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City dealing with complaints over curtailed library hours



Somerville Public Library's recently shortened hours have many up in arms. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

By Parker Garlough

Reopening the Central Library during afternoon hours is an "urgent priority" for the Mayor's Office, according to Director of Intergovernmental Relations Neha Singh, but a specific timeline has not yet been set.

Library staff have been reporting a pattern of disruptive behavior to city administration since at least January, Singh said. City spokespeople have not disclosed details of any of the incidents, mainly due to privacy regulations because many (but not necessarily all) of the people involved were minors.

"I am not just talking about teenagers," Councilor Jesse Clingan said. "There are adults doing really bad things at the library, including throwing potted plants at librarians." *Continued on page 4*

History, art, and neon tubes Neon Williams lights up Brickbottom and beyond

By Jeffrey Shwom

It's mid-morning, early fall with abundant sun and warming air as I ride my bike into a place that abounds with tubes and glass and colors. There is a hot pink neon glow on the left, a VFW Post 1105 sign hanging from the ceiling on my right, and shiny things everywhere. The Green Line trains rumbling in and out of the East Somerville stop are viewed through the glazed windows along the Community Path. It is fitting that the shop is on Joy Street ... what is not to be joyful about neon signs, a 90-year-old small business and the promise of light, creativity and history?

Like the three areas (the glass shop, paint shop and mechanical shop) inside 64 Joy Street, there are three main ideas that guide Neon *Continued on page 11*



Neon Williams brings the art and craft of neon signage to Somerville.

— Photos courtesy of Neon Williams

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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.

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 somervillema.gov/communitymeetings.

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.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **Mary Jo Rossetti**, who is a lifelong resident and *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of September 18 – September 24 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday <i>September 18</i>	Cloudy	76°/60°	10%	7%	SE 10 mph
Thursday <i>September 19</i>	Rain	74°/60°	50%	43%	NE 11 mph
Friday <i>September 20</i>	Rain	67°/58°	30%	24%	NE 13 mph
Saturday <i>September 22</i>	Cloudy	64°/54°	19%	11%	NE 14 mph
Sunday <i>September 23</i>	Partly Cloudy	64°/53°	17%	10%	NE 15 mph
Monday <i>September 24</i>	Partly Cloudy	65°/52°	13%	9%	NE 11 mph
Tuesday <i>September 24</i>	Partly Cloudy	70°/55°	20%	13%	SE 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: **Animal Control receives citation for no-kill status**

Jen Andrews says:

Congrats to Somerville Animal Control department and Officers Taylor and LaMonte. You work so hard and help animals when they need it most. It is a very emotional and draining job and I am so happy that not only Best Friends but City Councilor At-Large Kristen Strezio recognizes and celebrates this great accomplishment.

Response to: **Somerville's Tom Bianchi: Bringing Music from the Backroom**

Danielle Miraglia says:

Nice piece! Thank you! Just posting the link here, so people can see where to find upcoming Burren Backroom Shows!

<https://tickets.24hourmusic.com/>

Response to: **City of Somerville and Somerville Public Library announce temporary modified hours at Central Library**

Tom Lee says:

Why can't the city just be honest about why the library is closing every day from 2 to 4? If it's to prevent issues, say so. This decision only hurts Somerville residents and students who rely on the library after school.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

Somerville's official food



This article first appeared in the April 6, 2012 edition of The Somerville Times

It's a well-known fact that Marshmallow Fluff was invented

in Somerville and everyone has enjoyed a Fluffernutter sandwich. I posted a question on Facebook looking for what people think should be the official food of Somerville. This is a strange time to be doing this type of survey because the Mayor's Fitness Challenge just kicked off. I got so many suggestions that I decided to just list as many as I could. Here are some of Somerville's favorite treats both past and present.

Lyndell's Bakery in Ball Square was mentioned several times for their honey comb bread, cupcakes, and my fave, mocha cakes. I worked there when I was in junior high and I made my own gi-normous mocha cakes! I also used to fill my own jelly donuts until they practically exploded.

Some folks mentioned subs from Nan's sub shop that used to be across from Somerville High School. I almost got clipped by a few cars rushing over there when I was supposed to be in class! (you kids should not try this! Times were different then.) I have to toss Di Tuccis subs and pizza into the mix also. Bobby made a mean sub. We have mentioned Leones many times in this column and again it's a choice for the best subs.

One long time Somerville guy tells us that he still considers the Somerville High School's cafeteria's mashed potatoes, sausages and gravy arranged campfire style as among his favorite meals. I liked the

American Chop Suey. Don't forget The Highlander Café run by the High School's Culinary Department. Their prime rib is...prime!

While we are on the subject of delicious foods, we must throw a shout out to the Mount Vernon restaurant's twin lobster special and their famous prime rib. Everyone likes the Mount Vernon. When one of my out of state friends come back home to visit, he heads right to Angelina's Sub Shop in Teele Square for a half Jumbo Italian, and then pops over to Amelia's Kitchen for some Tiramisu.

Many people remembered Jonnie's special, which is found only at Thurston Spa. It consists of German bologna with all the fixings. My friend James remembers when they cost 25 cents back in the day. Victor's Sicilian Pizza, The old Highland Café's steak tips and the free lunches they used to serve at the playgrounds from Somerville Recreation Commission made our list of favorite Somerville foods.

Apollo Cakes, formerly in Somerville, made the grade as did La Hacienda and its delicious pizza. We can't mention Victor's without talking about Mike Moccia's Ball Square Café next door. Not only is the food and service great, but you can always bet on bumping into an old friend from the 'Ville when you are there. Melted cheese and a melting pot please! As one person stated, "It's as 'Villen as it gets!"

Along with all the new fancy restaurants and menus, we still love our sandwiches in Somerville. Sometimes you will hear them referred to as "sangwiches" for fun. We all loved the old Harold's Luncheonette (square pattie cheeseburgers) in Ball Square. (My old band The Tools had a song in their jukebox!) We will never for-



get Butch, Anna and Jeanne.

Do you remember the fruit truck guy? "Strawberries...raspberries...CHERRIES! How about the fries at Frank's sub shop at the corner of Claremont and Holland? I can still see Del's Pizza truck with the bell.

A friend tells us that Yelp, that online restaurant review site, lists Somerville as having 59 pizza joints to Medford's 43. Close but no...crust. Did I mention Primos (we miss ya!) and Mama Lisa's? There are also new places like Pini's that people like. Sessa's and Mike's in Davis Square also serve delectable treats. Mike's has become a fave of college kids as well as us seasoned Somerville pizza lovers. The Venice Cafe, formerly on Holland St., won a poll I did a couple of years ago for the best Somerville pizza ever, past or present.

So it seems that it's a tossup between

subs and pizza as Somerville's official food. As our city keeps evolving and growing, we are lucky to have so many diverse cultures offering new and delicious foods. We will also never stop enjoying the foods that we have been eating religiously for decades. It's great to go into all the new restaurants, sit down and order a fancy meal that you can hardly pronounce, and give your taste buds an international treat. It's also nice to know that you can still go into one of your favorite pizza and/or sub joints and sink your teeth into a familiar, comforting hunk of deliciousness.

Now I'm hungry for a sub so I could really go for a Jimmy Del Ponte. That's a small Italian. But since I am participating in the Mayor's Fitness Challenge and have to lose weight, I'll have to settle for non-fat yogurt. I'm looking more like a jumbo these days than a small!



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Somerville Police Dept Crime Log September 3 – 9

Assault

On 9/5/24 at approximately 3:54 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Mystic Ave. for report of a dispute. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he got into a confrontation with a male party. During the confrontation, the male party punched the victim then put on brass knuckles and attempted to punch him again. Officers identified the male suspect.

Robbery

24054264: On 9/4/24 at approximately 8:19 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Broadway and North St. for report of a robbery. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the juvenile victim who stated he was approached by four males wearing face masks who then proceeded to steal his backpack.

Commercial Burglary

24054913: On 9/7/24 at approximately 7:39 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Highland Ave. for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with an employee who stated he observed a male party inside his office who then fled toward the train station. Nothing was reported missing.

Assault

24054807: On 9/6/24 at approximately 8:05 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Dilboy Stadium for report of a fight. Upon arrival, officers encountered a group of juvenile females fighting by the entrance. Officers then began escorting the juvenile victim out of the stadium and three females began attacking her. Officers identified the females suspects.

Other Crimes: 2 Bike thefts + 5 Package thefts + 4 Car breaks + 2 MV vandalisms

— Somerville Police Department



City dealing with complaints over curtailed library hours CONT. FROM PG 1

Clingan and Councilor Matthew McLaughlin said that recent disturbances have been a continuation of long-standing issues.

“It’s not just the past few years,” McLaughlin said. “It’s decades. It was the same way when I was growing up. We are a city, and we are dealing with city problems. These problems are perpetual, cyclic.”

On August 27, the day before classes began for Somerville Public School students, the City of Somerville and Somerville Public Library announced that the Central Library would be closed between 2:00. and 4:00 p.m. on weekdays (except Wednesdays, when it would be closed between 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.) – right when school gets out. The decision came as a shock to many, prompting public outcry and protests at City Hall.

“Where I feel frustration, and many people in the community feel frustration, is the lack of transparency and communication,” Councilor Willie Burnley Jr. said. “A meeting could have taken place in March. As a councilor, I didn’t hear anything about it until the day that hours changed for the library, when our constituents came to me to ask for information and to ask me to help change this.”

Multiple other councilors echoed this, saying they had found out through Facebook or Reddit.

There is not a dedicated person or department in charge of communications between the Mayor’s Office and the library. When pressed to give a specific name, Singh said that Chief of Staff Nikki Spencer has been primarily responsible for speaking to library staff about this particular problem, but “all relevant staff in the mayor’s office” have been working on it.

Multiple city councilors have called to establish a permanent teen center in the past, and they agreed that this situation makes the need for one all the more apparent. Singh said that the administration is working to select a location for it, and the primary obstacles are finding an appropriate facility and meeting staffing needs.

One solution would be to create a space at Somerville High School or Cummings School. Singh expressed apprehension, saying teens might prefer a different location.

“I agree that youth are often looking for spaces outside the academic structures,” Singh said. “There is a library in the high school that is open until 4:00 and has not been impacted, but

we need to give them a variety of positive options they can choose from.”

Councilor Naima Sait, former teacher at Somerville High School, supported hosting a teen center in the high school. She advocated for a consistently open center with dedicated staffing, rather than an expansion of extracurricular clubs.

“Teachers are burnt out,” Sait said. “A lot of those clubs do not have advisors. Every year we are asking more and more from teachers, so as you are thinking about this, please keep this in mind.”

Administration and library staff are also exploring other safety measures. Cameras were installed at the library last week, and they have been seeking to hire a library social worker since at least June.

Clingan highlighted the importance of school counselors in identifying children and teens who may be likely to engage in unsafe behavior. “We need to make sure these kids are leaving without all kinds of pent-up anger and emotions,” he said.

He also said that punitive measures, such as temporary bans from the library, may be necessary.

“I was a street kid myself,” Clingan said. “You could have given me all the teen centers in the

world, but I was going to do what I was going to do, We should find ways to hold people accountable with regards to the privilege of being in a library.”

McLaughlin is interested in more intense punitive measures.

“People don’t want to call the police,” McLaughlin said. “The police don’t want to get involved. Victims of crimes don’t want police involvement. A few youth who have perpetuated serious violence are aware that there will be no serious consequences, just like people in Davis Square are aware that there will be no consequences for anything they do... I don’t think we are doing them any favors by not acknowledging that these are unacceptable behaviors. They are going to turn 25 one day and get arrested and their life is really going to be over.”

He specified that he was not necessarily in favor of arresting minors, but was open to the possibility of it in the case of violent crime. He proposed stationing a police officer at the library from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m., the hours when the library is currently closed.

Earlier this year, Singh said, a police cruiser had been stationed outside of the library on a regular basis. “We did not think that the PD presence was de-escalating the situation,” she said, and that

the police department had agreed it did not seem to be helpful.

Councilor Ewen-Campen clarified that police involvement has been used to deal with issues at the library. “I don’t want members of the public to think that the police are never called to the library. That is absolutely not the case.”

Since January 1, the Somerville crime log notes three instances of police officers responding to reports of violence at or near the library, one of which was at the Central branch.

He expressed optimism that the library would be open soon.

Councilor Jake Wilson is similarly hopeful about the library’s ability to move forward, but regretful that change did not come sooner.

“I have repeatedly called for more spaces and programming, but I will apologize as part of the City of Somerville government that clearly failed our youth and our librarians,” Wilson said. “To our librarians, I’m sorry we failed to act earlier to ensure you had a safe and respectful workplace. Let’s act now to fix that. To your city’s youth, I’m sorry we failed you by not giving you places and programs that you need. Let’s take this opportunity to address that and do right by our youth.”

Lyndell's Bakery remains Somerville staple

By Cathleen Twardzik

Sauntering into Lyndell's Bakery will prove to be a sensory sensation. The cupcakes, bread and everything else that is baked there are all made from scratch.

Interestingly, Lyndell's Bakery is the oldest business in Somerville – or one of them – but just how old is it? “I believe it is [the oldest business in Somerville]. I know, for sure, that we're the oldest scratch bakery in New England. I've been told a few years ago that we're one of the top 10 oldest retail scratch bakeries in the country. We're 137 years old this year,” said Bill Galatis, Owner of Lyndell's Bakery.

The bakery was founded by Birger Lindahl, a Swedish immigrant. “He came to America in 1882, and then, he opened the bakery in 1887. They [changed] his last name to the current spelling of Lyndell,” said Galatis.

It's time for a micro history of the bakery. “I purchased it in 2000 – and I'm the fourth owner in its history,” he said. Between inaugural owner, Birger Lindahl and Bill Galatis, the current owner, Lyndell's was owned by Eugene Klemm and Albert Klemm, and then, by Herman Kett and Janet Kett.

If development happens on the property, then, the bakery will not close. That is a paramount issue, regarding this bakery, to many residents of Somerville. “We're currently looking for other sites in the im-

mediate area. We've been looking for sites for a couple of months, now. So, the game plan is not to close,” he said.

Instead, “The game plan is to find a new location and move – and if we have to close, we wouldn't close [for] more than a week – just to move everything.”

Since Marshmallow Fluff was invented in Somerville, does the bakery offer items that use it? The answer was quite a surprise. “Actually, we don't use Fluff at all. We really don't have any products that we need Fluff for,” said Galatis.

However, Lyndell's offers copious sweet treats to cater to anyone's specific taste.

They create every item that they sell from scratch. Impressively, “We make our own custard. We make our own whipped cream. We make our own chocolate,” he said.

Now, for a very yummy Lyndell's favorite: “The half-moons (as opposed to a cookie dough [are] a cake dough) and, we use a variation of our regular cake frosting for all of our half-moons,” said Galatis.

What are a few of the best-selling items? If you guessed half-moons, then, you are correct. Also, “Our Danish pastries that are made fresh every day,” said Galatis.

Impressively, “We do a little over 12,000 custom-decorated cakes a year,” he said. Those cakes range in size, number of servings and occasion – such as “elegant, fancy wedding cakes.”

A magnitude of customers visit the bakery frequently during the week, many of



Lyndell's Bakery will remain open in Somerville.

whom purchase doughnuts and coffee.

Then, there are customers with more specific reasons for a trip to the bakery. “We have regulars that come in that buy custom-decorated cakes to celebrate any-and-all celebrations or traditions that they have in their families – whether it be: birthdays, anniversaries, Communion, confirmations [or] graduations. I think that's the beauty of Lyndell's. Families have come in for generations and generations and allowed us to make their cakes for their celebrations,” said Galatis.

Individuals come back to the bakery for a plethora of reasons. “People always enjoy things that are being handmade – as well as being fresh. I think they enjoy the experience of our staff and the products that we offer to them. We make fresh, quality products,” he said.

What will be the future of the bakery, and what would be good to add to it? “It depends on where we end up going – but, if we end up going with a larger space, then, that could very well be the case.”

Further, “We might think about offering some packaged products. We might think about extending our beverage line. Right now, we sell hot coffee and iced coffee. We might think about expanding that line, as

well – and, probably, doing additional Italian products,” said Galatis.

In a different vein, “We've got some small accounts – where maybe, somebody has an office party and will order a considerable amount of cupcakes, or sheet cakes or other kinds of treats in order to celebrate whatever they're celebrating in their office or at the organization that they work at,” he said.

“We would particularly like to thank our loyal customers, and we enjoy doing what we do. [We] enjoy serving Somerville – and the greater Somerville area.”

The most satisfying part of owning Lyndell's is, “All of the smiles. That's the best part,” said Galatis.

Lyndell's Bakery, which is located at 720 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144, is open from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Monday, and from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday to Saturday.

The bakery is still such a great part of the Somerville community. Customers may contact it at 617-625-1793 or on their website, which is Lyndell's Bakery (lyndells.com).

It's time to skedaddle over to Lyndell's, and select your daily coffee or iced coffee with doughnuts, pies or cookies.



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COMMENTARY

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Let's Not Let the War In Gaza Tear Somerville Apart

By Emma Lebwahl
on behalf of Shalom Somerville

Since October 7, 2023, the Jewish and Israeli communities have been reeling from the Hamas terrorist attack in Israel. The attack was the largest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. Hamas terrorists murdered over a thousand Israeli civilians and brutally raped Israeli women. They took over 250 hostages, including small children. The trauma from October 7 continues to this day. A few weeks ago, we learned that Hamas murdered six young hostages, including the Israeli-American Hersh Goldberg-Polin, in a tunnel beneath Rafah.

Israel's subsequent war against Hamas has resulted in the loss of innocent Palestinian lives and displacement of Israeli and Palestinian civilians. As bombs fall in both Israel and Gaza generating constant fear, here too we are worried for the safety of our family and friends abroad, but also fearful due to the hateful rhetoric being spewed locally.

Rather than coming together to comfort each other in this shared grief, our Somerville community has been awash with divisive rhetoric and hatred including a rise in antisemitic and anti-Israeli incidents. For instance, an Israeli family seeking refuge from the war came to Somerville and enrolled their children in Somerville schools. On the first day, someone removed one of the children's bags from his locker and replaced it with a drawing of a Palestinian flag. The family decided that Somerville was not safe for them and moved.

In another school-related incident, a 2nd grader told his Jewish friend they couldn't be friends anymore because "his people weren't friends with Jews."

In a third incident, a "Stand with Israel" sign outside the home of a Holocaust survivor was met with a note from a self-identified Nazi who was offended by the "Jew sign." The note ended with "Heil Hitler."

Many people in our community are now reluctant to wear or display symbols that may identify them as Jewish or express their connections to Israel due to this ris-

ing antisemitism.

These are just some of the antisemitic incidents plaguing our small city. The obscenities mentioned by Somerville for Palestine in its August 2 article in Cambridge Day must also be condemned. What happened to the Somerville full of signs stating "Hate has no home here?" Jews and those with connections to Israel in our community have also been accused of being "complicit in genocide" for supporting Zionism: the Jewish people's right to self-determination in their ancestral homeland. Framing the conflict as "genocide" paints those with broader and nuanced perspectives as complicit and worthy only of hate, and is used as a cudgel to silence any discussion or dialogue.

The civilian deaths in Gaza are tragic, but they are not genocide. Hamas' intentional tactics of embedding itself within the Gazan population and fighting from schools and hospitals makes civilian casualties inevitable. The bodies of the six hostages tortured and murdered just hours before they were found had been

held in a Hamas tunnel under a children's yard in Rafah whose walls were decorated with Disney characters. This dichotomy points to the struggle many of us feel with this war.

There is, in truth, very little that anyone in Somerville can do to end the conflict in Gaza. But, we can reduce the turmoil here. We can listen more and shout less. We can learn from each other, rather than demonize each other. We can think critically, disagree civilly and even vehemently, without demonizing each other. In the process we can forge a stronger community. Once we get past the slogans, we certainly won't agree on everything, but we may find that we agree on more than we realize.

As we approach a year of war in Gaza, we all wait anxiously for the release of the hostages, an end to the fighting on all borders, the rebuilding of a Gaza where its citizens can prosper, and an ultimate resolution that ensures safety and security for all. Unfortunately, that doesn't fit well on a bumper sticker.

Somerville hosts 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

To mark the 23d anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville Department of Veterans' Services invited the community to a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on Wednesday, September 11, in Davis Square.

The observance honored 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 included a moment of silence and featured 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 followed, and attendees were given individual roses to place on the 9/11 Memorial. The ceremony was 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.

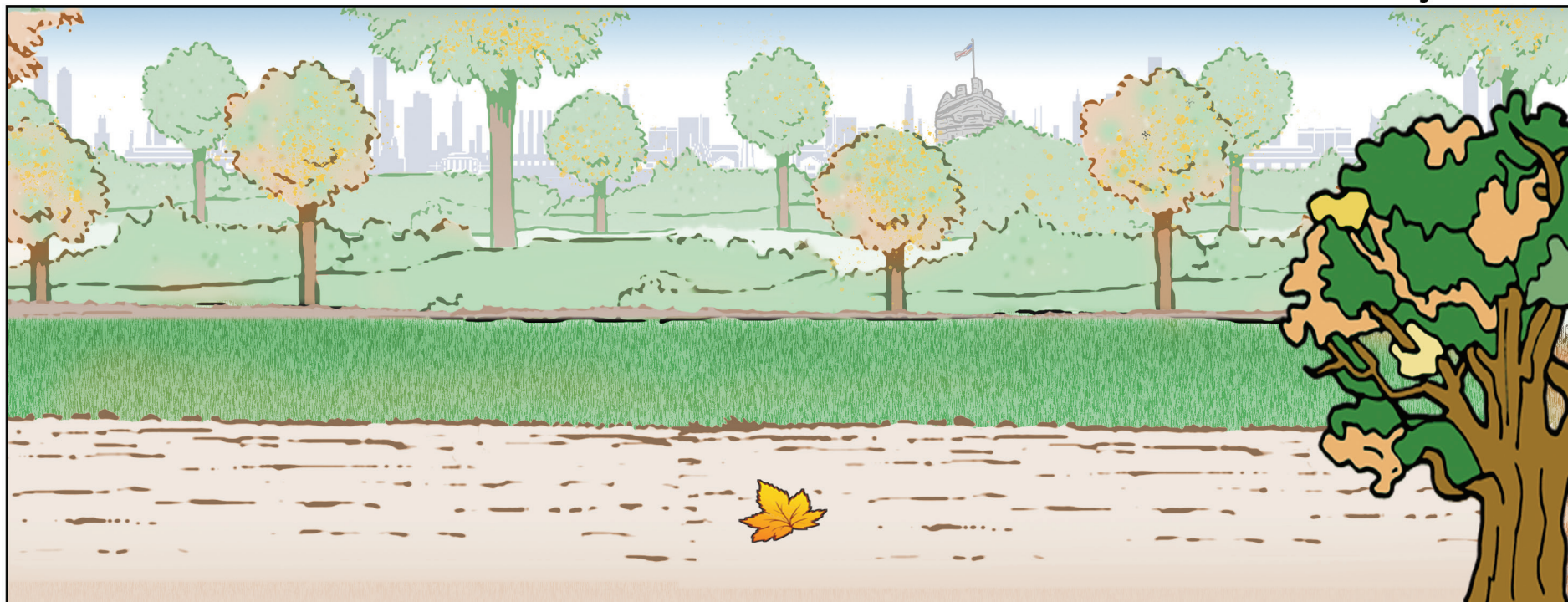


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COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Autumn is coming.

Our View Of The Times



Most change leads to new beginnings. That's what they say anyway. We've been through some challenging times in recent years, and here we are once again with autumn on our doorstep, bringing with it the undeniable realization that change is inevitable.

We slogged our way through the pandemic with its isolation and deprivation and have finally cleared the dust and slow-

ly put it all back together again as we regained some normalcy in our lives. Let us hope we never have to face that type of thing again.

An incomparably divisive political climate remains with all its intransigence and intolerance of opposing points of view. And who knows whether or not the worst is yet to come as we choose sides?

The cost of living, higher prices on al-

most everything, and the ever-present pressure placed on the backs of many of us as we struggle to make ends meet. There is a lot to contend with, but we do our best to keep our spirits up and press ahead.

Taking a break from it all by getting out on the road to do a little old fashioned New England leaf peeping or just plain sunset watching can do wonders for the spirit and recharge the weary. After all, we

live in a part of the world where the colors of autumn are breathtaking and often inspiring. Let's not forget that.

A change of season can represent a moving forward, taking the next step and shaking off the troubles of the past. It's also a reminder that we are all children of nature and should take stock in the beauty and wonder of life itself. Again, consider the alternative.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

a former Councilor At-Large. We wish her a very happy birthday. Also celebrating is Maureen Cuff Bastardi, we wish her a very special day. Happy birthday to **Conor Brennan**, the owner of **PJ Ryan's** in Teele Square, we wish him the very best on his birthday. Happy birthday to the now retired **Somerville Homeless Coalition Director, Mark Alston-Follansbee**. We wish him a happy birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Carol Clements, Kim Marie, Jackie Shepardhancock, Ed Grandmont, Debra Lawson Kennedy, Ellen Gagliardi, Stephen Green, Jonathan O'Connell, Adele Changer** and **Kimberly Barnett**

a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

The **City of Somerville** and **Somerville VETS** invite the community to join in at 11:00 a.m. on **Saturday, September 21**, for the **3rd Annual Health and Wellness Day at Lincoln Park**. This community-wide, free, wellness event for all ages is a great opportunity for our veteran and first responder families to get connected to health resources. Activities such as fitness classes, bounce houses, and chair massages will run between 11:30 a.m.

and 3:30 p.m. Contact veterans@somervillema.gov for more information.

What the Fluff? A Tribute to Union Square Innovation is a madcap festival honoring the invention of **Marshmallow Fluff**. It celebrates Somerville's proud tradition of innovation with live music, fluffalicious feasts, sticky games, zany happenings, and much more happening **Saturday, September 21**, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. in **Union Square** (rain date Sunday, September 22). So, don your most hue-riffic ensemble (ruby slippers optional), round up your sidekicks (Toto, too!), and follow the marshmallow road

to the most magical square in Somerville. There's No Place Like Fluff.

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 **Narcain 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 *Continued on page 21*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#941

- What is the range of uniform numbers in the NFL?
- Which country was the first to grant women the right to vote on September 19, 1893?
- Who discovered penicillin in September 1928?
- What is the name of the two week festival held in Munich which begins in September?
- When was the first televised presidential debate?
- Paul McCartney and John Lennon co-wrote which Rolling Stones song?
- Which Alabama Governor used state troopers to prevent public school integration on September 2, 1963?
- Which American patriot was hung without trial for spying on the British in 1776?
- What word means a coffee maker and a tool to clear drains?
- A camera inspired the original logo of what social media platform?
- "The Day the Music Died" refers to the tragic deaths of which artists?
- What does the meaning of the word "zodiac" in Ancient Greek?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- A dragonfly has a lifespan of only 24 hours.
- You will spend up to two weeks kissing in your lifetime.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

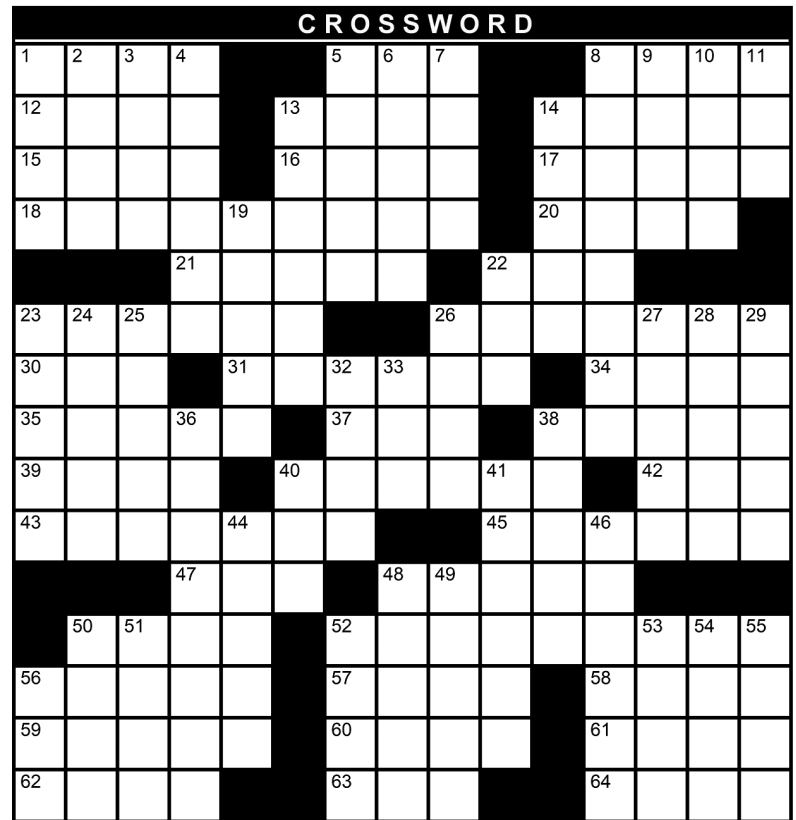
GREEKS AND ROMANS

ACROSS

- Fountain order
- Christian minister, abbr.
- Betelgeuse or Deneb
- Isaac's firstborn
- Senegal's neighbor
- Nobody (2 words)
- Bangladeshi currency
- Chopin's creation, e.g.
- Like thick smoke
- Greek goddess in 1995 Woody Allen movie title
- Mars, to the Greeks
- Ooze out
- Edible tuber
- Poet of "Aeneid" fame
- "Pair of writing tablets"
- Outrage
- A small part
- European currency
- Jousting pole
- B & B
- Sunni religion
- Et alibi, abbr.
- Newspaper VIP
- First woman, Biblically-speaking
- Return of disease
- Washer, during a certain cycle
- Last month
- Belittle
- Taro plant
- Athenian Acropolis tourist attraction
- Anticipate
- Black-and-white cookie
- Small European freshwater fish
- #18 Across, to Romans
- Big cat sound
- Future atty.'s exam
- Work units
- Tight one, in football
- Sunrise direction

DOWN

- Facebook owner
- Quickly, acr.
- Hundred thousand, in India
- Sahara's Berber people
- R in R.E.M.
- Wash out with solvent
- Workbench holding device
- Plato's famous teacher
- Ripped
- Black tropical cuckoo
- Not black-figure, but ____-figure
- Spacecraft's detachable unit
- W.E.B Du Bois's org.
- Oxygen-containing compound
- Olive derivative
- More reprehensible
- About to explode
- Kidney-related
- Exertion
- Christmastides
- Have a hankering
- Poet of "Iliad" fame
- Ocean motion
- "Wheel of Fortune" request (2 words)
- "I, ____"
- Like Bushmills whiskey
- Boston time
- Demosthenes of Cicero
- Land parcels
- Conifer's leaf
- New York Jets' quarterback
- Bakery offering
- Pitcher
- Shoot!"
- Minute opening
- Civil space org.
- #22 Across, pl.
- Left after deductions
- Map abbr.



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



Soultion in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

OBITUARY

Thomas J. O'Brien, Jr.



Thomas J. O'Brien, Jr. passed away on September 9, 2024, with loved ones by his side. Tom was born in Somerville, Massachusetts on December 21, 1945. He was a resident of Somerville, Medford, Reading and, most recently, Georgetown, Massachusetts.

Tom attended school in Somerville and graduated from Somerville High School in 1963 where he played basketball and ran track. In 1968 he graduated from Salem State University where he played on the basketball team and helped to lead the team to win the Governor's Cup. Several years later his athletic skills were re-

warded when he was inducted into the Varsity Club Athletic Hall of Fame at Salem State University. He later received a Master's Degree from Suffolk University. Tom was a Business teacher in Somerville for 35 years; he taught at Western Junior High and coached ninth grade basketball for 7 years. He then moved to Somerville High School where he taught for 28 years until his retirement. During his teaching career and even after his retirement, Tom served a total of 20 years as a Board member of the Somerville School Employees Federation Credit Union. Later, when Tom and his partner Jane moved to Georgetown, his desire to contribute to his community compelled him to serve as a member of the Parker River Landing Board of Trustees for 12 years. Because of Tom's love of family and friends, he frequently hosted holiday get togethers, football parties, and his renowned Kentucky Derby gathering.

Tom is survived by the love of

his life for 31 years, Jane Murray, and her son Matthew Ferry; his grandsons, Thomas J. O'Brien, IV and Alex M. O'Brien; his daughters in-laws Caroline O'Brien and Lori Violette, his sisters, Jean Boldt, Rita DiSarcina and her husband Geno, Joan O'Brien, as well as his brothers John O'Brien and Edward O'Brien and his wife Patricia.

Tom was predeceased by his parents, Chief Thomas J. and Jeanie (Kelso) O'Brien, his sons, Thomas III and Scott O'Brien, his sisters, Edna and her husband Bruce MacDonald, and his brother-in-law, Jim Boldt.

For those who wish, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Tom's memory to the American Lung Association, 45 Ash Street, E. Hartford, CT 06108. For funeral home directions, florists or to share memories of Tom with his family, please visit www.cgfuneralhomegeorgetown.com

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Thomas J. ("Tom") O'Brien, please visit our floral store.

Join the final presentation and performance for Exchanging Notes

The Somerville Arts Council, in partnership with the Program on Georgian Studies at Harvard University's Davis Center, invites the community to attend a unique cultural exchange project, Exchanging Notes.



This free event features performances by four talented artists from Somerville and Georgia, blending dance and percussion to celebrate the richness of both cultures.

Event Details:

Exchanging Notes Reception and Lecture

Date: Thursday, September 19

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Swedenborg Chapel, 50 Quincy Street, Cambridge

Featuring a lecture by Dr. Nana Sharikadze, followed by a Q&A with the artists and a reception.

Exchanging Notes Performance: An Evening of Dance and Drums

Date: Saturday, September 21

Showtimes: 6:30 p.m. (First show), 8:00 p.m. (Second show)

Location: SomArts Space at the Hive, 561 Windsor Street, 4th Floor, Somerville

Enjoy a dynamic fusion of Georgian and American dance and percussion.

How to Join: Registration is encouraged, but not required, for this free event. Learn more at: somer-villeartscouncil.org/exchangingnotes/2024.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #313

This article first appeared in the January 11, 2017 edition of The Somerville Times

The Yanks are Coming

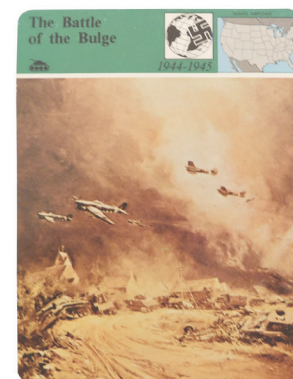
By Bob (Monty) Doherty

The Massachusetts National Guard is the nation's oldest. It traces its roots back to 1636 when Governor John Winthrop and four regiments of volunteer militia protected the young Massachusetts Bay Colony.



The best place to learn and appreciate its history would be to visit the Hall of Flags at the State House in Boston. On display you will find the flags that their forebears fought and served under to the present day. These ensigns record the strife from colonial times when every man and boy age 16 to 60 were required to serve in the militia to today's citizen soldiers who endure multiple deployments overseas. These streamers remind us of the sacrifices that were made for us from the Colonial Wars, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, and the Spanish American War.

Like many arsenals and magazines throughout New England, the Somerville Armory on Highland Avenue was used as such for over a century. It was built in 1903 and sold by the state in 2004. Somerville and the local volunteer militia, the State Guard, the Massachusetts National Guard, and the Air Guard found home for training there.



In 1916 during the Mexican Revolution, the soldiers left here to guard the United States border against the attacks of General Francisco "Pancho" Villa's Mexican bandits. On their return in 1917, one hundred years ago this year, America entered World War I, mistakenly named "the war to end all wars." The now veteran guardsmen were activated into the newly formed 26th Infantry Division. It was titled The Yankee Division because of its six-state New England location. The Division was the first complete American Division to arrive in World War I France *Continued on page 23*

LEGAL NOTICES

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**City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, October 3, 2024**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register?WN_tTe5tz-hSEy7iHMGSlpN4w
Webinar ID: 869 7139 1506

TO CALL IN

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

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

393 Highland Ave 393 Highland Ave LLC seeks a Special Permit to occupy a single commercial space greater than ten-thousand (10,000) square feet in leasable floor area for a fitness center use.

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

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

Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov.

9/18/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

RFP# 25-12 Employee Assistance Program

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites proposals for:

RFP 25-12 Employee Assistance Program

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Monday, September 16, 2024**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, October 2, 2024**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any minor informality in the RFP process, and accept the proposal(s) deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.

Please email jremy@somervillema.gov for more information.

Jordan Remy
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

9/18/24 The Somerville Times



Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Funds are available for Affordable Housing Support Programs in the City of Somerville.

The Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Fund (SAHTF) is reopening its annual process of local distribution of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds that are designated for Somerville community housing projects and programs. Up to \$400,000 of combined CPA funds will be made available through one competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) processes to provide funding for:

- The support of affordable housing in Somerville by housing program providers (including Rental Assistance Programs).

The RFP will be posted and available starting on **September 18th, 2024**. The proposal submission deadline for the RFP is **12:00pm on October 18th, 2024**.

Full instructions for proposal submission are included in the RFP. The RFP will be available for download at the City of Somerville's website at <http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/affordable-housing-trust-fund> by clicking on "Funding and Opportunities".

More information about eligible uses and funding priorities is available on pages 1-2 of the RFP. For questions, please contact City of Somerville, (617) 625-6600 x2587 or by email at pgoldstein@somervillema.gov.

9/18/24 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on **10/8/2024** at 12:00PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Hannah Diamond unit #0041; Karen Seward unit #322B; Yeimaly Moscat unit #4342. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

9/18/24 The Somerville Times

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Join the Somerville Arts Council Board

The Somerville Arts Council is actively seeking three to four dedicated community members to join its Board. This is an exciting opportunity for individuals with a passion for the arts to support and strengthen the vibrant cultural landscape of our city.

What is the Somerville Arts Council Board?

The Somerville Arts Council Board plays a crucial role in cultivating and celebrating the creative expressions of the Somerville community. The Board provides guidance on the City's arts community, advises on the work and policies of the Arts Council, and engages in networking. From September through December, members participate in the adjudication process for a local grant-making program to support arts and culture initiatives within the community.

Who Can Join?

We are seeking artists or members of the general public with a strong interest in the arts, particularly those with experience in music, literature, or public art. Any Somerville resident with a passion for supporting the arts is encouraged to apply.

What is the Time Commitment?

The Board meets in person on the second Wednesday of each month. There are two additional meetings each year concerning the grant program. Members serve a term of up to three years in a volunteer capacity.

How Are Members Appointed?

Members are appointed by the Mayor of Somerville.

How Do I Apply?

Please submit a brief statement of interest explaining why you would like to join the Board and how you feel you can contribute to its work by Thursday, October 10. We welcome applications from all Somerville residents with diverse experiences, skills, and perspectives.

Where to Apply:

Applications may be submitted via email to Gregory Jenkins, President of the Somerville Arts Council, at gjenkins@somervillema.gov. All applications must be received by 5 p.m. on Thursday, October 10, 2024.



History, art, and neon tubes CONT. FROM PG 1

Williams to build and fix neon signs: history, the artistry of design and bending glass, and the chemistry and mechanics of making neon lights.

For co-owner Dave Waller, "It goes back to the American Dream ... a small business that started modestly often with immigrants that did well over the years and effectively, the sign is a touchstone to the 'coming to America story.'" He pointed out their work on signs like Sandler's Smoked Meats, Lung's in Chinatown dating to the 1880's, and Bay State Auto Spring, a wagon shop started by a Russian blacksmith.

With many of the signs,

staff have "collected the history, grabbed a menu or talked to the neighbors" to get origin stories for the signs. "I have files on all the signs in case you wanted to do deeper, dive research. This stuff is not on the internet. You have to do gumshoe detective work, which is fabulously fun."

This is a small business much like any other trying to provide a unique historical artistic product. They have Dave Waller, Tony and Lynn as co-owners, Lisa in the office and Tessa, their apprentice glass bender. She is an apprentice in their shop and is starting to do repetitive work, making bends with scrap glass.

Just because it is a place steeped

in history does not mean the designs are. "There are a lot of things you can do with neon that you cannot do with other mediums," Dave continues. "Abstract art thing ... we do a lot of neon light. That is what makes it current and modern. We work in conjunction with artists to put their art into neon." Recently, they made a lobby sign for a 3D printing company in Waltham and installed 150 tubes on a ceiling on three floors of an MIT bicycle parking garage.

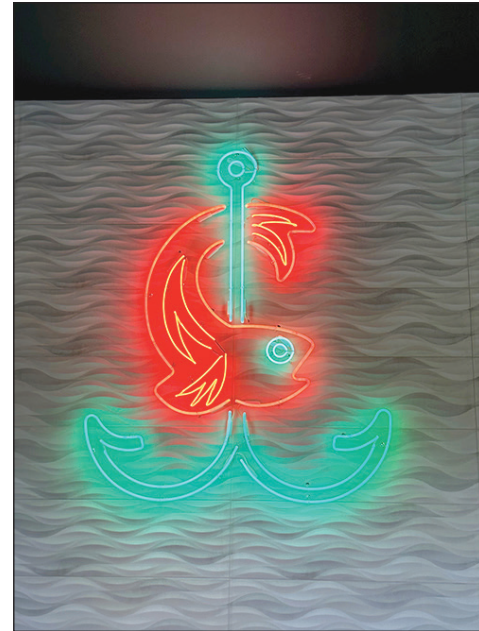
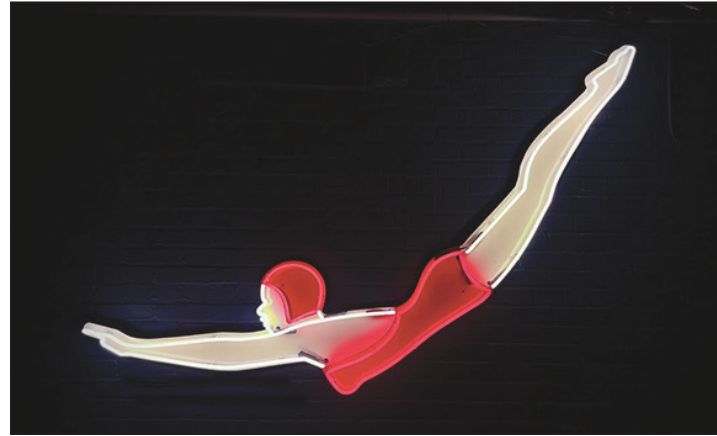
I wonder whether this whole operation was part chemistry, art or both? "It starts with science," Dave said. "Light is a noble gas in a tube. The tech in the late 1800's, early 1900's made it achievable

and practical. After that, it is all about design. The art is in the design of the piece. The science is the mechanics of how it lights. Noble gasses on the right side of the periodic table have color when heated. It is ionized gas, like lightning or static electricity, in a tube that is sealed continuously." At the end of the day, it is a business too. "Signs are an ancient form of advertising."

How hard is it to keep it all going in the 21st century? The threats are real, Dave tells me. "The area is under threat from development. If they get booted from their neighborhood, there is a chance that they will not survive the move." The business

was threatened, recently as of two years ago, when their landlord wanted to develop their old building. "It took a year's profit to move ... so we were not making any money and paying the bills." They were lucky to have the same landlords in the new space. "I wish that town governments could see the value in legacy businesses that are 50, 80, or 130 years old and do something for them to try to make it easier for them to compete in the world." Luckily for their business, as long as they have a space to create, the future shines bright for Neon Williams.

Neon lights are for purchase and rent. Visit neonwilliams.com.



Somerville's Annual Senior Picnic

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Council on Aging hosted their annual Senior Picnic Thursday, September 12, at Trum Field. Somerville seniors enjoyed an afternoon of live music, lunch and connecting with friends, community members, community partners and city departments.





Photos by Claudia Ferro



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Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. 0 to 99 | 7. George Wallace |
| 2. New Zealand | 8. Nathan Hale |
| 3. Alexander Flemming | 9. A plunger |
| 4. Oktoberfest | 10. Instagram |
| 5. September 26, 1960, John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon | 11. Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper |
| 6. I Wanna Be Your Man | 12. Cycle or circle of little animals |

Gilman Square Arts and Music Festival

Gilman Square Neighborhood Council and the Arts Council celebrated the latest SomerStreets event, the Gilman Square Arts and Music Festival on Saturday, September 14, on Pearl St. from Marshall to James. The free annual festival celebrated the Gilman Square neighborhood and an opportunity to meet the local artists of that neighborhood. The event featured live music, an award-winning acrobatic performer, many artists, makers, vendors and seven food vendors. There were plenty of activities for kids and adult kids.

— Photos by Denise Provost



Somerville Cross Country dual meet results

Somerville Cross Country opened up their Greater Boston League (GBL) title defense for the Boys team in a GBL meet against Revere, held at Somerville's home course at the Mystic River Boathouse. Somerville won the Boys Meet 18-48, placing 8 Highlanders in the top ten finishers. Somerville standout runner Robert Leoni paced the Highlanders Boys, winning the race with a time of 14:28 for the 2.5-mile course. Somerville also won the Girls race, narrowly besting Revere, 27-28, with Revere's Olivia Rupp winning the Girls race in 17:42, and Lady Highlander Greta O'Sullivan placing 2nd with a time of 17:56. This Meet comes after Somerville's impressive performance by both Boys and Girls teams at the MSTCA XC Relays held recently at Highland Park in Attleboro. The medal winning Somerville Freshman/Sophomore Girls of Maggie Cotter, Marlee Thrasher, and Aly Amin placed 8th out of 58 teams.



Lending a helping paw: The Somerville Animal Food Pantry

By Katherine Davis

Having to choose between yourself or your pet is a heartbreaking dilemma that every pet owner hopes they are never faced with. Financial situations that lead pet owners to surrender their pet are generally temporary, but when left to make the difficult decision, in the moment it is often seen as the only way to provide their pet a more stable home. A 501(c)(3) program under the Rescue Allies Inc., the Somerville Animal Food Pantry works incredibly hard to combat financial insecurity within the city of Somerville by providing free pet services to those in need— giving a helping hand to pet owners as they work to get back onto their feet.

Donating to the Animal Food Pantry could be a small act of kindness that helps keep your neighbors united with their beloved companions as they recover financially. So, what can you do to help? At the moment, the Somerville Pantry is requesting donations of any kind, but specifically those of smaller bags of dry cat food and dry dog food. While any pet food donation is welcome, these smaller bags are best fit for helping multiple families at once, as for the health and safety of all pets, larger bags cannot be opened and distributed across more than one household. Donations that

are unfortunately unable to be accepted entirely, although the Pantry appreciates the thought, are opened, expired, or prescription pet food. These are similar to the guidelines of donating food to a regular Food Pantry. However, non-perishable donations are also welcome such as crates, unopened tick and flea medication, animal shampoo, collars, and leashes. If you have any questions regarding whether the Pantry could find a use for an item you wish to donate, you can ask through email at programdirector@somervilleanimalfoodpantry.com.

Unsure of where you can donate? There are two physical locations in Somerville where donations to the Somerville Animal Food Pantry can be dropped off— the Sullivan Tires located at 263 Beacon St., and Scratches and Boops located at 62 Summer St. If you are unable to drop donations off, you can fill out the form on the website communities.rescueallies.com. The Somerville page can be found under the “Local Programs” tab near the top of the webpage. By filling out this form, someone from the Animal Food Pantry will be able to come pick up your donation from your address. If you would like to help but you do not currently have any pet supplies, or you want to make sure to donate exactly what the Pantry is looking for, the Somer-



The Somerville Animal Food Pantry is helping local pet owners who are financially challenged to feed their beloved furry friends.

ville Animal Food Pantry has links to both an Amazon wish list, as well as a Chewy wish list on the same website.

If you are looking to be a local sponsor for this incredible program, you can email programdirector@somervilleanimalfoodpantry.com. For those who are in need of assistance through the Animal Food Pantry, you can fill out the application on the community allies website, no questions asked. The program runs on the honor

system, with the trust that those who are fortunate enough to not need the resources will not take advantage of the Pantry. For more information beyond the website regarding events or future programming you can follow [@somervilleanimalfoodpantry](https://www.instagram.com/somervilleanimalfoodpantry) on Instagram, and the Somerville Animal Food Pantry on Facebook. Your donation, no matter how big or how small, makes a priceless difference to members of the community and their families.

Attend the 3rd Annual Veterans' Services Health & Wellness Day

Looking for a fun, healthy activity the whole family can enjoy? Somerville's Department of Veterans' Services is hosting its third annual Health & Wellness Day to promote physical and mental wellbeing for all community members.

Come check out fitness classes for all ages (yoga, Zumba, strength training), chair massages, a bounce house, face painting, enjoy healthy snacks, and more.

Experts will also be on-site to connect first responders, Veterans, active-duty Military personnel, and their families with vital health resources and support.

Visit the 3rd annual Health & Wellness Day on Saturday, September 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Lincoln Park (290 Washington St.).



Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com
Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

Somerville Redevelopment Authority September meeting

By Fred Bernardin

On Tuesday September 10 at 5:30 p.m., the Somerville Redevelopment Authority (SRA) held their monthly meeting via Zoom. The meeting was hosted by the city's Economic and Development Planner, Ben Devers. SRA Members Philip Ercolini, Iwona Bonney, Ben Ewen-Campen, and William Gage were present; SRA Member Christine Stone was absent. In addition, the meeting was attended by Special Counsel Catherine Lester Salchert.

After the roll call, and the unanimous approval of the minutes from the June 11 meeting, there was no public comment. Devers gave an update on the City's progress on the recruitment of a member for the vacant spot on the RDA and indicated that the final approval steps would be completed soon, and that this new member would be able to join as early as next month's meeting. He also mentioned that the reappointment of eligible board members would take place in January.

Most of the following public portion of the meeting covered the Union Square Revitalization Plan (Transformation Area #1, Parcel D-2). This included a PowerPoint presentation of the project's status provided by Greg Karczewski, the president of US2. US2 oversees developing USQ, a project underway to complete commercial lab space and residential housing at 10-50 Prospect St. Karczewski admitted that the Lab spaces have been slow to attract tenants due to the economic conditions but did point to the fact that all 90 of the affordable housing units were now occupied. Most of the remaining 360 market-rate housing units are also now occupied. There will be a tour of the parcel provided by Karczewski to the SRA the week of September 16 (the exact date had not been set).

SRA Member Ewen-Campen clarified the parking availability for the residences, which is 1 space per 4 units; Karczewski responded this target was defined by the city to encourage occupancy by tenants who will make full



The Somerville Redevelopment Authority (SRA) conducted its regular business at its latest meeting on Tuesday September 10.

use of the Union Square Station located at the western corner of the D-2 parcel. Ewen-Campen also asked about street-level retail and Karczewski responded that the eventual occupancy was flexible at this point but that the goal was to provide several small locally owned businesses.

The SRA is scheduled to complete the Certification of Compliance process by Friday October 18; Devers indicated that he would resolve some ambiguity about the inclusion of

the D-2 parcel's open space in this certification.

The rest of the meeting provided an update on the 90 Washington Street Redevelopment. One of the take-aways was the fact that the project will be leaning more towards residential and retail development and less towards preserving parking.

The SRA went into executive session at 6:11 and returned at 6:26, at which point the meeting was adjourned. The executive session, closed to the public,

discussed the legal case (Cobble Hill Center LLC v. Somerville Redevelopment Authority) filed after the taking of about 4 acres by eminent domain as part of the 90 Washington Street Redevelopment project.

Although recordings of the SRA meetings are generally posted within a couple days, as of writing the recording of the Zoom meeting was not yet available. The October SRA Meeting has also not been scheduled as of this time.

Pedestrian struck in Somerville

A pedestrian was struck at the corner of Broadway and Macarthur St. early last Thursday morning. Bystanders heard the crash and rushed to help lift the car off of the pedestrian. The pedestrian was rushed to MGH, with no reports of the extent of their injuries. The intersection was blocked off as the investigation was conducted.



GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 7:30 AM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 8:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 8:30 AM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 9:00 AM September 11th Remembrance Ceremony 2024
 9:30 AM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 10:30 AM City Council Meeting 9-12-24
 3:00 PM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 3:30 PM National Night Out 2024
 4:00 PM School Committee Meeting 9-9-24
 7:00 PM Senior Picnic 2024
 7:30 PM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 8:00 PM September 11th Remembrance Ceremony 2024
 8:30 PM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 9:00 PM Brazilian Flag Raising 2024
 9:40 PM SPD Ride Along
 10:00 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 11:35 PM SomerViva em Português

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

12:00 AM City Council Meeting 9-12-24
 7:00 AM Congressional Update
 7:30 AM Brazilian Flag Raising 2024
 8:05 AM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 8:30 AM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 9:00 AM SomerViva em Português
 9:30 AM School Committee Update: Andre Green
 10:00 AM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 11:00 AM Art Beat 2024
 12:00 PM Senior Picnic 2024
 12:30 PM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 1:30 PM September 11th Remembrance Ceremony
 2:00 PM School Committee Update: Andre Green
 2:30 PM School Committee Meeting 9-9-24
 5:30 PM Art Beat 2024
 6:30 PM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 7:00 PM Senior Picnic 2024
 7:30 PM School Committee Update: Andre Green
 8:00 PM SomerViva em Português
 8:30 PM Brazilian Flag Raising 2024

9:05 PM National Night Out 2024
 9:30 PM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 10:30 PM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 11:00 PM September 11th Remembrance Ceremony 2024
 11:30 PM Senior Picnic 2024

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Protective Services
 12:30 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 1:00 AM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 1:30 AM Art Beat 2024
 7:00 AM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 8:00 AM Art Beat 2024
 9:00 AM School Committee Update: Andre Green
 9:30 AM School Committee Meeting 9-9-24
 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 Brazilian Flag Raising 2024
 8:35 PM National Night Out 2024
 9:00 PM School Committee Update: Andre Green
 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 21

12:05 AM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 2:00 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
 8:00 AM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 9:00 AM City Council Meeting 9-12-24
 1:30 PM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 2:00 PM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 3:00 PM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 3:30 PM School Committee Update: Andre Green
 4:00 PM Brazilian Flag Raising 2024
 5:00 PM SomerViva em Português
 5:30 PM School Committee Meeting 9-9-24
 8:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol

9:00 PM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 9:30 PM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 10:00 PM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 10:30 PM September 11th Remembrance Ceremony 2024
 11:00 PM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

12:00 AM SomerViva em Português
 12:30 AM Driver's License Info Session em Português
 2:00 AM Brazilian Flag Raising 2024
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice III
 8:00 AM Final Pollinator Plan Presentation
 9:00 AM SomerViva em Português
 9:30 AM School Committee Update: Andre Green
 10:00 AM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 12:00 PM Senior Picnic 2024
 12:30 PM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 1:00 PM Brazilian Flag Raising 2024
 1:35 PM National Night Out 2024
 2:00 PM City Council Meeting 9-12-24
 6:30 PM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 7:00 PM Senior Picnic 2024
 7:30 PM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 8:00 PM SomerViva em Português
 8:30 PM Brazilian Flag Raising 2024
 9:05 PM National Night Out 2024
 9:30 PM School Committee Update: Andre Green
 10:00 PM September 11th Remembrance Ceremony
 10:30 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

12:00 AM Senior Picnic 2024
 12:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 1:00 AM Brazilian Flag Raising 2024
 2:00 AM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 7:00 AM Congressional Update
 7:30 AM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 8:00 AM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 8:30 AM September 11th Remembrance Ceremony
 9:00 AM School Committee Update: Andre Green
 9:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 10:00 AM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 10:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol

11:00 AM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
 12:10 PM National Night Out 2024
 12:30 PM September 11th Remembrance Ceremony
 1:00 PM Brickbottom Plan Public Meeting 7-8-24
 3:00 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 3:30 PM Senior Picnic 2024
 4:00 PM Art Beat 2024
 5:00 PM School Committee Update: Andre Green
 7:00 PM School Committee Meeting - LIVE
 11:00 PM School Committee Update: Andre Green

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

12:00 AM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
 1:10 AM National Night Out 2024
 1:30 AM Jane's Walk 2024
 7:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
 7:30 AM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 8:00 AM Disability Pride Flag Raising
 8:35 AM Grimes Park & 31 Tufts St. Ribbon Cutting
 9:00 AM India Flag Raising Celebration 8-3-24
 9:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 10:00 AM Brazilian Flag Raising 2024
 11:00 AM Tavern Talk: 190th Anniversary of The Ursuline Convent Burning
 12:00 PM Senior Picnic 2024
 12:30 PM SomerViva em Português
 1:00 PM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
 2:30 PM Driver's License Info Session em Português
 4:00 PM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 5:00 PM Spark of the Revolution: 250th Anniversary of Powder House Alarm
 5:30 PM September 11th Remembrance Ceremony
 6:00 PM City Council Spotlight: McLaughlin
 6:30 PM National Night Out 2024
 7:00 PM Senior Picnic 2024
 7:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 8:00 PM School Committee Update: Andre Green
 8:30 PM School Committee Meeting 9-23-34

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

12:00 AM Senior Picnic 2024
 12:30 AM Brazilian Flag Raising 2024
 1:05 AM SomerViva em Português
 2:00 AM Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

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 Boys Soccer vs Boston Intl
 2:05 PM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
 3:00 PM SHS Football vs B English
 5:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Malden
 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 Boys Soccer vs Boston Intl

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

1:05 AM El Sistema Somerville June Concert
 2:00 AM SHS Football vs B English
 4:00 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Malden
 8:00 AM SHS Boys Soccer vs Boston Intl
 10:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Malden
 12:00 PM Kennedy School Moving On
 1:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Cambridge
 3:00 PM SHS Football vs Gloucester
 5:00 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 6:00 PM SHS Boys Soccer vs Boston Intl
 8:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Malden

10:00 PM Kennedy School Moving On
 11:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Cambridge

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

1:00 AM SHS Football vs Gloucester
 3:00 AM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 8:00 AM SHS Football vs Gloucester
 10:00 AM SHS Football vs B English
 12:00 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 1:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 1:30 PM School Committee Update: Andre Green
 2:00 PM School Committee Meeting 9-9-24
 5:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs L Classical
 7:00 PM SHS Football vs Gloucester
 9:00 PM SHS Football vs B English
 11:00 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

12:00 AM SHS Boys Soccer vs Boston Intl
 1:35 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs L Classical
 8:00 AM School Committee Update: Andre Green
 9:00 AM SHS Boys Soccer vs Boston Intl
 10:30 AM SHS Boys Soccer vs Revere
 12:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs L Classical
 2:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Malden
 4:00 PM SHS Football vs Gloucester

6:00 PM School Committee Update: Andre Green
 7:00 PM SHS Boys Soccer vs Boston Intl
 8:30 PM SHS Boys Soccer vs Revere
 10:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs L Classical

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

12:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Malden
 2:00 AM SHS Football vs Gloucester
 8:00 AM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 8:30 AM SHS Football vs Gloucester
 10:30 AM SHS Boys Soccer vs Boston Intl
 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 Girls Soccer vs Medford
 6:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 6:30 PM SHS Football vs Gloucester
 8:30 PM SHS Boys Soccer vs Boston Intl
 10:05 PM SHS Volleyball vs Malden

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

12:00 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs L Classical
 1:30 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Medford
 8:00 AM SHS Boys Soccer vs Boston Intl
 10:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Malden
 12:00 PM Kennedy School Moving On

1:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Cambridge
 3:00 PM SHS Football vs Gloucester
 5:00 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 6:00 PM SHS Boys Soccer vs Boston Intl
 8:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Malden
 10:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 11:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Cambridge

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

12:35 AM SHS Football vs Malden
 8:00 AM SHS Football vs Gloucester
 10:00 AM SHS Football vs B English
 12:00 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 1:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 1:30 PM School Committee Update: Andre Green
 2:00 PM School Committee Meeting 9-9-24
 5:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs L Classical
 6:00 PM SHS Football vs Gloucester
 8:00 PM SHS Football vs B English
 10:00 PM Kevin Raymond Memorial Dedication
 11:00 PM Tarello Chem Labs Dedication
 11:30 PM School Committee Update: Andre Green

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

12:00 AM School Committee Meeting 9-9-24
 3:00 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs L Classical

Peanut Butter and Bread and Fluff! Oh my!

What the Fluff? A Tribute to Union Square Innovation presented by Boynton Yards returns for the 19th year next Saturday, September 21 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. (rain date 9/22). This zany, madcap festival honors the invention of Marshmallow Fluff by Archibald Query in Somerville in 1917 and salutes the spirit of innovation that thrives throughout the city today.

This year's theme – Somerville Over the Rainbow: No Place Like Fluff – showcases delightful and delectable tastes, sweet sights and sounds, incredible innovations by independently-owned shops, and community, sweet, community. So, leave your sepia-toned world behind. Don your most hue-riffic ensemble (ruby slippers and rainbow attire optional), round up your side-kicks (Toto, too!), and follow the marshmallow road to the most magical square in Somerville. Just like Union Square, there's something for every-one with a wide variety of themed happenings that promise cost-free fun for all ages:

Take part in hilarious antics with sticky activities like Fluff Musical Chairs, Fluff Limbo, a Fluff Hairdo Contest, and Fluff Jousting (yes, jousting!) on the Shenanigans Stage and hosted by Fluff Fest's longtime Archibald Query impersonator.

Groove with Emcee Majic Alphonse from the Dojo @ Somernova on the Fluff'N Jam Stage, with electric performances from:

- Julie Rhodes & The Electric Co. at 2:00 p.m.
- The Velvet Dirtmunchers at 3:00 p.m.
- Flutterby "Fluff" Faeries at 3:45 p.m.
- Tenille Ja'Nae at 4:00 p.m.
- Somerville High School's Step Team at 4:45 p.m.
- FM Collective at 5:15 p.m.
- DJ Mega Majic & DJ Dezzy spinning throughout the day

Say hello to Mayor Ballantyne who will welcome festival-goers from the Fluff'N Jam Stage at 2:45 p.m. and honor this year's Mayor Joe Flufftastic Innovation for Impact Award honoree at 5:45 p.m.

Get inspired at Somernova's Innovation Alley featuring youth inventors, a bot that makes S'MOREs, and a chance to relax in the Inno Alley Lounge and more. Challenge yourself or friends to navigate a flufftastic parkour course hosted by Somerville pros Parkour Generations Boston.

Try your hand at old-school, boardwalk-style games including Fluff Bowling, Fluff Ring Toss, and more at the Midway Games Area (free to play, free to win prizes). Strike a pose with colorful cutouts of your favorite Fluff characters by local artists Nathaniel Devarie and CultureHouse.

Snag your Fluff shirts, sweatshirts, trucker hats, koozies, stickers, tote bags, and more at the Fluff Stuff merch booth.

Browse more than 70 vendors who are whipping up sweet and savory Fluff-inspired dishes, crafting oodles of Fluff-themed items, and connecting festival-goers with the vital work of community groups who serve Somerville's diverse and inclusive community.

Shop scores of local businesses who will open their doors to Fluff lovers in the lead up and during the Festival for you to enjoy scrumptiously sticky treats, buy limited edition Fluff goodies, and take advantage of other flufftastic specials. Participating businesses and their flufftastic offerings can be found at <https://www.flufffestival.com/#offerings>. "There's No Place Like Fluff to discover unique treasures at neighborhood businesses, raise a pint of Fluff with friends old and new, and dance in the streets," said Jessica Eshleman executive director of Union Square Main Streets, the nonprofit who produces the festival in partnership with the Somerville Arts Council. "For those just discovering Union Square, What the Fluff? offers a full spectrum of unexpected opportunities to make Marshmallow-infused memories in community while helping to keep small businesses strong."

The endlessly entertaining What the Fluff? Festival is made possible by the generosity of its sweet sponsors: Boynton Yards, Holiday Inn Boston Bunker Hill, The Hamilton Company, Somernova, Verizon, EventThem, Kerbey Harrington Pinkard LLP, Liberty Cannabis, Rockland Trust, USQ, Blue River Terps, Cambria Boston Somerville, Cookies Somerville Weed Dispensary, CultureHouse, The Goods Cannabis, MassBike, Parkour Generations Boston, Renewal by Andersen, Stanhope Framers, Middlesex Federal, Nicewicz Family Farm, Thalia Tringo & Associates Real Estate, The Durkee-Mower Company, and Teddie Peanut Butter.

"Boynton Yards is proud of this 5th year of supporting Fluff Fest and the great work of Union Square Main Streets as we come together once again to celebrate Somerville's thriving businesses and local roots," added John Fenton, Development Manager of DLJ Real Estate Capital Partners, on behalf of the Boynton Yards Development team. Festivities are expected to attract 20,000 Fluff fans and traffic will be rerouted around Union Square to accommodate festival activities. Revelers are highly encouraged to walk, bike, boogie, or take public transit. For the first time in this festival's 19-year history, Greenline service to Union Square awaits all. For a third year, free bike valets will be offered by MassBike. Bike valets can be found on Somerville Avenue at the eastern festival entrance near Gracie's Ice Cream and the western entrance near Market Basket.

What the Fluff? is produced by Union Square Main Streets and the Somerville Arts Council.

Where: Somerville Avenue from Warren Street near Gracie's Ice Cream to School Street near Market Basket in Union Square, Somerville, MA 02143

Fluff details: www.flufffestival.com

About Union Square Main Streets

Union Square Main Streets works to strengthen the dynamic neighborhood of businesses and people in Union Square. More information is available at www.unionsquare-main.org.

About the Somerville Arts Council

The mission of the Somerville Arts Council is to cultivate and celebrate the creative expressions of the Somerville community. Through innovative collaborations and quality programming we work to make the arts an integral part of life reflective of our diverse city. More information is available at www.somervilleartscouncil.org.



Somerville Police officer honored



Officer Priscilla Ribeiro was awarded the Arthur W. Regan Award today for her initiative and leadership in bringing National Night Out back to Somerville. The Artie Regan Memorial Award is given to an SPD Employee whose work in the community goes beyond the call of duty. Given just a few weeks to organize, she immediately began collecting donations, marketing, and connecting with local businesses and vendors to make National Night Out an unforgettable night for the community. Working with over 70+ city departments, vendors, sponsors and ensuring free food and dessert for all constituents, Officer Ribeiro's leadership and positive attitude remained constant. We thank Officer Ribeiro for her continued commitment to our Somerville community and are proud to present this award to her. — Somerville Police Department

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Slice of sky...

— Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What's a witch's favorite subject in school?
Spelling.

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

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Somerville
Times**
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Bobbie Toner
857-488-5138

On This Day in History

September 18

- 1793 – George Washington lays the foundation stone for the U.S. Capitol.
- 1830 – Tom Thumb, the first locomotive built in the United States, loses a nine-mile race in Maryland to a horse.
- 1934 – The League of Nations admits the Soviet Union.
- 1939 – A German U-boat sinks the British aircraft carrier Courageous.
- 1948 – Margaret Chase Smith becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate.
- 1960 – Two thousand cheer Fidel Castro's arrival in New York for the United Nations session.
- 1964 – U.S. destroyers fire on hostile targets in Vietnam.
- 1975 – Patty Hearst, granddaughter of newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst, is kidnapped by violent radical group SLA (Symbionese Liberation Army)
- 1977 – Voyager I takes first photo of Earth and the Moon together.
- 1998 – ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) is formed to coordinate unique identifying addresses for Websites worldwide.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

events visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/>, For more information, please contact **Han Hogan-Rigg** at hhoganrigg@somervillema.gov and be sure to follow Somerville Prevention on Instagram: @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.

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/>.

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://somerville-homelesscoalition.org/>.

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/schoolyearcalendar>. Visit the **Food and Nutrition Services Department page**

for school meal menus. Breakfast and lunch are free for all students: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/fnsd>.

On **Saturday, September 21**, at 8:00 p.m. and **Sunday, September 22**, at 3:00 p.m., visit the **Center for Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland for the premier of **MOM***, a one-woman absurdist circus show about motherhood. Tickets and more info available here: <https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/shir-wonder/mom>. Join **Shir Livne** in this absurdist take on motherhood, as only she can tell it – spilling her truth as stepmom, potential bio-mom, and daughter. All with a comedic twist, of course. Please note that this performance includes strong language.

Visit somervillema.gov/register tovote today to prepare for the **upcoming election** this November.

This month, the **Central Library** is pleased to display the artwork of **five 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.

Visit the **Growing Center**, 22 Vinal Ave for their **Harvest Festival: Gathering in Gratitude, Saturday, September 28**, 1:30-4:00 pm (Rain Date September 29). Harvest activities and games, pumpkin decorating, a celebration of the bounty nature shares with us during the year and honoring the great volunteers that steward this space. Check out the new **Pollinator Mosaic installation** and take home some native seeds! For more information

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

The **Somerville Council on Aging** present a **Cultural Series Event** at the **Dilboy Post**, featuring musical memories with **John and Linda. Friday, September 27**, starting at 11:00 a.m. at the Dilboy Post located at 351 Summer Street. \$5 per person. Lunch will be served at noon. On **September 30**, funding for their **ARPA funded Multicultural Meals Program** will conclude. In response, **Mayor Balantyne** has directed additional funding to the Council on Aging in this year's budget to allow for the continuation of a monthly cultural performance and to subsidize the cost of catered meals from area restaurants. Monthly programming will be held at the Dilboy Post where we can accommodate up to 100 participants. To kick off the new version of our cultural series, they welcome John and Linda who will feature vocal harmonies performing cover songs from the 50s through the 90s.

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

Join artist **Colette Brésilla** and curator **Tina Cabral** for the closing reception of **Se Réfleter Dans** on **Friday, September 20**, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m, at the **SomArt Space Gallery**, 2nd floor, Suite 2A of the Somerville Armory. **Se Réfleter Dans** celebrates the dynamic vision of Haitian-born painter, textile designer, and sculptor Colette Brésilla who explores the cultural and creative contexts as a tool for social change. Free and open to the public. For visiting hours outside of the reception, please contact. <https://somervilleartsCouncil.org/bipoc/2024/colette>.

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.

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

Visit the **Somerville Bike Kitchen**, a volunteer-run **bicycle repair cooperative**, hosting open shop nights at The Dojo (15 Properzi Way, Somerville). Come maintain your bike or learn more about cycling. **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. *Continued on page 23*



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Poet Margaret Young Wonders: 'How Else Can We Know What's Beautiful?'

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

Recently I received a chapbook of poetry from Margaret Young, a former colleague of mine at Endicott College. It is titled, *How Else Can We Wonder What's Beautiful?* (Main Street Rag). I decided to send some questions to the poet on a very hot summer's day. Oddly enough, as I was considering when to write the interview questions, Young's husband Rocco Gangle, a noted philosophy professor at Endicott College, greeted me at my table at the Bloc 11 Cafe, my usual haunt in Union Square, Somerville. And indeed, Young has the touch of a philosopher in her work. According to Young's website,

Margaret Young grew up in Oberlin, Ohio. She earned a B.A. from Yale and worked in a traveling theater company before earning an M.A. in creative writing at the University of California, Davis. She has taught writing and theater to all ages and been an artist-in residence in schools, and received an Individual Artist Grant from the Ohio Arts Council in 2005. Her poetry collections include *Willow from the Willow*, *Almond Town*, *Blight Summer*, and *How Else Can We Know What's Beautiful?* Her translations of Sergio Inestrosa's *In el espacio improbable de un haiku and Luna que no cesa* appeared in 2017 and 2018, respectively. She is one the faculty of the Global Center for Advanced Studies, and lives in Beverly, Massachusetts.

Doug Holder: When you taught at Endicott College you had a popular course on Pop Culture. Some might comment that POP Culture is not appropriate for the rarefied air of poetry. I think when poetry is rarefied it is a problem. Your take?

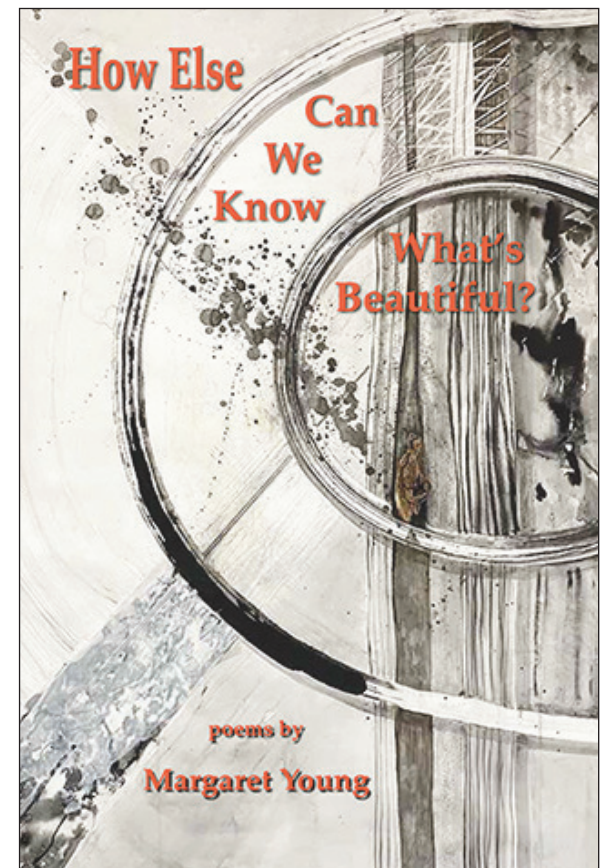
and I was at the house,
often on my bed,
sometimes in the empty yard, sometimes
miles and miles away, waiting

only for those messengers—

eager to catch
the tumbling hands,
those dark shapes vaulting crookedly home.

Sonnet: The Paulist Brothers of Boston

It seems they haven't heard that Saul,



Margaret Young: I agree that poetry is doomed if it doesn't embrace pop culture. I include references in my poetry to TV etc. because it's the stuff of life, just like food or grief, (or the inscrutable philosophy my husband studies.) I hope that comparing the color of pokeweed to the T-Mobile campaign brings those two disparities a little closer, not for any moral lesson, but just on an aesthetic basis, helping people pay more attention to both weeds and ads.

DH: I was intrigued by your line in the poem *Art*: "We all have regrets. How else can *Continued on page 23*

from dreams, invented Yahweh's Son
(not some Yeshua, whom he never saw
alive), along with claims to prophecy,
communiqués, his visionary tales,
the nighttime thief

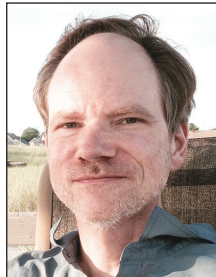
who sent him on those waterways:
a basket drop, the barter with Athenians,
a Latin cell. But truthfully, so do we all—
invent our Christs, I mean—
alone at twelve and listening to the staircase speak,
or moonlight fill the hall:

my God, my God, the little brothers pray
have mercy on your servant, lest he die—

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

William Orem's first collection of stories, *Zombi, You My Love*, won the GLCA New Writers Award, formerly given to Louise Erdrich, Sherman Alexie, Richard Ford and Alice Munro. His second collection, *Across the River*, won the Texas Review Novella Prize. His first novel, *Killer of Crying Deer*, won the Eric Hoffer Award and has been optioned for film. His first collection of poems, *Our Purpose in Speaking*, won the Wheelbarrow Books Poetry Prize and was published by MSU Press. It also won the Rubery International Book Award in poetry and was chosen Book of the Year. His second novel, *Miss Lucy*, won the Gival Press Novel Award; Kirkus listed it as one of the Best Books of 2019. He has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize five times, in poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction. Meanwhile, his short plays have been performed internationally, winning both the Critics' Prize and Audience Favorite Award at Durango Theatre Fest, and thrice being nominated for the prestigious Heideman Award at Actors Theatre of Louisville. Currently he is a Senior Writer-in-Residence at Emerson College. Details at williamorem.com.



Night in a day (poem for my father)

On overcast days you can see bats flying;
they think it's night again.
So I crunched my eyes against the marble-colored air
and the still, metrical
divisions of pine.

The sky was gently veined. That autumn
was late in beginning, a trickle of warmth run through
into November. You shook your waxcoat free
of clinging burs;
we walk for hours

in this dream. I suppose

in truth, you were at the office where you worked,

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

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

and spent more time in combat than any other. As part of this Division, Somerville's Private George Dilboy won the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Twenty years later, the world found Europe at war again. The Yankee Division was reactivated in 1940, a year before the attack on Pearl Harbor. Her troops did Atlantic coastal watch and trained until we entered the war. At that time, half of the 26th was sent immediately to fight in the Pacific, becoming the Americal Division; and the remainder later sailed to Europe.

The over one hundred ship convoy was the largest to sail from the United States. As the ships slipped out of New York's rainy harbor, troops heard the impassioned sound of Kate Smith standing on the dark pier singing "God Bless America." Many of them would not return.

Almost half of the 600 men in the 5th Ranger Battalion on Omaha Beach were Yankee Division troops. When in France as part of General George S. Patton's Third Army, the Division fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was instrumental

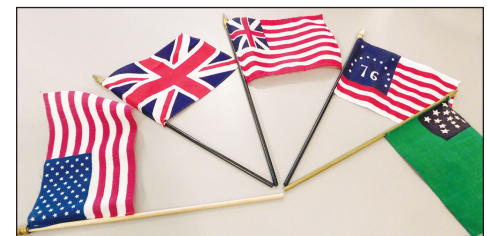
in relieving the trapped American 101st Airborne Division's troops at Bastogne. Led by Patton, they fought on through six countries including Germany and Austria where they liberated the Gusen Concentration Camps.

The General Edwards Bridge in Lynn and Camp Edwards on Cape Cod honor the Yankee Division's first leader, General Clarence Edwards.

Somerville honors many of her sons who lost their lives fighting in the Yankee Division. These include Conway Park,

Foss Park, Trum Field, Dilboy Field, Wilson Square, Ryan Road, and many others.

Massachusetts honored some of the greatest generation's soldiers by naming its first super highway, Route 128, The Yankee Division Highway.



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

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.

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.

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 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 October 26, except September 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the Union Square Plaza. The market provides visitors and residents with top-quality, fresh, and local produce at fair prices; encourages active lifestyle values; educates consumers about farming and locally sourced foods; and gives customers opportunities to interact directly with farmers. For more information about the Union Square Farmers Market, visit unionsquaremain.org/2024fmseason. SNAP customers get

\$1 for \$1 match up to \$15. See the Market Manager tent for more info.

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.

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Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

we know what's beautiful?" Explain.

MY: That's one of those poems/lines that came to me unbidden, so I'm not sure how to explain. I think it might be the notion that beauty is less about the ideal than about things flawed, not-figured-out. That we learn more from the latter. Anti-Platonist?

DH: In the poem *International Water Day at Assisted Living* you wonder if the elderly patients who are 'adrift' are dreaming about the sea. We started in the sea of the womb, the sea is elemental, seminal. In a way we go back to the waters of our birth or youth, and again when we are in our dotage. Your thoughts?

MY: Yes, yes. My dad's now in an assisted living facility, and I read him poems every day. We were just discussing Jaques's speech in *As You Like It* where the 7th (and last) age of man describes a return to helpless infancy. I

think this occurred when he was telling me they call them not bibs, but "clothing protectors," in the dining area, not wanting to remind people of this concept.

DH: The poems in your new collection are not wordy, you have a real economy to your poetry. Is this your signature style?

MY: I hope so! I had flirtations with Whitman & Lorca in graduate school, and with performance/slam poetry in the 90s, but feel like I really found my truest voice when I whittled things down, got comfortable leaving big gaps.

DH: You are on the faculty of the Global Center for Advance Studies. Can you tell us a bit about this organization?

MY: GCAS website: <https://gcas.ie>. Their description: "GCAS (The Global Center for Advanced Studies) began in 2013 with over 100 leading writers, philosophers, professors, artists, and filmmakers. We started as a non-profit

in the USA but later incorporated in Ireland as a limited company so we could share ownership with faculty and graduates. We are the first debt-free degree granting institution of higher education co-owned by faculty, financial supporters, staff, and graduates on blockchain and our own crypto-token, GCASy. We offer a few accredited degrees in the European Union via Woolf."

And, though it's been mostly my husband teaching in far-flung places (like last summer's hike-the-Alps-while-studying Nietzsche course) I've done a series of seminars on ecopoetics, including one about its relationship to permaculture. Gary Snyder once defined bioregionalism as "flying around the world to tell people to stay home."

DH: Why should we read this book?

MY: Because it's rooted in place(s), because it's fun and weird, because you love language.

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