



# MAY PRESERVATION MONTH



## 2018 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.

- ❖ **Launch of Volunteer Docent Program, May-October. Three Historic Sites: Prospect Hill Tower, Milk Row Cemetery, and Old Powder House.** Full season schedule on weekends and Thursday evenings is posted on the SHPC website and at each site.
- ❖ **Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> 10:00am - noon.** This year's theme for our annual "**Jane's Walk**," celebrating Jane Jacobs, a world-renowned urban activist, is "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Thriving in Somerville." This neighbor-led tour will start at **Perry Park** (355 Washington St.), and include Stops at Fremont Ave., Hawkins, Lake and Church Streets before ending at **Bow Market** for a preview of this new innovative incubator space for many small businesses. See more about Jane's Walks at [www.janeswalks.org](http://www.janeswalks.org). Rain or shine! Grab lunch in Union Square before heading off to Somerville Open Studios (SOS) from noon-6pm, both Sat. and Sun.!
- ❖ **Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00pm. First Seasonal Public Opening of Prospect Hill Tower.** Enjoy the first major project completed using the City's Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds -- stabilization work on the Tower. Local historian, Larry Willwerth will tell stories about "*The Lesser Known History of Prospect Hill*," along with other volunteer docents in period clothing. Only heavy rain cancels.
- ❖ **Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-4:30pm. Walking Tour: "Gilman Square and East Somerville: Historical Look Before the GLX Arrives."** Ed Gordon, President of the New England Chapter of the Victorian Society in America, will lead a lively walking tour of historic buildings and landscapes already undergoing many changes. Co-sponsored with East Somerville Main Street. Meet at City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue. End at Vinny's Ristorante, a neighborhood institution at 76 Broadway, that is offering complimentary refreshments. Rain or shine!
- ❖ **Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00pm. "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 who is buried here, the extraordinary monument dedicated to Somerville soldiers fallen during the Civil War, and both past and current municipal enhancements using grants from the State and the City's CPC. Light refreshments donated by Market Basket, Friend of the Cemetery. Meet at front gate, 439 Somerville Avenue. Heavy rain cancels. Other docent openings will also occur throughout the summer & fall.
- ❖ **Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 3pm. 2018 Veterans Memorial Parade.** Join the Historic Somerville contingent! Dress up in period clothing. Begins at City Hall and ends at Teele Square. For more information contact [admin@historicsomerville.org](mailto:admin@historicsomerville.org). Rain or shine.
- ❖ **Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30-8:30pm. A Talk "Researching the History of Your House and Your Family,"** will be given by 3 key resources -- Preservation Planner Kristi Chase, Archivist Nadia Dixon, and Kevin O'Kelly, Reference Librarian for the SPL. Find out how each place can help you research the history of your house and family through a mini tour of genealogy resources at the Somerville Library and beyond, as well as some tips for getting started. Somerville Central Library, 79 Highland Avenue.
- ❖ **Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-9:00pm. Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony.** A reception, with light refreshments, will be followed by the **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual** ceremony to honor 11 Somerville owners for their award-winning preservation work on the exterior of their properties. 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 Nu Kitchen at 195 Washington St., plus other City venues during subsequent months.
- ❖ **Historic Bike Ride in collaboration with the Somerville Bike Committee. Date TBD, but likely in mid-June.**

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) or [Somerville Historic Preservation Commission FB page](#) for updates, flyers, and photos.

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone