



# MAY PRESERVATION MONTH



## 2016 Calendar of Events

Throughout the month of May, the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (SHPC) partners with other local organizations to host events honoring Somerville's history and historic assets. All events are open to the public and free unless otherwise noted.

- ❖ **Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> morning and afternoon.** This year two “Jane’s Walks” are happening to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Jane Jacobs, an urban activist and writer renowned throughout the world.  
**10am - noon:** “Explore the Emerging Environs of Magoun Square” beginning at the CVS Plaza. Route will continue along Lowell St. to Hudson St. and Benton Road, and end at the “Highland Ave. Hot Block.” Then check out Somerville Open Studios special exhibit at the Somerville Museum, 2-5pm.  
**1:30-3:30pm:** Union Square Main Streets sponsors “Our Evolving Union Square” in the heart of the Square. Meet at East Boston Savings Bank and end with refreshments & more dialogue at Brass Union. Both rain or shine. See more about Jane’s Walks at [www.janeswalks.org](http://www.janeswalks.org)
- ❖ **Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:30pm.** “Milk Row Cemetery Public Opening.” Dressed in period clothing, Barbara Mangum, Objects Conservator and President of the Somerville Museum, will lead an **informative tour** about this fragile and very compact burial ground founded in 1804 by Samuel Tufts on farmland once part of Charlestown. Learn about whose buried here, the extraordinary monument dedicated to Somerville soldiers fallen during the Civil War, and both past and upcoming municipal enhancements using grants from the State and the City’s CPC. Light refreshments. Meet at the front gate at 439 Somerville Avenue, next to Market Basket. Rain or shine. Other openings with docents may also occur in late summer, following completion of the projects. Schedule will be posted on the website.
- ❖ **Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30pm.** A talk “Researching the History of Your House and Your Family,” will be given by 2 key resources -- Kristi Chase, Preservation Planner for the SHPC, and Kevin O’Kelly, Reference Librarian for the SPL. Find out how each of these resources can help you research the histories of your house and family. Mini tour of genealogy resources at the library and beyond, as well as tips for getting started. Somerville Central Library, 79 Highland Avenue.
- ❖ **Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-9:00pm.** **Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony.** A reception, with light refreshments, will be followed by the **21<sup>st</sup> Annual** ceremony to honor 12 Somerville owners for their award-winning preservation work on the exterior of their properties. The properties include both historically designated homes as well as older buildings in the City. SHS students will present their original drawings of each property to the owners. The event takes place in the historically unique space within the Somerville Armory, 191 Highland Avenue. Also see the mobile exhibit of the artwork at the Century Bank on Fellsway West, plus other City venues during subsequent months.
- ❖ **Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2-3pm.** **Harold Cohen**, co-founder of Somerville Lumber, will speak about the rise and fall of this local institution that became one of the largest hardware franchises in the country. The talk and a short film will be held at the Somerville Museum, One Westwood Road. Reception to follow; admission: \$8; free to Museum members.
- ❖ **Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2-5pm.** **The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Historic Bike Tour “Retracing the Midnight Ride (Mostly) of Paul Revere.”** Co-sponsored with the Somerville Bike Committee. The guided ride, escorted by the Somerville Police, is designed for all ages and riding levels, and includes a couple of notable historic stops for rest and a possible interior tour. Ride starts at the Somerville Holiday Inn at 30 Washington St., takes us through Medford, and concludes at the Schwab Mill in Arlington. Light refreshments there generously donated by Food Link of Arlington. Rain date Sun. June 26<sup>th</sup>. \$4.00 donation appreciated. RSVP’s helpful to [bwilson@somervillema.gov](mailto:bwilson@somervillema.gov) or other contact information below.
- ❖ **Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7PM.** **Public Opening and Celebration of the Prospect Hill Tower.** Come appreciate the first grant project completed using the City’s Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds -- stabilization work on the Tower. Also enjoy local historian, **Larry Willwerth** tell stories about *The Lesser Known History of Prospect Hill.* Members of the SHS Local History Club will also be dressed in period clothing to enhance the festivities and help guide participants up into the Tower to enjoy the incredible view and history of the site. Meet at Prospect Hill Tower on Munroe Street, and dress for windy weather.
- ❖ **Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>: Memorial Day Parade.** Join the Historic Somerville contingent! Dress up in period clothing. Begins at City Hall at 1pm and ends at Clarendon Hill. For more information contact [admin@historicsomerville.org](mailto:admin@historicsomerville.org) Rain or shine.
- ❖ **Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-4:30pm.** **Walking Tour of East Somerville.** More details to be posted on the SHPC and East Somerville Main Street website. Rain date Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

For more information, contact SHPC Executive Director Brandon Wilson at 617-625-6600 x2532 or via [bwilson@somervillema.gov](mailto:bwilson@somervillema.gov) or visit [www.somervillema.gov/historicpreservation](http://www.somervillema.gov/historicpreservation) for updates, flyers, and photos.

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone