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Somerville's Annual Tree Lighting 2011



Photo by Bobbie Toner

The holiday season officially arrives in Somerville. More pictures on pages 12-13.

Debate begins for charter school

Parents, officials brace for battle

By Andrew Firestone

Somerville parents have gone a long way towards their goals of solving the education problems of Somerville. While the administration questions the feasibility and rationality of their plan, the community members behind the Somerville Progress Charter School (SPCS) say their cause is right, and it must be implemented.

They'll get their chance December 14, when the members of the State Board of Education and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education hold their public hearing here in Somerville to gain public input over the SPCS.

The charter will be oriented towards English-Language Learners, and the school will be built around language-intensive and immersive education and progressive styles of learning. One of the SPCS founder members and spokesperson Selena Fitanides says these methods will help regain what has been lost since bilingual programs were banned statewide in 2002. The application describes several amenities, such as an optional after-school program

Continued on page 15

The road to success begins at Walnut St.

Developmentally disabled adults find a place to thrive in Somerville

By Elizabeth Sheeran

At midday last Thursday, the ballroom of the Holiday Inn on Washington Street was filled to capacity with partygoers, celebrating the season.

Tim Adkins had high praise for the meal, the deejay, the room, and everything else about the party. Bob Spezzafaro said he enjoyed dancing with his girlfriend Denise Poor, who was showing off a ring Spezzafaro had given her as an early Christmas gift. Moving about the room in a red sweater topped with a necklace made of Christmas ornaments, Lynn Potter said the best thing about the party was meeting people. And the ice cream.

"It's kind of a big family party," said Adkins.

Family is a good way to describe the nearly two hundred people gathered for their annual holiday party last week. Because Adkins, Spezzafaro, Poor and Potter share more in common than their love of good food, dancing, and Christmas. They're also all part of the community of the Walnut Street

Continued on page 19



Photo by Elizabeth Sheeran

Individuals who hit the dance floor at the Walnut Street Center's annual holiday party included (left to right): Gina Olivier, Lynn Potter, Randy Dottin, Stephen Michael Dewar, and Ray Hardy.

Holiday Special

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NEWTALK

Tonight Wednesday, December 7, at the Flatbread in Davis Square, enjoy awesome Pizza and Bowling while supporting Toys for Local Children today 4 p.m. to closing. Flatbread will donate a portion of every pizza sold, both dine-in and take out! Help support a great charity that brings joy to a lot of local kids by calling up on the phone or visiting and ordering a pizza - 617 776-0552. Our own DJ Jimmy Del Ponte will emcee the event and they have a country store as well as a 50/50 raffle! There will be a place to donate new unwrapped toys and people can bowl and eat while helping to support Toys for Local Children.

Looks like Lt. Governor Murray will have second thoughts about his many conversations with Chelsea Housing Commissioner Mike McLaughlin, as everyone knows Mike used to be County Commissioner of Middlesex County as well as the Commissioner of Somerville Housing, way back in the 70's and 80's. Apparently Mike fibbed on his income over there in Chelsea. Another rumor going around now is that Murray might get associated with McLaughlin. Our own popular Mayor Joe Curtatone is seriously thinking of taking his great record forward and just might consider running for Governor himself, but that won't be until 2014.

Maryann Heuston of Ward 2 is seriously going to test the waters of running for Registrar of Deeds. That would make two formidable ladies from Somerville who would go after this seat, the other being Attorney Maria Curtatone, who won the "Best of Somerville" Attorney. The seat will be vacated by Eugene Brune. Another person, former Registrar of Probate Bob Antonelli, is said to be throwing his hat in the ring for Registrar of Deeds. Wasn't Bob Antonelli removed from office when he was the

Continued on page 8

TheSomervilleNews.com Comment of the Week

Response to *Does Somerville need another charter school?*

Armando says:

I don't know yet which side I support, but to me it's clear that a charter school is going to take more money than it takes kids. After all, each physical school has overhead costs for the facilities and the administration.

JW says:

No, definitely not! The Somerville schools are doing just great. With the implementation of the charter school, funding will be deminished for the public schools, and adversely affect the giant steps that the school system has worked so hard at achieving. The school system as it is is impressive.

formfitfunction says:

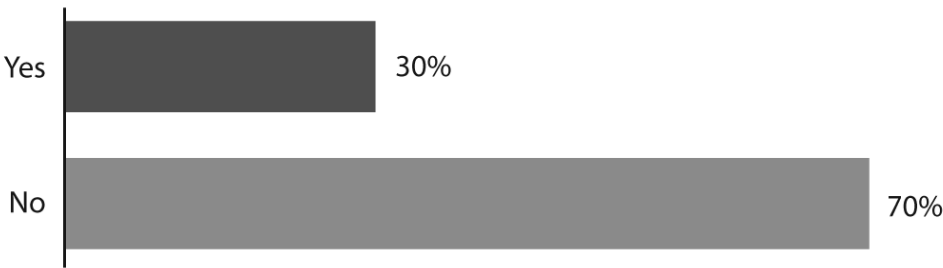
I would rather see a school no matter what it teachers the children than a Super WalMart!
As far as your budget mayor, stop thinking about the capitol seat!

Log onto TheSomervilleNews.com to leave your own comments

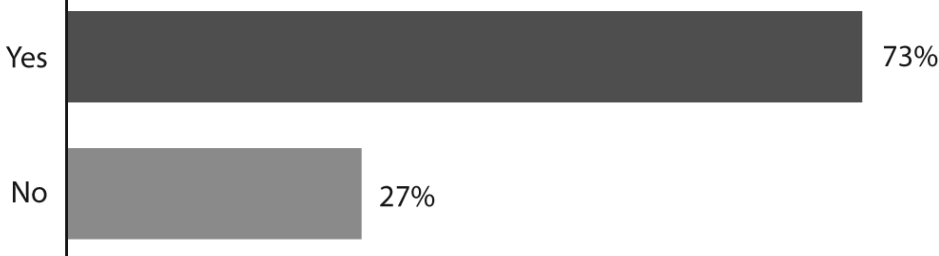
TheSomervilleNews.com poll of the week

In addition to breaking news, sports and opinion, TheSomervilleNews.com also features a daily poll in which you, the reader, tell us where you come down on local issues. Last week's polls concerned your views on whether or not you think Somerville needs another charter school and whether or not you are in favor of the bill Gov. Deval Patrick signed into law that would allow supermarkets and other large retailers to hold more alcoholic beverage licenses. If you don't agree with the results, simply log onto TheSomervilleNews.com.

Do you think Somerville needs another charter school?



Are you in favor of the bill Gov. Deval Patrick signed into law that would allow supermarkets and other large retailers to hold more alcoholic beverage licenses?



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'Generous Earth' yields edible gardens

Chic designed garden business in Somerville

By Andrew Firestone

With the winter months setting in, even with this unseasonable warmth we are having, the time for harvest is over and nature falls into deep slumber. But for next season, if your garden needs jazzing up, why don't you turn to Jocelyn Jones, owner and operator of Generous Earth Gardens? That way, you'll get a beautifully designed, fully edible pageant of spring, and vegetables for your whole family through the summer.

Jones designs, plants and maintains beautifully designed gardens for homes all over New England, based right here in Somerville's Davis Square. "A lot of people, they love their land, even small little plots in Somerville. They care about it," she said.

To that end, she helps visualize and build flourishing gardens, filled with flowers of all kinds, and vegetables both annual and perennial. Tomatoes, turnips, carrots, beets, lettuces, kale, asparagus, grapes, berries and herbs of all kind are enmeshed in her clients' personal space, creating a wonderful area for them

and their families.

Talk about green business.

"A lot of young professionals are moving in," she said of Somerville. "They're getting to a place where they are buying properties and want to put investment into their landscape. Then comes me, this bright energetic landscape designer, who can come in and transform their landscape into a beautiful oasis."

Jones initially studied to be a social worker, but became increasingly involved in landscaping. After gaining certification from the Harvard Landscape Institute at the Arnold Arboretum, she embarked on a career she calls a fulfillment of her art and passion.

"You're in the moment," she reflected of her work. "You don't think about anything else. It's like I go into this different world focusing on what's happening in the soil, the science of the soil, the science of the plants, and it's bliss."

She says her designs are tailored to her clients aesthetic, from simple traditional gardens, to conservatories of whimsy. It is an aspect of the job she enjoys greatly.



An edible paradise in your own backyard. Yes you can!

"What's really important to me is the educational piece," she said. "I can come and do this to someone's garden, but I like to work with people. During the installation, I like to be there and get out, and if they have kids, which a lot of them do, I like to have the kids come out and talk about what it is we're planting and how we're harvesting."

"I'm not leaving them high

and dry," she said. "I like to have a life-time relationship with the clients."

Jones says she carries her desire to create beautiful gardens from her grandmother, who had a farm in the south of France. She said she looked at the design process as an artistic endeavor, like using a brushstroke upon the land itself, and was thankful for finding such a

positive vocation that allowed such expression.

As for her design skills, her work is intricate and very creative in utilizing space, material and texture to create such gardens. While currently a one-person business, Jones says she hopes to expand next season. For more information, visit www.generousearthgardens.com.

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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Somerville man arrested for bank robberies

A Somerville man was arrested Monday morning, moments after committing a bank robbery in busy Davis Square. Daniel Merrill, age 26, was observed by investigators who had all Davis Square area banks under surveillance.

Merrill was observed by Somerville Detective Nadile as he entered the Eastern Bank on Elm Street shortly before 9:30, dressed in a hooded sweat shirt. He exited the bank minutes later and began running toward Day Street while removing his outer shirt.

He was followed by Detective Nadile. As he turned onto Day Street, Somerville detectives and agents of the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force quickly detained him as police were receiving the broadcast for hold-up

alarm from the Eastern Bank.

As a result of the investigation, Merrill is also being charged with three other Davis Square robberies over the last two weeks. In three of those robberies, Merrill allegedly threatened that he had a bomb.

Merrill will be charged as follows: November 19, Sovereign Bank, Unarmed Robbery; November 25, Citizens Bank, Armed Robbery, Making False Report of Explosives; November 29, Winter Hill Savings, Armed Robbery, Making False Report of Explosives; December 5, Eastern Bank, Armed Robbery, Making False Report of Explosives.

All Davis Square banks had been under surveillance since last week by Somerville Detectives and investigators from

the FBI violent Crimes Task Force, consisting of investigators from the State Police, Boston, Malden, Somerville Police and FBI Agents.

Merrill was not armed when arrested. In each of the robberies, Merrill allegedly passed a note demanding cash. The demand note and stolen cash was recovered. When arrested, he reportedly had in his possession a note that read "The money now, I have bomb, 20's, 50's, 100's," police said. He allegedly was also found to have at his home \$909 worth of marked bills and a second demand note on his person at the time of his arrest.

Somerville Police Deputy Chief Upton said, "It's a very good grab for us. Even though these crimes don't have a lot of



Citizens Bank is one of several local banks believed to have been robbed by Daniel Merrill, according to investigating authorities.

violence, it has a very bad psychological effect on the people involved."

Merrill was arraigned on Tuesday of this week in Somerville District Court, where he was

charged with four bank robberies over a ten day period. Judge Maurice R. Flynn III reportedly set bail at \$20,000.

Merrill's next court date is set for January 5 for a cause hearing.

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SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

Nicole Lavoie-Huard, 26, of 18 Pollard St., Lowell, November 28, 9:33 a.m., arrested at Crescent St. on a charge of violation of city ordinance possession of a dangerous weapon.

Jason Dodge, 42, of 56 Broadway, November 29, 5:27 p.m., arrested at home on charges of assault and battery on a police officer, resisting arrest, and trespassing.

Edward Cyr, 55, of 1296 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, November 29, 5:38 p.m., arrested at 315 Alewife Brook Pky. on warrant charges of uninsured motor vehicle/trailer, unregistered motor vehicle, and no inspection sticker.

Livia Calixto-Aquilo, 26, of 80 Grant St., November 30, 12:05 a.m., arrested at home on a charge of assault and battery.

Mark Rivela, 46, of 93 Prescott St., North Andover, November 30, 12:01 p.m., arrested at Autumn St. on warrant charges of possession of heroin, marked lanes violation, and operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Daniel McLean, 54, of 268 Washington St., November 30,

9:42 p.m., arrested at home on a charge of trespassing.

Joseph Harris, 54, of 2400 Cypress, Fort Worth, TX, December 2, 12:02 a.m., arrested at 399 Highland Ave. on a charge of misdemeanor breaking and entering.

Matthew Henebury, 41, of 70 Boston St., December 3, 5:37 a.m., arrested at 33 Walnut St. on charges of felony nighttime breaking and entering and destruction of property over \$250.

David Cosenza, 25, of 221 Pearl St., December 3, 2:26 p.m., arrested at 20 Broadway on charges of conspiracy to violate drug laws and possession of a class B drug.

Kathleen Sullivan, 43, of 78 Bunker Hill St., Charlestown, December 3, 2:26 p.m., arrested at 20 Broadway on charges of conspiracy to violate drug laws, possession of a class B drug, giving a false name, and operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Liza Gregory, 20, of 127 Hudson St., December 4, 2:54 p.m., arrested at home on a charge of assault and battery.

Maria Silva, 52, of 98 Carter

St., Everett, December 4, 2:55 p.m., arrested at 77 Middlesex Ave. on charges of assault and battery, threat to commit a crime, and shoplifting by asportation.

Incidents:

Theft:

November 29, 4:24 p.m., police reported a theft at North St.

November 30, 9:52 a.m., police reported a theft at Highland Ave.

November 30, 6:40 p.m., police reported a theft at 282 Somerville Ave.

December 1, 2:55 p.m., police reported a theft at Davis Sq.

December 2, 10:56 a.m., police reported a theft at Sycamore St.

December 2, 11:16 a.m., police reported a theft at Sycamore Terr.

December 2, 3:41 p.m., police reported a theft at Chandler St.

December 3, 12:20 a.m., police reported a theft at Broadway.

December 3, 10:04 p.m., police reported a theft at 153 Washington St.

Robbery:

November 29, 2:42 p.m., po-

lice reported a robbery at 5 Cutter Ave.

December 2, 5:37 p.m., police reported a robbery at Josephine Ave.

Breaking & Entering:

November 29, 2:09 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Rush St.

November 29, 2:34 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Greenville Ct.

November 30, 7:25 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Derby St.

November 30, 12:03 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at McGrath Hwy.

November 30, 11:21 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Austin St.

December 1, 5:33 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Quincy St.

December 2, 12:12 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at 399 Highland Ave.

December 2, 3:15 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Somerville Ave.

December 3, 12:34 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Myrtle St.

December 3, 5:37 a.m., police

reported a breaking & entering at Walnut St.

December 3, 10:19 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Simpson Ave.

Assault:

November 29, 2:54 p.m., police reported an assault at Hudson St.

November 30, 12:05 p.m., police reported an assault at Grant St.

December 1, 8:35 a.m., police reported an assault at 91 Highland Ave.

December 1, 11:17 p.m., police reported an assault at 91 Marshall St.

December 2, 2:49 p.m., police reported an assault at 5 Meacham St.

December 3, 8:44 p.m., police reported an assault at 124 Highland Ave.

December 3, 10:41 p.m., police reported an assault at Flint St.

December 4, 2:55 p.m., police reported an assault at 77 Middlesex Ave.

Drug Violation:

December 3, 2:26 p.m., police reported a drug violation at Broadway.

The Maple Syrup Brunch Fundraiser sticks to Union Square

By Cathleen Twardzik

The aroma of numerous tasty dishes, along with the succulent scent of maple syrup, wafted through the air at a recent brunch fundraiser, which was held to support the Somerville Maple Syrup Project.

The third annual Maple Syrup Brunch Fundraiser was held on December 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Independent in Union Square. 20 percent of the proceeds from attendees will support that collaborative community-based environmental, education project.

Tai Dinnan, Gardens Coordinator of Groundwork Somerville, organized the brunch. "Three years ago, when I started, I did my first Maple Syrup Project. Before I came in, the volunteers and coordinators of the project were putting on their own brunch, so they were making their own pancakes and selling them to people," she said.

The Independent was selected because, "Some of our staff worked [there] in the past, as waitresses. They suggested that the management at The Independent might be open to the idea of doing a fundraiser for us. We were able to do advertising for them that they make a really good brunch," said Dinnan.

The menu featured maple-inspired offerings, such as house made maple bacon doughnuts, maple sausage Belgian waffles, maple pancake breakfast wraps with scrambled eggs and bacon, French toast with honey crisp apple butter and two maple-inspired cocktails.

In preparation for the 2012 syruping season, Groundwork Somerville asked for help to design a new shirt. All of the entries were due by November 27, and the winners were announced at brunch. Additional details are available at www.groundwork-somerville.org.

Since 2009, Groundwork

Somerville has run the Maple Syrup Project. It is a "community-based non-profit, and our main mission is to empower residents to improve the community health and environmental health of Somerville," said Dinnan.

"40 gallons of sap makes about one gallon of syrup. There's no other Somerville maple syrup in the world. We are the only ones that make it," she said.

When the time is right, "We tap trees in Somerville and then we collect the sap once the temperatures go above freezing during the day and below freezing at night. Sap has to be collected every day, or it will spoil. Last year, we made a little bit more than four gallons of syrup."

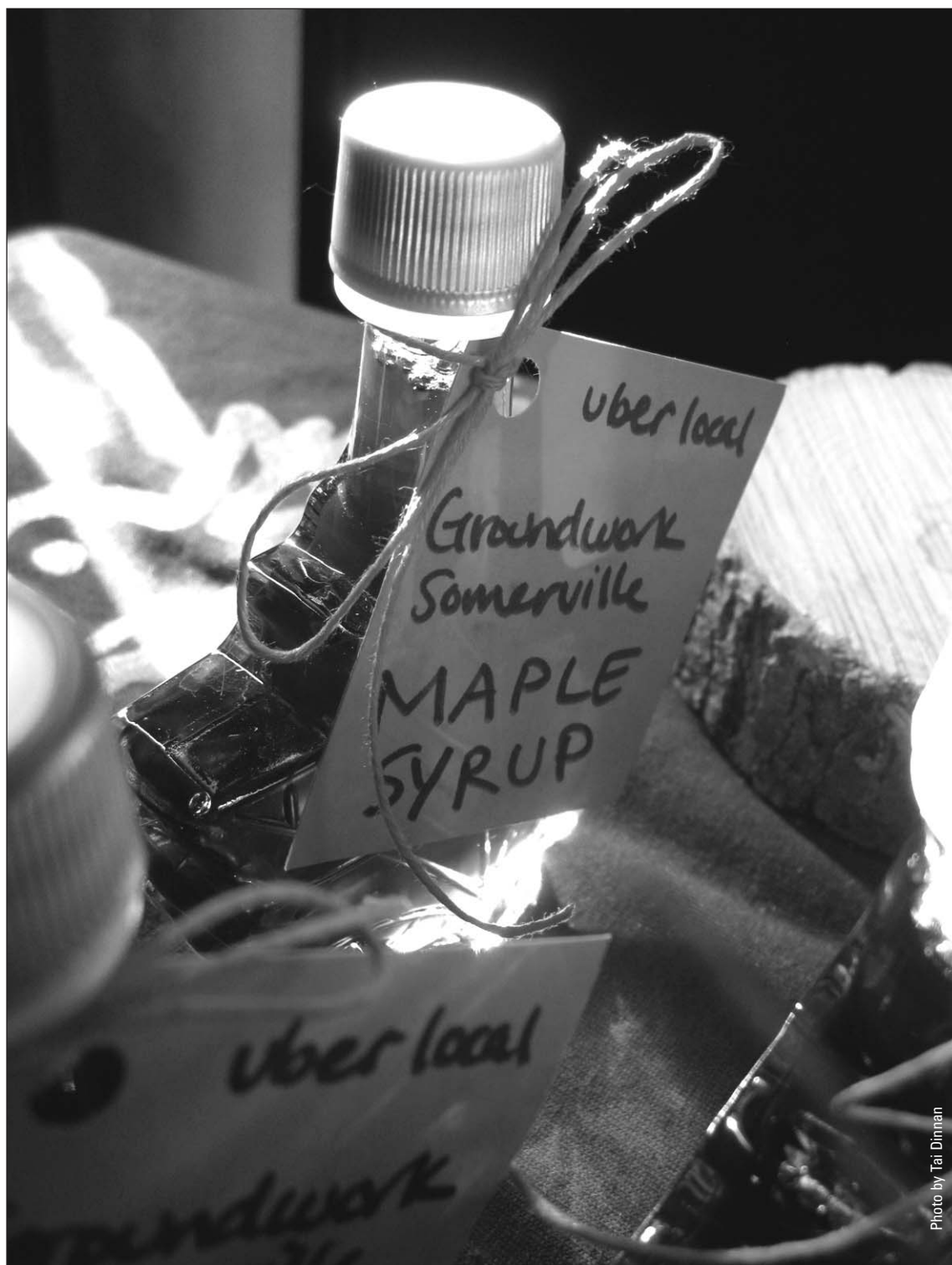
Maple trees in Somerville are tapped in February, and the collected sap is stored for a public boil-down at the Somerville Community Growing Center. In 2012, that event will occur on March 3.

Throughout the season, Groundwork Somerville staff and community volunteers teach a four-week arts and science curriculum to second graders in Somerville Public schools.

The syrup which is produced is given as thank-you gifts to key partners, and it is sold in small maple leaf-shaped jars at the Union Square Farmer's Market at the Grown in Somerville booth and at Sherman Market. Additionally, it was available for sale at brunch.

Each year, the non-profit runs the School Gardens Program. For the entire school year, Groundwork Somerville runs after school garden clubs for students in kindergarten to fifth grade. "In the summer, we also run programming through Somerville camps," said Dinnan.

"This year, we started an after-school club for middle schoolers.



Somerville maple syrup in maple leaf bottles were on sale at last year's, as well as at this year's Maple Syrup Brunch Fundraiser at the Independent.

In the summer, we have an internship program for middle schoolers called the Garden Youth Crew," she said.

The oldies music that filled the restaurant set a comfortable tone for brunch, as well as allowing patrons to engage in lively conversation while they devoured their scrumptious brunch choices. Service was extremely professional, and servers were very cognizant of customer's meal needs.

An eclectic blend of attendees characterized the occasion, and the darkly-stained wood coordinated well with the tables and chairs, as well as with different-sized booths.

The most unique feature of the restaurant was the lighting decor, featuring square lamps with green rectangular shapes that framed the greater portion of the perimeter of the beige, diagonally-arranged fixtures, and it truly added to the cozy ambiance of The Independent.

Pancakes were among the de-

licious brunch offerings. The round flaky circles of goodness were absolutely delectable. Powdered sugar was sprinkled atop three large pancakes, and then maple syrup rounded out the brunch classic. The mouth-watering maple syrup from New England was sweet and extra special.

To discover Groundwork Somerville, or if you would like to become involved in the Maple Syrup Project, call (617) 628-9988, visit www.Groundwork-Somerville.org or e-mail tai@groundworksomerville.org.

To find out about The Community Growing Center, visit www.TheGrowingCenter.org.

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**Jimbo's Famous Roast
Beef & Seafood**
 40 Bow St. 617-623-9068

Voted Best Pizza:
**Mamma
Lisa's**
 312 Broadway
 617-623-9463

Voted Best Bakery:
**Patsy's
Pastry Shop**
 182 Broadway
 617-625-5466

Voted Best Cook:
**Omar
Djebbouri** 
 Ball Square Café 617-623-cafe

Voted Best
Electrician:
**Salvato
Electric**
 617-625-4178

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

Voted Best Real Estate
Rental Agent:
Bill Murphy
Colony Real Estate
 1258 Broadway 617-776-0044

Voted Best Florist:

 346 Highland Ave. 800-997-0044 www.murphyflorist.com/

Voted Best Laundromat:

Spin Cycle
 6 Main St.

Voted Best Barber:
Tony Alibrani,
Alibrani's Barber Shop
 194 Holland St
 617-628-4282

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

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

Voted Best City Employee
City Hall/Annex:
Frank Senesi
 Director of
Veteran's Services

Voted Best Real Estate
Company:
**The Norton
Group** 
 699 Broadway 617-623-6600
www.thenortongroupe.com

Voted Best Insurance
Agency:
**Wedgewood-Crane
& Connolly**
 19 College Ave. 617-625-0781

Voted Best Gas Station:
Good Gas 
 345 Medford St. 617-776-0590
 All the Best from Rafael, Vinny, Edwin, Mike L,
Sandra, Mike M, Tony & George at Good Gas

Voted Best Auto
Body Shop:
Pat's Auto Body
 161 Linwood St.
 617-628-7500

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

Voted Best Variety and
All Around Restaurant:
**Mount Vernon
Restaurant**
 14 Broadway 617-666-3830

Voted Best Local Bar:
**On The Hill
Tavern**
 499 Broadway
 617-629-5302

Voted Best Thai Food:

**Thai
Hut**
 93 Beacon St.
 617-492-8377

Voted Best Coffee Shop
Local:
**Cafe at the
Armory** 
 191 Highland Ave. 617-718-2192
www.artsatthearmory.org

Voted Best Attorney:
**Maria
Curtatone**
 567 McGrath Hwy
 617-625-4800

Voted Best Bank
Employee:
Jeanne Scarpa
 Site Manager, Century Bank
 Fellsway West 617-629-0929

Voted Best Mortgage
Officer:
Rich Brenner
 Winter Hill Bank
 617-629-3340

Voted Best Somerville
Celebrity:
**Jimmy
Del Ponte**

Voted Best
Tow Company:
Pat's Tow 
 160 McGrath Hwy.
 617-354-4000

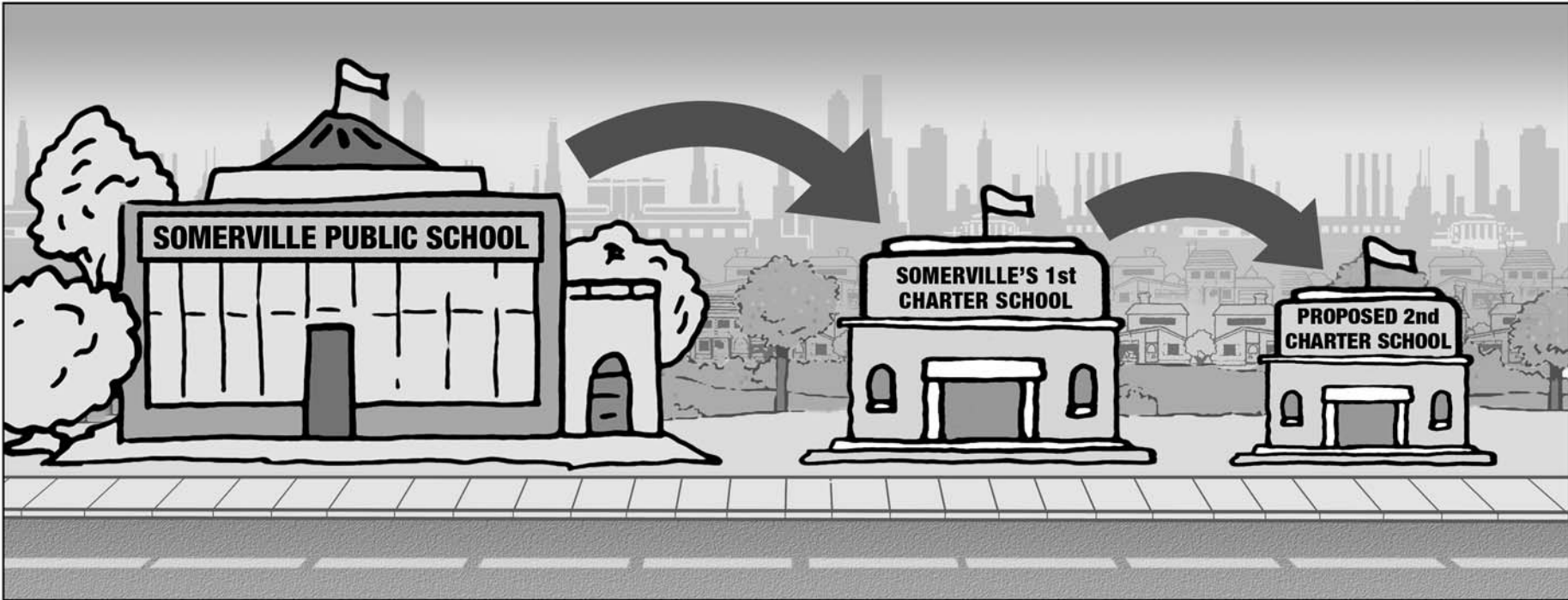
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COMMENTARY

TALES OF SOMERVILLE

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Another Charter School?

The View From Prospect Hill



“Every time you stop a school, you will have to build a jail. What you gain at one end you lose at the other. It's like feeding a dog on his own tail. It won't fatten the dog.”
- Mark Twain

Naturally, all of us wish for the best possible educational

opportunities for the children of our community. Knowing with certainty what the best course of action is can be challenging, to say the least. So it is in consideration of the second K-8 charter school being proposed and debated in our city.

Proponents cite a need for the new school while opponents question its value and cost. Discussion and a close examination of the facts and probable effects of the adoption of the new school plan are important. Every concerned individual should consider at-

tending the State Board of Education and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education public hearing on the matter on December 14, 4-6 p.m. at the Somerville High School Auditorium, to listen to arguments and pose questions of their own.

As Twain indicated, stopping a school - either a new or existent one - can do more harm than good, depending on the circumstances. This is an issue that ought to be thought through very carefully, most importantly, for the good of our children.

News Talk CONT. FROM PG 2

Register of Probate, didn't he threaten a judge? Maybe he's counting on the fact that it's an office no one thinks about and his name is first on the ballot? Maybe he thinks people will forget he was removed from office - or will they?

Next week on Tuesday, December 13, from 11 a.m. to 2p.m., is the City of Somerville's 2011 Council on Aging Christmas Party. This year's annual event will be held at the Somerville Winter Hill Yacht Club who is generously sponsoring and hosting the event again. They are located at 130R Foley Street down on the River at Assembly Square. For reservations contact Council on Aging office at 617 625-6600.

Our condolences to the families of Generas Frances who passed away recently. She was a wonderful person and will be sadly missed here in the 'Ville. Also, condolences as well to the family of Antoinette Vendetti who passed away this weekend. Our condolences to the family and friends of Joan Guarino who passed away this past Saturday. Joan was a lifelong community activist here down at East Somerville.

Many people are sad at her passing, she was ill for a long time. Condolences to the family Helen McCain who passed on last week. Helen was a very nice person, a lifelong Somerville resident and mother to Somerville Police Department's Joe McCain. She was also the daughter of another well known Somerville citizen, Archie Dunn.

Big time Congratulations to Somerville's own Jeff Snow and Rachel Calabrese on their recent wedding engagement. The couple will have a 2013 fall wedding date. We wish them well.

Popular and all around nice guy Larry Murphy is home recuperating from a short stay in the hospital. He's missed at the Lion's meetings and hopefully Larry will be up and about shortly.

The Somerville News recently announced new additions on their way to the paper. Ever growing as a newspaper group with the recent opening of the Cambridge News Weekly, and coming soon the opening of The Medford News. Working several new additions to the family, with a group of papers opening

online in 2012 and shortly afterwards hitting the streets in print. The new editions are The Everett News Weekly, The Malden News Weekly, The Melrose News, The Tewksbury News, The Stoneham News, The Arlington News and the Boston News Weekly. Ten varieties of cities with ten times the local news! Look for us soon again as we plan on opening ten more news outlets in 2013 as well in many more cities and towns near you as we continue to expand throughout the state. A lot of people outside of Somerville have been reading our paper and like the fact we are only local news and local stories on locals. We leave the area news to The Journal, Globe and Herald, and take our brand of papers.

Looking for something fun to do this Christmas? How about a comedy show? TV and 96.9 radio personalities...The Somerville News friend Comedy Diva Stephanie Peters, who has been seen regularly on Fox 25 news, Showtime and BET and Pax TV, is home for the holidays. Just Edge on CBS...Stephanie is bringing comedy to Boccelli's Restaurant, 374 Main Street in Medford, at 8:30 p.m., December 9, this Friday night. She will be sharing

the stage with two other hysterical headliners, PJ Thibideau and Bobby Niles! Great food, free appetizers, and fun games and prizes. Tickets are \$15. Past shows have sold out, so hurry now and call 781-396-7070 to enjoy some hilarious holiday HO HO HO...

Happy Birthday here in the 'Ville to Peter Blaikie of Winter Hill. A nice guy who's busy with work and his family. Also Nancy Moccia over at Victors Deli in Ball Square. You can always catch Nancy with a big smile that brightens everyone's day that stops in. Maybe that's why it's always busy? Also Winter Hill popular family member Barney Doherty is also celebrating his birthday, this week. A special Happy Birthday and best wishes this week to Stacey Hershey Buckley, a nice lady who is from a great Somerville family. Another well known 'Villen here for many years (over 70 we hear) is a good friend and mentor to some of us here, Bill Murphy. A great guy.

We can't say who, because we promised, but after the first of the year one Ward Alderman is seriously considering mounting a challenge to incumbent

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.

Tragedy or opportunity?



By William C. Shelton

In June 2010 a group of parents who felt that the Somerville Public Schools bureaucracy had frustrated their many-years-long efforts to bring progressive education to Somerville came together. A number of them had children in the Choice program and had opposed its unification with the mainstream track at the Healey School. (See sidebar for definitions.)

The Choice Program had been designed to offer progressive education. Advocates both for and against unification acknowledged that Choice's effectiveness had declined substantially, in part because of the high turnover of principals.

The dissenters' complaints were numerous and largely, I believe, understandable. A few examples:

- Kristof Brzezinski is a well-educated immigrant and a parent. He invested himself in extensive efforts to improve Somerville Schools. He concluded that parents have little

say in how our schools are planned and managed.

- Judy Schwartz's son is in the Fifth Grade at the Healey. When he was in kindergarten, she advocated for beginning foreign language instruction in elementary school, when kids learn it more easily. The Healey School Council told her that doing so would be too expensive, but that it would begin in the 7th grade. This has still not happened, although the Healey does now offer one class per week in Italian.

- Most educators acknowledge that an important way in which kindergarten-age kids learn, and develop interpersonal and other skills, is through play. Maria West, a Somerville parent and early childhood development professional says that in Somerville Schools, there are no building blocks, dollhouses, and little-to-no time to play.

- Somerville's MCAS scores are in the bottom 5% in the state. Thirty remarkably accomplished adults decided to plan and propose a Commonwealth charter school. They care deeply about kids and education, and have collectively dedicated thousands of hours to their enterprise.

In July they filed a prospectus for the Somerville Progressive Charter School (SPCS), and November 7th, a proposal to

the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, requesting that they be granted a charter. Their impressive proposal is viewable at <http://www.somervilleprogressivecharterschool.org>. It incorporates remedies to each of their complaints.

Their teaching methodologies would include inquiry-based learning, collaborative learning among kids of mixed ages and cultural backgrounds, and extended learning time. The school would have a strong focus on science, technology, engineering and math. It would offer both native English speakers and those for whom English is a second language after-school enrichment programs in Spanish, Portuguese and French. Founder Ally Hines says that that they will build a democratic structure and culture and involve students in governance.

The proposal has its critics. Local education consultant Joe Beckman writes, "The plan is attractive, but really an almost random layering of innovation and reaction to innovation reflecting the past 40 years of educational models." One could equally argue that they have culled best practices rather than swallowing a predigested model. Other critics believe that the proposed English

Continued on page 17

Terms used in our charter school articles

Progressive education Not the political label, but a hundred-year-old education movement and practice. Among its tenets are emphasis on problem solving and critical thinking, learning through direct experience, doing so cooperatively, anticipating future skill requirements, and assessment based on what a child produces rather than on test scores.

Choice Program A K-6 school within our school district. Its design and management are guided by progressive education principles. Previously it was one of two tracks within the Healey School. Children from across the district predominated in the Choice track enrollment, while neighborhood children predominated in the mainstream track enrollment. This year, the tracks were combined.

Commonwealth charter school A school that is completely independent of the District in which it is located and receives a five-year charter from the state to operate. Its mission, structure, curriculum, teaching method, and other plans are approved by the state, which provides most of its funding.

English language learner A student whose first language is not English. ELLs comprise 18% of Somerville's public school students, speak as many as 50 different languages, and come from diverse backgrounds and circumstances.

Horace Mann school A school that has some measure of independence from the administration of the school district in which it is located, but remains part of that district. It is exempted from many state and city regulations regarding hours, curriculum, and teaching methods. Its teachers are licensed and are union members. They often teach as a team.

Innovation school A school that has independence and exemptions similar to a Horace Mann school, but is explicitly intended to be a laboratory for innovations that can be adopted by other schools. Horace Mann and Innovation schools are thought to require greater accountability on the part of principals and teachers.

On The Silly Side by Jimmy Del Ponte

Wicked Nizza!



Somerville is packed with intelligent people who know how to "talk proper" when we have to. But that doesn't stop us from reverting to our language comfort zone. Maybe when we are among fellow long-time residents, or lifers, do we go back to using good old Somerville slang. Now this does not include everyone so you may say, "Hey, I never said that!" Well, you may never have said it but a lot of us have! Most of these slang terms pertain to most of the Boston area also.

When we say "this afta" we mean this afternoon. Do you live in a 3-"decka" or a three family home? Once again I have enlisted the help of my friends to share some of their Somerville native local language, slang, and verbal gems.

Somervillians, or "Villens" as we have recently come to be known as, not only have the traditional Boston accent, but a

few slang terms and words that we feel are our own. We didn't invent these colloquialisms, but we sure used them a lot. Somerville people didn't sit on the front stairs. We sat on the "stoop." And often while we were relaxing and trading stories with our neighbors, we sipped a nice cold "tonic." My uncle worked at the Cott Bottling Co. in Somerville. As the advertisement said, "It's Cott to be good! When we were heading to Davis, Union, Teele or Magoun Squares, we were simply going "down the square." We buy our liquor at the "packy." We use "elastics," not rubber bands.

We eat off plates instead of dishes and when you go down to the basement, you are in your "cella." We don't eat dinner we eat "suppa." We don't eat grinders, we prefer subs. I still hear some people say "bre-fast" instead of breakfast if they are talking fast. Only Somerville people know what sledding up Powder House means. We know that the rotary is the cir-

cle of hell. We eat Nutty Buddy's (ice cream cones with nuts and a chocolate shell) not drumsticks. We keep our clothes in the bureau and sometimes the dresser. When we are out of milk and bread, we run to "Stah" (as in Star Market). We flick on our "blinka" instead of our directional. It's not really cool...it's wicked nizza (and that p- word !!) We sit on the piazza and the veranda, and occasionally on the porch.

We have somehow turned the one syllable word "mine" into a two syllable word and say "my-in." Here's an example, "Hey, that tonic's my-in!" We drink from a "bub-bler" not a water fountain, or dispenser. "Get out of here" was pronounced, "Get ahtah heah!" You do not "have to" you "hafta!" My son reminded me once that I said "troat" instead of throat. Maybe I should get my money back from Emerson College, the college of the spoken word!

"Na-ah" means no. Here are some names that only long time 'Villens would

know such as, Nan's Sub Shop, Fields Stationary, and Apple -A- Day. Nan's was a sub shop directly across from Somerville High School. Field's Stationary was in Davis Square managed by our old friend, and Davis Square staple, Mr. Wise. And "Apple a Day" was a fruit and veggie store that was in Davis Square for quite a while. Only dyed in the wool Somervillians know who "Butchie" and "Brownie" are. I don't even want to start the discussion on whether that stuff you put on spaghetti is sauce or gravy. FYI - in my family gravy is brown and sauce is red! And just so you all know, at this wonderful time of year PC stands for Peaceful Christmas.

All this talk of food is making me hungry. Excuse me while I go "up the house" to make myself a "wicked nizza sangwich!"

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

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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

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

Our Legislators in the House and Senate for Somerville:



Rep. Denise Provost

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



Rep. Carl Sciortino

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



Rep. Timothy Toomey

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



Sen. Sal DiDomenico

DISTRICT REPRESENTED: MIDDLESEX, SUFFOLK AND ESSEX. - Cambridge, ward 3, precinct 2, wards 6 and 7, ward 8, precincts 1 and 2, ward 9, precinct 1, ward 10, precinct 2, Everett and Somerville, ward 1, precinct 1, ward 2, precinct 1, in the county of Middlesex; Boston, ward 2, ward 21, precincts 4, 6 and 7, ward 22, precincts 1, 2 and 5, Chelsea and Revere, ward 6, in

the county of Suffolk; and Saugus, precincts 2, 6 and 10, in the county of Essex.



Sen. Patricia Jehlen

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

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

The Senate held 136 roll call votes in 2011. Beacon Hill Roll Call tabulates the number of roll calls on which each senator was present and voting and then calculates that number as a percentage of the total roll call votes held. That percentage is the number referred to as the roll call attendance record.

Only 16 of the Senate's 40 members have 100 percent roll call attendance records.

The worst roll call attendance record belongs to Sen. Michael Rush (D-Boston), who missed 132 roll calls (2.9 percent roll call attendance record) while on active duty with the U.S. Navy in Iraq.

The second worst roll call attendance record belongs to Sen. Stanley Rosenberg (D-Amherst) who missed 40 roll calls (73.5 percent attendance) because of his treatment for skin cancer with which he was diagnosed in September.

Rounding out the top five worst are Sens. Frederick Berry (D-Peabody), who missed 27 roll calls (80.1 percent attendance); Sonia Chang-Diaz (D-Boston), who missed 21 roll calls (84.5 percent attendance); and Thomas Kennedy (D-Brockton), who missed 14 roll calls (89.7 percent attendance).

LOCAL SENATORS' FINAL 2011 ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE RECORDS

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

Sen. Sal DiDomenico	100 percent (0)
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	100 percent (0)

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

REPEAL CASINO BILL - A new group, Repeal the Casino Deal, filed the petition and ten signatures necessary to begin the long referendum process to attempt to repeal the recent casino bill signed into law by Gov. Deval Patrick, by putting it on the 2012 ballot for voters to decide. The measure allows three casinos and one slot parlor in the Bay State.

The petition now goes to Attorney General Martha Coakley to see if it qualifies for the 2012 ballot. The law includes appropriation of money, something the state constitution excludes from the referendum process to repeal a law. It is possible Coakley will not certify the petition. The repeal group accused the drafters of the law of inserting language making "incidental appropriations to the governor, the attorney general and the non-existent Gaming Commission to position the bill as an 'appropriation' that is excluded from the referendum process."

If it is certified, proponents then have roughly 80 days to collect 34,456 signatures in order to get the question on the ballot.

SEPTEMBER PRIMARY ELECTIONS - The date of the September state primary was changed three weeks ago by the Legislature and Gov. Patrick from September 18 to September 6 to avoid a conflict with the Jewish holiday Rosh Hashanah that falls on September 16-18. The governor now wants to move the date again to avoid a conflict with the acceptance speech on September 6 by President Barack Obama on the final evening of the Democratic National Nominating Convention in Charlotte. Patrick has not proposed a specific new date.

Meanwhile, Woburn City Clerk William Campbell, former president of the Massachusetts City Clerks Association, has proposed changing the date of both the state primary and the March 6 presidential preference primary to June 5. He says the move would save the state and local communities an estimated \$8 million by not having to pay workers and other expenses for work on two different election days. He noted it would also ensure the state complies with the MOVE Act, which requires absentee ballots to be mailed to voters, including members of the military overseas, 45 days before a general election.

Opponents say the date is just too early and would result in legislative candidates for re-election beginning to collect signatures and campaigning in just a few weeks, less than a year into their term.

MOTORCYCLE HELMETS -The Transportation Committee held a hearing on a bill repealing the current state law requiring all motorcycle drivers and passengers to wear helmets. The proposal would require only drivers and passengers under 21 to wear them (S 1726).

Supporters said adults should have the power to make their own choices and that people ride more "aware" without helmets. They noted thousands of Massachusetts bikers choose to ride in neighboring New England states on weekends and spend million of dollars there that should be spent in the Bay State.

Opponents said motorcycle crashes cause deaths and some of the most serious and costly brain injuries in the Bay State. They noted wearing helmets reduces head injury by 70 percent.

A second proposal would require drivers and passengers under 21 to wear helmets but exempt passengers between 18 and 20 from the law if they have completed an approved motorcycle rider education course (H 2642).

OTHER MOTORCYCLE BILLS - The Transportation Committee's agenda also included legislation that would limit the noise level of motorcycles and impose up to a six-month license suspension and/or \$250 fine on violators (H 952); prohibit cities and towns from banning the use of motorcycles on any public street (H 895);

Beacon Hill Roll Call continued



prohibit a child younger than five or weighing 40 pounds or less years from riding as a passenger on a motorcycle doing more than 30 miles per hour (H 947); and making it illegal for a car driver to interfere with or disrupt a group of two or more motorcycles by passing through or interrupting the group (H 948).

APPROVE CHANGES IN PENSION SYSTEM (S 2018) - Gov. Patrick signed into law 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 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; allowing only employees who 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 workers who have spent 25 years in state government. Currently, many retirees are struggling with annual pensions of \$12,000 to \$13,000.

DIMASI OFF TO JAIL - Former House Speaker Sal DiMasi began serving his eight-year prison sentence at a Kentucky federal prison. DiMasi was convicted of receiving \$57,000 in illegal payments from Cognos, a Canadian software company that he helped land nearly \$20 million in state contracts.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Disapproval of the Massachusetts Legislature is high, but not nearly as high as it is for Congress. A total of 28 percent approve of the job the Massachusetts Legislature is doing compared to 56 percent who disapprove. Meanwhile, just 12 percent of Massachusetts citizens approve of Congress while 79 percent disapprove.” – *From a poll conducted by UMass Amherst. The margin of error is plus or minus 4.4 percent.*

“This is one of the most significant laws passed in Massachusetts in over 100 years. Gambling interests have spent more than \$20 million to have their way. Now it is

time for citizens to get their say.” – *John Ribeiro of Winthrop, head of the newly formed Repeal the Casino Deal that is attempting to allow voters to repeal the law on the 2012 ballot.*

“I maintain my innocence. I have never, nor would I ever, violate the public’s trust . . . I remain outraged that my reputation, my integrity and my good name have been sullied by this process. I will do everything in my power to earn back those things in the coming years.” – *Former House Speaker Sal DiMasi shortly before he reported to a federal prison in Kentucky to begin to serve his eight-year prison sentence for accepting \$57,000 in illegal payments in exchange for helping a private company be awarded a state software contract.*

“They were a beautiful couple and it’s very apropos that we name the bridge (after them).” – *Rep. George Ross (R-Attleboro) testifying before the Transportation Committee on legislation to name a bridge after Shawn Nassaney of Pawtucket and Lynn Goodchild of Attleboro, both 25, who died on 9/11 on United Flight 175 that crashed into the South Tower of the World Trade Center. The couple was heading to Hawaii where Nassaney planned to propose to Goodchild.*

“I will be running for re-election to the House of Representatives in 2012.” – *U.S. Rep. Barney Frank on February 3, 2011.*

“It is not a secret that holding elected office is not these days considered to be one of the great virtues. There is a cynical screen through which comments of elected officials are put.” – *Frank last week at his press conference announcing he is retiring after 32 years in Congress.*

“If the governor thinks I’m going to side with the Democratic National Convention as opposed to getting ballots out to our military voters he can go take a flying leap off of something.” – *House Republican Leader Bradley Jones on Gov. Patrick’s attempt to move the September 6 state primary to avoid a conflict with Obama’s acceptance speech on September 6 at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte. Jones expressed concern that moving the primary to a later date could ultimately jeopardize the*

timely receipt of absentee ballots by men and women serving in U.S. armed forces overseas.

“Whatever happens, the governor won’t support any measure that makes it harder for troops serving overseas to vote.” – *Brendan Ryan, Gov. Patrick’s communications director.*

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?

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

During the week of November 28-December 2, the House met for a total of 20 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 38 minutes.

Mon. November 28	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:14 a.m. Senate 11:00 a.m. to 11:24 a.m.
Tues. November 29	No House session No Senate session
Wed. November 30	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. December 1	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:09 a.m. Senate 11:04 a.m. to 11:18 a.m.
Fri. December 2	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

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Somerville's Annual Tree Lighting 2011

The City's annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony took place last Thursday night on the City Hall Concourse, followed by a meet and greet with Santa Claus in the Somerville High School Highlander Café. The tree lighting ceremony featured musical entertainment by the Somerville High School Band, the SHS Chorus, the Somerville Community Chorus, and local opera singer Lara Kahn.

Special guest, Santa Claus, was escorted by the Somerville Fire Department for the ceremony and met and took pictures with the children following the tree lighting. All the children received a gift from Santa.





SOMERVILLE SPORTS

Somerville High School girls track preview

The 2011-12 Somerville High School Girls Indoor Track Team will be led by Captains Natalie David, Nicole Genard, Stephanie Gullage, Pristine Mei, Michel-le Meranda and Rita Musello-Kelliher. Strengths of the team will be in the sprints and hurdles with Nicole Genard, Michel-le Meranda, Gelynn Berger and newcomer Alison Kaba.

Taija Clark leads a strong High Jump Group. Distance

runners Pristine Mei, Rita Musello-Kelliher, Maggie Langwig and Melina Garro-Duplisea look to score lots of points in the dual meets.

Several new girls have who could compete for varsity spots have joined the team.

Many key performers from last years GBL Championship Team have moved on, but it is hoped that that some of the new athletes will step up to help compete for the title.





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On exhibit through Sunday, February 12
A Day in Pompeii features over 250 priceless artifacts. They include 13 wall sized frescoes, over a dozen pieces of gold jewelry, marble and bronze statuary, gold coins, and other dazzling examples of ancient Roman artistry. Visitors can also experience the power of volcanoes from interactive displays and learn about their victims by exploring the body casts that have immortalized them.
Tickets are available by visiting mos.org or calling 617-723-2500, 617-589-0417

Our own Bob Publicover visited the exhibit last week and called it both “fascinating” and Very Educational.”

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

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

December 7

Holland Street Center
Lunch|11:30 a.m.
All other classes/activities cancelled for preparation for Bazaar
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

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

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

December 8

Holiday Bazaar!
Holland Street Center
Bingo|12:45 p.m.
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

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

Ralph & Jenny
Strengthening Exercises with Geoff|10 a.m.
Portuguese Lunch|11:30 a.m.
Bingo|12:45 p.m.
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

December 9

Holiday Bazaar!
Peabody Essex Museum Trip
Holland Street
Bingo|12:45 p.m.
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x2300

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

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

December 10

Christmas Prelude at Kennebunkport
Call 617-625-6600 for details

December 12
Dance at the Holiday Inn
Holland Street
Swinging Singing Seniors |9:30 a.m.
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

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

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

December 13

Winter Hill Yacht Club
All centers closed

December 14
Hanscom Air Force Base Bingo & Dinner
Holland Street Center
Flexibility & Balance - All welcome|9:30 a.m.
SHINE hours - by appt.|10 a.m.
Women's Group - Support |10:30 a.m.
QiGong|1:15 p.m.
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x. 2300

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

Ralph & Jenny
Blood Pressure Screening|10 a.m.

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

Coming up:

December 15th - Holiday Lunch at Holland Street!
Come join us for a special lunch and lots of fun. RSVP at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300

December 16th - Next Book Club meeting. All new members welcome. The next book is “Still Alice”. Call Janine for more information or if you need a copy of the book. 617-625-6600 ext. 2319.

December 17th - “On The Illumination of Lights Tour”
Hop on the Trolley and be amazed at the holiday lights in Somerville! Limited seating. Call Connie at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300 \$5.00.

December 20th - Afternoon at the Movies: Elf. This month “Afternoon at the Movies” will be at the Holland Center on Tuesday, December 20 at 12:30 pm. We will be showing Elf starring Will Farrell.

New exercise class! Beginning January 10th - Tuesday - 9:30 - 10:30 am. \$5 per class.

Chair Yoga is a safe and comfortable way to enjoy the benefits of Yoga exercises. The Yoga poses are done while sitting in a chair so that a person's pelvis and hips are stable, making it easier to move the torso, legs and arms. From the stability of a chair, Yoga poses can be done without fear of injury or strain. Yoga poses bring mobility to the spine and other joints of the body in a safe and gentle way. The result is a relaxed, more flexible body and rejuvenated mind. Wear comfortable loose clothing, layered for personal body temperature needs.

Next museum trip: January 10th - Museum of Science trip to see the Pompeii exhibit. Call Janine at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.

Debate begins for charter school

CONT. FROM PG 1

devoted to ELL learning.

The proposed school will open next September with 180 students, and move over the next several years towards a full enrollment of 425 students. The writing of the application took place over 16 months of research into successful models of urban charter schools in places like New York City and Chicago.

Fitanides characterized SPCS as a grass-roots parent-led organization going up against the city administration, as well as all unionized city workers. She says that the need for the SPCS is there because the Somerville Public Schools (SPS) has not turned around lagging MCAS scores and or successful ELL programs. "[The SPS] are not doing it. Over a decade they have not addressed the problems," she said.

"Somerville's aggregate MCAS scores are in the bottom five percent of districts in the state. Now, demographically you would not expect Somerville to in that position, because Somerville has a very large well-educated middle class percentage of its population," she said. "It's not a Fall River. It's not a Brockton."

"Residents of Somerville have to ask themselves 'why is that?'," she said.

The low test scores make Somerville eligible to have more of its educational funding in the district diverted to charter schools. As of January 2010, the City is allowed to have 18 percent of all district spending on education given to charters, said Fitanides. This stems from a January 2010 bill in the state legislature in a commonwealth funding tactic to pressure local schools into performing better.

However, Fitanides was quick to point out that even if the charter was granted, in February, SPS could stop the loss of funds by bringing their scores above the bottom 10 percent. If the charter school passed, they would never be able to raise enrollment after the SPS test scores rise above the necessary limit.

School Committee chairman Adam Sweeting said he hoped that it would never come to that, as raising test scores before the time period proposed for full build-out, around 2018, would be a difficult proposition, especially with lost funding.

"I worry about the potential impact of losing up to 10 percent of our state aid in education that would go to funding this school,"

he said. "This is a potential impact that could lead to some real unfortunate consequences."

The damage would initially be minimal. Districts with charter schools, when granted, are reimbursed 100 percent the first year, with that percentage reimbursement declining 25 percent each year, but remaining 100 percent for each newly enrolled student. It would only be when the enrollment reaches the proposed 425 that the full \$5 million per year would be lost.

"When you count in the reimbursements that come from the state to the city, even at year five, the money going out of the district would be \$2.9 million, not \$5 million," she said. "It's spread out over time. The change is manageable."

Sweeting said that this loss would still result in cuts, including a school closing. "There are no winners when you close a school," he said. Fitanides says that the schools most likely to close would be either the West Somerville Community School or the Brown school.

Sweeting added that the particular model of the city and school system in Somerville meant that a loss of any funds would hamper services and make their job more difficult. "We would have to take a look at all of our non-required programs that we do such as our adult education program, a program that serves many low-income and immigrant communities in the city," he said. "We'd have to look at the SMILE Pre-K. We're not required to do that, but we're proud that we do have these things."

Alan Ball a member of Progress Together for Somerville, a group that opposes the SPCS in favor of the reunification of the Healey School, said that the proposal failed to implement an "educational solution that's going to positively affect the city for a long-time horizon." He said that there were deficiencies in the application that failed to properly address ELL concerns.

"We don't agree with how they effect to rectify that issue," he said. "There is a robust ELL program, and there is a UNIDOS program," which specifically targets ELL students in extra-curricular methods

The charter school final application lists a philosophy and method towards educating ELL students, which would be implemented in classes. Because of the

nature of progressive education and charter schools, it is possible that these methods might differ greatly in practice to the current ELL programs in Somerville. The methods include assistance from foreign-language speakers in class, as well as more "out-loud" reading.

"We will provide a laboratory for innovative practices that can help [the SPS] with groups of students that they're having the most difficulty with," said Fitanides, who said she felt that the charter school would allow for quicker more dynamic changes in teaching method than the SPS provided.

"Somerville is a very attractive market because Somerville's test scores are not in alignment with its demographics"

"We can make a decision in a day that it takes the district five years to make," she said.

"If we've already demonstrated that it's working, that provides leverage to say: 'no, let's do this next year. And this is how you do it. This is how you stop it, this is how you run it.'"

Sweeting "speaking for many, many people," said, "there's a nearly unanimous opposition to this program among elected officials and educators in the city."

"The emerging consensus is that the ELL component is actually less than what we're already doing here in Somerville," he said.

"I'm also concerned that the proposed school duplicates efforts already underway at the Healey School to create a unified progressive school model," he said.

The Healey School is currently undergoing reunification, after the Choice program ended in June 2010, though it is aimed towards progressive education. The hot-button issue divided many over perceived class-related issues, and was ended by vote of school committee.

"That is really, really hard work that is going on up there, and the people have put in hundreds and hundreds of hours between the teachers and the staff, community members, even students have been involved," said Sweeting.

"Why duplicate efforts?" Fitanides said that the reunifi-

cation of the Healey had only shown what little could be done in terms of progressive education in the public system. "Anytime one of the parents there wanted to depart too far from what the district generally does, that's a problem." Carrie Normand, who has a 5th and 2nd grader at the Healey School and a tri-chair of the school council, said that that was not a fair assessment, and that working within the school system was the best way forward.

"I think that the Healey school since reunification is the progressive school option," she said, adding that with the didn't think the proposal showed that charter school system would be much different than their own proposals and that there wasn't enough demand to warrant two progressive schools."

Fitanides said that she thought the Healey School "has the potential to begin to make an impact. We fully support what they're trying to do there but I can tell you there has been wide spread disillusionment with the intransigence of the administration, the lack of leadership there."

She was referring to the high turnover rate of principals at the school, they've seen four over the last five years, and the need for a progressive school to have strong leadership in successfully implementing progressive education.

She also noted that the school

would only have 180 seats and that none of the founders' children would probably get to be in the school as it would be over-subscribed.

"It's not in our interest to do anything to undermine the district schools, because they are our schools," she said.

Fitanides said that if this, community oriented proposal did not pass, then it would go before the hearing again the next year. She added that this was a better option for Somerville than for an outside Education Management Organization (EMO) that might be looking to build charter schools. Any charter could be approved by the state in Somerville due to their low-test scores.

"Somerville is a very attractive market because Somerville's test scores are not in alignment with its demographics," she said.

"The companies that study these things that are in this business know 'this is low hanging fruit here, easy pickings Somerville,'" she said. She claimed that she had already received calls from a Connecticut EMO that was interested in implementing a charter school.

"You think you don't want a charter school? You're going to get a charter school, and you won't get any choice," she said.

"This is a democracy. This is a school that parents will shape, and continue to shape over the years."

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#295

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Who was the first woman to run for President of the United States? | Wizard of Oz? |
| 2. Peanuts are used in what explosive to manufacture it? | 7. How many noggins in a pint? |
| 3. If you have Tetrophobia, what do have the fear of? | 8. What was once called "Martin Vineyard"? |
| 4. What letter in Scrabble is worth five points? | 9. What reason was gambling legalized for? |
| 5. Who was the jockey that rode "Whirl Away" and "Citation" to the triple crowns? | 10. What is the crucial card in the game of Hearts? |
| 6. Which "witch" is flattened by a house in <i>The</i> | 11. What Gilbert and Sullivan opera is about the Emperor of Japan? |
| | 12. What are the "irons" in horse racing? |

Answers on page 23

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LEGAL NOTICES

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

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

MIDDLESEX DivisionDocket No. MI 11P5427EA

In the Estate of: Alfred Huang

Late of: Somerville, MA. 02145

Date of Death: 10/11/2011

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR

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

Mei Chin Huang of Mountain Top, PA 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: **12/28/2011**

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

Date: November 22, 2011

Tara E. De Cristofaro
Register of Probate

12/7/11 The Somerville News

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

For the Commission
Andrew Upton
Vito Vaccaro
John J. McKenna

Attest: Jenneen Pagliaro
Administrative Assistant

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

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

For the Commission
Andrew Upton
Vito Vaccaro
John J. McKenna

Attest: Jenneen Pagliaro
Administrative Assistant

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

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

Tragedy or opportunity?

CONT. FROM PG 9

Language Learner component is inferior to that currently conducted in Somerville schools, in which the district has recently made substantial improvements.

There is no question that in coming years, SPCS would siphon state funds away from Somerville public schools. SPCS aims to eventually grow its enrollment from 180 in the first year to 425 in 2018. If all students come from within the district, this would, over time, reduce Somerville Schools' total budget by 10%. School officials say this could result in losses of 75 teachers, enrichment programs, and at least one elementary school. They may be overstating the impact, while SPCS founders are understating it.

School Committee Chairman Adam Sweeting says, "We can discuss economic and educational arguments. But the texture of the community would be altered in ways that are sad." This is my greatest concern, and I believe that the process has already begun.

SPSC leaders say that during their planning process, a founder proposed to School Committeeman Mark Niedergang that they create a Horace Mann school. (See sidebar.) Mr. Niedergang denies this.

More troubling to me is that SPCS founders say that they made extensive efforts to reach out to other parents prior to their late-September invitation to submit a proposal. From then until November 7th, they were consumed by preparing the 238-page document.

But I have spoken to perhaps a dozen parents who are active in school matters, and read emails from at least that many more. They all say that they did not hear about the proposal until three weeks ago. Several say that they have weekly contact with various SPCS founders, but never learned of their intent.

I am disappointed that the SPC-Sers withdrew their exceptional talents from the Choice program. Carrie Normand, who helped lead the Choice program's transformation, says "They chose to work long

and hard on their proposal the same year teachers, parents, community members and administrators were working hard redesigning the unified Healey to become a truly progressive school."

Schools play a role in our city that goes beyond education. As the institutions that once nurtured community have disintegrated, schools are one of the only ways that families from disparate socioeconomic backgrounds connect and see things through each other's eyes- where they understand that what they share is more important than their differences.

SPCS founders intend to build a community within their school, and I believe that they would succeed. But its members would be self-selecting, set apart from the broader community. Anyone could apply for the lottery that would determine admission. But which families would have the awareness and understanding to do so, and which not?

SPCS would inevitably develop important insights and innovations. Founder Ms. Hines, tells me "It is the purpose of a Charter school to share its research and it's successes with any educational body that shows interest." I admire her dedication and am certain of her sincerity. But it seems to me that without a systematic means of doing this, it wouldn't happen.

Yet SPCS's founders have already achieved significant accomplishments. A number of Somerville Schools' personnel are acknowledging that while they have made progress, improvements have been insufficient and slower than they should be.

And the SPCS initiative has galvanized parents across the city. They have coalesced around a week-old organization. Progress Together for Somerville (PTS) already comprises 200 families and is growing rapidly. Its short-term focus is to "thoughtfully consider the [SPCS] proposal and effectively respond within the very short time period allowed..."

Long term, "we aspire to work together to engage our public

schools and work towards a truly progressive system. We want all of our schools to be much better than they currently are..."

Despite the implied criticism, Mr. Niedergang says, "It's great to have a city-wide parents group that will fight for quicker change and more improvement."

School Committee Vice Chair Paul Bockelman says, "the genesis of the [SPCS] proposal and the immediate grass-roots reaction to it have changed the educational dialog within Somerville, much as Occupy Wall Street has changed the political dialog across the nation. Many people are talking about what 'community' means and about our education values."

Michael Chiu founded somerville-4-schools in 2003. It's an online discussion group with 400 participants. Because of Mr. Chiu's reputation and past leadership, he unwittingly became the de facto PTS leader when news of the charter school proposal spread. He says, "For a highly emotional public issue, the discussion has been data-driven and factual. People have presented strong arguments but haven't devolved into personal attacks."

Mr. Niedergang sees the dispute as divisive and tragic. He fervently hopes for a negotiated solution.

I do as well. It offers a rare opportunity. Constituting the proposed charter school as a Horace Mann or Innovation school within the District would be a precious gift to Somerville. When disputants commit to listening to each other and working together to produce solutions that honor all parties' experience, they create innovations that no one could have anticipated.

These negotiations would have to be concluded before the February 28th decision on whether to grant a charter. After that, the party that "prevails" would have little incentive to negotiate.

Barring a negotiated solution, I believe the Board of Education should deny the application.

News Talk CONT. FROM PG 8

Senator Pat Jehlen now that the district has included North Cambridge. We hear some other names, one a present Alderman who has a big head over his re-election, has been telling people he might run for higher office next year as well. That will be something since he can't muster double figures for any campaign workers in his previous elections. But who knows? Maybe he'll get ten people or more. We doubt it...should be interesting.

A get well shout out goes to our good friend Terri Latta who has been laid up in

the hospital since Thanksgiving week. Terri is a wonderful woman and we wish her all the best for a speedy recovery!

Somerville is alive with a bounty of holiday shopping this season! An array of craft markets and retailers make Somerville the place to find something for everyone on your gift list. Move away from the crowds of the malls and go local, supporting neighborhood entrepreneurs as you uncover unique items for sale all around the City. Somerville Mayor, Joe Curtatone, says "Everyone knows Somerville as a great

destination for festivals and restaurants, but it's also a fantastic place to shop. Our stores embody the individual, artistic spirit that has become Somerville's hallmark in this region. You have a selection here unlike anywhere else. In Somerville you can find unique, personalized gifts that will mean a whole lot more to the people on your holiday shopping list. And when you shop local, it saves you time and it keeps money pumping through your local economy." On December 10, Somerville Shift Your Shopping Week features The Snow Mall, Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Avenue and

Open Studios & Pottery Sale, Mudflat Gallery, 149 Broadway. Somerville Shift Your Shopping week is part of Somerville Local First's Third Annual SHIFT YOUR SHOPPING campaign, now active across the country, which encourages residents to support locally owned and independent businesses and community based artisans with their holiday shopping dollars. New Englanders will spend an average of \$700 during the holidays this year. By choosing local, our communities have an opportunity to support the unique character of their communities and help create and sustain local jobs.



• • • • ‘VILLENS ON THE TOWN’ • • • •

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Wednesday|December 7

Central Library
Raising a Reader
Heloisa Alvarez
617-513-5919
9 a.m.-11 a.m.|79 Highland Ave

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

Thursday|December 8

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

Friday|December 9

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

Saturday|December 10

Central Library
Make 3D Paper Snowflakes with Thy
2 p.m.-4 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Monday|December 12

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

Tuesday|December 13

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

Central Library
Book Group: for Kids!
Cathy Plantigini
617-623-5000 x2950
7 p.m.-8 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Wednesday|December 14

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

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

MUSIC
Wednesday|December 7

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

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

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

PA'S Lounge
Tumbleweed Company|Prairy Fire|Little Ugly|Matt Borrello Band
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

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

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

Precinct Bar
Fat Creeps|Fat History Month|Saralee|Dutch Angles
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
Jazz, Blues, Cabaret and Cowboy Songs
6:30 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

Thursday|December 8

Johnny D's
David Mayfield Parade
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's
Ethan Robbins & Cold Chocolate,

Sam Reid & The Riot Act
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

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

PA'S Lounge
TM Recordings Presents|White Pages|Guilty Party|Fat Creeps
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
Gnarlemagne
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe's Pub
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
10 Gold Dollars
381 Summer St.

Arts at the Armory
For the Sake of the Song: An Evening with Heather Maloney, Flightless Buttress and Dietrich Strause
7:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

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

Friday|December 9

Johnny D's
Southern Lust Club|Olde Maids
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's
Radioactive Rustlers|6 p.m.
Jeremy Lyons Trio 9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

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

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

Precinct Bar
Hear Now Live Presents:A Do|Matt Koelsch & The Allies|Red Sky Mary|American Beauties
70 Union Sq|617 -623-9211

PA'S Lounge
Autumn Hollow Band|The Rationales|Monophonic
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

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

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

Bull McCabe's
Jess Tardy Band with Special Guest Tim Hughes of One Thin Dime
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
Cooling Towers, Lord Classic, Louder My Dear
381 Summer St

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

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

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

Saturday|December 10

Johnny D's
Sacred Shakers|Garland Jeffreys
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's
Tom Hagerty Band|5:30 p.m.
Ocean*Transfer, Ryan Mara, Vanessa Kafka \$7 cover David Johnston Band
9:30 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Spittin Vinnies
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Precinct Bar
The Czars (front bar)|Hear Now Live Presents:The Duck & Covers|The Bargains|Three Ravens
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

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

PA'S Lounge
Thick Shakes|Lead Stones|No Fun|The Jitters
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rosebud Bar
381 Summer St

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

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

Arts at the Armory
Americana Snow Ball! A Fun Raiser for Arts at the Armory
6:30|Performance Hall|
Somerville Singer Songwriter Sessions
7:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

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

Sunday|December 11

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

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Frank Drake Sunday Showcase|5 p.m.
Paul Ahlstrand Quartet |8 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

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

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

Precinct Bar
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rosebud Bar
Tony Saverino
381 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
Snow Mall
12 p.m.|Performance Hall|191

Highland Ave

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

Monday|December 12

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

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

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

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

PA'S Lounge
The HankAholics|Old Hat
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

Precinct Bar
WTF!!! World Time Format Iphone App Part|Mike Hastings Band|Tree Yo Sound|Ryan Alvanos|Poetry by Ben Mazer, Ricardo Fitten, & Charlie Rose
70 Union Sq|617-623-921

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

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

Tuesday|December 13

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

Sally O'Brien's Bar
The Subversions|6 p.m.
Paa Seck Diery Band|9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

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

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

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

Precinct Bar
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

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

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

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

Rosebud Bar
Karaoke
381 Summer St

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

Wednesday|December 14

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

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

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

PA'S Lounge
Tumbleweed Company|Andrew Long|Timo Arthur|Bugs Bunny
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

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

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

Precinct Bar
The Blues moves
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

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

Highland Kitchen
TJ The DJ Presents The People's Karaoke

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

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

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

Rosebud Bar
Nick Palms Comedy Showcase
381 Summer St

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

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

CLASSES AND GROUPS
Wednesday|December 7

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

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

Thursday|December 8

Central Library
Beatleness
Candy Leonard
7 p.m.-9 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

West Branch Library
Learn English at the Library! (Session 1) 6 p.m.-7 p.m. (Session 2) 7:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
40 College Avenue

Third Life Studio
Roots and Rhythm
33 Union Sq|
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 10

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

Arts At The Armory
Closed for Thanksgiving

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

Sunday|December 11

Third Life Studio
Discover Belly Dancing with Nadira Jamal
Noon- 1 p.m.|33 Union Sq

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

Monday|December 12

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

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

Tuesday|December 13

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

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

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

Wednesday|December 14

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

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

The road to success begins at Walnut St. CONT. FROM PG 1

Center, a Somerville non-profit that provides a support system to developmentally-disabled adults and their families.

The Center was first established four decades ago by Somerville parents of children with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities, who were unhappy with the options then available to their children, which often meant a lifetime in state institutions, separated from families and the community.

"There was nothing available for these individuals in the community back then," said Walnut Street Board President John Mahoney, whose daughter Janice has participated in the Center's programs for over 30 years. "Some funding came available and we starting doing some things. We're the best-kept secret in the city."

The Walnut Street Center, so-named for its original location, was one of the first organizations of its kind in the state, and became a model for helping developmentally disabled adults live full, active lives, integrated into the fabric of their families and communities, said Executive Director Joseph Churchill.

"The people who founded this program were pioneers," said Churchill. "They were responsible for transforming the service industry for people with disabilities."

More than half of the more than 200 developmentally disabled adults who live in Somerville today are connected with Walnut Street's programs, living in one of the Center's 30-

odd supervised residences, participating in day programs, or some combination of both.

On any given weekday, the Center's building next to the Target store off Somerville Avenue is a beehive of activity. Walnut Street's classrooms buzz with a mix of care and instruction tailored to individual needs, covering everything from basic life skills to vocational training.

Spezzafaro, Poor and Potter work on-site at the Center's Walnut Street Industries, which pays them competitive wages to complete contract work, such as putting together mass mailings for private businesses. Participants in Walnut Street's ACCESS program, including Adkins, come and go from classes where they learn important job skills, like how to use a cash register or deal with customers, to jobs elsewhere in the community.

Such paid work is a win-win all the way around, said Churchill. Employers get workers who are loyal, flexible and supervised. Individuals are less dependent on government support. And individual workers get the confidence and satisfaction that comes from a paycheck they worked to earn.

"They have more spark for life, because they have something fulfilling, something to look forward to," said Herbert Ngera, who supervises ACCESS participants in work ranging from delivering meals to homebound seniors, to cleaning fish tanks, to catering weddings. "Life has so

much more meaning when you have work to do."

Churchill said developmentally disabled adults today are leading longer, healthier lives than just one generation ago, and a big reason is that they reap the benefits of being active, contributing members of the community just like anyone else.

"They have the same goals as you or I," said Craig Fletcher, who oversees Walnut Street's day programs. "A decent home. A family. Meaningful work."

But while the ideal goal is to help more developmentally disabled adults live independently and work at a competitive-wage job in the community, Walnut Street's mission is simply to help each individual continue to learn and grow. Every step forward is celebrated as a success, no matter how small it may seem.

"At the end of the day, what matters is that everyone is proud of themselves," said Ron Keech, an instructor in Walnut Street's center-based employment program.

The challenges are increasing. Recession-related budget cuts have all but eliminated a program that helped families of developmentally disabled adults who live at home with parents or siblings. And level funding makes it hard to find and keep qualified staff, in a program whose success depends on individualized attention.

But Walnut Street's leaders are optimistic, particularly when they look back at how

much progress has already been made.

One in four day program participants now works outside the Center, at places like the Museum of Science, or Tags Hardware near Porter Square, and Fletcher said that number will continue to rise, particularly since younger adults today are more likely to have attended public schools and have been actively involved in the community their whole lives.

And after four decades helping

Somerville's developmentally disabled adults and their families, The Walnut Street Center plans to continue to meet the needs of future generations.

"To see this environment, it's a relief and a comfort," said Keech, who is himself the parent of a developmentally disabled seven-year-old son. "As a parent, I want to know there's a place that he can go where he can be safe, where he's going to feel like he belongs, and where he can feel accomplished."

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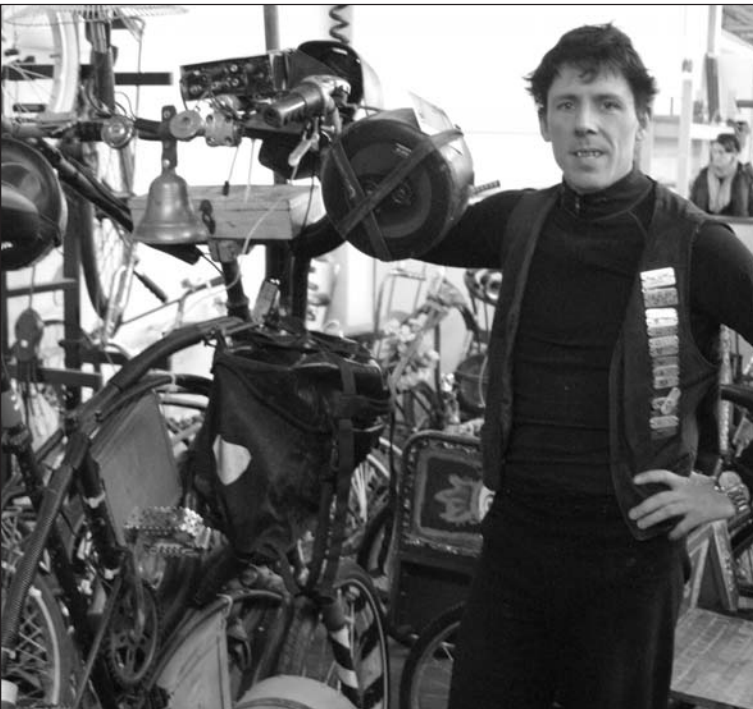
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Artisan's Asylum Grand Opening

By Andrew Firestone

Come down and check out the Artisan's Asylum in their newly reopened and relocated location at 10 Tyler St. Featuring artist space, classes, and the headquarters of the SKULs biker gang, the new location

has everything an artist could hope for. Aside from great company of 150 members, awesome art, and an emulator arcade machine with every single arcade game ever on it, the 31,000 sq. ft. facility features seven full shop and craft areas and a classroom.



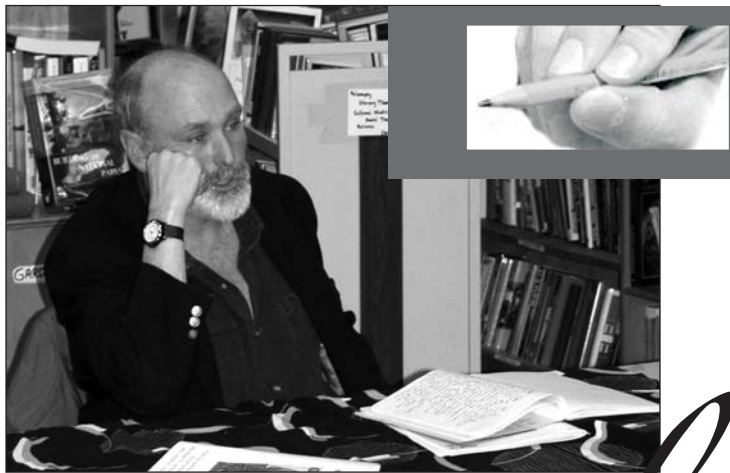
Photos by Andrew Firestone

SCAT Program Schedule for the Week

Wednesday, December 7		5:00pm	Ablevision	1:00pm (LIVE)	Bongoman	2:00pm	Thom Hartmann Program
12:00am	Free Speech TV	5:30pm	Somerville: Most Interesting Places	3:00pm	Portraits of Somerville	3:00pm	Robyn & Max Exercise
6:00am	Flip Side	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV	4:00pm	Most Interesting Place	3:30pm	Esoteric Science
7:00am	Raising Drug Free Kids	7:00pm (LIVE)	Tele Magazine	5:00pm	Tele Kreyol	4:00pm	South of the Mystic
8:00am	Democracy Now!	7:30pm	Somerville Rocks	6:00pm	Tele Magazine	4:30pm	Somerville Back In The Day
9:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	8:00pm (LIVE)	Fouye Zo Nan Kalalou	7:00pm	Recovery Roundtable	5:00pm	Culture Club
10:00am	Abugida TV	9:30pm	The Garage	8:00pm	Blunt Truth	5:30pm	Talking About Somerville
11:00am	Somerville News Reading	10:30pm	Sonic Lobotomy	9:00pm	Nossa Gente e Costumes	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV
12:00noon	Democracy Now!	11:00pm	Recovery Roundtable	10:00pm	Wrestling Talk	7:00pm	Discover The Law
1:00pm	Nepali Festival	Friday, December 9		11:00pm	Sonic Lobotomy	7:30pm	The Commonwealth Report
1:30pm	Most Interesting Place	12:00am	Free Speech TV	12:00mid	Bongoman	8:00pm	Right Here, Right Now
2:00pm	Thom Hartman show	6:00am	Live Response	Sunday, December 11		8:30pm	Steve Katsos Show
3:00pm (LIVE)	Medical Tutor	7:00am	Recovery Roundtable	12:00am	Free Speech TV	9:00pm	Dedilhando A Saudade
3:30pm	Interesting Places	8:00am	Democracy Now!	6:00am	Show de Fe	10:00pm	Bate Papo con Shirley
4:00pm	Life Matters	9:00am	The Truth About Drugs	7:00am	Vida Na TV	11:00pm	Visual Radio
4:30pm	Healthy Hypnosis	9:30am	Creating Cooperative Kids	8:00am	In Season, Out of Season	Tuesday, December 13	
5:00pm	CommonSense	10:30am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	8:30am	Healer in Every Home	12:00am	Free Speech TV
5:30pm	Let's Talk About Hearing	11:30am	Back In The Day	9:00am	Heritage Baptist Church	6:00am	Emerging Drug Trends
6:00pm	Al Jazeera	12:00noon	Democracy Now!	10:00am	Christian Assemble Tabernacle	7:00pm	Perils For Pedestrians
7:00pm (LIVE)	Chita Tande	1:00pm	The Expert Series	11:00am	International Church of God	7:30am	The Struggle
8:00pm (LIVE)	Somerville Pundits	2:00pm	Thom Hartmann Program	11:30am	The Commonwealth Report	8:00am	Democracy Now!
8:30pm	Culture Club	3:00pm	Cooking W/ Georgie & Dez	12noon	Somerville Housing Auth.	9:00am	Somerville News Reading
9:00pm	Somerville Rocks	3:30pm	Toastmasters	12:30pm	Nepali Festival	10:00am	Tele Kreyol
9:30pm	Shrink Rap	4:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking	1:00pm	Waltham Philharmonic Orch.	11:00am	Commonsense
10:00pm	The Smoki Dick Show	4:30pm	Money On Your Mind	2:00pm	Effort Pour Christ	11:30	Nepali Festival
10:30pm	South of the Mystic	5:00pm	SCATV and Free Speech	3:30pm	Talk About Somerville	12:00noon	Democracy Now!
11:00pm	The Garage	5:30am	Your Money Your Life	4:00pm	Dedilhando A Saudade	1:00pm	The Commonwealth Report
11:30pm	Art @ SCATV	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV	5:00pm	Ethiopian Sateleite TV	1:30pm	Know Your Rights
Thursday, December 8		7:00pm	Right Here, Right Now	6:00pm	Abugida TV	2:00pm	Thom Hartmann Show
12:00am	Free Speech TV	7:30pm	Working With Java	7:00pm	African TV Network	3:30pm	Active Aging
6:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	8:00pm	Visual Radio	8:00pm	Tele Magazine	4:00pm	Protrait of Somerville
7:00am	Know Your Rights	9:00pm	The Garage	9:00pm	Watch This	5:00pm (LIVE)	Poet to Poet
7:30am	South of the Mystic	9:30pm	Bandwidth TV	9:30pm	Grill Dog	5:30pm	Jeff Jam
8:00am	Democracy Now!	10:00pm	Portrait of Somerville	10:00pm	Portait of Somerville	6:00pm	A Jazeera
9:00am	Parent Factor	11:00pm	Jeff TV	11:00pm	Undercover TV	7:00pm	Art @ SCAT
10:00am	Active Aging	Saturday, December 10		Monday, December 12		7:30pm	Greater Somerville W/ Joe Lynch
10:30am	Jeff Jams	12:00am	Free Speech TV	12:00am	Free Speech TV	8:00pm (LIVE)	Dead Air Live Show
11:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	6:00am	Arabic Hour	7:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	9:00pm	Interesting Places
12:00noon	Democracy Now!	7:00am	GAY USA	8:00am	Democracy Now!	9:30pm	Animal Agenda
1:00pm	African TV Network	8:00am	Animal Agenda	9:00am	Recovery Roundtable	10:00pm	Perils For Pedestrians
2:00pm	Thom Hartmann	9:00am	Festival Kreyol	10:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	10:30pm	The Gerry Leone Show
3:00pm	Somerville: Back in the Day	10:00am	Tele Galaxie	11:00am	Nosse Gente e Costumes	11:00pm	JuPrey Productions
3:30pm	Culture Club	11:00am	Dead Air Live Show	12:00noon	Democracy Now!		
4:00pm	Lets Talk About Hearing	12:00pm	Reeling, The Movie Review	1:00pm	Ablevision		
4:30pm	A Healer in The House	12:30pm	Somerville Housing Authority	1:30pm	Somerville Housing Authority		

City Cable TV Schedule for the Week

Wednesday, December 7		7:00pm: (13/16)	Board of Aldermen Meeting - LIVE	7:00pm: (15)	Somerville Math Scrapheap Showdown	12:00pm: (13/16)	Board of Aldermen Meeting
9:00am: (13/16)	Seriously Somerville	7:00pm: (15)	Highlander Forum	8:05pm: (15)	SHS Winter Concert	-	- REPLAY OF 12/8/11
9:00am: (15)	Early Childhood Fair/Family Literacy	7:30pm: (15)	SHS Volleyball Playoffs vs Newton North	8:30pm: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	12:40pm: (15)	Highlander Forum
11:30am: (15)	Early Childhood Fair/Family Literacy	8:30pm: (15)	Superintendent Awards: Healey	9:10pm: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	1:10pm: (15)	SHS Football vs Everett
11:55am: (15)	SHS Football vs Everett	8:50pm: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	Sunday, December 11		7:00pm: (13/16)	School Committee Meeting - LIVE
12:00pm: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness	Friday, December 9		12:00am: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration	7:00pm: (15)	Raising Families
12:15pm: (13/16)	Annual Veterans' Day Ceremonies	12:00am: (13/16)	Somerville Boxing Club	12:00am: (15)	Somerville Math Scrapheap Showdown	7:30pm: (15)	SHS Sports Rally
12:45pm: (13/16)	Green Line Public Hearing - Environmental Assessment	12:00am: (15)	Highlander Forum	1:05am: (15)	SHS Winter Concert	8:45pm: (15)	SHS Boys' Soccer Playoffs vs Chelsea
3:30pm: (15)	Superintendent Awards: Kennedy	12:20am: (13/16)	Holiday in the Ville	1:30am: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	Tuesday, December 13	
7:00pm: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration	12:30am: (15)	SHS Volleyball Playoffs vs Newton North	2:10am: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	12:00am: (13/16)	Congressional Update
7:00pm: (15)	Raising Families	1:30am: (15)	Superintendent Awards: Healey	12:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	12:00am: (15)	Raising Families
7:30pm: (15)	Highlander Forum	1:50am: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	12:00pm: (15)	Highlander Forum	12:30am: (13/16)	Somerville Boxing Club
8:00pm: (15)	Kid Stuff	9:00am: (13/16)	Holiday in the Ville	12:30pm: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness	12:30pm: (15)	SHS Sports Rally
8:30pm: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness	9:00am: (15)	Highlander Forum	12:30pm: (15)	Raising Families	1:45am: (15)	SHS Boys' Soccer Playoffs vs Chelsea
8:30pm: (15)	Superintendent Awards: Kennedy	12:00pm: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration	12:50pm: (13/16)	Congressional Update	9:00am: (13/16)	Gaeta, Antica Citta Mediterranea
8:50pm: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	12:00pm: (15)	Somerville Math Scrapheap Showdown	1:00pm: (15)	Kid Stuff	9:00am: (15)	Our Schools, Our City
9:05pm: (13/16)	Board of Aldermen Meeting Agenda for 12/8/11 Meeting	1:05pm: (15)	SHS Winter Concert	1:30pm: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	11:30am: (15)	Somerville Math Scrapheap Showdown
Thursday, December 8		1:30pm: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	7:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	12:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit
12:00am: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration	2:10pm: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	7:00pm: (15)	Highlander Forum	12:30pm: (13/16)	Talking Business
12:00am: (15)	Raising Families	7:00pm: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration	7:30pm: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness	1:00pm: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration
12:30am: (15)	Highlander Forum	7:00pm: (15)	Somerville Math Scrapheap Showdown	7:30pm: (15)	Raising Families	1:00pm: (15)	Our Schools, Our City
1:00am: (15)	Kid Stuff	8:05pm: (15)	SHS Winter Concert	7:50pm: (13/16)	Congressional Update	7:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit
1:30am: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness	8:30pm: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	8:00pm: (15)	Kid Stuff	7:00pm: (15)	Kid Stuff
1:50am: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	9:10pm: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	8:30pm: (13/16)	Board of Aldermen Meeting - REPLAY OF 12/8/11	7:30pm: (13/16)	Talking Business
2:05am: (13/16)	Congressional Update	Saturday, December 10		8:30pm: (15)	SHS Winter Concert	7:30pm: (15)	Early Childhood Fair/Family Literacy
2:35am: (13/16)	Seriously Somerville	12:00am: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration	Monday, December 12		8:00pm: (15)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness
9:00am: (13/16)	Talking Business	12:00am: (15)	Somerville Math Scrapheap Showdown	12:00am: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	8:00pm: (15)	Highlander Forum
9:00am: (15)	Kid Stuff	1:05am: (15)	SHS Winter Concert	12:00am: (15)	Highlander Forum	8:20pm: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration
11:30am: (15)	SHS Sports Rally	1:30am: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	12:30am: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness	12:00am: (13/16)	Senior Circuit
12:00pm: (13/16)	Senior Circuit	2:10am: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	12:30am: (15)	Raising Families	12:00am: (15)	Kid Stuff
12:30pm: (13/16)	Holiday in the Ville	12:00pm: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration	12:50am: (13/16)	Congressional Update	12:30am: (13/16)	Talking Business
12:50pm: (15)	SHS Volleyball Playoffs vs Newton North	12:00pm: (15)	Somerville Math Scrapheap Showdown	1:00am: (15)	Kid Stuff	12:30am: (15)	Early Childhood Fair/Family Literacy
3:00pm: (13/16)	Our Schools, Our City - LIVE	1:05pm: (15)	SHS Winter Concert	1:30am: (15)	SHS Winter Concert	1:00am: (13/16)	Talking Business: Midnight Madness
3:30pm: (15)	Superintendent Awards: Healey	1:30pm: (13/16)	Holiday In the Ville	9:00am: (13/16)	Congressional Update	1:00am: (15)	Highlander Forum
		2:10pm: (15)	Our Schools, Our City	9:00am: (15)	Raising Families	1:20am: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration
		7:00pm: (13/16)	Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration	11:30am: (15)	SHS Winter Concert		



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville Artist Hope Ricciardi: Paints the Painful Past of her Ancestors

To know what we are, we must know where we come from. The past is often muddled, memory fails us, often familial histories are selective and leave out the painful moments. Somerville artist Hope Ricciardi addresses her ancestral past through her evocative art. Sadly, past generations of her clan were victims of the Armenian Genocide. This tragic event occurred in the early part of the last century when many Armenians were slaughtered or thrown into a diaspora by the Turks. Often this tragedy has been overshadowed by the Jewish Holocaust that was engineered by the nefarious forces of Nazi Germany. Ricciardi's art brings the Genocide in the forefront with her skillful brush, and unique sensibility.

Ricciardi, who has a space at the Joy Street Studios states on her website: "My ancestry and roots in Armenian history are the catalyst for my current work." In 2011 her exhibition "History Ignored" that dealt with her roots in Armenian history was presented at Galatea Fine Art Gallery in Boston. She works in photo transfers and plaster gesso (fluid white coating, composed of plaster of paris, chalk, gypsum, or other whiting mixed with glue, applied to smooth surfaces such as wood panels, plaster, stone, or canvas to provide the ground for tempera and oil painting) on various surfaces including canvas, linen and panels. She has an exhibit of her work at Arsenal

Center of the Arts in Watertown, Mass that will run through Jan. 2, 2011.

Ricciardi lives in Franklin, Mass. and commutes to her studio in Somerville. The Joy Street Studios building is a converted factory where a diverse group of artists work. Ricciardi reflected on working in the suburbs, like Franklin as opposed to a city like Somerville: "Working in Franklin is like working in a vacuum. I once tried to exhibit some abstract nudes in the Town Hall and they wound up in some closet. I really need the artistic energy of place like Somerville to keep me going."

Ricciardi trained at the Museum School in Boston and has taught in a number of private schools. She was Dean of Admissions at the tony Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Natick, Mass. She left that position to devote herself to her art.

Her paintings are haunting and in many cases she uses photographs she has seen as the basis for her work. In one painting "Lost Youth," we see a long table of spectral children sitting in the midst of a surreal landscape. The painting depicts the 5,000 or so children who were orphaned and found in the desert in Turkey in 1915--victims of the Armenian Genocide.

Ricciardi who joined me for a famed oatmeal scone at the Sherman Cafe in Union Square seems like a dedicated artist, who wants to recover her past and move on with a clear eye to the future.



Lost Youth by Hope Ricciardi.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Visiting Poet Emily Sinclair is visiting from Wappinger Falls, New York. She is currently studying digital photography at Dutchess Community College. Her passions include photography, painting and writing.

Heroine

She's a goddess with a filthy soul
Disguised as a hero with a deceiving goal
A goddess wrapped in golden brown
She'll lift you up
Then break you down
But she only promises one day
To fly you to the moon
Blast your troubles away
Her glance is captivating
Her trance is elevating
But once she's gone
Your left anticipating
You pine for her
with a thirst so strong
To be wrapped again
in that golden brown
never again
to touch the
ground.

— Emily Sinclair

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

Ms. Cam's

Answers from page 15

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Victoria Clafin Woodhull (1872) | 7. Four |
| 2. Dynamite | 8. Martha's Vineyard |
| 3. The fear of the number 4 | 9. To spur the depressed economy |
| 4. The letter "K" | 10. The Queen of Spades |
| 5. Eddie Arcaro | 11. The Mikado |
| 6. The Wicked Witch of the East | 12. The stirrups |

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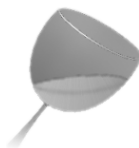
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Somerville



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