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City honoring serving Police Chief Charles Femino



The City of Somerville is extending its heartfelt appreciation for the service rendered by outgoing Police Chief Charles Femino.

On behalf of the City of Somerville, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is extending her deepest gratitude to interim Police Chief Charles Femino for his exceptional leadership and unwavering dedication to the Somerville Police Department.

Chief Femino, who stepped into the role of Acting Police Chief during the height of the pandemic in December 2020, has guided the department through one of the most challenging periods in recent history, leaving a lasting impact on both the department and the community.

"We will always be deeply grateful for Chief Femino's service and dedication to Somerville," said Mayor Ballantyne. "His legacy of leadership and commitment to justice will continue to inspire our work as we move forward. We are deeply grateful for his deft ability to steer the department" *Continued on page 4*

Crave Cafe opens in Somerville

By Cathleen Twardzik

Do you have a hankering for a breakfast burrito, a falafel or a burger? Well, Crave Cafe is your next stop in Somerville.

In late August, Crave Cafe opened at 198 Holland St. The cafe, situated where Renée's Cafe was formally located, between Davis Square and Teele Square. However, it is closer to Teele Square.

The new cafe's manager is happy to serve a varied fare in Somerville. "We're glad to be in the neighborhood. A lot of nice people around here. We've been talking to a lot of people while doing construction. It's awesome. Construction took a little bit of time, but it was mainly just painting and making sure all of our equipment was set," said Sami Noufal, Manager.

"The owner is my father, Ayman Noufal, a long-time cook. So, it's a father-son place," said Noufal.

What is the cafe's story? "We" *Continued on page 4*



Crave Cafe is now open and doing business at 198 Holland St. in Somerville. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

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

Somerville to host the **9/11 Remembrance Ceremony** tonight. To mark the 23d anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, **Mayor Katjana Ballantyne** and the **City of Somerville Department of Veterans' Services** invite the community to a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on **Wednesday, September 11**, at 6:00 p.m. in Davis Square. All are invited to gather for the ceremony at the 9/11 Memorial in Davis Square (on the island at the intersection of Highland Avenue and Elm Street). The observance will honor all victims of 9/11 as well as first responders, workers, and volunteers who rushed to the scene to save lives or to later help carry out the dangerous cleanup. It will include a moment of silence and feature an invocation and benediction by **Father Paul Coughlin** as well as remarks by **Mayor Ballantyne** and **Veterans Director Jerome Thomas**. A bagpipe tribute including *Amazing Grace* will follow, and attendees will be given individual roses to place on the 9/11 Memorial. The ceremony will be framed by the presentation of and retiring of the colors (national, state, and unit flags) by the **Honor Guards of the Somerville Police and Somerville Fire Department**.

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. *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of September 1 – September 17 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday <i>September 11</i>	Sunny	76°/54°	2%	1%	ESE 10 mph
Thursday <i>September 12</i>	Sunny	81°/59°	4%	2%	SW 10 mph
Friday <i>September 13</i>	Sunny	83°/60°	5%	2%	SSW 7 mph
Saturday <i>September 14</i>	Sunny	79°/60°	5%	3%	NE 10 mph
Sunday <i>September 15</i>	Sunny	81°/537°	6%	3%	E 10 mph
Monday <i>September 16</i>	Sunny	78°/56°	7%	5%	SE 11 mph
Tuesday <i>September 17</i>	Partly Cloudy	79°/61°	19%	12%	SSE 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: *Despite loss at the polls, first-time candidate Kathleen Hornby makes waves in Somerville State Rep race*

Frankly says:

The next time you look around Somerville and wonder why things aren't better – why progress on so-called community goals always seems out of reach, why your taxes keep going up but services get worse, why school enrollment continues to decline while the population of people here for a year or two continues to grow, why other towns get new recreation facilities while we get stiffed in each state budget, why you are stuck waiting for the train in an ugly T station, why your taxes are up and the next state project is over budget and fails to deliver remember this election. This community insists on electing people based on their identity and ideology instead of their capabilities. Hey Somerville, you get what you vote for.

Chris says:

Hornby's flyers and statements always seemed to stretch just too far beyond the truth for my tastes. The first mailer she sent out attacking Erika's parentage especially left a bad taste in my mouth.

Total amateur campaign.

Nope says:

This is massive cope from the Hornby campaign. Her results were marginal and show no more growth from the cohort of moderates that supported her than in elections past. Maybe they should think about why their politics are not popular rather than grandstanding.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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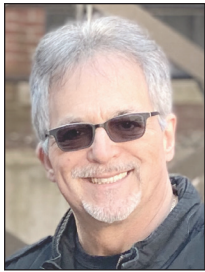


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Call 857-488-5138 and speak to the Assignment Editor

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

Somerville Theatre memories



This article first appeared in the July 25, 2019 edition of *The Somerville Times*

This is the second story I've written about my favorite

theatre. You may have visited it during the recent heat wave, but as far as I'm concerned the Somerville Theatre has always been cool.

This Ville of ours is an ever changing place (observant aren't I?). Most of the stores, restaurants and bars from our childhood are gone. But there's one place that's still here and has remained virtually unchanged. I'm talking about The Somerville Theatre in Davis Square.

I remember my mother taking my brother and sister and me to see *The Sound of Music* there in 1965. I was 12 years old. We had a 5-minute walk from our house.

Many of us have great memories of the theatre. I've put together some more of my friends' remembrances.

"In the 1930s when my mother was a little girl, she and all her friends from Warwick Street would collect bottles to return them for a penny. A movie ticket was 10 cents but because it was during the depression, their families couldn't even afford a dime to send their kids to the movies. They would collect enough of them so that all the children could go to the movies on Saturday. They would stay there all day because there were several short films. The kids today have no idea how easy they have it! Later, it became the standing Saturday night date for my mother and father."

Here's another recollection: "Going to Gorin's first to get the long sleeve of popcorn for 25 cents and candy for the Satur-

day matinee. Kids running up and down the aisles before, during and after the movie. Someone throwing trash in the path of the projected movie so it would show up on the screen. Basically a Somerville kid free for all, that happened to be showing a movie (or 2) at the same time!"

Many friends revealed that their first kiss happened at The Somerville Theatre, no doubt in the balcony. Another friend shares: "So many Saturday afternoons with all our friends! Popcorn showered from the balcony. (Watching) *Friday the 13th!* Oh, was that walk home scary!"

Three generations of my family worked at the theatre. My dad worked there around 1935 when movies like *Top Hat* and *Mutiny On the Bounty* were shown. Charlie Chan, W.C. Fields and Shirley Temple movies were big then also. I worked at the theatre around 1972 when *M*A*S*H*, *The Owl and the Pussycat*, *Tora, Tora, Tora* and *Patton* came out. I had fun putting, let's say, "silly" words up on the marquee while my friends watched. My son worked at the theatre around 2014 with movies like *The Lego Movie*, *Godzilla*, *Jersey Boys*, and *Birdman*.

My friend Ian Judge is the manager of our beloved Somerville Theatre. He has lots of interesting historic bits of info about the theatre. He's also a nice guy.

It's so comforting to still have a place like The Somerville Theatre that was such a memorable part of our upbringing in Somerville. It's comforting and important that it's remained for so long, especially when you look around at all the destruction and construction in our city. Decent prices, nice staff and the best popcorn anywhere (real butter) make The Somerville Theatre one of our favorite places. I sound like Yelp!



Some classic movies my generation saw there were *ET*, *A Hard Day's Night*, *Goldfinger*, *Grease*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *Ben Hur*, *King Kong*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Jaws*, *The Love Bug*, *Bullit*, *Omega Man*, *The Good the Bad and the Ugly* (the movie, not City Hall), James Bond and Elvis flicks, and classic horror movies (no, not

live streaming of City Council meetings!) *Frankenstein*, *Dracula*, and *The Mummy*. Don't forget ... *The Blob!* (insert your own joke here!)

The Somerville Theatre remains a treasure trove of memories for us old Somerville people. And please, no tossing popcorn, candy or people off the balcony!



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Somerville Police Dept Crime Log August 27 – September 2

Assault

24052808: On 8/29/24 at approximately 7:15 p.m., Somerville Housing Police responded to Weston Ave for report of a past assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he invited a male party inside his apartment and the male party threatened him with an object. Officers identified the male suspect.

Robbery

24053399: On 9/1/24 at approximately 2:36 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Elm St for report of an attempted larceny. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated that he entered his vehicle parked in front of his home and was approached by a male party. The male then put his hand in his pocket and motioned as if he had a weapon. The male then stated he wanted something but it was unknown what it was. The victim was able to drive away.

Assault

24053415: On 9/1/24 at approximately 3:30 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Elm St for a weapons call. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was on his scooter and was approached by a male party who proceeded to brandish a knife. The victim yelled at him and the suspect fled the area.

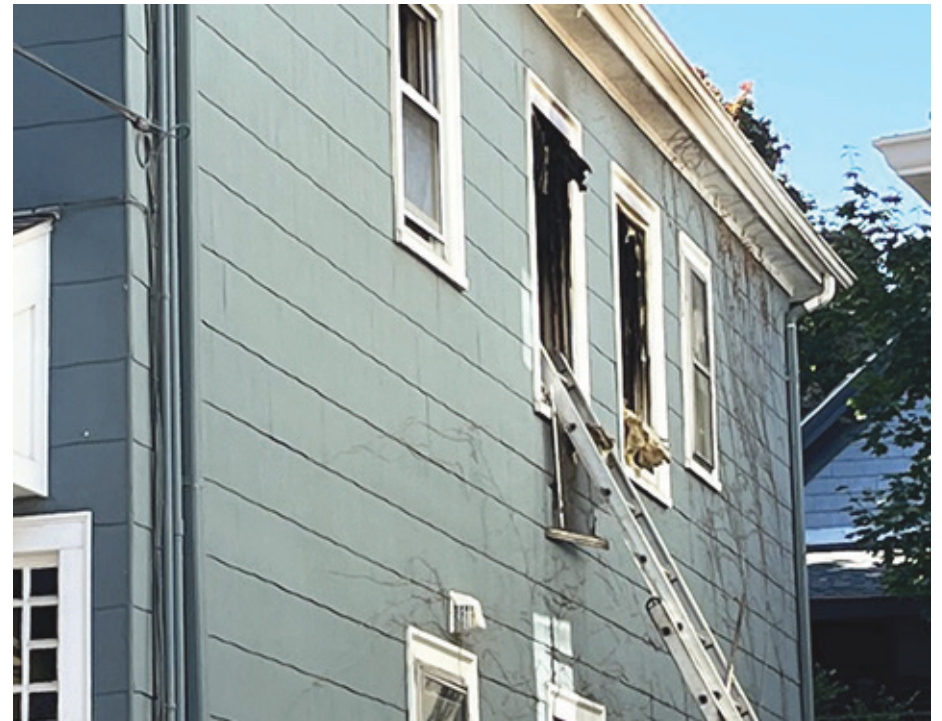
Other Crimes: 4 Vandalisms + 2 Package thefts + 10 Car breaks + 4 Bike thefts + 1 MV vandalism + 2 MV thefts

— Somerville Police Department



Two-alarm fire in Somerville

Earlier this morning a two-alarm fire broke out at 16 Glendale Ave. in Somerville. The first company arrived and reported smoke and fire conditions on the second floor. A search for occupants was carried out and was found to be clear. No report of injuries. The cause of the fire is undetermined currently and investigation is in process.



City honoring serving Police Chief Charles Femino CONT. FROM PG 1

through unprecedented challenges while continuing to improve operations, enhance public safety, and advance our goals for community-focused policing. His tenure has been nothing short of remarkable.”

Chief Femino’s career in law

enforcement spans over three decades, beginning with his distinguished service in the Somerville Police Department from 1984 to 2014. During his tenure, he served in several key roles, including Chief of Detectives for over 15 years, Deputy Chief, and

Acting Chief from 2013 to 2014. After his initial retirement from the Somerville Police Department, Chief Femino continued his public service as the Chief of Police for Endicott College before returning to Somerville to serve as Acting Chief for over

three years, allowing the city to recruit a successor to continue his important work in Somerville.

A highly respected figure within the department and beyond, Chief Femino holds a Juris Doctor from the New England School of Law, a Master’s in Education from Bos-

ton University, and a Bachelor’s in Criminal Science from Northeastern University. His academic achievements, coupled with his extensive experience, have made him a formidable leader and an invaluable asset to the Somerville Police Department.

Crave Cafe opens in Somerville CONT. FROM PG 1

used to own a couple of restaurants. We owned one in Bedford and one in Boston. After COVID, we couldn’t open them

anymore, so we had to close them. Then, we were driving by where the old Renée’s was, and we decided, ‘Hey, we just might

as well put a restaurant in there. That sounds like a great idea,’” said Noufal.

Crave Cafe is open Tuesday to

Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. They can be contacted at 617-625-2727.

So, go explore their dishes – which range from a steak and cheese sandwich to a gyro – to expand your palate.

Welcome to Highlander Nation Fall 2024

By Harry Kane

Sports provides an opportunity to develop and display talents through competition with the goal of achieving an athlete's potential. Winning is important and gives Highlanders a sense of validation. And becoming a team player, learning leadership skills and practicing good sportsmanship helps build self-esteem and a foundation for lifelong fitness habits that will help students prepare for the future.

The Autumn offerings at Somerville High School include: football, co-ed golf, competitive cheerleading, girls and boys soccer, girls and boys cross-country and girls volleyball.

"We have a wide range of offerings for all of our students," said Director of Athletics Stanley Vieira.

Vieira has seen some things change since COVID, particularly from a sports medicine standpoint with a focus on safety.

The sports medicine department has two trainers, which is helpful for speeding up recovery from injuries and keeping kids healthier, he says.

Michelle Kelly is the Head Athletic Trainer and District Concussion Specialist. Gabrielle Vieira is the Assistant Athletic Trainer.

The trainers are available for injury evaluation, prevention, rehabilitation, first aid, nutrition and concussion management.

More than 1400 students attend high school and half of them

play sports, according to Vieira.

Preseason for Fall sports started on August 19, and the season continues until November 2, except for the Thanksgiving football game and any team qualifying for the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Tournament.

The coaches work with the Director of Athletics Stanley Vieira and Assistant Director of Athletics Indira Evora as well as the athletic trainers to regularly communicate the needs of individual players.

"These days we really have to make sure that our coaches know each individual athlete and know how to motivate each one," Vieira said. "Every student is unique. It is a job that requires a lot of hands-on attention."

Coaches play a huge role in the development of athletes, helping students realize the benefits of athletics, and act as mentors to assist Highlanders reach their potential.

Freshman sports provides opportunities for participation and introduces players to the sport, covers fundamental skills and introduces various strategies and game situations. Every player receives some game time in order to develop and improve on skills and critical thinking.

The Junior Varsity teams implement strategies and game play reflective of the goals of the varsity programs. JV prepares players for varsity experiences and expectations. Playing time is determined by the staff based on skills and development from practices



Boys soccer regular season game last fall vs. Malden High School.

— Photos courtesy of SHS Sports

and ability to transition those skills to live competition.

Varsity teams set the tone for the program and all levels of play. This includes setting an example for community service, sportsmanship, pride and dedication. Players strive to improve daily and compete with one another in order to improve the team.

Playing time during contests is not guaranteed and will be determined by the coach, according to the 2024 Student Athlete Handbook.

"It's an amazing thing to watch teams come together especially with sub-varsity teams," Vieira said.

Now in his sixth year as Director of Athletics, Vieira said that the soccer program is "well-established" in the city.

Somerville Youth Soccer will have their Second Annual SYS Day at Tufts University, which will take place on Sunday, September 15, at Bello Field.

Last Fall, the boys and girls soccer teams and the boys cross-country team were all named Greater Boston League Champions.

"We were also awarded four MVPs for our Fall sports in boys and girls soccer, cross-country and golf," Vieira said.

And last Fall, the boys and girls soccer and cross-country teams made it to the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Tournament.

"As a proud Somerville alum, it's been amazing to see how far our athletic program has come," said Assistant Director of Athletics Indira Evora. "As I enter my fourth year as the assistant athletic director, I feel especially rewarded to be able to work alongside such a dedicated staff with strong camaraderie. I consider myself lucky to work with our incredible young athletes and witness their growth and development both on and off the field."

Youth sports offers numerous mental and emotional health

benefits including lower rates of anxiety and depression, higher confidence, decreased risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviors, reduced stress levels and increased life satisfaction, according to recent studies.

Last year, The Somerville Public Schools Athletics Department started the Unified Sports program for Somerville students with intellectual disabilities.

The program launched with the SHS Unified Basketball Team. The team allows students, who are typically excluded from participating in sports, to enjoy competing on a team. In the Springtime, the SHS Unified Track & Field Team will be added to the program.



Girls Soccer team photo in Fall 2023.



Boys Ice Hockey 2023-24 season in a game against Swampscott High School.

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: There were no roll call votes in the House or Senate last week. This week, *Beacon Hill Roll Call* reports local representatives' roll call attendance records for the 2024 session through September 6.

REPRESENTATIVES' 2024 ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE RECORDS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 6 2024

The House has held 129 roll calls in 2024. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* tabulates the number of roll calls on which each representative was present and voting, and then calculates that number as a percentage of the total roll call votes held. That percentage is the number referred to as the roll call attendance record.

In the House, 67.3 percent (107 representatives out of 159) did not miss any roll calls and have 100 percent roll call attendance records; while 32.7 percent (52 representatives out of 159) have missed one or more roll calls.

The worst roll call attendance record belongs to Rep. Alan Silvia (D-Fall River) who missed 69 roll calls for a roll call attendance record of only 46.5 percent.

Rounding out the representatives with the top five worst records were Reps. Brian Ashe (D-Longmeadow) and Dawne Shand (D-Newburyport) who each missed 23 roll calls (82.1 percent roll call attendance record); Smitiy Pignatelli (D-Lenox) who missed 18 roll calls (86.0 percent roll call attendance record); and John Rogers (D-Norwood) who missed 13 roll calls (89.9 percent roll call attendance record.)

The next representatives with the worst records are Reps. John Barrett (D-North Adams) and Carol Doherty (D-Taunton) who each missed 11 roll calls (91.4 percent roll call attendance record); Ruth Balser (D-Newton), Dave Rogers (D-Cambridge) and Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica) who each missed ten roll calls (92.2 percent roll call attendance record); Marjorie Decker (D-Cambridge) who missed nine roll calls (93.0 percent roll call attendance record); and Patrick Kearney (D-Scituate), Tom Stanley (D-Waltham), Chynah Tyler (D-Roxbury) and Erika Uytterhoeven (D-Somerville) who each missed eight roll calls (93.7 percent roll call attendance record).

Beacon Hill Roll Call contacted all of these representatives to ask why they missed some roll calls. Only six of the 15 responded. The other nine were contacted three times by Beacon Hill Roll Call but did not respond. The list of nonrespondents consists of Reps. Ashe, Barrett, Balser, Decker, Stanley, Tyler, Uytterhoeven, Kearney, and Dave Rogers.

Here are the responses:

Rep. Silvia: "The last eleven years I have had nearly perfect attendance. This session regrettably due to cardiac issues I had emergency cardiac surgery, hospitalization twice and was unable to travel to Boston. I did vote remotely when possible."

Rep. Doherty, whose missed roll calls were all on one day, August 1, responded: "After such a good voting record all session, I am disappointed to not have finished it with a sterling record. I was feeling quite poorly and had to leave the chamber [on that day] around 12:30 p.m."

Rep. Pignatelli responded: "I was out of town attending a funeral."

Rep. Lombardo responded: "I had family medical issues."

Rep. Shand responded: "In April, I spent three weeks in Alabama with my mother navigating four different hospital settings in one of the most beleaguered and impoverished parts of the country. Morally, ethically and legally, I couldn't leave her to return to Beacon Hill for budget week."

Rep. John Rogers responded: "The House Journal, the official record of the House, has publicly recorded Rep. John Rogers on 100 percent of all roll calls this session."

Beacon Hill Roll Call stands by its statement that Rogers in fact was not present and did not vote on the 13 roll calls in question. Rogers' response to *Beacon Hill Roll Call* is referring to written statements submitted by him for inclusion in the House Journal, after the roll call votes took place, indicating that had he been present in the chamber for those roll calls, "Here's how I would have voted." The vote is not counted in the official tally and he is listed in the journal as "not voting."

Rep. Christine Barber 100 percent (0)

Rep. Mike Connolly 100 percent (0)

Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven 93.7 percent (8)

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

CAP LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES (H 2944) – The House gave initial approval to legislation that would allow cities and towns to impose a cap on local property taxes paid by low-income seniors over 65. The cap would apply to single filer seniors with incomes of less than \$50,000 and married filers with incomes below \$60,000. The senior's assets would have to be less than \$75,000, excluding their primary residence and they would also be allowed to

own one motor vehicle.

Supporters said the bill would not have any financial impact on the state but would simply create a process for cities and towns to impose property tax caps for seniors within the specified income and asset limits. They argued that the bill would mean municipalities can decide if and how they provide real estate tax relief to lower-income seniors, allowing cities and towns more flexibility to address the needs of their communities and further the state's commitment to lowering costs for seniors and ensuring our aging population can remain in their homes.

"I'm glad to see this bill continuing to move through the process," said sponsor Rep. Adam Scanlon (D-North Attleborough). "We accomplished a lot last year with the \$1 billion tax cut we passed, which included legislation I filed to raise the senior circuit breaker tax credit. We need to do as much as possible to lighten the load on seniors who have built their lives here and are now on fixed incomes, and that's why I filed this bill to give cities and towns flexibility to cap property taxes for low-income seniors."

TAX COLLECTOR CAN WAIVE UP TO 50 PERCENT OF LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES (H 2971) –

The House gave initial approval to a bill that allows local tax collectors in cities and towns to waive up to 50 percent of the total property tax liability, including interest, charges and fees, of any homeowner in any tax period.

"[This bill] is a crucial piece of legislation, especially in the current economic climate, as it provides much needed relief for taxpayers, particularly seniors who are often on fixed incomes," said sponsor Rep. Marcus Vaughn (R-Wrentham). "For many seniors, property taxes and other local taxes can be a significant burden, especially in times of economic uncertainty. As costs of living continue to rise, and many seniors struggle with limited income from pensions or Social Security, the flexibility offered by [this bill] can make a critical difference. By allowing tax collectors to waive a portion of these costs, this bill provides seniors with greater financial breathing room, potentially enabling them to remain in their homes and communities without the fear of falling into debt or facing tax-related penalties."

Vaughn continued, "In the context of today's economic challenges, such as inflation and rising healthcare expenses, [the bill] is a compassionate measure that recognizes the need to support our seniors and other vulnerable citizens. It promotes financial stability and peace of mind, ensuring that seniors are not unduly penalized for tax burdens they may find increasingly difficult to manage."

Continued on page 18

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville remembers the victims and heroes of September 11, 2001.

Our View Of The Times



Although 23 years will have passed since the terrible and tragic events of September 11, 2001, took place, for many of us the shock and horror remains fresh in our memories. And since we, as New Englanders, were relatively close to the sites of destruction and loss of life, we can perhaps feel those sensations of sadness and even anger a little deeper than some others might, especially since our own Logan

Airport played a role in the perpetrators' deadly scheme.

It all felt so close. The Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and then the anthrax threats. It seemed like the world had gone mad and we wondered where we could go to be safer. More than a few spoke of heading for remote locations until things calmed down.

Today, we join the rest of the nation

in remembering those who were injured and killed during this horrendous event, including the brave first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Those who were there and survived the ordeal are also remembered and honored on this occasion.

We've all been through so much over the past year or two, dealing with the pandemic and all the fallout associated with it. Per-

haps it's time to set aside what divides us and embrace what unity we can.

Consider joining in for the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony today, September 11, at 6:00 p.m. in Davis Square to share our thoughts and feelings, and show solidarity in our support for those who have passed and those who remain, doing everything in their power to help keep us safe.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **Bob Trane**, who is a lifelong resident and a former Somerville Alderman. We wish him a very happy birthday. Also celebrating is **Maureen Cuff Bastardi**. We wish her a very special day. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Maureen McCole, Richard Keller, Felicia Dalelio, Dan Johnson, Alexa Trefonides-Mase, Jeff Meese, Judy Calvey, Cheryl Tucker, Mary Ann Beaton, Gary DiZoglio, Jane Becker, Jessica O'Brien** and **Gay H. Sheldon** 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.

Purple lights will light up **City Hall** in recognition of **Recovery Month**. The flag and light displays will remain for the entire month of September. Somerville Prevention staff will host **Narcan Distribution Events** and trainings to distribute free overdose prevention information and harm reduction materials. These include the overdose-reversing nasal spray naloxone (often referred to as Narcan), Fentanyl test strips, CPR face shields, and syringe disposal boxes. For more information and a list of events visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/>, For more infor-

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

As of **Tuesday, September 3**, the **Central Library** (79 Highland Ave.) temporarily implemented a modified afternoon schedule during weekdays. Weekend hours will remain unchanged: **Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: Closed from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Wednesdays: Closed from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** For questions about events and pick-up schedules impacted by the temporary schedule change, you can contact them at 617-623-5000 or

by calling 311. Learn more at: [somerville-publiclibrary.org](https://www.somerville-publiclibrary.org).

The **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is gearing up for its annual **Somerville 5K Road Race** on **October 5**, to support the most underprivileged neighbors experiencing homelessness and this year. For 29 years, supporters from across the Greater Boston area have run throughout the streets of Somerville in solidarity to ensure that our clients receive the critical resources and services they need on their journey to securing a forever home. Visit <https://www.somervillehomelesscoalition.org/>.

Continued on page 19

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#940

- After being hit on 9/11, how long did the South Tower remain standing before finally collapsing?
- What company lost more employees than any other in the World Trade Center?
- What was first major physical memorial at the World Trade Center site?
- What type of tree was recovered from the rubble at the World Trade Center site?
- Who kicked the longest field goal of all time successfully in the NFL?
- Which NFL team had the most wins in both the 1980s and the 1990s?
- The King of Rockabilly was a nickname given to whom?
- Which singer played Johnny Fontane in *The Godfather*?
- When was the first NFL championship game broadcasted?
- Who sang the *Spongebob Squarepants* theme song for the movie?
- When is National Police Woman Day?
- Who had a hit in 1958 with *Summertime Blues*?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- A giraffe can go longer without water than a camel can.
- Some 100 people per year choke to death on ballpoint pens.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

FALLS IN THE AIR

ACROSS

- Furry bamboo consumer
- Cuban dance syllable
- 100-meter race, e.g.
- S-shaped moldings
- Excessively theatrical actor
- Chap
- Will alternative
- Sailor's affirmative
- At full speed
- Cause for fall celebration
- Apple-related game
- European Union, acr.
- Hawaiian tuber
- Pen on a farm
- Color of a bruise
- Pumpkins and squash, e.g.
- "Give me your tired, your _____"
- "_____ Free," movie about lions
- Disdain
- Caribbean color
- Shiny suit
- Spaghetti aglio and _____
- Peevish
- Half a round, in golf
- ____-do-well
- Battles royale
- Change for a twenty
- Banned insecticide, acr.
- Back-to-School event
- Hermey the Dentist
- Apple sauce
- ____ weather
- Cell phone bill item
- Bar association
- Wombs
- Begin, began, _____
- Cut grass
- Romanov rulers
- Command with "at"
- Stiff grass bristle
- "Hobby" animal

DOWN

- Beckham of "Spice Girls"
- Turkish honorific
- Not far
- Look into

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
13					14			15						
16					17			18						
19				20		21	22							
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25	26	27		28		29		30		31	32	33	34	
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44				45		46				47				
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57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

A	L	O	F	T		L	M	T			G	O	B	I					
D	A	T	E	R		E	R	A			B	A	R	O	N				
D	I	T	T	O		A	S	H			O	Z	A	R	K				
					C	O	U	P	O	N		O	F	S	A	L	E		
						S	I	S			B	E	E	N					
T	A	U			C	A	S	E			W	I	P	E	R	S			
H	U	N	T			K	I	D	D			A	R	R	O	W			
O	R	C	A			A	G	R	E	E			O	N	C	E			
N	A	U	R	U			N	O	L	L			M	I	K	E			
G	E	T	O	N	E			L	I	E	U			E	S	P			
							I	D	O	L			C	R	U				
							C	A	R	T	O	N		S	T	A	M	P	S
C	A	N	O	E				I	V	E			C	A	L	I	F		
B	R	O	O	D				C	O	L			I	M	A	G	E		
S	T	A	T					E	L	F			L	I	T	H	E		

- In the Land of Nod
- Online conversation
- Cushion for certain seasonal ride
- Naked protozoa
- Obtuse, as in person
- ____ bowl, frozen dish
- Largest human organ
- Precedes Kong
- Hindi courtesy title, pl.
- Modern-day aqua-lung, acr.
- Domain
- Wood-eating house hazard
- Involuntary contraction
- Chef's headgear
- Phil Collins' "_____ Be in My Heart"
- Maze plant
- Upward and onto
- Wide-____ notebook
- Like leaves in fall
- Stall call
- Much-used fall garden tool
- Not any
- Extend subscription
- Unquestioning ones
- Fraternity house
- Miss Marple, e.g.
- "Is Your Mama a _____?"
- Dom DeLuise in 1980 role
- Rubik's puzzle
- Away from port
- The state before riches?
- Malaria symptom
- Saw, sawed, _____
- Drop of sorrow
- Makes a mistake
- Precedes shine
- Gift topper

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Somerville's Nibble Kitchen invites community to new cooking class series

To celebrate the back-to-school season, the Somerville Arts Council (SAC) and Nibble Kitchen are launching a new cooking class series, "Favorite Childhood Meals from Around the World!"

The classes, which cost \$60/per person, will be held on Sundays starting on Sunday, September 8 and running through Sunday, October 13. Each class will feature a Nibble Chef teaching the class how to make their favorite childhood dishes, highlighting the cultural significance and preparation of each meal. Chefs from Bangladesh, Puerto Rico, Laos, India, Pakistan, El Salvador, and Colombia will offer their unique perspectives and flavors.

Participants can register for classes on the series' EventBrite page. Additionally, SAC aims to offer four subsidized tickets for the upcoming class series. These tickets will be available on a sliding scale or by donation. For more information on subsidized tickets, please contact Daniella Maney, Nibble Kitchen Manager, by emailing dmaney@somervillema.gov.

About Nibble Kitchen: Global Eats by Local Peeps!

Founded as part of the Somerville Arts Council's ArtsUnion initiative, Nibble celebrates cultural diversity through food and promotes economic development. Nibble Kitchen, a brick-and-mortar space at Bow Market, showcases a rotating menu of global cuisine from chefs in Somerville's diverse community. It offers cooking classes, pop-ups, and serves as a home base for Nibble chefs participating in local markets and festivals.

Visit nibblesomerville.com for more information, including the restaurant schedule, chef profiles, and program details.



Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Himali's Chai

During this time of Covid-19, we're finding getting together with neighbors for tea and even cocktails is a great way to catch up with each other. All while social distancing, of course. We were lucky enough to have this incredible chai made from scratch by our neighbor Himali. I asked if she wouldn't mind sharing her recipe. To my delight, she agreed!

- 2 teaspoons – 2 tablespoons freshly grated ginger
- 6 mint leaves torn, (if using liquid mint concentrate, 1/2 teaspoon)
- 2 teaspoons black tea
- 2 pinches ground cardamom, or 1 pod
- 2 teaspoons sugar, or sweetener of your choice
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 cups milk or your choice of non-

dairy substitute
Pinch of saffron

In a quart sized saucepan, add the ginger, mint, black tea, Cardamom, sugar, and water and stir. Over medium heat, reduce the mixture by 3/4. Be careful not to let it burn. Now add the milk and saffron. Bring to a boil, making sure the pot doesn't spill over. Turn off heat, strain, pour into mugs and enjoy! If you want to switch it up and have an iced chai, just make the "concentrate" without the milk and saffron. Once the mixture is cooled, add the milk over ice and add 1/2 the concentrate, then add the saffron, if using, and stir. I used oat milk and it came out great! Serves 2.

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



Somerville kicks off community engagement for 'Elm-Beacon Connector' Street Safety Project

As part of the City's intensive efforts to improve traffic safety for all, planning for the city's new Elm-Beacon Connector street safety improvement project is getting underway. All are invited to help inform the project, which extends across four city wards on Elm Street, Somerville Avenue, Beacon Street, and Mossland Street.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis, Ward 5 Councilor Naima Sait, Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott, and city staff invite you to participate in a range of feedback opportunities launching this fall.

The community engagement and design process will begin with a virtual community meeting on Wednesday, September 25, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Visit somervillema.gov/elmbeacon to attend. At this meeting, city staff will introduce the project and provide residents with the opportunity to ask questions and share their experiences. Public feedback opportunities on both the initial planning and then the design of the project will continue over the coming year.

More information about this project and opportunities to get involved are included below.

Project Overview and Timeline

The Elm-Beacon Connector project is intended to improve safety through a range of treatments including crosswalk improvements, traffic calming, separated bicycle facilities, and bus service improvements.

The project area includes:

- Elm Street from Russell Street to Somerville Avenue
- Somerville Avenue from Elm Street to Acadia Park
- Mossland Street from Elm Street to Somerville Avenue
- Beacon Street from Somerville Avenue to Oxford Street

The city plans to engage community members and develop the new design from September 2024 through June 2025. Installation of the new safety and mobility features is anticipated to take place in fall 2025.

The Elm-Beacon Connector is a "quick-build project," which means that all of the work can be done without digging or making major structural changes to the street (such as moving sidewalk curbs or changing the height of the road). Instead, the city will use materials that are quicker to install like vertical plastic posts and paint markings on the street. This approach allows us to deliver safety improvements faster and more affordably than full street reconstruction.

How to Get Involved

The city will offer a mix of in-person and virtual engagement opportunities throughout the design process, including:

- Online and in-person surveys
 - Community meetings for the general public, Kennedy school community, and more
 - Street outreach with neighborhood pop-ups and tabling at community events
 - Direct outreach to local businesses
 - "Office hours" drop-in events
- The first event is a virtual com-



The city will offer many diverse opportunities to get involved in "quick-build" safety upgrades planned for portions of Elm Street, Somerville Avenue, Beacon Street and Mossland Street.

munity meeting on Wednesday, September 25, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Attend the meeting, learn more about the project by visiting somervillema.gov/elmbeacon.

Policy Background

The city's efforts to increase safety on our streets are guided by our goals to both keep community members physically safe as well as to achieve our climate action goal to shift more trips to sustainable modes of travel like public transit, walking, biking, and rolling. You can learn more about this work in the plans below.

- Somerville's Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic fatalities and reduce severe injuries within our transportation system
- The Somerville Bicycle Network Plan which aims to create bike facilities for people of all ages and abilities to safely get around the city
- The city's Climate Forward Plan to reduce carbon emissions and increase active and sustainable transportation options.

Somerville's recently passed Safe Streets Ordinance reaffirms the city's commitment to accel-

erating work toward these goals through the implementation of forward-looking design and safety practices.

erating work toward these goals through the implementation of forward-looking design and safety practices.

More About this Quick-Build Project

The city aims to make the following safety improvements as part of this project:

- Protected Bike Lanes (Elm Street and Somerville Avenue)

The City of Somerville is working to implement quick-build protected bike lanes along Elm Street from Russell Street to Somerville Avenue and Somerville Avenue from Mossland Street to Elm Street, in accordance with the city's Bicycle Network Plan.

Mossland Street Neighborway

Mossland Street will become a neighborway. Neighborways are walk-, roll-, and-bike friendly streets that create a low-stress and high comfort experience on residential streets. Neighborways provide a two-way connection for people biking even if the street is one-way for vehicular traffic.

Crossing Safety Improvements

City staff will also work to improve safety for people using

crosswalks by increasing visibility at intersections and exploring options for increased pavement markings and signage at critical crosswalks.

Bus Service Improvements

The city will be working to improve the experience of people who ride the bus in the area. We will be exploring bus-stop locations as well as changes to traffic light timing that could reduce bus delays.

Parking Impacts

These planned safety improvements will require reducing the number of on-street parking spaces. With this in mind, the city is committed to work with local residents and businesses to employ creative approaches parking management. This includes regulating curb use and developing strategies that make the best use of limited parking resources.

Questions and comments can be submitted at any point by emailing transportation@somervillema.gov and by calling 311 (617-666-3311).

Visit somervillema.gov/elmbeacon to learn more about the project and stay up to date.

Teachers receive free admission to LEGO® Discovery Center Boston

LEGO Discovery Center Boston is celebrating teachers as the new school year begins, with Teacher Appreciation Days.

Running now through September 30, teachers can enjoy free admission to the attraction. Teachers are encouraged to bring their families and friends along for the fun at a discounted rate of 50% off tickets for up to six guests.

The special promotion runs every day in the month of September including weekends. All teachers must present a valid school I.D. or paystub upon arrival to gain entry. Teacher Appreciation Days tickets are limited and must be reserved online in advance.

Teachers can book tickets online at: <https://www.legodiscoverycenter.com/boston/whats-inside/events/teacher-appreciation-month/>



Somerville Dog Festival 2024

On Sunday, September 8, all breeds of dogs and their owners enjoyed the annual free Somerville Dog Festival. The event held games, training, a fashion show, vendors and food and treats. The Somerville Dog Festival is organized by the Somerville Foundation for Animals, which works to make sure no one ever must choose between caring for themselves and their pets. Through your donations and through our sponsors' generosity, the festival raises money for the Foundation's Every Pet Counts Care Van, providing free veterinary care to the pets of homeless and at-risk veterans, elderly, and families throughout Eastern Massachusetts. To learn more visit <https://everypetcounts.org/>.





Photos by Bobbie Toner



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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. 56 minutes | 49ers |
| 2. Cantor Fitzgerald | 7. Carl Perkins |
| 3. Tribute in Light | 8. Al Martino |
| 4. A callery pear tree later called the "Survivor Tree" | 9. 1948 |
| 5. Justin Tucker, Baltimore Ravens, 66 yards | 10. Avril Lavigne |
| 6. The San Francisco | 11. September 12 |
| | 12. Eddie Cochran |

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

6:30 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 7:00 AM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 8:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 8:30 AM National Night Out 2024
 9:00 AM Brazilian Flag Raising 2024
 10:00 AM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 11:00 AM Sept. 11th Remembrance Ceremony 2023
 11:30 AM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 12:00 PM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 1:00 PM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 1:30 PM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 2:00 PM School Committee Meeting 9-9-24
 5:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 5:30 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 6:30 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 7:00 PM Brazilian Flag Raising 2024
 8:00 PM Senior Picnic 2023
 8:30 PM School Committee Meeting 9-9-24
 11:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

12:00 AM Jane's Walk 2024
 1:35 AM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 2:05 AM National Night Out 2024
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
 8:00 AM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 9:00 AM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 9:30 AM Sept. 11th Remembrance Ceremony 2023
 10:00 AM School Committee Meeting 9-9-24
 1:00 PM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 1:30 PM Senior Picnic 2023
 2:00 PM Brazilian Flag Raising 2024
 3:00 PM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 3:30 PM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 7:00 PM City Council Meeting - LIVE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

12:30 AM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 1:00 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 1:30 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 7:00 AM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24

9:00 AM September 11th Remembrance Ceremony
 9:30 AM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 10:00 AM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 10:30 AM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 11:30 AM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 12:00 PM Congressional Update
 12:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 1:00 PM SomerViva em Português
 1:30 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 3:00 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 5:00 PM School Committee Meeting 9-9-24
 8:00 PM September 11th Remembrance Ceremony 2024
 8:30 PM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 9:30 PM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 10:00 PM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 10:30 PM Jane's Walk 2024

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

12:05 AM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 1:00 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 1:30 AM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 7:00 AM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 8:40 AM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 9:05 AM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 9:30 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 10:00 AM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 10:30 AM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 11:00 AM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 11:35 AM National Night Out 2024
 12:00 PM School Committee Meeting 9-9-24
 3:00 PM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 4:00 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 5:00 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 7:00 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 8:00 PM Art Beat 2024
 9:00 PM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 9:30 PM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 10:00 PM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The

Ursuline Convent Burning
 11:00 PM Brazilian Flag Raising 2024
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
 12:00 AM City Council Meeting 9-12-24
 7:00 AM Congressional Update
 7:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 8:00 AM Brazilian Flag Raising 2024
 9:00 AM Senior Picnic 2024
 9:30 AM September 11th Remembrance Ceremony
 10:00 AM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 10:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 11:00 AM Art Beat 2024
 12:00 PM Senior Picnic 2024
 12:30 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 1:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 2:00 PM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 2:30 PM National Night Out 2024
 3:00 PM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 3:30 PM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 4:05 PM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 6:05 PM September 11th Remembrance Ceremony 2024
 7:00 PM Senior Picnic 2024
 7:30 PM City Council Meeting 9-12-24
 11:30 PM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

12:00 AM Senior Picnic 2024
 12:30 AM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 1:00 AM Art Beat 2024
 2:00 AM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II
 8:00 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 8:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 9:00 AM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 9:30 AM Senior Picnic 2024
 10:00 AM Brazilian Flag Raising 2024
 11:00 AM September 11th Remembrance Ceremony
 11:30 AM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 12:00 PM City Council Meeting 9-12-24
 4:30 PM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin

5:00 PM Porchfest 2024
 6:00 PM Brazilian Flag Raising 2024
 6:30 PM Congressional Update
 7:00 PM September 11th Remembrance Ceremony 2024
 7:30 PM Senior Picnic 2024
 8:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 8:30 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 10:00 PM National Night Out 2024
 10:30 PM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 11:30 PM September 11th Remembrance Ceremony

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

12:00 AM Art Beat 2024
 1:00 AM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 7:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
 7:30 AM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 8:00 AM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 8:30 AM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 9:00 AM National Night Out 2024
 9:30 AM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 10:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 10:30 AM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 11:35 AM SPD Ride Along
 12:00 PM Senior Picnic 2024
 12:30 PM City Council Meeting 9-12-24
 4:00 PM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 6:00 PM How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm
 7:00 PM Senior Picnic 2024
 7:30 PM September 11th Remembrance Ceremony 2024
 8:00 PM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 8:30 PM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 9:00 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 11:00 PM Brazilian Flag Raising 2024

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

12:00 AM Senior Picnic 2024
 12:30 AM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 1:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 2:00 AM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

8:00 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 8:30 AM SHS Football vs B English
 10:30 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Cambridge
 12:05 PM SHS Volleyball vs Malden
 2:00 PM Kennedy School Moving On
 3:00 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 4:00 PM SHS Boys Soccer vs Revere
 6:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 6:30 PM SHS Football vs B English
 8:30 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Cambridge
 10:05 PM SHS Volleyball vs Malden

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

12:00 AM Kennedy School Moving On
 1:00 AM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 2:00 AM SHS Boys Soccer vs Revere
 8:00 AM SHS Football vs B English
 10:00 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Cambridge
 12:00 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 1:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 1:30 PM World Rhythms Workshop at SHS
 2:35 PM SHS Volleyball vs Malden
 4:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Cambridge
 6:00 PM SHS Football vs B English
 8:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Cambridge

10:00 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 11:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 11:30 PM World Rhythms Workshop at SHS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

12:11 AM SHS Volleyball vs Malden
 2:00 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Cambridge
 8:00 AM SHS Boys Soccer vs Revere
 10:00 AM SHS Football vs B English
 12:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 12:30 PM SHS Volleyball vs Malden
 2:05 PM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
 3:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Malden
 5:00 PM Kennedy School Moving On
 6:00 PM SHS Boys Soccer vs Revere
 8:00 PM SHS Football vs B English
 10:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 10:30 PM SHS Volleyball vs Malden

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

12:05 AM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
 1:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Malden
 3:00 AM Kennedy School Moving On
 8:00 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 8:30 AM SHS Football vs B English
 10:30 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Cambridge
 12:05 PM SHS Volleyball vs Malden

2:00 PM Kennedy School Moving On
 3:00 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 4:00 PM SHS Boys Soccer vs Revere
 6:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 6:30 PM SHS Football vs B English
 8:30 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Cambridge
 10:05 PM SHS Volleyball vs Malden

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

12:00 AM SHS Boys Soccer vs Revere
 1:30 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Malden
 8:00 AM SHS Football vs B English
 10:00 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Cambridge
 12:00 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 1:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 1:30 PM World Rhythms Workshop at SHS
 2:35 PM SHS Volleyball vs Malden
 4:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Cambridge
 6:00 PM SHS Football vs Gloucester
 8:00 PM SHS Football vs B English
 10:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Cambridge

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

12:00 AM SHS Football vs Gloucester
 1:00 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Malden
 8:00 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Malden
 10:00 AM SHS Football vs Gloucester

12:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 12:30 PM SHS Volleyball vs Malden
 2:05 PM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
 3:00 PM SHS Football vs B English
 5:00 PM SHS Boys Soccer vs Revere
 7:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Malden
 9:00 PM SHS Football vs Gloucester
 11:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 11:30 PM SHS Volleyball vs Malden

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

1:05 AM SHS Football vs B English
 3:00 AM SHS Boys Soccer vs Revere
 8:00 AM School Committee Meeting 9-9-24
 10:30 AM SHS Football vs B English
 12:30 PM SHS Volleyball vs Malden
 2:10 PM SHS Football vs Gloucester
 4:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Malden
 6:00 PM School Committee Meeting 9-9-24
 8:30 PM SHS Football vs B English
 10:30 PM SHS Volleyball vs Malden

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

12:10 AM SHS Football vs Gloucester
 2:00 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Malden

COMMENTARY

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of The Somerville Times do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Somerville Times, its publishers or staff.

At last! Long Term Care and Assisted Living Bill!



By State Senator Pat Jehlen

I am Senate chair of the Labor and Workforce Development Committee and the Committee on Elder Affairs. Each of those committees produced a major bill this session which passed the legislature and was signed, or is about to be signed, into law.

In an earlier newsletter [1], I wrote about the Labor Committee's wage transparency law.

The second bill, about long-term care facilities for older people and people with disabilities, hadn't passed by the time formal sessions ended on July 31. In the informal sessions that continue after that, any one legislator could object and stop the bill. Despite that, I am happy and relieved to be able to report that the long-term care bill passed the legislature last Thursday.

Massachusetts Legislature Acts to Transform Long-Term Care Sector

Key Provisions

- Forbids discrimination and promotes inclusion of LGBTQ+ residents by requiring each long-term care facility to provide staff training on the rights and care of LGBTQ+ older adults and older adults living with HIV.
- Creates the Long Care Workforce and Capital Training Fund, which will be utilized for a Capital Loan and Workforce Training program, to better equip and train the state's long-term care staff.
- Limits MassHealth estate recovery to only federally mandated recovery and removes estate recovery for residents receiving assistance under CommonHealth.
- Makes it easier for residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities to get timely and efficient care by allowing Assisted Living Residences to offer basic health services such as helping a resident administer drops, manage their oxygen, or take a home diagnostic test.
- Enhances state oversight and compliance to ensure quality care.
- Requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to inspect each long-term care facility every nine to 15 months to assess quality of services and compliance.
- Requires long-term care facilities to submit outbreak response plans to DPH with clear protocols for the isolation of residents, lab testing, visitor screening, preventing spread from staff, and the notification of residents, family, and staff in the event of a contagious disease outbreak.

MassSenate

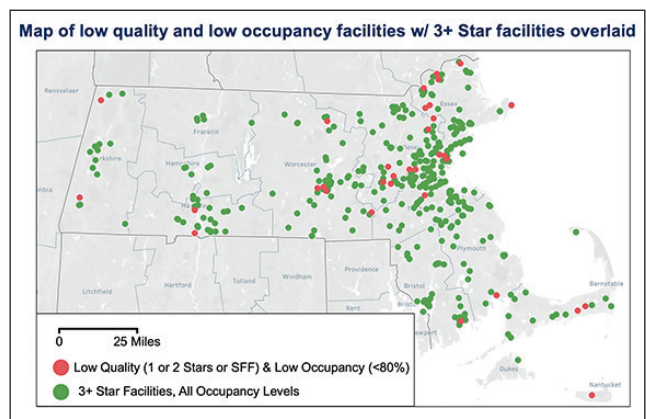
An Act to improve quality and oversight of long-term care [2] strengthens the Commonwealth's oversight of nursing homes, provides critical anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ nursing home residents, and permanently allows assisted living residences to offer basic health services. And a lot more.

The Globe praised the bill's passage in an editorial, "A step toward ending nursing home horror stories." [3] The Herald printed part of an AP story, "Nursing home oversight would be tightened." [4] The Disability Policy Consortium [5] wrote, "DPC is thrilled that the Long Term Care Bill (H.5033) has passed both the House and Senate. This bill contains many items that will improve the lives of people with disabilities in Massachusetts, from strengthening infection control standards for nursing homes to prevent the kinds of mass outbreaks we saw in 2020, to stricter suitability reviews and more scrutiny of Private Equity's impact on the sector." The Mass Guardianship Policy Institute [6] wrote, "This is a huge accomplishment, one that you have worked on for years, to address a long-term care crisis laid bare by Covid," mentioning several components of the bill.

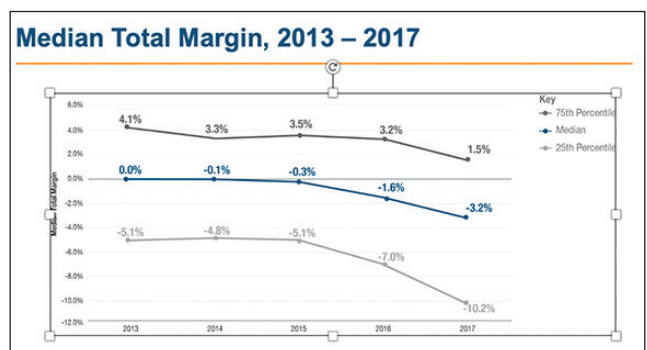
This is a long newsletter because it's a long (66 page) and complicated bill. It now includes several other bills

that many of us have worked hard on for many years. Like the bill, this newsletter is long, including information on nursing homes, assisted living residences, LGBTQI rights, pooled trusts, prior authorization, estate recovery and more. You can skim if only some parts interest you. **NURSING HOMES: FUNDING AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Many people have called and written to tell about neglect and mistreatment of themselves or their relatives in nursing homes. There have been many investigations and media reports of these problems and of sudden closures.



Kay Lazar's Globe reports about overuse of anti-psychotic drugs, poor care, and expansion of for-profit chains [7] shocked readers starting in 2010. Most recently there's been a lot of regional coverage about homes in South Hadley [8] and Northampton [9]. Jack Styler of The Provincetown Independent [10] has done deep reporting on the poor care as well as the finances of the for-profit Advinia nursing home, the only one within 30 miles. (Sadly, that 2-star facility in Medicare ratings was at least 3 stars in 2019, as shown in the chart at the right from the Nursing Facility Task Force.)



At the same time, nursing homes report operating losses and many have closed.

We all have focused on the disaster of Steward hospitals. The trend toward for-profit companies gaining a larger and larger share of nursing homes, home care agencies, and hospices is equally troubling. Nursing homes too often extract the value from these institutions by cutting staff, not paying staff and other bills, selling the buildings to related Real Estate Investment Trusts and paying exorbitant fees and rents, and then closing or being closed. Hospices, as John Oliver reported

I wrote about hearings on the effect of increasing dom-

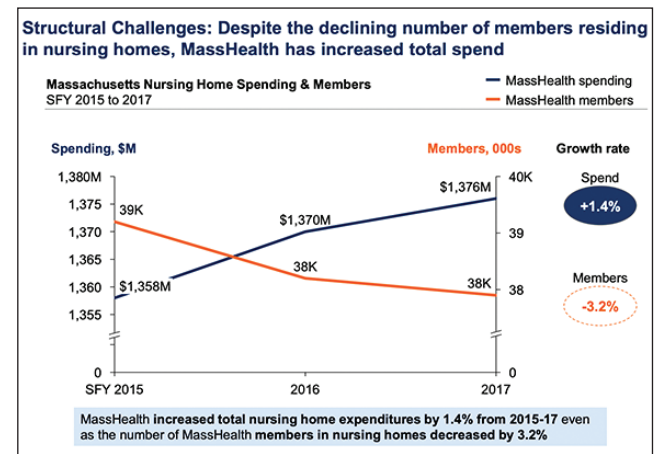
inance by private equity here [11]. As of 2020, 70% of Massachusetts nursing homes [12] were owned by for-profit companies.

Meanwhile, in just 13 years, MA lost 23% of its nursing home beds, while the number of older adults is growing.

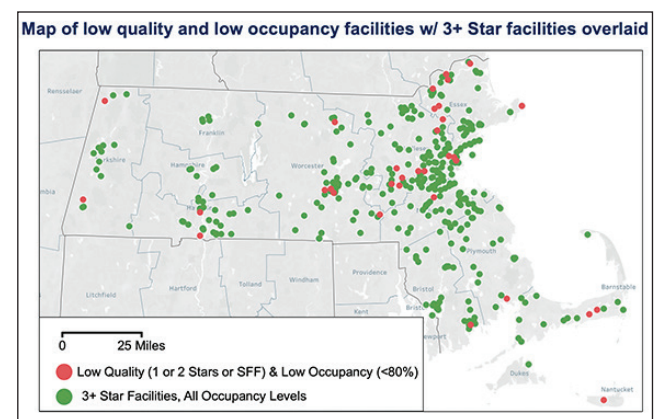
I wondered why nursing homes always seemed to be underfunded and yet were being rapidly bought by large for-profit companies.

In 2019, the Nursing Facility Task Force [13] brought together a wide range of stakeholders to examine the related nursing home problems of low occupancy, closures and inadequate payments.

The Task Force made recommendations to ensure the survival of essential, quality homes with regional availability, while ensuring that those that closed were those with low census and low quality.



We issued the report [14] in February 2020. But when the pandemic hit, we all focused on the immediate crisis, in which up to 1/4 of nursing home residents died. The pandemic revealed starkly that nursing homes were unprepared to stop the spread of disease. Many of us knew people who died. Even nursing homes with high ratings lost many residents and workers.



Following the report, the legislature has increased funding and added spending accountability to ensure money gets to the workers. The Baker and Healey administrations have worked to keep essential nursing homes afloat [15] while ensuring that those that closed were low quality and less regionally important.

Already, 100% of the 31 closures since Continued on page 17

At last! Long Term Care and Assisted Living Bill! CONT. FROM PG 16

the Task Force have had only 1 or 2 stars [16]. 40% of the closures in 2022 were in the lowest 5% on Department of Public Health (DPH) surveys. But more reforms are needed, as shown for example in this Disability Law Center report on a Worcester facility.

Our bill will increase capital funding for nursing homes to create training and career ladders and to adjust their buildings to different needs. And it will require more realistic updating of the base rate every 2 years.

It will expand DPH tools:

- **More oversight, including suitability standards.** Those standards will allow DPH to limit, restrict, suspend, or revoke a license; or deny a license or license transfer. They can also appoint temporary facility managers for troubled facilities.

- **Increase civil penalties** the Attorney General can seek by 10 times (for example, increase to \$250,000 for a death).

- **Increase by 10 times fines DPH can levy for non-compliance with regulations.** Right now, the maximum fine is \$50/a day, the same as the minimum fine for a speeding ticket.

- **Require regular inspections and outbreak response plans**

- **Require clear standards for special care units.**

COMMON SENSE CARE IN ASSISTED LIVING

This bill incorporates my assisted living bill: it will make permanent the temporary allowance for Assisted Living Residences (ALRs) to offer basic health services. ALRs are certified by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, not DPH, and are considered non-medical facilities. They each have a nurse on staff. But those nurses weren't allowed to do simple things like administering eyedrops or insulin injections. So when someone needed those things - things most people can do for themselves or family members - they had to hire another nurse or get family members to come in and help them. If it was something like insulin, which would be more permanent, they usually had to move to a nursing home at more expense to themselves and eventually the state, and suffer the disorientation and trauma of moving.

During the pandemic, there has been a temporary allowance for ALR nurses to provide these services. There have been no cases of bad results. But that allowance expires next March.

This bill continues the option for ALRs to offer those services. The bill also requires more disclosure of ownership, and provides for fines of \$500 a day in cases of failure to follow regulations.

SMALL HOUSE NURSING HOMES

One of my other bills we've worked on for years is incorporated in this one. It provides for regulations to create small house nursing homes [17], which serve 14 or fewer residents in more homelike environments. Small house nursing homes had far fewer cases of COVID.

LGBTQI BILL OF RIGHTS

Another of my bills incorporated in this one is the LGBTQI bill of rights for nursing home residents, banning discrimination and requiring training of staff. This came out of the work by the LGBTQ Aging Commission. I vividly remember testimony at one of the commission hearings. A family in Western Mass could no longer care

for their transgender aunt. They could not find a single nursing home that would admit her. Finally, they found one. And that one ironically put her in a converted closet. That reminded me of the film, *Gen Silent*, about how people, faced with caregivers who might judge them, went back in the closet when they needed care. (You can watch *Gen Silent* on Kanopy through your local public library.)

SPECIAL NEEDS POOLED TRUSTS

Another of my bills incorporated here addresses special needs pooled trusts. A pooled trust contains the assets of many individuals that are held or "pooled" in separate trust accounts. People with disabilities under 65 can transfer resources to a special needs trust to reduce their assets to \$2000 so they can qualify for Mass Health. That money can be used for needs like home care, home adaptations, personal items, and assisted living expenses. For 30 years, until this spring, MassHealth allowed older people with disabilities to establish and use pooled trusts, and we need to restore that option. Any unexpended money from the trust is sent to MassHealth for their benefits when the person dies. Millions of dollars are reimbursed to Mass Health every year.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FOR TRANSFER FROM HOSPITALS

In June, there were 1792 patients stuck in hospitals [18], awaiting discharge to nursing homes, home care or other care. Some are waiting because there's not enough staff in the nursing home or home care agency they're going to. But many are waiting for prior authorization from their insurance company.

There will now be a uniform prior authorization form. And insurers must approve or deny prior authorization for transfer of patients from hospitals to nursing homes within one business day. This will prevent patients from being stuck in hospitals waiting for insurance approval, but it doesn't mean there will be enough staff in either nursing homes or home care.

Mass Hospital Association [19] wrote: "We are hopeful that this legislation can help free up some of the 1,700 hospital beds occupied by patients in need of post-acute care services."

ESTATE RECOVERY LIMITS

Finally, the bill limits estate recovery [20] from Medicaid recipients to spending to the federal requirement of recovery of nursing home expenses. MassHealth has gone farther, recovering funds spent for any medical care after the person turns 55. A bill by Rep. Christine Barber and Senator Jo Comerford, incorporated here, will prevent family members from losing the homes where they had cared for their disabled relatives, and prevent generational impoverishment.

Disability Policy Consortium adds: "The bill also prohibits estate recovery for adults in the CommonHealth program and for personal care attendant services, both of which enable people with disabilities to live, work, and thrive in the community."

PLANNING FOR NEXT STEPS

The bill creates task forces and studies to inform our next steps in improving long term care. These groups would examine issues like hospital throughput, MassHealth Long Term Care eligibility, Medicare ACOs, rest homes, Continuing Care Retirement Communities, and

further ALR reforms. We need to strengthen all the pieces of the entire care continuum, from home care to adult day health to rest homes to assisted living to nursing homes. **STILL URGENTLY NEEDED**

This is very important, comprehensive and long-needed legislation. But there's much more we need to do.

We need the administration to explore a frail elder waiver to enable development of **affordable assisted living**, although a provision in the Housing Bond Bill may do similar work.

We need to pass the bill requiring home care agencies to be licensed. It's currently before the House.

We need to make permanent the provision for **holding beds** for nursing home residents who leave for medical care instead of making it depend on annual budgets as it has for decades.

We need to increase the **personal needs allowance**, which is the amount nursing home residents can keep from their social security to pay for things like haircuts and birthday cards. The allowance of \$72.80 a month has not been raised for over 30 years.

We need to make sure DPH has adequate resources and the will to use the tools we are giving them to ensure quality care.

The Elder Affairs secretary should be restored to the cabinet. Elder Affairs is now the only executive office whose secretary is not in the cabinet. The role should be given that recognition and the responsibility to bring the intersecting needs of older adults into all discussions.

And we need to continue to address the workforce crisis [21].

Links:

- [1] [https://mailchi.mp/electpatjehlen/bill-signing-invitation-correction?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/electpatjehlen/bill-signing-invitation-correction?e=[UNIQID])
- [2] <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H5033>
- [3] <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2024/08/30/opinion/nursing-homes-regulation-beacon-hill-legislature/>
- [4] <https://apnews.com/article/long-term-care-bill-massachusetts-passed-9e6ed270ce61434ce417fe6c7e85a05b>
- [5] <https://www.dpcma.org/>
- [6] <https://guardianship.institute/>
- [7] <https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2016/03/26/profit-and-care-massachusetts-nursing-homes/JfpOM6rwcFAObDi2JLcAnN/story.html>
- [8] <https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/lawmakers-look-probe-of-south-hadley-nursing-home/3428025/>
- [9] <https://www.masslive.com/westernmass/2024/07/a-dog-pound-would-be-better-inside-one-of-the-most-fined-nursing-homes-in-mass.html>
- [10] <https://provincetownindependent.org/?s=nursing+homes>
- [11] <https://mailchi.mp/electpatjehlen/health-or-wealth?e=2a1a9beef5>
- [12] [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/nursing-home-care.htm#:~:text=Number%20of%20nursing%20homes:%2015%2C300%20\(2020\)%20Proportion,Number%20of%20licensed%20beds:%201.6%20million%20\(2020\)](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/nursing-home-care.htm#:~:text=Number%20of%20nursing%20homes:%2015%2C300%20(2020)%20Proportion,Number%20of%20licensed%20beds:%201.6%20million%20(2020))
- [13] <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/nursing-facility-task-force>
- [14] <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/nursing-facility-task-force>
- [15] [https://mailchi.mp/electpatjehlen/good-news-on-nursing-homes-and-pua?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/electpatjehlen/good-news-on-nursing-homes-and-pua?e=[UNIQID])
- [16] <https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/?redirect=true&providerType=NursingHome>
- [17] <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2021.00081>
- [18] <https://www.mhalink.org/throughputreports/>
- [19] <https://www.mhalink.org/news/mha-comment-on-long-term-care-bill/>
- [20] <https://www.wbur.org/news/2022/07/27/massachusetts-mass-health-medicare-estate-recovery>
- [21] https://www.bostonindicators.org/reports/report-detail-pages/care_work

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMTS (H 2832) –

The House gave initial approval to legislation that would allow cities and towns to establish a program to reduce the property tax for volunteer, call or auxiliary firefighters and EMTs in exchange for their services. The reduction would be in addition to any other exemption or abatement to which the person is entitled but the measure limits the total reduction of property taxes for any individual to \$2,500.

“This bill was filed to show appreciation and value for the sacrifice of volunteer firefighters and EMTs in many Massachusetts communities without full time fire departments,” said sponsor Rep. Steven Howitt (R-Seekonk).

RENAME THE MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION (S 2941) –

The House and Senate approved and sent to Gov. Healey legislation that would rename the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission to MassAbility, a change that supporters say will better define the agency’s role in supporting residents with disabilities to live independently. The legislation also removes offensive terminology in the Massachusetts General Laws referring to people with disabilities in sections of the law that pertain to MassAbility.

Supporters said the name change reflects the intention to empower individuals living with disabilities and move away from outdated terminology as the office undergoes broad changes toward a more expansive model for disability employment services and independent living.

“As lawmakers, we know that words matter,” said Speaker of the House Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). “This legislation is our latest effort to ensure that our state laws do not use antiquated words that carry negative connotations, words that also serve as a reminder of past injustices.”

“This legislation is not just a name change but a mission enhancement,” said Sen. Nick Collins, Senate Chair of the Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. “By defining the commonwealth’s response now with emphasis on the abilities of our citizens, we are taking the MassAbility Commission in a new proactive, positive direction to better serve the community’s needs.”

“The language we use is important,” said Rep. Antonio F. D. Cabral (D-New Bedford), House Chair of the Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. “Changing the agency’s name to MassAbility represents a shift in the perception on disability, focusing instead on the strengths, skills and capabilities of every individual. This new name of the agency reduces stigma and emphasizes equal access, self-determination, and inclusion. I believe, as MassAbility, the agency will project the abilities rather than the barriers for jobseekers.”

ADD 225 LIQUOR LICENSES (H 5039) – The House and Senate approved and sent to Gov. Maura Healey a bill adding 225 new alcohol licenses for the City of Boston over the next three years.

Supporters said the licenses would be distributed across 13 Boston zip codes, expanding equity for restaurant owners in historically underrepresented parts of the city and boosting economic opportunity in communities of color that have been systemically excluded for decades.

“I’m proud to have worked with my colleagues in the House and Senate to add additional liquor licenses to underserved neighborhoods across Boston,” said Sen. Nick Collins (D-South Boston). “These additional licenses will improve the sustainability of existing small businesses, create opportunities for new businesses, and create economic vibrancy on our main streets.”

“I am proud to support this equitable proposal that will give an economic boost to restaurants and small businesses across Boston, especially in communities of color that historically haven’t had much access to these licenses,” said Sen. Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett).

“Expanding liquor licenses in these Boston neighborhoods means expanding economic opportunity and equity into critical areas that have been underrepresented for too long,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland).

LONG TERM CARE AND ASSISTED LIVING (H 5033) –

Gov. Healey signed into law a bill making changes to the state’s long term care and assisted living industry that supporters said will make sweeping reforms to these two industries and will take a powerful step toward delivering high quality and safe care for older residents across the state.

“In Massachusetts, we are committed to making sure our aging residents and their loved ones can trust that they are receiving the highest quality of care from qualified staff at their long-term care or assisted living facilities,” said Gov. Healey. “This bill helps to provide them with that peace of mind, while also ensuring our hardworking providers have the resources and support they need to succeed in this important career. We are also proud to be enhancing protections for older LGBTQ+ residents to ensure they receive the specialized care they need free from discrimination.”

The bill includes provisions related to basic health services administered in assisted living facilities and oversight of long-term care facilities, including creation of a program for the certification, training and oversight of certified medication aides who would be authorized to administer medications to residents of long-term care facilities; several new initiatives to recruit and retain a dedicated long-term care workforce; allowing assisted living residences to offer basic health services such as helping a resident ad-

minister drops, manage their oxygen or take a home diagnostic test; giving the Executive Office of Elder Affairs new powers to penalize non-compliance by allowing it to fine assisted living residences up to \$500 per day; and authorizing the attorney general to file a civil action against a person who commits abuse, mistreatment or neglect of a patient or resident.

Other provisions allow the Department of Public Health (DPH) to limit, restrict or revoke a long-term care facility’s license for cause, such as substantial or sustained failure to provide adequate care, substantial or sustained failure to comply with laws or regulations or lack of financial capacity to operate a facility; streamline the process for small house nursing homes to be licensed; direct DPH to establish and implement training and education programs on topics such as infection prevention and control, resident care plans and staff safety programs; and require long-term care facilities to develop individualized outbreak response plans to contain the spread of disease and ensure consistent communication with DPH, residents, families, and staff.

The measure also would require each long-term care facility to provide staff training on the rights and care of LGBTQ+ older adults and older adults living with HIV; forbid any long-term care facility and its staff from discriminating based in whole or in part on a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, intersex status or HIV status, whether through the denial of admission, medical or non-medical care, access to restrooms or through room assignments.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Reducing the amount of waste we produce – by reusing, repairing, rescuing, and donating what we already have – has the biggest direct impact on our ability to meet our waste reduction goals. Funding these projects ensures we have the infrastructure to tackle waste reduction right here in Massachusetts.” — *Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bonnie Heiple announcing the the awarding pf \$140,126 in microgrants to organizations, municipalities and academic institutions focused on reducing waste generation and prolonging the lifespan of products by offering donation, rescue, reuse and repair services across the state.*

“Massachusetts is the number one state for women, for having a baby and for raising a family. That’s in large part due to our commitment to making the strongest child care and early education investments in the country. Our nation-leading efforts have added thousands of new child care slots across the state, and we’re continuing to partner with the Legislature to make child care more affordable and support our hardworking providers.” — *Gov. Maura Healey on what she calls Massachusetts’ national leadership when it comes to making child care more affordable and accessible.*

Continued on page 21

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Somerville Public Schools are now in session for the 2024/2025 school year. Visit SPS district website calendar for more information: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/events/calendar>. Visit the **2024–2025 School Year Calendar page** for an English, Spanish, Portuguese, or Haitian Creole calendar to print: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/schoolearcalendar>. Visit the **Food and Nutrition Services Department page** for school meal menus. Breakfast and lunch are free for all students: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/fnsd>.

Ward-based **City Hall Community Meetings** are back this fall. Hear from **Mayor Katjana Ballantyne** and city staff to find out what's happening in your neighborhood, how to get involved, and ask questions about issues that are important to you. All ward meetings are in-person and will begin at 6:30 p.m. An all-ward, fully virtual meeting will take place on **Tuesday, October 22**. The first meeting will be in **Ward 4 on Wednesday, September 18**, in the **Healey School cafeteria** (5 Meacham St.). A meet-and-greet with refreshments will begin at 6:00 p.m. For additional accommodations, please call 311 (617-666-3311). To learn more, visit somerville.ma.gov/communitymeetings.

Somerville's DPW, through the **Procurement Department**, is seeking contractors to provide **snow plowing services** for the city from **October 15, 2024 to June 30, 2026**. Interested vendors may obtain a **Request for Application (RFA)** packet from the Procurement Department web page, or by emailing a request to procurement@somervillema.gov. Vendors must return their completed RFA packet by **Thursday, September 19, 2024**, at 2:00 pm for early contract offers.

This month, the **Central Library** is pleased to display the artwork of **5 local artists** commissioned to create interactive community art for the city's climate action plan, **Climate Forward**. Join them for a reception celebrating the exhibit on **September 25**, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided. The **Climate Forward Photo Gallery** showcases interactive community art created at the **Imagining Climate Forward 2050 event** in April 2024. The event was the launch for the city's updated climate action plan, **Climate Forward**.

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

This week's events at the **Growing Center**, 22 Vinal Ave. **Community Read Alouds, Wednesdays, September 11 and 18**, 4:00 – 5:00 pm. Bring a blanket and join our Community Read Aloud series in the garden with community guest readers. All are welcome, books will be suited to 2-7-year-olds. **Introduction to Plant and Wildlife Monitoring for Conservation with Earthwise Aware, Saturday, September 14**, 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, and about EWA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies. **Growing Center Book Group, Monday, September 16 and 30**, 7:00 – 8:00 pm. Join the **Growing Center Book Club**. The book for this series is *The Last Fire Season* by **Manjula Martin**.

City of Somerville, Office of Sustainability and Environment, Somerville Arts Council present **Somerville PARK(ing) Day 2024** on **September 20** in **Ball Square** from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To participate: Pay for your spot, secure your spot, decorate your spot, enjoy your spot then clean your spot. **PARK(ing) day** is a global, public, participatory project where people across the world temporarily repurpose curbside parking spaces and convert them into public parks and social spaces to advocate for safer, greener, and more equitable streets for people. For more information visit www.myparkingday.org or email ose@somervillema.gov.

Somerville Animal Food Pantry is requesting donations. Help support your neighbors by making a donation today. Particular need for dry cat and dry dog food. One note on dry food donations: while they appreciate anything they receive, they are better off with multiple smaller bags (instead of one really big

bag) of food since they cannot give open bags to distribute food to multiple families. For wish lists and more information visit <https://www.communities.rescueallies.com/somerville>.

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

Riverfest 2024 will take place **Saturday, September 14**, starting at 11:00 a.m., at **Assembly Row, 355 Artisan Way**. Join in for Riverfest, the annual block party that takes place each September. The event includes live, local music, free family-friendly activities, and concludes with fireworks over the Mystic River. It's the perfect opportunity to visit your favorite stores and restaurants, make new friends and meet with old ones, and enjoy activations all across Assembly Row. For a lineup of events visit <https://assemblyrow.com/event/riverfest/>.

Join the **Gilman Square Arts & Music Festival party** on **Saturday, September 14**, from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. (Rain date 9/15) on Pearl St. from Marshall to James. Enjoy live music, meet the local artists of this neighborhood, try some delicious food by various vendors, and enjoy activities for all ages. This community celebration is free and open for all.

Visit the **Arts at the Armory** on **Saturday, September 14**, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. for the **Closing Reception** for the art exhibition by **Feda Eid** on view at **Rooted Armory Café**, 191 Highland Ave. Her work explores the expression of heritage, culture, identity and often tense but beautiful space between, what is said, what is felt and what is lost in translation. Feda is guided by her family's journey as Lebanese immigrants who fled the country's civil war and her childhood growing up as an Arab and Muslim in the US.

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

East Somerville Main Streets is looking for vendors for their **Halloween Block Party** on **Saturday, October 26**, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at **Chuckie Harris Park**. Please sign up through the form (<https://forms.gle/BvSwZX8YYUeg3rGB7>) for more information. Don't miss this opportunity to have fun and meet the community.

Once again, the **Somerville Arts Council** and the **Georgian Studies at Harvard University's Davis Center** join forces to catalyze a vibrant cross-cultural collaboration among four talented artists, two from Somerville and two from the country of Georgia. **Exchanging Notes Performance: An Evening of Dance and Drums. Saturday, September 21**, first show: 6:30 p.m., second show: 8:00 p.m. **SomArts Space at the Hive**, 561 Windsor Street, 4th floor, Somerville. Event is free but you will need to register <https://somervilleartsCouncil.org/>.

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>.

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

All Wednesdays during the school year are now **early release days**. You may talk to your child's teacher or school administrators if you have any questions about drop-off and pickup. *Continued on page 21*

Riverside hosting a free community baby shower



Riverside’s Early Head Start (EHS) program prepares children to successfully enter preschool and helps families learn important parenting skills. To introduce families to the program, we are holding a free community baby shower on Wednesday, September 18, at 474 Broadway, Somerville, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

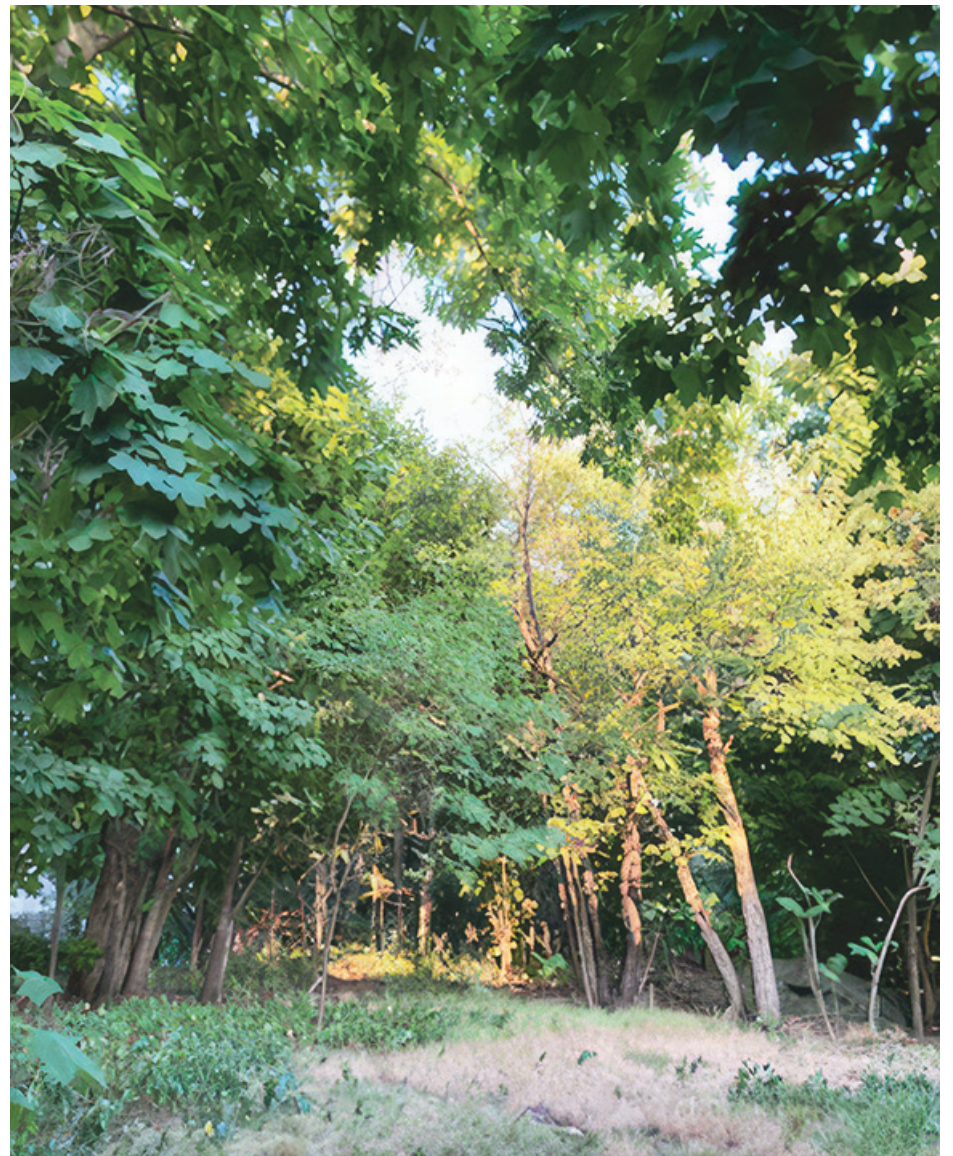
Pregnant women and parents with infants up to three months old are invited to this unique event where they can form connections with other parents and community service agencies. Attendees will receive important resources, enjoy snacks, develop new parenting skills, and celebrate this transformative time in their lives. Everyone at the baby shower will leave with a goodie bag designed to support newborns. Call 781-468-6010 or text "SHOWER" to register today.

The Early Head Start program promotes healthy child development by assisting families before and after a child is born. Services provided by Riverside Early Head Start include:

- ✦ Weekly home visits focused on child development and wellness
- ✦ Parent-child playgroups and socialization activities
- ✦ Health, safety, and nutrition education
- ✦ Pre-natal information and support
- ✦ Parent workshops and training
- ✦ Community events, including annual baby showers.

Early Head Start is a free home-visiting program for income-eligible families in Cambridge, Somerville, and Medford. Visit our website to learn more: <https://www.riversidecc.org/child-family-services/early-childhood-services/early-head-start/>.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



The last forest in Somerville...

— Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What do you call an American bee?
USB.

On This Day in History

September 11

- 1297 – Scots under William Wallace defeat the English at Stirling Bridge.
- 1740 – The first mention of an African American doctor or dentist in the colonies is made in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*.
- 1777 – General George Washington and his troops are defeated by the British under General Sir William Howe at the Battle of Brandywine in Pennsylvania.
- 1847 – Stephen Foster’s *Oh! Susanna* is first performed in a saloon in Pittsburgh.
- 1916 – *The Star Spangled Banner* is sung at the beginning of a baseball game for the first time in Cooperstown, New York.
- 1962 – Thurgood Marshall is appointed a judge of the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals.
- 1974 – Haile Selassie I is deposed from the Ethiopian throne.
- 2001 – Terrorists flew four U.S. passenger airliners into the World Trade Center towers in New York and one into the Pentagon, killing thousands.
- 2007 – Russia detonates a nano-bomb; dubbed the “Father of All Bombs,” it is the largest non-nuclear weapon developed to date.

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Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 18

"This is yet another example of the extreme lack of government oversight of taxpayer dollars. Ordinary Massachusetts taxpayers are already struggling with inflation and the high cost of living in our state. It's a slap in the face that the Healey-Driscoll Administration shows such little respect for how Massachusetts residents' hard-earned money is being spent." — *MassGOP Chair Amy Carnevale commenting on a recent Boston Herald report revealing that EBT cards issued to Massachusetts welfare recipients have been used out of state, including in popular vacation destinations such as Hawaii, the Virgin Islands, Alaska and in 165 cities and towns in California, as well as 293 cities and towns in Florida, among many others across the nation.*

"Massachusetts' clean energy transition will deliver benefits to every community, including more high-paying jobs, cleaner air, improved public health and lower energy costs. We are proud to support municipalities as they make these investments, and we will continue to work

with them to reduce our reliance on dirty fossil fuels." — *Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper announcing more than \$7.4 million in grants for communities across Massachusetts to fund clean energy projects.*

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 irresponsi-

ble late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of Sept. 2-6, the House met for a total of one hour and 11 minutes and the Senate met for a total of one hour and 16 minutes.

Mon. Sept. 2	No House session No Senate session
Tues. Sept. 3	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:08 a.m. Senate 11:07 a.m. to 11:14 a.m.
Wed. Sept. 4	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. Sept. 5	House 11:01 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. Senate 11:02 a.m. to 12:11 p.m.
Fri. Sept. 6	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 19

Prekindergarten: 12:00 p.m., **Grades K-8** (except Next Wave): 1:00 p.m., **Next Wave/Full Circle:** 12:10 p.m., Somerville High School: 1:33 p.m.

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

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

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.

Celebrate **Hispanic Heritage Month** and the vibrant public art scene in **East Somerville.** Join in for a **Public Art Walking Tour** in East Somerville, presented by the **Somerville Arts Council** in collaboration with **East Somerville Main Streets.** This free, 90-minute tour, conducted in Spanish, celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month and invites you to explore the vibrant public art scene of East Somerville. Discover eight captivating stops featuring a mix of sculptures, murals, and painted switch boxes. **Tuesday, September 24, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.** Meeting Point: **Symphony Park, 46 Pearl St, East Somerville.**

Council on Aging Flu and COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Dates at the **Holland St. Senior Center, 167 Holland St. Senior Only Clinics,** please register by calling the COA directly at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300. **September 26, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., October 10, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.** Clinics open to the general public, please register via the **City of Somerville website October 21** (ages 19+) noon- 2:00 p.m., **November 18** (ages 19+) noon- 2:00 p.m., **December 12** (ages 19+) 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Hear from **Superintendent Ruben Carmona** in the first of **SPS's Facebook Live series, Friday September 13,** at 4:00 p.m. Dr. Carmona will be joined by

Ruth Santos, Director of the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC) to update the SPS community on back-to-school events and things to come. Somerville Public School will host Facebook Live events each month, with different guests and themes. Check their Facebook page for updates.

Join the **Somerville Central Library** on **September 24** at 6:30 p.m. for **Death Café.** Death Cafés are a group-directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or themes, with the objective of increasing awareness of death and helping people make the most of their (finite) lives. Join us in this café led by **End-of-Life Guide & Death Doula, Sarah Gladstone.** You can learn more and register at <https://tinyurl.com/29r6cnew>.

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.

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 Octo-**

ber 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.

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

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



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Kevin McIntosh: Lessons from a Veteran Teacher...

Somerville resident Kevin McIntosh has shared this essay with Off the Shelf that he published in <https://theeducatorsroom.com/> about the art of teaching and the building of a reputation.

By Off the Shelf Correspondent Kevin M. McIntosh

Kevin M. McIntosh's short stories have appeared in the *American Literary Review*, *Beloit Fiction Journal*, *Potomac Review*, *Chicago Tribune* and have been nominated for Best New American Voices and the Pushcart Prize. He has had fellowships at the Ragdale Foundation and Blue Mountain Center. His novel *Class Dismissed* (Regal House Publishing, July 2021) is informed by his thirty years of teaching English in New York City, Oakland, and Greater Boston. Visit him at kevinmmcintosh.com.



in the knowledge that their time was not about to be wasted. They were ready to learn. Unfortunately, as I discovered, you can't begin your teaching career with a Rep. It has to be earned – it has to be built.

Two decades later, a younger colleague was grading papers in the back of the room we shared. When the bell rang and my class trickled out, she looked up from her papers, disgruntled.

"What's wrong, Jennifer?"

"I begin every class shouting my kids to attention. And you ... you just say, 'Welcome writers and lovers of literature.' And – boom! – out come their notebooks, they're all listening."

"Well," I smiled, "I paid for this gravitas. Believe me." I had a Rep. And the scars to prove my point. Then I realized: I had become that teacher I envied.

Welcome, writers and lovers of literature: a mantra I stumbled on midway through my career. Every class from then on began with this greeting, this invocation. Some of my eighth graders, dubious at the proposition, giggled nervously on first hearing it. But they soon expected and cherished this greeting. It was inclusive and held out the possibility – the expectation – that all could be writers, that there was literature all could embrace, with passion. We were embarked on a special mission: when you entered room 224, you were standing on holy ground, not just the next classroom on your schedule. In my writing workshop we spent many hours *Continued on page 23*

Teaching is a humbling profession. The occupation that it comes closest to is parenting. And, like parenting, you never master it; it's never a done deal. Sure, there are books on how to do these things, but they never cover the hard stuff, the real stuff – the survival stuff. So much our parents never taught us, that our professors never taught us in education school.

As a new teacher, I spent many prep periods observing experienced faculty members at work. They came in all shapes, sizes, genders, orientations, colors, ages.

But, unlike me, they all had command of their classes. What was their secret sauce, I wanted to know. They were all so different in the presentation: Marty, the former wrestler – a gentle giant – who never spoke above the level of conversation, made kids lean in; Shelly, a tiny woman, brash New Yorker, flip but demanding, made kids laugh; Judy, formal, intense, unafraid to use endless wait time following a question, made her students want to learn. How they taught was so distinctive, yet, in every case, so effective. What was their mojo? And, more importantly, where could I get mine?

Turned out they all had one thing in common, they had a Teacher Rep. When students entered their classrooms, they knew something worthwhile was about to happen. Students entered alert but relaxed

Arms sweep to curve
into elbows pulling back hard
as oars move against water
biceps tighten rise
swift release to repeat.

Voyeurs view the contest

many shell bodies
gathering
surging together

bodies race
to their orgasmic finish.

— Karen Klein 7/2024

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

After retiring from Brandeis University, Karen Klein turned her creative energies first to making ink drawings, then wood sculptures. She continued a daily haiku practice begun in the mid 1990's, then moved to contemporary lyric. She has been published online and in print journals, including *Ibbetson Street*, *Wilderness House Literary Review*, *Muddy River Literary Review*, *Five Fleas*, *SLANT*, and *Critical Inquiry*. Resuming her dance practice, she founded teXtmoVes, a poetry/dance collaborative in 2016 with performances in local libraries, art galleries, concert venues in the greater Boston area. Her first full-length poetry book, *This Close*, was published by Ibbetson Street Press (2022). Her chapbook, *Embodied*, is forthcoming from Finishing Line Press.



Rowing

Water resistance unseen below
first struggles against oars' thrust
then relaxes relents to allow boat's
forward motion
vertically linked backs of the crew
spine of the shell's body
each vertebra another rower
of the oars
their power thrusts'
rhythmic circle
dip pull back skim the surface
dip again
to pull
to skim.

Musculature of the men's backs
as scapulae separate pull apart
squeeze together only
to release to repeat
skin over shoulder blades strains
to follow the pattern.

SomerStreets: Gilman Arts and Music Festival



The annual Gilman Arts and Music Festival celebrates the Gilman Square neighborhood now and for the “what if...” Featuring live music, an award-winning acrobatic performer, many artists, makers, vendors and seven food vendors. Activities for kids and adult kids.

Join the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council and the Arts Council for their latest SomerStreets event, the Gilman Square Arts and Music Festival on Saturday, September 14, from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m., 238 Pearl St., Somerville. Rain date September 15.

The event takes place on Pearl Street between Marshall and James Streets will be closed to vehicular traffic from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

SomerStreets is the City of Somerville’s take on the internationally-renowned Open Streets concept, closing busy city streets to vehicles, and opening them up for cycling, walking, dancing, running, and other modes of activity. Through SomerStreets, the city and its community partners aim to promote and encourage easy access to physical activity, and reconnecting with neighborhoods and businesses and their unique cultural elements in a thriving urban environment.

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

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

writing – that’s what writers do – but we once spent part of a class period watching a squirrel find creative ways to assault a bird feeder because writers do that too. The mundane and the magical – that’s a writer’s life, and a teacher’s.

And finding your place on that mundane-magical scale is key to building Rep. When I was a new teacher – in the Reagan Era – they told us in Ed School, be the Guide on the Side, not the Sage on the Stage. But this is a false choice: to succeed over the long haul, to build Rep that lasts a career, you need to be both, alternating modes depending on what, when, and whom you are teaching. This is where self-awareness comes in, taking a clear hard look in the mirror: are you a natural magician or logician? How can you make the most of your in-born gift, how to shore up your weak side?

Before I became an educator, I worked in the theater. And, unsurprisingly, as a struggling new teacher, I fell back, hard, into my performing comfort zone. The bell would ring and Mr. McIntosh would be off on his – sometimes literal – song and dance. And my students loved it. One mother showed up after school to pick up her sick daughter’s homework and said she had to talk her girl into staying home because she didn’t want to miss my class. I was worth the price of admission. But I was only two years in and could feel myself burning out. And, though I was only dimly aware of it, I was also taking up all the oxygen in the room, leaving my students less space for creativity and risk-taking. I was doing that for them.

Then Nancie Atwell – God bless her – saved me. An older, wiser English teacher plopped Atwell’s *In the Middle* on my desk, and – voila! – a writing workshop instructor was born. Ms. Atwell’s book helped me get out of the middle and turn much of my class time over to my

students, sparing Mr. McIntosh from a future as a chalk-and-talk drone or performing seal, an aging, Rep-less pedagogue. Over time I found a balance, often leading with a zippy mini-lesson followed by a half-hour of writing accompanied by sotto voce conferences with individual students. Sage and Guide, in one class period.

But, vital to Rep-formation as self-awareness is, so too is an awareness of your students. Who are they, what’s going on for them at the moment? Sounds pretty basic, I know, but un-Repped teachers – and they are legion – plunge ahead with their preordained lesson plan, heedless of who they’re teaching and what’s happening in their lives. And I’m not just speaking of paying attention to the special needs of particular students – there’s already a very serious law regarding that.

I’m speaking of the time the young Mr. Mac spent an entire weekend polishing a multi-cultural, multi-modal, interdisciplinary gem of cooperative learning, only to show up to an uncooperative eighth grade Monday morning. Excited about my brilliant lesson plan, I ignored the more excited buzzing in my suburban homeroom. Friday night the grade’s alpha couple had had a spat at the Valentine’s Day Dance – Alpha Boy had slow-danced with the wrong girl – and the social hierarchy exploded. I grew angry as my carefully curated small groups refused to discuss anything else. Take out your textbooks, I finally barked at my kids, read chapter 17, answer the questions at the end. Shocked and sullen, my students did my bidding, working quietly for the rest of the period. But my victory was pyrrhic: I won the battle, damaged my Rep.

It didn’t have to go that way. The older me would have read the room, asked kids a few questions, and made a new plan. As an experienced teacher, I call more audibles than Tom Brady. Now I would save my mas-

terpiece for later in the week and pull out a stack of practice sheets on dependent clauses. No problem with kicking it Old School on occasion. You have 180 days to work with, 900 classes; every play doesn’t have to end with a touchdown, just keep moving the ball down-field. And force-feeding an unwilling class is the worst possible Rep management. Students feel unseen and unheard and eventually, lose respect for their teacher. And getting angry helps no one.

I learned this first and best when I taught in Oakland and NYC, where my students had problems far more pressing than what had happened at the school dance. If your family has been evicted from your apartment or the grandmother who’s raising you is hospitalized, discussing chapter three of *Of Mice and Men* may be a non-starter. Some mornings, a quarter of a class showed up with problems on that scale. I didn’t become an effective teacher for these children until I learned to pay attention, ask questions, and have Plans B, C, and D ready for action.

Creating a Rep is about building a bigger, better classroom for you. Teaching isn’t just a performance, but it does require performing. The teacher with Rep is an authentic person in front of her class, but a persona too. The teachers we remember, the ones with lasting impact, were creative, quirky, in-the-moment presences. They were knowledgeable and prepared – that is the stuff of competence – but they had that x-factor that separates the good from the great. They could be counted on to present a solid, interesting lesson, but their moves were unpredictable, shaped by the needs of their students. And, as I learned from my masterful colleagues early on, Rep doesn’t have to come in a Robin Williams package; an exquisitely attuned introvert can be that teacher. Rep has a thousand faces. Young teacher, start building yours.

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