

Working Together for a Wonderful City



A Somerville Story

by the SFLC



Somerville is a wonderful city.

There are many people who live here.

There are many people who go to school here.

There are many people who work here.

There are many people who play here.

It takes a LOT of work to make sure things are going well in a city. There are many city helpers to do that. Some of the people who are city helpers work in a place called City Hall.



They all work hard and have jobs that are important.

They all help to make Somerville a wonderful city.

There are different names for the jobs and offices they all work in.

The Mayor is the boss of Somerville. He works hard to make sure that people get what they need and are happy. He has an office in City Hall. Sometimes he works in the office, and sometimes he works outside. The mayor got his job when people voted in an election and he got the most votes.

Mayor Joe Curtatone is a dad and the mayor too!



He helps celebrate when a new park opens. The mayor is a city helper.

Other city helpers work in the Parks Department. These are the people who decide what to have in the parks and playgrounds in Somerville. They also make sure that the parks are safe, fun and full of things to let children use their imagination with. There are 38 parks in Somerville, so they are very busy!



Arn Franzen and Luisa Oliveira work with other city helpers to make sure that there are lots of fun things to do in the parks. Rachel Kelly decides what trees to have and where to plant them.





Some city helpers work in the Elections Department. They are in charge of voting. Voting is when a group of people choose between different choices. The person or idea with the most votes wins. All the grown-ups who vote help the mayor and other city helpers decide what is important and good for Somerville.



Nick Salerno is a city helper in the Elections Department. He makes sure people know how to vote and helps people understand how important it is to help the city by voting.

With your friends, you may vote about your favorite thing to do at the playground. When you vote and help grown-ups understand what children like, you are a city helper too.

- Do you like to climb?
- Do you like to run or ride bikes?
- Do you like to look at the plants and sit in the shade of a tree?
- Do you like to play with water?



Some city helpers work in the Purchasing Department. They help find and buy everything in the playgrounds. They make sure that Somerville finds “just right” stores that sell things and “just right” people who design parks and build them. They make sure that we get the best price for what is needed. They find the climbing structures, plants and trees, benches and tables, sprinklers and fences.

Angela Allen is a city helper in the Purchasing Department. She does not pay for all that with her own money! The City of Somerville has its own money to pay for important things.



John Long and the other people who work in the Clerk's Office take care of important papers that people need. Some papers are to help with important meetings. Some papers are licenses for different things like getting married, driving a taxi, having a big celebration like ArtBeat or fireworks and having a dog.



They also keep track of everyone who is born in Somerville. If you need to show when or where you were born, just ask them for your birth certificate!

All the dogs who live in Somerville need to have a license on their collar. John is the person who helps with that. Once a dog has a license, it can go to the doggie parks in Somerville!



Denise Taylor and Jackie Rossetti are city helpers in the Communications office. They help when newspapers or television news reporters need to get information about Somerville. They are also experts about making a website and maps so people know where to find parks and other places in the city.

Jhenny Saint-Surin, Irma Flores and Adriana Fernandes work at SomerViva and are experts at helping people in Somerville find help at City Hall. They speak Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole as well as English so that everyone can find the help and information they need.



Citizens are the people who live in Somerville. The City would be empty without all the people like you!
Without children, the playgrounds would be empty.

YOU are important members of the community.

YOU are city helpers too!



Photo Source: StoSS Landscape Urbanism



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SomerPromise