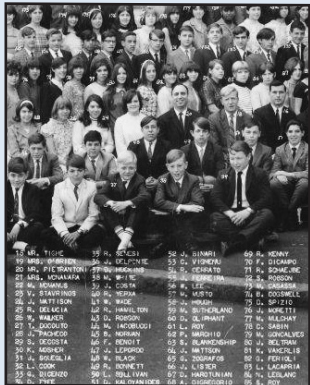




Inside:



First day of (old) school page 3



Crawling to good vibes bakery page 5



Gloria Mindock awarded page 23

Somerville names Shumeane Benford as new Police Chief



Boston Housing Authority Police Chief and Boston Chief of Emergency Management Shumeane Benford has been chosen as the new Somerville Police Chief.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne has announced the selection of Boston's Shumeane Benford as the City of Somerville's new police chief. After a thorough community-driven, nationwide search, Benford will assume leadership of the Somerville Police Department on September 16. The 30-year law enforcement veteran will be departing current dual roles as Boston Housing Authority Police Chief as well as Boston Chief of Emergency Management.

"Not only will our incoming chief bring a rare mix of law enforcement, emergency management, and teaching experience to the role, Benford is a change agent. He has been driving fiscal, operational, and community-driven reforms in Boston, along with advancing efforts to support staff morale and investment, transparency, and social equity especially for marginalized and disenfranchised" *Continued on page 4*

Somerville Homeless Coalition collects school supplies

By Cathleen Twardzik

It's that time of year again – time to start a new scholastic year. Sniff that new backpack smell, show up with that spiffy lunchbox, and jot notes down in that shiny and colorful notebook that you selected after you stepped with satisfaction into the school supply aisle of your local store or online go-to spot.

This year, some students' staple school "supply center" will be the Somerville Homeless Coalition, which is located at 255 Elm St., suite 204.

Right now, the coalition is holding a school supplies drive for all those back-to-school items, so ask your parents to donate some school supplies (or use your allowance money) to make all the kids' days – so they can feel the way you do when you're in your favorite store.

Continued on page 4



The Somerville Homeless Coalition is currently holding a school supplies drive for back-to-school items for Somerville students.

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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.

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 mattforward1@gmail.com or Sarah Lewis at slewis@somervillema.gov if you have difficulty accessing the virtual neighborhood meeting.

Register to Vote by Saturday, August 24. You can register one of three ways: Online at somervillema.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.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy Birthday to our own Bob "Monty" Doherty, who is celebrating this week. You can enjoy his historical columns in our paper every other week. We wish him the best. Happy birthday to State *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 August 21	Partly Cloudy	70°/55°	7%	4%	NW 10 mph
Thursday August 22	Sunny	74°/58°	22%	15%	W 9 mph
Friday August 23	Sunny	78°/61°	15%	11%	WNW 7 mph
Saturday August 24	Sunny	82°/63°	4%	2%	WSW 9 mph
Sunday August 25	Partly Cloudy	83°/65°	3%	1%	S 11 mph
Monday August 26	Partly Cloudy	85°/68°	3%	1%	SW 9 mph
Tuesday August 27	Sunny	84°/65°	5%	2%	SW 11 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: The Case for Market Rate Housing

Anon says:

What a surprise that the venture capitalist who fled Kendall square after the actions of venture capital ruined the neighborhood wants to do the same thing to Somerville. Personally, I think the opinion of someone whose VC fund is financing a company specializing in crowdfunding Fix and Flip real estate investing (one of the things driving up the rent, and which sounds suspiciously pyramid shaped) should be taken even less seriously than those of an anonymous internet commentor.

Katie A. says:

Not to defend a VC, but Kendall Square has been an industrial wasteland since forever. It was home to dozens of manufacturing plants and factories from the mid-19th century onward.

slaw says:

This is trickle down logic applied to housing. It won't work.

jorbis says:

These responses are caricatures of blue-state dysfunction. First we have some self-defeating identity-based attacks, then we have some mindless "blame capitalism" salad tossed into the mix. How on earth does the only solution to this problem get so much negativity? You need to build the houses. Somerville adds what, a few dozen "affordable" units per year? A nice kettle full of water to a nine-alarm fire.

Response to: Sam Cornish and the New England Book Fair

Kinsellajr says:

Sam was so unique and one of a kind. Quite possibly my favorite professor when I was in the writing program at Emerson in the 90s.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138



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Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

Editor – Jim Clark

Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner

Arts Editor – Doug Holder

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

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

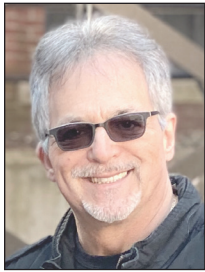
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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

The first day of (old) school



This article first ran in the August 31, 2013 edition of The Somerville Times.

My fear of the first day of school changed entering grade 9 in 1968. I was going to public junior high after eight years of parochial school. Let me elaborate a little. Eight years of bossy, grouchy, mean-spirited nuns. I still can't believe my parents paid good, hard-earned money to send their three kids to a place where they were berated, embarrassed and abused. I got off easy, but some of the poor kids may have been scarred for life.

Junior High School as a ninth grader in September of '68. Just the fact that I didn't have to wear a button-down shirt and a tie was awesome. Imagine, no more nuns! It was like freeing a caged animal. Of course, there was the matter of the bully that made my life miserable for a while. Not only did I have to fear him at school, but he actually lived on my street! As soon as I made some pals that were around 6 feet tall and 250 pounds, the bullying stopped. But I'll never forget the heartache that guy put me through.

Some of my fellow student's fears were that they wouldn't be wearing cool enough clothes. I can relate to that. We had to wear what our parents bought us. Instead of "pegged pants" and

Continued on page 10



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Somerville Police Dept Crime Log August 6 – 12

Assault

24048860: On 8/12/24 at approximately 8:54 p.m., Somerville Police responded to 115 Broadway for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was assaulted nearby but would not provide any further information. The victim had injuries to his stomach, fingers and elbow.

Assault

24048684: On 8/12/24 at approximately 2:55 a.m., Somerville Police were flagged down on College Ave. for a female party in distress. She stated that she was approached by another female near the Davis Sq train station and was sprayed with mace.

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

— Somerville Police Department



Somerville names Shumeane Benford as new Police Chief CONT. FROM PG 1

communities,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “We look forward to his deep experience, vision, and love of community undergirding our daily work to keep Somerville safe as well as advancing our efforts to move our Public Safety for All goals forward.”

“I want to sincerely thank our entire Police Chief Search Committee, including At-Large Councilor Jake Wilson, for their diligence and commitment to the very serious responsibility of selecting a new chief for our community who brings both the deep professional chops and the community-centered approach to public safety that Somerville seeks,” added Ballantyne.

A lifelong Boston resident (aside from a brief residency in Somerville), Benford’s law enforcement career spans municipal, public health, and university settings. After starting as a police

officer for the Boston Housing Authority in 1994, he has steadily risen through Boston Police, City of Boston, and Boston Housing Authority ranks while also serving as an adjunct professor at Roxbury Community College. He has led reform and organizational change in a range of areas including overtime reduction; modernization to 21st century policing; restructuring; community-based partnerships, problem solving, and prevention; emergency management planning, response, and homeland security strategy; training reform; interdisciplinary law enforcement and medical response structures for unhoused, treatment, and pre-release residents; technology advances such as online incident reporting; fair and impartial policing; and pathways for growth and opportunity for vulnerable residents.

Benford holds a Master’s Degree in Political Science from Suffolk University, a B.A. in Criminal Justice from Curry College, and a range of additional certifications to include the Police Executive Research Form (PERF/SMIP), Harvard University’s National Preparedness Leadership Initiative (NPLI) and the Naval Post Graduate School, Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS). Learn more about incoming Chief Benford and watch his interview for the position on the City website at somervillema.gov/policechief. He looks forward to holding a range of meet and greet opportunities to connect with and get to know residents upon assuming his role in September.

“I was proud to serve as the City Council’s representative on the Police Chief Selection Committee. My fellow commit-

tee members and I took our responsibility to select finalists for this critical position extremely seriously,” said Councilor Jake Wilson. “From our very first meeting, every Committee member approached our work with a deep understanding of its importance. Thanks to their diligence and thoughtfulness, we were able to advance the search process swiftly for the community. I want to thank the members of the community who served with me, as well as our Human Resources and Racial and Social Justice departments for steering us through the process on a compressed timeline.”

Acting Police Chief Charles Femino, who assumed the role of Interim Chief during the peak of the pandemic in December 2020, will be departing the role for a long-delayed retirement from his distinguished career with

both the Somerville Police Department and Endicott College, where he also served as Chief of Police. Pandemic disruptions put a hold on the police search process, which was restarted with the hiring of national public-sector executive recruitment firm GovHR in spring 2023. For more on the search process, visit somervillema.gov/policechief.

“We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Chief Femino for stepping in when we needed him and for not just filling the role but for wholeheartedly working to advance the department, support our officers and community, and move forward our Public Safety for All efforts and goals for community change. We will separately honor his service, legacy, and departure, and I know he looks forward to welcoming his successor along with the rest of the community,” said Ballantyne.

Somerville Homeless Coalition collects school supplies CONT. FROM PG 1

So, what should you donate? Pens with blue or red ink and mechanical pencils are on the “most needed” list of items whereas pens with black ink, pencils and crayons are “not needed” The in-between list, which is entitled “needed” includes, colored pencils, laptops and lunch boxes. Atop the “most needed” list are the following items: backpacks, binders, binder dividers and binder paper. Additional items are listed on a page on their website: <https://somervillehomelesscoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/School-Supplies-Drive-Flyer.pdf>.

What is the most important goal or part of this program? “We started this drive two years ago when family clients’ from our Supportive Housing Program started asking for help with getting their kids’ school supplies before the start of the academic year. Over the last couple [of] years, we have continued to see a rising pattern in clients across our programs who need support in getting essential supplies for their kids so that they are fully prepared for the school year,” said Paul Murphy, Development and Communications Manager. He has been involved with the

Somerville Homeless Coalition for the past two and a half years.

Importantly, “This year marks the first time we launched the drive as its own event,” said Murphy.

Debuting in “the summer of 2022,” this event has run annually.

Somerville’s youth is in caring hands at the coalition. “The School Supplies Drive is currently the only youth-focused event/drive we host to support our student clients and their families,” he said.

How else does the coalition help? “We also support our

young adult clients in school by providing laptops and other needed items.”

In prior years, “25 to 30 young clients” have been assisted school supply-wise, according to Murphy.

Throughout their 2025 drive, there will be even more to look forward to. “Due to the positive responses, we are getting to this year’s drive, we plan to improve the drive next year with a heavier online marketing campaign to reach more people and gain more support,” he said.

The deadline for individuals to donate items is Monday, Au-

gust 26.

Why? “So that we can start distributing supplies to families ahead of the start of school,” said Murphy.

Their office on Elm Street is open from Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., but it is closed daily during lunch between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Please use the following email address if you have questions: pmurphy@shcinc.org.

It’s not quite time to hit the books, so make school supply donation part of your back-to-school schedule, and make some kids smile.

Good vibes French bakery participates in East Somerville Foodie Crawl

By Harry Kane

In the spirit of friendship, teamwork and mutual support among local restaurants in East Somerville, an annual fundraising event hopes to build camaraderie among businesses and bring new patrons to their establishments.

Foodie Crawl is East Somerville's tour du jour of ethnic eateries that gives folks an opportunity to find a new favorite restaurant and taste all that the neighborhood has to offer.

"Our extremely generous restaurant owners donate all of the food and create delicious dishes to make the night a true success," said Lindsay Allen, executive director of East Somerville Main Streets.

East Somerville Main Streets is a non-profit organization that aims to promote a vibrant and diverse commercial district by assisting local businesses and celebrating cultural heritage through community programs.

"With the purchase of a ticket, participants embark on a culinary journey around the world," Allen added. "We will highlight tastes from El Salvador, Brazil, Italy, France, Mexico, Haiti and more!"

Michette is one of the restaurants participating in the 13th annual Foodie Crawl on September 17, and like last year, the hope is to spread the word about the pastries, bread and good vibes.

The artisanal French bakery, located at 164 Broadway, offers baguettes, vanilla cream brioche, banana bread, almond croissants, canelés and so much more.

"We are a French bakery, but we are trying to bring out some fun and exciting flavors," said Thomas Ferté, 34, owner of the bakery.

It's a little out of the ordinary from a

traditional French bakery, Ferté says, but there's a range of products that you'd expect to find at a bakery in France.

He describes the menu as, "French with a twist."

One popular pastry is the almond croissant – a flaky, twice baked croissant filled with a homemade frangipane cream and topped with perfectly toasted almond slivers. This costs \$5.25.

Michette sells a canelé for just \$3, which is a traditional French pastry from Bordeaux. It has a crispy caramelized exterior and soft, custardy center infused with the flavors of vanilla and rum.

The breakfast focaccia is delicious, too! It is a bubbly focaccia loaded with egg, bacon, bechamel sauce, caramelized onions and gruyère cheese. That is \$6.50.

There are so many more delicious pastries and they offer specials on weekends.

Ferté is from a small village of 200 people called Vignely, about an hour east of Paris.

"We had this great bakery where I grew up, and I think that's where I really got my inspiration for the passion for bread and baking," Ferté recalls.

The name of the bakery was called, Au Blé d'Or, which translates to The Golden Wheat.

Ferté doesn't believe the bakery is there anymore, but still remembers it fondly.

Michette opened on June 9 of 2023.

When the bakery opened, business was a little slow. There was no marketing budget. Now, with word of mouth, business is good.

They provide catering for events like weddings, as well.

The name of the bakery is based on La miche, which means the round loaf.

"It is a very traditional, *Continued on page 12*



Michette restaurant will be participating in the 13th annual Foodie Crawl on Tuesday, September 17. — Photos courtesy of Michette

LEGAL NOTICE



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Waterworks II New Waiting List Opportunity Notice

Elderly (62+) and Non-Elderly Disabled Rental Housing located at 485 Mystic Valley Parkway. Adjacent to SHA's Waterworks I, Capen Court and the Visiting Nurse Facility. This development is located close to MBTA transportation and shopping.

A new SHA Section 8 Project Based Voucher (PBV) Site-Based Waiting list will be open effective on July 1, 2024, for the Waterworks II project. If you have an active application for any of the SHA's other Waiting Lists, including the Section 8 Tenant-Based wait list(s), the SHA invites you, should you qualify, to also apply for SHA's PBV waiting list for Waterworks II.

Income limit (50% of AMI, Very Low): 1 person: \$57,000. 2 persons: \$65,300

New applicants may apply for the SHA PVB wait list beginning July 1, 2024, and may apply to any other open and available SHA wait lists at any time.

Applications are available online at www.sha-web.org or at SHA, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145. The SHA offices are wheelchair accessible and large print Information is available upon request. Assistance with completing the application including sign language and interpreters available upon request.

For Waterworks II: Seventy percent (70%) of the units will be subject to the Local Residency Preference. The Local Residency Preference will be applied at initial lease up only; following initial lease up, no Local Residency Preference will be applied.

Applications for people with disabilities will be mailed or sent electronically upon request made to the SHA. Failure to apply for this new PBV list will have *no effect* on current selections for any other SHA wait list.

Important Notice: If you and/or any member of your household is/are a person(s) with a disability according to federal or state laws and you believe that you and/or your household member needs assistance with the PBV wait list application process, you may request a reasonable accommodation by contacting the SHA. If you and/or a member of your household is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking and need certain circumstances considered or reviewed as mitigating circumstances relating to your application you will have the opportunity to inform the SHA.

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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' votes on roll calls from recent sessions. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

\$1 MILLION FOR AUTISM (H 4800)

House 155-2, overrode Gov. Maura Healey's veto of \$1 million (reducing funding from \$11 million to \$10 million) for contracted support services for families of children with autism. The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$1 million was eliminated.

"I am reducing this item to the amount projected to be necessary," said Gov. Healey in her veto message. "This reduced level reflects anticipated caseload levels and is not expected to have an impact on services."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$1 million. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

\$500,000 FOR JOBS PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK-YOUTH (H 4800)

House 155-2, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of \$500,000 (reducing funding from \$15.9 million to \$15.4 million) for a Youth-at-Risk program. The program would target high-risk areas for the development and implementation of a year-round employment program for youths-at-risk, including programs that serve youth who are not more than 25 years-of-age; including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth; youth of color, youth of all abilities; youth of all national origins and religions; low-income youth; and youth who are experiencing housing insecurity.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$500,000 was eliminated.

"I am reducing this item to the amount projected to be necessary due to the availability of alternative resources," said Gov. Healey in her veto message. "This operating funding overlaps with alternative funding intended to support this purpose."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$500,000. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

\$1 MILLION FOR URBAN ENTREPRENEURS (H 4800)

House 155-2, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of \$1 million (reducing funding from \$2.5 million to \$1.5 million) for a competitive grant program to work with urban entrepreneurs to promote small businesses, create new jobs and support workforce development and training initiatives in urban communities.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$1 million was eliminated.

"I am reducing this item to the amount projected to be necessary due to the availability of alternative trust funding that can be maximized to maintain programming," said Gov. Healey in her veto message. "Specifically, the Executive Office of Economic Development will work towards utilizing the Workforce Investment Trust Fund to offset the funding being vetoed."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$1 million. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

MATERNAL HEALTH (H 4999) – The House and Senate approved and sent to Gov. Healey a maternal health bill that would require certified professional midwives and lactation consultants to be licensed; encourage the creation of more freestanding birth centers; establish a grant program to address maternal mental health and substance use disorder; expand the statewide universal postpartum home visiting program; and mandate that insurers provide coverage for postpartum depression and major depressive disorder screenings for perinatal individuals.

"Massachusetts has some of the best health outcomes in the country, but we have a glaring and persistent disparity in maternal health outcomes, especially when it comes to the experience of Black mothers," said Sen. Julian Cyr (D-Truro), House chair of the Committee on Public Health. "The maternal health bill passed by the Legislature will expand access to care for all mothers and ameliorate the maternal mortality and morbidity crisis here in Massachusetts."

"I am proud that this important legislation will take positive steps toward addressing the disparities in maternal healthcare," said Sen. Patrick O'Connor (R-Weymouth). "Strengthening access to physical and mental health in Massachusetts will provide a more inclusive support system that keeps parents and children healthy as they em-

bark on their new journey. Every single family in our commonwealth deserves high quality care and support. Not only are we safeguarding the health of new families, but also laying a stronger foundation for future generations."

"While the commonwealth's health care system is amongst the best in the world, inequities in maternal health remain prevalent, and certain aspects of care are woefully insufficient," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "That's why the reforms included in this legislation are so important, as they will help to close racial inequities and improve maternal health care statewide."

"Today the Legislature took much needed action to strengthen access to physical and mental health care for pregnant people and new parents in Massachusetts," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "This is an important step to help ensure all expecting individuals regardless of background or economic status have access to the health services they need."

PROTECT FIREFIGHTERS (S 2902) – Gov. Healey signed into law 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 goes further and would prohibit any person or company from manufacturing, knowingly selling or distributing any equipment containing intentionally added PFAS chemicals.

"Our firefighters are our heroes," said Gov. Healey. "They selflessly run into harm's way to protect their neighbors. It is essential that they have comprehensive information about what's in their protective gear so that they can make informed choices that are best for them. This bill is an important part of our efforts to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of our firefighters in Massachusetts."

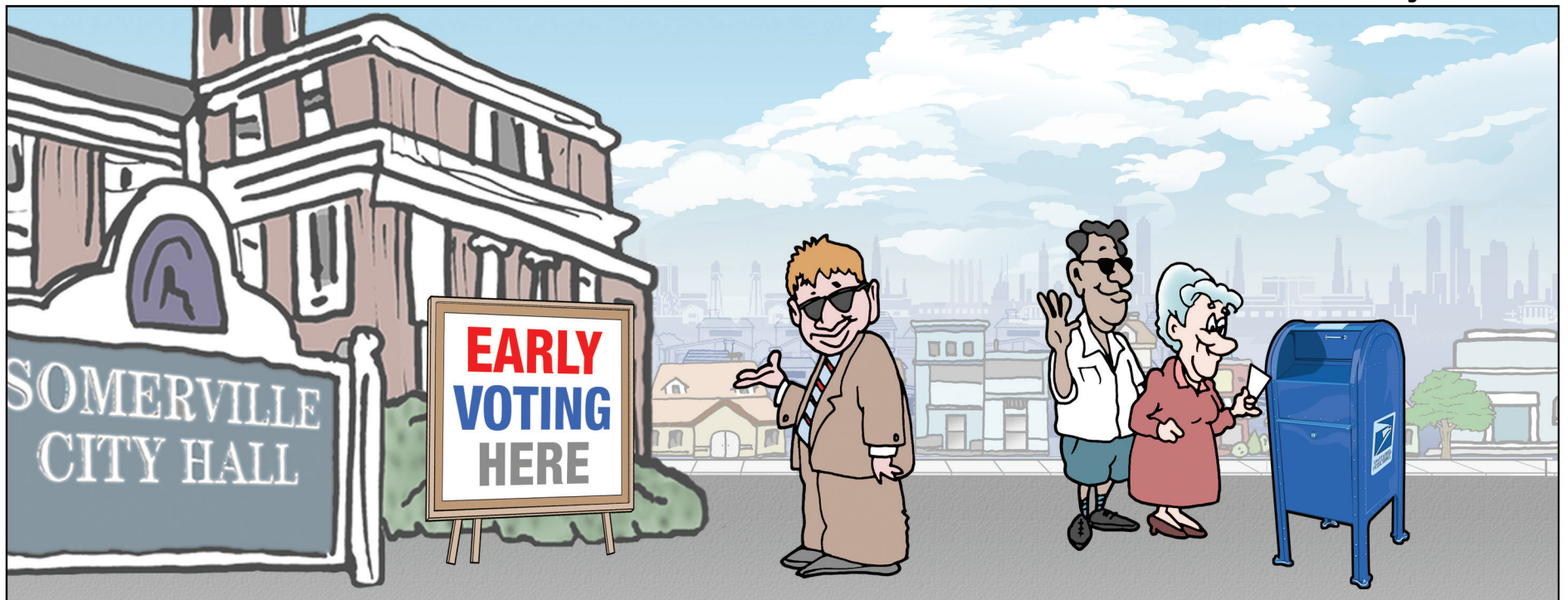
"Our firefighters are among the most hardworking, selfless people in Massachusetts, operating under the most dangerous of conditions while risking their own lives to save others," said State Auditor Diana DiZogio who was an original sponsor of the measure. "For their dedication to our communities, we must do all we can to provide them with the supports they need to do this invaluable work."

"It is both joyous and a relief to finally witness the signing of this important legislation," said Rep. Jim Hawkins (D-Attleboro) who originally filed the *Continued on page 16*

COMMENTARY

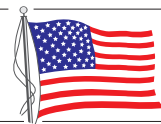
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Vote early or vote by mail – just vote.

Our View Of The Times



It goes without saying that not everyone gets their way when election time rolls around. There are winners and losers, the satisfied and the disgruntled. As passionately as we may feel about our pet issues of interest, the inevitable day comes when our convictions are put to the test and the results are set in stone, for better or worse, depending on which side you are standing on.

The beauty and genius of our political system is in its very existence. Unfortunately, it is too easy to take it for granted. It is no cliché to say that there are many in this world who are denied the right to shape their homelands' laws and determine their own destinies. We are truly blessed in having this privilege, and we must always express our appreciation of it by getting out there and voting whenever possible.

There is no excuse for apathy. It is every American's duty.

So, for those of you who faithfully executed your civic duty, your fellow citizens salute you. Whether or not your candidate prevails, we can all take pride in the fact that our system still works, and the people have their say.

Whether one leans to the left, or right, or gently wavers in the middle, we must all

understand that we have much more that binds us together than what tears us apart. The system prevails, and because of that we are all winners.

With options such as early voting and voting by mail, we have more opportunities than ever to make sure our voices are heard, safely and securely.

Let the victorious celebrate, and the defeated regroup, for we shall always return.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Representative Christine Barber, who is also celebrating. We hope she has a great day. Happy Birthday to **Ward Seven City Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld**, who is also celebrating. We hope she enjoys her day. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Amy Sarro, Pat Lane, Pam Keith, Debbi Hession, Alicia Marie, Arthur Copeland** and **Bob Osborne** 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.

Early Voting for the September 3 Election will take place at **Somerville City**

Hall, 93 Highland Ave on the following dates and times: **August 25** – Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 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.

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, high-lighters 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.

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 water, 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.somervillema.gov/hydrantflushing.

Save the date: **Somerville Dog Festival** will take place on **Sunday, September 8**, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., at **Trum Field**.

10th Annual Evolution of Hip Hop Festival takes place on **Saturday, September 7**, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., *Continued on page 18*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#937

1. What makes a moon a "super-moon"?
2. How much brighter than a regular moon can a super-moon be?
3. Which Game of Thrones house does Daenerys belong to?
4. When was the movie *The Godfather* released?
5. When did the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco start?
6. In which time zone is London?
7. Who was the president of the United States during the Cuban missile crisis?
8. Where was Rihanna born?
9. What is the longest word that can be written using only the letters of the top row of a keyboard?
10. What team did David Ortiz play on before the Red Sox?
11. In what year were the bullpens added to Fenway Park?
12. How many U.S Presidents born in Massachusetts?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
2. Pogonophobia is the fear of beards.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

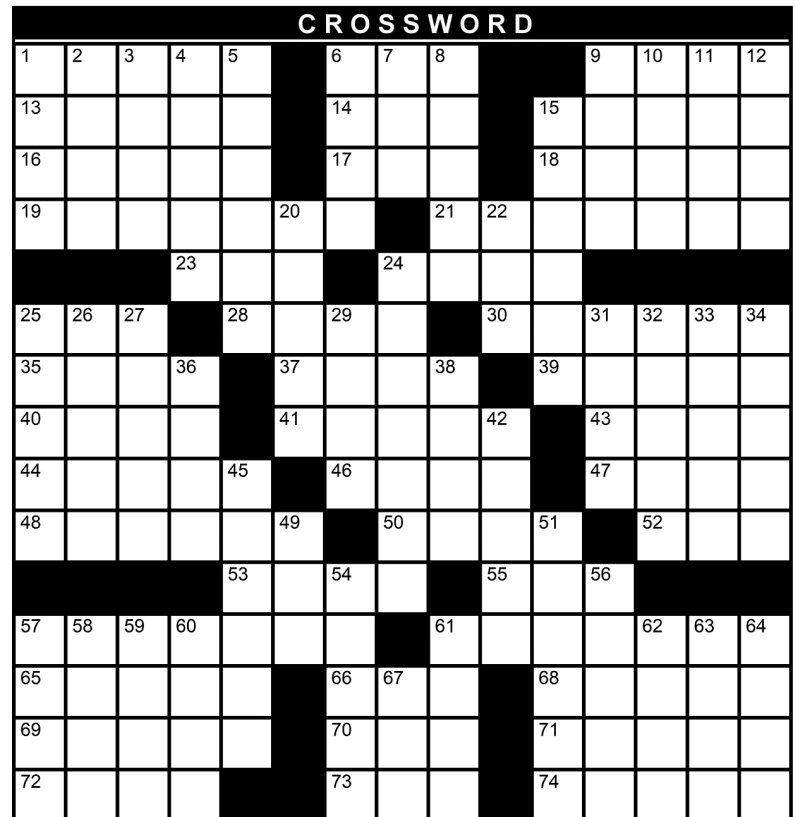
MUSIC 101

ACROSS

1. Meat chunks
6. Calendar square
9. ____ signature, or notation that describes #34 Down
13. Hiya or howdy
14. Down Under runner
15. West Point student
16. At full speed
17. Big Apple
18. Flounder's domain
19. Complementary notes sung simultaneously
21. Not sonata
23. Debate position
24. Painter Chagall
25. Munchhausen's story
28. Casino chip
30. R in R&B
35. Spanish earthen pot
37. Lobed organs
39. Nest for an eagle
40. Bona fide
41. Adagio or moderato, e.g.
43. What a willow did?
44. Type of piano technician
46. Flock member description
47. Fill beyond full
48. Masters of ceremonies, colloquially speaking
50. Jon Krakauer's book "____ the Wild"
52. High craggy hill
53. Church congregation
55. Hole punching tool
57. A ____, or without accompaniment
61. Fast
65. Not asleep
66. 2000 lbs.
68. Acquisition through marriage
69. Rubber tree product
70. Director's cry
71. Five lines
72. Potassium hydroxide solution, pl.
73. 168 in 1 week
74. Housed

DOWN

1. Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's title
2. Dharma teacher



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3. Resembling wings
4. Good Year balloon, e.g.
5. Mexico City state
6. Say it isn't so
7. Winehouse or Schumer
8. New Mexico's state flower
9. Diplomat's asset
10. It comes to mind
11. Not in Impossible Burger
12. European erupter
15. Shell-like anatomical structure
20. Nine instruments, e.g.
22. Bobby of hockey
24. Halle Bailey's 2023 role
25. Loud or strong
26. Part of small intestine
27. Sometimes follows sauvignon
29. 1.3 ounces, in Asia
31. Coniferous trees
32. October 31 option
33. On top of trends (2 words)
34. Strong-weak-strong-weak, e.g.
36. Sheltered, nautically speaking
38. "Wheel of Fortune" move
42. Based on number 8
45. Automatic reaction
49. Fa follower
51. Solemn and wise?
54. Gate holder
56. Slow
57. Pay a visit
58. Not home
59. Goose liver dish
60. Augments, usually with effort
61. Social insects
62. Air of allure, slangily
63. Five-star review
64. Was in the hole
67. Possessive pronoun

Solution in the next edition of *The Somerville Times*.

Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



LEGAL NOTICE

**STATE PRIMARY
CITY OF SOMERVILLE**



OFFICE OF BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

Ordered: **In City Council**
The Board of Elections Commissioners is hereby directed to cause notice to be given in the manner prescribed by law that meetings of the qualified voters of this city will be held in the several polling places which have been designated by said Council for or within the voting precincts in which they respectively are qualified to vote, said polling places are located as follows, namely for;

WARD ONE

- Precinct 1. A room in the MICHAEL E CAPUANO SCHOOL, 150 Glen Street;
- Precinct 2. A room in the MICHAEL E CAPUANO SCHOOL, 150 Glen Street;
- Precinct 3. A room in the EAST SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, Glen Street Entrance directly across from 68 Glen Street;
- Precinct 4. A room in the EAST SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, Glen Street Entrance directly across from 68 Glen Street;
- Precinct 4A. A room in the EAST SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, Glen Street Entrance directly across from 68 Glen Street;

WARD TWO

- Precinct 1. A room in the THE POLICE STATION, 220 Washington Street;
- Precinct 1A. A room in the THE POLICE STATION, 220 Washington Street;
- Precinct 2. A room in the ARGENZIANO SCHOOL at Lincoln Park, 290 Washington Street;
- Precinct 3. A room in the ARGENZIANO SCHOOL at Lincoln Park, 290 Washington Street;
- Precinct 4. A room in the ARGENZIANO SCHOOL at Lincoln Park, 290 Washington Street;

WARD THREE

- Precinct 1. A room PROPERZI MANOR, 13-25 Warren Avenue;
- Precinct 2. A room in the CUMMINGS SCHOOL, 42 Prescott Street;
- Precinct 3. Gym at ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH; 179 Summer St;
- Precinct 4. Gym at ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH; 179 Summer St;

WARD FOUR

- Precinct 1. A room in the MYSTIC ACTIVITY CENTER, 530 Mystic Avenue;
- Precinct 2. A room in the PEARL ST PARK BUILDING, 240 Pearl Street;
- Precinct 2A. A room in the PEARL ST PARK BUILDING, 240 Pearl Street;
- Precinct 3. A room in the BRAZILIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 212 School Street;
- Precinct 4. A room in the HEALEY SCHOOL, 5 Meacham Street;

WARD FIVE

- Precinct 1. A room in the ARMORY, 191 Highland Avenue;
- Precinct 2. A room in the ARMORY, 191 Highland Avenue;
- Precinct 3. Gym in the JOHN F KENNEDY SCHOOL, Sartwell Avenue Entrance directly across from 19 Sartwell Avenue;
- Precinct 4. Gym in the JOHN F KENNEDY SCHOOL, Sartwell Avenue Entrance directly across from 19 Sartwell Avenue;

WARD SIX

- Precinct 1. A room in the GEORGE DILBOY POST, 351 Summer St;
- Precinct 2. A room in the SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, 31 College Avenue;
- Precinct 3. A room in the WEST BRANCH LIBRARY, 40 College Avenue;
- Precinct 3A. A room in the WEST BRANCH LIBRARY, 40 College Avenue;
- Precinct 4. A room in the GEORGE DILBOY POST, 351 Summer St;

WARD SEVEN

- Precinct 1. A room in the SENIOR CENTER, TAB BUILDING, 167 Holland Street;
- Precinct 2. A room in the WEST SOMERVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL, Raymond Ave Entrance-Directly across from 17 Raymond Ave;
- Precinct 3. A room in the VNA ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY, 405 Alewife Brook Parkway;
- Precinct 4. A room in the WEST SOMERVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL, Raymond Ave Entrance-Directly across from 17 Raymond Ave;

ON TUESDAY, September 3, 2024

AT SEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, when the polls shall open and there and then between that time and the closing of the polls, which shall be at EIGHT O'CLOCK in the evening, the said qualified voters will give their ballots for:

- A Candidate for Senator in Congress for the Commonwealth,**
- A Candidate for Representative in Congress for the Seventh Congressional District,**
- A Candidate for Governor's Council for the Sixth Councillor District,**
- A Candidate for Senator in General Court for the Second Middlesex District,**
- A Candidate for Representative in General Court for the Twenty-Sixth Middlesex District, (To be voted in Ward One Precincts One Through Four and in Ward Two Precinct 1A)**
- A Candidate for Representative in General Court for the Twenty-Seventh Middlesex District, (To be voted for in Ward One Precinct 4A, Ward Two Precincts One, Two, Three and Four, Ward Three Precincts One through Four, Ward Four Precinct 2A, Ward Five Precincts One through Four and Ward Six Precincts One, Two, Three and Four)**
- A Candidate for Representative in General Court for the Thirty-Fourth Middlesex District, (Ward Four Precincts One, Two, Three and Four, Ward Six Precinct 3A and Ward Seven Precincts One through Four)**
- A Candidate for Clerk of Courts Middlesex County**
- A Candidate for Register of Deeds for the Middlesex Southern District**

**Nicholas P. Salerno, Chairman
Douglas M. Bosley
Austin Brower
Kelly J. Cooper
BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS**

The City of Somerville does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, national origin, sexual preference, disability, or any other protected category in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities. Auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, reasonable modifications in policies and procedures will be provided to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

**The Somerville Times
Historical Fact of the Week**



Eagle feathers #311

This article first appeared in the September 5, 2018 edition of The Somerville Times

British Landing

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

It was the end of the summer in 1774. In Boston, tensions between the occupying British Army regulars and the Massachusetts Colonists were at a near boiling point. For years, citizens had suffered intolerable acts and taxation. British Tories, or citizens in favor of English rule, were moving closer to the city for protection, and local town farmers began withdrawing their gunpowder stores from the colony's arsenal at Charlestown's Quarry Hill.



Alerted by this, British General Thomas Gage took measures to stop the removal. He instructed the remaining powder be seized and brought to a secure location at South Boston's Castle William. He ordered two hundred and sixty troops to accomplish this.

On September 1, they left their camp on the Boston Common and marched through what is today's downtown to the harbor at Long Wharf. They then boarded thirteen boats and barges and voyaged up the Mystic River, disembarking at today's Wellington Bridge near Assembly Row.



From this historic site, they went on to raid the Powder House and capture the colonial stores of 250 half-barrels of the King's powder. The attack caused over 20,000 provincials to arm and proceed toward Boston the next day until cooler heads prevailed. The British landing on the Mystic's shore proved to be the dress rehearsal for the battles of Lexington, Concord and the *Continued on page 21*

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/join/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 PRESERVED (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, 8/21/24 The Somerville Times



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

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

Water Damage Remediation - Winter Hill Community School

A bid package may be obtained online at

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/procurement-and-contracting-services>

or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at

<http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, August 21st, 2024**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 orvia Bid Express until: **1pm, Thursday, September 5th, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Note:
Prebid Site Visit – non-mandatory site visit is scheduled for 11:30 am, **Tuesday, August 27th, 2024**. (See Bid pkg for details)
Wage Requirements - Prevailing wage rates apply
Bid Deposit - 5% of bid amount

Please email Sonia Castro for more information.

Sonia Castro

Procurement Manager

scastro@somervillema.gov

617-625-6600 x3407

8/21/24 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on **9/10/2024 at 12:00PM**. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Shary Wang unit #0611; Limus Woods unit #1893; Anderson Pereira unit #2263. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

8/21/24 The Somerville Times

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www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB #25-05**

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

On-Call Fleet Repairs

A bid package may be obtained online at

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/procurement-and-contracting-services>

or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at

<http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, August 21st, 2024**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 orvia Bid Express until: **2pm, Thursday, September 5th, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Sonia Castro for more information.

Sonia Castro

Procurement Manager

scastro@somervillema.gov

617-625-6600 x3407

8/21/24 The Somerville Times

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PH: 857-488-5138**

The first day of (old) school CONT. FROM PG 3

"Cuban heels" we often had to wear what was on sale at Anderson Little, JM Fields or Zayers.

And although we wanted to have Beatle haircuts, it was usually a "regular boy's" from Lionel's or Dente's Barber Shop that most of us ended up with. Most, but not me. I was a true rebel and a budding hippie so my hair was getting longer and longer. My dad had three kids to buy for so he couldn't care less about me keeping up with the styles of the day. But I must say that when I was in high school, my mom let me pick out some pretty wild duds! I was one of the first kids at Somerville High to wear

bell-bottoms. And they weren't "flared," they were huge bell bottoms straight from Harvard Square's Truc store.

Good thing my older sister was always around to defend me when the teasing started. That girl was fearless. It took a lot of guts to wear some of the crazy threads that were popular back then. Some of today's kids' fashions make the clothes of the past look tame. Imagine paying good money for dungarees (yes, I said dungarees, not jeans!) that are already worn out with holes in them? When I started at the high school, we couldn't wear dungarees. We soon took

care of that with walkouts and demonstrations. Hey, it was the 60's!

Some songs from 1968 still remind me of my school days. One in particular described my eight years of sister school. That song is *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly*. The song *Born To Be Wild* was how I felt after my stretch with the nuns ended. And it was *It's A Beautiful Morning* when the first day of school rolled around and I didn't have to wear that uncomfortable white shirt and dumb necktie and face the nasty nuns. *Yummy, Yummy, Yummy* described the school lunches, especially the American chop suey and pizza. *Stoned Soul*

Picnic reminded me of cutting class and sneaking over to Nan's Sub Shop.

My high school experience would have been perfect if not for a couple of teachers. I think they may have been plain-clothes nuns (even though one was a man). I use the word man loosely. Yeah, he was that bad.

I was also lucky to have been in the last graduating class from The Western Junior High School before the 2-million-dollar fire in November of 1968 that gutted it.

In closing, one song sums up my Somerville public school years ... *Those Were the Days!*

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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.

Will groups like 'Somerville for Palestine' help elect Donald Trump?



By Ken Brociner

The ongoing controversy over the war in Gaza has, once again, brought to the surface the dividing line between the two wings of the American Left.

The largest and most effective wing of the Left is made up of millions of progressive activists, writers, voters, and elected officials who are pragmatically working to achieve fundamental changes in our domestic and foreign policies. They do so by strategically challenging the powers that be in ways that unite as many people as possible.

Notably, when it comes to issues of war, peace, and social justice, most progressives tend to avoid absolutism. They realize that most conflicts are high-

ly complex matters that require a nuanced understanding of the issues at hand as well as of the world in general.

The other (much smaller and less influential) wing of the Left tends to see the world in simplistic and, at times, deeply troubling ways. As we have seen over the past ten months, this has all too often led so-called progressives to either support or look past such horrific acts of violence as Hamas' slaughter of over 1,200 mostly unarmed civilians in Israel on Oct. 7 that also included taking over 250 hostages and raping numerous women in the process.

By now you may be wondering what, if anything, this might have to do with Somerville. Unfortunately, there is a direct connection. As many Somervillians know by now, an extremist group that calls itself Somerville for Palestine has become very visible over the past year. It claims it is "for Palestine" – but what is crystal clear to anyone who has paid attention is that they are not only "for Palestine," they are also vir-

ulently against Israel's very right to exist. On top of that, Somerville for Palestine has not, in any way, criticized the crimes Hamas committed on Oct 7.

In an Aug. 7 letter to The Somerville Times, Somerville for Palestine complained about some of the criticism it had received in a previous letter over its showing of the film "Israelism" in July at the Somerville Armory. But what they didn't say in their letter is that not only does the film present a laughably one-sided and deeply offensive view of the American Jewish community, it also, as one reviewer pointed out, somehow forgot to mention that Gaza has been controlled by Hamas since 2007!

The event at the Armory was actually co-sponsored by the Jewish organization "IfNotNow." This group has gone on record condemning "the killing of innocent civilians" on both sides. So why would they so closely align themselves with Somerville for Palestine? One obvious reason is because both groups support one of the film's main messages –

which is that Israel has no right to even exist.

One doesn't have to uncritically support Israel's brutal war in Gaza in order to shine a light on such unethical groups on the Left. In fact, along with most progressives, I personally believe that Israel is guilty of committing war crimes in its otherwise justifiable effort to disarm and destroy Hamas.

Groups and individuals on the far-Left have also made it clear that they are perfectly willing to undermine Kamala Harris' chances to win the November election unless she declares that, if elected, she will meet their demands to totally withdraw U.S. support for Israel.

In fact, Somerville for Palestine is among a number of organizations around the country that have been urging people to go to Chicago this week and engage in what may well turn out to be disruptive protests at the Democratic National Convention. The fact that such protests – which will surely be televised and magnified by the national media – could

help elect Donald Trump seems to be of little concern to groups on this wing of the Left.

Furthermore, Somerville for Palestine and other "pro-Palestine" organizations are likely to continue their efforts to reach out to voters in swing states and urge them to leave their ballots blank. Obviously, in a close election doing so is yet another way that activists on the far-Left could help to tip the election to Trump.

The next time you see anyone from Somerville for Palestine holding signs on the street or at an event around town, you might want to ask them why they have refused to condemn Hamas' crimes against humanity on October 7th and whether or not they are willing to help elect Trump in order to advance their political agenda.

Ken Brociner has lived in Somerville since 1975. His columns, essays and reviews have appeared in In These Times, Dissent, The Boston Phoenix, the Somerville Journal and Somerville Times, among other several other publications.

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.

Dear Editor:

Animal shelters in Massachusetts are under intense pressure from a Utah-based group, Best Friends Animal Society, to achieve its dangerous and shortsighted fixation on making every shelter in the U.S. "no-kill" by 2025. This push may make for good marketing, but it ignores the reality of the animal overpopulation and homelessness crisis, and it fails animals and communities.

This group pressures and bullies shelters to implement reckless policies – including refusing entry to animals who have nowhere else to go and handing over vulnerable animals to anyone who will take them, even convicted abusers – just to increase "live release rates."

These policies result in more suffering and deaths: Unsterilized animals who are rejected by shelters keep breeding, creating even more animals with nowhere to go. And countless animals refused by shelters

die in agony on the streets of starvation, after being hit by cars or contracting diseases, or suffering other cruel fates. People in Florida, Texas, and Michigan have been fatally mauled by dogs after public animal shelters refused to accept them.

Shelters must put animals' best interests first – not statistics – by keeping their doors open to all and thoroughly screening potential adopters to ensure that animals don't end up neglected and abused. And communities must focus on stopping the

animal homelessness crisis at its source, by passing and enforcing comprehensive spay/neuter legislation and offering low- and no-cost sterilization services.

Sincerely,

Teresa Chagrin
Animal Care and Control Issues Manager
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)
TeresaC@peta.org

New union agreement for Somerville Emergency Telecommunicators/Police Dispatchers

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, on behalf of the City of Somerville, has reached a new agreement with the union representing its Emergency Telecommunicators (Police Dispatchers) for a new contract, providing improved wages and benefits for a vital group of the city's public safety workforce.

The city's Police Dispatchers are community members' first contact when they dial 911 and provide 24/7 dispatch for the Somerville Police Department. Their contract is negotiated by Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 888. The new three-year agreement will run from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2026 and reflects the city's commitment to supporting its essential personnel while ensuring the effective delivery of emergency services.

The agreement includes, amongst other things, several im-

portant updates that will improve Police Dispatchers' compensation and quality of life:

- Compensation: The agreement includes:

A retroactive 3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) effective July 1, 2023. A 3% COLA will go into effect starting July 1, 2025.

In the second year of the contract, starting July 1, 2024, the agreement establishes a new 5-step salary scale designed to bring the Police Dispatchers' wages into alignment with the market for these public safety personnel and the wages paid to the city's Fire Alarm Operators. The new scale introduced in the second year of the contract increases the starting salary for new Police Dispatchers by 5.5%, and includes step increases for those with 10- and 20-years of seniority that are 9% and 22% higher,



City of Somerville, has reached a new agreement with the union representing its Emergency Telecommunicators (Police Dispatchers) for a new contract. — Photos courtesy of City of Somerville



respectively, than the highest step on the former scale.

Additionally, the contract introduces new stipends for advanced language skills and report writing, and includes substantial increases to the longevity stipends paid to senior Police Dispatchers.

- Paid Family and Medical Leave: Police Dispatchers will now be eligible for the city's new Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) program, which the city is in the process of implementing

and will provide eight weeks of paid leave for qualifying absences under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

- Increases to Vacation, Sick, and Wellness Time: The agreement increases the amount of vacation time available to Police Dispatchers with eight years of experience or more by adjusting the vacation accrual system and schedule and providing, on average, an additional week of vacation for senior Police Dispatchers.

The agreement also establishes a unit-wide sick leave bank for the first time, and provides Police Dispatchers with eight hours of "wellness release time" per calendar year, which can be used for preventative medical care or mental health appointments.

The Police Dispatcher union has ratified the new contract and the parties have signed it, leaving only the City Council to fund the cost of the contract before it takes effect.

Good vibes French bakery participates in East Somerville Foodie Crawl

CONT. FROM PG 5

round-type of bread," he explained. "I think the Michette name came, maybe as a pun, because of the size of the bakery. It's so small here... It just seemed like a good name for what we do, and the size of our little bakery."

Ferté hopes the good vibes and good eats at his bakery will benefit the community and build camaraderie in the neighborhood.

"We have people who have been here for generations, but

also some that just arrived a few months ago," he said. "Everybody is bonding together. It's very special."

Along with Michette, the restaurants participating in Foodie Crawl 2024 are: Lotus Xpress, La Cosecha, Sisters Caribbean, Rei Da Picanha, Rincón Mexicano, Taqueria Montecristo, Gauchao Brazilian Cuisine, Vinny's Ristorante, Los Paisanos, El Jalisco, Casey's, La Brasa, Joe's Liquors (21+ wine tasting).



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.

Erika Uytterhoeven's Tactics are Hurting Progressive Movement

On the September 3 primary ballot, Democrats will nominate their candidates for Congress and State offices including the contested State House race in the 27th Middlesex District in Somerville between incumbent Erika Uytterhoeven and challenger Kathleen Hornby. Last week, the elected members of the Somerville Democratic City Committee "SDCC" voted overwhelmingly to endorse incumbents Sen. Warren, Rep. Pressley, state Sen. Jehlen, and state Reps. Connolly and Barber along with first-time candidate for state rep. Kathleen Hornby. Erika Uytterhoeven's subsequent public comments calling duly elected members of the SDCC "out of step with the clear progressive values of this

district" is yet another example of Erika Uytterhoeven's tactics that are hurting the progressive movement in Somerville and beyond.

Somerville is one of the most progressive communities in our country placing our politics to the left of the Democratic Party in Massachusetts and nationwide. The only way for Somerville's elected officials to pass progressive legislation into law is by building coalitions and doing the hard, oftentimes uncelebrated, work of amending legislation, passing bills, and securing much-needed funding for our local communities. Erika Uytterhoeven's lackluster record of achievement in the State House falls well short of Somerville's aspirations for legislative progress

including ZERO bills passed in four years, ZERO amendments submitted for FY2025, and less than \$100K in district appropriations over her four years in office (a mere fraction of Erika's State House salary).

By any standard, Erika underperforms nearly every other elected Democratic representative in Somerville and statewide, and this weighed heavily on the minds of the elected members of the SDCC who voted for much needed change, endorsing Kathleen Hornby for State Rep instead. It is simply not enough to use progressive slogans and support progressive activism which both Erika and Kathleen clearly do, we need State representatives who will do the hard work to pass progressive ideals

into law. Kathleen Hornby will do the hard policy work and has a track record of success as a State House employee, helping to secure hundreds of thousands of dollars in aid annually in FY2022-FY2024 for programs serving Somerville including Food for Free.

The elected members of the SDCC volunteer their time, without pay, to support Democrats and progressive causes. Only elected months ago on the March presidential primary ballot, the current SDCC is more diverse than ever and has already mobilized hundreds of volunteers to elect Kamala Harris our next President. Our current SDCC puts the progressive values of Somerville into action. Erika's attack on the SDCC's

progressive credentials is tone-deaf at best, but unfortunately, it's a familiar tactic Erika has employed against her State House colleagues and Party leaders. Erika Uytterhoeven's alienation of Democratic constituencies and lackluster legislative record show she's just not motivated to do the hard work of building coalitions and passing legislation: Erika Uytterhoeven's approach to progressivism is not working.

Somerville's hopes for legislative progress are on the September 3 ballot: it's time for much-needed change by electing Kathleen Hornby for State Rep.

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin Klekota
Somerville, MA

Somerville Democrats support Erika Uytterhoeven

Dear Fellow Somerville Democrats,

As long-standing Democratic Party activists in Somerville, we are writing to respectfully dissent from our City Committee's endorsement and express our full support for the reelection of Erika Uytterhoeven to represent the 27th Middlesex district in the State House of Representatives.

We agree with the Committee's endorsements of Elizabeth Warren, Ayanna Pressley, and Pat Jehlen – they have delivered on our progressive values. For the same reason, we are sticking with Erika Uytterhoeven.

The Committee's endorsement of her opponent sharply diverges from that standard. Erika shares all the progressive values espoused by the challenger, but has already been serving our community in the State House as a strong voice and vote for those values.

Erika's signature achievement was her central role in winning the Fair Share Amendment. First she led the work to move it through the legislature and then played a leading role in the campaign to

win it at the ballot in 2022. That tax, only paid by the very wealthiest residents of the state, is already delivering over \$2 Billion a year in new revenue for education and transportation.

The Fair Share Amendment has already made community college tuition-free for all, ensured universal free meals in our public schools, and put hundreds of millions of dollars into upgrading the MBTA and fixing our roads and bridges. Her leadership on Fair Share is bold visionary public service at its best. Erika – like Senator Warren, Congresswoman Pressley, and State Senator Jehlen – has demonstrated the determination and persistence to get things done!

To say one is for affordable housing, climate action, and reproductive rights is a minimum for our party these days. But to work for policies that actually keep people in their homes, measurably lower our impact on the climate, and enshrine those rights as inviolable takes a person who is committed enough, knowledgeable enough, and steadfast enough to keep the problems and their solutions front and center in the State House debate.

Erika is that person.

And that's why we whole-heartedly endorse the reelection of Erika Uytterhoeven. We urge you to join us in keeping her on the job to continue working on our shared goals!

Sincerely,

The undersigned Somerville Democrats:
Wilfred N. Mbah, At-large City Councilor
Willie Burnley Jr, At-Large City Councilor
JT Scott, Ward 2 City Councilor
Ben Ewen-Campen, Ward 3 City Councilor
Naima Sait, Ward 5 City Councilor
Denise Provost, Ward 5, former 27th Middlesex State Representative
Mike Grunko, Treasurer, SDCC
Rand Wilson, Ward 6 Democratic Committee
Hala Jadallah, Ward 6 Democratic Committee
Daniel Wong, Ward 2 resident and former Ward 2 Committee Treasurer and Secretary
Harris Gruman, Ward 5
Marya Axner, Ward 5
Reebee Garofalo, Ward 7
Marianne Walles, Ward 4
Mark Stern, Ward 6
Susan Tannehill, Ward 1

Elaine Almquist, Ward 7
Sara Halawa, Ward 3
Dick Bauer, Ward 3
Jeff Uehlinger, Ward 2
Terence Cawley, Ward 3
Sara Dion, Ward 7
Mark Niedergang, Ward 5
Malcolm Cummings, Ward 5
Diane Wong, Ward 2, and Racial Justice Collaborative
Lawrence Rich, Ward 5
Cheryl Hirshman, Ward 3
Susan Eldridge, Ward 7
Surjeet Paintal, Ward 5
Chris Lay, Ward 5
Lael Backus, Ward 5
Susan Fendell, Ward 6 Democratic Committee
Paul Weiskel, Ward 2
Payton Corbett, Ward 1, B.A., Teamsters Local 122
Beth Grunko, Ward 4
Marcy Goldstein-Gelb, Ward 5
Jesse Clingan, Ward 4 City Councilor
Janine Fay, Ward 3
Robert Massie, Ward 4
Lance Davis, Ward 6 City Councilor
August 20, 2024

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Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olivo

Answers

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Its orbit is closest to Earth at the same time it is full | 7. John F. Kennedy |
| 2. 30 percent | 8. Barbados |
| 3. Targaryen | 9. Typewriter |
| 4. 1972 | 10. Minnesota Twins |
| 5. 1933 | 11. 1940 |
| 6. Greenwich Mean Time during standard time | 12. 4, John Adams, John Quincy Adams, John F. Kennedy, George H. W. Bush |

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

Wednesday, August 21

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 1:00 AM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 2:00 AM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I
 7:30 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 How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm

Thursday, August 22

12:00 AM City Council Meeting 7-11-24
 2:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 7:00 AM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 8:00 AM Art Beat 2024
 9:00 AM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 10:00 AM Congressional Update
 10:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 11:00 AM National Night Out 2024

11:30 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 PM SomerViva em Português
 1:00 PM City Council Meeting 7-11-24
 3:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 7:00 PM City Council Meeting 8-22-24

Friday, August 23, 2024

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 1:00 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 1:30 AM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 7:30 AM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 8:00 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 10:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol 7-18-24
 10:30 AM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 12:00 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 1:00 PM Art Beat 2024
 2:00 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
 3:00 PM Finance Committee of the Whole 6-18-24
 6:00 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 6:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 7:00 PM National Night Out 2024
 7:30 PM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 8:30 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 9:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 10:00 PM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 11:00 PM Porchfest 2024

Saturday, August 24

12:00 AM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 2:00 AM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 7:00 AM Congressional Update
 7:30 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 9:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol 7-18-24
 10:00 AM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024

11:00 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 11:30 AM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:00 PM Juneteenth Ceremony 2024
 1:00 PM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 1:30 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 2:00 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
 3:00 PM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 4:00 PM PMSPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 5:00 PM Somerville Civic Day 2024
 5:30 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 6:00 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 7:00 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 7:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 8:00 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 9:30 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 10:00 PM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 11:00 PM Art Beat 2024

Sunday, August 25

12:00 AM City Council Meeting 8-22-24
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
 8:00 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 8:30 AM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 9:00 AM National Night Out 2024
 9:30 AM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 10:00 AM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 1:00 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 2:30 PM SomerViva em Português
 3:00 PM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 4:00 PM School Committee Meeting 6-17-24
 6:30 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 7:30 PM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 8:00 PM City Council Meeting 8-22-24

Monday, August 26

12:00 AM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 2:00 AM National Night Out 2024
 2:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 7:00 AM Art Beat 2024
 8:00 AM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 9:00 AM SomerViva em Português
 9:30 AM Driver's License Info Session em Português
 11:00 AM Porchfest 2024
 12:00 PM City Council Meeting 8-22-24
 4:30 PM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 5:00 PM Congressional Update
 7:00 PM School Committee Meeting 8-26-24
 11:00 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 11:30 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting

Tuesday, August 27

7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I
 7:30 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 School Committee Meeting 8-26-24
 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 How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

Wednesday, August 21

12:00 AM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 12:30 AM School Committee Meeting 6-17-24
 7:00 AM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 8:00 AM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
 9:00 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 9:30 AM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising
 10:00 AM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
 11:00 AM Brown School Moving Forward
 12:00 PM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
 1:00 PM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 2:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 4:00 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 5:00 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 6:30 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 7:00 PM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 8:00 PM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
 9:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 9:30 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising
 10:00 PM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
 11:00 PM SHS Girls' GLAX vs Matignon

Thursday, August 22

12:30 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Malden
 7:00 AM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 7:30 AM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 8:00 AM WHCS Spring Concert K-3
 8:30 AM WHCS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 9:00 AM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 9:30 AM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
 11:00 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 11:30 AM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 1:00 PM East Somerville Moving On Ceremony
 2:32 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 4:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 5:00 PM SHS Multicultural Fair
 5:30 PM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 6:00 PM WHCS Spring Concert K-3

6:30 PM WHCS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 7:00 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 7:30 PM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
 9:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 9:30 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 11:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Milton

Friday, August 23

12:30 AM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game
 7:00 AM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 7:30 AM WHCS Spring Concert K-3
 8:00 AM WHCS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 8:30 AM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 9:00 AM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
 10:30 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 11:00 AM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 12:30 PM East Somerville Moving On Ceremony
 2:00 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 3:30 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 4:30 PM SHS Multicultural Fair
 5:00 PM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 5:30 PM WHCS Spring Concert K-3
 6:00 PM WHCS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 6:30 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 7:00 PM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
 8:30 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 9:00 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 10:30 PM East Somerville Moving On Ceremony

Saturday, August 24

12:00 AM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 1:30 AM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 2:30 AM SHS Multicultural Fair
 8:00 AM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 9:30 AM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
 10:00 AM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 11:00 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 12:00 PM East Somerville Moving On Ceremony
 2:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show

4:00 PM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 5:00 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 5:30 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 6:00 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 7:30 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 8:30 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 9:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Malden
 10:30 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game

Sunday, August 25

12:00 AM SHS Football vs Everett 10-11-97
 2:30 AM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 3:40 AM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 8:30 AM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 10:00 AM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising
 10:30 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 11:00 AM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 12:30 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 1:30 PM Kennedy School Spring 4-8 Concert
 2:30 PM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 3:00 PM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
 3:35 PM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 4:30 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 6:30 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 8:00 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising
 8:30 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 9:00 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 10:30 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 11:30 PM Kennedy School Spring 4-8 Concert

Monday, August 26

12:30 AM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 1:00 AM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
 1:35 AM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 2:30 AM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 7:00 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 9:00 AM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 9:30 AM Healey School K-1st Spring Concert
 10:00 AM SHS Class Day 2024

12:00 PM SHS Graduation 2024
 1:30 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 3:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 4:00 PM Brown School Spring Concert
 5:30 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 6:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 8:00 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 8:30 PM Healey School K-1st Spring Concert
 9:00 PM SHS Class Day 2024
 11:00 PM SHS Graduation 2024

Tuesday, August 27

12:30 AM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 2:00 AM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 3:00 AM Brown School Spring Concert
 4:30 AM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 7:30 AM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 8:30 AM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
 9:30 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 10:00 AM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising
 10:30 AM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
 11:30 AM Brown School Moving Forward
 12:30 PM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
 1:30 PM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 2:30 PM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
 3:30 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 4:00 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising
 4:30 PM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
 5:30 PM Brown School Moving Forward
 6:30 PM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
 7:30 PM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 8:30 PM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
 9:30 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 10:00 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising
 10:30 PM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
 11:30 PM Brown School Moving Forward

Davis Square Food Festival – Support local vendors and nonprofit organizations

Somerville nonprofits are facing a harsh fiscal cliff as ARPA funding ends. Over a hundred full-time positions are expected to be lost. The Somerville Foundation is stepping in to assist with a new major event on September 6 in Davis Square and would like to ask for your support.



The Somerville Foundation (TSF) is a 501c3 non-profit formed seven years ago as the Somerville Education Foundation. TSF's mission is to reinvest community growth resources in the people of Somerville. Recently, former Mayor Joe Curtatone has joined the Board of Directors to help grow the Foundation into a major institution in the community. The Somerville Foundation invites you to attend the new hyper-local Davis Square food festival:

The goal of the event is to celebrate the return of fall, build local community, promote local businesses, and support local nonprofits. The event will take place Friday, September 6, from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m., 44 Day St, Davis Square. Restaurants that will be serving samples at the event include:

Dave's Fresh Pasta • Redbones • Elm Street Taproom • The Burren • The Korean Restaurant • Anna's Taqueria • Five Horses Tavern
Davis Square Donuts & Bagels • Mike's Food and Spirits • American Flatbread • Diesel Cafe • Opa Greek Yeeros

Join in for a hyper-local food festival showcasing the best food Davis Square has to offer. Support local restaurants and nonprofit organizations while having a fun Friday night.

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

bill in 2019. "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."

"This is great news," said Deirdre Cummings, MASSPIRG'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."

VETERAN SUICIDE AWARENESS (H 4862) – The House gave initial approval to legislation that would designate September 22 as Military Service Members and Veterans Suicide Awareness and Remembrance Day.

The day would be in recognition and in honor of fallen service members and veterans and their families; to acknowledge that suicide among service members and veterans is an epidemic; to foster awareness of suicide among service members and veterans; and to call for suicide prevention measures for service members and veterans.

"We brought forward this veteran suicide remembrance and awareness bill in direct response to the tragedies that have left holes in the fabric of our communities and in order to build awareness to prevent future tragedy," said co-sponsor Rep. Joan Meschino (D-Hull). "[This bill] is an important step in offering support to both our active service members and veterans."

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Massachusetts is the best state to live in, due in large part to its strong health care system and high-quality education. Massachusetts has the lowest premature death rate in the country and the lowest share of adults in fair or poor health. It also has the highest share of residents with health insurance coverage, at 97.3 percent. The Bay State also ranks first for the quality of its school systems; third

for its property crime rate; and third in access to public transportation." — *From Wallet Hub's ranking of the top states in which to live.*

"We are proud to see Massachusetts recognized as the best state to live in the country. Massachusetts' greatest strength is our people. We are home to the best schools, the best healthcare and the most innovative businesses - but this isn't the time to rest on our laurels. Our administration is dedicated to building on this momentum by continuing to invest in our communities, make Massachusetts more affordable and ensure that we remain the best place to live for future generations." — *Gov. Healey.*

"The governor is very lucky that Massachusetts has such excellent universities and hospitals, because our education and healthcare edge is almost entirely what brought us to the top spot. On the issues she actually has control over, namely affordability, our state scored as one of the worst. We may have excellent health care and higher education opportunities, but if people can't afford to live here and use them, what does it matter?" — *Paul Craney, a spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance.*

"We know Massachusetts is a great place to live, but it didn't happen by accident. Since taking office, the Healey-Driscoll administration has cut taxes for families, seniors and businesses and produced responsible budgets that have increased investments in our schools, childcare, college accessibility and the environment." — *Administration and Finance Secretary Matthew Gorzkowicz.*

"Massachusetts may score high from a theoretical standpoint, but the reality on the ground is very different. We've seen one of the largest outflows of people and wealth from our state in recent history. Poll after poll shows that over 20 percent of everyone in the commonwealth is looking to leave in the next few years. If Massachusetts is doing so well, why is everyone leaving?" — *Paul Craney, a spokes-*

man for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance.

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 12-16, the House met for a total of one hour and 11 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 58 minutes.

Mon. August 12	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:06 a.m. Senate 11:09 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
Tues. August 13	No House session No Senate session
Wed. August 14	No House session No Senate session

Thurs. August 15	House 11:00 a.m. to 12:03 p.m. Senate 11:22 a.m. to 12:08 p.m.
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Fri. August 16	House 11:04 a.m. to 11:06 a.m. Senate 11:22 a.m. to 11:28 a.m.
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Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Somerville's observance of Overdose Awareness Day and Recovery Month

Once again, purple flags will soon solemnly grace the front lawn of Somerville City Hall. They will stand in memory of residents whose lives were lost to opioid-related overdose in 2023 and beyond.

The annual flag display is just one way that the city will observe International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31 and Recovery Month in September. Free Narcan (naloxone) distribution and training events will also be held, and Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is calling on community members to display their own purple items such as ribbons or lights in a show of solidarity.

"Prevention and recovery work is a critical year-round effort, but these annual observances remind us how important it is to stop and remember each and every life lost. They also offer an opportunity to raise awareness of the life-saving work needed to take on this health crisis," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "I hope the community will join us in showing support by wearing or displaying purple on August 31 and in September – it could be a ribbon, a light, or a shirt. I also urge anyone interested to join the overdose prevention trainings that our Harm Reduction Community Health Worker will be offering. They are short, simple trainings that could help you save a life."

On August 31, the City of Somerville will plant 14 purple flags on the Highland Avenue side of City Hall, representing the 14 Somerville residents who passed away from an opioid-related overdose in 2023. One larger flag will also be planted, representing all those lost in prior years. Purple lights will also light up City Hall in recognition of Recovery Month. The flag and light displays will remain for the entire month of September.



Free Narcan Distribution and Training Events

Somerville Prevention staff will host Narcan Distribution Events and trainings to distribute free overdose prevention information and harm reduction materials. These include the overdose-reversing nasal spray naloxone (often referred to as Narcan), Fentanyl test strips, CPR face shields, and syringe disposal boxes.

Dates and locations include:

- ♦ **Somerville Naloxone Distribution Event and Overdose Awareness Flag Planting**
Saturday, August 31, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Narcan Distribution)
City Hall Lawn, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville.
- ♦ **Virtual (Online) Overdose Prevention Training**
Tuesday, September 3, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
bit.ly/odprevention23
- ♦ **Somerville Naloxone Distribution Event**
Thursday, September 5, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Davis Square Plaza, Somerville, intersection of College and Highland Avenues.
- ♦ **Cambridge Public Overdose Prevention Training** (offered by the City of Cambridge in partnership with Somerville)
Monday, September 9, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
L2 Community Room, Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge.
- ♦ **Somerville Public Overdose Prevention Training** (offered by the City of Somerville in partnership with Cambridge)
Thursday, September 12, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Auditorium, Somerville Public Library Central Branch, 79 Highland Avenue, Somerville.
- ♦ **Somerville Naloxone Distribution Event**
Thursday, September 19, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.
165 Broadway, Somerville.

For more information, please contact Han Hogan-Rigg at hhoganrigg@somervillema.gov and be sure to follow Somerville Prevention on Instagram: [@somervilleprevention](https://www.instagram.com/somervilleprevention).

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

rain date **Saturday, September 14**, at **Union Square Plaza** in Somerville. This Arts Union event will feature 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.: **Foraging with Sage**, **Sunday, August 25**, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Sage McTaggart** will teach us how to identify some edible and medicinal plants on walks in the Center and nearby. **Wednesday, August 28**, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., **Plant Walk with Mo** at the **Central Library**, 79 Highland Ave. Come for an exploratory walk around the Somerville Central Library neighborhood to observe and learn about the plants with host **Mo Katz-Christy**. What is growing now, what are some of the names and stories of some of the plants in this urban residential neighborhood? **Film Shorts: Pollinators**, **Wednesday, August 28**, 8:00 – 9:30 p.m. Enjoy short environmental films and lively discussion in a garden setting. Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org.

This year, the **29th Brazilian Independence Day Festival** will be held **September 3 – 8**, and there will be plenty of activity. Massachusetts is home to one of the largest and most organized Brazilian communities in the United States. They will raise the Brazilian flag at **Somerville City Hall** on **Thursday, September 5**, at noon, and at **Boston City Hall** on **Friday, September 6**, at 10:00 a.m. 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.

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.**

East Somerville Main Streets is looking for vendors for their **Halloween Block Party** on **Saturday, October 26**, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at **Chuckie Harris Park**. Please sign up through the form (<https://forms.gle/BvSwZX8YYUe-g3rGB7>) for more information. Don't miss this opportunity to have fun and meet the community.

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>.

The **2024 Somerville Rock + Roll Yard Sale** is happening on **Sunday, September 8**, at **Union Square Plaza**. with a rain date of Sunday, September 15. They have 40 of the best locally sourced record / vintage / handmade sellers on board to bring you the awesome and eclectic mix of goodies you can always expect at the Rock + Roll Yard Sale, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Union Sq Plaza.**

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.

This month, the **library** is pleased to display the artwork of local artist **Jael Whitney Brothers** in the **Gallery @ SPL** with her exhibition: **Pixels of Somerville**. Please join us for a reception celebrating the exhibit this **Saturday, August**

24, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., 79 Highland Ave. **Pixels of Somerville** showcases **Glitch Art** by Jael Whitney Brothers created by glitching photographs of areas around Somerville and the Greater Boston area into new digital landscapes.

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., **Every Thursday** from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. join **Parkour Generations Boston** for **Teen Jams at The Dojo**. This is a flexible time for teen community members to use the pop-up training space at The Dojo @ Somernova and connect with fellow community members in the process. Join Parkour Generations Boston for the monthly, free Community Jam at The Dojo from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on **Saturday, August 31**. All movement backgrounds are welcome, such as CrossFit, climbing, obstacle course racing, yoga, Pilates, circus arts, boxing, weightlifting, dance, gymnastics, couch-sitting, and anything in between – meet-ups have something for you. No registration is required.

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.

The **Somerville Public Library** will be hosting an **open mic night** in the **Central Library Auditorium**. You're welcome to bring and read your own poetry or a work by another poet. Registration is encouraged. **August 22**, 7:00 p.m. 79 Highland Ave.

Continued on page 21

Book review: 'The Appeal' by Janice Hallett

By Dennis Fischman

The epistolary novel is a story that's told mostly or entirely in correspondence between two people or more. It's a classic genre, with examples as old as Pamela (1740) [1] and Frankenstein (1818) [2] and much more recently, The Color Purple (1982) [3] and The White Tiger (2008) [4]. There have even been murder mysteries in this format: think The Documents in the Case [5] by the classic mystery writer Dorothy Sayers (better known for her series starring Lord Peter Wimsey).

In this book, Janice Hallett uses some of the conventions of the genre. For instance:

- + A frame story involving a law firm whose Senior Partner is not sure his client – who has confessed to murder – is really guilty. (He assigns two younger lawyers to go through all the documents in the case to find out if they see a different murderer with a different motive.)
- + A literal “cast” of characters: the members of the Fairway Players amateur theater company and their families.
- + People who are not who they

say they are.

- + People with mysterious pasts in other countries.
- + Secrets and lies.

What makes The Appeal [6] a 21st century bestseller is that instead of letters and paper documents, nearly all the files we are reading over the shoulders of the young lawyers are electronic: emails and text messages. Their conversations with each other and with their boss are also electronic, so at crucial points in the story, we get to listen to them spin out their theories, make their discoveries, and finally, solve the mystery.

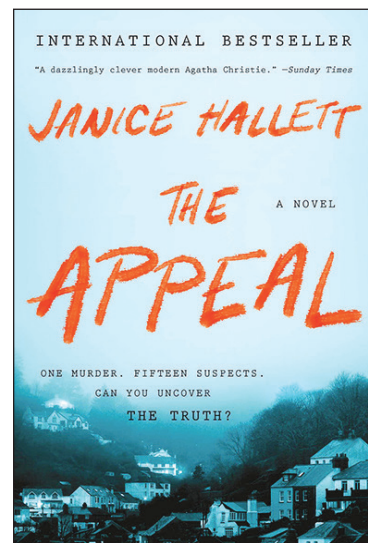
It's also contemporary because our sleuths are young women lawyers, and many characters in the book are African or Asian, and none of them are simple stereotypes. Compared to classic mysteries, that's a breath of fresh air.

Yet my feelings about The Appeal are mixed. On the one hand, I zipped right through this book, even though we won't be discussing it at the Somerville Public Library Murder Mystery Book Club [7] until August 28. I liked the young lawyers who were reading all the docu-

ments, and I appreciated having their lists of characters and relationships, their discussions, and eventually, their theories. It helped me keep track of who was who and what was what.

On the other hand, there were too many characters, and I didn't like a single one of them! Some of them seemed like high school gossips and attention-seekers; others had such strange motives and such illogical behaviors as a result of those motives that I couldn't sympathize with any of them, victims, suspects, what have you.

Over all, the main thing that was intriguing about this book – the setup for the epistolary novel in 21st century form – was also what spoiled it for me. We are supposed to believe that the head of the law firm is having second thoughts and feeling guilty about pleading his client guilty when he is now doubting her confession, and that he employs two of his younger associates to read through everything and see if they see what he does ... and then he cheats by pointing them in the direction his own theories are taking him? What good would that do? It's artificial without any



"The Appeal" by Janice Hallett. Atria Books, 2021, 419 pages



Dennis Fischman is a member of the Somerville Public Library's Mystery Book Club and an inveterate reader.

real artifice.

I had to feel bad for the child whose illness was exploited to raise money. I think that twenty years from now, little Poppy will find a way to go back and kill her family. There's a book I would read!

Links:

- [1] https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/417549.Pamela?ref=nav_sb_ss_5_6
- [2] https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/35031085-frankenstein?ref=nav_sb_ss_1_12
- [3] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/52892857->

- [the-color-purple?ref=nav_sb_ss_1_12](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1768603.The_White_Tiger?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=Oamd0wXBwr&rank=1)
- [4] https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1768603.The_White_Tiger?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=Oamd0wXBwr&rank=1
- [5] https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/320478.The_Documents_in_the_Case?ref=nav_sb_ss_1_20
- [6] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/58070069-the-appeal>
- [7] <https://somervillepubliclibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/mystery-book-group-35/>

Somerville resident wins 4 year, full tuition Berklee City Music Scholarship

Ronald Ellies (pictured, far left) of Somerville is one of nine recipients of four-year, full-tuition Berklee City Music Scholarships this year. He is a current participant in Berklee City Music programming, focusing on drum performance. He plans to major in Music Production and Performance at Berklee.

Nineteen young musicians from Boston and beyond have been awarded scholarships to attend Berklee. The scholarship recipients are participants in Berklee City Music, a nonprofit program that delivers high-quality contemporary music education to youth from underserved communities at no or low cost.

The program also includes the City Music Network, an association of 47 community organizations that serve more than 60,000 students in the US, Canada, and Latin America each year. Since its inception over 30 years ago, Berklee City Music has awarded 283 four-year, full-tuition scholarships, totaling over \$33 million.

This year, Berklee City Music funded 19 scholarships in total. Nine students were given four-year, full-tuition Berklee City Music scholarships, with four of those also receiving housing scholarships. Additionally, three students were awarded Berklee City Music partial-tuition scholarships, and seven participants were given full-tuition aid from Berklee ahead of the fall.

Berklee City Music celebrated the scholarship recipients in a ceremony and concert on August 6 at the Berklee Performance Center. The evening was hosted by four-time Grammy Award-winning pianist and producer Brian Kennedy, and Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter and artistic director of Berklee Abu Dhabi, Mayssa Karaa.

The scholarship presentation and concert marked the end of Berklee's Aspire: Five-Week Music Performance Intensive, where dozens of students attended the program on Berklee City Music Summer Scholarships.





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Spotlight Series Returns in September with Lady Lamb

Arts at the Armory's Spotlight Series will kick off its 3rd full season with singer-songwriter Lady Lamb on Friday, September 6. From her humble beginnings in a video rental store in Maine to the stages of New York City, Lady Lamb's journey has been one of passion and profound musicality.



Doors will open at 7:00 p.m. The concert will start at 8:00 p.m. on September 6 with Westwater as the first opener.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



View of East Somerville...

— Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



It started raining coins outside today.
 I guess it's just climate change.

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On This Day in History

August 21

- 1129 – The warrior Yoritomo is made Shogun without equal in Japan.
- 1831 – Nat Turner leads a slave revolt in Southampton County, Virginia that kills close to 60 whites.
- 1858 – The first of a series of debates begins between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas.
- 1863 – Confederate raiders under William Quantrill strike Lawrence, Kansas, leaving 150 civilians dead.
- 1942 – U.S. Marines turn back the first major Japanese ground attack on Guadalcanal in the Battle of Tenaru.
- 1959 – Hawaii is admitted into the Union.
- 1988 – Ceasefire in the 8-year war between Iran and Iraq.
- 1989 – Voyager 2 begins a flyby of planet Neptune.
- 1991 – Communist hardliners' coup is crushed in USSR after just 2 days; Latvia declares independence from USSR.

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

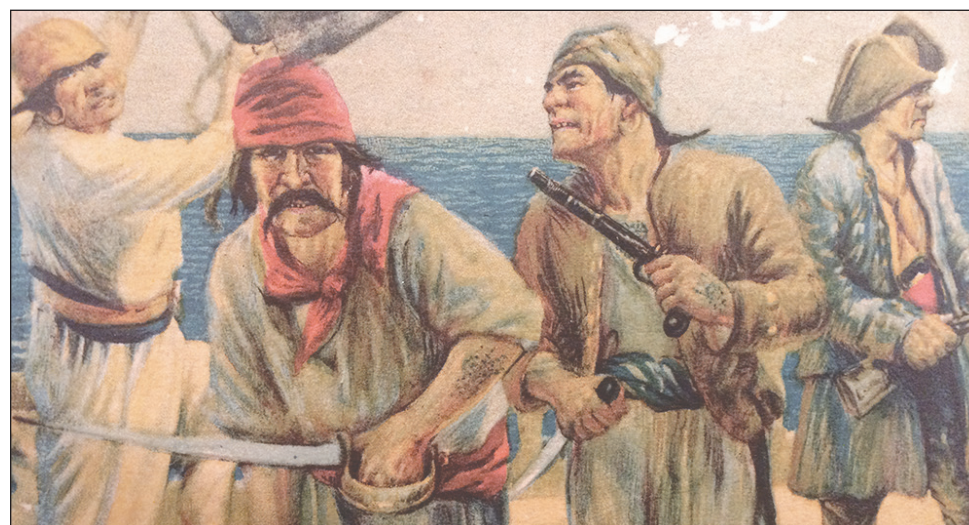
Revolutionary War eight months later. This 1774 landing and departing site of the British men at arms had already held an historic lore. It was the exact location of the July 4, 1631, launching of Governor John Winthrop's ship the "Blessing of the Bay." The Blessing was the pioneer of over 500 future ships to be built on the Mystic. Her historic send off on the Fourth of July prophesied the Massachusetts colony and our nation's freedom.

Blessing was first used to deliver men and soldiers westward where they built a garrison to protect English settlers from

the Dutch expansion and Indians on the Connecticut River. These communities included what would become Chicopee, Holyoke, Springfield, and other towns.

This thirty-ton, three-mast craft fished and traded up and down New England's coastal waters and beyond. She later became an armed cruiser that protected the infant fleet, guarded our coast from pirates, and was the progenitor of the United States Navy.

The historic "Blessing of the Bay" and the British landing location warrant first-rate recognition.



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 18

Somerville Greekfest 2024, indulge in mouthwatering, authentic Greek cuisine and heavenly pastries that'll make your taste buds dance. Groove under the big tent to live music that'll get your feet tapping and your heart singing. Sip on cold beers and fine wines as you soak in the electric atmosphere of the biggest Greek food festival in town. **September 6 and 7** from 12:00 to 11:00 p.m., and **Sunday, September 8**, from 12:00 to 9:00 p.m. **Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church**, 29 Central St, Somerville.

 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=G3vfBQjV93c>. 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>.

 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.

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 No-**

vember 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

by Doug Holder

Poet Lisa Usani Phillips: Brings the High Holy to Market Basket and Bangkok

Interview by Doug Holder/ New England Poetry Club
– Board of Directors

Recently, I was out in Amesbury, Ma. for a memorial reading for the late Poet Laureate of Amesbury, Lainie Senechal. The reading was on the grounds of the Whittier House. There I met poet Lisa Usani Phillips, the current Poet Laureate, and she told me she has a new book of poetry out titled *Guest People* (Wheeling Tern, 2022). She generously agreed to this interview.

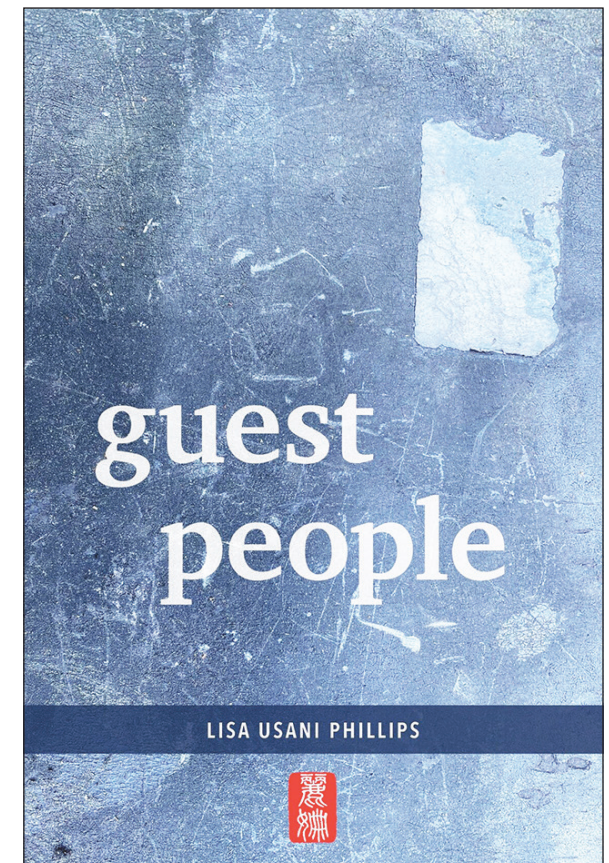
Doug Holder: You have quite an ethnic mix of Asian and Irish, two very different cultures. How do you feel that is reflected in your work?

Lisa Usani Phillips: In terms of ethnicity, I'm Hakka Chinese by way of Thailand on my mother's side and Irish, as well as English, German, and Dutch by way of Philadelphia on my dad's side. Growing up biracial, Asian and White, the daughter of a first-generation immigrant and a psychiatrist in an upper-middle-class Connecticut household, I experienced marginalization as well as privilege. Some called me racial slurs or asked me "what" I was, while others seemed surprised that I experienced any racism or prejudice at all. I also acknowledge my own implicit biases. So I write from and about this mix and find myself drawn to hybrid forms like *zuihit-su*, *haibun*, prose poems, and even concrete poems, which seem to facilitate questions about the ways we see ourselves in the world, how the world sees us. My debut collection, *Guest People* (Wheeling Tern, 2022), is a hybrid of poetry, story, and photography.

DH: We are given names at birth, and for many of us, we don't think deeply about them. You do, and you write poems exploring your name and your mother's. So, what's in a name?

LUP: That's a good question. I've always been curious about names and their meanings and power. In my family, names were a form of assimilation – my mom had a Chinese name and a Thai name growing up, and then when she came to the U.S. she had an English name. When I was a kid, I did not use my middle name, Usani, which is my mother's Thai name, because it was easier not to. I didn't even know how to pronounce it correctly. As an adult, I grew to love my middle name as well as the Chinese name

the hammer, digging deep. Then silence and stillness, held fast in wind and sun. Nothing but cows and horses



my grandfather gave me, Li Shan, because they are unique, beautiful in sound and meaning. I cherish them as a way to celebrate my heritage and my connection with my mother.

DH: I had a strong feeling from your writing that your family had to cover up their ethnic background. Even their facial features were abhorrent to some segments of society. You seemed to fight this need to totally assimilate, the slits of your eyes remained, you would never be a wide-eyed white woman.

LUP: Some of the poems in this collection are a fictionalized take on what my maternal grandparents did to assimilate as Hakka/Chinese immigrants to Thailand in the 1940s, and what my mom and her relatives did when they emigrated to the United States. Other poems are rooted in my own struggles with assimilation and the quest for authenticity, as well as questions about where racism comes from and how we construct social identities. In *Slant*, the speaker is a young Chinese American and White girl who wants to look like her Chinese relatives, but in doing so, offends them with a gesture that

passing, wearing smooth some rough places, and the farmboy carrying his stack of time.

— Gary Whited

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Gary Whited is a poet, philosopher and psychotherapist. His first book titled, *Having Listened*, won the 2013 Homebound Publications Poetry Contest. In 2014 it received a Benjamin Franklin Silver Book Award, and in 2015 was translated into Russian and a bilingual edition was published. His new book, *Being, There*, includes new poems along with his translation of the ancient Greek fragments of Parmenides from the 5th century BCE. This book dances between the poetic voice of Parmenides and the poetic remembrances of a young life on a prairie cattle ranch. His poems have appeared in journals, including *Salamanca*, *Plainsongs*, *The Aureorean*, *Atlanta Review*, *Comstock Review*, *The Wayfarer*, *Poetry Daily*, *The Red Letters* and *Kasparhauser*.



Learning to Grieve

It helps to remember old corral boards, rough to touch, hanging by big nails, weathered, waiting for horses,

for cows or the too-young-to-help-in-the-field farmboy carrying a whole day of time in his uncalloused hands.

Each board, once part of a pine tree growing on a mountain's side, tall and reaching, branches swaying in wind, perch to sparrow or hawk. Can it remember the axe and saw, the long fall, the broken limbs,

laying its full length onto the ground next by its stump? Or the long ride to the mill, another saw,

big, noisy, severing its long body into well-measured boards stacked with strangers, jostled on

and off trucks, stacked again and again until the dusty farmer drives up with his truck,

picks this one and that one, stacks another bunch of strangers, then the rough road to a new stack

by the barn? Again, the saw, this time shorter by a foot or two, then the big nail, with its friend,

Gloria Mindock presented with Sam Cornish Award

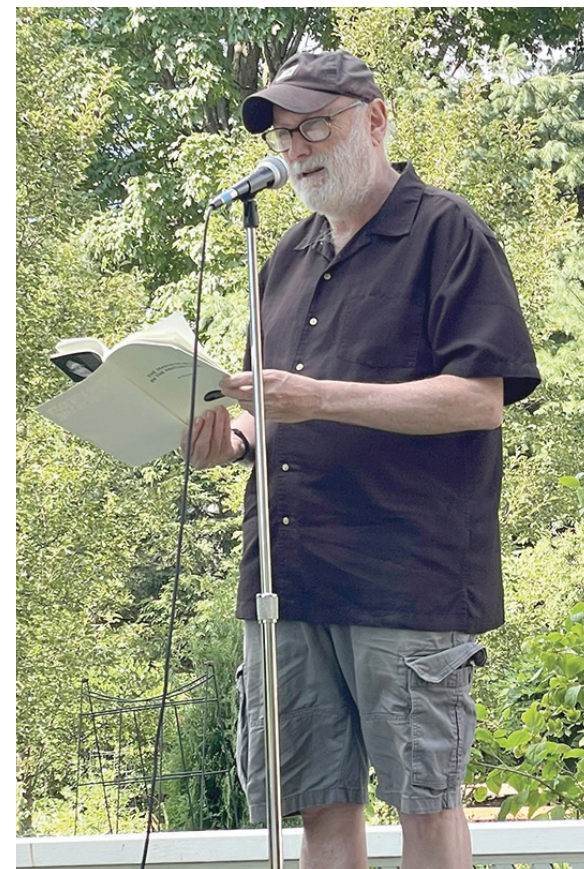
On Sunday, August 11, Somerville Poet Gloria Mindock was honored with the Sam Cornish Award at the Longfellow House, Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site in Cambridge. Mindock is Editor of Červená Barva Press, Somerville's Poet Laureate in 2017 and 2018 and an award-winning author of six poetry collections and three chapbooks. Her poems have been published and translated into eleven languages. Červená Barva Press has published over 260 books. Five authors read from their books published by Červená Barva Press, helping Gloria Mindock celebrate the Sam Cornish Award. They are: Doug Holder, Denise Provost, Elizabeth Lund, Hilary Salick and David P. Miller. To learn more about Gloria and her work visit <http://www.cervenabarvapress.com>.



Doug Holder presenting Gloria Mindock with the Sam Cornish Award. — Photo by Paul Miller



Sam Cornish Award recipient Gloria Mindock. — Photo by Paul Miller



Doug Holder reading his poetry at the Sam Cornish Award ceremony. — Photo by Paul Miller



Červená Barva Press authors who read at the award with Gloria Mindock: Hilary Salick, Gloria Mindock, David P. Miller, Denise Provost and Elizabeth Lund. — Photo by Joy Martin



The Sam Cornish Award presented to Gloria Mindock.

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

racists use to mock Asians and Asian Americans. In another poem, *Avatar*, the mixed Asian American speaker encounters her friend/photographer's clueless instruction to open her eyes wider, but does not call it out. So, the speaker fights, perhaps, but also succumbs to assimilation, keeping the peace.

DH: You recently have been appointed Amesbury Poet Laureate. How did that come about? What plans do you have as the new laureate?

LUP: Last fall I heard that Ellie O'Leary was stepping down as Amesbury Poet Laureate, so I introduced myself to her, said I was interested in the position, and she encouraged me to apply. This was right before I was tak-

ing time off to have and recuperate from major surgery, so it was a pleasant if somewhat overwhelming surprise to be chosen. As laureate, my mission is to promote poetry, poets, and literary citizenship in Amesbury, mostly through continuing our monthly poetry reading and open mic series, which I organize and host with help from the Amesbury Poet Laureate Support Committee, the Amesbury Cultural Council (ACC), and the John Greenleaf Whittier Home. While some of our featured poets have an Amesbury connection, I also aim to bring the wider world of poets to our community. I was able to get a grant from the ACC to pay our featured poets an honorarium, which is a new thing that I'm particularly

proud of. We have also started posting recordings of the readings on YouTube (@AmesburyMAPoetLaureate) and have also worked with Amesbury Public Library and other local libraries to promote events and activities for our National Poetry Month celebrations.

DH: Why should we read your book?

LUP: Several readers said that they really liked the fact that I write about Market Basket as well as Bangkok, that it's accessible, and has a generous range of topics and forms for a book of its size. In addition to Market Basket, assimilation, hybrid forms, and names, you'll find bees, bittersweet, tattoos, love, grief, mermaids, and a flying octopus.

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