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Happy Thanksgiving Day

From the Publishers and Staff of The Somerville News

Coalition wants rollback of Walmart plans

Neighborhood Market planned for Assembly Square



Walmart plans to turn the vacant Circuit City store on Mystic Avenue (above) into a Walmart Neighborhood Market, like this one (below) in Kansas.

By Elizabeth Sheeran

A coalition of labor, small business, and other community groups have banded together to do something about Walmart's plans to open a grocery store in Somerville. But they are not sure what that "something" should be.

The Somerville Coalition for a Responsible Walmart began to take shape after the retail giant first signaled its intent to convert the former Circuit City store on Mystic Avenue into a Walmart Neighborhood Market. The smaller format store - about one fifth the size of a typical Walmart big box superstore - will sell mainly groceries and pharmacy items, and will be the first of its kind for Walmart in Massachusetts.

The Coalition held a community meeting on November 16, to share information and discuss alternatives, and it was clear from the start that Walmart did not have many fans in the room, if any. The audience broke into spontaneous applause when speaker Maureen Barillaro of Somerville Climate Action

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Eugene C. Brune to retire

By Cathleen Twardzik

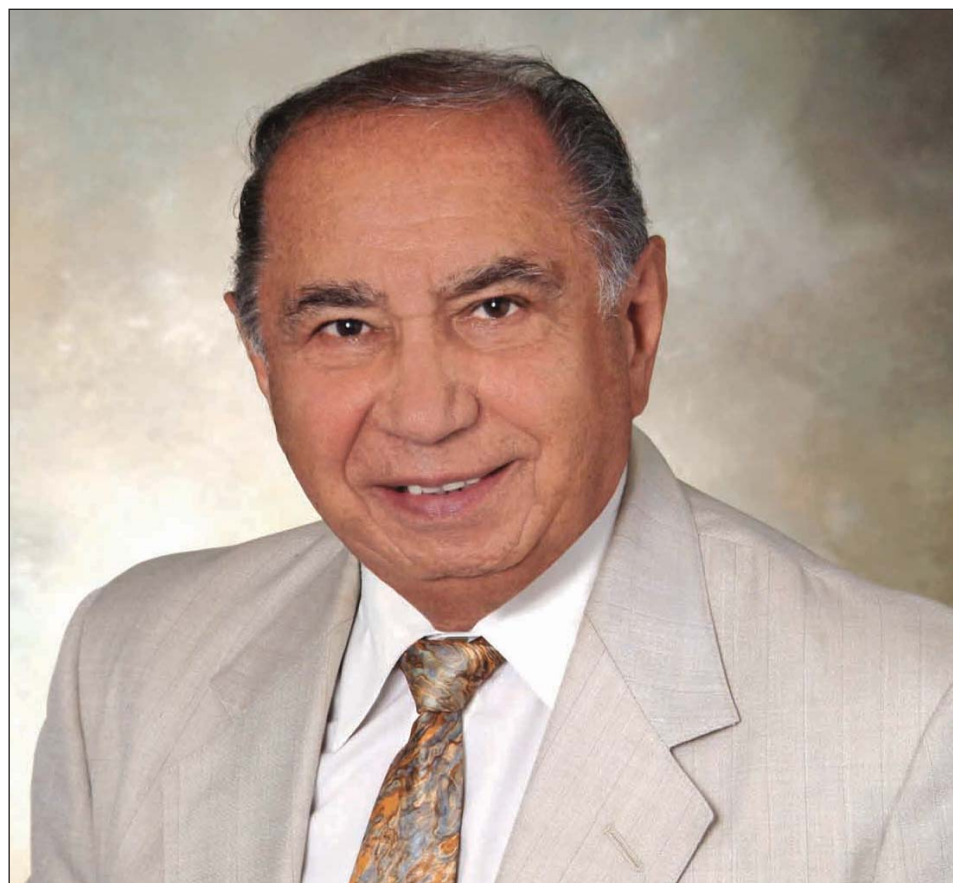
Mayor of Somerville from 1980 to 1989, Eugene C. Brune, current Register of Deeds, has announced that he will retire soon. As register, he serves the Middlesex County Southern District, which is comprised of 44 cities and towns. Middlesex South is the largest registry in the state and, possibly, the eighth largest in the country.

"Perhaps the most rewarding part of my job as register was in 1989," said Brune. Interestingly, he "brought in a digital imaging system, newly designed by Wang Laboratories, into our registry." That enabled images of recorded documents to be captured.

The process involved utilizing document scanners, which resembled and worked similarly to photocopiers. Images were then saved on optical disks. Importantly, imaging made a one-step process possible.

The previous traditional technique required "searching through the computer index and then physically locating the appropriate record books for review. With imaging the index search and image display can be done

Continued on page 15



Eugene C. Brune, current Register of Deeds, will be retiring soon.

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NEWTALK

Firstly, all of us here at The Somerville News wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving. Donald and Patricia Norton, Billy and Marissa Tauro, along with Cam Toner, Bobbie Toner, Jim Clark, Andrew Firestone, and all the writers of The News hope everyone is spending it with their families and friends this special day to give thanks for all our blessings, especially our families.

This week we are announcing the 2011 winners for the “Best of Somerville” award. This year we had an overflowing amount of ballots submitted by our readers as their choices for “Best of...” We thank everyone for voting and we certainly congratulate all of those who won. The winners demonstrate excellent quality of service, responsiveness, value, and professionalism by their fellow ‘Villens here in Somerville.

This past Tuesday the annual Tri-club meeting was held at the Mt. Vernon Restaurant by the many members of the Somerville Rotary Club and joining them were members of the Somerville Lions Club as well as Somerville Kiwanis Club. Each year all three service clubs raise and donate thousands of dollars back to the community here. The clubs have gotten together for many years now and we salute each one for its work here on behalf of many Somerville residents.

Get well soon wishes to our good friend and Somerville Lions President Paul Carroll who is back in the hospital. Paul is a great guy and we wish him well for a speedy recovery.

Get well also out to our good friend Anthony Cataldo who has been in and out of the hospital

Continued on page 8

TheSomervilleNews.com Comment of the Week

Response to Fire violation shuts down VFW Post in Somerville

sue says:

I think the violation was of a little-known, but becoming popular, statute: ‘Old men and women, i.e. ‘townies’, using very valuable land which use does not benefit city government, or Davis Square as a whole, and which use does not include one up-scale restaurant, million dollar condo, or public bar.’

robofifi says:

Fire safety is no joke, and not being up to code is a major risk and disservice — not only to the guests of events that are held there, but also to the veteran members themselves (who are likely to be the ones most frequently in attendance)! It’s shameful for the Post’s administrators to put fellow veterans’ safety on the back burner — this should have been a priority addressed years back. I hope they are able to put the proper precautions in place and get back up on their feet.

The General says:

lets “Occupy Dilboy”. Come on down and set up a tent.

Log onto TheSomervilleNews.com to leave your own comments

TheSomervilleNews.com poll of the week

In addition to breaking news, sports and opinion, TheSomervilleNews.com also features a daily poll in which you, the reader, tell us where you come down on local issues. Last week’s poll concerned your views on whether or not you feel the economy is doing better or worse for this year’s upcoming holiday season and whether or not you support the Casino Bill. If you don’t agree with the results, simply log onto TheSomervilleNews.com.

Do you feel the economy is doing better or worse for this year's upcoming holiday season?



Do you support the Casino Bill?



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Dilboy Post fracas belies broken neighborhood

Summer street controversy claims first casualty

By Andrew Firestone

Last week, the Dilboy VFW Post 529 at 371 Summer St. in Davis Square was shut down due to being out of fire regulations, according to Fire Chief Kevin Kelleher. The dilapidated building was finally put out of commission when city and state inspectors found out that there was no sprinkler system, and the occupancy level was too high at over 100 people. Despite efforts to limit space, such as walling up game rooms with concrete in the basement, city inspectors declared the building unfit for assembly. If the occupancy is lowered to 95 with the aid of an architect or experienced planner, then the building can reopen.

However, the real issue lies behind this. It is a story of a developer, a veterans post and a neighborhood.

For the last year, the veterans of the Dilboy Post have felt they are engaged in a war with their neighbors. The reason: some of the neighbors believe Roberto Arista, the developer behind Strategic Capital Partners, is detrimental to the city. Arista and SCP have proposed a land

swap, allowing them to build 31 condos on the plot, leasing it for 99 years at the rate of \$1. The post would be rebuilt in their current parking lot, in a new building at the cost of around \$1.6 million.

"I think that the developer has divided this neighborhood, it doesn't make any sense to me that they would insist on pushing forward with this proposal when it has caused so much resistance in the neighborhood," said Ward 6 Alderwoman Rebekah Gewirtz, who said she wanted to see the post reopened and a new post built, a sentiment shared by many neighbors.

"It's my understanding that all of the developments they've built have structural problems," she said, saying that she had heard Arista's former development at 1188 Broadway needs a roof replacement after only three years.

The battle has played out largely before the planning board with many twists and turns, with a few incidents that City Planner George Proakis called "unprecedented." Proakis says that he has never seen this level of resistance from a group of neighbors.

The neighbors claim that the



Commander Bill Hardy of VFW George Dilboy Post #529 was all smiles last year when the new post's design was publicly unveiled.

developer intentionally withheld environmental reports in a 2010 planning application, and were favorably treated by the Zoning Board of Appeals by being allowed to resubmit. They also say that the proposed new post, which would include a bar, is within residential zoning and thus an illegal proposal.

Tom Bok, a neighbor, has called the city planning division

biased, and does not believe they act as an independent arbiter.

Proakis said he has also never seen the aggressiveness of a legal counsel, Ed Brady, a retired lawyer who represented the veterans in October at a ZBA meeting. In a bizarre evening, neighbor Nancy Iappinni claims she saw veteran Ron Palatano shove a woman into a chair after he stood at the entrance of the high school

auditorium and photographed each of them. Palatano denied this. Brady then delivered a speech from a letter he wrote, demanding the neighbors cease and desist their continued resistance and protest or risk being slapped with a lawsuit. He would later be seen roaming the neighborhood, gauging who had valuable cars or houses in case of a future lawsuit.

Continued on page 21

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CAMELEON TECHNOLOGY

THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Somerville man arrested for taking secret photos

On November 1 Somerville Police responded to a disturbance at the YMCA at 101 Highland Avenue. Upon their arrival, officers learned that a female had observed an unknown suspect who had been secretly taking photos from behind a bathroom stall while she was changing her clothes.

A second woman, who had just left the women's locker room minutes earlier was also

present. After getting a description of the suspect, a search of the YMCA resulted in locating the suspect in the men's locker room.

He was identified as Ryan Anthony Perez, age 24, who at the time was a resident at the YMCA. Perez admitted to being in the women's locker room but said it was all a misunderstanding. Perez had a cell phone in his possession

but denied taking any pictures. The phone was seized as part of this investigation.

Perez was initially charged in Somerville District Court with annoying and accosting a person sexually, and photographing, video-recording or electronically surveilling a partially nude or nude person.

A subsequent search of Perez's cell phone pursuant to a search warrant led to the iden-

tification of three Somerville victims who had been secretly video recorded.

In addition, images of other similar potential victims were also recovered. Those incidents appear to have taken place outside of Somerville. Somerville Police have been working with other Police agencies relative to that part of the investigation.

Additional charges will be filed at a future date.



Ryan Anthony Perez.

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SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG			
Arrests:			
Jamie Boulger , 20, of 40 Grant St., November 14, 3:00 p.m., arrested at 77 Middlesex Ave. on a warrant charge of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.			
Dennis Roach , 44, of 2 Blackstone Rd., Quincy, November 15, 12:35 p.m., arrested at 1 Davis Square on a warrant charge of larceny over \$250.			
Suandy Abelino , 48, of 205 Pearl St., November 15, 2:22 p.m., arrested at Broadway on a charge of larceny from a person.			
Saeed Muhammad , 52, of 250 Park St., Dorchester, November 16, 2:12 p.m., arrested at Broadway on a charge of shoplifting over \$100 by asportation, and warrant charges of possession of a class A drug and possession of a drug to distribute.			
Elza Lausana , 56, of 199 Pearl St., November 17, 3:20 p.m., arrested at 299 Broadway on a charge of shoplifting by concealing merchandise and a warrant charge of shoplifting by concealing merchandise.			
Alfredo Romero Posada , 22, of 268R Powderhouse Blvd., November 17, 6:37 p.m., arrested at College Ave. on charges of indecent assault and battery and assault to rape.			
A juvenile , 17, November 18, 11:05 p.m., arrested on charges of threat to commit a crime and assault with a dangerous weapon.			
Blake Lintleman , 25, of 38 Bond St., November 19, 3:10 a.m., arrested at 14 Liberty Ave. on a charge of operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor.			
Kelli McGuirk , 20, of 27 Dickinson St., November 19, 5:12 a.m., arrested at Putnam St. on charges of threat to commit a crime and disorderly conduct.			
Sharleen McNeil , 29, of 221 Pearl St., November 19, 1:48 p.m., arrested at 775 McGrath Hwy. on charges of possession to distribute phencyclidine and conspiracy to violate drug law.			
Michael Carrol , 32, of 13 Trenton, Charlestown, November 19, 1:48 p.m., arrested at 775 McGrath Hwy. on charges of possession to distribute phencyclidine and conspiracy to violate drug law.			
Edward Lavelle , 49, of 10 Sycamore Terr., November 19, 2:13 p.m., arrested at 775 McGrath Hwy. on warrant charges of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license and malicious damage to a motor vehicle.			
Jennifer Mello , 29, of 209 Shirley St., November 19, 2:16 p.m., arrested at 75 Mystic Ave. on charges of shoplifting by concealing merchandise and assault and battery.			
Cameron Kenniston , 21, of 112 Commercial St., Lynn, November 19, 8:37 p.m., arrested at 40 Grant St. on warrant charges of disorderly conduct and shoplifting by asportation.			
Carlos Delgado , 44, of 6 William Pl., Medford, November 20, 2:57 a.m., arrested at 18 Broadway on a warrant charge of abuse prevention order violation.			
Incidents:			
Theft:			
November 15, 9:28 a.m., police reported a theft at Broadway.			
November 15, 8:43 a.m., police reported a theft at Perkins St.			
November 16, 11:34 a.m., police reported a theft at 75 Mystic Ave.			
November 16, 2:12 p.m., police reported a theft at 75 Mystic Ave.			
November 16, 3:45 p.m., police reported a theft at 256 Elm St.			
November 16, 4:17 p.m., police reported a theft at Broadway.			
November 17, 11:01 p.m., police reported a theft at Columbus Ave.			
November 17, 4:56 p.m., police reported a theft at Elm St.			
November 17, 6:39 p.m., police reported a theft at 180 Somerville Ave.			
November 18, 7:52 a.m., police reported a theft at 140 Wil-low Ave.			
November 18, 12:34 p.m., police reported a theft at Cedar St.			
November 18, 4:20 p.m., police reported a theft at Boston Ave.			
November 18, 4:50 p.m., police reported a theft at Bailey Rd.			
November 18, 5:13 p.m., police reported a theft at School St.			
November 18, 10:16 p.m., police reported a theft at 115 Alewife Brook Pkwy.			
November 19, 9:54 a.m., police reported a theft at Jaques St.			
November 19, 8:34 a.m., police reported a theft at Stone Pl.			
November 19, 11:16 a.m., police reported a theft at School St.			
November 20, 8:22 p.m., police reported a theft at 256 Elm St.			
Robbery:			
November 15, 8:02 p.m., police reported a robbery at Al-bion St.			
November 17, 4:21 p.m., police reported a robbery at 91 Highland Ave.			
November 18, 7:27 a.m., police reported a robbery at 201 Elm St.			
November 19, 11:36 a.m., police reported a robbery at 403 Highland Ave.			
Breaking & Entering:			
November 17, 5:40 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Putnam Rd.			
November 17, 6:34 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at North St.			
November 17, 11:10 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Perkins St.			
November 18, 9:04 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at 429 Somerville Ave.			
November 18, 7:21 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Raymond Ave.			
November 18, 8:47 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Hudson St.			
November 20, 12:56 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at 129 Broadway.			
November 20, 9:33 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Broadway.			
November 20, 6:02 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Concord Ave.			
Vehicle Theft:			
November 16, 10:20 a.m., police reported a vehicle theft at Carter Terr.			
November 16, 4:34 a.m., police reported a vehicle theft at Medford St.			
November 18, 9:00 a.m., police reported a vehicle theft at Elmwood St.			
Assault:			
November 16, 5:40 p.m., police reported an assault at 105 Alewife Brook Pkwy.			
November 18, 8:05 p.m., police reported an assault at Dick-inson St.			
November 19, 2:16 p.m., police reported an assault at 75 Mystic Ave.			
Drug Violation:			
November 19, 1:48 p.m., police reported a drug violation at 775 McGrath Hwy.			

Stern: Somerville hiring ordinance could work

Constitutional clash inching forward?

By Andrew Firestone

Debate over Somerville's proposed Local Hiring Ordinance continued in earnest last week, November 17, at a special session of the legislative matters committee of the Board of Alderman. There, the aldermen listened the competing legal opinions of the City Solicitor, and Sugar Law Center lawyer Mark Stern.

Sponsored by community groups such as the Somerville Community Corporation and Somerville Local First, the lively debate centered on the constitutional viability of introducing an ordinance that requires all developments receiving excess of \$50,000 in state or city funds to made a good faith effort to hire 30 percent of their employee hours to local residents.

Mike Buckley, representing the city, reiterated his belief that no ordinance could pass, citing the October 4 legal opinion of Judge Rya Zobel in federal district court, who shot down a mandatory 50 percent quota in Fall River on local hirings and caused the city of Fall River to pay \$150,000 in legal fees, an ordinance he called "very similar to many elements," of the proposed Somerville ordinance.

Buckley said The ordinance would foster protectionist economic policies prohibited in the U.S. constitution under the privileges and immunities clause of the fourteenth amendment.

"Every time this or a similar ordinance or bylaw has come before the Federal Court in Massachusetts, it has been struck down at the lowest level, every time," said Buckley.

"The very thing you're trying to accomplish is the very thing the court is ruling to be unconstitu-

tional," he said.

Stern contested that the ordinance, which as written would not include out-of-state workers in the equation of hires, said that this was not true. He said that the Fall River ordinance has gone too far in barring out-of-state workers, and that the Somerville ordinance was not a mandate, but only a goal.

"The privileges and immunities clause does not protect someone in Arlington from something in Somerville," said Stern.

"The person who suggests that does not understand the fundamental nature of our constitution which is: states make state law, they can't contradict federal laws, but within the governing of their states, they are supreme and the federal courts can't even hear cases about them under the constitution, much less determine them to be unconstitutional acts."

He accused the City Solicitor of overcomplicating the letter of the law. "Holding up the specter of the city having \$150,00 of attorney's fees is simply, for lack of a better term, a scare tactic," said Stern. "This law would not subject the city to that kind of risk."

The aim of the law was to create a city culture where developers advertised to Somerville people first, Stern clarified. It would hold residents on the same level as others and ask a good faith effort from the companies building in Somerville.

"This law is not going to achieve anything else," he said. "In all likelihood, we'll never make the 30 percent quota," which would be within the ordinance.

"I really think the administration's suggestion that you should have some fear toward



Roger Galan shows off over 600 Somerville signatures for the Local Hiring Ordinance.

[passing the ordinance] is misplaced," said Stern.

SCC Executive Danny LeBlanc said that since supporting the ordinance he had "felt it was incumbent upon [us] to walk the talk." Through the first week of November in the second phase of the SCC Polycarp Village development, a large affordable housing complex with 29 units in three buildings, he had gotten his contractors to hire 28 percent of all hours locally, partly through the use of a job fair where 11 percent of all employees for the phase were hired.

"With all this work on the line, it's easy to just start thinking 'that the goal is 'oh let's bring in that new development, let's cash in and declare success,'" said SCC VP Ezra Glenn. "I fear that communities like us can be locked into this false belief that we have to give away what we value most to attract the new development."

"We need to remember some Somerville pride here," he said. "We're a gem."

The committee also heard from Brian McPherson, the Director of Workforce Compliance for Suffolk Construction, which does over \$1 billion in business in the Boston area

alone. He said that, even though Boston has a 25 percent recommended quota, there was no hard feelings among the massive construction giant.

"We let [subcontractors] know it's a privilege to do work in the City of Boston, just like it's going to be a privilege to work in Somerville," he said.

Of hiring locally and complying with the wishes of the Boston local hiring ordinance, "I put it at the same level as safety. It's something that needs everyone's attention and the team needs to work together to see this achieved," he said.

One resident who was not so keen on the ordinance was Jim Thomas, who spoke of people in other communities like Everett, Chelsea, and displaced Somervillians who had already left the city due to rising real estate prices.

"Much of the ordinance is focused on construction," said Thomas. "While Assembly Square is a big project that's coming, it's not going to last forever. So, when that well is dry, if all the communities around us, like Cambridge, like Boston, anywhere else that there is construction going on, decide to go to this 'cold war' option everybody does this, it's

going to make it that much more difficult for Somerville people to get jobs after this project is over," he said.

Wig Zamore, community activist, said that he saw the ordinance as a perfect ingredient to leverage Somerville's unique place in the economic cycle. Citing studies by the Metropolitan Planning Organization of regional economic projections, he said, "Somerville is expected to have by far the greatest creation on a percent basis of new jobs of all 101 cities and towns in Eastern Massachusetts in both the next 10 years and the next 25 years, so this is really the time to knuckle down and really make progress on this."

Joe Grafton, Executive Director of Somerville Local First, said that local jobs foster a quick and permanent development of local economy and local business and anything that could be done to get local people more jobs closer to home was for the best.

"I believe the will is here on this committee, and on the Board of Alderman to get this done," said Grafton "I believe you have the resources available to do this, and I urge you to act on this, this year and add it to the list of accomplishments for 2011."

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Neighborhood addresses Meth Lab at meeting

By Andrew Firestone

Neighbors expressed unease at the prospect of seeing their criminal neighbors last Tuesday, November 14, at a special neighborhood meeting led by Police Chief Thomas Pasquarello at the East Somerville Public Safety building. At the meeting, the neighbors received information regarding the alleged “shake-and-bake” method of methamphetamine production and discussed the fallout on their neighborhood.

The meeting followed the discovery of several bottles of chemicals which ended up corresponding to ingredients of methamphetamine were found at a Somerville house at 19 Oxford St. Police say they acted on their evidence within a week of hearing about the problem.

The “shake-and-bake” process is performed by concentrating volatile chemicals inside small bottles, the contents of which are

so unstable that contact with water can start in fire.

Ed Nuzzo, head of Somerville Inspectional Services, said that the corrosive fumes from the chemicals might have damaged the electrical wiring in the house, and that, should the city take it over, it might be condemned and taken down.

According to police, five bottles of active ingredients were detonated by the State Police bomb squad and agents of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). Pasquarello was quick to say that drugs were everywhere, even in the quietest of neighborhoods. “You show me a neighborhood where you don’t think there’s drugs,” he said, saying that inevitably, the social illness would be found.

The investigation was classified as a Somerville Police investigation, and is ongoing. While Grigory Genkin, 29 has been arraigned, his mother, the owner of the house, Professor Irina Kristy

of Suffolk University, has yet to be charged. Genkin turned himself in, and was charged with manufacturing and planning to distribute the narcotic, with the added gravity of being in a school zone. He pleaded not guilty in Somerville District Court on November 14. He was freed on \$10,000 bail, of which only \$1000 needed to be posted.

Deputy Paul Upton revealed that, at the time of the bust, approximately 9:45 a.m. on November 7, two women were pulled from the house that had been living on the first floor, as well as their four cats. Upton said the women were very upset, but had no reason to believe that these people were involved.

Neighbors said that at the time, Kristy was still living in the house, and that they were not comfortable with her presence there. When asked why the professor was at liberty, Pasquarello responded that they “were going to see how this plays out.”



Photo by Andrew Firestone

The startling events that took place at 19 Oxford St. were discussed by law enforcement officials and concerned neighbors at last week’s informational meeting.

Prosecutors say they will file a criminal complaint against the woman shortly.

One neighbor who spoke was Jesse, the owner of a red Volvo who was incorrectly identified as Genkin by the Somerville Journal.

“I am often in front the house working on it,” he said. “I have no other connection to it.”

The investigation might take a larger arc. According to Pasquarello, it is possible that the ingredients could be found in other home methamphetamine labs in the area. If this is the case, then there could be a common supplier, which might lead to the discovery of a larger drug ring.

“This is really where the work begins. Now,” he said.

DPW truck hits woman

By Andrew Firestone

A 55-year-old woman is recovering at Mass General Hospital today after being seriously injured by a city dump truck on Friday, November 18.

The accident occurred at the

Washington St. intersection at 8:14 a.m.

Police have noted the huge traffic load of the intersection, but have not cited the driver of the truck, who is employed by the Department of Public Works.

Water main break



Photo by William Tauro

Water was gushing out of a hole in the middle of Somerville Avenue directly in front of Burger King on Tuesday afternoon. Residents and local businesses in the area lost water for most of the day while crews determined what the problem was to get it repaired before Thanksgiving Eve.

— William Tauro

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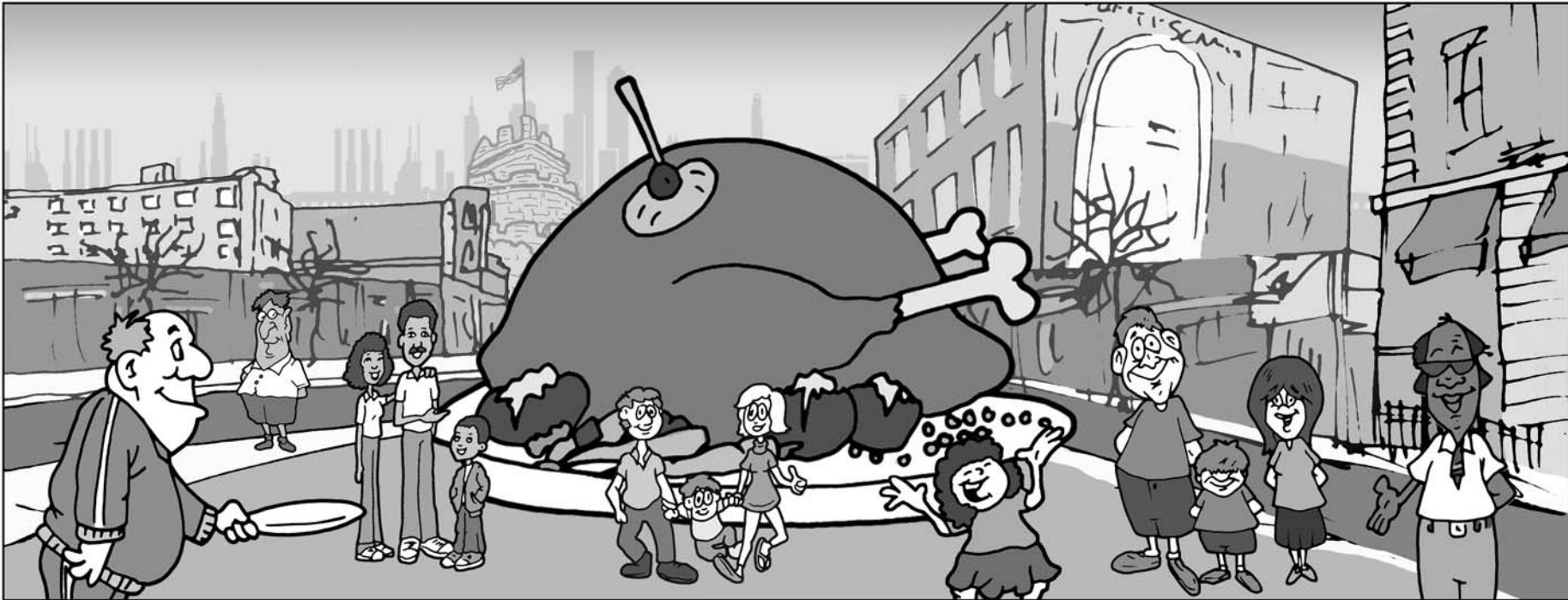
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COMMENTARY

TALES OF SOMERVILLE

Illustrated by Jim Clark



We have a lot to be thankful for – Happy Thanksgiving!

The View From Prospect Hill



Some of us have it better than others, it goes without saying. Conversely, many of us may be struggling to simply make ends meet. One thing that unites us all in common spirit is the heart-felt acknowledgement of what we do have to be grateful for. Whatever our circumstances may be, each and every one of us has blessings to count and thanks to be given for them. Thanksgiving Day gives Americans an opportunity to express that gratitude to God, as well as extending the spirit of fellowship and goodwill to one another. This esprit de corps should extend to our sense of charity, too, as we contribute to our local churches, soup kitchens, and service organizations. The experience of simply volunteering to serve food at a holiday dinner can be a life changing event, as one learns firsthand the value of, and satisfaction achieved by, the selfless act of helping those less fortunate than ourselves. We wish all of our readers the happiest of holidays, and all the days to come thereafter. We further extend our sincere wishes for the blessings of life's bounty to one and all outside of our readership. There is room at the table for all of us. Something to be truly grateful for.

News Talk CONT. FROM PG 2

and is now home recuperating. Also in and out of the hospital is another good friend, Bill Chambers of Spring Hill.

On Saturday November 26, The Adonal Bible Center Church is hosting a free breakfast to promote their new church from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at 9 New Washington Street in Somerville, second floor. Stop in for breakfast and maybe take in a prayer or two while you're there. All are Welcome. Freewill donations accepted.

Happy Birthday wishes going out to our good friend Ricky Hefferin here in the 'Ville. Also to Dorie Clark here in the 'Ville who is very politically active. A Happy Birthday as well to Chris Wright, and to all the 'Villens here and away.

There will be no Somerville High Football game this year at Dilboy on Thanksgiving Day, but St. Clements football is playing at 10 a.m. at Tufts University. A pancake breakfast at the school from 7 a.m. to game time will be held.

Our good friend Bob Publicover is

doing excellent these days, even going out for some long walks and has made it to the Armory Café a few times. It's amazing. He is like a superman. Nothing keeps him down. We wish him and David the best holiday season ever. We're so happy that Bob manages to fight and get back for all these years.

We heard that Alderman Sullivan's house got broken into within the last year for the second time. We hope this time he went out and bought an alarm system or a big dog!

Pre-order a holiday wreath! Proceeds benefit Next Wave and Full Circle Alternative Schools in Somerville. Celebrate the season and contribute to the healthy development of Somerville students by pre-ordering a holiday wreath and/or purchasing a tree at the Foss Park Tree lot. When wreaths arrive in early December. Members of the community who pre-order wreaths will be asked to pick up their wreaths at Full Circle/Next Wave School. If you have questions about delivery options please contact Agnes Gallant at Full Circle and Next Wave. Net pro-

ceeds contribute to field trips and special events for students enrolled at Next Wave and Full Circle. Explore the school's web site at <http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/education/components/form/> for more information.

The Davis Area Resident / Business Initiative (DARBI) (YourDavis-Square.com) announces its annual December Midnight Madness shopping event, offering exclusive sales until midnight at a collection of Davis Square retail stores and restaurants, on Thursday, December 1, 2011. Between the hours of 6 p.m. and midnight, shoppers will be able to visit such Davis Square favorites as Dave's Fresh Pasta, Magpie, Artifaktori, Kickass Cupcakes, Davis Squared, When Pigs Fly, The Boston Shaker, Suneri Boutique, Johnny D's Uptown Restaurant and Music Club, Buffalo Exchange, Found, Comicazi, and Sunshine Lucy's. Zipcar will also have a special booth set up in Statue Park throughout the event. Many retailers will offer live music, hors d'oeuvres, and drinks to keep the atmosphere lively. Dave's Fresh Pasta will offer samples and tastings from several lo-

cal and regional suppliers of fine food and drink. Johnny D's will offer free admission to Midnight Madness shoppers and \$1 hot dogs all evening. Thalia Tringo Real Estate will host an art opening, "Elements and Artifacts" featuring photographs by T.L. Litt and food and drink from local eateries. Some Davis Square restaurants will offer coupons or specials to shoppers during the event.

Residents are invited to submit their best, their silliest, and their most inspiring photos of their new Zero-Sort toter to the "It's the Love Tote Photo Contest" by the deadline Thursday, Dec. 1. Enter to win a \$50 gift certificate to the Somerville Winter Farmers Market and some unusual bragging rights: Mayor Curatone will pick up your recycling himself while Somerville's own Jimmy Del Ponte performs his original song, "The Love Tote," along with his backup singers, The Trashmen. Submit a serious documentary shot of toters on the street or get silly and decorate a Zero-Sort toter. Photo-shopped creations and memes are welcome too. See the city's web site for more details.

COMMENTARY

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries of The Somerville News do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Somerville News, its publishers or staff.

How did we get so unequal?



By William C. Shelton

A common and accurate criticism of the Occupy [fill in one of more than 900 American cities] Movement is that its demands are all over the map. Still, there is one grievance about which Occupiers share moral clarity: America has become a land of unequal opportunity. They believe that hard work and playing by the rules are not rewarded.

Robert Borosage, president of the Institute for America's Future, frames it thusly: "The top 1% rigs the rules and pockets the rewards. And 99% get sent the bill for the party they weren't invited to."

After years of analysis, late last month the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office released its study of income inequality. It found that in 2007, household incomes for the wealthiest 1% of Americans had increased 275% above what they were in 1979. For the three-fifths of households in the middle of the income

scale, income growth was just under 40 percent.

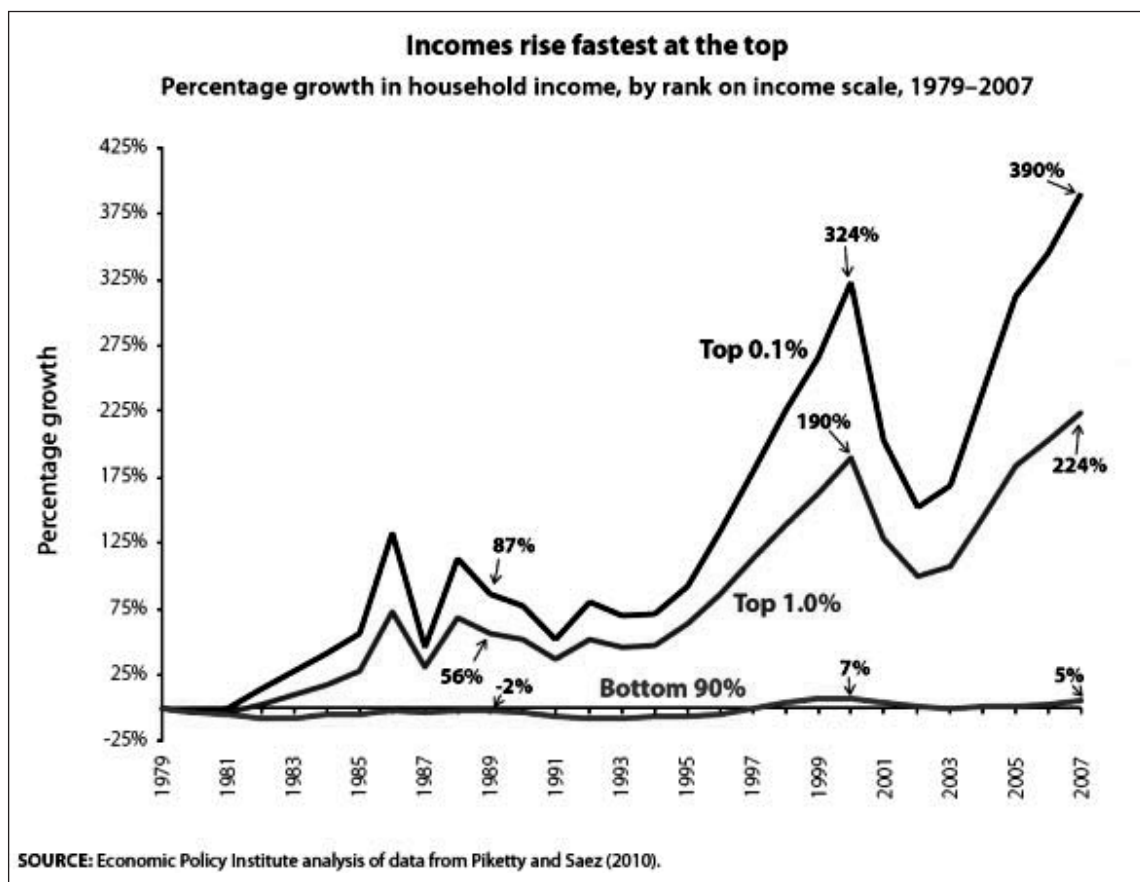
This is consistent with an earlier study conducted by the Economic Policy Institute. Its income growth numbers were lower for both the top 1% and the bottom 90%, but the difference is more extreme. (See graph.)

While striking, even these numbers do not express the full extent of income inequality. Actual hourly wages, adjusted for inflation, are at about the same level that they were forty years ago.

For a while, households were able to stay ahead of this trend because individuals worked more hours, and more women entered the workforce. But the average hours worked hit a limit, and during the great recession it has declined.

Productivity-output per worker has soared, but the workers themselves have not received a share of this increase. Some analysts estimate that the past decade's productivity gains are the equivalent of permanently eliminating 37 million jobs. (Today's workforce is 154 million.) The ratio of employee compensation to total gross domestic product is at an all time low.

How did this happen? There are several reasons, and each of



them is consistent with the Occupiers' critique.

In 1979, CEOs of major corporations earned about 40 times what they paid their average worker. Today it is 300 times. Other senior executives' compensation increased accordingly.

Financial services companies, whose principals invested their own money in 1979, issued stock, enabling them to make bets with other people's money. Further deregulation reduced constraints on these bets. Reck-

less but highly lucrative investments made billionaires.

Changes in the tax code put a proportionately greater burden on the middle class, while reducing the burden on the wealthy. The tax rate paid on the highest levels of earned income decreased from 70% in 1979, to 50% during Ronald Reagan's first term, to 28% in his second. They increased to 31% during Bush I's presidency, and to 39.6% during Clinton's. But during Bush II's administration they

decreased to 30%. So now the rate for the top tax bracket is only 43% of what it was in 1979.

Capital gains are profits made when someone sells an asset, such as real estate or corporate stock, for more than they paid. Capital gains are a much larger component of total income for the wealthy than they are for everyone else.

Tax rates on capital gains are lower than those on earned income. And in 2003, the capital gains rate

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On The Silly Side by Jimmy Del Ponte

Thanksgiving memories



On Thanksgiving Day I always count my blessings. I have lots of memories of many Thanksgivings. Most of those memories began while seated at the "kid's table." That was the best place to eat because the parents were away from us at the big table so we could fool around a lot. I remember having lots of fun at that table. We were young and carefree.

The best part about those early memories is that the family was bigger. Grandma and Grandpa were still with us, and there were aunts, uncles and cousins jam-packed into the house. There was a distinct aroma of cigar, cigarette, and turkey filling every inch of space. There was a plate of bacala, which is dried codfish with herbs, oil and garlic. There were cans of Schlitz, Narragansett and Ballentine Ale for the adults and Cott tonic for the kids.

Of course, there was a giant bottle of

Grandpa's homemade wine. I have the last bottle left. It's in a Ballentine Ale quart bottle. After 50 years or so, it's either great wine or bad vinegar. Being together as a family was always the best part of Thanksgiving. Throw in the food, the football and the parades and you have a day to remember.

Here are some friends' Somerville Thanksgiving memories:

"My favorite memories of Thanksgiving were as a majorette in High School. Especially senior year when I got to twirl two fire batons. I recall that the Thanksgiving Day game was against Waltham and then Arlington. The bus rides, the band, the football team, the boosters, the cheerleaders, was like the big finale. For years after that I would go to the Thanksgiving Day game and see former classmates and then have dinner with my family. I still feel nostalgic when I am back in Somerville and drive by Dilboy Field."

"Thanksgiving with all the family meant fighting for the drumsticks. I remember

dad having to loosen his belt. I miss my dad, nephew, aunts and uncles and daughter. They will always be with me in spirit and in my heart. I loved the leftovers and the family helping to clean up. I remember the conversations my dad and brothers had about going hunting, playing cards, and then going outside for a little tag rush football with neighborhood kids."

"My favorite memory is of my Grandfather William Matthew Winn Sr. and how he would make sure everything was in order for the holidays. He was the rock of our family. We never had a Thanksgiving without everyone in the family being there, and all of us had to be seated at the dinner table, no questions asked! He believed in the old school way as opposed to the way families eat in separate rooms nowadays. He was also very big on enforcing table edicts and we could not touch a crumb of food until we all went around the table saying what we were thankful for. Then, of course, giving thanks to our Lord for blessing us with

Nana's yummy food which she stayed up cooking since the morning prior to Thanksgiving just so she could see those smiles on our faces. After dinner we would all gather in the parlor for some good old football while nodding off because we all ate too much, but still somehow finding room in our bellies for Nana's homemade Hot Apple Pie with vanilla ice cream on top! Those were the good old days and I truly do miss those times we all shared together. I especially miss my Papa, the greatest man you could ever know or meet! Things just haven't been the same since you went away!"

A friend tells me, "We'd have appetizers consisting of shrimp cocktail, scallops, and cheese and crackers. My mom would make a meat stuffing. She told me it was Greek stuffing. Enjoyed the turkey. Relatives would come over for coffee and dessert. I have fond memories of the Jubilee Roll Ice Cream from Friendly's."

"We had no fancy dining room, all of us were squeezed into

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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records the votes of local representatives on five roll calls and local senators on five roll calls from the week of November 14-18.

Our Legislators in the House and Senate for Somerville:



Rep. Denise Provost

DISTRICT REPRESENTED: Twenty-seventh Middlesex. - Consisting of precinct 3 of ward 2, all precincts of ward 3, precinct 3 of ward 4, and all precincts of wards 5 and 6, of the city of Somerville, in the county of Middlesex.



Rep. Carl Sciortino

DISTRICT REPRESENTED: Thirty-fourth Middlesex. - Consisting of all precincts in wards 4 and 5, precinct 1 of ward 7, and precinct 2 of ward 8, of the city of Medford, precincts 1 and 2 of ward 4, and all precincts of ward 7, of the city of Somerville, both in the county of Middlesex.



Rep. Timothy Toomey

DISTRICT REPRESENTED: Twenty-sixth Middlesex. - Consisting of all precincts of ward 1, precinct 1 of ward 2, precincts 1 and 2 of ward 3, and precinct 1 of ward 6, of the city of Cambridge, and all precincts of ward 1 and precincts 1 and 2 of ward 2, of the city of Somerville, both in the county of Middlesex.



Sen. Sal DiDomenico

DISTRICT REPRESENTED: MIDDLESEX, SUFFOLK AND ESSEX. - Cambridge, ward 3, precinct 2, wards 6 and 7, ward 8, precincts 1 and 2, ward 9, precinct 1, ward 10, precinct 2, Everett and Somerville, ward 1, precinct 1, ward 2, precinct 1, in the county of Middle-

sex; Boston, ward 2, ward 21, precincts 4, 6 and 7, ward 22, precincts 1, 2 and 5, Chelsea and Revere, ward 6, in the county of Suffolk; and Saugus, precincts 2, 6 and 10, in the county of Essex.



Sen. Patricia Jehlen

DISTRICT REPRESENTED: SECOND MIDDLESEX. - Medford, Somerville, ward 1, precincts 2 and 3, ward 2, precincts 2 and 3, and wards 3 to 7, inclusive, Woburn, ward 2, and Winchester.

CASINOS (H 3087)

House 121-33 and 124-30, and Senate 24-13, approved and sent to Gov. Deval Patrick the controversial bill that would allow three casinos and one slot parlor in the Bay State. The measure divides the state into three regions and allows one casino in each. Region A includes the counties of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk and Worcester; Region B, the counties of Berkshire, Franklin, Hamden and Hampshire; and Region C, the counties of Bristol, Dukes, Plymouth, Barnstable and Nantucket.

All the venues would be competitively bid, a major change from the measure approved last year that allowed competitive bidding on the casinos but only permitted the state's four racetracks to bid on the slots.

Supporters said this would create up to 15,000 new jobs, \$270 million in one-time licensing fees and up to \$500 million in annual tax revenue, some of which would go to cities and towns as local aid. They noted gambling is voluntary and argued Massachusetts is losing billions of dollars from its citizens, who now go to neighboring states to gamble.

Opponents said casinos attract mostly low-income people who cannot afford it and lead to crime, gambling addictions, domestic violence and even suicide. They questioned proponents' rosy projections and noted some of the revenue from casinos would come at the expense of current Lottery revenue. (A "Yes" vote is for the bill. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Denise Provost	No/No
Rep. Carl Sciortino	No/Didn't Vote
Rep. Timothy Toomey	Yes/Yes
Sen. Sal DiDomenico	Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	No

COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING (H 3808)

House 153-2, Senate 37-0, approved and sent to Gov. Patrick legislation aimed at combating human trafficking. The bill creates the crimes of trafficking persons for sexual servitude and forced services, and imposes imprisonment for up to 20 years for violations. If the victim is a child under 18, the prison sentence increases to up to life in prison. The measure also creates a Victims of Human Trafficking Trust Fund, funded from fines and convicted human traffickers' forfeited assets, to provide restitution to victims.

Other provisions include increasing the punishment for individuals who pay prostitutes for sex; removing the statute of limitations for trafficking crimes; creating a 15-year criminal penalty for trafficking human organs; and a "Safe Harbor" provision that allows a court to judge an offender under 18 apprehended for prostitution - but found to be a victim of human trafficking - to be in need of services rather than simply delinquent.

Supporters, noting Massachusetts is one of only four states without an anti-human trafficking law, said this long-overdue bill would crack down on loathsome people who sell human beings. They noted it is time for the state to step up to the plate because the federal government doesn't have the resources or will to combat this problem.

The lone opponent said he voted against the bill because he opposes the mandatory minimum sentences it includes. (A "Yes" vote is for the bill. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Denise Provost	Yes
Rep. Carl Sciortino	Yes
Rep. Timothy Toomey	Yes
Sen. Sal DiDomenico	Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

APPROVE CHANGES IN PENSION SYSTEM (S 2018)

House 152-0, Senate 27-10, approved and sent to the governor a bill making changes in the pension and retirement systems for employees of the state and cities and towns. The proposal reduces pensions by raising the minimum retirement age for most public employees by five years, from 55 to 60, and changing the formula on which they are based.

Other provisions include prorating the retirement allowance of future employees who serve in more than one group by taking into account the number of years of service in each group; requiring that current employees serve at least one year in a group at the end of their career to retire from that group; and establishing a minimum pension of \$15,000 for state workers who have spent 25 years in state government. Currently, many retirees are struggling with annual pensions of \$12,000 to \$13,000.

Supporters said the state and local pension systems are in dire shape and must be reformed. They argued the reforms would save the Commonwealth \$5 billion over 30 years.

Opponents said the package is an anti-worker one that would reduce the pensions of future employees. They argued it would push the burden of existing pension system debt onto future generations of public employees. (A "Yes" vote is for the bill making changes in the pension system. A "No" vote is against the changes.)

Rep. Denise Provost	Yes
Rep. Carl Sciortino	Yes
Rep. Timothy Toomey	Yes
Sen. Sal DiDomenico	No
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	No

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING (H 3798)

House 124-19, Senate 31-6, approved and sent to Gov. Patrick a bill that redistricts the state's congressional districts. The state lost a seat because of new 2010 U.S. census figures that show Massachusetts' population growth is well below the national average. The new plan merges

Beacon Hill Roll Call continued



the existing 10 districts into nine.

The biggest change puts two incumbents, U.S. Reps. William Keating and Stephen Lynch, in the same redrawn 8th District. Keating has since announced he plans to move into his summer home in Bourne, which is in the redrawn incumbent-free 9th District.

The western Massachusetts communities represented by retiring U.S. Rep. John Olver would be split between the redrawn districts of U.S. Reps. Jim McGovern and Richard Neal. The redrawn 8th district would include a larger minority population that would grow under the proposal from 52 percent minority to 56 percent.

The package splits some communities between two different districts.

Supporters said the process has been the most open, inclusive and transparent redistricting process in the history of the state. They noted each district meets the goal that the total population for a congressional district cannot be less than 727,514 or more than 727,515.

Some opponents said the plan is flawed and they favored changes that would divide fewer communities, unite more communities with common interests and present more compact districts. (A “Yes” vote is for the new districts. A “No” vote is against it.)

Rep. Denise Provost	Yes
Rep. Carl Sciortino	Yes
Rep. Timothy Toomey	Yes
Sen. Sal DiDomenico	Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST TRANSGENDER PERSONS (H 3810)

House 113-37 and then by a slimmer 94-60 margin, approved the bill that would outlaw discrimination in employment, education, housing and credit against transgender persons.

Supporters said this long overdue law would make Massachusetts the 16th state to outlaw this type of discrimination. They noted it is time to give equal rights to transgender people.

Some opponents said the bill would lead to an avalanche of lawsuits that could swamp and hurt small businesses. Others argued the state already has anti-discrimination and hate crime laws that cover everyone, including transgender people. Some noted that religious beliefs might lead some opponents to vote against the bill.

The Senate approved the measure on a voice vote, without a roll call, and sent it to Gov. Patrick, who is expected to sign it into law.

Several representatives switched their votes during the time in between the first and the last vote on the bill. Both roll calls are below. The first is on initial approval 113-37. The second is on 94-60 final approval. (On both roll calls, a “Yes” vote is for the bill. A “No” vote is against the bill.)

Rep. Denise Provost	Yes/Yes
Rep. Carl Sciortino	Yes/Yes
Rep. Timothy Toomey	Yes/Yes

THREE STRIKES AND NO PAROLE (H 3811)

House 142-12, approved a bill designed to crack down on repeat offenders in the state’s criminal justice system. A key provision would deny parole eligibility to three-time violent felons.

The measure, known as “Melissa’s Law,” is named after Melissa Gosule, who was raped and murdered by a repeat violent offender.

Other provisions include requiring the Supreme Judicial Court to review the third felony conviction of all three-time violent felons who are being denied parole; requiring some repeat offenders to serve two-thirds instead of the current one-half of their sentence before becoming eligible for parole; and requiring the parole board to notify district attorneys, local chiefs of police and victims when a felon is up for parole.

Supporters said the number one responsibility of government is public safety. They argued this long-overdue law would finally get tough with repeat offenders and get them off the streets.

Opponents said the proposal is “feel good” legislation that takes flexibility out of the criminal justice system and will lead to jail overcrowding. Some noted they simply oppose the minimum mandatory sentences in the bill.

The Senate has approved a different version of the proposal and a conference committee will likely craft a compromise bill. (A “Yes” vote is for the bill. A “No” vote is against it.)

Rep. Denise Provost	Yes
Rep. Carl Sciortino	Yes
Rep. Timothy Toomey	Yes

LIFE JACKETS FOR KIDS (S 2075)

Senate 36-0, approved and sent to the House a bill requiring all children’s camps’ lakes and other swimming areas, except swimming and wading pools, to have one life jacket for each child there. It also prohibits camps from refusing to allow a child tobring and use his or her own life jacket. The measure is called “Christian’s Law” after 4-year-old Christian Frechette who was not wearing a life jacket when he drowned in 2007 at a town-run camp.

Supporters said one child dies from drowning every minute across the world and these requirements will save many lives. They argued 86 percent of children are found within 10 minutes and would likely be alive if they were wearing life jackets. (A “Yes” vote is for the requirements.)

Sen. Sal DiDomenico	Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

VIDEO CONFERENCE COURT PROCEEDINGS (H 3143) - The House gave initial approval to a bill allowing video conferencing technology to be used for child and family court proceedings in which a child or parent has a restraining order against the other parent. The measure would allow the protected parent or child to testify via video conferencing, in a different building than the other parent.

Supporters said this would prevent victims from being intimidated when forced to sit in the courtroom for hours with the alleged offender. They noted it would protect a vulnerable parent and his or her children and encourage more of them to bring charges against their alleged attackers.

AUTO INSURANCE BASED ON CREDIT RATING (S 461) - The House and Senate approved and sent to the governor a bill that would prohibit insurance companies from basing a customer’s insurance rates on his or her credit rating, education or occupation.

INCREASE ALCOHOL LICENSES (S 2033) - The

House and Senate approved and sent to Gov. Patrick a bill that would allow supermarkets and other large retailers to hold more alcoholic beverage licenses. The proposal increases the current cap from three to five in 2012, seven in 2016 and nine in 2020. The measure also would require stores to pay a \$5,000 fee for every license they receive above three.

GANG INJUNCTIONS (H 2848) - The House gave initial approval to a lengthy proposal that would allow law enforcement to get a court order declaring any specific part of a city a “safety zone.” Gang gathering and activity would be banned in the zone.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS (S 1325) - The House approved a Senate-approved bill that would exempt assistant treasurers and assistant tax collectors from the requirement they live in the city or town in which they work. Current law exempts treasurers and collectors but not their assistants. Final approval is still needed in each branch before the measure goes to the governor.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“To tell you I did not get teary eyed, I won’t, because I did. To hear a story like that, for those of us who have children, that is who you picture. I can’t imagine it.” – Rep. Brad Hill (R-Ipswich) following House passage of “Melissa’s Law,” that bans parole for three-time violent felons. Melissa’s family was in the House gallery.

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION? Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session.

During the week of November 14-18, the House met for a total of 21 hours and 50 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 22 hours and one minute.

Mon. November 14 House 11:01 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.
Senate 11:02 a.m. to 3:31 p.m.

Tues. November 15 House 11:00 a.m. to 9:06 p.m.
Senate 1:09 p.m. to 8:24 p.m.

Wed. November 16 House 11:02 a.m. to 9:24 p.m.
Senate 10:12 a.m. to 8:24 p.m.

Thurs. November 17 House 11:02 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
Senate 11:01 a.m. to 11:06 a.m.

Fri. November 18 No House session
No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

The winners of The Somerville News THE BEST OF SO

Congratulations to the winners! Please support their businesses!

Readers choices for 2011

Best Idea in 2011:

The suppressing of McGrath Highway

Best Somerville Food & Restaurants:

Best Breakfast: **Buddy's Diner, 113 Washington St.**

Best Combination Breakfast & Lunch: **Neighborhood Restaurant, 25 Bow St.**

Best Italian Food: **Vinny's Ristorante, 76 Broadway**

Best Portuguese Food: **J and J Restaurant, 157 Washington St.**

Best Chinese Food: **Wangs Fast Food, 509 Broadway**

Best Variety and All Around Restaurant: **Mount Vernon Restaurant,
14 Broadway**

Best Seafood: **Pescatore, 158 Boston Ave.**

Best Local Deli: **Victor's Deli, 710 Broadway**

Best Irish Pub: **PJ Ryan's, 239 Holland St**

Best Local Bar: **On The Hill Tavern, 499 Broadway**

Best Thai Food: **Thai Hut, 93 Beacon St.**

Best Hamburger: **R.F. O'Sullivan's and Son, 282 Beacon St.**

Best Roast Beef Sandwich: **Jimbo's Famous Roast Beef & Seafood, 40 Bow St.**

Best Pizza: **Mamma Lisa's, 312 Broadway**

Best Homemade Pizza: **Yolanda DiRenzio**

Best Bakery: **Patsy's Pastry Shop, 182 Broadway**

Best Sub Shop: **Leone's Submarine Sandwich, 292 Broadway**

Best Coffee Shop Franchise: **Dunkin' Donuts, Powderhouse Circle/
Highland Ave/Elm St.**

Best Coffee Shop Local: **Cafe at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave.**

Best Cook: **Omar Djebbouri, Ball Square Café**

Best Chef: **Delio Susi, Amelia's Kitchen, 1137 Broadway**

Best of Somerville Services:

Best Doctor: **Dr. Menon, Mt Auburn Healthcare, Bow St.**

Best Electrician: **Salvato Electric**

Best Plumber: **T.J. Sillari, Inc**

Best Attorney: **Maria Curtatone, 567 McGrath Hwy.**

Best Teacher: **Sophia Carafotes, West Somerville Neighborhood School**

Reader's Choices/Election results for SOMERVILLE 2011

ses and let them know you saw them in The Somerville News.

Best Politician: **Alderman Bill Roche, Ward 1**

Best Real Estate Agent/Realtor: **Hassan Boukhris, The Norton Group**

Best Real Estate Rental Agent: **Bill Murphy, Colony Real Estate**

Best Florist: **T.F. Murphys Florist, 346 Highland Ave**

Best Laundromat: **Spin Cycle, 6 Main St.**

Best Bank Teller: **Ann Martin, Sovereign Bank, 125 Broadway**

Best Bank Employee: **Jeanne Scarpa, Site Manager, Century Bank, Fellsway West**

Best Waitress: **Linda Brown, Mt Vernon Restaurant**

Best Waiter: **Paul Camara, La Hacienda Restaurant**

Best Bartender: **Joe Nagle, Casey's**

Best Barber: **Tony Alibrani, Alibrani's Barber Shop, 194 Holland St**

Best Boss: **Ellen Garrett, Garrett Insurance Co.**

Best Nurse: **Gay Koty, Somerville Public Schools**

Best Somerville Artist: **Chris Speakman, www.sportspropaganda.com**

Best Somerville Poet: **Doug Holder**

Best Somerville Celebrity: **Jimmy Del Ponte**

Best City Worker: **Frank Santagelo, Somerville Highway Dept.**

Best City Elected Politician: **Alderman Tom Taylor, Vice President, Ward 3**

Best City Employee DPW: **Richard Willette, Director of Operations**

Best City Employee City Hall/Annex: **Frank Senesi, Veteran's Services**

Best Mortgage Officer: **Rich Brener, Winter Hill Bank**

Best Somerville Bank: **Somerville Municipal Federal Credit Union, 236 Holland St.**

Best Real Estate Company: **The Norton Group, 699 Broadway**

Best Insurance Agency: **Wedgewood- Crane & Connolly, 19 College Ave.**

Best Gas Station: **Good Gas, 345 Medford St.**

Best Auto Body Shop: **Pat's Auto Body, 161 Linwood St.**

Best Tow Company: **Pat's Tow, 160 McGrath Hwy**

Best Law Firm: **O'Donovan, Dwyer & O'Flaherty, 741 Broadway**

Best Convenience/Neighborhood Store: **Y-Not Variety, 140 Willow Ave.**

Best Somerville Non-Profit Agency: **Project Soup**

Best Creative Business in 2011: **Somerville Brewing Company**

SOMERVILLE SPORTS

Somerville Pop Warner makes Championships



The Somerville Pop Warner B-team competed valiantly, taking their game to the Eastern Mass Championships, proving that they are a hard working and talented group of kids who play to win.

The Somerville B-team is the first team in 15 years to make it to the last round of the playoffs and play in the Eastern Mass Championships. The B-team finished their season at 8-3. They were coached by Roger, Tom, Donald, Eric and Shane Desrochers, Angel Gonzalez, Hollywood Stephonson, Jude Felix, Leo Eyong, Emmanuel Molin and Team MPR person Laurie Clark.

In the first round of the playoffs Somerville played Water-

town to take the win 31-12, the second round brought us back to Cambridge where we won 26-6. This proudly took our kids into the Eastern Mass game against West Lynn. Somerville came up short and West Lynn took the win but we are very proud of our kids and they played their hearts out representing Somerville.

The team was led by team captains Andre James, Richard Jean-Pierre, Roberto Michael and Joseph Gonzalez. The Offense was led by Quarterback Michael

Gonzalez and leading scorer Andre James. The Jr. Highlanders had a high scoring offense behind running backs Andre, Roberto Michel, Jordan Dauphin and Richard Jean-Pierre. On First Offense our quarterback was protected by our hard driving line which was led by Center Cameron Clark, Evelyn Ayala, Cidjud Felix, Joshua Carrilo and Demar Chapman. Receivers Joseph Gonzalez and Kalin Toussaint kept Defenses spread out. Our

Second Offense which usually started the games and would strike first consisted of Henry Augustin, Heimrick Benoit, Peter Derosena, Ariel Sanchez and Christopher David. The Jr Highlander Defense was led by linebackers Antone Hernandez and Edward Dahlstedt.

This Defense was a hard-hitting squad which didn't give up many first downs or points. Leading tackler Roberto Michel, Antone, Edward and Andre would keep teams

pinned down and refused to give up any yardage.

This team has made many 'Villens proud. For the first time in 15 years Somerville Pop Warner is back on the field. This year was a very successful one for SPW since they sent four teams to the playoffs. Somerville Pop Warner is one of the stronger organizations in the GBL and is respectfully leading the way for our athletes to take their efforts further into the High School Level.

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#293

1. Who was the person who created the "MARS" candy bar?

2. The Republican Party is referred to as the "GOP" – what do the initials stand for?

3. When Basketball was first invented, what kind of ball was used?

4. What are the two most common unbowed string instruments found in a symphony orchestra?

5. What number of musicians is the minimum requirement in order to be called a big band?

6. What state is known as "The Volunteer State"?

7. What state is known as "The Golden State"?

8. Who did Joe Louis beat when he first became World Champion?

9. In what city did *Gone With The Wind* have its premiere?

10. In football, what position is "S"?

11. In the Bill Haley song, what is the first word in the title that comes before "_____, rattle and roll"?

12. What movie did the *The Circle of Life* come from?

Answers on page 20

Holiday in the Ville will benefit music education

Let it snow, let it snow! Rain, shine or snowing on Saturday, November 26, better hope you are in town. Somerville's got talent! Don't miss the entertainment event of the season. Walk or ride yourself over to the Somerville Theatre: The faculty, students and alumni of the Somerville Public Schools music department present a Tom Taylor production, *Holiday in the Ville*, from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM. The Somerville Theatre will rock and glow with the sounds of the city and season provided by the go-flo casuals, Grooversity, the Somerville Second Line Social Aid Pleasure Society Brass Band, to name just three of the original student and alumni based acts. Alumni of the SHS band, orchestra and chorus will join the present student members of their respective ensembles in performance, and there will be many exciting surprises. Jimmy Del Ponte will be master of ceremonies. General admission is \$10, seniors and children are \$5. Tickets are available in advance at the Somerville Theatre box office, or contact Rick Saunders at the high school. Remaining tickets will be sold at the door.

The proceeds will go to Somerville Public Schools' music program, to support the expansion of its instructional and extracurricular offerings as well as to continue its practice of providing music lessons regardless of students' ability to rent instruments.

Want to write local Somerville stories?

Call 617-666-4010 and speak to the Assignment Editor

Jerry's

Liquor Store

Union Square

329 Somerville Ave • (617) 666-5410

Coalition wants rollback of Walmart plans CONT. FROM PG 1

said, "Perhaps the biggest difference Walmart can make in Somerville is by not coming here at all."

Barillaro was one of a panel of speakers who together raised a long list of concerns about Walmart's business practices, including low wages and limited benefits for workers, and charges of predatory pricing to drive local competitors out of business. Joe Grafton of Somerville Local First said independent studies have found Walmart takes three jobs out of the local economy for every two jobs it creates, and one fourth of surrounding businesses closed down after one Walmart store opened in Chicago.

But the panelists were mostly preaching to the already converted, since no one at the meeting showed any inkling of support for Walmart. The real question on the floor was about what strategy to pursue.

Grafton said "no" campaigns, to keep Walmart from opening at all, have usually not succeeded. He proposed that the Coalition push instead for covenants to be attached to the zoning variance that Walmart needs before it can open a food store on the Circuit City site.

But few residents at the meeting were interested in negotiat-

ing agreements with Walmart. "I don't think you can negotiate in good faith with Walmart. They're against every value this community stands for," said Barbara Steiner.

Wig Zamore suggested focusing on general standards or zoning requirements that would apply to the entire Assembly Square district, making them more enforceable than anything directed solely at Walmart.

And many in the room were not ready to give up on the idea of keeping Walmart out of Somerville altogether. "I don't think we could ever attach enough conditions to satisfy this community. Let's be real. We don't want this company in our town," said Rand Wilson.

Mark Niedergang, a school committee member who attended as a private resident, said if any city can successfully oppose Walmart, it would be Somerville. "I actually think we have a shot at beating this in Somerville. I think we can mobilize the labor constituency and the progressive constituency, and I think that would have a huge impact on the elected officials," said Niedergang.

Mayor Joseph Curtatone was not at the meeting, but said he has met with Walmart represen-

tatives about their plans, and the prospect of a grocery store at the Circuit City site is a good fit with long-term plans for development in the area.

"It's our goal through Shape Up Somerville that every neighborhood has access to good, wholesome, nutritious food at an attractive price. In Assembly Square, we've always envisioned a more urban style market," said Curtatone.

The Mayor said the goal in bringing new businesses to Somerville is to create jobs for Somerville residents and increase commercial property tax revenues. He said he wants Walmart to be proactive about addressing concerns about their employment practices, but the retailer will be treated no differently than any other company.

"All decisions have to be made within the parameters of our local zoning ordinances, regardless of who the operator is. We're not allowed to make decisions based on whether or not we agree or disagree with their business practices," said Curtatone. "We'll evaluate any proposal strictly on its merits. That's all we can do. That's all the law allows us to do."

Walmart spokesperson Steve

Restivo said the company was in the process of completing its due diligence on the site and hopes to submit an application for the zoning variance early in 2012, and to open in Somerville in 2013. He indicated surprise that simply "changing the name on the building from Circuit City to Walmart" had generated such initial opposition.

Restivo said Walmart's wages, benefits and policies were competitive with other retailers, particularly compared with grocery chains in Massachusetts. He pointed to studies refuting claims that Walmart has a negative impact on jobs and economic activity. "Anyone who's walked around that neighborhood knows the positive impact we've had on the West Side of Chicago," he said, referring to the Chicago case.

But Grafton, of Somerville Local First, said such counter-arguments are the product of Walmart's well-funded public relations machine, and pro-Walmart studies are often funded by the company itself.

Reflecting on the community meeting, Grafton said, "What we heard was that there was no one in the room who wanted Walmart in the community, and the majority of people in the room

wanted us to oppose Walmart outright. There really seemed to be very little faith that negotiating would work or that Walmart would live up to an agreement if there was one."

Going forward, Grafton said the Coalition would "keep reaching out to the community to get a more representative view of what the community wants, and to make sure that everyone is educated about what it would mean to have them here."

Walmart's Restivo said ultimately it will be up to consumers to decide whether or not Walmart is a good fit for Somerville.

"On the day the store opens, there will be thousands of Somerville residents lining up to shop. And their voice will never have been taken into account in the process leading up to the opening, because they're not going to go to meetings or write a letter to the editor. They'll vote with their feet and their pocket-books," said Restivo.

For more about the Somerville Coalition for a Responsible Walmart, go to www.somervillelocalfirst.org. For more about Walmart's plans for Somerville, go to www.walmartmassachusetts.com/new-projects/somerville

Eugene C. Brune to retire CONT. FROM PG 1

quickly and easily at a single public terminal. We were the first in the country to bring imaging into a registry of deeds. Because of being the first, we gave 122 tours of our system to others, which included 22 foreign countries," said Brune, who has spoken at several imaging seminars throughout this country.

At present, Brune's position as register entails offering a depository of all of the transactions and legal kept safe and up-to-date.

On November 9, at the Holiday Inn in Somerville, Brune received the Excellence in Public Service Award from the Somerville Chamber of Commerce documents, which pertain to property in this district.

"I have always believed that small businesses are the fabric that makes our city, state and country strong. Small businesses produce jobs. With small businesses, you are not a number, [but] you are a name and a face, and that's important," said Brune.

His most recent project at the registry of deeds involved renovating the majority of his departments. However, that primarily revolved around the Recorded and Registered Land recording counters and "the public areas for

the title examiners, as well as the general public." That endeavor spanned a few months. The challenge was to ensure that the registry remain open continuously for recording, while the renovations were in progress.

"I believe that one of my major accomplishments as mayor was to change our city charter to eliminate elected assessors and bring in professional appointed assessors," he said.

Brune also accomplished the renovation of Somerville High School. At that time a new wing was constructed, and the school became a comprehensive high school. That gave students the chance to experience college courses, as well as select a trade, if either were of personal interest.

During his mayoral years, Brune brought Somerville's financial records up-to-date. That action made it possible for the auditor and the treasurer "to determine our free cash."

Brune also formed three new departments: Purchasing, Personnel, and Traffic and Parking. Lastly, Art Beat and the Senior Picnic, as well as several community-oriented commissions also characterized his time as mayor.

"I would say that some of the

most rewarding [of some of his additional positions] include being one of the founders and the first President of the Somerville Boys and Girls Club, being President of The Massachusetts Municipal Association, being Chairman of the Somerville Board of Health and serving as a Director of The Cambridge Health Alliance. Each of those positions allowed me to help others," he said.

Brune does not "consider myself retiring altogether. I am leaving my position as register of deeds, as I want more time off."

He plans to travel and spend more time at his place up north.

"I am kept quite busy assisting constituents, providing home-stead seminars, addressing employee issues, planning budgets and meeting with department supervisors and state officials," said Brune.

"My advice to people starting out in their careers is to, above all, enjoy what you would be doing, and you will do it well. I tell my employees, whenever I can, that having a good attitude will do wonders for your career, and it will be appreciated by your fellow employees, and especially your employer and su-

pervisors," he said.

What are Brune's future goals or project plans during his retirement? "Loving politics as much as I do, I can't picture myself being out of politics entirely. I guess it depends on my health and the

time constraints required in any particular position that I would want to pursue. Time will tell. Maybe I will be happy, finally, doing nothing, but I doubt it. Possibly, my biggest challenge will be to learn how to relax," he said.


Somerville Service Clubs brighten the holidays



The Somerville Rotary Club held its Annual Tri-Club Thanksgiving Meeting along with the Somerville Kiwanis and Somerville Club in attendance. The well-attended festive event was held at the Mount Vernon Restaurant in Somerville. Proceeds from the event will support Project Soup and other local charities.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our Web site at www.thesomervillenews.com



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

PLANNING DIVISION

LEGAL NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Appeals will meet on **Wednesday, November 30, 2011**, Aldermanic Chambers, 2nd floor at Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, at 6:00 p.m. to hear pending applications and to hold public hearings:

39-43 Elmwood St/40 Cameron Ave: (Case #ZBA 2011-31) Applicant GFC Development Inc. and Owner Sadler Realty Trust, seek Special Permits with Site Plan Review under SZO §7.2 and §7.3 and Special Permits under SZO §4.4.1 and §9.13.b to alter a nonconforming structure and modify parking design standards to construct three buildings with nine total dwelling units and associated parking. RB zone. Ward 7.

44 Park St: (Case #ZBA 2011-83) Applicant and Owner Belam II LLC seeks a special permit to alter a nonconforming structure under SZO §4.4.1 by adding windows, doors and a canopy for the use of an approx 6,000 sf by-right child care facility. RC zone. Ward 2.


173 Central St: (Case #ZBA 2011-84) Applicant Out of the Woods Construction & Cabinetry, Inc. and Owners James and Van Loc Doran seek a special permit to alter a nonconforming structure under SZO §4.4.1 to remove an existing rear deck/porch and install a 35 sf cantilevered bay window. RA zone. Ward 4.

485 Mystic Valley Pkwy: (Case #ZBA 2011-79) Applicant and Owner Somerville Housing Authority seeks a Comprehensive Permit under M.G.L. Chapter 40B for an Inclusionary Housing Development. The proposal would create 60 affordable one-bedroom residential dwelling units for seniors and person with disabilities in two buildings. The project would consist of the redevelopment and conversion of the existing Mystic Water Works into a 25 affordable housing unit rental apartment building and the demolition of the existing office and garage outbuilding to be replaced with a newly constructed 35 affordable housing unit rental apartment building. The Applicant is requesting waivers from various sections of the City's ordinances and requirements, including but not limited to waivers from the following sections of the SZO: §4.4.1, §4.5.3, §7.2, §7.3, §7.9, §7.11, §8.5.B, §8.5.C, §8.5.E, §8.5.F, §8.5.I, §9.4, §9.5.1.b, §9.6.1, §9.9, §9.11, §9.15, §10.5, and §10.6. RA zone. Ward 7.

Copies of these petitions are available for review in the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, located on the third floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, Mon-Wed, 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Thurs, 8:30 am-7:30 pm; and Fri, 8:30 am-12:30 pm; and at somervillema.gov/planningandzoning. As cases may be continued to later dates, please check the agenda on the City's website or call before attending. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to OSPCD, Planning Division, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; by fax to 617-625-0722; or by email to dpereira@somervillema.gov.

Attest: Dawn Pereira, Administrative Assistant
Published in Somerville News on 11/16/11 & 11/23/11.

11/16/11, 11/23/11 The Somerville News





CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

PLANNING DIVISION

LEGAL NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Appeals will meet on **Wednesday, December 7, 2011**, Visiting Nurse Association, 3rd Floor, Community Room, 259 Lowell Street, at 6:00 p.m. to hear pending applications and to hold public hearings:

343, 345, 349, and 351 Summer St: (Case #ZBA 2011-54) The next ZBA hearing on the project at 343, 345, 349 and 351 Summer Street will be held on December 7, 2011 at the VNA. Please note that, at the request of the ZBA, the Applicant has updated the plans to move the VFW Post out of the RA zoning district and fully within the CBD district where it is an allowed use. The number of residential units is being reduced to 29. New plans are available on the city website at http://www.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Summer%20St%20343-351%20-%20Plans%2011-18-11%20-%2011x17%20%28POST%29_0.pdf. Testimony from the public on the amended plans will be heard at this meeting. The original legal notice is listed below:

Applicant, Strategic Capital Group, LLC and Owners George Dilboy VFW Post #529 and The Dakota Partners LLC, seek a Special Permit with Site Plan Review under SZO §7.3 and §7.11.1.c to establish a 31 unit residential use, a Special Permit under §7.11.5.B.6.a to establish an approximately 8,300 gross square foot private, non-profit club, a Special Permit with Site Plan Review under §7.11.11.10.b to establish a 15-space commercial parking lot, and a Special Permit under §9.13.b to modify parking design standards, in order to develop a new two to three story mixed-use building consisting of a VFW hall and 31 residential units as well as parking for commercial use and for on-site activities. CBD and RA zones. Ward 6.

1 College Ave/419 Highland Ave: (Case #ZBA 2011-87) Applicant and Owner Midshares, Inc. seeks a special permit to alter a nonconforming structure under SZO §4.4.1 to make alterations to the façade of the building including changes to window and door openings. CBD zone. Ward 6.

21 Edmands St: (Case #ZBA 2011-88) Applicant and Owner Jodi Mace seeks a special permit to alter a nonconforming structure under SZO §4.4.1 by expanding an existing rear deck by approx 15 sf and adding a 2nd story. RB zone. Ward 1.

16 Linden Ave: (Case #ZBA 2011-70) Applicant & Owner 16 Linden Avenue, LLC seeks Special Permit with Site Plan Review (SPSR, SZO §5.2) approval under §7.2 to construct a principal structure for 5 dwelling units on a lot with an existing principal structure with 3 dwelling units. The Applicant seeks SPSR approval under §7.3 to have 8 residential units on the lot, one of which would be an affordable unit as defined in §13. The Applicant seeks a variance to provide 10 of the 13 required parking spaces (§5.5 & 9.5). Additionally, the Applicant seeks a Special Permit to alter the existing nonconforming 3 family structure under §4.4.1 to alter window openings, construct a 2-story deck in the rear yard and alter the front entrance canopy. RB zone. Ward 5.

272 Broadway: (Case ZBA 2010-29-R1 (11/2011)) Applicant Anne Bates & Christopher Kokoras, and Owner Christopher Kokoras, seek a revision to the site plan approved as part of Variance approval ZBA 2010-29 in order to change the location of the proposed sidewalk on Kenneson Road.

Copies of these petitions are available for review in the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, located on the third floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, Mon-Wed, 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Thurs, 8:30 am-7:30 pm; and Fri, 8:30 am-12:30 pm; and at somervillema.gov/planningandzoning. As cases may be continued to later dates, please check the agenda on the City's website or call before attending. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to OSPCD, Planning Division, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; by fax to 617-625-0722; or by email to dpereira@somervillema.gov.

Attest: Dawn Pereira, Administrative Assistant
Published in Somerville News on 11/23/11 & 11/30/11.

11/23/11 The Somerville News

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA. 02141
(617) 768-5800

MIDDLESEX Division Docket No. MI 10P5187EA

To all persons interested in the estate of: Lennie Z Lezama

Late of: Somerville. MA. County of Middlesex

NOTICE OF ACCOUNT

You are hereby notified pursuant to Mass, R. Civ. P. Rule 72 that the **1st AND FINAL** account(s) of

Gayle Stone -Turesky

As **Public Administrator/trix** (the fiduciary) of said estate have been presented to said Court for allowance.

If you desire to preserve your right to file an objection to said account(s), you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at **Cambridge** on or before the **12/19/11**, the return day of this citation. You may upon written request by registered or certified mail to the fiduciary, or to the attorney for the fiduciary, obtain without cost a copy of said account(s). If you desire to object to any item of said account(s), you must, in addition to filing a written appearance as aforesaid, file within thirty (30) days after said return day or within such time as the Court upon motion may order a written statement of each such item together with the grounds for each objection thereto, a copy to be served upon the fiduciary pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 5.

WITNESS, Hon. Peter C. DiGangi, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 10, 2011

Tara E. De Cristofaro
Register of Probate

11/23/11 The Somerville News

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA. 02141
(617) 768-5800

MIDDLESEX Division Docket No. MI 10P5187EA2

To all persons interested in the estate of: Lennie Z Lezama

Late of: Somerville. in the County of Middlesex

NOTICE OF ACCOUNT

You are hereby notified pursuant to Mass, R. Civ. P. Rule 72 that the **1st AND FINAL** account (s) of

Gayle Stone- Turesky

As **Special Administrator/trix** (the fiduciary) of said estate have been presented to said Court for allowance.

If you desire to preserve your right to file an objection to said account(s), you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at **Cambridge** on or before the **12/19/11**, the return day of this citation. You may upon written request by registered or certified mail to the fiduciary, or to the attorney for the fiduciary, obtain without cost a copy of said account(s). If you desire to object to any item of said account(s), you must, in addition to filing a written appearance as aforesaid, file within thirty (30) days after said return day or within such time as the Court upon motion may order a written statement of each such item together with the grounds for each objection thereto, a copy to be served upon the fiduciary pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 5.

WITNESS, Hon. Peter C. DiGangi, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 10, 2011

Tara E. De Cristofaro
Register of Probate

11/23/11 The Somerville News

Thanksgiving memories CONT. FROM PG 9

the kitchen. Kids sat at a folding table at the end of the kitchen table. The ‘relish tray’ made its yearly appearance with celery and olives all neatly presented. Appetizers were chips, dip, and corn curls. Apple cider was the drink of the day and the house smelled of turkey, turnip, and canned vegetables. Dad always made us laugh as he would be first in line to eat the Flintstone sized turkey leg. It was a wonderful time. Wonderful memories.”

My friend, who shall remain nameless, chimes in with the next gem. “[Thanks-giving was] so much good food with my family and Aunt Rosie’s family who lived next door! I hated doing all those freaking dishes. I’m 56 years old and now cooking and still doing the dishes. What’s up with that?”

I remember more than one year when we had to run down to the Quick Shop because we needed more butter. By the

way, the Quick Shop turned into the Store 24 and is now Tedeschi’s.

Remember to look around the table and be thankful for your friends and family. As Carly Simon said in song, “these are the good old days.” Don’t forget to help with the dishes! Happy Thanksgiving!

Mark your calendar for the big *Holiday in The ‘Ville* show at The Somerville Theatre on Saturday, November 26. Tickets

are available at the Somerville Theatre box office or by calling Rick Saunders, music director for Somerville schools, at 617-625-660 extension 6143.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our Web site at www.thesomervillenews.com

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA. 02141
(617) 768-5800

MIDDLESEX DivisionDocket No. MI 11P5174EA

In the Estate of: Salvatore Ciccariello

Late of: Somerville, MA. 02145

Date of Death: 09/21/2011

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, a petition has been presented requesting that a document purporting to be **the last will and codicil** of said decedent be proved and allowed and that

Mary Ciccariello of Somerville, MA.

be appointed executor/trix, named in the will to serve

Without Surety


IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT; **Cambridge** ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK (10:00 AM) ON: **12/20/2011**

In addition, you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within (30) days after the return day (or such other time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16.

WITNESS, HON. PETER C. DIGANGI, First Justice of this Court
Date: November 15, 2011

Tara E. De Cristofaro
Register of Probate

11/23/11 The Somerville News



THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION BY THE POWER VESTED IN IT THROUGH A SPECIAL ACT OF ORDINANCE THE LEGISLATURE, CHAPTER 397 OF THE ACTS OF 1978 HEREBY AMENDS THE TRAFFIC ORDINANCES THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC REGULATION:

2011-38 Article V1 Section 6-1 "One Way Streets"
Amend a portion of regulation 2011-12 by adding on Additional 90 day trail

2011-39 ARTICE V SECTION 5-15 "HANDICAPPED PARKING" IS AMENDED WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITION:
45 Berkeley St 90 day trail
19 Virginia St

2011-40 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones"
Amend a portion of 2011-2 92 Highland Av amend with the following change
Monday-Saturday 7:30-7:00 pm.

2011-41 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibition"
Amend a portion of 2000-12 92 Highland Av
15 Minute parking 8:00am-6:00pm

2011-42 Article 1 Section 5-9. "Parking Meter and Locations and Regulation:" Eliminate two parking meters east side of Chester St at intersection of Elm St.

PROMULGATED: OCTOBER 20, 2011
ADVERTISED: NOVEMBER 9, 2011
NOVEMBER 16, 2011
NOVEMBER 23, 2011
EFFECTIVE: NOVEMBER 30, 2011

MATTHEW DIAS, ACTING DIRECTOR

11/9/11, 11/16/11, 11/23/11 The Somerville News

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA. 02141
(617) 768-5800

MIDDLESEX DivisionDocket No. MI 11P4357EA

In the Estate of: Catello Battinelli

Late of: Somerville. MA. 02145

Date of Death: 12/13/1989

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR

to all persons interested in the above captioned estate, a petition has been presented requesting that

Catello Ernest Battinelli II of Somerville, MA

or some other suitable person be appointed administrator of said estate to serve.

With Personal Surety

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT; **CAMBRIDGE** ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK (10:00 AM) ON: **12/19/2011**

WITNESS, HON. PETER C. DIGANGI, First Justice of this Court
Date: November 14, 2011

Tara E. De Cristofaro
Register of Probate

11/23/11 The Somerville News

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How did we get so unequal? CONT. FROM PG 9

for those in the higher tax brackets who held assets for more than one year was reduced from 20% to 15%. The wealthiest taxpayers are also much better positioned to take advantage of tax loopholes. Billionaire Warren Buffet, America's most successful investor, says that he pays a lower tax rate than does his secretary. The Earned Income Tax Credit helps keep lower-income working people from sliding into poverty. But it is not available to the unemployed. Since Reagan took office, the "social safety net" that supported people who did side into poverty has been steadily dismantled. And the federal minimum wage increased more slowly. If it had been were merely indexed to inflation since 1979, it would have been worth \$8.59 last year. Unionization of the workforce dropped from over 25% in 1979, to under 12% today. In turn, pay declined in formerly unionized industries and companies. Over the same period, Congresses and Presidents rejected fair trade policies in favor of free trade policies. This, and their "strong dollar" policy, savaged the manufacturing sector, which was once an employment bulwark for workers without college educations. Changes in intellectual property laws have favored large corporations. Now they can even patent naturally occurring plants and genes. In *Loser Liberalism*, Dean Baker writes that, "as a result of patent protection, we pay almost \$300 billion a year for prescription drugs that would sell for about \$30 billion a year in a free market. The difference of \$270 billion is more than 5 times as large as the amount at stake with the Bush tax cuts." As unequal as U.S. personal income distribution is, our unequal distribution of wealth is a good deal starker. Most people spend a substantial portion of their income on necessities, while that proportion is small for the wealthy, enabling them to accumulate more assets. The most commonly used measure of inequality within a distribution is the Gini coefficient. Applying it to the 152 countries for which adequate data are available, the U.S. has the fourth most unequal distribution of wealth. Émile Durkheim, one of the three principal architects of modern social science, offered a solution. He had no objection to private property or wealth accumulation. But if democracies were going to make equality of opportunity a reality, then they would impose a 100% estate tax. It's a provocative concept. But its adoption is inconceivable when the wealthiest and most powerful can buy the public policy that enables them to remain so.

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• • • • ‘VILLENS ON THE TOWN’ • • • •

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Wednesday|November 23

East Branch Library
Preschool: Storytime
11a.m. - 11:30 a.m.|115
Broadway

Thanksgiving Eve- Library
Closes at 5 p.m.

Thursday|November 24

Thanksgiving- Library closed

Friday|November 25

Day after Thanksgiving- Library
Closed

Monday|November 28

Central Library
Preschool: Sing Along with
Jordan Voelker
11 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.|79 Highland
Ave

Tuesday|November 29

West Branch Library
Preschool:Storytime
11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|40 College
Ave

Wednesday|November 30

East Branch Library
Preschool: Storytime
11a.m. - 11:30 a.m.|115
Broadway

MUSIC
Wednesday|November 23

Johnny D's
Sarah Borges|Kimon Kirk
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Free Poker, lots of prizes!
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-
3589

The Burren
Scattershot
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA'S Lounge
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-
1557

On The Hill Tavern
Sports Trivia
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
Trivia
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Precinct Bar
Close Enough
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe's Pub
Mike Hastings Band
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-
6045

Highland Kitchen
TJ The DJ Presents The People's
Karaoke
10 p.m.|150 Highland Ave|617-
625-1131

Night Games
Name your tune
Wednesdays|Karaoke
30 Washington St|617-628-1000

Samba Bar & Grille
608 Somerville Ave|617-718-
9177

Rosebud Bar
Nick Palms Comedy Showcase
381 Summer St

Bloc 11
11 Bow St.|617-623-0000

Thursday|November 24

Johnny D's
Happy Thanksgiving
Bar open|6 p.m.-12 a.m.|No food

or music
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's
Happy Thanksgiving
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-
3589

The Burren
Happy Thanksgiving|front opens
at 7 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA'S Lounge
Happy Thanksgiving
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-
1557

On The Hill Tavern
Live DJ Music
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Precinct Bar
Happy Thanksgiving| no live
music
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe's Pub
Thanksgiving|TBA
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-
6045

Bloc 11
Live Music
11 Bow St.|617-623-0000

PJ Ryan's
Live Music
239 Holland St|617-625-8200

Joshua Tree
Country Music Thursday
9:30 p.m.|256 Elm St. |617-623-
9910

Night Games
Throwback Thursdays|80's Dance
30 Washington St|617-628-1000

Samba Bar & Grille
608 Somerville Ave|617-718-
9177

Rosebud Bar
381 Summer St.

Arts At The Armory
closed for Thanksgiving. Happy
Holidays!

Friday|November 25

Johnny D's
Beatlejuice
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's
Jimmy Ryan Band|6 p.m.
Johnnie Mac & The Local
Forecast|9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-
3589

The Burren
Cherry Bomb
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
Live Acoustic Music
8 p.m.|65 Holland St

Precinct Bar
Whiskey
70 Union Sq|617 -623-9211

PA'S Lounge
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-
1557

On The Hill Tavern
499 Broadway |617-629-5302

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Bull McCabe's
TBA
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-
6045

Michael's Bar
Domestic Beer \$2.50

9 p.m. - 1 a.m.|no cover|97
Washington St|617-623-3364

Joshua Tree
DJ
10 p.m.|256 Elm St. |617-623-
9910

Night Games
Fabulous Fridays|R&B
30 Washington St|617-628-1000

Samba Bar & Grille
Live music
9 p.m.|608 Somerville Ave|617-
718-9177

Rosebud Bar
In the MeantimeThe
Radicals|Shorthanded Goal
381 Summer St

Bloc 11
11 Bow St.|617-623-0000

Casey's
Entertainment every Friday
173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

Arts At The Armory
closed for Thanksgiving. Happy
Holidays!

Saturday|November 26

Johnny D's
Somerville School Music Dept
Fundraiser|4 p.m.
Beatlejuice|9:30 a.m.
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's
Les Sampou |6 p.m.
Four-Point Restraints with
Gaetana Brown |9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-
3589

The Burren
Jimmy's Down
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Precinct Bar
Hear Now Live Presents|Snake
Piss|JF|Autumn Above|Under The
Influence|Ways to Fall
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
Karaoke|on demand DJ
9p.m.|65 Holland St

PA'S Lounge
Hoof|Jack Burton vs. David
LoPan|Dead Languages|Engorged
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-
1557

On The Hill Tavern
Live DJ Music
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

Bull McCabe's Pub
TBA
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-
6045

Joshua Tree
DJ
10 p.m.|256 Elm St. |617-623-
9910

Michael's Bar
Come Dance to the Oldies; 50's-
80's music|Domestic Beer \$2.50
9 p.m. - 1 a.m.|no cover|97
Washington St|617-623-3364

Night Games
Sexy Saturdays|new old school
30 Washington St|617-628-1000

Samba Bar & Grille
608 Somerville Ave|617-718-
9177

Rosebud Bar
Navarone Sound
System|Foundation Rockers|SKA-
Prest
381 Summer St

Bloc 11

11 Bow St.|617-623-0000

Casey's
Entertainment every Saturday
173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

Arts At The Armory
closed for Thanksgiving. Happy
Holidays!

Sunday|November 27

Johnny D's
Open Blues Jam 4:30 p.m.
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Swingin' at Sally's with Sue, \$5
intro to swing lesson, then dance
to ... 4 p.m.
Frank Drake Sunday Showcase|5
p.m.

Natalie Flanagan Band with
Trusty Sidekick|8 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-
3589

The Burren
Sunday Night Music Series
8 p.m.|247 Elm Street|617-776-
6896

PA'S Lounge
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-
1557

Precinct Bar
Little War Twins
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe's Pub
Dub Apocalypse
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-
6045

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
RockBand every other Sundays
9 p.m.|65 Holland St

On The Hill Tavern
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

Michael's Bar
Karaoke|Domestic Beer \$2.50
9 p.m. - 1 a.m.|no cover|97
Washington St|617-623-3364

Highland Kitchen
Live Bluegrass Brunch |noon-2:
30p.m.
Live Music|10 p.m.
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Night Games
Sports Blitz Sundays
30 Washington St|617-628-1000

Samba Bar & Grille
608 Somerville Ave|617-718-
9177

Rosebud Bar
Tony Savarino|Mike Levesque
381 Summer St

Monday|November 28

Johnny D's
Team Trivia
17 Holland St | 617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Cheapshots Comedy Club open
mike|7 p.m.
Marley Mondays with the Duppy
Conquerors|9:30 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-
3589

The Burren
Bur-Run|6:30 p.m.
Set Dancing|8 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

On The Hill Tavern
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

PA'S Lounge
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-
1557

Precinct Bar
Rachel Raven|The True
Jacqueline|Gambiza|Michael

Johnson
70 Union Sq|617-623-921

On The Hill Tavern
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

Bull McCabe's Pub
Stump Team Trivia
8 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-
440-6045

Arts At The Armory
Intro to Calligraphy Workshops
with Liz Roessler of Lettering By
Liz
6 p.m.|Conference room|191
Highland Ave

Tuesday|November 29

Johnny D's
Will Dailey|Jay Psaros|Tim Gearan
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Dryden Brothers|9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-
3589

The Burren
Open Mic w/ Hugh
McGowan|6:30 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

On The Hill Tavern
Stump Trivia (with prizes)
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

PA'S Lounge
Open Mic - Rock, Folk, R&B, Alt,
Jazz & Originals etc. Hosted by
Tony Amaral
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-
1557

Precinct Bar
Bitch trifecta as Dolly Parton|Jean
Sullivan as Lucinda Williams|Anna
Rae, Anya Rose & Hannah
Cranton
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe's Pub
David Johnston Band
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-
6045

Highland Kitchen
Spelling Bee Night First Tuesday
of the month
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Samba Bar & Grille
608 Somerville Ave|617-718-
9177

Rosebud Bar
Karaoke with Kristi
381 Summer St

Wednesday|November 30

Johnny D's
Bombino
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Free Poker, lots of prizes!
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-
3589

The Burren
PUB QUIZ 8-10|Comedy@10
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA'S Lounge
Lair of the Werekitten|Tiny
Lion|Orly & Yagel|Matt Francis
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-
1557

On The Hill Tavern
Sports Trivia
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
Trivia
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Precinct Bar
The Major Stars w/Dig
Digits|Whore Paint
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

• • • • ‘VILLENS ON THE TOWN’ • • • •

Bull McCabe's Pub
Mike Hastings Band
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen
TJ The DJ Presents The People's Karaoke
10 p.m.|150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Night Games
Name your tune
Wednesdays|Karaoke
30 Washington St|617-628-1000

Samba Bar & Grille
608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

Rosebud Bar
Nick Palms Comedy Showcase
381 Summer St

Bloc 11
11 Bow St.|617-623-0000

CLASSES AND GROUPS
Wednesday|November 23
Thanksgiving Eve-Library closes

at 5 p.m.

Third Life Studio
Beyond Beginners Belly Dancing with Nadira Jamal
7:30p.m.| Level 2|33 Union Sq|www.nadirajamal.com

Thursday|November 24
Thanksgiving - Library closed

Third Life Studio
Roots and Rhythm
33 Union Sq| drumzatlibana@gmail.com

First Church Somerville
Debtors Anonymous- a 12 Step program for people with problems with money and debt.
7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.|89 College Ave (Upstairs Parlor).
For more info call: 781-762-6629

Friday|November 25
Day After Thanksgiving- Library closed

Saturday|November 26
Bagel Bards

Somerville Writers and Poets meet weekly to discuss their work
9 a.m.-12 p.m.|Au Bon Pain| 18-48 Holland St

Arts At The Armory
Closed for Thanksgiving

Third Life Studio
Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction with Sunada Takagi
10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.|33 Union Sq| (617) 539-6409
Monthly Open Voice Movement Therapy Workshops
11:30 -2:30 p.m.|33 Union Sq| 978-952-2798
Yoga Flow
1 p.m.-2 p.m.|33 Union Sq |maria.taesil@gmail.com
Introduction to Voice Movement Therapy
2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.| Mali: 781.290.6381
MaliSastri@gmail.com

Sunday|November 27
Third Life Studio
Discover Belly Dancing with

Nadira Jamal
Noon- 1 p.m.|33 Union Sq

Unity Church of God
Fourth Step to Freedom Al-Anon Family Groups
7:00 P.M. | 6 William Street
Enter upstairs, meeting is in basement.

Monday|November 28
East Branch Library
Learn English at the Library
Session 1 (6 p.m.-7 p.m.)
Session 2 (7:15 p.m.-8:15 p.m.)
115 Broadway

Third Life Studio
Beginning Hawaiian Hula
6 p.m.| 781-729-2252

Tuesday|November 29
Central Library
Learn English at the Library!
6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Central Library
Introduction to the Internet
Caron Guigli

617-623-5000 x2920
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Third Life Studio
Vinyasa Flow Yoga & Meditation
9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m.|617-628-7884

Third Life Studio
The Art of Singing Group
7 p.m.-9:15 p.m.|33 Union Sq|617-628-0916
srlibana@gmail.com

Wednesday|November 30
Central Library
Introduction to basic computer skills
Caron Guigli
617-623-5000 x2920
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Third Life Studio
Beyond beginning Belly Dance with Nadira Jamal
7:30 p.m.|Level 2|33 Union Sq|www.nadirajamal.com

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Invite to all: Fred Meyer is a Master's student at Tufts University and he would like to work with our older adults in helping them create a record of their life! He will record your story through a series of in-person interviews, edit and organize the transcripts and publish your memoir in a book form. Limited space! If you are interested, please call Fred at 970-217-7313 or email him at fredclaymeyer@gmail.com.

November 23
Holland Street Center
Flexibility & Balance | 9:30 a.m.
Shine Hours (Appt only) 10:30 a.m.

Women's Support Group & Discussion (new members welcome) | 10:30 a.m.
Qi Gong | 1:15 p.m.
167 Holland Street | 617-625-6600 x 2300

Cross Street Center
Bowling|1 p.m. | All are welcome
165 Broadway | 617-625-6600 x 2335

Ralph & Jenny Center
Indoor Exercise (Interval Training)|10:30 a.m.
Bingo|12:30 p.m.
9 New Washington Street | 617-666-5223

November 24 and November 25
All Centers Closed For Thanksgiving

November 28
Holland Street
Swinging Singing Seniors |10:30 a.m.
167 Holland Street |617-625-6600 x 2300

Ralph & Jenny
Indoor Exercises |10:30 a.m. | Bingo |12:30 p.m.
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223
Restaurant Fiore in the North End - RSVP 617-625-6600 ext. 2300

By Andrew Firestone

When Detective Mario Oliveira stood in the great hall of the State House the other day, surrounded by gallantly dressed police and the music of bagpipes, he reflected on the generosity of spirit of those that helped him in his time of need. “The whole community has rallied around me and my family, and I can never repay them for that,” he said.

“I’ll never forget what everybody did and it’s helped me heal and get back on my feet and resume my life.” Oliveira was shot at point-blank range five times while exercising a warrant against Matt Krister, a 21-year-old gun seller a year ago. Krister shot Oliveira when he approached and opened the door to his car. Krister was then killed in a hail of gunfire.

But last Friday, November 18,



Four Somerville Police Officers and one ATF agent are commended for their actions in last year's police shooting.



Detective Mario Oliveira is honored by Gov. Deval Patrick at the 28th Hanna Awards.

Oliveira, now back to work, along with Lt. Gerald Reardon, Sgt. Joe McCain, Det. Ernest Nadill, and ATF agent Brian Higgins, were presented with the George Hanna Medal of Honor for bravery in the field. The award was presented by Governor Deval Patrick, who said the award “recognizes officers whose actions have demonstrated bravery above and beyond expectations.”

“I’m honored to be here with a bunch great men and women who have done an equal job as me in heroics and bravery,” said Oliveira. “I’m honored to be here.”

Oliveira returned to work soon after recovering from the shooting, and now can be seen walking the beat, doing details

and other duties an officer of the law is responsible for. “Everybody’s rallied around me rebound, and they’ve helped me get back to work and do something I love.”

Deputy Chief Michael Cabral, who was acting chief at the time of Oliveira’s shooting called Oliveira’s return “heroic and miraculous.”

“It’s great that he’s back to work after going through what he’s gone through,” said Cabral. “Most police officers don’t come back to work, especially after going through something like that.”

The Hanna Award is named for Trooper George L. Hanna, who was fatally shot in the line of duty in 1983.

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Ms. Cam's *Olio* Answers

Answers from page 14

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Forrest Mars | 4. Piano and harp | 7. California | 10. Safety |
| 2. Grand Old Party | 5. Minimum of ten | 8. James Braddock | 11. Shake |
| 3. A soccer ball | 6. Tennessee | 9. Atlanta | 12. The Lion King |

Holiday books are perennial favorites

By Kenneth Gloss

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is the obvious perennial favorite for holiday books. However, many people might not realize that holiday-themed items can be exciting and rewarding choices, simply because there is a plethora of options available. That's not to say 1834 Dickens classic isn't wildly popular, even today. There are people who will come into the store, seeking a first edition and will spend upwards of \$70 - \$1000 for that particular volume. There are people who collect all versions of *A Christmas Carol*, whether it be all the different illustrated versions or all the different covers. There are literally thousands of unique versions of that Christmas classic, giving a Dickens collector years of hunting.

Another popular one is *'Twas The Night Before Christmas*. Neiman Marcus had an original manuscript edition of the poem listed for \$750,000 in its catalog in the late 1990s. Obviously, it was for the serious and well-heeled collector. Many people who collect it also buy a second version that isn't as valuable so they can have one for display and one for an annual Christmas Eve reading with their children. A number of customers prefer reading *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* because the language is easier and the story is shorter than Dickens' novels.

Before the 1800s, Christmas was looked upon as solely a religious holiday and any celebrations were frowned upon. However, there are those who

like to collect copies of the laws and social tomes of the time that show this disdain for holiday celebrating. By the time that Dickens came along, attitudes were changing. L. Thomas Nast, the famous illustrator for *Harp-er's Weekly*, created the first drawing of Santa Claus as a jolly, large man who slides down a chimney and leaves gifts. That first drawing is a collector's item, as are the subsequent renditions of St. Nick. Collecting simply illustrations of Santa Claus can yield a wide amount of material for any collector.

There are also people who like to collect holiday cookbooks so they can see how culinary traditions have changed over the decades. These changes can often be linked to social shifts and inventions of the times. Another popular collectible area is books on how different cultures and religions celebrate the holidays.

Holiday collections are so popular that virtually any field you choose to focus on, Santa illustrations, Christmas cards, or cookbooks links to a society and/or a shop dedicated to collecting and preserving that niche.

As Christmas grew in popularity, so too did the amount of materials and peripherals available for collectors to choose among. Not everyone who collects holiday memorabilia does it to amass one type of book or illustration; many begin these collections because of the touch of nostalgia they find in hunting for the treasures they remember from their youth.

Other collectors use the materials they gather as decorations for their homes. A set of holiday



The Christmas holiday yields a veritable plethora of collectible memorabilia, according to Brattle Book Shop's Kenneth Gloss.

books or a grouping of Santa illustrations can make a fantastic display during the holidays. Some people look for Santas that aren't in sleighs, but rather in other conveyances such as trains, airplanes and cars. There is so much material available that it is very easy for a collector to carve out one's own niche.

Holidays are also a great time for people who like to buy unique books and give them to collectors. A number of people seek out leather-bound editions of Shakespeare or coffee table books to give as gifts. It's the mark of a true gift because it shows that the buyer had to

think about the recipient's likes and interests before making the purchase. Giving a used or rare book as a holiday gift takes a great deal more effort and thought, a gesture that is appreciated by the recipient.

People who are looking for something specific for the holidays should give their local dealer plenty of time to find what they are seeking. No matter what kind of holiday memorabilia a person is interested in collecting, it is virtually certain that there will be a great deal of material from which to choose. The holiday season has been very popular for the last 140 years

and there are millions of books, prints and lithographs available. It would be impossible to collect everything ever produced that is holiday related, thus leaving enough room for all collectors to find what they want.

Ken Gloss is the owner of the Brattle Book Shop in Boston, the oldest antiquarian bookstore in the United States. 2011 is the 62nd year of Gloss family ownership. Ken has been seen numerous times on PBS' Antiques Roadshow. His free and open lecture schedule as well as other info is available at: www.brattlebookshop.com or call 800-447-9595.

Dilboy Post fracas belies broken neighborhood

CONT. FROM PG 3

Tensions have simmered further. Palatano, treasurer and former post commander, speaks of the neighbors bombarding city and state agencies with complaints about the post. One of his stories was confirmed, that Claudia Borel, who does not approve of the proposed development, had to be escorted from the mayor's office in September after she demanded his ear on the licensing issues surrounding the post, which include an entertainment license and a license for their parking lot, which neighbors claim is used commercially.

After receiving calls from fire inspectors, the members of the post became upset. Palatano said he felt that the neighbors were "after them," and recruited Brady to investigate them. Pala-

tano feels that no effort has been made to create a dialogue with members of the post, and that some members of the neighborhood took it into their hands to go after the post, and that they had anonymously called fire services on them.

He said that the only one who had come was the one he labeled the "spokesman," Bok. "The only reason he came in here was to pick our minds and use it against us," said Palatano.

Bok says this is simply not true. He said he feels awful and that the "fabric of the neighborhood," has been ripped asunder by the controversy. He said that the developer had shown himself to be disingenuous, and refused to budge from building the original plan of a massive

31-unit condo in a neighborhood of family houses.

Neighbor Tom O'Shea said that he felt disrespected by the developer who consistently broke rules and refused to submit proper documents. When asked to meet in the post with other neighbors, Gewirtz and Arista, he said he turned it down because he did not believe that the developer would listen to any of the neighbors' concerns, and that he did not believe the building was up to fire code.

The developer was ordered to go back to the design phase after the last ZBA meeting, after listening to the concerns of the members of the board, who have listened to the case for years now.

Proakis said that the developer's conduct had been passable.

"Roberto and the developer team has presented designs to us that have been responsive to the staff's request," he said. "We'll see if they're responsive to the board's request."

It is not possible to deny a developer a contract or permission to build as a zoning board based on past developments. No ordinance can be introduced by aldermen either.

"I do feel that it's unfortunate, what's happened around the Dilboy Post," said Gewirtz, who is President of the Board of Alderman. "If there are violations there, issues there that should have been separate from the post and, unfortunately, I think the issues there have become intertwined."

"I think that the post has every

right to feel upset and frustrated and betrayed to a certain extent," she said. "At the same time, the neighbors feel the same way too. They feel that the city is supposed to be protecting their interests, following the law and follow the zoning guidelines."

Of the missing environmental reports that began the allegations of misconduct, Proakis says he doesn't know if the tactics were intentionally underhanded, though the developer had possession of environmental reports since at least 2002 before submitting the application.

"I just wish his first application had been more complete," said Proakis.

The case will be picked up again in December.

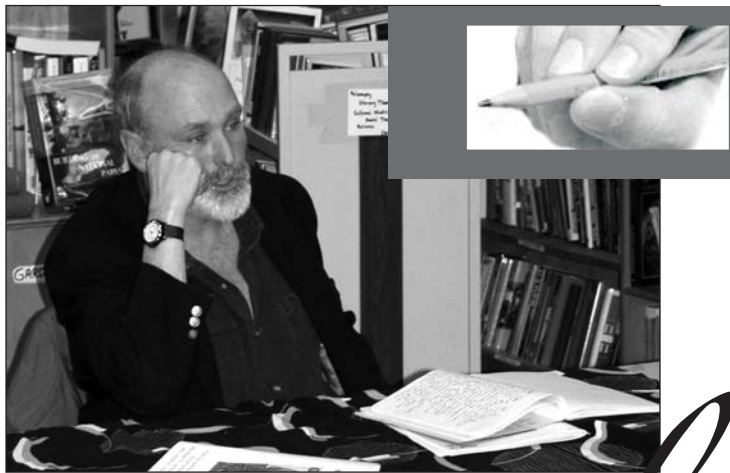
The post remains closed.

SCAT Program Schedule for the Week

Wednesday, November 23							
12:00am	Free Speech TV	5:00pm	Ablevision	1:00pm (LIVE)	Bongoman	1:00pm	Ablevision
6:00am	The Arabic Hour	5:30pm	Somerville: Most Interesting Places	2:00pm	Intro Talk w/ Achyut	1:30pm	Somerville Housing Authority
7:00am	Raising Drug Free Kids	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV	2:30pm	Nepali Festival	2:00pm	Thom Hartmann Program
8:00am	Democracy Now!	7:00pm (LIVE)	Tele Magazine	3:00pm	Protraits of Somerville	3:00pm	Robyn & Max Exercise
9:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	7:30pm	Somerville Rocks	4:00pm	Wake Up Magic	3:30pm	Esoteric Science
10:00am	Abugida TV	8:00pm (LIVE)	Fouye Zo Nan Kalalou	5:00pm	Tele Kreyol	4:00pm	South of the Mystic
11:00am	Somerville News Reading	9:30pm	The Garage	6:00pm	Tele Magazine	4:30pm	Somerville Back In The Day
12:00noon	Democracy Now!	10:30pm	Sonic Lobotomy	7:00pm	Recovery Roundtable	5:00pm	Culture Club
1:00pm	Nepali Festival	11:00pm	Recovery Roundtable	8:00pm	Blunt Truth	5:30pm	Talking About Somerville
1:30pm	Talk About Somerville	Friday, November 25		9:00pm	Nossa Gente e Costumes	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV
2:00pm	Thom Hartman show	12:00am	Free Speech TV	10:00pm	Wrestling Talk	7:00pm	Discover The Law
3:00pm (LIVE)	Medical Tutor	6:00am	Live Response	11:00pm	Sonic Lobotomy	7:30pm	The Commonwealth Report
3:30pm	Interesting Places	7:00am	Recovery Roundtable	12:00am	Bongoman	8:00pm	Right Here, Right Now
4:00pm	Life Matters	8:00am	Democracy Now!	Sunday, November 27		8:30pm	Steve Katsos Show
4:30pm	Healthy Hypnosis	9:00am	The Truth About Drugs	12:00am	Free Speech TV	9:00pm	Dedilhando A Saudade
5:00pm	CommonSense	9:30am	Creating Cooperative Kids	6:00am	Rompendo em Fe	10:00pm	Bate Papo con Shirley
5:30pm	Let's Talk About Hearing	10:30am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	7:00am	Vida Na TV	11:00pm	Visual Radio
6:00pm	Al Jazeera	11:30am	Back In The Day	8:00am	In Season, Out of Season	Tuesday, November 29	
7:00pm (LIVE)	Chita Tande	12:00noon	Democracy Now!	8:30am	Healer in Every Home	12:00am	Free Speech TV
8:00pm (LIVE)	Somerville Pundits	1:00pm	The Expert Series	9:00am	Heritage Baptist Church	6:00am	Emerging Drug Trends
8:30pm	Culture Club	2:00pm	Thom Hartmann Program	10:00am	Christian Assemble Tabernacle	7:00pm	Perils For Pedestrians
9:00pm	Somerville Rocks	3:00pm	Cooking W/ Georgie & Dez	11:00am	International Church of God	7:30am	The Struggle
9:30pm	Shrink Rap	3:30pm	Toastmasters	11:30am	The Commonwealth Report	8:00am	Democracy Now!
10:00pm	The Smoki Dick Show	4:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking	12noon	Somerville Housing Auth.	9:00am	Somerville News Reading
10:30pm	South of the Mystic	4:30pm	Money On Your Mind	12:30pm	Nepali Festival	10:00am	Tele Kreyol
11:00pm	The Garage	5:00pm	SCATV and Free Speech	1:00pm	Waltham Philharmonic Orch.	11:00am	Commonsense
11:30pm	Art @ SCATV	5:30am	Your Money Your Life	2:00pm	Effort Pour Christ	11:30	Nepali Festival
Thursday, November 24		6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV	3:30pm	Talk About Somerville	12:00noon	Democracy Now!
12:00am	Free Speech TV	7:00pm	Right Here, Right Now	4:00pm	Dedilhando A Saudade	1:00pm	The Commonwealth Report
6:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	7:30pm	Working With Java	5:00pm	Ethiopian Satellite TV	1:30pm	Know Your Rights
7:00am	Know Your Rights	8:00pm	Visual Radio	6:00pm	Abugida TV	2:00pm	Thom Hartmann Show
7:30am	South of the Mystic	9:00pm	The Garage	7:00pm	African TV Network	3:30pm	Active Aging
8:00am	Democracy Now!	9:30pm	Bandwidth TV	8:00pm	Tele Magazine	4:00pm	Protrait of Somerville
9:00am	Parent Factor	10:00pm	Portrait of Somerville	9:00pm	Watch This	5:00pm (LIVE)	Poet to Poet
10:00am	Active Aging	11:00pm	Jeff TV	10:00pm	Portait of Somerville	5:30pm	Jeff Jam
10:30am	Jeff Jams	Saturday, November 26		11:00pm	Undercover TV	6:00pm	A Jazeera
11:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	12:00am	Free Speech TV	11:30pm	Nepali Festival	7:00pm	Art @ SCAT
12:00noon	Democracy Now!	6:00am	Arabic Hour	Monday, November 28		7:30pm	Greater Somerville W/ Joe Lynch
1:00pm	African TV Network	7:00am	GAY USA	12:00am	Free Speech TV	8:00pm (LIVE)	Dead Air Live Show
2:00pm	Thom Hartmann	8:00am	Animal Agenda	7:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	9:00pm	Interesting Places
3:00pm	Somerville: Back in the Day	9:00am	Festival Kreyol	8:00am	Democracy Now!	9:30pm	Animal Agenda
3:30pm	Culture Club	10:00am	Tele Galaxie	9:00am	Recovery Roundtable	10:00pm	Perils For Pedestrians
4:00pm	Lets Talk About Hearing	11:00am	Dead Air Live Show	10:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	10:30pm	The Gerry Leone Show
4:30pm	A Healer in The House	12:00pm	Reeling, The Movie Review	11:00am	Nosse Gente e Costumes	11:00pm	JuPrey Productions
		12:30pm	Somerville Housing Authority	12:00noon	Democracy Now!		

City Cable TV Schedule for the Week

Wednesday, November 23							
9:00am: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	12:30am: (13/16)	Young Somerville Advisory Group	7:45pm: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	7:00pm: (15)	SHS Sports Rally
9:00am: (15)	Highlander Forum	12:45am: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	8:15pm: (13/16)	Seriously Somerville	7:45pm: (13/16)	Gaeta, Antica Citta Mediterranea
11:30am: (15)	Highlander Forum	1:15am: (13/16)	Seriously Somerville	8:35pm: (13/16)	Somerville 1861	8:10pm: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner
12:00pm: (13/16)	School Committee Meeting - REPLAY OF 11/21/11	1:35am: (13/16)	Somerville 1861	9:00pm: (15)	SHS Football vs Everett	8:15pm: (15)	El Sistema in the 'Ville
12:00pm: (15)	SHS Football vs Everett	2:00am: (15)	SHS Football vs Everett	9:15pm: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	9:00pm: (15)	SHS Football vs Everett
7:00pm: (13/16)	Annual Veterans' Day Ceremonies	2:15am: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	Sunday, November 27		9:20pm: (13/16)	Voices of Somerville
7:00pm: (15)	El Sistema in the 'Ville	9:00am: (13/16)	Annual Veterans' Day Ceremonies	12:00am: (13/16)	Annual Veterans' Day Ceremonies	Tuesday, November 29	
7:30pm: (13/16)	Young Somerville Advisory Group	9:00am: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	12:00am: (15)	El Sistema in the 'Ville	12:00am: (13/16)	Young Somerville Advisory Group
7:45pm: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	12:00pm: (13/16)	Annual Veterans' Day Ceremonies	12:30am: (13/16)	Young Somerville Advisory Group	12:00am: (15)	SHS Sports Rally
8:15pm: (13/16)	Seriously Somerville	12:00pm: (15)	El Sistema in the 'Ville	12:45am: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	12:45am: (13/16)	Gaeta, Antica Citta Mediterranea
8:35pm: (13/16)	Somerville 1861	12:30pm: (13/16)	Young Somerville Advisory Group	1:15am: (13/16)	Seriously Somerville	1:10am: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner
9:00pm: (15)	SHS Football vs Everett	12:45pm: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	1:35am: (13/16)	Somerville 1861	1:15am: (15)	El Sistema in the 'Ville
9:15pm: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	1:15pm: (13/16)	Seriously Somerville	2:00am: (15)	SHS Football vs Everett	2:00am: (15)	SHS Football vs Everett
Thursday, November 24		1:35pm: (13/16)	Somerville 1861	2:15am: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	2:20am: (13/16)	Voices of Somerville
12:00am: (13/16)	Annual Veterans' Day Ceremonies	2:00pm: (15)	SHS Football vs Everett	12:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	9:00am: (13/16)	Talking Business
12:00am: (15)	El Sistema in the 'Ville	2:15pm: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	12:00pm: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	9:00am: (15)	El Sistema in the 'Ville
12:30am: (13/16)	Young Somerville Advisory Group	7:00pm: (13/16)	Annual Veterans' Day Ceremonies	12:30pm: (13/16)	Talking Business	11:30am: (15)	Somerville Math Scrapheap Showdown
12:45am: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	7:00pm: (15)	El Sistema in the 'Ville	12:30pm: (15)	Somerville Math Scrapheap Showdown	12:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit
1:15am: (13/16)	Seriously Somerville	7:30pm: (13/16)	Young Somerville Advisory Group	1:00pm: (13/16)	Voices of Somerville	12:30pm: (13/16)	Talking Business
1:35am: (13/16)	Somerville 1861	7:45pm: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	1:35pm: (15)	Kid Stuff	1:00pm: (13/16)	Mock Groundbreaking - A Green Line Delay Protest
2:00am: (15)	SHS Football vs Everett	8:15pm: (13/16)	Seriously Somerville	2:05pm: (15)	SHS Boys' Soccer Playoffs vs Chelsea	1:00pm: (15)	Our Schools, Our City
2:15am: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	8:35pm: (13/16)	Somerville 1861	7:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	1:20pm: (13/16)	Ghosts of Somerville: Milk Row Cemetery
9:00am: (13/16)	Annual Veterans' Day Ceremonies	9:00pm: (15)	SHS Football vs Everett	7:00pm: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	3:30pm: (15)	Superintendent Awards: Brown
9:00am: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	9:15pm: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	7:30pm: (13/16)	Talking Business	7:00pm: (13/16)	Congressional Update
12:00pm: (13/16)	Annual Veterans' Day Ceremonies	Saturday, November 26		7:30pm: (15)	Somerville Math Scrapheap Showdown	7:00pm: (15)	Family Literacy Celebration
12:00pm: (15)	El Sistema in the 'Ville	12:00am: (13/16)	Annual Veterans' Day Ceremonies	8:00pm: (13/16)	Voices of Somerville	7:30pm: (13/16)	Somerville 1861
12:30pm: (13/16)	Young Somerville Advisory Group	12:00am: (15)	El Sistema in the 'Ville	8:30pm (13/16)	Board of Aldermen Meeting - REPLAY OF 11/22/11	7:30pm: (15)	Kid Stuff
12:45pm: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	12:30am: (13/16)	Young Somerville Advisory Group	8:35pm: (15)	Kid Stuff	8:00pm: (15)	Highlander Forum
1:15pm: (13/16)	Seriously Somerville	12:45am: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	Monday, November 28		8:15pm: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness
1:35pm: (13/16)	Somerville 1861	1:15am: (13/16)	Seriously Somerville	12:00am: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	8:30pm: (13/16)	Talking Business
2:00pm: (15)	SHS Football vs Everett	1:35am: (13/16)	Somerville 1861	12:00am: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	8:30pm: (15)	Superintendent Awards: Brown
2:00pm: (15)	SHS Football vs Everett	2:00am: (15)	SHS Football vs Everett	12:30am: (13/16)	Talking Business	8:50pm: (15)	SHS Boys' Soccer Playoffs vs Chelsea
2:15pm: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	2:15am: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	12:30am: (15)	Somerville Math Scrapheap Showdown	9:00pm: (13/16)	Annual Veterans' Day Ceremonies
7:00pm: (13/16)	Annual Veterans' Day Ceremonies	12:00pm: (13/16)	Annual Veterans' Day Ceremonies	1:00am: (13/16)	Voices of Somerville	12:00am: (13/16)	Congressional Update
7:00pm: (15)	El Sistema in the 'Ville	12:00pm: (15)	El Sistema in the 'Ville	1:30am (13/16)	Board of Aldermen Meeting - REPLAY OF 11/22/11	12:00am: (15)	Family Literacy Celebration
7:30pm: (13/16)	Young Somerville Advisory Group	12:30pm: (13/16)	Young Somerville Advisory Group	1:35am: (15)	Kid Stuff	12:30am: (13/16)	Somerville 1861
7:45pm: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	12:45pm: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	9:00am: (13/16)	Seriously Somerville	12:30am: (15)	Kid Stuff
8:15pm: (13/16)	Seriously Somerville	1:15pm: (13/16)	Seriously Somerville	9:00am: (15)	Somerville Math Scrapheap Showdown	1:00am: (15)	Highlander Forum
8:35pm: (13/16)	Somerville 1861	1:35pm: (13/16)	Somerville 1861	11:30am: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	1:15am: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness
9:00pm: (15)	SHS Football vs Everett	2:00pm: (15)	SHS Football vs Everett	12:00pm: (13/16)	Board of Aldermen Meeting - REPLAY OF 11/22/11	1:30am: (13/16)	Talking Business
9:15pm: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	2:15pm: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	12:45pm: (15)	SHS Volleyball Playoffs vs Newton North	1:50am: (15)	SHS Boys' Soccer Playoffs vs Chelsea
Friday, November 25		7:00pm: (13/16)	Annual Veterans' Day Ceremonies	7:00pm: (13/16)	Young Somerville Advisory Group	2:00am: (13/16)	Annual Veterans' Day Ceremonies
12:00am: (13/16)	Annual Veterans' Day Ceremonies	7:00pm: (15)	El Sistema in the 'Ville				
12:00am: (15)	El Sistema in the 'Ville	7:30pm: (13/16)	Young Somerville Advisory Group				



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville writer Tracy Strauss: Gets by with a little help of her cat



writing she loves writing poetry. She finds it a great way to express herself. "It is a foundation for my prose," she reflected. "Poetry has a musicality to it and so should all writing to some extent."

Like many Somerville area writers Strauss is a hustler: teaching, writing, giving readings, her fingers dancing on the keyboard at the Diesel, and loving every minute of love it. I always say if you have passion for what you do--you are living a charmed life indeed.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Endicott College Creative Writing student Kara L. Bonelli loves Red Hot Chili Peppers--no, not the food, but the music group. She shared her zeal for these "monks of mayhem" with her poem titled "Red Hot Chili Peppers."

Red Hot Chili Peppers

The funky monks, three kids from L.A. went and fell in love making a mess of my mind from the moment I heard their swanky beats ripping apart the radio.

And then three became two when heroin balloons out phased sweet Slovak

to rest in the souls of his brothers.

Slim, you showed Anthony and Flea what it felt to lose and taught them how to tear on.

And Johnny boy came along and blew us all away with that riffing, amazing.

Her brought us to our knees.

And the psychedelic, hip-hop funk bites that spill, sliding out of A.K.'s mouth

slap my face into a smile that's plastered there for hours after, leaving me to wonder if our tongues feel the same when we sing the cry of Don't Forget Me.

I'll show you love with no remorse, I do it everyday.

As Smith's outrageous percussion bangs my head against the wall.

And just when the euphoria is about to blow my brains to bits that skinny kiwi slinks into my ears

with that slap-bass groove that only exists in ecstasy.

Bare chested, high voltage; you sexy peppers could break my heart

and do every time a thought comes popping through my mind with a drumstick shoved in my side, guitar strings and bass stings, the hyped up raps of your front man

and your lyrical, messy clean bumps of fuck you funk

knock my voice to the floor from loving so loud.

Only you could have your words stained onto my ribcage; we were all made in that sea.

You musical masters of mayhem made me.

-Kara L. Bonelli

Even though Tracy Strauss no longer technically lives in Somerville, (she is just over the border in the Republic of Cambridge); she is at heart a Somerville writer. She is an accessible woman with an open face and no discernible literary affectations. She lived in the 'Ville for 5 years, won a Somerville Arts Council fellowship for her poetry, and she continues to pound the keys of her laptop at the Diesel Cafe in Davis Square. Her work has appeared in the LYRICAL SOMERVILLE in the The Somerville News, as well as Somerville's independent literary journal IBBETSON STREET. In regard to her use of the Diesel as a writer's retreat of sorts she told me for some reason the din of the cafe helps her writing, "Chris Castellani, the director of GRUB STREET in Boston writes there all the time too. Maybe it is something about the atmosphere in which all these writers are present writing and creating throughout the cafe. It spurs us on I guess," she said.

Strauss, who recently completed a 5 year teaching stint at Emerson College in Boston will be teaching Writing at the New England Conservatory this fall. She is an accomplished writer and has been published in such journal as Solstice, Briar Cliff Review and Drunken Boat, to name just a few. Strauss had a residency at the prestigious writers' colony BREAD LOAF as well at the NORMAN MAILER WRITER'S COLONY, and is currently working with the best selling literary agent Kent D. Wolf of Global Literary who is shopping her memoir: HANNAH GRACE: HOPE, HEALING & A RESCUE CAT that involves healing from Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome with her real life rescue cat Hannah.

Strauss has been the victim of sexual abuse when she was much younger and a cat she brought home helped her heal. Strauss said: "Hannah had been traumatized in her past as well and was afraid of people. I was afraid of animals, especially dogs, so we both dealt with our issues through our relationship."

I asked Strauss how hard was it for her to get an agent. As you would expect it ain't easy. She said: "I sent out 100 query letters. I networked at writers' conferences, I networked on Twitter, and on my blog. At one point I met Kaylie Jones (the daughter of James Jones "From Here to Eternity") and she helped me get the manuscript in shape to be marketed."

Although Strauss is concentrating on memoir

From Here

I am able
to overlook

the track
where the

people run
in circles as

I have done so
many times

now

I rest, I breathe deeply
aware my knees have unshut

I sit on the
metal bleachers

high above
freed

for a moment my eyes
my mind transcends

I look out

beyond the rooted trees,
the American flag half-staff

tied to its hard silver pole
the chaotic city, my life's upset

all so distant, all so close
my fingers fit between

each other, my knuckles
spread, I am able to

bend without breaking
my tightened frightened

cramped hands, open myself
as much as is possible

to this world given my body
and spirit's painful past

my elbows slowly, shyly
show their pale, naked selves

my arms stretch forward, up
I reach for the sky --

the clouds are like closed eyelids
the lashes spilling streaks of light.

trace elements # 52 & # 830:

"By associating with a cat, one only risks becoming richer." - Colette

"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened." - Anatole France

<http://thehannahgracebook.wordpress.com/>

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