that extends far beyond that, the necessity for solutions to our shelter crisis is apparent. And the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is clearly searching for them: Between shortening limits for shelter stays, offering to pay travel expenses for migrant families with alternative places to go, and bolstering services to help families exit shelters more quickly, the emergency obviously has no easy fixes. But this begs the question: Why not end the practice of no-fault eviction and lower the need for emergency shelter among residents to begin with?

No-fault evictions are not the same as other evictions. Most evictions are filed due to non-payment or lease violations; households facing these evictions are not eligible for shelter, and will remain ineligible after the new regulations take effect.

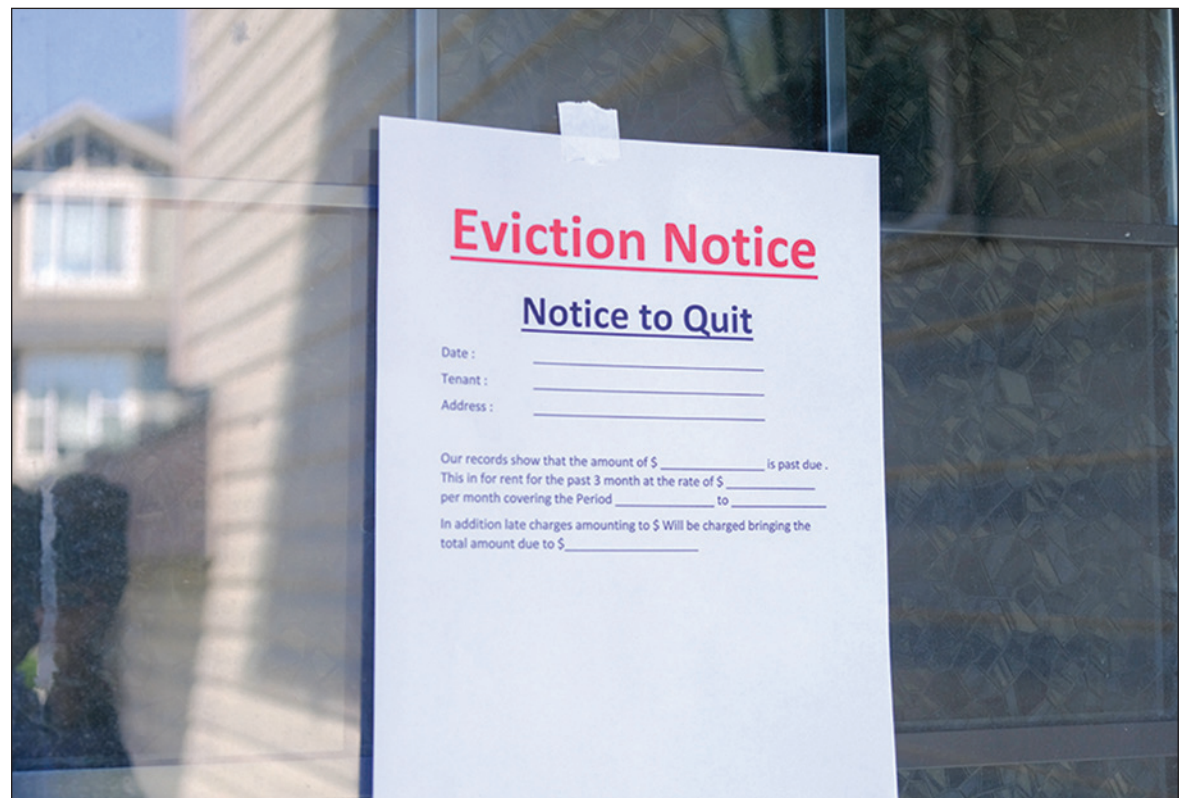
No-fault evictions, on the other hand, can be initiated without reason. A tenant who has paid rent on time, maintained the unit, caused no disturbances, and done everything they’re “supposed to do” can still have the rug suddenly

swept out from under their feet, solely at the discretion of their landlord, leaving them without housing and with an eviction on their record. From April 2023-2024, no-fault eviction made up over 12% of all eviction cases filed in Massachusetts. Meanwhile, our neighbors in New Hampshire have already banned no-fault evictions statewide.

Obviously, the shelter crisis wouldn’t be completely solved with a ban on no-fault eviction. But no-fault evictions are making up a notable portion of requests for services. The most recently available Quarterly Emergency Assistance Legislative Reports show that in FY2023 Q1 and Q2, eviction and threat of eviction made up 11% of all reasons for homelessness for families admitted into the shelter system. In the total year prior, they made up 356 out of 2,756 reasons for admittance, or 12.9%. Reducing the demand for shelter by hundreds of households by ending no-fault eviction would at least ease the burden on the shelter system.

Renters are becoming increasingly familiar with no-fault evictions, especially as large investors continue to view Massachusetts housing as a piggy bank rather than a social determinant of health. Between 2004 and 2018, over 20% of residential purchases in the Greater Boston region were made by an investor, and interest in Greater Boston real estate hasn’t slowed since then.

Advocates are increasingly sounding the alarm on the trend of investors purchasing buildings,



initiating no-fault evictions, and then rerenting units at significantly higher rents. At the Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS), our organizers are currently assisting tenants facing that exact situation: After an out-of-state investor purchased 22 Sargent Ave in Somerville earlier this year, two of the three units are now navigating no-fault eviction cases.

The Affordable Homes Act passed this month created a process for tenants to seal no-fault eviction records, which is a big step forward for tenant protections. But record sealing doesn’t address the most immediate challenge for tenants facing no-fault eviction: moving. As of July 2024, the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Boston was \$4,414 per month according to

apartments.com. Receiving a no-fault eviction means a family must be able to cover first, last, security, and increasingly often, a broker fee, or \$17,656 in total, to find new housing. Not to mention also paying moving expenses or affording lost wages from time off work. It should come as no surprise that no-fault evictions are contributing to homelessness.

Massachusetts cannot sustainably allow investors to continue contributing to the shelter emergency for the sake of their own returns. As it stands, no-fault evictions are allowing landlords, especially investors, to destabilize households and pass the expense off to the Massachusetts Emergency Housing Assistance system. The Governor declared a state of emergency for shelters a year ago this August, yet our

legislators have ignored the cause of over one-in-ten shelter cases that they have the power to address. Migrants and vulnerable families are paying the price. It’s time for Massachusetts to join states like New Jersey, California, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Washington, and pass just cause eviction laws.

About the Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS)

The Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS) has been the City of Somerville’s federally designated anti-poverty agency since 1981. Its mission is to help local families and individuals achieve financial security while working to eliminate the root causes of economic injustice. To learn more, visit: caasomerville.org.

— CAAS

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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Four | 7. Eight cylinders |
| 2. Michael Phelps, 28 medals | 8. KITT |
| 3. Muhammad Ali | 9. Corvette |
| 4. 26 miles, 385 yards | 10. 1900 in the Paris Olympics |
| 5. 1,072 games | 11. Touch |
| 6. Vatican City | 12. Warburtons |

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.

Community Rowing – Tuesday, August 6th at 10:00 a.m. with a rain date of Thursday, August 8th at 10:00 a.m. Together, on land, we will learn the basics of rowing and then we will hit the water to test out our skills! Community Rowing Inc. works with various communities from training Olympians to kids with special needs. During our session we will be using adaptive equipment; no rowing or water experience is needed. Transportation will be provided and will leave from our Holland Street Center. RSVP required, for more information and to RSVP contact Michelle Deutsch at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov or call Michelle at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315. Space is limited.

Pilates – A six-week program starting on Friday, July 12th and continuing July 19th &

26th, August 2nd, 9th & 16th at 9:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Pilates is an exercise program that was developed in the early 20th century by Joseph Pilates with the goal of injury prevention and strengthening the body. In this chair-based Pilates class, we will use both seated and supported standing positions to improve muscular toning, core strength and balance. Pilates uses specific exercises that are simple yet precise and focus on proper postural alignment. The body connects with the breath for a mind-body experience that reduces stress and builds calmness overall. For more information and to RSVP please contact Michelle Deutsch by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

Friendly Caller Program - We have many wonderful volunteers who are waiting to give you a call. Whether you are looking to make a new friend or would just like a friendly chat to look forward to every week, this program has you covered. Call Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 to learn more about the program and to sign up.

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.

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 12

others; closing loopholes that allow the modification of legal firearms into illegal automatic weapons; and providing a legacy clause so all firearms legally owned and registered in Massachusetts as of the effective date of the bill will continue to be legal and may be bought and sold within the state.

"Massachusetts is proud of our strong gun laws, but there is always more work to be done to keep our communities safe from violence," said Gov. Healey. "This legislation updates our firearms laws in response to the Supreme Court's misguided Bruen decision. It cracks down on ghost guns and 3-D printed weapons, which I have long advocated for, enhances our ability to prevent guns from falling into dangerous hands and invests in our communities to address the root causes of violence. This law will save lives."

"This legislation reflects the input of many, including law enforcement officials, community advocates, gun owners and healthcare workers," said Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton). "It provides the tools needed to better protect our residents from the epidemic of gun violence and to prevent future tragedies. With support from both chambers and the governor's signature today, Massachusetts can once again stand proudly by its record as a national leader on gun safety and more importantly, we will save countless lives."

"Massachusetts has taken a huge step forward today towards keeping our communities safer from gun violence," said Ruth Zakarin, CEO of the MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. "There is no one size fits all solution to the gun violence crisis that plagues our nation, and we appreciate the comprehensive, multifaceted approach that this bill takes towards ending this epidemic."

RE-ENTRY INTO SOCIETY FOR JAILED PRISONERS (S 2883) – The Senate approved and sent to the House a bill that would provide a Massachusetts identification card to incarcerated individuals who will soon be released from prison and will be re-entering society.

Supporters said the proposal codifies the Healey administration's efforts to provide identification to citizens returning to society. They noted that many people returning to society will do so without any means of proving who they are, which presents a significant challenge when accessing government assistance programs that help people secure housing, food, employment and various other basic needs. They argued that denying individuals this support is setting them up for failure and making it more likely that they will recidivate.

"I am proud to be the lead sponsor of this bill that will give returning citizens access to the services and support they need to move on to the next chapter of their lives and succeed in our state," said Sen. Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett). "When an individual leaves incarceration, they deserve the chance to provide for themselves and their families without any obstacles in front of them. I am com-

mitted to getting this commonsense policy over the finish line to ensure we give every Massachusetts resident the opportunity to thrive."

DNA AND STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS (H 4836) – The House gave initial approval to a bill that would amend the law to allow prosecutors to bring rape charges at any time if the perpetrator is identified through DNA evidence collected from a victim. Currently, the 15-year statute of limitations is a barrier to prosecution of serial offenders, as more than 15 years may elapse before a perpetrator is identified through DNA evidence.

"By eliminating the statute of limitations when DNA evidence is matched to a perpetrator, this bill will enable more successful prosecution of sexual predators," said co-sponsor Rep. Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury). "I co-filed this bill ... because every survivor of sexual violence deserves justice, and removing this barrier to prosecution will help get dangerous predators off the streets."

"No arbitrary time limit should stand in the way of survivors getting justice for horrific crimes they endure or prevent prosecutors and law enforcement from getting dangerous predators off the streets," said co-sponsor Rep. Adam Scanlon (D-North Attleborough). "[This] is an important step toward removing that obstacle that currently stands in the way of justice for so many survivors, and I will keep fighting for them until this bill is law."

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Expanding our forest canopy is one piece of the larger puzzle to combatting climate change in Massachusetts. With continuous heat waves leading to higher energy bills and greater greenhouse gas emissions, our Greening the Gateway Cities Program leverages our state resources and engages residents to help plant trees and enhance public health. Reducing the urban heat island effect is a top priority, and our non-profit partnerships ... will help cool our neighborhoods, towns and cities." — *Rebecca Tepper, Secretary of the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs on awarding \$1 million in grants to support tree planting in Gateway Cities across the state.*

"This collaborative initiative strives to increase the parole system's transparency while supporting individuals as they navigate the reentry process and plan for a successful return to the community. The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security is grateful to our many partners in this effort and reaffirms our shared commitment to advancing innovative programs that enhance public safety, reduce recidivism and build safer communities." — *Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy on the launch of a pilot program to educate and support incarcerated individuals through the parole process.*

"We are excited to launch the Massachusetts Ice Cream Trail, a delicious route that highlights the incredible diversity of our dairy farms and ice cream shops. Massachu-

setts has a vibrant agricultural sector that thrives thanks to the hardworking farmers who diligently support our communities. This new tourism trail is designed to invite residents and visitors to experience our creative dessert offerings at traditional parlors, innovative shops and local farm stands." — *Gov. Healey announcing the launch of the Massachusetts Ice Cream Trail, an initiative celebrating the rich history of ice cream making in the Bay State and encouraging residents and visitors to explore the flavors and experiences offered by more than 100 ice cream destinations across the state.*

"Gov. Maura Healey, Speaker Ron Mariano and Senate President Karen Spilka are making policy choices that come with significant economic costs to the taxpayers. While they signal with their lack of policy reforms that the state can afford to cover the financial costs for the world's migrants, the center's study shines a light on what their lack of action is costing the taxpayers. Massachusetts taxpayers better be ready for the fiscal time bomb our governor and Statehouse leaders have set us up for." — *Paul Craney, spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, commenting on a new study examining the economic cost to Massachusetts taxpayers for the state's migrant and illegal immigration crisis.*

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week July 22-26, the House met for a total of 12 hours and 33 minutes and the Senate met for a total of ten hours and eight minutes.

Mon. July 22	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:16 a.m. Senate 11:45 a.m. to 12:31 p.m.
Tues. July 23	No House session No Senate session
Wed. July 24	House 11:04 a.m. to 4:55 p.m. Senate 1:07 p.m. to 4:25 p.m.
Thurs. July 25	House 11:00 a.m. to 5:28 p.m. Senate 11:06 a.m. to 5:10 p.m.
Fri. July 26	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

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.

Wage Transparency, Guns and...



By State Senator Pat Jehlen

There is so much happening in the legislature (not to mention the world) the last two weeks of July! Conference committees are resolving differences between many bills that have passed both houses.

WAGE TRANSPARENCY

The Senate passed our Wage Transparency bill last October. But it was a little different than the House version. However, the work of the conference committee to resolve the differences took nine months, partially because of the departure of my co-chair of the Labor and Workforce Development Committee Josh Cutler.



My conference committee co-chair Rep. Danielle Gregoire, members Reps. Brandy Fluker-Oakley and Hannah Kane, and Sen. Paul Feeny and I filed our report and both branches passed the Wage Transparency Bill [1] last week. We hope and expect the governor will sign it soon!

Posting Pay Ranges

The legislation requires employers with 25 or more employees to disclose a salary range when posting a position.

The bill builds on our 2016 Massachusetts Equal Pay Act, which prohibited wage discrimination based on gender, and banned employers from asking about applicants' salary history. You can read more about that here [2] and here [3].

Asking for salary history can lock women and people of color into lower salaries for their whole careers. They start out with lower pay, and never catch up, and end up with lower retirement benefits and less financially secure. Since we passed that bill in 2016, 18 other states have adopted the ban on salary history. Now 10 states have expanded access to pay range information as our new bill does.

We know for sure that those laws reduced the gap for many people. A 2020 study [4] showed salary history bans alone increased pay for all job changers, especially for women and Black workers.

This bill goes farther than our 2016 law, in requiring salary range disclosure so that applicants have more information in negotiations. It also helps both employers and applicants because it will avoid time in interviews if applicants know they won't accept the salary.

Data Collection

The bill requires employers with more than 100 employees to share their federal wage and workforce data reports with the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, which would then compile and publish aggregated wage and workforce data to help identify gender and racial wage gaps by industry.

Justice for Retirees

The final part of the bill addresses a set of income inequities affecting public service retirees. Because of strict administrative reading of the retirement law, retirees were kept from using their recent Equal Pay Act wage increases in calculating their retirement benefits. This change, recommended by PERAC, and incorporating another of my bills, remedies unfair interpretations.

GUN CONTROL

On July 18 we passed a firearm safety reform bill. A good summary was in the Globe [5].

Protecting Communities from Gun Violence. The bill criminalizes discharging firearms at or near dwellings, and prohibits carrying firearms on school buses, polling places, and government buildings with an exemption for law enforcement.



The bill improves training for those who want a license to carry. It expands the list of who may petition a court for an "extreme risk protection order" to include school administrators and medical professionals. I **always remember the young people, including my granddaughters, who marched on the state house to demand passage of the Red Flag law.**

That law gave families the right to ask a court for an "extreme risk protection order" to prevent someone from carrying a gun if they knew that person was a threat to themselves or other people. That bill seemed to be going nowhere before the young marchers showed up. Their

pressure made the difference.



Modernizing Massachusetts Firearm Laws. Between 2019 to 2021, the Boston Police Department alone saw a 280 percent increase in the number of untraceable "ghost guns" it recovered on the streets. The bill cracks down on ghost guns and 3-D printed weapons. At left, a display of seized guns.

Locally. I hope this law will help prevent future tragedies like the recent fatal shooting in Somerville [6], as well as the December death in Winchester [7]. It's shocking how many other incidents of shootings have happened just recently in Medford [8], Somerville [9], and Cambridge in May [10] and July [11].

More very soon on the end of session flurry, including my work on the Long Term Care and Assisted Living bill.

Links:

- [1] <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H4890>
- [2] [https://mailchi.mp/electpatjehlen/pay-transparency-passes-senate-2686933?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/electpatjehlen/pay-transparency-passes-senate-2686933?e=[UNIQID])
- [3] [https://mailchi.mp/electpatjehlen/whatever-happened-to-equal-pay?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/electpatjehlen/whatever-happened-to-equal-pay?e=[UNIQID])
- [4] <https://x.com/JamesBessen/status/1273583546028961793>
- [5] <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2024/07/25/metro/gun-law-massachusetts-maura-healey/>
- [6] <https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/fatal-shooting-in-somerville-under-investigation-police-say/3435630/>
- [7] <https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/police-investigation-underway-in-winchester/3209027/>
- [8] <https://medfordpolice.com/medford-police-investigating-shooting-on-june-26/>
- [9] <https://www.somervillema.gov/news/somerville-police-investigating-two-separate-shooting-incidents-week-june-24>
- [10] <https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/cambridgepolice/News/2024/05/cpdannouncesarrestinongoinginvestigationofdoubleshootingintheareaofdonnelly-field>
- [11] <https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/man-seriously-injured-in-cambridge-shooting-police-say/3429782/>

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
 8:00 AM Congressional Update
 8:30 AM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 9:00 AM SomerViva em Português - COA
 9:30 AM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 10:05 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 10:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 11:00 AM City Council Meeting 7-11-24
 1:30 PM Art Beat 2024
 2:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol 7-18-24
 3:00 PM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 4:05 PM School Committee Meeting 6-17-24
 6:30 PM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 8:30 PM Congressional Update
 9:00 PM Art Beat 2024
 10:00 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
 11:00 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1

12:00 AM SomerViva em Português - COA
 12:30 AM Finance Committee of the Whole 6-18-24
 7:00 AM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
 8:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol 7-18-24
 8:30 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 9:00 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 11:00 AM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 PM SomerViva em Português - COA
 1:00 PM Juneteenth Ceremony 2024
 2:00 PM Art Beat 2024
 3:00 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 4:30 PM SomerViva em Português - COA
 5:00 PM City Council Meeting 7-11-24
 7:30 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 8:00 PM Art Beat 2024
 9:00 PM Porchfest 2024
 10:00 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 11:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol 7-18-24

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2

12:00 AM Jane's Walk 2024
 1:35 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 2:00 AM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 7:00 AM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 7:30 AM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 8:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 9:00 AM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 10:00 AM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 10:30 AM Leonard Grimes Park Ribbon Cutting
 11:00 AM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 12:00 PM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 1:00 PM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 2:00 PM Special City Council Meeting 6-20-24
 6:30 PM Congressional Update
 7:00 PM Leonard Grimes Park Ribbon Cutting
 7:30 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 8:00 PM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 8:35 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 9:00 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 11:00 PM Juneteenth Ceremony 2024

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

12:00 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 2:00 AM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
 7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 7:30 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 8:00 AM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 9:00 AM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 10:30 AM SomerViva em Português - COA
 11:00 AM Finance Committee of the Whole
 2:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 3:00 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 5:00 PM Imagining Climate Forward 2050
 5:30 PM School Committee Meeting 6-17-24
 8:00 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin

8:30 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 9:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 10:00 PM Somerville Civic Day 2024
 10:30 PM Art Beat 2024
 11:15 PM Disability Pride Flag Raising

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

12:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol 7-18-24
 12:30 AM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 2:00 AM Art Beat 2024
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice III
 8:00 AM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
 9:00 AM Leonard Grimes Park Ribbon Cutting
 9:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol 7-18-24
 10:00 AM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 11:00 AM Juneteenth Ceremony 2024
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 PM SomerViva em Português - COA
 1:00 PM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 3:00 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 5:00 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 7:30 PM SomerViva em Português - COA
 8:00 PM Leonard Grimes Park Ribbon Cutting
 8:30 PM Congressional Update
 9:00 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 10:30 PM SomerViva en Espanol
 11:00 PM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 11:40 PM SPD Ride Along

MONDAY, AUGUST 5

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 AM SomerViva em Português - COA
 1:00 AM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 2:30 AM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
 7:00 AM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 7:45 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
 8:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 9:00 AM Juneteenth Ceremony 2024
 10:00 AM City Council Meeting 7-11-24
 12:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah

1:00 PM Leonard Grimes Park Ribbon Cutting
 1:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 2:00 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 4:00 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 5:00 PM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 5:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 6:00 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 7:00 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
 8:00 PM Art Beat 2024
 9:00 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 11:00 PM Juneteenth Ceremony 2024

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

12:00 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 2:00 AM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
 7:00 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 9:00 AM Leonard Grimes Park Ribbon Cutting
 9:30 AM Congressional Update
 10:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol 7-18-24
 10:30 AM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 PM SomerViva em Português - COA
 1:00 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 3:00 PM City Council Meeting 7-11-24
 5:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 6:00 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 7:35 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 8:00 PM Art Beat 2024
 9:00 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 9:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 10:00 PM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 11:00 PM Porchfest 2024

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 1:00 AM Special City Council Meeting 6-20-24

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

8:00 AM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 9:00 AM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
 10:00 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 10:30 AM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising
 11:00 AM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
 12:00 PM Brown School Moving Forward
 1:00 PM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
 2:00 PM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 3:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 5:00 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 6:00 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 7:30 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 8:00 PM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 9:00 PM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
 10:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 10:30 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising
 11:00 PM El Sistema Somerville June Concert

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1

12:00 AM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 12:30 AM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
 1:00 AM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 2:00 AM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 8:00 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 10:00 AM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 10:30 AM Healey School K-1st Spring Concert
 11:00 AM SHS Class Day 2024
 1:00 PM SHS Graduation 2024
 2:30 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 4:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 5:00 PM Brown School Spring Concert
 6:30 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 7:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 9:00 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert

9:30 PM Healey School K-1st Spring Concert
 10:00 PM SHS Class Day 2024

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2

12:00 AM Brown School Moving Forward
 1:00 AM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
 2:00 AM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 3:00 AM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 8:00 AM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 10:00 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Malden
 12:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical
 2:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Lynn Class
 4:00 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 5:30 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 6:00 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 8:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Malden
 10:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

12:00 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Lynn Class
 2:00 AM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 3:10 AM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 8:00 AM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 9:30 AM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising
 10:00 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 10:30 AM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 12:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 1:00 PM Kennedy School Spring 4-8 Concert
 2:00 PM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 2:30 PM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
 3:05 PM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 4:00 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 6:00 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 7:30 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising
 8:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 8:30 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship

10:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 11:00 PM SHS Boys Soccer vs Cambridge

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

12:35 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Everett
 2:10 AM SHS Football vs Boston English
 8:00 AM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 9:30 AM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
 10:05 AM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 11:00 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 12:00 PM East Somerville Moving On Ceremony
 2:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 4:00 PM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 5:00 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 5:30 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 6:00 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 7:30 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 8:30 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 9:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Malden
 10:35 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game

MONDAY, AUGUST 5

12:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Lexington
 1:30 AM SHS Boys Soccer vs Haverhill
 8:00 AM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 8:30 AM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 9:01 AM WHCS Spring Concert K-3
 9:30 AM WHCS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 10:00 AM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 10:30 AM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
 12:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 12:30 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 2:00 PM East Somerville Moving On Ceremony
 3:30 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 5:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 6:00 PM SHS Multicultural Fair

6:30 PM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 7:00 PM WHCS Spring Concert K-3
 7:30 PM WHCS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 8:00 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 8:30 PM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
 10:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 10:30 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

12:00 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 12:30 AM Girls Intramural Futsal Championship
 1:30 AM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 2:30 AM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert
 3:30 AM Brown School Spring Concert
 8:00 AM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 8:30 AM WHCS Spring Concert K-3
 9:00 AM WHCS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 9:30 AM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 10:00 AM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
 11:30 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 12:00 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 1:30 PM East Somerville Moving On Ceremony
 3:00 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 4:30 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 5:30 PM SHS Multicultural Fair
 6:00 PM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 6:30 PM WHCS Spring Concert K-3
 7:00 PM WHCS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 7:30 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 8:00 PM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
 9:30 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 10:00 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 11:30 PM East Somerville Moving On Ceremony
 1:00 AM SHS Hockey vs John Paul II
 2:30 AM SHS Boys Soccer vs Lynn English

The House of Representatives addresses rising prescription drug costs

On July 24, 2024 the Massachusetts House of Representatives passed legislation entitled *An Act promoting access and affordability of prescription drugs*, which protects patients and makes prescription drugs more affordable.

A provision that reduces co-pays for people with chronic conditions, filed as a bill this session by Representative Christine Barber (D-34th Middlesex) of Somerville and Medford, was included in the bill that passed the House.

“Prescription drugs cure disease, manage chronic illness, and

not only improve quality of life, but are life-saving for many individuals. Yet prescription drugs do not work if people cannot afford them. Our neighbors should not have to choose between picking up their prescription and picking up groceries.”

This policy will reduce co-pays for people with three chronic conditions that disproportionately impact people of color and low-income communities: diabetes, asthma, and heart disease. For generic medication for each of these three conditions, all co-pays will be eliminated. For a brand name

medication for these conditions, including insulin, co-pays will be capped at \$25.

When people cannot access critical preventive care, the likelihood of visiting the emergency room for care increases drastically. These affordability challenges are a significant health equity issue. Black and Latinx residents in Massachusetts are more likely to cut pills in half, skip a dose, or not fill a prescription due to cost (36%) than white residents (19%), putting them at greater risk for health complications.

The House bill also address

prescription drug costs by: regulating the pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) industry; increasing transparency into PBMs and drug manufacturers through the Health Policy Commission (HPC) and the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA); and by requiring pharmacists to inform consumers if purchasing a drug at retail price would be cheaper than using insurance.

Reducing copays for prescription drugs provides direct relief to patients and ensures that people can afford the care they need. This bill will now be negotiated



State Representative Christine Barber

with the Senate before it heads to the Governor’s desk.

— Office of State Representative Christine Barber

Somerville Police Dept Crime Log July 16 – 22

Assault

24043038: On 7/18/24 at approximately 8:09 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on McGrath Hwy. for report of a larceny. Upon arrival, officers spoke with an employee who stated a male party entered and stole a prepaid meal. The suspect then shoved an employee trying to stop him.

Assault

24043485: On 7/20/24 at approximately 5:30 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Middlesex Ave. for an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he got into a traffic altercation with a female party. During the altercation, the female spit on him.

Assault

24043226: On 7/19/24 at approximately 1:10 p.m., Somerville Police responded to 79 Highland Ave. for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was outside the library and was attacked by a group of juveniles. The victim suffered minor injuries.

Residential Breaking and Entering

24043340: On 7/19/24 at approximately 10:47 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Moreland St. for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated someone broke into her house via the back door. Nothing was reported missing.

Residential Breaking and Entering

24044068: On 7/23/24 at approximately 9:42 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Lexington Ave. for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated someone broke into her garage and stole a bicycle.

Other Crimes: 6 Car breaks + 6 MV vandalisms + 5 Bike thefts + 3 Vandalisms + 1 MV theft + 3 Package thefts



— Somerville Police Department

Join the Somerville Licensing Commission CONT. FROM PG 11

What is the time commitment?

The Licensing Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. There is no meeting in the month of December.

The term of this appointment expires on May 31, 2027.

Is this a paid position?

The Somerville Licensing

Commission Alternate Member will receive a monthly stipend of \$159.00 to cover expenses related to meeting attendance.

How do I apply?

Applications are due by the end of the day (4:30 p.m.) on Monday, August 26, 2024. If you have questions, contact

What should I include in the

application?

A resume or work summary.
A brief statement of interest or cover letter explaining why you would like to join the commission and how you feel you can support its work.

Any additional relevant material.

You may apply by either email,

U.S. Mail, or drop off your application:

Email: Email your application to licensing@somerville-ma.gov.

U.S. Mail: Mail your application to City Clerk, City of Somerville, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143. Mail well in advance! Your ap-

plication must be received by August 24.

Drop-off: Drop off your application at City Clerk Counter, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue.

What happens next?

Applicants will be selected, informed, and then must be confirmed by the City Council.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne presents



Somerville's Annual FREE Outdoor Movie Series

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

THURSDAY, JULY 18 *THE MUMMY* (1999) PG-13
LINCOLN PARK • ARGENZIANO SCHOOL

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

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

Barbie (2023) PG-13
THURSDAY, AUGUST 8 SEVEN HILLS PARK • DAVIS SQ.

The Outsiders (1983) PG
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

somervilleartscouncil.org/yartsale

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

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



How is the moon like dentures?
Both come out at night.

The "Original"
All Types Vent Cleaning
Restaurant Hood Cleaning
Dryer Vent/ HVAC Cleaning
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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Between porch and sidewalk ...

— Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

July 31

- 0904 – Arabs capture Thessalonica.
- 1760 – Ferdinand, Duke of Brunswick, drives the French army back to the Rhine River.
- 1790 – The U.S. Patent Office opens.
- 1882 – Belle and Sam Starr are charged with horse stealing in the Indian territory.
- 1904 – The Trans-Siberian railroad connecting the Ural mountains with Russia's Pacific coast, is completed.
- 1932 – Adolf Hitler's Nationalist Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazis) doubles its strength in legislative elections.
- 1971 – Apollo 15 astronauts take a drive on the moon in their land rover.
- 1990 – Bosnia-Herzegovina declares independence from Yugoslavia.
- 1991 – The US and the USSR sign a long-range nuclear weapons reduction pact.
- 2006 – Fidel Castro temporarily hands over power to his brother Raul Castro.
- 2007 – The British Army's longest continual operation, Operation Banner (1969-2007), ends as British troops withdraw from Northern Ireland.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

– but you may bring your own snack if you prefer). Please bring your own drink and a towel/blanket to sit on. Weather permitting (not wet or too hot), we'll be outside in our backyard. Best suited for ages 2-8. For more info, contact **Meghan**: mforsell@somervillema.gov.

All **Somerville fire stations** are collecting donations of **school supplies for students** living in the **Mystic Public Housing Development**. Donations will be accepted until August 15.

On August 11, 1834, an **Ursuline Convent on Mt. Benedict**, in what is now Somerville, was vandalized and then burned to the ground by an anti-Catholic mob. Author and Salem State Professor Emeritus **Nancy Schultz** will explore the tensions over class, gender, religion, ethnicity, and education that fueled the convent's destruction. Tickets are \$12 and include one drink from **Aeronaut Brewing**. For details, see <http://www.somerville-museum.org/calendar-events/ursuline>.

Somerville Public School has lots of openings for educators, classroom paraprofessionals, administrative staff, and an opening for their next Chief Financial Officer. Find a list of open positions and apply here: <https://somerville.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx>.

Lidia Mikhaylova Exhibition closing reception art exhibit will take place **Saturday, August 3**, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at **Rooted Armory Café**, 191 Highland Ave.

Visit the **Somerville Bike Kitchen**, a volunteer-run bicycle repair cooperative, hosts open-shop nights at **The Dojo** (15 Properzi Way, Somerville). Come maintain your bike or learn more about cycling. **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., upcoming Bike Kitchens: **August 1, 6 and August 8**. Every **Thursday** from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. join **Parkour Generations Boston** for **Teen Jams** at The Dojo. This is a flexible time for teen community members to use the pop-up training space at The Dojo @ Somernova and connect with fellow community members in the process. Upcoming Teen Jams **August 1 and August 7**.

The city's annual **SomerMovie Fest** is returning with a lineup of six family-friendly films to be shown in parks around Somerville. Watch **Finding Dory**

(2016) this **Thursday, August 1**, at **Seven Hills Park - Davis Sq**. 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.

Save the date for the **19th annual "What the Fluff Fest" A Tribute to Union Square Innovation** is a madcap festival honoring the invention of **Marshmallow Fluff**. It celebrates Somerville's proud tradition of innovation with live music, fluffalicious feasts, sticky games, zany happenings, and much more. The Festival is located in **Union Square** on **Saturday, September 21**, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. For more info on the events and offerings at the festival, visit www.flufffestival.com.

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>.

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. Get the full **Teen Summer Guide** to sign up for a specific program or learn more about all programs and events <https://somerville-ma.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>.

To celebrate the **250th anniversary of the Powder Alarm** on **September 1**, the **Somerville Museum** is partnering with the **City of Somerville** to produce a re-enactment of the historic event, followed by a living history fair. The fair will include docent tours of the Powder House, activity tables, and even a scavenger hunt of the park. What was the Powder Alarm?

Learn more about the events leading up to September 1, 1774: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3vfBQiV93c>. The re-enactment will begin at approximately 9:30 a.m., followed by a living history fair and docent tours from approximately 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. For details, see <http://www.somervillemuseum.org/calendar-events/powder-alarm>.

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 at 11:15 – 11:45 a.m.

The **Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH)** recently detected **West Nile virus (WNV)** in mosquito samples from Cambridge. While no human or animal cases of WNV or Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) have been reported, it is important to take steps to protect yourself from mosquitoes and mosquito-borne illnesses. For tips and information, visit: mass.gov/dph/mosquito.

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**.



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Odysseus' Daughter'
by Cammy Thomas

Odysseus' Daughter
By Cammy Thomas
Parkman Press. 2023. 20pp. \$18.00

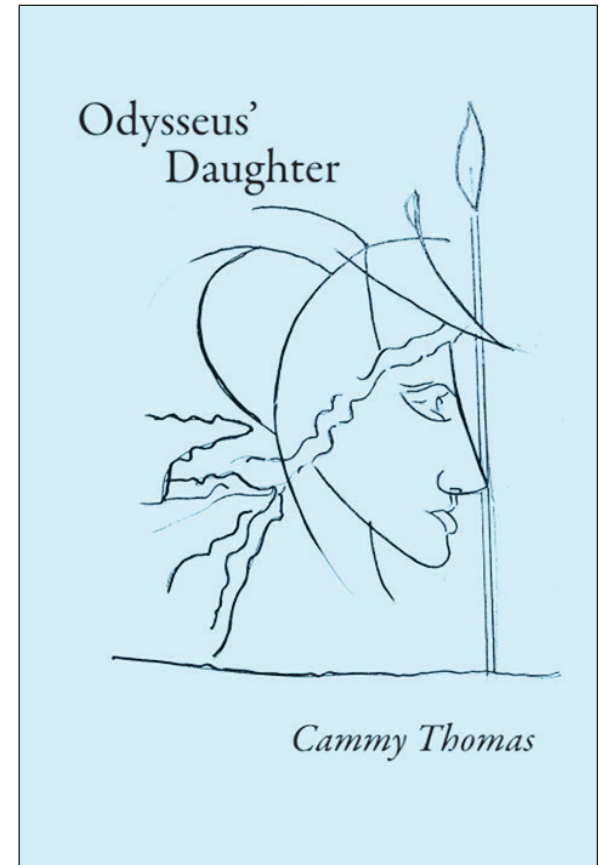
Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Ruth Hoberman

Amid summer heat and ghastly newspaper headlines, Cammy Thomas's *Odysseus' Daughter* blows in like a brisk, briny sea breeze. Nineteen poems beautifully printed, with a gatefold blue-gray cover bearing an elegant line drawing of Athena by the poet's brother: the book is a pleasure to hold in your hands. And the poems make those familiar Odyssean characters come alive yet again: Penelope, Nausicaa, Cyclops, the sea nymph Leucothea, Argos, and others are transformed by Thomas's precise, musical language into new guises. Anyone who has taught the *Odyssey* repeatedly – as Thomas has – knows how beautifully it opens up conversations about love, family, heroism, mortality, gender politics, and community.

Thomas's poems touch on many of these themes but what struck me most was their repeated return to the uncanny: the sense that on some level we are unfamiliar to ourselves, shot through with contradictory yearnings as we negotiate what she calls in one poem the "shifting voids of the waves."

A Boston-area poet, Thomas taught literature and creative writing for many years (including fourteen years of teaching the *Odyssey*) and now lives in Bolton, Massachusetts. *Odysseus' Daughter* is her fourth book.

Homer's Odysseus, of course, had no daughter; men in his family bore single sons. I take the title poem's imagined daughter to be the poet, heir to Odysseus's prowess not in war, but with words: "my boat has nothing of mast or crew," Thomas writes. "I stand under the bow of heaven/words locked in my throat." Meanwhile, the world does what it will: the boat floats on an unfathomable sea, and "gods hang above decks." Greek gods are notoriously imperfect, much like the humans in whose lives they interfere. The speakers in these poems live in an eerie, unmanageable world that mirrors their own unwieldy desires.



So, Penelope is neither the standard sad sack, weeping and sleeping her life away, nor is she the clever, idealized wife. She's just human – "weary now," getting fed up. Yes, she cleverly manipulates the suitors with her ruse of weaving and unweaving her father-in-law's shroud, teasing them "into limbo/as they feast on dwindled flocks." But she also feels something herself:

Now I dream of the handsome one,
imagine his soft lips on mine,
shame myself in morning light.

Penelope's desires make sense in human terms – twenty years of celibacy! But they also make sense in Homeric terms, as an example of homophrosyne – the "like-mindedness" of Odysseus and his wife.

Sea Nymph Leucothea is another poem about complicated desires. As a former human, Leucothea is pained by Odysseus's fear when she *Continued on page 23*

to work the feed store

bailing hay
selling seed
for pigs and chickens

four more days
fernando pitch again
and felipe
call on the telephone

— Andrew K. Peterson

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Andrew K. Peterson spent many nights on friends' couches in Somerville during his twenties. He's the author of six full-length poetry books, most recently *Secret Equinox / Scorpio Journal* (published by Spuyten Duyvil in 2023). In 2017 he co-wrangled for the Boston Poetry Marathon. He currently lives in Brookline, and continues to be a long-suffering Red Sox fan. Say hey at andrewkpeterson.com.



TO FERNANDO VALENZUELA

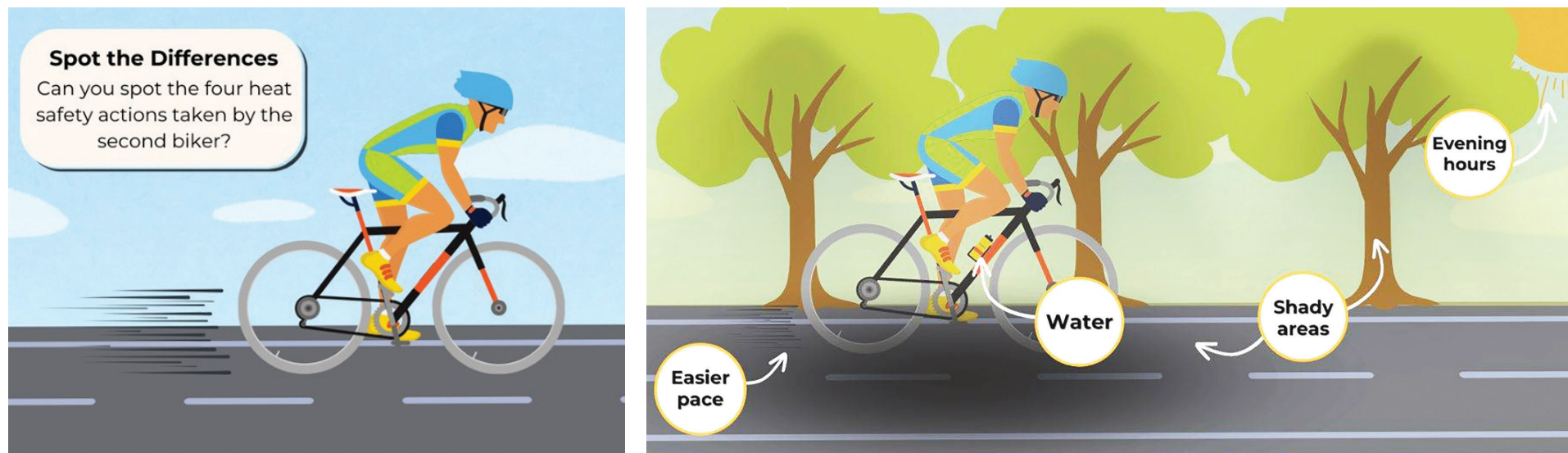
phoenix to tucson
juan's beat up blue
el camino drives
with windows down
the dust kicks up at dusk
dodgers on the radio
fernando valenzuela
el orgullo de mejico
strikes out thirteen giants
now we all bleed
dodger blue

felipecito falls
fast asleep between
juan and me
we drop him at his mama's
we're fun while he stays
one weekend a month
we hike camelback
en el aire libre

tucson to phoenix
juan and me practice
english we learn
from vin scully
in morning we wake

Staying safe on high-heat days

On high-heat days, it's best to limit outdoor activity to the morning and evening hours if possible. Avoid strenuous activity during mid-day when temperatures are highest. If you are walking, running, cycling, wheeling, or doing other outdoor exercise during hot weather, have water with you, seek a shady area or route, and pace yourself. Be sure to take a break if you start to feel overheated, especially if you become lightheaded, confused, weak, or faint. For more heat safety tips and ways to keep cool in and around Somerville this summer, visit: somervillema.gov/keepcool.



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

 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.

The **Somerville Public Library** in partnership with **St. Mark Community Education Program** is offering a free, 10-week **U.S. Citizenship Preparation class**. The class will prepare students for the citizenship interview including the 100 civics questions, the reading and writing sections, and interview questions based on the filed N-400 application. Requirements: Basic level of English and 5 years as a U.S. permanent

resident (green card holder) or 3 years, if married to a US citizen. Registration required: tinyurl.com/splcitizenship-classfall2024.

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Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

intervenes to save him from drowning. "In his face/I see—I'm no longer human":

Still, he takes the scarf, and it scares
 the water calm. I sink back into the cold
 foreign gloom that's now my home,
 turn, swim down.

The modulations in vowel sounds are beautiful and evocative. How sad, we think, that poor Leucothea is condemned to such gloom. And then remember that she has solace of being immortal.

On the facing page Odysseus is human and near drowning: "His arms can't pull through the chop,/mouth choked with salt, a ring of jagged/rocks clanging as he goes down." Between sound and rhythm, I can just about feel the whitecaps splashing into my mouth, cutting off breath. And then Leucothea-as-bird offers a scarf as she transforms into nymph. No wonder Odysseus is scared as he "pumps his legs/against whatever glides beneath."

"Whatever glides beneath": the sea in these poems – as in Homer – is the ultimate undoing of human identity: unknowable, threatening us with oblivion, undoing our

efforts at control. Its apotheosis comes in the final poem of Part 1, "Facing Scylla," a virtuosic rendition of seawater sloshing and whirling, drowning syntax along with Odysseus' remaining crew members. Words repeat, return with varying meanings, rhyme, almost rhyme; body parts, boat parts, sky and sea churn chaotically:

We row the foam we sense the mouth
 It opens in a moment smoked
 Sea foam smokes the glass we row
 The mast the past come floating on the foam

While Part 1 adheres closely to Homer, the eight poems in Part 2 move into the modern world. We're still in the hands of forces we can't control (whether we call them gods or not) but without Odysseus's resources to help us through. In *Not Your Wit I Want*, the speaker mourns, "She's got cancer/and I can't do a thing." Brawn and wit won't help, only "toxic drugs and scalpels." But still the speaker yearns for the "nose-thumbing backtalk" with which Odysseus faced death. "Save us Odysseus," the speaker concludes: "you/and the iron-helmeted goddess,/give us ringing words that force/the invisible monster to its knees."

Feminist poets in recasting Homer have often elevated Penelope, Circe and Kalypso at Odysseus' expense. Thomas's take is surprisingly sympathetic, emphasizing Odysseus' vulnerability. Even as he rapes a nameless woman taken in a raid, he seems a little lost, "her tears/rough ropes/twisting my heart." But in Part 2, through the imagined figures of Odysseus' daughter, granddaughter, and sister (who, unlike her brother, wouldn't "pillage a town for fun,") Thomas begins to offer an alternative to Odyssean values. The book's final poem is its least Homeric, positing a benevolent Zeus horrified by what we've made of the world. Reimagining Auden's "Shield of Achilles," Thomas has Zeus contrast the world he'd planned – "a simple favored place,/with greenery that shaded all from pain" and "no faceless governments that cannot feel" – with contemporary actualities; much as Auden contrasts the peaceful world that Thetis expected to see on her son's shield, with the totalitarian nightmare Hephaestus has actually wrought there. But here I've come full circle, back to heat waves and ghastly headlines. "Save us Odysseus," I'm tempted to say: "you/and the iron-helmeted goddess,/give us ringing words that force/the invisible monster to its knees."

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