



Inside:



School is in the air
page 3

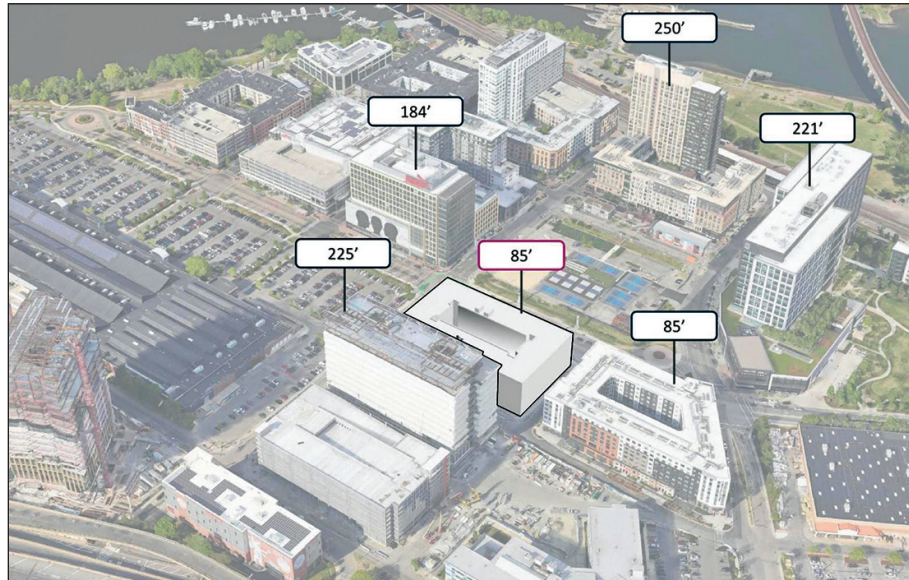


A Children's Circus with a twist
page 13



Kiwanis giving backpacks
page 17

Assembly Row Block 9 updates development plan



Block 9 of Assembly Row remains in planning stages.

By Cathleen Twardzik

The Assembly Row development team held a virtual neighborhood meeting on Wednesday, August 21, at 6:00 p.m.

"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. The development team will respond to this session when preparing the site plan application to be considered by the Somerville Planning Board," according to the meeting notice.

What might be the future of block 9? "What we're proposing is an eight-story building," said Sarah Forde Rogers, Senior Director of Development at Federal Realty.

Importantly, "Block 9 will add *Continued on page 4*"

La Posada's brings good food, outdoor dining and tequila

By Jeffrey Shwom

On a beautiful Thursday afternoon in Magoun Square, I walked the sharply dressed Johe Posada, owner of La Posada. He rode to the restaurant on his motorcycle, with a dark blue blazer and clean-shaven face, and was ready to entertain. I had a chance to speak with Johe about how his business began, the changing concept of La Posada beyond his El Salvadorian roots, and their expansion of outdoor and indoor dining.

In Spanish, la posada means "the inn." For Johe, it is more personal. "Posada is a family name, my mom's last name. We (Johe and his sister and co-owner, Yenny Posada) learned to cook with her. She cooked in El Salvador and was involved in church and the school cafeteria. The food was *Continued on page 4*"



La Posada Restaurant & Tequila Bar, located in Magoun Square, offers a wide variety of Latin-flavored cuisine and the finest selection of tequilas to be found locally. — Photo by Jeffrey Shwom

BUSINESS BANKING

With a Complete Line of Online and Mobile Banking Services Business Banking is...

Better Than Ever!



617-666-8600

1-800-444-4300

winterhillbank.com

A Mutual Bank Serving the Community Since 1906.



Bay State Skating School

LEARN TO SKATE CLASSES for Recreational • Figure • Hockey Skating Skills



Over 50 Years Experience Children (4-18 years)



The safety of our customers and staff is our #1 priority! Cambridge, Brookline, Cleveland Circle, Medford, Newton-Brighton, Quincy, Somerville, Waltham, West Roxbury, Weymouth

781-890-8480 • www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org



T.J. SILLARI, INC.

Over 50 Years Experience

Plumbing • Heating • Gas Fitting • Industrial Work • Water Heater Replacement • Complete Drain Service

Residential - Industrial - Commercial

625-9877

Proud to be a Somerville resident

Master Plmb. Lic. #6106



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.

The Labor Day holiday is Monday, September 2. City offices will be closed. Trash pickup will be delayed by one day for the full week. We wish everyone a safe happy Labor Day weekend!

Early Voting for the September 3 Election will take place at Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave on the following dates and times: 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. Have a vote-by-mail ballot? Ballots must be received by the Elections Department by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day (Tuesday, September 3). All info at www.somervillema.gov/elections.

Today, Wednesday August 28, is the first day of Somerville Public Schools for grades 1–12. Wednesday is an early release day. There is no school Friday 8/30 and Monday 9/2. Visit SPS district website calendar for more information: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/events/calendar>. Visit the 2024–2025 School Year Calendar page for an English, Spanish, Portuguese, or Haitian Creole calendar to print: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/schoolyearcalendar>. Visit the Food and Nutrition Services Department page for school meal menus. Breakfast and lunch are free for all students: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/fnsd>.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of August 28 – September 3 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday <i>August 28</i>	Partly Cloudy	86°/57°	13%	6%	WNW 14 mph
Thursday <i>August 29</i>	Partly Cloudy	69°/53°	4%	2%	ENE 10 mph
Friday <i>August 30</i>	Sunny	74°/61°	5%	3%	E 12 mph
Saturday <i>August 31</i>	Rain	78°/67°	28%	21%	SW 9 mph
Sunday <i>September 1</i>	Rain	80°/65°	59%	44%	S 11 mph
Monday <i>September 2</i>	Partly Cloudy	75°/54°	22%	16%	WNW 11 mph
Tuesday <i>September 3</i>	Sunny	72°/53°	1%	1%	NW 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: Erika Uyterhoeven's Tactics are Hurting Progressive Movement

Crysta says:

It kinda astonishes me how much some people in local SDCC politics — particularly those who would be called “progressive Republicans” if they lived in Vermont or Maine — are solid members of the “anti-Erika Uyterhoeven” campaign. Astonishes me because they have gone to such great length to pretend Erika isn’t effective, and they somehow echo the original campaign notes of Erika’s first rival for the seat... Someone who ran on a very Whyte “she isn’t from here” one-note campaign. Justin Klekota should sit and have a think about the ways in which his own tactics and bs have hurt Somerville, particularly the trans activists in Somerville.

Rand Wilson says:

Lots of Somerville Democrats disagree. More than 40 Somerville Democrats have signed a letter in support of Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven for state rep. <https://rand-wilson.medium.com/somerville-democrats-support-erika-uyterhoeven-ab60394fb1ee>

Justin says:

Crysta, you have just proven my point. Not a single member of the SDCC is a Republican: they are all Democrats. Furthermore, I’m a member of the LGBTQIA+ community and have volunteered my time to defend our community for decades going back to the marriage equality push and use the same language as our legal community to defend LGBTQIA+ rights. Whenever anyone questions Erika’s publicly verifiable record or her campaign’s tactics, Erika and her supporters attack their critics identity as progressive Democrats: this does nothing to promote progressivism and Erika’s failure to pass any single piece of legislation into law in four years is proof her approach is not working. Somerville deserves better.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138



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

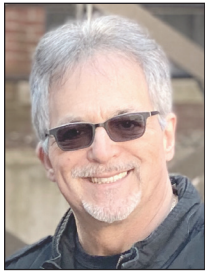
The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

A proud member of the following newspaper organizations:



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

School is in the air



This article first appeared in the August 21, 2010 edition of The Somerville Times

Even though I have been out of school for over 33 years, there is something about this time of year that makes me nervous. I write about this condition every year because it is a recurring ailment. It's like a rash that returns once a year at the same time. Although I know the importance of school and education, and all that jazz, I still get butterflies in my stomach around the middle of August. School still makes me uneasy. I have also been having the same dream for years. I

am still in high school trying to graduate. In the dream, I am usually in my pajamas, and there is a teacher tormenting me.

Some parents can't wait for the kids to return to school. A lot of families have paid dearly to keep their children in camps or in day care during the past couple of months. Summer vacation to me means I don't have to make snacks, tell the kids to go to bed, or try to get them up in the morning. If they want to sleep until noon, who cares. It is a vacation for me too. And now it is almost over. Soon it will be back to the old routine of making sure there are plenty of clean clothes, no dirt behind the ears, and an ample supply of zip lock bags for snacks.

My boys have already *Continued on page 10*



TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR FUTURE - JOIN US TODAY!

AT RCC, YOUR FUTURE IS OUR FOCUS
rcc.mass.edu | 857-701-1200

ROXBURY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Join Somerville's Annual Evolution of Hip Hop Festival in Union Square

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council (SAC) are inviting the community to join Somerville's Tenth Annual Evolution of Hip Hop Festival that will take place on Saturday, September 7 (rain date Saturday, September 14), from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m. in Union Square Plaza.

This free ArtsUnion festival is presented by the City of Somerville and Somerville Arts Council in partnership with Wat's Da Wurd, Mass Movements and Ultimate Entertainment Group. The festival will feature various styles of artists and dancers within the Hip Hop communities from the Somerville community and surrounding cities. Attendees can also see other visual arts presentations and visit information tables offered by local community groups:



- Musical performances starting at 4:00 p.m. by DJ Tee Lawson, A.M.B., Ossa, Main, AQ, Wally Sparks, Dro Casso, Forte, Oompa, Sassisane and Terry B-
- Photo opportunity with a collection of vintage cars provided by Gregory Smith of Show Riders and Ultimate Entertainment group
- Visual Artists and Craft vendors

Stay tuned as more artists will continue to be added to the line-up!

As the community celebrates the tenth anniversary of this dynamic festival, The SAC and the City of Somerville want to thank Pacey Foster for building this platform in Somerville, as well as the Ultimate Entertainment Group with Kevin Stone and Frank Poindexter supporting the mission.

For more information, visit somervilleartscouncil.org/artsunion/2024/hiphop.

If you are interested in being a vendor or a performing artist, please contact Yvette at 2022wpc@gmail.com. Questions about the festival can be directed to Events Manager, Iaritz Menjivar at imenjivar@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2998.

Assembly Row Block 9 updates development plan CONT. FROM PG 1

approximately 318 units of much-needed housing, which will further enliven our growing, mixed-use neighborhood at Assembly Row. Block 9 will be Federal Realty's first new building not directly on the Row. The transition of development to west of Grand Union Boulevard marks an exciting shift, as the neighborhood continues to expand," said

Forde Rogers.

"The ground floor will have 13,000 square feet of retail that we're hoping to be able to find a daycare operator for [including a play space for the children] and then, we'll have some residential amenities on the ground floor, such as the lobby, the leasing office, probably a fitness center [and] some work from

home. The second floor will be parking, [including bike parking] and floors three through eight will be the residential [rental] units," she said.

The 20 percent affordable housing requirement will be met, and the plan is to exceed the 2018 sustainability requirement.

Landscaping will be part of the proposed building, including the

third-floor courtyard.

The main entrance (pedestrian) will be located on Harold Cohen Way, the vehicle entrance will be located on Grand Union Boulevard, and a loading entrance will be available on Auto Workers Way.

What's the most important thing that was accomplished at the meeting and why? "Sharing

our proposed plans with the community is an important part of the development process. We were excited to receive positive feedback on our proposed program and massing for Block 9 at Assembly Row," said Forde Rogers.

"I would say – best case scenario – we'd be able to put a shovel in the ground [in the] third quarter of next year," she said.

La Posada's brings good food, outdoor dining and tequila CONT. FROM PG 1

always phenomenal for the school. When she left, the kids asked why she did not continue cooking?"

After his mom taught him, Johe wanted to open his own bar. "The concept came on its own." It started with Mexican and shout outs to the Brazilian restaurant they bought, Petisco's, at 505 Medford St, in 2014. Even today though, "as we were adding new plates, we wanted to add food from different places, and not just Mexico. Our beef empanadas are mostly Brazilian. The chicken empanadas are a blend, the skin is the way Brazilians do it and the filling is El Salvadorian." Johe likes to "put recipes together from one country and then another."

Then there is the tequila. Initially, "I was inclined to a rum style bar." After some time, Johe focused on tequila, including

getting certified as a Tequila Specialist by the Mexico's Consejo Regulador De Tequila. "The concept is about fresh ingredients in my drinks and premium tequilas. The goal is that you can choose a tequila next time and you know what you like because you taste it. I carry over 75 tequilas at all times!" The tequila tasting is a more intimate, personal experience. "I take a maximum of ten people. I sit down at a table and show you good food and good tequila for two hours."

La Posada's outdoor dining experience has really heated up their business and the square. Historically, summer was not always the hot time to La Posada. "We used to be busier in the winter than in the summer. As soon as spring came, we saw a lower number of people come in."

Covid changed things – for the better. "During Covid, we had a quarter capacity inside, 10 people (instead of 40). The patio was a game changer. We could spread tables inside and out. Joe Lynch (of the Somerville License Commission) was a great support during this time. I am grateful for that. It helped our concept. We have a tropical theme here. With a patio, what better to have than a tropical drink outside?"

Currently, La Posada has roughly 30 seats outside as well as indoor dining, and they are expanding into the two adjacent spaces on Medford Street. "We think we could be approved any day now to start construction. Demolition was done a while ago so we think we are ready to get things started."

Johe had time to praise Ma-



La Posada's owner and jovial host, Johe Posada, conducting one of his tequila tasting events.

goun Square businesses that have opened during his time. "In these 10 years, it has changed a lot. The opening of Tasty Momo, Don Julio coming together, and Big Belly Deli. The square offers a good variety of quality food. I appreciate that. Daddy Jones

has delicious Greek. My dad is hooked on the burgers! I have always been a fan of Olde Magoun Saloon and having a beer."

La Posada Restaurant & Tequila Bar, 505 Medford St, Somerville. Visit luposadasomerville.com.

Grant money awarded to SPS computer science program

By Harry Kane

The Healey-Driscoll Administration awarded Somerville Public Schools a \$41,035 grant for the Digital Literacy and Computer Science program on July 1 to expand the learning experiences for students following the 2024 Massachusetts STEM Summit on May 15.

This is the second installment of a phased 3-year Computer Science (CS) Engagement Grant that was awarded to SPS, according to a press release on August 13 from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

“Digital literacy and computer science skills are important for all students, and grants like this help increase access and participation,” said Governor Maura Healey. “I look forward to seeing the opportunities that these districts will create for their students.”

The theme at the STEM Summit focused on the evolving computer science education and workforce landscape. This year the Somerville team is focused on growing the DLCS programming for students in grades 6-8.

In Massachusetts, DLCS instruction includes the areas of computing and society, digital tools and collaboration, computing systems and computational thinking.

A DLCS pilot program for all students in grades 6-8 will take place at the Arthur D. Healey School (K-8) this year. This

course will be taught by the school’s K-8 Library Media Specialist, according to Jackie Piques, Chief Communications and Development Officer at Somerville Public Schools.

The Healey School focuses on arts integration, with an emphasis on thematic, project-based learning, designed to engage children’s interests.

In regard to the pilot program, three SPS educators attended a week-long curriculum seminar to help prepare for DLCS programming in their classrooms this year.

Materials purchased include educational hardware such as circuit playgrounds and micro:bits, which can help bring computing to life in the physical realm with artistic, musical and robotic applications.

“This is such an exciting time for computer science in Somerville Public Schools,” said Laura Peters, SPS Math Teacher. “The grant supported our team in creating and expanding DLCS learning experiences for students in 6-8, with the ultimate goal that every student in SPS has an opportunity to see themselves as computational creators.”

The initial round of Computer Science (CS) Engage Grant funding for SPS was \$14,421 in October 2023 for the implementation of the K-12 DLCS programming. They received an amendment to that grant in March 2024, according to Jacqueline Reis, Communications



Somerville Public Schools has received a \$41,035 grant for the Digital Literacy and Computer Science program.

Director at DESE. The total amount received was \$21,579.

The second allocation of grant money for SPS – the \$41,035 – was part of a \$265,025 award to nine school districts for DLCS education in public schools for either grades 3-5 or grades 6-8.

The grant is intended to be a 3-year grant, providing public school districts like Somerville’s with the support and funding to develop and implement a DLCS Implementation plan, according to DESE.

“Our incredible team of educators and administrators are making great strides in an effort to bring more high-quality educational opportunities for all students to explore topics in computer science,” said Jason

Behrens, SPS Innovation Specialist. “It feels like we’ve just reached the starting line and we can’t wait to get more students and staff involved in the planning and implementation stages as we scale this fabulous initiative.”

The grant supports the creation of new programs, such as the pilot program at the Healey School and/or expansion of existing programs to serve more students who are the most underserved, according to DESE.

The education department described the grant as a potential way of creating new opportunities for students designated as economically disadvantaged, English language learners, special education, underrepresented

minorities, underrepresented females, and those living in rural areas.

The average computer science salary in Massachusetts is \$82,123 per year. The City of Somerville pays an average of \$92,442 per year, according to ZipRecruiter.

The average salary for a job with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science in Somerville is \$125,555, according to Salary.com.

Up until this year, all official DLCS course opportunities were offered at the Somerville High School through the mathematics department. At the high school there are now six DLCS courses, including a new Art, AI and Robotics class for the fall semester.



Are You Sitting On A Fortune?

Call Our Team at CRG To See What Your Home Is Worth.

617-764-4342

699 Broadway Ave, Somerville, MA 02144



For sale



1989 Corvette convertible 24,743 miles. \$ 10,000 or best offer.

617-594-3539

Beacon Hill Roll Call



Volume 49 – Report No. 34 • August 19-23, 2024 • Copyright © 2024 Beacon Hill Roll Call. All Rights Reserved. By Bob Katzen

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.

\$650,000 FOR MICROLOANS TO BUSINESSES (H 4800)

House 155-2, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of \$650,000 (reducing funding from \$1.5 million to \$850,000) for loans to small businesses. The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$650,000 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 capital funding in the fiscal year 2025 Capital Investment Plan intended to support this purpose. Specifically, capital grants for Community Development Financial Institutions will be utilized to complement this funding in support of small businesses and microbusinesses."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$650,000. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

\$7.5 MILLION FOR PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE STATE COLLEGE GRADUATES TO BECOME PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS (H 4800)

House 134-24, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of \$7.5 million (reducing funding from \$10 million to \$2.5 million) for programs to encourage graduates of the state's public colleges to work as public school teachers.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$7.5 million was eliminated.

"I am reducing this item to the amount projected to be necessary," said Gov. Healey in her veto message. "The amount as adjusted here, in combination with the available balance from fiscal year 2024, is sufficient to meet projected demand and result in no reduction to fiscal year 2025 spending for this item."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$7.5 million. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

\$875,000 FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PROGRAM (H 4800)

House 154-4, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of the entire \$875,000 for a statewide college and career readiness program implemented by JFYNetWorks, a nonprofit corporation, to provide online instructional curricula to help students meet the Massachusetts state standards at each grade level and reduce learning loss and achievement gaps. The program would also prepare students for required assessments and college placement tests in middle school and high school.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$875,000 was eliminated.

"I am vetoing this item because it is not consistent with my House [budget] recommendation," said Gov. Healey in her veto message.

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$875,000. 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) – Gov. Healey signed into law 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 is home to the best health care, but there was work to be done to improve birth options and health equity for families across the state," said Gov. Healey. "These important expansions in the law will help make it both safer and easier to start and grow a family here in Massachusetts, while making sure that women can make the best health care decisions for themselves."

"Massachusetts is renowned for its world-class hospitals and health care facilities, and this legislation builds on that legacy by prioritizing maternal health care needs and providing expanded childbirth options for the commonwealth's residents," said House Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "In addition to creating a formal licensing process for certified professional midwives and lactation consultants, this legislation will offer expectant parents access to a wide range of services to ensure a successful pregnancy and childbirth, including uni-

versal postpartum home visits and postpartum depression screenings."

"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 embark 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."

"These investments are part of our commitment across agencies to eliminate disparities in maternal health care that have led to worse outcomes in some communities and for people of color – especially Black birthing people," said Health and Human Services Secretary Kate Walsh. "We are taking specific steps in designated communities to support the most disproportionately impacted residents and help provide much needed access to equitable perinatal and postpartum care."

EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING IS OPEN FROM SATURDAY, AUGUST 24 THROUGH FRIDAY, AUGUST 30 - Early in-person voting in the upcoming September 3 state primaries kicked off Saturday, August 24 and runs through Friday, August 30. Under Massachusetts law, all cities and towns in Massachusetts are required to offer early voting.

Secretary of State Bill Galvin recommends voters check their city or town's early voting schedule to find out what days and hours they can vote early. "With the primaries being held on the day after Labor Day, some voters may prefer to vote by mail or to vote early, especially if they have children going back to school that day," Galvin said. "The early voting period gives you the chance to vote on whichever day you prefer, at your convenience."

Voters who applied to vote by mail, but have not yet returned a ballot can still vote in person, if they wish. Those who have already returned their mail-in ballot will be marked off on the voting list and will not be able to vote again.

For more information, go to www.VoteInMA.com to find your community's early voting locations and schedule.

\$3.75 MILLION TO ADDRESS OPIOID CRISIS - The Healey administration announced \$3.75 million in grants to 18 grassroots organizations to help reduce the harm caused by the opioid epidemic in *Continued on page 13*

COMMENTARY

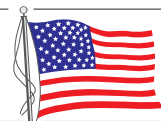
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Kids are heading back to school soon, so let's be careful out there.

Our View Of The Times



Once again it is time to shift gears and power down a bit as we roll out of the high-octane frenzy of summer time and into the laid back breezy days of autumn and on into the winter months ahead.

We all need to become a bit more aware of what lies ahead of us on the road, and to be especially alert to activities near our schools and playgrounds as the kids are now back to their normal schedules.

Yeas, "normal" looks a bit different this year, what with the closures of certain schools for renovations and the subsequent re-routing of certain students to different schools for the time being.

Consequently, the need for exercising caution couldn't be greater, as students and their families become used to newer routes and modes of transportation.

Naturally, we hope that everyone drives

responsibly at all times, but we also like to put out a reminder at this time of year, just to try to help everyone to become a little more conscious of the fact that the kids are out there and that we should be looking out for them, rather than being a hazard for them to look out for.

Please observe and obey all traffic signals, stop signs, and especially the crossing guards who are out there providing an

essential service in helping to protect our little ones.

Many of you have kids of your own and would wish for this, too, no doubt. Let us all take a little time to spread the word whenever we can. Just a bit of friendly persuasion can make a large impact and help to make the streets a bit safer for everyone.

The kids, most of all, will appreciate the extra care taken in caring for them.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

birthday to our own photographer, **Claudia Ferro**. We are very happy to have her as our photographer. We wish her a very happy birthday. **Rep. Christine Barber** is also celebrating this week, we wish her a great day. Happy birthday **Patty Opedisano**. We wish her a happy birthday. Happy birthday to **Marilyn Publicover**, the sister of our former publisher, who is celebrating this week. We wish her the very best. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Bob Baxter**, **Cheryl Endicott-Ribeiro**, **Michael Madden**, **Leesette Bengar**, **Isabel Mercauto**, **Andreza S. Moon**, **Thomas B. Mercies**, **Donna M Morabito**, **Mary Casavant**,

Dennis Kacoyanis, and **Len Glionna** 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.

Starting 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. 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. For more information and a list of events visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/>

On **Monday, September 9**, the **West Branch Library**, 40 College Ave., will host **Bad Art Night**. Let your enthusiasm run wild and create with no expectations.

They'll provide a variety of materials and then you can go wild creating your masterpiece. This month's theme is **"Back to School."** This program is intended for adults. Learn more and register at <https://tinyurl.com/bddznau9>.

School is back in session and this year the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is asking for crucial **donations of school supplies** for their young student clients and their families. Right now they are in urgent need of essential supplies such as backpacks, binders, notebooks, highlighters and more. Please check out their current needs list here: *Continued on page 21*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#938

1. How many beats per second does a bumblebee flap its wings?
2. The Beatles film *Help!* is dedicated to the memory of the inventor of what?
3. Which country's national animal is a unicorn?
4. What is the oldest U.S. retail industry company that is still doing business today?
5. How many islands make up Hawaii?
6. What male vocalist and TV star had a 1950s No. 1 with *Poor Little Fool*?
7. What is the name of the talkative parrot in *Aladdin*?
8. How many grandchildren did artist Grandma Moses have?
9. Cirque du Soleil started in what country?
10. Who was the first woman to ever be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?
11. Pupusas are from what country?
12. What is the smallest country in the world?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Edgar Allan Poe married his thirteen-year-old cousin.
2. Salt used to be used as a currency.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

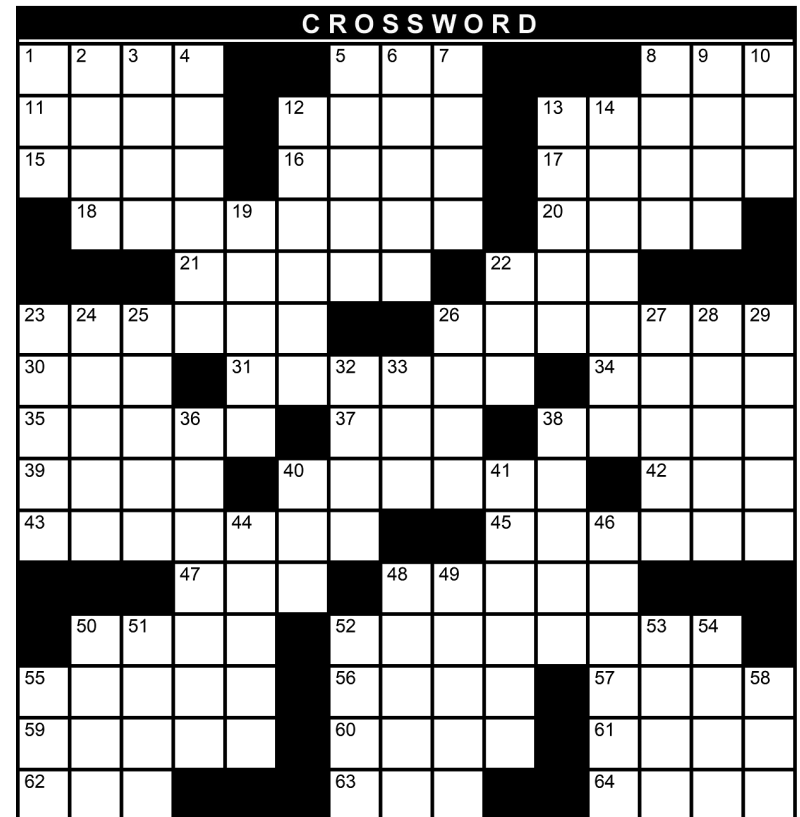
THE 1930s

ACROSS

1. Doorframe part
5. The Swing Era or ____ Band Era
8. T-cell killer, acr.
11. Arabian chieftain
12. Actress Sorvino
13. Excessively fat
15. Chore list
16. Second word in fairytale?
17. Doled out cards
18. 1933 movie monster (2 words)
20. Eyeball
21. Golf aid
22. French vineyard
23. Larry or Curly or Moe
26. Between delta and zeta
30. ____ B vaccine
31. Ciphering machine
34. Kind
35. Black and white cookies
37. ____ chi
38. Fender bender consequences
39. Light beige
40. First white chocolate manufacturer
42. Grasp
43. Elbow room, to a ship (2 words)
45. Teenagers' emotions
47. Belly
48. East Indian pepper
50. Buzzing pest
52. Prairie crisis (2 words)
55. Change, as in U.S. Constitution
56. "If all ____ fails..."
57. Solomon-like
59. Boatload
60. Lab gel
61. Enthusiasm
62. Finale
63. Grazing land
64. Blood vessel network

DOWN

1. Blue Angel
2. In a frenzy
3. Calf-length skirt
4. Ford option
5. Two-footed mortar support



SWITCH & GET \$25

Off First Month of New Service!
USE PROMO CODE: **GZ590**

Consumer Cellular

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR **888-804-0913**

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

© StatePoint Media

Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



6. Shoemaker without shoes, e.g.
7. Al Capone's Chicago Outfit, e.g.
8. Mend, healthwise
9. Small island
10. Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
12. Shenyang (China) in 1931
13. O in B.O., pl.
14. Cole Porter's "Begin the ____"
19. Dashboard windows
22. Accounting title
23. Oxfords and loafers
24. 9 a.m. prayer
25. George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess"
26. Discharge
27. Ding-a-____, pl.
28. Eightsome
29. Egg holders
32. Big-ticket ____
33. Tank filler
36. a.k.a. The Little Rascals (2 words)
38. Brightest star in Cygnus
40. 1990s negation
41. Second of two
44. Beat the Joneses
46. Angry stare
48. Battle of the ____, a.k.a. Ardennes Offensive
49. Test format
50. Bureau of Investigation agent, to "Machine Gun" Kelly
51. Smart but awkward one
52. FDR's New ____
53. ____ E. Coyote
54. Law school test acronym
55. Expert
58. Compass point between NE and E

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

City Council covers issues of recent interest

By Parker Garlough

The city council met on Thursday, August 22, to discuss a wide range of topics, including the E911 union, funding for the Argenziano school kitchen, drug use in Davis Square and Seven Hills Park, and support for senior Somerville residents.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne spoke to congratulate the police dispatchers on their new union contract. A 3% cost of living adjustment will be applied retroactively from July 1, 2023. Step increases will be raised, bringing wages up to match those of the fire alarm operators. The contract also includes benefits such as increased vacation time, family leave, and sick days, including time off for preventative wellness care. The council approved \$313,738 in funding for the collective bargaining settlement.

The contract also formalizes a name change from the Call-Takers Union to the Police Dispatchers Union, a title that is intended to convey greater respect and decrease misogynistic associations.

“It’s easy to pay a skilled professional less without even reflecting upon it when you label their complex work as simply answering a phone,” Ballantyne said.

Prior to the closure of the Winter Hill Community and Innovation School at Sycamore Street, it hosted the kitchen where food for the Somerville elementary schools was produced. After evaluating potential sites for relocation, has decided to place the production kitchen in the Albert F. Argenziano School. Construction will take place over the course of three weeks, which is planned for completion during winter break. Until then, students will continue to be served boxed lunches that can be prepared with the limited equipment currently available, just as they did during the previous school session.

The City Council unanimously approved \$200,000 for the project.

Multiple councilors reported large numbers of complaints from constituents about open drug use and harassment from people in Davis Square and Seven Hills Park, many of whom are

unhoused.

“I have seen the pattern shift in the park,” said Councilor Judy Pineda-Neufeld, who lives near Seven Hills Park and passes through it frequently to bring her son to daycare. “I have seen trash and needles continue up the path to the benches at the corner of Thorndike. Parents every day are asking me, ‘how do I make sure my toddler doesn’t pick up a needle in the park? How do I make sure that my child isn’t experiencing the level of verbal – and for some constituents, physical – harassment that they have experienced walking through the park?’”

The council discussed how to address the situation with compassion for the people residing in these areas, and take a thorough, results-focused approach. Councilor Davis said that police presence in the area has been consistent and non-aggressive.

“I sense that some folks who have spoken with me are waiting for me to say that we’ll have the police chase these people away and that will solve the problem,” Davis said. “It’s my opinion that



Difficulties with those who frequent Seven Hills Park were among the topics addressed at the latest meeting of the Somerville City Council. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

that won’t solve the problem. That will simply push folks who are having a hard time to somewhere else.”

Several agenda items aimed to increase support for seniors residing in Somerville. The Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations Committee will discuss the feasibility of hiring a senior liaison, who would facilitate communication between Somerville’s administration and its senior residents. In

addition, Somerville and Cambridge Elders Services will work with Denise Taylor, the Director of Communications and Community Engagement, to promote Somerville Public Library’s senior tech support program in order to reach a greater number of residents.

The council also recognized August 21 as Senior Citizen Day, sponsored by Councilor Strezo at the suggestion of constituent Mary Napolitano.

Dorothy’s Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Greek Salad

I absolutely love salads during the summer months. We have a small garden in our yard and usually just grow tomatoes and herbs. But this year, we added zucchini and cucumbers to the mix. Needless to say, we had an abundance of great vegetables. About 50 tomatoes, some picked already, and some still growing on the vines. Many zucchinis, I was able to make zucchini bread and zucchini meatballs, all meatless of course.

So, with all this goodness picked from the garden, I thought I would share one of my go to salads. Serves 2 as a side, or 1 as an entrée.

1 cucumber, ends trimmed and quartered lengthwise, cut into large chunks
2 tomatoes, cut in half, each half cut

into 8 slices
1/4 red onion, thinly sliced
1/2 cup Kalamata olives
4 oz. feta, sliced
1/4 cup fresh mint leaves, thinly sliced, plus whole leaves for garnish
2 tablespoons of red wine vinegar
2-3 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil
Freshly ground black pepper, about 5 turns of the mill
Generous pinch of Maldon Sea Salt Flakes

Place the cucumber, tomatoes, onion, and olives onto a shallow plate. Drizzle the vinegar over the vegetables along with two tablespoons of the olive oil. Add the mint and feta. Drizzle the remaining olive oil over the feta and season with the salt and pepper. Garnish with the mint leaves. If you have some lettuce you would



like to add, I recommend chopped romaine hearts. Or whatever other lettuce you like. Serve right away.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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



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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, September 17, 2024** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0E7latgLYiO73h_a6ZKaQ
Webinar ID: 897 8396 3976

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

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

HP24-000044 - 53 Moore Street

Applicant: Susan Miller
Owner: Susan Miller
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by replacing windows.

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

HP24-000076 - 35 Cedar Street

Applicant: Mazel Tov LLC
Owner: John J. Malin
The Applicant seeks to demolish a principal structure 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.

8/28/24 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE 2023-2024 CAPER

The City of Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development is preparing its 2023-2024 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) as mandated by the federal Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This report discusses how the City spent CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds across the most recent program year. **The City seeks feedback on the draft report**, which will be available at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/office-strategic-planning-and-community-development-ospcd/ospcd-administration> starting September 11, 2024.

- The City will hold a virtual public hearing on **September 12, 2024 at 6:30 PM** to present the draft plan and receive comments. Members of the public may attend this hearing through the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85074085403?tk=LEMybVXQ2hoxYPeBC9afN-vjqw8sG3f4ZeiQPUUsg9xI.DQYAAATzs-GGxZSdGpBU0i4QIFxdXI-zSVhyNmlhT1d3AA&pwd=THB6nX4KVWzyxEpj49N0q17EYAFz5M.1&uuiid=WN_cRrK2tQSAcSBCcJwobQQ
o Passcode: 074212
 - Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville should contact Adrienne Pomeroy, at APomeroy@somervillema.gov.
 - Interpretation into other languages may be available upon advance request by contacting the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs at somerviva@somervillema.gov or calling 311 at 617-666-3311.
- Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the draft CAPER to Miranda Rubin (mrubin@somervillema.gov) at the City's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (City Hall, 3rd Floor). All comments received by **September 25, 2024**, will be incorporated in the final Report.
- 8/28/24 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.storagetreasures.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, 8/28/24 The Somerville Times

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

NOTICE OF INITIAL SITE INVESTIGATION AND TIER II CLASSIFICATION

**14 HORACE STREET
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
RTN 3-38289**

A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has occurred at this location, which is a disposal site as defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, § 2 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. To evaluate the release, a Phase I Initial Site Investigation was performed pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0480. As a result of this investigation, the site has been classified as Tier II pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0500. On **26 August 2024**, **Boynton Yards LandCo II, LLC** filed a Tier II Classification Submittal with the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). To obtain more information on this disposal site, please contact **Beck J. Straley, LSP, Haley & Aldrich, Inc., 465 Medford Street, Suite 2200, Massachusetts, 617.886.7400**.

The Tier II Classification Submittal and the disposal site file can be reviewed at **MassDEP Northeast Regional Office, Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup, 150 Presidential Way, Woburn, Massachusetts, 01887, 978.694.3200**, or online at <https://eeonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/wastesite>.

Additional public involvement opportunities are available under 310 CMR 40.1403(9) and 310 CMR 40.1404.

8/28/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB #25-06**

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

Temporary Boiler Unit for City Hall

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 28th, 2024**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Thursday, September 12th, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Prevailing wage rates apply. 5% bid deposit required.

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

Sonia Castro
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3407

8/28/24 The Somerville Times

School is in the air CONT. FROM PG 3

started the grim countdown to school. Summer reading projects have to be finished and some more new school clothes need to be bought. There is a tone of gloom in the kid's voices and I feel their pain. The little guy mentioned that this summer there was no "big trip" like in past summers. Last year they went to Busch Gardens in Virginia. This year they had to suffer at our campsite in New Hampshire.

The return to school was always an emotional pot hole that I knew I was going to fall into every year. When I was walking through Wal-Mart on Saturday, it really

hit home. There were Back to School signs everywhere. The school supply aisles always made me feel a little pain in the pit of my gut, as did the school clothes section. I still recall the drudgery of trying on school shoes. I had flat feet so I had to wear hideous black leather, style-less shoes. My mother always bought me pants that made the inside of my legs itch. Style was never an issue when school clothes shopping was concerned. If it fit, and my mother approved, I wore it. Kids today are lucky. They get to come school shopping and pick out their own duds. My entire 4-year high school wardrobe cost less than two

pairs of my son's sneakers. When I was in school, some of the teachers were very mean. Some thought they were hard guys. We had dress codes and strict rules to abide by. No wonder I get bad feelings around this time of the year. For 8 years I was in a prison known as parochial school with nuns as guards. A couple of those nuns we had could replace Vince Wilfork on the Patriots. It is no wonder I have bad feelings about those three words, back to school. I do have pleasant memories of my years as a substitute teacher in Somerville. It was like the inmates running the

asylum. I am glad I was a fair sub, because over the years I have run into many former students. Some are very big and quite tattooed. I am happy I wrote all those bathroom and hall passes. I will be dropping off and picking up two kids at two different schools for the first time in years. One of the happiest feelings I get is seeing my kids walking out of school heading for the truck, with the school day behind them. I wish summer vacation could last forever. I hope all the school kids out there make the most of every last minute of their final days of freedom.

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.

Peace at Home to Support Peace Abroad



From the Mayor's Desk By Mayor Katjana Ballantyne

We all hold our core beliefs. For me, I believe when any one of us is harmed, we are all harmed. I have no tolerance for any form of hatred whether it's antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism, homophobia, or any other hateful view. My immigrant experience has taught me to value and champion differences. It is also why I am opposed to all war. And war is what I wish to address today.

I've been listening hard to community members since the October 7th Hamas attack on Israel and throughout the war raging in Gaza. We have residents personally impacted by the death, destruction, and horror there. They are grieving an unimaginable grief. Countless more are outraged and deeply pained by the atrocities, afraid of rising hatred in our society, and alarmed by tensions coursing through our

own community.

I have had conversations with individuals who are horrified by both the attacks and war. I'm also hearing about how this conflict is feeding into a rising tide of dangerous antisemitism and Islamophobia in our larger society. It is a challenge to find the words that address such an ugly and brutal conflict, and the hate it is fueling, in some productive and comprehensive fashion.

As Mayor of this community, I want to call for us to raise up our long-forged Somerville values of respect for the dignity of others. It's important that we discuss how we're addressing these horrors and interacting with each other here in our own four-square miles. I believe this is all connected. How can we call for peace abroad if we cannot model it here at home?

I was raised in a household with generational war trauma. This experience is woven into my visceral opposition to all war. My parents lived through World War II as youths. Later, my Czech-German mother and my Scottish father met, married, and adopted me after I was orphaned in Greece. We are a family of immigrants from three different countries carrying not

just the history of our ancestors with us but also the memory of war and destruction. My earliest years were spent among people who were still putting themselves and their countries back together from the ravages of that war – even after the passage of two decades. I know first-hand how war scars its survivors and how the weight of a thing that happened before you were born can be a looming presence in your life.

I don't say that so that I can claim some sort of moral authority. I say that in the hope you will hear me when I say this: we need to hear and respect everyone's losses and history when they're being voiced. Closing the door to dialog shortchanges us all.

In Somerville, we've also long been proud that we don't just tolerate our differences, we seek them out and value them. We celebrate them. And we defend them. As a City, we remain resolute. We have not and we will not tolerate hate speech, bias, or violence in our community or our schools. Let me be very clear on that – I condemn all acts of antisemitism, Islamophobia, and Anti-Arab and Anti-Palestinian bias.

Leaders are furiously negotiating for a ceasefire while more

people die and endure unimaginable suffering and hostages remain held. I join with world leaders in calling for a ceasefire, hostage-prisoner exchange, and massive humanitarian relief. Yet a ceasefire is just a pause in the fighting. It's not peace. It does not diffuse the tension that animates this fight. I will say then, again, what I've been saying since day one, we need more than a ceasefire. We need peace – lasting, just peace.

While you and I may not solve the crisis in the Middle East, we can and must model peace here. Those pointing out that antisemitism has been on the rise worldwide, creating danger in the United States, and feeding growing normalization of antisemitic rhetoric and tropes, are correct to raise the alarm. Those taking issue with the portrayal of all Palestinians as terrorists, and the persistent racism and danger they face in the U.S., are also correct to raise the alarm.

So, I'm not just making an empty appeal for everyone to get along. I'm suggesting we do something much harder: engage with the people with whom we're angry and seek understanding. Peace takes work.

Local government creates

many paths to progress, but it takes each of us as individuals to create the path to a forthright, empathetic, and productive dialogue. It takes each of us to choose respect over aggression, civility over discord, common ground over disagreement. That's not giving up the fight. It's taking the fight head on.

I shared a little of my story to start and I'd like to close with the story of another. Recently, I spoke with a Somerville resident who fled here from a war-torn country. He told me what he desires and cherishes most about living here is the sense of safety, the peace, and the acceptance he feels – that he found the strength to advocate for people back home by being rooted in his safe haven here. It is a simple but fundamental observation. I'd argue it packs a power we should not underestimate.

Seeking peace and respect here at home is not ignoring the conflagration abroad while raising lesser issues at home. Just as war trauma gets passed down through generations, I'd say a mindset of peace is contagious in real-time. It is not naïve to hope that modeling peace at home may help it take root elsewhere. It is the very stuff of hope and progress.

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 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 Sept 6 from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m., 44 Day St, Davis Square. Restaurants who 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.



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.

How do you run against an incumbent legislator when the voters don't know who you are?

By Fred Berman

Kathleen Hornby has chosen character assassination as her strategy, presumably hoping that if she throws enough out-of-context misrepresentations and misstatements at her Democratic Primary opponent, incumbent Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven, some of her claims will stick, whether or not they are true.

So, for example, she stated that Rep. Uytterhoeven “joined the Republican Caucus in voting AGAINST emergency shelter funding in 2024.” Ms. Hornby neglected to mention that the bill that Rep. Uytterhoeven and other progressives voted against substantially undermined the Commonwealth’s 40-year Right-to-Shelter commitment to homeless Massachusetts parents, children, and pregnant women by creating an unrealistic 9-month deadline for achieving sustainability and discharge... even as it provided supplemental funding for the last two months of this fiscal year.

As Ms. Hornby knows from her years working at the State House, legislators often have to vote on bills that contain some good provisions and some problematic ones. Sometimes, the principled position is to vote “no” and reject a short-term benefit, if voting “yes” would mean supporting provisions with serious adverse consequences. And sometimes, taking the principled stance makes legislators vulnerable to misrepresentations by political opponents who fail to explain the context in which the vote was taken...

Thus, for example, Ms. Hornby claimed that Rep. Uytterhoeven “voted AGAINST child and family tax credits,” but she neglected to mention that the Governor’s \$1.1 billion tax cut package, which included those tax credits, also included deeply regressive tax cuts that exacerbated income and wealth inequalities, and as originally proposed, seriously undercut the impact of the Fair Share Amendment, which

had been passed by voters to bolster funding for education and infrastructure, including long-overdue MBTA maintenance.

Significantly, Ms. Hornby also failed to mention that Rep. Uytterhoeven played a leading role (along with Sen. Jehlen) in sponsoring and winning support for amendments that removed some of the worst provisions of the originally proposed tax cut legislation (See Mass Budget’s summary analysis at <https://massbudget.org/2023/09/26/tax-package-statement/>) ... and once the legislation was thusly amended, Rep. Uytterhoeven voted for this less regressive tax cut bill, which included the very same child and family tax credits that Ms. Hornby claimed that Rep. Uytterhoeven voted against.

Ms. Hornby claimed that Rep. Uytterhoeven “filed ZERO budget amendments to bring money to Somerville in this year’s State budget,” apparently overlooking Rep. Uytterhoeven’s role in 2024 in leveraging \$54M for Somerville

Public Schools, \$1.2M for road repairs, \$150K for the Somerville Homeless Coalition and \$100K for a City of Somerville pilot to provide interim housing subsidies for limited income seniors waiting to get into elderly public housing, \$30K for Groundwork Somerville, \$1M for Greentown Labs, \$1M to expand SCALE’s adult education and English literacy programming, and \$5M to improve pedestrian access to the East Somerville MBTA station.

Given Ms. Hornby’s misrepresentations of Rep. Uytterhoeven’s efforts, one wonders how much credibility to assign to her description of her own work “help[ing] shepherd multiple bills and amendments through the legislative process, from drafting to endorsement.” Presumably, Rep. Marjorie Decker, Ms. Hornby’s unmentioned State House employer, played the more substantial role in all those efforts, even if Ms. Hornby “helped.”

In terms of their positions on

issues of concern to Somerville residents, Rep. Uytterhoeven (<https://www.electerika.com/issues>) and Ms. Hornby (<https://www.kathleenhornby.com/issues>) are both “progressives,” notwithstanding Ms. Hornby’s misrepresentations. Over the course of her two terms, Rep. Uytterhoeven has demonstrated a commitment to effectively partnering with her colleagues in the Somerville delegation, as well as with other progressive legislators.

Integrity and transparency have been central to Erika Uytterhoeven’s prior work with Act On Massachusetts and as our current State Representative. By contrast, Ms. Hornby’s campaign mailings smearing her opponent with out-of-context misrepresentations and misstatements appear to demonstrate a disquieting, and for me disqualifying, lack of integrity.

Next week, we will find out whether hers was nonetheless a winning approach to challenging an incumbent.

Tips to help kids prepare emotionally and mentally for the coming school year

By Dr. Ana Stankovic, Chief Medical Officer, UnitedHealthcare of New England

It’s that time of year when families are busy checking off those back-to-school lists, including making sure your student has the right pencils, notebooks, and backpack. But even more important than school supplies may be making sure your child is feeling emotionally and mentally ready to start the school year.

Here are four steps to help reduce stress and help support a healthy start of the school year for students.

Create or re-establish routines: What time does the family sit down for dinner? When is homework time? What is the limit for screen time? When is “lights out” at night? What time do alarm clocks ring? The answers are important. Sticking to schedules can create consistency at home that may help your child feel more confident, secure, and stable.

Schedule a well-child visit: Think of a well-child visit as an opportunity to understand your child’s health needs better. Pediatricians can assess your child’s physical & emotional health before school starts, setting them up for success for the rest of the year. It’s also a great time to complete their school’s physical forms and to get current on immunizations. Ask your child’s doctor about what’s driving their physical development, such as diet, exercise, and sleeping habits. Not sure what to ask? UnitedHealthcare offers a printable preventive care checklist.

Discuss mental health: Bringing up mental health can show your child that it’s okay to start those conversations and that they always have a support network they can rely on. If they do talk about being scared or nervous, validate their feelings. Help them feel secure and let them know it’s possible to feel better. These can be sensitive topics for your child, so empathy, openness, and patience can go a long way in helping them feel heard and optimistic that they’ll be OK. Focus on your child’s overall disposition – not just what they’re saying – and watch for warning signs of issues, such as persistent sadness, sudden mood changes, or sleep problems.

Help develop independence at home: For younger kids entering preschool or kindergarten, encourage your child to dress themselves, use the bathroom without assistance, wash their hands, and put on their shoes. Your child should know how to wipe their face after lunch and blow their nose without assistance. They should also be comfortable asking an adult for help when needed.

Children's Circus with educational twist comes to Somerville

Cirque Us is thrilled to be performing their award-winning show "Cirque Us Stories" at the Arts at the Armory on September 4 and 5. Tickets and additional information are available now at www.thecirqueus.com.

"Cirque Us Stories" is a new, thoughtfully curated show that flips through the pages of our troupe's favorite stories to bring you a touching, thrilling narrative about community and identity. Interweaving a collection of folktales, classic literature, children's stories, modern fiction, and more, this show jumps off the page with twists, flips, re-writes, and retellings of stories you'll love. The show features aerialists, jugglers, acrobats, contortionists, clowns, and more,

all ready to fly off the shelf and straight to you.

As part of their mission to spread circus magic to all, Cirque Us is thrilled to share that this new show is being developed specifically with community in mind. Alongside their regular performance venues, they have partnered with a set of schools, libraries, and community centers to bring the circus directly to the people. Access to high-quality performance and arts education is a precious commodity, and through the help of strategic partnerships and grant funding, they are so excited to support the reach and accessibility of the arts with this show.

Since their founding year and very first production in 2016,



Cirque Us will be performing "Cirque Us Stories" at the Arts at the Armory on September 4 and 5.

— Photos by Steve Sarafian

Cirque Us has expanded to produce and tour original, full-length works year after year, alongside educational experiences such as camps, workshops, and other events for people of all ages and abilities. The DailyUV.com calls this troupe "the perfect blend of sophistication and fun," and "non-stop action that keeps you guess-

ing as to what is to come next."

The 2024 troupe of "Cirque Us Stories" comes from across the United States and have a collective resume which includes Circus Smirkus, Cirque Dreams, Pippin National Tour, Santa's Circus, SeaWorld, All Wheel Sports, Westchester Circus Arts, Zoppe Circus, and Kidz Roc. Cast mem-

bers have received awards for 1st Place in Aerial Rope, Aerial Hoop and Ground Acts at VIVA Variety Festival.

"Cirque Us Stories" opens in Somerville, MA at the Arts at the Armory on September 4th and runs through September 5th. Tickets are on sale now at www.TheCirqueUs.com.



Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

communities disproportionately impacted by overdose deaths. The grants are awarded through the Mosaic Opioid Recovery Partnership, a new grant program designed to support underserved communities and populations that have experienced a high rate of opioid-related overdose deaths.

"Too many Massachusetts families have been devastated by the impacts of substance use disorder and we have been doing everything in our power to reduce overdoses and save lives," said Gov. Healey. "These awards underscore our commitment to equitable access to necessary resources for prevention, recovery and treatment programs in communities disproportionately impacted by the opioid epidemic."

"These grants ensure that opioid settlement funds are invested in community organizations that are working at the grassroots level but face challenges in competing for grant funding," said Undersecretary of Health Kiame Ma-

haniah. "We're hopeful that these diverse organizations will now have the ability to build on their substance use disorder programming while centering the voices of the community they know so well and who have been directly impacted by the overdose crisis."

MBTA'S INCOME-ELIGIBLE REDUCED FARE PROGRAM BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 4 - The MBTA announced that expanded access to reduced fares for income-eligible riders begins on Wednesday, September 4, 2024.

This new program provides riders who are aged 18-64 and have low income, with reduced one-way fares of approximately 50 percent off on all travel including MBTA buses, subways, commuter rail and The RIDE.

The online application is available at mbta.com/income-eligible

The application can be completed in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Haitian-Creole or Vietnamese.

The launch also includes the availability of in-person support at five locations around the MBTA service area. For more information, call 617-222-3200.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Our audit found that, under prior leadership, the Convention Center cherry-picked when it was convenient or not convenient to follow public records law, Chapter 30B, alongside its own policies and procedures with regard to state procurement and contracting. Deeply troubling is also the fact that prior leadership violated the law in executing a \$1.2 million non-disclosure agreement – concealing allegations of racial discrimination." — *State Auditor DiZoglio upon the release of her audit of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority.*

Continued on page 19

CLASSIFIEDS

Place your classified ad today – only \$1 per word! E-mail: ads@thesomervilletimes.com

AUTOS WANTED

CASH FOR CARS! We buy all cars! Junk, high-end, totaled-it doesn't matter! Get free towing and same day cash! NEWER MODELS too! Call 1-866-258-6720

EMPLOYMENT

My Dental Lawrence PLLC seeks a Dentist with DMD, DDS, related degree + License to Practice Dentistry in MA. Duties include: Diagnose & treat patients, Administer anesthesia, Use dental tools, Preventive care advice, Fit prosthodontics, Prescribe meds, Pulp treatment. Location: Lawrence, MA. Resumes: traciej@mydentalcares.com

FINANCIAL

WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free Consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 855-428-7954

FOR RENT

Apartment for rent: Somerville, 1 bedroom available 7/1/2024. W/W, EIK. \$1500./month. Call Jim, 617-429-0947

Warm Weather Is Year Round In Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.

FOR SALE

YOU'LL WANT TO USE THIS TIMESHARE. Orange Lake, Florida. Near Disney. Weeks 8 & 9 (February) One floor living with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, full kitchen, laundry. Purchase both for \$19,000. Call 978.371.2442 or email carol@actionunlimited.com

HEALTH & FITNESS

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Generic Pills SPECIAL \$99.00. 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 888-445-5928 Hablamos Español

Dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400+ procedures. Real dental insurance - not just a discount plan. Get your free Information Kit with details! 1-855-526-1060 www.dental50plus.com/ads#6258

Attention oxygen therapy users!

Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. Free info kit. Call 877-929-9587

HOME SERVICES

Aging Roof? New Homeowner? Got Storm Damage? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-878-9091

Water damage cleanup & restoration: A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold growth in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-888-872-2809

MISCELLANEOUS

4G LTE HOME INTERNET Now Available! Get GotW3 with lightning fast speeds plus take your service with you when you travel! As low as \$109.99/mo! 1-877-452-1183

CARING FOR AN AGING LOVED ONE? Wondering about options like senior-living communities and in-home care? Caring.com's Family Advisors are here to help take the guesswork out of senior care for you and your family. Call for your FREE, no-obligation consultation: 1-844-556-4158

DISH NETWORK \$59.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100. Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-833-800-0411

DISHTV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some Restrictions Apply. Promo Expires 01/31/2024. 1-877-494-7039

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-723-0883

FREE HIGH SPEED INTERNET for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping and handling. Call Maxsip Tele-

com today! 1-877-559-8698

HUGHESNET SATELLITE INTERNET Finally, no hard data limits! Call Today for speeds up to 25mbps as low as \$59.99/mo! \$75 gift card, terms apply. 1-877-459-1615

SAFE STEP North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe-Step 1-844-610-9711

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase* Call 1-855-948-6176 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule free LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-833-610-1936

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 855-761-1725

HughesNet - Finally, super-fast internet no matter where you live. 25 Mbps just \$59.99/mo! Unlimited Data is Here. Stream Video. Bundle TV & Internet. Free Installation. Call 866-499-0141

Become a published author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing trusted since 1920. Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Call for free author's guide 1-877-729-4998 or visit dorranceinfo.com/ads

DISHTV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 12/31/24. 1-866-479-1516

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-in tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our free shower package & \$1600 off - limited time! Financing available. 1-855-417-1306

MobileHelp, America's premier mobile medical alert system.

Whether you're home or away. For safety & peace of mind. No long term contracts! Free brochure! 1-888-489-3936

Free high speed internet if qualified. Govt. pgm for recipients of select pgms incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet. Android tablet free w/one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping. Call Maxsip Telecom! 1-833-758-3892

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get free info package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971

Diagnosed with lung cancer & 65+? You may qualify for a substantial cash award. No obligation! We've recovered millions. Let us help! Call 24/7 1-877-707-5707

Replace your roof w/the best looking & longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! 3 styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off install + Additional 10% off install (military, health & 1st responders.) 1-833-370-1234

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, we're cutting

installation costs in half and offering a FREE safety upgrade! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 3/31/24 Call 1-844-501-3208

Reader Advisory: The National Trade Association we belong to has purchased the above classifieds. Determining the value of their service or product is advised by this publication. In order to avoid misunderstandings, some advertisers do not offer employment but rather supply the readers with manuals, directories and other materials designed to help their clients establish mail order selling and other businesses at home. Under NO circumstance should you send any money in advance or give the client your checking, license ID, or credit card numbers. Also beware of ads that claim to guarantee loans regardless of credit and note that if a credit repair company does business only over the phone it is illegal to request any money before delivering its service. All funds are based in US dollars. Toll free numbers may or may not reach Canada.

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. 200 to 240 per second | 7. Iago |
| 2. The sewing machine, Mr. Elias Howe | 8. 10 |
| 3. Scotland | 9. Canada |
| 4. Brooks Brothers | 10. Aretha Franklin |
| 5. 137 | 11. El Salvador and Honduras |
| 6. Ricky Nelson | 12. Vatican City |

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II
 8:00 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 8:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 9:00 AM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 10:00 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 12:00 PM School Committee Meeting 8-26-24
 3:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 4:00 PM SomerViva em Português
 4:30 PM Driver's License Info Session em Português
 6:00 PM Art Beat 2024
 7:00 PM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 7:35 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 8:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 8:30 PM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 9:35 PM SomerViva em Português
 10:00 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 11:00 PM Art Beat 2024

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

12:00 AM Congressional Update
 12:30 AM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 1:30 AM Jane's Walk 2024
 7:00 AM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 7:35 AM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 8:00 AM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
 9:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 9:30 AM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 11:00 AM SomerViva em Português
 11:30 AM Senior Picnic 2023
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 1:30 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 3:30 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 4:00 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 5:00 PM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 5:30 PM National Night Out 2024
 6:00 PM City Council Meeting 8-22-24
 8:03 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 8:30 PM SomerViva en Espanol

9:00 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 11:00 PM Porchfest 2024

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

12:00 AM National Night Out 2024
 12:30 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 1:00 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 7:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 7:30 AM Congressional Update
 8:00 AM Porchfest 2024
 9:00 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 9:30 AM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 10:05 AM National Night Out 2024
 10:30 AM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 11:00 AM School Committee Meeting 8-26-24
 1:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 2:00 PM Juneteenth Ceremony 2024
 3:00 PM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 4:00 PM Finance Committee of the Whole 6-18-24
 7:08 PM National Night Out 2024
 7:30 PM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 8:05 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 8:30 PM SomerViva en Espanol
 9:00 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 10:30 PM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 11:00 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

12:00 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 12:30 AM Porchfest 2024
 1:30 AM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 7:00 AM Jane's Walk 2024
 8:35 AM National Night Out 2024
 9:00 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 11:00 AM Art Beat 2024
 12:00 PM City Council Meeting 8-22-24
 2:05 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 2:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 3:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 3:30 PM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 5:00 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair

6:30 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 7:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 8:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 8:30 PM Senior Picnic 2023
 9:00 PM Art Beat 2024
 10:00 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 11:35 PM Talking Business: Night Life

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

12:00 AM City Council Meeting 8-22-24
 2:05 AM National Night Out 2024
 2:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 7:00 AM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 8:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 8:30 AM Congressional Update
 9:00 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 9:30 AM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 11:10 AM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 1:00 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 2:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 3:00 PM School Committee Meeting 8-26-24
 5:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 6:00 PM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 6:30 PM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 7:30 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 8:00 PM SomerViva en Espanol
 8:30 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 9:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 9:30 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 11:00 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 AM City Council Meeting 8-22-24
 2:35 AM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice III
 8:00 AM Congressional Update
 8:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 9:00 AM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm

10:00 AM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
 11:10 AM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 12:00 PM City Council Meeting 8-22-24
 2:05 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 2:30 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 4:30 PM Porchfest 2024
 5:30 PM Art Beat 2024
 6:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 7:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 7:30 PM School Committee Meeting 8-26-24
 9:30 PM SomerViva en Espanol
 10:00 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 11:40 PM National Night Out 2024

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

12:00 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 2:00 AM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 7:00 AM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 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 Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 PM Senior Picnic 2023
 1:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 1:30 PM School Committee Meeting 8-26-24
 4:00 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 4:30 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 6:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 6:30 PM School Committee Meeting 8-26-24
 9:00 PM Art Beat 2024
 10:00 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 11:00 PM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 11:30 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 AM Senior Picnic 2023

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

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 School Committee Meeting 8-26-24
 10:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 11:00 PM SHS Girls' GLAX vs Matignon

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

12:30 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Malden
 7:00 AM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 7:30 AM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 8:01 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 School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 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 30

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 School Committee Meeting 8-26-24
 12:00 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 12:30 PM East Somerville Moving On Ceremony
 2:02 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 31

12:02 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
 10:05 AM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 11:00 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 12:00 PM East Somerville Moving On Ceremony
 2:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 4:00 PM Argenziano School Moving On 2024

5:00 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 5:31 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 6:00 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 7:30 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 8:30 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 9:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Malden
 10:35 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

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 School Committee Meeting 8-26-24
 9:00 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 10:30 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 11:30 PM Kennedy School Spring 4-8 Concert

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

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, SEPTEMBER 3

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
 3:00 AM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin

Learn about latest city initiatives from mayor and city staff

Community members are invited to join Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville City Council at the 2024 City Hall Community Meetings. Join us to get an overview of the latest city news, learn more about city programs and initiatives, meet your neighbors, find ways to get involved, and talk with elected officials and city staff.

The in-person meetings kick off with a social half-hour with free pizza and kid-friendly, healthy snacks, where you can chat one-on-one with elected officials including the mayor and your Ward City Councilor or At-Large City Councilors as well as staff about issues important to you.

Mayor Ballantyne and city staff will then share updates on projects in your neighborhood, citywide initiatives, and a look at neighborhood crime stats followed by a roughly 20-minute open Q&A.

All Ward meetings will be

held in person and one all-virtual, all-ward meeting will be held on Zoom and will be accessible online or by any phone. Two additional, all-ward meetings will take place in person: one in Portuguese and one in Spanish. All in-person meetings will be recorded for later on-demand or TV viewing.

Fall 2024 Community Meeting Schedule

Meetings run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., with refreshments and meet-and-greets starting at 6:00 p.m.

Unsure about which ward you live in? Find out with the My-Somerville address lookup tool at www.somervillema.gov/my-somerville.

Ward 4 (Winter Hill, Ten Hills, and more):

Date: Wednesday, September 18

Location: Healey School Cafeteria, 5 Meacham St.

Ward 3 (N. Union Sq., Prospect Hill, Spring Hill, Central

Hill, and more):

Date: Monday, September 23

Location: Somerville High School Cafeteria, 81 Highland Ave.

Ward 7 (West Somerville, Teele Sq., and more):

Date: Tuesday, September 24

Location: West Somerville Neighborhood School Cafeteria, 177 Powder House Blvd.

All Ward Meeting in Portuguese:

Date: Monday, September 30

Location: East Somerville Community School Cafeteria, 50 Cross St.

Details: This meeting will also be livestreamed on the City of Somerville YouTube page and shared on the Portuguese language Facebook page fb.com/SomervilleCidade.

Ward 5 (Magoun Sq., NE Ball Sq., Cedar & Lowell St. areas, NW Porter Sq., and more):

Date: Tuesday, October 1

Location: Kennedy School Cafeteria, 5 Cherry St.

Ward 1 (East Somerville, Assembly Sq., and more):

Date: Tuesday, October 8

Location: East Somerville Community School Cafeteria, 50 Cross St.

Ward 6 (Greater Davis Sq. neighborhood and more):

Date: Wednesday, October 9

Location: Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave.

All Ward Meeting in Spanish:

Date: Tuesday, October 15

Location: East Somerville Community School Cafeteria, 50 Cross St.

Details: This meeting will also be livestreamed on the City of Somerville YouTube page and shared on the Spanish language Facebook page fb.com/SomervilleCiudad.

Ward 2 (S. Union Sq., Perry and Lincoln Park neighborhoods, Beacon St. area, and more):

Date: Wednesday, October 16

Location: Argenziano School Cafeteria, 290 Washington St.

All Ward Virtual Meeting:

Date: Monday, October 21

Location: Online via Zoom with interpretation into Spanish and Portuguese, as well as other languages by request. You may join online or call in on any phone.

Details: For sign-in information, please visit www.somervillema.gov/communitymeetings or call 311 at 617-666-3311.

Interpretation into your language is available for all meetings upon advance request by contacting the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs at somerviva@somervillema.gov or calling 311 at 617-666-3311. Interpretation availability is also being advertised in Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol, Nepali, Mandarin, and Cantonese.

For more information about the Community Meetings and to attend virtually, visit somervillema.gov/communitymeetings. With any questions, please contact Kristine McNulty at kmcnulty@somervillema.gov.

Callahan and Velney Construction forge strategic partnership to empower local minority-owned and disadvantaged businesses

Callahan Construction Managers (Callahan), a full-service construction management company headquartered in Bridgewater, Mass., announced today that it has formed a strategic alliance with Velney Construction, a 100 percent veteran, service-disabled veteran- and minority-owned company located in Somerville, MA.

The partnership is part of Callahan's ongoing diversity and inclusion initiative to equip local minority-, women-, and Section 3-owned trade partners with the tools and resources necessary to compete for contracts in affordable housing and other key construction sectors.

"Persistent challenges for small businesses in the construction industry are the financial restrictions which slow a company's ability to obtain the resources essential for growth," said Patrick Callahan, President of Callahan. "Through this initiative, we aim not only to share our management expertise with Velney but also to help Velney expand and grow its financial resources. The partnership will also help Callahan expand and strengthen our network of M/W/D/VBE companies, ultimately creating more opportunities for all involved."

Josue Velney, Owner and CEO of Velney, stated, "We are thrilled to collaborate with Callahan and leverage its vast expertise in housing and other sectors of construction. This partnership will allow us to better manage different aspects of a project with the help of Callahan's oversight and expertise. We are excited to be a part of their project teams that will provide valuable insight into how to best build and manage a project."

About Velney Construction

Velney Construction, a VBE, SDVOSB & MBE-certified construction company based in Somerville, MA, manages residential and Commercial projects across Greater Boston. Josue Velney holds a degree in Building Construction Management from Wentworth Institute of Technology, where he graduated Cum Laude Honors and Tau Alpha Pi National Honor Society. Josue was selected Boston Business Journal's 40 under 40 in 2022 and Wentworth Institute of Technology's Alumni Entrepreneurship Award in 2023. For more information, visit: <https://www.velneyconstruction.com/>.

About Callahan Construction Managers

Callahan Construction Managers is a full-service construction management company based in Bridgewater, Mass., with a regional office in White Plains, NY. Callahan has served the New England and Northeast regions for over 70 years. As one of the region's largest open-shop construction firms, Callahan provides a wide range of preconstruction and construction management services to local, regional, and national clients. Callahan's markets include multi-family residential, senior housing, affordable housing, hospitality, life sciences, corporate office, educational, retail, and tenant fit-up. Callahan was voted a 2023 "Top Place to Work" by the Boston Globe and 2024 "Best Place to Work" by the Boston Business Journal. Visit: www.callahan-inc.com for more information.

Kiwanis once again provide Somerville students with backpacks and school supplies

For the fifth year, members of the Kiwanis Club of Somerville delivered over 200 backpacks filled with school supplies for distribution to high school students who are most in need of assistance. The students who will receive these backpacks will be identified by the staff at Somerville High School and the administrators at Prospect Hill Academy.

Over the past two months, Kiwanis members have collected school supplies donated by local businesses, residents, supporters and members, including many supplies donated at two weekend donation events in front of Staples at Assembly Row. We would like to give special thanks to Staples at Assembly Row, for allowing members to collect donations and supplies at their store and two Saturdays in July.

Our biggest thanks for the largest donation of 200 high-quality backpacks, was made by PUMA North America and their Joint Venture Partner United Legwear. PUMA North American head-

quarters is located at Assembly Row and we were incredibly privileged again this year to have them as partners in this effort. In addition to the backpacks, fourteen PUMA North America employees, and a few more behind the scenes, assisted Somerville Kiwanis members in packing 200 backpacks with school supplies that were donated by supporters or purchased by the club.

On Tuesday, President Dawn Austin, Treasurer Catia Aruda and Program chair Past President-Haley Adams, led the members and volunteers in packing and preparing the backpacks for distribution. Other members participating included Lieutenant Governor Mernaysa Rivera-Bujoysa, President-elect Tom Austin, Distinguished Past Presidents Bob Nissenbaum, Susan Callahan, and Paul Upton; Past President, Frank Wright and Toni Shelzi, Members Steve Coughlin, Dick Unger, and Thomas Ferte.

We were also assisted by vol-



Thanks to the Kiwanis Club of Somerville and its generous volunteers, Somerville students were treated fresh backpacks and school supplies for the upcoming school year.

unteers Bob Poupolo, Kiera Camire, Kastiel Camire, Kalel Camire, Sonia Trinh, Kaisen Trinh, Taeden Trinh, Michelle Wright, Cameron Wright and Liam Wright.

President Dawn Austin expressed the club's thanks to ev-

eryone who donated supplies, especially PUMA North America and their Joint Venture Partner United Legwear. Without the generous support of so many in our community, this program would not be possible.

To learn more about the Ki-

wanis Club of Somerville, visit our web site, www.somervillekiwanis.org or like us on Facebook, Kiwanis Club of Somerville or visit us on Instagram. #unitedlegwear #puma #kiwanis #KiwanisCares #kiwaniskids #Kids-NeedKiwanis.



250th Anniversary of the Historic 1774 Powder Alarm

History Cambridge, the Somerville Museum, Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site, the Friends of Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters, Boston 1775, and the Cambridge Public Library will present three free events marking the 250th anniversary of the 1774 Powder Alarm and the start of Massachusetts' political independence from Britain.

• **Spark of the Revolution: Reenactment and Historic Fair** – Sunday, September 1, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Nathan Tufts Park, Broadway and College Ave., Somerville, MA 02144. To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Powder Alarm, the Somerville Museum is partnering with the City of Somerville to produce a reenactment of the 1774 events at the Powder House, 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. (Reenactment begins at 9:30 a.m. sharp.) This free event is presented by the Somerville Museum and the City of Somerville. For more information visit <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/calendar-events/powder-alarm>

• **Rebellion along Tory Row: The 1774 Powder Alarm** – Monday, September 2, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m., Longfellow House–Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site and History Cambridge, Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. In response to the British soldiers emptying the Somerville Powder House, thousands of militiamen marched into Cambridge the next day. That response revealed a new political order in Massachusetts and upended the lives of families along Tory Row. The commemorations include family games and activities at Longfellow House–Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site, historians' presentations at History Cambridge, and a walking tour along Brattle Street. These free outdoor and indoor events are presented by History Cambridge, Longfellow House–Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site, the Friends of Longfellow House–Washington's Headquarters, Revolution 250, Boston 1775, and volunteers. Schedule:

- 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.: Family games and activities at Longfellow House–Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site.
- 1:45 p.m.: J. L. Bell leads a walking tour of the colonial estates along Brattle Street, starting at Longfellow House–Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site.
- 2:30 p.m.: Prof. Robert J. Allison lays out the political situation in Massachusetts in 1774 at History Cambridge.
- 3:30 p.m.: Michele Gabrielson speaks on Revolutionary printers and 18th-century media literacy at History Cambridge.
- **Panel Discussion: The Powder Alarm and Political Change** – Wednesday, September 4, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02138.

In the library auditorium, four historians discuss the history and significance of the 1774 Powder Alarm, including its political context, how it affected Cambridge's Loyalist families, and the most basic fight for liberty along Tory Row. The panelists include Dan Breen, Caitlin G. DeAngelis, MaryKate Smolenski, and J. L. Bell.

More information – The United States will soon commemorate the 250th anniversary of the July 4, 1776, Declaration of Independence, the country's founding document signaling the end of British colonial rule. For the people of Massachusetts, however, political independence began more than a year and a half before that with an event that historians have called the Powder Alarm.

On September 1, 1774, the royal governor of Massachusetts sent soldiers to Somerville (then part of Charlestown) and Cambridge to seize gunpowder and other militia supplies. In response, on September 2 thousands of Middlesex County farmers marched into Cambridge and demanded resignations or apologies from all the royal appointees in town. By the end of that day, it was clear that the governor no longer commanded any authority in most of Massachusetts. In the fall, towns set up an independent legislature and started to prepare for war.

This Powder Alarm is not as well-known as the Boston Tea Party that preceded it or the Battle of Lexington and Concord that followed nine months later, but it was a key event along the road to American independence. Brandeis University historian Dan Breen says that the seizure of gunpowder in September 1774 was "one of the most important things that ever happened in Somerville." The militia uprising at Cambridge showed both patriot leaders and the royal governor that Massachusetts farmers were ready to confront the British government.

BACKGROUND: In 1774, General Thomas Gage was appointed royal governor of the British colony of Massachusetts, charged with enforcing Parliament's new Coercive Acts. Facing rural resistance to those changes in the colonial government, he decided to seize gunpowder and cannons assigned to the Middlesex County militia before that weaponry fell into hostile hands.

Early on the morning of September 1, 250 British soldiers rowed up the Mystic River, quietly marched through Winter Hill, and unlocked the Powder House. They moved the more than 200 half-barrels of gunpowder inside to Castle Island. A squad went to Cambridge and took away two small cannons.

Alarm at those events spread across New England, with rumors far outrunning reality. Many colonists took up arms and headed towards Boston. The next morning, several thousand angry men converged in Cambridge, most storing their guns as they realized the worst rumors were untrue. That crowd demanded the resignation of several royal officials, culminating in Lieutenant Governor Thomas Oliver. His house surrounded in late afternoon, Oliver finally signed a resignation under protest, and the people dispersed.

These events demonstrated the potential military strength of the militia system outside Boston. In fact, over the following days, tens of thousands of New England men mobilized at least briefly before learning that the crisis was resolved. The confrontation showed how most people in Massachusetts were no longer inclined to respect royal authority. The governor began to fortify Boston. Within weeks, patriot leaders organized a shadow government and formed special militia companies trained to respond quickly to any future movement of the king's soldiers. Those companies became famous as the "minutemen," and they would march on April 19, 1775.

Special thanks to Gavin Kleespies, Cecily Miller, Jonathan Lane, Kit Rawlins, and Charan Devereaux.

Learn more about the history: "The Revolution Could Have Started Here," Bob Thompson for American Heritage, Vol 69 Issue 3, "On the Night Before the Powder Alarm," J.L. Bell, May 23, 2024 Lecture - "How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm," Dan Breen.

About the Somerville Museum – The Somerville Museum is the City of Somerville's mirror, playing a central role in preserving the past, reflecting the present, and helping to shape the future of this diverse urban community of 81,000. A private non-profit, the Museum has served as the city's premier cultural institution for nearly a century. For more information visit <http://somervillemuseum.org/>.



Community Preservation Act celebrates 10 years

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is proud to announce more than \$35 million spent on affordable housing, open space, recreation projects, historical preservation and accessibility upgrades spanning the entire city, Somerville's Community Preservation Act (CPA) is now marking its tenth anniversary.

During that time the CPA has devoted \$9.84 million toward the City's 100 Homes affordable housing program and \$4 million toward the redevelopment of the Clarendon Hill housing project. It has funded building upgrades and/or accessibility improvements for Prospect Hill Tower, the West Branch Library, Somerville City Hall, the Somerville Museum, Temple B'nai Brith, the Elizabeth Peabody House, and the Somerville Hispanic Association for Community Development, which operates one of Somerville's largest food pantries. The CPA has also provided critical funds for Somerville Junction Park, the Glen Park Community Garden, the Blessing of the Bay Path along the Mystic River, Henry Hansen Park, the Hoyt Sullivan and Central Hill Playgrounds, and outdoor play spaces for the Healey, Kennedy, Winter Hill, Brown, and West Somerville

Neighborhood schools.

Overall, 51% of CPA funds (more than \$18 million) have gone toward community housing, while 27% (more than \$9.5 million) have gone to historic preservation and 22% (more than \$7.5 million) have gone to open space/recreation.

"The Community Preservation Act has enabled Somerville to invest in itself," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "It's helped families stay in our community and helped to turn our historic buildings into public institutions. It's helped green up our neighborhoods, put elevators and ramps in older buildings, and given children a place to play. Over the course of 10 years, it's enabled us to make investments in Somerville's quality of life, making it more accessible for more people."

Somerville voters first approved the program in November of 2012, and its first round of funding arrived in 2014. The CPA puts a 1.5% surcharge on local residential and commercial property taxes with the first \$100,000 of value excluded and with an additional exemption for low-income households. The state also distributes funds every year to CPA communities, with Somerville receiving

almost \$6.5 million since the inception of the program.

Once the funds are collected, projects for consideration are submitted to the city's Community Preservation Committee, which then assesses them and determines the awards. The CPC's recommendations then go to the City Council for final approval.

"The CPA is one of the finest examples you can find of the community identifying and funding its most pressing needs," Mayor Ballantyne said. "The cumulative impact it's had in just a decade is truly impressive. We're a stronger city for it and I can't wait to see the good we do over the next 10 years."

The CPA also has proven to be extremely important in leveraging additional funds for various projects. In historic preservation and open space and recreation projects, CPA funds have been matched dollar for dollar by funds from other sources. Yet the most dramatic use of the CPA to leverage additional funds has been in affordable housing construction, where each dollar spent has leveraged an additional \$18.70. That's almost \$300 million in additional affordable housing funds the CPA has helped to unlock.

"The CPA is a critical first



source of funding," said City Community Preservation Act Manager Roberta Cameron. "Without it, many projects wouldn't be able to move forward. That first dollar in is so important."

The Community Preservation Committee can fund both City and non-profit or private projects that provide a public benefit. It devotes much of its time to making sure the money is spent equitably across different neighborhoods and constituencies to meet community needs.

Fiscal year 2024 CPA projects have included the restoration

of the clock tower and roof at Somerville City Hall, the construction of Henry Hansen Park near Magoun Square and \$1.4 million for the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust. The city anticipates having \$2.5 million available to spend on projects for its 2025 fiscal year, which began on July 1.

To learn more about the CPA and the projects it funds, visit the Community Preservation Act page on the City of Somerville website: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/community-preservation-act>.

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 13

"Absenteeism is really a manifestation of an unmet need. Schools offer counseling, extracurricular activities, meals and the chance to learn with and from students' peers. If students aren't there, they can't benefit from these opportunities and are missing out on so much more than their education." — *Massachusetts Education Secretary Patrick Tutwiler announcing the Healy administration's "Your Presence is Powerful" campaign as part of its continued efforts to reduce chronic absenteeism and support students getting back into the classroom where they have access to a variety of supports, including universal free school meals and mental health services.*

"Yes, a median sale price of \$650,000 was a new all-time high for the month of July, and month after month prices are setting new records, but price gains are smaller than they could be. Interest rates are more than double where they were two years ago, and I'm certain prices would be even higher without those changes." — *Cassidy Norton, Associate Publisher and Media Relations Director of The*

Warren Group announcing the median single-family sale price in the Bay State rose to \$650,000 – an increase of 6.6 percent from the \$610,000 price tag in July 2023.

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 19-23, the House met for a total of 30 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 15 minutes.

Mon. August 19	No House session No Senate session
Tues. August 20	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. Senate 11:30 a.m. to 11:34 a.m.
Wed. August 21	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. August 22	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:21 a.m. Senate 11:12 a.m. to 11:23 a.m.
Fri. August 23	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com



SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER
RECORDS VINTAGE DIY HANDMADE
UNION SQUARE PLAZA NOON-5PM



FREE ADMISSION

Raindate
9.15

AN ARTS UNION EVENT THAT'S ORGANIZED AND PROMOTED BY
 WHAT CHEER? WITH HELP FROM THE SOMERVILLE ARTS COUNCIL



ROCKANDROLLYARDSALE.COM



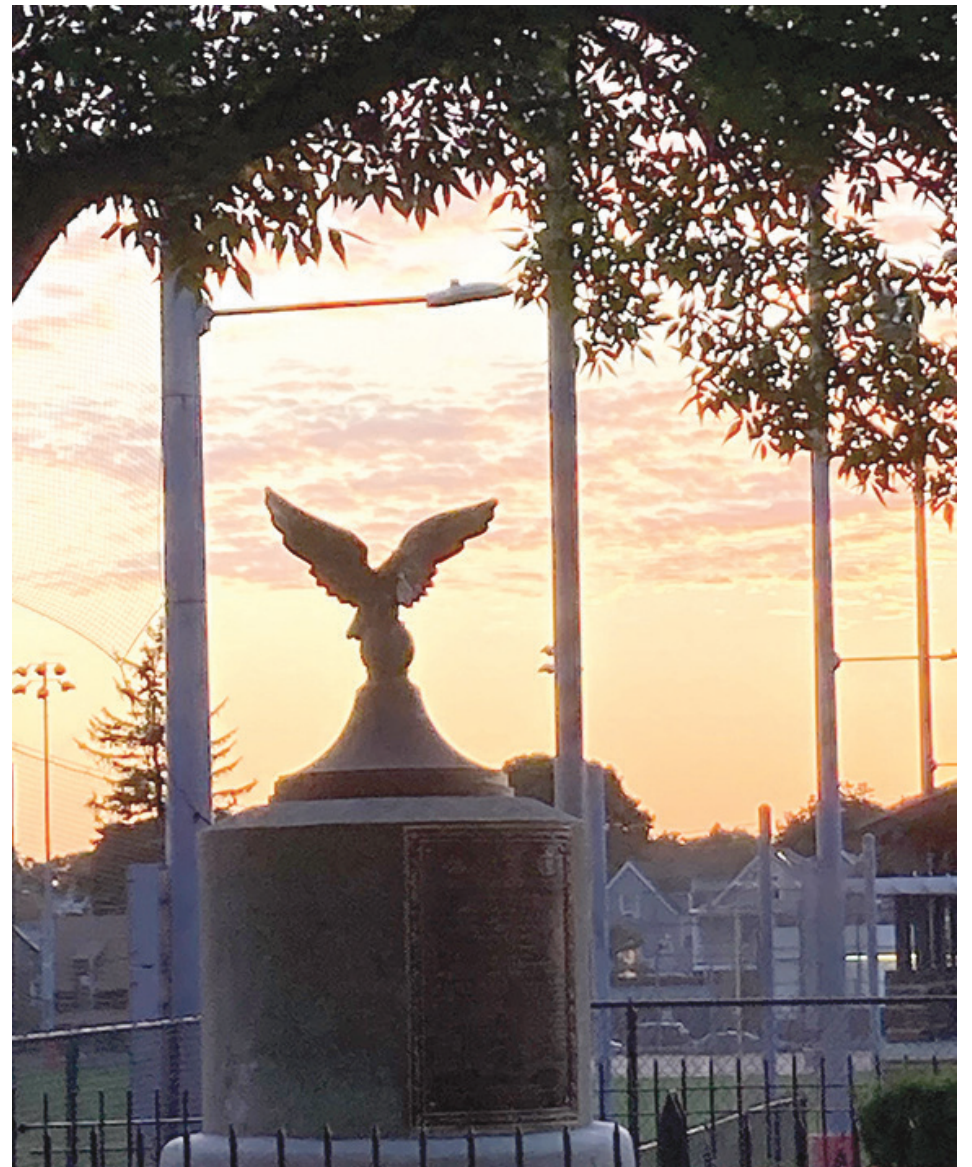
Spotlight Series Returns in September with Lady Lamb

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



Tribute...

— Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why did the boy eat his homework?
 Because the teacher told him it was a piece of cake.

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

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

On This Day in History

August 28

- 1676 – Indian chief King Philip, also known as Metacom, is killed by English soldiers, ending the war between Indians and colonists.
- 1862 – Mistakenly believing the Confederate Army to be in retreat, Union General John Pope attacks, beginning the Battle of Groveton.
- 1938 – The first degree given to a ventriloquist's dummy is awarded to Charlie McCarthy–Edgar Bergen's wooden partner.
- 1941 – The German U-boat U-570 is captured by the British and renamed Graph.
- 1945 – Chinese communist leader Mao Tse-Tung arrives in Chungking to confer with Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-Shek in a futile effort to avert civil war.
- 1963 – One of the largest demonstrations in the history of the United States, the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, takes place.
- 1968 – Clash between police and anti-war demonstrators during Democratic Party's National Convention in Chicago.
- 2005 – Hurricane Katrina reaches Category 5 strength; Louisiana Superdome opened as a "refuge of last resort" in New Orleans.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

<https://bit.ly/School4SHC> For any donation inquiries please reach out at info@shcinc.org.

The **Somerville Community Baptist Church** at 31 College Avenue (two blocks from Davis Square) will hold a **Flea Market on Saturday, September 7**, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., both outdoors and indoors, rain or shine. They will also be selling refreshments and lunch. If you would like to rent a table to sell your wares, please call the church at 617-625-6523.

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

The **SPL** and **Green City Growers** are partnering to offer organic gardening workshops for all ages at the **Central Library Demonstration Garden**. A Green City Growers farmer will lead hands-on workshops designed to teach you when and what to plant, and how to maintain, fertilize, and harvest successful crops. The next session is on **September 7** at 10:30 a.m. 79 Highland Ave. Learn more and register <https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/>.

The **Intercambio Language and Culture Exchange Program** is starting up again in Somerville. Visit [somervilleartsandculturecouncil.org/intercambio](https://www.somervilleartsandculturecouncil.org/intercambio) to learn more about this exciting opportunity to practice a language and connect with others in your community.

The **10th Annual Evolution of Hip Hop Festival** takes place on **Saturday, September 7**, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., rain date Saturday, September 14, at **Union Square Plaza** in Somerville. This **Arts Union** event will feature 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 **Somerville Community Growing Center**, 22 Vinal Ave.: **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.

On **September 6**, the **Somerville Foundation food festival** is celebrating, creating and supporting community nonprofits in partnership with **Davis Square restaurants**. If you know anyone who loves music, food, and don't have anything else happening. Please encourage them to purchase a ticket today: <https://www.somerville-foundation.org/food-nation-celebration>. All proceeds go to hiring a community nonprofit grant writer.

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 the 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 raffle includes two round-trip tickets Brazil. For just \$10, these prizes may be yours.

House of Kebabs in Ball Square is closed for good. **Bishnu** would like to thank everyone for the years of patronage. If you're already missing it you can find him at **Makalu**, just off the Bikeway in Arlington by Spy Pond, and there's word of a new place in the works up in **Burlington**. **House of Kebabs** will be replaced by **The Blue Elephant Thai**, coming soon. Any speculation on when they might open is probably premature, but they seem to be moving fast. Their website seems like a work-in-progress, but we'll update when things are looking closer.

The city has started on the first phase of some planned improvements in the **Ball**

Square area. In this phase they'll be removing the "slip lane" on Boston Ave., extending the sidewalk to narrow the crossing **between Neighborhood Produce and the T station**. This will help level the sidewalk making it more accessible, and eliminate the conflict between people crossing and right-turning cars. The city will also reconstruct the existing curb ramp for the crossing **Broadway at Josephine** (unfortunately they will not be adding a ramp where one is clearly missing in front of Neighborhood Produce at this time). The bus stop bench and other street fixtures have been removed temporarily to facilitate these upgrades. <https://www.somervillema.gov/intersectionimprovements#broadway-boston>

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/BvSwZX8YYUeg3rGB7>) for more information. Don't miss this opportunity to have fun and meet the community.

The next monthly **Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day** is, **Saturday, September 7**, at the DPW, 1 Franey Rd., 9:00 a.m. - noon.

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 culi-

nary 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.

Save the date for the **Somerville Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing** on **October 1**. The Somerville Chamber of Commerce presents the **2024 GOLF CLASSIC**, sponsored by the Winter Hill Bank. The event will take place at the **Sandy Burr Country Club**, 103 Cochituate Rd., Wayland MA 01778, 7:30 a.m. Registration, 8:30 a.m. Shotgun Start (note early time). **Lunch and awards** to follow: 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. For golf (individuals, twosomes, threesomes, foursome welcome); and/or to sponsor – opportunities from \$175 to \$1,500. For more information or to help, email **Joanne Haley**: Joanne@somervillechamber.org.

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](https://www.somervillema.gov/cpa).

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>. *Continued on page 23*



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Origami Night'

A choreo poem based on the poetry of Pamela Annas

Origami Night, a choreo poem based on the poetry of Pamela Annas. Performed by Elenaluisa Alvarez; narrated by Luz Nicolàs; choreographed by Graham Cole; libretto, set design and lighting by Christopher Annas-Lee; costumes designed by Virginia Belt. At the Boston Center for the Arts Plaza Black Box Theatre, 539 Tremont Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

Review by Off the Shelf correspondent Tom Daley

Recently I went to see *Origami Night* at the Black Box Theater at Boston Center for the Arts. I want to most enthusiastically encourage anyone who is able to brave the heat wave we are enduring in the Boston area to get out and take in this riveting, brain-shimmering, thoroughly engaging fifty minutes of theater, which has three performances remaining (the theater is air-conditioned, in case that wasn't clear!).

Origami Night is a choreo poem composed of excerpts of the poetry of Pamela Annas, a feminist Sylvia Plath scholar and a now-retired professor at U Mass-Boston. Her son, Christopher Annas-Lee and his creative partner, the Portland (Oregon)-based choreographer Graham Cole, conceived of the fifty-minute show which will delight connoisseurs of ballet, modern dance, and performance poetry.

The sole live performer of the show (the narration of the poetry was recorded) is the dancer, Elenaluisa Alvarez, a furiously talented movement artist whose



aggressively graceful and spiritedly athletic classical ballet and modern dance moves would be enough to enthrall even the most exacting dance critic. But she adds to that expertise the execution of now comical, now melancholic, now exuberantly idiosyncratic gestures – pouts, punts, grimaces, grunting torso twists, wry smiles, spooky shoulder tremors, neck contortions, and withering collapses – all done in precise synchronicity with certain phrases of Annas' poetry – gestures that demonstrate that she is a marvelous actress as well.

Most of these moves were adeptly choreographed by Graham Cole, but one can sense the way in which Alvarez incorporated the precise instruction and wrestled and wrapped her own vigor and elan, her own graciousness, and her own passion and pain into the choreographer's imagination. *Continued on page 23*

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Eric Benson Taylor is a multifaceted artist whose talents span music composition, poetry, and film producer. As a music composer and performer, he is best known under the moniker The Dystopian Rhythms, captivating audiences with dynamic performances that blend poetic lyrics and evocative melodies. His approach to songwriting is deeply rooted in poetry, adding an extra layer of meaning and resonance to his music. Eric's passion for storytelling extends beyond music into the realm of film. He has produced notable documentaries such as *City as Canvas: Above the Free Walls*, *Turning The Page*, and *Art In Public*. His poems, such as *Long Ago*, *Summer Sky*, and *Pendulum of Memories*, weave rich tapestries of imagery and emotion.



Long Ago

Their bones left to calcify
On turnpikes & muddy roads
Green whiskey kept us dry
Lightning strikes & horny toads
Drunk in the Willow garden
By the banks of the Ohio
The ground cold & hardened
I was the last to know
All these ghosts I see all around me
All These Ghosts of Long Ago
Baseball & picket lines
Rising Dust & Bayonets
The golden sun that shines
O'er fields of smoke & regret
Cosmic moonlight disciple
In Granite Panther Hollow
Beech groves & vulgate circle
All These Ghosts of Long Ago
Fife & drums are rolling
Solitary Western heights
Marching tempos strolling
Through darkest hours of night

We saw the glare of torches
Barns burning in distant glow
With two pistols & our horses
All These Ghosts of Long Ago
Nine trees in a line
Strung with wisteria vine
Fevered tides & barren rivers
I admire your sand
& your flooded bottomlands
Your goosebump midnight shiver
Your deep Backwater sloughs
As Your River Delta Flows
At least as harvest time allows
All These Ghosts of Long Ago
Summer Sky
Dragonflies, they levitate
Hover gracefully & gravitate
Midnight blue & alkali
Draped across a Summer sky
Under a full moon, so delicate
Purple butterflies they hesitate
Over waterfalls, circumnavigate
Constellations, a stellar lullaby

To the northeast with a naked eye
Under a full moon, so delicate
Gaslit lamps illuminate
Evenings left to ruminate
Horizon Altar Immaculate
Yet Light pollution dominates
Constellations, a stellar lullaby
To the northeast with a naked eye
Under a full moon, so delicate
Pendulum of Memories
Somewhere near
The cypress trees,
Distant howls
Of coyotes
Waves that crash,
Eternities
Dark tide pools,
Anemones
Manzanita
Mission bells
Bougainvillea
Abalone shells
Peninsula

of wind blown dune
Rivers of gold
Silver tea spoons
It's a Pendulum of Memories
Yerba Buena
Commodore
Angel Island's
Farthest shore
Redwoods in a
Gale force wind
Sir Francis Drake
Comes sailing in
Presidio
The Civil War
Schooner ships
Conquistadors
Distant howls
Of coyotes
Waves that crash,
Eternities
Dark tide pools,
Anemones
It's A Pendulum of Memories

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

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.

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a Public Art Walk in East Somerville. Explore sculptures, murals and more as you discover our community's rich cultural heritage. September 24, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Meeting Point: Symphony Park. Register at: <https://beta.somervilleartscouncil.org>.

At 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. Septem-

ber 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.

To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Powder Alarm on September 1, the Somerville Museum is partnering with the City of Somerville to produce a re-enactment of the historic event, followed by a living history fair. The fair will include docent tours of the Powder House, activity tables, and even a scavenger hunt of the park. What was the Powder Alarm? Learn more about the events leading up to September 1, 1774: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3vfbQiv93c>. The re-enactment will begin at approximately 9:30 a.m., followed by a living history fair and docent tours from approximately 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. For details, see <http://www.somervillemuseum.org/calendar-events/powder-alarm>.

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

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

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

Annas' poetry, full of that kind of nostalgia that purges longing of any sentimentality with its clear-eyed and candid reconnoitering of its subjects – an army brat past, a swing dance-hall denizen's exhilaration, a mother's woes and wonders – was narrated, in the sparking soundtrack/libretto dreamed up by Christopher Annas-Lee, by Luz Nicolàs, an actress who has spent most of her career in Spanish-speaking theater (this was her first performance in English).

The odd choice of narrator with a Latin-inflected voice for the poetry of a bottle-blonde, sunhat-sporting gringa professor somehow worked just about perfectly, although there were times when it was a little hard to follow all the words. Nicolàs's elucidation of the poems has the flavor of a sometimes spunky, sometimes affectionately wary abuela (grandmother) ruminating with matter-of-fact sobriety over the bittersweets and the redolent triumphs of a life lived with attitude and attention, with wry perspicuity, and with an insistence that simultaneously flickers and flares through the rigor of her sturdy voice. Hers is an inventive channeling of the spirit of Annas' storytelling, but with an affecting fidelity to the distinction between the narrator's background and that of the poet.

The difference between the voice of the narrator and the culture of the poet adds a fascinating disruption to the expectations we have for the libretto – the Latin voice complicates and complements the Anglo experience with

its implied and ironic resistance in its fond, at times distanced interpretation of the articulations of a poet who is part if not parcel of the dominating culture.

The platform on which Elenaluisa Alvarez strutted and whirled and broke and then rearmed herself in a bundle of gyrating gesticulations was designed and built by Christopher Annas-Lee, who also wrote the libretto. Annas-Lee, an up-and-coming theater lighting designer whose talents I first appreciated years ago when he was involved with the young and precocious Circuit Theater company, a Newton (Massachusetts)-based troupe with Broadway production values, fashioned a circular stage replete with an elaborate (and sometimes dizzying) network of LED lights and special effects. These included three overpowering blasts of a thunderstorm that made us forget that we were under the impression that we were seated in a ring around the dance floor of a discotheque.

In the final movement of the choreo poem, realizing the choreographer Graham Cole's cleverness, Alvarez opens a hatch at the center of Annas-Lee's stage and yanks out a many-yards-long tube charged with white neon light whose severity rivals the marquees of Las Vegas. The actress-dancer pulls the tube offstage where she, a modern-day Eve, seems to be at once caressing and recoiling from the phallic serpentine grip of the glowing hose. The post-Eden, modest Alvarez-Eve is covered in a blouse that was designed by Virginia Belt, one that those of us who

know Pamela Annas would recognize as having an apt resonance with Annas's personal style.

While just about everything was done to perfection in this production, I wish that the talents of Elenaluisa Alvarez as an actress had been more emphasized than her extraordinary skills as a practitioner of ballet moves and modern dance gymnastics. The first part of the show was rather top-heavy with a kind of show-offy exhibition of many of the moves in her impressive arsenal of arm stretches and balances and toes pointed at the ceiling – an exhibition in which it was hard to feel a connection with the poetry, except at the level of a kind of a too-generalized, overarching, yet resonant joy.

With a performance centered around an Annas poem that references the Brecht-Weill song, *Mack the Knife* (the speakers in the theater blasted out a growling Louis Armstrong's rendition), the exhibitionism began to slow to a series of facial contortions, wrinkling bows, shimmering and blubbery knee bends, a series in which every raised eyebrow, every hip surge, every sophisticatedly hesitant pirouette seemed to be driven by the pistons of the poetry (and the music), to honor its specificity, its emotional complexity, a deeply satisfying and authentic product of the collaboration between movement artist, choreographer, narrator, stage-and-lighting designer-librettist, and poet that informed most of the rest of this remarkable show.

The Somerville Times

To advertise in our Business Directory,
call 857-488-5138.

Let your customers find you in
Somerville's most widely read newspaper!

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Monica Calvo Realtor®
Real Estate Professional
Cell: 617-605-3308

Email: mcalvo@relocationnewengland.com
Web: remaxpartnersrelocation.com

RE/MAX
PARTNERS RELOCATION
44 Park ST
Andover MA 01810
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated



Wedding & Event
Photo & Video
— Harry Kane —

KANE FILMS
www.KaneFilms.net
860-840-3737
HarryKaneFilms@gmail.com



Lic 57726 B



Tennyson Norman
Electrician

License & insured
tennysonnormannorman@ymail.com
857-417-0982



Juscelia LoRusso
617.686.8095

Cakes for all occasions

facebook.com/JusceliasCakes
facebook.com/Juscelia.Lorusso

The Law Offices of Richard G. Di Girolamo
Richard G. Di Girolamo, Esquire
Anne M. Vigorito, Esquire
Breanna L. Rolland, Esquire

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

Real Estate Law
Zoning
Civil Litigation
Criminal Defense
Family Law
Personal Injury

TELEPHONE: (617) 666-8200
FAX: (617) 776-5435
EMAIL: digirolamolegal@verizon.net
424 BROADWAY, SOMERVILLE, MA 02145



RHINO ROOFING & MASONRY


(857)397-5992
1(800)519-1249

Call for FREE
Project Evaluation
Speak to Our Staff

New Roofs, Roof Repair, Steps & Stairs, Basements,
Tuckpointing, Driveway Repair, Paver Driveways,
Patio & Walkway, Retaining Walls, Foundation Repair, Chimney
Repair / Rebuild, Waterproofing, Fencing, Pressure Wash
Cleaning, Roof Cleaning, Siding, Painting, Carpentry,
Window Repairs/Replacement

Full remodel interior work carried out!
Fully Insured! Ins Policy GLSISCTC006815824
"Free chimney drone inspections also \$50 special on gutter cleaning"

rhinoroofingandmasonry.com



Closed Wednesday

Alibrandi's Barber Shop
Men & Boys Haircuts
"Best Somerville Barber"

194 Holland St, Somerville, MA 02144
617-628-4282

T. J. SILLARI, INC.

Over 50 Years Experience
Proud to be a Somerville Business Resident



- Plumbing • Heating
- Gas Fitting • Industrial Work
- Water Heater Replacement
- Complete Drain Service

Residential - Industrial - Commercial

Master Plmb. Lic. #6106 **625-9877**



MESSINA
REALTY COLLECTIVE

Bobbie Toner – Real Estate Consultant
Bobbietoner@aol.com 857 488 5138

Telephone: (617) 625-2244
(617) 625-4344

Fax: (617) 625-4350

EDWIN J. SMITH
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
RUMERY & SMITH

403 HIGHLAND AVENUE
SOMERVILLE, MA 02144
edsmithlaw@gmail.com

JIMMY BRIETZKE

(781) 779-9195

Rubbish Removal Scrap Metal

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