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Governor signs Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act



The Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act was recently signed into law by Governor Maura Healey.

Governor Maura Healey signed into law An Act relative to salary range transparency, which increases equity and transparency in pay by requiring employers to disclose salary ranges and protecting an employee's right to ask for salary ranges.

"The 2016 Equal Pay Act was a huge step forward in closing pay gaps and it worked. Recent studies show significant increases in pay for women and people of color as a result of the act, which helped reduce pay gaps," said Senator Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville). "This bill takes the next steps: job seekers, especially women and people of color, will enter wage negotiations with more information to secure better offers. With the data collected we'll learn about inequities that persist and be able to identify ways to solve them."

Known as the "Frances Perkins" Continued on page 4

Poetry Reading: Sam Cornish Award with Gloria Mindock

Somerville Poet, Gloria Mindock, will be honored with the Sam Cornish award at the Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site on Sunday, August 11, at 3:00 p.m.

Mindock is editor of Červená Barva Press and an award-winning author of six poetry collections and three chapbooks. Her poems have been published and translated into eleven languages. Her recent book, *Grief Touched the Sky at Night* (Glass Lyre Press, 2023), won the International Impact Award, the Speak-up Talk Radio International Firebird Award and the Independent Press Award. Mindock's book *ASH* (Glass Lyre Press, 2021) won several book awards and was translated into Serbian by Milutin Durickovic and published by Alma Press in Belgrade in 2022. *At the Winter's Gate, La Portile Raiului*, was translated into

Continued on page 4



Local Poet Gloria Mindock will be presented with the Sam Cornish Award this coming Sunday, August 11.

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On August 11, 1834, an Ursuline Convent on Mt. Benedict, in what is now Somerville, was vandalized and then burned to the ground by an anti-Catholic mob. Author and Salem State Professor Emeritus Nancy Schultz will explore the tensions over class, gender, religion, ethnicity, and education that fueled the convent's destruction. Tickets are \$12 and include one drink from Aeronaut Brewing. For details, see <http://www.somervillemuseum.org/calendar-events/ursuline>. **Tavern Talk: the 190th Anniversary of the Ursuline Convent Burning, Sunday, August 11, 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., Aeronaut Brewing** at 14 Tyler Street, Somerville.

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

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to Brandon Wilson. We wish her a great birthday and hope she enjoys her day. Happy birthday to Donna *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of August 7 – August 13 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday August 7	Rain	70°/59°	78%	54%	ENE 11 mph
 Thursday August 8	Cloudy	72°/64°	22%	15%	E 12 mph
 Friday August 9	Rain	80°/75°	76%	52%	SE 11 mph
 Saturday August 10	Rain	81°/64°	65%	51%	SW 15 mph
 Sunday August 11	Sunny	83°/65°	12%	7%	SW 12 mph
 Monday August 12	Sunny	79°/61°	3%	1%	W 14 mph
 Tuesday August 13	Sunny	80°/65°	9%	6%	WNW 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: Arts at the Armory Should Uphold Its Commitment to Inclusivity

Joseph says:

So, to create spaces where diverse viewpoints are respected, we should censor the viewpoint that "genocide, apartheid, and ethnic cleansing are bad?" As for the pro-Israel protestors, did they register for the event? and did you just compare a film that you disagree with to blackface?

Response to: Parking Wars

TheoNa says:

I don't believe Somerville can take away free parking in metered spaces.

According to the Mass.gov web site:

"Disability plates and placards allow people with disabilities to park vehicles in designated handicapped parking spaces. They also allow people with disabilities to park at meters without paying fees or penalties."

Joanne Finnegan says:

Taking away free handicapped parking at meters by the city is false! Handicapped parking is regulated by the State! Check with the DMV before posting information you heard and has not been verified.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

Beat the heat



How do Somerville people cope with a heat wave? I asked them and here's what they said.

"It used to be bus then hitch a ride to the Mystic Lakes.

Then a window fan or two in the "parlor"!

"Foss Park, then home with one AC unit in the parlor. We'd cover the room with a sheet to keep the cold air in!"

"It was never this hot in the 80s. Or the 90s. Or the 2000s. We used to get by with big box fans in our windows because there would be just a few days over 90 in early August but the rest of the time it was manageable. We finally gave up and bought an AC during the 2-week July heat wave."

"Not to mention that thunderstorms were few and far between and were just thunderstorms. Nowadays, there isn't a normal thunderstorm ever. They all turn into nasty storms, microbursts or tornadoes."

We used to hit Foss Park and Dilboy pools or go to Sandy Beach down The Mystics in the old days. We'd also go to Breakheart reservation. Of course, there was always the plastic backyard pool to dip your feet in. I also remember my dad squirting us with the hose on hot day.

The city offered some cooling stations which was a good deal.

Being retired I just sit in front of the TV with the A/C blasting. I use Insta Cart and Amazon so I don't really have to leave the house. Stay cool Somerville.



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LEGAL NOTICE



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Waterworks II New Waiting List Opportunity Notice

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. and Massachusetts policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap/disability, familial status, national origin, age, ancestry, veteran status/member of the armed forces, genetic information, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, receipt of public assistance or any other State or federal protected class.



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Somerville Police Dept Crime Log July 23 – 29

Assault

24044429: On 7/24/24 at approximately 5:23 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Richdale Ave for report of a past assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she was walking her dog and was then punched by her neighbor after they got into an argument. Officers identified the suspect.

Residential Breaking and Entering

24045414: On 7/28/24 at approximately 7:11 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Aldrich St for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the landlord who stated a former tenant broke into another tenant's room and damaged several belongings. Officers identified the suspect.

Other Crimes: 4 Package thefts + 1 Bike theft + 2 MV vandalisms + 6 Car breaks



— Somerville Police Department

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

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Somerville Democratic City Committee to hold a candidate debate on August 8

This Thursday, the Somerville Democratic City Committee will hold a debate between Erika Uytterhoeven and Kathleen Hornby, who are both competing for the Democratic Party nomination for State Representative in the 27th Middlesex District. The debate will be held at the John F. Kennedy School Auditorium (5 Cherry St. Somerville, MA) from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday August 8.

All are welcome to join this event to hear from the candidates seeking to represent Somerville on Beacon Hill. A brief reception and refreshments will be provided and guests are welcome and encouraged to join at 6:30 p.m.

Those interested in attending are encouraged to register in advance here: https://www.somdems.org/sdcc_aug_meeting_and_rep_debate.

As there is no independent or Republican candidate on the ballot in this race, the winner of the primary will run unopposed in November.



**SOMERVILLE
DEMOCRATS**

Somerville Democratic Party Chairman
Jack Perenick
Chair@SomervilleMassDems.org

Governor signs Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act CONT. FROM PG 1

Workplace Equity Act," after the first woman to serve as U.S. Labor Secretary, this legislation builds on the state's

landmark Equal Pay Act, also originally sponsored by Senator Jehlen.

The legislation requires pub-

lic and private employers with 25 or more employees to disclose pay ranges in job postings, provide the pay range of a

position to an employee who is offered a promotion or transfer and, on request, provide the pay range to employees who al-

ready hold that position or are applying for it.

— Office of Senator Patricia D. Jehlen

Poetry Reading: Sam Cornish Award with Gloria Mindock CONT. FROM PG 1

Romanian by Flavia Cosma and published by Ars Longo Press in Romania.

Mindock has numerous publications including Ibbetson, Gar-

goyle, The James Dickey Review, Growth: Journal of Literature, Culture, & Art (Macedonia), KGB Lit, to name just a few. Mindock was the Poet Laureate

in Somerville, MA in 2017 and 2018.

The Longfellow Summer Arts Festival brings music, poetry, and community to the East Lawn of

the Longfellow House on Sunday afternoons through the summer. All events are free and open to the public.

Sunday, August 11, at 3:00

p.m. Presented by the New England Poetry Club and Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site, 105 Brattle St, Cambridge, MA.

Book review – The American Agent, by Jacqueline Winspear

By Dennis Fischman

If you picked up this book and haven't read any Maisie Dobbs novels before, do not worry: Jacqueline Winspear [1] makes a point of explaining the characters, their relationships, and some of their past history each time. In some cases, it comes up in dialogue; in others, in narration; in yet others, by implication, but it's easy to follow.

That being said, there's an advantage to reading this series in order, from the beginning, and that is that it's like reading the biography of a woman with a fascinating life. Maisie Dobbs starts out as the daughter of an impoverished widower, goes into domestic service with the aristocratic family next door, and essentially gets discovered by them as a bright teenager, a voracious reader, and a person of conscience. She leaves them to work as an ambulance driver in WW I.

When she returns to England, they introduce her to Jewish psychologist and private investigator Maurice Blanche, who teaches

her the habits of mind and the tricks of the trade that make her a detective. (She also gets spiritual instruction from HIS teacher, a Sri Lankan man named Khan, who helps her put up with Maurice's peculiar quirks.)

Over the course of eighteen books, we watch Maisie grow from a sad young woman to an independent investigator, and we see her love life, from the man she wanted to marry who comes back from the Great War permanently brain injured to some important affairs, to at least two marriages. She becomes part of the aristocratic family, and she hires people to work for her detective agency (and we learn about all those characters and their life struggles, too), without losing her common touch.

So, one reason to read *The American Agent* [2] is as part of that continuing biography.

Another reason is that it's a revealing historical novel. In this book, it's WW II, London is under the Blitz, and Maisie and her dear friend Priscilla are recapping their service as ambulance drivers, this time at home, at night,

when the bombs are falling. It's 1940, and while the U.S. is quietly supplying the British with materiel, a powerful faction on this side of the pond wants America First, isolationism, and cooperation with dictators in Europe. (Sound familiar?)

As the title of the book implies, Maisie is going to be conducting an investigation into the death of an American war correspondent, Catherine Saxon, with the assistance of an American FBI agent, Mark Scott (whom readers met in the previous book of the series). Her father, a U.S. Senator, is one of those isolationist types. He disapproves of what his daughter and correspondent Edward R. Murrow are doing: making the war in Europe real, and the victims, human, in the eyes of voters in the U.S.

There are also some insights into what a bastard U.S. Ambassador Joseph Kennedy was. (Yes, the father of JFK and RFK. Both of them had their repressive sides, but they were nothing like their hate-filled, corrupt father!)

The investigation itself is hampered by the need to visit all the



The American Agent, by Jacqueline Winspear. HarperLuxe, 2019, 489 pages.

sites and conduct all the interviews before curfew falls every night. Maisie's attention is also divided because she has taken in a war orphan whom she is applying to adopt. How can she pay attention to anything else, she feels, from her job to her new romance, while this little girl is worrying about losing the people who love her all over again? In the end, the solution to whodunnit makes sense (and the author plays fair by giving us all the clues that Maisie sees), but it's not that important. It thematically resonates



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

with what else is going on in Maisie's life: that's what matters.

So, read this book for the characters, the setting, the place and time, and accept that the detective work is there as a scaffolding for the real story.

Links:

[1] https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5023.Jacqueline_Winspear

[2] https://goodreads.com/book/show/39087664.The_American_Agent__Maisie_Dobbs__15_

Family-friendly musical comedy show returns to Somerville

The Nova Comedy Collective's show, *Adventure Improv*, is a fun, interactive musical comedy experience for the whole family!

Getting ready for their second run at The Rockwell Theater in Davis Square, Somerville, *Adventure Improv* is an improvised expedition - exploring the bizarre, topsy-turvy landscape of imagination. Every performance will be an entirely unique experience, providing our audience entry into a whimsical world tailor-made just for them. From the moment lights go up, our stellar cast of comedians will interact with the audience, gathering sug-

gestions to inspire improvised scenes in worlds that have never been seen before. Kids in the audience will have opportunities to join the cast on-stage to participate in our scenes and feel like rockstars! Our Musical Director will be improvising alongside us throughout the show, underscoring every scene and launching our performers into Broadway-worthy songs.

Whitney Hawkins will be the director of this adventure through imagination. After directing and performing in *ImprovBoston's Family Show* for 6 seasons, she's excited to lend her talents to The

Nova. "We're a little bit 'family entertainment' and a little bit 'clean comedy,'" Hawkins says, "This cast can tailor the show for any audience and have folks of any age rolling in the aisles."

Yes, we're here for the kids, but we're also here for parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents. This is a show for anyone."

Adventure Improv will be at The Rockwell on July 13 at 2:00 p.m., at The Rockwell Theater in Davis Square, Somerville.

For tickets and more information, visit [thenovacomedys.com/adventure](https://thenovacomedys.com/), and follow The Nova Comedy Collective on Instagram

@thenovacomedys, and on Facebook at facebook.com/thenovacomedys.

About The Nova Comedy Collective

Comedy is for everyone. Our mission is to create live shows and other adventures in creativ-

ity that are unique, daring, and authentic. We promote belonging and community, encourage collaboration and continuous learning, and celebrate imagination, honesty, and risk-taking. At The Nova Comedy Collective, we're always laughing with you. Learn more at thenovacomedys.com.

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com



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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' and senators' votes on roll calls from the week of July 29-August 2.

CREATE COMMISSION TO STUDY MISREPRESENTATION OF A SERVICE ANIMAL (H 4917)

House 158-0, approved and sent to the Senate a bill that would create a special commission to review current federal, state and local laws and procedures governing the use and misuse of service animals by individuals with disabilities in the Bay State. The commission would recommend the possible introduction of legislation prohibiting and civilly penalizing service animal fraud and determining the feasibility of certification, registration or licensing of service animals.

Supporters said that more than half the states in the nation already have laws prohibiting misuse of service animals. They argued it is time for Massachusetts to begin the step toward adopting a similar law. They noted that there are currently no penalties for people who misrepresent a non-service dog as being a service dog. Sponsor Rep. Kim Ferguson (R-Holden) did not respond to repeated requests from *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking her to comment on passage of her bill.

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

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

\$7.5 MILLION FOR TOMORROW'S TEACHERS (H 4800)

House 134-24, overrode Gov. Maura Healey's veto of \$7.5 million (reducing funding from \$10 million to \$2.5 million) for scholarship and loan repayment for students seeking a teaching degree in the state's public colleges. The Senate did not act on the veto.

"I am reducing this item to the amount projected to be necessary," said 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 in fiscal year 2025 planned 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

\$250,000 FOR FINANCIAL LITERACY (H 4800)

House 154-4, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of the entire \$250,000 for a grant program to school districts to support the implementation of financial literacy courses and standards for students in kindergarten to grade 12, including training and developing programs to assist teachers in incorporating appropriate financial literacy concepts into classroom curriculum. The Senate did not act on the veto.

"I am vetoing this item to an amount consistent with my House [budget] recommendation," said Gov. Healey. "Other sources of funding for financial literacy appropriated in this budget will mitigate the effects of this veto."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$250,000. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

PARENTAGE EQUALITY (S 2906)

Senate 40-0, approved and sent to Gov. Healey a bill that supporters say would ensure legal parentage equality by protecting LGBTQ+ families, and children born through surrogacy and assisted reproduction, in forming the legal bond of a parent-child relationship. They said the measure would dismantle archaic legal barriers to basic parenting responsibilities for modern families, opening the door to legally attend and make decisions during medical appointments, manage a child's finances, participate in educational decisions and provide authorizations for a child's travel.

"Today we acted to ensure that if you are a parent, whether a biological parent or not, the law will recognize you as a parent just as society does," said Rep. Mike Day (D-Stoneham), House Chair of the Committee on the Judiciary. "This bill will remove one of the last vestiges of the law that treats same sex parents and parents who engaged in assisted reproduction differently from every other parent. It is a good day for all families in Massachusetts."

"With unprecedented and alarming action in other states to strip away the rights of LGBTQ+ people and our families, Massachusetts' outdated and heterocentric parentage laws put LGBTQ+ families at risk every day," said Sen. Julian Cyr (D-Truro). "The Massachusetts Parentage Act is personal – LGBTQ+ families like mine face excessive and expensive hoops just to ensure our children have the security of legal parentage. The Legislature's passage of this bill is a critical step to guarantee that all children can benefit from the stability of a legal parent-child relationship no matter how they came to be in this world."

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes
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DOG KENNEL SAFETY – OLLIE'S LAW (S 2929)

Senate 40-0, approved a bill that would allow the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources to establish rules and regulations for dog kennels in the Bay State, to ensure animal welfare, protect consumers and keep kennel staff safe. A person who violates the regulations would be fined \$500 for a first offense and \$1,000 for a second or subsequent offense. The House has already approved a different version of the measure and the Senate version now goes to the House for consideration.

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

Supporters said that currently, the state has no oversight of dog daycare or boarding kennels. They argued it is estimated that a dog is injured or killed every 9 to 10 days in Massachusetts at these kennels. They noted that many families have suffered the loss or injury of an animal at a dog daycare or kennel that could have been prevented by commonsense regulations over these facilities.

The bill was filed in memory of "Ollie," a 7-month-old labradoodle who was attacked by other dogs at a boarding kennel in East Longmeadow. Ollie needed round-the-clock care and surgery and was in the hospital for two months before succumbing to his injuries. While the facility was shut down by town officials, Ollie's owner Ann Baxter was stunned to learn that there were no state regulations regarding boarding facilities, and soon took up the fight to help ensure tragedies like this never happen again.

"Pets are family who provide boundless love and affection that we are lucky to receive," said Sen. Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford), Senate sponsor of the bill. "For this reason, it is critical that we ensure all businesses entrusted with the care of our family adhere to proper health and safety protocols no matter what town they operate in across the commonwealth. Too often, we have heard devastating stories of pets like Ollie who have been injured or killed due to negligent care. These people have no place caring for such precious creatures and it's time that we implement consistent standards across Massachusetts."

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes
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Continued on page 16

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



No Olympics in Somerville? Plenty of athletics going on anyway!

Our View Of The Times



So, Boston’s arguably controversial bid to host the 2024 Summer Olympic games ultimately fell through, as proponents of the plan failed to meet the required expectations of the United States Olympic Committee in the allotted time.

Then Mayor Martin J. Walsh reportedly felt pressured to formally submit the city’s bid without performing due diligence in terms of cost and infrastructure demands,

and had asked the U.S.O.C. for more time. Ultimately, the Committee dropped Boston as a contender for the 2024 games.

For some, the move may have seemed to be all for the best. Polling at the time indicated that a firm majority of citizens were against hosting the games due to the high costs to taxpayers.

Others argued that the investment would be worth it in consideration of vis-

itor dollars that would be spent in the city and surrounding municipalities, including our own.

The debates are moot at this point. The whole thing is history now, as we enjoy watching the 2024 games being played in Paris.

We will never know how well or how badly the region’s economies would have fared if the city had won their bid.

But there’s no use crying over spilt milk, especially since we’re not even sure that the milk wasn’t spoiled.

We still have our Red Sox and Pats, and locally our school athletics, amateur softball leagues, and so on. We are a sports-loving people, and we show it practically every day.

Our sporting life will go on as usual, no harm, no foul, win-win.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Cassaro-Sides. We hope she has a great day. We wish all of our celebrating Facebook friends, such as **Maria Mancini, Heather Marie Driscoll, Pamela M. Ferguson, Dale Hodgkins, Trish Bean Oakland, James Bimbo and Savanna Payne** 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.

On **Saturday, August 10**, at 1:30 p.m., **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. get ready to dance your heart out at **The Beyoncé Experience Masterclass Part 2** with the renowned **Henry Cedeño**,

International Dance Instructor and Presenter. Presented by **Ama and Adjoa**. More info and tickets available here: <https://markitai.com/e/Wr8jtfxb72>.

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

The **Gilman Pop-Up Park** is an outdoor public space and is accessible be-

tween 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://culturehouse.cc/projects/gilman-park/>.

Docent tours take place **from May through October** at three historic sites in Somerville: **Milk Row Cemetery** (Somerville Avenue), **Prospect Hill Tower** (above Union Square), and **Old Powder House** (Nathan Tufts Park). They are open to the public on certain days and evenings. Inclement weather

cancels any event. For full schedule and more information on the Docent Program: <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/docentprogram>.

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

Continued on page 21

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#935

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. South Africa participated in which Olympic Games for the first time since 1960? | Biles have so far? |
| 2. What woman became the first Olympic athlete to win gold twice 20 years apart? | 7. What date marks the end of the Dog Days of Summer, which began on July 3? |
| 3. BMX made its Olympic debut in which city? | 8. When is Vinyl Record Day? |
| 4. In which year was softball introduced to the Olympics? | 9. When is International Left-Handers Day? |
| 5. Which Olympic gymnast was awarded the first-ever perfect 10 on the uneven bars? | 10. Mageirocophobia is the fear of what? |
| 6. How many Olympic medals does Simone | 11. What is the name of a Mexican street food consisting of corn on a stick? |
| | 12. Which is the highest natural singing voice? |

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. The color you see in a pitch-black room is called "eigengrau."
2. A *Harry Potter* book filled with typos sold for \$90,000.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

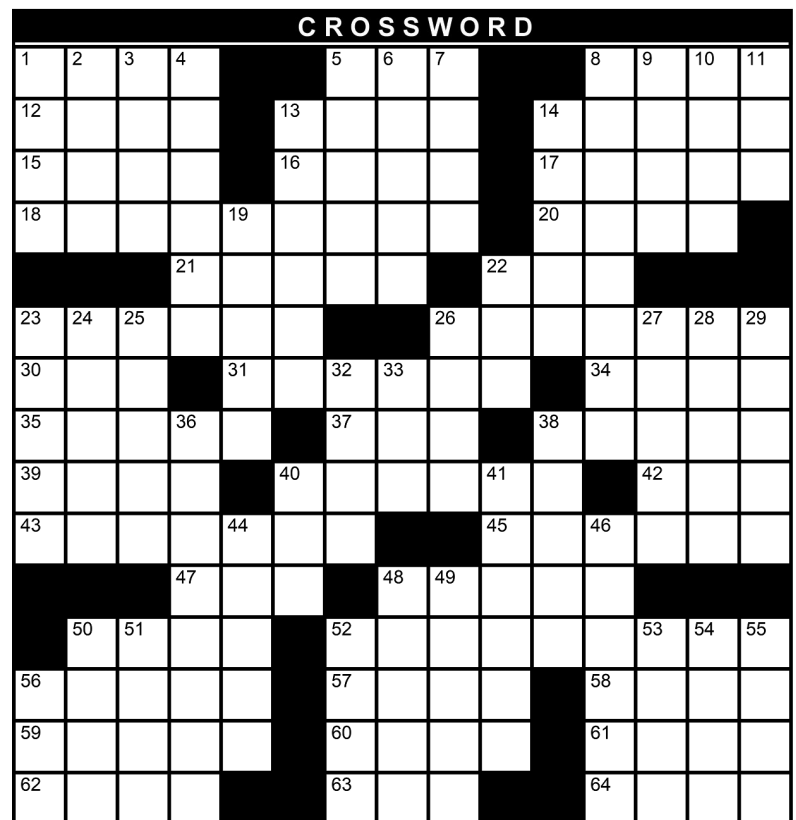
BACK TO SCHOOL

ACROSS

1. Soothing concoction
5. The Magic School ride
8. Mama's husband
12. Dwarf buffalo
13. Moneyed one
14. "M*A*S*H" extra
15. Soon, to Shakespeare
16. Sheltered, nautically
17. Abacus user, e.g.
18. School jacket-wearer
20. TV classic "Happy ____"
21. What hoarders do
22. Speech-preventing measure
23. Pencil end
26. Deep regret
30. Indian restaurant staple
31. What cobblers often do
34. Mother Earth, to Ancient Greeks
35. Embedded design
37. ____ Khan
38. Contending
39. Don't forget to cross them
40. Plural of flora
42. Rolodex abbr.
43. Sultry or carnal
45. Rydell High School movie
47. Defensive one on the gridiron
48. Oodles
50. Some PTA members?
52. It involves elements
56. Cuban dance
57. Burkina Faso neighbor
58. Opera solo
59. Boot-shaped European country
60. Oil org.
61. Review a service
62. Say "No!"
63. Animal's nose
64. Perceives with an eye

DOWN

1. Jezebel's idol
2. Beheaded Boleyn
3. Plunder
4. Certain rays
5. Plural of #1 Across
6. Part of an eye, pl.
7. Witnessed
8. Field of education
9. ____ Walker, American Girl doll
10. Inspiration for circular charts, pl.
11. Acronym, abbr.
13. Zimbabwe's capital
14. Address to a woman
19. Nail salon file
22. Toothpaste type
23. Marks in English
24. Hindu queen
25. "Hannah and Her Sisters" director
26. End of line
27. Yogurt-based dip
28. Opposite side over hypotenuse, pl.
29. Bald symbol
32. ____ monitor
33. Bigheadedness
36. All-school get-together
38. Giuseppe ____ of opera fame
40. Temporary craze
41. Parthenogenetic
44. Recant or retract
46. English homework, pl.
48. Circle, e.g.
49. Paparazzi's target
50. Remote control option
51. Middle Eastern sultanate
52. "Follow me!"
53. Genealogy plant
54. Agitate
55. Puppy barks
56. Antonym of keep





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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Three new SPD officers sworn in



The City of Somerville Mayor, Katjana Ballantyne, and the Somerville Police Department would like to welcome three new police officers. Officer Brian Clancy, Officer Matthew Lorizio, and Officer Igor Bitencourt recently graduated from the Police Academy and were sworn in on Tuesday, July 30. Chief Charles Femino, Lt. Carmine Vivolo, Lt. Michael Perrone, and Sgt. Tim Van Nostrand attended the graduation. Best of luck for a safe and successful career!

Somerville Museum welcomes new Executive Director

The Somerville Museum has announced Stephanie Marlin-Curiel as the new Executive Director of the Museum. Stephanie brings a wealth of experience from her role as Visual Arts Manager at The Umbrella Arts Center, where she oversaw gallery programming, managed artist studios, and curated public art initiatives.

A visionary in cultural planning and creative placemaking, Stephanie co-founded Arlington Public Art and played a pivotal role in establishing Arlington's Cultural District. Her background includes a Doctorate in Performance Studies from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and she is a published author and ethnographic researcher focusing on cultural memory.

Stephanie is eager to collaborate on our museum's interdisciplinary programming, connecting art with the rich history and diverse stories of the Somerville community. Join us in welcoming Stephanie as she embarks on this exciting journey with our dedicated Board, staff, and volunteers.



The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



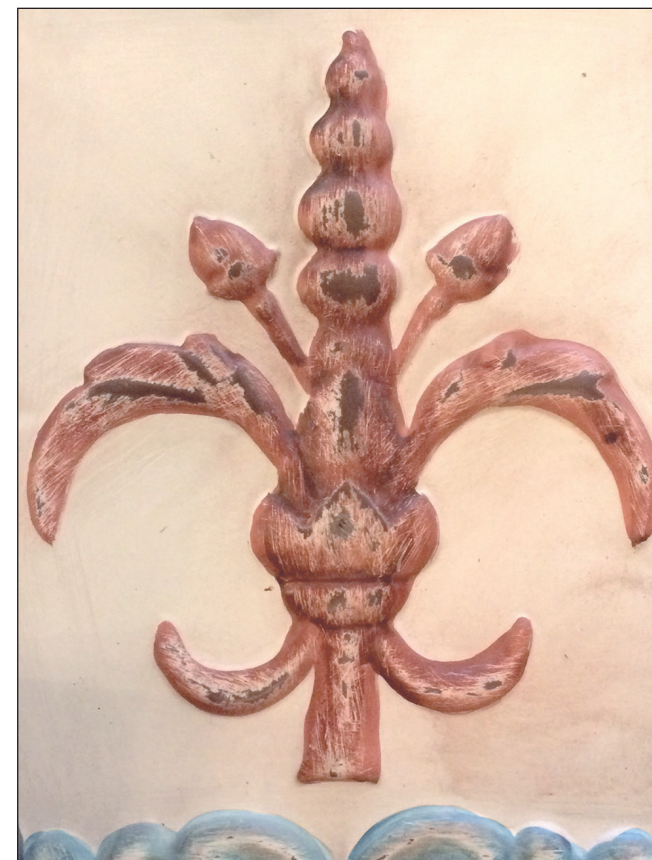
Eagle feathers #310

This article first appeared in the October 4, 2017 edition of *The Somerville Times*

Oxford

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Oxford, Massachusetts lies in the southern part of Worcester County, just one town away from the Connecticut border. As early as 1682, the Massachusetts Bay Colony offered land grants to this area for people who would colonize the then, unbridled frontier land.



For four years the offer went ignored until a group of forty French Huguenot families settled the territory and established a village. They fled Europe to come to America for religious independence. Like the English pilgrims who formed a plantation at Plymouth, these French pilgrims formed a settlement in Oxford; but unfortunately, it failed.

During the nine years of the Huguenot settlement, they had suffered kidnappings and chaos with renegade Indians, ending with a family being massacred. Its village fort offered them safety, but outlying farms were on their own. They had to provide their own protection and plowed their fields while armed.

Today, only a small part of the fort's foundation remains. After this tragic event and later a Deerfield Village attack which took over fifty lives, the settlement broke up. The families left and dispersed moving closer to the coast for their safety.



Continued on page 12

LEGAL NOTICES

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

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

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

To wit:

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

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

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

NORTHEASTERLY by Richdale Avenue, forty (40) feet;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7/24/24, 7/31/24, 8/7/24 The Somerville Times



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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

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

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aoiH8zrOR7acuJWtRTxloA

Webinar ID: 869 7764 1243

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)**HP24-000061 - 33 Cedar Street**

Applicant: Beantown LLC

Owner: Genevieve Hansen

The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

DETERMINATIONS OF PREFERABLY PRESERVED (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)**HP24-000045 - 33 Vinal Avenue**

Applicant: Niranjan Gawli

Owner: VINAL REI LLC

The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

Case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>.

Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (post-

ed 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.

7/31/24, 8/7/24 The Somerville Times



**City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

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

TO CALL IN

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

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

393 Highland Ave

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

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

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

Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to

PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov.

7/31/24, 8/7/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REBID RFP # 24-63**

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

**Consolidated Inclusionary Rental Housing Waitlist –
Phase III Implementation**

A request for proposals (RFP) may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, August 7, 2024**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **2:00 pm, Monday, August 26, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

Felisa Garate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406

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**City of Somerville
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1-tTdMS_Rlynf2sD5BEIKA
Webinar ID: 896 7370 6806

TO CALL IN

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

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

- 181 Pearl Street** 181 Pearl St LLC seeks relief from the façade build-out requirements, which requires a Hardship Variance.
- 126 Cross Street** Silva Realty LLC, c/o Nick Spinelli, seeks an Administrative Appeal of the Building Official's calculation of an affordable housing Fractional Payment for the project at 126 Cross Street, associated with permit applications B20-001756 and C022-000110.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

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

7/31/24, 8/7/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on **Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Application for Adult-Use Marijuana Retail Establishment for Haze of Somerville LLC d/b/a Simplicity at 362 Mystic Ave.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_c4XF5FhHREKJeV7B3jUkQ

You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

8/7/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on **Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices (Indoors and Outdoors), and Outdoor Private Patio Seating for Life Alive LLC d/b/a Life Alive Organic Cafe at 20 Prospect Street.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_c4XF5FhHREKJeV7B3jUkQ

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THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

8/7/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on **Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices Indoors for Pound House Concept LLC d/b/a Pound House Coffee at 703 Broadway.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_c4XF5FhHREKJeV7B3jUkQ

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ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

8/7/24 The Somerville Times

Commemorating National Purple Heart Day in Somerville

Wednesday, August 7 is National Purple Heart Day, which recognizes the nation's oldest military medal, awarded to U.S. Armed Forces Service Members who were wounded or killed in combat. Here's how local Purple Heart recipients are being honored in Somerville:

The Purple Heart Flag will be raised Monday, August 5 at City Hall and will remain through the week.

City Hall and Prospect Hill Tower will be illuminated in purple every evening after sunset during the week.

Gateway entrance signs recognizing Somerville as a Purple Heart City will be installed at:

- + 51 Main St.
- + Boston Ave @ Mystic Valley Parkway
- + Cameron @ Tannery Brook Row

Somerville was named a Purple Heart City in 2023 by the Military Order of the Purple Heart organization. The city joins more than 100 municipalities in Massachusetts and even more nationwide, and was added as a stop on the national Purple Heart Trail.

Looking for a way to honor those who have served? Somerville's 2025 Memorial Day parade is seeking committee members to help plan next year's festivities. For more information or to volunteer, email veterans@somervillema.gov.



'SomerStreets: Strike Up the Bands'

The latest installment of Somerville's SomerStreets festival series took place on Sunday, August 4, with an afternoon packed with excitement and music. The festivities took place on Highland Avenue from Central Street to Lowell Street. Attendees enjoyed live music and entertainment at two stages, interactive games, shop local craft vendors, and much more.





Photos by Monica Calvo



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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. 1992 | 7. August 11 |
| 2. Brigit Fischer | 8. August 12 |
| 3. Beijing | 9. August 13 |
| 4. 1996 | 10. Cooking |
| 5. Nadia Comaneci | 11. Elotes |
| 6. 11 Olympic medals: 7 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze | 12. Soprano |

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Upcoming events:

Medical Equipment Program – Through the generosity of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and from the direction of Mayor Ballantyne, the Council on Aging is able to provide Durable Medical Equipment at no cost to Somerville residents. Residents with a documented need for medical equipment must be over the age of 60, or have a permanent disability, and must be otherwise unable to afford or access needed medical equipment. We currently have available: Commodes, Bath Benches, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies and Transport Wheelchairs (wheelchairs are intended for transport and are not self-propelling or self-breaking.) For additional information, or for an application, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Focus Group – RESCHEDULED for Friday, September 6th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Please join the City of Somerville Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) for a focus group on the potential rental registry and energy disclosure ordinance. We are looking for tenants and landlords to join us. Focus group participants will be eligible for a gift card. What is the rental registry and energy disclosure ordinance? The potential ordinance proposes to require residential and commercial landlords to register their units with the City of Somerville and share information about the energy use of each unit. This information would be publicly available and accessible. The intention is to make this information transparent and available for potential tenants making housing decisions. Why is OSE hosting focus groups? OSE wants to hear insights from those most impacted by this potential ordinance. Feedback will guide City staff in the ordinance development and implementation.

Lockboxes for Seniors - What is the Lockboxes for Seniors program? The Lockboxes for Seniors program is intended to provide Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) access to your residence in the event of an emergency where you are unable to open the door. A key to your residence will be stored in a secure metal storage device, like a realtor's lockbox, at your residence. The access code to the lockbox will only be available

to Police, Fire, or EMS personnel and used only during an emergency. Who is eligible? The program is targeted towards Somerville community members who live alone and are aged 65+, or those who are disabled and/or suffer from major medical illness at any age. Individuals living in apartment complexes or other facilities with maintenance staff are not eligible for this program. How do I know this is safe? A member of the Somerville Fire Department will install and demonstrate how the lockbox operates and answer any questions you may have. The four-digit combination on the lockbox will only be available to responding emergency personnel in the event of an emergency. Who should I contact for more information? For more information, please contact Debby Higgins at the Council on Aging via E-mail at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or by telephone at (617) 625-6600 ext. 2321. There is no charge to participate in the program if you meet the established target criteria. The Council on Aging will verify eligibility for services. This program is designed for those who are at most significant risk for falls or have limited mobility. All participants will be required to provide a spare house key to be used in the lock box as well as a safety inspection of the property.

Annual Senior Picnic – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Council on Aging invite you to the annual Senior Picnic on Thursday, September 12th 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 5th.

Cultural Series Event – Howie Newman – Music for Seniors – Thursday, August 15th starting at 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. The program includes songs from yesteryear, including show tunes and material from artists like Frank Sinatra, the Beatles and Elvis Presley along with many others. We will learn some trivia, hear background stories about the songs and enjoy a little G-rated humor. Lunch will be served at noon. Reserve your spot for the event and lunch by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Technology Workshop – Every Monday in August from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at our

Holland Street Center. Do you wish you could learn about technology or have stronger technology skills? If you want to learn how to comfortably use your phone, tablet or computer, then these in person workshops are designed for you! No matter what level of technology experience you have, these workshops will help you understand and use the resources that are around you every day. To RSVP, contact program manager Colin Barr at 617-628-2601, ext. 1007 or email Colin at colin.barr@elderservices.org.

Memory Café – Tuesday, August 13th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. A Memory Café is a safe space for those with cognitive decline and their caregivers. It is a place to gather and socialize without stigma or judgement. In August, we will be creating a group mural! Light dinner will be served. RSVP by contacting Molly Pagliuca by calling at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@Somervillema.gov.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

The Council on Aging's Senior Transportation Program

The COA is offering free taxi rides to Somerville residents over the age of 60. Rides are available to go to the grocery store, farmer's market, and pharmacy in Somerville and routine medical appointments in the surrounding communities. To best accommodate the needs of everyone in the city and to maximize the use of our funding, we will be capping the number of rides per week. To ensure the health and welfare of every resident of Somerville, exemptions will be made for chemotherapy and radiation appointments. To find out more information or to schedule your ride, please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319. All rides must be booked two business days in advance. This program is funded through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding.

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

FISCAL 2025 STATE BUDGET (H 4800) – Gov. Healey, after vetoing several items, signed into law a \$58 billion fiscal 2025 state budget for the fiscal year that began July 1, 2024. The price tag represents a 1.97 billion or 3.5 percent increase over last year's fiscal 2024 budget.

"Massachusetts is the leader in innovation and education, the best place to raise your family or grow a business," said Healey. "But we also face challenges, so we aren't resting – we're going on offense. This budget delivers on our shared priorities and drives our state forward with urgency and purpose. It invests in areas that we are already leading on and makes them better – including our number 1 ranked schools and our nation-leading childcare strategy. We're also tackling our biggest challenges by lowering household costs and improving transportation. We're doing all of this responsibly, staying within our means and in line with the rate of inflation."

"Once again, the Massachusetts budget is the latest state budget to pass in the country and once again, it's the largest state budget in our commonwealth's history," said Paul Craney, spokesman for the Mass Fiscal Alliance. "What should also concern every Massachusetts taxpayer is the fact that the Legislature and governor are spending over a billion dollars a year on the illegal and inadmissible migrants, which comes out to be about \$3 million dollars a day. Every town and city in Massachusetts could use that money for their workers, schools and first responders but instead, Statehouse leaders are spending these valuable taxpayer resources on illegal and inadmissible migrants."

WAGE TRANSPARENCY (H 4890) - Gov. Healey signed into law a bill, named the Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act, in honor of the first woman to serve as U.S. Labor Secretary. The measure would require employers with 25 or more employees to disclose a salary range when posting a job position. The measure also would require employers with 100 or more employees to file annual employment data reports, including information on employee demographics and salaries, with the state.

"I have long supported wage equity legislation and, as attorney general, I was proud to work together with the business community to implement the 2016 Equal Pay Act," said Gov. Healey. "This new law is an important next step toward closing wage gaps, especially for people of color and women. It will also strengthen the ability of Massachusetts employers to build diverse, talented teams."

"I am proud that we as a commonwealth are taking concrete and nation-leading steps to close long-standing gender and racial wage gaps that persist across our economy," said Sen. Paul Feeney (D-Foxborough) a lead supporter of the bill. "These gaps not only erode the integrity of work in the commonwealth but also continue to exacerbate an uneven economy for working people, especially women and people of color who have historically faced persistent and

glaring inequities in the workplace. By bringing partners in labor, business and community together to establish common sense wage and workplace transparency, we will ensure Massachusetts can continue attracting and retaining diverse and skilled workers that enable our commonwealth to compete and thrive. With the signing of this bill, workers are empowered and businesses are supported."

\$1.26 BILLION BOND FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (H 4889) – Gov. Healey signed into law a bill that would invest in information technology (IT) upgrades, improvements and new projects across state government. The measure authorizes \$1.23 billion in bonded spending and \$400 million in anticipated federal funds.

"We've talked a lot about this administration's desire to lean into applied artificial intelligence in ways that benefit not only the way the state delivers services to residents and businesses, but also the way that our businesses and economic sector are able to thrive," said Healey. "And we think that making applied AI a cornerstone of our economic development bill is really important. It's further supported by this FutureTech Act."

"When it comes to advancing the delivery of government services for our residents and for our state and municipal workers, information technology opens that digital door to meet people where they are," said Chief Information Officer and Technology Services Secretary Jason Snyder. "The impact of IT on the services the commonwealth provides cannot be overstated. To that end, we are already hard at work on many of the investments in this legislation."

DISABILITY PENSION FOR POLICE OFFICERS (H 2536) – Gov. Healey signed into law legislation that would provide police officers who have suffered a violent act injury, 100 percent regular compensation and pension benefits, until they reach the age of mandatory retirement. Violent act injury is defined as "a serious and permanent personal bodily injury sustained as a direct and proximate result of a violent attack upon a person by means of a dangerous weapon, including a firearm, knife, automobile, explosive device or other dangerous weapon."

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

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

case-by-case basis.

"This legislation ensures that first responders who are forced to retire due to a violent injury received in the line of duty do not struggle to make ends meet," said Sen. Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington). "Frankly, this cannot come soon enough. Recognizing the extreme burden placed on these first responders and their families, mandating 100 percent compensation until retirement age is the right way to honor their service and sacrifice."

Rep. Steve Xiarhos (R-Barnstable) said workers who are the victims of traumatic events at work would also be eligible to receive certain mental health services to assist with their recovery. "The bill was inspired in part by several recent cases of first responders who suffered serious injuries in the line of duty, including retired Somerville Police Detective Mario Oliveira and Springfield Police Officer Nestor Santos," said Xiarhos.

BAN ELEPHANTS AND OTHER ANIMALS (H 4915) – The House and Senate approved and sent to Gov. Healey legislation that effective January 1, 2025, would ban elephants, bears, lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs and other wild animals from being used in traveling circuses and other traveling shows in Massachusetts. Violators would be fined between \$500 and \$10,000. The ban would not apply to zoos or to performances that take place at other non-mobile, permanent facilities if the covered animal is a resident animal at the same facility in which the performance takes place.

"We're ecstatic that after so many years of advocating for the state to take a stance on the suffering of animals, as well as the public health and safety risks. The bill to prohibit elephants, primates, bears, giraffes and big cats in traveling animal acts passed both chambers in the Legislature unanimously and is on the governor's desk," read a press release from the MSPCA. "This is truly a testament to the perseverance of advocates and legislators to speak for those who cannot. We're optimistic that the governor will sign the bill and put an end to these archaic acts in our state."

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"We were absolutely thrilled to witness the signing of the bill, standing shoulder to shoulder with Gov. Healey, our legislative champions, advocates and survivors from across the commonwealth. At a time when so many states are weakening their legislative responses to gun violence, we are so proud to see Massachusetts take this tremendous step forward. We are also so proud to have been a part of this advocacy every step of the way. This law ensures that Massachusetts will continue to lead the way, showing other states the impact and importance of taking a comprehensive approach to preventing gun violence." — *Ruth Zakarin, CEO of the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence on Gov. Healey signing the bill changing the state's gun laws.*

Resilient Mystic Collaborative Communities secure over \$12 million in Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grants for Climate Resilience

Governor Healey’s announcement of \$52.4 million in FY2025 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grants included just over \$12 million in funding for community-designed projects to prevent harm to residents, workers, and resources in Resilient Mystic Collaborative (RMC) cities and towns.

Convened by ten Mystic watershed communities and the Mystic River Watershed Association in September 2018 and now led by senior staff from twenty cities and towns and non-governmental partners, the RMC designs and completes on-the-ground projects to protect our most vulnerable residents and public services from harm due to increasingly extreme weather.

“The MVP program connects local leaders with state resources to protect our most vulnerable communities from extreme weather,” said EOEEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper. “The Resilient Mystic Collaborative exemplifies regional teamwork, demonstrat-

ing how collective efforts can drive climate adaptation. We are proud to fund critical initiatives such as flood management, resilient community centers, and forest health. We’re proud to award the most funds in MVP history to such a strong set of projects.”

These MVP grants bring the total resources secured for RMC climate resilient projects to nearly \$140 million in state, federal, and foundation grants since the voluntary partnership began. “What is extraordinary is that about three quarters of all the funding we’ve secured are for regional projects,” said Mystic River Watershed Association’s Julie Wormser, who helps facilitate the RMC. “These are critical investments that communities can’t accomplish without partnering with their neighbors.” Multiple FY2025 MVP grants build on the accomplishments of prior successful proposals.

“What our communities are accomplishing together is nothing short of miraculous,” said Pat-

rick Herron, Executive Director of the Mystic River Watershed Association. “Extreme weather mocks municipal boundaries. Municipal staff and local non-profits are pulling together to protect people and infrastructure at the scale of the challenge.”

An emerging goal for Mystic communities has been to reinforce critical facilities that serve priority populations – residents and workers disproportionately affected by extreme weather. Medford and Somerville are working regionally to develop a network of resilient community centers that can provide on-going public services (e.g., afterschool programs and food pantries) while providing food and shelter during heat waves and extreme storms.

“We are so grateful for this \$746,580 MVP grant award and want to thank the Healey Administration for their continued commitment to climate resilience,” said MaryAnn O’Connor, Medford Public Health Director. “This funding will allow us to

continue our efforts to build a resilient Medford and ensure that all of our residents are prepared for future climate events.”

“Individual communities are learning what it takes to make better resilient community centers,” said Emily Sullivan, Somerville’s Climate Change Program Manager. “This \$310,100 grant will help us work with the people we most seek to serve in establishing a regional network of welcoming, accessible safe havens that people will want to go to.”

“With one of the hottest summers on record we’re excited to continue to advance local and regional preparedness for extreme heat in the lower Mystic” said Sasha Shyduroff, Principal Planner with MAPC. “This \$490,813 grant will fund critical partnerships between municipalities, public health, and community-based organizations to develop culturally relevant communications and strategies to talk about extreme heat.”

RMC communities are also

increasingly investing in healthy open space and urban trees. Cambridge is sponsoring a regional grant to increase forest health across the Mystic Watershed and Medford is drawing up a resilient urban forest plan. Watertown, Everett, Arlington, Chelsea, and Malden secured funds for community-designed public cooling solutions.

“The Mystic River Watershed is the most urbanized watershed in New England,” said Jim Wilcox, Cambridge City Engineer. “This \$276,800 grant will allow us to create a watershed-wide map of areas of high- and low-tree mortality risks so we can plant most trees where they’ll grow well and give others extra TLC to improve their chances at reaching maturity.”

The City of Somerville’s Centering Social Equity in Regional Systems: Lower Mystic Resilient Community Centers Network project received \$155,500 for FY2025 and \$154,600 for FY2026, for a total of \$310,100.

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 16

“Massachusetts voters sent these elected officials to Beacon Hill to stand up for our health, to protect us from corporate greed and to safeguard our climate. On all counts, the Legislature has failed. Despite two years of mounting evidence from experts, advocates and officials in the Healey administration sending a clear signal that it’s time to move beyond gas, the House failed to adopt reasonable measures from the Senate to move the commonwealth off of gas.” — *Mark Dyen of Gas Transition Allies.*

“Instead of letting fear or hate drive the narrative around immigrants, we need to embrace the facts: Immigrants without status contribute hundreds of millions of dollars in state and local tax dollars to our region, fueling the services so many of us depend on. Granting those without status work authorization is a common-sense reform that would dramatically increase tax revenues, while helping immigrants feel more safe and welcome in the state and nation they already contribute so much to. — *Elizabeth Sweet, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition.*

“Since October 7th, antisemitism has skyrocketed across

the country and continues to spread through our Massachusetts communities and institutions. Schools have posed a special area of concern, as efforts continue to inject anti-Israel and anti-Jewish content into curricula. In a strong demonstration of leadership and support for the Jewish community, several Massachusetts legislators took initiative to ensure Massachusetts confronts this dangerous hate.” — *From a statement by the American Jewish Committee New England on a section in the recently approved state budget that establishes a Special Commission for Addressing Antisemitism.*

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that

have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week July 29-August 2, the House met for a total of 34 hours and 8 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 36 hours and 32 minutes.

Mon. July 29	House 11:00 a.m. to 3:35 p.m. Senate 11:10 a.m. to 4:01 p.m.
Tues. July 30	House 11:02 a.m. to 7:35 p.m. Senate 11:05 a.m. to 7:58 p.m.
Wed. July 31	House 12:17 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. Senate 11:07 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.
Thurs. August 1	House 12:01 a.m. to 9:19 a.m. Senate 12:01 a.m. to 9:57 a.m.
Fri. August 2	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

8:00 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 8:30 AM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 9:00 AM SomerViva em Português - COA
 9:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol 7-18-24
 10:00 AM Art Beat 2024
 11:00 AM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 12:00 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
 1:00 PM Congressional Update
 1:30 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 3:00 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 5:00 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 6:00 PM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 6:30 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 7:00 PM SomerViva em Português - COA
 7:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol 7-18-24
 8:00 PM Art Beat 2024
 9:00 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 10:00 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
 11:00 PM Congressional Update
 11:30 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

1:00 AM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 3:00 AM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 7:30 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 8:00 AM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 9:00 AM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 10:30 AM SomerViva em Português - COA
 11:00 AM Finance Committee of the Whole 6-18-24
 2:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 3:00 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 5:00 PM Imagining Climate Forward 2050
 5:30 PM School Committee Meeting 6-17-24
 8:00 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 8:30 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

12:00 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 2:00 AM Memorial Day Parade 2024
 7:00 AM Jane's Walk 2024
 9:00 AM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
 10:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol 7-18-24
 10:30 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 11:00 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 1:00 PM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 2:00 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 2:30 PM SomerViva em Português - COA
 3:00 PM Juneteenth Ceremony 2024
 4:00 PM Art Beat 2024
 5:00 PM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 5:30 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 6:00 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 8:00 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
 9:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol 7-18-24
 9:30 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 10:00 PM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

12:00 AM Art Beat 2024
 1:00 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 1:30 AM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 7:00 AM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 7:45 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
 8:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 9:00 AM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 9:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 10:00 AM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 10:30 AM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 11:00 AM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 1:00 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 2:00 PM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 2:30 PM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 3:00 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 4:00 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks

5:00 PM Art Beat 2024
 6:00 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 8:00 PM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 8:45 PM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
 9:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 10:00 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 10:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 11:00 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 11:30 PM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

12:00 AM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 1:00 AM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 3:00 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 7:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #1
 7:30 AM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 8:00 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 10:00 AM Somerville Civic Day 2024
 11:00 AM Porchfest 2024
 12:00 PM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America
 1:30 PM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 2:00 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 2:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Will Mbah
 3:00 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 5:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol 7-18-24
 5:30 PM Art Beat 2024
 6:30 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 7:00 PM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #1
 7:30 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 8:00 PM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 10:00 PM Somerville Civic Day 2024
 11:00 PM Porchfest 2024

MONDAY, AUGUST 12

12:00 AM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America
 1:30 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 2:00 AM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 7:00 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 9:00 AM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

12:00 AM Pride Flag Raising 2024
 12:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol 7-18-24
 1:00 AM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 2:04 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 8:00 AM Art Beat 2024
 9:00 AM City Council Meeting 7-11-24
 11:30 AM Congressional Update
 12:00 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 1:00 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 1:30 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 2:30 PM Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks
 3:30 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 4:00 PM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 6:00 PM Art Beat 2024
 7:00 PM City Council Meeting 7-11-24
 9:30 PM Congressional Update
 10:00 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 11:00 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 11:30 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 12:30 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 1:00 AM Jane's Walk 2024

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

8:00 AM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 8:30 AM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 9:00 AM WHCS Spring Concert K-3
 9:30 AM WHCS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 10:00 AM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 10:30 AM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
 12:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 12:30 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 2:00 PM East Somerville Moving On Ceremony
 3:32 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 5:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 6:00 PM SHS Multicultural Fair
 6:30 PM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 7:00 PM WHCS Spring Concert K-3
 7:30 PM WHCS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 8:00 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 8:30 PM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
 10:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 10:30 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

12:00 AM Brown School Moving Forward
 1:00 AM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
 2:00 AM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 3:00 AM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 8:00 AM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 10:00 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Malden
 12:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical
 2:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Lynn Class
 4:00 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 5:29 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 6:00 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 8:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Malden
 10:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

12:00 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 12:30 AM Girls Intramural Futsal Championship
 1:30 AM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 2:30 AM Argenziano School 5-8 Spring Concert
 3:30 AM Brown School Spring Concert
 8:00 AM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 8:30 AM WHCS Spring Concert K-3
 9:00 AM WHCS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 9:30 AM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 10:00 AM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
 11:30 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 12:00 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 1:30 PM East Somerville Moving On Ceremony
 3:02 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 4:30 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 5:30 PM SHS Multicultural Fair
 6:00 PM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 6:30 PM WHCS Spring Concert K-3
 7:00 PM WHCS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 7:30 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 8:00 PM SCALE Graduation & Awards Night
 9:30 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 10:00 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 11:30 PM East Somerville Moving On Ceremony

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

1:00 AM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 2:15 AM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 8:00 AM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 9:30 AM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
 10:05 AM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 11:00 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 12:00 PM East Somerville Moving On Ceremony
 2:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show

4:00 PM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 5:00 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 5:30 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 6:00 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 7:30 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 8:30 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 9:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Malden
 10:35 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

12:00 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Lynn Class
 2:00 AM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 3:10 AM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 8:00 AM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 9:30 AM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising
 10:00 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 10:30 AM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 12:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 1:00 PM Kennedy School Spring 4-8 Concert
 2:00 PM Kennedy School Spring K-3 Concert
 2:30 PM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
 3:05 PM Argenziano School Moving On 2024
 4:00 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 6:00 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 7:30 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising
 8:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 8:30 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 10:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 11:00 PM SHS Boys Soccer vs Cambridge

MONDAY, AUGUST 12

1:00 AM Brown School Moving Forward
 2:00 AM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
 3:00 AM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 4:00 AM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 8:00 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown

10:00 AM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 10:30 AM Healey School K-1st Spring Concert
 11:00 AM SHS Class Day 2024
 1:00 PM SHS Graduation 2024
 2:30 PM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 4:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 5:00 PM Brown School Spring Concert
 6:30 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 7:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 9:00 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 9:30 PM Healey School K-1st Spring Concert

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

12:00 AM SHS Graduation 2024
 1:30 AM Intramural Boys Basketball Championship
 3:00 AM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship
 8:00 AM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 9:00 AM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
 10:00 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 10:30 AM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising
 11:00 AM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
 12:00 PM Brown School Moving Forward
 1:00 PM WSNS Moving On Ceremony
 2:00 PM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 3:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 5:00 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 6:00 PM Healey School Moving On Ceremony
 7:30 PM SHS Chamber Ensemble Concert
 8:00 PM Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
 9:00 PM Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
 10:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 10:30 PM WSNS Juneteenth Flag Raising
 11:00 PM El Sistema Somerville June Concert

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

Response to "Arts at the Armory Should Uphold Its Commitment to Inclusivity"

In response to Shalom Somerville's July 17 letter to the Editor, If Not Now Boston does not believe that showing *Israelism*, a film critical of Israel, is antisemitic. Instead, we are grateful to Arts at the Armory and Somerville for Palestine organizers for creating a space for learning and exchange of perspectives.

In light of the ongoing violence against Palestinians in Gaza, local community organizations gathered for a screening of the documentary film, *Israelism*. Somerville for Palestine and If Not Now Boston co-hosted the screening and panel discussion at Arts at the Armory with the intention of fostering learning and discussion. Somerville for Palestine is an interfaith, interracial, intergenerational community-led effort demanding a ceasefire in solidarity with Palestinians in their fight for liberation, self-determination, and human rights. If Not Now Boston is a chapter of the national movement of Jewish Americans organizing to end apartheid in Israel.

Israelism features young Jewish Americans who are challenging the narrative of Israel's centrality in American Judaism after learning about the historical and present apartheid, violence, and illegal occupation in Palestine. The film, which

was completed before October 7th, creates opportunities for vital discussion among both Jewish and non-Jewish audiences as Israel continues its genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. As Jewish Americans who support Palestinian liberation and self-determination, we reject the idea that Israelism and criticism of Israel are inherently antisemitic.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports that 39,445 Palestinians have been killed and 91,073 have been injured by Israeli Defense Forces since the tragic loss of roughly 1,200 Israeli lives on October 7, 2023. Israeli Defense Forces are also destroying Palestinian homes; critical infrastructure for clean water, fuel and sewage; entire universities and schools; Christian and Muslim places of worship; and Gaza's natural landscapes and resources. Shalom Somerville's focus on the "inclusivity" of the Israelism screening in their letter could be construed as a lack of understanding or care for the atrocities that Israel continues to commit in Gaza.

The writer of the letter suggests that legitimate criticism of Israel should be focused on Israel's policies and leaders. We disagree that criticism of any state should be limited to their laws and elected officials, but in the spirit of sharing different perspectives, we offer the following exam-

ples focused on policies and leaders:

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is currently reviewing South Africa's case against Israel for Israel's genocide against Palestinians, in part based on Israeli leaders' repeated comparisons of Palestinians to animals. In a separate case issued on July 19, 2024, the ICJ issued an advisory opinion describing Israel's laws and policies as upholding racial segregation between Jewish Israelis and Palestinians and constituting the crime of apartheid.

Judaism encourages us to ask questions, engage in discussion, and seek truth and justice in pursuit of tikkun olam, repairing the world. As we watch this genocide unfold in real time, why should the complex relationship between Jewish Americans and Israel be exempt from public discussion in places like Arts at the Armory?

Members of If Not Now Boston and Somerville for Palestine have diverse backgrounds, experiences, ideologies, and thoughts on what the future for Israelis and Palestinians might look like. In each of our organizations, we make time to work together and learn from each other's values and perspectives, especially as we share opinions that others may disagree with. In the spirit of these values, the Israelism event was open to the public, and all were invited to peacefully attend and submit thoughtful questions. Event orga-

nizers and marshals from Somerville for Palestine clearly communicated to protesters that large signs, flags and megaphones were not allowed inside the Armory, and that individuals trying to enter the venue with those items in an aggressive manner would be asked to leave. We want to be clear that people were denied entry for reasonable and clearly stated reasons.

If Not Now Boston and Somerville for Palestine value and create intentional spaces where people can disagree respectfully and safely, and explore new narratives and perspectives. In order to promote a feeling of security in these spaces, event organizers are responsible for ensuring that all event attendees are engaging safely and in good faith. We believe that Arts at the Armory succeeded in its mission to provide an inclusive and accessible venue that brings diverse audiences together, and enriches and transforms lives.

We ask that Somerville community members continue to support Arts at the Armory and their mission to create spaces for challenging and meaningful conversations.

If you are interested in viewing *Israelism*, visit their website to find a screening or streaming service: <https://www.israelism-film.com/>

Author: Skylar Karzhevsky (Somerville resident, S4P, INN)

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

One of the Huguenots was Jean Mallet who fled early on with his family to what is now Somerville. After arriving here, he applied what he knew by building a gristmill, which is today's historic Powder House. The Mallets also helped build three mills in Oxford. The Somer-

ville mill still stands over three centuries later. Protected by one of Ben Franklin's early lightning rods rising from its roof, it is the oldest man-made stone structure in the state. In September 1774, the site was attacked by British troops who captured the Colonial gunpowder that was stored there. This was eight months before Lexington, making it the dress rehearsal to the American Revolution.

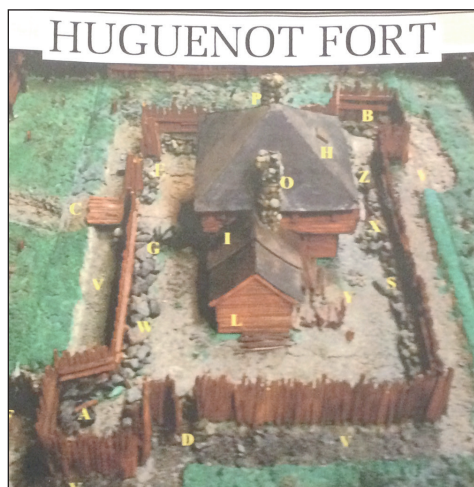
At that time, another Oxford refugee was Ann Faneuil, mother of Peter Faneuil, creator of Boston's Faneuil Hall. Today's Oxford prides itself as the birthplace of Clarissa "Clara" Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, who was born there on Christmas day in 1821. As a Civil War nurse, she was called the "angel of the battlefield." She is number 100 on the Hall of Fame List for Great Americans.

Joslin Park was given to the Town of Oxford by one of its natives, Dr. Elliot P. Joslin. He was a world-renowned specialist in the treatment of diabetes, founding the first diabetes care facility, The Joslin Diabetes Center, in Boston.

Many famous names in American history root back to this first wave of Huguenots including Paul Revere, Henry Wadsworth

Longfellow and 21 out of our 45 American Presidents. Today, the Huguenot Oak on Huguenot Road, the Huguenot Bridge, the Huguenot Fort and the French River keep Oxford's original history alive.

Somerville's Mallet Street brings to mind the Huguenot spirit of Jean Mallet. His creation of our 314-year old Powder House shines as our city's official seal.



Somerville's Yart Sale

All are invited to sell or shop at Somerville's citywide Yart Sale on Saturday, August 10. Yart Sale is an opportunity for creatives to showcase and sell artwork or arts related things. Do you have frames or canvases left from past exhibits, or that equipment you bought and never used?

This is an opportunity to sell or gift these items from the comfort of your yard, driveway, or porch! For art lovers, it's an opportunity to browse new artwork and wares from local makers (and maybe pick up that thing you never knew you needed!).

Yart Sale will take place on Saturday, August 10 (rain date August 11), from noon to 6:00 p.m. Yards may vary in time within this time frame, before visiting check the website and map. Event goers will be able to access a map of locations and times on our website: www.somervilleartscouncil.org/yartsale.

To register your yard, sign up using the Somerville Arts Council's (SAC) online form. The deadline to sign up is Friday, August 9, by 11:59 p.m.

Exhibitors are encouraged to be creative with their displays but remain respectful of their neighbors by not blocking any streets or sidewalks.

Examples of things that can be part of the Yart Sale:

- Any art medium (paintings, photography, collage, ceramics, etc.)
- Handmade objects (jewelry, pottery, quilts, knitted items, etc.)
- Collectible items (coins, postcards, baseball cards, instruments, magnets, etc.)
- Plants
- Musician/band merchandise
- Art tools, supplies, equipment, and books

For questions, please contact Iaritza Menjivar at imenjivar@somervillema.gov.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Don't jump!...

— Photo by Denise Provost

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

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why did the dad bring a toolbox to the beach?
 He wanted to build sand-castles.

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On This Day in History

August 7

1782 – General George Washington authorizes the award of the Purple Heart for soldiers wounded in combat.

1888 – Theophilus Van Kannel of Philadelphia receives a patent for the revolving door.

1916 – Persia forms an alliance with Britain and Russia.

1922 – The Irish Republican Army cuts the cable link between the United States and Europe at Waterville landing station.

1934 – In Washington, the U.S. Court of Appeals rules that the government can neither confiscate nor ban James Joyce's novel *Ulysses*.

1964 – Congress overwhelmingly passes the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, allowing the president to use unlimited military force to prevent attacks on U.S. forces.

1971 – Apollo 15 returns to Earth. The mission to the moon had marked the first use of the Lunar Roving Vehicle.

1984 – Japan defeats the United States to win the Olympic Gold in baseball.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

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

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

The **Somerville Community Growing Center** participates in the **SAC's Yart Sale, Saturday, August 10, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.**, 22 Vinal Ave. The Growing Center offers space for a range of artists to sell. Artists across the city will sell paintings, prints, handmade objects, art supplies, and more! Interested in selling your art at the Growing Center that day? Contact: **Betsy** at betsy@thegrowingcenter.org. Also on **Saturday, August 10, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.** join **Claire and Earthwise Aware (EwA)** citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Growing Center through the EwA photo documentation using the **iNaturalist platform**. Contact: **Claire O'Neill** at oneill@earthwiseaware.org.

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

Join **Femmechanics** from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on **August 21** for "**grrrease-time**" Night at **The Dojo** at **Somernova**. Femmechanics is a group of FTW (femme/trans/women/non-binary) people who bike in the Boston area. Join Femmechanics for an open shop time,

called **Grrrease Time**, where you can come learn more about working on your bike and help others do the same. This space is open to everyone who identifies as femme and/or trans and/or women and/or non-binary, not just feminine of center folks. Located at **The Dojo, 15 Properzi Way, Somerville**.

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

Visit the **Somerville Bike Kitchen**, a volunteer-run bicycle repair cooperative, hosting **open-shop nights** at **The Dojo (15 Properzi Way, Somerville)**. Come maintain your bike or learn more about cycling. **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., upcoming **Bike Kitchens: August 8, 13 and August 15**. **Every Thursday** from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. join **Parkour Generations Boston for Teen Jams at The Dojo**. This is a flexible time for teen community members to use the pop-up training space at **The Dojo @ Somernova** and connect with fellow community members in the process. Upcoming **Teen Jams August 8 and August 15**.

The city's annual **SomerMovie Fest** is returning with a lineup of six family-friendly films to be shown in parks around Somerville. Watch **Barbie: The Movie** this **Thursday, August 8, 7:45 p.m.** at **Seven Hills Park - Davis Sq**. All screenings are free to attend and will begin at dusk. Closed captioning is available. For exact times and to learn more, visit www.somerville.ma.gov/moviefest.

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

Train to become a **Somerville Public Schools paraprofessional**. SCALE

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

Join the **SPL** and the **Tewksbury Public Library** for a virtual conversation with author **Sharon Kitchens**, who will discuss her new book, **Stephen King's Maine: A History & Guide**. Explore Maine locations that serve as the basis for Stephen King's fictional towns of **Castle Rock, Jerusalem's Lot, Derry, and Haven**, drawing on historical materials and conversations with locals and people who know King. **August 20, 7:00 p.m.** on Zoom. Register here for this event: <https://tinyurl.com/3jf99cf4>.

Somerville Recreation is gearing up for a summer packed with weekly programming for local teens. There's something for everyone, programs include pickup soccer, volleyball and basketball clinics, pickup flag football, open gym, and Friday crafting at the **Powderhouse**. Programming began on July 1, is free, and open to Somerville teen ages 12–18. Get the full **Teen Summer Guide** to sign up for a specific program or learn more about all programs and events <https://somervillema.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>.

To celebrate the **250th anniversary of the Powder Alarm on September 1**, the **Somerville Museum** is partnering with the **City of Somerville** to produce a re-enactment of the historic event, followed by a living history fair. The fair will include docent tours of the Powder House, activity tables, and even a scavenger hunt of the park. What was the Powder Alarm? Learn more about the events leading up to September 1, 1774: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3vfBQiV93c>. The re-enactment will begin at approximately 9:30 a.m., followed by a living history fair and docent tours from approximately 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. For details, see <http://www.somervillemuseum.org/calendar-events/powder-alarm>.

Check out the **free summer meals for Somerville youth through August 16**. **Argenziano/Lincoln Park, 290 Washington St.** Breakfast around 9:30 a.m. **Dilboy Pool Parking Lot, 324 Alewife Brook Pkwy**, Lunch Starting 10:00 – 10:15 a.m. **Blessing of the Bay Boathouse, 32 Shore Drive**, Lunch 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. **Found-**

ers Skating Rink at Conway Park (near the basketball courts), 570 Somerville Ave. Breakfast and lunch 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. **Foss Park, 49 Fellsway W.** Lunch at 11:15 – 11:45 a.m.

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

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

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

Join **Union Square Main Streets** and **50+ of your favorite local food producers** for the **20th Annual Union Square Farmers Market, 6670 Union Square**. Shop local on **Saturdays through October 26**, except September 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the **Union Square Plaza**. The market provides visitors and residents with top-quality, fresh, and local produce at fair prices; encourages active lifestyle values; educates consumers about farming and locally sourced foods; and gives customers opportunities to interact directly with farmers. For more information about the Union Square Farmers Market, visit unionsquaremain.org/2024fmseason. SNAP customers get \$1 for \$1 match up to \$15. See the Market Manager tent for more info.

Davis Square Farmers Market is now open. **Every Wednesday through November 22, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.** visit the **Davis Square Farmers Market**, across from American *Continued on page 23*



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville Poet Alex Levering Kern:
Knows 'What an Island Knows'

Alexander Levering Kern is a poet, chaplain, editor, and Quaker educator originally from Washington, DC and based in Somerville and (whenever possible) Chebeague Island, Maine. He is the author of a book of poems, *What an Island Knows* (Shanti Arts, 2024), and a forthcoming poetry collection from Cervena Barva Press. Alex is the editor of the anthology *Becoming Fire* and founding editor of *Pensive: A Global Journal of Spirituality & the Arts* (www.pensive.com).

His work appears widely in publications such as *Consequence Online*, *Spiritus*, *About Place Journal*, *Georgetown Review*, *Spare Change News*, *The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, *Soul-Lit*, and in anthologies from *Tiferet*, *Meridian*, *Main Street Rag*, *Pudding House*, and *Ibbetson Street*.

Recipient of various writing awards, Alex was selected as a resident at the T.S. Eliot House in 2024. Alex has served and learned alongside communities around issues of justice, peace, and healing in a variety of global contexts: in post-earthquake Haiti, post-apartheid Southern Africa, northern Nigeria, rural Honduras, and with unhoused and displaced people in the United States. His work has been covered by *The Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Harvard Gazette*, *The Somerville Times*, and the *Sidwell Friends Alumni Magazine*. I recently touched base with him about his new collection of poetry, *What an Island Knows*, and he agreed to an interview.

Doug Holder: Your book is like a poetic journal of your summers spent on Chebeague Island off the coast of Maine. What is it that inspires you about this place?

Alexander Levering Kern: Excellent question, Doug. Before I answer, I want to thank you for all you do to promote poetry and the arts in Somerville, Boston, and beyond. Every community needs a tireless advocate and organizer, and you're our guy! As a fellow editor and educator, I especially appreciate your efforts with Endicott College students and other emerging poets and writers. Please keep up the great work!

So back to Chebeague (the name is pronounced "Sha-big," from an Abenaki word). The practice of "place" has always been central to who I am as a person and a poet. Growing up in Washington, DC, my childhood "sacred place" was my Quaker grandparents' orchard in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Southwestern Virginia. For my children, it's this gloriously beautiful island in the Casco Bay off the coast of Portland. Their grandparents (my in-laws and Somervillians Michael and Beth Grunko) bought a summer cottage on the island in the early 1990s and our large extended family has been retreating there ever since. It's become much more than a summer



home. It's a place of being, becoming, and belonging.

There is so much that inspires me about the island. My debut book of poems, *What an Island Knows*, is in many ways a love song to this place - and to local communities everywhere. Like any place, the island faces major challenges (environmental, economic, etc.), yet is an endless source of resilience, renewal, and inspiration. I'm inspired by its natural beauty, its history and culture, and the amazing people who've called this place home: year-round residents, summer folks, and the Wabanaki tribes, the original inhabitants whose important legacy endures.

DH: Betsy Sholl, the former poet laureate of Maine, described your poetry as a form of "cherishing." What is your definition of cherishing, and do you feel that your work accomplishes that?

ALK: I love that Betsy Sholl, whose poetry I cherish, used the word "cherishing" in her foreword to the book. It's not a word I often use, but seems to capture what I'm after. To cherish means to love, to treasure, and to place great value, but also means to protect and care. For me, it's an expression of what the geographer Yi-Fu Tuan calls "topophilia" - literally "love of place," with a profound sense of connection and spiritual identification. As Betsy notes, cherishing is akin to delight and begins with prayerful attention, a grateful and contemplative gazing into the heart of things, a pausing to "be with," "be in," and "be overcome" by awe and wonder. Cherishing also means reverencing the land and the ancestors, and pledging to steward it as if it were family, because it is. As to whether my writing accomplishes this "cherishing," I doubt it. Just as words cannot finally capture the love I feel for my family, poetry can only hint at the mysterious love at the heart of a place like Chebeague. That said, it's always worth trying!

DH: In your poem *Passage Over* you write that people who visit the island are "ritual people." The ritual of returning to the island year after year, is it a sort of religious calling?

ALK: Absolutely! As a Quaker, I come from a tradition that ostensibly deemphasizes religious ritual, but I know it when I see it!

Continued on page 23

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Deborah Leipziger is an author, poet, and advisor on sustainability. Born in Brazil, Deborah's poems have been published in nine countries in such magazines as *Salamander*, *Revista Cardenal*, and *Inkwell*. Her poetry collection *Story & Bone* was published by Lily Poetry Review Books. She is the author of several books on human rights and sustainability. She is currently working on a *Lexicon of Change*, which shares the vocabulary we need for social and environmental transformation.



Tell me, what are you most afraid of?

Tell me, and I will give you shade.

Yes, I know of the many ways to die.

Heat Thirst Flood Lightning.

Why fear growing old?

I have witnessed your life.

There are so many ways to live.

Remember, you grow rich in many currencies:

Light Generosity Energy Kindness.

Protect me and I will provide cover

Connected as we are by need and nearness.

I will cover the frozen ground with my leaves

And weave my branches of color over your darkness.

Come rest with me.

— Deborah Leipziger

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:
Doug Holder, 25 School St., Somerville, MA 02143. dougholder@post.harvard.edu

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

Flatbread at 44 Day St. Visit: www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis. This long-running market features over two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers offering a vibrant selection of delicious produce, protein, baked goods, ready-to-eat meals, alongside a host of other locally made products. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match.

The **Somerville Mobile Farmers Market** opened for the season on Thursday, July 11, selling fresh, local produce **through October 26**. The mobile market accepts cash, debit cards, SNAP, Fresh Connect, WIC Farmers Market Coupons, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons. All are welcome. Find the Mobile Farmers Market at the following locations: **Thursdays:** 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., **Clarendon Hill Towers** (1372 Broad-

way), **Fridays:** 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., **Council on Aging** (167 Holland St.), 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., **East Branch Library** (115 Broadway), **Saturdays:** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., **Mystic Housing Development** (25 Memorial Rd.).

The COA is offering **free taxi rides** to Somerville residents over the age of 60. Rides are available to go to the grocery store, farmer's market, and pharmacy in Somerville and routine medical appointments in the surrounding communities. To best accommodate the needs of everyone in the city and to maximize the use of our funding, they will be capping the number of rides per week. To ensure the health and welfare of every resident of Somerville, exemptions will be made for chemotherapy and radiation appointments. To find out more information or to schedule your ride, please call **Connie Lorenti** at

6176256600 ext. 2319. All rides must be booked two business days in advance. This program is funded through **ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding**.

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

6176256600, ext. 2321.

The **Somerville Public Library** in partnership with **St. Mark Community Education Program** is offering a free, 10-week **U.S. Citizenship Preparation class**. The class will prepare students for the citizenship interview including the 100 civics questions, the reading and writing sections, and interview questions based on the filed N-400 application. Requirements: Basic level of English and 5 years as a U.S. permanent resident (green card holder) or 3 years, if married to a US citizen. Registration required: tinyurl.com/splcitizenshipclassfall2024.

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

Chebeague is a place of pilgrimage, of "eternal return," whether we choose to use that language or not. As Donna Miller Damon notes, Chebeague is one of an endangered species: unbridged islands in Maine with year-round communities. The only way to access the island is by ferry or boat, so the ritual of return is a communal ritual, like "the solstice dance of a medieval village" I say: planning, packing, driving, unpacking, loading our luggage onto a bus, riding that bus to a ferry dock, loading and unloading again, ferrying over – all the while greeting neighbors and helping each other to tote our provisions. There are also Fourth of July parade rituals and the "Chebeague Island wave," waving to neighbors and strangers in passing, whether a full-palmed greeting or a few fingers lifted, nonchalantly, while cycling past. These are but a few of the many rituals and traditions that bind us to each other, to the ancestors, and ensure that the community survives and flourishes.

DH: In the poem *Found Art* you talk about finding beauty again in yourself, your family, and nature. Nature can be like a skilled therapist in some respects. Do you agree?

ALK: It certainly is. As a human species, of course, we are "nature" ourselves, creatures inextricably linked to - and dependent upon - greater ecological systems for life. It's no surprise then that much of our (post) modern malaise is attributable, I think, to "nature deficit disorders" - our alienation from, and neglect and destruction of, non-human nature. Poets have always looked to nature for healing, wholeness, wisdom, and grounding - from the Psalmists to the ancient Buddhist poets to the Romantics

and Transcendentalists to contemporary activist eco-poets. For me, being outdoors and in wild places is as essential as food or water. In the case of Chebeague Island, walking on the shore, listening to the trees, watching the stars and planets- is not an "escape" from the shadow or from the violence and injustice of the wider world. On an island, we are never apart from, but are always "a part of," in a different way than on the mainland perhaps. In rest and retreat, we are renewed for our work in the world, and to come close to the beauty of an island is to experience a kindred beauty in others and in oneself, and beauty, as Dostoevsky writes, somehow will save the world.

DH: Any future projects you would like to talk about?

ALK: Thanks for asking. I've been writing and editing poems for over twenty years, and have published widely in journals, but only recently decided to set aside fear and perfectionism and submit book manuscripts for publication. Christine Cote Brooks of Shanti Arts has been wonderful to work with on this current book. Later this year, the equally amazing Gloria Mindock and Cervena Barva Press will publish a collection of peacemaking and parenting poems I wrote during the height of the US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thanks to a residency at the T.S. Eliot House in Gloucester, I've been polishing several other book manuscripts, decades in the making: a poetic love letter to Somerville; a collection of poems about experiences working with unhoused and displaced persons; a book of poems about commuting in Boston; and collections of poems about family roots, Quakerism, and the strange and wonderful work of university chaplaincy.

Wish me luck, my friend! Just as importantly, I continue to work with students co-editing *Pensive: A Global Journal of Spirituality & the Arts*, featuring exceptional poetry, prose, art, and translations from around the world. Please encourage folks to check us out at pensivejournal.com and consider submitting. Many thanks, Doug, and best wishes with your own creative endeavors!

Passage Over

Like a nautical compass we long for true north wherever that place may be. It's high tide that draws us here: summer natives and islanders, driftwood jettisoned from the mainland, from every hidden corner of worry and need. There's a collective exhaling we feel on the bus that trundles us down to the ferry dock: strangers, neighbors, familiar dogs each sniffing for ocean air.

We are ritual people, loading and unloading our common freight, hand over hand like the solstice dance of a medieval village, the weak always helping the strong.

Soon our luggage will rest in the ferry and we'll nod and smile, unburdened for now. The island waits, and when we reach the shore we'll go our separate ways.

— Alexander Levering Kern

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