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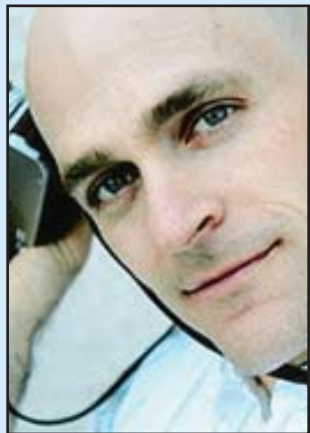
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The publishers and staff
of The Somerville News

Year in Review: 2011

By Andrew Firestone

Mario Oliveira returns to work

Sometimes heroism is as plain to see as the nose on your face. In Somerville, Detective Mario Oliveira proved that in spades. Wounded in an attempt to arrest a suspected gun-seller, Oliveira proved his mettle by quietly returning to work in March.

Accolades from the City and State aside, Oliveira has stayed out of the limelight. His dedication and perseverance have earned him the admiration of his superiors, who have said that most officers who suffer similar injuries do not return to work. Oliveira, however, is a self-described workaholic, and does not stop for any man.

You can still see him, performing details and handling his duties as a member of the Somerville Police Department. He's a true hometown hero, even if he doesn't want to admit it.

Continued on page 3



Falling into the Booty Vortex

By Max Sullivan

New Year's Eve is a time for everyone to celebrate, and local funk and soul band Booty Vortex will be laying down the groove at Johnny D's in Davis Square this Saturday night for those in need of an old school alternative to the more common thud of modern club music.

"We play dance music," said Julia Cruz, AKA Honey Child, Somerville native and Booty Vortex's band leader, "But we play a different kind of dance music."

Formed in 2004, Booty Vortex have all the prerequisites met for a great classic funk and disco band: four highly qualified singers, both male and female; loud but precise horns; a powerful rhythm section with lead guitar and keyboard; the dedication required to bring it all together as a tight unit in the live setting. They even have their own individual "funk" names, like PiXiStiX, Goldfingers, and E-Bop. Above all, they are entirely focused on having fun, reveling in their up tempo live show.

"It's high energy," said Cruz. "You really won't be able to not move your body a

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The funk hits the fan this New Year's Eve, as Booty Vortex rocks Johnny D's as only they can do.

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NEWTALK

Happy New Year to all our readers and fans. We hope that everyone has a great New Year in 2012 and that the economy gets better.

This Sunday, January 1, is the 236th Anniversary of the “Grand Union” Flag Raising. George Washington stood on Prospect Hill on January 1, 1776, watching the British. The ceremony will begin with a march from City Hall to the monument on Prospect Hill at 11:30 a.m. with the ceremony beginning at 12 noon. Join with Mayor Joe Curtatone at the ceremony. Again, this year’s ceremony was planned by the Historic Preservation Commission. Director Brandon Wilson is the host.

The New Year starts right off on Monday evening at 6 p.m. with the city’s inaugural ceremony with the Mayor and both the Board of Aldermen and School Committee being sworn into office. The ceremony will take place over at the Centennial Auditorium at the High School. Immediately following is a reception at the Center for Arts at the Armory at 191 Highland Avenue.

Happy Birthdays this week go out to everyone celebrating here in the 'Ville and wherever they may be dispersed around the nation. Greetings go out to John Caruso, politically active here in the city, and to Terri Latta, a friend of the News. Also, best wishes to Joseph Amaral of the Amaral Group, a local company owned by a local guy, and to George Carvalho, as well as Sharon Levine Gannon, who is from the 'Ville but now lives over there in Medford.

Continued on page 8

TheSomervilleNews.com Comments of the Week

Response to Citywide sticker shock campaign to deter underage drinking

sue says:

“Somerville Cares About Prevention’s (SCAP) youth group, “Somerville Positive Forces” will work..... 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.” Any reason why this campaign is only targeting half of the establishments? Is it okay in the others to serve or sell to minors?

Claire says:

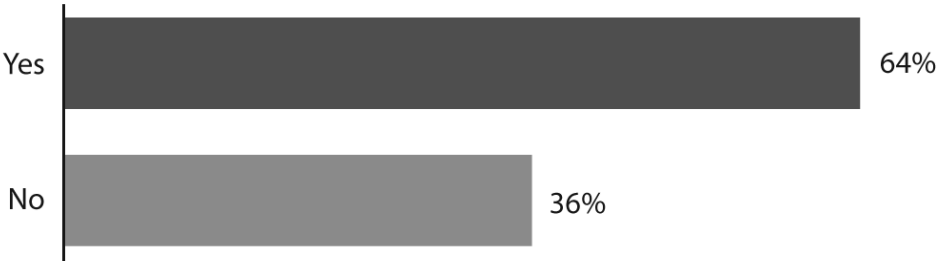
Having the drinking age set to 21 has been a complete failure. Minors will find a way to obtain and drink alcohol regardless of what the law says. It is a complete waste of taxpayer dollars to attempt to enforce an unenforceable law. The best police can hope for is to contain underage drinking, and even that is a long shot. Giving kids MIP’s does nothing positive and will not deter someone from drinking again.

Log onto TheSomervilleNews.com to leave your own comments

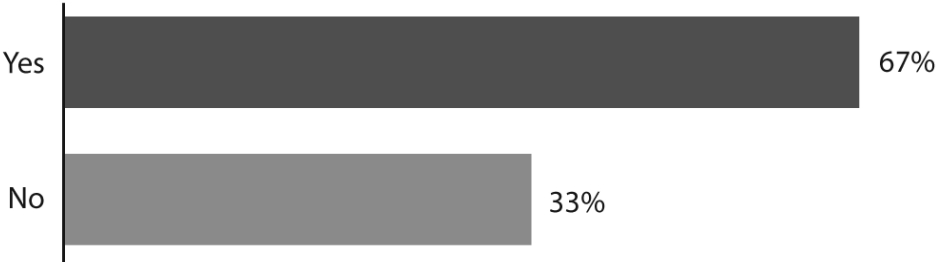
TheSomervilleNews.com polls of the week

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 polls concerned your views on whether or not you think the Governor should allow stores to sell liquor on “Christmas Monday” (current law does not allow it) and whether or not you are in favor of a nationwide ban on cell phone use while driving. If you don’t agree with the results, simply log onto TheSomervilleNews.com.

Should the Governor allow stores to sell liquor on “Christmas Monday”? (current law does not allow it).



Are you in favor of a nationwide ban on cell phone use while driving?



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Year in Review: 2011 CONT. FROM PG 1

School official's holiday remarks spark national debate

Controversy erupted, generating national news headlines, when the Boston Herald wrote that Kennedy School Principal Anne Foley had spoke against the school celebrating Columbus Day, Thanksgiving and Halloween this October. While the Herald wrote that Foley was targeting "cherished holidays" the truth was a little less dramatic. Foley claims that she only meant to ask the staff to be sensitive to the cultures which were historically damaged in the past, such as indigenous native Americans. In the end, the Somerville Public Schools announced that there would be no changes to the celebration of these holidays, and Mayor Curtatone spoke saying that there no changes to Halloween celebrations, which was not mentioned in Foley's letter. **The BOA votes in favor of District Improvement Financing bonds, brings in Assembly Square**

In a key vote last May, the Somerville Board of Aldermen approved a \$25 million bond to revitalize Assembly Square. Formerly the home to a car

manufacturing plant and the Good Times Emporium, the large plot in East Somerville has lain vacant for years. In a one-of-a-kind agreement between the City, the State, and developer Federal Realty Investment Trust, the BOA sealed a deal that will reportedly leveraged a \$25,750,000 bond into a \$1.36 billion project, including residential, commercial and retail development. Also as part of the agreement, a new Orange Line stop was approved, and has already gone out to bid.

While the full build-out remains to be seen, the project is being touted as a transformative measure not only for Somerville, but for the region as a whole. It is a vision that is hard to argue with: transit-oriented development on a waterfront property with shopping, condominiums and office space on a parcel of land very close to downtown Boston. The project has already received praise from the federal government, who gave \$15 million in federal stimulus grants for infrastructure. In 2012, the picture will become clearer as to what the vaunted Assembly Row will look like,

but with mega-corporations like Walmart vying for space nearby, it's clear that the development will see Somerville's stock rise.

City switches healthcare plan to Group Insurance Commission

After months of debate, the City approved a switch from their former healthcare plan to the Group Insurance Commission, saving the City \$75 million from 2012 through 2018, and going a long way towards bridging the City budget gap. While many worried that retirees would suffer over increased increased premiums, the eventual decision was unanimously passed by the BOA. After a 30-day negotiation period, the City Unions failed to find a cheaper solution, and the GIC was brought to Somerville at the end of September.

Green Line Extension delayed until 2018

While Somerville has been pushing for the GLX since the Big Dig came to Boston in the 1990s, another setback was suffered over the Summer when the State announced that it would have to delay implementation until at least 2018. The

announcement sparked outrage among residents and politicians in the City, who called the delay an insult. A grassroots campaign was started by City Hall, which led to thousands of signatures in an online petition, and demonstrations both in the City, where a mock ground-breaking occurred, and at the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization, where dozens of residents crowded meetings to show their concern.

While the protestations eventually resulted in a revised "phasing" plan to get tracks on the ground as soon as possible, the future of the GLX is still up in the air. Current plans do not include the Route 16 stop in Medford, and the State transportation agency, MassDOT, says they have no plans to put that final leg of designed seven-stop extension in. While they have announced that the renovated Lechemere station in Cambridge could be opened by 2018, some, such as Congressman Michael Capuano, have said that the odds are slim of a College Ave. stop being opened by 2020.

Current obstacles to the GLX

include land takings, and the need to move over existing commuter rail tracks. The debate is ongoing.

Mayor Joseph Curtatone has said that the City will exercise every legal option to ensure the GLX is fully built-out.

Meth lab upsets quiet neighborhood

On November 7, a quiet street near Union Square was disturbed by the arrival of a Somerville Police SWAT team. Raiding the house at 19 Oxford St. owned by Irina Kristy, a Professor of Mathematics at Suffolk University and Boston University, the group discovered a home-made Meth lab, one of the only such labs found in New England. Kristy's son, Grigory Genkin, later turned himself in. The trial is currently ongoing.

The raid shocked many residents and neighbors, who had no idea that such a serious crime would be taking place right near their own doorstep. The SPD said they moved fast in order to properly take into possession all of the illegal materials, which included several bottles of highly unstable liquids used to produce the addictive drug.

Year in Review: 2011

Wounded cop returns to work
Oliveira: Treasure life

By George P. Hassett

(From March 30, 2011)

A Somerville detective shot and almost killed in November quietly returned to work last week after almost five months away from the job.

Mario Oliveira handled light duties in his first week back to work with the Somerville Police Department. One thing that didn't change for the decorated

detective was a willingness to work hard: on his first day back he stayed beyond his eight hour shift.

"I'm a workaholic," Oliveira joked in an interview with The Somerville News this week. "If anything getting shot and being away so long has given me more fire to work."

Oliveira was shot five times - twice in the stomach, twice in the chest and once in the arm - as

he served an arrest warrant to a 21-year-old Somerville man suspected of selling guns to gang members. Doctors at Massachusetts General Hospital said Oliveira was nearly dead when he arrived for treatment.

"If there's one thing I learned, it's make your time on Earth on count," he said. "Especially police officers, we get caught up in hectic lifestyles and work but everything can be

Continued on page 8



Mario Oliveira handled light duties in his first week back to work with the Somerville Police Department.

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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Routine warrant arrest proves difficult

While making a random query of Massachusetts Registration utilizing the CJISWEB application, a Somerville police officer on patrol last week discovered outstanding warrants applying to the vehicle in question.

The officer conducted a stop at 269 Broadway and was able to confirm that the operator was in-

deed the owner, Adler Blaise, 44, of Lynnfield, and was advised that there was a warrant for his arrest and was ordered out of the vehicle, according to police.

After Blaise exited the vehicle, police say he refused to turn around and place his hands behind his back. Officers allegedly had to physically turn Blaise

around and force his hands behind his back to be cuffed.

While waiting for the transport wagon, Blaise reportedly attempted to walk away from police custody two separate times, and had to be pinned to the back of the police vehicle to prevent him from escaping custody, police said.

Blaise reportedly began shouting to a crowd of spectators to “film the police brutality,” to go find “the real bad guys and leave the innocent people alone,” and that he was going to “sue the police,” according to police reports.

Blaise made a third attempt to walk away from custody, police said, and he was subse-

quently secured until the transport wagon arrived.

He was taken to the police station and booked on a charge of resisting arrest and warrant charges of no inspection sticker, operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended registration, and non-transparent window obstruction.

Alleged drunk driver stops traffic

Police responded to a report of a disabled vehicle in the roadway in the early hours of last Saturday.

Upon arrival, police reportedly observed two vehicles stopped in the middle of Alston Street. The female driver of one car was questioned and reportedly said, “This car in front of me will not move and has his hazards on.” As police did not readily spot the driver of the other vehicle the woman was then asked if she

knew where the driver went to and she replied that she did not, police said.

Officers approached the other vehicle and reportedly witnessed a male, later identified as Matthew Brigham, 26, of Cambridge, hunched over on the passenger side with no seatbelt. The keys were still in the ignition and the motor was running, according to police.

Police reportedly noted that

Brigham's eyes were shut and that he was snoring. They also reported that the smell of alcohol was strong in the vehicle.

Several attempts were reportedly made to awaken Brigham, and after approximately six tries he finally regained consciousness, police said.

Brigham seemed dazed and confused and immediately put his hands on the steering wheel and attempted to put the car in-

to gear in order to drive away, police reported, so he was told to stop and he did so.

When asked to produce his license and registration Brigham reportedly provided officers with his passport. He then took his license out from his wallet but continued to search for it. When told that it was in his hand he reportedly replied, “What are you talking about?” Officers eventually took it from his hand, ac-

cording to police.

Brigham was asked to perform a series of sobriety tests to determine his sobriety level. He agreed, and after conducting the tests it was evident that he had been operating his motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, police said.

He was placed under arrest and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor.

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

Adler Blaise, 44, of 375 Broadway, Lynnfield, December 20, 8:56 a.m., arrested at 269 Broadway on a charge of resisting arrest and warrant charges of no inspection sticker, operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended registration, and non-transparent window obstruction.

David White, 33, of 706 Old Country Rd., Westport, December 20, 8:22 p.m., arrested at 220 Washington St. on warrant charges of marked lanes violation and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

Wisly Timoleon, 32, of 80 Gilman St., December 21, 10:23 a.m., arrested at 24C North St. on a charge of abuse prevention order violation.

Bernice Annichiarico, 42, of 143 Oakland St., Malden, December 22, 1:05 p.m., arrested at 299 Broadway on a charge of shoplifting by asportation and warrant charges of shoplifting by asportation and failing to stop for police.

Steven Merrill, 30, of 130 Morrison Ave., December 22, 3:54 p.m., arrested at 48 Gorham St. on a warrant charge of municipal by law or ordinance.

Robert Toomanians, 44, of 36 Hook Rd., Acton, December 22, 10:14 p.m., arrested at

269 Broadway on warrant charges of marked lanes violation, uninsured motor vehicle or trailer, and operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended registration.

Bereket Andemichael, 29, of 19 Waldon Sq., Cambridge, December 23, 3:01 a.m., arrested at 410 Highland Ave. on a charge of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor.

Matthew Brigham, 26, of 281 Harvard St., Cambridge, December 24, 3:40 a.m., arrested at 13 Alston St. on a charge of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor.

Steven Gayhart, 25, of 230 Waldemar Ave., East Boston, December 26, 2:28 a.m., arrested at 961 Broadway on a warrant charge of assault and battery.

Incidents:

Theft:

December 20, 7:08 a.m., police reported a theft at 338 Broadway.

December 20, 11:57 a.m., police reported a theft at Pinckney St.

December 20, 3:16 p.m., police reported a theft at Vernon St.

December 20, 3:44 p.m., police reported a theft at Meacham Rd.

December 20, 3:56 p.m., police reported a theft at Bailey Rd.

December 20, 10:01 p.m., police reported a theft at Lowell St.

December 21, 8:35 a.m., police reported a theft at Pearson Rd.

December 21, 9:09 a.m., police reported a theft at Bay State Ave.

December 21, 9:14 a.m., police reported a theft at Vermont Ave.

December 21, 9:20 a.m., police reported a theft at Holland St.

December 21, 9:56 a.m., police reported a theft at Franklin St.

December 21, 9:57 a.m., police reported a theft at Puritan Rd.

December 21, 11:12 a.m., police reported a theft at Pearl St.

December 21, 11:13 a.m., police reported a theft at Ash Ave.

December 21, 11:15 a.m., police reported a theft at Kenwood St.

December 21, 11:43 a.m., police reported a theft at Highland Ave.

December 21, 12:39 p.m., police reported a theft at Cameron Ave.

December 21, 12:39 p.m., police reported a theft at Cameron Ave.

December 21, 2:43 p.m., police reported a theft at Ivaloo St.

December 21, 2:53 p.m., police reported a theft at Quincy St.

December 21, 6:13 p.m., police reported a theft at Hamlet St.

December 21, 5:13 p.m., police reported a theft at Bailey Rd.

December 21, 5:17 p.m., police reported a theft at Bailey Rd.

December 21, 9:02 p.m., police reported a theft at Grant St.

December 22, 9:38 a.m., police reported a theft at Whitman St.

December 22, 9:38 a.m., police reported a theft at Ivaloo St.

December 22, 11:10 a.m., police reported a theft at 516 Medford St.

December 22, 11:37 a.m., police reported a theft at Beacon St.

December 22, 11:54 a.m., police reported a theft at Rogers Ave.

December 22, 12:12 p.m., police reported a theft at School St.

December 22, 12:13 p.m., police reported a theft at Medford St.

December 22, 12:13 p.m., police reported a theft at Walnut Rd.

December 22, 12:16 p.m., po-

lice reported a theft at Aldrich St.

December 22, 1:55 p.m., police reported a theft at Cedar St.

December 22, 3:06 p.m., police reported a theft at Grant St.

December 23, 8:59 a.m., police reported a theft at Irving St.

December 23, 11:35 a.m., police reported a theft at Marshall St.

December 23, 2:06 p.m., police reported a theft at Jackson Rd.

December 23, 2:24 p.m., police reported a theft at Jackson Rd.

December 23, 6:33 p.m., police reported a theft at Summit St.

December 24, 10:14 a.m., police reported a theft at Holland St.

December 24, 11:47 a.m., police reported a theft at School St.

December 24, 3:06 p.m., police reported a theft at Rogers Ave.

December 24, 6:15 p.m., police reported a theft at Curtis St.

December 25, 10:11 p.m., police reported a theft at Walnut St.

Breaking & Entering:

December 21, 6:07 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Washington St.

December 22, 6:25 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Buckingham St.

Year in Review: 2011

'Of course, we celebrate'

Officials say holiday controversy is much ado about nothing

By Elizabeth Sheeran

(From October 19, 2011)
Nothing has changed.

That was the response from city officials to the media furor that rained down around the city last weekend, when what began as a two-paragraph email ended with Somerville cast in the role of the Grinch-who-stole-the-holidays.

Two weeks ago, Kennedy School Principal Anne Foley sent a six-sentence email to her teaching staff, suggesting a discussion of sensitivities surrounding the upcoming Columbus Day holiday and, to a much lesser extent, Thanksgiving. The internal email somehow made its way to Boston Herald columnist Jessica Heslam, who re-printed Foley's most provocative phrases in her column in last Friday's Herald.

Heslam added that Kennedy is among the schools in Somerville that take a no-costumes approach to Halloween. The Herald packaged the column under the headline, "Somerville principal takes aim at cherished holidays," with a front page that read "Nope, Nope, Next," alongside graphics representing Columbus Day, Halloween and Thanksgiving, respectively. And so began a media feeding frenzy that by Monday had reached across international borders.

"The notion that we do not celebrate historical events or holidays and that we were doing away with them obviously went viral. It's now everywhere and it's wholly inaccurate," said Somerville School Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi at Monday evening's regularly-scheduled School Committee meeting.

"There is absolutely no validity to the stories that are everywhere about banning celebrations, banning all holidays, banning Halloween," said Pierantozzi. "At no time did anyone representing the Somerville Public Schools state that holidays or celebrations would be reduced, changed or curtailed."

Foley's message to teachers, which she has said was sent with the intent of sparking a discussion about multi-cultural perspectives on Columbus Day, expressed some strongly-worded views:

"When we were young we might have been able to claim ignorance of the atrocities that Christopher Columbus committed against the indigenous peoples of the 'new' world. We can no longer do so. For many of us and our students celebrating this particular person is an insult and a slight to the people he annihilated. On the same lines, we need to be careful around the Thanksgiving Day time as well."

But nowhere in the email was there a recommendation to stop commemorating either Columbus Day or Thanksgiving. As for Halloween, Foley's email didn't say anything about it.

In a follow-up message to parents and staff via robo-call on Sunday evening, Fo-

ley said nothing had changed regarding the instruction and events planned at the Kennedy School this year. "As always teachers and classrooms address holidays as part of their curriculum," said Foley.

The recorded message also included the following apology: "If this message had been intended for a broader audience, I would have chosen less inflammatory words and provided more of a context for the message," said Foley. "I apologize if my words offended anyone, that was not my intent."

Mayor Joseph Curtatone, who has three children enrolled at the Kennedy School, said he was among those who disagreed with Foley's use of words such as "atrocities" and "annihilated" in reference to Columbus. But he defended her right to communicate with her staff about issues surrounding the teaching of history.

"I didn't agree with the words she used. But as the principal, she has a right to say it," said Curtatone.

"We have the freedom of speech in this country to be able to raise issues like this," said Alderman and School Committee member Rebekah Gewirtz. "I'm not saying tone doesn't matter...But this is what we should be encouraging our children to do in school: to say 'why?' and 'how?' and 'where?' And not just to accept 'this is a holiday and therefore this person should be revered.' We should learn the real truth, which in some cases is an unpleasant truth."

Not all School Committee members expressed support for Principal Foley. "I do want to publicly apologize to my constituents that we had to spend this much time, and all the hours spent this weekend by this gentleman and his administration, for one person," said Mary Jo Rossetti, of Ward Seven, referring to the flood of media inquiries that had bombarded city officials.

For Mayor Curtatone, the media attention focused on the email was a case of form over substance, fuelled by the chance to build controversy around Foley's choice of words. And the Mayor had his own harsh words for the Herald.

"We can agree or disagree. And I don't agree with everything in it," he said, referring to the email. "But to paint it as if we're against every holiday here in the City of Somerville - which is the inference given by the Herald story - is way out of line, just wrong, and I think breaches some line of journalistic ethics."

To further drive home the point that Somerville schools haven't stopped commemorating holidays, Superintendent Pierantozzi presented the School Committee with a two-page list of celebrations from schools across the city. Many look pretty familiar, like Thanksgiving trips to Plimoth Plantation. Many are new twists on old traditions, like friendship cards on Valentine's Day. And many are completely new ways of approaching the holidays, like pajama days for Halloween.



Mayor Curtatone, shown here participating in last year's Halloween festivities with his family, said reports that Somerville is against holiday celebrations are completely unfounded.

Some parents may lament the fact that school celebrations don't all look like they used to, but Pierantozzi said educators have a responsibility to make sure individual students don't feel excluded from school day activities because of different backgrounds, origins or religious beliefs. He said schools across the country are be-

ginning to grapple with the issue of diversity when it comes to holidays.

"This is a real issue in our community," said School Committee member Mark Niedergang, of Ward Five, who added that he regularly receives calls from constituents who represent various backgrounds, with

Continued on page 8

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Year in Review: 2011

'Historic Vote' for Assembly Square passes in Somerville

By Ashley Taylor and Andrew Firestone

(From May 4, 2011)

In what one alderman called a "historic vote," the Board of Aldermen voted at a special meeting on Monday, May 2, to post \$25,750,000 in bonds for the Assembly Row District Improvement Financing (DIF) project, allowing the City to proceed with infrastructure improvements in Assembly Square. This development will be crowned by the Assembly Square Orange Line stop, provided by State and private funds, which depended directly on the City's approval of the DIF project.

Many pieces of the mayor's plans for Assembly Square fell into place on Monday. The vote, in addition to providing funds for extension of Assembly Square Drive, installation of a storm water outfall conduit, and construction of a new network of roads at Assembly Square, also fulfills the City's role in the Tri-Party Agreement, unlocking funds for the Assembly Square Orange Line stop provided in part by the developer, FRIT, now contributing \$15 million for the stop. Additionally, on Monday, FRIT and the City executed an agreement for promoting jobs for Somerville workers in Assembly Square.

The Tri-Party Agreement between the city, the state, and the developer also unlocks \$50 million from the State for construc-

tion of an Orange Line station at Assembly Square. According to the agreement, the city needed to provide \$25 million for infrastructure improvements through DIF by this Wednesday, or the agreement would have been broken, and the state money for the Orange Line would have been withdrawn.

The vote to post bonds for the DIF was nine to one at the full Board of Aldermen vote. Ward 7 Alderman Robert Trane was absent. Ward 6 Alderman Rebekah Gewirtz was the only dissenter.

Gewirtz explained that she planned to vote against the proposal because she felt there were not enough safeguards for the city in case of economic disaster. "We do not have enough assurances to go forward. The zoning was supposed to unlock Assembly Square, and what we got was a strip mall."

In particular, she was frustrated that the developer had refused to add a commitment to R&D and a guarantee to have 50 residential units on the market to the requirements it must meet to avoid paying the City the \$15 million surety in case FRIT fails to act. "We have not received assurances, through the documents that we have received to date, that we will get research and development, which is badly needed and is what might make this gamble worth it."

In the Finance Committee meeting earlier that evening, city planner Monica Lamboy report-

ed that FRIT had already made a commitment to R&D during the permitting process. As for guaranteeing 50 residential units within three years of starting construction, Don Briggs, of FRIT, said that Avalon Bay, its residential partner, will be responsible for building those units, and would does not want to take on the risk of a penalty for their partner's performance.

Overall, the aldermen who voted to post the bonds felt convinced that the DIF project was an "investment" and an "opportunity" (Ward 1 Alderman William Roche) rather than seeing it as a gamble. As Alderman Tom Taylor said, "I look upon this really as an investment. An investment inherently has a risk factor and that risk factor is that perhaps because of the economics, things don't happen the way that we anticipate it to happen. However in this particular vote I feel that we have some safeguards."

Alderman William White concluded that the DIF bond was not an "unreasonable risk on our taxpayers."

Alderman Roche emphasized the Orange Line stop as an incentive to appropriate the DIF bonds: "If we don't do this this evening, there will be no Orange Line stop; if there's not Orange Line stop, there's no development."

Alderman-at-large Bruce Desmond and Ward 2 Alderman Maryann Heuston acknowledged that times have changed and their opinion that



City officials at last came to a final decision on the ambitious, if controversial, development project.

DIF is necessary. Desmond, referring to Gewirtz' persistent claims that FRIT is violating its covenant with the city, said "it's unfair to characterize Federal Realty as having broken previous agreements and covenants because I don't think they have. I think circumstances have changed considerably since that covenant."

Heuston continued in that vein: "If things hadn't changed, we wouldn't be discussing this. The fact of life is this: things do change. The thing that separates the men from the boys is when things do change, that you have the ability to pick yourself up and figure out how to keep moving forward rather than retreating in the dark."

Along with the economic risks of posting the bonds, the aldermen grappled with trying to assure that the jobs the DIF would create would go to Somerville residents-without requiring

businesses to hire local workers, a practice that City solicitor said is illegal.

According to Anne Thomas, Special Counsel to the BOA, the agreement executed between FRIT and the City has three provisions. FRIT agrees to put \$100,000 into a job training fund for Somerville workers, encourage retail and office tenants to hire Somerville workers and advertise in Somerville newspapers first and provide retailers with a list of Somerville contractors in hope of providing Somerville construction jobs.

The agreement falls short of requiring businesses to hire a percentage of Somerville workers or face a penalty, something a group of 60 residents, led by Fred Berman, had proposed the city do. The residents signed a proposal to require businesses in Assembly Square to make one third of their employees Somerville

Continued on page 20

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COMMENTARY

TALES OF SOMERVILLE

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Have a happy and healthy New Year, Somerville!

The View From Prospect Hill



The New Year’s celebration is a time to examine what has transpired in the year that has gone by, and to look forward to what may be coming in the future. This past year has brought many challenges to the fore. Whether it was dealing with the faltering economy, unemploy-

ment problems, or any number of other troubling issues, most Somervillians enjoy a certain resilience and tenacity of spirit that inspires us to hang in with an optimistic attitude. It is that very feeling of optimism that should be embraced as we look forward into the

brighter prospects that 2012 is likely to bring. We feel certain that the new year will bring more opportunities to a greater number of people than ever before. Our society thrives on challenge and bounces back from adversity like no other. We can prove ourselves again

and again, and we know we will make an even bigger imprint in the year to come. We here at The Somerville News sincerely wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy, and lucrative 2012. May these blessings be shared between us all as we move to-

gether into a future that can be as bright and promising as we choose to make it. We have the skills and the desire to make great things happen. Now is the time to appreciate what has gone, and to gratefully accept what is yet to come. Let us celebrate with joy.

News Talk CONT. FROM PG 2

Don't forget the snow emergency procedures for the city, which reminds us all they are going to be aggressively going after those that don't adhere to the city's ordinances. No parking on even numbered sides of most streets. No parking in any spot for more than 48 hours, and please remember the requirements for shoveling and de-icing sidewalks and, of course, the prohibition against shoveling snow into pub-

lic roadways. A full list of city regulations may be found at www.somerville-ma.gov/snow or simply by calling 311.

Being sworn into office this Monday night is Tony LaFaunte, who recently was elected to the Ward 4 Alderman seat now being vacated by Walter Pero. We wish Tony the best of luck. Hopefully he will work on getting the vacant storefront at

the old Stars occupied. Winter Hill needs a face lift.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, January 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. when at the Precinct Bar in Union Square the PDS will be holding their meeting to elect new officers. We're assuming it's open to the general public and to anyone that might have and interest

to either join or observe. We will have someone taking notes to see who gets elected.

The public is welcomed this Saturday morning, January 31, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., as the Adonai Bible Center will be hosting a free breakfast at the Lion's clubhouse on New Washington Street behind the Holiday Inn.

Wounded cop returns to work CONT. FROM PG 3

gone in a split second. I'm grateful to be able to go home, look at my family and tell them I love them." "I appreciate life a lot more now," he said. "I don't sweat the small stuff."

Days after the shooting Oliveira said he learned his wife was pregnant. "I would have died with a child I didn't know and left my wife pregnant," he said. The baby is expected in July, he said.

Oliveira said he was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support after the shooting - cards, phone calls and well wishes from other officers, victims in crimes he'd investigated and Somerville citizens helped in his

recovery. He said he stayed active in ongoing cases from home but is excited to be back full time. Oliveira expects to return to his old duties with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms investigating gun crimes in

Somerville and other communities but he will remember the lessons he learned in the shooting and its aftermath. "I learned a lot about myself and I learned that this community in Somerville cares," he said.

'Of course, we celebrate' CONT. FROM PG 5

different traditions. "There are disagreements in our community about how holidays should be celebrated in our schools," said Niedergang.

Mayor Curtatone said all that diversity only adds to the celebration within the community. And he dismissed any idea that Somerville does not know how to

have a good time - especially around traditional American holidays like Halloween. "Of course we celebrate Halloween here in Somerville. On

October 23 we're going to have the biggest Halloween Festival in the state," said Curtatone. "I want to challenge any city or school system in the country, who celebrates

our country, our history, our traditions and those of dozens of others around the world as much as the City of Somerville and Somerville's Public Schools."

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleNews.com

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.

A Grand Union



By Joseph A. Curtatone

I'm very, very happy to live in Ten Hills but - especially at this time of year - I always find myself thinking about Prospect Hill.

It's the neighborhood where I grew up and went to grade school (in the building that until recently housed the Boys and Girls Club), and it's the neighborhood where Nancy and I first settled down and began our family. During the week between Christmas and New Year's, it's only natural to think about where you spent your traditional family holidays. For me, Prospect Hill was the backdrop for all those memories: the kitchens; the Christmas trees; the lit-up houses; the caroling; the snow-

ball fights; the parties; the midnight masses, the giving and receiving of presents - and, years later, the births of my four sons.

But I have another reason for thinking about Prospect Hill at this time of year - and it's a reason that all of us here in Somerville can share. On New Year's Day, our city celebrates the 1776 raising of the first recognizably American flag over George Washington's continental army, which was then encamped in rough fortifications on Prospect Hill.

Six months earlier, the decision of the Continental Congress to appoint George Washington as head of all colonial military forces had provided a much-needed boost in morale to the troops on Prospect Hill. But by year's end, the patriot army was hungry, cold and sick - and immediate military action was still out of the question. To encourage his soldiers and to send a message of defiance to the British, Washington decided to commission a new flag for the new year. Called the "Flag of Grand Union," it bore the old British union jack in its upper left corner (the colonies still thought of themselves as part of the empire) but also had thirteen

alternating red and white stripes to symbolize the joining together of the thirteen colonies in a common government.

That flag held a lot of meaning for the colonials. To this day, it remains an important symbol of Somerville's revolutionary past. For me, and for generations of Somerville residents, it is also a symbol of our hope for the future, and our confidence that we can change the world when we work and sacrifice together to achieve a common purpose.

In recent years, under a series of reform-minded city administrations, Somerville has shown what we can accomplish when we decide to create a common vision of the future, and then work to make that future a reality. It's a never-ending task - a journey, not a destination - but our city has done much to renew itself over the past quarter century. Our city is cleaner, better educated, more prosperous, safer, more walkable and more bikeable. We enjoy better municipal services, more and better parks and open space, and - despite national recession and stagnation - a brighter economic future than at any time in living memory.

Does that mean things were

so bad in the past? Of course not: the same qualities that make Somerville a wonderful community today - our diversity, our creativity, our energy, our abiding sense of neighborhood - have always made it a great place to live.

Does that mean things are perfect today? Absolutely not: we have an enormous amount to do and our future success is by no means guaranteed.

But what it does mean is that we have been able to pull together a broadly diverse group of residents across a range of ethnicities, professions, ages, incomes and educational levels - and to hammer out a shared vision of a future that includes everybody.

In the coming year, we will be rolling out our city's new comprehensive development plan, which was hammered out over the past two years with the active engagement and participation of residents in every neighborhood - another example of a "Grand Union" in action. It's a plan in which every square and neighborhood has a stake, and where the success of new development at Assembly Square or Brickbottom serves to complement the continued

development of the city as a whole. It's a plan in which Magoun Square, East Somerville, Ball Square, Winter Hill and Teele Square feature as prominently as Davis and Union Squares do.

It's a plan that reminds us that a shared purpose - a grand union - gives us more strength and more options than we could ever hope to have as individuals.

On behalf of all your elected officials and everyone here at City Hall, I wish you a joyful, rewarding and peaceful New Year. Thank you, as always, for the incredible privilege of serving as your Mayor. I cannot tell you how fortunate I feel to be a part of Somerville's current grand union.

I hope you will join us on Prospect Hill this New Year's Day. In addition to the actual flag-raising ceremony, there will be a procession from City Hall (starting at 11:30 a.m.). Music and refreshments will also be provided.

And, weather permitting, we'll open up the Prospect Hill Tower to let folks climb to the top deck. The view is pretty amazing. On a clear day, you can even glimpse our city's revolutionary past - and its exciting future.

On The Silly Side by Jimmy Del Ponte

Ringling in 2012



When I think of New Year's, the first thing that comes to mind is resolutions. This year, I am not making any. Instead, I will put a few things on the "suggestion list" and try to improve myself on several fronts. The obvious ones are more exercise, less junk food, and more patience. I always forget to count to ten. That just about covers me. New Year's Eve is a time for having fun with family and friends.

I remember back in the 70's playing in the band at some of the Dilboy Post's New Year's Eve parties years ago. There were also celebrations at most of the nightclubs and bars around the city. I recall taking shopping bags full of left over Chinese food, complete with a gallon jug of duck sauce home at the end of the night. Ming Toy restaurant had an easy delivery on New Year's Eve that year because it was across the street from the Post in Davis Square.

The songs we were playing back then were *I'm Your BoogieMan*, the theme from

Rocky, and a song that I have played 200 times if I played it once, (*Wasted Away Again In*) *Margaritaville*. Of course, we had to throw in *The Hully Gully*, *The Tennessee Waltz*, *The Chicken Dance*, *The Hustle* and some slow schmaltzy songs like *My Way* and *After The Lovin'*. Those slow songs always packed the dance floor. We would countdown to midnight, and then play *Auld Lang Sine*. Then it was time for the kissing! We always ended the night with *God Bless America*.

We sometimes would rent a room for New Year's Eve. Hotel rooms were great, especially since they came with that huge porcelain cooler that doubled as a bathtub. That was the safe, smart way to go. Stay in one place until New Year's Day. For the last few years the kids and I would go out to eat, or order in, and then try to stay awake until the "ball dropped." Watching Dick Clark was a New Year's Eve tradition for a while.

One of the best New Year's Eve's was when Grandpa Al stayed over with us. That was one of our best memories of Grandpa. We would deck ourselves out

with glitter hats and noisemakers. We actually used a lot of the same ones year after year. This year, for the first time, my kids have plans that don't include Daddy-O. First Night? Crowds of wild and crazy (and tipsy) people? No thanks. If I want to see big hunks of ice I will go on line and google "icebergs." I enjoy the ice sculptures more when they start to melt.

Just saying 2012 sounds strange. We have come a long way, one year at a time. Most of us have lived through the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's. Holy mackerel! Some of you have lived through the 20's, 30's and 40's also. Cool! What a great time to be alive. We lived through a lot of the most colorful decades ever. Just look at the music and movies and trends that have come out in our lifetimes. Some of us, like me and a lot of my friends, got into just about every crazy trend that came along, like bellbottom pants and peace signs, followed by Member's Only jackets and feathered haircuts. We had the best decades of entertainers that's for sure. How cool was growing up with The Rat Pack, Elvis

and the Beatles? Thankfully today we have the group, LMFAO! Party rock is in the house tonight!

They call New Year's Eve "amateur night" because some people overdo it. That's why it's a great idea to stay put on the big night. I am afraid to be on the roads on New Year's Eve because of "the other guy." Please find yourself a designated driver. Then find yourself a special person and make sure you share that traditional New Year's Eve midnight kiss. And if you are a traditional Italian family, like a lot of my friends, enjoy the tons of fish, pasta and desserts.

Put the iPhone down for a while and enjoy some real human interaction. 2012 is going to be a great year.

If you order Chinese food, be sure to ask for extra duck sauce. Be careful out there and I will see you all next year.

Don't forget the Three Stooges Marathon is on Channel 38 on New Year's Eve.

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

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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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 2 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 Gov. Deval Patrick in 2011.

TWO-DAY SALES TAX HOLIDAY IN AUGUST (S 156)

House 131-23, Senate 28-9, approved and Gov. Patrick signed into law a bill that allowed consumers to buy most products that cost under \$2,500 this past summer on Saturday, August 13, and Sunday, August 14, without paying the state's 6.25 percent sales tax. (A "Yes" vote is for the tax-free holiday. A "No" vote is against the tax-free holiday.)

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

COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING (H 3808)

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

Other provisions include increasing the punishment for individuals who pay prostitutes for sex, removing the statute of limitations for trafficking crimes, creating a 15-year criminal penalty for trafficking human organs and a "Safe Harbor" provision that allows a court to judge an offender under 18 apprehended for prostitution -- but found to be a victim of human trafficking -- to be in need of services rather than simply delinquent. (A "Yes" vote is for the bill. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

APPROVE CHANGES IN PENSION SYSTEM (S

2018)

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

Other provisions include prorating the retirement allowance of future employees who serve in more than one group by taking into account the number of years of service in each group, requiring that current employees serve at least one year in a group by the end of their career to retire from that group and establishing a minimum pension of \$15,000 for state workers who have spent 25 years in state government. Currently, many retirees are struggling with annual pensions of \$12,000 to \$13,000. (A "Yes" vote is for the bill making changes in the pension system. A "No" vote is against the changes.)

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

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING (H 3798)

House 124-19, Senate 31-6, approved and Gov. Patrick signed into law a bill that redistricts the state's congressional districts. The state lost a seat because of new 2010 U.S. census figures that show Massachusetts' population growth is well below the national average. The new plan merges the existing 10 districts into nine.

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

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

The package also splits some communities between two different districts. (A "Yes" vote is for the new districts. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

CASINOS (H 3087)

House 121-33 and 124-30, and Senate 24-13, approved and the governor signed a bill that would allow three casinos and one slot parlor in the Bay State. The House held two roll calls on the matter while the Senate held only one. The measure divides the state into three regions and allows one casino in each. Region A includes the counties of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk and Worcester; Region B, the counties of Berkshire, Franklin, Hamden and Hampshire; and Region C, the counties of Bristol, Dukes, Plymouth, Barnstable and Nantucket.

All the venues would be competitively bid, a major

Beacon Hill Roll Call continued



change from the measure approved last year that allowed competitive bidding on the casinos but only permitted the state's four racetracks to bid on the slots. (A "Yes" vote is for the bill. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

ALLOW LIQUOR SALES ON "CHRISTMAS MONDAY" (H 1009) - Gov. Patrick signed into law legislation that allows package, grocery 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 on that Monday. Christmas falls on a Sunday this year so the new law would apply.

STUDY MISUSE OF EBT CARDS (H 3773) - The governor signed into law legislation 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 and requiring stores to apply to the state to be granted the right to accept EBT cards.

DOWN SYNDROME (H 3825) - The House gave initial approval to a bill that would require health care providers to provide up-to-date information to any parents who receive a prenatal or postnatal diagnosis of Down syndrome. The information would include "physical, developmental, educational and psychosocial outcomes, life expectancy, clinical course, and intellectual and functional development and treatment options." The measure would also require that the parents be notified about information hotlines, national and local Down syndrome organizations and other education and support programs.

OFFICIAL AMPHIBIAN (H 826) - The House gave initial approval to a bill that would make the Spring Peeper frog the official state amphibian. The bill was filed by Rep. Stephen DiNatale (D-Fitchburg) on behalf of second grade students at the Crocker Elementary School in Fitchburg. Many of these types of bills

are filed by legislators on behalf of classes of students as part of an exercise for youngsters to learn about the legislative process.

MINUTEMAN AND MILITIA DAY (H 834) - The House gave initial approval to a bill designating the third Saturday in October as Massachusetts Minutemen and Militia Day. The day would honor "the memory of the forefathers of the Revolutionary War and those who support and preserve the autonomy of all companies, regiments, units and organizations who promote the ideals of patriotism and love of the country."

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Cell phones are so central to our lives these days that it seems to me it may be impractical to say no, not at all." – Gov. Patrick on the National Transportation Safety Board's call for all 50 states to implement a ban on motorist use of cellphones.

"I'm not sure whether the (U.S.) House needs psychotherapy or an enema, but something needs to be done to change the culture, the political culture in this country because they are incapable of solving problems. I'm sick of it, and I know that probably a majority of Americans are sick of it." – Rep. Daniel Winslow (R-Norfolk) criticizing the U.S. House for failing to agree to the U.S. Senate's plan to extend the payroll tax rate for two months. The House was insisting on a one-year extension.

"Peter Blute has been a trailblazer for Republicans in Massachusetts and he has a large talk radio following. I look forward to working with him to restore a healthy two-party system, which is the surest way to guarantee new job creation in our state." – Robert Maginn, chairman of the Massachusetts Republican Party, on the appointment of the former Congressman, radio talk show host and Massport executive director as his deputy chair.

"I think it could have a modest, positive impact on sales. I think it's a convenience issue for people." – State Treasurer Steve Grossman on allowing customers to purchase Lottery tickets with debit cards. The plan may be implemented as early as January 2012.

"The Lottery is aggressively pushing people into deeper personal debt by allowing citizens to use debit cards. The Lottery symbolizes more than any other how gov-

ernment's predatory gambling program has failed. What essentially is a government program is actively encouraging people to lose money, quote-unquote, 'as conveniently as possible.' Why isn't the Massachusetts Treasury encouraging people to save money?" – Les Bernal, Executive Director of Stop Predatory Gambling, on the debit card proposal.

"I never spoke with an Iraqi who was not happy with the current situation and the fact that democracy and free elections have come to Iraq." – Sen. Michael Rush (D-Boston), who recently returned from active duty with United States Forces in Iraq.

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 19-23, the House met for a total of two hours and 41 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 30 minutes.

Mon. December 19	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:28 a.m. Senate 11:02 a.m. to 11:25 a.m.
Tues. December 20	No House session No Senate session
Wed. December 21	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. December 22	House 11:08 a.m. to 1:22 p.m. Senate 11:08 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
Fri. December 23	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Falling into the Booty Vortex CONT. FROM PG 1

little bit. Even if you don't like to dance, you will feel like you're dancing, even if you're sitting in your seat."

The music spans a wide range of funk and disco: Sly and the Family Stone, Prince, Bee Gees, The Jackson Five, Parliament and more. Few names are missing from the set list, satisfying even the most snobbish of funk connoisseur.

"We play songs that people know, but then we'll go a little deeper on the funk and kinda surprise people," said Cruz. "Maybe they'd never heard it before but they're definitely

gonna like it."

Cruz said the show is for people of all ages (above 21, of course). She has seen younger folks hear funk and disco played live for the first time, as well as older club hoppers looking to relive the nightlife of their youth.

"I've had lot of fans come up and say, 'Oh, I used to go to Studio 54 all the time, and it's still great coming out and relive that,'" said Cruz.

Booty Vortex are regulars at Johnny D's, playing there several times a year. This will be the band's third time serving as the Johnny D's New Year's Eve

house band since 2008.

Somerville maintains its own hipness, especially Davis Square, where Cruz lives just two blocks from the venue. She takes note of this, acknowledging the diversity in culture and eclectic musical backgrounds from which its people come from.

"[Somerville residents] just love to come out and have a good time and support local music, and we love that," said Cruz. "The thing that is so cool about Somerville is there's people of all ages, of all backgrounds, and of all cultural interests and people do love to

come out and enjoy good music here and it's acceptable."

Cruz said that even Mayor Curtatone digs him some Booty Vortex.

"The mayor loves us," said Cruz, laughing. "Actually, I think

he said he's coming to the show on New Year's."

Booty Vortex take the stage at Johnny D's at 9:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve and go until 1:30 AM.

Tickets are still available at the door. \$26 cover.

Jerry's
Liquor Store

Union Square

329 Somerville Ave • (617) 666-5410

Somerville lights up with holiday spirit

By Savath Yong

The Somerville Arts Council's 15th annual Illuminations Trolley Tour took place on Saturday, December 17, to sold out crowds who ventured bravely into the chilly New England air to experience the holiday lights display of East, Central and newly added to the tour this year, West neighborhoods of Somerville.

The 45 minute trolley tour celebrates the holiday spirit of Somerville residents and boasts their artistry and creativity as they illuminate their houses and yards with lavish displays of lights and ornaments to observe the festive holiday season. The 27 tours departed from City Hall Concourse and waiting guests mingled at City Hall where hot chocolate, coffee and cookies were served and children participated in arts and crafts, while the Somerville Community Chorus serenaded the crowd with holiday music.

Rachel Strutt, Program Manager of SAC, believes the event always sells out because the public wants to see the residents' and their neighbor's love of the holidays on display and combined with the excitement of bright lights around winter solstice, the darkest time of year, the event is a sold out success every year. "The tour is also peppered with stories of families and their homes and decorations, and you will see some members of the families come out on their porches and wave when the trolley driver rings the bell, so it really gets everyone in that joyful spirit. Also, for the first time this year, we are adding tours in West Somerville, so you will get to hear interesting historical tidbits of that area as well."

If you were unable to attend the event, you can also purchase an Illuminations Tour map for \$3 and take a self-guided tour at your own pace. The map also includes President Obama's address when he was a student at Harvard. They can be purchased at Blue Cloud Gallery in Ball Square and Magpie in Davis Square and all proceeds support the Somerville Arts Council's public programming.



72 Electric Ave.



166 Central St.



17 Otis St.



44 Bartlett St.



12 Otis St.



Robinson St.



6 School St.



65 Grove St.



23 Albion St.



42-44 Garrison Ave.

Photos by Bobbie Toner

SOMERVILLE SPORTS

Somerville youth, Adon Goodpaster, advances in Pokémon City Championships

After a full day of head-to-head Pokémon™ Trading Card Game (TCG) battles, Adon Goodpaster clinched second place at the 2011 Somerville Pokémon City Championships, earning a top city ranking and Championship Points which count toward a potential invitation to the Pokémon U.S. National Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana next summer.

The 2011 Somerville Play! Pokémon City Championship provides an opportunity for competitors to test their Poké-

mon TCG skills, strategy, and creativity. The Pokémon community of fans, family, and friends were on-hand cheering their Pokémon TCG Trainers as they battled to become Pokémon City Champion and earn Championship Points. Top finishers from the Somerville Pokémon City Championships were battling for potential invitations to attend the U.S. National Championships and hopefully advance to the annual Pokémon World Championships in

Hawaii on August 10th-12th, 2012, to compete against elite players from more than 25 countries, including Japan, U.K., France, Italy, Germany, and Spain.

The Pokémon City Championships are 2011-2012 Play! Pokémon Premier Events sanctioned by The Pokémon Company International and locally managed by Premier Tournament Organizers. These volunteer organizers run Pokémon TCG and video game tournaments across the United States

throughout the year, and many are parents of current or former Pokémon TCG or video game players. Collectively they oversee tens of thousands of Pokémon competitors who train and compete in various Play! Pokémon programs, events, tournaments, and leagues to prepare for major events like the City Championships.

"What makes an event like the Pokémon City Championships so special is the involvement and support it receives from the local community," said J.C. Smith, di-

rector of Consumer Marketing for The Pokémon Company International. "The Somerville-area has a strong group of Pokémon players who enjoyed a great weekend of competition."

Play! Pokémon competitors are divided equally into three divisions: Junior Division (born in 2001 or later), Senior Division (born in 1997-2000), and Masters Division (born in 1996 or earlier).

For more information, please visit <http://www.pokemon.com/us/organized-play>.

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#298

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. How did the first New Year begin? | does Yogi Berra say to do? |
| 2. When was the first New Year observed? | 8. How did Coney Island get its name? |
| 3. When did the tradition of using a baby signify the New Year begin? | 9. What conflict of the 20th century saw U.S. soldiers "die for a tie"? |
| 4. Since the 2000 Millennium, what does the Waterford Crystal Ball contain each year? | 10. In what movie did Elvis Presley sing <i>The Yellow Rose of Texas</i> and <i>The Eyes Of Texas Are Upon You</i> ? |
| 5. When and how did the New Year's Eve tradition start in Times Sq., NYC? | 11. What is the name of Morticia's carnivorous strangling plant on the TV sitcom <i>The Adams Family</i> ? |
| 6. What plant family is the Anemone a member of? | 12. What was the original purpose of the automobile hood ornament? |
| 7. When you come to a fork in the road, what | |

Answers on page 17

SHS track athletes excel at Holiday Classic

Following are the results of the Holiday Classic on Tuesday at the Reggie Lewis Center. This was a meet that featured schools from over New England.

Scoring:

Nicole Genard -2nd- 55m hurdles 8.41.
4x200m relay 3rd-1:49.36 Alison Kaba, Gelynn Berger, Michel-le Meranda and Nicole Genard.

Non scoring:
Gelynn Berger-55m dash-7.93.
Alison Kaba -8.06.
Michel-le Meranda-300m-44.28.
Pristine Mei-2mile-12:43.91.

February Swim Lesson's

Monday & Wednesday
FEBRUARY 1-27, 2012

5:15-5:45pm for levels 1

AND

5:15-6pm for
Levels 1½, 2, 3 & 4



Registration begins at
3:00pm on the following
dates...

Tuesday & Thursday
FEBRUARY 2-23, 2012

4:30-5pm OR

5:15-5:45pm for levels 1

AND 5:15-6pm for

Levels 1½, 2, 3 & 4

**Non Somerville Residents:
January 10**

**Somerville resident:
January 3**

ONCE YOUR REGISTRATION TIME BEGINS, YOU MAY REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE LISTED CLASSES DURING OUR OFFICE HOURS:

October 2011-June 2012 :Mondays-Thursdays 3-5pm + 6-8:30pm and open Saturdays from 12:00-3:30 pm.

** Note: All dates and office hours are subject to change **

Somerville Resident Cost: \$50 Non-Somerville Resident Cost: \$65

617-666-6600 x6676

www.somerville.k12.ma.us/pool

March Swim Lesson's

Monday & Wednesday
MARCH 5-26, 2012

5:15-5:45pm for levels 1

AND

5:15-6pm for
Levels 1½, 2, 3 & 4



Tuesday & Thursday
MARCH 1-22, 2012

4:30-5pm OR

5:15-5:45pm for levels 1

AND 5:15-6pm for

Levels 1½, 2, 3 & 4

Registration begin at 3:00pm on the following dates...

**Non Somerville Resident:
February 7**

**Somerville Residents:
February 1**

ONCE YOUR REGISTRATION TIME BEGINS, YOU MAY REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE LISTED CLASSES DURING OUR OFFICE HOURS:

October 2011-June 2012 :Mondays-Thursdays 3-5pm + 6-8:30pm and open Saturdays from 12:00-3:30 pm.

** Note: All dates and office hours are subject to change **

Somerville Resident Cost: \$50 Non-Somerville Resident Cost: \$65

617-666-6600 x6676

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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, 12/28/11 The Somerville News



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
IFB # 12-40**

The City of Somerville, through the Purchasing Department invites sealed bids for:
Water Meters & Encoded Registers

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 26, 2011**. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 11:00 A.M.** at which time sealed bids will be opened. 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 one year, from March 1, 2012 through February 28, 2013.

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**

12/28/11 The Somerville News



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
IFB # 12-46**

The City of Somerville, through the Purchasing Department invites sealed bids for:
**2012 (or newer) Ford Escape Hybrid Limited 4WD
for the City of Somerville, Fire Department**

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 26, 2011**. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **Wednesday, January 9, 2012 at 11:00 A.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**

12/28/11 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 06P2669AD1

Estate of: **Mary R. Jervis**

Date of Death: **April 20, 2006**

MUPC SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE

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

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

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

Petitioner requests to be permitted to file a MUPC Bond

12/28/11 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 11P5961EA

Also Known As: Beatrice Amanda Clark

Date of Death: October 6, 2010

MUPC SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE

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

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

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

Petitioner requests to be permitted to file a MUPC Bond

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

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LEGAL NOTICES

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

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jeanne Aiello to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dated May 23, 2008 and recorded with the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds at Book 51351, Page 102, of which mortgage Wells Fargo Bank, NA 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 9:00 a.m. on January 24, 2012, on the mortgaged premises located at 38 Prichard Avenue, Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

THE LAND IN THE CITY OF SOMERVILLE IN SAID MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: A CERTAIN PARCEL OR LOT OF LAND WITH THE BUILDINGS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, SITUATE IN SAID SOMERVILLE AND LYING ON THE NORTHWESTERLY SIDE OF PRITCHARD AVENUE, AND BEING LOT NUMBERED THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE (325) ON A PLAN OF HOUSE LOTS OWNED BY W.A. RICE, JULY 1, 1899, CHARLES D. ELLIOT, ENGINEER, AND RECORDED IN MIDDLESEX SOUTH DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS, BOOK OF PLANS 123, PLAN 13. SAID LOT IS BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: NORTHEASTERLY BY LOT NUMBERED 326 ON SAID PLAN, 75 FEET; SOUTHEASTERLY BY SAID PRITCHARD AVE., 43 FEET; SOUTHWESTERLY BY LOT NUMBERED 324 ON SAID PLAN 75 FEET; NORTHWESTERLY BY LOTS NUMBERED 303 AND 304 ON SAID PLAN, 43 FEET. CONTAINING ACCORDING TO SAID PLAN, 3225 SQUARE FEET OF LAND. MEANING AND INTENDING AND HEREBY CONVEYING THE SAME PREMISES CONVEYED TO US BY DEED OF JOSEPH F. MACALUSO AND BARBARA M. MACALUSO DATED DECEMBER 17, 1986, AND RECORDED WITH MIDDLESEX DEEDS, BOOK 17697, PAGE 435. THIS IS A NON TORRENS BEING ALL OF THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY CONVEYED TO JEANNE AIELLO BY DEED DATED 08/29/1990 12:00:00 AM AND RECORDED 08/29/90 IN VOLUME 20740, PAGE 260 IN THE LAND RECORDS OF Middlesex COUNTY, Massachusetts.

Subject to a first mortgage to Washington Mutual Bank, FA, a federal association dated **September 12, 2003** and recorded with the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds at Book 40937, Page 220 in the original principal amount of \$183,500.00. Now held by Wells Fargo Bank, NA by an assignment executed on April 11, 2007 and recorded with the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds on April 23, 2007 at Book 49328, Page 275.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 20740, Page 260.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:


A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California Street, Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

WELLS FARGO BANK, NA
Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California Street
Newton, MA 02458
(617) 558-0500
201104-0868 - YEL

12/28/11 The Somerville News



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

2011-48 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: Medical Pick-up-Drop-off Mon-Sat 10am-6pm 53 Franklin St

2011-49 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: 15 Minute Parking spaces
1 Space 329 Somerville Av
1 Space 497 Somerville Av
1 Space 511 Broadway
1 Space 532 Medford St (Magoun Sq Parking Lot)

2011-50 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows Four Hour Parking expect by permit only, from 8am to 2:30am; Permit Parking Only 2:30am to 8:00am east side of Cedar St from Franey Rd to Broadway

PROMULGATED:
December 15, 2011

ADVERTISED:
December 28, 2011
January 4, 2012
January 11, 2012

EFFECTIVE:
January 18, 2012

MATTHEW DIAS, ACTING DIRECTOR

12/28/11 The Somerville News



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

PLANNING DIVISION

LEGAL NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING

The 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, 12/28/11 The Somerville News

PATS TOWING

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

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

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

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

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

MIDDLESEX DivisionDocket No. MI 11P5942EA

In the Estate of: Clara R. Grant

Late of: Somerville, MA. 02145

Date of Death: 07/29/2009

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR

to all persons interested in the above captioned estate, a petition has been presented requesting that
Michelle S Grantof Somerville, 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:
01/13/2012

WITNESS, HON. PETER C. DIGANGI, First Justice of this Court
Date: December 16, 2011

Tara E. De Cristofaro
Register of Probate

12/28/11 The Somerville News

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

MIDDLESEX DivisionDocket No. MI 11P5961EA

In the Estate of: Beatrice A Clark a/k/a Beatrice Amanda Clark**
copy of will

Late of: Lowell, MA 01854

Date of Death: 10/06/2010

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, a petition has been presented requesting that a document purporting to be the last will of said decedent be proved and allowed and that
Jeanette Modeski of Lowell, MA
be appointed executor/trix, named in the will to serve

Without Surety

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT;
Cambridge
ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK (10:00 AM) ON:
01/16/2012

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

WITNESS, HON. PETER C. DIGANGI, First Justice of this Court
Date: December 19, 2011

Tara E. De Cristofaro
Register of Probate

12/28/11 The Somerville News

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

Year in Review: 2011

Unions, city reach GIC agreement

Employees, retirees to pay same rate upon entering

By Andrew Firestone

(From September 28, 2011)

It seems the city's health insurance crisis has finally subsided. Beginning January 1, 2012, all retirees and employees of Somerville will join the Group Insurance Commission (GIC), an act that the city says will save \$9 million for that year alone. The GIC is a state program that provides coverage to more than 390,000 people.

The switch comes after a year of tense negotiation, along with a failure on the part of the unions to come up with a "planned design" that would come close to beating the GIC's rates. The agreement will allow the city to enter the GIC on January 1, 2012 for a six and a half year period that extends until June 30, 2018. Union and retiree representatives ratified the agreement with Mayor Joseph Curtatone on the morning of September 26.

"This agreement represents a fair compromise," Curtatone said. "We have put together a health insurance package that respects the needs of our employees, our retirees and Somerville taxpayers."

Curtatone was quick to point out the end of a crisis that had consumed more and more of the city budget every year, overtaking the funds from state aid in

2010. "Our health care costs had tripled during the past decade and it was imperative to move to a more stable system."

Employees will have a choice of some of the top-rated health plans in the nation, including Harvard Pilgrim, Tufts, Fallon and Health New England.

"This is excellent coverage, enjoyed by everyone who works for the state and by many cities and towns in Massachusetts," Curtatone said. "Arlington and Medford will be joining the GIC at the same time we are. In fact, my family will be covered through the GIC."

Thanks to the agreement, all employees and retirees will enter at the same contribution levels. In the current system, retirees pay higher contribution levels for group plans than most employees. All employees will enter the GIC paying for 15 percent of their coverage. In July of 2013 the contribution level will increase to 17.5 percent and in July of 2015 the contribution level will increase to 20 percent. Higher cost indemnity plans will require a 25 percent contribution from employees and retirees.

"It was very important for our retirees that they not have to pay a higher contribution level than employees," said retiree representative Linda Vitiello.



Mayor Curtatone advocating for GIC last August.

"Everyone is going to be a retiree someday and we had to eliminate that disparity."

The city originally began meeting last September with representatives from its collective bargaining units and its retirees concerning a shift to the GIC after the Board of Aldermen voted to join the program following weeks of tense debate. The GIC bill passed in July in the state legislature opened the door by allowing municipalities to join if they could prove significant

budget strain.

The agreement represents the reconciliation of the management-labor talks that began last year between the city and its public unions.

"To their credit, city officials decided not to force employees into the GIC under the very restrictive conditions required under the new law, but instead agreed to continue bargaining with the Public Employee Committee, which represents all of the unions as well as re-

tirees," said Jackie Lawrence, President of the Somerville Teachers Association, which represents 650 teachers, para-professionals and adult educators. "We will be paying higher co-payments and deductibles out of our pockets, which will bring down the premium costs considerably. Eventually our members will also pay a slightly larger share of the premiums, so we and the city will both benefit from the lower premium rates."

LEGAL NOTICES

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

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

MIDDLESEX Division Docket No. MI 06P2669AD1

To all persons interested in the estate of: Mary R. Jervis

Late of: Somerville, MA. 02143

NOTICE OF EXECUTOR/ADMINISTRATOR ACCOUNT

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

Brian Bixby

as Administrator/trix of said estate has/ have been presented to said Court for allowance.

If you desire to preserve your right to file an objection to said account(s), you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at Cambridge on or before the 01/27/2012, the return day of this citation. You may upon written request by registered or certified mail to the fiduciary, or to the attorney for the fiduciary, obtain without cost a copy of said account(s). If you desire to object to any item of said account(s), you must, in addition to filing a written appearance as aforesaid, file within thirty (30) days after said return day or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order a written statement of each such item together with the grounds for each objection thereto, a copy to be served upon the fiduciary pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 5.

WITNESS, HON. PETER C. DIGANGI, First Justice of this Court

Date: December 21, 2011

Tara E. De Cristofaro
Register of Probate

12/28/11 The Somerville News

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers from page 14

Answers

1. It began with the first New Moon (the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox
2. In Ancient Babylon, about 4000 years ago, in the year 2000 B.C.
3. In Greece, around 600 B.C. during the celebration to their wine god, they would wave a basket with a baby in it (the baby is the symbol of rebirth)
4. It contains a message of Hope, Prosperity, Challenges,
5. In 1904, the editor of New York Times convinced them to rename Triangular Sq. to Times Square, as the Time Tower was the second largest building in Manhattan. He requested that a spectacular celebration be held every New Years Eve (there was no ball – fireworks were used – the ball was used in 1907)
6. The Buttercup
7. "Take it"
8. In earlier times it was overrun by rabbits – another name for rabbits was "coney"
9. The Korean War
10. Viva Las Vegas
11. Cleopatra
12. It was used as a radiator cap, and sometimes used to measure temperature gauges before it became ornamental

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleNews.com

• • • • ‘VILLENS ON THE TOWN’ • • • •

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Wednesday|December 28

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

Saturday|December 31

Libraries Closed for New Year's Holiday

Sunday|January 1

Libraries Closed for New Year's Holiday

Monday|January 2

Libraries Closed for New Year's Holiday

Wednesday|January 4

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

MUSIC
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

Thursday|December 29

Johnny D's
Dave Keller Band w/Dwight Ritcher
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's
Misguided Mojo|8 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

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

PA'S Lounge
Saucer|The Field Recordings|Young & Old|The Sedgewicks
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
Power Animal|Nouns|The Sinbusters
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 30

Johnny D's
Sarah & The Tall Boys|Erin Harpe & The Delta Swingers
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's
The Brebners |6 p.m.
Les Sampou Band | 9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

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

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

Precinct Bar
Lance Riley (solo) of Baby Made Rebel|A Bit much|Nothings The Rule
70 Union Sq|617 -623-9211

PA'S Lounge
Dead Cats Dead
Rats|Endation|Letterik|The Wrong Shapes
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
Bomb Pilot|End of set Shit Brown Eyes|The Roaches|Andrew Gleason
381 Summer St

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

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

Saturday|December 31

Johnny D's
3 Day Live Jazz Brunch
Marathon|8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Booty Vortex| New Year's Party|9:30 p.m.

17 Holland St|617-776-2004
Sally O'Brien's
Musical New Year Extravaganza!!
\$10 cover
Frank Drake & Jimmy Ryan|6 p.m.
Kristen Ford Band, Slow Dim|9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
New Year's Eve with Red Square
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Precinct Bar
Hear Now Live Presents:NYE Bash
Featuring Doctor Doom Orchestra|With Danny Pease & The Regulators (DPR)
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

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

PA'S Lounge
Jason Anderson and the Best|Math the Band
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

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

Bull McCabe's Pub
New Year's Eve Bash
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
Sing in the New Year with a karaoke party
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

Sunday|January 1

Johnny D's
3 Day Live Jazz Brunch Marathon|9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Open Blues Jam|4:30 p.m.
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Mark Brine|5 p.m.
Amber Casares Band|8 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Happy New Year!
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

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

Precinct Bar
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

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

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

Monday|January 2

Johnny D's
3 Day Live Jazz Brunch Marathon|9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Team Trivia|8:30 p.m.
17 Holland St | 617-776-2004

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

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

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

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

Precinct Bar
70 Union Sq|617-623-921

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

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

Arts at the Armory
Ron Brunelle Recent Paintings
9 a.m.- 6 p.m.|Gallery|
City of Somerville Inauguration 2012 Reception
6 p.m.|Performance Hall|191 Highland Ave

Tuesday|January 3

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

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Kristen Ford Band with guests
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|January 4

Johnny D's
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
Forcefed Lies|Snidely & Whiplash|The Recession Boys|Elijah Woolcott
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
A Troop Of Echoes|Strange Mangers|Zvoov
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

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

Highland Kitchen
TJ The DJ Presents The People's

Karaoke
10 p.m.|150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

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

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

Rosebud Bar
Nick Palms Comedy Showcase
381 Summer St

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

Arts at the Armory
Intro to Calligraphy Workshops with Liz Roessler of Lettering By Liz
6 p.m.|Performance Hall|191 Highland Ave

CLASSES AND GROUPS
Wednesday|December 28

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

Thursday|December 29

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 31

Libraries Closed for New Year's 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|January 1

Libraries Closed for New Year's Holiday

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|January 2

Libraries Closed for New Year's Holiday

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

Tuesday|January 3

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|January 4

Central Library
Book Group: Mystery
7p.m.-8:30 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

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

Year in Review: 2011

GLX supporters mock delay at rally

MassDOT not out of the woods yet

By Andrew Firestone

(From October 26, 2011)

The Green Line Extension (GLX), delayed until at least 2018, saw the shovels drop to the ground in a mockery of the delayed process. Community members from Somerville, Cambridge, Arlington and Medford displayed their solidarity in support of the Green Line extension, on Thursday, Oct. 20, as a large group held a rally outside Somerville High School the night of the Federal environmental impact report.

Mayor Joseph Curtatone was joined by Aldermen John Connelly, Bruce Desmond, William White, Maryann Heuston, Representatives Denise Provost and Tim Toomey, Senator Pat Jehlen, and a host of community activists. Many were armed with shovels, to show that the community was “shovel ready” for the GLX, as a literal “green line” of fabric was splayed out on the park lawn.

Later on, members of the community heard the federal environmental impact report from MassDOT and gave their comments to state officials. Kate Fichter, project manager for MassDOT, said that they hoped to be approved for federal “New Starts” money and needed to be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in order to do so, thus necessitating the new report.

Rafael Mares of the Conservation Law Foundation, the group that successfully sued the state in 2004 to legally mandate the GLX, said that the new report, while immersive, failed and

would fail to meet federal requirements due to its lack of expansion to Route 16 in Medford. The current report lists the final stop at College Avenue in Somerville along the Northwest border; a condition Mares said was unacceptable.

“[MassDOT] has not petitioned for the delay yet, and that delay has not been approved by the DEP [state Department of Environmental Protection],” said Mares, referring to the fact that the GLX project, while having an announced delay, cannot legally delay the project until approved by state officials in the DEP. “Until that happens, the planning documents are supposed to reflect the current requirements and are supposed to prioritize them. That is not the case right now, and that is against national environmental policy.”

He added that they will not complete the NEPA process, and thus the study is incomplete and might lead to “serious political fallout.”

The report listed a timeline that includes two separate phases in construction. According to plans, once land acquisitions are completed under eminent domain, some time in 2014, the reconstruction of bridges and the relocation of the commuter rail lines adjacent to the new rails will take place. A total of 11 bridges, in two separate phases, will be reconstructed. Mitigation of noise and vibration requires 17,000 feet of walls around the 4.3 miles of tracks, seven stations built between 2015-2018, with start-up and testing beginning in June of 2018.

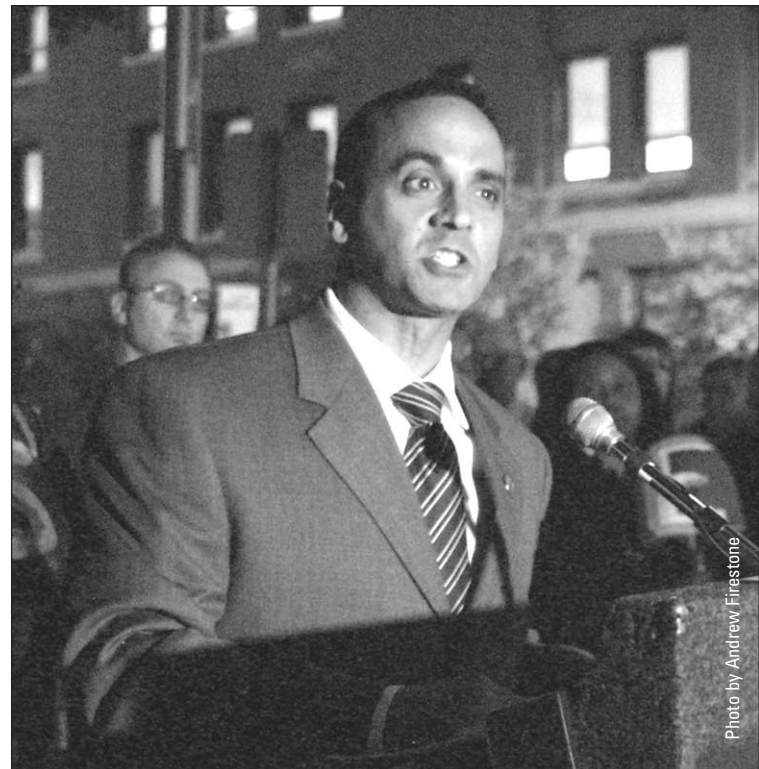
Curtatone was unequivocal in his desire to see the project through in the rally. “Because of all of you here, and thousands like you, we sent a clear, unmistakable message to the governor and officials at MassDOT, that they had to reengage on this project and get it going. And let me tell you, you rattled their cages because they are now working with us, talking about putting together a concrete predictable timeline for this project: one that delivers stations a lot sooner than 2020,” he said, referring to the inclusion of phasing the project to open it earlier.

“The state now seems to understand how imperative it is to get this project rolling, especially before the economy improves, and construction costs balloon with it. And you need to stay on them. You have to keep it going. If we’ve learned anything, it’s that constant vigilance will be required to make sure that the Green Line Extension becomes a reality and they’re not just going to hand us anything,” he said.

“We’re going to have to keep on fighting for it. That’s in our history, that’s who we are. It’s that inherent pride and tenacity that’s going to make sure this project happens,” he said.

Stephen Mackey of the Somerville Chamber of Commerce spoke in similar tones at the rally, highlighting the environmental impact upon people dealing with pollution from traffic and noise.

“The debt is past due,” he said. “Fulfilling this promise will unlock a redevelopment zone that is as big as downtown [Boston]. It will open the doors



Mayor Curtatone reasserted his commitment to the GLX cause at last week's rally at SHS.

to the most densely populated city in New England. Government will not ride over us anymore. We are not a highway. State and federal leaders need to hear us: keep your promise. Clean the air. Complete the [community] path. Serve the people. Generate the jobs and stimulate the region. Keep your promise,” he said.

Curtatone likewise was adamant that the project would create opportunity for thousands to gain employment and start businesses. “You’ll leave a hell of a lot more money on the table if you don’t build this and build it now,” he said.

One member of the crowd, Grace Lotty, 10, of Somerville said that she loved riding the T, and would love to ride the T in Somerville and see the GLX built. “I’m a lot upset about this, not a little,” she said.

The crowd, who made several suggestions and comments regarding their outrage at MassDOT, was united in their disbelief and intolerance of any further delay to the GLX. With shovels raised, they met inside the SHS and made their feelings plain to the state officials. Complaints included air pollution, the perception that Somerville, not a wealthy city, was purposely being placed on the backburner, and financial mismanagement by the state.

“You are, of course, welcome here,” said Rep. Provost to the MassDOT officials. “We are reasonable people and we like to participate in public process but based on comments I heard from our constituents, I think it’s fortunate that the people outside carried shovels and not pitchforks.”

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!

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE December 28

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

December 29
Ralph & Jenny Center
Portuguese Lunch|11:30 a.m.
Bingo|12:30 p.m.
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

December 30
Holland Street Center
Lunch|11:30 a.m.

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x. 2300
Cross Street Center
Lunch|11:30 a.m.
165 Broadway|617-625-6600 x 2335

January 2
All centers closed
January 3
Holland Street Center
Strengthening with Geoff|9:15 a.m.
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x. 2300

Cross Street Center
Indoor Exercises|1030 a.m.
Bingo|12:45 p.m.
165 Broadway|617-625-6600 x 2335

Ralph & Jenny Center
Flexibility & Balance|10:30 a.m.
Bingo|12:45 p.m.
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

January 4
Holland Street Center
Flexibility & Balance|9:30 a.m.
Womens's Group|10:30 a.m.
QiGong|1:15 p.m.
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x. 2300

Cross Street Center
Center Closed
165 Broadway|617-625-6600 x 2335

Ralph & Jenny Center
Indoor Exercises|10:30 a.m.
Bingo|12:45 p.m.
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

Breakfast - Start the New Year off right with the Start off the new year right. Join us for breakfast and conversation on Monday, January 9 at 9:30 a.m. We will be introducing our new MySeniorCenter program. Suggestion donation for breakfast is \$1.50 and reservations are mandatory.

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'Historic Vote' for Assembly Square passes in Somerville

CONT. FROM PG 7

residents or pay a penalty that would go into a job training fund.

Though the BOA noted the proposal, the City Solicitor Frank Wright said that it would "function as a tax and is therefore illegal." Thomas elaborated, "cities and towns do not have the

authority to create trust funds and impose fees on people that fund [them]. That has to be done through state legislature."

Furthermore, Curtatone said that even if the city tried to create such a trust fund through what's called a home-rule petition, he would veto it: "If this

passes, I am vetoing it. I will not support any such home-rule that disadvantages, giving us a disadvantage in the competition for companies like Vertex." "Before we think about over-regulating and prescribing and conditioning who and how people do business here, think about this: flat

for 20 years. 0.44 jobs per resident when you want a 1:1 ratio."

After the meeting, Briggs was pleased with the outcome. "This has been a long road. I think the Board of Aldermen did a great job considering all the facts. I think they landed on a good decision. We've got a great partner-

ship and I look forward finishing this project."

Alderman O'Donovan was likewise elated: "I feel relieved and encouraged, but also like we spent over ten years on this. It's nice that something's finally going to start happening down there."



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Year in Review: 2011

Neighborhood addresses Meth Lab meeting

By Andrew Firestone

(From November 23, 2011)

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

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

The “shake-and-bake” process is performed by concentrating volatile chemicals inside small

bottles, the contents of which are so unstable that contact with water can start in fire.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Photo by Andrew Firestone

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

to see how this plays out.”

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

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

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

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

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

The 236th annual “Grand Union” flag-raising ceremony at Prospect Hill Park will be held on Sunday, January 1, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. A procession led by a re-enactor portraying General George Washington on horseback will leave from the City Hall Concourse at 11:30 a.m. As always, members of the public are invited to participate, and are encouraged to wear traditional colonial clothing. The annual ceremony commemorates the raising of the nation’s first official flag, featuring thirteen red and white horizontal stripes, atop Prospect Hill on New Year’s Day, 1776. At the time, Prospect Hill was a key site in a string of fortifications created by Washington and the Continental Army in their siege of British troops in Boston during the first year of the American Revolution.



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Wednesday 1/4:

Thursday 1/5:

Friday 1/6:

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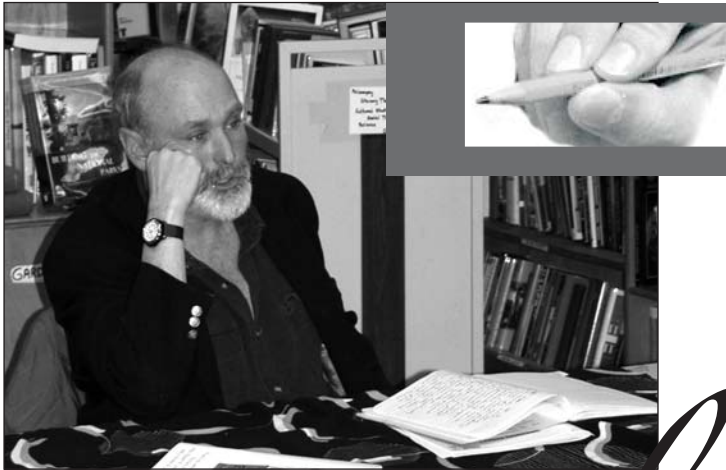
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SCAT Program Schedule for the Week

Wednesday, December 28		4:00pm	Let's Talk About Hearing	11:00am	Dead Air Live Show	12:00noon	Democracy Now!
12:00am	Free Speech TV	4:30pm	A Healer in The House	12:00pm	Reeling, The Movie Review	1:00pm	Ablevision
6:00am	Flip Side	5:00pm	Ablevision	12:30pm	Somerville Housing Authority	1:30pm	Somerville Housing Authority
7:00am	Raising Drug Free Kids	5:30pm	Somerville: Most Interesting Places	1:00pm	Bongoman	2:00pm	Thom Hartmann Program
8:00am	Democracy Now!	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV	3:00pm	Portraits of Somerville	3:00pm	Robyn & Max Exercise
9:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	7:00pm (LIVE)	Tele Magazine	4:00pm	Most Interesting Place	3:30pm	Esoteric Science
10:00am	Abugida TV	7:30pm	Somerville Rocks	4:30pm	Coalition for a Responsible Walmart	4:00pm	South of the Mystic
11:00am	Holiday Programs	8:00pm (LIVE)	Fouye Zo Nan Kalalou	5:00pm	Tele Kreyol	4:30pm	Somerville Back In The Day
12:00noon	Democracy Now!	9:30pm	African Ascent	6:00pm	Tele Magazine	5:00pm	Culture Club
1:00pm	Nepali Festival	10:30pm	The Garage	7:00pm	Road To Recovery	5:30pm	Talking About Somerville
1:30pm	Most Interesting Place	Friday, December 30		8:00pm	Blunt Truth	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV
2:00pm	Thom Hartman show	12:00am	Free Speech TV	9:00pm	Nossa Gente e Costumes	7:00pm	Discover The Law
3:00pm (LIVE)	Medical Tutor	6:00am	Live Response	10:00pm	Wrestling Talk	7:30pm	The Commonwealth Report
3:30pm	Somerville: Most Interesting Places	8:00am	Democracy Now!	11:00pm	Sonic Lobotomy	8-9:00pm	Dedilhando A Saudade
4:00pm	Life Matters	9:00am	The Truth About Drugs	Sunday, January 1		10:00pm	Bate Papo con Shirley
4:30pm	Healthy Hypnosis	9:30am	Creating Cooperative Kids	12:00am	Free Speech TV	11:00pm	Visual Radio
5:00pm	CommonSense	10:30am	Holiday Programs	6:00am	Show de Fe	Tuesday, January 3	
5:30pm	Let's Talk About Hearing	11:30am	Back In The Day	7:00am	Vida Na TV	12:00am	Free Speech TV
6:00pm	Al Jazeera	12:00noon	Democracy Now!	8:00am	In Season, Out of Season	6:00am	Emerging Drug Trends
7:00pm (LIVE)	Chita Tande	1:00pm	The Expert Series	8:30am	Healer in Every Home	7:00pm	Perils For Pedestrians
8:00pm (LIVE)	Somerville Pundits	2:00pm	Thom Hartmann Program	9:00am	Heritage Baptist Church	7:30am	The Struggle
8:30pm	Culture Club	3:00pm	Cooking W/Georgie & Dez	10:00am	Christian Assemble Tabernacle	8:00am	Democracy Now!
9:00pm	Somerville Rocks	3:30pm	Toastmasters	11:00am	International Church of God	9:00am	Holiday Programs
9:30pm	Shrink Rap	4:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking	11:30am	The Commonwealth Report	10:00am	Tele Kreyol
10:00pm	The Smoki Dick Show	4:30pm	Money On Your Mind	12noon	Somerville Housing Authority	11:00am	Commonsense
10:30pm	South of the Mystic	5:00pm	SCATV and Free Speech	12:30pm	Nepali Festival	11:30am	Nepali Festival
11:00pm	The Garage	5:30am	Your Money Your Life	1:00pm	Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra	12:00noon	Democracy Now!
11:30pm	Art @ SCATV	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV	2:00pm	Effort Pour Christ	1:00pm	The Commonwealth Report
Thursday, December 29		7:00pm	Right Here, Right Now	3-4:00pm	Dedilhando A Saudade	1:30pm	Know Your Rights
12:00am	Free Speech TV	7:30pm	Working With Java	5:00pm	Ethiopian Satelite TV	2:00pm	Thom Hartmann Show
6:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	8:00pm	Visual Radio	6:00pm	Abugida TV	3:30pm	Active Aging
7:00am	Know Your Rights	9:00pm	The Garage	7:00pm	African TV Network	4:00pm	Protrait of Somerville
7:30am	South of the Mystic	9:30pm	Bandwidth TV	8:00pm	Tele Magazine	5:00pm	Poet to Poet
8:00am	Democracy Now!	10:00pm	Portrait of Somerville	9:00pm	Watch This	5:30pm	Jeff Jam
9:00am	Parent Factor	11:00pm	Jeff TV	9:30pm	Grill Dog	6:00pm	A Jazeera
10:00am	Active Aging	Saturday, December 31		10:00pm	Portait of Somerville	7:00pm	Art @ SCAT
10:30am	Jeff Jams	12:00mid	Bongoman	11:00pm	Undercover TV	7:30pm	Greater Somerville W/Joe Lynch
11:00am	Holiday Programs	1:00am	Free Speech TV	Monday, January 2		8:00pm	Dead Air Live Show
12:00noon	Democracy Now!	6:00am	Arabic Hour	7:00am	Free Speech TV	9:00pm	Interesting Places
1:00pm	African TV Network	7:00am	GAY USA	8:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	9:30pm	Animal Agenda
2:00pm	Thom Hartmann	8:00am	Animal Agenda	8:00am	Democracy Now!	10:00pm	Perils For Pedestrians
3:00pm	Somerville: Back in the Day	9:00am	Festival Kreyol	10:00am	Holiday Programs	10:30pm	The Gerry Leone Show
3:30pm	Culture Club	10:00am	Tele Galaxie	11:00am	Nosse Gente e Costumes	11:00pm	JuPrey Productions

City Cable TV Schedule for the Week

Wednesday, December 28		12:00am: (13/16)	Congressional Update	7:30pm: (15)	ESCS Winter Concert	12:30pm: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting & Celebration
9:00am: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration	12:00am: (15)	Raising Families	9:05pm: (15)	Middle Schools' Ensemble Concert	1:05pm: (15)	WSNS Winter Concert
9:00am: (15)	Argenziano School Winter Concert	12:30am: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch	9:10pm: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	1:10pm: (13/16)	Congressional Update
11:30am: (15)	SHS Girls' Basketball Highlander Hoopfest #1	12:30am: (15)	SHS Football Highlights 2011	9:20pm: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness	1:40pm: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch
12:00pm: (13/16)	Talking Business	12:55am: (15)	SHS Hockey vs Revere	Sunday, January 1		2:05pm: (15)	SHS Hockey vs Revere
12:30pm: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	1:00am: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration	12:00am: (13/16)	Public Hearing on Proposed Charter School	2:10pm: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner
1:15pm: (15)	Highlander Forum	1:45am: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	12:00am: (15)	Kid Stuff	6:00pm: (13/16)	2012 Inauguration Ceremonies - LIVE
1:45pm: (15)	Kid Stuff	2:20am: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	12:30am: (15)	ESCS Winter Concert	7:00pm: (15)	WHCS Winter Concert
7:00pm: (13/16)	Illuminations Tour 2011	9:00am: (13/16)	Congressional Update	2:05am: (15)	Middle Schools' Ensemble Concert	8:05pm: (15)	WSNS Winter Concert
7:00pm: (15)	SHS Girls' Basketball Highlander Hoopfest #2 - LIVE	9:00am: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	2:10am: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	9:00pm: (13/16)	2012 Inauguration Ceremonies
7:30pm: (13/16)	Congressional Update	12:00pm: (13/16)	Public Hearing on Proposed Charter School	2:20am: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness	9:05pm: (15)	SHS Hockey vs Revere
8:00pm: (13/16)	Talking Business	12:00pm: (15)	Kid Stuff	12:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	Tuesday, January 3	
8:30pm: (13/16)	Public Hearing on Proposed Charter School	12:30pm: (15)	ESCS Winter Concert	12:00pm: (15)	WHCS Winter Concert	12:00am: (13/16)	2012 Inauguration Ceremonies
10:00pm: (15)	SHS Girls' Basketball Highlander Hoopfest #2	2:05pm: (15)	Middle Schools' Ensemble Concert	12:30pm: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting & Celebration	12:00am: (15)	WHCS Winter Concert
Thursday, December 29		2:10pm: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	1:05pm: (15)	WSNS Winter Concert	1:05am: (15)	WSNS Winter Concert
12:00am: (13/16)	Illuminations Tour 2011	2:20pm: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness	1:10pm: (13/16)	Congressional Update	2:05am: (15)	SHS Hockey vs Revere
12:00am: (15)	SHS Girls' Basketball Highlander Hoopfest #2	7:00pm: (13/16)	Public Hearing on Proposed Charter School	1:40pm: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch	9:00am: (13/16)	2012 Inauguration Ceremonies
12:30am: (13/16)	Congressional Update	7:00pm: (15)	Kid Stuff	2:05pm: (15)	SHS Hockey vs Revere	9:00am: (15)	WSNS Winter Concert
1:00am: (13/16)	Talking Business	7:30pm: (15)	ESCS Winter Concert	7:00pm: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	11:30am: (15)	SHS Hockey vs Revere
1:30am: (13/16)	Public Hearing on Proposed Charter School	9:05pm: (15)	Middle Schools' Ensemble Concert	7:00pm: (15)	Senior Circuit	12:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit
9:00am: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	9:10pm: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	7:00pm: (15)	WHCS Winter Concert	12:30pm: (13/16)	Talking Business
9:00am: (15)	Raising Families	9:20pm: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness	7:30pm: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting & Celebration	12:30pm: (13/16)	Talking Business
11:30am: (15)	SHS Girls' Basketball Highlander Hoopfest #2	Saturday, December 31		7:00pm: (15)	WHCS Winter Concert	1:00pm: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration
12:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	12:00am: (13/16)	Public Hearing on Proposed Charter School	8:05pm: (15)	Argenziano School Winter Concert	1:00pm: (15)	Kid Stuff
12:30pm: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	12:00am: (15)	Kid Stuff	8:10pm: (13/16)	Congressional Update	7:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit
1:00pm: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	12:30am: (15)	ESCS Winter Concert	8:40pm: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch	7:00pm: (15)	Highlander Forum
1:30pm: (15)	Superintendent Awards - 1st Quarter	2:05am: (15)	Middle Schools' Ensemble Concert	9:05pm: (15)	SHS Hockey vs Revere	7:30pm: (13/16)	Talking Business
7:00pm: (13/16)	Congressional Update	2:10am: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	9:10pm: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	7:30pm: (15)	Raising Families
7:00pm: (15)	Raising Families	2:20am: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness	Monday, January 2		8:00pm: (13/16)	Congressional Update
7:30pm: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch	12:00pm: (13/16)	Public Hearing on Proposed Charter School	12:00am: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	8:00pm: (15)	SHS Boys' Basketball vs Malden Catholic
7:30pm: (15)	SHS Football Highlights 2011	12:00pm: (15)	Kid Stuff	12:00am: (15)	WHCS Winter Concert	8:30pm: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch
7:55pm: (15)	SHS Hockey vs Revere	2:05pm: (15)	Middle Schools' Ensemble Concert	12:30am: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting & Celebration	9:00pm: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner
8:00pm: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration	2:10pm: (13/16)	A Very Seriously Somerville Christmas	1:05am: (15)	WSNS Winter Concert	9:30pm: (15)	Kid Stuff
8:45pm: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	2:20pm: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness	1:10am: (13/16)	Congressional Update	12:00am: (13/16)	Senior Circuit
9:20pm: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	2:20pm: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness	1:40am: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch	12:00am: (15)	Highlander Forum
Friday, December 30		7:00pm: (13/16)	Public Hearing on Proposed Charter School	2:05am: (15)	SHS Hockey vs Revere	12:30am: (13/16)	Talking Business
		7:00pm: (15)	Kid Stuff	2:10am: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner	12:30am: (15)	Raising Families
				9:00am: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch	1:00am: (13/16)	Congressional Update
				9:00am: (15)	WHCS Winter Concert	1:00am: (15)	SHS Boys' Basketball vs Malden Catholic
				12:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	1:30am: (13/16)	Shoveled Sidewalks: Winter Launch
				12:00pm: (15)	WHCS Winter Concert	1:00am: (13/16)	Chamber of Commerce Dinner
						2:30am: (15)	Kid Stuff

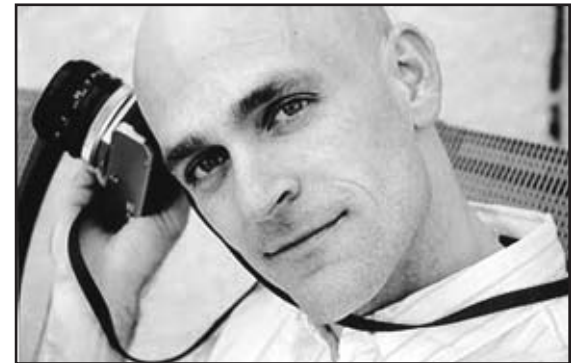


OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Ralph Pennel:

From the Twin Cities to the Paris of New England



Poet and writer Ralph Pennel met me in the comforting confines of the Bloc 11 Café in Union Square, Somerville to talk about the writing life. Pennel has moved from his home in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Somerville, Mass. He lives in the hinterlands of our town, where the Spanish eatery Dali looks across the street to the Wine Cask. Pennel reflected on the differences of the Midwest to that of New England:

"Everything in the Midwest is laid out in a grid—I find the winding and at times irrationally plotted streets in Somerville give it a looser or open vibe. There is a rigidity to the Midwest that I am not comfortable with. The writing community in Somerville is very welcoming. It seems the writing that happens in Minnesota stays in Minnesota—it doesn't seem to leak out to the greater literary world."

Pennel views himself equally as a poet and a writer. He has an MFA in Creative Writing from Hamline University, and has taught on the college level for a number of years.

While in Minnesota, he founded with a few other folks, an online literary magazine titled The Midway Journal, coined after a section of Minneapolis that he resided in. He told me the journal publishes work that pushes boundaries—and accepts work in the genres of poetry and flash fiction. The current issue has work from noted local writer Timothy Gager, and past issues have had such Boston area wordsmiths as Steve Almond, Tara Masih and Alden Jones.

For Pennel a poem gets its start with an idea that sparks his agile mind, and then hopefully flames into a working poem.

Pennel most assuredly lives the writer's life. He resides in a small, inexpensive apartment and edits his journal and teaches an online course or two. He also hits the open mics around town including Stone Soup in the Out of the Blue Gallery in Cambridge, Mass., and Somerville's First and Last Word Reading Series held at the Arts Armory.

Pennel is planting roots in the community, and where there are roots, hopefully poetry flowers.

CONFIDING IN THE PRISON GUARD

"After me comes one more powerful than I . . . I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." - Mark 1:7-8

You see these garments? I made them.
With these hands. See here? This is the very place I cut myself on the blade of my knife.
See how it has healed, how the flesh has closed itself again, grown together, pink and new?
And this belt. I tanned it from the same beast.
She brought me to within sight of these city walls.
Then collapsed. I held her head in my lap,

stroking her neck until the sun set low,
and the night was filled with fire. It is true
what they say about the death of the day.
My soul, too, will rise above the parting sun soon enough.
No doubt you will be the one to set it free.
Ah, these hands. They have touched his head.
His hair
filled my palms, slipped over and through my fingers,
until my hands were hidden, as if they, too, grew peaceably from his skin.
He said nothing when I lowered him into the river, his body weightless.
I was afraid I'd lose him to the current, his body swept downstream.
What would come of me then? I swear, when he stood, the water swimming
down his face and plunking into the river around him like fingers
on a harp, the day gave way to night, the sun smeared across
the edge of the earth, then raced across the sky in rivers of light.
I understand I am to lose my head. Will you grant me this then,
that I might wash my face and hair? And would you also share
what I have told you? Not now. But after Herodias has slipped her fingers
through my mane and lifted my bodiless head above her own,
into the light, my blood dripping to the floor, the shadow of night
drifting calmly over everything.

— Ralph Pennel

In the winter we need poetry of the days of summer to warm us. So I decided to make the Lyrical a literal "day at the beach," with a poem by local poet Denise Mostacci Sklar. Sklar is a dancer who has taught and performed in New York City and Boston. She is a personal trainer in the Gyrotonic method of body work. She practices Tai Chi and has recently begun to write poetry, studying with Marc Olmsted and Dan Sklar.

ELEPHANT ROCK

smooth concrete wall	resting heavy-
tall and tan	familiar shadow
rises to meet sidewalk	
big water, sky, beach wall	Our eyes are school pencils
climbing down long steps	tracing
tiny figures on the prowl	contour
we walk the cat walk	carefully watching for shape
broken and crumbling	to shift as it secretly does
in parts leaping across	between blinks,
with sandy childhood	we know where we are...
bathing suits, skinny legs	
stumbling and barefoot	this is the place where we
high tide, seaside city,	drop our blankets on
Lynn Beach	Fourth of July night with
water touches, teasing toes,	color exploding into
grabs at ankles-	
tired old bear, a father play-	"oohs and ahhs"
ing,	
our Uncle Joe	in blackness
fear, excitement laughter	
all at once	sinking in
cold water spraying	to ocean-
and Elephant Rock	Endless Finale.
tucked away into skyline,	

— Denise Mostacci Sklar

Denise Mostacci Sklar is a dancer who has taught and performed in New York City and Boston. She is a personal trainer in the Gyrotonic method of body work. She practices Tai Chi and has recently begun to write poetry, studying with Marc Olmsted and Dan Sklar.

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:
Doug Holder, 25 School St.; Somerville, MA 02143. dougholder@post.harvard.edu

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