



Inside:



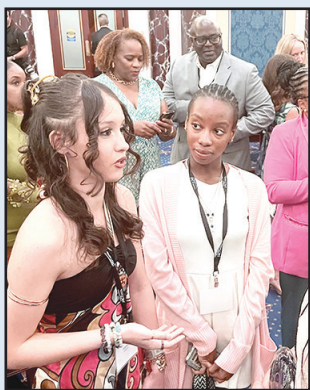
Revisiting Powder House Park

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Native plants, astro turf, and people in parking spots: A visit to Park(ing) 2024



The City of Somerville's SustainaVille program hosted the Park(ing) Day event this past weekend on Broadway in Somerville. — Photos by Jeffrey Shwom

By Jeffrey Shwom

After living in Ball Square from 2019-2023, there are a lot of things I could not imagine. Ball Square Bowling being taken down and a new train station, for example. Two permanent turning lanes that have been removed from Broadway at Boston Ave. What about Neighborhood Produce and Ciao! Pizza moving to Ball Square with their respective second locations?

Well, for one day only in Somerville, parking spots are being claimed for the temporary purpose of thinking differently about our shared space. This is a part of Park(ing) Day, "a global, public, participatory project where people across the world temporarily repurpose curbside parking spaces and convert them into public parks and social

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Ignite: A Global Street Food, Fire and Light Festival

This year's Ignite Festival promises to be more tasty, fiery and international than ever. Numerous Union Square restaurants will be out on the street vending, along with many Nibble program chefs.

The Ignite Festival's International Food Court will feature cuisines from across the globe including Peruvian eats from Machu Picchu, Masala Square's "fire samosas," smoky chuzos de pollo from Elena's Colombian Bakeshop, traditional Japanese cold udon and crispy tempura from Nagomi Bento -- and so much more! There will also be food demos starting at 6:15 p.m., followed by an incendiary curry eating contest hosted by Masala Square.

This is your opportunity to tempt fate - or watch the brave contestants who participate in the crazy hot contest. We also encourage you to stop by the Nibble table to share your global

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The Ignite Festival will be lighting up Union Square this coming Saturday evening.

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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.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis, Ward 5 Councilor Naima Sait, Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott, and city staff invite you to a community meeting to discuss the Elm Beacon Connector. **September 25, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.** Learn more about the project at somervillema.gov/elmbeacon. Register in Advance: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6FYX8cS-gQBqOgnv3aQ8yAg.

The Department of Veterans Services invites veterans and their spouses to join them for a complimentary breakfast. **Thursday, September 26, 10:30 a.m.**, at the Somerville High School Highlander Café. RSVP link: <https://forms.office.com/g/Va4D5n6FiG>

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy Birthday to **Lori Pino** of of **Amal Niccoli Salon** in Ball Square. We wish her the best and hope she enjoys her day. Happy birthday to **Karen F. McWatters**, who celebrates this week. We hope she has a great birthday. Happy birthday to **Sal DiDomenico**, who is also celebrating this week. Happy birthday to **Ena Johnson**, who will be celebrating on **October 2**. We wish her the very best of birthdays. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Ann Sylvester, Julia Gilligan Corsetti, Scott Breen, Lisa Monaco, Joell Johns, Roy Carreiro, Joseph Leblanc, Debbie Price King,** *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of September 25 – October 1 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday <i>September 25</i>	Cloudy	67°/58°	22%	17%	E 10 mph
Thursday <i>September 26</i>	Rain	69°/59°	75%	61%	SE 11 mph
Friday <i>September 27</i>	Partly Cloudy	70°/56°	23%	20%	NE 10 mph
Saturday <i>September 28</i>	Partly Cloudy	65°/53°	21%	16%	NE 12 mph
Sunday <i>September 29</i>	Partly Cloudy	69°/54°	18%	13%	NE 9 mph
Monday <i>September 30</i>	Partly Cloudy	71°/53°	20%	14%	NE 10 mph
Tuesday <i>October 1</i>	Rain	66°/53°	34%	21%	ENE 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: **Let's Not Let the War In Gaza Tear Somerville Apart**

Ken Brociner says:

You don't have to agree with every word of Emma Leibold's fine column to admire her deeply felt compassion and concern for all of the people and victims in this horrific conflict. Her plea for more peace and understanding – in the Middle East – and here in Somerville – are words of wisdom that I hope Somervillians throughout our community will take to heart.

Response to: **City dealing with complaints over curtailed library hours**

Somerville Parent says:

I agree with Councilor McLaughlin. As exemplified by the conduct that has occurred at the public library, fights at Somerville High School, open drug use in Seven Hills Park, and assaults on our city streets by groups of youths, safety at city institutions and public spaces is no longer guaranteed. Effective community policing is critical to solving this problem. A police detail should be stationed at the library until patrons can prove that they can respect that valuable community resource and the employees that work there. Open drug users should be arrested and told that they cannot use in Somerville public spaces, which can happen in tandem with connecting them with social workers. And the City should bring back resource officers to Somerville High School to foster positive relationships with law enforcement and ensure the safety of our kids.

Response to: **Somerville through the eyes of Denise**

Harris Gardner says:

Photographic artistry in its element!!

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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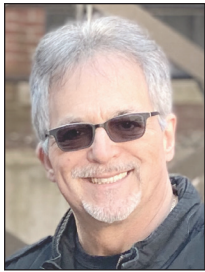
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Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

Powder House Park revisited



This article first appeared in the August 4, 2012 edition of The Somerville Times

I can't let the summer go by without doing a blurb on my favorite

spot in Somerville.

We in the Davis and Ball Square areas have been blessed with a gem known as Powder House Park. Many of us have memories of sledding, picnics, playing on the rocks, snowball fights and first kisses at the park. A friend of mine was a recreation leader many years ago and he has remained friends with a lot of the kids, who are now grown up. How many of us made "gimp" key chains at Powder House Park? Remember when the draft board was in that building on the lower part of the park? I sure do because thankfully my number was a few digits off.

I recently asked my Facebook friends for their memories of Powder House Park. I have written about the park many times but this time I wanted to share other people's comments.

One of my favorite memories was in the summer of 1978 when the bands Dillinger, Zenophon and (my band) Shadowfax played a concert at the park.

Back in the day, when I was a pre-teen, we had clubs for the kids who hung around in surrounding neighborhoods including the park. I was a Bay State Ave kid, so we called ourselves the BSABs, for Bay State Ave. Boys. The Josephine Ave. boys were the JABS and the Powder House Terrace kids were known as the PHTBS. Try saying that! Us BSABs had the letters sewn on the back of denim "Ponderosa" pull-

overs with rawhide strings in the front. But the tough kids hung around at Powder House Park. We weren't tough, but we tried to stay on the good side of the kids who hung in the park. They had leather baseball jackets with "Powder House Park" emblazoned on them.

Here are some more memories of Powder House Park. Debbie says she really can't mention too many of her memories because some were not "legal." More than one of my friends ended up in the emergency room with stitches from falling on the rocks. A lot of kids had the perfect setting for playing "army" up the park. There used to be huge bushes around the tower but because of drinking and other illegal activity, they were cut.

Many wonderful times have been had at the Mayor's Annual Senior Picnic at Powder House Park. This year it will held on Wednesday, August 8. As the director of The Sunsetters, I got a big thrill last year. I actually got to drive my truck right through the park to unload equipment.

How many of us used to gather acorns (for acorn fights) or just to make whistles out of the caps? Remember the "water bubbler" made out of stone? Were you one of the participants in the May Day Parades that marched through the park? Did you pay parking tickets in that building that used to house the draft board that we mentioned earlier? Are your initials carved in a tree in the park? (are you JF?) Did you think that there were bullet holes in the rocks? Did you ever hear that there was an underground tunnel that connected the Powder House with the Prospect Hill Tower?

A lone bagpipe player was standing



in the park performing a tribute for my friend's dad's wake at Doherty's Funeral Home. That was a memory never to be forgotten.

The park has to be respected for the beautiful treasure that it is. People need to stop making bonfires near the tower and leaving their beer cans all over when the barrel is a few feet away. Also, people have to stop treating it like it's an off-leash dog park. Can't people read or do they just enjoy ignoring the law? As a matter of fact, just this morning a young man had his

huge Boxer mix off-leash. Now, to look at this guy it would seem like he was able to read, but I guess not. My small dog wanted to go over to sniff him but I didn't want him to be a snack.

Powder House Park holds tons of memories for Somerville people, especially those of us who have been in the neighborhood for years and years. The tree that is dedicated to my friend Tony's grandfather who lived nearby is one of my favorite landmarks. Long live the park, and long live the memories.



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Somerville Police Dept Crime Log September 10-16

Residential Breaking and Entering

24055979: On 9/11/24 at approximately 7:10 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Indiana Ave. for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated sometime over the past weekend, someone entered her home and stole her car keys.

Residential Breaking and Entering

24055618: On 9/10/24 at approximately 9:30 a.m., Somerville Police responded to an apartment complex on Canal Ln. for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated two female parties were observed via surveillance inside her apartment. Nothing was reported missing at this time.

Residential Breaking and Entering

24055899: On 9/11/24 at approximately 12:41 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Chetwynd Rd. for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated someone entered his basement and stole a bicycle.

Assault

24056741: On 9/14/24 at approximately 11:21 p.m., Somerville Police responded to CVS in Davis Sq. for report of a male with a knife. Upon arrival, officers spoke with an employee who stated a male party entered the store and was recognized as a frequent shoplifter. The employee then told the suspect he had to leave and the suspect brandished a knife and tried to stab the employee.

Assault

24056615: On 9/14/24 at approximately 12:08 PM, Somerville Police responded to Washington St. for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she was sitting outside her apartment and was approached by a female party who began to yell at her then spit in her face. Officers identified the female suspect.

Assault

24056369: On 9/13/24 at approximately 11:26 a.m., Somerville Police responded to Tower St. for report of a past assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the juvenile victim who stated the day prior, he was attacked by two juvenile males known to him. Officers identified the suspects.

Assault

24056353: On 9/13/24 at approximately 10:11 a.m., Somerville Police responded to Governor Winthrop Rd. for a dispute. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he is a realtor and was showing a house and a male party approached him then forcefully grabbed his arm. Officers identified the male suspect.

Assault

24056499: On 9/13/24 at approximately 9:24 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Cedar St. for report of a group of males throwing items at people. Upon arrival, officers spoke with a female party who stated she and her husband were walking home on Lowell St and were approached by a group of juvenile males. The group of juveniles then began attacking her husband and fled the area. The victim suffered injuries to his nose. Officers identified the juvenile suspects.

Assault

24056642: On 9/14/24 at approximately 3:40p.m., Somerville Police responded to Chetwynd Rd. and Curtis St. for a weapons call. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he got into a traffic altercation with a male party. During the altercation, the victim stated the suspect brandished a firearm. Officers located and stopped the suspect but no firearm was located.

Other Crimes: 2 Package thefts + 2 Car breaks + 2 Bike thefts + 2 MV thefts

— Somerville Police Department



Ignite: A Global Street Food, Fire and Light Festival CONT. FROM PG 1

food stories!

There will be entertainment galore in the form of fire throwers, roving entertainment, and performers representing cultures from near and far. To kick things off at 6:00 p.m. Samba Viva will fire things up with dance and samba. Also on deck is a Chinese dragon performance by Wah Lum Kung Fu and Tai Chi Academy, and Cofradia Cultural, a lavishly costumed

Dominican dance troupe. And as always, the Boston Circus Guild will round out the evening with their spectacular performance of fire throwing and twirling.

There will also be light and art installations, roving dancers and circus artists, and a roving 10-foot-tall cat named Lima Bean.

Saturday, September 28, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. (Rain date: 9/29). Union Square Plaza and Lot, Somerville.

ABOUT NIBBLE:

A Somerville Arts Council initiative that includes Nibble Kitchen restaurant (at Bow Market, Union Square), food festivals like Ignite, and the Nibble Culinary Entrepreneurship Program (NEP). NEP and Nibble Kitchen provide a space for entrepreneurs who are predominantly female and hail from our diverse immigrant communities to test out restaurant concepts in

a low-risk environment before launching independent businesses. Nibble supports immigrant communities, celebrates cultural exchange and spurs cultural and economic development.

LOGISTICAL INFORMATION:

Limited parking; people are encouraged to take public transportation. Event is free but festival goers are encouraged to support festival food vendors and business.

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

Somerville Museum receives funding for American Revolution's 250th Anniversary

Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll joined Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, state officials, legislators, and representatives from the Massachusetts arts, culture, and tourism industry at the State House to launch Massachusetts 250, a statewide initiative to celebrate 250 years of America's independence and Massachusetts' revolutionary legacy. The initiative will highlight the state's rich history and amplify untold stories of the Revolution through hundreds of cultural and community events over the next two years. The Massachusetts 250 Grant Awardees included the Somerville Museum.

As part of this initiative, the Massachusetts 250 Grant Program, administered by the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism within the Executive Office of Economic Development, will award \$1.5 million to 37 local community organizations to fund projects that take an innovative approach to commemorating the state's past 250 years.

Somerville Museum is one of the selected organizations receiving \$65,000 with plans to increase tourism by creating a map, exhibition, historic family events, and trolley tours to highlight the less celebrated route of Paul Revere through Somerville and the city's key Revolutionary sites and firsts.

The event included a grand display with reenactors, dignitaries, and historic militia personnel joining the celebration on the steps of the State House. During the event, Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll also announced \$1.5 million in grants to 37 organizations through the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT) to support the development of projects that promote Massachusetts' Revolutionary War history.

"Massachusetts is where the Revolution began and where the Revolution continues. We are first in freedom, first in education, first in health care and first in innovation. And with Massachusetts 250, we're leading commemorations of the Revolutionary War for the next two years," said Governor Maura Healey. "Massachusetts 250 is a statewide, ongoing celebration of our history and everything that makes our state special. We're excited to launch this campaign which will draw visitors, drive local economies, and share the whole story of Massachusetts and our nation through the voices of every community."

"Massachusetts 250 is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate Massachusetts' history and showcase the state as a top destination for visitors from across the country and worldwide," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "Statewide partnerships and events will commemorate our revolutionary spirit, highlighting the far-reaching impacts of Massachusetts in revolutionary history and the many other firsts that originated here, creating a powerful celebration of our civic pride."

The Massachusetts 250 Grant Program, administered by MOTT within the Executive Office of Economic Development, will fund projects that highlight historic themes of revolution and independence, celebrate significant "firsts" in Massachusetts history, and take a creative or innovative approach to commemorating the state's past 250 years. A full list of grant recipients is available online.

A full list of grant recipients is available online: <https://massachusetts250.org/massachusetts-250-grant-program-awards-1-5-million-to-celebrate-the-american-revolution-250th-anniversary/>



Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan invite you to...



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- Thursday, October 3, 2024
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The Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development



Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE: There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week. This week, *Beacon Hill Roll Call* reports on the percentage of times local representatives voted with their party's leadership in the 2024 session through September 20.

Beacon Hill Roll Call uses 101 votes from the 2024 House session as the basis for this report. This includes all roll calls that were not quorum calls or votes on local issues. Quorum calls are used to gather a majority of members onto the House floor to conduct business and members simply vote "present" in order to indicate their presence in the chamber.

The votes of the 2024 membership of 24 Republicans were compared with those of GOP House Minority Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading). The votes of the 2024 membership of 132 Democrats were compared to House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy).

THE DEMOCRATS: A total of 112 (84.8 percent) of the 132 Democrats voted with Mariano 100 percent of the time. There were only 20 Democratic representatives who voted differently than Mariano on any roll calls.

The two Democratic representative who voted the most times against Mariano were Reps. Colleen Garry (D-Draught) who voted with Mariano only 78 times (82.1 percent of the time) and David Robertson (D-Tewksbury) who voted with Mariano only 85 times (84.1 percent). All other representatives voted with Mariano at least 92 percent of the time.

THE REPUBLICANS: A total of five (20.8 percent) of the 24 GOP members voted with Jones 100 percent of the time. The two Republican representatives who voted the most times against Jones were Reps. Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica) who voted with Jones only 69 times (74.1 percent of the time) and Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick) who voted with Jones only 71 times (74.7 percent of the time). All other representatives voted with Jones at least 94.9 percent of the time.

THE UNENROLLED: Rep. Susannah Whipps (U-Athol) is the only unenrolled House member and is not affiliated with either the Republican or Democratic party. We based her voting record on how many times she voted with Democratic House Speaker Ron Mariano.

REPRESENTATIVES' SUPPORT OF THEIR PARTY'S LEADERSHIP IN 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20

The percentage next to the representative's name represents the percentage of times the representative sup-

ported his or her party's leadership so far in 2024 through September 20. The number in parentheses represents the number of times the senator opposed his or her party's leadership.

Some representatives voted on all 101 roll call votes. Others missed one or more roll calls. The percentage for each representative is calculated based on the number of roll calls on which he or she voted.

Rep. Christine Barber	100 percent (0)
Rep. Mike Connolly	97.0 percent (3)
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	96.8 percent (3)

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

USE INTEREST FROM STATE'S "RAIN DAY FUND" TO LEVERAGE FEDERAL FUNDS (S 2954) - The House and Senate approved and sent to Gov. Maura Healey legislation that would leverage the interest from the state's Rainy Day Fund to better compete for federal dollars, to ensure the state receives the maximum possible share of federal funds and to pay down the state's long term debt liabilities. The Rainy Day Fund currently has a historic balance of \$8.2 billion.

Supporters said the bill would require the state comptroller to transfer interest from the Rainy Day Fund to the Commonwealth Federal Matching and Debt Reduction Fund on a quarterly basis if the Rainy Day balance contains a healthy amount of money. The Secretary of Administration and Finance would then pursue federal funds for infrastructure, resiliency and economic development.

"This final legislation ... increases our commonwealth's ability to compete for federal funds while also paying down our debt obligations," said Rep. Jack Lewis (D-Framingham), Chair of the House Committee on Federal Stimulus and Census Oversight.

"The needs of the public are ever-changing when it comes to the infrastructure of the state, and to be able to keep up with the needs of our residents is imperative when it comes to accomplishing important public purposes," said Sen. Patrick O'Connor (R-Weymouth). "Public safety and convenience will ensure that the roles that we all have continue to operate smoothly and keep Massachusetts on the national stage as a competitive economy."

"Remaining competitive, equitable and affordable as a commonwealth means thinking creatively about our state's finances and seizing opportunities," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "We have been fiscally prudent in building up the largest rainy day funds

in Massachusetts' history, which allows us to leverage our robust interest earnings to compete for federal dollars that will help us strengthen our infrastructure."

"Ensuring that the commonwealth is able to aggressively compete for the federal funding being made available to states is critical," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "The projects and investments that will be funded across the United States because of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Inflation Reduction Act and the CHIPS and Science Act will transform this country and create a significant number of jobs in the process. It's vital that Massachusetts does everything that it can to share in that prosperity."

\$362 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET (H 5050) - Gov. Healey signed into law a \$362 million budget to help close out fiscal year 2024 that ended on July 31. Key provisions ratify and fund some 38 collective bargaining agreements and direct \$228 million in funding for the American Rescue Plan Act Home and Community Based Services before a deadline that would require Massachusetts to return the money to Washington, D.C.

Other provisions include \$20 million to replace lost federal funding for victims of violent crimes; \$29.7 million in early education and care subsidies to ensure providers can maintain access for all income-eligible families in need of childcare; \$5.6 million for tax abatements for veterans, widows, blind persons and the elderly; \$5.1 million to support increased demand for the Healthy Incentives Program which provides fresh healthy food options and supports local growers; and \$2.1 million for Women, Infants and Children nutrition services to fully support the current caseload of recipients.

ATTORNEY GENERAL CAMPBELL'S YOUTH COUNCIL - Attorney General Andrea Campbell announced the creation of the first-ever Youth Council to advise her office about critical issues facing youth and help the council members build skills as leaders and advocates. The council would be comprised of 18 members between the ages of 14-18 from regions across the state.

Supporters say the council will offer their perspective to help inform and advise the Attorney General's Office on issues that affect them, including bias and discrimination, mental health, social media use, anti-bullying, school safety, environmental justice, gun violence prevention and government accountability.

"Our young people are our next generation of leaders," said Campbell. "Far too often, they are left out of conversations about issues that directly impact *Continued on page 16*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Come rain or shine, the Fluff Festival brings fun to Somerville.

Our View Of The Times



The “What the Fluff?” festival hit Union Square once again last weekend, proving to be an event that has grown in the hearts of so many here.

Although a bit of wet weather crept in to put a damper on the festivities, true to form the fun-loving attendees managed to make the best of it after all.

For all these years Marshmallow Fluff has been a favorite snack food for many,

while others could, frankly, take it or leave it. Either way, few would argue that the annual festival itself is chock full of fun and frivolity for everyone who attends.

A lot of public events come and go over the course of each year: road races, music festivals, family events ... you name it. What is it though about the celebration of this sweet stuff that kindles a spot of warmth in so many of our hearts? Is it

the generally whacky nature of the event itself? The overall tongue-in-cheek nature of each event within the event?

It is certainly a unique affair, with a rich history and heritage that sparks the imagination and brings out the kid in all of us.

The timing of it may have some influence on our affection towards it. As we bid farewell to the summer months and ring in the beginning of autumn, we may view

the festivities as a last hurrah of the high season. One last fling in the warmth of the sun as we gently roll along towards the darker days of winter.

Whatever mysterious forces may exist that compel us to smear, spread, consume or bathe in the stuff, most of us have a real good time while doing it.

Maybe that’s what it’s all about in the end. Simply enjoying the day.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Linda Malone, Edward Barry, and Rick Gaetano 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.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville Recreation invite you to celebrate the start of autumn at **Fall Festival**. This event was originally scheduled for **September 21** but was rescheduled due to inclement weather. The rescheduled date is **Thursday, September 26, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.**, 570 Somerville Ave. Get in the spirit of the season with fun for all ages: bounce houses, pumpkin decorating, magicians,

face painting, and much more.

Join **Chefs Maddie and Khushboo** as they present a tale of four stories, weaving the history of flavors and techniques from India and Pakistan. Part of the **Nibble Kitchen Back to School Cooking Class Series** collection, the class will be held **September 29, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.** Nibble Kitchen, 1 Bow Market Way, Somerville To register for this event at <https://nibblesomerville.com/>.

The **HONK! Festival of Activist Street Bands** returns for another year of reclaiming the streets for horns, bikes and

feet. This free 3-day festival will take place **from October 4 to October 6** in **Davis Square**. Keep up to date at <https://honkfest.org>.

This month, the **Central Library**, 79 Highland Ave., 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**.

Friends of the Somerville Public Library will be holding a **Book Sale** at the **East Branch Library**, 115 Broadway, on **October 5**. All items are \$1., proceeds from the sale will help fund library programming and cultural passes. The sale will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., any questions can be emailed to friendssomerville-publiclibrary@gmail.com.

Continued on page 19

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#942

1. What is the name of the festival that celebrates Marshmallow Fluff in Somerville, Massachusetts?
2. What is the only part of the Marshmallow Fluff recipe that remains a secret?
3. Which brand of running shoes did Run DMC?
4. What book spent 55 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list in the 1980s?
5. When was the first recipe for s'mores published?
6. Who is credited with creating the original s'mores recipe?
7. What day is National S'mores Day in the United States?
8. What is the capital city of Texas?
9. Which NFL stadium has the largest seating capacity?
10. What cereal mascot technically has Horatio Magellan as his first and middle names?
11. Who has the most sacks in the NFL of all time?
12. Who had a '90s hit with *Chattahoochee*?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. People spend more time on the toilet than they do exercising.
2. Honey is the only food that does not spoil.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

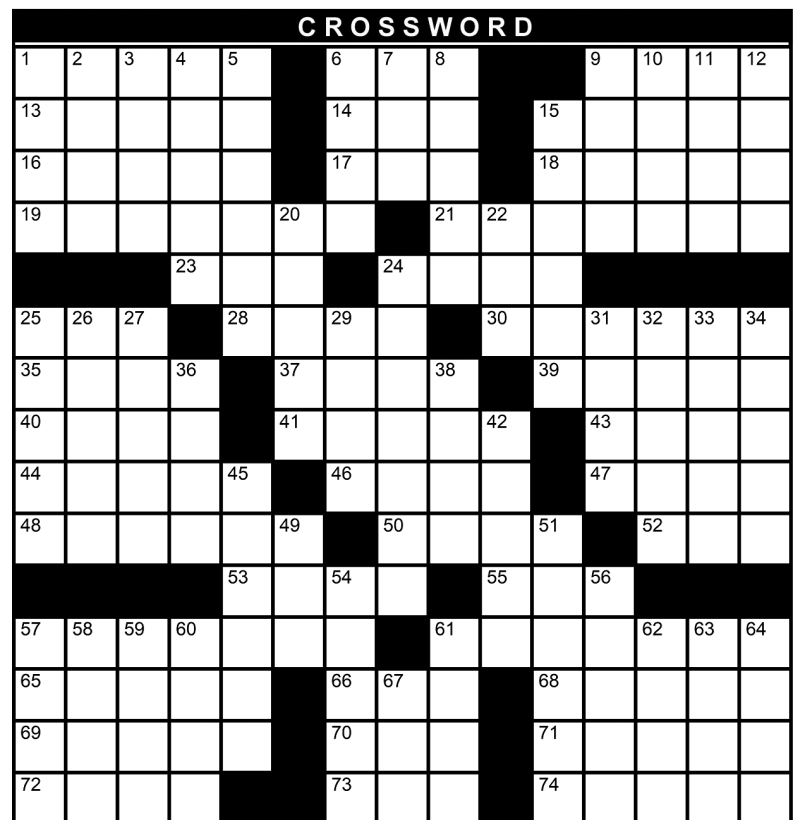
NBA

ACROSS

1. Port city in Japan
6. Team ride
9. Nordic native
13. Equipped with feathers
14. Cigarette deposit
15. Arena, e.g.
16. Not odds
17. Hawaiian welcome wreath
18. Bone hollows
19. NBA headquarters location
21. *Bill ____ NBA Finals Most Valuable Player award
23. "Roses ____ red ..."
24. NBA centers typically have long ones
25. Tarzan the ____ Man
28. Cry like a baby
30. 3.26 light-years
35. "Off The Wall" shoe
37. Living quarters
39. Shop ____ slogan
40. "I'm ____ you!"
41. Got some shuteye
43. Comme ci, comme Áa
44. Brandish
46. Ski hill ride
47. Contractor's work order
48. Basketball blocking move
50. Swedish shag rugs
52. Member of a "benevolent and protective order"
53. Kind of cola
55. Thrice-repeated dance step
57. Power ____ position
61. NBA team with most championships
65. Deprive of armor
66. Genetic acronym
68. Plural of ostium
69. Junk yard stuff
70. Geisha's sash
71. Nickname for 61 Across
72. Ooze
73. NBA Sixth ____ of the Year Award
74. Type of leaf cabbage, pl.

DOWN

1. Bun baker
2. " ____ me a seat"
3. From square one
4. Tanzania's northern neighbor
5. Not absorb, nor repel
6. Refuse to comply
7. Wear and tear
8. Bake an egg
9. Sunglasses "glass"
10. Casino chip
11. Not knit
12. Church sound
15. Lord's subordinate
20. Good ____ book lovers' app
22. Strike caller
24. High school math class
25. Declares to be true
26. Sweat-inducing attack
27. Come in!
29. The Stilt's first name
31. David Schwimmer on "Friends"
32. Breadth
33. Art support



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



34. Shot ____, NBA countdown timer
 36. Cobbler's concern
 38. Fix a dog
 42. Vanish without this?
 45. Abscond
 49. Conjunction that joins alternatives and negatives
 51. Inferior goods
 54. Read-only disc
 56. Away from port
 57. Much ado
 58. One time
 59. Like pink steak
 60. Sandwich alternative
 61. Abel's big brother
 62. It will
 63. Give a ticket
 64. Fresh talk
 67. Commissioned by Adam Silver.
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Join the Somerville Urban Forestry Committee

The Somerville Urban Forestry Committee is seeking two new members to help shape the future of our city's urban canopy! We have one open position for a youth member (ages 14-17 at the time of appointment) and another position open to any resident passionate about urban forestry and public green spaces.

What is the Somerville Urban Forestry Committee?

The Urban Forestry Committee advises the City of Somerville on the management and maintenance of all existing and new trees and shrubs on public grounds and public ways.

The Committee collaborates closely with the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development and the Department of Public Works to provide input on policies and plans related to urban forestry.

Responsibilities include:

- Reviewing and advising on the health, maintenance, and protection of existing trees and shrubs.
- Updating information in the tree inventory.
- Supporting public education and outreach on urban forestry.
- Providing comments during city permitting review processes.
- Developing educational materials, conducting community presentations, attending site visits, and supporting Arbor Day celebrations.



Who Can Join?

We are seeking one youth member (14-17 years old) and one general member with a passion for urban forestry. All Somerville residents are welcome to apply.

What is the Time Commitment?

The Committee meets virtually once per month, typically on the third Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Additional commitments, such as developing educational materials or attending community events, may occasionally be required. The estimated time commitment is 2-5 hours per month.

How Are Members Appointed?

Members are selected by the Mayor and appointed by the City Council.

How Do I Apply?

Applications are due by the end of the day on Friday, October 25, 2024.

Youth Member: Please submit a brief statement of interest.

General Member: Please submit a statement of interest and a resume.

Where to Apply:

Applications may be submitted via email or U.S. Mail to:

Email: Vanessa Boukili at vboukili@somervillema.gov

Mail: Vanessa Boukili, City of Somerville OSPCD, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02145

Contact Information:

For questions or more information, please contact Vanessa Boukili at vboukili@somervillema.gov or call 617-625-6600 x 2516.

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Pumpkin Spice Smoothie

It's that time of year when pumpkin is everywhere. And I do mean everywhere. Pumpkin flavored coffee, beer, baked goods, energy bars, cereals, yogurt, and so on. The beverage industry alone projects the pumpkin spice category to exceed about \$2.4 billion by 2031!

[https://www.bevindustry.com/articles/96861-pumpkin-spice-sea-](https://www.bevindustry.com/articles/96861-pumpkin-spice-sea-son-isnt-going-anywhere)

son-isnt-going-anywhere

If you like pumpkin, you'll really like this smooth and creamy smoothie.

- 1 Cup Almond Milk or Milk of Choice
- 1 Cup Pumpkin Purée (not pie filling)
- 1-2 Teaspoons Pumpkin Spice Mix
- Protein Powder (optional)
- 2 Teaspoons Pure Maple Syrup
- 1/4 Teaspoon Vanilla Extract
- Pinch of salt

4 Ice Cubes (optional)

Add all ingredients, in order listed above, to a blender. You can add ice cubes if you like your smoothies extra cold. If poured into a glass, as opposed to using a dedicated smoothie blender with container, add a pinch of the pumpkin spice for garnish. Yields 1 serving.

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



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/joinMeeting?meetingid=86971391506>
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, 9/25/24 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on **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, 9/25/24 The Somerville Times

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The **Somerville Housing Authority** invites proposals from qualified vendors interested in providing Integrated Pest Management Services in accordance with the terms, conditions and specifications outlined in the Request for Proposals. RFP # P-PEST92024 for multiple locations in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by the Somerville Housing Authority Purchasing Department. The Term is for One (1) year contract with Two (2) 1-year option at the SHA's sole discretion.

Documents will be posted by **2:00 P.M., September 25, 2024**

Responses will be received until **2:00 P.M., October 16, 2024**

Download of RFP Documents will be available for download on SHA's Web site, www.sha-web.org under our Bid opportunities tab by **2:00 P.M., September 25, 2024**. If bidding, you must contact Anthony Crespo by email at Tonyc@sha-web.org and register/leave contact information including an email. You will receive a reply that your email has been received. Proposers are responsible for ensuring that their email and bids are received. Addendum/s will be posted on the website and shall be the bidder's responsibility to include in bid.

Mailed or delivered bids should be sent to Somerville Housing Authority, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145, Integrated Pest Control Bid # P-PEST92024, Attn. Anthony Crespo, IT/Purchasing Manager, and received no later than the date and time specified above. SHA not responsible for bids lost or not received on time.

9/25/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB# 25-14**

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

Pre-Cast Concrete Curb Procurement and Installation

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing/bids, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **09/25/2024**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **10/10/2024 3:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Andrea Caruth at acaruth@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

Andrea Caruth
Deputy Chief Procurement Officer
617-625-6600 x3400

9/25/24 The Somerville Times

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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, 9/25/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB #25-15**

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

**Inventory, Installation and Removal of
Holiday Lighting and Decorations**

A bid package may be obtained online at: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/procurement-and-contracting-services> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, September 25th, 2024**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2pm, Thursday, October 10th, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

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

Sonia Castro
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3407

9/25/24 The Somerville Times

Party Under The Harvest Moon

On Friday, October 18, hundreds of supporters, donors, and community members will unite at Party Under The Harvest Moon, an annual celebration hosted by Food For Free to celebrate community spirit and raise awareness and funds to fight food insecurity across Eastern Massachusetts. The event goal is to raise \$115,000. Party Under The Harvest Moon raises critical funds to support the nonprofit's innovative programs that serve more than 132,000 Massachusetts residents facing food insecurity and distributes 6.2 million pounds of nutritious fresh and prepared foods annually. This year, guests will hear from community partners and enjoy live music by Bubble Wave.

There will be appetizers and refreshments, a raffle, wine toss, and more. During the event, the nonprofit will present its inaugural Community Partner Award to Harvard University, celebrating the organization's 10-year investment in Food For Free's Heat-n-Eats program and commitment to reducing food waste and feeding those in need. Party Under The Harvest Moon will take place from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at MIT's Walker Memorial Morss Hall, located at 142 Memorial Drive in Cambridge.

Ticket prices range from \$75 for individuals to \$1,000 for groups. For more information or to reserve tickets, visit: www.foodforfree.org/harvest-moon.



Somerville Over the Rainbow: Fluff Festival 2024

By Katherine Davis

Despite the steady rain this past Saturday, Somerville's annual "What the Fluff?" Marshmallow Fluff Festival continued to pull in an impressive crowd for the 19th year in a row. Food and craft vendors, as well as community groups from all over the city, gathered together in Union Square to not only celebrate the beloved marshmallow spread, but also the city of Somerville itself.

The theme this year was "Somerville Over the Rainbow: No Place Like Fluff", coincidentally very appropriately named considering the festival shone brightly in spite of the weather. While the city regularly hosts events such as its weekly farmers markets, and the yearly Somerville Dog Festival, nothing pulls in as big of a crowd, with both local and widespread attendees, as the Somerville Fluff Festival, one attendee saying "It's really nice to see so many people come together...I've been to other little farmers markets and little things like that, but this one is a lot bigger and it's really cool to see everyone so excited about everything". For some people, like newcomers to Somerville, Marissa and Naomi, not only was this event leading to their first ever taste of Marshmallow Fluff, but also their first real taste of the city, saying "We definitely get a sense of community, not only because there are so many families and groups of kids here, but also, like, local organizations here to support things like Somerville High School and all

the afterschool programs for the kids, it's really great".

The Fluff Festival is not just about the gooey treat all by itself, many attendees spoke about how interesting it was "seeing all the unique ways that people combine Fluff with food and the things they're normally selling around Union Square". Celebrating over 100 years of the marshmallow confection with inspired combinations like "Canned Fluff Cocktails" from Nook, "Fluff Samosas" from Masala Square Indian Kitchen, and of course the classic "Fluffernutter" sandwich – a nostalgic combination of peanut butter and Fluff– this year made and sold by Somerville High School Music Department students, no one says city-wide-pride quite like Somerville.

While eating Fluff might be considered the main event of the festival, it is not the only one attendees could participate in. Live music played by Greater Boston and New England-based artists throughout the afternoon helped to ease the gloom of the day, as well as pull in new fans. Games such as "Fluff Limbo", "Fluff Musical Chairs", and even "Fluff Jousting" took place on the Shenanigans Stage, hosted by a kazoo-wielding Archibald Query impersonator. The actual Archibald Query, the credited first confectioner of Fluff, passed away in 1964. There's no age limit on who plays the games, one festival-goer laughing and saying, "Even though I'm a millennial, I played the games alongside all the kids, but I beat them". Attendees playing the sticky games could win a range of Fluff-re-



A rainy-day edition of the beloved What the Fluff? Festival was enjoyed by the many who joined in. — Photos by Katherine Davis

lated prizes, but those who did not play on the stage were still able to walk away with Fluff merchandise from the official festival tent with clothes and products designed by this year's festival theme designer, Jen Gubicza, of Zooguu Handmade.

An event that pays homage to the city's unique history and ever-growing community, there is something for everyone at the Somerville "What the Fluff" Festival. For some vendors, talking with festival customers is what makes the Fluff Festival extra special, Samm at the Craic Sauce tent saying, "I love showing people the hot sauce and getting to interact with different people, and seeing who likes what!" Businesses already located in Union Square opened their doors to festival goers, offering discounts on Marshmallow Fluff-re-

lated services and products, such as a discount at Chameleon Tattoo for any Fluff designs, and \$5 "Flufftastic Blind Bags" at Tiny Turns Paperie, a local stationary store. Craft vendors from all over lined the street as well, selling unique Fluff-themed prints, magnets, home decor, and more, making it nearly impossible to leave the festival empty-handed. Even dogs were given a chance to participate in festivities, stores like Scritchies and Boops sold cute festival-themed pet treats. For first-timers to passionate returners, the annual Somerville Fluff Festival is a can't-miss event that showcases New England pride and the importance of community all in the name of a sweet treat. Be ready to mark your calendars for the 20th anniversary of the "What the Fluff" festival in 2025.



Native plants, astro turf, and people in parking spots: A visit to Park(ing) 2024

CONT. FROM PG 1

spaces." It's Somerville's first year participating, thanks to the City of Somerville's SustainaVille program. Cities from Toronto to Zhubei City, Taiwan, and across the world are participating between September 20 through 22.

At 11:30 a.m. on a cloudy, humid, gray overcast morning, with sounds of construction equipment and excavators near Cedar Street, I came over the Broadway Bridge and encountered five parking spots with three pop-up tents, variously sized astroturf, and native plants like bearberry, witch hazel and a type of pepper plant lining the curb and street. The Boston Society of Landscape Architects presented information about Indigenous Landscape of Boston and handed out

echinacea seedlings prepared by Marzilli Landscaping. The CultureHouse pop-up, with a rug underfoot, was offered as a "public living room" with Connect4, music and two hammock chairs. Tents could be seen in front of Sound Bites, Ball Square Cafe, and across the street in front of Dr. Christopher Cordima, Chiropractor (closed today).

At the time of my visit, only one of the four installations was by a private resident. Preston and David Gutelius were taking a break from working remotely to chat. They had set their space up with comforts like a floor pad, a turquoise green beach chair and a wood chair. They had a bedside table lamp too, powered by a batter pack. Preston told me, "Over the past few years, espe-

cially during the pandemic, my brother and I, along with a lot of our family and friends have become more aware of what a resource parking spaces are. So, this is a fun opportunity to kind of engage. And kind of look at how it could be used or what the space might be."

This is not the first time that the city and Ball Square have thought differently about street space. There are two permanent bike racks, one located on Bristol Road in front of Somerville dry Cleaners & Tailors and the other on Josephine Ave. next to Blue River, that brings different road users besides cars into the square.

Molly Wimberg, landscape designer at Copley Wolff Design Group and a part of The Boston

Society of Landscape Architects (BSLA) was standing next to Amanda Conner, an administrative assistant for BSLA. "We do this every year," Molly explained. "This is our first time at this particular location. We usually partner with schools and scheduling issues didn't work out this year. So, we're here partnering with Somerville." She pointed out that BSLA also has installations in Portland, Maine (where participants signed up beforehand for spots) and another in Western Mass. Amanda liked their setup compared to her 2022 Park(ing) Day experience at university. "It was not as urban. We definitely are in the center of a thoroughfare here. People are stopping by. It is attracting the people of Somerville to come

interact with us and it is not as isolated from everything. I feel like I am in the thick of a beautiful neighborhood." Did they feel unsafe, being in the street? "No, no. I got my son right over here," Molly stated proudly.

What I found heartening was that folks were not complaining about street noise or loud sounds. They were enjoying the experience. I asked David, the light hearted visitor from Connecticut, if he felt more empowered that while the drivers were driving by, they were just hanging out together in their space on a casual Friday? David grinned, "a little bit, yeah. I'm not going to deny it." He and his brother planned on staying until 4:00 p.m., checking emails and enjoying their visit together.



Molly Wimberg and Amanda Conner participating in Park(ing) Day.



David and Preston Gutelius "parked" on Broadway.



Book review: 'A Good Girl's Guide to Murder' by Holly Jackson

By Dennis Fischman

You might think that murder is a purely adult subject, but you'd be mistaken. An increasing number of mysteries books are featuring high school students (like the five held in detention in *One of Us is Lying* [1], teenagers (Ingrid Levin-Hill in *Down the Rabbit Hole* [2], or even tweens (like the title character in *Drew Leclair Gets a Clue* [3], in which it's character assassination, not literal murder – but when you're twelve, the stakes seem just as high!).

In *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* [4], our heroine is Pippa Fitz-Amobi, a high school senior who hopes to be a journalist someday. She lives in a town where, only five years earlier, a high school girl named Andie

Bell was murdered. The solution at the time was that Andie's boyfriend killed her, then himself.

But is that really what happened? Pippa decides to find out. She reopens the cold case and does her own interviews and investigation – for her senior project!

If that sounds a bit unlikely, consider that Pippa knew the young man who supposedly committed the crime, and he was always kind to her. That's not enough reason to consider him innocent, of course, but it is a good reason for her to wonder--and want to find out. His younger brother, Ravi, is convinced of his innocence, and he becomes Pippa's partner in solving crime (and eventually, in other things).

Pippa would have been my

friend in high school, but as an adult, the risks she takes just drive me crazy. Still, she's smart and the right things matter to her. A normal sense of danger will come at the right developmental age. Her parents are decent adults, too, which is unusual for this genre but not in real life – the apple doesn't fall far from the tree!

It's ironic that lately, I've been reading adult mysteries where the motivation of the killer doesn't make any sense, and here is this YA novel with a full appreciation for human complexity.

There are two more books in this series, but warning: what happens in book two (which came out in 2020) is traumatic for our dear Pippa. For me, too, because I care about her. I still have not recovered enough to



"A Good Girl's Guide to Murder" by Holly Jackson. Delacorte Press, 2020, 390 pages.

pick up book three.

Links:

[1] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/32571395-one-of-us-is-lying>

[2] [https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/82860.Down_](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/82860.Down_the_Rabbit_Hole)



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

[the_Rabbit_Hole](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/58311999-drew-leclair-gets-a-clue)

[3] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/58311999-drew-leclair-gets-a-clue>

[4] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/45874065-a-good-girl-s-guide-to-murder>

City of Somerville awarded \$1,000 for youth sports equipment

Wellpoint (formerly UniCare) is partnering with Boston Bruins Center Charlie Coyle and sports equipment leader Franklin Sports to educate youth about the many benefits playing sports can have on their mental health by encouraging social connections, teaching teamwork, and building self-esteem.

At a skate held in Stoneham on September 14 for kids and first responders with Coyle, Wellpoint and Franklin Sports presented \$15,000 in Franklin Sports gift cards to 15 Massachusetts communities to purchase youth sports equipment, including \$1,000 for the City of Somerville.

"Wellpoint works tirelessly to support our members' whole health - their physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being. Partnering with Charlie Coyle and first responders across the state to encourage families and kids to care for their mental health and to engage in physical activity is just one of the many ways we strive to advance better health outcomes for the people and communities we serve," said David Morales, general manager of Wellpoint. "Thank you to Charlie Coyle, Franklin Sports, and all of our campaign partners for joining with us to remind everyone that mental health is health and to take control of their health."

"Growing up in Weymouth, I have many friends and family who've taken the oath to protect and serve their communities as first responders. Having played sports my entire life - from youth sports to the pros - I know and appreciate the positive impact physical activity can have on children's mental health by reducing stress, creating social connections, teaching teamwork, and building self-esteem. It's an honor to continue my relationship with the Face-Offs for First Responders campaign to highlight to kids, first responders, and everyone about the importance of taking care of their mental health," said Charlie Coyle, Boston Bruins Center.

"Franklin Sports is proud to be a partner of this year's Face-Offs for First Responders Program," said Eve Stire, Brand Partnerships Manager at Franklin Sports. "At Franklin, we believe that sports make life better, so to be involved in a program that emphasizes the importance of both mental and physical health, as well as establishes social connections for our youth, is incredibly rewarding. Furthermore, we're thrilled to be able to support the hockey community in our own backyard and get kids moving, playing, and competing!"

The following Massachusetts communities will receive \$1,000 each in Franklin Sports gift cards to purchase youth sports equipment: Framingham, Haverhill, Hingham, Lawrence, Lexington, Lowell, Lynnfield, North Andover, Salem, Somerville, Springfield, Stoneham, Wakefield, Weston, and Weymouth.

As part of its Face-Offs for First Responders campaign, earlier this year Wellpoint partnered with Coyle, Athlete-Driven Worldwide, 98.5 The Sports Hub Bruins Radio Network, the State Police Association of Massachusetts (SPAM), the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts (PFFM), the New England Police Benevolent Association, and the Springfield Police Supervisors Association to raise awareness about the mental health resources available to first responders. For more information about Face-Offs for First Responders, visit 985thesportshub.com/firstresponders.



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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

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| 2. The length of time it is whipped | 7. August 10 |
| 3. Adidas | 8. Austin |
| 4. Real Men Don't Eat Quiche | 9. Metlife Stadium, NJ |
| 5. 1927 in a Girl Scout guidebook called <i>Tramping and Trailing</i> with the Girl Scouts | 10. Cap'n Crunch |
| | 11. Bruce Smith, 200 |
| | 12. Alan Jackson |

City of Somerville sharing voting information for 2024 general election

The Massachusetts general election is Tuesday, November 5. This election will determine the offices of U.S. President and Vice President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, Governor's Councillor, State Senator, State Representative, Register of Deeds, and Clerk of Courts. Somerville residents can vote by mail, vote early, or vote on election day.

Register to Vote by October 26

Register to vote one of three ways: online at somervillema.gov/register tovot e, in person at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.), or by calling the Elections Department (617-625-6600 ext. 4200) and requesting a voter registration form. The in-person registration deadline is Saturday, October 26 by 5:00 p.m. or online by midnight. Your registration can also be mailed and will be accepted with a postmark of October 26 or earlier.

Vote Early at City Hall, October 19-November 1

Vote early at City Hall from Saturday, October 19, through Friday, November 1. Voting hours are as follows:

Saturdays and Sundays: 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (October 26, 9:00 am. to 5:00 p.m.)

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Thursdays: 8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

Fridays: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Vote by Mail

Applications to vote by mail must be received by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 29:

Applications to vote by mail must be received (not postmarked) by the Somerville Elections Department by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 29. Download an application from somervillema.gov/voteb ymail, pick one up in the Elections office at City Hall, apply online at voteinma.com, or request one be mailed to you by calling Elections at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200.

Ballots must be received by the Election Department by 8pm on Election Day or be postmarked as November 5 and received by mail on or before November 8.

Eligible voters who submit valid applications will receive their ballot in the mail. Ballots must be completed, signed, sealed, and received by the City. Voters can check the status of their ballot on the state's website.

How to return your application and ballot:

Drop boxes: Leave it in a drop box at one of the following locations: (All drop boxes aside from the City Hall box will be locked at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5)

- ♦ At the Glen Street entrance to the East Somerville Community School ACROSS FROM 66 Glen Street
- ♦ In front of the Argenziano School, 290 Washington Street
- ♦ In front of the church at 212 School Street
- ♦ On the Concourse in front of City Hall 93 Highland Avenue
- ♦ Near 182 Summer Street, in front of Saint Catherine of Genoa Church parish parking lot (near the corner of Spring Street).
- ♦ Front of the Armory, 191 Highland Avenue
- ♦ Front of the Somerville Community Baptist Church 31 College Avenue
- ♦ Near 351 Summer Street, in front of the Dilboy Post
- ♦ Front of the Tufts Administrative Building, 167 Holland Street
- ♦ Outside front of The West Somerville Neighborhood Community School, 177 Powder House Blvd.

Elections office: Return directly to the Elections Department at City Hall

Mail: Send to the Elections Department, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143

Email or fax (for applications only): Completed applications can be emailed to vote@somervillema.gov or faxed to 617-625-5643. Ballots cannot be returned by email or fax.

VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS CAN NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY

All ballots that are received between November 5 at 4 p.m. and November 8 at 5:00 p.m. will be counted at a post-election tabulation that will be held at City Hall on Thursday, November 14.

Vote on Election Day

Polling locations will be open from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. on election day, November 5, 2024. All ward polling places are below. Not sure which precinct you're in? Look up your address with MySomerville.

Ward One

Precinct 1: A room in the Michael E Capuano School, 150 Glen Street

Precinct 2: A room in the Michael E Capuano School, 150 Glen Street

Precinct 3: A room in the East Somerville Community School, Glen Street Entrance directly across from 68 Glen Street

Precinct 4: A room in the East Somerville Community School, Glen Street Entrance directly across from 68 Glen Street

Precinct 4A: A room in the East Somerville Community School, Glen Street Entrance directly across from 68 Glen Street

Ward Two

Precinct 1: A room in the Police Station, 220 Washington Street

Precinct 1A: A room in the Police Station, 220 Washington Street

Precinct 2: A room in the ARGENZIANO SCHOOL at Lincoln Park, 290 Washington Street

Precinct 3: A room in the ARGENZIANO SCHOOL at Lincoln Park, 290 Washington Street

Precinct 4: A room in the ARGENZIANO SCHOOL at Lincoln Park, 290 Washington Street

Ward Three

Precinct 1: A room in Properzi Manor, 13-25 Warren Avenue

Precinct 2: A room in the Cummings School, 42 Prescott Street

Precinct 3: Gym at St. Catherine's Church; 179 Summer Street

Precinct 4: Gym at St. Catherine's Church; 179 Summer Street

Ward Four

Precinct 1: A room in the Mystic Activity Center, 530 Mystic Avenue

Precinct 2: 240 Pearl Street, Pearl Street Park Building

Precinct 2A: 240 Pearl Street, Pearl Street Park Building;

Precinct 3: 212 School Street, Brazilian Presbyterian Church

Precinct 4: A room in the Healey School, 5 Meacham Street

Ward Five

Precinct 1: A room in the Armory, 191 Highland Avenue;

Precinct 2: A room in the Armory, 191 Highland Avenue;

Precinct 3: Gym in the John F Kennedy School, Sartwell Avenue Entrance directly across from 19 Sartwell Avenue

Precinct 4: Gym in the John F Kennedy School, Sartwell Avenue Entrance directly across from 19 Sartwell Avenue

Ward Six

Precinct 1: A Room in the George Dilboy Post, 351 Summer St;

Precinct 2: A room in the Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Avenue

Precinct 3: A room in the West Branch Library, 40 College Avenue

Precinct 3A: A Room in the West Branch Library, 40 College Avenue

Precinct 4: A Room in the George Dilboy Post, 351 Summer St

Ward Seven

Precinct 1: A room in the Senior Center, Tab Building, 167 Holland Street;

Precinct 2: A room in the West Somerville Neighborhood School, the Raymond Avenue Entrance directly across from 17 Raymond Avenue

Precinct 3: A room in the VNA Assisted Living Facility, 405 Alewife Brook Parkway

Precinct 4: A room in the West Somerville Neighborhood School, the Raymond Avenue Entrance directly across from 17 Raymond Avenue

For all information about voting in Somerville, go to somervillema.gov/elections.



Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

them. As a mother of two boys, I am fully committed to addressing the challenges facing our youth, and as your Attorney General, I'm proud to seek out young voices to inform our work in these spaces."

"I'm excited to be part of the ... Youth Council because it provides me with a unique opportunity to learn how the Attorney General and state government address matters that are important to young people," said Youth Council Member Victoria Mukiibi. "Through my past community involvement, I have come to appreciate the importance of youth engagement. I'm eager to collaborate with my peers to add our voices to the conversations that shape decisions that impact our communities."

TAX AMNESTY PROGRAM - The Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) announced it will administer a tax amnesty program that will run from November 1 through December 30, 2024. The program was part of the fiscal 2025 budget approved by the Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Healey on July 29.

"I urge individuals and businesses to take this opportunity to voluntarily pay their back taxes and interest beginning November 1," said Geoffrey Snyder, Commissioner of Revenue. "The program is a significant step to help taxpayers come into compliance, including non-filers."

According to the DOR, the amnesty program will allow non-filers and taxpayers with outstanding tax liabilities to catch up on back taxes and save on penalties. The program aims to bring into compliance those taxpayers who have failed to file returns or have unpaid assessments. Taxpayers who meet certain criteria must request amnesty, file returns and pay outstanding tax and interest liabilities to have eligible penalties waived. Additionally, non-filers or individuals who failed to file required returns with DOR, may benefit from a three-year limited look-back period.

For more information and details, go to <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-tax-amnesty-2024?auHash=oXAm2BQH-FSu52Xe-marx5FJMF0xALmEvxLj1gGTBCWU>

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Gov. Maura Healey and Attorney General Andrea Campbell released updated guidance to K-12 schools on how to address hate and bias-motivated incidents consistent with their legal obligations.

According to the report, "The guidance comes amid a rise in antisemitism, racism, anti-LGBTQ+ hate, Islamopho-

bia and hate across the globe, the country and Massachusetts – including a rise in hate-fueled assaults, incidents of white supremacist propaganda, discriminatory bullying and harassment in Massachusetts K-12 schools."

The report continued, "The guidance has been specifically updated to help school districts distinguish between protected student speech and unprotected bullying and harassment. It reminds school districts of their legal obligations to allow for discourse and expression of different viewpoints while also promptly investigating and responding to any and all incidents of alleged harassment or bullying. It also calls on school districts to take affirmative steps to create school environments that are safe and inclusive for all students and prevent hate and bias incidents from occurring."

To report a school-based incident of hate or bias, individuals may contact the Attorney General's Civil Rights Division online at <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/file-a-civil-rights-complaint> or at 617-963-2817.

Here are some of the comments by various government officials on the report:

"It pains me to see the rise in antisemitism, anti-LGBTQ+ hate, racism, Islamophobia and hate happening across our state, our country and the world. I'm particularly concerned about the prevalence of hate and violence in our schools. I know that our communities are hurting, and they are frightened. Attorney General Campbell and I are issuing this guidance to send a clear message that hate has no place in Massachusetts – especially not in our schools. This guidance and these grants are giving our schools the tools they need to better prevent and respond to hate. Together, we can ensure that our schools are safe, welcoming, inclusive environments for all students. — Gov. Maura Healey.

"Our administration strongly condemns hate of all kinds. But with hate crimes on the rise across our state, it's essential that we act. This guidance empowers schools to better prevent hate, support the mental health and wellbeing of their students and celebrate our amazing, diverse and inclusive communities." — Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll.

"It's crucial that our schools take a firm stand against hate, discrimination and bullying while also protecting students' rights to free speech and expression, particularly in the context of ongoing violence both here and abroad." — Attorney General Andrea Campbell.

"Schools should be places where all students, staff and families are welcomed, and diversity is championed.

Here in Massachusetts, we stand firmly against hate – and we are backing up that commitment by delivering this guidance and these investments, so schools are equipped with the tools and knowledge they need to foster safe and inclusive environments that allow every student to feel supported and thrive." — Education Secretary Dr. Patrick Tutwiler.

"These grants are important investments in building safe and respectful school communities where all students are known and valued. Both the hate crimes prevention and genocide education grants are built on avoiding the mistakes of the past and recognizing the dignity in everyone." — Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Russell D. Johnston.

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session.

During the week of Sept. 16-20, the House met for a total of two hours and 23 minutes and the Senate met for a total of two hours and 23 minutes.

Mon. Sept. 16	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:07 a.m. Senate 11:08 a.m. to 11:14 a.m.
Tues. Sept. 17	No House session No Senate session
Wed. Sept. 18	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. Sept. 19	House 11:01 a.m. to 1:17 p.m. Senate 11:08 a.m. to 1:25 p.m.
Fri. Sept. 20	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Somerville launching second cycle of Participatory Budgeting

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is announcing the launch of Somerville's second cycle of the Participatory Budgeting process (www.somervillema.gov/PB), giving community members a direct say in how \$1 million of city funds is allocated. Somerville residents are invited to begin submitting their ideas today, Friday, September 20. The city will begin implementing the winning projects in summer of 2025.

"Our community's response to our first-ever round of Participatory Budgeting in 2023 was incredible, and we're excited to once again empower Somerville residents to decide how to invest \$1 million in city funds," said Mayor Ballantyne. "Last year, community ideas led to increased food access through partnerships with nonprofits, the expansion of our bike network with Quick-Build lanes, and new shade structures at parks and bus stops to enhance comfort and safety. We also tackled cleanliness and pest control by installing more BigBelly trash cans across the city. We can't wait to see the creative and impactful ideas that emerge from our community this year."

Idea Eligibility and Submission

Starting Friday, September 20, Somerville residents are invited to start submitting their ideas. Eligible ideas will serve a public benefit, are a one-time expense, cost less than \$1 million, and are located on city property.

Ideas will not be accepted if they require the city to hire additional staff, require recurring expenses, give business to a specific vendor, are inconsistent with

city policies, or are located on private, state, or MBTA property.

Before being submitted to a public vote, all projects must be approved and reviewed by the city to ensure they meet all eligibility and legal requirements.

Throughout the idea submission phase, residents can submit their ideas online, over the phone, and in person.

+ Online: www.somervillema.gov/PB

+ Phone: 311 (dial 311 or 617-666-3311)

+ In Person: Submission forms are available for pickup at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Timeline

The Participatory Budgeting process will be divided into three parts:

First, from September 20 through November 20, residents develop and submit their ideas for funding. We'll create opportunities for residents to learn what qualifies and to bounce around ideas with fellow community members. We encourage you to workshop your ideas with others. Participatory Budgeting processes in other cities and towns often work best when residents listen to each other and collaborate with one another.

Next, during winter 2025, submissions will be carefully reviewed by Budget Delegate volunteers, and Somerville city staff. Category-specific subcommittees will evaluate each idea's need, impact, feasibility, and cost to determine the 20 ideas that will be presented for Somerville residents to vote on in the fall.

Finally, starting in early April Somer-



ville residents ages 12 and older can vote for which ideas they'd like to be funded. The ideas with the most votes will be implemented by the City starting in summer 2025, and will be funded until the \$1 million is completely spent.

How Somerville Residents Can Get Involved

Throughout the Participatory Budgeting process, the community is invited to get involved via a wide array of volunteer and community engagement opportunities. Residents interested in getting hands-on experience are especially encouraged to apply to volunteer as Budget Delegates. In an update from the first cycle, this idea review process will largely take place virtually this cycle to help make it more accessible to more residents. Volunteers will work directly with city staff to review idea submissions and determine which will be

voted on by their fellow residents.

The time commitment for Budget Delegates will consist of an orientation meeting (about two hours), tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 9, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Then a mix of virtual and in-person meetings with support from city staff will take place on subsequent Thursday nights from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. through Thursday, March 13, 2025.

General volunteer opportunities are also available to help get the word out and share the eligibility guidelines via outreach activities including stopping by businesses and knocking on home doors, event tabling, public speaking, and more.

Sign up to receive the Participatory Budgeting E-Newsletter to stay on top of all the process news, events, dates, and volunteer opportunities: www.somervillema.gov/PB.

Somerville's new Chief of Police sworn in

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville Police welcomed the new Somerville Chief of Police, Shumeane Benford, who was sworn in on Monday, September 16. The new Chief brings over 30 years of law enforcement experience, joining in from roles as Boston Housing Authority Police Chief and Boston Chief of Emergency Management. Congratulations to Chief Benford!



Somerville Parks and Recreation free programs currently available

Morning Walk Program

Morning Walk Program is now available at Dilboy Stadium. Enjoy wonderful morning walks along the Dilboy Track from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Monday through Thursday.

Adult Programs

Adult Pickup Basketball for Women

An opportunity for women in the community to get together and play some pick-up basketball. Fall Session at the Argenziano School Gym, Mondays 9/9 - 11/18, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Program Registration Link: https://somervillema.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30503.

Teen Programs

LGBTQIA+ Art Club

Powderhouse Teen Space open on Thursdays after school from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Each week, Teen Art Mentor will have an activity planned and supplies available for teens. This program will allow for teens to express themselves, showcase their art, and possibly learn some new creative outlets. We are excited to officially bring back an LGBTQIA+ specific art program. Snacks will be available, drinks, and a safe space to hangout with your friends, and make some new ones!

Mindfulness for Teens 13-18yrs old

This will be a 6-week program on Thursdays, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m., from October 10-November 14.

Each week we will offer free catered dinner from the Neighborhood Restaurant from 4:30 - 5:00 p.m. Location: Founders Rink (570 Somerville Ave Somerville MA 02143) This program will focus on learning and practicing mindfulness strategies and activities, including decorating and using your own journal, meditation, body scans, mindful movement, outdoor activities and practices, and more! They will offer snacks each week, and as always, the opportunity to hang out with your friends, and meet new ones, while practicing mindfulness - a tool that could benefit all of our lives! Program Registration Link: Somerville, MA Parks & Recreation: Mindfulness for Teens 13-18 (myrec.com).

Teen Volunteer Program

Teens 13-18 years old, Wednesdays October 18- November 20, 3-4:30 p.m.

Program Registration Link: Somerville, MA Parks & Recreation: Teen Volunteer Program (myrec.com)

Fall Volo Volleyball Clinic

Teens 12-18 years old

Fridays, September 20-October 25, 3:30-5 p.m. Grab and Go Sandwiches provided

Program Registration Link: Somerville, MA Parks & Recreation: Fall Volo Volleyball Clinic for Teens (myrec.com)

Fall Open Gym for Teens

Teens 12-18 years old, 3 Otis St, through Oct 2.

Program Registration Link: Somerville, MA Parks & Recreation: Fall Open Gym for Teens (12-18 years old) (myrec.com) Somerville Parks and Recreation Teen Programming is excited to bring back free Open Gym for Teens this fall on Wednesday nights from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Parks and Rec provides sports equipment, staff, and music, and teens bring yourselves and some friends!

Learn To Play Pickleball for Teens

Teens 12-18 years old, Founders Rink, 370 Somerville Ave, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

October 9-October 29

Program Registration Link: Somerville, MA Parks and Recreation: Learn-to-Play Pickleball for Teens 12-18 (myrec.com) Free pilot 4-week program, Learn-to-Play Pickleball for Teens 12-18! They will have an amazing coach present each week to teach rules, run skills and drills, and help facilitate games. Already know how to play. Show up, practice, and play with other teens. They have the courts, staff, paddles, balls, nets, and snacks! Come by, have fun, and check out their facility.

Youth Programs:

Basketball Clinic Grades 4-8, East Somerville Community School

Program Registration Link: Somerville, MA Parks and Recreation: Pride Girls Basketball Clinic (myrec.com) This program focuses on teaching the fundamentals of basketball and fine tuning the skills that they already have. They will learn dribbling skills, shooting skills, and many other basketball basics.

Middle School Intramural Flag Football

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Healey School Soccer Field, September 17 - November 7, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Grade 6-8. Our middle school intramural sports leagues are school-based teams that compete with other Somerville Public schools in a recreational setting. Teams work on skills and sportsmanship in a fun, structured environment, overseen by Parks and Recreation staff.

Flag Football

Joe Mackey Field (Healey School Playground), September 17 - November 7, Tuesdays and/or Thursdays, 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Program Registration Link: Somerville, MA Parks and Recreation: Middle School Intramural Flag Football (myrec.com).



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

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 meeting in Portuguese will be held Monday, September 30 at the East Somerville Community School Cafeteria, 50 Cross St. This meeting will also be livestreamed on the City of Somerville YouTube page and shared on the Portuguese language Facebook page fb.com/SomervilleCidade. Ward 5 (Magoun Sq., NE Ball Sq., Cedar & Lowell St. areas, NW Porter Sq., and more) takes place Tuesday, October 1, Kennedy School Cafeteria, 5 Cherry 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.

Poet/writer/publisher Gloria Mindock of Cervena Barva Press shares her writing process, provides advice for new writers, and reads some of her fabulous work. Briar Haus Writes conversation with Gloria Mindock 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8AaziWKXxw>.

RESPOND will celebrate 50 years of impact, resilience, and community at their Golden Gala. Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 24, at 6:00 p.m. at the Royal Sonesta in Cambridge for an unforgettable evening as they commemorate this incredible milestone and the progress they have made in the fight to end domestic violence. Ticket sales close on October 4, to purchase tickets visit <https://www.respondinc.org/gala/>.

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: somervillepubliclibrary.org.

The Elections Department is looking to

hire multiple inspectors for the upcoming November 5 Presidential Election and will be holding a brief information session where you can learn some basic knowledge of the polls. The hours the polls are open to voters are from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5. Register to attend an information session on Tuesday, October 8, at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.) at 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. If you can't make an information session but would like to learn more, please call the Elections Office at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200. <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/elections>.

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>.

Register to vote for the November 5 election, one of three ways: online at somerville-ma.gov/register tovote, in person at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.), or by calling the Elections Department (617-625-6600 ext. 4200) and requesting a voter registration form. The in-person registration deadline is Saturday, October 26, by 5:00 p.m. or online by midnight. Your registration can also be mailed and will be accepted with a postmark of October 26 or earlier.

SPS is hiring substitute teachers for all of our PK-12 schools. For more information or to apply visit <https://somerville.tedk12.com/hire>.

On Friday, September 27, at 7:30 p.m., at the Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave, Bill Blumenreich Presents: Beth Stelling, Stand-up Comedian, Writer and Actress. More info and tickets available on Ticketmaster: <https://www.ticketmaster.com/event/01006093DE328A14>. Beth Stelling is a comedian, writer and actress based in Los Angeles. Her new Netflix special *If You Didn't Want Me Then* topped every "Best of 2023" list.

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 Ballantyne 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 somervilleartsandculture.org/intercambio to learn more about this exciting opportunity to practice a language and connect with others in your community.

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.

Visit the Somerville Bike Kitchen, a volunteer-run bicycle repair cooperative, hosting open shop nights at The Dojo (15 Properzi Way, *Continued on page 21*)

IMAGINE's latest mural at Somerville Museum

A new addition to the Somerville Museum entrance will be a stunning mural by Nepali artist IMAGINE, also known as Sneha Shrestha. This significant artwork effortlessly merges her native language with the elegance of Sanskrit scriptures and the dynamic influences of graffiti, creating a vibrant and inclusive welcome for all visitors.

IMAGINE has showcased her meditative works in numerous exhibitions, commissioned pieces, and public walls worldwide, from Kathmandu to Boston. Her deeply rooted connection to Somerville, which she calls home, adds profound meaning to this mural.

Learn more about her works at: <https://www.imagine876.com/>



Nepali artist IMAGINE.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Escape...

— Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in History

September 25

- 1396 – The last great Christian crusade ends in disaster at the hands of Sultan Bayezid I's Ottoman army at Nicopolis.
- 1775 – British troops capture Ethan Allen, the hero of Ticonderoga, when he and a handful of Americans try to invade Canada.
- 1804 – The 12th Amendment is ratified, changing the procedure of choosing the president and vice-president.
- 1909 – The first National Aeronautic Show opens at Madison Square Garden.
- 1937 – German Chancellor Adolf Hitler meets with Italian Premier Benito Mussolini in Munich.
- 1959 – President Dwight Eisenhower and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev begin Camp David talks.
- 1974 – Scientists warn that continued use of aerosol sprays will cause ozone depletion.
- 1981 – Sandra Day O'Connor, the first female Supreme Court Justice, is sworn in.
- 1992 – NASA launches Mars Observer probe; it fails 11 months later.

Somernova, The Dojo represented at Green Future Gala

The Alliance for Clean Energy (ACT – formerly Northeast Clean Energy Council), hosted its Green Future Gala on September 19 at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate. The Gala gathered hundreds of climate champions, activists, policymakers, corporate leaders, and the startup community to celebrate the power of civic engagement and its role in shaping the clean energy future. Members of the Somernova team and students from The Dojo, the pilot youth community at Somernova, attended the event. The students were able to meet with several climate leaders such as Van Jones, CNN host and climate champion.



(L-R) – Van Jones; Collin Yip (Founder and Managing Partner of Rafi Properties); Majic Alphonse (Director of The Dojo at Somernova); Havilah Nimako (Student/The Dojo); Tatiana Arroyo (Student/The Dojo); Delmy Janet (Student/The Dojo); Joe Curtatone (President of The Alliance for Climate Transition and Former Mayor of Somerville).



Students from The Dojo (Tatiana Arroyo and Havilah Nimako) speaking with Shalaya M. Morissette, Winner of the Environmental Justice Award presented at the Green Future Gala. Morissette is Chief of the Minority Business and Workforce Division at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 19

Somerville). Come maintain your bike or learn more about cycling. **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Every **Thursday** from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. join **Parkour Generations Boston for Teen Jams at The Dojo**. This is a flexible time for teen community members to use the pop-up training space at The Dojo @ Somernova and connect with fellow community members in the process.

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.

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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Rafi Properties welcomes climate-action non-profit as a partner at The Dojo at Somernova

Rafi Properties, Owner and Operator of Somernova, the 7.4-acre innovation campus and community dedicated to helping people and companies iterate and grow faster, announced today that the Better Future Project, a local non-profit organization committed to building diverse, powerful, and democratic grassroots movements to address climate change, has joined The Dojo at Somernova.

As the newest partner at The Dojo, Somernova's youth-driven community center pilot, Better Future Project will bring their work of climate justice advocacy and community organizing to the innovation campus. The Better Future Project's mission of advocating for a swift, equitable transition to a 100% renewable energy economy, aligns seamlessly with Somernova's innovation ecosystem, which is home to leading tough tech companies tackling some of the world's most important issues, including the global climate crisis.

The Dojo at Somernova is a youth-driven, multi-generational community center pilot dedicated to connecting people of all ages and backgrounds through immersive learning, cultural experiences and fun. As an evolving prototype, The Dojo is a space where nonprofits and local partners come together to collaborate and empower Somerville's youth with the resources and tools they need to thrive. Entering The Dojo as a partner, Better Future Project joins a dynamic group of collaborators currently integrated in the space working at the intersection of community, culture and industry.

Better Future Project's presence at The Dojo at Somernova will fortify the cam-

pus's dynamic connectivity among its tenants and enrich programming for its youth members. The collaboration between Somernova and the Better Future Project will merge climate action initiatives with community engagement, establishing a robust platform for youth-driven climate advocacy at The Dojo. Better Future Project will cultivate environmental awareness and activism among the next generation, enhancing The Dojo's offerings and addressing the pressing nature of the climate crisis. Through this partnership, Better Future Project will expand its youth-focused initiatives and work with other Dojo partners to create enriching opportunities for Somerville's youth to engage in climate education and justice.

"Somernova is an ecosystem where innovative minds collaborate to address the world's most pressing challenges," said Kristin Phelan, Vice President of Real Estate Development for Rafi Properties, Owner and Operator of Somernova. "The Better Future Project's dedication to climate justice and grassroots advocacy aligns with our mission to support transformative initiatives that help solve the global climate crisis. Their involvement will enhance youth programming at The Dojo, amplifying our collective efforts to co-create a more sustainable and equitable future for our youth, our planet and for Somerville."

"Better Future Project is driven by the belief that people have the power to create positive change in the face of the climate crisis," said Alan Palm, Executive Director of Better Future Project. "Somernova is a place where inno-



vation and community converge. We are thrilled to join The Dojo at Somernova, and we look forward to contributing to its vibrant programming, community connections and campus synergy, as we work towards a sustainable future."

Better Future Project's grassroots efforts are guided by the mission to create a healthy, stable, livable climate where all people live in resilient communities that are powered by 100% renewable energy that is equitably distributed, decentralized, and democratically controlled and provides millions of safe, well-paying jobs. Led by three core programs – 350 Mass, Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW) and Make Polluters Pay – Better Future In August, Better Future Project and The Dojo at Somernova launched their partnership with a dynamic event that brought students from Teen Empowerment and the Mystic Learning Center to the innovation campus. The stu-

dents engaged directly with climate tech companies through a tour of Greentown Labs where they explored the groundbreaking work of two startups—one that creates ethical beads from natural materials for the fashion industry, and one works to advance solar panel technology. The event featured an overview of Better Future Project's climate action initiatives, which provided students with pathways to engage in environmental justice work. The inaugural partnership between The Dojo and Better Future Project represents Somernova's vision to connect Somerville's youth to the burgeoning climate tech ecosystem the campus is cultivating among its tenants. As the campus continues to grow, Somernova's development signifies an important step toward fostering a larger-scale impact, where the intersection of climate and economic justice can thrive, and the next generation is empowered to lead a just and sustainable future.

Cozy Arts singalong

Cozy Arts is celebrating the release of its newest Cozy Corner album with a free family event! Join Max, Trudy, and little Rory for a movement-based singalong followed by art making with Mrs. Flutterby and friends. Take-home resources include free downloadable music and an accompanying coloring songbook. Appropriate for ages 3+. Cozy Corner SingAlong is part of Cozy Arts' ongoing commitment to thoughtful family programming through its Signature Puppet Program, Cozy Corner. Cozy Arts' productions address social emotional growth (feelings, friendship, fairness), community-building, and are sensory friendly. Funded by the Somerville Arts Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Cozy Arts is dedicated to creating original puppet productions and educational resources that invite children, and their adults, to cultivate trusting relationships, welcoming communities, and a healthy planet. Founded in Somerville in 2018, they believe that children of all backgrounds and abilities have feelings that matter and capacities that can change the world. Together with children, educators and families, our Cozy Corner productions and resources explore how nurturing kindness, empathy and justice transforms lives.

At Cozy Arts, they strive to weave access into our work at every step, from concept and scripting to productions and resources. Our themes, characters and stories are designed with physical, functional and social access in mind with the goal that everyone can feel at home with Cozy Arts. Saturday, October 5, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Doors open at 10:15 a.m. 149 Broadway, Somerville. For a full list of Cozy Arts company members: <https://www.cozyarts.org/about/>.





OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'A Kids Book About Overdose'

A Kids Book About Overdose
By Lee S. Varon, LICSW
(a kids book about Press, 2024)

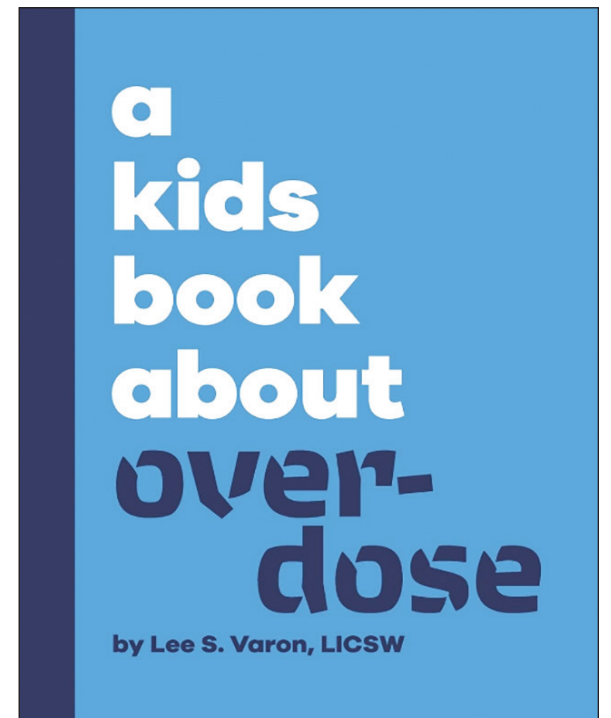
Review by Julia Carlson

Many of you may know Lee Varon for her fine poetry, but there is another side to her work, which is a focus on addiction. Varon, a clinical social worker, has explored addiction personally in her poetry, but in the last few years she's expanded her work to include fiction and workbooks about this complex subject. My Brother Is Not a Monster, a book for young readers from the view of a young girl whose older brother is a drug addict, is a sensitive, realistic rendering of addiction in a family. This story defines addiction, its consequences, and recovery. It is a hopeful story.

Now Varon brings us a workbook, *A Kids Book About Overdose*, published by a kids book about Press (akidsco.com). This press focuses on topics like hope, feelings, relationships, and safety for a young audience. Like many of their releases, they suggest grownups and kids read it together. Overdose is a scary topic, even for adults, but anyone who has had to deal with addiction, whether personal, familial, professional, or social, knows that overdose is part of addiction's fabric. Failure to quickly identify and treat it can lead to death.

Varon has done an excellent job defining overdose – drugs that can cause it, what addiction is, what overdose looks like, and what to do if you are unfortunate enough to witness one. There's a detailed description of what happens during a 911 call, including how to administer Narcan. This might be too much information for a younger child (this book is recommended for 5-9 years of age). In fact, this is why it's suggested the book be read with a parent/caregiver.

The end of this book focuses on feelings that might arise after witnessing an overdose – fear, anger, sadness, confusion, guilt, and anxiety. Varon explains and normalizes how to deal with feeling helpless after such a terrifying event. There's also a "to-do" list of suggestions to help keep your home safe and our



kids aware of what to do in an emergency.

It's a sad commentary indeed, when thousands of Americans, of all ages, have died due to drug overdose in the last 5 years, that Narcan, which reverses overdose, is now stocked in many restrooms, schools and public libraries, and in fact, that this book has even been written. However, I believe it's important for this information to be out in the public domain. Keeping addiction a secret doesn't help anyone. During my 25 years working in addiction, and especially with families and children, there were too many times when addiction reared its head. Children were often faced with situations like caregivers missing in action, arrested, passed out in the bathroom from an overdose, or worst case, dead. The outcome was not always positive and the children were left to suffer the effects.

It's obvious that the fight against addiction needs to continue – so much needs to be done. Treatment for rehabilitation and recovery, as well as general education about addiction, needs to be accessible on a wide scale. This workbook is a positive addition to the battle and should be in every school and public library.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Maureen McElroy grew up in Boston. She attended Boston University and holds an MFA from Emerson College. She is the author of *For Crying Out Loud* (Kelsay Books 2024). Her chapbook *Car Poems* (Finishing Line Press) came out in March of 2020. Her work has appeared in numerous literary magazines, including *Nixes Mate*, *Mothers Always Write*, *Trampset*, *Fickle Muses*, *Literary Hatchet*, and *Io*. She is Co-Chair of the Rozzie Reads Poetry Series sponsored by the Friends of the Roslindale Public Library.



If I Seem Distant

I'm drawing Hopscotch squares
in chalk
my mouth stained cherry Life Saver.
I'm diving off floating docks
logging water
4 feet from Monet's watercolors
in Paris
on a train through Scotland
sheep-shearing
knees skinned
wool wet and steaming
mist off Ireland's Cliffs of Moher
peat fires
camp fires
tenting fingers
sticky marshmallow
kissing my father's forehead
two hours dead
dead-heading roses
"Taps" playing
tap and ballet recital at 5
strawberry sequins.

The tap is leaking.
Can't you hear it?
It's so screaming loud!

— Maureen McElroy

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

Tufts University Department of Music Presents 'Sunday Concert Series: Gateway Jaz'

The Tufts University Department of Music presents Sunday Concert Series: Gateway Jaz in the Disler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Sunday, October 27, at 3:00 p.m. This concert blends various genres, including funk, blues, rock, and video game classics, all while deeply steeped in jazz traditions. Gateway Jaz pushes musical boundaries and intertwines genres while creating a unique and captivating sound. Phill Grannan, guitar; Tim Moyer, saxophone; Jake Gabriszeki, drums; and Galen Willett, bass.

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