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Capuano returns to BOA

Congressman warns of more cuts



Congressman Michael Capuano warned of new austerity measures on the horizon for Somerville.

By Andrew Firestone

Severe cuts. A down economy. A loss of local jobs. Perhaps not the most vibrant of pictures, but one that might be the most realistic, given the future cuts in spending by the federal government.

In an address to the Board of Alderman, former Alderman and Mayor, Congressman Michael Capuano (D-Somerville) gave a holistic but harrowing view of where he believes the struggles in Washington will hit the people of Somerville. The view was not rosy.

"I have no problem discussing thoughtfully how we make ends meet, but I do have a serious problem if we're only discussing one half of the balance sheet and that's spending," he said, regarding the \$1.3 trillion in cuts the federal government will have to decide on in the next year, indicating the approach might "destroy the fabric of this society."

Capuano outlined a ten percent cut in aid to Somerville, with an added ten percent every year. This would add up quickly, he said, and the results would not be pretty and would not immediately go towards cutting

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'Tis the season for holiday sales

By Cathleen Twardzik

Holiday drives in Somerville have commenced, all of which will assist or have already aided various groups of individuals who require items to ensure that the season is a merry one for each person in the area. Seasonal sales have recently started.

RESPOND Inc., which is a Somerville-based domestic violence agency that serves communities throughout the Greater Boston area, is holding its Holiday Needs Drive for the survivors of domestic violence, a drive which began greater than 15 years ago.

This drive is unique because the organization is not asking for gifts in the traditional sense, but rather, its goal is to solely fulfill basic needs, and with which so many survivors must deal when they escape domestic violence.

By giving those resources, donors enable survivors to focus on job searching and housing, as well as moving forward with their lives.

"Each year we are lucky to receive an outpouring of support from the community around the holidays. Many people

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Photo by Cathleen Twardzik

RESPOND Inc., a Somerville-based domestic violence agency that serves communities throughout the Greater Boston area, is holding its Holiday Needs Drive for the survivors of domestic violence.

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NEWTALK

Somerville's 15th Annual Illuminations Tour (we still refer to them as Christmas Lights) takes place this Saturday, December 17 (Snow date: Sun., December 18) The tours leave Somerville City Hall from 4:30 p.m. through 9:15 p.m. The tour guides lead trolleys past the city's most spectacular displays of nicely decorated homes in Somerville. For more details go to www.somervilleartscouncil.org. The Somerville Bicycle Committee will also lead the second annual Illuminations bike tour on Saturday, December 17, 2011. The Bike Tour will leave Somerville High School concourse at 6:20 p.m. and take a slow ride by some of the most well lit houses in the city. The bike tour is about an hour long with many stops to chat and see the lights.

Happy Birthday to Vanessa Leigh Oppedisano this week. Vanessa is the daughter (we know, hard to believe) of Patty Oppedisano whom we thought was in her twenties herself! Also Happy Birthday to Ed Forristall and Diana Cappiello, as well as young Frank Santangelo Jr. He's another one that has a popular dad. Happy Birthday greetings also to our good friend Adam Roselando.

There was a big turnout at the Council on Aging Christmas Party this past Tuesday down at the Winter Hill Yacht Club. There were lots of the elderly present to celebrate the Christmas Holiday. It was a big surprise to see Rep. Carl Sciortino and Sen. Pat Jehlen there.

Congratulations to Century Bank, a local bank that was recently named number one in Massachusetts. Lenders to veterans by the U.S. Small Business Administration, Century bank was recognized by Congress, as Senator

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New hair salon opens



Photo by Harry Kane

Lifelong resident Christine Andrade (center) and Mayor Curtatone cut the ribbon of her new hair salon HAIR by Christine & Co at an Open House Monday afternoon. The new hair salon is located at 587 Somerville Ave.

TheSomervilleNews.com Comment of the Week

Response to *Tragedy or opportunity?*

Winter Hill Barney says:

School Committee members face election every two years, yet not a single seat was contested in the most recent election. If the district is wrangling with major issues of educational approach, how can that be?

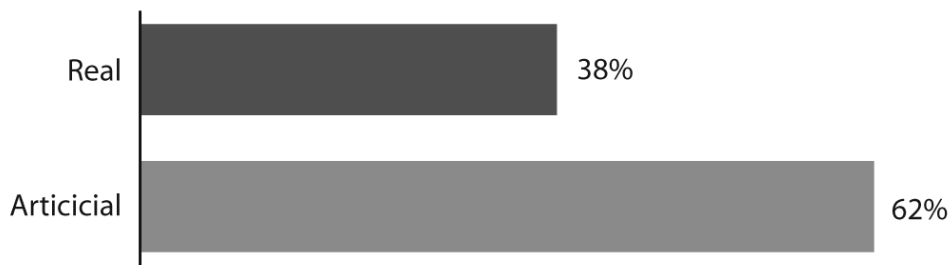
There are democratic mechanisms in place for decision-making and accountability in the district. Appealing to the Commonwealth for a school charter is primarily a means to evade them, it seems.

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 prefer a real or artificial Christmas tree. If you don't agree with the results, simply log onto TheSomervilleNews.com.

Do you prefer a real or artificial Christmas tree?



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Occupy Boston: a 'Villen's tale

By Andrew Firestone

Devin Mack has had a transformational experience with the Occupy movement and he's not giving up.

"I'm trying to find my place in society, being fresh out of the military," said Mack who served in several branches of the military from 2005 to 2010. He says he tried college, going for criminal justice, but stopped a few credits shy of his paralegal. "Even if I get that, is there going to be any job opportunities for me?"

"They were actually a solid movement," he said. "They were trying to do good for people like me."

The son of a Somerville Fire Lieutenant, the Teele Square native joined the Occupy Boston camp at the end of October after witnessing the group in action. Mack was inspired by the message of the 99 percent: that society should work for the economic benefit of all people, not just a select few. A certified combat lifesaver, he acted as a medic at the camp, tending wounds and de-escalating conflicts.

Now, with the camp closed, he heads to Washington DC to support their occupy camp. It currently has three months on their permit.

For all the Somervillians who chose to

take part in the Occupy Boston movement in Dewey Square, this last week was a tough one. On the morning of Saturday December 10, the Boston camp, once a community of around 1000 individuals, was finally shut down following a gradual dispersal of the group. Of the 46 arrested by Boston police, 30 who remained are at trial, charged with trespassing and resisting arrest.

"As a whole, setting up a democracy down here is a political statement and it should be protected by free speech," said Mack. "I served this country and I just don't think it's right."

Mack said he quit his job at his father's construction company and began sleeping at the camp. As one of the group medics, marked by red tape crosses on their sleeves, he said he wholeheartedly committed to the group, and served them by tending colds, bruises, cuts and looking after the group to see that everyone was safe and no one was cold.

"I fell in love with the people down there," he said. "That's me to the core. I love to help people."

Much of Mack's work ran into some sticky situations. Devin said that because of his work in the military, he often had to settle fights with

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Local protesters occupy Somerville

By Andrew Firestone

Politico-economics took on a local flavor this last Saturday, December 10, when Occupy Somerville took to Davis Square. Organized by local activist Matt McLaughlin, the protest included passionate speeches, a march to the local Bank of America branch, and the closing of at least three accounts there by local residents.

"Bank of America pays no taxes," said McLaughlin. "For the last two years they've paid no taxes in this country. In fact they've actually gotten refunds from the government, because they're so slick with their tax policies that they are actually able to do what they want and get money."

The hundred-strong group, joined by the evocative soulful tunes of the Second Line Brass Band, held their protest in solidarity with the recently disposed of Occupy Boston camp, which was evacuated and raided earlier that day. They were led in prayer by Pastor Jeff Mansfield, associate at the First Somerville Church who deemed the group "Somerville's David to Wall Street's Goliath."

"People were thrown out," said Mansfield. "People were arrested. People

right now from the encampment are lost and confused, don't know what's going to happen.

"So God, we just ask that you help us to maintain this hope and this commitment and remind us that so many of the greats have been arrested before us. People like Gandhi, and people like Jesus."

"God of truth, we are gathered here today to say to the whole world that there can be no justice until there is economic justice for all people."

Occupy Somerville was protesting the allegedly immoral practices of the megabanks, which included the BofA.

"They were involved in the credit-default swaps, and the adjustable rate mortgages and all these things that have fleeced people from their homes and their savings when they expected that their money was safe with these banks," said McLaughlin, recalling the Sub-Prime Mortgage Crisis of 2008, which ravaged home-prices and led to a \$9 trillion bailout of the largest banks by the federal government.

McLaughlin recalled a humorous parable himself, likening the banks to his supposed friend, "Johnny Junkie."

"One day Johnny comes up to me and says 'Matt, I can't tell you what happened, I'm in a lot of trouble,

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Former "Occupy Boston" occupier Devin Mack, with friend.



"Occupy Somerville" participants focused on their grievances against Bank of America last week.

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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Medford ATM theft under investigation

The FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force and the Medford Police Department are seeking the public's assistance to obtain information about those allegedly responsible for stealing money from an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) in Medford.

In the early morning of Saturday, December 3, an unknown number of subjects forcibly opened a Bank of America ATM located at 26 High Street, Medford, MA. After defeating most of the multiple, complex security precautions, they forced open the ATM and removed all of the cash, stealing slightly more than \$200,000.

The ATM is a stand-alone kiosk located inside a building that is currently being renovated. The only finished area of the

building is the vestibule where the ATM is located. It is unknown how the thieves gained entrance to the building.

The FBI and Medford Police are seeking tips from anyone who saw suspicious activity in or around the building from 11:00 pm on Friday, December 2, through 6:00 am on Saturday, December 3.

Information is also being sought regarding individuals who have exhibited both the following behavior and characteristics: Anyone who is knowledgeable about ATMs, alarm and telecommunications systems, whose routine changed or was absent from their home or work on the night of the theft, who unexpectedly possessed a large amount of cash after the theft, and provided vague

or illogical reasons regarding the origin of the money.

There are no surveillance photos of the subjects and the physical descriptions of the subjects are unknown.

Bank of America is offering a \$15,000 reward and the FBI is offering an additional \$5,000 reward for information leading to the charging and arrest of those allegedly responsible for the burglary. Anyone with information regarding this burglary is asked to call the FBI at (617) 742-5533 or the Medford Police Department at (781) 393-4700.

The FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force is composed of the Somerville Police, Malden Police, Saugus Police, Massachusetts State Police, Boston Police and the FBI.



The Bank of America ATM located at 26 High Street in Medford was targeted and successfully plundered by thieves on December 3.

CRIME TIP HOTLINE: 617-776-7210

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

Daniel Merrill, 26, of 130 Morrison Ave., December 5, 9:28 a.m., arrested at 250 Elm St. on multiple charges of armed robbery, unarmed robbery, and false bomb threat.

Robert Flag, 19, December 5, 11:57 p.m., arrested at 7 Holyoke Rd. on charges of operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, leaving the scene of property damage, and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Daniel McLean, 54, of 268 Washington St., December 6, 6:38 p.m., arrested at home on charges of trespassing and abuse prevention order violation.

Daniel Ryan, 46, December 8, 8:01 a.m., arrested at 14 McGrath Hwy. on charges of trespassing and disorderly conduct.

Anthony Di Napoli, 40, of 54 Pearson Rd., December 8, 10:56 a.m., arrested at 57 Pearson Rd. on charges of abuse prevention order violation and destruction of property under \$250.

Ritchy Grandoit, 26, of 43 Puritan Rd., December 8, 1:31 p.m., arrested at home on warrant charges of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license and operation of a motor

vehicle with a suspended registration.

Karen Signorelli, 42, of 32 Harding St., Cambridge, December 9, 5:43 p.m., arrested at 7 Holland St. on warrant charges of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license, operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended registration, and unregistered motor vehicle or trailer.

Colin Guinan, 42, of 9 Golden Oaks Ln., Andover, December 10, 1:46 p.m., arrested at 400 Somerville Ave. on charges of conspiracy to violate drug law and possession of a class A drug.

James Kirylo, 46, of 240 Albany St., Cambridge, December 10, 1:46 p.m., arrested at 400 Somerville Ave. on charges of conspiracy to violate drug law and possession of a class A drug.

Jorge Gonzales-Casanue, 50, of 20 Harrison Ave., Cambridge, December 10, 3:40 p.m., arrested at 212 Elm St. on a charge of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Elizabeth Essary, 22, of 20 Waldo Ave., December 11, 1:54 a.m., arrested at 24 Union Sq. on charges of disorderly conduct and assault and battery

with a dangerous weapon.

Danny Andrade, 29, of 170 Hudson St., December 11, 6:54 p.m., arrested at Everett Ave. on a charge of unregistered motor vehicle.

Gregory Zero, 46, of 8 Oakland Ave., December 11, 7:20 p.m., arrested at home on a warrant charge of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Wilmer Ventura, 34, of 62 Newton St., December 11, 8:44 p.m., arrested at Blakely at Garfield on a charge of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Luciane Piovezan, 40, of 83 Summer St., Medford, December 12, 1:14 a.m., arrested at 608 Somerville Ave. on charges of resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, and assault and battery on a police officer.

Incidents:

Theft:

December 6, 4:20 p.m., police reported a theft at Porter St.

December 6, 5:38 p.m., police reported a theft at 77 Middlesex Ave.

December 7, 8:00 a.m., police reported a theft at Bond St.

December 8, 3:44 p.m., police reported a theft at 91 Highland Ave.

December 8, 2:00 p.m., police reported a theft at Calvin St.

December 8, 10:46 p.m., police reported a theft at Properzi Way.

December 9, 2:20 a.m., police reported a theft at Washington St.

December 9, 4:51 p.m., police reported a theft at Highland Ave.

December 11, 10:33 p.m., police reported a theft at Highland Ave.

Robbery:

December 6, 2:08 a.m., police reported a robbery at 230 Highland Ave.

December 7, 1:47 a.m., police reported a robbery at 133 Holland St.

December 9, 9:40 p.m., police reported a robbery at College Ave.

December 10, 8:09 p.m., police reported a robbery at Hawkins St.

Breaking & Entering:

December 7, 10:26 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Village St.

December 7, 8:17 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Lowden Ave.

December 7, 11:45 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Henderson St.

December 8, 7:22 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Mansfield St.

December 9, 2:09 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Pleasant St.

December 11, 12:25 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Broadway.

Vehicle Theft:

December 7, 10:22 a.m., police reported a vehicle theft at Taunton St.

December 9, 9:55 p.m., police reported a vehicle theft at Autumn St.

Assault:

December 7, 11:05 a.m., police reported an assault at Bonair St.

December 7, 12:26 a.m., police reported an assault at Bonair St.

December 9, 10:56 a.m., police reported an assault at Newbury St.

December 11, 10:10 p.m., police reported an assault at 219 Broadway.

Drug Violation:

December 7, 3:52 p.m., police reported a drug violation at Broadway.

December 10, 2:46 p.m., police reported a drug violation at 400 Somerville Ave.

Making the most of the Mystic

Riverfront Park gets facelift from Assembly Row project

By Elizabeth Sheeran

A place to stroll or bike along the riverbank under the shade of trees. To look out over the water, watching the sailboats and birds as they come and go. To take in an outdoor concert, have a picnic or toss a Frisbee. You soon won't have to head to the Esplanade for that kind of a place. It will be right here in Somerville, along the Mystic River.

State planners recently unveiled final designs for transforming Riverfront Park from a little used strip of green, almost forgotten behind the stores and parking lots of Assembly Square, into a waterfront showcase for the new Assembly Row neighborhood. And the plans received high praise from city officials, cyclists, nature lovers, and others on-hand for the presentation.

"It will add a lot of value, especially to the permanent residents in the development, whether they live here or work here. It will also work great for visitors," said Wig Zamore, a resident who belongs to the Mystic View Task Force.

The new-and-improved six-acre Riverfront Park will stretch along the Somerville shore of the Mystic River between the Route 28 Wellington Bridge and the Orange Line bridge. A new underpass under the Wellington

Bridge will connect the park to the riverbank further northwest. To the south and east will be the new Assembly Row commercial and residential district, including a new Orange Line T stop.

Federal Realty Trust, which recently broke ground on the Assembly Row project, will foot the \$1 million-plus bill to redesign and expand the existing state-owned park, adding 1.7 new acres in a land swap, and will cover the costs to maintain it. Under the mitigation agreement with the state, the developer will also provide a half-million dollars to upgrade the nearby Draw Seven Park, to the east of the T bridge.

Presenting final plans for the site, Don Driscoll of the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) said the design team had considered a whole host of public input and requests from earlier meetings, such as preserving as much of the natural environment as possible, limiting urban elements like concrete, and ensuring safe access for cyclists and pedestrians.

In the latest design, a bike path winds through the park, connecting with narrower footpaths that meander in and around trees and other natural features. At the widest section of the park, wooden seats interspersed with greenery combine to form an open-air amphitheater, and



Riverfront Park along the Mystic River is slated for a major upgrade, paid for by the Assembly Row developer.

the paved plaza of earlier designs has been replaced with an open green space.

The plan preserves 75 percent of existing trees, including all mature trees and those that screen the park from the Assembly Square parking lots. The shoreline is largely untouched, apart from enhancing the best views of the river and removing invasive species. And replacement trees and native plants will be spread throughout the park in a way that promises new colors and wildlife with every new season.

"I think it's great. I think they did a wonderful job of listening to the public," said Mystic View member Jane Bestor. She was especially happy the final plan included more green space, saved more trees, and enhanced wildlife habitat. The park is already home to a wide range of bird species, including arctic ducks, red-tail hawks, kingfishers, herons, and a family of swans.

And Bestor is looking forward to the day when she can visit the riverfront more often. "I find it very difficult to get here because

I don't drive, and access has been so terribly difficult," she said. "It's easier for me to get to the Charles than for me to bike to the Mystic River in my own community. But all of that's going to change, so I could actually bike here. I'd love to spend more time here."

The public will have a chance to comment on the final designs, which are available on the DCR website (under Parklands in the Public Meetings section), through January 5. Work on the park is expected to begin by next spring.

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Somerville's 'Toys for Local Children' spreads more joy



Somerville's Holiday Inn was the place to be Saturday evening where the "Toys for Local Children" event took place. The packed function room was filled with the charity's supporters who raised over \$15,000 in donations. The event's success is credited to Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone, Council on Aging Director Cindy Hickey, former Somerville Mayor/current Registrar of Deeds Gene Brune and the Aldermen for their continuous dedicated support throughout the years for the charity. One of the event's raffle winners was State Representative Tim Toomey who re-donated his cash winnings back to the charity.

- William Tauro



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North Street Park renovations under review

By Max Sullivan

After months of struggling, outreach group Groundwork Somerville finally made progress in getting people living in Clarendon Hill involved in the North Street Park renovations, drawing around 50 people to Friday night's meeting.

Residents of Clarendon Hill poured into the basement of the project's 268 Rear Powderhouse Blvd. Friday night to discuss the plans for North Street Park's new design, a park that lies directly adjacent to the project. People brought their families to enjoy a free meal before talking about the changes to the park, as well as identifying the best way to get people from Clarendon to come out to these meetings.

"How do we get that communication," Arn Franzen, Director of Parks and Open Space, asked those present that night. "How do we get you to these meetings?"

The answer: word of mouth. Groundwork Somerville had placed flyers at every house within a close radius of the park, as well as many telephone poles nearby, but when asked what had really drawn them out that night, an overwhelming majority of people said that they heard about the meeting from a friend.

Virtually no residents from Clarendon Hill attended the previous three meetings, the first one being in May of this year. While Clarendon Hill contains one of the most concentrated communities of blacks and His-

panics in Somerville, barely any minorities were present to give their thoughts. The apparent of lack of enthusiasm by the community for a park sitting so close by was frustrating to Groundwork Somerville workers.

"Having a meeting with (only) nine white people, and half of them work at the city," said Chris Mancini, Executive Director at Groundwork Somerville, "That is what we would consider not a successful meeting."

"This is (one of the) most dense community of color here in Somerville, right?" said Ronald Leaks, Groundwork Somerville's Community Organizer. "You have a public meeting, you see not one black head in there... don't you look at it like, 'Oh hey, nobody came?'"

With a strong representative body for Clarendon Hill finally present on Friday night, though, Groundwork Somerville learned that those living in the project do, in fact, have something to say. People voiced their concerns and interests for the park. Ideas ranged from full court basketball to water sprinklers. The people of Clarendon Hill were enthusiastic, and Groundwork Somerville saw the meeting as a success.

"I see the people empowered," said Leaks. "And that was the goal in the first place."

With an idea of how to reach this community, Groundwork Somerville hopes to effectively convince it that their voice is necessary for city officials to move forward.



"The city wants feedback," said Mancini. "They don't want to make a park that people hate. Their goal is to make a great park that as many people as possible are going to use and love, so it's not a success to them (if the community isn't involved)."

The tentative park plans as of now would increase North Street Park's size by nearly 50% and would include better lighting and security, as well as half court basketball, a water spray feature, new tables and play features for toddlers and older children.

The final plans will be revealed at the next community meeting in February. The plans in their current state are view-

able at www.somervillema.gov. A sign will also be placed in the park in the near future that displays these plans, with a mailbox nearby for people to

send in their thoughts. Ideas can also be sent via email to Director of Parks and Open Space Arn Franzen at AFranzen@somervillema.gov.

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COMMENTARY

TALES OF SOMERVILLE

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Which are you in favor of? Cast your opinion on our poll.

The View From Prospect Hill



We have been wondering lately why it is that long established traditions, in some instances spanning hundreds of years, are becoming revised and “improved” by certain self-appointed arbiters of social propriety.

We are particularly vexed by the now commonplace practice of replacing references to all things pertaining to “Christmas” to that of the “holidays” - as if the word “Christmas” itself has somehow taken on an odious meaning, as inconceivable as that may be.

We understand that this is a nation that holds dear the rights of free expression and freedom to worship as we all please. By that very fact it does not seem reasonable to alter long-standing traditions based in one faith in order to avoid ideological collisions with those who follow other beliefs. Nor is there an issue involving inclusion of others of different religious affiliations.

At the very heart of what most people consider the Spirit of Christmas is a commitment to openly invite everyone - regardless of their political, social, and religious beliefs - to share a time of celebration of peace and solidarity of purpose. To try to make the world a little better place to be, if even for a short time, for everyone.

This time of year may be thought of as the “holidays” by some. But we ask that our long-held traditions of Christmas not be re-named for the sake of some misguided, overly reactionary form of political correctness. Please, show some respect for our rights too.

News Talk CONT. FROM PG 2

<p>John Kerry presented a certificate. Century Bank is the largest local family owned bank, and was started right here in Somerville in the 1960's by the Sloane Family.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Congratulations to Norman “Stoney” Stone and all the hard work to recently finally open the new home of the Somerville Boxing Club at the old Edgerly School on Cross Street. It took lots of hard work over the years and finally a permanent home once and for all, hopefully. Many people put a lot of time and energy into getting this open, including Alderman-at-Large</p>	<p>Bruce Desmond who has long been an advocate of a youth center here in Somerville. Thanks also to Nancy Bacci and her dedicated staff for cleaning out a room in the basement that was being used to store stuff. Nancy is the city's youth and volunteer services coordinator.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Congratulations to our good friends Jenn Dever and her husband Geoff Wood on the announcement of their good news that they are expecting a child. We wish them all the best!</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Please pray for our friend Karen</p>	<p>O'Neil Carbone from Somerville, now living in California. She is dealing with a very, very serious medical emergency and she really needs our prayers and thoughts. She is Edward and Patrick O'Neil's sister. The next few hours are extremely crucial. Thank you.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>The second event in a new Somerville Public Library series, “Meet, Mingle, Read,” will be held tonight, December 14 and will serve as the official launch of the book “The Boston Mob Guide” by Beverly Ford and Stephanie Schorow. The series creates community discussion surrounding locally-in-</p>	<p>spired books, and all discussions are held at the Somerville Public Library at 79 Highland Ave. The Boston Mob Guide discussion will begin at 7:00 p.m., and will include light refreshments. This program is co-sponsored by Harvard Coop Bookstore.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Get the holiday spirit goin' with the 8th or 9th Christmas Cavalcade at Johnny D's this Thursday, December 15 at 8 p.m. Enjoy live music by Chandler Travis Philharmonic and 15+ other acts. Suggested donation is \$20. and all the proceeds go to benefit the Somerville Homeless Coalition.</p>
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Readers are invited to send letters to the editor to The Somerville News. Please email your letters to News@TheSomervilleNews.com or mail them to 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. The Somerville News Reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and length. All letters must include an name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

<p>I want to thank you, the Ward 3 constituents who voted for me in the recent municipal election, showing your overwhelming support for my continued representation of you on the Board of Alderman. Many of my con-</p>	<p>stituents are also my friends and my family and I have always been, and continue to be, grateful for the outpouring of support we have received during this challenging time. My family and I wish you a wonderful holiday sea-</p>	<p>son with friends and family.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Tom Taylor</p> <p>Alderman Ward 3</p>
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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.

For city and school volunteers, the season of giving lasts all year



By Joseph A. Curtatone

For many of us, this is the time of year we think most about giving to others. (To be fair, there are also those - especially the youngsters - who think a lot about receiving, too.) But for a very special group of our fellow

residents, generous giving - of time, of energy, of creativity - is a year-round activity.

Take Shari Huval: Her first volunteer experience with the City came at the October 23rd SomerStreets "Monster Mash-up" event, where she ran the arts and crafts table. She enjoyed it so much that she'll be working as a greeter at the Illuminations Tours this coming Saturday, December 17th.

Or how about Hazel Evans, who walked into the Holland Street Senior Center ten years ago, liked what she saw and has been volunteering regularly ever since. A military veteran herself, she is particularly supportive of military vets and God Star Mothers, but Hazel looks after

everybody. She gives her fellow seniors rides to the doctor and to go shopping; she bakes for the center; she's a bingo caller; she helps staff bazaars and other local events for seniors. She is an integral and cherished part of the Council on Aging team.

There many opportunities to volunteer all across the face of city and throughout our public schools: the PTA, the public libraries (where volunteers do things like helping with the English as a Second Language program and providing enrichment activities for kids), uncompensated boards and advisory committees, and much, much more.

And one of the pleasures of living in Somerville is that there are so many people willing to step

up and get involved.

In fact, given the wealth of skills, knowledge and energy in our volunteer community, we decided this past year to launch a coordinated and systematic effort that brings together more of our non-school volunteer activity into a clearinghouse operation we call SomerServe. It's a program that provides a single portal that connects volunteers to participation in annual events like SomerStreets, Art-Beat and the Illuminations Tours as well as in youth programming, senior services and even special governmental projects (including surveys and research). All SomerServe volunteers must undergo background checks and sign liability

waivers, but it's a simple process that opens the door to all sorts of interesting activities.

Volunteers may work for as little as an hour or two a week, or in a more intensive short-term activity, or in a regularly recurring annual program. They may be involved in just one or two events, or a larger project with activities spread throughout the year. They may work with seniors or teens. They may have an opportunity to hone special technical or social skills, like the ability to design a website or speak more than one language.

But SomerServe isn't the only way to get involved: When a Somerville resident takes part in such efforts as the SomerVision comprehensive *Continued on page 19*

Grand Junction shelved



By State Representative Tim Toomey

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) recently announced that they have shelved a proposal to use the Grand Junction Railroad for Commuter Rail service

to North Station. This is truly a victory for our community and proof of the necessity of a public process in transportation planning decisions.

In the summer of 2010, the state purchased a large swath of rail from CSX. This rail included the Grand Junction Railroad, a short stretch of rail that connects the north and south portions of the Massachusetts Bay Commuter Rail network. The Grand Junction includes rail in Cambridgeport, East Cambridge, and East Somerville. Once the acquisition was complete, the state began exploring the possibility of providing di-

rect service from Worcester to North Station with the potential of adding a stop in Kendall Square. At this stage, many feared that the project would happen no matter what. Indeed, the state was moving in a direction and pace that hinted at the inevitability of its proposal.

What quickly took shape, however, was a strong reaction from the community. There was a near universal feeling in the surrounding neighborhoods that using the Grand Junction for Commuter Rail service would have a range of negative impacts for residents and the environment. Increased pollu-

tion and noise, and risks to pedestrian safety were feared. Many expressed their frustration at the thought of Grand Junction being suddenly off limits to the construction of a mixed-use pathway or urban ring rapid transit, infrastructure improvements that would benefit the community.

In response, residents created and signed petitions, attended and spoke at public meetings, and submitted written protest to MassDOT. As a result, negative community impacts were given weight in the agency's ridership study, a research study that was used to determine the viability of

expanding Worcester line service using Grand Junction. While the study did find that there would be a regional reduction in air pollution due to a small reduction in vehicle traffic on the Mass Pike, they found that air pollution in Cambridge would increase due to diesel exhaust from trains and automobile exhaust from vehicles idling at crossings. Vibration and noise were also considered and found to be negative impacts worth serious consideration.

In the end, MassDOT's ridership study confirmed the unnecessary nature of Grand Junction Commuter *Continued on page 19*

On The Silly Side by Jimmy Del Ponte

The 'Ville of Christmas past



While doing one of my favorite activities, which is reminiscing, I asked a few of my friends to share some favorite old time Somerville Christmas memories. We have already talked about the old stores such as Grants, Woolworths, Gorins and Parke Snow, so let's delve further and deeper.

Remember those small cardboard containers of hard candy with the string handle? Those Christmas candy boxes decorated with Santa Clause himself were given out at just about every Christmas party back in the day. The candy was very

colorful, really hard, and sometimes stuck together. Our parents' work parties, along with those hosted by organizations such as the VFW and Knights of Columbus provide a lot of us with happy Christmas memories. I went to a couple of great Christmas parties at the old Logan Post in Teele Square too. Dad's work party was at Dewey and Almy in Cambridge.

Midnight Mass, especially at St Clements and St Joseph's Church brings back fond memories. Some of us sang in the choir or glee clubs at those late night celebrations. More than once, as a member of the St Clements's Choir, we would slip portions of TV commercials and

popular songs into the mix, much to the director Sister Xaverine's disapproval. You may have heard "O come all ye faithful yea, yeah, yeah." Immaculate Conception, St. Ann's CYO and St. Anthony's church put on Christmas plays and hosted Christmas bazaars. Some parishes got people together and actually went out singing Christmas carols. A great Christmas tradition and memory was when we were finally old enough to go to Midnight Mass with our friends.

My friend recalls, "The Salvation Army Brass Band used to come around to the neighborhoods and play carols while the ladies came door to door to collect change

(if they got currency donations they'd be shocked!) in their tambourines. All these decades later the Salvation Army is still out there doing good work."

As kids, we would make our parents Christmas gifts in school. They were sometimes colorful creations made out of old Christmas cards, or a candle made out of a bathroom tissue roll. I am sure some of you made spray painted macaroni wreaths also. A lot of these relics are still in existence. Some have hallowed spots on our Christmas trees.

A friend says, "When my girls were little we would walk up by Assembly Mall on McGrath *Continued on page 19*

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our Web site at www.thesomervillenews.com

THE HOUSE AND SENATE. There were no roll call votes in the House or Senate last week.

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 Middlesex; 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.

Beacon Hill Roll Call reports local representatives' final roll call attendance records for the 2011 session. Additional roll calls will not take place until January 2012.

The House held 181 roll call votes in 2011. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* tabulates the number of roll calls on which each senator was present and voting and then calculates that number as a percentage of the total roll call votes held. That percentage is the number referred to as the roll call attendance record.

Only 52 of the House's 160 members have 100 percent roll call attendance records.

The worst roll call attendance record belongs to Rep. Jerard Parisella (D-Beverly), who missed 163 roll calls (9.9 percent roll call attendance record). Parisella missed the roll calls while on active duty with the U.S. Army in Iraq.

Parisella is followed by Reps. Cheryl Coakley-Rivera (D-Springfield), who missed 83 roll calls (54.1 percent attendance); Joyce Spiliotis (D-Peabody), who missed 80 roll calls (55.8 percent attendance); Harold Naughton (D-Clinton), who missed 79 roll calls (56.3 percent attendance); and James Vallee (D-Franklin), who missed 55 roll calls (69.6 percent attendance). Coakley-Rivera and Spiliotis both had medical issues that led to their absences while Naughton and Vallee's absences were a result of being on active duty in the U.S. military.

Rounding out the top ten worst records are Reps. Christine Canavan (D-Brockton), who missed 25 roll calls (86.1 percent attendance); Paul Donato (D-Medford), who missed 24 roll calls (86.7 percent attendance); and Demetrius Atsalis (D-West Hyannisport), Geraldine Creedon (D-Brockton) and Sean Curran (D-Springfield), who all missed 23 roll calls (87.2 percent attendance).

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES' FINAL 2011 ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE RECORDS

Here is the percentage of roll call votes for which the representative was present and voting. The number in parentheses represents the number of roll calls that the representative missed.

Rep. Denise Provost	100	percent (0)
Rep. Carl Sciortino	95.0	percent (9)
Rep. Timothy Toomey		95.5 percent (8)

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

EFFORT TO REPEAL CASINO LAW HITS ROADBLOCK - Attorney General Martha Coakley ruled that a referendum to repeal the new state law that allows three casinos and one slot parlor in the Bay State is not eligible to appear on the 2012 ballot. Coakley noted the new law includes monetary appropriations that under the state constitution are exempt from referendums to repeal the law.

Casino opponents are mulling over whether to appeal the decision to the Supreme Judicial Court. If an appeal is successful, they would have to gather 34,456 additional signatures before Feb. 20, 2012 in order to have the repeal question appear on the 2012 ballot.

ALLOW LIQUOR SALES ON "CHRISTMAS MONDAY" (H 1009) - The House gave initial approval to legislation that would allow package stores, grocery stores and convenience stores to sell liquor on the Monday after any Christmas that falls on a Sunday. Under current law, all these stores would be forced to close and lose income on that Monday. Christmas falls on a Sunday this year so the Legislature has only a couple of weeks to approve the bill and get it to the governor.

FOUR BALLOT QUESTIONS LIKELY CLEAR NEXT HURDLE - It appears four groups promoting 2012 ballot questions have submitted the necessary 68,911 signatures each to bring the proposal before the Legislature.

The four questions include allowing medical use of marijuana; allowing terminally ill patients with fewer than six months to live to obtain medication they can self-administer to commit suicide; requiring auto manufacturers to sell to non-dealer repair shops the complete repair information and diagnostic tools; requiring that the effectiveness of teachers, rather than their seniority, be the prime consideration in the hiring and firing process.

If the Legislature does not approve a proposal by May 2012, proponents must gather another 11,485 signatures by July 2012 in order for the question to appear on the November 2012 ballot.

REBATES FOR CONSUMERS WHO LOSE POWER (H 3829) - The Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee held a hearing on a bill that would require electric utilities, after the first eight hours of a power outage, to rebate customers the amount equal to two days of their average prior month's electric bill for each day they are without power. The bill has received more attention since the unusual October storm that left many residents without power for days.

The storm caused more than 500,000 power outages and some 200,000 customers were still in the dark four days after the record-setting nor'easter. Authorities attribute some deaths to the power outage. Many businesses were forced to close without power and suffered not only a loss of revenue but countless dollars when spoiled food had to be thrown out.

Rep. Dan Winslow (R-Norfolk), the bill's sponsor, said, "The Power Outage Rebate Proposal will create significant market incentives for utility executives to invest sufficient resources to prevent extended power outages--such as tree maintenance and infrastructure--

Beacon Hill Roll Call continued



rather than playing Russian Roulette with the weather. If enacted, my hope is we'll never see the need for widespread rebates. This bill, together with my proposed line-line-line model bylaw for cities and towns to require tree maintenance, will help prevent future extended loss of power."

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"We understood going in that the governor and legislative leadership had inserted appropriations language into the law to secure this very outcome." – *Repeal the Casino Deal's John Ribeiro commenting on Attorney General Martha Coakley's ruling that a referendum to repeal the legalization of casinos is not eligible to appear on the 2012 ballot because laws that include monetary appropriations are exempt from referendums to repeal them.*

"Almost impossible." – *Transportation Secretary Richard Davey on the possibility of avoiding fare hikes to close an estimated \$161 million gap in the MBTA's next fiscal year budget.*

"These decisions are deeply intimate and personal, and belong in the hands of individuals, not the government." – *Michael Clarke, campaign director for Dignity 2012, the group working to put on the 2012 ballot a question asking voters if they want to pass a law allowing terminally ill patients with less than six months to live to obtain medication they can self-administer, under strict safeguards to commit suicide.*

"The Speaker and others in his leadership team are not happy that I have the audacity to speak to members about the future of the House. In their view my actions may disrupt their plan of an orderly transfer of the gavel when the time comes for Speaker DeLeo to move on. I will resume my position on the back bench with my head held high for I have done nothing wrong." – *House Majority Whip Charles Murphy (D-Burlington) who resigned from that leadership position just a few minutes before House Speaker Robert DeLeo was going to remove him from it. Murphy's meetings with fellow representatives recently to discuss his interest in being elected speaker someday did not sit well with DeLeo.*

"I think it has definitely made me a better person. I appreciate the little things in life much more. And I think just the opportunity to serve my country, look down on my right shoulder and see that American flag, it really made me proud. And hopefully I can take that same kind of commitment to service in the Legislature." – *Rep. Jerold Parisella (D-Beverly) who was sworn in as a freshman legislator on January 5. Less than three weeks later, he was on active duty in Baghdad until he returned home the day before Thanksgiving.*

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, con-

stituent 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 December 5-9, the House met for a total of two hours and 46 minutes while the Senate met for a total of two hours and 55 minutes.

Mon. December 5	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:18 a.m.	Senate 11:07 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.
Tues. December 6	No House session	No Senate session
Wed. December 7	No House session	No Senate session
Thurs. December 8	House 11:04 a.m. to 1:32 p.m.	Senate 11:02 a.m. to 1:44 p.m.
Fri. December 9	No House session	No Senate session
Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com		

'Tis the season for holiday sales CONT. FROM PG 1

want to buy gifts to help make the holiday season a little brighter for domestic violence survivors. The best gift we can give the men and women we serve at RESPOND is that of independence and safety," said Jessica Brayden, Executive Director of RESPOND Inc.

Items, which the organization is seeking in its holiday needs drive include: toiletries, sheets, blankets, laundry detergent and cleaning supplies, as well as gift cards to major retailers and to grocery stores and pharmacy gift cards, because survivors often cannot bring prescriptions or insurance with them.

"Gifts are distributed to families straight through Christmas Eve. Since our shelter is open 24/7, it is likely we will have people coming and going, even on the holiday," she said.

"Watching the recipients collect their gifts is so emotional. Each person is so thankful that another family took time to help and support them. Most often, recipients leave with tears of joy, knowing that their children will have a great holiday, thanks to people whom they have never even met."

The non-profit reaches over 7,000 survivors of domestic violence annually.

Programs and services include

an emergency shelter, individual and group counseling, legal advocacy, community outreach and educational programs.

For assistance, call RESPOND's 24-hour hotline at (617) 623-5900.

Interested individuals may call (617) 625-5996, or visit www.respondinc.org to volunteer or to make a donation.

If you are interested in donating items, contact Kristen Rice, Events Coordinator of RESPOND at kristen@respond-inc.org or call (617) 625-5996.

Find more Christmas cheer at the annual Next Wave and Full Circle Alternative Schools in Somerville student fundraiser. Purchase a Christmas tree and a wreath at the tree lot in Foss Park.

Net proceeds will benefit the Next Wave and Full Circle Alternative Schools in Somerville.

"Since 1985, the Somerville Homeless Coalition has been working to end homelessness in the community by providing housing, food, case management and homelessness prevention initiatives. The SHC oversees ten programs concerning shelter services, transitional and permanent housing services, case management and food supportive services in Somerville and

Greater Boston," said Jennifer Merrill, Development Associate and Volunteer Coordinator of the Somerville Homeless Coalition.

Each year, the coalition accepts non-perishable food items, as well as toiletries.

Specifically, during the holiday season, adult wool socks are among the winter clothing, which is paramount for the organization to receive, as a donation.

"We have received such generous support from the local community this season for the children who are involved in our programs. However, we are seeing a greater need now for our single adult clients. They are in need of household items, such as new silverware or a new vacuum," she said.

Earlier this December, additional yuletide drives and sales took Somerville by storm.

The annual Somerville Community Growing Center Wreath Sale occurred at the Union Square Winter Craft Market, at which the Growing Center had a booth outside of precinct where pre-ordered wreaths could be picked up and extra wreaths could be purchased.

In early December, the Somerville Community Growing Center offered fresh

evergreen wreaths for the holidays, all of which were decorated by volunteers or by community partners, such as Gaining Ground in Concord. This year, the wreaths have already sold out.

"80 percent of the wreaths that we had available were pre-ordered, and the remaining 20 percent were sold within the first few hours of the event," said Jared M. Worful, President of the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Community Growing Center. The sale became a tradition in the mid 1990s.

Wreath adornments included dried flowers, berries and pinecones. The wreath bases were purchased from Wilson Farm. Each wreath costs \$30, for orders, which are received by December 1. At the event, people picked up a \$35 wreath at the Union Square Winter Craft Market. Additional items were

for sale included: balsam sachets, winter grass and hand-knit miniature stockings, complete with floral decorations. Interested individuals may e-mail somervillegcwreaths@gmail.com to be placed on next year's pre-order notification list.

At a recent Chamber of Commerce event called Very Special Holiday Business after Hours, which was held at The Center for the Arts at the Armory in Somerville, a large multitude of unwrapped toys for "Toys for Local Children," which is a local charity, were collected. The Holiday Inn in Somerville also held an event for Toys for Local Children.

Individuals who would still like to help the organization's drop-off locations, which include Somerville, are available on its Web site at <http://www.toysfor-localchildren.org/> or by calling (617) 680-4254.



Union Square
329 Somerville Ave • (617) 666-5410

Somerville Council on Aging's Annual Christmas Party celebrated on the water

Over 125 Somerville seniors enjoyed a fun filled day at the Council on Aging's Annual Christmas Party that was hosted and sponsored by the Winter Hill Yacht Club in Somerville.

WHYC Commodore Bill Rogers, Registrar Gene Brune, Alderman Bruce Desmond, Maria Curtatone

and Council on Aging Director Cindy Hickey, along with WHYC volunteers, prepared the food and served the scrumptious Christmas meal to the festive crowd.

Santa Clause in his big red suit, who was played by Jim Henry from Senator Sal Didomenico's office, was al-

so in the building making his rounds while Mayor Joseph Curtatone, Middlesex Registrar of Deeds Gene Brune and Senator Patricia Jehlen, along with the help of State Representative Carl Sciortino, Aldermen Dennis Sullivan and Bill White, led the crowd into an assortment of

Christmas Carols and dancing that had everyone singing for hours.

Commodore Bill Rogers also announced that the yacht club would be sponsoring a "Valentines Party" and a "Christmas in July" event for the seniors this coming summer as well.

This past summer the

WHYC, in conjunction with Mayor Curtatone and the Somerville Council on Aging, also sponsored a "Veteran's Cruise" that gave over a hundred disabled veterans the opportunity to enjoy themselves cruising Boston harbor along with an old fashion barbecue.





SOMERVILLE SPORTS

New fitness facility welcomed to Somerville

On Monday, December 12, a ribbon-cutting ceremony took place in Union Square to celebrate the opening of a new functional-fitness training facility in the neighborhood. Mayor Curtatone was on hand to cut the ribbon and welcome CrossFit Somerville to Union Square.

CrossFit Somerville is located at 35 Prospect Street, occupying the former Souza Brothers Foreign Auto building well known for its decorative mural and 42 years in business. CrossFit Somerville is a new small business looking forward to many years of productive presence helping to build stronger communities in Somerville, Cambridge, and Medford.

Owned and operated locally by Yosh Stoklosa and JT Scott,

CrossFit Somerville is a welcoming, accessible facility that uses a highly effective training program, similar to that used in the US armed forces, to generate extraordinary results in its clientele. Life-changing gains in fitness and confidence are commonly attained by the uncommon methods employed there. CrossFit is also gaining nationwide attention due to its widespread popularity and recent coverage on ESPN2 of the world championship Reebok CrossFit Games.

CrossFit Somerville is not the owners' first venture; JT opened CrossFit Fenway in December of 2009. It quickly became Boston's premiere training facility and one of the athletic community's worst-kept secrets.



Photo by Harry Kane

Mayor Curtatone was on hand to help welcome CrossFit to Somerville.

Somerville YMCA receives inaugural grant



The Board of Directors from the Anthony Louis Ciampi Memorial Fund, Eric Johanson and Vinny Ciampi, presented YMCA Executive Director, Bill Murphy, with a generous donation. On hand to celebrate the donation were children of the School Age Child Care Program. The donated funds will be used to staff the Y's Youth Leadership Program. This important program provides summer jobs at camp for some of our most promising youth leaders.

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#296

1. What is the only U.S. state that grows cocoa trees for chocolate?
2. What organ in the body does the flavonoids in dark chocolate protect the health of?
3. In winter, where is the world's largest skating rink?
4. In Greek mythology, what food do the gods eat for strength?
5. Who is the football hall-of-famer that is known as "The Golden Boy"?
6. What candy coated licorice candy does Choo-choo Charlie use to fuel his engine?
7. In the movie *Rain Man* what technique did Raymond use to help his brother win at Blackjack?
8. The Oregon Trail ended in Oregon, but where did it begin?
9. In 1974, the Oldsmobile Toronado was the first car that offered what safety feature?
10. The Koala bear is not really a bear – what kind of animal is it?
11. What two words are used to tell how much money a movie made?
12. Where does legend say that the decorating of the Christmas tree (Evergreen) began?

Answers on page 17



"Best of Somerville"
2009 & 2010

Eat-In
Take-Out

COLD BEER & WINE

37 Davis Square • Somerville • 617.440.7361

LEGAL NOTICES

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

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Michael Roe O'Donnell to "MERS", Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a separate corporation that is acting solely as nominee for GreenPoint Mortgage Funding, Inc., "Lender"; and its successors and assigns dated April 12, 2004 and recorded with the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 42521, Page 144, and corrected by Confirmatory Mortgage dated April 12, 2004 recorded with said Registry in Book 54328, Page 571, of which mortgage the under-signed is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction at 12:00 PM, on January 4, 2012**, on the premises known as **47 Fairmount Avenue, Somerville, Massachusetts**, the premises described in said mortgage, together with all the rights, easements, and appurtenances thereto, to wit:

Three certain lots of land with the buildings thereon, situated in Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

- Lot #1:** Beginning at a corner on Fairmount Avenue at the Westerly side of the lot now or formerly owned by a Miss Savage, Thence running Northerly on said land of Savage one hundred (100) feet to land now or formerly of Lawrence S. Leland; Thence turning and running Westerly on said land now or formerly of Leland forty (40) feet; Thence turning and running Southerly on land now or formerly of Leland one hundred (100) feet to Fairmount Avenue; Thence turning and running Easterly on said Fairmount Avenue forty (40) feet to point of beginning. Containing 4000 square feet of land more or less.

- Lot #2:** A certain triangular parcel of land beginning at a point on Fairmount Avenue at the Westerly side of the above mentioned lot owned by said Leland; Thence running Northerly on said aforementioned lot one hundred (100) feet to land now or formerly of said Leland; Thence turning and running Westerly on a line with the Northerly boundary of said aforementioned lot, then (10) feet to land now or formerly of Bond; Thence turning and running on said land of Bond to the point of beginning. Containing 500 square feet of land more or less.

- Lot #3:** Beginning at a point in the boundary of said granted premises at the Northeasterly corner of the first aforementioned lot and running Northerly in a straight line on land now or formerly of Dow twenty (20) feet; Thence turning and running Westerly on land formerly of one Merrill fifty (50) feet; Thence turning and running Southerly on land now or formerly of said Dow twenty (20) feet to the aforesaid Lot #2; Thence turning and running Easterly on the two above-mentioned lots fifty (50) feet to the point of beginning. Containing 1000 square feet of land more or less.

Conveyed subject to a taking for street purposes recorded with Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 3578, Page 202.

Being the same premises conveyed to us by deed of Michael Roe O'Donnell, Hugh Roe O'Donnell and Agnes T. O'Donnell, dated July 21, 1986, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 17222 at Page 238.

Said premises are now known as and numbered 47 Fairmount Avenue, Somerville MA. Title Reference: Book 20765, Page 175.

Terms of Sale: These premises are being sold subject to any and all unpaid real estate taxes, water rates, municipal charges and assessments, condominium charges, expenses, costs, and assessments, if applicable, federal tax liens, partition wall rights, statutes, regulations, zoning, subdivision control, or other municipal ordinances or bylaws respecting land use, configuration, building or approval, or bylaws, statutes or ordinances regarding the presence of lead paint, asbestos or other toxic substances, sanitary codes, housing codes, tenancy, and , to the extent that they are recorded prior to the above mortgage, any easements, rights of way, restrictions, confirmation or other matters of record.

Purchaser shall also bear all state and county deeds excise tax. The deposit of \$5,000.00 is to be paid in cash or bank or certified check at the time and place of the sale, with the balance of the purchase price to be paid by bank or certified check within thirty (30) days after the date of the sale, to be deposited in escrow with Guaetta and Benson, LLC, at 229 Billerica Road, Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder or, thereafter, to the next highest bidders, providing that said bidder shall deposit with said attorney, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within five (5) business days after written notice of the default of the previous highest bidder.

Other terms, if any, are to be announced at the sale. Present holder of said mortgage

Bank of America, N.A., Successor by Merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP f/k/a Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP by its Attorneys
Guaetta and Benson, LLC
Peter V. Guaetta, Esquire
P.O. Box 519
Chelmsford, MA 01824
December 10, 2011

12/14/11 The Somerville News



NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) and NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (NOI/RROF)

Date of Publication: December 14, 2011
Responsible Entities City of Somerville
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
93 Highland Ave., 3rd floor,
Somerville, MA 02143
Tel: 617-625-6600, x. 2565

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Somerville (The City), acting by and through the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD).

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about January 3, 2012 The City will submit a request to the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Boston Office, for the release of HOME Investments Partnerships Program funds under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act, 32 U.S.C. 12701 et seq., as amended, to undertake a project known as Washington Street Apartments located at 181 Washington St., Somerville, MA for the purpose of the new construction of up to 40 affordable rental units. Total development cost, including acquisition, construction, soft costs, and development fees is estimated at \$15,438,000, of which the Developer will be seeking a share from The City estimated at \$950,000. The Developer has indicated that it will also seek HUD McKinney Funds and funds from the State of Massachusetts Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and Housing Stabilization, Community Based Housing, Housing Innovation, Facilities Conservation, and Commercial Area Transit Node Housing Programs.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at OSPCD, 3rd floor, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143 and may be examined and/or copied Monday-Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Thursday from 8:30 a.m - 7:30 p.m.; and Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to The City at the address given above. All comments received by the end of the business day on December 30, 2011 will be considered by The City prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City certifies to HUD/Boston that Joseph A. Curtatone, in his capacity as Mayor and Certifying Officer of the City of Somerville, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD/Boston's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows The City to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD/Boston will accept objections to its release of funds and The City's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of The City; (b) The City has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, or incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD/Boston.; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to: HUD/Office of Community Planning & Development, Thomas P. O'Neil Jr. Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02222-1092. Potential objectors should contact HUD/Boston (617-994-8200) to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor of the City of Somerville

12/14/11 The Somerville News

A hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission on Tuesday, December 20, 2011** at the Senior Center, Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at **6:00PM** to consider a rule change of The Somerville Licensing Commission Rules and Regulations- rule 7.12 relating to Non-Transferable Liquor Licenses. Currently when the license are returned they must be held by the Commission for sixty days. The Commission would like to change this sixty day period to 14days.

For the Commission
Andrew Upton
Vito Vaccaro
John J. McKenna

Attest: **Jenneen Pagliaro**
Administrative Assistant

12/7/11, 12/14/11 The Somerville News



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
IFB # 12-41

The City of Somerville, through the Purchasing Department invites sealed bids for:
Custodial Supplies

An invitation for bids (IFB) and specifications may be obtained at the Purchasing Department, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA. 02143 on or after: **Monday, December 12, 2011** Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **Wednesday, December 28, 2011 at 11:00A.M.**, at which time sealed bids will be open. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

The contract term shall be for a period of 1 year from 1/01/2012 through 12/31/2012, with two one-year options to renew.

For all information regarding this bid, please email: **Orazio DeLuca, Contract Manager @ odeluca@somervillema.gov.**

Angela M. Allen
Purchasing Director
617-625-6600 ext. 3400

12/14/11 The Somerville News

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court Department
Plymouth Division Docket No. PL 11D1343DR

COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE PURSUANT TO G .I .c. 208 ss 1B

Karmau Cotton --- Plaintiff V. Aretha Cotton --- Defendant

- 1) Plaintiff who resides at 622 N. MAIN ST. Apt. #1 Brockton Plymouth MA, 02311 was lawfully married to the defendant who now resides at (last known) 33 Bow St. Somerville Middlesex MA 02143
- 2) The parties were married at 13-25 Warren Ave. on February 8, 2002 and last lived together at 33 Bow St- Somerville, MA. on September 2003
- 3) The minor or dependent child(ren) of this marriage is/are: **Alliyan Cotton- September 10, 2003**
Isaiah Cotton---April 10, 2002
- 4) Plaintiff certifies that no previous action for divorce, annulment or affirmation of marriage, separate support, desertion, living apart for justifiable cause, or custody of child(ren) has been brought by either party against the other except:

NONE

- 5) On or about **February 2004** an irretrievable breakdown of the marriage under G.L.c. 208 ss 1B occurred and continues to exist.
- 6) Wherefore, plaintiff requests that the Court:

- 1) Grant a Divorce on the ground of irretrievable breakdown.

Date: 08/16/11

Karmau Cotton
622 N. Main Street Apt.#1
Brockton, MA 02301

12/14/11 The Somerville News

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court Department
Plymouth Division Docket No. PL11D1343DR

DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING

KARMAU COTTON -----,Plaintiff
V.
ARETHA LANDERS COTTON-----,Defendant

To the above named Defendant:

A Complaint has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff, KARMAU COTTON, seeking TO DISSOLVE THE BONDS OF MATRIMONY

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. Please refer to the Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411 for more information.

You are required to serve upon: ----- KARMAU COTTON
Plaintiff ----- whose address is: 622 N MAIN STREET APT #1 BROCKTON ,MA 02301

Your answer on or before -----**JANUARY 7** -----**2012** . If you fail to do so, the Court will proceed to the hearing and the adjudication of this action.

You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the Office of this Court at -- **PLYMOUTH**

Witness, Catherine P. Sabaitis -----, Esquire, First Justice of said Court at
PLYMOUTH --, this 6TH. --- day of October -----, 2011.

Robert Mc Carthy
Register of Probate Court

12/14/11 The Somerville News

LEGAL NOTICES

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

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MIDDLESEX PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
The Trial Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA. 02141

Docket No. MI 07P1983G12

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS
OF A GUARDIAN

In the Interest of: James Mcdonald FORMERLY OF SOMERVILLE
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/Protected Person

Of Medford, MA

To the named Respondent and all other interested person, a petition
has been filed by

Courtyard Nursing Care Center of Medford

In the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Expand the powers of a Guardian
The petition ask the court to make a determination that the powers
of the Guardian and / or Conservator should be expanded, modified,
or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is
on file with the court.

You have a right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so,
you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on
or before 10:00 A.M. on the return day of 01/06/2011. This day is
NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file
the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file
a written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in
this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the
written appearance, you or your attorney must file an affidavit stat-
ing the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days
after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away
the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal
affairs or financial affairs of both. If the above- named person can-
not afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness: Hon. Peter C. DiGangi, First Justice of this Court
Date: December 09, 2011

Tara E. De Cristofaro
Register of Probate

12/14/11 The Somerville News

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

Docket No. MI 11P5690EA

MIDDLESEX Division

In the Estate of: Ellen O'Brien a/k/a Ellen B O'Brien

Late of: Somerville, MA. 02143

Date of Death: 10/21/2011

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 of said decedent be proved and allowed
and that

Alex L. Moschella 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:
12/30/2011

In addition, you must file a written affidavit of objections to the peti-
tion, 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: December 2, 2011

Tara E. De Cristofaro
Register of Probate

12/14/11 The Somerville News

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

Docket No. MI 11P5750EA

MIDDLESEX Division

In the Estate of: John J Meade

Late of: Somerville, MA. 02144

Date of Death: 04/12/2011

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 of said decedent be proved and allowed
and that

Theresa M Meade of Billerica, 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:
01/03/2012

In addition, you must file a written affidavit of objections to the peti-
tion, 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: December 6, 2011

Tara E. De Cristofaro
Register of Probate

12/14/11 The Somerville News



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

LEGAL NOTICE
Somerville Conservation Commission
Public Hearing

Applicant: David Webster, FR Assembly Square, LLC,
1626 East Jefferson Street, Rockville, MD 20852
Agent: Gene Crouch, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.,
101 Walnut Street, Box 9151, Watertown, MA 02471
Location: Shore Road, Somerville, MA 02143

The Somerville Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing
on Tuesday, December 20, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 3rd floor, 93
Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, regarding a Notice of Intent
(NOI) filed pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act, G.L. c. 131, §
40, for work described below.

The NOI proposes the sewer and drain improvements in the Ten
Hills West area including installation of a new sewer line and
drains to separate the stormwater and sanitary sewer systems on
Shore Drive, slip-lining the sanitary sewer lines and cross connect-
ing existing stormwater pipes on the site streets, manhole rehabili-
tation and cold plane and overlay of the roadway upon completion
of work.

The application can be viewed at the Mayor's Office Strategic
Planning and Community Development, 93 Highland Avenue,
Somerville. Contact Rachel Kelly, Conservation Agent, at 617-625-
6600 x2516 for more information.

12/14/11 The Somerville News

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

Docket No. MI 11P5555EA

MIDDLESEX Division

In the Estate of: Susan Woolf a/k/a Susan T Woolf
a/k/a/ Susan T Krenzke Woolf

Late of: Long Island City, N.Y.

Date of Death: 12/12/2009

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR LICENSE TO SELL REAL ESTATE
BY A FOREIGN FIDUCIARY

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate, a petition
has been presented by

Ronald A. Mc Callum of Church View, VA

appointed, to the Probate Court in Queens, New York for license to
sell, by a private sale, real estate situated in Somerville, MA in
accordance with the offer set out in the Petition

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 IN THE MORNING (10:00AM) ON:
02/07/2012

WITNESS, HON. PETER C. DIGANGI, First Justice of this Court
Date: November 29, 2011

Tara E. De Cristofaro
Register of Probate

12/14/11 The Somerville News

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

Docket No. MI 11P5750EA

MIDDLESEX Division

In the Estate of: John J. Meade

Date of Death: 04/12/2011

MUPC SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE

To all persons who may have an interest in the above-captioned
estate, the Division of Medical Assistance and, if interested, to the
Office of the Attorney General and the United States Department of
Veterans Affairs:

Notice is being sent to you as you may have a legal interest in this
case, in order to inform you of your rights.

Under the new Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code Inventory
and Accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but inter-
ested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration
from the Personal Representative and can Petition the Court in
any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets
and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to
Petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain
orders terminating or restricting the powers of the appointed
Personal Representative.

Petitioner requests to be permitted to file a MUPC Bond

12/14/11 The Somerville News

A hearing for all persons interested will be given by the
Somerville Licensing Commission on Tuesday, December 20,
2011 at the Senior Center, Tufts Administration Building, 167
Holland St., Somerville, MA at 6:00PM on the application of
Federal Wine & Spirits Belmont, Inc., d/b/a Journeyman
Restaurant, 9 Sanborn Court., Somerville, MA for an
Entertainment license consisting of a Stereo System.

For the Commission
Andrew Upton
Vito Vaccaro
John J. McKenna

Attest: Jenneen Pagliaro
Administrative Assistant

12/7/11, 12/14/11 The Somerville News

PATS TOWING

*****NOTICE TO OWNERS *****

The following abandoned and/or junked motor vehicles will be
disposed of or sold, any questions regarding this matter
please contact Pats Towing.
Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm
Tel: 617-354-4000, Fax: 617-623-4287

1997	BMW	3281	Vin# WBACD432XVAV48821
1996	Lexus	ES300	Vin# JT8BF12G6T0178280
2002	Volkswagon	Jetta	Vin# 3VWSK69M42M156535
1995	Honda	Passport	Vin# 4S6CY58V9S4412418
2002	Cadillac	Esc.	Vin# 1GYEK63N52R288763
1995	Chevy	Lumina	Vin# 2G1WL52M9S9154173
1996	Honda	Accord	Vin# 1HGCD5653TA191415

11/30/11, 12/7/11, 12/14/11 The Somerville News

PATS TOWING

*****NOTICE TO OWNERS *****

The following abandoned and/or junked motor vehicles will be
disposed of or sold, any questions regarding this matter
please contact Pats Towing.
Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm
Tel: 617-354-4000, Fax: 617-623-4287

1995	Honda	Accord	Vin# 1HGCD5557SA033871
1998	Ford	Windstar	Vin# 2FMDA5142WBB37019
1994	Chevy	Impala	Vin# 1GNFK16K2RJ409229
2003	Chevy	Trailblazer	Vin# 1GNET16S836149972
2009	Jeep	Wrangler	Vin# 1J4FA24109L749114
2004	Nissan	Maxima	Vin# 1N4BA41E14C817947

12/14/11, 12/21/11, 12/28/11 The Somerville News

TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS
IN THE SOMERVILLE NEWS,
CONTACT CAM TONER
BY 12 PM MONDAY
PH: 617.666.4010 • FAX: 617.628.0422

A hearing for all persons interested will be given by the
Somerville Licensing Commission on Tuesday, December 20,
2011 at the Senior Center, Tufts Administration Building, 167
Holland St., Somerville, MA at 6:00PM to consider amending The
Somerville Licensing Commission Rules and Regulations to
require that new liquor license applicants undergo training for
the sale of alcohol to underage individuals.

For the Commission
Andrew Upton
Vito Vaccaro
John J. McKenna

Attest: Jenneen Pagliaro
Administrative Assistant

12/7/11, 12/14/11 The Somerville News

LEGAL NOTICES

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR**

LEGAL NOTICE
Somerville Conservation Commission
Public Hearing

Applicant: David Webster, Street Retail, Inc.
1626 East Jefferson Street, Rockville, MD 20852
Agent: Gene Crouch, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.,
101 Walnut Street, Box 9151, Watertown, MA 02471
Location: 74 Foley Street & 133 Middlesex Avenue,
Somerville, MA 02143

The Somerville Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, December 20, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.** at City Hall, 3rd floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, regarding a Notice of Intent (NOI) filed pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act, G.L. c. 131, § 40, for work described below.

The NOI proposes the construction of a multi-level mixed-use building to house two levels of retail space, a movie theater, integrated parking structure and associated appurtenances.

The application can be viewed at the Mayor's Office Strategic Planning and Community Development, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville. Contact Rachel Kelly, Conservation Agent, at 617-625-6600 x2516 for more information.

12/14/11 The Somerville News

APARTMENT RENTALS

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Ms. Cam's

Answers from page 14

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Hawaii | 7. Counting cards |
| 2. The heart | 8. Mississippi |
| 3. Section of Canada - Rideau Canal in Central Canada | 9. Air bags |
| 4. Ambrosia | 10. It is a Marsupial |
| 5. Paul Hornung | 11. Box Office |
| 6. Good and Plenty | 12. Martin Luther - attached candles to an evergreen |

Capuano returns to BOA

CONT. FROM PG 1

government down.

"I know what you are going to do. You're not going to rebuild one playground, or whatever. When you lose these home funds, you're going to not expand affordable housing.

"No one will lose anything out of their pocket, you just won't do something that needs to be done. But what will happen is that the person who would be hired to rebuild that playground now won't get hired. So, no one will lose a job out of this, but somebody won't get a job, which is the same thing especially if you're a private contractor in this market."

"When I was on the Board of Alderman, and as a Mayor, anytime anybody came in to me and said we don't like the budget, we need more, I'd slide the city budget across the table. 'Say 'fine,' what do you want me to cut?'"

"I personally think that when you do this to government, I have never seen, and no one has been able to show me a situation in the modern history of mankind, that cutting spending is good in an economic downturn," he said.

"The obvious one is the Great Depression. Hoover thought that cutting was fine, and the Congress at the time thought it was fine. It didn't work, FDR had to be elected, along with a Congress that agree with him to say, 'you know what? When you're down, you have to hire people. And if no one else is hiring, the government should hire.' Not what you want, but it's what you have to do to stimulate the economy."

GLX: Commuter rail stops and Phase 1

Capuano also addressed the Green Line extension. He voiced support of the "phasing" plan, which includes building a fork of GLX trolley stations past a rebuilt Lechmere station at Union Square and Washington St. However, he said that looking past that might be "putting the cart before the horse," and the most important thing was to get tracks on the ground as soon as possible.

"Approach it to say 'let's get what we can while we can,' and stop focusing on what's going to happen ten years from now," he told the BOA. "It's a mistake, you'll end up having another promise and another promise three or four years from now. Take what you can get while we have a governor that cares about the project."

"To ask for more is fine, and you're right at a perfectionist level, but you will lose the Green Line unless you get realistic about this." To this end, Capuano proposed the installation of several "inter-modal" and "multi-modal" stops along the commuter rails that run, but do not stop, in Somerville. While these would cost

\$30 to \$50 million by his estimation, in "comparison to a billion, it's not that much."

"The state has not submitted, I know it doesn't exist, a plan on how to fund the green line. They haven't submitted it, because they don't have the money. People need to wake up to that fact."

"The federal government bailed the state out to the tune of \$1 billion each year for the last ten years," he said. "The state is going to have problems."

Capuano brought up the holes in the conduct of the department of transportation (MassDOT) compared to the state implementation plan, (SIP) which is the legally mandated agreement to build the GLX by the state. While the SIP lists the GLX ending at "Medford Hillside" MassDOT has not included a Rt. 16 stop in their plans, and may be interpreting the agreement to not include the stop.

"I want the grand slam homerun. I don't want to stop at Tufts. I actually think that's a disservice to the City. I think we have to advocate the go to Rt. 16," said Capuano.

Tom Bent, Somerville's representative on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) said that MassDOT did not want to build out to Rt. 16, and would submit an application for federal "New Starts" money without it.

"To be honest with you, I'm not sure who makes the decision as to where Medford hillside actually is," said Bent.

"The Administration supports the ultimate extension of the Green Line to Route 16, but does not have sufficient funding for the project, and is focused on delivering the SIP commitment to College Avenue in as expeditious a manner as possible," said MassDOT press secy. Sara Lavoie.

The Boston MPO has provided funding for the extension to Route 16 in its long-range plan for the 2016-2020 timeframe. As part of the development of the

MPO's four-year transportation improvement program this spring, we expect the MPO to discuss the actual funding of the design of the project. Consistent with the long-range plan, that decision by the MPO would likely require the spending of federal highway funds for the design of the extension to Route 16.

The MPO recently approved \$476 million worth of bond allocation for the GLX of which only \$20 has been set out to bond. While this might go a long way toward winning the application of matching "New Starts" money, the state also has a history of being denied these grants due to poor fiscal maintenance.

However, at a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of MassDOT, Transportation Secy. Richard Davey said that the federal government might pick up \$400 to \$500 million of the project. He declined to give a concrete funding plan at the meeting, and was questioned extensively by Board members.

"No matter what we do, we need to have state funding to at least match federal dollars. If the state hasn't got the money to do that then it doesn't matter how much the federal government is willing to give," said Capuano in an interview. When asked if the state could manage such a project, Capuano said that they may be able to in the future, but at the moment they cannot.

"If the state can prove me wrong, believe me, I'll be the happiest guy in the world."

Davey reiterated his support for the build-out of the GLX in a statement. "This is an important project and one the state is committed to. We are moving forward with Phase One and look forward to continuing to work with the Congressman and the community."

On Davey's performance since being named Transportation Secy., Capuano was sympathetic. "He has an impossible situation," he said. I have nothing but the best wishes for him, and high hopes for him."

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• • • • ‘VILLENS ON THE TOWN’ • • • •

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Wednesday|December 14

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

Central Library
Half Day Wednesday Movie: Journey to the Center of the Earth
1 p.m.-3:30 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Thursday|December 15

Central Library
Preschool: Storytime for 3 to 5 year olds
10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.|79 Highland Ave

Friday|December 16

Central Library
Preschool: Storytime for 2 year olds
10:30 a.m.-11 a.m.|79 Highland Ave

Sunday|December 18

Central Library
Yoga Class for Kids Ages 4-7 with Janine Duffy
3 p.m.-4 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Tuesday|December 20

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

MUSIC
Wednesday|December 14

Johnny D's
Dixie Butterhounds
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
Tumbleweed Company|Andrew Long|Timo Arthur|Bugs Bunny
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 Blues Moves
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe's Pub
Low Star
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

Arts At The Armory
Sewn Book Binding; Link
7 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Thursday|December 15

Johnny D's
Chandler Travis' Holiday Extravaganza
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's
Flatt Rabbit|6 p.m.
Birds Of Play & friends |9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Scattershot 80's Night
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA'S Lounge
SchoolTree|The Milling Gowns|Amber Spyglass|The Scarlet Mourning
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
Closed for private party
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe's Pub
Dub Down Featuring The Scotch Bonnet Band

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
Sewn Book Binding: Coptic
7 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Somerville Theatre
The Slutcracker - A Burlesque
8 p.m.|55 Davis Square|617-625-5700

Friday|December 16

Johnny D's
Firedrill w/Overboard|Sister Sparrow & the Dirty Birds|Ross Livermore Band|
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's
Larry Flint & The Road Scholars |6 p.m.
Anarchangel, 51 Shortfalls | 9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

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

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

Precinct Bar
Hear Now Live Presents: Imaginary Animals|Tömn|Almost Righteous|The Real Makers|Matt Jackson
70 Union Sq|617 -623-9211

PA'S Lounge
PA's Annual Christmas Party! (All are Welcome)
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
Jess Tardy Band with Special Guest Jesse Dee
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
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
Richard Cambridge's Poet Theatre: A Winter Solstice Celebration and a Benefit for the Lunar Calendar
7:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Somerville Theatre
The Slutcracker - A Burlesque
8 p.m.|55 Davis Square|617-625-5700

Saturday|December 17

Johnny D's
Real Scholl of Music Showcase|4 p.m.
Sly-Chi|Otis Grove|Sour D|Cardboard Mercenary|10 p.m.
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's
Josh Lederman & The CSARs |5:30 p.m.
Rocking Horse Rodeo CD Release |9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Scattershots

247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Precinct Bar
The Czars (front bar)|Hear Now Live Presents: The Rex Complex|Ruin/Renewal|Kristen Ford|Preamble|Emmy Cerra
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

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

PA'S Lounge
Fake Boys|Honah Lee|New Warden|Mercy Case
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

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

Bull McCabe's Pub
Ronan Quinn Band
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
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
For the Sake of the Song: A Tribute to Tom Petty
7:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Somerville Theatre
The Slutcracker - A Burlesque
8 p.m.|55 Davis Square|617-625-5700

Sunday|December 18

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

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Frank Drake Sunday Showcase|5 p.m.
Jim Coyle & The Barroom Gentlemen |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
ARIBAND|Happy Little Clouds|Danielle Lessard
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
381 Summer St

Somerville Theatre
The Slutcracker - A Burlesque
2 p.m.|8 p.m.|55 Davis Square|617-625-5700

Monday|December 19

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
Presented by Performer Magazine|Steve Branson Band|Single Action Army|Jason Psaros|Sam Chase
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

Precinct Bar
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
Sewn Book Binding: Long Stitch
7 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Tuesday|December 20

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

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Mike B & The Trio Grande with Katlin Rousch |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
NIRVANA TRIBUTE|Little War Twins|The Lousy Instruments|The Days Weight
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
381 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
The First and Last Word Poetry Series
6:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Wednesday|December 21

Johnny D's
Echonest Holiday Party w/Jin Lucchese
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
Tumbleweed Company|Matt Bordello Band
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 Lousy Intstruments|The Days Weight|High Five Time
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe's Pub
Low Star
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|December 14

Central Library
Meet, Mingle, Read: The Boston Mob Guide: Hit Men, Hoodlums & Hideouts
7 p.m.-9 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

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

Thursday|December 15

Central Library
Films: Mass 1978: Mission Hill and the Miracle of Boston and If It Fits
6 p.m.-9 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

West 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.
40 College Avenue

Third Life Studio
Roots and Rhythm
33 Union Sq|
drumzatilbana@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

Saturday|December 17

The annual Illuminations Trolley Tour
departing from the City Hall Concourse beginning at 4:30pm.
For more information visit
www.somervilleartsCouncil.org.

Central Library
The Cambridge Symphony Chamber Players in Concert
2 p.m.-4 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Arts at the Armory
Somerville Winter Farmer's Market
9:30 p.m.|Performance Hall|191 Highland Ave

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

Third Life Studio
Introduction to Voice Movement Therapy
2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.| Mali:
781.290.6381 MaliSastri@gmail.com

Sunday|December 18

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|December 19

Central Library
Monday Night Movie: Beyond Tomorrow
7 p.m.-9 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

West Branch Library
Book Group: Books Into Movies
7:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m.|40 College Ave

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

Tuesday|December 20

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 sribana@gmail.com

Wednesday|December 21

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

...the season of giving lasts all year CONT. FROM PG 9

planning exercise, joins ResiStat, or simply attends a community meeting, she or he is making a vital contribution to our shared civic life.

It's true that there are some self-interested reasons for volunteering in your city or schools. You get to meet some great people. It's the kind of activity that helps people live healthier, longer lives. (This

benefit is remarkably well-documented.) And it often adds an impressive credential to your professional résumé. Still, the very best thing about being a SomerServe or school volunteer, sitting on an advisory group, board or commission - or even just turning out for our annual citywide spring cleanup - is the feeling of connection to your entire community.

One of the pleasures of living in Somerville is that - despite our size and diversity - so many of our residents feel that they are truly a part of something larger than themselves. For thousands of us, community doesn't just mean friends, family and neighbors. It means being part of a city that has a sense of direction and purpose; a city where an

amazingly large number of residents embrace a vision of civic life that goes well beyond following the rules and paying your taxes.

So as we approach the end of the year, I'd like to thank Shari and Hazel, and all of our volunteers, for their inspiring service - and to ask everyone with the ability and the time to think about volun-

teering in the coming year. You won't regret it.

(To learn more about SomerService, or to volunteer, contact Nancy Bacci at 617-625-6600 ext. 2250, or NBacci@somervillema.gov to arrange an appointment. To volunteer for the Somerville Public Schools, contact Jen Capuano at 617-625-660 ext. 6023 or JCapuano@k12.somerville.ma.us.)

Grand Junction shelved CONT. FROM PG 9

Rail service. Their modeling showed that a \$30 million renovation and expansion of the Grand Junction into a Commuter Rail spur of the Worcester line, including the construction of a station at Kendall Square, would only result in a minute increase in ridership. The Grand Junction proposal would increase the number of daily passengers on the line from 9000 to 9300 by 2035-just 3 percent in 25 years.

This outcome is not only a vic-

tory for our community, but a validation and demonstration of the necessity of the public planning process. The decision by MassDOT not to go forward with this project was influenced by a strong showing of community opposition and calls for the potential negative impacts of the proposal to be considered in the feasibility analysis.

As we learned last night, MassDOT's decision is not necessarily permanent or final. South Station does have capac-

ity issues that must be remediated by costly renovations. If the money for expansion at South Station cannot be obtained, the state may look at Grand Junction as an option again. I will be closely following the South Station expansion's progress and working with my colleagues in the state legislature to facilitate funding for the project. Expanding South Station will have far reaching benefits for the transit system as a whole.

If we wish to see Grand Junction put to use as a community path, we must simultaneously redouble our efforts to make the vision of a rail trail a reality. A mixed-use path along Grand Junction would be an excellent, functional addition to our community that would enhance city-wide connectivity and access to open space and parkland-in short, a project that would help Cambridge and Somerville, not hurt them. A mixed-use path is what our

community has been demanding for years, and I believe that is vital that transportation projects undertaken in our community are not only undertaken to serve residents of this community, but also reflect our shared ideals regarding alternative transportation and more environmentally conscious living. I am looking forward to continuing to work together with community groups and residents to make our plans for our neighborhood a reality.

The 'Ville of Christmas past CONT. FROM PG 9

Highway to get the tree and drag it home singing Christmas songs. I could have driven, but this way was more fun."

Christmas meant a house load of people. Constant chatter and laughter. Food. More food. Trash bags filled with crumpled up wrapping paper. Ten minutes to wrap, one second to rip open, and food.

The city used to flood Trum Field, Lincoln and Foss Parks so

we could ice skate. I'm sure there were other frozen parks throughout the city too. My brother and sister and I skated at Trum, with skates passed down from my cousins. They were practically new. Other kids tried out the skates hats and gloves they got for Christmas.

Keep in mind that we will be making more everlasting Christmas memories this year and every holiday season.

These days will eventually become the good old days. Every generation will tell their kids and their grandkids about the great Christmases they experienced when they were younger. And so on, and so on.

Those old Christmases bring back visions of leaving cookies out for Santa that would somehow be just crumbs in the morning. The carrots or apple we put out for the reindeer would also

be gone. We looked forward to the thank you note from Santa. I still don't know what kind of strange joy my dad got out of telling us that he was going up on the roof with a shotgun on Christmas Eve. Just another piece of the "why is Jimmy a little... off" puzzle!

It was quite a coincidence that Santa Clause's handwriting was very similar to my Dad's. I have visions of Glass Wax decorations

sprayed on windows from stencils. I think of my brother and sister and mom and dad who shared those magical Christmases of the mid to late 50's through the early 80's.

This Christmas I will enjoy my kids, spend time with friends, and family, and cement my place in future Christmas memories.

You can email Jimmy directly at jimmydel@rcn.com.

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

December 14

Hanscom Air Force Base Dinner & bingo

Holland Street Center
Flexibility & Balance (Suzanne)|9:30 a.m.
SHINE Hours (by appt.)|10 a.m.
Women's Support Group|10:30 a.m.
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

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

Ralph & Jenny Center
Blood Pressure Screening|10 a.m.
Indoor Exercises|10:30 a.m.
Bingo|12:30 p.m.
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

December 15

Holland Street Center
Indoor Exercise|9 a.m.
Senior Discussion - all welcome|10 a.m.
Holiday lunch|11|30 a.m.
Super Bingo!|12|45 p.m.
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Cross Street/Ralph & Jenny Closed

December 16

Holland Street
Indoor Exercise|9 a.m.
Book Club - "Still Alice"|9 a.m.
Blood Pressure Screening|10 a.m.
Bingo|12:45 p.m.

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x2300

Cross Street
Flexibility & Balance|10:30 a.m.
Bingo|12:45 p.m.
165 Broadway|617-625-6600 x 2335

Ralph & Jenny
Center Closed
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

December 17

Illumination of the Lights Tour
\$5 4:14 at the High School Concourse.
RSVP 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

December 19

Holland Street
Veteran's Group|9:30 a.m.
Swinging Singing Seniors |9:30 a.m.
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Cross Street
Center Closed
165 Broadway|617-625-6600 x2335

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

December 20

Holland Street
Strengthening with Geoff|9:15 a.m.
Afternoon at the Movies "Elf"|12:30 p.m.
Caregiver Support Group|6:30 p.m.

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Cross Street/Ralph & Jenny Closed

December 21

Holland Street Center
Flexibility & Balance - All welcome|9:30 a.m.
SHINE hours - by appt.|10 a.m.
Women's Group - Support |10:30 a.m.
QiGong|1:15 p.m.
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x. 2300

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

Ralph & Jenny
Indooor Exercise|10:30 a.m.
Bingo|12:30 p.m.
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

Coming up in January:

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Local protesters occupy Somerville

CONT. FROM PG 3

I'm in a jam. I need money fast. I can't tell you why, but trust me, I need this money," said McLaughlin. In the tale, Johnny then asks for nine trillion dollars.

"Johnny, this isn't the first time this has happened. I seem to remember several times throughout history in which you've come and asked me for a bailout, so I would like to

have some assurances."

McLaughlin then takes out a loan himself for Johnny agreeing to the loan for the sake of his friend.

"Then 'lo and behold, a week later, he comes back and he has some of the money. I'm confused. I say 'Johnny, about a week ago, you were broke. So where is this money coming from? And by the way, my tel-

evision was stolen last week. Do you happen to know where that went?"

"When they mess up, like they did in 2008, they make us suffer. They make us pay." The only way to deal with a situation like this is to cut them off, and to say no more. We're not going to take this is anymore. They say they're too big to fail, well we're here to make sure

they're not so big anymore."

The group then marched to the local Bank of America, only to find a white gate blocking any entrance by members of the group. Management had decided to close up the bank an hour and a half early at 11:36 a.m. However, Rand Wilson, community organizer and union representative, was quick to confront the

manager, who then agreed to let him and two others close their accounts.

"Wall Street is occupying America. Wall Street is occupying Somerville. And that's corrupting our values. That's corrupting our civic society," said Wilson.

The group was joined by Sen. Pat Jehlen and Rep. Denise Provost.

Painter Juliana Gamble feeds the flame of mystery

By Charles E. Kane

Oil painter Juliana Gamble learned from her boyfriend, a Harvard educated neuroscientist, that the human brain does not need all of the information in order to formulate a whole. In other words, provide it with some of the dots and it will connect the rest.

At an artist reception for her exhibit *Color and Light*, held at the Somerville Community Access Television studio on Saturday December 10, this sentiment was thoroughly echoed through each vibrant, yet simplistic work hanging from the wall.

All of the paintings are smaller than a square foot, a conscious effort of finishing in one session which she believes promotes focus. Her paintings of seemingly ordinary images, a wooded valley, a grapefruit, flower pot, or apple, were drawn out to illus-

trate a few key highlights and lowlights, allowing the beholder to connect the rest of the dots on his or her own. "You can tell this is a grapefruit, even though there are four tones pushed together," Juliana explained.

In doing so, she has created a deceptively complex collection of images, which only become more detailed upon further inspection. Her interest is embedded in color and light. "One of the things I try to work on when painting is to find the true dark spots and true highlights. I want to make sure the contrast is there in a way that is pleasing to the eye."

She focuses on the bigger notes of the painting, the framework of the story, believing that it is more exciting to say more by saying less. "It becomes dry and unexciting to paint every single stroke and stitch. It's like reading a book as opposed to watching a movie, there's a level of imagina-



Painter Juliana Gamble focuses on the big picture.

tion to it; it allows your brain to determine what's out there."

She credits painting with training her eye to the natural beauty of everyday life. Whilst many artists become disinterested the more vested they are in what

they are doing, she finds inspiration in her life. She explained that her grapefruit series was inspired by preparing a grapefruit salad. In a modern society where information seeps through every pore, an old soul can be refreshed

by the fact that some still put faith in the saying "less is more." "It's not as if I couldn't paint all the details if I really wanted to, but part of me doesn't really want to. I'm just not as interested in all of the details."

Occupy Boston: a 'Villen's tale

CONT. FROM PG 3

some of the more unruly occupiers.

"Around 9 o'clock at night, it starts getting a little busier," he said of his everyday activities. "People start drinking. It's a sober movement, it's supposed to be a sober camp, but what are you going to do?"

One member, whom Mack described as a "constant problem" was someone he called 'George,' who Mack had to settle one night.

"George constantly drinks," said Mack. "George is constantly detoxing from alcohol. This particular night, George seemed a little more aggressive than usual, so we pulled him out of his tent. He was really, really agitated, re-

ally, really combative."

"As soon as we pulled him out, he swings on me, so George goes down to the ground."

"I say, 'George, hey, it's Devin,'" Mack continued, saying he had always had a good rapport with 'George.'" "Ok, alright, I'll be good," 'George,' replied, and began cooperating.

"We get him halfway to the medical tent, George swings on me again, George goes down to the ground again. George hits me, he says: 'let's go!' And he's so out it, he's not focusing at all. I do a quick heart rate on him. It's at about 140, it's really, really high."

After calling a hospital, and

getting George into detox once again, it was discovered that he had drank four bottles of Tussin cough syrup, which can have a hallucinogenic effect.

"He's been a consistent problem since then, too," said Mack.

However, it was not all fights with drunkards and marches. Mack met his girlfriend, Tufts student Anne Wolfe, at the camp one morning.

"I see this little blonde girl running around, cleaning the tent that's next to us," he recalls. "Wow, she's kind of cute, she's cleaning, she's doing actual work. What is she's doing down here? No one does actual work around here."

He said hat he made fun of her while she was cleaning, telling her she was doing everything wrong. "We built a good working relationship first, I'd say, and then feelings developed out of that," he said.

"She's a Tuft's student, I'm a Somerville kid. We don't get along, usually," he said. "It crossed the social divide, where I actually opened up and was able to talk to her, and not just be like 'I hate Tufts students.'"

Wolfe recalls that, indeed, his first reaction upon learning her educational background was "Oh my god, I hate Tufts."

"Just because the camp goes away, doesn't mean the issue goes

away. Now that people know about them, we need to act on them," he said. "Something like this, I think, was a longtime coming, and it's weird that this is how it manifested but it's good. It's inspirational."

Mack said while he supported the movement, which has suffered setbacks in recent months due to a nationwide crackdown on their camps, he did not have the answers to how to fix the socio-economic problems the group tried to address.

"I can fix cuts and scrapes and bruises and colds. I can't fix the economy. I'm there to take care of the people who can, who know how to do that."

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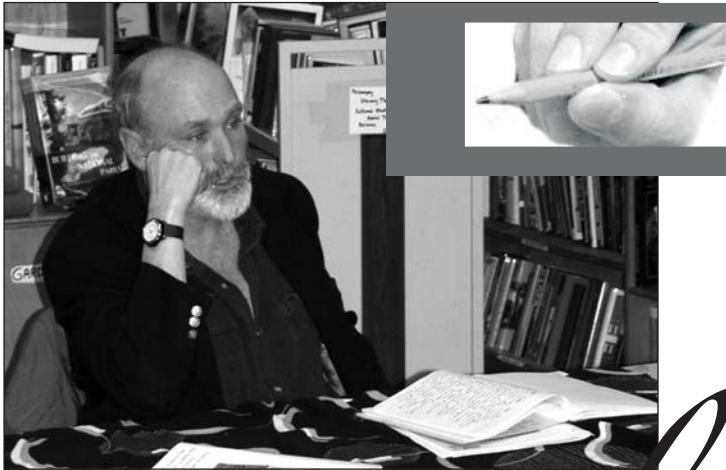
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SCAT Program Schedule for the Week

Wednesday, December 14							
12:00am	Free Speech TV	5:00pm	Ablevision	1:00pm (LIVE)	Bongoman	1:00pm	Ablevision
6:00am	Flip Side	5:30pm	Somerville: Most Interesting Places	3:00pm	Portraits of Somerville	1:30pm	Somerville Housing Authority
7:00am	Raising Drug Free Kids	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV	4:00pm	Most Interesting Place	2:00pm	Thom Hartmann Program
8:00am	Democracy Now!	7:00pm (LIVE)	Tele Magazine	4:30pm	Coal. For a responsible Walmart	3:00pm	Robyn & Max Exercise
9:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	7:30pm	Somerville Rocks	5:00pm	Tele Kreyol	3:30pm	Esoteric Science
10:00am	Abugida TV	8:00pm (LIVE)	Fouye Zo Nan Kalalou	6:00pm	Tele Magazine	4:00pm	South of the Mystic
11:00am	Somerville News Reading	9:30pm	The Garage	7:00pm	Recovery Roundtable	4:30pm	Somerville Back In The Day
12:00noon	Democracy Now!	10:30pm	Sonic Lobotomy	8:00pm	Blunt Truth	5:00pm	Culture Club
1:00pm	Nepali Festival	11:00pm	Recovery Roundtable	9:00pm	Nossa Gente e Costumes	5:30pm	Talking About Somerville
1:30pm	Most Interesting Place	Friday, December 16		10:00pm	Wrestling Talk	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV
2:00pm	Thom Hartman show	12:00am	Free Speech TV	11:00pm	Sonic Lobotomy	7:00pm	Discover The Law
3:00pm (LIVE)	Medical Tutor	6:00am	Live Response	12:00mid	Bongoman	7:30pm	The Commonwealth Report
3:30pm	Interesting Places	7:00am	Recovery Roundtable	Sunday, December 18		8:00pm	Right Here, Right Now
4:00pm	Life Matters	8:00am	Democracy Now!	12:00am	Free Speech TV	8:30pm	Steve Katsos Show
4:30pm	Healthy Hypnosis	9:00am	The Truth About Drugs	6:00am	Show de Fe	9:00pm	Dedilhando A Saudade
5:00pm	CommonSense	9:30am	Creating Cooperative Kids	7:00am	Vida Na TV	10:00pm	Bate Papo con Shirley
5:30pm	Let's Talk About Hearing	10:30am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	8:00am	In Season, Out of Season	11:00pm	Visual Radio
6:00pm	Al Jazeera	11:30am	Back In The Day	8:30am	Healer in Every Home	Tuesday, December 20	
7:00pm (LIVE)	Chita Tande	12:00noon	Democracy Now!	9:00am	Heritage Baptist Church	12:00am	Free Speech TV
8:00pm (LIVE)	Somerville Pundits	1:00pm	The Expert Series	10:00am	Christian Assemble Tabernacle	6:00am	Emerging Drug Trends
8:30pm	Culture Club	2:00pm	Thom Hartmann Program	11:00am	International Church of God	7:00pm	Perils For Pedestrians
9:00pm	Somerville Rocks	3:00pm	Cooking W/Georgie & Dez	11:30am	The Commonwealth Report	7:30am	The Struggle
9:30pm	Shrink Rap	3:30pm	Toastmasters	12noon	Somerville Housing Auth.	8:00am	Democracy Now!
10:00pm	The Smoki Dick Show	4:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking	12:30pm	Nepali Festival	9:00am	Somerville News Reading
10:30pm	South of the Mystic	4:30pm	Money On Your Mind	1:00pm	Waltham Philharmonic Orch.	10:00am	Tele Kreyol
11:00pm	The Garage	5:00pm	SCATV and Free Speech	2:00pm	Effort Pour Christ	11:00am	Commonsense
11:30pm	Art @ SCATV	5:30am	Your Money Your Life	3:30pm	Talk About Somerville	11:30	Nepali Festival
Thursday, December 15		6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV	4:00pm	Dedilhando A Saudade	12:00noon	Democracy Now!
12:00am	Free Speech TV	7:00pm	Right Here, Right Now	5:00pm	Ethiopian Satelite TV	1:00pm	The Commonwealth Report
6:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	7:30pm	Working With Java	6:00pm	Abugida TV	1:30pm	Know Your Rights
7:00am	Know Your Rights	8:00pm	Visual Radio	7:00pm	African TV Network	2:00pm	Thom Hartmann Show
7:30am	South of the Mystic	9:00pm	The Garage	8:00pm	Tele Magazine	3:30pm	Active Aging
8:00am	Democracy Now!	9:30pm	Bandwidth TV	9:00pm	Watch This	4:00pm	Protrait of Somerville
9:00am	Parent Factor	10:00pm	Portrait of Somerville	9:30pm	Grill Dog	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, December 17		11:00pm	Undercover TV	6:00pm	A Jazeera
11:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	12:00am	Free Speech TV	Monday, December 19		7:00pm	Art @ SCAT
12:00noon	Democracy Now!	6:00am	Arabic Hour	12:00am	Free Speech TV	7:30pm	Greater Somerville W/ Joe Lynch
1:00pm	African TV Network	7:00am	GAY USA	6:00am	Show de fe	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, December 14							
9:00am: (13/16)	Talking Business	1:00am: (15)	Kid Stuff		Life at Camp Cameron	1:00am: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas
9:00am: (15)	Early Childhood Fair/Family Literacy	1:30am: (15)	Somerville Math Scrapheap Showdown	7:00pm: (15)	Raising Families	1:15am: (13/16)	City Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration
11:30am: (15)	SHS Winter Concert	2:10am: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness	7:30pm: (15)	Highlander Forum		
12:00pm: (13/16)	Congressional Update	9:00am: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness	7:45pm: (13/16)	Talking Business	1:50am: (15)	All-City Middle School Winter Concert
12:30pm: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch	9:00am: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	8:00pm: (15)	ESCS Winter Concert	2:05am: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch
1:00pm: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	12:00pm: (13/16)	Somerville 1861: Life at Camp Cameron	8:15pm: (13/16)	The Mayor's Report	9:00am: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas
1:30pm: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner			8:45pm: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	9:00am: (15)	Kid Stuff
4:00pm: (13/16)	Public Hearing on Proposed Charter School - LIVE	12:00pm: (15)	Raising Families	10:00pm: (15)	SHS Hockey vs NE Metro Regional Vocational	11:30am: (15)	SHS Football Highlights 2011
7:00pm: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch	12:30pm: (15)	Highlander Forum	Sunday, December 18		11:50am: (15)	All-City Middle School Winter Concert
7:00pm: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	12:45pm: (13/16)	Talking Business	12:00am: (13/16)	Somerville 1861: Life at Camp Cameron	12:00pm: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas
7:30pm: (13/16)	The Mayor's Report	1:00pm: (15)	ESCS Winter Concert	12:00am: (15)	SHS Hockey vs NE Metro Regional Vocational	12:40pm: (15)	Highlander Forum
7:50pm: (15)	Highlander Forum	1:15pm: (13/16)	The Mayor's Report			1:10pm: (15)	Our Schools, Our City
8:00pm: (13/16)	Public Hearing on Proposed Charter School	1:45pm: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	12:30am: (15)	Highlander Forum	7:00pm: (13/16)	School Committee Meeting - LIVE
		1:50pm: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	12:45am: (13/16)	Talking Business	7:00pm: (15)	All-City Middle School Winter Concert
8:20pm: (15)	Superintendent Awards - 1st Quarter	7:00pm: (13/16)	Somerville 1861: Life at Camp Cameron	1:15am: (13/16)	The Mayor's Report	8:00pm: (15)	ESCS Winter Concert
Thursday, December 15		7:00pm: (15)	Raising Families	1:45am: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	8:45pm: (15)	Superintendent Awards - 1st Quarter
12:00am: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch	7:30pm: (15)	Highlander Forum	12:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	Tuesday, December 20	
12:00am: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	7:45pm: (13/16)	Talking Business	12:00pm: (15)	SHS Football Highlights 2011	12:00am: (13/16)	Somerville Boxing Club
12:30am: (13/16)	The Mayor's Report	8:00pm: (15)	ESCS Winter Concert	12:00pm: (15)	SHS Hockey vs NE Metro Regional Vocational	12:00am: (15)	All-City Middle School Winter Concert
12:50am: (15)	Highlander Forum	8:15pm: (13/16)	The Mayor's Report	12:25pm: (15)		12:20am: (13/16)	City Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration
1:00am: (13/16)	Public Hearing on Proposed Charter School	8:45pm: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	12:30pm: (13/16)	Congressional Update	1:00am: (15)	ESCS Winter Concert
		8:50pm: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	1:00pm: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	9:00am: (13/16)	Public Hearing on Proposed Charter School
1:20am: (15)	Superintendent Awards - 1st Quarter	Saturday, December 17		1:15pm: (13/16)	City Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration	9:00am: (15)	All-City Middle School Winter Concert
9:00am: (13/16)	The Mayor's Report	12:00am: (13/16)	Somerville 1861: Life at Camp Cameron			11:30am: (15)	ESCS Winter Concert
9:00am: (15)	Kid Stuff	12:00am: (15)	Raising Families	1:50pm: (15)	All-City Middle School Winter Concert	12:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit
11:30am: (15)	Superintendent Awards - 1st Quarter	12:30am: (15)	Highlander Forum	2:05pm: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch	12:30pm: (13/16)	Talking Business
12:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	12:45am: (13/16)	Talking Business	7:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	1:00pm: (13/16)	City Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration
12:30pm: (13/16)	The Mayor's Report	1:00am: (15)	ESCS Winter Concert	7:00pm: (15)	SHS Football Highlights 2011	1:00pm: (15)	Our Schools, Our City
1:00pm: (13/16)	Seriously Somerville	1:15am: (13/16)	The Mayor's Report	7:25pm: (15)	SHS Hockey vs NE Metro Regional Vocational	3:00pm: (13/16)	BOA Meeting Agenda for 12/20/11 Meeting
1:20pm: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness	1:45am: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	7:30pm: (13/16)	Congressional Update	7:00pm: (13/16)	Board of Aldermen Meeting - LIVE
1:30pm: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	1:50am: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	8:00pm: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	7:00pm: (15)	SHS Girls' Basketball vs Wachusett Regional - LIVE
7:00pm: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	12:00pm: (13/16)	Somerville 1861: Life at Camp Cameron	8:15pm: (13/16)	City Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration	10:00pm: (15)	SHS Girls' Basketball vs Wachusett Regional
7:00pm: (15)	Highlander Forum	12:00pm: (15)	Raising Families	8:50pm: (15)	All-City Middle School Winter Concert		
7:30pm: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	12:30pm: (15)	Highlander Forum	9:05pm: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch		
8:00pm: (15)	Kid Stuff	12:45pm: (13/16)	Talking Business	Monday, December 19			
8:30pm: (15)	Somerville Math Scrapheap Showdown	1:00pm: (15)	ESCS Winter Concert	12:00am: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	12:00am: (13/16)	Senior Circuit
9:10pm: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness	1:15pm: (13/16)	The Mayor's Report	12:00am: (15)	SHS Football Highlights 2011	12:00am: (15)	SHS Girls' Basketball vs Wachusett Regional
Friday, December 16		1:45pm: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	12:25am: (15)	SHS Hockey vs NE Metro Regional Vocational	12:30am: (13/16)	Talking Business
12:00am: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	1:50pm: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	12:30am: (13/16)	Congressional Update	1:00am: (13/16)	Congressional Update
12:00am: (15)	Highlander Forum	7:00pm: (13/16)	Somerville 1861:				
12:30am: (15)	Our Schools, Our City						



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Choir of Day

New and Selected Poems By Robert K. Johnson

Somerville Bagel Bard Dennis Daly reviews the latest book by Somerville's Ibbetson Street Press. To order "Choir of Day" by Robert K. Johnson and other Ibbetson titles go to <http://lulu.com/ibbetsonpress>

Choir of Day: New and Selected Poems

By Robert K. Johnson

ISBN: 978-0-979-5313-3-0

Ibbetson Street Press – \$14.00

Review by Dennis Daly

If you like taut moments, touching scenes and wings of sunlight, these tempered yet beautifully written poems are for you. In a Morning to Remember Johnson takes a very ordinary Norman Rockwell-like slice of life memory and injects it with devastating future- knowledge. He describes the arrival and sing-song Halloo of a little boy outside his kitchen door, who

Holds up his ball and mitt—
ready to play catch—
the week before he drowned.

In My View of a New England Autumn, the poet relates the deaths of both his parents with a graphic realism very unlike the details of the gorgeous deepening blaze of his present autumn, "dying/ a few leaves at a time,"

My father waved back to me
as I left his hospital room;
and, a minute later, gasped
in pain and died.
He describes his mother as steadily looking worse until,
while I bent over her bed,
her eyes hardened
like blue water turning to ice.

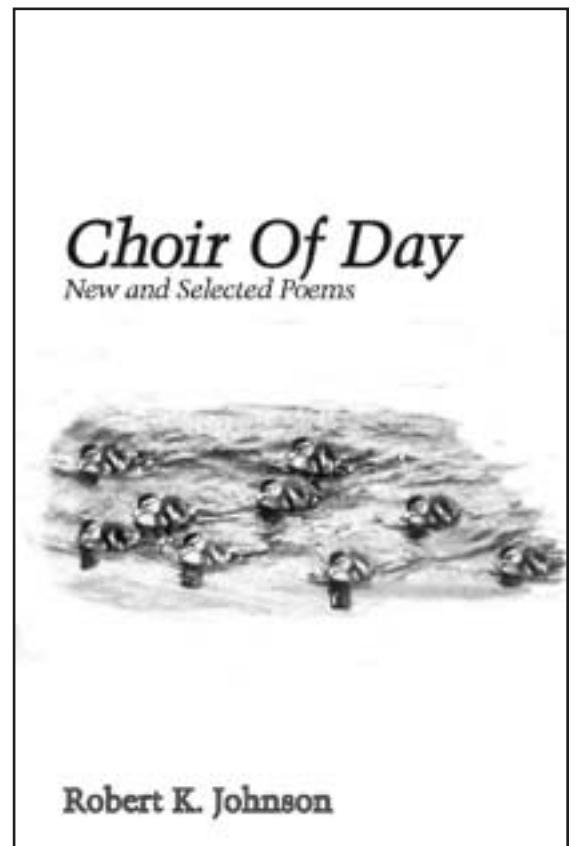
After portraying his nine year old first-born son making his way through the ordinary world of delivering newspapers and bike riding in his poem, While Driving, the poet loses himself in an instinctual, yet touching moment when he celebrates,

And my brain and pumping blood—
Every part of me says,
That's my son. My son.

In the poem, Our Daughter's First Time Away From Home, there is another deceptively simple scene, in which the poet's daughter discovers a little gesture,

... when we start to drive
away, an impulse leads you
to discover what it feels like
to blow someone a kiss.

In The Speck the winged protests of a fly unable to breach the seasonal impediments are compared to the vain protests of a poet trying to make straight-line sense out of the world's circularity,



And though, unlike the fly,
I have a mind and it tells me
"In vain," I—too—protest: despite
the chills of age, I keep
circling—in these straight lines I write.

Choir of Day is filled with sunlight, much of it falling on wings. In The Lecture the poet juxtaposes the techniques of teaching poetry with an actual moment of inspiration,

... And, glancing outside, you see
the sunlight splash a swooping bluejay's wings
gold-bright... and know no word your students
heard

roused what, in you, that flash of sunlight stirred. In Parvane, a haunting poem, the moment of knowledge comes with winged sunlight this way: and you will see a distant bird gliding with sunlight on its wings across a shining field where the tip of a tree's low branch waits for the bird to alight. The poem Lover's Words starts off this way: Each gliding gull that tips sunlight across its tilting wings will die and so will love. ...

For Johnson love seems to be yet another poetic moment or time or inspiration only more so. Therefore true love, like poetry's moment, is fleeting, does not survive death, and possibly not even our life spans, since whenever the gods decree,

the love we share will be as dead
as flowers frozen by an early frost

Johnson's Choir of Day is chock-full of troubling, touching poems like these and well worth the read.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Ah yes. The paperboy days: my green account book, the papers thrown with a direct hit in the bushes, the ramshackle newspaper office and the smell of cheap cigars, the bark of unappreciative dogs or old men at the door when I collected. This was in the early 60's in the suburbs of New York: remember the Long Island Press? Poet Tomas O'Leary remembers delivering papers in Somerville in the 1950's.

A Paperboy's Conviction

Globe, Post, Herald, American:
fat Sunday papers out of Boston in the 50's.
The bundles hit my steps by 5 a.m.

The wooden cart my dad built
bore its stuffing proudly, its iron wheels
wizards of note to my trained ear.

How I loved
the haunting clatter of my cart through
streets magnificently empty! This was Somerville

still abed, dreaming that racket out there
I was happily making. I rarely saw
another soul, or dog or human, as I

made my rounds. But once
as I raced along the sidewalk, there
appeared from exactly nowhere

and precisely in my path
a dog I didn't know at all. Striving in panic
to avoid it I clipped it slightly

on the butt, sufficient for a yip of
indignation and swift retreat.
Across the street a strident woman

mistook my danced dismay for victory's glee
and shrilled me into infantile abashment,
my age 13, my guilt full well established.

"You evil child," she screamed, "how could you do that!"
"No no," I cried back, "no no no no no!"
"Mean boy," she shrieked, "you did that, I saw you, bad boy!"

More than half a century later, that woman
rings my memory bell. She cradles
the dog in her floppy arms, the pair of them

so nebulously formed it's just the memory
I remember: I zigged and zagged
to miss the dog; she was sure I was zeroing in.

Though memory tends to feather the future
with fading wisps of long-untended past,
I know in time's drone

I once was condemned by a credible witness
I neither begrudge nor forgive,
but merely hope to irritate

with a paperboy's conviction
as the old girl leaps to make
her judgment calls around the afterlife.

— Tomas O'Leary

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:
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