

# PUBLIC EVENT/SPECIAL ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION

City of Somerville, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Application #: PEL25-000169

File #: 25-009367

**Event Name:** 250 First Flag Raising Ceremony

**Business Name:** Somerville Museum

**Application Type:** Public Event License

**Location:** 1 WESTWOOD RD

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## APPLICANT

**Company Name:** Somerville Museum

**Contact Name:** Anna Carr

**Business Address:**

One Westwood Road  
Somerville, MA 02143

**Home Address:**

98 Central Street  
Somerville, MA 02143

**Work Phone:** (617) 666-9810

**Home Phone:**

**Email:** anna@somervillemuseum.org

**# of days:** 1

**Does this event occupy a public space or significantly affect nearby residents?:** Yes

**Are you the party applying for the Public Event License?:** Yes

**Describe the location in detail:** Prospect Hill Tower, and Prospect Hill Park.

**In the last 5 years, have you been found guilty, liable, or responsible, in any judicial or administrative proceeding, for any violation of the City Wage Theft Ordinance or any State or Federal laws or regulations regulating the payment of wages?** [City Wage Theft Ordinance](https://www.somerville.org/DocumentCenter/View/149/WAGE%20THEFT%20ORDINANCE.pdf): No

**Date:** 01/01/2026

**Event Setup Begins:** 08:00 AM

**Start Time:** 12:00 PM

**End Time:** 01:00 PM

**Event Cleanup Ends:** 01:00 PM

**Do You Have a Proposed Rain Date for Your Public Event?:** No

**Organization name; if none, your name:** Somerville Museum

**Describe any social or cultural benefits of this event for Somerville residents :** Our goal for the First Flag 2026 is to celebrate the rich history of Prospect Hill in Somerville and to engage the community through the Somerville Museum. We are celebrating American history, honoring heroes, and fostering community. We aim to deepen understanding of American History in Somerville.

**Describe any financial benefits of this event for Somerville businesses or organizations:** Increased tourism. Visitors will be encouraged to patronize local businesses before and after the event.

**What is the budget for this event?:** \$2750

**Complete Mailing Address :** 1 Westwood Road Somerville, MA

**Contact name for follow-up questions (Will be available to the public):** Anna-Celestrya Carr

**Email:** anna@somervillemuseum.org

**Phone (Will be available to the public):** 9787608531

**Event Name :** 250 First Flag Raising Ceremony

**Describe the Event:** Every New Year's Day, the city of Somerville commemorates an important moment of the American

**Revolution: The First Flag Raising.** The event re-enacts the one that took place on Prospect Hill on January 1, 1776. General Washington raised a new American flag on that day over the highest point in the land, Prospect Hill in Somerville. The event starts at Somerville City Hall and proceeds to Prospect Hill. Numerous city officials, the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts based out of Faneuil Hall (Boston), and re-enactors participate in the ceremony and parade.

**Describe any Entertainment at the Event (if none, type None):** There are speakers, craft activities, live music, coffee, and snacks.

**Describe any tents, inflatables, or other temporary structures to be used (if none, type None):** Stage, Podium, Sound System, Tables, Tents, Chairs, Garbage Cans and Portajohns.

**Describe any accessibility features available to attendees/participants:** For accessibility information, please visit [somervillema.gov/accessibility](http://somervillema.gov/accessibility).

**Estimated maximum attendance at one time :** 500

**Estimated total number of people attending:** 500

**Estimated total number of Somerville residents attending :** 300

**Maximum number of attendees you will accommodate:** 500

**Attendee fees or suggested donations :** This is a free event.

**Will this event be open to the public?:** Yes

**Describe your outreach/publicity:** We will spread the word via Museum's social media channels, posters in local businesses, social media channels for history lovers, Somerville Residents, and 250th tourism sites (ex State Office of Travel and Tourism event board).

**Will food be served?:** Yes

**If yes, describe::** We will have coffee, hot chocolate, hot apple cider, and donuts.

**Will the event be catered?:** No

**Will a grill/open-flame device be used? :** No

**Will any streets be blocked? :** Yes

**If yes, describe::** Munroe Street will be blocked by the parade from City Hall and the First Flag raising. The layout will be the same as last year.

**Road to be closed:** Munroe Street

**Cross street where road closure will start:** Prospect Hill Pkwy

**Cross street where road closure will end:** Walnut Street

**Will any sidewalks be blocked? :** Yes

**If yes, describe::** Attendees will be walking on the sidewalk.

**Will any public parks be used? :** Yes

**If yes, name of park(s) :** Prospect Hill Park

**Has this event occurred in the last two years? :** Yes

**If yes, prior dates :** January 1, 2025 January 1, 2024 January 1, 2023 January 1, 2022 January 1, 2021

**Police Detail :** Yes

**If yes, describe::** Police escort needed on Wednesday, January 1, for Procession from City Hall to the Tower along Highland Ave to Greenville Ave. then to Prospect Hill Tower. Arrive City Hall no later than 11:15; Procession starts at 11:30 Needed police van for transporting participants back to their cars parked at City Hall concourse after Park event around 1:15.

**Parking for Attendees :** No

**If yes, describe::**

**Restrooms :** Yes

**If yes, please describe the restrooms being provided, and if you are providing portable toilets, state how they will be delivered and removed::** If DPW does not provide portable toilets, we will rent one, make arrangements for its delivery and

removal after the event weekend, pay for it, and supervise the company's placement.

**Liability Insurance : Yes**

**If yes, describe::** The Museum carries full liability insurance for its events.

**Approval Conditions:**

**Reviewer:** Eric Weisman, Public Works, Approved with Conditions

1. Event setup may not puncture turf.

**Reviewer:** CS Mayor, Mayor's Office, Approved

**Reviewer:** Albert Bargoot, ISD Building, Approved

**Reviewer:** Kevin Roche, Engineering, Approved

**Reviewer:** Jesse Moos, Engineering, Complete

**Reviewer:** Yianny Tsirigotis, Recreation, Approved

**Reviewer:** Charles Breen, Fire Prevention, Approved

**Reviewer:** Suzanne Rinfret1, Traffic and Parking, Approved

**Reviewer:** Mackenzie Richardson, Police, Approved

**Reviewer:** Kabir Bedi, City Clerk, Pending