



SomerVision Process

The SomerVision Process was a three year exercise conducted by City officials, staff and a 60-man steering committee of residents which yielded the SomerVision plan, a 20-year vision for the development of the City as directed by the residents. Over the course of 50 meetings, visioning sessions and public workshops, the group set forth a vision with goals including 30,000 new local jobs, 125 new acres of publically accessible open space and 6,000 new housing units. Also notable were the suggestions from the plan that included a more humanistic touch, including the desire to preserve neighborhood character and foster local culture. The SomerVision Plan has been welcomed as a roadmap for the future for the City by residents, and won the “Comprehensive Planning Award” by the American Planning Association in 2012.

Shape up Somerville

Shape Up Somerville: East Smart, Play Hard, is a city wide campaign designed to improve the health of all residents by promoting healthy food choices and exercise. Begun in 2002 as a partnership with Tufts researchers, Shape Up Somerville utilized a holistic approach to prevent childhood obesity in Somerville’s high-risk, early-elementary school children in the 1st through 3rd grades. Early education on the positive effects nutrition and exercise has changed the way children in Somerville think about their own health and the health of people in their community. Shape Up Somerville has expanded to include 11 initiatives and 25 stakeholders involved, and received accolades nationwide, including credit for being an influence on Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” program.

Senior Housing Symposium

The Somerville Senior Housing Symposium is a program provided by the Somerville Housing Department devoted to addressing the needs of senior citizens in a City rife with change. These symposiums are held on a periodic basis and invite speakers from local non-profits and City departments as well as outside speakers from universities to talk about senior housing. Topics include the benefits and pitfalls of independent versus assisted living and maintaining property tax payments while on a fixed income. The program is run by Dana LeWinter, Director of Housing in Somerville.