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A warming center  
for the winter

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Gobble, Gobble,  
Gobble

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# Homan's development: 'Untangling a knotted necklace'



More than 70 community events have taken place in the as-of-yet developed Gilman Station space while details of the plan are being ironed out.

By Jeffrey Shwom

As we approach the two-year anniversary of the opening of the Green Line Extension's Medford/Tufts line on December 12, the status of transit-oriented and civic space development next to train stations, especially the Gilman Square station, remains in process after years of planning. The Times caught up with the City of Somerville's Economic Development department, which is touting forward progress in development around Gilman Square.

Per the MBTA, "Transit-oriented development (TOD) is compact, walkable development at or near transit stations, generally including a mix of uses such as housing, shopping, employment, and recreational facilities." The MBTA took temporary control of the Homans site (350

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## Illuminations 2024

Join in celebrating the incredible artistry of our residents and businesses as they transform yards, windows, and storefronts with festive lights, whimsical decorations, and dazzling displays of creativity.

So get ready to plug in those lights, grab your bike helmet, and experience Somerville's unique and interactive Illuminations extravaganza.

This year, enjoy Illuminations through self-guided tours or join a fun bike tour led by the Somerville Bike Advisory Committee, TBD.

Whether you're decorating your home or looking forward to touring, here's how to participate:

For Decorators: To add your address to the map, simply submit it to the interactive map on our website. Once approved, your home or business will appear on the map for everyone to enjoy.

Register at: <https://beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/illuminations-2023-submit-a-listing/>.

For Tour Goers: The interactive

Continued on page 2



This year's Illuminations kick off on December 12 and runs through early January.

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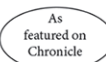
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# NEWTALK

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.

Kick off the holiday season on **Thursday, December 5**, at 5 p.m. at the **Christmas Tree Lighting** on the **City Hall Concourse**. Enjoy live entertainment, a meet-and-greet with **Santa Claus** in the **Somerville High School Cafeteria**, and light refreshments. All children who attend will receive a special gift from Santa. Santa Claus will be escorted by the **Somerville Fire and Police Departments** making his grand entrance atop a shiny red fire truck. On **Thursday, December 26**, the **Menorah Lighting** takes place on the **City Hall Concourse** (93 Highland Ave.) at 6 p.m. Traditional songs and sing-alongs. Special gifts will be available for children. Light refreshments will be served.

\*\*\*\*\*








**Nutcrackers: A Colorful History with Mary Woodward, December 5.** Join historian Mary Woodward to learn about the history of nutcrackers – a story that spans from the Stone Age to the Industrial Age. This virtual event will be held on **Thursday, December 5**, online via Zoom from 7 to 8 p.m. Learn more and register: <https://somervillepubliclibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/nutcrackers-a-colorful-history-with-mary-woodward/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to a great guy and good friend, **Billy Murphy**, who is celebrating this week. Happy birthday to **Irene Bremis**. We wish her the very best. Happy birthday to **Kevin McDevitt**. We wish him a great day. Happy birthday to **Ann Cassesso-Ercolini**. *Continued on page 7*

## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of December 4 – December 10 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> <i>December 4</i>	Partly Cloudy	42°/34°	4%	3%	SW 12 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> <i>December 5</i>	Rainy	43°/29°	45%	36%	WSW 20 mph
 <b>Friday</b> <i>December 6</i>	Sunny	33°/20°	1%	1%	NW 17 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> <i>December 7</i>	Partly Cloudy	36°/22°	6%	4%	SW 14 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> <i>December 8</i>	Partly Cloudy	41°/30°	10%	3%	W 9 mph
 <b>Monday</b> <i>December 9</i>	Rain	44°/40°	33%	24%	SW 11 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> <i>December 10</i>	Partly Cloudy	51°/34°	25%	17%	WSW 12 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: Shopping locally is key**

TheoNa says:

I would love to do more local shopping, however with the increasing removal of parking more and more of my shopping and dining is now being done outside of Somerville.

*Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments*

# The Somerville Times

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## Illuminations 2024

CONT. FROM PG 1

map will be available on the SAC website, so you can start planning your route. Keep in mind, though, we'll be adding new addresses until December 11 – so you may want to wait until then to see all the latest additions.

**Illuminations Dates:**  
December 12 through early January 2024:  
Self-guided tours using the Somerville's official online Illuminations Map: <https://beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/illuminations/>.

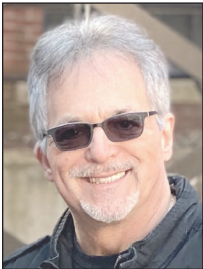


Life in the



by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Trash man



I hope everyone had a great thanksgiving. I have a funny true story to share. Monday is trash day for our street so I brought all my stuff out and put it in the barrels. I went back inside and put the TV on waiting for *Leave it to Beaver* to come on.

I had an envelope with \$80 in it and it was on my nightstand. My little trash barrel is on the floor nearby. I sat down on the edge of my bed and happened to notice the envelope was not there. I immediately and frantically tore the bed apart looking for the envelope to no avail.

I figured I threw it out with the trash. So now what? I dashed out to the curb

with my trusty jackknife and cut the trash bag open and started picking through everything. No envelope. Someone walked by and I was rifling through that trash barrel.

I was very nervous about losing \$80. I went back in the house and scoured my bedroom. Sure enough I found the envelope. How it got tucked in my sheets I don't know.

The funniest part of this story is what the neighbors thought of me barrel picking. It could make it to Facebook. "Jimmy hits on tough days!"

As I enjoy my golden years, my memory is what keeps me going so I always try to remember things.

I remember that we are now into the Christmas season so the lights are on the porch and I hope to bring my big Santa up soon.



## Middle Grades Climate Change Clubs Launch in January

High school student mentors are currently co-designing a curriculum with educators for the new middle grades Climate Change Clubs launching in January. Students in grades 6–8 will explore emerging challenges caused by climate change, then take a look at creative technology, science, and engineering solutions currently in development — many of these technologies are being developed right here in Somerville! The program begins in January, 2025 at all K–8 district schools. Read more at <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/sites/default/files/SPS%20STEM%20Week%202024.pdf>.

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(617) 650-0058	259 Elm Street, Suite LLI Somerville, MA 02144	<a href="http://www.claritytattooremoval.com/">www.claritytattooremoval.com/</a>

## Somerville Police Dept Crime Log November 19 – 25

### Bomb Threat

24073065: On 11/21/24 at approximately 8:24 a.m., Somerville Police responded to the Kennedy School for report of a bomb threat. Upon arrival, officers searched the school and the perimeter and did not locate any suspicious parties or devices.

### Residential Breaking and Entering

24073002: On 11/20/24 at approximately 10:20 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Horace St. for report of a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she was in her bedroom and heard footsteps coming from downstairs. She then heard a door shut before officers arrived. Nothing was reported missing.

### Arrest

24073140: On 11/21/24 at approximately 1:57 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Hathorn St. for report of a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a female party had kicked his door in. Officers then located the suspect nearby and she was placed under arrest.

### Residential Breaking and Entering

24073534: On 11/23/24 at approximately 12:02 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Medford St. for a dispute. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated an unknown male pushed open his door and began yelling at him. The victim closed the door and the suspect left the area.

### Residential Breaking and Entering

24073862: On 11/25/24 at approximately 7:48 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Warwick St. for past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he observed his front door pried open. He also stated someone broke into the property a few days prior and stole several shower heads.

### Arrest

24073416: On 11/22/24 at approximately 9:12 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Governor Winthrop Rd. for a noise call. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was in his living room and saw a saw coming through his wall. He then observed a male party break open the wall and enter into his apartment. The male suspect then assaulted the victim. Officers located the male suspect and he was placed under arrest.

**Other Crimes:** 4 Package thefts • 3 Car breaks • 2 MV thefts • 4 MV vandalisms • 1 Vandalism

— Somerville Police Department



# Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Help Keep  
Somerville Safe!

## Homan's development: 'Untangling a knotted necklace'

CONT. FROM PG 1

Medford Street) during the Gilman Square Green Line Station construction and returned it to the City of Somerville in May 2023.

The Gilman Square Station Area Plan, with nine major goals, was adopted in 2014 and has shaped modernization of zoning there to include more density, as well as recommending upgrades to civic spaces like the Marshall Street Playground and the Winter Hill Schoolyard (completed 2018), the city tells The Times. Fast forward to November 2023's Housing and Community Development Committee meeting where the Department laid out a three-fold focus through 2024:

- Working on a study of all city-owned land and disposition strategy
- Research into grant funding for infrastructure up to the Green Line station, and;
- Temporary placemaking to bring activity to the Homans site in the short term.

Complications arose this past year, including continued staffing challenges and "a pause in long-term redevelopment plan-

ning to determine if the site was needed for the Winter Hill School response." As reported in Cambridge Day in November 2023, The City of Somerville's Economic Development department indicated that disposition study (a study of city properties to sell, sublease, or negotiate a lease buyout of a property, for example) would take the better part of a year.

"The analogy that I'm finding best describes this (as) trying to untangle a knotted necklace," says Rachel Nadkarni, Director of Economic Development. "The future of the Homans site is several knots back from the end, behind the city's Capital Investment Plan, the Disposition Strategy, and partnering with the MBTA on the accessible route to the station, which has long been identified as the top priority discussed in the neighborhood. Making decisions about redeveloping the Homans site requires first untangling key issues in those other efforts." The city's Capital Investments Plan (CIP) sets forth the capital projects the City will fund over future years.

While long term planning continues, the lights have turned on at the fields below the high school. The city created a temporary pop-up park and worked through grants for improving accessibility to the Green Line, as a primer for the future. "CultureHouse worked with numerous event organizers to bring over 70 events to the space between June and September 2024, including art, music, fitness, markets, political office hours, and community gatherings. The temporary pop-up park remains open and available for community events and everyday use."

Furthermore, Planning staff applied for grants for a bridge at the East Somerville Green Line Station, in partnership with the MBTA and private developers. That partnership is yielding "important learnings that will inform future grant requests for the Gilman Square work, including general construction costs and how high over the catenary lines a pedestrian bridge needs to be." Other development activity in the Gilman Square area has occurred. 228-236 Pearl Street was up zoned for pri-

vate development and the city has received an application to renovate the ground floor of the Piano Building (343 Medford Street).

Elsewhere, the Ball Square Transit-Oriented Development site, which makes an L shape around the grey substation, is located physically in Medford. The status of MBTA control of the space is unknown after outreach to the MBTA. As recent as May 2024, the MBTA announced completion of five "Collaborative Agreements to Advance Housing Transit-Oriented Development Projects," including Attleboro (600 units), Salem (120 mixed-income units), Winchester, Boston, and Swampscott (114 units, 76 as affordable). Tufts University and the MBTA have a long term "Maintenance and Security Agreement" in place, which may allow building of a 100,000-square-foot structure. That agreement was last updated publicly in 2015, however.

"The MBTA is considering all stakeholder interests with respect to the future use of the site."

**By Harry Kane**

The city has decided to transform the former Cummings Elementary School building into an overnight warming center for unhoused residents during the cold months.

At the City Council meeting on November 26, the city appropriated \$388,000 to cover the costs of the warming center that will be in operation from December 9 through April 15. An additional \$35,000 for a restroom trailer and \$30,000 for security has been allocated by the city.

The city is in the process of contracting a site operator and security vendor. The operator will provide a site supervisor, staff the warming center and contract internal security, explained Connor McCombs, health communications officer at the Department of Health & Human Services. “The city will contract with an external security presence and directed patrols by SPD. Site staffing and security may be adjusted as needed throughout the season.”

There will be an overnight capacity of 20-25 at the warming center, explained Public Information Officer Victoria MacGregor. “The capacity is based on oper-

ator-safe staffing levels. Capacity is also based on fire, building and shelter codes. A limited overflow is allowed in chairs, but not additional cots.”

The city determined the need for a warming center is greater than last year, and therefore hours of operation have increased to accommodate homeless residents who require shelter and are among Somerville's most vulnerable.

Last winter, the warming center operated out of the second floor of the Armory. The operation lasted until March 24, but this year the city has extended the duration of the operation until April 13.

A warming center is a temporary night center for those experiencing homelessness, according to the City of Somerville website. The warming center will provide access to hot meals, bathrooms and safe sleeping spaces for residents experiencing homelessness.

“The warming center did not turn anyone away last year and will assess needs of unhoused from daily reporting from the operator,” said MacGregor. “If we had too many people, or families we could not accommodate, the operator can transport them to other shelters in the region.”



The former Cummings Elementary School building will serve as a warming center for unhoused residents through the winter months.

The warming center is a commitment from the city to provide a safe place to sleep during the coldest nights of the year, according to the City of Somerville's website. The hours of operation are 7 days per week, 5 p.m. to 8 a.m.

"This is an extension of length of the duration of the program from last year," said Karin Carroll, director of the Department of Health & Human Services during the

City Council meeting on November 26.

The Cummings School building is located at 42 Prescott St. The former school building is named after John A. Cummings, the fifth Mayor of Somerville from 1881-1884, and the publisher of The Somerville Journal from 1872-1874.

The former school has been a mixed-use, city-owned building that was selected among five other

*Continued on page 12*

Continued on page 12

# Bus Route Changes

**The first phase of MBTA's Bus Network Redesign starts December 15, 2024.**

## Bus Network Redesign: Phase 1 Changes

Beginning **December 15, 2024**

**Frequent Bus Route**  
Every 15 minutes or better,  
5 AM to 1 AM  
(Sundays may start as late as 6 AM)

Future Route	Discontinued Route Segment
<span style="color: orange;">86</span> Route 86	<span style="color: orange;">86</span> Route 86
<span style="color: blue;">104</span> Route 104	<span style="color: blue;">104</span> Route 104
<span style="color: purple;">109</span> Route 109	
<span style="color: green;">110</span> Route 110	
<span style="color: red;">116</span> Route 116	<span style="color: cyan;">117</span> Route 117

**Route 104** will turn east toward the airport. **Route 109** will still run between Everett Square and Sullivan Square.

**Route 109** will be extended from Sullivan Square to Harvard Station, replacing this part of **Route 86**.

**Routes 116 and 110** will continue to serve these streets. **Route 117** will be discontinued.

**Get ready! Learn how these routes will change:**

- 86
- 104
- 109
- 110
- 116
- 117

Learn More at [MBTA.com/BNRPhase1](https://www.mbta.com/BNRPhase1)

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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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**THE HOUSE AND SENATE:** There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

The 2025-2026 legislative session is scheduled to begin in January. One of the first orders of business in the Senate will be the adoption of the rules under which the Senate will operate during the next two years.

One of the proposed changes that will be debated is an attempt by the Republican minority to make it more difficult for the Senate to conduct late-night sessions. The makeup of the new Senate will consist of 36 Democrats and four Republicans.

Under current rules, a two-thirds roll call vote is required for the Senate to conduct its session beyond 8 p.m. A separate two-thirds roll call vote is required for the Senate to continue beyond midnight.

For the 2023-2024 session, the Republicans proposed two changes to those rules. The first would require a separate two-thirds vote for the session to continue after 10 p.m. and go until midnight. The second would require a unanimous vote for the Senate to meet beyond midnight.

"I voted in favor of these amendments as a check on how the Senate operates beyond normal business hours," said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). "It's important that these [changes take place] ... going into the next legislative session, in order to discourage the habit of debating and passing legislation under the cover of darkness and bring more transparency to the legislative process."

"The Senate rejected a couple of rule changes in order to justify more secrecy," said Paul Craney, a spokesperson for the Mass Fiscal Alliance. "It's a tremendous disservice to the taxpayers and their constituents. The Senate should not be meeting in the very late or early morning hours to conduct their official business. Unfortunately, in Massachusetts, the legislative process is very broken."

Opponents of the two new rules say the current Senate rules are sufficient.

"On rare occasions to complete critical work such as lowering housing costs or reforming the prescription drug industry, the Senate meets beyond regular business hours and into the evening," said a spokesperson for Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "Under the Senate rules approved by members for the [2023-2024 session], two-thirds of the members must vote in order to continue a session beyond 8 p.m. and two-thirds must also vote in order to continue beyond midnight."

Here is how your local senators voted on the two new rules for the 2023-2024 session. The same two new rules will likely be considered by the incoming 2025-2026 session.

REQUIRE A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO GO BEYOND 10 P.M.

Senate 4-34, rejected an amendment that would require a two-thirds vote for the Senate to continue any session beyond 10 p.m. and continue the session until midnight. This would be in addition to a current Senate rule that requires a two-thirds vote to continue a session beyond 8 p.m. and a two-thirds vote to continue a session beyond midnight.

Amendment supporters said requiring the two-thirds vote will ensure that late-night sessions between 10 p.m. and midnight, when legislators are tired and many citizens are already sleeping, do not become the norm but are allowed only when a vast majority of senators favor it.

Amendment opponents said the current rules requiring a two-thirds vote to go beyond 8 p.m. and another two-thirds vote to go beyond midnight are sufficient and argued there is no need to add another layer.

(A "Yes" vote is for requiring a two-thirds vote to go beyond 10 p.m. and continue until midnight. A "No" vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

REQUIRE UNANIMOUS VOTE TO GO BEYOND MIDNIGHT

Senate 4-34, rejected an amendment that would require a unanimous vote for the Senate to continue any session beyond midnight. Current Senate rules require a two-thirds vote to go beyond midnight.

Amendment supporters said sessions after midnight, when taxpayers are sleeping, and some members are barely awake, are irresponsible and should only be held if 100 percent of the senators agree there is a major emergency.

Amendment opponents said going beyond midnight currently is only done when there is an emergency. They said it is often impossible to get a unanimous vote on anything and argued it is not wise to give a single member the power to essentially adjourn the Senate.

(A "Yes" vote is for requiring a unanimous vote to go beyond midnight. A "No" vote is against requiring it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**BAN NICOTINE AND TOBACCO** – A trio of legislators announced they plan to co-sponsor legislation aimed at eventually ending the sale of all nicotine and tobacco products in the Bay State. Sen. Jason Lewis (D-Winchester) and Reps. Tommy Vitolo (D-Brookline) and Kate Lipper-Garabedian (D-Melrose) said they will file the bill for consideration in the 2025-2026 legislative session.

The proposal will not take away the right to purchase nicotine and tobacco products from anyone who is already legally able to do so. Instead, the measure would prohibit people under 21 who are not currently old enough to legally purchase nicotine and tobacco products, to ever be lawfully able to purchase these products in Massachusetts.

"We all know the devastating health effects of nicotine and tobacco products, especially on our youth who are targeted by Big Tobacco," said Sen. Lewis. "This bill will save countless lives and create a healthier world for the next generation."

"This legislation treats everyone fairly," said Rep. Vitolo. "Those who are not old enough now to obtain nicotine products will never be old enough to buy them in Massachusetts. Those who are old enough today will always be old enough. This problem is going to take a generation to solve, and with this legislation we can solve it, one day at a time."

"We already have laws that prevent tobacco retailers from selling to anyone under 21 - and they check IDs diligently," responded Peter Brennan, executive director of the New England Convenience Store and Energy Marketers Association. "The current system works. Prohibiting adults from purchasing legal tobacco products in a regulated environment such as local stores is a misguided infringement on adults' rights and will do nothing to address youth tobacco use."

**ATTORNEY GENERAL CAMPBELL ISSUES CITATIONS TO SOME BURGER KING FRANCHISE OWNERS** - Attorney General Andrea Campbell announced that her office has issued citations totaling more than \$2 million against Northeast Foods LLC, a company which operates dozens of Burger King franchise locations across the Bay State, for violating various state employment laws, including child labor laws. The citations include restitution for unpaid wages and penalties.

Campbell alleges that the operator violated Massachusetts' child labor laws, between January Continued on page 16

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Don't forget to shop local this holiday season.

Our View Of The Times



Here comes the holiday shopping season once again, and we are ready to embrace the opportunity to celebrate the only way we know how: with enthusiasm and optimistic attitudes.

Let the political and social pundits doom and gloom themselves into their usual perpetual state of the doldrums. We know how to lift ourselves, to rise to the occasion and make the most of what we

have, in spite of whatever challenges may confront us.

Also, we can thankfully breathe a little easier now that the covid pandemic is showing signs of finally subsiding to an appreciable degree.

While the Thanksgiving holiday reminds us to be grateful for the blessings we have received, likewise, the other seasonal holidays that follow allow us the opportunity

to share our bounty and to take stock in all the good things that life here in our city has to offer.

We know that prosperity of spirit is far more important than the material wealth that may elude us from time to time. It may sound trite, but when you really think about it seriously the truth of it becomes clear and meaningful.

As we are so often reminded, "local first"

applies to our friends, families, and the occasional stranger as much as it does to our local economy. It's a time to be a little kinder, and a little gentler with one another, as well as help local business to both survive and thrive.

We are certain that the rewards to be gained from this will soften the effects of whatever excesses we may experience along the way.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

We wish her the very best of birthdays as well. Happy birthday to **Peter Blaikie, Deb Feeley, Karen Fay, Rochelle Jennings, Gordon Crook, Jason Castle, Steve Prescod, Kat Rutkin, James V Avila, Rita VanSteensburg, Kristen Chiaraluce and Annmarie Costante** 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**East Somerville Main Streets Cozy Holiday Market** is back. Join in on **Friday, December 6**, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. for a night of festive fun at **Deano's Pasta,**

**16 Garfield Ave.** Activities for the whole family with @thebeautifulstuffproject, delicious bites from @lacosechafood, and of course, photos with Santa. Local vendors and artisans will be there with the perfect holiday gifts.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **10th Annual Holiday Stroll** will take place on **Saturday, December 7.** A celebration of **Union Square** sparkle, discovery, and holiday delight that is sure to jumpstart your holiday shopping and get you exploring all that the "38th coolest neighborhood in the world" has to offer. Dozens of locally-owned businesses await you with everything needed to stuff

your stockings, deck your halls with local art, tantalize your taste buds, and more. Come on down to unwrap Union Square in all its wintry wonderment. Have some free time on Saturday, December 7? Sign up for a volunteer shift here: Sign up for a volunteer shift here: <https://signup.com/go/SzokFwT>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Low-income households** may be eligible to receive help with **winter heating costs** through the **Fuel Assistance Program.** This program is part of the **Home Energy Assistance program (HEAP)** and serves residents of Somerville and Cambridge. Participants receive assistance

with their heating costs **between November 1 and April 30.** Learn more about the program, check if you qualify, and apply for assistance today at [somervillema.gov/heatingassistance](http://somervillema.gov/heatingassistance).

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Arts Council** and the **Inside-Out Gallery** present **Vernon Street Studios 50th Anniversary Retrospective Exhibit**, curated by **Steven Cabral.** This showcase was a part of Steven's community benefit project as a **Somerville Arts Council LCC 2024 Visual Arts Fellowship Awardee.** 1 Davis Square, Somerville. Learn more about the participating artists here: *Continued on page 21*

# FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's *Olio*

**Olio** - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#952

1. In what sport will you hear the term "tomato can"?
  2. In what movie did Humphrey Bogart play Charlie Allnut?
  3. Where would you find the semicircular canals?
  4. In *Game of Thrones*, what is the translation of the term "valar dohaeris"?
  5. What was the first desegregated hotel casino in Las Vegas?
  6. What is the tallest structure in Las Vegas?
  7. When animals sleep during the winter, what is it called?
  8. Tom Joad is a character in which John Steinbeck novel?
  9. What is the full moon that falls in December called?
  10. What is the name of George Bailey's guardian angel in the film *It's a Wonderful Life*?
  11. What is the main ingredient of Mince Meat Pie?
  12. What former Beatle was assassinated on December 8, 1980?
- Answers on page 14

Answers on page 14

## The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. 3.6 cans of Spam are consumed each second.
2. Americans look at eight houses before buying one.

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

## ACROSS

1. F, unit of electrical capacity
6. Buche de Noël, e.g.
9. What influencers do?
13. Yemeni's neighbor
14. Another word for Tokyo
15. Singer Ross of "Where Did Our Love Go" fame
16. Laundry room fire hazard, pl.
17. Much of it about nothing?
18. Furnish with a fund
19. "A Bad Moms Christmas" actress Bell
21. \*Tiny Tim creator
23. Tibetan ox
24. Khrushchev's domain
25. Goo on real Christmas tree
28. Sketch
30. Poinsettia's motherland
35. " \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ Good Men", movie
37. Brussels' org.
39. Plant fungus
40. Reluctant
41. Klutzy
43. "It's beginning to look \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ like..."
44. Domains
46. Bog down
47. Oxen connector
48. Under epidermis
50. Mums' mums
52. Over, poetically

53. Alleviate

55. \_\_\_\_ Mahal

57. Tanne in "O Tannenbaum" (2 words)

61. It is feliz to Feliciano

65. Radioshow host: "Hello, you're \_\_\_\_"

66. Knot-tying vow (2 words)

68. Dispatch boat

69. Carthage's ancient neighbor

70. Egg \_\_\_\_

71. Oil lamp dweller

72. Fishing poles

73. Bigheadedness

74. Painter Degas

## DOWN

1. Lore people
2. Mideast ruler
3. Hindu princess
4. Jittery

## CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19						20			21	22				
			23				24							
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48					49		50			51		52		
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57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				



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**Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:**

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

5. Farthest from point of origin
  6. Ground beef description
  7. Like Lemmon and Matthau together
  8. Merchandise
  9. Swim's alternative
  10. Dwyane, once of Miami Heat
  11. Any day now, to Shakespeare
  12. Swerves
  15. King's order
  20. Increasing
  22. Philosophy ending
  24. Undo, as in strings
  25. Green side
  26. Before, in the olden days
  27. J.M. Barrie's Pan
  29. "Howdy, \_\_\_\_!"
  31. Internal picture
  32. Meltable home
  33. Singer Sam of "Twistin' the Night Away"
  34. Weasel's aquatic cousin
  36. "Last Christmas" band, with !
  38. Edible pod
  42. Busybody, in Yiddish
  45. Mountain range
  49. Certain fraternity house letters
  51. Cruel
  54. Cele de la Cité river
  56. Tripped the light fantastic
  57. Number of ghosts in "A Christmas Carol"
  58. \*"He's Just Not That \_\_\_\_ You", movie
  59. Police's surprise
  60. Habitual twitches
  61. Not happening (2 words)
  62. Minor bumper damage
  63. "Heat of the Moment" band
  64. Opposite of talker?
  67. The Grinch's Max
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.*

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

OBITUARY

Marie E. Howe

June 13, 1939 - December 2, 2024



As Massachusetts completes the celebration of Irish American Heritage Month and Women’s History Month in March, here’s a special shout-out to former Massachusetts State Representative Marie E. Howe, a notable

Irish-American woman. A lifelong resident of Somerville, Howe was elected to the House of Representatives from the 31st Middlesex District, holding office from 1965 to 1988. While in office, Marie also served on the Commerce and Labor, Rules, and Ways and Means Committees. She was instrumental in supporting a stronger Lemon Law to make sure consumers got fair treatment when purchasing automobiles. Marie was also a trailblazer in terms of women’s equality. In April 1975, Representative Howe and State Representative Lois Pines served as co-chairs of the newly formed Massachusetts

Caucus of Women Legislators, during a time when there were 16 women total in the House and Senate. Today there are more than 60 legislators in the Massachusetts Caucus of Women. Among the pressing issues of that time was the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in Massachusetts, and more locally, the right of women to have equal pay, equal opportunities and equal decision-making duties at the State House. Representative Howe’s long-standing commitment to peace and justice in Northern Ireland is one of the hallmarks of her illustrious career. The daughter of Irish immigrants from

Cork and Armagh, Howe objected to the poor treatment of Northern Ireland nationalists at the hands of the British Government during the 1970s and 1980s and was quick to protest against British officials who came to town, including a visit from the Royal Family and a visit of a British Tall Ship. She worked closely with Amnesty International and local groups concerned about the Northern Ireland troubles. In 1979 she introduced a House Resolution calling upon the Governor to declare March 17 as Human Rights Day in Ireland. Howe was also a strong supporter of human rights in Sri Lanka, and in 1981 filed a res-

olution on behalf of Sri Lanka Tamils living in Somerville. Marie Howe’s papers from her legislative career are at the Massachusetts State Library in the State House. The papers in the collection consist primarily of correspondence relating to her official duties in the legislature, as well as materials on Northern Ireland and Sri Lanka and her investigation into problems on the MBTA red line. Visiting hours for Marie will be held Tuesday morning, December 10, 2024, in St. Ann Church, 399 Medford St. Somerville from 9:00am to 11:00am, followed by a Funeral Mass at 11:00. Relatives and friends invited.

Dorothy’s Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Holiday Dishes

This holiday season looks quite different than years past for many of us. Usually, we host between 30-35 people on Christmas Eve. This year, it will be just the two of us. Sure, there will be phone calls, FaceTime, or whatever other platform you use to be in touch with family and friends. I know it’s not the same, but I’m grateful nonetheless. Thank goodness for technology. With the vaccines on the horizon, better days are headed our way. May this pave the way for an outstanding 2021. Here is a compilation of holiday dishes that I’ve written about over the past few years. Maybe you can create new family traditions using some of these recipes. Happy Holidays to all! **Baccalà** – <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/80551> **Ricotta Pie** – [- \[somervilletimes.com/archives/81102\]\(https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/81102\) \*\*Chocolate Holiday Cookies\*\* – <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/95625>
- Stuffed Mushrooms\*\* – <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/55006>
- Pizzelle\*\* – <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/88516>
- Baked Stuffed Shrimp\*\* – <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/63666>
- Tzimmes\*\* – <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/64030>
- Stuffed Artichokes\*\* – <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/65165>
- Panettone Bread Pudding\*\* – <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/66494>

Visit Dorothy’s website at <http://ddimarzo2002.wix>.](https://www.the-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)



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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

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

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register?wn=26go3GiRRVylM7UjtM-9K0>  
Webinar ID: 864 4773 8484

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

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

HP24-000104- 42 Vinal Avenue

Applicant: Morse Constructions  
Owner: Alexandra Fitzsimmons & Sean Brann  
The Applicant seeks to demolish an accessory structure constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

Case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) with inquiries.

11/27/24, 12/4/24 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
LICENSES AND PERMITS  
PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's **Committee on Licenses and Permits** on **Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 6:00 PM**, on a petition for a New Flammables License.

New Flammables License, 74M Property Owner, LLC, 74 Middlesex Avenue, storing 6,870 gallons. This meeting will be held by remote participation, using the Zoom Webinar platform.

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. To attend and be heard, enter the link exactly as it appears below into your internet browser. You will then be asked to register for the meeting.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register?wn=Qk67Z0WKShyqdyLzYF-Tw>
2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to [publiccomments@somervillema.gov](mailto:publiccomments@somervillema.gov), or send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS  
CITY CLERK

12/4/24 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP# 25-32 Zoning Incentives for Fossil Free Development  
and Additional Electrical Capacity

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

Zoning Incentives for Fossil Free Development  
and Additional Electrical Capacity

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Monday, December 2, 2024**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, December 18, 2024**.

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

Please email [jremy@somervillema.gov](mailto:jremy@somervillema.gov) for more information.

Jordan Remy  
Senior Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3400

12/4/24 The Somerville Times

Notice of Intent

The following vehicles will be sold  
Pursuit to M.G.L. 255 S.39A

- 2000 Toyota Camry Vin# 4T1BG22K9YU010041
- 2006 Subaru Forester Vin# JF1SG67626H727237
- 2001 Volkswagen Golf Vin# 9BWBT21J914025238
- 2002 Honda Odyssey Vin# 2HKRL18922H553679
- 2005 Toyota Rav4 Vin# JTEHD20V950062725
- 2012 Chevy Impala Vin# 2G1WG5E3XC1132450
- 2020 Chevy Trax Vin# KL7CJLSB7LB019550
- 2010 Kia Rio Vin# KNADH4A35A6667426
- 2010 Ford Fusion Vin# 3FAHP0HAXAR185905
- 2008 Ford Escape Vin# 1FMCU93178KA87594

To satisfy the debt owed to  
Cityside Enterprises Inc.  
617-776-6111

12/4/24 The Somerville Times

Notice of Intent

The following vehicles will be sold  
Pursuit to M.G.L. 255 S.39A

- 2014 TOYOTA COROLLA VIN# 2T1BURHE 0E C226652
- 2016 NISSAN PATHFINDER VIN# 5N1AR2MM8G C644000
- 2006 HONDA CIVIC VIN# 2HG FA16576H526731
- 2007 VW JE TTA VIN# 3VWE G 71K37M159285
- 2009 ACURA TL VIN# 19UUA96589A004750
- 2010 KIA FORTE VIN# KNAFU4A24A51275498

To satisfy the debt owed to  
Cityside Enterprises Inc.  
617-776-6111

11/20/24, 11/27/24, 12/4/24 The Somerville Times

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Donate to local holiday gift drives at city buildings

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne announces the city's annual support of local holiday gift and toy donation drives. In the giving spirit of the season, the city is placing toy and gift donation collection boxes at City buildings, libraries, and firehouses from Tuesday, December 3, through Wednesday, December 18. Donated gifts will support two community gift drives for families in need of gifts for children and teens this holiday season. All gifts will be distributed to families by two local efforts: Toys for Local Children, a long-standing local charity that organizes annual holiday gift drives, and The Somerville Toy Drive, an initiative organized by community members (including the organizers of last year's MAMAS Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville annual gift drive as well as other residents). More information on their gift drives and other ways to help can be found at [toysforlocalchildren.org](http://toysforlocalchildren.org) or via email at [somervilletoydrive@gmail.com](mailto:somervilletoydrive@gmail.com).

What to Donate:

To donate, please bring new, unwrapped toys and gifts for children as well as age-appropriate gifts for teens. Please donate only new items. Gifts are needed for all ages from infants to age 14. Gifts are especially welcome for ages 0-2 years and 8-14.

Where to Donate:

Donate at the following Somerville city buildings, libraries, and Firehouses. Collection boxes will be in place from Tuesday, December 3, through Wednesday, December 18, 4:30 p.m.:

City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Welcome Desk, 1st floor, and Mayor's Office, 2nd floor • Somerville Central Library, 79 Highland Avenue • Somerville East Library, 115 Broadway • Somerville West Branch Library, 40 College Avenue • City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Street • Dept. of Public Works (DPW) Building, One Franey Road • Council on Aging Offices, 167 Holland Street • Somerville Police Headquarters lobby, 220 Washington Street • Fire Stations: Somerville Fire Department Headquarters, 266 Broadway – Highland Ave. Station, 265 Highland Avenue – Union Square Station, 255 Somerville Avenue – Teele Square Station, 6 Newbury Street (corner of Holland Street) – Lowell Street Station, 651 Somerville Avenue (corner of Lowell Street)

# The Neighborhood Marketplace

A place for businesses to come together to sell their products or services

YOUR AD HERE

YOUR AD HERE

We are starting a new feature for the new year. As of January 1, 2025 we will be running a Neighborhood Marketplace page to give businesses a place to come together to advertise to new customers for a great price.

To advertise or for further information, email [bobbietoner@aol.com](mailto:bobbietoner@aol.com)

## The Somerville Times

# Best of Somerville 2024

### Cast your vote!

You have until December 20 to vote for your favorites in each category. To cast your vote, email us at [thebestofsomerville@yahoo.com](mailto:thebestofsomerville@yahoo.com). The winners will be announced on in our January 1 edition. If you don't see your favorite category here, simply add it to this list.

#### Foods & Restaurants

Best Breakfast  
Best Combination Breakfast & Lunch  
Best Italian Food  
Best Chinese Food  
Best Mexican Food  
Best Portuguese Food  
Best Local Deli  
Best Variety and all around Restaurant  
Best Seafood  
Best Irish Pub  
Best Local Bar  
Best Thai Food  
Best Hamburger  
Best Mac & Cheese  
Best Hot-Dog  
Best Roast Beef Sandwich  
Best Pizza  
Best Bakery  
Best Sub Shop

#### Best of Somerville Services

Best Coffee Shop Franchise  
Best Coffee Shop local  
Best Bar Food  
Best Electrician  
Best Plumber  
Best Attorney  
Best Teacher  
Best Politician  
Best City Worker  
Best Receptionist  
Best Real Estate Agent/Realtor  
Best Real Estate Rental Agent  
Best Bank Teller  
Best Bank Employee  
Best Waitstaff  
Best Bartender  
Best Cook  
Best Caterer

#### Best of Somerville Businesses

Best Barber  
Best Hair Salon  
Best Doctor  
Best Nurse  
Best Coach  
Best Police Officer  
Best Fire Fighter  
Best Photographer  
Best Somerville Historian  
Best Eye Doctor  
Best Orthodontist  
Best Mortgage Officer  
Best Somerville Artist  
Best Somerville Poet  
Best Somerville Writer  
Best Somerville Celebrity  
Best City Elected Politician  
Best City Employee DPW  
Best City Employee City Hall/Annex

#### Best of Somerville Businesses

Best Somerville Bank  
Best Real Estate Company  
Best Insurance Agency  
Best Creative Business in 2024  
Best Florist  
Best Laundromat  
Best Liquor Store  
Best Gas Station  
Best Auto Body Shop  
Best Tow Company  
Best Law Firm  
Best Pest Exterminator  
Best Convenient/Neighborhood Store  
Best Somerville Non Profit Agency  
Best Bar For Bands

#### Best Idea in 2024

Worst Idea in 2024

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

Dear Somerville Community,

As the new Executive Director at the Somerville Museum, I would like to introduce myself and share what drew me to this incredible cultural institution nestled in a residential neighborhood on the corner of Central Street and Westwood Road right in the heart of Somerville.

The Somerville Museum's mission is to be a "mirror" to one of the most unique, innovative, creative and diverse communities in the country with a rich history that deepens our understanding of who we are, where we came from and what we want our future to look like. Having facilitated and curated public art and as a former academic with a focus on cultural memory, I believe strongly in the significance of the arts to create space for shared understanding, transcend differences, and bring people together with a common purpose.

Walking into the Somerville Museum evokes a sense of sanctuary and contemplation with its two stories of beautiful arched windows where the light bathes the main gallery space. The gallery's distinctive features include a Charles Bulfinch stair-

case, George Loring doors and Federal Revivalist architectural molding. Against this backdrop steeped in history, our regionally recognized and award-winning exhibitions like "Sanctuary City," "BLUE," "Museo Immigrante" and "Above and Beyond" feature the art, creativity, history, and spirit of Somerville past and present, transforming the space in ways that ignite the imagination, and activate an ongoing dialogue with history and place.

For the coming year the Somerville Museum, along with a select group of institutions from across the State, received grant funding from the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism to produce programming related to the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. With this grant we are supported in using this occasion to explore not only the Revolution, but themes of revolution, freedom, independence, as well as untold stories and the "firsts" that distinguish Somerville's legacies.

Beyond the museum, our historically themed community events and stimulating Tavern Talks at Aeronaut Brewery have been going strong while our beautiful museum has been closed to the

public for restorations and renovations supported by funds from the American Rescue Plan Act and Community Preservation Act. Improvements you can look forward to include the addition of an elevator making our museum fully accessible to people with mobility challenges, and the installation of an HVAC system that will allow for temperature control throughout the building, keeping our collections safe and enabling us to remain open all year around!

We are nearing the end of our renovations and cannot wait to welcome you back to the Museum with a new exhibition on "The Art of the Festival" in Nepal and commissioned murals by the well-known Somerville Nepali artist, Imagine. As you enter the museum at the ADA or main entrances, you will be greeted by Imagine's vibrant colors and sweeping Sanskrit that translates into English as "Welcome to All!"

We want to engage with you! We welcome your input through our community survey, your companionship on our member trip to Cuba this February, your applications to our Community Curator program, your involvement as a



volunteer or Advisory Council Member and your support as a member or donor. Please take a moment to explore our website at [www.somervillemuseum.org](http://www.somervillemuseum.org), get in touch with us at [info@somervillemuseum.org](mailto:info@somervillemuseum.org), or stop in and see us when we reopen on January 16!

I look forward to getting to know each other.

Stephanie Marlin-Curiel  
Executive Director

## City approves winter emergency warming center

CONT. FROM PG 5

buildings based on factors such as city ownership, heating, ADA compliance, no current shared use and proximity to the target population.

Access is through the Prescott St. side, using the gymnasium as an entry point to two separate rooms on the left. There are some planned upgrades to the indoor bathrooms, along with installation of fire alarms, painting and lighting additions.

This year's costs have increased due to additional hours of operation, Carroll said. Roughly two-thirds of the money from the budget for the warming center goes towards paying personnel.

During a meeting on November 18, where members of the community discussed the future of the warming center, there was an attempt to obtain a heated trailer with showers, but unfortunately every one of the trailers containing showers is being used for hurricane relief. However, a restroom trailer will be available as a

temporary solution due to the bathrooms at the Cummings School building being child-sized.

In addition to a new security firm, a transportation element has been added to assist individuals to travel to and from the warming center, Carroll added.

Based on last year's data, the Davis Square neighborhood is where the majority of the homelessness come from, Carroll said. There will be a small van that will transport folks from Davis Square and other areas to the warming center. Taxi vouchers will also be provided if the van is not available to service the neighborhood.

"I'm very glad to hear that the transportation is in both directions," said City Councilor President Ben Ewen-Campen. "I'm certainly in support of this."

Ward 6 City Councilor Lance L. Davis questioned whether the van would only be used to transport individuals to and from Davis Square. "I'm glad to hear that

we will be providing transportation that's not just in police vehicles because I know that was a challenge for some folks last year," said Councilor Davis. "I'm thrilled that folks will be transported from the Davis Square area where they can stay warm at night. What about folks elsewhere in the city?"

Carroll assured the councilors that transportation would be provided from other areas of Somerville as needed, and that taxi vouchers would substitute for the van, if the van was unavailable. "They will be able to go where the need is," Carroll said, regarding the van's daily route.

Jack Connolly, former Alderman from Ward 6, applauded the city's effort to provide shelter for the homelessness with the addition of an overnight warming center.

"It's going to shelter people from the cold ... and obviously a winter's night is not fun for anybody outside," Connolly said. "It remains to be seen how effective it's going to

be and for how long it will last."

Connolly explained that more homeless have filtered into Somerville since Boston Mayor Michelle Wu's Administration removed tent encampments at the epicenter of the crisis at Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard.

Melnea Cass was known as the "First Lady of Roxbury," and was an American community and civil rights activist.

"A lot of those folks maneuvered up the red lines to Central Square, to Davis [Square] and up to Alewife, and tend to congregate," Connolly said.

Connolly says the "Davis Square Day-tripper's" come for the day, but tend to return at night. "For those people who don't, yes, having a bus to Prescott Street to drop them off for shelter ... I give the city credit for trying to put a Band-Aid on what's probably an even bigger problem based on the number of people that are probably looking for somewhere to be."

# Bow Market hosts Small Business Saturday celebrates local businesses and community spirit

By Robert Posio

On Saturday, November 30, Bow Market hosted Small Business Saturday, a holiday of sorts, celebrating the spirit of community and local businesses in Somerville. The market, known for its eclectic mix of over 30 small shops, bars, and creative spaces, came alive with shoppers eager to explore and connect.

Small Business Saturday was started by American Express in 2010 in an attempt to drive more holiday shopping to smaller businesses. In 2011, the Senate unanimously approved a resolution endorsing Small Business Saturday, and by 2012, officials from all 50 states had joined in supporting the initiative.

"It's nice to shine a spotlight on the people who are starting from the ground up," said Megan Kilcoyne, the owner of Home Repair, a tailor shop that specializes in

producing Bingo Cards. Shoppers earned a stamp for each purchase made at one of the market's retail shops or vendors. Completing a bingo allowed participants to submit their card to be entered in a raffle for a gift basket worth over \$125. Additionally, attendees can enter a different raffle by posting a picture from the selfie station to their Instagram.

In addition to this event, Bow Market hosted their annual Makers Market, an event where local pop-up vendors can showcase their work. The vendors were selling a variety of unique items including jewelry, artwork, and candles.

Katie Barry, the founder of Cosmic Coupe, showed off her artwork which was themed to a "dinner party in a different dimension" She was selling various home decor items that were plastered in her vibrant artwork along with a recipe book for cocktails and mocktails.



Bow Market stores hosted Small Business Saturday last weekend, offering holiday shoppers a wide variety of gifts and decorations to celebrate the season.



clothing alterations and repairs.

For many of Bow Market's stores, fostering a sense of community is as important as the products they sell. At Vinyl Index, a record store that has called the market home for six years, the emphasis is on building meaningful relationships with customers.

"You can come in here and ask for something, we'll get it no matter what," said Aaron Wetjen-Barry, an employee at Vinyl Index. "We bring knowledge and enthusiasm that you wouldn't get if you were shopping from bigger or online corporations."

Bow Market encouraged shoppers to explore its diverse selection of stores by in-

"The team at Bow has always been fantastic. They really provide people with a space to pop up and create their own universe," Barry said. "Whether they are doing pottery or art, it is really giving people a platform to express themselves and connect with the community"

Supporting small businesses this holiday season is crucial, especially as consumer spending is expected to decline. On average, shoppers plan to spend \$294 at small businesses this year, a 40% drop from the \$485 per person projected last year according to QuickBooks.

Not only does shopping at local businesses provide a way to connect with

members within a community, it is a way to support the local economy. About 67 cents of every dollar spent at a local business stays within the community according to Business Wire. This money can create opportunities for other residents within the community.

"Shopping small is a great way to remind people that we are helping our neighbors." These are people that all live in the greater Somerville area," said Zola Coleman, an event director for Bow Market. "These businesses are important to keeping our neighborhoods diverse, to keeping our neighborhoods exciting, and to shop in a way that stays in our community."

This year, the US Chambers of Commerce is teaming up with American Ex-

press to start a grant program to help small businesses that were affected by Hurricane Milton and Hurricane Helene. American Express will donate \$1 for every purchase made with an American Express card at qualifying small businesses.

Bow Market is furthering its commitment to supporting small businesses with the launch of the Merriest Month Campaign, running from November 30 through December 24. The campaign will feature holiday-themed events and fundraisers at various stores throughout the market, continuing to celebrate and support the community. For more information about the Merriest Month Campaign, visit Bow Market's official website: <https://www.bowmarketsomerville.com/themerriestmonth>.



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Answers

1. Kickboxing

2. The African Queen

3. In the inner ear

4. "all men must serve"

5. Moulin Rouge Hotel

6. The Strat Tower

7. Hibernation

8. The Grapes of Wrath

9. The Cold Moon

10. Clarence

11. Dried fruit

12. John Lennon

# Book review – ‘Books Can Be Deceiving’

## by Jenn McKinlay

By Dennis Fischman

Can you separate what you feel about the author from what you think about the book?

That’s a question that comes up throughout literary history. Can you read Ezra Pound’s poetry knowing about his fascist sympathies [1]? What about classic mystery writers like Dorothy Sayers and her casual slurs aimed at Jews [2], Blacks, and Italians?

In our own times, there’s a world-wide bestselling author whose work is beloved (and read by many young people who went on to read all kinds of fiction because of her), yet she harangues and harasses trans women. In my household, that author is referred to as She-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named.

So it’s a pleasure for me to say that I’m reviewing a book by Jenn McKinlay [3] after telling you about another series of hers [4]

back in March, partly because I love what she posted on Threads [5]:

MAGA - racist, misogynistic, xenophobic, homophobic, and utterly despicable. If you vote for Trump, unfollow me immediately. Don’t buy my books. There’s nothing there for you. •US•US•US•

But mainly, I want you to know about Books Can Be Deceiving: Library Lover’s Mystery #1 [6] because it’s a promising start to series of cozy mysteries, and we could use a little more cozy in our lives right now!

To quote the publisher, “Lindsey is getting into her groove as the director of the Briar Creek Public Library when a New York editor visits town, creating quite a buzz. Lindsey’s friend Beth wants to sell the editor her children’s book, but Beth’s boyfriend, a famous author, gets in the way.

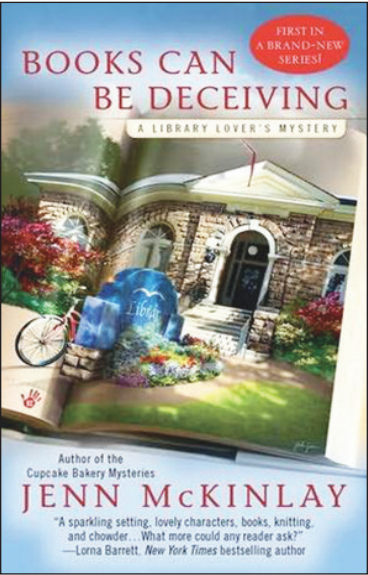
When they go to confront him, he’s found murdered – and Beth is the prime suspect. Lindsey has to act fast – before they throw the book at the wrong person.”

Yes, the cliches of romance/cozy mystery are here: a cluster of girlfriends, men who are either awful personalities or hunks with no personality, and an amateur who has to turn detective because her best friend is a suspect. Jenn McKinlay does it all well, however, and the references to books the patrons check out of the library are a bonus.

Just the sort of fun to take my mind off the election. And contrary to what she says, readers of all political stripes could enjoy this mystery!

Links:

[1] <https://www.nationalww-2museum.org/war/podcasts/best-my-ability-podcast/season-2-archive/episode-3-ezra>



Books Can Be Deceiving,  
by Jenn McKinlay  
Berkley, 2011, 268 pages

weston-loomis-pound  
[2] <http://ellenseltz.com/review-whose-body-sayers/>  
[3] [https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/47352598.Jenn\\_McKinlay](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/47352598.Jenn_McKinlay)  
[4] <https://www.thesomerville->



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

[times.com/archives/131574](https://times.com/archives/131574)  
[5] <https://www.threads.net/@mckinlayjenn/post/DBpVjpT-SYzy?xmt=AQGzIhhAksD-PmW17nLVUkqUsImCtg-7Z0s4Az8LcIUxY5RA>  
[6] <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9745415-books-can-be-deceiving>

## Help Somerville explore new clean energy technology

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville’s Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) are inviting community members to help the city assess the feasibility of a networked geothermal loop in Somerville.

“Somerville is committed to exploring innovative solutions to achieve our climate goals, and networked geothermal technology offers an exciting opportunity to transition to cleaner, safer, and more efficient energy,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “We invite residents to join us at these meetings to learn more, share their insights, and help us assess how this cutting-edge technology could benefit our community.”

Networked Geothermal is an emerging utility-scale technology that can help communities transition to efficient renewable energy by using the stable temperatures of the bedrock beneath the earth’s surface.

In networked geothermal systems, geothermal wells and ground source heat pumps are linked together to serve a collection of connected buildings, including residential and businesses, on a neighborhood scale. The technology can help Somerville reach its greenhouse gas reduction goals by providing a cleaner and safer alternative to fossil fuels.

Learn More at Upcoming Community Meetings

All residents are invited to attend either of two community meetings where City staff will educate constituents about the opportunities of networked geothermal and provide information on how residents can support the feasibility study.

### Meeting Details:

Dates: Monday, December 9 and Wednesday, January 8  
Time: 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Register: Sign up to attend the meetings at [somervillema.gov/geothermal](https://somervillema.gov/geothermal).

This work is made possible through a Kickstart Mass grant from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center Energy Center (MassCEC) and HEET, which was awarded to help Massachusetts communities that have displayed interest in implementing geothermal networks begin to study the feasibility of the technology. .

More About This Initiative

The City’s Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) through a competitive procurement process selected engineering and design firm Buro Happold to help assess feasibility of networked geothermal in Somerville. As part of this feasibility assessment, they have identified three neighborhoods where there is potential to install a system. Residents in these neighborhoods may receive postcards and door hangers with more information about the program, and instructions on how to help the City and Buro Happold evaluate the site’s potential by volunteering to provide utility data.

The city will continue gathering information through early January 2025. A final study outlining the potential application of this technology in Somerville will be published March 2025.

For more information, go to [somervillema.gov/geothermal](https://somervillema.gov/geothermal) or contact Garrett Anderson at [ganderson@somervillema.gov](mailto:ganderson@somervillema.gov) or (857) 270-4403.

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

2022 and March 2023 when it scheduled minors for work during legally prohibited hours and in excess of the state’s limit of nine daily working hours for workers that are 16- and 17-years old. She also alleges that the Burger King franchise operator failed to pay minimum wage and make timely payments to workers, and in some instances, failed to pay any wages to workers.

“Our workplace laws exist to provide crucial rights and protections to our workforce,” said Campbell. “My office will continue to enforce these laws to protect and empower workers, including young workers who contribute to their communities and gain new skills and experiences.”

**AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE** - State Auditor Diana DiZoglio released the results of an audit of the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC), reviewing the period from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022.

EEC, which licenses approximately 9,000 childcare-related programs that support an average of 55,000 children daily, has responsibilities including providing financial assistance for childcare services to families with low incomes, providing parenting support to families and providing professional development opportunities to employees in the field of early education and care.

The audit’s findings include charges that EEC did not conduct licensing visits to residential programs within the required timeframes. The report noted that EEC cannot ensure that its residential programs operate within safe and healthy environments if it does not complete licensing visits within the required period.

The report also alleges that EEC did not review or initiate investigations of all reports of suspected child abuse and neglect in its licensed programs and failed to conduct all required background record checks for all employees of its licensed residential programs.

“Our Early Education and Care audit has identified serious issues that put children at risk,” said DiZoglio. “These concerns must be immediately addressed so children are protected. We urge the administration to respond with the urgency that this matter requires and look forward to our post-audit review in six months to track progress on our recommendations.”

**\$3.8 BILLION TO ADDRESS SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** – Gov. Maura Healey announced that the state awarded \$3.8 million in state and federal funds to support state, local and nonprofit agencies working to combat intimate partner violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and stalking.

“This grant funding reaffirms our deep commitment to ensuring a future where every individual can live with dignity, respect and without fear of abuse,” said Healey. “By investing in programs that support healing and justice,

these grants will provide essential resources for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking and stalking. Professionals across sectors will be empowered to deliver trauma-informed, accessible services to help survivors rebuild and thrive.”

“Safe, reliable access to services is vital for survivors of sexual and domestic violence,” said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy. “By fostering strong partnerships among prosecutors, law enforcement and service providers, we create a network of life-saving support that reaches those who need it most. With these grants, state, local and nonprofit agencies are empowered to deliver critical interventions and services that help survivors on their path to healing and recovery.”

**GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL CERTIFIES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS** – The Governor’s Council certified the results of the election of Massachusetts’s eleven electors for the offices of U.S. president and vice-president. All 50 states have to certify their votes in the federal election and send them to Congress to be counted before the Electoral College gathers on December 17 to cast their state’s electoral votes to make President-elect Donald Trump’s victory official.

Preliminary results show Harris received more than 61 percent of the Massachusetts vote and Trump won 36.5 percent. Secretary of State Bill Galvin’s office announced that 3,512,866 Massachusetts voters participated in the Nov. 5 election, representing the second highest number of ballots cast in Massachusetts history, just behind the 3,657,972 ballots cast in 2020.

“I ... want to commend the secretary of state’s office for their continued perfect administration of elections here in the commonwealth,” said Gov. Healey. “We thank you for your work in this election and all elections.”

“The turnout in Massachusetts appears to reflect a national trend, with a significant drop in participation in several of our cities, especially those with larger minority populations, and a slightly smaller rise in turnout in the more rural and suburban areas of the state,” said Galvin.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Since launching our Office of Outdoor Recreation, we have made it our mission to ensure that the outdoors is accessible and inclusive to everyone. Our approach is fueling local economies and empowering communities and organizations. This report demonstrates that we can drive business growth and foster connections with our natural resources at the same time.” — *Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper on new figures from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Economic Analysis reporting the significant expansion of Massachusetts’ outdoor recreation economy which generated \$13.2 billion in value added to the state’s economy in 2023 and created 103,600 jobs.*

“It is extremely important to deter bars from over-serving and prevent problems before they happen. We want to keep people safe and make sure everyone can enjoy the holidays with their family and friends, avoiding tragedies before they occur.” — *State Treasurer Deb Goldberg announcing that the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission which she chairs, will be conducting alcohol enforcement at local bars in in Massachusetts cities and towns from Thanksgiving Eve through New Year’s Eve.*

“The educational experience of all students – regardless of their racial and ethnic background – will be enriched by having diverse teachers throughout their learning journey. Our students need our public schools to recruit and retain more exceptional educators of color, and now we have one more tool to help us do that.” — *Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) President Max Page, applauding the inclusion of key elements of the MTA-backed “Educator Diversity Act” in the economic development bill just signed into law by the governor.*

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 November 25-29, the House met for a total of 37 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 34 minutes.

Mon Nov. 25	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:27 a.m. Senate 11:06 a.m. to 11:24 a.m.
Tues. Nov. 26	No House session No Senate session
Wed. Nov. 27	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. Senate 11:06 a.m. to 11:22 a.m.
Thurs. Nov. 28	No House session No Senate session
Fri. Nov. 29	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

# 2024 Gobble Gobble Gobble Road Race

By Ben Spaulding  
President, Somerville Road Runners

Despite cool and rainy weather, the 28th annual Gobble Gobble Gobble, Somerville's Thanksgiving Day road race hosted by the Somerville Road Runners, went off without a hitch on Thanksgiving morning.

This year's race was the largest in the event's 28-year history with over 3,300 registering for the event. Although the rain and cool temperatures kept some away, over 2,500 people finished the four-mile race, which started and ended in Davis Square.

Winners of the race included Brian Harvey of Belmont, who won the men's division and the overall race, Rachel Hyland of Belmont who won the women's division, and Alyssa Moskites of Medford, who won the non-binary division. Post-race runners enjoyed the traditional post-race party at the Burren with beer from the Mighty Squirrel.

The Gobble Gobble Gobble is one of the last remaining all-volunteer-led road races of its size, and is the largest turkey trot in metro Boston. As in previous

years, the majority of the race proceeds will be donated to local charities, including the Somerville Homeless Coalition, Stride for Stride, the Somerville High School Track Pac, and the Dilboy VFW Veterans fund.

The Somerville Road Runners would like to thank the City of Somerville, the DPW, Police, and Fire Departments for all their help in preparing for the race and the race sponsors which helped produce such a great event, including Marathon Sports, Tracksmith, the Burren, the Mighty Squirrel, Puma, Picky Bars, Republic Fitness and the Teamsters Local 122.

The Somerville Road Runners (SRR) are a Somerville based running club. Founded in 1996. The club hosts several weekly group runs, track workouts, week-end long runs, and puts on several races a year, including the Gobble Gobble Gobble, the MOM's Run, and the 26x1 Mile Club Challenge Relay.

With over 500 members, SRR has runners of all experiences and abilities, from experienced marathoners to runners just starting out. For more information about the Somerville Road Runners, visit [srr.org](http://srr.org)



Men's winner Brian Harvey. — Photos by Paul Nelson



Women's winner Rachel Hyland.



Non-binary winner Alyssa Moskites.

## 2024 Gobble Gobble Gobble Road Race Top 20 Finishers:

Place	Name	Gender	City	Clock Time
1	Brian Harvey	M	Belmont, MA	20:02
2	Matt Schafer	M	Cambridge, MA	20:50
3	Alec Wright	M	Somerville, MA	20:59
4	Wesley Kaukas-Quinn	M	Winchester, MA	21:18
5	Asa Friedrich	M	Mount Kisco, NY	21:24
6	Alexander Predhome	M	Somerville, MA	21:41
7	Sam Buckley	M	Somerville, MA	21:41
8	Attikos Kaye	M	Somerville, MA	21:41
9	Patrick Griffin	M	Medford, MA	21:46
10	Yosef Lipschitz	M	Jamaica Plain, MA	21:48
11	Zach Dombi	M	Boston, MA	21:48
12	James Barker	M	Philadelphia, PA	21:52
13	Jorge Buendia	M	Boston, MA	22:07
14	Griffin Ott	M	Boston, MA	22:09
15	Nicolò Cogno	M	Somerville, MA	22:23
16	Rachel Hyland	F	Belmont, MA	22:25
17	Dillon McGee	M	Arlington, MA	22:45
18	Brian Lee	M	Cambridge, MA	22:47
19	Alec Rudd	M	Medford, MA	22:52
20	Calum Gillies	M	Arlington, MA	23:00

For all results of the race, go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/Results/119655#resultSetId=512873;perpage:100>

# REMINDER: Final Track Improvement Program Service Suspension

Following up on the previous announcement on November 15, the MBTA is reminding riders that Green Line service will be suspended between Park Street and Union Square as well as Medford/Tufts for 15 days December 6 – 20. This is the final service suspension as part of the MBTA's Track Improvement Program, which has replaced thousands of feet track and ties to eliminate speed restrictions. Following this Green Line service outage, the entire subway system will be free of slow zones.

Riders can find complete information at [mbta.com/GreenLine](https://mbta.com/GreenLine). More information on these service changes and alternate travel options is below:

- Free and accessible shuttle bus service will replace trains between North Station and Medford/Tufts.
- Riders should note that there will be no shuttle bus service between North Station and Park Street. Riders should instead utilize the Orange Line for parallel service through North Station and Park Street.
- Riders are also reminded that Orange Line / Green Line connections can also be made via the Winter Street Concourse, which connects Park Street and Downtown Crossing Stations.
- Riders should note there will be no shuttle bus service to Union Square. Green Line Union Square Branch riders can instead use area bus routes, including the

86, 91, and CT2 between Union Square and East Somerville Station on the Medford Branch. These bus routes also travel to Sullivan Square on the Orange Line. In addition, Route 87 travels between Union Square and Lechmere.

– Riders are reminded that Route 86 service will shorten to end at Harvard Square beginning on December 15 as part of Phase 1 of Bus Network Redesign. Beginning on December 15, riders can use the new Route 109, which will run every 15 minutes or better all day from Sullivan Square through Union Square to Harvard Square.

– Riders using shuttle buses during these service changes should budget ample extra travel time. For example, a rider travelling to Park Street from Medford/Tufts should budget at least an additional 35 minutes of travel time in addition to their regular commute.

– Union Square riders are strongly encouraged to use local buses to Sullivan Square or Central Square for a faster travel time to downtown Boston.

The MBTA understands how these service changes affect riders' daily travels during this period, but we are committed to improving your travels long term with more reliable, timely, and safe service. We thank riders for their patience as we deliver this important work and for continuing to ride our system.



More information is also available through in-station signage and public announcements. Transit Ambassadors and MBTA staff will be available on-site to offer information and assistance during these service changes. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA on X @MBTA for up-to-date service information.

In the future, speed restrictions may be needed from time to time if warranted by a changing track condition – this is normal and common across all passenger rail service providers. As a result of the success-

ful Track Improvement Program that has taken place over the last year, the MBTA is now well-positioned to quickly respond to any track issues that may arise. If and when new restrictions are required, they will be addressed promptly to continue to provide riders with the safe and reliable service they deserve.

For more information, please visit [mbta.com/TrackProgram](https://mbta.com/TrackProgram) or connect with the T on X @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @them-bta, or TikTok @them-bta.

— Photo courtesy of MBTA

## Prepare for the 2024/2025 snow season

It's that time of year. Here are some reminders ahead of the first snowfall:

- Snow emergency parking is on the even side of the street all winter this season unless posted signage says differently.
- For every snowfall, property owners are responsible for shoveling their sidewalks down to the pavement within six daylight hours after the snow stops.
- To get snow emergency announcements, sign up for alerts or update your information at [somervillema.gov/alerts](https://somervillema.gov/alerts) or by calling 311 (617-666-3311).
- Flashing blue lights at major intersections also indicate a snow emergency has been declared.
- Snow emergencies are also announced on the city's website, social media feeds, CityTV, and via information shared with local media.
- The Somerville Teen Shoveling program, a paid program encouraging youths to shovel out seniors and homeowners with disabilities after a snowstorm, is accepting applications. You must be registered with the program prior to a storm beginning. Sign up your teen or learn more and submit an application for shoveling assistance: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/teen-snow-shoveling-program>.



# Vernon Street 50th Anniversary Exhibition

Vernon Street Studios, Somerville’s largest artist studio building, is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Vernon Street Studios got its start in 1973, when a select group of prolific local artists (that included the likes of esteemed artists Clara Wainwright and Maud Morgan) went to the building owners, the Rogers Family, to propose the idea of having artists share the spaces in the upper lofts of their building, which housed – and still does – a foam manufacturing company. They said yes.

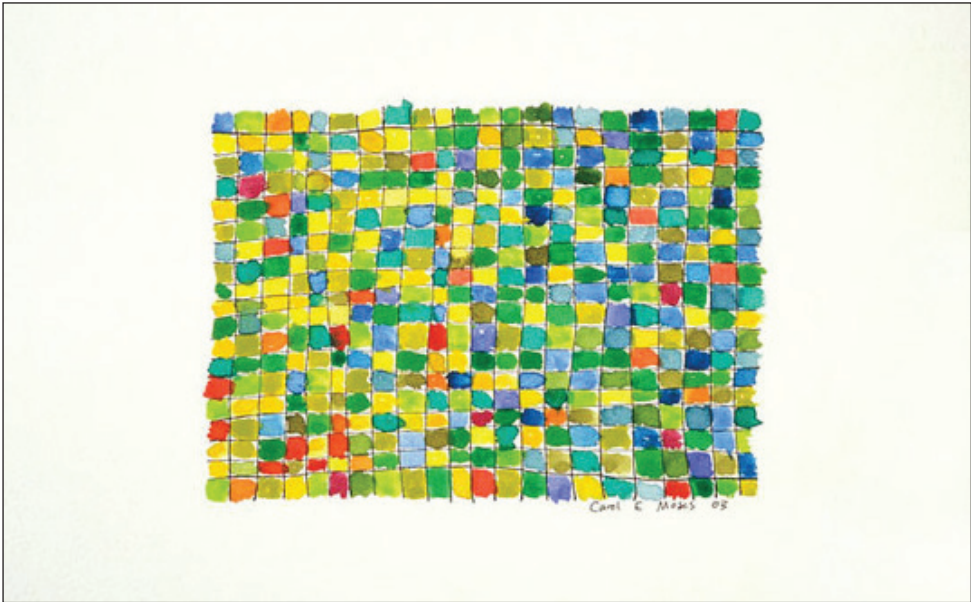
Over time, more and more artist studios were added, and today there are over 100 artists working in the building, making it the largest concentration of working artist studios in the city. This initial enclave of artists played a key role in attracting other artists, and helping spawn other studio buildings.

This special retrospective exhibit featuring Vernon Street artists both past and present.

**EXHIBITION DATES:**  
December 3, 2024 – January 9, 2025  
Gallery Hours: Saturday and Sundays; 1 – 5 p.m.

**CLOSING RECEPTION:**  
Thursday, January 9, 2025; 6 – 8 p.m.

**ARTISTS:**  
Sophia Ainslie, Heather Balchunas, Bob Ballou, Resa Blatman, Bobby Brown, Steven Cabral, Liv Cappello, Jonathan Donahue, Alison Drasner, Gary Duehr, Kathleen Finlay, Cara Foster Karim, Ariel Basson Freiberg, Beth Galston, Kathryn Geismar, Joan Green, Carol Greenwood, Jackson Gregory, Yildiz Grodowski, Gina Halstead, Darci Hanna, Alex Kalil, Hadis Karami, Colleen Kiely, Gaye Korbet, Steph Koufman, Marja Lianko, Suzanne Lubeck, Joetta Maue, Kerri McGill, Monique McNally, Matt Meyers, Cecily Miller, Karen Moss, Aaron Norfolk, Diane Novetsky, Iku Os-



"Water Love" by Carol Moses, one of the featured artists for the Vernon Street 50th Anniversary Exhibition.

eki, Christine Palamidessi, Ellen Rounseville, Adam Russell, Alyson Schultz, Paul Shakespear, Jane Sherrill, Amy Slaughter, Adele Travisano, Clara Wainwright, Jenn Wood, Joan Wye, Marjorie Zakaria, and Dorothy Clare Zarren.

**LOCATION:**  
Nave Gallery (Teele Square), 155 Powder House Blvd., Somerville, MA

Admission: Free and open to the public  
Accessibility: No wheelchair access

## Join the Somerville Mayor’s Appointments Advisory Committee

Are you passionate about community engagement and civic responsibility? The Mayor’s Appointments Advisory Committee (AAC) is seeking two volunteers to join its efforts in ensuring fair, informed, and nonpartisan recommendations for appointments to Somerville’s regulatory and decision-making boards and commissions.

**About the AAC**

The AAC is a five-member volunteer body tasked with reviewing applications and recommending candidates for open seats on 14 critical boards and commissions in Somerville, including:

- Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- Board of Health
- Condominium Review Board
- Conservation Commission

- Design Review Committee
- Ethics Commission
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Housing Authority Board
- Job Creation and Retention Trust Board
- Licensing Commission
- Planning Board
- Redevelopment Authority
- Traffic Commission
- Zoning Board of Appeals

The AAC does not oversee reappointments but plays a key role in ensuring new appointees are well-suited to their roles.

**Responsibilities and Commitment**

When there is an open seat on a board or commission, the AAC meets bi-weekly on Wednesdays from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. via virtual platforms. Members review appli-

cations and background materials, interview finalists, and recommend two candidates per vacancy to the mayor. Members are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

**Why Join the AAC?**

This is a unique opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to Somerville’s future by helping shape the leadership of its boards and commissions. Your work will ensure these bodies are staffed with individuals who bring the expertise, dedication, and perspective needed to serve the city effectively.

**How to Apply**

Submit the following materials:

- A resume
- A cover letter
- A statement of interest

**Applications can be submitted**

Online: [somervillema.gov/besomerville](https://somervillema.gov/besomerville)  
By email: Send to [Careers@somervillema.gov](mailto:Careers@somervillema.gov) with the subject line “AAC Member Application”  
By mail: Address to City Hall, Attn: HR - Kristen Hill, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143

Applications must be received by Friday, January 17, 2025.

**Questions?**

Contact Kristen Hill, Recruitment and Retention Manager:  
Email: [KHill@somervillema.gov](mailto:KHill@somervillema.gov)  
Phone: 617-625-6600

Join us in fostering a more equitable and effective government for Somerville. Apply today to make a difference.

— City of Somerville

### Streamlined procedures for Community Assembly Room at Assembly Square announced

As part of its efforts to ensure that the 143-acre Assembly Square parcel develop sustainably to meet Somerville’s and regional needs, the Mystic View Task Force negotiated with the Public Storage Company at 50 Middlesex Avenue to secure a room for community events, including organization meetings and performances open to the public. The yield of that discussion, the Community Assembly Room, or CAR, is located in the storage facility complex behind Mama Ana Café and is administered by MVTF. It is approximately 20’ x 30’ and has about 50 chairs. There are restrooms in the hallway between the CAR and the café.

To bolster use since the pandemic, MVTF has streamlined its procedures. Interested parties should contact treasurer Alan Stiehl ([wastiehl@gmail.com](mailto:wastiehl@gmail.com)) at least ten days before a prospective event to secure the room for the desired date and time and to receive advisories on use.

We suggest a donation of \$35 or whatever your organization can afford for each use of a duration of up to four hours, in order to help cover the cost of insurance and maintenance. We hope for a busy year.

— Mystic View Task Force



## Somerville Fair Housing Commission *Question of the week*

**Q:** Is it against the law for a building to be elders-only?

**A:** We can see why you might think that, but no. Discriminating against families with children is against the law – except in legally designated "housing for older persons."

*Somerville Fair Housing Commission generally meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. online. Call 617-625-6600 ext. 2578 for the login information.*

## \$1 million CPPI Grant Supports Inclusion

Congratulations to the Somerville Public Schools Early Education and Care Department, SPS Somerville Family Learning Collaborative, and the City of Somerville SomerPromise Department for writing a successful MA Dept. of Early Ed. and Care CPPI grant to collaborate on strengthening Somerville's mixed delivery preschool system for 3 to 5-year-olds through the Somerville Partnership for Young Children (SPYC).

The funds will go toward expanding access to high-quality inclusive preschool and child care for children in Somerville by providing translation services, family engagement, curriculum, professional development, coaching, and student intervention and special education services on-site at private and non-profit daycare centers in Somerville.

The work expands capacity to support very young children with special needs, as well as improving kindergarten-readiness and, ultimately, translates into higher academic outcomes for all students.

## Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Fall comes to Somerville Avenue...

— Photo by Denise Provost

## BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why did the cookie go to the doctor?  
Because it felt crummy!

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

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

## On This Day in History

### December 4

**0771** – With the death of his brother Carloman, Charlemagne becomes sole ruler of the Frankish Empire.

**1861** – Queen Victoria of Britain forbids the export of gunpowder, firearms and all materials for their production.

**1872** – The U.S. brigantine Marie Celeste is found adrift and deserted with its cargo intact, in the Atlantic Ocean between the Azores and Portugal.

**1942** – U.S. planes make the first raids on Naples, Italy.

**1947** – Tennessee William's play *A Streetcar Named Desire* premieres on Broadway starring Marlon Brando and Jessica Tandy.

**1981** – President Ronald Reagan broadens the power of the CIA by allowing spying in the United States.

**1991** – The last American hostages held in Lebanon are released.

**1992** – US Pres. George H. W. Bush orders 28,000 troops to Somalia during the Somali Civil War.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

<https://somervilleartscouncil.org/inside-out/vernonstreet50>.

Don't miss the **Somerville High School** student performance of **Mamma Mia!** **Thursday, December 5**, at 8 p.m., **Friday, December 6**, at 5 p.m., **Saturday, December 7**, at 2 and 7 p.m. Visit the **Highlander Theatre** website to learn more and purchase tickets:<https://www.highlandertheatre.org/>.

**Growing Center Wreath Project:** A few assembly and decoration volunteers still needed. Interested in getting into the spirit of the season in community with fellow volunteers? Let your creative juices flow by helping to hand-decorate evergreen wreaths with pinecones, delicate dried flowers, and ornamental peppers and berries. Wreath assembly and distribution takes place **December 5 and 6** (12 – 8 p.m. at **Connexion** in East Somerville) and **December 7** (9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the **Growing Center**). Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4AA9AC2DA5FDC07-49384147-events#/> and be part of the creative marathon of assembling completed wreaths.

This month, the **Somerville Public Library**, 79 Highland Ave., is pleased to display the artwork of local artist **John Ruymann** in the **Gallery @ SPL** with their exhibition: **Narrative Spaces**. Join them for a reception celebrating the exhibit. To learn more about the gallery <https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/adults/gallery-spl>.

The community is invited to see the creativity and holiday spirit of their neighbors by embarking on either a self-guided or SAC-led **Illuminations Tour**, December 12, 2024 – January 2025. The **Illuminations map** will be made available to take a self guided tour. Information on the **Illuminations Bike Tour** will be available soon at [somervilleartscouncil.org/illuminationstour](https://somervilleartscouncil.org/illuminationstour). For more information on the SAC Illuminations Tour, please email **Iaritza Menjivar** at [imenjivar@somervillema.gov](mailto:imenjivar@somervillema.gov).

**Vernon Street Studios 50th Anniversary retrospective exhibit** has opened at the **Nave Gallery**. This exhibit features over 50 artists. Celebrate artist both past and present. Exhibit open **Saturday and Sunday**, 1 – 5 p.m. Closes January 9, 6

– 8 p.m. **Nave Gallery**, 155 Powerhouse Blvd, Somerville.

**Somerville Music Spaces Holiday Fundraiser Concert** takes place on **Sunday, December 8**, 4:30 – 6 p.m. **1060 Broadway C101B**, Somerville. This holiday concert is a program of original music by **Andrew James Safioleas**. All proceeds will be donated to the **Toys for Tots program**. Ticket donations can be made here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-fundraiser-concert-presented-by-top-quality-music-llc-tickets-1045443338167>.

Families with their **K–8 students** are invited to the third annual **Family Creative Computing and Robotics Night** at Somerville High School. **Tuesday, December 10**, from 6 to 8 p.m. Learn about computer science and robotics in a fun, relaxed environment. The event is hosted by SHS computer science and robotics teachers and students, including members of the SHS Robotics team. Refreshments will be served. Let us know you are joining us here: [bit.ly/familycomputing24](https://bit.ly/familycomputing24)

**Free COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics** are happening soon: **Thursday, December 12**, at the **Council on Aging** (167 Holland St.) from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and **Tuesday, December 17**, at **Central Branch Library** (79 Highland Ave.) from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn more and register for a vaccine clinic. <https://www.somervillema.gov/vaccinations>.

With the days growing shorter and temperatures dipping colder, the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is in critical need of new or lightly used jackets for their clients currently living outside. If you have any adult sized coats hanging in your closet that you don't wear, please consider dropping them off at the Somerville Homeless Coalition admin office located at 255 Elm Street, Suite 204 during the hours listed below. **Drop Off Hours:** Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., 2 – 5 p.m. Each coat donated provides warmth, dignity, and safety for our neighbors having to face the harsh New England winter conditions.

Donate to **Local Holiday Gift Drives**. In the giving spirit of the season, the city is collecting toy and gift donations at city buildings, libraries, and firehouses **through Wednesday, December 18**. If you are able and wish to donate, please

bring new, unwrapped toys and gifts for children of all ages and age-appropriate gifts, clothes, and winter boots for teens. All gifts will be distributed to families by two local efforts: **Toys for Local Children** and the **Somerville Toy Drive**, an initiative organized by community members, including the organizers of last year's MAMAS (Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville) annual gift drive, as well as other residents. Learn more and find a donation box near you. <https://www.somervillema.gov/news/donate-local-holiday-gift-drives-city-buildings-through-wednesday-dec-18-2024>

Order a **festive wreath** from **Next Wave/Full Circle** during their annual wreath fundraiser. Wreath pick up is at NWFC on **December 4** from 3 to 7 p.m. The cost is \$25. <https://trst.in/W0Ur6B>.

**Snow emergency parking** is on the **even side of the street** all winter this season unless posted signage says differently. For every snowfall, property owners are responsible for shoveling their sidewalks down to the pavement within six daylight hours after the snow stops. To get snow emergency announcements, sign up for alerts or update your information at [somervillema.gov/alerts](https://somervillema.gov/alerts) or by calling 311 (617-666-3311).

**Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville (MAMAS)** is holding their next Supermarket Sweep on **Saturday, December 7**, at 11 a.m. Help support food security in Medford and Somerville by donating or volunteering. Volunteering with Sweep means meeting at the **Stop n' Shop** near Foss Park in Somerville and delivering grocery cards to neighbors no car required. If you're interested, email [askyournamas@gmail.com](mailto:askyournamas@gmail.com).

Join the **City of Somerville Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE)** for an information session on **Networked Geothermal Heating and Cooling**, **Monday, December 9**, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. They will share more information about this technology and discuss its potential benefits for communities in Somerville. Register for this event at [somervillema.gov/geothermal](https://somervillema.gov/geothermal)

The **Somerville Flea Holiday Market** is back. Find that unique gift for that unique person. They will have a jam-packed floors of gift buying goodness featuring curated

vintage wares and artisan creations. 12th annual Holiday Market at the **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave, Somerville. **Sip 'n shop** starts at noon on **December 15**.

**Creative Mending: Hand Embroidery**, **Thursday, December 12**, 6 p.m. at the **East Branch Library**, 115 Broadway. The class will cover several basic embroidery stitches that can be used to embellish your clothing and hide (or highlight) holes and stains. Suitable for beginners with little or no embroidery experience, or those who want a refresher on the basics. This program is intended for adults. Registration required: visit <https://tinyurl.com/yc8btuw4>. Questions? Contact **Liam: lokeefe@somervillema.gov**.

Are you a **Somerville business or property owner** interested in brightening up your building's exterior? The **Somerville Arts Council** is looking for partners who would like to host a vibrant mural on their property. This is a unique opportunity to collaborate with local artists and enhance the character of our community through stunning public art. If you're interested in learning more about how they can work together to make your building a canvas for creativity, please reach out directly to discuss potential partnerships and project possibilities. <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/resources/calls>.

Head on over to **Target** on Somerville Avenue to donate toys for families of the **Mystic Learning Center**. Donate new and unopened items for youth ages 0-16 that will benefit families of the Mystic Learning Center this holiday season. **SPD** and **MLC friends** will be at the Target located at 180 Somerville Ave. on **Fridays, 4 – 8 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12 – 8 p.m.**

The holidays are just around the corner which means the **Somerville Homeless Coalition's Holiday Gift Drive** is now in full swing. This time of year can be especially difficult for their clients and their families which is why they host this drive each year to help spread the joy of the holidays to our less fortunate neighbors. At the moment, they still have 114 clients without a matched sponsor which is why they are asking for your help to make sure that everyone gets to be a part of this year's festivities. If you are interested in providing a gift for a

Continued on page 23



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Poet Heather Treseler

I have been a Board Member of the New England Poetry Club for a few years now; and I remember judging our Motton Book Prize with other board members. When we came to discuss Heather Treseler's poetry collection, *Auguries & Divinations* there was a hands down love for the book. We were impressed with her facility with language, the music of her work and the deep layers of the lines in this insightful new collection. So after she won the Award, I decided to interview the author, and she generously agreed.

From her website:

"*Auguries & Divinations* tracks a young woman's coming of age, attuned to the unspoken liabilities in women's lives, the suburban underworld, and the energies of eros. An older woman becomes the narrator's Beatrice in love and survival, and she returns to the New England of her childhood ready to claim a life of her own making, drawing on the classical practice of augury, or observing birds to discern human fate."

*Auguries & Divinations* received the 2023 May Sarton New Hampshire Poetry Prize (Bauhan), and the 2024 Shelia Margaret Motton Book Award from the New England Poetry Club. It's been reviewed in the *Boston Globe*, the *Poetry Foundation*, *LitHub*, *On the Seawall*, *Solstice Literary Magazine*, and *Worcester Magazine*, and it's available directly from Bauhan and at many independent bookstores."

**Doug Holder:** Your poetry explores "the suburban underworld." I remember an image from the movie *Blue Velvet* by David Lynch. Lynch pans on the broad lawns of suburbia, and then goes below them, to show us the savagery of insects, etc., below the benign green carpet. Do you feel in some way you are doing the same thing?

**Heather Treseler:** I hadn't thought of that before, but I think the David Lynch analogy is a very canny one.

I am interested in the suburbs as a material enactment of American ideals – pastoral, economic, familial, and social – and as a geography in which appearances and realities often collide. I was ten years old when my family moved from a triple decker in Hyde Park to a rundown Victorian in an upper-class suburb. We were outsiders, strivers, and as a newcomer (and later as a neighborhood babysitter), I started picking up on notes of disorder beneath rigorously maintained surfaces, the human complexities and unmet hungers behind façades of contentment and domestic tranquility.

As an adolescent, I felt like an amateur anthropologist, observing the lives around me, particularly the lives of girls and women, and I was discomforted by some of the compromises and even privations and wrongdoing that I saw. The suburbs enact an ethos of



privacy, property, and propriety, but also surveillance, exclusion, and exploitation, which can serve to hide shocking goings-on. I was interested in the wildness that persisted underneath all that orderliness, and I felt I had to understand that tension if I was going to construct a life that met my hungers and desire for certain kinds of freedom.

**DH:** An older woman, Lucie, becomes a guide for your narrator – a sort of Beatrice in Dante's *Divine Comedy*. Why did you choose to have a guide or mentor to traverse the narrator through the rocky shoals of your old neighborhood?

**HT:** *The Lucie Odes* are about an historical person: the second section of the book details a narrator's friendship with Lucie Nell Beaudet (1960-2018) in St. Louis, Missouri, while the narrator is in graduate school and, in other important ways, acquiring her life education. Lucie, who enacted a "Great Gatsby" climb in her life from an early abusive marriage and a terrible car wreck to a life of professional attainment, friendship, and fulfillment, shows the narrator– through her love and guidance– a path to her own agency and freedom.

**DH:** You use birds in some of your poems. Birds are frequently used as symbols in art to express human-animal connection; human hopes; spiritual beliefs; and wealth, power and colonialism, and extinction. Their use as symbols can be seen in the earliest known art (the Lascaux Caves), and their use as symbols persists to the present moment. There was a harrowing poem about a hawk devouring another bird, or a heron snapping up a sun-dazed fish, etc. I think you embrace the beauty and ugliness of nature, and ourselves. Your take?

**HT:** The "auguries" in my book title refers to the ancient Roman practice of making important political decisions– about the timing of battles, elections, and state proceedings – in

Continued on page 23

Lyrical  
SOMERVILLE  
edited by Doug Holder

Jake Tringali is published in over 50 journals, and his poetry has appeared in various art installations. His first poetry book is *Poetry for the Neon Apocalypse*, which was nominated for an Elgin award. Host of *The Outskirts Poetry Podcast*. Co-founder of the Roslindale Film Society.



the kenophile  
(fondness of voids or empty spaces)

they tell us that  
atoms are about 99% empty space  
and today  
i just wish i could settle into the emptiness  
live in the void of myself

shed off this heaviness  
and let the small planets around me whiz  
and spin and take care of the laundry  
and eat soup and work late hours

scatter myself among this small universe

an emptying into emptiness

— Jake Tringali

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

# LEGO® Discovery Center Boston’s Holiday Bricktacular

Build the best holiday memories and give back in a big way during LEGO Discovery Center Boston’s seasonal event, Holiday Bricktacular, with the new Build to Give experience. From now – January 5th, families can enjoy a winter wonderland of activities, see a giant LEGO sleigh, meet and greet with a LEGO Gingerbread Man and more. LEGO Discovery Center Boston will have a brand-new event experience called Build to Give where families can create joy in the biggest ever donation of LEGO® sets to children in need by building a LEGO heart. A dedicated area in the attraction will inspire guests with various heart designs and inspire families to build LEGO heart. When that heart is shared on social media with the hashtag #BuildToGive, LEGO® will donate a set to a child in need this holiday season. 598 Assembly Row, Somerville.

## Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

client(s) contact 617-623-6111.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**East Somerville Main Streets** is calling for vendors to participate in their **Cozy Holiday Market** on **December 6** from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the **parking lot of Deano's Pasta**, 15 Garfield Ave. If you're interested, please fill out the form <https://forms.gle/mJppkmhXAYj44peRA>. Dec 06, 2024, 5:30 – 8 p.m. The Cozy Hol-

iday Market invites you to savor a warm drink while exploring a variety of artisans, materials, and charming supplies to prepare for the winter ahead. Gather with friends, family, and even bring your pets to relish in the cozy atmosphere. Unearth that festive, ugly sweater from the back of your closet and capture memorable moments with Santa. Embrace the joy of the season and have fun at our cozy market.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Winter Farmers Market** is back at the **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. on **Saturdays**, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. **from November 2 to April 12**, (except November 30 and December 28). The Center for the Arts at the Armory is proud to offer a weekly winter market with 71+ local food vendors with the best locally grown and regionally produced foods, including fresh produce, cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, tamales, pastries, chocolate, skincare products, and more. The market accepts SNAP/EBT

and HIP benefits. They also offer a \$15 SNAP match to customers each week. More info available on their website: <https://www.somwintermarket.org/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Is your **teen** looking to make some **extra money**? The city's **Snow Shoveling Program** is hiring youth to assist shoveling seniors and homeowners with disabilities out after snowstorms this winter. Teens and homeowners are paired for the season. After each storm, the homeowner will contact their assigned youth to request shoveling services. Somerville teens ages 14 to 19 are welcome to apply. Looking for snow shoveling services? Apply online or contact **Debby Higgins** at [dhiggins@somervillema.gov](mailto:dhiggins@somervillema.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Through the generosity of the **American**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

## Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

connection with priests’ interpretations of birds in flight, their appearance in certain regions of the sky, their wings’ speed and noise, their feeding patterns, and even the appearance of avian entrails. Consulting natural signs to discern human fate seemed a good metaphor for the narrator’s search for insight into the truer nature of her surroundings.

I’ve also always loved Geoffrey Chaucer’s *Parliament of Fowls* in which Nature defends a female eagle (or formel)’s right to choose (or abstain from choosing) a mate, upholding free will in the harmonious conduct of life, as well as the humorous role of the pet sparrow in Catullus’s love poems for Clodia.

So yes, the birds in *Auguries & Divinations* are polyvalent symbols for the realities of appetite and survival but also of pleasure, free will, and dialects of song.

**DH:** You won the New England Poetry Club's Motton Book Award. You have had any number of honors. What is special about this award?

**HT:** The New England Poetry Club is one of the oldest, most active organizations of its kind. Since *Auguries & Divinations* is a coming-of-age collection set here in New England, it’s a special honor to have it recognized in

its place of origin by a civic organization that has advocated for the work of New England poets for over a century.

**DH:** Why should we read your book?

**HT:** I am not sure anyone should read my book, but I hope those that do might find it pleasurable: that it rewards their attention with stories and images they find useful and moving; that it might help them see the landscape of everyday life in new ways. I don’t know that a poet can hope for more than that.

**Cul-de-Sac**

That old rage for order: how my father drove a square mouthed mower over-and-back, over-and-back, each row of neatly trimmed grass cut just like he told his barber: boy’s short, regular. O pioneer, taming this joke bit of prairie, no bindweed or dog shit on his verdure. Mother, meanwhile, absolved counters of crumbs, paired two dozen socks to matching mates, hummed some half-remem-

bered Sinatra song as she dusted the porcelain figurines and never-used, quaintly painted China plates. In the antic business of having nice things, the obligation of display: a furnishing. Each squat house in our street’s orb eyed the other, envious of another’s paint job, carport or owner. Left alone, I built model planes with my torn-pocket parachutes. Rode a blue scooter in dizzying loops of the prescribed circle. Adults acted as if living here were preferred or exalted. But I had looked it up: I knew it meant bottom of the sack, the fate of drowned cats, a sickly child or rabbit. Gathered up, held head-down in a satchel or bucket. When the hands closed in, I’d make a run for it.

— Heather Treseler

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