

A Webliography of the Davis Square neighborhood in Somerville, MA

The following is a webliography for the [Davis Square](#) neighborhood in Somerville, MA. The area encompassed by this webliography includes the locations near the Davis Square MBTA station and the intersection of College Ave., Holland St., Elm St. and Highland Ave., as well as satellite neighborhoods such as Ball Sq., Teele Sq., and Porter Sq that are within easy walking distance of the Square proper. Many sites are for the city of Somerville in general, but the civic and cultural activity they encompass centers on Davis Square or is integral to the area.

General Community

The Davis Square Livejournal Community. The online community forum for Davis Square and the hub of offline/online community interaction for the neighborhood.

http://community.livejournal.com/davis_square

Rebekah Gewirtz. Quarterly neighborhood newsletter highlighting local events and city government meetings. <http://www.rebekahgewirtz.org/newsletter.php>

Government

City of Somerville. Website for the Somerville city government. <http://www.somervillema.gov/>

City of Somerville. Somerville Resistat. ResiStat is the City of Somerville's effort to bring data-driven discussions and decision-making to residents and promote civic engagement via the web and regular community meetings. <http://www.somervilleresistat.org/>

Rebekah Gewirtz. Website of the alderwoman for the Davis Square area.

<http://www.rebekahgewirtz.org/ward6.php>

Business

DARBI. Your Davis Square. A business directory and economic development hub for the neighborhood. <http://www.yourdavissquare.com/>

Somerville Chamber of Commerce. Local business group. <http://www.somervillechamber.org>

The Davis Square Task Force. Google Group for the local planning commission.

<http://groups.google.com/group/davissquaretaskforce?pli=1>

Politics / Activism

Progressive Democrats of Somerville. Democratic Party group based in Somerville. <http://www.pdsomerville.org/>

Somerville Homeless Coalition. Local homeless advocacy organization.

<http://www.somervillehomelesscoalition.org/>

Centro Presente. Community organization that works for for immigrant rights, worker's rights, and civic engagement. <http://www.cpresente.org/>

Community Activism Agency of Somerville. The legally designated anti-poverty agency for Somerville. <http://www.caasomerville.org/>

Education

Tufts University. Student life site for Tufts University. Provides coverage of neighborhood events and businesses. <http://www.tuftslife.com/>

City of Somerville. Site for Somerville Public Schools. <http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us>

Community Media

The Somerville Journal. Local newspaper published continuously since 1870. <http://www.wickedlocal.com/somerville>

The Somerville News. Somerville's independent community newspaper. <http://www.thesomervillenews.com/>

The Somerville News. Companion weblog to the Somerville News site. http://somervillenews.typepad.com/the_somerville_news/

Somerville Voices. An independent, open forum for reports and opinions about life in Somerville. <http://www.somervillevoices.org/>

Somerville Scout. Local Events, News, and Culture magazine. <http://somervillescout.com/>

Somerville Community Access Television. The local public access television network. <http://access-scat.org/>

Food

Taste of Somerville. Local food festival. <http://tasteofsomerville.org/>

Somerville Food Scene. Does bi-weekly reviews of local restaurants and food-related events. <http://www.somervillefoodscene.com/>

The Federation of Mass. Farmers' Markets. Information site for the Davis Square Farmers' Market. <http://www.localharvest.org/davis-square-somerville-farmers-market-M3626>

Arts

Somerville Arts Council. The local cultural council. Runs the annual arts festival, called ArtBeat. <http://www.somervilleartscouncil.org>

Somerville Garden Club. Promotes home gardening as well as the horticultural possibilities of

Somerville's public spaces. <http://www.somervillegardenclub.org/>

ArtSomerville. An organization to facilitate the collaboration and presentation of the arts in Somerville, MA. <http://www.artsomerville.org>

The Honk! Festival. A nationally-known brass band festival held yearly in Davis Square. <http://www.honkfest.org/>

Transport / Planning

Groundwork Somerville. An environmental 501(c)3 non-profit organization that promotes sustainable community development and revitalization. <http://www.groundworksomerville.org/>

Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership. A community group dedicated to improving transportation in Somerville, MA. They advocate for the Green Line subway extension, a more livable city, and public health issues. <http://www.somervillestep.org/>

Friends of the Community Paths. Community organization advocating the completion of a rails-to-trails bike path. <http://www.pathfriends.org/>

Somerville Bicycle Committee. The committee works to improve conditions for bicyclists in the City of Somerville and promote bicycling as a means of transportation. <http://www.somervillebikes.org/>

Challenges and Breakthroughs

The primary challenge in compiling this webliography was narrowing down the listed sites to a reasonable number while still presenting a representative sample in multiple subject areas. This neighborhood has tens or even hundreds of other groups and organizations with online presences, and a true webliography for it would be an extensive project. Another was determining who the most active and representative current organizations are in each subject area, as the community is so active that groups tend to spring up as need arises, go dormant when their founding issue had been addressed, merge with other groups to remain relevant going forward, and so on. The main breakthrough was the realization of how unique this neighborhood was in the intersection of offline and online community, and what a good example it is for what might be possible in other places.

Evaluation

This webliography details a very active and diverse local civic and cultural community with well-integrated and mutually reinforcing online and offline components. It is a model for what is possible when a technologically adept population is combined with a densely-populated, culturally rich, and civically active locality. However, despite these ideal conditions, it also provides hints of what could be possible in other areas with appropriate support, planning, and community and civic growth.