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India Day flag-raising celebration held to foster Indian-American unity



Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne was presented with a plaque honoring the city in appreciation of its participation in the flag-raising event. — Photos by Harry Kane

By Harry Kane

Indian Independence Day is celebrated on August 15, which began early in the City of Somerville, by hoisting a flag at the City Hall concourse for India Day on August 3, with the hope of fostering a strong Indian-American social, cultural, civic and community presence.

Tanu Phoenix, president of the India Association of Greater Boston, spoke about Indian values, such as respect, acceptance, empathy and love, at the onset of the ceremony, for India's 78th anniversary of independence.

"When we talk about Indian values, we expect that it comprises of the basic human values," Phoenix said. "Indian values are unique."

There are 121 languages in India, *Continued on page 4*

Community building at the National Night Out

On Tuesday, August 6, Somerville Police Department hosted its first National Night out (NNO) in collaboration with The Somerville Parks and Recreation Department and the Somerville Department of Public Works.

NNO is a day of community building that promotes police and community partnerships. It is based on the fact that local organizations can come together with the Somerville Police Department to provide an opportunity to increase awareness and build positive relationships between the police and the communities they serve. It gave all of us an opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations outside of a crisis. Participants were even invited to dunk SPD Command Staff and to introduce themselves to an officer for a chance to win free prizes.

It would be almost impossible to *Continued on page 12*



Somerville's National Night Out on August 6 brought the community together with law enforcement to learn and play in the spirit of community solidarity

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

Register to vote by Saturday, August 24. You can register one of three ways: Online at somerillema.gov/register tovote, in-person at **Somerville City Hall** (93 Highland Ave.), **via phone** by calling the **Elections Department** (617-625-6600 ext. 4200) and requesting a voter registration form. Or by **calling 311** (617-666-3311) and they will connect you to Elections. The registration deadline is Saturday August 24, at midnight online or in person by 5:00 p.m. You also may mail in your form, but it must be postmarked by August 24.

School is nearly back in session and this year the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is asking for crucial donations of school supplies for their young student clients and their families. Right now they are in urgent need of essential supplies such as backpacks, binders, notebooks, highlighters and more. Please check out their current needs list here: <https://bit.ly/School4SHC> For any donation inquiries please reach out at info@shcinc.org.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **Courtney O'Keefe** of Ward 5. We wish her a great birthday. Happy birthday **Jenny Bonham Carter**. We wish Jenny a great day. Happy birthday to **Cliff Clark**. We wish him the very best. We wish all our celebrating Facebook friends, such as **Elizabeth Roche, Victor Martins, Joseph Amaral Sr., Patricia Toner, Roy Bertocchi, Carmine D Ambrosio D Ambrosio,** *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of August 14 – August 20 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday <i>August 14</i>	Sunny	85°/64°	7%	4%	NE 10 mph
Thursday <i>August 14</i>	Partly Cloudy	80°/64°	25%	19%	E 9 mph
Friday <i>August 16</i>	Partly Cloudy	80°/66°	9%	6%	ENE 11 mph
Saturday <i>August 17</i>	Cloudy	79°/67°	12%	5%	SSE 13 mph
Sunday <i>August 18</i>	Rain	75°/68°	45%	39%	SSE 11 mph
Monday <i>August 19</i>	Thunderstorms	79°/61°	50%	43%	S 11 mph
Tuesday <i>August 20</i>	Thunderstorms	80°/63°	32%	27%	W 11 mph

NOTE: Conditions subject to change. Always check a daily forecast prior to activities that can be affected by the weather.

What the Fluff? Festival! Somerville over the rainbow: No place like fluff

What the Fluff? 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 happening Saturday, September 21 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Union Square (rain date Sunday, September 22).

Leave your sepia-toned world behind. Make all your technicolor dreams come true. This year's festival, Somerville Over the Rainbow: No Place Like Fluff, is the place for you. For the 19th year, Fluff fans from far and wide will gather in the heart of the city to celebrate Somerville's favorite sticky treat with all shades of silly.

Laugh the day away as you join a colorful cast of characters and explore this joyful jubilee's deliciously diverse food, toe-tapping musical performances, and family-friendly games. This year's What the Fluff? will make your troubles melt like lemon drops and have you rejoicing "peanut butter & bread & Fluff! Oh my!" in no time.

So, don your most hue-riffic ensemble (ruby slippers optional), round up your sidekicks (Toto, too!), and follow the marshmallow road to the most magical square in Somerville. There's No Place Like Fluff.

What the Fluff? is brought to you by Union Square Main Streets, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, with a mission to preserve the unique character and advance the strength of the Union Square business district and community in partnership with the Somerville Arts Council as part of the ArtsUnion initiative to enhance the cultural economic development of Union Square.

Somerville Ave between Dane St. and Warren Ave.

— Graphic design by Jen Gubicza



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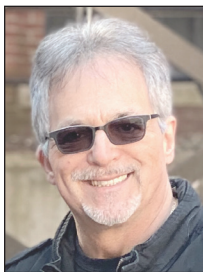
The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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

Here comes Labor Day



Here we are staring down Labor Day weekend. In the old days we would go to our camper up in New Hampshire for the weekend. We would also rent a room at Old Orchard Beach which was a lot of fun. We did that for years. The kids grew out of spending all their time with their parents.

There have been back to school commercials on TV. When I was a kid I always hated this time of year because it meant the summer would soon be over. It's funny that those back-to-school ads still get me nervous.

I remember one Labor Day weekend in

particular. We were getting antsy with the impending school year starting. We were ready for a thrill.

I wasn't allowed off the street on my new bike. I was 12 but dad was strict. Me and my friends decided to go against dad's rules and peddled to the Western Junior High School on Holland Street. It was pretty daring of me to disregard my father's orders and I was very nervous. I kept looking behind myself and jumping when I heard a horn beep.

From Holland Street you can see The Prudential Building way off in the distance.

We decided to peddle to the Prudential. Now mind you I wasn't allowed off my street never mind peddling to Boston. There were four of us that day and it was pretty dangerous when we hit some big

streets. I can't remember the exact route we took but there was plenty of traffic.

I remember the thrill we got when we finally arrived at our destination. With no landmark to guide us back home, I think we stayed on Mass Ave.

All the way to Boston and back when I wasn't supposed to leave our street. My father would have taken a hacksaw to the bike if he knew. It was very nerve wracking peddling all that way especially when I heard a horn.

I'm sure this Labor Day won't be as exciting as that weekend almost 60 years ago when we were young and fearless.

No big plans for this Labor Day weekend yet.

Whatever you do, have fun. I know burgers and dogs will be on the food list.



The 29th Brazilian Independence Day Festival

This is the largest Brazilian cultural event in New England, and is organized by the community for the community with a lot of help from volunteers. This year, the festivities will be held from September 3rd to the 8th, and there will be plenty of activity. Massachusetts is home to one of the largest and most organized Brazilian communities in the United States.

The event celebrates the language, history, and culture of the Brazilian people, platforming local Brazilian artists to display and sell their wares, and for Brazilian chefs and bakers, giving Brazilians a taste of home, and others an introduction into the wonder of Brazilian cuisine. Priority is given to small home-based businesses, artists who live and work in and around Boston, and entrepreneurs who make crafts or sell clothing.

The Festival welcomes more than 60 organizations to disseminate information and resources to the community. These organizations represent health, immigration, citizenship and voter registration, school enrollment, and much more. The Festival is organized by the Brazilian Women's Group in partnership with the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS) and the Consulate General of Brazil in Boston.

This year, we will raise the Brazilian flag at Somerville City Hall on Thursday, the 5th, at noon, and at Boston City Hall on Friday, the 6th at 10 am. The center point of the week is our outdoor Festival in Herter Park in Brighton on Sunday, September 8 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Alongside food and craft vendors, the afternoon will feature face painting, pony rides, children's storytelling, and live performances. The Science Museum will be donating tickets and exhibiting special attractions from its collection, the New England and the Boston Red Sox will donate items to our raffle, includes two round-trip tickets Brazil. For just \$10, these prizes may be yours.

Inspired by the decades old tradition of street 'blocos', our festival will open with a parade led by local Brazilian percussion group Grooversity, where all will be invited to dance with us. After the performance of Brazil's national anthem, the celebration will heat up with samba by Armengue Group, Brazilian martial art Capoeira with Mestre Chuvisco, Forró dancing with Let's Vamos and Tarciso Alves, and Frevo dance and music with Piéra Verin and Andre Simões.

Between performances, sample the famous Brazilian cuisine, such as "churrasco" barbecue, acarajé, churros, sugarcane juice, and much more. You can't miss it.

We are still looking for people who want to sell food, crafts or promote their businesses. Contact us via WhatsApp 617-202-5775 if interested. — Brazilian Women's Group



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Somerville Police Dept Crime Log July 30 – August 5

Robbery

On 7/31/24 at approximately 5:23 p.m., Somerville Police took a report regarding an armed robbery that occurred the day prior. The juvenile victim stated he communicated with a male known via SnapChat and agreed to sell him a pair of sneakers. The victim and his friend then drove to the meetup location and were met by two males who proceeded to enter the victim's vehicle. Once inside, the suspects brandished firearms at the victims then took control of vehicle and drove to banks in Cambridge and Medford where they had the victims withdraw money. The suspects then drove the vehicle back to Somerville and exited. Prior to leaving the area, the suspects stole the victims cell phones, a pair of sneakers and a gold chain.



Assault

24046152: On 7/31/24 at approximately 8:11 p.m., Somerville Police took a report regarding an assault that occurred on 7/29/24. The victim stated he was walking in Assembly Row and was approached by two young males who began attacking him. The victim suffered a concussion and injuries to his nose.

Arrest

24046153: On 7/31/24 at approximately 8:29 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business in Twin City Plaza for a weapons call. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a male party was observed shoplifting. When the victim confronted the suspect, the suspect pushed him and pulled out a weapon believed to be a knife. The suspect was located and placed under arrest.

Assault

24047011: On 8/4/24 at approximately 2:31 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Glen St. for report of a fight. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he exited his vehicle after returning home and was punched by a male party. Officers identified the male suspect.

Arrest

24047137: On 8/5/24 at approximately 8:50 a.m., Somerville Police responded to 1366 Broadway for a fight. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he got into a fight with one of his co-workers and was pepper sprayed. Officers located the male suspect and he was placed under arrest.

Arrest

24046567: On 8/2/24 at approximately 2:17 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Dartmouth St. for a weapons call. Upon arrival, officers spoke with two witnesses who stated two males were involved in a fight. During the fight, one of the males struck the victim with an airsoft gun. Officers located the suspect and he was placed under arrest.

Other Crimes: 3 Bike thefts + 3 Vandalisms + 3 MV vandalisms + 3 Car breaks + 2 Package thefts + 1 MV theft

— Somerville Police Dept.

India Day flag-raising celebration held to foster Indian-American unity

CONT. FROM PG 1

and therefore, it is difficult to explain the culture, she said.

The Republic of India's motto, Unity in Diversity, attempts to make sense of an array of complex traditions, different languages and ethnicities.

In India, Independence Day is celebrated with a festival. Next year, Phoenix says, she hopes to add more of a festival element to the flag-raising celebration.

"It is celebrated through music and dance," she explained.

Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne spoke about the colors of the Indian flag. The flag, colloquially called Tiranga, is a tricolor flag, with India saffron, white and India Green. There is a navy blue, 24-spoke wheel, called the Ashoka Chakra, in the center.

The color saffron, Mayor Ballantyne says, indicates strength

and courage.

"It reminds us of the courage it takes to strive for independence and democracy, and to do so peacefully," Mayor Ballantyne said. "It also reminds us of the courage and determination it has taken for Indians to leave their home to build a new life here."

The white part of the flag represents peace.

"Events such as this, where we gather to celebrate the heritage of our members in our community, build the understanding and mutual respect that is the foundation of peace," Mayor Ballantyne said.

The green signifies fertility and growth.

"[The green] is the reminder of rich culture, innovation, community and achievements," Mayor Ballantyne said.

Vijayendra Bhargava, executive director at IAGB, announced the American flag hoisting, followed by the Indian flag hoisting,

The national anthem of the Republic of India, Jana Gana Mana, translates to, Thou Art the Ruler of the Minds of All People.

Following the flag-raising part of the ceremony, IAGB members presented several gifts to Mayor Ballantyne.

The mayor was given a pink Indian shawl, plaque and certificate.

The plaque is an award of appreciation to the City of Somerville. It reads: "We at IAGB extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and invaluable contribution in commemorating India's Independence Day. Your solidarity and involvement make these celebrations even more meaningful and special."



The certificate was presented to the mayor after the plaque. The certificate reads: "India Association of Greater Boston presents the Community Alchemist Award to the City of Somerville, Massachusetts, for being an anchor city for the India flag-raising event hosted by IAGB."

At the end of the ceremony, the mayor issued a proclamation, which states, August 3 is India Day in the City of Somerville.

"We encourage all residents to join the Indian community to commemorate and celebrate 78 years of India's independence," Mayor Ballantyne said.

Girls can play ice hockey

By Cathleen Twardzik

Girls have been getting things done since Seneca Falls. But that was just the beginning of the modern woman. It started with simply getting the right to vote, then, getting jobs, then, every aspect of life, which includes tweens and young teens in sports – and in Somerville, that means girls ice hockey.

From Tuesday, August 6, to Thursday, August 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., the Somerville Veterans Memorial Skating Rink, which is located at 570 Somerville Ave., hosted the “Learn to Play: Girls’ Hockey Clinic” for girls between 9 years old and 14 years old. The cost to participate was \$25, but equipment was “available” to borrow, according to the Somerville Parks and Recreation (Somerville Rec/SPR) website. The deadline to register was August 1. No experience was required, and 12 girls took on the new challenge and were taught by female instructors – exclusively.

Along with Somerville City Councilor At-Large Kristen Strezo, the Somerville Youth Hockey Association (SYHA), and Somerville Parks and Recreation partnered together to launch this inaugural program in the city of Somerville.

Hard work pays off. “The [pilot] program has been many years in the making. Finally, the stars aligned to make it happen. For me, personally, as a city councilor, it’s my primary focus to make sure that everybody has a chance to thrive. Equity inclusion is just paramount,” said Strezo. She continued by explaining what Somerville Rec did to help to launch this clinic. They asked

her, “What do you need? How can we make this happen? We’re doing it.”

An all-girls hockey program emerged because “One of the Somerville Parks and Recreation (SPR) initiatives for this coming year is to increase female participation in all recreational programs,” said George Scarpelli, Program Developer of Somerville Parks and Recreation, which is managing this new program.

“SPR programming processes often includes city partners, both in our public sector and in the private sector. We often connect with our youth sports organizations to gauge any gaps that have been identified. Then SPR and our partner organization work together to close any gaps,” Scarpelli said.

However, the most significant part of this program is, “I think making sure that equity in sports is happening is crucial. That occurs especially with girls’ sports. We know that their participation peters down as they get older,” said Strezo.

In today’s ever-changing and ever-inclusivity-growing world, “We also need to make sure we’re considering girls when we consider sports and that we’re funding girls’ sports just as equally, and that everyone has a chance to play and has a chance to experience and find a sport that they truly love,” Strezo said.

“Equity in sports” and ensuring girls’ participation is vital. Everyone who would like “to participate should have a chance to participate. It’s just so important,” said Strezo.

This clinic was a great success. “Our young people showed up to the ice rink with no expectations, but to try something new and en-



The “Learn to Play: Girls’ Hockey Clinic” was recently launched to help local girls get involved in the sport.

— Photo by Cathleen Twardzik

joy themselves. Having our elite female coaches and female volunteers from our Somerville High School/Medford High School hockey program showed all our new participants that they can strive to be part of an all-girls team,” said Scarpelli.

What’s next for these girls? “The goal also is to continue on the program and have something in the fall and have something in the winter because this is just a launching pad to all inclusion in sports – especially with girls in hockey – and in sports, because when girls get on the ice some get really excited about it and want to go on to play hockey,” said Strezo.

Will this hockey clinic spark a national increase in programs for girls of this age group in hockey or in other sports? Maybe. For now, though, the program is in its infancy.

However, “Moving forward, SPR will strive to grow our group of 12 girls to hopefully a national

movement,” said Scarpelli.

So, see your girl get things done – and in this case, it’s ice hockey. In the future, keep your

eyes peeled for girls creating a new Olympic sport called Women’s Ice Hockey.

LEGAL NOTICE

VOTER REGISTRATION



LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR THE STATE PRIMARY

Held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024

The deadline for in person registration is Saturday, August 24, 2024, at 5:00pm at City Hall or online by midnight Saturday night, August 24, 2024

Election Department: Somerville City Hall Hours

MONDAY, TUESDAY

& WEDNESDAY ----- 8:30 a.m. ----- 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY ----- 8:30 a.m. ----- 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY ----- 8:30 a.m. ----- 12:30 p.m.

To request a voter registration form

- CALL 617-625-6600 ext. 4200 for a Voter Mail-In Registration form
- Download a Mail-In Voter Registration form from the City Website and mail to the Election Department
- Register Online by visiting the City Website

All mail-in voter registration forms must be post-marked by 08/24/24.

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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' and senators' votes on roll calls from recent sessions

\$5.1 BILLION FOR HOUSING (H 4977)

House 128-24, Senate 37-2, approved and Gov. Maura Healey signed into law a housing bill that would authorize \$5.1 billion in borrowing to spur housing production in the Bay State.

Supporters said the package makes crucial policy changes with the goal of building new housing, accelerating the rehabilitation of existing housing, reducing barriers to development and promoting affordable housing.

They noted that key provisions include allowing accessory dwelling units, investment in modernizing the state's public housing system, boosts to programs that support first-time homebuyers and homeownership, incentives to build more housing for low to moderate-income residents, support for the conversion of vacant commercial space to housing and support for sustainable and green housing initiatives.

"The Affordable Homes Act creates homes for every kind of household, at every stage of life and unlocks the potential in our neighborhoods," said Gov. Healey. "Today we are taking an unprecedented step forward in building a stronger Massachusetts where everyone can afford to live."

"The Affordable Homes Act is the first, major critical step needed in addressing our housing crisis," said Rep. James Arciero (D-Littleton), House Chair of the Committee on Housing. "It reduces barriers for individuals seeking affordable home options, increases housing production and inventory and creates more tools in the toolbox to help cities and towns offer more affordable housing options. This encompassing bill showcases critical input from our state and local officials, community stakeholders, advocates and residents."

"If Massachusetts leaders declare 'Mission Accomplished' on the housing crisis, they'll be abandoning millions of Massachusetts residents to a broken housing market that is driving families into homelessness and pushing workers out of our state," said Carolyn Chou, Director of Homes for All Mass. "The housing bond bill includes meaningful funding to support public housing and build new affordable housing, but legislators failed to include any tools to help renters who are facing enormous rent hikes and eviction today."

"Passing a major massive, complicated measure like this without even an abbreviated opportunity to read what

was in the bill was not something I was willing to embrace," said Rep. Matt Muratore (R-Plymouth). "This bill was passed on August 1st around 9 a.m. after being in session since July 31st at noon. We had very little time to review."

(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

\$1.5 MILLION FOR WATER AND SEWER RELIEF (H 4800)

House 155-2, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of the entire \$1.5 million for the Massachusetts Sewer Rate Relief Fund which was established in 1993 to help reduce the rising costs of sewer services in the Bay State.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$1.5 million was eliminated.

"I am vetoing this item to an amount consistent with my House [budget] recommendation," said Gov. Healey.

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$1.5 million. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

\$800,000 FOR DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOOD PROGRAMS (H 4800)

House 155-2, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of \$800,000 (reducing funding from \$12.7 million to \$11.9 million) for the Department of Agriculture. The veto includes cuts of \$100,000 from the Massachusetts Food Trust Program; another \$100,000 from the Buy Local effort; and the entire \$250,000 for local food policy councils.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$800,000 was eliminated.

"I am reducing this item to the amount projected to be necessary," said Gov. Healey. "I am reducing two earmarks to amounts more consistent with my House [budget] recommendation and eliminating one program earmark that was intended to be a one-year program."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$800,000. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes

Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes

\$5 MILLION FOR FOOD SECURITY (H 4800)

House 155-2, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of \$5 million (reducing funding from \$10 million to \$5 million) for the Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program which was created to ensure that individuals and families have access to food, especially food that is produced locally, and equitable access to food. The program also seeks to ensure that farmers, fisherman and other local food producers are better connected to a strong, resilient food system to help mitigate future food supply and distribution disruption.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$5 million was eliminated.

"I am reducing this item to the amount projected to be necessary due to the availability of alternative resources," said Gov. Healey.

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$5 million. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

DISABILITY PENSION FOR POLICE OFFICERS (S 2887)

Senate 40-0, approved and Gov. Healey signed into law legislation that would provide police officers who have suffered a violent act injury, 100 percent regular compensation and pension benefits, until they reach the age of mandatory retirement. Violent act injury is defined as "a serious and permanent personal bodily injury sustained as a direct and proximate result of a violent attack upon a person by means of a dangerous weapon, including a firearm, knife, automobile, explosive device or other dangerous weapon."

Supporters said that under current law, a first responder forced to retire due to a violent act injury can only receive benefits through the local retirement board via the home rule legislative process. They said this process is onerous and has resulted in disparate benefits being granted on a case-by-case basis.

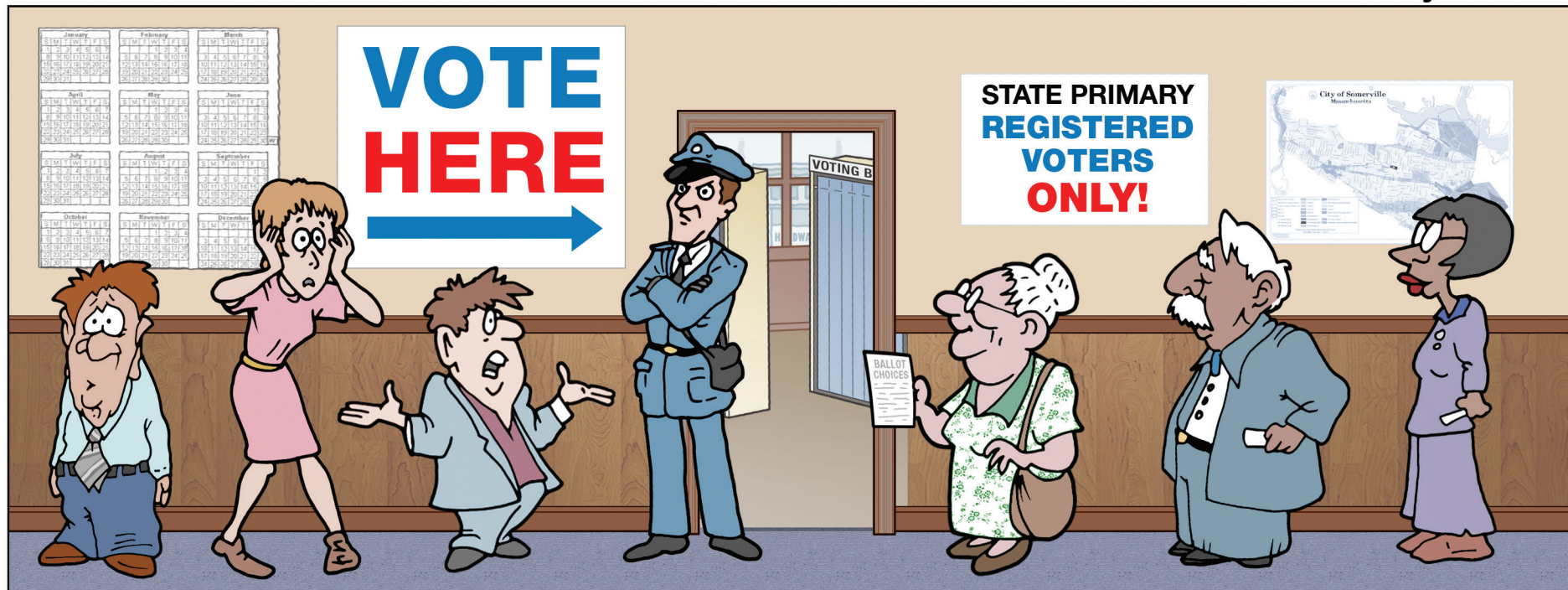
"Our first responders go above and beyond to keep our communities safe and respond to emergencies," said Gov. Healey. "That's why it's critical that we support them when they experience emergencies of their own. This legislation ensures that first responders who are injured in the line of duty have access to the pay and health care, including mental health care, that they need to support their families and their road to recovery."

Continued on page 18

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Remember to register to vote by August 24.

Our View Of The Times



Those in public service to our state must be ready willing and able to rise to the occasion when called upon to do so. Each one of us, whoever we may be supporting in this year's statewide election, is searching our heart to determine whom we feel will best fill those roles.

Most of us seem to be very confident that our favored candidates are up to the task. Others bemoan a lack of integrity or

skills required to do the job well among those who are running.

Either way, if we feel passionate enough in our convictions then it is clearly incumbent on each of us to do our part and make sure we make our voices heard by voting in the upcoming State Primary on Tuesday, September 3.

This means that we must have the foresight and capability to register for voting if

we have not already done so. The process is quick and easy, and is an absolute requirement for being allowed to cast a vote. There really is no excuse for not voting. Registration continues through August 24 in person at Somerville City Hall. Online registration is possible at somerillema.gov/register tovot e. Phone the Elections Department (617-625-6600 ext. 4200) to request a voter registration form. Or

call 311 (617-666-3311) to be connected to the Elections Department. Early voting is possible from Saturday, August 24, through Friday, August 30.

Specific info is available at www.somerillema.gov/departments/elections.

Let us hope that the those elected will rise to the occasion and realize the potential they may have to become as great as others who have gone before them.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Maureen Marena Anna Rosella, Lauren DeBrase and Valerie Mitchell a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

The **Somerville Fire Department's annual fire hydrant inspections** began on August 12, and will conclude on Saturday, August 24. This annual fire hydrant maintenance program helps keep our community safe by helping to ensure hydrants will work properly in the event of a fire. Disturbed water main sediment can potentially cause rusty or discolored wa-

ter, but does not pose a health hazard. It could stain fabric, however, so residents are advised not to do laundry while water is discolored. This rusty condition will be temporary. Anyone with questions about this procedure may contact the **Somerville Fire Department** at 617-623-1700. Learn more at: www.somerillema.gov/hydrantflushing.

Join the **Assembly Row Development team, the City of Somerville, and Ward Councilor Matt McLaughlin** for a virtual **neighborhood meeting**. Wednesday, August 21, 6:00 p.m. Dial-In Info: Zoom meeting: <https://frit.zoom.us/j/96871731950?from=addon>. In this meeting, the development team will present the conceptual design(s) for **Block 9 at Assembly Row**. There will be an opportunity to discuss ideas and feedback. Contact Councilor McLaughlin at matforward1@gmail.com or Sarah Lewis at slewis@somerillema.gov if you have difficulty accessing the virtual neighborhood meeting.

Saturday, August 17, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m., 240 Elm St., Sira Naturals Somerville is celebrating rebranding to **AYR Cannabis Dispensary Somerville**. AYR is excited to celebrate with the community

and share their new look. What to expect: Classic carnival snacks: Free popcorn, cotton candy, and sno-cones. Raffles from local businesses: **Somerville Theatre, Mag Pie, When Pigs Fly, Dave's Fresh Pasta, Boston Ink**, and more. Live music: Enjoy a lively set by DJ Caitlin and more. Store-wide sale, shop exclusive discounts and deals.

10th Annual Evolution of Hip Hop Festival takes place on **Saturday, September 7**, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., rain date Saturday, September 14, at **Union Square Plaza** in Somerville. This **Arts Union** event will feature *Continued on page 21*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#936

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. What is the fear of lightning called? | variety of Barnum's Animals Crackers? |
| 2. What is a dry thunderstorm? | 8. What football player in the Hall of Fame is known as the "Golden Boy"? |
| 3. How old do you have to be to become a member of the U.S. House of Representatives? | 9. What is a word that means to hold back in doubt? |
| 4. What film did Jack Nicholson make his film debut in? | 10. What rapper is featured on Rihanna's hit song Umbrella? |
| 5. Who wrote the novel <i>Breakfast at Tiffany's</i> ? | 11. Who directed the film <i>The Godfather</i> ? |
| 6. In gambling, what does the term Casino Whale mean? | 12. What city is known as the Furniture Capital of the World? |
| 7. What is most recent animal added to the | |

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
- The name of the Monopoly mascot is Milburn Pennybags.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

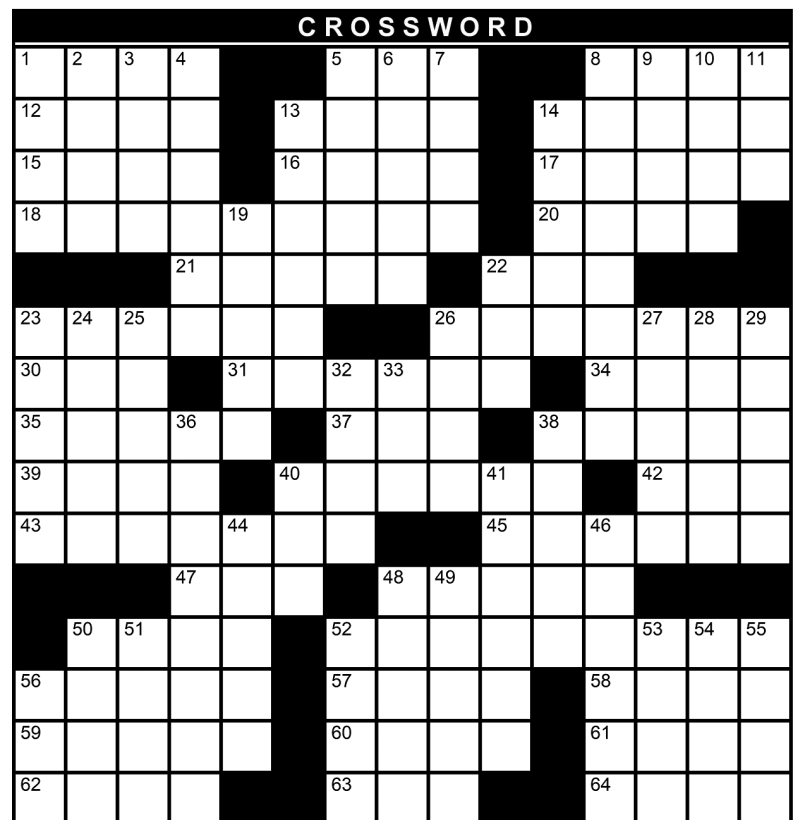
FOOTBALL

ACROSS

- Command to Fido
- Sheep not yet sheared
- Cap and gown accessory
- Blood line
- Ancient Chinese dynasty
- Ringworm
- Driver's license notation
- Not outs
- Like Cheerios
- Piece of football equipment required since 1943
- Peyton or Eli
- Napkin spot
- Eminem's 2002 hit "____ Yourself"
- Embargo
- Feed storage cylinder
- Like house from a kit
- Greek god of love
- Smokes
- Super Bowl I M.V.P. Bart ____
- Taj Mahal locale
- Career rushing yards record holder
- Equals squared
- Regretting
- Highest college football level: ____ Division I
- Extend credit
- Seventeen games in NFL
- Somewhat (2 words)
- "Whatever Will Be, Will Be" singer
- Mare's baby
- Not a friend
- 55 of them
- Home of the NFL Hall of Fame
- Hole-borer
- For every
- Color red on coat of arms
- Birds of ill omen
- Outrage
- ____ shopping cart
- Party barrels
- Sound from one of #69 Across
- Homes for #69 Across

DOWN

- Down in the dumps
- Cry of contempt
- Marine eagle



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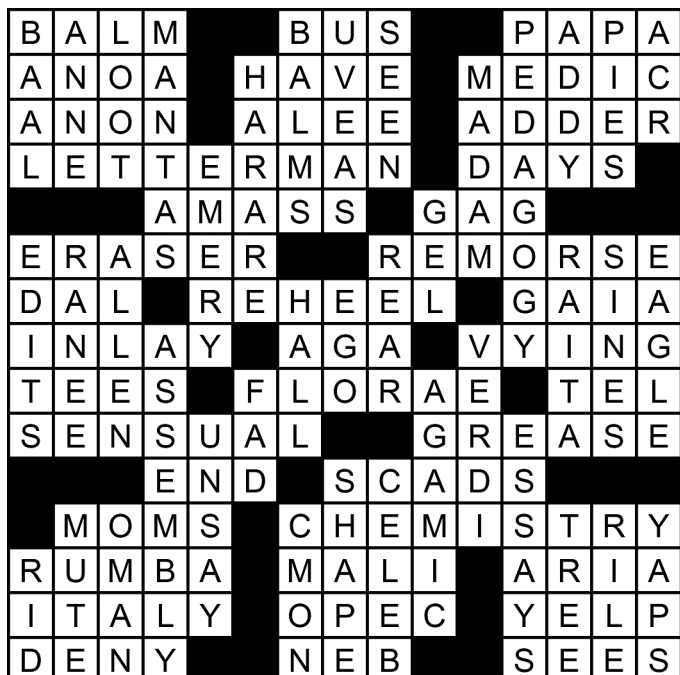
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- | | |
|---|--|
| 4. Wake Island, e.g. | 33. Like indoor eight-men football |
| 5. Kismet, pl. | 34. Career NFL passing yards record holder |
| 6. Foolish one | 36. Without |
| 7. Even, poetic | 38. Wild guess |
| 8. Useful contraction | 42. Israelian port |
| 9. Lamborghini model | 45. Errand-runners |
| 10. Unfavorable prefix | 49. Neither's partner |
| 11. "As ____ on TV" | 51. Nuku'alofa language |
| 12. Suspend | 54. Meat jelly dish |
| 15. Astrigents | 56. Musician's exercise |
| 20. "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey," e.g. | 57. "Go ____ Go!" |
| 22. Venomous Egyptian snake | 58. Fishing decoy |
| 24. Deducible | 59. Awestruck |
| 25. One of 2 NFL founding teams still in league | 60. Archery wood |
| 26. Lock horns | 61. "Ship, Captain, ____" |
| 27. Waterwheel | 62. Cutlass or Delta 88, for short |
| 29. Outline | 63. Remaining after deductions |
| 31. Et alii, abbr. | 66. ____ of Good Feelings |
| 32. Got along | 68. Lusitania's last call |

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



Former Red Sox stars to play fundraiser

Former Red Sox stars Lou Merloni and Jonathan Papelbon will play in the 30th annual Abbot Financial Management Oldtime Baseball Game on Thursday, August 22 at St. Peter's Field in Cambridge. The pregame program begins at 7:00 p.m.

The game is being played as a fundraiser for The Boston Home, a non-profit residence and national resource for adults with advanced neurological disorders, primarily multiple sclerosis.

Merloni, whose nine-year big-league career included parts of six seasons with the Red Sox, will be making his 12th appearance in the Oldtime Baseball Game. During pregame ceremonies he will receive the 2024 Greg Montalbano Award, given in memory of the late Red Sox pitching prospect who appeared in the Oldtime Baseball Game in 1997 and '98.

Papelbon, an All-Star closer who pitched seven of his 12 major-league seasons with the Red Sox and was a member of Boston's 2007 World Series championship team, will be making his first appearance in the Oldtime Baseball Game. But he's already played a role in the game's history: In 2005, his rookie season with the Red Sox, Papelbon asked that his two younger brothers, Josh and Jeremy, both in college at the time, be invited to the game. The twins each pitched a scoreless inning in '05.

Merloni and Papelbon have gone on to broadcast careers in Boston. Merloni calls games on NESN and 93.7 WEEI, and Papelbon has emerged as a booth and studio analyst on NESN.

Founded in Cambridge in 1994, the Oldtime Baseball Game is known for its dazzling reproductions of flannel uniforms representing virtually every era in baseball history. Used just once a year, these throwback uniforms include such long-ago teams as the St. Louis Browns, Brooklyn Dodgers and Philadelphia Athletics. Negro Leagues uniforms include the Kansas City Monarchs, Chicago American Giants, Detroit Stars and Cleveland Buckeyes. Teams from the 20th century minor leagues include the Hollywood Stars, Wichita Falls Spudders and Roswell Rockets.

Admission to the Oldtime Baseball Game is free. Fans are asked to bring a beach blanket or chair and camp out along the foul lines, as it is the crowd that makes the game so electric. Fans can look forward to enjoying a Wahlburger at the game as Dorchester native Paul Wahlberg and his team of A&E TV series fame provide concessions.

In the event of rain, the game will be played on Friday, August 23 at 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit oldtimebaseball.com or thebostonhome.org.



Dorothy's Corner BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Garden Fresh Tomato Sauce

My garden is continually producing a decent amount of tomatoes this summer. I've been making peach and tomato salad with mozzarella, Greek salad with feta, and of course, the popular tomato sandwich. Since I had a bunch that were ripe at the same time and was really craving some pasta, I came up with this light sauce packed with flavor to enjoy one night this week. I used a popular red lentil pasta that delivered a good amount of protein for a very satisfying meal.

- 3 medium tomatoes, chopped
- 1-1/2 cups cherry tomatoes
- 3 tablespoons Extra Virgin olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, thinly sliced

- 3 Calabrian chilis in olive oil, reserve 1 teaspoon oil or 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1/2 cup artichoke hearts in brine, chopped
- 2 tablespoons capers
- 1/2 cup basil, torn
- Salt to taste, start with 1/2 teaspoon
- 8 oz. pasta of your choice

Bring a large pot of water up to a boil, enough to cook 8 oz. of pasta. In a 12" sauté pan, add the olive oil including the additional teaspoon that the chilis came in, if using, red pepper flakes, if using, and the garlic. Sauté for about one minute, over medium heat. Add all the tomatoes and salt, cook down for about 15 minutes, until the sauce thickens. With the back of the spoon, press down lightly on the cherry tomatoes to crush them to



release their juices. Now add the artichoke hearts and capers. Cook for an additional 3 minutes. Taste and adjust seasoning. Take off the heat and stir in the basil. Add freshly grated

Parmesan cheese.
Serves 3-4.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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



**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, September 3, 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_280afl8vTWmHxrGjvo4cvw

Webinar ID: 838 6680 6162

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 PREFERABLY PERSERVED (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HP24-000059 - 80 Curtis Street

Applicant: Anthony Seretakis

Owner: Anthony Seretakis

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.*

8/14/24 The Somerville Times

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**City of Somerville
OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES
NOTICE OF TAX TAKING**

TO THE OWNERS OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LAND AND TO ALL OTHERS CONCERNED: YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT on **Thursday, the 29th day of August, at 10:00 o'clock A.M.**, at **Treasury, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143**, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, IT IS MY INTENTION TO TAKE for the City of **Somerville** the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and an incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same has been paid before that date.

Linda Dubuque, Treasurer/Collector of Taxes.

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: 9 Curtis Street

CURRENT & ASSESSED OWNER(S): Jane I. Carafotes for life,

remaindermen Sandra C. Winn and Barbara C. Hall

PARCEL ID: **011H00013000000**

TAX ACCOUNT: **03102148**

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 4,721 (more or less)

TITLE REFERENCE: Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 72081, Page: 438

Fiscal Year 2021 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$7,366.89
Interest to Date of Taking	\$1,429.79
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$9,021.68

8/14/24 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: 8 Bellevue Terrace

ASSESSED OWNER(S): Vilaire Villefranche and Wanique Villefranche

CURRENT OWNER(S): Vilaire Villefranche and Wanique Villefranche,

Trustees, Villefranche 2023 Family Trust

PARCEL ID: **034C00050000000**

TAX ACCOUNT: **16544202**

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 2,400 (more or less)

TITLE REFERENCE: Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 20302, Page: 296; Book: 81375, Page: 111

Fiscal Year 2021 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$3,322.19
Interest to Date of Taking	\$1,502.41
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$5,049.60

8/14/24 The Somerville Times

NOTICE OF TIER CLASSIFICATION

Poplar Street Pump Station

10 Poplar Street

Somerville, MA

RTN 3-38245

A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has occurred at this location, which is a disposal site as defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, § 2 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. To evaluate the release, a Phase I Initial Site Investigation was performed pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0480. The site has been classified as TIER II pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0520 and linked to the primary Release Tracking Number (RTN) 3-32211. On August 7, 2024, Green Environmental, Inc. filed a Tier Classification Submittal with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). To obtain more information on this disposal site, please contact Robert J. Leventry, LSP with Green Environmental, Inc., 296C Weymouth St., Rockland, MA 02370. The Tier Classification Submittal and the disposal site file can be viewed at the MassDEP website using RTN 3-38245 at

<https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal/dep/wastesite/> or at the MassDEP Northeast Regional Office, 150 Presidential Way, Woburn, MA 01801 (978) 694-3200. Additional public involvement opportunities are available under 310 CMR 40.1403(9) and 310 CMR 40.1404.

8/14/24 The Somerville Times

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LEGAL NOTICE

City of Somerville

Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
(OSPCD)
WFD-25.3

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

invites sealed proposals for Industry-Specific Training:
Workforce Development Grant Programs

Workforce Development Grant Programs. Proposals must be for programs that assist in the creation and maintenance of employment and career opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents of the City of Somerville. Funds for Industry-Specific Training are provided by the Job Creation and Retention Trust.

Bid Number WFD-25.3

Request for Proposal packages for both programs will be posted and available for download on the City of Somerville website beginning at 10:00AM, Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at www.somervillema.gov/wfd.
Print copies available upon request to William Blackmer at email WFD@somervillema.gov.

An electronic PDF file should be emailed to WFD@somervillema.gov and proposal packages must be submitted no later than
12:00 PM, Wednesday, September 11, 2024
for responses to WFD-25.3.

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

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

8/14/24 The Somerville Times

'Home Canning With Confidence'

Celebrate Massachusetts Eat Local Month and learn how to make your own homemade jams from local stone fruit!

Chef Afton Cyrus of Jam Sessions will offer a virtual cooking demonstration that will include an overview of food preservation basics, a demonstration of boiling water bath canning making Small-Batch Spiced Peach Jam from start to finish, and a Q&A session. We'll cover food safety, canning do's and don'ts, and recommended equipment and resources.

This workshop is ideal for beginners just getting started as well as experienced canners seeking to refresh their skills and knowledge. You'll leave with recipes and resources to can and preserve at home safely and confidently this growing season.

You can register for this event at tinyurl.com/9a4t3bj.

Questions? Contact Kerry: keodonnell@somervillema.gov.



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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.

The Case for Market Rate Housing



By Jason Mackey,
Somerville Resident

When my partner and I moved to Somerville back in September 2019, it was a deliberate choice. We were tired of the sky-high rents and the cold, impersonal vibe of Kendall Square. We wanted to be part of a real community – someplace where neighbors actually knew each other, where local shops were part of everyday life, and where we could feel truly connected. And Somerville gave us that. But fast forward a few years, and it feels like this

community is under siege. Rising rents and the ever-climbing cost of living are pushing out not just families, but also artists, longtime residents, and small business owners—the very people who make this city special.

Now, I know there's a lot of debate about how to fix this. Some folks are calling for more affordable housing. And don't get me wrong, affordable housing – housing that's specifically priced to be within reach for people earning less money – is important. But focusing only on affordable housing isn't going to solve the bigger problem. We need to be thinking about building more market-rate housing too. Let me explain why.

Greater Boston, including Somerville, is dealing with a serious housing shortage. There just aren't enough places to live, and that's driving up prices everywhere. Imagine Somerville as a popular restaurant with only 100 tables. Every night, 150 people want to eat there. What happens? The restaurant can hike up prices, and only the wealthiest 100

customers get to eat. The other 50 people are out of luck – or they end up driving up prices at other nearby restaurants. It's the same deal with housing. If we don't have enough market-rate housing, people with more money are going to compete for the limited homes we do have, pushing up rents and home prices for everyone else.

Here's where market-rate housing comes in. When new market-rate housing gets built, it's usually pretty pricey at first, attracting higher-income folks. But over time, these units age and naturally become more affordable – a process called "filtering." Just like how today's luxury car eventually becomes tomorrow's used car bargain, today's fancy apartment could become a middle-income family's home in a decade or two. So, by building more market-rate housing now, we're actually creating a future supply of homes that will help ease pressure on older, more affordable housing down the line.

If we only build affordable housing, we're not addressing the

root of the problem: supply and demand. Wealthier people who can't find new, high-end places to live will turn to the older, cheaper units, and that competition drives up prices. By increasing market-rate housing, we give those with higher incomes a place to go, which takes the pressure off the existing, more affordable units and keeps them within reach for those who need them most.

Plus, speaking frankly – if we make it all about affordable housing, developers might just stop building altogether. Construction costs are high, especially around here, and developers need to see a return on their investment. Market-rate housing can help make these projects financially viable, and when we pair that with smart policies – like inclusionary zoning that requires a percentage of new units to be affordable – we can create mixed-income communities that keep Somerville vibrant and diverse.

Another point is land. We're running out of it. In dense places like Somerville, where space is tight, building higher is a

no-brainer. Going vertical lets us add more homes without eating up what little land we have left, helping to keep prices from going through the roof.

So, focusing only on affordable housing? It's not the silver bullet we want it to be. Without enough market-rate housing, we're just going to keep pushing prices higher. And that's bad news for everyone, especially the people who need affordable housing the most.

The bottom line is this: we need a balanced approach. Yes, affordable housing is important, but we can't ignore the role that market-rate housing plays in the bigger picture. If we want Somerville – and Greater Boston – to stay a place where people of all income levels can live, work, and thrive, we've got to build more housing across the board. That means market-rate housing too. It's not about resisting change; it's about shaping it in a way that benefits as many people as possible, keeping our communities strong and inclusive for years to come.

Join Somerville's Anti-Displacement Task Force video series

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville's Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) are sharing an opportunity for community members to join the vital work of the City's Anti-Displacement Task Force (ADTF) by contributing their experiences with displacement for a public video series the ADTF is creating to show how displacement affects real people in Somerville and why anti-displacement efforts are so important to helping our community stay together.

The videos will help inform the work of the ADTF, which aims to create programming and policy recommendations to help equitably reduce displacement rates for residents, business owners, and those who contribute to the cultural fabric of Somerville. Please note that all video recordings have the potential to be shared publicly.

Participants have the option of either joining a recording session hosted by the Task Force or submitting a self-recorded video.

Upcoming Recording Sessions

• Thursday, August 22, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: RSJ Office Suite (167 Holland Ave., Suite 208)

• Friday, August 23 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: RSJ Office Suite (167 Holland Ave., Suite 208)

• Saturday, August 24, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Connexion Church (149 Broadway)

Register for a recording session at: <https://form.jotform.com/241776144772160>

Share your story through a

pre-recorded video

Participants are also welcome to share their experiences via a pre-recorded video. The ADTF has prepared questions to help start the conversation, but community members should feel free to relate their displacement stories however feels authentic to them.

To learn more about the submission process and to review the questions, visit the online registration/submission form: <https://form.jotform.com/241776144772160>

About Somerville's Anti-Dis-

placement Task Force

The purpose of the Anti-Displacement Task Force is to develop programming and policy recommendations that aim to equitably reduce the rate of displacement of people who live in, have businesses in, or make up the cultural fabric of the City of Somerville.

For any further questions about this process or the Task Force's work, reach out to Steven Flythe, RSJ Deputy Director, at (781) 808-7502 or adtf@somervillema.gov.

Community building at the National Night Out

CONT. FROM PG 1

thank everyone who was involved in this enormous undertaking. From sponsors, to agencies who hosted a table, and even Boston Bruins Mascot Blades, there were over 100 partners involved in the success of NNO. Without our sponsors, we would not have been able to make everything at this event free to the residents of Somerville. And without the residents that attended, this night would not have been successful because it needs everyone in order to work.

It was clear from the smiles on everyone's faces (police and neighbors alike) that this was a much needed and appreciated event. It is with the utmost gratitude that we thank all of our partners, community businesses, organizations, sponsors, and residents for a successful first National Night Out.
— Somerville Police Department





Photos courtesy of Somerville Police Department



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Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olivo

Answers

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Astraphobia | 6. A high roller |
| 2. A thunderstorm that produces thunder and lightning, but most or all of its precipitation evaporates before reaching the ground | 7. The koala |
| 3. At least 25 years old | 8. Paul Hornung |
| 4. <i>The Cry Baby Killer</i> | 9. Hesitate |
| 5. Truman Capote | 10. Jay-Z |
| | 11. Francis Ford Coppola |
| | 12. High Point, North Carolina |

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I
 7:35 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 8:00 AM Juneteenth Ceremony 2024
 8:40 AM National Night Out 2024
 9:00 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 9:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 10:00 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 12:00 PM City Council Meeting 7-11-24
 2:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 3:00 PM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 4:00 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
 5:00 PM Congressional Update
 5:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol 7-18-24
 6:00 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 7:00 PM Art Beat 2024
 8:00 PM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 8:30 PM National Night Out 2024
 9:00 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 9:30 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 10:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 11:00 PM Porchfest 2024

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

12:00 AM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 12:30 AM National Night Out 2024
 1:00 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 7:00 AM Art Beat 2024
 7:45 AM SPD Ride Along
 8:00 AM Porchfest 2024
 9:00 AM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 10:00 AM SomerViva em Português - COA
 10:30 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 11:00 AM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 11:35 AM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:00 PM National Night Out 2024
 12:30 PM Congressional Update
 1:00 PM School Committee Meeting 6-17-24
 3:30 PM SPSPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 4:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 5:00 PM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 6:00 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 8:00 PM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning

9:00 PM Congressional Update
 9:30 PM SomerViva em Português - COA
 10:00 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 11:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 AM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 1:00 AM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 7:00 AM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 8:15 AM SPD Ride Along
 8:30 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 9:00 AM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 9:30 AM National Night Out 2024
 10:00 AM Art Beat 2024
 11:00 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 1:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol 7-18-24
 1:30 PM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 3:00 PM Porchfest 2024
 4:00 PM SomerViva em Português - COA
 4:30 PM Driver's License Info Session em Português
 6:00 PM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 6:30 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
 7:30 PM National Night Out 2024
 8:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 8:30 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 9:00 PM Art Beat 2024
 10:00 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 11:00 PM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 11:30 PM SomerViva em Português - COA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

12:00 AM Porchfest 2024
 1:00 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 1:30 AM Juneteenth Ceremony 2024
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I
 7:35 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 8:00 AM City Council Meeting 7-11-24
 10:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 11:00 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 11:30 AM SomerViva em Português - COA
 12:00 PM Driver's License Info Session em Português
 1:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 2:00 PM City Council Meeting 7-11-24
 4:30 PM Congressional Update
 5:00 PM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24

5:30 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
 6:30 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 7:30 PM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
 9:00 PM National Night Out 2024
 9:30 PM Porchfest 2024
 10:30 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 11:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

12:00 AM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 12:35 AM Special City Council Meeting 6-20-24
 7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 7:30 AM Art Beat 2024
 8:30 AM Congressional Update
 9:00 AM SomerViva em Português
 9:30 AM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 10:30 AM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 11:00 AM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 PM National Night Out 8-6-24
 1:00 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 2:00 PM Finance Committee of the Whole 6-18-24
 5:30 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 6:00 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 7:30 PM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 8:00 PM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 9:00 PM National Night Out 2024
 9:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah

MONDAY, AUGUST 19

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 AM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 1:30 AM Art Beat 2024
 2:30 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 7:00 AM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 8:00 AM Congressional Update
 8:30 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 9:00 AM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 9:35 AM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting

10:00 AM SomerViva em Português
 10:30 AM Driver's License Info Session em Português
 12:00 PM City Council Meeting 7-11-24
 2:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 3:00 PM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 3:30 PM National Night Out 2024
 4:00 PM SPSPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 5:00 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 5:30 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 6:00 PM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 7:00 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 8:00 PM Juneteenth Ceremony 2024
 8:40 PM National Night Out 2024
 9:00 PM SomerViva em Português
 9:30 PM Driver's License Info Session em Português
 11:00 PM Porchfest 2024

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

12:00 AM School Committee Meeting 6-17-24
 2:30 AM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 7:00 AM Congressional Update
 7:30 AM Museo Inmigrante: What Being an Immigrant Means to Me
 9:00 AM SomerViva em Português
 9:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 10:00 AM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 11:00 AM Art Beat 2024
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 1:00 PM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 2:00 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 3:00 PM City Council Meeting 7-11-24
 5:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 6:00 PM Congressional Update
 6:30 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 8:03 PM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 9:30 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 10:00 PM Art Beat 2024
 11:00 PM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 11:35 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

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
 3:32 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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

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
 5:29 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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

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
 3:02 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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

1:02 AM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 2:15 AM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 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

5:31 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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 19

1:00 AM Brown School Moving Forward
 2:00 AM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
 3:00 AM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 4:00 AM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 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 SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
 11:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

12:00 AM SHS Graduation 2024
 1:30 AM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 3:00 AM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

12:00 AM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 12:30 AM School Committee Meeting 6-17-24

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.

Shelter Crisis



By State Senator Pat Jehlen

Probably the most urgent issue in our state is the cost of housing. It's a big part of the reason shelters are full and the state is limiting access. I'll write about lots of end-of-session news soon.

NEW OVERFLOW SHELTER POLICY



Thursday I joined people protesting the eviction of people from the overflow shelters starting today. The Globe [1], Herald [2], and WGBH [3] were among media outlets covering the vigil. Speakers included Kelly Turley, of Somerville, Associate Director of Mass. Coalition for the Homeless; and Dr. Lara Jimanus of Medford, who brought a letter from health professionals and others about the dangers to children.

EMERGENCY SHELTER PRIORITY LIST

- ▶ No-fault eviction
- ▶ Sudden circumstances like flood or fire
- ▶ Veterans
- ▶ Significant medical needs
- ▶ Newborn children
- ▶ Risk of domestic violence

The new policy limits migrant families to five days in the overflow shelters, although a change allows them to receive up to 30 days extension depending on their circumstances. (Channel 5 [4] graphic on right shows some priorities. The governor may have modified the policy based on earlier protests, including letters from city councilors [5] in Boston, Chelsea and Worcester, as well as individual councilors Judy Pineda Neufeld of Somerville and Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler of Cambridge.

Under the new policy, families newly applying for shelter will have to choose. If they stay 5 days in a temporary overflow shelter, they become ineligible for Emergency Assistance shelter for 6 months. Or they can remain on the EA waiting list even if they have nowhere else to go, and hope to get into an EA shelter in less than 6 months.

Here [6] is a comprehensive fact sheet on the new policy, including its rationale, and priorities for placement.

The Globe reported [7] Saturday that 57 families had been told to leave Friday, but only 11 had actually left. The Globe learned that the only family that left the Cambridge overflow shelter had headed to Springfield. WGBH [8]

had more on that story, including that some families are awaiting enrollment in HomeBASE [9], which is open to qualifying Massachusetts resident families.

The state is offering "intensive case management" to those being asked to leave. But it takes much longer than that to find permanent housing. The governor recently limited stays in Emergency Assistance shelters to 9 months. Until then, the average stay in a homeless shelter [10] has been almost a year, while families search for housing they can afford. Getting a job takes a lot of time, too, even for those with English skills and recent resumes - and many jobs don't pay enough for rent, let alone first, last, and security deposit.

WHO'S UNHOUSED? NOT JUST MIGRANTS

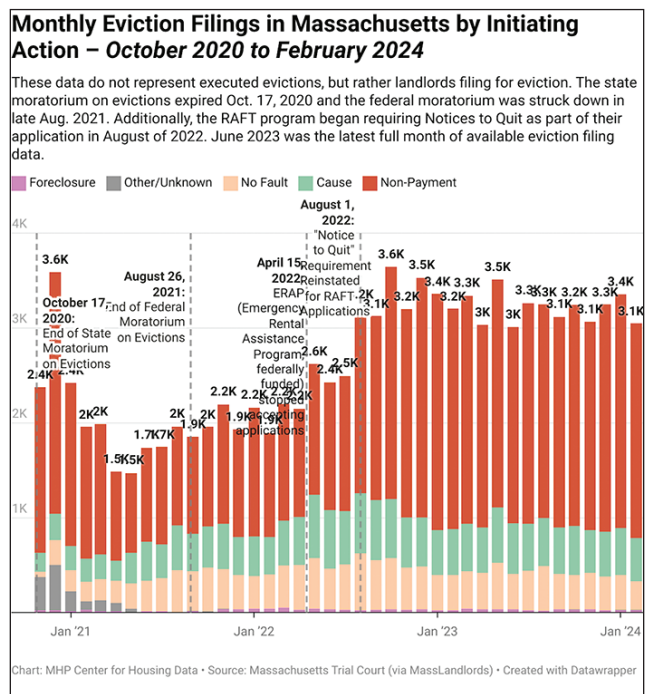
Discussion of the shelter problem has centered largely on the newly-arrived immigrant families. Immigration policy is a federal issue, and the governor has asked the federal government to help with shelter costs.

But half of the families in Emergency Assistance shelters are displaced Massachusetts residents [11]

We can do more to keep people in their homes! It costs a lot less, in money and trauma, than helping after people lose their homes.

We all agree we need more housing. But we need policies and funds that help **right now!** People are being displaced every day.

The Housing Bond bill [12] just passed includes a pilot program for foreclosure mediation [13]. Mediation and flexible local funds can help prevent homeowners from being displaced.

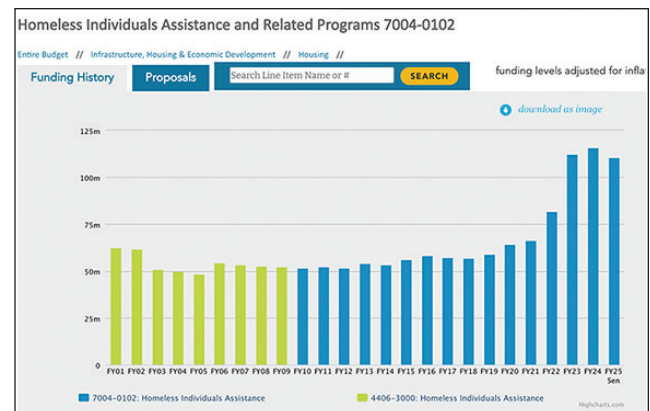


We need measures to keep renters housed too. **Right-to-counsel** in eviction cases could help. Since 2022, there have been more than 3000 eviction proceedings filed every month in Massachusetts, more than before the pandemic. (graph from Mass. Housing Partnership [15]). Not all these people are eventually evicted. And many people leave through "informal eviction" be-

cause a landlord raises their rent by hundreds of dollars.

Several communities have asked the legislature to allow them to adopt policies that could help: **Right of First Refusal (or Tenant Opportunity to Purchase), rent stabilization, and Transfer Fees.**

WHO'S UNHOUSED? NOT JUST FAMILIES



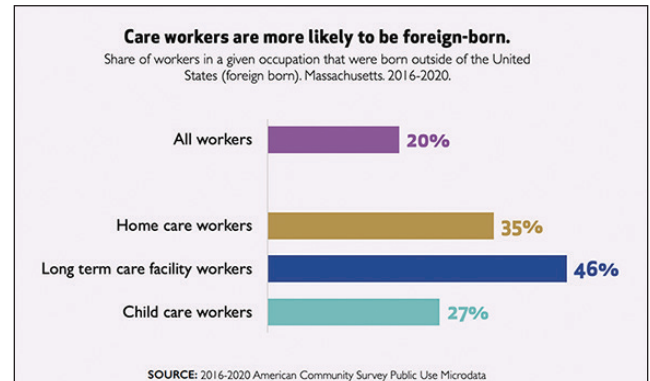
There is also a surge in the number of unhoused individuals [16]. Despite the increased spending on individual shelters (graph from MassBudget) [17], we have more people living on the street under bridges, and in cars.

The Herald [18] is one of the few to note that "survey data shows that 30% of unhoused adults at emergency shelters and day programs in Boston are **55 and over.**" I met some of them this winter at Somerville's overnight warming center.

I was glad that the final FY 2025 budget [19] included my amendment for **\$100,000 for a Somerville pilot program for bridge subsidies** for people awaiting permanent affordable housing.

Boston's annual homeless census [20] shows historic trends in the number of unhoused people in Boston, including those in shelter, since 2008.

WE NEED IMMIGRANTS



There is a severe shortage of care workers in nursing homes, home care, and child care. The Boston Foundation report, Carework in Massachusetts [21], shows that immigrants are a disproportionate share of care workers.

Undocumented immigrants - who are not eligible for shelter - play an important role in the US economy, according to Mother Jones [22].

HOW TO HELP

I asked one of our neighbors who is housing Haitian immigrants how he got involved. He *Continued on page 17*

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.

I have lived in Davis Square since 2011. Davis Square is filthy and the problem gets worse annually.

The Davis Square area is the home base for several unhoused people. I believe that if we appropriately incentivize a few of Davis' unhoused population, we can clean-up Davis Square. If this experiment works, it could have ramifications beyond Davis Square.

Proposal: Keep Davis Square Clean Campaign

The Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC) would manage this experiment. They would select two unhoused individuals who spend most of their time in Davis

Square to participate.

The selected participants would agree to expeditiously collect and properly dispose of litter in Davis Square.

Collectively the businesses of Davis Square would voluntarily agree to donate \$3,000 to fund the Keep Davis Square Clean Campaign. A participating business which has a direct line of sight view of Davis Square would compile a daily assessment of the area's cleanliness: clean, acceptably clean, or unacceptably littered and give this assessment to the SHC once a week.

If the business assessment is "clean" or "acceptably clean," then the SHC would

distribute a week's worth of dated food coupons to the two participants. Each coupon could be redeemed on the coupon's date at one of the participating businesses for up to \$15 worth of food or a takeout meal. If the business assessment is "unacceptably littered" the SHC would talk to the two participants and determine if they want to continue to participate in this experiment. If not, the SHC would attempt to replace those participants.

Participating businesses that return the dated coupons to SHC in a timely manner would be reimbursed from the Keep Davis Square Clean Campaign.

After three months, all stakeholders would meet to assess the success and the future of this endeavor. Any remaining funds in the Keep Davis Square Clean Campaign would be redistributed among the participating businesses.

Though challenges are inevitable, I am confident that through collaboration and goodwill, we can transform Davis Square into a cleaner, more welcoming place for everyone, with minimal cost to anyone involved.

Hayward Zwerling
Somerville

Shelter Crisis CONT. FROM PG 16

explained that the Brazilian Workers Center [23] has a state contract to coordinate homestays for migrants, among other services. He suggests calling them at 617-852-8254 or email emergency@braziliancenter.org. He also recommends donations, particularly to IFSI--Immigrant Family Services Institute. <https://www.ifsi-usa.org/> [24]

SONG OF THE WEEK:



Deportee by Woody Guthrie [25] in 1948. It's worth watching John McCutcheon's 2016 story [26] of why Guthrie wrote it, and recent events to remember those deportees. It's not the same situation. But

the anonymity of immigrants is the same.

ANOTHER CORRECTION

Our soup/salad party on September 14 is at **CAMBRIDGE Cohousing**, 175 Richdale St. in Cambridge.

POEM OF THE WEEK:

Home [27], by Warshan Shire. Thanks to Bob Fitzpatrick, who invited me to an event where I heard this memorable poem by a Somali immigrant from Kenya living in London, where she was named the junior poet laureate.

Here are just the first lines, but please read the whole poem:

no one leaves home unless
home is the mouth of a shark
you only run for the border
when you see the whole city running as well
your neighbors running faster than you
breath bloody in their throats
the boy you went to school with
who kissed you dizzy behind the old tin factory
is holding a gun bigger than his body
you only leave home when home won't let you stay.

no one leaves home unless home chases you.....
Feel free to share your thoughts.

Links:

- [1] https://www.bostonglobe.com/2024/08/09/metro/massachusetts-migrants-shelter-limits-evictions/?p1=BGSearch_Overlay_Results
- [2] <https://www.bostonherald.com/2024/08/08/as-5-day-overflow-shelter-limit-pushes-families-out-advocates-make-final-push-to-stop-policy/>
- [3] <https://www.wgbh.org/news/local/2024-08-08/as-eviction-deadline-looms-housing-advocates-urge-healey-to-reverse-five-day-shelter-policy>
- [4] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gdd49K_i7HU
- [5] <https://patch.com/massachusetts/worcester/worcester-boston-councilors-ask-gov-healey-end-new-shelter-limits>
- [6] <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.mass.gov/doc/ea-family-shelter-fact-sheet-faq/download>
- [7] https://www.bostonglobe.com/2024/08/09/metro/migrant-shelter-evictions-boston-healey/?p1=Article_Feed_ContentQuery_Test&p1=Article_Feed_ContentQuery_Test
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Somerville voting information for State of Massachusetts Primary Elections

On Tuesday, September 3, 2024 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will hold its State Primary Elections.

The offices on the ballot for this election include:

- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Representative
- Governor's Councillor
- State Senator
- State Representative
- Register of Deeds
- Clerk of Courts

The primary election is open to all registered voters in Somerville. Somerville voters can vote early in person or by mail or on Election Day.

Register to Vote by Saturday, August 24

You can register one of three ways:

- Online at somervillema.gov/registertovote
- In-person at Somerville City

Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

• Via phone by calling the Elections Department (617-625-6600 ext. 4200) and requesting a voter registration form. Or by calling 311 (617-666-3311) and they will connect you to Elections.

The registration deadline is Saturday August 24, at midnight online or in person by 5:00 p.m. You also may mail in your form, but it must be postmarked by August 24.

Vote Early at City Hall, August 24 – 30

Vote early in the lower level of City Hall from Saturday, August 24, through Friday, August 30.

The schedule is as follows:

- August 24 – Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- August 25 – Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- August 26 – Monday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• August 27 – Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• August 28 – Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• August 29 – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

• August 30 – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

How to Vote by Mail

Applications to vote by mail must be received by 5 p.m. (not postmarked) by Monday, August 26

Download an application or fill it out online at somervillema.gov/votbymail, pick one up in the Elections office at City Hall, or request one be mailed to you by calling Elections at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200. Ballots must be received by 8 p.m., Tuesday, September 3.

Eligible voters who submit valid applications will receive their ballot in the mail. Ballots must

be completed, signed, sealed, and received by the City no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 3. Voters can check the status of their ballot on the state's website.

How to return your application and ballot:

Drop boxes: Leave it in a drop box at one of the following locations:

- City Hall concourse, 93 Highland Ave.
- East Somerville Community School, across from 68 Glen St.
- In front of the Argenziano School, 290 Washington St.
- In front of the Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave.
- In front of the Igreja Presbiteriana De Boston Church, 212 School St.
- In front of Saint Catherine of Genoa Church parking lot, 182 Summer St.

• In front of the Armory, 191 Highland Ave.

• In front of Dilboyl Post, 351 Summer St.

• In front of the Tufts Administrative Building, 167 Holland St.

• In front of the West Somerville Neighborhood School at 177 Powder House Blvd.

• Elections office: Return directly to the Elections Department at City Hall

• Mail: Send to the Elections Department, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143

• Email or fax (for applications only): Completed applications can be emailed to vote@somervillema.gov or faxed to 617-625-5643. Ballots cannot be returned by email or fax.

For all information about voting in Somerville, go to somervillema.gov/elections.

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

PARENTAGE EQUALITY (S 2906) – Gov. Healey signed into law legislation changing how a family is defined in state law.

Supporters said the new law would ensure legal parentage equality by protecting LGBTQ+ families, and children born through surrogacy and assisted reproduction, in forming the legal bond of a parent-child relationship. They said the measure would dismantle archaic legal barriers to basic parenting responsibilities for modern families, opening the door to legally attend and make decisions during medical appointments, manage a child's finances, participate in educational decisions and provide authorizations for a child's travel.

"Our laws need to reflect the realities of modern families and the loving environments where children grow and flourish," Gov. Healey said. "This moment is a victory for all families in Massachusetts who deserve to be treated with dignity and to have their rights recognized and protected under the law."

PROTECT FIREFIGHTERS (S 2902) – The House and Senate approved and sent to Gov. Healey a measure

that would require a manufacturer or person that sells Firefighting Personal Protective Equipment to any person or government agency, to provide, beginning January 1, 2025, written notice to the buyer, at the time of sale, if the equipment contains toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance chemicals, known as PFAS. The seller would also have to provide the reason the chemicals were added to the equipment. Beginning on January 1, 2027, the bill prohibits any person from manufacturing, knowingly selling or distributing any equipment containing intentionally added PFAS chemicals.

"My office originally filed this bill in 2019 in collaboration with The Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts (PFFM) and Clean Water Action," said lead sponsor Rep. Jim Hawkins (D-Attleboro). "With each legislative session, we refiled, improved upon the language and aided in the unwavering dedication of PFFM as they advocated tirelessly for their members ... Despite improvements in cancer care, our firefighters are still becoming sick and dying from occupational cancers at a rate more than twice the general population. It is our duty to protect those who protect us. I am proud to have played a part in this momentous passing."

"Ask anyone how the majority of firefighter line-of-duty deaths occur — most will probably guess smoke inhalation or on-call injury," said Sen. Mike Moore (D-Millbury). "The shocking truth is that, from 2002 to 2019, cancer accounted for 66 percent of firefighter deaths, ac-

cording to the International Association of Firefighters. PFAS exposure from firefighting equipment is a crisis for firefighters and the communities they serve."

"This is great news," said Deirdre Cummings, MASS-PIRG's Legislative director. "Firefighters put their lives on the line to protect us in an emergency, and we must make sure the gear they wear will protect them."

VETERANS BENEFITS (S 2817) – Gov. Healey signed into law legislation designed to benefit veterans in the Bay State by broadening the definition of a veteran, increasing tax credits and state benefits for which they are eligible and modernizing the services on which they rely.

Provisions include increasing benefits for disabled veterans and Gold Star family members; bolstering new and existing initiatives for municipalities and businesses to support veterans; creating comprehensive services for active-duty service members and military families; expanding the scope of the Veterans Equality Review Board; and codifying medical, behavioral health and dental benefits.

The measure also requires several working groups to review post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans, mental health treatments for veterans and overall quality of life for veterans in Massachusetts.

Supporters said the legislation will boost support for hundreds of thousands of individuals across *Continued on page 19*

Tips to help prevent West Nile Virus as first human case confirmed in Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has announced the first positive human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) and first animal case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in the state. Somerville and some surrounding communities are considered to be at moderate risk for WNV.

While WNV and EEE can infect people of all ages, people over 50 are at higher risk for severe WNV, and people under 15 are particularly vulnerable to EEE. WNV and EEE symptoms tend to include fever and flu-like illness.

DPH recommends the following precautions to protect against mosquito bites and mosquito-borne diseases:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

Apply insect repellent when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol, (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under 2 months old and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under 3 years old. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets, and camping gear and should not be applied to the skin.

Clothing can help reduce mosquito bites. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long sleeves, long pants, and socks outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Be aware of peak mosquito hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. When risk increases, consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during the evening or early morning. If you are outdoors and notice mosquitoes around you, take steps to avoid being bitten by moving indoors, covering up, and/or wearing repellent.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

Drain standing water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding items holding water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools, and frequently change the water in birdbaths.

Install or repair screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly-fitting screens on your windows and doors.

Protect Your Animals

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. 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 more information, go to mass.gov/dph/mosquito or call the Massachusetts DPH Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800.



Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 18

the state who have served in the United States military, including nearly 30,000 women veterans and thousands of LGBTQ+ veterans.

“This is our most comprehensive veterans legislation in over 20 years, and it’s the result of Massachusetts coming together to make veterans our priority,” said Gov. Healey. “From the start, our administration has been dedicated to revitalizing veterans’ services in Massachusetts, ensuring that every hero receives the benefits, resources and support they deserve. As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country – we can and will be the state where veterans and service members continue to lead and make all our freedom and success possible.”

“Massachusetts has a long history of prioritizing the needs of our veterans and service members and I am thrilled that the [bill] is on its way to the governor’s desk to continue this tradition,” said Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield), Senate chair of the Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. “Less

than one half of one percent of our nation bravely raise their right hand and pledge to defend our nation no matter the costs. We must always remember, recognize and honor these sacrifices however we can, and passage of this legislation is an important step toward fulfilling that mission.”

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 of August 5-9, the House met for a total of one hour and two minutes and the Senate met for a total of 55 minutes.

Mon. August 5	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:13 a.m. Senate 11:06 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.
Tues. August 6	No House session No Senate session
Wed. August 7	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. August 8	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:52 a.m. Senate 11:08 a.m. to 11:49 a.m.
Fri. August 9	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

POP Presents: Boston Punk Rock Trivia



On Sunday, August 18, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., join Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., for POP Presents: Boston Punk Rock Trivia. So you think you know something about Boston Punk Rock? Prove it!

Boston Punk Rock Trivia 2024 is an afternoon of trivia, prizes, live music, all for a good cause. Tickets and more info available here: <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/boston-punk-rock-trivia-2024/>

Boston Punk Rock Trivia 2024 – Cheddar Up
Register as a team of 2-4 people or as an individual player and enjoy:
First prize is a cash payout of \$200 sponsored.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Noonday shadows...

— Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



How does NASA organize a party?
They planet.

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

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

On This Day in History

August 14

- 1559 – Spanish explorer Tristan de Luna enters Pensacola Bay, Florida.
- 1605 – The Popham expedition reaches the Sagadahoc River in present-day Maine and settles there.
- 1756 – French commander Louis Montcalm takes Fort Oswego, New England, from the British.
- 1917 – The Chinese Parliament declares war on the Central Powers.
- 1942 – Dwight D. Eisenhower is named the Anglo-American commander for Operation Torch, the invasion of North Africa.
- 1945 – Japan announces its unconditional surrender in World War II.
- 1969 – British troops arrived Northern Ireland in response to sectarian violence between Protestants and Roman Catholics.
- 1973 – The United States ends the "secret" bombing of Cambodia.
- 1995 – Shannon Faulker becomes the first female cadet in the long history of South Carolina's state military college, The Citadel.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

rappers, singers, spoken word poets, dancers, and visual artists from the Somerville community and surrounding cities. This showcase of hip hop music, dance and culture displays immense creativity throughout the region. There will also be live art, interactive activities, craft vendors and local community groups.

Upcoming events at the at the **Somerville Community Growing Center**, 22 Vinal Ave.: **Sunday, August 18**, 3:00-4:00 p.m. character reenactor **Jessa Piaia** will present a dramatic portrayal of **Isabella Stewart Gardner** (1840-1924) focused on her passion for horticulture. A first-person narrative will delve into her role as an early advocate of community gardening, bringing to life her commitment to the spiritual dimension of gardening. More info at www.womeninhistoryprograms.com/gardner. **Herb of the Month with Mo Katz-Christy**: Marshmallow, **Sunday, August 18**, 4:00-5:30 p.m. Spend the afternoon getting deeply acquainted with one medicinal plant each month. Bring your journal and leave with an in-depth account of botany, history, clinical use, safety, preparation and dosage, and much more. Explore a different herb each month as part of our **Community Herb Project**. Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Somerville Flea is back 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**.

Stop by the library for some sweet summer poetry. The **Somerville Public Library** will be hosting an open mic night in the **Central Library Auditorium**, 79 Highland Ave. You're welcome to bring and read your own poetry or a work by another poet. Registration is encouraged visit somervillepubliclibrary.org.

Somergloom is back for the 4th year, bigger and gloomier than ever. **August 23 and 24** at **Arts at The Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. Somerville. Bands are coming from North and South, plus with heavy hitting local talent and art vendors. For tickets and more information visit artsatthearmory.org.

The **Gilman Pop-Up Park** is an outdoor public space and is accessible between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. every day. **Through September 8**, 350 Medford St., Somerville. Use it like you would any other public park. During select hours, they have events, entertainment, and games. For a list of events visit <https://culture-house.cc/projects/gilman-park/>.

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>.

Foodie Crawl 2024 is back and better than ever. On **Tuesday, September 17**, **East Somerville Main Streets** invites you to **Broadway** to embark on a culinary journey around the world. They will highlight tastes from El Salvador, Brazil, Italy, France, Mexico, Portugal and more. For tickets and more information visit <https://www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/event-details/foodie-crawl-2024>.

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 **Somerville Arts Council** is issuing an open call to artists working in various genres for this year's **Ignite Festival**, an evening celebration of global culture and all things illuminated. They are seeking proposals for: cultural performances, roaming performers and light installations/performances. Submit your proposal by filling out the application form: <https://beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/ignite-calls-2024> Application deadline:

August 23.

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.

The **City of Somerville** is currently seeking two general public volunteer members for the **Community Preservation Committee (CPC)**. All Somerville residents are welcome to apply. The CPC identifies funding priorities for approximately \$3 million per year in affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space projects through **Community Preservation Act (CPA)** revenues. Interested residents can apply by completing the online application form by 4:00 p.m. on **Friday, August 30**. For questions, please contact **Roberta Cameron** at rcameron@somervillema.gov. To learn more about the Community Preservation Committee, please visit somervillema.gov/cpa.

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**.

Join **Femmechanics** from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on **August 21** for "**grrrease-time**" Night at **The Dojo** at **Somerville**. Femmechanics is a group of FTW (femme/trans/women/non-binary) people who bike in the Boston area. Join Femmechanics for an open shop time, called Grrrease Time, where you can come learn more about working on your bike and help others do the same. This space is open to everyone who identifies as femme and/or trans and/or women and/or non-binary, not just feminine of center folks. Located at **The Dojo**, 15 Properzi Way, Somerville.

Somerville Public Schools 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>.

Visit the **Somerville Bike Kitchen**, a volunteer-run bicycle repair cooperative, hosting 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 15, 20, 22**. **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 @ Somerville** and connect with fellow community members in the process. Upcoming **Teen Jams August 15** and **August 22**.

The city's annual **SomerMovie Fest** is returning with a lineup of six family-friendly films to be shown in parks around Somerville. Watch **The Outsiders** this **Thursday, August 15**, 7:45 p.m. 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**, 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, 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.

Train to become a **Somerville Public Schools paraprofessional**. **SCALE** (adult learning department) is offering a free Para Educator training course. **SCALE** is hosting information sessions on **August 20**. Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/232615165718054>.

Join the **SPL** and the **Tewksbury Public Library** for a virtual conversation with author **Sharon Kitchens**, who will discuss her new book, **Stephen King's Maine: A History & Guide**. Explore Maine locations that serve as the basis for Stephen King's fictional towns of Castle Rock, Jerusalem's Lot, Derry, and Haven, drawing on historical materials and conversations with locals and people who know King. **August 20**, 7:00 p.m. *Continued on page 23*



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Sam Cornish and the New England Book Fair

Essay by Thomas Lyons

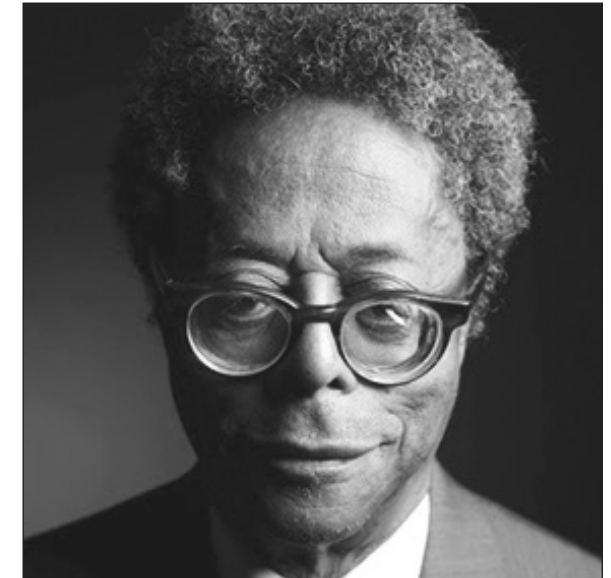
I was at a reading recently at the Friends Meeting House in Cambridge, where I ran into Tom Lyons, the former owner of the iconic bookstore the: New England Book Fair. I have known Tom for years, and I remember he told me the late Boston Poet Laureate Sam Cornish used to work for him at his store. On Sunday August 11, 2024 at 3PM, the New England Poetry Club and the Longfellow House presented the Sam Cornish Award to poet Gloria Mindock – the founder of the Cervena Barva Press. The reading was on the lawn of the Longfellow House, on Brattle St. in Cambridge, Mass. I asked Tom to write about his experiences with Cornish, and he generously penned this small essay.

— Doug Holder

I met Sam when I bought the New England Mobile Book Fair in 2011. He worked there a few days a week, one of only two people in the remainders area which covered a third of the store. I quickly learned that Sam seemed to know where every one of the thousands and thousands of books were.

As I got better acquainted with Sam, I found out that he was a poet. No, he was more than that, he was a 'poets' poet. He wrote 6 or 7 books of poetry and was Boston's first Poet Laureate. When I started to bring in authors to the book fair, Sam brought in poets. Good Poets. As I sat and listened to the various poets he brought in to read, it got me interested in writing poetry again, as I had in my early 20's. I started writing again, but with Sam's guidance. He told me I was an image poet. I had no idea that there was such a thing. Sam worked with me a lot. He didn't need to, but he felt that I had something worth developing. The more I wrote, the more he encouraged me. The day he told me that I was a good poet, I was surprised and delighted. And if never have anyone mention a good word about my poems it won't matter. I was acknowledged by the master.

wired line that ran
into the box with innards
of induction coils,
an impedance transformer or something
that digested the dial
to drring drring drring...
Most always, at least as I was
growing up, you were purposed
with a conversant on the other end.



The store began to have robust readings from many authors, including a number of poets who would read and then Sam would allow open mike for anyone who wanted to read one of their own, encouraging all who took part.

Sam came into my office one January day and told me he was putting together a poetry night for Black History Month. He said "Tom, I want you to write a poem to read at the event." I was of course taken aback. I looked at him and said something along the lines of "Sam, maybe you haven't noticed but I'm not black, nor do I pretend to understand the underlying culture of the black community."

He looked at me for a moment, smiled and said, "You'll figure it out." And with that he walked out. I probably sat there with my mouth hanging open. To say the least I was perplexed and somewhat anxious. I didn't want to disappoint him, given all the help and praise I got from his tutelage. But I had no idea of what I could do. I was in a quandary for days. I remembered Sam telling me once to write what I know (somewhat of a cliché), but also write what I can imagine. Create, and draw from. So, I wrote the poem *Generation Gap* that is in my book *Luna Moth*. It is about the prejudices

Continued on page 23

Now you are some netted
sea creature, were I to slice open
I could not begin to explain,
fuller of the facts
than Grace Hopper, even if
you insist on spelling triolet triplet.
Even if you are more apt now for a look up
than an evening-long friendly drone.

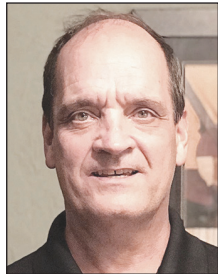
— Michael Todd Steffen

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Michael Todd Steffen is the recipient of a Rotary International Fellowship, a Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship, and an Ibbetson Street Press Poetry Award. His writing has appeared in journals including *The Boston Globe*, *Taos Journal*, *E-Verse Radio*, *The Lyric*, *The Dark Horse*, and *North of Oxford*. Of his second book of poems, *On Earth As It Is*, available from Cervena Barva Press, Joan Houlihan has noted the poet's intimate portraits, sense of history, surprising wit and the play of dark and light ... the striking combination of the everyday and the transcendent.



Doctor's Hand

Wary of anything prescribed—
not every line of writing is legible.
You don't have the beam to scan its code,
fragment of choppy sea, scrawl of a graph
that would appall the English teacher
admonishing us to keep the toes of our letters
on the blue line, dot our i's
and mind our p's. The script for all
I can make out is for rat poison—
confirmed by the pharmacist's shrug and easy
grasp of the formula's terms.
Powdered into the capsule
I orbit in, it is to right
the chemical imbalance in my brain
whose acronymic syndrome I keep muddling—
puzzling... forgetting—aptly symptomatic
after all. You're only human. We're here
to make you better. So down the hatch,
patient awaiting grace of shadow falling
between the signifier and the signified.
You were a bird,
you were a vine.
String with two cups to the complicated

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

on Zoom. Register here for this event: <https://tinyurl.com/3jf99cf4>.

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.

Don't miss the **Somerville Public Schools Get Ready for School Fair** for families with children going into grades PK-12. **Tuesday, August 20**, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at **Somerville High School**, 81 Highland Ave.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the **Council on Aging** invite you to the annual **Senior Picnic** on **Thursday, September 12**, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at **Trum Field**, 541 Broadway in Somerville. Please call **Connie Lorenti** at the Council on Aging, 617-625-6600 ext. 2319 for your free ticket. There is limited transportation available - please request transportation **prior to September 5**.

Join **Union Square Main Streets** and **50+ of your favorite local food producers** for the **20th Annual Union Square Farmers Market**, 6670 Union Square. Shop local on **Saturdays through October 26**, except September 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the Union Square Plaza. The market provides visitors and residents with top-quality, fresh, and local produce at fair prices; encourages active lifestyle values; educates consumers

about farming and locally sourced foods; and gives customers opportunities to interact directly with farmers. For more information about the Union Square Farmers Market, visit unionsquaremain.org/2024fmseason. SNAP customers get \$1 for \$1 match up to \$15. See the Market Manager tent for more info.

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

The **Somerville Mobile Farmers Market** opened for the season on Thursday, July 11, selling fresh, local produce through October 26. The mobile market accepts cash, debit cards, SNAP, Fresh Connect, WIC Farmers Market Coupons, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons. All are welcome. Find the Mobile Farmers Market at the following locations: **Thursdays**: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., **Clarendon Hill Towers** (1372 Broadway), **Fridays**: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., **Council on Aging** (167 Holland St.), 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., **East Branch Library** (115 Broadway), **Saturdays**: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., **Mystic Housing Development** (25 Memorial Rd.).

The **COA** is offering **free taxi rides** to Somerville residents over the age of 60.

Rides are available to go to the grocery store, farmer's market, and pharmacy in Somerville and routine medical appointments in the surrounding communities. To best accommodate the needs of everyone in the city and to maximize the use of our funding, they will be capping the number of rides per week. To ensure the health and welfare of every resident of Somerville, exemptions will be made for chemotherapy and radiation appointments. To find out more information or to schedule your ride, please call **Connie Lorenti** at 6176256600 ext. 2319. All rides must be booked two business days in advance. This program is funded through **ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding**.

Through the generosity of the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**, and from the direction of **Mayor Ballantyne**, the **Council on Aging** is now able to provide **Durable Medical Equipment** at no cost to Somerville residents. Residents with a documented need for medical equipment must be over the age of 60, or have a permanent disability, and must be otherwise unable to afford or access needed medical equipment. They currently have available: Commodes, Bath Chairs, Bath Benches, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies and Transport Wheelchairs (wheelchairs are intended for transport and are not self-propelling or self-breaking.) For additional information, or for an application, please contact **Debby Higgins** at 6176256600, ext. 2321.

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

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

my parents went through, my father Irish and my mother first generation Italian. I read it that night with some trepidation. I finished and there was a smattering of applause.

I looked at Sam, and he smiled and gave the slighted nod. That told me that I had figured it out. Yes. Sam Cornish was a master poet, and became a

good friend. I miss him, and yet I celebrate him with every poem I write.

— Thomas Lyons

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