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Merry Christmas from the publishers and staff of The Somerville News

First Church Somerville does 'Occupy Bethlehem'



Photo by Andrew Firestone

The occupation forces were decidedly peaceful in Davis Square this week.

By Andrew Firestone

In this holiday season, the First Church of Somerville decided to go tongue-in-cheek, recreating the Christmas story in Davis Square with a flavor of 'Occupy.' With no room or inn to let them stay, church members dressed as Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus sat out occupying Davis Square, as kings and courtiers presented gifts and wished them well, singing carols the whole way through.

Pastor Jeffrey Mansfield gave a Christmas sermon, reminding onlookers to be vigilant, and work for a better tomorrow. "We live in a world dominated by great kings and empires," he said. "We are subject to technology and the media which tell us how to think. We are ruled by a recession, by big corporations and Wall Street, and by the hours from 9 to 5. We are governed by too many politicians who are owned by this world and too few of whom have been able to imagine something new or

Continued on page 3

Charter school question rages SPCS brings out passion at debate

By Andrew Firestone

It was a packed house at the Somerville High auditorium this last Wednesday, December 14, more audience members than this reporter has ever seen at any public hearing. This circumstance, a hearing before the state Board of Secondary and Elementary Education, was one of the most divisive seen in years, as community members sparred back and forth over the proposal of a new charter school geared towards English Language Learners.

Every member of the school council that spoke, every teacher, every elected state official and Mayor Joseph Curtatone was against the proposal. At one point, a parent in Progress Together for Somerville, the group opposed to the Somerville Progressive Charter School (SPCS) asked those who opposed to stand. Around 90 percent of those attending stood and cheered.

"This proposal, mark my words, was made in a vacuum. It does not consider

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Photo by Andrew Firestone

Opposition to the SCPS rises to be recognized.

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NEWTALK

We wish everyone a Happy Hanukkah, which starts today, and a Merry Christmas this coming weekend. We hope everyone has an enjoyable and peaceful time, gathering with family and friends.

The last formal Board of Aldermen meeting of the year was held last week, and it was the last meeting for Ward 4 Alderman Walter Pero. He's a nice guy who has served Ward 4 and Winter Hill well over the years. He's been on top of the issues and has been accessible to everyone regardless of politics. We wish Walter the best in his retirement, and thank him for his many years of public service here in Somerville. His phone calls and emails on a daily basis will soon be answered by his successor, Tony LaFaunte, who will be sworn in right after the New Year.

Apparently the city is being hit hard by the Fire Department, and an arbitration issue was handed down that could cost the city millions in back pay and raises. An executive session was held last night with the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on how the city plans to deal with it.

Happy Birthdays in the 'Ville to Attorney Maria Cutratone, and to a good friend, Jim Henry, who looks good as Santa. Also to a great friend and relative newcomer here, Kevin Dickinson. Birthday greetings as well to former 'Villens Paul Peddle and Pamela Jordan-Feffer who both grew up here and still have strong memories of early days in Somerville. Many others are celebrating this week and we, of course, wish them the best. It must be difficult to celebrate both their birthdays and the holidays. Happy birthday greetings also to out good friend Patrick Healey who is celebrating in the 'Ville this week.

Continued on page 8

TheSomervilleNews.com Comments of the Week

Response to Local protesters occupy Somerville

617 says:

Awesome! I'm so glad this movement is spreading. Keep up the great work Occupy Somerville. I'll be out there for the next event you guys have.

TheTimmy says:

I'm all for the protests, but it's hard to take seriously when the Pastor compares the protesters to Jesus and Ghandi.

Winter Hill Barney says:

Local branches of large banks are great targets for protest. What use do we have for them, honestly? Money is just as safe in a small local bank, thanks to FDIC. Service at a small bank is comparable or better. Interest rates are comparable or better. Check out Winter Hill Bank, or one of the other local options, folks.

Harry says:

What did the Occupy groups nationwide actually accomplish? Seriously. Nothing. They actually did more damage to their cause than any good. Funny too how the Occupy Somerville clowns get their schtick rolling just as the whole movement fizzles out. A day late and a dollar short – that's our local, liberal, progressive goofballs for you! Libertarian has the right idea (flat tax, get rid of loopholes, etc.) just add get rid of the fed and we're on to something. Lastly, the line "The group was joined by Sen. Pat Jehlen and Rep. Denise Provost." should have been shortened to "2 more useless nitwits joined."

Tom says:

I have a great idea why don't they head up Broadway and pitch their little tents in Trum Field? Or maybe they can set up camp at city hall. Im sure the city would not mind.

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 think the word "Christmas" should be taken out of all things pertaining to "Christmas" and replaced with the word "Holiday". If you don't agree with the results, simply log onto TheSomervilleNews.com.

Should the word "Christmas" be taken out of all things pertaining to "Christmas" and replaced with the word "Holiday"?



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East Somerville School: \$5.8M loan

City awaits state approval

By Andrew Firestone

Somerville officials announced last week that they are awaiting the approval for a \$5.8 million from the School Building Authority, a low-interest loan meant to bridge a budget gap for the destroyed school.

The loan would have only two percent interest, and would allow for the completed school, budgeted at around \$39.1 million, to open in September 2013, bringing 600 students back together.

The school was heavily damaged in a fire in 2007.

Senators bring back gifts for SFD

Fire Department to receive \$217,862

By Andrew Firestone

Senators Scott Brown and John Kerry managed to work together last week, bringing home an additional \$1.28 million in federal funds for Massachusetts Fire Departments.

\$217,862 will go to Somerville to be used to help fund equipment, such as vehicles and fire suits.

The funding, awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG), will go towards investments in training programs, new equipment, and

safety gear that will help to increase the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in communities.

"Our heroic firefighters deserve to have the equipment and training they need, and I am thankful these resources have been made available to our local departments," said Sen. Brown. "I will continue working within the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to make sure the Assistance to Firefighters Grants are there for the men and women who serve our communities."

'Occupy Bethlehem'

CONT. FROM PG 1

different with us."

Mansfield said that what was needed was a little "advent misrule": "to let the powers of this world be flipped upside down by the coming of these hopeful, Holy Days."

"Imagine a world that could recognize the divinity within each pregnant woman, instead of idolizing money, and power, and greed," he said.

"Imagine a world in which we brought our greatest gifts to our

newborns, instead of wasting them on things that seem to matter so much less."

"Imagine a world which could be made new - right now - not through any of our destructive apocalyptic fantasies. No meteors! No plagues! No zombies! No 2012! No rapture! But a world that could be made new right now by the birth of a baby. Everything can change in this moment. We can put it all down. We can decide to be new."

Somerville Illuminated



Photo by Savath Young



Photo by Rachel Strutt

27 trolleys transported groups to the Christmas lights displays of houses at the 15th annual Somerville Arts Council's Illuminations Tour last week.

Arts at the Armory Cafe



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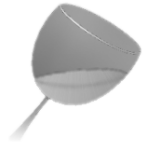
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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Somerville man and woman arrested for stealing Christmas packages

A man and a woman, both residents of Somerville, were arrested Tuesday afternoon in connection with an investigation into multiple package thefts from area residences. In recent days, Somerville Police and other greater Boston Police Departments have been investigating reports of thieves taking advantage of the seasonal spike in express deliveries by stealing packages from porches and doorways.

Acting on information from the Medford Police Department, Somerville officers today stopped a vehicle at Pearl Street and McGrath Highway that matched the description of a car suspected of involvement with the theft of packages from area homes. The officers immediately noticed that the car was full of boxes

marked for delivery to a variety of local addresses.

Manuel Sheehan, age 27, and Kristen Casey, age 26, both of Somerville, were placed under arrest for receiving stolen property.

A subsequent search of their Everett Avenue home led to the discovery of more than one hundred similar items, believed to have been stolen from area homes.

Somerville detectives are working into the night to identify the many victims and log the stolen property so that as many items as possible can be returned in time for Christmas.

Both suspects will be arraigned in Somerville District Court on Wednesday, December 21.

The investigation is continuing, according to police.



Kristen Casey and Manuel Sheehan are suspected of stealing dozens of Christmas packages from area homes.

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SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

Robin Valentine, 51, of 30 Churchill, Cambridge, December 12, 1:01 p.m., arrested at Harvard St. on charges of unregistered motor vehicle, attaching wrong motor vehicle, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and uninsured motor vehicle or trailer.

Wallace Dornevil, 28, of 267 River, Waltham, December 12, 5:49 p.m., arrested at 40 Memorial Rd. on warrant charges of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended registration, unregistered motor vehicle, and uninsured motor vehicle or trailer.

Edmilson Gomes, 22, of 87 Bartlett St., December 12, 6:28 p.m., arrested at 40 Holland St. on a charge of unarmed robbery.

Joseph Blazo, 35, December 13, 7:22 p.m., arrested at 77 Middlesex Ave. on a warrant charge of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

John Pittorino, 35, December 13, 7:22 p.m., arrested at Butler Dr. on warrant charges of disturbing the peace and resisting arrest.

A **juvenile**, December 14, 12:38 p.m., arrested at Broadway on charges of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle,

reckless operation of a motor vehicle, number plate violation, uninsured motor vehicle or trailer, and unregistered motor vehicle.

John Curtin, 55, December 14, 4:33 p.m., arrested at Grove St. on charges of conspiracy to violate drug law, drug violation near a school or park, drug possession to distribute, and on warrant charges of conspiracy to violate drug law, drug violation near a school or park, and drug possession to distribute.

Kevin Merrill, 31, of 406 Meridian St., East Boston, December 14, 4:33 p.m., arrested at Grove St. on charges of conspiracy to violate drug law and miscellaneous municipal ordinance violation.

Donald Frazier, 53, of 16 Highland Ave., December 15, 1:03 p.m., arrested at 220 Washington St. on a warrant charge of sex offender fail to register.

Anthony Sargent, 22, of 6 Sunset Ave., Methuen, December 15, 8:43 p.m., arrested at 173 Elm St. on a warrant charge of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Jason Dodge, 42, December 16, 2:04 p.m., arrested at 56 Broadway on a warrant charge of abuse prevention

order violation.

Adine Reis, 30, of 19 Julie St., Malden, December 16, 9:42 p.m., arrested at Broadway on a charge of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and a warrant charge of assault and battery.

Toni Bellomo, 30, of 43 Bradley St., December 17, 2:07 a.m., arrested at 25 Robinson St. on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Liza Gregory, 20, of 127 Hudson, December 17, 9:44 p.m., arrested at home on a charge of abuse prevention order violation.

Theodore Mourousas, 42, of 1 Family Dr., Woburn, December 17, 10:55 p.m., arrested at 299 Broadway on charges of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license and no inspection sticker.

Ellis Maxwell, 63, of 243 Broadway, Cambridge, December 18, 5:07 p.m., arrested at 530 Somerville Ave. on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Rasean Sorrell, 18, of 15 Waldren Rd. Roxbury, December 18, 9:44 p.m., arrested at 77 Middlesex Ave. on warrant charges of unregistered motor vehicle, improper turn, uninsured motor vehicle or trailer, and operation of a motor vehicle with registration suspended.

Incidents:

Theft:

December 13, 12:01 p.m., police reported a theft at Bromfield Rd.

December 14, 10:02 a.m., police reported a theft at Mossland St.

December 14, 12:07 p.m., police reported a theft at Mossland St.

December 15, 12:17 p.m., police reported a theft at 75 Mystic Ave.

December 16, 2:38 p.m., police reported a theft at Burnham St.

December 16, 3:28 p.m., police reported a theft at Alston St.

December 18, 4:59 p.m., police reported a theft at Otis St.

December 19, 2:14 p.m., police reported a theft at 14 McGrath Hwy.

December 19, 5:00 p.m., police reported a theft at Franklin St.

December 19, 9:33 p.m., police reported a theft at School St.

Robbery:

December 17, 10:27 a.m., police reported a robbery at 338 Broadway.

December 19, 8:58 p.m., police reported a robbery at 701

Somerville Ave.

Breaking & Entering:

December 16, 2:34 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Charles E Ryan Rd.

December 17, 10:04 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at 775 McGrath Hwy.

December 18, 10:57 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Ten Hills Rd.

December 18, 11:33 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Ten Hills Rd.

Vehicle Theft:

December 13, 10:05 a.m., police reported a vehicle theft at Vernon St.

December 15, 9:38 a.m., police reported a vehicle theft at McGrath Hwy.

Assault:

December 14, 7:24 p.m., police reported an assault at Pearl St.

December 19, 1:22 a.m., police reported an assault at Edgar Ave.

December 19, 4:45 p.m., police reported an assault at Summer St.

December 19, 7:04 p.m., police reported an assault at Walnut Rd.

Citywide sticker shock campaign to deter underage drinking

By Savath Young

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and Somerville Cares About Prevention's (SCAP) youth group, "Somerville Positive Forces" will work together to distribute between 7,000 and 15,000 warning stickers to discourage the purchase of alcohol to minors at half of the 27 liquor store retailers, bars and restaurants this holiday season.

The Sticker Shock campaign is in its sixth year working with retailers and in its second year working with liquor-serving establishments. In order to reach a broader community and reflect the diversity of Somerville's residents, the stickers will be translated in over seven languages, including Vietnamese, Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole.

According to Cory Mashburn, director of the city's Office of Prevention, "We conducted a student health survey for the city and it was apparent from the survey that alcohol was the most prevalent issue concerning both youth and adults today. We have gotten such encouraging feed-

back from business owners and they have been so receptive towards us, especially since they see that the youth are really behind the effort.

The youth advisors go out with the volunteers equipped with stickers, brochures, coasters and table tents that display the message, "Hey You! It's illegal to provide alcohol for people under 21," and they place the stickers on multi-packs of beer and paper bags and store owners also display our signs at their checkout counters and windows.

The youth volunteers will work with the Somerville Police Department and several merchants over the next several months to alert community members about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. Jailene Escobar joined SPF because her friends were in the group and she wanted to help make a difference in the community. "Instead of staying home and doing nothing, I can have fun and be productive at the same time. I love that I can be active in the city in such a positive way," said Escobar.



The stickers serve as reminders for adults not to purchase alcohol to minors this holiday season.

When asked why he thinks this is the most requested program from the youth volunteers to bring back more frequently and what makes the 6th annual sticker shock campaign so successful, Mayor Curtatone said, "I think SCAP's "Sticker Shock" is so popular with vol-

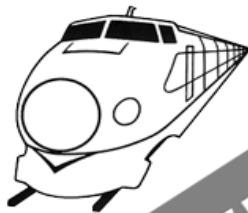
unteers because it's highly visible, it puts the volunteers in direct contact with merchants and restaurant owners, and because it works. It's a great addition to the many messages of caring and community at this time of year."

The stickers serve as reminders

to adults that buying and serving alcohol to minors is illegal and the campaign helps everyone to have a safer holiday season. For more information or to get involved with the Sticker Shock campaign, SPF and/or SCAP, please contact Cory Mashburn at (617) 625-6600, ext. 2570.

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A voice for homeless children

By Harry Kane

Down the street from Somerville's City Hall, Regina Bertholdo takes stock of 49 homeless children's whereabouts as the holiday season approaches. The small office with a window sits on the ground level of the parent informational center on Prescott Street. With the window open and the heat on full blast, the beautiful Brazilian with the heart of gold leaned back in her chair and acknowledged the homeless epidemic plaguing our society.

Bertholdo immigrated to America when she was twenty-four years old. Many of the homeless children in Somerville are immigrants themselves from places like Haiti or Brazil.

Part of Bertholdo's job for the past twelve years has been Director at the Parent Informational Center, entrusted to place every student from kindergarten to twelfth grade into a public school in Somerville.

When Bertholdo began helping children in hospitals, working as a translator, she knew that she had entered the right line of work. "I have a passion for people and for the human being," says Bertholdo. "I respect people and I try to understand difficult situations. Sometimes people bring baggage."

Part of her current duties includes coordinating the multi lingual services part of the program, which involves acting as an interpreter and translator.

Sometimes she has to scour the database looking for an interpreter for an incoming family.

As of last year Bertholdo became the district liaison for homeless children in Somerville. "I'm doing it as I learn," said Bertholdo.

Bertholdo's main job in regards to homeless children is to keep the kids off the streets and in school. She oversees that the kids receive a free breakfast and lunch, books, clothing and transportation to and from school.

"I have a passion for people and for the human being"

Much of her job involves coordination between different organizations and following up with the families to make sure they are okay. "They all know me at the high school." Some teens will move at the drop of a hat and it's Bertholdo's job to keep track of their whereabouts. "It could be that they move and then I need to trace them down." There's a girl in seventh grade that calls Bertholdo every so often complaining that there is no transportation.

Bertholdo works with 5 other women to ensure the success of the program. "In the parent informational Center, you know, sometimes you sit and cry with the families." Despite their situation they like the schools and that makes Bertholdo feel good. "It's rewarding."

Co-worker Evelyn Scheri was upbeat with her explanation of Bertholdo's disposition. "She wears many hats, she cares so much, and she goes the extra mile. She'll get on the phone and find the kids a home."

From 2007 - 2011 there has been an increase of thirty percent in homelessness around the country. One in four children are living below the poverty level, this according to Bertholdo. The increase of homelessness in Somerville is due largely to the economy. While there are currently forty-nine documented homeless children, Bertholdo knows there are many more out there. "I'm sure we have much more than that, but they are just not saying it."

Bertholdo lives in a neighborhood surrounded by immigrants and hears rumors of people locking themselves inside of their houses in fear of getting deported. In response to the bad economy "immigrants are feeling everything that is happening, it's scary." A lot of kids are scared of going to school in fear of getting deported.

The saddest part for Bertholdo is when the kids find a permanent housing sit-



Photo by Harry Kane

Regina Bertholdo is looking out for the neediest of kids in Somerville.

uation that takes them out of the Somerville system. She's happy when they find a home but once they move to another city, the kids are no longer guaranteed transportation to their current schools in Somerville. "It's heartbreaking. I literally cry on the phone with the kids. You can only hope they are gonna keep doing as well."

Herenia Hernandez, a parent liaison and close personal

friend, describes Bertholdo as a "caring person, humble, and progressive."

Bertholdo realizes that it is embarrassing for families and kids to admit that they are homeless. "It's hard to declare yourself homeless." Still, she explains, it is the first step to turning your life around.

As the economy continues to increasingly affect the lower class, homeless children spring up in Somerville.

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COMMENTARY

TALES OF SOMERVILLE

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah!

The View From Prospect Hill



*'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the 'Ville,
Lots of things were stirring especially in Winter Hill,
The old Star Market is vacant and still up for rent,
We hope that they find a new tenant soon that's picture perfect and Heaven sent.
Job Lot missed the boat on Broadway but opened pretty near,
Now Somervillians are crossing the Mystic to shop on their way there!
The Assembly Square Project is off and running all in full swing,
Huge buildings and outlets are coming when the fat lady says she's ready to sing!
Mudflat's new studio opened and KFC closed,
The McGrath Highway overpass demolition and lowering was also highly proposed!
Walmart's food store got bomb-shelled and might disappear,
Circuit City's lot is still empty and looks like one giant nightmare!
Mayor Joe is hinting that he wants to be our next Gov to sit in that chair,
So Aldermen will be scrambling to grab his seat and all will be pulling their hair!
Again the Green Line plan was delayed and possibly dead,
Hubway Bicycles are coming to Somerville so commuters will be peddling instead!
Ward 4's Walter said no more and decided not to run,
We wish him well with hopes that he spends many deserved days bathing in the sun!
Lafuente ran for Alderman and won without his name being smeared,
Others saved their seats as well and Bob Trane was also spared!
Registrar Gene Brune announced his retirement to the public on all the news blogs,
New potential candidates were off and running like someone opened the doors and unleashed the dogs!
We at the Somerville News Group wish you a Merry Christmas and hope all celebrate the day as well as the night,
And to all the children in the 'Ville go to bed early and we hope you sleep warm and sleep tight!*

News Talk CONT. FROM PG 2

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Bill Mosher who passed away this week. Bill was a nice guy and very popular here in the 'Ville. His passing has affected his entire family and the many friends he leaves behind.

Our condolences also to the family here in the 'Ville of Michelle Pefine, who recently passed on. Our deepest condolences go out to her mother, Darlene, who works here in the Water Dept.

On the political front, Rep. Carl

Sciortino just may have a busy year coming up. We hear names like Sean Fitzgerald, who did very well up in Ward 7 in the elections last year, popular Alderman-at-Large Dennis Sullivan, and even Ward 7 Alderman Bob Trane are seriously considering running against him in the Democratic primary later next year. Carl reportedly promised to stay out of a local ward fight this year but as soon as he said it he openly endorsed someone who lost the election. We hear that this might come back to haunt him. We also hear some names mentioned as possible op-

ponents against Senator Jehlen. One possibility is Alderman Sean O'Donovan, who has reportedly been testing the waters. He wanted to run back a few years ago, but the redistricting of the district might be all he needs now that North Cambridge is part of the new Senatorial District. Another local politician (asked not to give their name right now) is seriously looking at Representative Denise Provost's seat. Local favorite Attorney Maria Cutratone might just be the only candidate from Somerville now to run for Registrar of Deeds here in Middlesex County. That

is if Gene Brune still plans on retiring. There's been a whisper that he might run for re-election.

Our good Friend Bob Publicover is having a hard time lately. He's not doing too well, having shortness of breath, but at least he's going to be home with his partner David quietly celebrating Christmas Dinner. We wish him the very best. He's undergone a tremendously difficult time but he's strong and we check in every now and then and say "Hi." He posts to all his friends on Facebook often. Drop him a line and cheer him up.

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.

To Occupiers: Learn or lose



By William C. Shelton

If those in the Occupy movement continue to confuse symbol with reality, they will estrange their natural allies.

If they confuse tactics with strategy, they will exhaust themselves in activities that accomplish little.

If they confuse leadership and structure with domination and hierarchy, they will forego the means required to accomplish their goals.

Their movement was catalyzed by the suffering of millions who cannot find jobs, earn a fair wage, pay their student loans, remain in their homes, or obtain needed healthcare. And also, by the certainty that the Western World's financial meltdown was not an unfortunate accident. It was the inevitable result of made-in-America policies calculated to redistribute wealth upward.

It is widely acknowledged that the Occupiers' focus on economic inequality has changed the national discourse. But in the context of recent history, I see a more significant accomplishment.

Historical significance

Taking advantage of the President and his party's flaccid defense of working Americans' best interests, the GOP seized the initiative, selling out the nation's wellbeing to buy political advantage. Considering compromise to be an unnecessary evil, they wrenched politics rightward.

Deep within his character, Obama is a centrist. As the center moved to the right, he followed. Many who had hoped for real change despaired, became dispirited, and disengaged.

By articulating the injustice that so many Americans feel, the Occupiers gave voice to widespread discontent. By taking bold action, they fired the passion and imagination of the dispirited.

Yet none of this amounts to an enduring movement that brings lasting change. To accomplish that, they must abandon the illusion that continuing to hold public space has any impact on

the conditions that ignited their protest. They must develop their leadership without abandoning their democratic culture. They must articulate a real-world platform that speaks to the concerns and hopes of the 99% for whom they advocate. They must formulate a strategy and structure that can achieve their platform's goals. And in doing so, they must respectfully collaborate with their allies.

Symbol vs. reality

Whether intended or not, occupation was an innovative tactic. A march or rally makes brief news and then fades from memory. Occupation brought sustained public attention, recognition, discussion, and support.

So much so that municipal leaders hesitated to evict occupiers. But over time, the mayoral hypocrites who celebrated occupiers in Cairo's Tahrir Square, Tripoli's Green Square, and Beijing's Tiananmen Square yielded to unseen pressure, using force to remove and arrest American occupiers.

Just as well. It is time to move on.

But if you don't know where you're going, any road will take

you there. And fighting for a symbol-occupation of public land-instead of a reality-the material interests of the 99%-avoids choosing the road that will best take you to your professed goals.

Moreover, it pits you against those who should be your allies. Law enforcement officers are solidly in the 99%. Forcing them to face off against you is...well, stupid. Equally stupid is closing down West Coast ports. It has no real impact on commerce, while it takes a day's wages from workers and estranges Labor. Taken together, these actions erode positive public opinion.

Leadership vs. domination

Leaders hold out a vision. They speak the experience and hopes for a better life of those they lead. They inspire followers, articulating the pragmatic possibility of change.

Leaders sustain focus. The most common and accurate criticism of the occupy movement is that it's demands are all over the map. Its participants advocate everything from anarchy to animal rights. Without focus, there is nothing around which to build strategy and structure, or to achieve collaboration with allies. There is no coherent message to

deliver to the public.

Without leaders, who will represent the Occupy Movement in press interviews, talk shows, or documentaries? Who will help inspire followers?

Inexperienced idealists imagine that leadership is antide-mocratic. Effective leaders can promote and ensure democracy within their movement. The 20th Century's most successful movement leader was probably Martin Luther King. Yet I don't recall anyone arguing that the Civil Rights Movement was undemocratic.

Strategy vs. tactics

Thus far, the Occupy Movement's only actions have been tactical-holding ground, conducting demonstrations, attracting media attention. Strategy determines how an organization can best achieve its goals within the context of its operating environment, its finite resources, and opposing forces. Tactics that do not serve a strategy accomplish little that is sustainable. Tactics that are inconsistent with a strategy waste resources.

Large organizations are often compared to supertankers that require miles of travel to complete a turn. *Continued on page 11*

On The Silly Side by Jimmy Del Ponte

What's really on your list?



If I could have anything at all for Christmas I would ask Santa to cure all the sick people in the world. Then I would have to ask for enough money to pay all my debts off. I would also ask for a few hundred thousand more for the kid's college, a new truck, a new RV and a few vacations. Sorry to be so superficial, but that's what I'd ask for. I always pray for everyone to enjoy good health and happiness and all that stuff, but I have to be honest. If Santa Clause could bring me what I ask for, it would be money. I was that little kid who opened the birthday card and shook it hoping folding money would pop out before even reading it.

Some of my Somerville friends sent me some things that they would like for Christmas if they could have anything they asked for. So, if Santa is reading - like he usually does - here's the list:

- A Lyndells Bavarian Creme cake.
- A new car. More time with a loved one.
- I would enjoy being paid out the highest jackpot for the lottery so I can quit my

job and travel.

- Enough money to donate to all the local children charities and organizations.
- Tall, dark, rich, and handsome ha-ha-ha!
- Mr. Machine (toy).
- Less abuse and cruelty towards children.
- A long healthy life, and a million dollar winner.
- I would ask that people continue to call it "CHRISTMAS!"
- Tomorrow's newspaper today.
- Right, with tomorrow's lottery numbers! That, or peace on earth...
- A Cure for Alzheimer's.
- Cure cancer.
- My debts paid off.
- End animal cruelty.
- My parents back.
- Stop bullying in our schools and make parents more responsible for their kids.
- People who run stop signs and speed through the 'Ville to get busted.
- To be 15 year old Somerville kid again for just one day. Those were the days, my friends.

- My family members that have passed, to have one more hour with them...
- Family reconciliation! Bury the hatchet before it's too late!
- A crystal ball so I can look into the future and not make anymore dumb mistakes.
- For my parents, brother and sister to meet their grandsons and nephews.
- Vac-U-form (toy).
- I wish my sister was here to see her daughter get married.
- A "liberated" progressive woman Chia pet that grows hair in the armpits.
- To have my 1965 Impala convertible back.
- Jimmy and Uncle Dale during the Christmas season... listening to the Village People's *N-O-E-L* to start off each morning.
- A meatball sub from Todis in Ball Square.
- Red Ryder BB gun.
- My Dad back, R.I.P.
- Mo' money, mo' money, mo' money.
- My brother Bobby back! Me and mom miss him more than anything! RIP Bobby.

- For my Mom to come home from the hospital just in time to hang the star at the top of our tree...I started, she can finish.
- A change of the Massachusetts divorce, custody and child support laws so that they are fair to the Dads.
- I would ask for my dad to be here with me.
- The return of The Blarney Stone Pub.
- The return of the original Embassy Lounge on Somerville Ave.
- Camping season to hurry up!
- A reopening of Dapper Dan's Restaurant in Assembly Square.
- To meet face to face the slug who stole my bike out of my yard.

I would like to wish all my friends who read this column a very happy and healthy Christmas. I enjoy meeting you on the streets of Somerville. We all have that "Ville" connection in some way, shape, or form. Somerville really does lead the way! Let's all say it together...Merry Christmas!

You can email Jimmy directly at jimmy-del@rcn.com.

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 calls 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.

This week, *Beacon Hill Roll Call*, in Part 1 of a special two-part report, takes a look at some of the bills that were approved by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Deval Patrick in 2011.

FREEZE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TAX RATES (S 8)

House 151-0, Senate 36-0, approved and Governor Patrick signed into law a bill freezing the unemployment insurance tax paid by employers at the 2010 level through 2011 instead of allowing a scheduled increase to take effect. The payments go into a fund that provides benefits to laid off workers.

The contribution that employers pay into the fund was scheduled to rise dramatically because of the increasing number of laid off workers collecting unemployment benefits.

The average 2010 employer contribution into the fund was \$644 per employee. Without this proposed freeze, the 2011 per-employee assessment would have jumped by \$233 to \$877. (A “Yes” vote is for the freeze.)

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

\$200 MILLION FOR LOCAL ROAD AND BRIDGE REPAIRS (H 3324)

House 148-0, Senate 39-0, approved and Gov. Patrick signed into law a bill that would borrow \$200 million for road and bridge repairs in cities and towns across the state. (A “Yes” vote is for the \$200 million package.)

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

CHANGES IN TRIAL COURT AND PROBATION DEPARTMENT (H 3395, S 1907)

House 152-0, Senate 39-0 approved and Gov. Patrick signed into law a measure that would overhaul the management of the trial court and the hiring process for the Probation Department. The measure divides up the responsibilities currently held by the Chief Justice for Ad-

ministration and Management between a newly created “civilian” Office of Court Management and a Chief Justice of the Trial Court. The new civilian administrator would handle business functions including the general administration of the office, review and approval of the hiring of non-judicial employees and all money matters. Meanwhile, the Chief Justice would tackle all the judicial management responsibilities.

Changes in the Probation Department include an entrance exam for the hiring and promotion of all probation and court officers; an extensive interview and background review process; removal of the unilateral hiring power from the Commissioner of Probation; requiring that recommendations offered on behalf of any applicant be made in writing; and requiring applicants for jobs in the executive, legislative and judicial branches to disclose the names of all immediate family members who are state employees. That information would become public if the person gets the job.

These changes are a reaction to the blockbuster report by Independent Counsel Paul Ware on wrongdoing in the state's Probation Department. Ware concluded that corruption in the hiring and promotion process is rampant throughout the system. The report notes legislators would “sponsor” candidates for Probation Department jobs and that the interview and selection process was often rigged in favor of hiring candidates with political or other personal connections instead of better qualified, non-connected applicants.

The votes listed are on earlier versions of the bill. Approval of the final version of the measure was on a voice vote, without a roll call. (A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

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

ADOPT \$30.59 BILLION FISCAL 2012 STATE BUDGET (H 3535)

House 150-2, Senate 33-4, approved and the governor, after making several vetoes, signed into law the conference committee version of a \$30.59 billion fiscal 2012 state budget that increases Chapter 70 Education funding by \$140 million. The package also makes cuts in hundreds of programs, increases funding for others and uses \$185 million from the state's Rainy Day Fund, leaving the fund with a balance of some \$584 million at the time of the vote.

The plan also cuts local aid by \$65 million but requires that reversions - unspent funds left over at the end of the current fiscal year - be sent to cities and towns to make up for local aid cuts. (A “Yes” vote is for the \$30.59 billion budget. A “No” vote is against it.)

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

MAJOR CHANGES IN ALIMONY LAW (H 3617)

House 151-0, Senate 36-0, approved and the governor signed into law a bill making sweeping changes in the state's alimony laws, including ending lifetime alimony payments in many cases. Prior law provides only one

Beacon Hill Roll Call continued



category of alimony. The bill creates four specific categories, all with durational limits, including general, rehabilitative, reimbursement and transitional.

The duration of payments is based on the number of years the couple is married. For marriages of five years or less, the maximum alimony term would be 50 percent of the number of the months of marriage; 5 to 10 years would be 60 percent; 10 to 15 years would be 70 percent; 15 to 20 years would be 80 percent; and more than 20 years would be up to the judge.

Other provisions end alimony when the paying spouse reaches full retirement age; make it possible to cease payments when an ex-spouse is living with someone else in a marriage-type relationship; and prohibit judges from the current practice of considering the income and assets of the payer's second spouse when calculating how much alimony the payer can afford.

The Senate vote is on approval of the final version of the proposal. The House vote is on an earlier version. (A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

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

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

AUTOMATIC TAX RELIEF IS HERE - The State Department of Revenue confirmed that sufficient economic growth under the terms of a 2002 law will result in a tax cut for millions of Bay State taxpayers beginning in 2012. The cut will come from a reduction in the income tax rate and long term capital gains tax from 5.3 to 5.25 percent effective January 1, 2012

The tax cuts do not need the approval of the Legislature. They are part of a system devised by the Legislature when it approved a \$1 billion-plus tax hike package in 2002. The package set the long term capital gains tax at 5.3 percent and froze the income tax rate at its current 5.3 percent instead of allowing it to drop to 5 percent in January 2003, a reduction that was approved by voters in 2000. The 2002 law also includes an automatic trigger that reduces both taxes by one-half of 1 percent each year that the state's economic growth is at least 2.5 percent until each tax is reduced to five percent. The 2011 growth is 7.2 percent. The tax cuts are estimated to reduce state revenue by between \$111 million and \$115 million per year.

FLAGS AT HALF MAST (H 1749) - The House gave initial approval to a bill that would require the state flag to be flown at half mast annually on September 11 in memory of the thousands who perished

on that date. The same bill last year was given initial approval by the House but it remained in a House committee and eventually died.

ALLOW LIQUOR SALES ON "CHRISTMAS MONDAY" (H 1009) - The House and Senate gave final approval to and sent to Gov. Patrick 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 are forced to close and lose income on that Monday. Christmas falls on a Sunday this year so the governor must sign the measure soon in order for it to become effective for December 26.

PATRICK APPOINTS HEAD OF GAMING COMMISSION - Gov. Patrick appointed Stephen Crosby as chair of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission that will implement, regulate and oversee the state's new casinos and slot parlors. Crosby currently serves as Dean of the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at UMass Boston.

Crosby has served under both Democratic and Republican governors, including a stint as former Republican Gov. Paul Cellucci's Secretary of Administration and Finance followed by a job as former GOP Gov. Jane Swift's chief of staff. Patrick chose Crosby to lead a review studying compensation of top managers at the state's quasi-public agencies.

STUDY MISUSE OF EBT CARDS (H 3773) - The Senate approved an amendment creating an eight-member commission to research and evaluate the current illegal use of electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards to purchase products not allowed under the law. Items include firearms, tobacco, lottery tickets and alcohol. Other areas that would be looked into are limiting the amount an EBT cardholder can access at an ATM, requiring stores to apply to the state to be granted the right to accept EBT cards and requiring a cardholder's photo to be on his or her card.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"We worker drones of Massachusetts are about to receive a miniscule installment of the voters' long-overdue income tax rollback. This is the first reduction in nine years, since the Legislature gave voters and taxpayers the middle-finger Beacon Hill salute in 2002." – *Chip Ford of Citizens for Limited Taxation (CLT) on the announcement of an automatic reduction in the income tax rate and capital gains tax from 5.3 to 5.25 percent effective January 1, 2012.*

"I thought it was a regressive and thoughtless and un-

productive way to raise money. But eventually I decided that as the need for money got greater and greater, it's a little silly to be making a point of principle when you've got gambling casinos all around you." – *Stephen Crosby, newly appointed chair of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, as quoted in the Wall Street Journal in 2010.*

"While I and many other concerned Massachusetts residents remain skeptical of the promises made by casino supporters, Gov. Patrick today made an inspired selection in Steve Crosby as the chairman of the powerful Gambling Commission. Steve is a bipartisan realist with strong credentials, demonstrated independence and impressive experience in both the public and private sectors." – *Scott Harshbarger, president of Citizens for a Stronger Massachusetts and vocal opponent of casino gambling.*

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

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

During the week of December 12-16, the House met for a total of one hour and 19 minutes while the Senate met for a total of one hour and 32 minutes.

Mon. December 12	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:11 a.m. Senate 11:02 a.m. to 11:19 a.m.
Tues. December 13	No House session No Senate session
Wed. December 14	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. December 15	House 11:01 a.m. to 12:11 p.m. Senate 11:02 a.m. to 12:17 p.m.
Fri. December 16	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

To Occupiers: Learn or lose CONT. FROM PG 9

To respond to a threat or seize an opportunity, organizations without a clear strategy must agree on the nature of the event, agree on the response, devise appropriate actions, assign roles, and monitor activity. Or in the case of the Occupiers, they discuss process and then critique their discussion about process.

In organizations with a broadly understood strategy, the implications of the event are widely recognized, as can be the appro-

priate responses. Members already know their roles in conducting those responses.

Structure vs. hierarchy

A movement cannot execute a strategy without a structure that is consistent with its strategy. A division of labor allows members to choose roles in which they have the greatest skills and interest. Structure makes an organization effective and efficient.

In the 1960s, feminist leader Jo Freeman wrote "The more un-

structured a movement is, the less control it has over the directions in which it develops and the political actions in which it engages....The ideas will still be diffused widely. But diffusion of ideas does not mean they are implemented; it only means they are talked about."

What next?

If the Occupy Movement is to make a lasting difference for the 99%, it must embrace leadership, strategy, and structure.

One strategy might be to take a lesson from the Tea Party Movement. This would involve running progressive populist candidates in primary races within districts that are strongly Democratic.

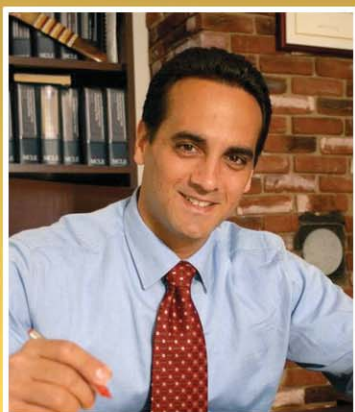
Another would be to remain outside the Party, but to pressure Democratic office holders to return to their historical values in the context of the new world order. The Civil Rights Movement formed an alliance with Lyndon

Johnson that accomplished a great deal.

However, Democratic politicians may be less responsive to their constituents in an age in which their corporate owners withhold campaign donations, or merely threaten to do so.

Formulating strategy and structure will be more difficult now that the occupiers are no longer in physical and daily proximity. It can be done, but it will require leadership.

Merchants and Somerville officials and your family a happy holiday



**Season's
Greetings**



**Mayor
Joe Curtatone**

Happy Holidays!



**Alderman at Large
Jack Connolly**

"Merry Christmas"



The Norton

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**Merry
Christmas!**



Community Action Agency
of Somerville, Inc.



**"Wishing you Peace and
Joy this Holiday Season"**



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Alderman, Ward 2, Somerville**

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**Tis' the Season for
Giving Thanks**

Merry Christmas!

"Santa"
**DENNIS
SULLIVAN**
Alderman at Large

**"Season's Greetings
to all!"**



Sean O'Donovan
Alderman Ward 5

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Best Christmas and
Holiday wishes, and a
Healthy New Year!

Season's Greetings



State Representative
Timothy J. Toomey Jr. (D)
26th Middlesex District

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SOMERVILLE SPORTS

5th Annual Marathon Sports 'Somerville Jingle Bell Run'



Photos by Bobbie Toner



TOP TEN RESULTS

Marathon Sports "Somerville Jingle Bell Run" – December 18, 2011 – 5 Kilometers
Results Questions: steve@gsrs.com

TOP TEN MEN OVERALL

Place	Div	Div	Time	Pace	Name	City/state
1	1	M1829	16:37	5:21	Nate Oaks	Dorchester MA
2	1	M3039	16:41	5:23	Roger Donaghy	South Boston MA
3	2	M1829	16:42	16:23	Dan Vassallo	Peabody MA
4	3	M1829	16:49	5:25	Alex White	Somerville MA
5	4	M1829	16:54	5:27	C.J. Pierce	Weston MA
6	5	M1829	17:10	5:32	Steve Masterson	Allston MA
7	6	M1829	17:13	5:33	Christian Sommer	Cambridge MA
8	7	M1829	17:17	5:34	Christopher Lundeen	Brookline MA
9	8	M1829	17:26	5:37	Randall Jacobs	Brookline MA
10	2	M3039	17:27	5:37	Dave Clarke	Arlington MA

TOP TEN WOMEN OVERALL

Place	Div	Div	Time	Pace	Name	City/state
1	1	F3039	18:36	5:59	Kath Hardcastle	Watertown MA
2	2	F3039	18:43	6:02	Lindsay Willard	Somerville MA
3	1	F1829	18:45	6:02	Margaret Duff	Tempe AZ
4	2	F1829	18:48	6:04	Dorothy Zirkle	Boston MA
5	3	F1829	19:01	6:08	Kate Hails	Somerville MA
6	4	F1829	19:30	6:17	Megan Sowa	Boston MA
7	3	F3039	20:12	6:30	Jessica McGarty	Saugus MA
8	5	F1829	20:19	6:33	Meghan Helliesen	Somerville MA
9	6	F1829	20:20	6:33	Renee Sisti	Boston MA
10	4	F3039	20:27	6:35	Dara Dalmata	Hopkinton MA



Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#297

1. When was the first Christmas Tree lit on the White House Lawn?

2. Why are the colors red and green mostly used at Christmas?

3. What does the candy cane symbolize?

4. Why do we put a bow on top of Christmas presents?

5. In the story Frosty The Snowman why are the little girl and Frosty eluding the magician?

6. What was received on the ninth day of Christmas in the song The Twelve Days Of Christmas?
7. What was received on the seventh day of Christmas?

8. What does the Evergreen tree symbolize?

9. Where did the Christmas candy canes originate?

10. Who designed the first Christmas card?

11. What year was the first Christmas card printed?

12. Where in the U.S would you find the towns Santa Claus, Noel, and Christmas?

Answers on page 21

SHS Swim Team

December 19, 2011 3-5pm
SHS Swim Team (co-ed Varsity) swam there 1st Swim Meet of the season with a final score of Somerville HS 77 vs. Medford HS 65.
Captains: Seniors Cameron K, Julia Z, Melissa M

Kiwanis host Head Start party

The Kiwanis Club of Somerville recently hosted its Annual Head Start Children's Holiday Party at The City Club. Fifty children from the Somerville Head Start pre-school program attended along with their parents, teachers and administrators. Somerville Kiwanians sponsored the children by purchasing Christmas gifts for each. Pizza was supplied by Mama Gina's of Union Square. The hall was donated by The City Club.

Kiwanian Jim Bowdring of Superior Promotions organized and emceed the program and did a fantastic job entertaining the children while they awaited Santa Claus' arrival. Jim had everyone singing Christmas carols - not a shy kid in the house! Once Santa arrived the room came alive with excitement. Each and every child had the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap and receive their Christmas gift.

According to Somerville Kiwa-

nis Club President Patricia Ng, "This is one of our favorite programs of the year!" Other community services supported by the Somerville Kiwanis Club include Reading is Fundamental, Thanksgiving Dinner for Seniors, Bike Safety Day, Summer Camperships at the YMCA, Historical Perspectives in the elementary schools, and college scholarship funds for Somerville High School students.

The Somerville Kiwanis Club has nearly sixty members, all active participants in the Somerville community. The Club meets weekly, every Thursday at 12:15 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Restaurant on lower Broadway. The Club is in the midst of its Annual Appeal where 100% of funds donated are used for Somerville community programs. Donations to support these programs are appreciated, for information please go to: www.somervillekiwanis.org.



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

PLANNING DIVISION

LEGAL NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Appeals will meet on **Wednesday, January 4, 2012**, Aldermanic Chambers, 2nd floor at Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, at 6:00 p.m. to hear pending applications and to hold public hearings:

42 Preston Rd: (Case #ZBA 2011-91) Applicant and Owner Stephanie Nickerson seeks a special permit to alter a nonconforming structure under SZO §4.4.1 to construct a second story rear addition and first floor mudroom. RB zone. Ward 2.

230 & 236 Highland Ave: (Case #ZBA 2011-92) Applicant, David A. Farmer, AIA, and Owner, Somerville Hospital, seek a Variance (SZO §5.5) from the sign regulations in Article 12 to install two signs and change the face of another sign. RA zone. Ward 3.


234 Elm St: (Case #ZBA 2011-93) Applicant Bryan Poisson and Owner Hancock Somerville, LLC, seek a Variance under SZO §5.5 from the parking requirements of SZO §9.5 for relief from seven required off-street parking spaces and a Special Permit to alter a nonconforming structure under SZO §4.4.1 to make façade alterations including window and lighting changes. CBD Zone. Ward 6.


26 Bartlett St: (Case #ZBA 2011-95) Applicant & Owner, Jesse Carreiro, seeks a special permit to alter a nonconforming structure under SZO §4.4.1 to construct an approx 108 sf one-story addition to the rear of the structure. RA zone. Ward 5.

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

Attest: Dawn Pereira, Administrative Assistant
Published in Somerville News on 12/21/11 & 12/28/11.

12/21/11 The Somerville News





CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
IFB- 12-43

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

(2) 2012 Ford Super Duty F550 DRW 4WD Regular Cab 141" WB 60" CA XL
(2) 2012 (or newer) Ford Escape Hybrid Limited 4WD
(3) 2012 Ford Super Duty F-250 SRW 4WD Crew Cab 6-3/4ft Box XLT
(3) 2012 Ford Super Duty F-350 SRW 4WD Super Cab 8ft Box 158" XL
(1) 2012 Ford Super Duty F-350 SRW 4WD Super Cab 8ft Box 158" XL, Power Tail Gate

for the City of Somerville, Department of Public Works


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 19, 2011**. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **Wednesday, January 4, 2012 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 from 1/09/2012 through 12/31/2012.

Please contact Karen Mancini, Asst. Purchasing Director, x3412, or email kmancini@somervillema.gov, for information and bid packages.

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

12/21/11 The Somerville News



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
IFB # 12-44

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

Charter/Tour Bus Services

A 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 19, 2011**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **Thursday, January 5, 2012 at 11:00A.M.** at which time sealed proposals 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 1/15/2012 through 12/31/2012, with two one-year options to renew. The City reserves sole discretion to exercise renewal options.

Please contact Karen Mancini, Asst. Purchasing Director, x3412, or email kmancini@somervillema.gov, for information and bid packages.

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

12/21/11 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.
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Tel: 617-354-4000, Fax: 617-623-4287

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

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
RFP # 12-45

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

Chartered Tours and Trips Services

A Request for Proposals (RFP) and specifications may be obtained at the Purchasing Department, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA. 02143 on or after: **Monday, December 19, 2011**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **Thursday, January 5, 2012 at 11:00A.M.** at which time sealed proposals 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 1/15/2012 through 12/31/2012, with two one-year options to renew. The City reserves sole discretion to exercise renewal options.

Please contact Karen Mancini, Asst. Purchasing Director, x3412, or email kmancini@somervillema.gov, for information and bid packages.

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

12/21/11 The Somerville News

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, 12/21/11 The Somerville News

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

PLANNING DIVISION

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Somerville Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **January 5, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Aldermanic Chambers of Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA.

112 Broadway (Case #PB 2011-20) Applicant & Owner, Augusto DaCunha, Ola Gifts Café LLC seeks a Special Permit under SZO §6.1.22.D.5 to install signage for an existing cafe. CCD 55 zone. Ward 1.

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

Attest: Kevin Prior, Chairman

To be published in the Somerville News 12/21/11 & 12/28/11.

12/21/11 The Somerville News

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

MIDDLESEX Division

Docket No. MI 11P5882EA

In the Estate of: Mary Catherine Foley

Late of: Somerville, MA. 02144

Date of Death: 02/10/1989

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR

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

Peter Forcellese Jr. of North Reading, MA or some other suitable person be appointed administrator of said estate 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: **01/10/2012**

WITNESS, HON. PETER C. DIGANGI, First Justice of this Court
Date: December 13, 2011

Tara E. De Cristofaro
Register of Probate

12/21/11 The Somerville News

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Charter school question rages

CONT. FROM PG 1

the consequences for the rest of the system," said Curtatone.

The debate stems from the 2010 decision to reunify the Healey School, eliminating the "Choice" program that many parents enjoyed. School founders note the achievement gap between native English speakers and ELL learners continues to hamper the Somerville Public School system's ability to raise its dismal test scores.

"I don't think it would be a surprise to anyone in this room to say that Somerville is an underperforming district," said founder Elizabeth Traumann, an immigrant from Brazil who works at the Cambridge Health Alliance. "We talk about it all the time. What we don't discuss is why this district has not shown any improvement since 1999."

"What [the SPS is] saying, is that considering all the low-income and immigrant students in Somerville, we shouldn't be surprised that the City's MCAS scores are in the bottom five percent statewide. They are telling us that kids like mine can't be high achievers," she said.

"They are setting and encouraging low expectations for immigrant children."

Also speaking in favor was the proposed director of the Somerville Progressive Charter School, Heidi Lyne, who currently runs the Neighborhood House charter in Dorchester.

"I believe in making certain that children succeed," she said. "All children should be able to master the skills required by the MCAS and educators are responsible for making certain this happens. No child should slip through the cracks."

In Dorchester, "we've instituted a system of interventions to help struggling students succeed. We've worked consistently on differentiation. Our MCAS scores have risen consistently, and our children have advanced at a rapid rate," she said.

Her speech was geared towards validating her status as a "proven provider" which is one of the criteria the state board of education will vote on when deciding the fate of the SPCS. Lyne was questioned by members of the statehouse delegation, including Sen. Pat Jehlen, herself a former teacher.

"The proven provider requirement isn't met by Board leadership," said Jehlen. "The schools the proven provider has worked for don't serve comparable populations, or offer similar programs," she said, adding that the Neighborhood House charter has less than 3 percent limited English proficient (LEP) students in their population.

The Somerville delegation was also saddened by the fact that their own legislation had led to this situation. Due to the incredibly low test scores, the state passed laws de-

signed to encourage achievement by adding charter schools if MCAS scores were in the bottom 10 percent of districts statewide.

"This is a remarkable, heartbreaking thing," said Ward 5 school comm. member Mark Neidergang. "It's unfortunate that the charter school funding mechanism that the state put in place has turned us against each other in Somerville."

Neidergang accused the founders of trying to manipulate the system by only pretending that the school was meant for vulnerable populations. "The ELL program at the SPCS was not originally a key component of the school design but was grafted on, because the applicants realized that without it, you would reject this application," he said.

Parents and teachers, united by their desire to not see the public school lose the proposed \$4.79 million in funds over several years, made their way to the podium to voice their complaints. One, Betsy Reardon was also the founder of the Unidos program, a special two-way immersion program designed to help teach students English using a 50-50 native/English teaching model.

"I am committed to seeing my taxes supporting the entire school-age population of Somerville," said Reardon, who said her children did not speak English at home. "I am here to tell you that my son was well-served by the daily ELL support and services provided by the SPS."

Perhaps the most bombast testimony came from David Sullivan, the PTA president at Healey. He openly accused the founding members of trying to use the charter school to get their children back into a program more like the "Choice" program.

"If the word progress means segregating and excluding a bunch of families and students from another group of families and students... and then wanting to leave after being asked to unify to create a stronger unit, then congratulations charter school supporters, you are well on your way," he said.

"This isn't a kid problem, this is an adults-acting-like-children problem."

Many teachers stood to voice their feelings about the SPCS, talking about the dedication teachers across the district put into their work with LEP students. Among them was Lauren Huckins who works in the Sheltered English Immersion at the Argenziano School program.

"I am witness to the magic that teachers create in their classrooms everyday. Week after week, I see the each student's English ability and confidence grow due to the dedication and hard work of our school's classroom teacher," she said. She

added that seeing a student finally gain proficiency in English was an achievement that every SPS teacher was proud of.

Another was Alicia Kersten, a parent and teacher of 12 years who works with the Welcome Center at SHS.

"Specifically," she said. "I'm concerned that the proposed school does have the capacity to create programs of effective instruction for [special education] ELL students." She said that the challenges these children face can only be met with highly trained and experienced teachers, which the SPCS could not provide.

One parent who spoke in favor of the proposed school was Julia Collins, mother of a fifth grader at the Healey school and a member of their site council. She described herself as a "lifelong supporter of traditional public schools." When she found out her husband had helped start the SPCS proposal, she told him not to do it. He went forward anyway, and after watching their progress, she changed her mind.

"I'm here today to support both the Healey and the charter. I simply will not say that one precludes the other. I don't believe that," she said.

She continued: "the Healey has wonderful staff, teachers, families, but the unified Healey is not a progressive school; not if you think in terms of real cultural change which I think is needed in Somerville to handle one of the most intractable problems: the students who are not being served and met soon and fast enough and well enough."

Attending the hearing was State Secy. of Education Paul Reville, who will have a hand in the decision in February.

"I also have a personal history in Somerville, I began my career here as a vista volunteer," he said. "I was involved in the founding of the full-circle school."

"I can say that the testimony that we heard tonight was passionate. It seemed for the most part well-informed," he said. "It presented some significantly different interpretations of the intentions of the founders of the school and what the operation would be like. It's obvious the community cares deeply and this is a tough issue for the community."

On his upcoming decision regarding the SCPS, Reville said: "we have to exercise our responsibilities under the law which is to look at the quality of the proposed charter school application against the criteria that are laid out in law and regulation and make our best judgment about whether a proposed charter school conforms to those criteria. If they do we approve it. If they don't we turn it down."

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FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Saturday|December 24
Libraries Closed for Christmas Holiday

Sunday|December 25
Libraries Closed for Christmas Holiday

Monday|December 26
Libraries Closed for Christmas Holiday

Wednesday|December 28
Central Library
Writing Workshop for Kids with Regina Hansen
2 p.m.-4 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

MUSIC

Wednesday|December 21
Johnny D's
Echonest Holiday Party w/Jim 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

Thursday|December 22
Johnny D's
Chris O'Leary|Twang 'em High
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's
Tom Hagerty Acoustic Band|6 p.m.
Patsy Hamel Band|9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

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

PA'S Lounge
Glass Teeth|Ruby Ridge|Coralcola|DJ Parzer & DJ Chadley|Loopus Amadeus and Dark & Stormy
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
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.

Friday|December 23
Johnny D's
Holiday Party! Funky White Honkies
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's
Jimmy Ryan & Frank Drake|6 p.m.
Bryan Pero & The Tired Horses | 9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Dave Foley
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

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

Precinct Bar
Justin Joyce (Home for the Holidays)|Mod Gun|The Sour Doo-Dahs|Dead Cats Dead Rats
70 Union Sq|617 -623-9211

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

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

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

Bull McCabe's
Jess Tardy Band
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

Saturday|December 24
Johnny D's
Live Jazz Brunch!
8:30am - 2:30pm| Bar open until 4pm
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's
Merry Christmas Eve!
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Back Closed
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Precinct Bar
No Live Music
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

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

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

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

Bull McCabe's Pub
Open Christmas Eve Until 7 p.m.
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Joshua Tree
256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

Michael's Bar
97 Washington St|617-623-3364

Night Games
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

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

Sunday|December 25
Johnny D's
Merry Christmas!
Bar opens at 6pm-12am|No Food|No Music|Yes Drinks!
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Merry Christmas!
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Merry X-Mas From all at the Burren
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA'S Lounge
Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

Precinct Bar
Happy Holidays - No Live Music
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe's Pub
To be announced, might be Dub Apocalypse. Check the facebook feed
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen
Closed
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Monday|December 26
Johnny D's
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

‘VILLENS ON THE TOWN

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

PA'S Lounge
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

Tuesday|December 27

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

Sally O'Brien's Bar
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
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

Wednesday|December 28

Johnny D's
Start Making Sense
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
Fat Creeps|Bundles of Joy|Golden Retriever|Dogs on Television
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 JCLs with the Ryan Taylor Band
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 21

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

Thursday|December 22

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

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

Saturday|December 24

Libraries Closed for Christmas Holiday

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

Sunday|December 25

Libraries Closed for Christmas Holiday

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 26

Libraries Closed for Christmas Holiday

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

Tuesday|December 27

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

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

Wednesday|December 28

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



Photo by Ethan Backer

PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO!

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Everyone 60+ is welcome to attend any of the Council on Aging Events at all three of our centers. Connect with old friends, meet new friends. Join us for a meal, for an exercise class, art, music and more. Our doors are always open!

December 21

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.
QiGong|1:15 p.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 22

Holland Street Center
Indoor Exercise|9 a.m.

Senior Discussion - all welcome|10 a.m.
Bingo|12|45 p.m.
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Cross Street Center
Indoor Exercise|10:30 a.m.
Bingo|12:45 p.m.
165 Broadway|617-625-6600 x 2335

Ralph & Jenny Center
Strengthening with Geoff|10 a.m.
Portuguese Lunch|11:30 a.m.
Bingo|12:30 p.m.
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

December 23

All centers closed

December 26

All centers closed

December 27

Holland Street and Ralph & Jenny Closed

Cross Street Center
Lunch|11:30 a.m.
Bingo|12:45 p.m.

165 Broadway|617-625-6600 x 2335

December 28

Holland Street Center
Lunch|11:30 a.m.
Bingo|12:45 p.m.
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x. 2300

Coming up in January:

January 10th - Chair Yoga - Start the new year of right!
Yoga isn't just for the exceptionally limber. Our new chair yoga class, which starts Tues., Jan. 10, at 9:30 a.m., is a gentle form of yoga exercise you can do sitting down. Call 617-625-6600 ext. 2300 for more info. Chair Yoga is a safe and comfortable way to enjoy the benefits of Yoga exercises. Ralph & Jenny \$5. Call 617-625-600 ext. 2300 to register.

January 8th - 10th - Tropicana Resort and Casino
Atlantic City, New Jersey & Foxwoods Resorts. \$215.00 pp Double/\$325 Single. Trip includes \$30.00 free shot play, 3 nights stay at the Tropicana, 1 breakfast and 2 dinner buffets, Trop's Theatre Show and Foxwoods for lunch and play comps. Check in 6:30 am at Ralph & Jenny and return 8:00 pm Ralph & Jenny. RSVP 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

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Cook by the Book

‘The Gingerbread Book’ by Allen D. Brogdon

By Betty B. Levin

As the jacket of this newly re-issued book from 1984 announces, it contains “54 cookie-construction projects for party centerpieces and holiday decorations, 7 full-sized patterns, plans for 8 structures, over 100 color photos, recipes, cookie shapes, children's projects, history, and step-by-step how-tos.”

Beyond that succinct description are the detailed, luscious-looking creations for classic

gingerbread houses or the equivalent of today's McMansions.

The book is packed with ideas for table decor, Christmas tree ornaments, Valentines Day, and birthdays, plus it provides the motivation to dream up your own reasons to bake and decorate these favorite nostalgic goodies. You'll be surprised at the wide range of accompaniments: the expected chopped nuts, crystallized ginger and jelled fruit slices to licorice and strawber-

ry laces to name just a few.

Three pages are filled with color photos of these and dozens of other examples.

For year-round fun, chessboards can be made using the patterns given for all the chess pieces starting with the King. For other projects there are also many cookie cutter outlines of animals, flowers, people and even a guitar, among the array that can be copied and used wherever desired. Walls, fences and other necessary elements to

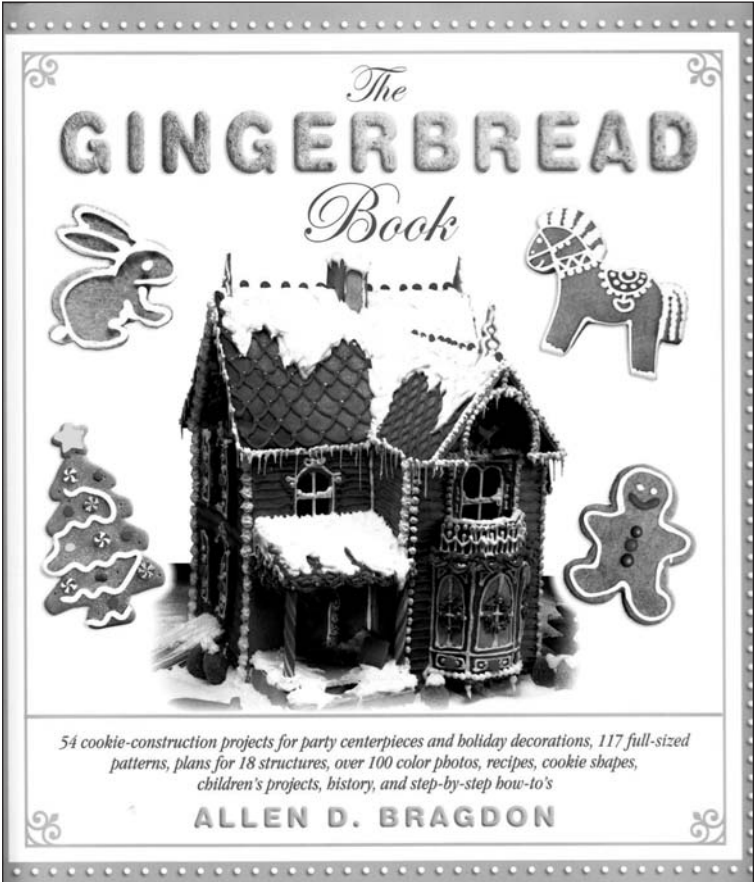
Basic Corn Syrup Gingerbread Dough

- 9 cups unsifted flour
- 1 tablespoon grated lemon rind
- 1 1/2 tablespoons ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoons of salt
- 2 cups light corn syrup
- 1 1/2 cups firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1 1/4 cups butter or margarine

- In large bowl, combine flour, lemon rind, cinnamon, ginger and salt.
- In 3-quart saucepan, stir together corn syrup, brown sugar, and butter. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until butter is melted and ingredients are well mixed.
- Pour liquid mixture into flour mixture and stir until well blended.

NOTE: Have your plan for what you'll be rolling, cutting and baking before proceeding with this recipe.

- Form dough into ball and knead until smooth and pliable.
- Roll out dough on foil-lined cookie sheets to 1/4-inch thickness using lightly floured rolling pin.
- Cut out cookie pieces, remove and reserve excess dough.
- Bake in 350F-degree oven 12 to 15 minutes or until cookies are firm and lightly browned.
- Cool cookie sheets completely on racks before removing cookie pieces from foil.



build Noah's Ark or to make Ukrainian Easter Eggs are also detailed. Walls, fences and other directions for building your constructions are complete with measurements.

For the very ambitious, or with a team of helpers if time is short, there is the Circus Train with instructions for each car from engine to caboose, along with the animals and clowns to be placed - all aboard!

The basic recipe for gingerbread dough is given here, but

the book provides more than a dozen variations as well recipes for gingerbread cake, sauces, gingersnaps and even gingerbread waffles...and oh yes, eggnog with ginger. It's a book that will engage all ages and will undoubtedly be handed down from generation to generation. It's available through bookstores and online at www.skyhorsepublishing.com. Author Bragdon has thought of everything to make these projects less frustrating and a lot of fun.

Somerville Ninety Nine Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Raises Money for Somerville Public Schools



The Ninety Nine Restaurant in Somerville celebrated its 10th anniversary with team members, guests and members of the community on Tuesday evening, December 6th with an event that raised over \$1,000 for Somerville Public Schools. During the celebration event, guests enjoyed a spirited game of trivia and participated in a commemorative ceremony that honored the restaurant's longstanding team members. Funds were raised for Somerville Public Schools through raffle ticket sales and a percentage of the restaurant's total net sales that entire day were donated. Joanie Baldassari, General Managing Partner of the Somerville Ninety Nine, proudly presented a check to Somerville Public Schools for over \$1,000.

Ms. Cam's

Answers from page 14

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. President Calvin Coolidge lit it in 1923 | 7. 7 Swans a swimming |
| 2. Red symbolizes the blood Christ shed for us – green for life | 8. It is a symbol of eternal life – it stays green all year |
| 3. Its shape is the symbol of the Shepherds cane | 9. In Germany |
| 4. It symbolizes “Brotherhood” and that we are all united | 10. John Horsly in the early 1840's |
| 5. He was after Frosty's magic hat | 11. he first Christmas card was printed in 1843 |
| 6. 9 dancing ladies | 12. The towns of Santa Claus are in Arizona and Indiana, Noel in Missouri, Christmas in Arizona and Florida |

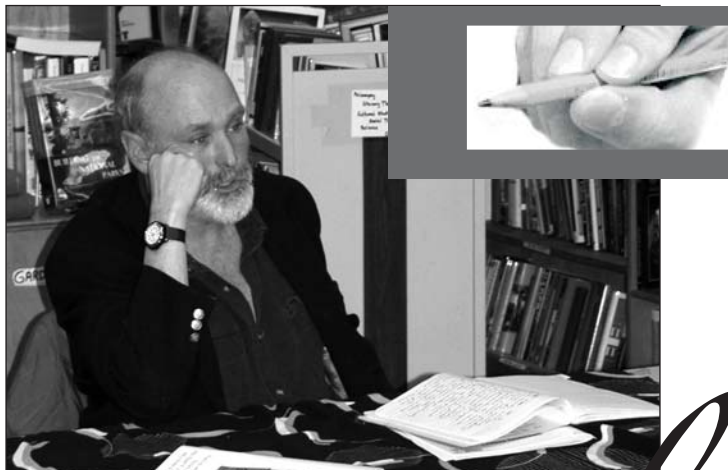
To advertise in
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SCAT Program Schedule for the Week

Wednesday, December 21			4:30pm	A Healer in The House	12:00pm	Reeling, The Movie Review	1:00pm	Ablevision	
12:00am	Free Speech TV		5:00pm	Ablevision	12:30pm	Somerville Housing Authority	1:30pm	Somerville Housing Authority	
6:00am	Flip Side		5:30pm	Somerville: Most Interesting Places	1:00pm	Bongoman	2:00pm	Thom Hartmann Program	
7:00am	Raising Drug Free Kids		6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV	3:00pm	Portraits of Somerville	3:00pm	Robyn & Max Exercise	
8:00am	Democracy Now!		7:00pm (LIVE)	Tele Magazine	4:00pm	Most Interesting Place	3:30pm	Esoteric Science	
9:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids		7:30pm	Somerville Rocks	4:30pm	Coal. For a responsible Walmart	4:00pm	South of the Mystic	
10:00am	Abugida TV		8:00pm (LIVE)	Fouye Zo Nan Kalalou	5:00pm	Tele Kreyol	4:30pm	Somerville Back In The Day	
11:00am	Somerville News Reading		9:30pm	African Ascent	6:00pm	Tele Magazine	5:00pm	Culture Club	
12:00noon	Democracy Now!		10:30pm	The Garage	7:00pm	Road To Recovery	5:30pm	Talking About Somerville	
1:00pm	Nepali Festival		Friday, December 23			8:00pm	Blunt Truth	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV
1:30pm	Most Interesting Place		12:00am	Free Speech TV	9:00pm	Nossa Gente e Costumes	7:00pm	Discover The Law	
2:00pm	Thom Hartman show		6:00am	Live Response	10:00pm	Wrestling Talk	7:30pm	The Commonwealth Report	
3:00pm (LIVE)	Medical Tutor		7:00am	Recovery Roundtable	11:00pm	Sonic Lobotomy	8-9:00pm	Dedilhando A Saudade	
3:30pm	Somerville: Most Interesting Places		8:00am	Democracy Now!	Sunday, December 25			10:00pm	Bate Papo con Shirley
4:00pm	Life Matters		9:00am	The Truth About Drugs	12:00am	Free Speech TV	11:00pm	Visual Radio	
4:30pm	Healthy Hypnosis		9:30am	Creating Cooperative Kids	6:00am	Show de Fe	Tuesday, December 27		
5:00pm	CommonSense		10:30am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	7:00am	Vida Na TV	12:00am	Free Speech TV	
5:30pm	Let's Talk About Hearing		11:30am	Back In The Day	8:00am	In Season, Out of Season	6:00am	Emerging Drug Trends	
6:00pm	Al Jazeera		12:00noon	Democracy Now!	8:30am	Healer in Every Home	7:00pm	Perils For Pedestrians	
7:00pm (LIVE)	Chita Tande		1:00pm	The Expert Series	9:00am	Heritage Baptist Church	7:30am	The Struggle	
8:00pm (LIVE)	Somerville Pundits		2:00pm	Thom Hartmann Program	10:00am	Christian Assemble Tabernacle	8:00am	Democracy Now!	
8:30pm	Culture Club		3:00pm	Cooking W/ Georgie & Dez	11:00am	International Church of God	9:00am	Somerville News Reading	
9:00pm	Somerville Rocks		3:30pm	Toastmasters	11:30am	The Commonwealth Report	10:00am	Tele Kreyol	
9:30pm	Shrink Rap		4:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking	12noon	Somerville Housing Auth.	11:00am	Commonsense	
10:00pm	The Smoki Dick Show		4:30pm	Money On Your Mind	12:30pm	Nepali Festival	11:30	Nepali Festival	
10:30pm	South of the Mystic		5:00pm	SCATV and Free Speech	1:00pm	Waltham Philharmonic Orch.	12:00noon	Democracy Now!	
11:00pm	The Garage		5:30am	Your Money Your Life	2:00pm	Effort Pour Christ	1:00pm	The Commonwealth Report	
11:30pm	Art @ SCATV		6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV	3-4:00pm	Dedilhando A Saudade	1:30pm	Know Your Rights	
Thursday, December 22			7:00pm	Right Here, Right Now	5:00pm	Ethiopian Satelite TV	2:00pm	Thom Hartmann Show	
12:00am	Free Speech TV		7:30pm	Working With Java	6:00pm	Abugida TV	3:30pm	Active Aging	
6:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids		8:00pm	Visual Radio	7:00pm	African TV Network	4:00pm	Protrait of Somerville	
7:00am	Know Your Rights		9:00pm	The Garage	8:00pm	Tele Magazine	5:00pm	Poet to Poet	
7:30am	South of the Mystic		9:30pm	Bandwidth TV	9:00pm	Watch This	5:30pm	Jeff Jam	
8:00am	Democracy Now!		10:00pm	Portrait of Somerville	9:30pm	Grill Dog	6:00pm	A Jazeera	
9:00am	Parent Factor		11:00pm	Jeff TV	10:00pm	Portait of Somerville	7:00pm	Art @ SCAT	
10:00am	Active Aging		Saturday, December 24			11:00pm	Undercover TV	7:30pm	Greater Somerville W/ Joe Lynch
10:30am	Jeff Jams		12:00mid	Bongoman	Monday, December 26			8:00pm	Dead Air Live Show
11:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading		1:00am	Free Speech TV	12:00am	Free Speech TV	9:00pm	Interesting Places	
12:00noon	Democracy Now!		6:00am	Arabic Hour	7:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	9:30pm	Animal Agenda	
1:00pm	African TV Network		7:00am	GAY USA	8:00am	Democracy Now!	10:00pm	Perils For Pedestrians	
2:00pm	Thom Hartmann		8:00am	Animal Agenda	9:00am	Recovery Roundtable	10:30pm	The Gerry Leone Show	
3:00pm	Somerville: Back in the Day		9:00am	Festival Kreyol	10:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	11:00pm	JuPrey Productions	
3:30pm	Culture Club		10:00am	Tele Galaxie	11:00am	Nosse Gente e Costumes			
4:00pm	Lets Talk About Hearing		11:00am	Dead Air Live Show	12:00noon	Democracy Now!			

City Cable TV Schedule for the Week

Wednesday, December 21			12:55am: (15)	Argenziano Winter Concert	7:30pm: (15)	ESCS Winter Concert	12:45am: (15)	Argenziano School Winter Concert	
9:00am: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration		1:00am: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration	7:50pm: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	1:30am: (15)	WHCS Winter Concert	
9:00am: (15)	Superintendent Awards - 1st Quarter		1:40am: (15)	SHS Hockey vs Matignon	8:00pm: (13/16)	Illuminations Tour 2011	2:15am: (15)	All-City Middle School Winter Concert	
11:30am: (15)	SHS Girls' Basketball vs Wachusett Regional		1:50am: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	8:30pm: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	7:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	
12:00pm: (13/16)	School Committee Meeting - REPLAY OF 12/19/11		9:00am: (13/16)	Talking Business	8:30pm: (15)	Middle Schools' Ensemble Concert	7:00pm: (15)	WSNS Winter Concert	
			9:00am: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	9:10pm: (15)	SHS Winter Concert	7:30pm: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting & Celebration	
1:15pm: (15)	Highlander Forum		12:00pm: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch	Sunday, December 25			7:45pm: (15)	Argenziano School Winter Concert
1:45pm: (15)	Kid Stuff		12:00pm: (15)	Healey School Winter Concert	12:00am: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch	8:10pm: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	
7:00pm: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch		12:30pm: (13/16)	Boxing Club Grand Opening	12:00am: (15)	Healey School Winter Concert	8:20pm: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	
7:00pm: (15)	Raising Families		12:30pm: (15)	ESCS Winter Concert	12:30am: (13/16)	Boxing Club Grand Opening	8:30pm: (15)	WHCS Winter Concert	
7:30pm: (13/16)	Congressional Update		12:50pm: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	12:30am: (15)	ESCS Winter Concert	9:15pm: (15)	All-City Middle School Winter Concert	
7:30pm: (15)	Middle Schools' Ensemble Winter Concert				12:50am: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	Tuesday, December 27		
8:00pm: (13/16)	Talking Business		1:00pm: (13/16)	Illuminations Tour 2011	1:00am: (13/16)	Illuminations Tour 2011	12:00am: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	
8:10pm: (15)	Superintendent Awards - 1st Quarter		1:30pm: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	1:30am: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	12:00am: (15)	WSNS Winter Concert	
8:30pm: (13/16)	Public Hearing on Proposed Charter School		1:30pm: (15)	Middle Schools' Ensemble Concert	1:30am: (15)	Middle Schools' Ensemble Concert	12:30am: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting & Celebration	
10:15pm: (15)	SHS Hockey vs Matignon		2:10pm: (15)	SHS Winter Concert	2:10am: (15)	SHS Winter Concert	12:45am: (15)	Argenziano School Winter Concert	
Thursday, December 22			7:00pm: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch	12:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	1:10am: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	
12:00am: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch		7:00pm: (15)	SHS Boys' Basketball vs Malden Catholic - LIVE	12:00pm: (15)	WSNS Winter Concert	1:20am: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	
12:00am: (15)	SHS Hockey vs Matignon		7:30pm: (13/16)	Boxing Club Grand Opening	12:30pm: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting & Celebration	1:30am: (15)	WHCS Winter Concert	
12:30am: (13/16)	Congressional Update		7:50pm: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	12:45am: (15)	Argenziano School Winter Concert	2:15am: (15)	All-City Middle School Winter Concert	
1:00am: (13/16)	Talking Business		8:00pm: (13/16)	Illuminations Tour 2011	1:10am: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	9:00am: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	
1:30am: (13/16)	Public Hearing on Proposed Charter School		8:30pm: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	1:30am: (15)	WHCS Winter Concert	9:00am: (15)	WSNS Winter Concert	
9:00am: (13/16)	Talking Business		10:00pm: (15)	SHS Boys' Basketball vs Malden Catholic	2:15am: (15)	All-City Middle School Winter Concert	11:30am: (15)	SHS Boys' Basketball vs Malden Catholic	
9:00am: (15)	Middle Schools' Ensemble Winter Concert		Saturday, December 24			7:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	12:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit
11:30am: (15)	SHS Hockey vs Matignon		12:00am: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch	7:00pm: (15)	WSNS Winter Concert	12:30pm: (13/16)	Talking Business	
12:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit		12:00am: (15)	SHS Boys' Basketball vs Malden Catholic	7:30pm: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting & Celebration	1:00pm: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration	
12:30pm: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville		12:30am: (13/16)	Boxing Club Grand Opening	7:45am: (15)	Argenziano School Winter Concert	1:00pm: (15)	Kid Stuff	
1:00pm: (15)	Our Schools, Our City		12:50am: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	8:10am: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	7:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	
1:30pm: (15)	Superintendent Awards - 1st Quarter		1:00am: (13/16)	Illuminations Tour 2011	8:30pm: (13/16)	Board of Aldermen Meeting - REPLAY OF 12/20/11	7:00pm: (15)	SHS Girls' Basketball Highlander Hoopfest #1 - LIVE	
7:00pm: (13/16)	Congressional Update		1:30am: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	8:30am: (15)	WHCS Winter Concert	7:30pm: (13/16)	Talking Business	
7:00pm: (15)	Highlander Forum		12:00pm: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch	9:15am: (15)	All-City Middle School Winter Concert	8:00pm: (13/16)	Congressional Update	
7:30pm: (13/16)	Talking Business		12:00pm: (15)	Healey School Winter Concert	Monday, December 26			8:30pm: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch
7:30pm: (15)	SHS Football Highlights 2011		12:30pm: (13/16)	Boxing Club Grand Opening	12:00am: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	9:00pm: (13/16)	Public Hearing on Proposed Charter School	
7:55pm: (15)	Argenziano Winter Concert		12:30pm: (15)	ESCS Winter Concert	12:00am: (15)	WSNS Winter Concert	10:00pm: (15)	SHS Girls' Basketball Highlander Hoopfest #1	
8:00pm: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration		12:50pm: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	12:30am: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting & Celebration	12:00am: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	
8:40pm: (15)	SHS Hockey vs Matignon		1:00pm: (13/16)	Illuminations Tour 2011	12:45am: (15)	Argenziano School Winter Concert	12:00am: (15)	SHS Girls' Basketball Highlander Hoopfest #1	
8:50pm: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville		1:30pm: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	1:10am: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	12:30am: (13/16)	Talking Business	
Friday, December 23			1:30pm: (15)	Middle Schools' Ensemble Concert	1:30am: (15)	WHCS Winter Concert	1:00am: (13/16)	Congressional Update	
12:00am: (13/16)	Congressional Update		2:10pm: (15)	SHS Winter Concert	2:15am: (15)	All-City Middle School Winter Concert	1:30am: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch	
12:00am: (15)	Highlander Forum		7:00pm: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch	9:00am: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	2:00am: (13/16)	Public Hearing on Proposed Charter School	
12:30am: (13/16)	Talking Business		7:00pm: (15)	Healey School Winter Concert	9:00am: (15)	WSNS Winter Concert			
12:30am: (15)	SHS Football Highlights 2011		7:30pm: (13/16)	Boxing Club Grand Opening	12:00pm: (13/16)	Board of Aldermen Meeting - REPLAY OF 12/20/11			
					12:00pm: (15)	WSNS Winter Concert			



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville Poet Samantha Milowsky:

Making the small press a home at the Mass. Poetry Festival

Somerville poet Samantha Milowsky has for the past few years immersed herself in the Boston area literary scene. Milowsky, a software technology executive is the founder and managing editor of Amethyst Arsenic and her work has appeared in magazines like the 2River View, White Whale Review, The Written Wardrobe, and is forthcoming Revolution House. She is now involved with the Mass. Poetry Festival's Small Book Fair that is to be held in Salem, Mass--during National Poetry Month--April 2012, as a part of the larger festival. I recently had a chance to chat with Milowsky:

You are a Somerville resident--poet- and publisher. How did you get involved with the poetry festival, and how has the milieu of Somerville worked for you as a creative person?

My friends have participated in past MassPoetry events and told me how much they enjoyed it. Getting involved is something I've been thinking about for awhile, so I visited the MassPoetry site and got in touch with Michael Ansara. He told me about the opportunities to participate, so now I'm helping to organize the Small Press and Magazine Literary Fair.

Somerville is a creatively nourishing city. We are surrounded by great poets from many backgrounds and styles, and people knit together our community by creating poetry spaces, readings, and events. I feel lucky to have a collective of friends and peers that will help each other in our work. All of that is here in Somerville.

I started the poetry journal Amethyst Arsenic this year. Getting local poets involved by submitting work and serving as editors has been key to establishing a great journal.

Tell us why you feel the small press fair is an essential part of the festival?

Small presses are the lifeblood of poetry. The purpose of the festival is to support poetry and poets, so we have always included a Small Press Fair as an essential component of the Festival. Last year we expanded it to also include literary magazines. This is a great chance for small presses and magazines to reach a broader audience, as well as meet others who share their passion and mission.

How will it be presented at the festival, compared to last year?

This year we hope to provide more space to the fair as each year the number of presses has increased. We are working to locate a space in downtown Salem that will be more conducive to housing the fair, providing the maximum space, and best flow of foot traffic. We are working with the Museum Mall owners who have offered us space there. What is nice is that there are a series of cafes and small restaurants in the mall as well as some seating in the large walkways where we would place the exhibitor tables. Although that is not definite yet, it might provide for a larger, better, and more social space than last year. We also hope to offer panels with editors about publishing.

Would this be a good event for students and emerging poets to attend?

The festival as a whole is ideal for students and new and emerging poets to attend. There are work-



shops, readings, panels, and a chance to meet poets from across the state from various schools, backgrounds, styles, and communities of poetry. The Small Press and Magazine Fair is a great opportunity to learn more about who is publishing emerging and new poets. At the Fair, there is plenty of opportunity to look at the publications and talk with the publishers and editors one-on-one.

The Mass. Poetry Festival has a history of bringing top literary talent to Massachusetts--who is anticipated this year?

The whole line up is not set yet. The Program Committee has its hands full. So far, over 80 program proposals have been filed and the deadline is not until the 15th. However, we will have some popular names to announce. So far, according to Mike Ansara, the founder of the festival, the Native American Poet Joy Harjo, Major Jackson, Nikky Finny and Robert Pinsky are on the lineup.

Can you talk about some of the volunteer opportunities offered?

We need volunteers now, and we need volunteers during the festival. MassPoetry is a grand experiment in collaboration and decentralization, and it is totally dependent upon volunteers.

We have roles for people who want to work on the festival programming, scheduling, venue selection, fund raising, program book, outreach and coordination. We need volunteers who can give 3-4 hours a week for the next 4 months, and we need volunteers who can give 2-3 hours one day at the festival. At the festival itself we need people to set up and take down venues, chairs, and tables, to provide information and guide visitors, to provide sound and tech support, to handle button sales, etc. We especially need skilled audio and video people.

You can sign up to volunteer at <https://goodmeasures.wufoo.com/forms/2012-mass-poetry-festival-volunteer-sign-up-copy/>
<http://masspoetry.org>

Well a friend of mine at the Bagel Bards told me that our State Rep. Denise Provost is in a workshop that he participates in and she is a damn fine poet. We need more legislative poets--don't you agree? Anyway I called her up and she sent me these two--for you!

The Deal

Crafty Bob, and his good friend, Mr. Wynn, woo Foxborough. They make a solemn vow that the great Pleasure Dome that they'll put in won't turn the town to Vegas, or Macau.

"Bucolic" is the way Foxborough will stay. No high rise buildings, or parades of cars will spoil its home town feel, or Patriot ways, but make the tax base plump; leave life unmarred.

I don't live there. It is not up to me to trust these wealthy gentlemen, or not. I'll watch Foxborough's courtship, and I'll see if the Deal can be marketed, and bought.

I'm certain that the one per cent must know what benefits the rest of us, below.

— Denise Provost

Water Chestnut Pull, Mystic River

There was a time when every day in June
I woke anticipating summer's fields;
picking wild strawberries; my good fortune
then to enjoy that sweet and fragrant yield.
But this June day another harvest brings
out on the weed-choked river, where we glide,
dragging up water chestnuts' living strings
of leaf, stem, root, and seed-pods, dripping slime,
pulled up from sulfurous, anaerobic mud.
We pile our baskets with each reeking mass.
Our boat rides lower with this captive load;
we haul in truckloads full; the hours pass.
Though sun-ripe fruit would satisfy my greed
I'm well content, uprooting noxious weeds.

— Denise Provost

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:
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edited by Doug Holder

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water included.
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home. High ceilings, yard,
large deck, off street
parking.
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Winthrop



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family house. Off street
parking for one car.
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