

PUBLIC EVENT/SPECIAL ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION

City of Somerville, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Application #: PEL26-000036

File #: 23-004675

Event Name: Somerville Community Growing Center 2026
Calendar of Events

Business Name: Friends of the Community Growing
Center

Application Type: Public Event License

Location: Somerville Community Growing Center on
Vinal Ave, adjacent to and above Nunziato Field

APPLICANT

Company Name: Friends of the Community Growing Center

Contact Name: Lisa Brukilacchio

Business Address:

PO Box 76
Somerville, MA 02143

Home Address:

30 Boynton Rd
Medford, ma 02155

Work Phone:

Home Phone:

Email: lisa@thegrowingcenter.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: Somerville Community Growing Center on Vinal Ave, adjacent to and above Nunziato Field

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](#): No

Date: Several, beginning from April 26th till December 12th

Event Setup Begins: Different timings for each event

Start Time: Different timings for each event

End Time: Different timings for each event

Event Cleanup Ends: Different timings for each event

Do You Have a Proposed Rain Date for Your Public Event?: Yes

Date: Different timings for each event

Start Time: Different timings for each event

End Time: Different timings for each event

Organization name; if none, your name: Friends of the Community Growing Center

Describe any social or cultural benefits of this event for Somerville residents : The annual calendar for the Growing Center provides multiple opportunities for free cultural and/or educational events and participation for residents of all ages throughout the rest of 2025.

Describe any financial benefits of this event for Somerville businesses or organizations: Proximity to Union Square helps introduce visitors to the Center to nearby businesses for food and entertainment.

What is the budget for this event?: for multiple events \$0-\$3K

Complete Mailing Address : Friends of the Community Growing Center, PO Box 76, Somerville MA 02143

Contact name for follow-up questions (Will be available to the public): Lisa Brukilacchio

Email: lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

Phone (Will be available to the public): 781-953-4826

Event Name : Somerville Community Growing Center 2026 Calendar of Events

Describe the Event: From late April through Dec, the Center will offer a range of workshops, children's programming, seasonal community celebrations and cultural events for free. They range from workshops on gardening and herbs, yoga classes, nature study and citizen science, films, music and seasonal festivals in keeping with our mission.

Describe any Entertainment at the Event (if none, type None): Some events include music, film or dance, also educational events related to nature, food, growing, crafts, literacy, etc.

Describe any tents, inflatables, or other temporary structures to be used (if none, type None): If needed, dependent on weather, we utilize 10x10 pop up canopies, with leg weights for safety

Describe any accessibility features available to attendees/participants: The Center's paths, stage areas and porta-potty are ADA accessible.

Estimated maximum attendance at one time : 10-200

Estimated total number of people attending: 10-450

Estimated total number of Somerville residents attending : 80-90%

Maximum number of attendees you will accommodate: 350

Attendee fees or suggested donations : Events are offered for free, though donations are welcomed.

Will this event be open to the public?: Yes

Describe your outreach/publicity: Flyers, newsletters, social media and through community partners.

Will food be served?: Yes

If yes, describe:: Limited currently to: 1) Festa Junina (6/13), planning to serve low risk baked goods from local vendors for a 4th year in accordance with Temporary Food Permit in development and 2) Bake sales (per prior Temporary Food Permits) on Earth Day (4/26), Spring Garden Day (5/2), Gathering of Fairies (9/19), Harvest Fair (9/22) and Salvage Sale (10/24). Separate applications will be submitted for each event.

Will the event be catered?: No

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

Will any streets be blocked? : No

Will any sidewalks be blocked? : No

Will any public parks be used? : No

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

If yes, prior dates : Since 1994, the Center has been providing a range of free educational and cultural events for the residents of Somerville. The City Clerk issued a blanket permit, which we are applying for here. There are Citizenserve records from 2021 through 2025.

Police Detail : No

Parking for Attendees : No

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:: We have our own handicapped accessible porta-potty that is serviced regularly during event season.

Liability Insurance : Yes

If yes, describe:: We have liability coverage for \$1M, in accordance with our license with the City.

Date(s): There are Several Dates beginning from April 26th to December 12th. There are all listed in Somerville Community Growing Calender - kb 3/26

Rain Date(s): The rain dates are listed in Somerville Community Growing Calender - kb 3/26

Approval Conditions:

Reviewer: CS Mayor, Mayor's Office, Approved

Reviewer: Maureen Lee, ISD Health, Complete

Reviewer: Kevin Roche, Engineering, Approved

Reviewer: Eric Weisman, Public Works, Approved

Reviewer: Yianny Tsirigotis, Recreation, Approved

Reviewer: Charles Breen, Fire Prevention, Approved

Reviewer: Suzanne Rinfret1, Traffic and Parking, Approved

Reviewer: Mackenzie Richardson, Police, Approved

Reviewer: Kimberly M. Wells, City Clerk, Approved

Reviewer: Jesse Moos, Engineering, Complete



Somerville Community Growing Center

2026 Calendar

Sponsored by the Friends of the Community Growing Center.
Located at 22 Vinal Avenue, Somerville (near Union Square)

The Somerville Community Growing Center is a place for people of all ages and backgrounds to gather, learn and celebrate – to grow a healthy community. On our quarter acre site you will find gardens and space for arts, performances, education and community gatherings. This peaceful urban oasis was built by the community and is maintained and run by a volunteer organization called the Friends of the Community Growing Center.

Check for last minute details as this is a weather dependent outdoor venue:

www.thegrowingcenter.org/calendar

All events are free, sometimes a “suggested donation” is noted, but all are welcome.

The site is mostly accessible by wheelchair. Porta-potty available.

Parking and Accessibility: Please note that parking on most streets in the Vinal Avenue area is by permit only, except for Sundays. Drop off area available. Contact event coordinators if any questions. The [Growing Center](#) is a short walk from Union Square, near the Somerville High School on Highland Avenue, and accessible via the Green Line and buses on Highland and Somerville Avenues. Green Line access (10-15 min walk) or buses # 85, 87, 88, 90.

Volunteers and donations are always welcomed to help support events and programs offered at this city-owned site.

To volunteer, contact Betsy Larkin at volunteer@thegrowingcenter.org

To propose a workshop or program for fewer than 20 people for a future event, contact Lisa Brukilacchio at lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

To receive electronic notices of events and volunteer opportunities, visit <https://www.thegrowingcenter.org/contact> or send a request to volunteer@thegrowingcenter.org

All other inquiries, contact info@thegrowingcenter.org

Please Note:

An * after an event title indicates that the event is supported in part by a grant from the Somerville Arts Council, a local commission supported by the City of Somerville and/or the Mass Cultural Council.



APRIL

Spring Nature Walk

Sunday, April 26, 11am

Come enjoy the fresh air, beautiful blooms, and great company as we explore nature in the neighborhood — and our place within it. This walk series will be led by environmental educator Phoebe Grupper and is perfect for all ages and experience levels. Whether you're a couch potato or a seasoned naturalist, this walk is for you!

Contact: Phoebe at phoebe@thegrowingcenter.org

Earth Day: Our Power, Our Planet

Sunday, April 26, 1-3 pm with TBC alternative rain space

Rain Date: Sunday, May 3, 1-3pm

Come share your knowledge, learn from each other, and meet area advocates. Connect in common space and grow your power! Earth Day 2026 is a call for collective action to reclaim rights and futures, focusing on empowering people to drive environmental change, advance clean energy, and protect communities from pollution and climate impacts. The event will include a vermicomposting demo. And creative ventures for all ages with Kamishibai storytelling, pollinator art-making and a nature themed mending station in partnership with Wildlife Arts.

Somerville middle school climate club members and their high school mentors are also planning an event this afternoon (joining us all for tabling/networking 2-3pm, convening 3:30-5:30pm). They are inviting area activists to learn about climate club projects in progress and develop intergenerational partnerships. We hope that folks who have been doing climate work will come to connect with the emerging generation of activists and learn what perspectives they bring.

Contact: Lisa at lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

Climate Convening Series 2026: Somerville High School and Middle School Students Take Action

Sunday 26 April, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. and 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

- **2:00 - 3:00 p.m.: Networking and tabling at [The Somerville Community Growing Center, 22 Vinal Ave, Somerville, MA.](#)**
- **3:30 - 5:00 p.m.: Convening, location TBD.**

In May 2025, Somerville middle and high school students shared their knowledge, energy, and enthusiasm in a gathering of area climate and biodiversity activists. Participants came away from that convening eager for further intergenerational partnerships. Join us for a follow-up convening celebrating the climate action projects of middle and high school students in Somerville. What are the urgent concerns of the emerging generation of Somerville-area climate and biodiversity activists? What vision for Somerville are they bringing to the table? Please come to learn and to network across generations. Facilitated by (TBD). RSVPs encouraged.

Contact: Tom at Tom_in_Davis_Square@comcast.net

MAY:

Little Songbook: In Bloom

Friday, May 1, 1:00-2:30 pm

Celebrate one year of Little Songbook Opera with *Little Songbook: In Bloom*, a vibrant concert inspired by flowers, growth, and new beginnings. Featuring works for string quartet and soprano, including original compositions with texts by Virginia Woolf and Amy Lowell. Set at the Somerville Community Growing Center, this immersive performance brings opera and chamber music out of the concert hall and into a beautiful, community driven space.

Contact: Abbey at littlesongbookopera@gmail.com

Spring Garden Day

Saturday, May 2, 1:00-3:00 pm

Rain Date: Sunday, May 3

Come together in community with others, gathering to celebrate the magic of the season. If you have some seeds or seedlings or house plants to share, bring them along! Pot up an herb plant from Red Fire Farm to take home. Visit the native Pollinator Garden and check out the Pollinator Friendly Containers. Learn basic techniques to make cordage, twine that can be made from many garden materials. Lend a hand on craft projects for future events, such as making lanterns for the upcoming Climate Change Theater Action. Enjoy demonstrations by Whistle Pig, Boston's first queer-led, queer-focused Morris dance team and join the Maypole Dance. Stick around after for a Composting Workshop at 3pm!

Contact: Lisa at lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

Compost Workshop

Saturday, May 2, 3:00 pm

Come learn the basics of composting and see how the volunteer managed compost system at the Center works, with Lee, our Compost Coordinator, who will share their passion and knowledge!

Contact: Lee at lee@thegrowingcenter.org

Pub Sing

Tuesdays, May 5 & 19, 7:00-9:00 pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff at jeff.keller@gmail.com

***Strands of Connection: Learn to Spin**

Saturday, May 9, 12-2pm (Limited to 12-15 pre-approved participants who must attend other 3 sessions.)

Spring Nature Walk

Sunday, May 10, 11am

Come enjoy the fresh air, beautiful blooms, and great company as we explore nature in the neighborhood — and our place within it. This walk series will be led by environmental educator Phoebe Grupper and is perfect for all ages and experience levels. Whether you're a couch potato or a seasoned naturalist, this walk is for you!

Contact: Phoebe at phoebe@thegrowingcenter.org

Introduction to Nature Monitoring in the City with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, May 9, 2:00-3:30 pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EwA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EwA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Learn about EwA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Visit [here](#) for information on science apps used. recommended.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

Casual Creative Arts in Nature Drop in Sessions

Most Saturdays, May 16 - October 17, 10 am-12 pm (check our [calendar](#) for weekly details!)

Volunteers will be on hand most Saturday mornings during Open Hours for some casual creative time, featuring a range of special topics. Join an informal fiber arts learning community, or grab your journal and write a bit, create a poem or make an entry in our Growing Center Journal. You are welcome to come in to sketch, draw or paint while enjoying inspiration from nature in a green setting in the city. Some limited art supplies available.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Book Swap: Bring a Book, Take a Book**Saturday, May 16, 2:00-5:00 pm****Rain Date: Sunday, May 17, 2-5pm**

Bring a book, take a book! This free event is for readers of all ages and genres, with extra books so all are welcome. All languages encouraged! Somerville Public Library will be there to register attendees for library cards. We also hope to be joined by the Somerville Asian Family Network Book Bike Library, Loving Little Minds a home library non-profit that provides monthly children's multicultural books & QT Library focused on queer and trans joy.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Theater as Climate Action: A Conversation with Arts & Climate Initiative Artistic Director Chantal Bilodeau**Tuesday May 19, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., via zoom**

Free of charge. *Please register [here](#) to receive the zoom link.*

Meet Chantal Bilodeau, Founding Artistic Director of Arts & Climate Initiative and founder of Climate Change Theatre Action, in conversation with director and climate justice advocate Tom King and company members of *Now Is Still Here: Climate Change Theatre Action 2026*. We'll consider the role of theater and performance in fostering climate awareness and action, building social cohesion and resilience, and facilitating alliances across our often competing interests. A global festival of short plays engaging with climate change and promoting transformative climate justice, *Now Is Still Here: Climate Change Theatre Action 2026* at the Somerville Community Growing Center aims to create and sustain a more fully inclusive and open Somerville, recognizing that community engagement is a strong predictor of resilience in our ongoing climate crisis.

Contact: tking@brandeis.edu

Sing Into Spring!*Saturday, May 23, 2:00-4:00 pm****Rain Date: Sunday, May 24**

Experience a program of songs celebrating this season of growth and renewal, with Opera Untapped. Opera Untapped brings the power of the classical voice to life in unexpected spaces, creating performances that are bold, intimate and unforgettable. For all ages, with fun hands-on educational activities learning about pollinators who help bring us food and flowers, making pollinator headbands and buttons of the "[mascots](#)" of the [Somerville Pollinator Action Plan](#).

To learn more, check out www.operaontapboston.com

Now is Still Time: Climate Change Theater Action 2026*Friday, May 29 & Saturday, May 30, 6:30 pm; Sunday, May 31, 4 pm****Rain dates: Friday, June 5 & Saturday June 6, 6:30 pm**

Join us for *Now Is Still Here: Climate Change Theatre Action 2026* at the Somerville Community Growing Center in the Union Square area. A festival of short plays commissioned from playwrights around the world and inviting audience members to take action, Climate Change Theatre Action asks, What future relations to our built and natural environments can we imagine and then begin building together? How can practices of care for all living beings help us imagine and build justice, inclusion, and belonging in our communities?

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Cambridge-Somerville Asian Festival*Saturday, May 30, 1-3pm rain or shine**

The Cambridge Somerville Asian Festival is a two day celebration that spotlights local AAPI stars in our community including AAPI business owners. We will be dyeing and decorating recycled grocery tote bags with Asian spices and herbs at the Somerville Growing Center as part of Somerville's Asian Market Walking Tour.

Contact: Krystal at krystal.peralta@gmail.com

JUNE

Pub Sing

Tuesdays, June 3 & 17, 7:00-9:00 pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Red Fire Farm CSA Distribution

Wednesdays, June 3-Oct 14, 3:30-6:30 pm

The Center is a pickup site for a weekly pre-ordered farm share including veggies & herbs with the option of adding fruit and more. Sign up [here](#) to order a 20 week share to be picked up at the Center. The Center is open to the public during this time.

Contact: Red Fire Farm at csa@redfirefarm.com

Casual Creative Arts in Nature Drop In Sessions

Most Wednesdays, June 3 - September 30, 4:30-6:30 pm

Come visit the Growing Center for some relatively quiet time during the weekly Red Fire Farm CSA distribution window. Bring a book and read. Grab your journal and write a bit, create a poem or make an entry in our Growing Center Journal that will be available. Find those art supplies and come sketch, draw or paint while enjoying inspiration from nature in a green setting in the city. Some limited art supplies will be available for use on site. (Check our [calendar](#) for weekly details!)

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Pollinator Gardening in Urban Spaces

Saturday, June 6, 12-1 pm

Join with Somerville Garden Club & Growing Center folks to learn about using native plants to help provide nectar or pollen resources for native pollinators friendly urban gardens of all sizes. Learn how and why to plant for attracting pollinators and some ideas on how all of us can play a role. Check out the Somerville Pollinator Action Plan [here](#). Some materials may be available (limited containers, soil, some native plants and seeds).

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

*Bumba Meu Boi Dance and Music Workshop

Thursday June 11, 6:30-8:00 pm, (potentially offered June 7 at Carnival in East Somerville)

Would you like to learn to play some traditional Brazilian music and dance with a large ox puppet? A Brazilian dancer/musician will run a workshop for everyone to learn to dance and play music along with an ox puppet called Bumba Meu Boi--a tradition from the northern and northeastern part of Brazil. Learn how to use matracas for music making. This workshop is part of a preparation for the Festa Junina (Brazilian Harvest Festival) which will happen on June 13 at the Somerville Growing Center. Come play with us!

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Mindful Garden Experience with Sue

Sunday, June 7, 6:30-7:30 pm

Looking for a way to slow down and unwind? Let Susan Novick, a certified Kripalu Mindful Outdoor Guide, teach you how to do just that through mindful breathing, movements, and walking that will help you be present in the moment and connect with the natural world in new ways during this time at the Growing Center.

Contact: Sue at shnovick2@gmail.com

Microgreens with Chi-hua

Tuesday, June 9, 6:30pm

Hydroponics is a simple and efficient way to produce clean and healthy greens. Depending on the production scale and space available at home, there are many different setups from a tray to automated multi-layer systems. Chi-hua will share what he has learned in growing microgreens and leafy greens hydroponically over the past 10 years. Join to learn how to grow microgreens at home! Limited supply of starting kits will be available. RSVP TBD

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Root Stamp Making Workshop

Thursday, June 11, 4:30-6:00 pm

Artist Ruchika Madan will guide participants through making stamps from root vegetables. Learn to make your own and help make some for the upcoming weekend Festa Junina event.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

***Bumba Meu Boi Dance and Music Workshop**

Thursday, July 11, 6:30-7:30pm (potentially offered at Carnaval, East Somerville, on June 7)

Would you like to learn to play some traditional Brazilian music and dance with a large ox puppet? A Brazilian dancer/musician will run a workshop for everyone to learn to dance and play music along with an ox puppet called Bumba Meu Boi--a tradition from the northern and northeastern part of Brazil. Learn how to use matracas for music making. This workshop is part of a preparation for the Festa Junina (Brazilian Harvest Festival) which will happen on June 13 at the Somerville Growing Center. Come play with us!

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

***Festa Junina/ Brazilian Harvest Festival**

Saturday, June 13, 1:00-4:30 pm

Rain Date: Saturday, June 20

Festa Junina is a traditional harvest celebration in Brazil. This annual Growing Center event will include craft stations (root printing, lantern making, making dance accessories), participatory Quadrilha dancing, traditional treats and music. Bumba Meu Boi, combining music, dance, puppets and costumes to symbolically resist social oppression and celebrate the cycle of life. This year, the festival will also feature Corn as a key element of the Americas indigenous agricultural tradition of the Three Sisters, in partnership with Padres Latinos.

Contact: Yumi at yumiisu65@gmail.com

Introduction to Nature Monitoring in the City with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, June 13, 2:00-3:30 pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EWA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EWA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Learn about EWA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Visit [here](#) for information on science apps used. recommended. Please note, this will be taking place during the Festa Junina celebration.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

QiGong for Rest and Relaxation with Martha

Sunday, June 14, 6:30-7:30 pm

Join instructor Martha Oesch for an evening of qigong practices. The exercises combine flowing movement, breath work, and meditation in a fun way for people of all ages and abilities. By releasing stress in our body, calming our mind, and centering ourselves, we'll create an opportunity to be simply present and aware. For more information, visit [Martha's website](#).

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Teddy Bears' Picnic

Monday, June 15, 6:30-8:30 pm

Raindate: June 22, 6:30-8:30 pm

Bring a picnic and your teddy bears (or other cuddly toys) and join with local families and friends of all ages.

Contact: Courtney at cscooke@live.com

Climate Convening Series 2026: Can We Address the Climate Crisis without Addressing Anti-Blackness?

Thursday June 18, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Rain date: Thursday, June 25

Join Diane Wong, founder and director of the [Racial Justice Collaborative](#), and Somerville-area activists to explore why solving the climate and biodiversity crises requires addressing anti-Blackness and the shared histories of settler colonial and extractivist oppression in the United States. How have we come to think of some peoples, just as we think of our shared “natural resources,” as disposable? All are welcome. Come as you are and bring your voice. RSVPs encouraged. [RSVP TBD]

Contact: tking@brandeis.edu

Yoga with Jenn

Sunday, June 21, 4:30-5:45 pm

Take time for a mindful movement practice to turn off from obligations and connect to the body and mind. Offered by [Jenn Pici Falk](#), who offers recorded sessions at youtube.com/picijenn.

Contact: Jen at jennpfalk@gmail.com

Climate Convening Series 2026: Reconnecting with the Work

Saturday, June 27, 1-4:00 pm

Rain date: Sunday, June 28, 2:30-5:30pm (note later time)

When you think of our current climate and biodiversity crises, how do you feel? How do you navigate grief, anxiety, exhaustion, and rage while taking action toward a more just, sustainable, and resilient future? Join us for a workshop offering strategies for reconnecting with your motivation and your capacity to engage. Based on the Work That Reconnects, a set of group practices developed by the late Joanna Macy that combine engaged Buddhism, eco-psychology, systems thinking, and ancient wisdom traditions, this workshop will move through four phases: gratitude, honoring world pain, seeing with new and ancient eyes, and going forth, with the ultimate goal of inspiring action for a sustainable world. Facilitated by Anne Goodwin and part of the Growing Center's 2026 Self-Care Series, which aims to foster community and connection through nature-based activities. *RSVP TBD*

Contact: Tom at Tom_in_Davis_Square@comcast.net

Spoken Word/Poetry Open Mic

Tuesday, June 23, 6:00-7:30 pm

Join us for a night of creativity and expression. Whether you're a seasoned poet or just starting out, this open mic is the perfect opportunity to share your work with a supportive audience. Come listen to talented performers, or take the stage yourself and showcase your writing. Don't miss this chance to connect with fellow poetry lovers and immerse yourself in the power of spoken word. See you there! (eventbrite sign up)

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

JULY

Pub Sing

Tuesdays, July 7 & 21, 7:00-9:00 pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Pollinator Friendly Gardening in Urban Spaces

Saturday, July 11, 1:00-2:00 pm

Join Somerville Garden Club members and Growing Center folks to learn about creating a range of pollinator gardens, using native plants to help provide nectar or pollen resources for native pollinators. Learn how and why to plant for attracting pollinators and some ideas on how even here in the city each of us can play a role. Check out the Somerville Pollinator Action Plan [here](#). Some materials provided (limited containers, soil, some native plants and seeds).

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Veggie Fermentation with Flora

Thursday, July 9, 6:30-8pm

Flora Spivak will discuss and demonstrate simple techniques for making veggie fermentations such as sauerkraut and pickling at home. Sample recipes provided. Come learn and/or share your own experience and knowledge of these traditional methods of preserving food. (Check out the Somerville Fermentation Festival she is coordinating for Sunday, September 7 at the Center for the Arts at the Armory!)

Contact: Flora at sfspivak@gmail.com

Introduction to Nature Monitoring in the City with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, July 11, 2:00-3:30 pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EWA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EWA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Learn about EWA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Visit [here](#) for information on science apps used. recommended.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

***Rejane de Musis Music Workshop and Concert with Ebinho Cardoso**

Saturday, July 11, 5pm workshop, concert at 6pm

Join music teacher Rejane de Musis for a 30 minute workshop for children followed by a concert with Ebinho Cardoso, renowned bassist, composer and educator known for his unique "guitar-like" approach to the bass, using custom tunings to play chords and melodies simultaneously.

Contact: Rejane at rejane.musis@gmail.com

Nibbling on Natives in Your Backyard and Beyond with Russ Cohen

Monday, July 13, 8:00-9:00pm

Join [Russ Cohen](#), expert forager and author of *Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten*, for a 60+ minute slide show featuring at least two dozen species of native edible wild plants suitable for adding to your own landscape, or nibbling on as you encounter them in other locales. Keys to the identification of each species will be provided, along with edible portion(s), season(s) of availability and preparation method(s), as well as guidelines for safe and environmentally responsible foraging. Russ will also include a few details regarding some native edible plants he has grown successfully from seed, and the partnerships he has made with conservation groups and others to add edible native plants to their landscapes.

Spoken Word/Poetry: Aparna Paul

Tuesday, July 14, 6:00-7:30 pm

Join Aparna Paul for an evening inspired by her book of poetry released in 2025. In the words of the publisher, Game Over Books, *HOME FREE* is a work of weaving. Weaving personal anecdote, family lore, collective history, fast food drive-thru & heritage home cooking, the dinner table & the house party, this language's capacity to harm & heal, snakes & more snakes, this

collection refuses to hold one truth at a time. These poems and their speaker don't belong exactly anywhere; rather, they seek home in new ways: in people, in memory, in an open invitation to find yourself everywhere.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Sourdough Workshop with Spencer & Emma

Thursday, July 16, 6:30-7:30 pm

Join Growing Center volunteers to explore the wonders and delights of creating your own sourdough bread at home. Learn tips and techniques in this workshop. Share your stories—and some limited sourdough starter will be available.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Summer Film Night

Thursday, July 23, 8:00-9:15 pm

Come enjoy film(s) tbd and lively discussion with special topical guests in a garden setting.

Contact: Maddie at madeleinecmorgan@gmail.com

Light is Returning: Music for Social Change

Saturday, July 25, 3pm

Rain date: Sunday, July 26

An evening of performances by and in collaboration with teachers at WholeTone, and local artists, boosting social change in the times we live in.

Contact: info@wholetoneacademy.com

Spoken Word/Poetry Open Mic

Tuesday, July 28, 6:00-7:30 pm

Join us for a night of creativity and expression. Whether you're a seasoned poet or just starting out, this open mic is the perfect opportunity to share your work with a supportive audience. Come listen to talented performers, or take the stage yourself and showcase your writing. Don't miss this chance to connect with fellow poetry lovers and immerse yourself in the power of spoken word. See you there!

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org (adding eventbrite sign up)

Spectacular Caterpillars with Tomoko

Wednesday, July 29, 7:30pm

Caterpillars sometimes feel like gardeners' foe when they eat away our plants, but they are an absolutely essential part of our ecosystem. Under Tomoko Deeney's guidance, we'll closely look at caterpillars' fascinating life cycle by learning basic facts about Lepidoptera; then, we'll zoom in on Monarch and Eastern Black Swallowtail caterpillars with some photos and videos of their growth, behaviors and metamorphosis. You will see that wonders of our natural world are happening right under our noses. By emphasizing the importance of creating habitats for caterpillars and butterflies, learn how we can experience rearing caterpillars thoughtfully based on Tufts University entomologist's advice and Xerces Society's recommendation.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Stuffed Animal Campout

Thursday, July 30, 5:00-6:30 pm

Rain Date: Thursday, August 6

Drop off your stuffies for an overnight camping experience! We'll have a camping-themed Pajama Storytime for the kids prior to saying their good-byes, and then it's party time for just the animals, with garden exploration time, hide-and-seek, (pretend) s'mores making, singalongs, and more! Follow along in the fun on social media! Additional drop-off times and pick-up opportunities to be announced.

Contact: Betsy at betsy@thegrowingcenter.org

AUGUST

Pub Sing

Tuesdays, August 4 & 18, 7:00-9:00 pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

***Strands of Connection: Dyeing Days**

Saturdays August 8 & 29, 12-4pm (NOTE limited project cohort participation, by pre-application; wait list)

Introduction to Nature Monitoring in the City with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, August 8, 2:00-3:30 pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EwA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EwA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Learn about EwA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Visit [here](#) for information on science apps used. recommended.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

Teen Empowerment Open Mic Night

Tuesday, August 11, 4-7pm

Teen Empowerment, in collaboration with the Growing Center, will host a community open mic event on August 11th. The event will include youth-led performances such as speeches, poetry, and music, as well as light games and community engagement activities. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in the open mic portion of the program. The event is intended to provide a safe, inclusive space for creative expression and community gathering.

Contact: pat@teenempowerment.org

Birds in the Mystic Watershed with Michael

Wednesday, August 12, 7:30pm

Local resident Michael Fager has participated in research for the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas, helped construct an osprey breeding platform in the Mystic River and generally come to know the birds of the Mystic. He will share some of his experiences studying and getting to know birds that reside here, as well as those that migrate through in different seasons. Michael has been a long time member of the Somerville Conservation Commission, as well as active with the Community Preservation Committee and the Mystic River Watershed Association (including winning awards for his bird photos)

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Growing and Savoring Herbal Teas with Lisa

Thursday, August 20, 7:00-8:00 pm

Learn about ways to grow and harvest plants at home to enjoy teas from a range of herbs that one can nurture in small spaces.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Summer Film Nights

Thursdays August 20 and 27, 8:00-9:15 pm

Come enjoy film(s) tbd and lively discussion with special topical guests in a garden setting.

Contact: Maddie at madeleinecmorgan@gmail.com

Spoken Word/Poetry Open Mic

Tuesday, August 25, 6-7:30 pm

Join us for a night of creativity and expression. Whether you're a seasoned poet or just starting out, this open mic is the perfect opportunity to share your work with a supportive audience. Come listen to talented performers, or take the stage yourself and showcase your writing. Don't miss this chance to connect with fellow poetry lovers and immerse yourself in the power of spoken word. See you there!

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org (adding eventbrite sign up)

Conversation about Wolves with Rick

Wednesday, August 26, 7:30 pm

What do we know about this keystone species, responsible for supporting healthy ecosystems? How do wolves help restore balance in forests, regenerate eroded riverbanks and support Rick will share stories and knowledge gained at the Brother Wolf Foundation.

Contact: Rick at rwood@siteduck.com

SEPTEMBER

Pub Sing

Tuesdays, September 1 & 15, 7:00-9:00 pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Introduction to Nature Monitoring in the City with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, September 12, 2:00-3:30 pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EWA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EWA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Learn about EWA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Visit [here](#) for information on science apps used. recommended.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

Gathering of the Fairies: Celebrating Nature Spirits

Saturday, September 19 2:00-5:00 pm

Rain Date: Sunday, September 26

Come learn about nature spirits from around the world—and our imaginations! Everyone is invited to come dressed up as their favorite magical being. Celebratory activities in the garden for fairies and their friends include storytelling, building a fairy house and creating a fairy wand. (For extra fun, venture over to the Fluff Festival in Union Square as well.) Donations are encouraged to support the Growing Center and Gathering of Fairies.

Contact: Kathleen at kathleen@thegrowingcenter.org

Spoken Word/Poetry Open Mic

Tuesday, September 22, 6:00-7:30 pm

Join us for a night of creativity and expression. Whether you're a seasoned poet or just starting out, this open mic is the perfect opportunity to share your work with a supportive audience. Come listen to talented performers, or take the stage yourself and showcase your writing. Don't miss this chance to connect with fellow poetry lovers and immerse yourself in the power of spoken word. See you there! (eventbrite sign up)

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Harvest Festival: Strands of Connection and The Three Sisters

Sunday, September 27, 2:00-4:30 pm

Rain Date: Sunday, October 4

Harvest and nature arts activities, pumpkin decorating and a celebration of the bounty nature shares with us throughout the year. Celebrate Corn, Squash and Beans, the traditional Three Sisters indigenous system of growing these crops native to the Americas! Check out a showcase of the products of the Strands of Connection: from seed to scarf project, which engaged community members since April in learning about natural dyes, spinning and making a scarf. Check our website for details as they develop through the season.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Spoken Work/Poetry: Elizabeth Bradfield

Tuesday, September 29, 6:30-8:00 pm

Rain Date: Saturday, October 3, 4:30-6:00 pm

In SOFAR, poet-naturalist Elizabeth Bradfield attends our current ecological and historic moment, her decades-long queer love, a lifetime of work on boats, and her body's shifting currents with wry yearning and linguistic delight. SOFAR is an acronym for the "sound frequency and ranging channel," a deep layer of oceanic water that enables sound to travel vast distances, and, drawing upon her deep knowledge and experience of the sea, Bradfield plumbs what can be heard by listening across the vast distances of our lives—within our memories and larger histories, between strangers and beloveds, and to the more-than-human world. *SOFAR* is a finalist for the Audre Lorde Prize from the Publishing Triangle. Porter Square Books will be on site with books for sale!

Contact: Tom at Tom_in_Davis_Square@comcast.net

OCTOBER

Pub Sing

Tuesdays, October 6 & 20, 7:00-9:00 pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Introduction to Native Monitoring in the City with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, October 10, 2:00-3:30 pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EWA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EWA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Learn about EWA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Visit [here](#) for information on science apps used. recommended.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

Climate Convening Series 2026: Building Somerville's Capacity to Respond

Saturday, October 17, time TBD

Rain date: Sunday, October 18

Advance registration appreciated but not required [LINK TO BE ADDED]

How do we—Somerville-area workers, visitors, volunteers, residents, and knowledge holders—respond locally with so many national fires burning? Hosted by the Somerville Community Growing Center, Climate Convening 2026: Building Somerville's Capacity to Respond will ask how we can grow city-wide efforts during a period of federal and state budgetary setbacks, strengthen conversation between the city and area advocates, and promote justice.

Contact: Tom King at Tom_in_Davis_Square@comcast.net

Seasonal Salvage Sale & Makers' Market

Saturday, October 24, 12:00-5:00 pm, rain date October 25

Rain Date: Sunday, October 20

An innovative Yard Sale featuring seasonally-themed salvaged goods. Local makers and crafters are invited to share their goods and crafts.

Contact: Betsy at betsy@thegrowingcenter.org

AntiMorris and Autumn Sing

Saturday, October 31, 5:00-6:30 pm

Rain or shine

Autumn Sing followed by the AntiMorris at Sunset, danced by Recently Traditional Fictional Morris. The dancers shall fade silently into the night upon conclusion of the dance.

Contact: Jeremy Kessler at greenquy@peculiarity.net

NOVEMBER

Pub Sing

Tuesday, November 3 & 17, 6:00-8:00 pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Introduction to Nature Monitoring in the City with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, November 14, 2:00-3:30 pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EWA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EWA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Learn about EWA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Visit [here](#) for information on science apps used. recommended.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

DECEMBER

Pub Sing

Tuesdays, December 1 & 15, 6:00-8:00 pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Introduction to Nature Monitoring in the City with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, December 12, 2:00-3:30 pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EWA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EWA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Learn about EWA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Visit [here](#) for information on science apps used. recommended.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org