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Berstler named SAC's 'Artist of the Month'



Photo by Margaret Ryan

Susan Berstler, a visual artist and art producer in Somerville, has been chosen as the Somerville Arts Council's "Artist of the Month" for January, 2013. As a visual artist interested in transformative media, especially in the realm of public art, she is also the director and founder of the Nave Gallery, a non-profit art space located outside of Teele Square.

Problem properties discussed

By Harry Kane

Ward 4 Alderman Tony Lafuente recently proposed a bill to the Board of Aldermen that suggests a solution to problem properties.

Lafuente wants increased fines until such time that the properties' issues have been rectified.

Complaints over the years concerning absentee landlords, who are not taking care of their properties, have caused residents to offer their grievances to Alderman Lafuente.

Dilapidated buildings with overgrown areas and heaps of trash has repeatedly caused some properties to be the focus of community frustration.

"It's just ridiculous what's going on with some of these absentee landlords," said Lafuente.

In order to rid the city of the problem properties Lafuente recently put forward the blueprint of a new ordinance to make Somerville safer and cleaner.

The primary issue is safety. If the property is unsafe, and there are complaints, Lafuente suggests police involvement.

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Singing in harmony, witnessing history SHS Chorus visits DC during Inauguration

By Elizabeth Sheeran

Maybe it was climbing the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to take in the view. Maybe it was hearing the Somerville High School name announced at a national awards banquet. Maybe it was standing on the National Mall during the Presidential Inauguration.

For the 29 Somerville High Chorus members who represented the school in Washington D.C. over the Inaugural weekend, it's hard to pick just one highlight. They spent a whirlwind few days in the capital, touring national monuments, attending the Inaugural ceremonies, and competing in the Worldstrides Heritage Music Festival. And they came home with memories for a lifetime, not to mention a silver medal for the chorus room.

"We didn't know that we were good enough to actually receive such an honorable award," said junior Lipasha Pradhan, noting that it was the first time the chorus had

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Photo by Darius Green

SHS Chorus members on the National Mall during the Presidential Inauguration.

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NEWTALK

The Somerville Rotary Club is excited to sponsor the Chamber of Commerce's Business after Hours on Thursday, February 7, at Dali Restaurant on Washington Street from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The networking meeting is an opportunity for Rotarians to talk about their work in the community and in the world and to invite everyone interested in learning more about the club and Rotary to come as a guest to a luncheon at the Mt. Vernon restaurant, 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12.

The Somerville Rotary is also excited to participate in an annual Polio Plunge, February 9, at Long Beach in Gloucester. Kara Dardeno Mathieu and Frank Scarpa will plunge to help Rotary International eradicate polio in the world. This has been a major goal of Rotary's international work for years and, while there are only three countries left that still have a few cases, Rotary seeks everyone's help to finish the job. To support the plunge please go to the Somerville club's plunge page: <https://www.fundraise.com/activity/the-rotary-foundation-of-rotary-international/rotary7930-polar-plunge/team?show=somerville> any questions please call Mark Alston-Follansbee, club president, at 617-623-6111.

Best wishes to former School Committeewomen from Ward 6, Julie DiPasquale, who has been sick and laid up at MGH these past two months. She's at Spaulding now and is heading back to MGH once again. Send her a card or say "Hi" to her on Facebook. Julie is a lady from a nice family and is another of those lifelong residents that truly love Somerville. We wish her well and a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to CAAS down in Union Square, a great non-profit here in Somerville doing a lot of good stuff for the poor and low income. We hear they got a new director and all those phony baloney charges months ago were nothing at all. Everything down there is all good, and

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TheSomervilleNews.com Comments of the Week

Response to Milkshakes and mercurochrome

A. Moore says:

Kramer's was the second drug store there. I cannot recall the name of the store before him but I remember he had a soda fountain there, thought it started with a p, but been too many years now to recall. Have to see if my parents remember. Over Karmar's was a clothing place(I think) and later when Kramer bought it they took the top floor off. And the lady who worked at Berry and McDonald used to make eggplant parm(hope I remembered that right) for Tony Bennet when he was in town.

jimmy DelPonte says:

I cant believe I forgot to mention my friend Gary Lameiras and Cedar Pharmacy at the corner of Cedar St and Highland Ave , He was a classmate and a friend.

A. Moore says:

Dr. Goldenberg, he was a character. If I remember right he was in the navy, same as the dentist Galitis across the street. But the coke syrup of today is not half as good as the one years ago. Since they had to take out that one tiny ingredient we are not adult enough to use properly.

Gerald Hagerty says:

Barker's was the drug store before Kramers. Mr Barker lived on Laurel street in a giant old Victorian. The house had a barn where he kept a horse and buggy to about 1966. we used to sneak in to see the horse.

John Cardillo was great guy always gave us free lime rickeys. His spouse is still alive I believe and living in Vegas.

A. Moore says:

Thank you. I was going crazy trying to remember Barker's. I guess p and b are close enough.

Log onto TheSomervilleNews.com to leave your own comments

TheSomervilleNews.com poll of the week

In addition to breaking news, sports and opinion, TheSomervilleNews.com also features a daily poll in which you, the reader, tell us where you come down on local issues. Last week's poll concerned your views on whether or not you have kept New Year's Resolution so far. If you don't agree with the results, simply log onto TheSomervilleNews.com.

It has been almost a month, have you kept New Year's Resolution so far?



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A new sign wanted in Magoun Square

By Harry Kane

During the last Alderman meeting on Jan. 23, Ward 5 Alderman Sean O'Donovan reported the need for a new sign in Magoun Square.

The location of the sign is a decision that has yet to be determined.

In the past, a wooden sign stood in a small plaza-area near the CVS.

"Magoun has had a few signs in the past," O'Donovan said. "They've unfortunately been damaged or vandalized."

It is possible that the sign was damaged during snowstorms, according to O'Donovan.

Part of the problem, explained O'Donovan, is the location to place the new sign.

The islands in Magoun Square are not appropriate for the new sign, said O'Donovan. One of the islands has been removed and the other one is too small.

Also under discussion, are the



Photo by Bobbie Toner

What's missing from this scene? Many say that a new sign for Magoun Square is a "must have" item in the near future.

material components used to make the new Magoun Square sign.

"Apparently they might be able to do a wooden sign that will be composite," he said.

Alderman O'Donovan has recently submitted a request to the Commissioner of Public Works for a sign in Magoun Square to showcase the area.

"A lot of people would like a square sign put back up," O'Donovan said.

At this point, the location of the sign, and whether the sign is wooden, a composite or metallic, are decisions pending further discussion.

Alderman O'Donovan said his hope is to have the new sign installed by March 15.

Problem properties discussed

CONT. FROM PG 1

"If there's a problem property we should be able to place a police detail in front of that property to protect the rest of the neighbors," explained Lafuente.

To encourage a rapid response, the cost of the police detail (\$40 an hour) will then be forwarded to the landlord, according to the Alderman's plan.

If the landlord is charged the fees associated with having a 24-hour cycle police detail, the landlord should act quickly to

resolve the problem.

However, if it were merely a cleanliness concern, the new ordinance might only involve fines.

"In other words, they [landlords] are going to show up more frequently and know what's going on, as opposed to just getting a check in the mail," he said.

Other cities such as Boston, Quincy and Woburn have instituted similar methods to help safeguard the community, ac-

cording to the alderman.

According to Lafuente, there are many chronic offenders in Somerville and when the landlord is not being responsible, and not managing his or her property, and checking out whom they are leasing to, it becomes a problem property.

"It's disrupting and terrorizing the neighborhood," said Lafuente.

The bill will be discussed among police and elected officials in the Somerville Legislative Matters Committee on Feb. 5 at 6 p.m.

"Once we have concluded the hearing and have come up with a definition for this ordinance, I think it is going to change our neighborhoods drastically," said Lafuente.

Streetlights illuminated earlier in the a.m.



Photo by Bobbie Toner

The Commissioner of Public Works has decided to illuminate streetlights earlier than 6 a.m. to accommodate early morning walkers and runners. It was determined that residents who are getting up in the morning and working out need the street lamps to be illuminated for safety reasons. "This actually has taken place in Magoun and Ball Squares for people in that area," said Ward 5 Alderman O'Donovan. "Of course, it will catch up when we move the clocks back in March," O'Donovan added. But, right now, it is "a little bit dark," he noted.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

Our family wishes to thank the Mayor and the Aldermen, especially Sean O'Donovan and Jack Connolly. A special thank you also to Veteran's administrator Jay Weaver in recognition of our father's service and sacrifice given to his country during World

War II. The ceremony and posting of a veteran sign at the corner of Broadway and Leonard Streets is a tremendous honor to our dad.

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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Roommates' spat turns physical

Police were called to a Canal Lane apartment last week, responding to a request to assist in the removal of personal property from the residence. Upon arrival, officers were met by a woman, Taquana Hardin, 21, who told them that she wanted the reporting party, Felicia Murphy, 19, removed from her apartment immediately because she was running late for work, according to reports. Officers reported that Hardin appeared to be highly agitated and walked away from them towards the entrance of the residence saying, "That bitch thinks that she can call the cops on me." As Hardin held the door open at the building's entrance police reportedly advised Hardin to calm down, but she denied that she was in an agitated state. At this time police noted that several full trash bags were sitting around the lobby area. Hardin reportedly told officers that Murphy was upstairs collecting her personal belongings, even though she also told them that she had no type of friendship or personal relationship with her. Murphy reportedly appeared shortly thereafter and reportedly asked the officers for help in carrying down a box that contained the last of her personal possessions. A verbal argument then broke out between the two women, which soon developed into a physical altercation, police said. The women pulled at each other's hair as police tried prying them apart, according to reports. Eventually subdued and secured, both women were placed under arrest and charged with mutual assault and battery.

Copper bandit strikes again

A police unit was dispatched to a Norfolk Street residence last week after complaints were made about a man damaging the building while attempting to remove copper gutters from it. The reporting party told police that a man was seen trying to remove the gutters and a description of the man was supplied to police. One of the responding officers recalled seeing a man fitting the description walking in the area earlier in the day, and further realized that the man had a prior history of stealing copper gutters from the same building. The officer had actually spoken to the man briefly at that time. Police left the scene after taking the report, but shortly thereafter another call came in reporting that the same suspect was once again attempting to remove the copper gutters from the building. One of the original responding officers was nearby as the call came in and returned to the building almost immediately. The reporting party led the officer to the rear of the building where the suspect, David Bluteau, 45, of Everett, was caught in the act of removing a piece of copper gutter, police said. The officer reportedly ordered Bluteau to stop when he began walking away, but he instead began running away, dropping a piece of gutter as he fled. Officers pursued and apprehended Bluteau, whereupon he was placed under arrest and charged with larceny from a building and destruction of property over \$250.

Double identity owner, driver

While making a random auto registration query, a Somerville Police unit discovered that the car in question's registered owner had a suspended license. The car was stopped on Broadway, near Fenwick Street, and the vehicle's driver was asked for her license. The driver, later identified as Nicola Clark, 45, of Mattapan, reportedly told police that she had no license, offered a false name (Chigitia Diggs), and further gave two separate Social Security numbers that matched no database query. Based on the fact that the driver was unlicensed, she was placed under arrest and charged with driving with a revoked license and giving a false name. It was later discovered that the actual registered owner of the car, whose license status is revoked and unrenovable, also had the name of Nicola Clark. The owner of the car will be issued a citation for allowing an unlicensed operator to drive it.

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

John Benbow, 54, January 21, 12:24 p.m., arrested at 77 Middlesex Ave. on charges of larceny over \$250 and resisting arrest.

Taquana Hardin, 21, of 5 Canal Ln., January 22, 10:11 a.m., arrested at home on a charge of assault and battery.

Felicia Murphy, 19, of 85 Cedar St., January 22, 10:11 a.m., arrested at 5 Canal Ln. on a charge of assault and battery.

David Bluteau, 45, of 190 Chute St., Everett, January 22, 10:04 p.m., arrested at home on charges of larceny from a building and destruction of property over \$250.

A **juvenile**, January 22, 10:28 p.m., arrested at 5 Canal Ln. on charges of resisting arrest, threat to commit a crime, and disturbing the peace.

Ronald Watson, 27, of 80 River Rd., January 24, 10:15 a.m., arrested at home on a charge of abuse prevention order violation.

Nicola Clark, 45, of 125 Hazleton St., Mattapan, January

24, 11:00 a.m., arrested at Broadway on charges of driving with a revoked license and giving a false name.

Bruce Villineau, 41, of 95 Capen St., Medford, January 24, 5:28 p.m., arrested at 785 Broadway on warrant charges of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license and uninsured motor vehicle or trailer.

Gregory Benard, 56, of 51 Trull St., January 27, 3:15 p.m., arrested on a warrant charge of utter false prescription.

Robert Linehan, 56, of 9 Ledgewood Way, Peabody, January 27, 10:35 p.m., arrested at 202 Somerville Ave. on a warrant charge of threat to commit a crime.

Incidents:

Theft:

January 22, 11:00 a.m., police reported a theft at Lowell St.

January 22, 12:18 p.m., police reported a theft at 225 Elm St.

January 22, 4:51 p.m., police reported a theft at Washington St.

January 22, 5:43 p.m., police

reported a theft at Oak St.

January 22, 6:30 p.m., police reported a theft at 1 Davis Sq.

January 22, 10:04 p.m., police reported a theft at Norfolk St.

January 23, 4:39 p.m., police reported a theft at Sewall St.

January 23, 6:46 p.m., police reported a theft at Cottage Ave.

January 23, 7:45 p.m., police reported a theft at Wigglesworth St.

January 23, 10:26 p.m., police reported a theft at 519 Somerville Ave.

January 24, 11:59 p.m., police reported a theft at 225 Elm St.

January 24, 12:42 p.m., police reported a theft at Bay State Ave.

January 24, 6:20 p.m., police reported a theft at Cross St.

January 24, 6:23 p.m., police reported a theft at High St.

January 24, 7:18 p.m., police reported a theft at Pearson Rd.

January 24, 10:06 p.m., police reported a theft at Stickney Ave.

January 24, 10:22 p.m., police reported a theft at Webster Ave.

January 25, 10:32 a.m., police reported a theft at Broadway.

January 25, 2:11 p.m., police reported a theft at Pearl St.

January 25, 2:58 p.m., police reported a theft at Eliot St.

January 27, 3:18 p.m., police reported a theft at Carlton St.

January 28, 9:55 a.m., police reported a theft at Curtis Ave.

January 28, 12:32 p.m., police reported a theft at Kent St.

January 28, 11:09 p.m., police reported a theft at Grant St.

Robbery:

January 27, 4:21 p.m., police reported a robbery at 220 Washington St.

January 27, 8:32 p.m., police reported a robbery at Highland Ave.

January 28, 12:57 a.m., police reported a robbery at Grant St.

January 28, 10:53 a.m., police reported a robbery at 338 Broadway.

January 28, 10:06 p.m., police reported a robbery at 46A Broadway.

Breaking & Entering:

January 22, 2:00 p.m., police

reported a breaking & entering at College Ave.

January 23, 8:43 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Cedar St.

January 26, 1:50 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Beacon St.

January 28, 9:19 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Wallace St.

January 28, 10:44 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Broadway.

January 28, 4:31 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Packard Ave.

January 28, 6:20 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at School St.

January 28, 8:28 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Ashland St.

Assault:

January 22, 10:11 a.m., police reported an assault at Canal Ln.

January 22, 8:53 p.m., police reported an assault at Somerville Ave.

January 28, 7:59 a.m., police reported an assault at Bailey Rd.

Bank robbery suspect sought



Somerville Police are seeking to identify the subject pictured above. On Monday, January 28, shortly before 11:00 a.m., the above subject entered the Citizens Bank at 338 Broadway. The subject passed a note demanding cash. He received an undisclosed amount of cash and fled the bank in an unknown direction. It is believed that he entered a vehicle, but no vehicle description is available. The suspect is described as a white male, thin build, late 20s or early 30s in age. Any information, please contact Somerville Police at 617 625-1212.

Armed robbery suspect sought



Somerville Police are seeking to identify the suspect pictured above. On Sunday, January 27, the suspect entered the Quick Stop Convenience store at 219 Highland Avenue. The suspect showed a long barrel handgun and demanded cash, "including the money in the box under the counter." The suspect fled with approximately \$1000 in cash. This is believed to be the same suspect who committed three armed robberies in Medford on January 24. The suspect appears to be wearing the same black knit cap with grey stripe in all robberies. The suspect should be considered armed and dangerous.

SHS trivia team takes on WGBH's 'High School Quiz Show'

By Cathleen Twardzik

Somerville High School's trivia team recently made a comeback at WGBH's High School Quiz Show. The team was one of the top 16 in Massachusetts.

The show was taped on January 26, and will air on March 3 at 6:30 p.m.

At the taping, Somerville competed against Lincoln-Sudbury in a "four-on-four" competition.

"Unfortunately, I can't give [away] the outcome of our game because it doesn't air on WGBH until March," said Ted Blake, teacher in the social studies department at Somerville High School, as well as coach of the trivia team.

Blake, the founder of the team, completes the majority of the recruiting for it in his advanced placement U.S. History class.

The six-member team is comprised of Blake's current or former students from that AP subject. However, all students at SHS are welcome to join trivia club.

This year's Somerville team includes: Zoe Iacovino, senior, veteran of the team, and a founding member of trivia club. Miles Bain, junior, and Celine Lessard-Brandt, junior, are both returning for their second season on Quiz Show. To round it out, John Iacovino, sophomore, joined his elder sister on the team.



Somerville High School's trivia team was recently taped on WGBH's "High School Quiz Show." The team was one of the top 16 in Massachusetts. Pictured from Left to Right: Graham Lessard-Brandt, RJ Bingham, Zoe Iacovino, John Iacovino, Celine Lessard-Brandt and Miles Bain.

The team's alternates are RJ Bingham, Junior, and Graham Lessard-Brandt, Sophomore.

All of the schools in Massachusetts may try their hand at a slot on the show. The 16 qualifying schools compete in a "single-elimination tournament." After that, the winning team competes against the winner of the Granite State Challenge, which is New Hampshire's version of the quiz show.

It must be noted that Somerville qualified on November 4 at the show's "Super Sunday" open tryout, at which time the SHS team triumphed over greater than 80 additional schools via a 100-question verbal trivia showdown. Finally, they won one of the 16 spots on High School Quiz Show. The

November event marked Somerville's third attendance of "Super Sunday."

High School Quiz Show is currently in its fourth season.

Last season, Somerville was defeated by Rockport High School, 375 to 280.

If Somerville prevails in the first-round against Lincoln-Sudbury, then it will snag another chance at WGBH on February 2. At that time, SHS would play the winner of the "matchup" between Advanced Math and Science Academy and Brookline.

Additional qualifying teams included: Wellesley, North Quincy, Lexington, Framingham, Needham, Acton-Boxborough, Rockport, Hingham, Chelmsford, Wachusett, Sharon and Hopkinton.

Somerville Lion honored



Photo by William Tauro

A good cause was celebrated last Thursday night as former mayor and recently retired South Middlesex County Register of Deeds Gene Brune and members of the Somerville Lions Club honored 85-year-old Murray Kusmin, the sole surviving charter member of Milford Lions. For the past 60 years he has been a member, beginning the quest to help find the cure for blindness. The historic evening was made even more memorable and an extra honor to Kusmin when his grandson, David Kusmin, was installed as a Lion that same night. This makes him a third generation family Lion member. Kusmin's son Steven, David's dad, is also a Lion as well. The event was well attended by Murray's family and friends, as well as by members of Somerville, Westwood, Cambridge and Milford Lions Clubs. Lions meet the needs of local communities and the world. Their 1.35 million members, who perform community service in 206 countries and geographic areas, are different in many ways, but share a core belief: that the "community is what we make it."

– William Tauro

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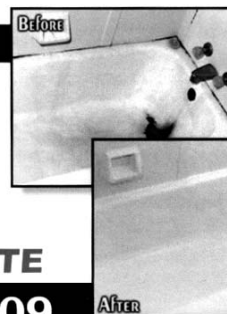
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Somerville Municipal Employees Association vote to approve new contract

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone announced on Tuesday that the membership of three bargaining units, A, B and D comprising the Somerville Municipal Employees Association (SMEA) voted last week to approve new labor contracts extending through 2016. On January 24, 2013, members of the SMEA and Mayor Curtatone approved six separate collective bargaining agreements that cover a six-year term, from 2010 to 2016, and ratified the agreement after a vote of 177 in favor and 11 opposed. The agreement approves a 14 percent wage increase retroactively from 2010 through 2016.

"We have been working hard to come to an agreement that is in the best interests of the city and of the union membership, and I want to thank Ed Halloran and his members for successfully ne-

gotiating a contract that we believe reflects those interests," said Mayor Curtatone. "Our city employees are dedicated, hard-working and diligent, and I am glad to be able, along with Bob Collins in our Legal Department and Bill Roche and his team in Personnel, to finally reach an amicable solution for all involved."

"This was a tribute to all efforts on both sides of the table. I would like to thank the Mayor and his staff for making the agreement a reality," said Ed Halloran, SMEA President. "We appreciate everyone's hard work and diligence during these negotiations and look forward to working together in the future. I would also thank the Aldermen for their support during the negotiations. I realize they were eager to see this contract ratified."

For each unit of the union, A, B and D, two agreements were

reached, one retroactively covering the time period from July 1, 2010 through June 30 2013, with the second agreement extending through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. The agreement also reforms overtime pay and health insurance matters, gives snow removal crews a guaranteed six hour rest within a 24-hour period during snow emergencies, and allows for annual wage increases. The contract also implements routine labor management communication meetings to improve city-wide labor efficiencies. The new agreement also settles the majority of pending legal action between the SMEA and the City of Somerville.

"The city hopes that with the conclusion of these negotiations and the establishment of regular labor-management committee meetings we can, together,



(L-R, starting with mayor): Mayor Curtatone; Ed Halloran, DPW, SMEA President; Ed DaSilva, Information Technology; Teresa Vicente, Information Technology; Kathy Carey, Veteran's Services; Michael Bowler, DPW; Jim Roderick, DPW, SMEA Vice President; Donna Amenta, Traffic and Parking; Linda Smith, Traffic and Parking; Kelly Como, ISD; Bill Roche, Acting Director of Personnel; Ann Cassesso, Library; Bob Collins, Law Department.

build a model of cooperation for our future," said the city's Chief Labor Counsel, Robert Collins. "In this agreement, we continue our trend of positive dealings municipal unions and I

commend SMEA leadership for their commitment to working in good faith and mutual respect to craft labor agreements that provide good value to workers and the city."

Quincy Street Park opens

By Harry Kane

A new woodland open space has opened outside of Union Square: Quincy Street Park. It is located between Somerville Avenue and Summer Street.

On a cold afternoon on Jan. 24, Mayor Curtatone opened the Quincy Street Park to the public with a traditional ribbon cutting.

"It's really a unique space," said Mayor Curtatone. "And

anytime, in the most densely populated city in New England, that we have the opportunity to reclaim space for open or recreation space, and get people out, to move more, to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood. We want to support that."

The small park is unique, said Arn Franzen, Director of Parks and Open Space. "It is the first truly green park in this city."

"We're hoping that we can use this park as a model for future parks," said Franzen. "Whether it's a vacant lot or a small piece of property which is not being used and is not suitable for a regular park, we hope that this park can be a model of how the city can approach those properties for reuse."

Ward 2 Alderman Heuston was instrumental in making sure this renovation happened.



Quincy Street Park is hereby officially open.

"It looks like a small piece, but believe me, this is a big deal," said Alderman Heuston.

Some of the features include an elevated boardwalk made of Perennial Wood and original curbstone from Somerville Avenue that was stockpiled and reused to create terraces

across the site. "We wanted to incorporate some new design elements and so rather than putting in the standard city park benches we have these new beautiful Adirondack chairs," said Franzen. The Adirondack chairs are made of recycled milk jugs.

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COMMENTARY

TALES OF SOMERVILLE

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Watch out, absentee landlords. We're watching you.

The View From Prospect Hill



All of us want to live in the best city that we can manage to fashion for ourselves. That goes without saying. Sometimes we have to crackdown a bit on those who let things go a bit too far, who don't seem to have respect for the community in which they live and/or own property. Peer pressure is one thing, but sometimes the law has to step in to move things along in the proper di-

rection, and in a timely manner. The currently proposed ordinance that is aimed at getting so-called "absentee landlords" to do their part to keep their properties clean and safe seems to be a sound idea at its core. There are times when negligent property owners will need to be called on their inattentive practices, and some form of regulation seems to

be in order. We do hope that city officials will weigh the available options carefully and apply just and prudent strategies for solving the problems in question. Specifically, the use of police officers to protect passers-by in perceived unsafe areas might warrant serious consideration. Could such a strategy create a drain on our precious police re-

sources? The question must be addressed before a final ordinance is implemented. We should do whatever we can do, within reason, to ensure that all of our neighborhoods become and remain as attractive and safe as we can possibly make them. Let us also take the steps necessary to do this in a clearly beneficial, deliberative way.

News Talk CONT. FROM PG 2

we are glad to hear that. We wish the new director and the staff nothing but the best for this New Year.

Happy Birthday to Phil Ercolini and Katie Latashia Harris, and a Happy Birthday to our good friends Maria Nella Nunes-Rollins, whom we hear just got a new dog. Also, Mike Daoud, Somerville Police Officer Mike Kennelly, Don Miele, and to everyone's favorite Traffic & Parking Control Officer, the friendly Mary Williams Killoren. We wish both Dorothy DiMarzo and Lynn Lenoir a very best and enjoyable birthday. Lifelong resident Phil Ercolini of East Somerville is also celebrating this week. Happy 50th birthdays to twin brothers BU Police Officer Richard Cabral and his brother Somerville Deputy Police Chief Michael Cabral who have been seen out and about celebrating in the Ville.

Continuing its efforts to support victims of Hurricane Sandy on the Jersey Shore,

Mayor Joe Curtatone announced that the City of Somerville will host a "Donation Day" event on Monday, February 4, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at The Burren in Davis Square. City staff will be stationed in The Burren's Back Room to collect donations, and will be available to speak with residents about issues related to city services. Donors will also be entered into a raffle for exciting prizes to be named later this week. In the meantime, anyone interested in donating supplies may do so by visiting City Hall, the Police Station, or Library (main branch), or if you have school children, by dropping off supplies at schools. Please visit the city's website, www.somervillema.gov, Facebook page, or follow them on Twitter (@Somerville City) for updates on the event and donation drive.

A good friend to many here in Somerville, Charles "Freddie" Gill, passed away this past Saturday in his sleep from a long illness. He was a great guy and was a lot of fun to be around.

He will be waked in Saugus this coming Friday night at Bisbee-Porcella Funeral Home. Calling hours are 4-8 p.m.

Congratulations to Prospect Hill Academy, who was recently named as one of the top 100 charter schools in the nation. In an annual study of charter schools conducted by U.S. News & World Report, PHA was named as one of Massachusetts' best charter schools. The rankings were based on college readiness and test proficiency and included more than 5,600 charter schools nationally.

Don't forget, there is still time to register for the Somerville High Adult Evening School. Lots of classes are still available. Register online at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/eveningschool, or go directly at 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday nights, and register. You can't beat the prices. Classes include Medical Interpretation, Smart Social Security Planning for both boomers and beyond, calligraphy writing, ESL

computer for beginners, Drivers Ed, Academic Recovery, furniture making, and cake decorating. Classes are also beginning in getting a real estate license, including taking the state exam.

This year's Somerville High School musical production, *The Wizard of Oz*, features students from around the District. Third, fourth and fifth grade students from elementary schools throughout the District will join a Somerville High School cast and crew of more than 30 for a fun and magical musical performance. This year's performances will be held at the historic Somerville Theatre in Davis Square on Thursday, January 31, 7 p.m., Friday, February 1, 7 p.m. and Saturday, February 2, 2:00 p.m. Tickets prices are \$6 for Students and Seniors; \$8 General Admission. You can buy tickets in advance at <http://www.ticketstage.com/SHS>. (A convenience fee applies to tickets purchased online) Tickets will also be available at the door.

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.

Gun control: A national conversation



By Joseph A. Curtatone

This month, President Obama, and more recently, Senator Diane Feinstein of

California, began the difficult debate about gun control. Let me be frank: I am a former gun owner, and a supporter of the rights we are granted as American citizens under the Second Amendment. I am also strongly in support of the plan set in motion by President Obama and Senator Feinstein.

I am a proud and active member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a national advocacy organization co-chaired by Mayors Bloomberg of New York and Menino of Boston. Joining my colleagues in seeking saner policies around firearm sales and

ownership is most definitely a political act, and an act of conscience. Like many other gun owners past and present, I see no contradiction between endorsing the public's access to firearms and a deep, personal conviction that reform is needed in the area of gun regulation.

As I look back on the violence of 2012, from the streets of Chicago, to a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, to the devastation of Newtown, Connecticut, and as I confront the staggering statistic that 30,000 Americans die each year due to gun violence, I have to applaud

President Obama for starting the national conversation that will, I hope, begin to provide some relief.

At a minimum, his proposal would require criminal background checks for all gun buyers. The 23-step plan would also add more counselors and resource officers to schools and create better access to mental health services. I commend the President for recognizing the role mental health resources play in this issue, and I hope this is just the start of a conversation that will help us better understand how to prevent a lack of

mental health care from potentially leading to tragic events.

But perhaps most important, the plan boldly calls for the reintroduction and the strengthening of the prohibition on assault weapons, a ban that expired in 1994 and that we wrongly failed to renew. The evidence from Australia makes the choice clear.

Following a mass shooting in Tasmania in 1996, the Australian government enacted sweeping gun control measures, which included massive regulation around semi-automatic weapons. In the decade prior to the reform,

Continued on page 14

What we can learn from the School Committee's selection process – Part 1: The facts



By William C. Shelton

In December, long-time Ward 1 Alderman Bill Roche resigned from the Board and was re-

placed by the Ward's School Committee Member Maureen Bastardi. The process that the School Committee conducted in selecting her replacement reveals much about how our city's long-term demographic changes are beginning to affect its political culture.

In this column, I'll lay out the facts of what happened. In the next, I want to discuss their implications. Neither are simple.

On Saturday, December 8th, Ms. Bastardi learned that Bill Roche was resigning from the Board of Alderman and would nominate her to replace him. This came as a complete surprise, and she quickly informed her School Committee colleagues.

The City Charter says that if a vacancy occurs less than one year before the election that would fill it, "the remaining members

shall appoint" a replacement to serve until that election. It is silent about how to do so.

Paul Bockelman, who was then School Committee Chairman, tells me that as soon as he received the news, he hoped that the Committee would conduct an "open" appointment process in two senses: candidacy would be open to any qualified Ward 1 voter, and every element of the process would be open to the

public.

Five days after Ms. Bastardi learned of Mr. Roche's resignation, the Board of Aldermen appointed her to replace him. The same day, she informed the School Committee that she intended to nominate Steven Roix to replace her. Mr. Roix is a civil engineer who has lived in Ward 1 since 2004 and, by all accounts, is a thoughtful guy and an engaged

Continued on page 15

Sign of the times

**By Courtney O'Keefe
Ward 5 Online**

They direct us, inform us, and identify places we are looking for. They come in all shapes, sizes, colors and styles, but collectively, they are a significant part of our daily lives. One never really thinks of how important signs are, unless of course, we're desperately looking for the

one we need.

There is a group of residents, business owners and patrons looking for a particular sign here in Somerville. A sign that has been repeatedly replaced after being damaged and finally removed completely to make way for a streetscape improvement project that has left us with increased lighting, wider sidewalks, safer crosswalks,

but no sign.

Word reached the Aldermanic Chambers on Thursday, January 24, as Ward 5 Alderman Sean O'Donovan asked, once again, for the installation of a sign identifying and highlighting Magoun Square that could withstand the abuse that claimed the lives of previous signs.

You wouldn't think that a

simple sign would mean so much to a group of people, but this time is different. After two years of construction, newspaper headlines, Board of Aldermen agenda items and watching businesses come and go, all of us 'gouners want our sign that tells everyone that they are entering our beloved Magoun Square. You're here! Please stay! Try the Mac N' Cheese!

This sign may be a budget line item for the City of Somerville, but it's so much more for Magoun Square. It states who we are, where we are and, most importantly, that we are here and ready for whatever the future has in store for us. It tells the tale of how far we've come and where we are ready to go.

Magoun Square is ready for our sign!

Life in the Ville by Jimmy Del Ponte

What's up, Doc?



They showed up your house at all hours of the day or night in all kinds of weather. They healed the ill in the Ville. They carried their black leather bag and they brought comfort. The family doctor used to make house calls to visit their sick patients. We all have memories of the man who made us all better. We also feared him because he was also the one who may have had to

give us that dreaded...shot.

There were a lot of doctors in Somerville back in the day. When your parents called, they came. We all remember trips to the doctor's office too. It had a very distinct smell. A sort of mixture of leather and rubbing alcohol, and sometimes tobacco and Old Spice. After I share some personal memories of the family doctors all lumped together below, I will list some of the noble healer's names.

"He (the doctor) would show up with his little black bag, in a black suit with a crisp white shirt and tie. We would walk to his office where we would and read Highlights for Children magazines. When he showed up at our house, I remember my siblings and me hiding, especially when he had his big silver needle to give us a shot.

He was our dear and respected family doctor, and we miss the good old days of family house calls.

"Our Doctor delivered me and my sister...twins...at Somerville Hospital...years later I had surgery when I was around 18 or 19...while being the operating room...who walks in...our old family doctor!"

"I think he delivered all of us (well, except one who came too soon and was born in an ambulance). It was an honor when he came for a home visit to be the one who got the chair from the dining room to put beside

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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records the votes of local representatives on eight roll calls and local senators on four roll calls from the week of January 21-25.

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.

All roll calls were on proposed changes in the rules of the Legislature. Most of the proposals were offered by Republicans who in most cases voted for the new rules while Democrats opposed them.

PUT JOINT COMMITTEE ROLL CALLS ON WEBSITE (H 2015)

House 29-126, rejected a rule that would require joint committee votes cast by legislators on bills heard by their committees to be posted on the Legislature's website. Current rules require these committee votes to be kept at the Statehouse in the offices of the committee and be available for public inspection upon reasonable notice and during regular office hours.

Supporters of the new rule said this would simply give people quick and easy access to the committee votes of their legislators. They noted that under current rules, a person has to drive to Boston during business hours in order to obtain this information. They said requiring a trip of perhaps hundreds of miles is ridiculous and archaic.

Opponents offered no arguments. In the past, opponents have said the idea is a good one but the website is not yet ready technologically to implement this system. Others have said the posting would be confusing. Some have argued that the current process of allowing a person to come to the Statehouse to get these roll calls is sufficient and has worked well for years. (A "Yes" vote is for posting the roll calls on the website. A "No" vote is against posting.)

Rep. Denise Provost	No
Rep. Carl Sciortino	No
Rep. Timothy Toomey	No

REQUIRE TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO APPROVE TAX HIKE (H 2013)

House 29-124, rejected a rule that would prohibit a tax hike from taking effect unless it is approved on a roll call vote by two-thirds of the members of the House. Current rules require only a majority vote.

Supporters of the new rule said that the higher threshold would protect the interests of taxpayers and ensure that a tax hike is absolutely necessary and has broad support.

Opponents of the new rule said that it is difficult to get

a two-thirds majority to support a tax hike and argued that the requirement should not be any higher for a tax hike than for any other legislation. (A "Yes" vote is for requiring a two-thirds vote for a tax hike. A "No" vote is against the requirement.)

Rep. Denise Provost	No
Rep. Carl Sciortino	No
Rep. Timothy Toomey	No

RAINY DAY FUND (H 2015)

House 29-126, rejected a rule that would require a two-thirds instead of a majority vote of the Legislature in order to spend money from the state's Rainy Day Fund. The fund is a stabilization fund established by the Legislature to ensure that money is put aside in case of an economic downturn. The money can only be spent to make up for revenue shortfalls or federal funding reductions and when events threaten the health, safety or welfare of citizens.

Supporters of the new rule said that the two-thirds requirement would ensure that the money is used only when absolutely necessary. They noted that the higher hurdle would make it difficult to raid the fund unless there is a real emergency and overwhelming legislative support.

Opponents said that a two-thirds requirement is too strict and nearly impossible to obtain. They noted that it only takes a majority vote to place money into the fund and argued that it should take the same vote to spend it. (A "Yes" vote is for the two-thirds requirement. A "No" vote is against the two-thirds requirement.)

Rep. Denise Provost	No
Rep. Carl Sciortino	No
Rep. Timothy Toomey	No

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES (H 2015)

House 29-125, rejected a rule requiring that a conference committee report be available to the public by 1 p.m. the day before it is considered by the Legislature. Current rules require it to be available at 8 p.m. the night before a session. A conference committee drafts a compromise version of legislation when the House and Senate approve different versions of bills, including the state budget.

Supporters of the new rule said it will ensure that legislators have an opportunity to read and understand the multi-billion dollar state budget and other conference committee bills prior to being asked to blindly vote on them.

Amendment opponents said the current rule is sufficient. (A "Yes" vote is for the 1 p.m. deadline. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Denise Provost	No
Rep. Carl Sciortino	No
Rep. Timothy Toomey	No

ALLOW USE OF CELL PHONES IN HOUSE CHAMBER (H 2013)

House 29-126, rejected a rule that would allow members to use their cell phones in the House chamber as long as they use them in a "quiet and courteous fashion." Current House rules prohibit the use of any cell phones.

Supporters of the new rule said that cell phones are no longer a novelty but are an integral part of communicating.

Beacon Hill Roll Call continued



They noted cell phones are now also used to send silent e-mails and texts and find information on the Internet.

Opponents said the ringing of cell phones and the ensuing conversations ruin the decorum of the chamber. (A “Yes” vote is for allowing cell phones. A “No” vote is against allowing them.)

Rep. Denise Provost	No
Rep. Carl Sciortino	No
Rep. Timothy Toomey	No

SPEAKER ONLY VOTES IN A TIE (H 2013)

House 22-131, rejected a rule that would prohibit the speaker of the House from voting on a roll call except in the case of a tie. Current rules allow the speaker to vote on all roll calls.

Supporters of the new rule argued that members often rush into the chamber to vote, sometimes without having heard the debate. They argued that some of these members simply look at the roll call board and vote the same way the speaker does.

Opponents offered no arguments. (A “Yes” vote is for allowing the speaker to vote only on tie votes. A “No” vote is against it.)

Rep. Denise Provost	No
Rep. Carl Sciortino	No
Rep. Timothy Toomey	No

EQUAL REPRESENTATION ON ETHICS COMMITTEE (H 2013)

House 29-126, rejected a rule that would change the current 11-member Ethics Committee to an eight-member one that would include four Democrats and four Republicans. Current rules provide for seven Democrats and only four Republicans on the 11-member committee.

Supporters of the new rule said a balanced membership, regardless of which party controls the House, would create a truly bipartisan committee and ensure that investigations into any representative's or employee's conduct are fair and nonpartisan. They noted that the U.S. Congress' Ethics Committee has an equal number of members from both parties.

Opponents said no one has challenged the fairness or integrity of the current Ethics Committee with its Democratic majority. They noted it is illogical to have an equal number of members from each party on the committee when the makeup of the House membership is 129 Democrats and 29 Republicans. (A “Yes” vote is for the rule requiring that the Ethics Committee include an equal number of Democrats and Republicans. A “No” vote is against it.)

Rep. Denise Provost	No
Rep. Carl Sciortino	No
Rep. Timothy Toomey	No

ADOPT LOCAL AID RESOLUTIONS BY MARCH 15 (H 2015)

House 29-126, rejected a rule that would require the House and Senate to annually adopt by March 15 resolutions stating the minimum amount of local aid the state will give each city and town for that fiscal year.

Supporters of the new rule said many towns craft their budgets at town meetings in March and April and need to know as soon as possible how much they will receive from the state. They argued it is unfair and irresponsible to expect communities to assemble their budgets without this information.

Amendment opponents said the Legislature should inform cities and towns as soon as possible but should not have its hands tied by some arbitrary date. They noted things often change in a matter of days and argued that the Legislature does not know in March what the state's financial situation will be when a budget is finally approved in May or June. (A “Yes” vote is for the March deadline. A “No” vote is against it.)

Rep. Denise Provost	No
Rep. Carl Sciortino	No
Rep. Timothy Toomey	No

SESSIONS BEYOND MIDNIGHT (S 7)

Senate 4-35, rejected a rule requiring a unanimous vote in order for any Senate session to continue beyond midnight. Current law requires a two-thirds vote to go past midnight.

Amendment supporters said requiring unanimous consent will virtually put an end to post-midnight sessions and argued it is unnecessary and irresponsible to work while legislators are exhausted and taxpayers are asleep.

Amendment opponents said the amendment is undemocratic and will allow one legislator to end Senate debate and action. (A “Yes” vote is for requiring a unanimous vote to continue beyond midnight. A “No” vote is against it.)

Sen. Sal DiDomenico	No
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	No

PROHIBIT “PAIRED VOTES” (S 7)

Senate 4-35, rejected a rule that would ban, except when the senator is absent because of military service or a physical incapacity, the current Senate practice of “pairing votes.”

This pairing process allows an absent senator to express how he or she would have voted on a roll call. Under the arrangement, the absent senator contacts a senator who is present and plans to vote the opposite way. The present senator agrees to “pair” his or her vote with the vote of the absent senator. Neither vote is counted in the official total--they cancel each other out.

Supporters of the new rule said this process allows both senators to be unofficially recorded on the roll call.

Opponents said it is illogical and misleading to have a member “recorded” on a vote if he or she was not in the chamber. They also noted it confuses the public which often thinks both senators were present. (A “Yes” vote is for banning paired votes. A “No” vote is against the ban.)

Sen. Sal DiDomenico	No
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	No

7 DAYS NOTICE FOR TAX HIKE LEGISLATION (S 7)

Senate 4-35, rejected a rule requiring that any measure that proposes an increase in taxes be available in print and posted on the Senate website at least seven days prior to consideration.

Supporters of the new rule said that legislators and taxpayers should have at least a week to read and understand all proposed tax hikes.

Opponents said current rules already provide procedures, including a motion to postpone, to delay consideration of a tax hike for many days. (A “Yes” vote is for seven days notice. A “No” vote is against it.)

Sen. Sal DiDomenico	No
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	No

SENATE ROLL CALLS ON WEBSITE WITHIN TWO DAYS (S 7)

Senate 39-0, approved a rule requiring the Senate Clerk by May 1, 2013 to post the results, including the bill title and number, of all roll call votes “in a manner easily identifiable, searchable and conspicuously located” no longer than two days after the vote is taken.

Supporters said citizens should have quick and easy access to this information on how their senators vote. (A “Yes” vote is for the rule.)

Sen. Sal DiDomenico	Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

\$34.8 BILLION FISCAL 2014 BUDGET - Gov. Deval Patrick filed a \$34.8 billion fiscal 2014 state budget for the fiscal year that begins on July 1--a 6.9 percent increase over last year. The package includes a hike in the income tax from 5.25 percent to 6.25 percent to support education initiatives and a cut in the sales tax from 6.25 percent to 4.5 percent and dedicating all of that revenue to support transportation projects; doubling the personal exemptions; and eliminating a number of itemized deductions.

Other provisions include repealing the exemption of candy and soda from the sales tax; increasing the cigarette tax by \$1 to \$3.51 per pack and hiking taxes on cigars, smokeless tobacco and loose tobacco; capping the film tax credit at \$40 million per year; and reinstating the deduction for life insurance and annuity interest.

The House will hold hearings on the governor's package and then draft its own version that will be debated and amended on the House floor. The Senate will follow suit with its own draft, and a House-Senate conference committee will eventually craft a plan that will be presented to the House and Senate for consideration and then sent to the governor.

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION? *Beacon Hill Roll Call* tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that 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 that 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 January 21-25, the House met for a total of five hours and 46 minutes while the Senate met for a total of two hours and 39 minutes.

Mon. January 21	No House session No Senate session
Tues. January 22	House 11:05 a.m. to 11:11 a.m. Senate 11:02 a.m. to 11:22 a.m.
Wed. January 23	House 12:05 p.m. to 5:38 p.m. No Senate session
Thurs. January 24	House 11:04 a.m. to 11:11 a.m. Senate 2:06 p.m. to 4:25 p.m.
Fri. January 25	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

A PICNIC at The Nave Gallery Annex

The Nave Gallery Annex celebrated its first event at its Davis Sq. location last Friday with the opening reception for the PICNIC exhibit, now showing through Feb. 8.

Guests at the opening were treated to eye-opening artworks, and music by Dan Blakeslee, Audrey Ryan and Tom Janovitz. Event sponsor, Cuppow, generously gifted 25 visitors with free samples of their product.

The goal of the PICNIC exhibit is to take the visitor away from the cold starkness of winter and create a sense of the warmth of a summertime outing.

The gallery seemed to have succeeded perfectly on its opening day.





Photos by Charles Daniels and Nave Gallery Annex

SOMERVILLE SPORTS

Hockey in the hunt for league title Highlanders rally to tie Medford

By Mike Stoller

Somerville and Medford duked it out in a highly entertaining Greater Boston League hockey tilt Saturday, in a game that proved to be a microcosm of the greater battle for the league title.

With Saturday's solid 3-3 tie with visiting Medford, the Highlanders also stayed tied with the Mustangs for first place with seven points in the league standings. Both teams stand at 3-0-1.

Overall, Somerville improved its record to 6-3-3 and needs only five points in eight games to qualify for the state tournament.

The Highlanders rallied from a 3-1 deficit with two goals in

the third period to earn the tie.

In some way, the comeback was almost as big as a win for the Highlanders, whose current seniors have played to only tough defeats against the Mustangs in past years.

"This game was big for our seniors, who have never beat Medford," Somerville head coach Chuck Allen said. "We played a great second period. We outplayed them, but came out losing. We had our chances, but sometimes you don't get the bounces. But we kept our composure and came out in the third period and gave a great effort and were rewarded with a tie."

With four minutes left in the game, on the power play, Troy

Martini converted on a play set up by C.J. Albanese and Dan Camara.

Then, after pulling the goalie, Somerville struck again with just 40 ticks left. Matt Vogel breezed a beautiful slap shot into the top corner glove side, after taking a terrific pass from Camara from along the boards.

The Highlanders also rallied from a 1-0 deficit in the first period, when Albanese tallied on feed from Shayne Lafée.

"It was a tight forechecking game, and emotions were up," Allen said. "It's a big rivalry."

Sergey Markorov earned the win in goal, stopping 15 shots.

The overall effort keeps the Highlanders strongly in the

hunt for the league crown, which has slipped by them on the ice for more than two decades. Somerville has one game left against Medford on the road Feb. 6.

"We have to keep playing this way," Allen said. "We're playing disciplined, and the whole game was a good game for us. It was a hard grinding, clean game. And tying the game was big for us."

Also, in last week's game against Everett, Camara led the Highlanders with a hat trick and two assists. Sophomore Anthony "Turtle" Vallesio and Albanese each had a pair of goals, and Lafée also scored. Martini chipped in with two assists.

"We won, but I don't change

my style [in that] as a coach you're never satisfied. You always have things to work on," Allen said. "I'm happy with the result. And we got some kids in-to play who haven't played that much, so that was good for team morale."

Markorov played the first two periods in goal, and junior Tim Megnia took over in the final frame. Each allowed only one goal.

"We didn't look past this game to Medford, which is big," Allen said. "We responded, and I was happy about that. Today's another day."

The Highlanders will host Cambridge Rindge and Latin tonight.

Want to write local Somerville stories?
Call 617-666-4010 and speak to the Assignment Editor

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#354

1. What academy lies on the banks of the Hudson River north of NYC?
2. What Greek goddess was the goddess of wisdom and patroness and protectress of cities, especially Athens?
3. Who served as the 22nd and the 24th U.S. president?
4. What two letters are symbols for 1,000?
5. What show did Cybill Shepherd play "Madelyn" ("Maddie") on?
6. What country's flag is all green?
7. Where is the highest point in the United States?
8. What is the top of a fraction called?
9. What was the occupation of William J. Morrison, the inventor of the machine that spins cotton candy?
10. Who was "Running Bear" in love with in the 50's hit song?
11. What famous actress did Winston Churchill propose marriage to?
12. "Love means never to have to say you're sorry" is a quote from what movie?

Answers on page 23

Cabral twins turn 50



No, you're not seeing double. On Saturday, January 26, Somerville Deputy Police Chief Michael Cabral and his twin brother, Boston University Police Officer Richard Cabral, were out on the town celebrating their 50th birthday.

— William Tauro

Gun control: A national conversation CONT. FROM PG 9

Australia saw 11 mass shootings. There has not been a single incident since. Meanwhile, in the 13 years since that bipartisan legislation passed, Australia has seen a 59 percent drop in all gun-related homicides between 1995 and 2006, with a 65 percent reduction in suicides. Robberies involving guns are down. Home invasion rates are steady. And while these are compelling numbers from numerous studies, it's important to remember that they are also lives.

At MAIG, we are working to keep guns off our streets, and the President's proposal goes to the core of our mission: "As mayors, our highest responsibility is to enforce the law and to protect the people we serve. The issue of illegal guns is not conservative or liberal; it is an issue of law and order, and life or death."

But the NRA leadership con-

tinues to maintain that any proposal to ban or regulate the sale of firearms disregards the Second Amendment. We know that most gun owners, and even most NRA members, do not share those extreme views. Nor do I. The President's proposal is not an issue of Second Amendment rights. From free speech to property ownership, from privacy to the practice of religion, no right is completely unrestricted: As a democratically governed civil society, our nation has always put reasonable limits on our constitutional rights when to do so is in the public interest. In this case, the President's recommendations are a modest, mainstream response to a genuine problem.

Perhaps Mayor Bloomberg said it best, "No piece of legislation is perfect and no piece of legislation is 100 percent effec-

tive. Think of it like a speeding limit. You may every once in a while violate the speeding limit, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't have speeding limits, they protect people's lives."

I look forward to the debate on this issue, and am hopeful that we can arrive at a shared national approach that will help us decrease the incidence of gun violence in this country. Later this week, I will join Mayor Menino and other local officials and members of MAIG in expressing our official support for President Obama, and I will continue to advocate for the urgent reform of our national firearms policies.

At the end of the day, the message is simple: What happened in Aurora, Chicago, and Newtown last year could happen anywhere. It's our job now to make sure it can't.



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What we can learn from the School Committee's selection process CONT. FROM PG 9

parent and citizen. But he was unknown to any of the other School Committee members.

Mary Jo Rosetti, who would become School Committee Chair in three weeks, felt a conflict between urgency to fill the vacant position and responsibility to do it with thoughtful deliberation. School Councils throughout the city were scheduled to present to the School Committee the plans that they had developed with their principals to improve their schools. She felt that Ward 1 should be ably represented in these meetings.

But Ms. Rosetti believed that the Committee had a responsibility to assess Mr. Roix's qualifications and commitment, and they couldn't do so within the three days remaining before their next official meeting. She felt that it was entirely appropriate for the Board of Aldermen to appoint Ms. Bastardi, since Ward 1 voters had elected her. But if the School Committee were going to take the time to assess Mr. Roix, who had not been elected, shouldn't they consider other qualified nominees as well?

Open meeting laws prohibit the School Committee as a whole from discussing substantive or process issues outside of an official meeting. So over the weekend, Mr. Bockelman and Ms. Rosetti conferred. They drafted a selection process to present to their colleagues Monday evening.

Meanwhile, stakeholder groups had begun mobilizing to advocate for an open nomination process. Progress Together for Somerville is a community group "focused on providing the best

public education for all children across the city." Its organizers were disproportionately parents who make their living as professionals, but it has reached out to people from all income and cultural groups.

The Welcome Project conducts "programs that strengthen the capacity of immigrant youth, adults and families to advocate for themselves and influence schools, government, and other institutions." On Sunday December 16, the Welcome Project and Progress Together jointly sent a communication to School Committee members.

They asked that the Committee "Work with community groups and local institutions...to identify candidates that will best represent the families of Ward 1."

Throughout the weekend and Monday, School Committee members received over a dozen emails from parents echoing these requests. Compared to most School Committee issues, this was a tsunami of advocacy.

On Monday evening, the Committee met early to hash out the details of the replacement process. Its members, including Mayor Joe Curtatone and Board of Aldermen President Tom Taylor, voted unanimously to adopt the following process:

- Publicize the vacancy through all available media
- Set a January 10th deadline for interested candidates to submit statements of interest and résumés
- Review submissions and select candidates to interview
- Conduct interviews and make a selection

The East Somerville Community School Parent Teachers Association convened on January 3rd "to help identify candidates that represent the current population of East Somerville's Ward 1, not to advocate for any particular candidate."

Of the 504 students in Ward 1's East Somerville Community School, 84% are from minority backgrounds, and 73% are Hispanic or Latino. English is not the first language in 74% of students' homes. And 75% receive free or reduced-fee lunches.

After extensive discussion, the PTA proposed to the School Committee the following criteria for selecting the Ward 1 representative:

1. Bilingual: Spanish/English
2. Comfortable working with all of Ward 1's cultures
3. Willing and interested in reaching out to teachers, staff, parents and the PTA
4. Willing to consistently stand up for the needs of Ward 1 schools
5. Committed to education and to Somerville Schools

The Committee received applications from ten candidates. The field included four professionals who moved to Somerville as adults, four immigrants, and two from what I affectionately call "old Somerville." Mr. Bockelman says that they were all qualified, and any one of them could be a worthy Committee Member.

This is remarkable for several reasons. East Somerville is among the least politically active wards in the city. And being a School Committee member is a

demanding job that pays all of \$10,500 per year, plus health insurance. It has been at least three decades since Somerville has seen this level of interest in a city office.

Ms. Rosetti says that trying to pick just one from such a highly qualified field was painful. But the process itself was powerful.

On January 15th, the Committee interviewed all of the eight candidates who were able to attend the meeting, and selected four to interview in depth: Mr. Roix; Bonny Carrol, who grew up in the Mystic Projects and has contributed to Somerville's well-being in many different roles; Ben Echevarria, who was one of the first minority kids to go through Winter Hill Community School and is now a Baptist minister; and Yvette Verdieu, a Haitian immigrant who has long been active in city commissions and community groups.

The Committee met again last Tuesday and interviewed the finalists in greater depth. On their second vote, they chose Mr. Echevarria. In his interview, he had said that he should be selected only if he were the best candidate. "If someone voted for me because of the language I speak or the color of my skin, it would be insulting."

In the days following the selection, the School Committee received emails from former candidates who praised the process, said that they had benefitted from it, and committed to continue working to improve Somerville Schools. Among them were the three finalists who had not been selected.

THE Somerville News Person of the Week January 30, 2013



Meet Jeanette Wiltshire. Every Wednesday Jeanette picks up The Somerville News and delivers it to her neighbors and friends at Ciampa Manor, earning her title as The News' oldest paper delivery person. Jeanette is a retired nurse and served in the armed forces. She helps her neighbors by running errands. She always has a big smile and a wave as she makes her daily trips into Davis Square. Jeanette assists with the Hearty Meals program at the Somerville Community Baptist Church. Jeanette is celebrating her 80th birthday on Feb. 4. She is an avid Red Sox fan and we want to wish her a very Happy 80th Birthday! If you see her around Davis Square stop and say "Hi." You will be glad you did, and find out why she's The Somerville News Person of the Week for January 30, 2013.

BAKER TRAVEL

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No 607209

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Beacon Street Reconstruction and Improvement project in the City of Somerville, MA.

WHERE: John F. Kennedy Elementary School
5 Cherry Street
Somerville, MA 02144

WHEN: Monday, February 4, 2013 at 6:30 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Beacon Street project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of roadway reconstruction, curbing, ADA compliant sidewalks and ramps, drainage, traffic and pedestrian signals, crosswalks, street lighting, street trees, and roadway safety and operational improvements. Bicycle accommodations will be provided by use of designated bicycle lanes and bicycle tracks. Removal of on-street parking is proposed on the north side of Beacon Street from Oxford Street to Museum Street and from Park Street to Washington Street.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The City of Somerville is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be discussed at this hearing.

Written views received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the hearing shall be displayed for public inspection and copying at the time and date listed above. Plans will be on display one-half hour before the hearing begins, with an engineer in attendance to answer questions regarding this project. A project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below.

Written statements and other exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements made at the Public Hearing regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Thomas F. Broderick, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention.: Project Management Section, Project File No. 607209. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked within ten (10) business days of this Public Hearing. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In case of inclement weather, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the internet at <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>

FRANCIS A. DEPAOLA, P.E.
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

THOMAS F. BRODERICK, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

1/23/13, 1/30/13 The Somerville News



ADVERTISEMENT

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from General Contractors for the Clarendon Hill Site Improvements Project for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by GCG Associates, Inc.

The Project consists of: The reclamation of an existing parking lot and driveway, paving, sidewalk construction, full-depth pavement construction, relocation of a driveway entrance, relocation of a light pole, construction of a concrete dumpster pad and enclosure fence, installation of steel guard rail, placement of roadway fill, grading, landscaping, and other miscellaneous site work within the Clarendon Hill Development.

The work is estimated to cost \$258,000

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30 § 39M & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

General Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 20, 2013 and publicly opened, forthwith.

Bid should be mailed to or dropped of at: The Office of the Executive Director, Somerville Housing Authority, Main Office, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145 and received no later than 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 20, 2013.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up at: GCG Associates, Inc.
84 Main Street
Wilmington, MA 01887

There is a plan deposit of \$ 25 per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to the Somerville Housing Authority.

Deposits must be a certified or cashier's check. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within thirty days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise the deposit shall be the property of the Somerville Housing Authority.

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for \$ 30 per set, payable to the GCG Associates, to cover mail handling costs.

The Contract Documents may be seen, but not removed at:

Project Dog 18 Graf Road Suite #8 Newburyport, MA 01950 (978) 499-9014	MHC/Joseph Merrit & Co 17 Everberg Road - Unit C Woburn, MA 01960 (781) 430-2008	Reed Construction Data Document Processing Center 30 Technology Parkway South, Suite 500 Norcross, GA 30092-4578 (203) 426-0450
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1/30/13 The Somerville News



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

MICHAEL F. GLAVIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (SHPC) shall hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 6:40 p.m. in the Third Floor Conference Room, City Hall (93 Highland Avenue) regarding a proposal by Applicant Anthony Cota to demolish the funeral parlor at 197 Washington Street.

The subject of the hearing will be a review of the initial determination by the SHPC that under the City of Somerville Zoning Ordinance Section 7-28b(2), the structure is considered "Significant". Public testimony followed by discussion and a vote by the Commission will be taken regarding if the building should be "Preferably Preserved". For further information, please contact Commission Staff Kristi Chase at (617) 625- 6600 x 2525 (kchase@somervillema.gov), or Amie Hayes at (617) 625-6600 x 2534 (ahayes@somervillema.gov).

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
BOARD OF ALDERMEN

There will be a Public Hearing before the Board of Aldermen's Committee on Licenses and Permits on **Wednesday, February 6, 2013, at 6:00 PM**, in the Committee Room on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, on the petition of GE & M Auto Service Inc. dba Alewife Automotive to expand their Used Car Dealer's License Class II at 395 Alewife Brook Parkway by an additional 20 vehicles stored outside (for a total of 0 vehicles inside, and 30 vehicles outside, for the used car dealership).

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

JOHN J. LONG
CITY CLERK

1/30/13 The Somerville News



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
BOARD OF ALDERMEN

There will be a Public Hearing before the Board of Aldermen's Committee on Licenses and Permits on **Wednesday, February 6, 2013, at 6:00 PM**, in the Committee Room on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, on the petition of PJs Auto Sales Inc., 161 Broadway, for a Garage License, for mechanical repairs, washing vehicles, parking vehicles, and storing registered and unregistered vehicles, all for up to 67 vehicles inside and 4 vehicles outside, operating Mon-Fri 8AM-6PM, Sat 8AM-2PM, Sun Closed.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

JOHN J. LONG
CITY CLERK

1/30/13 The Somerville News



The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission shall hold a Public Hearing on Tues., February 19, 2013 at 6:40 p.m. in the Third Floor Conference Room, City Hall regarding a proposed demolition of the industrial buildings at 95-101 Wheatland Street, submitted by Applicant: Richard Berg.

The subject of the hearing will be a review of the SHPC's initial determination that under City of Somerville Zoning Ordinance Section 7-28b(2), the house is considered "significant". Public testimony followed by discussion and a vote by the Commission will be taken on whether the building should be "preferably preserved". For further information, please contact the Commission's Staff via (617) 625-6600 x. 2525 or kchase@ci.somerville.ma.us.

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
INVITATION FOR BID
EAST SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
290 WASHINGTON STREET
SOMERVILLE, MA 02143**

IFB # 13-63

The City of Somerville, Massachusetts, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids for School Furniture & Equipment for the East Somerville Community School located at 115 Pearl Street. Bids are due no later than **February 27, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.**, at which time all bids will be opened publicly and read aloud. The bid package shall include Section 100 - Miscellaneous Furniture, and Section 200 - Equipment.

Specifications and Bid Documents may be obtained on the City of Somerville's website at <http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing/bids> or from Audrey O'Hagan Architects, LLC, 4 Brattle Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138 Ashleigh@ohaganarchitects.com (617-497-2007), on or after **Wednesday, January 30, 2013**. Please direct your requests and questions to Audrey O'Hagan Architects.

The Awarding Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, or any part of any bid, if it is in the best interest of the City of Somerville.

The contract shall be for a period of one (1) year.

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

1/30/13 The Somerville News



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

2012-65 - Article VII Section 7-10 "Prohibited Turning Movements" is amended as follows: No Right Turn onto Ivaloo St from Park St and No Left Turn onto Ivaloo St from Beacon St 7am-9am and 4pm-7pm

2012-66 Article VII Section 7-10 "Prohibited Turning Movements" is amended as follows: Glenwood Rd from Medford St 4pm-6pm for a 90 day trial period

2012-67 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: No Parking Anytime on Hall Av at College Av (both sides) for a distance of 30ft

2012-68 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended as follows: Loading Zone Mon-Sat 9am-6pm on Willow Av at Elm St, east side

2012-69 Article VII Section 7-19 "Stop Signs, Yield Signs, and Through Ways" is amended as follows: Stop Sign on Windsor Place at elbow in roadway

PROMULGATED: DECEMBER 20, 2012

ADVERTISED: JANUARY 16, 2013

JANUARY 23, 2013

JANUARY 30, 2013

EFFECTIVE: FEBRUARY 7, 2013

MATTHEW DIAS, ACTING DIRECTOR

1/16/13, 1/23/13, 1/30/13 The Somerville News

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1999	Honda	Civic	Vin# 1HGE8547SL051980
1997	Geo	Prizm	Vin# 1YSK5261VZ453365
2000	Ford	Focus	Vin# 1FAFP3438YW12658

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Time: 12:00 P.M.

Location: 160 Mc Grath Hwy , Somerville, Ma 02143

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Singing in harmony, witnessing history

CONT. FROM PG 1

competed out of state. "I didn't think that we had that much potential compared to those other choirs that had a lot more experience. But we showed that Somerville has it in us. We showed that we could do it, and it was really a proud moment for everyone."

Sophomore Judcine Felix said she'd been around music her whole life, but it was a new experience to perform among 27 school choirs from around the nation. "It brought a whole new meaning to what chorus is all about. The fact that there were so many different genres and so many looks that the choruses had. It was just amazing," said Felix.

Chorus Director Beverly Mosby, who orchestrated the trip, said she wanted to give the students a chance to get "out of their bubble," and to hear what choruses were doing in other parts of the country. She said it was a significant achievement for the Somerville chorus, the only entry from Massachusetts, to come within one point of a gold medal in its first foray into national competition.

Senior Nickolas Menezes said the Somerville students found the music festival intimidating at first. "It was our first time, so we were a little insecure with ourselves. But as soon as we started singing, the fear went away."

Menezes said the festival inspired them to work harder. But it also showed them how Somerville stands out. He said the judges complimented them on the energy they brought to the music, and gave them credit for the diversity of their repertoire, which included an upbeat a cappella spiritual, a French song Menezes described as "sooth-

ing and smooth," and a contemporary jazz piece with percussion, all sung in four- or five-part harmony.

Nickolas Eliadis, a freshman, said Somerville's diversity is a strength compared with other schools. "Our chorus is more diverse, when it comes to both nationality - there's a lot of different types of people in the chorus - but also, the whole chorus is not the best of the best students." He said some choirs are only open to students who excel academically, but the Somerville High chorus welcomes everyone and pushes them to do better.

The students, who regularly refer to the chorus as their "second family," said the D.C. trip gave them lots of opportunities to find common ground despite any of their differences. "We did a diverse range of things but the one thing that connected it all together was bringing the chorus together. The entire field trip was one big way for a family to 'condensify' even more," said Menezes.

They bonded during the 10-hour bus rides each way. They bonded during mandatory mid-term study sessions at their hotel. And they bonded during the five-hour wait on the Mall on Inauguration Day, when they stayed warm by revisiting old schoolyard games, and even inventing new ones. But what really brought them together was the sense that they were representing their school and their community at a moment in national history.

"It was so much better because you're representing the city as a group," said Eliadis, who described being at the Inauguration as "surreal." He said the students proudly

talked about Somerville to anyone who asked where they were from. "Nobody knows us. They all know Cambridge and Boston. We really put Somerville on the map."

Said Felix, "As a group, we represented Somerville well because of the fact that we are so diverse and Somerville's so diverse. We have such a great bond as a chorus, we represent the togetherness of Somerville and the tight-knit community that Somerville has."

Mosby, the choral director, said she was proud to see the way the students grasped the importance of the moment and rose to the occasion. "They can always say, 'I was in the crowd,' and 'I was there when he did that,' said Mosby. "They complained a little bit about the cold. I anticipated there would be a little bit of hijinks because they're teenagers. But they behaved so well, and they were so respectful," she said.

Pradhan said being respectful was an easy choice. "We're in presence of the President of the United States, our country. So the right thing to do is to respect, and listen, because it's such a learning moment. And if we talk through such a significant moment, it would be a waste."

"We played around a lot and we were joking around and having fun while we were waiting. But when President Obama started to talk, we all stopped. We all stood up. Although our hands were freezing, we were holding up that flag. We did not stop moving that flag. Our hands were turning red, but we respected him enough to not care about the cold, not care how tired our legs were, or anything. We were part of history."

What's up, Doc?

CONT. FROM PG 9

the couch (where the patient was), so he could sit on it."

"He made house calls and when I did go to his office I was always rewarded with a visit to Loud's Candy Store (Powder House Square) a block away for candy or ice cream."

"Three generations of my family used the same doctor."

"He made many house calls all hours of the day and night. \$3 or \$5 if you needed a shot. I can still remember the smell of his sterile office on Holland St. Funny how years ago just one doctor could do everything from treating ear aches to doing major surgery. No insurance forms, I remember my medical records being on an index card. Every time he made a house call he had to help my mom pull me out from under the bed!"

"He came to our house routinely for all our childhood illnesses, measles, scarlet fever, chickenpox, mumps, etc. He wore gray wool three-piece suits complete with pocket watch and fob, carrying his little black bag. I remember I hated his stethoscope because it was cold when he placed it on my back. I told my mother and the next time I saw him in the office he heated it up for a few seconds in his sterilizer. He was my hero from that day forth."

"Our doctor saved my father's life.

He had a ruptured spleen and if he didn't make that house call that day my dad would have died. I remember how afraid I was as a young child. Thank you, doctor, for giving me my dad for so many more decades."

"Our family doctor delivered all nine of us (siblings)."

"With nine kids the Doctor was always at our house!"

"He was a funny guy who always made us laugh."

"He always showed up with a black bag and lollipops!"

"My parents named my brother after him (our family doctor)."

"My ankle got stuck in the back spokes of a bicycle riding double at the old Morse School, 51 years ago. They sewed my ankle up with over 40 stitches the doctor came almost every day for three months checking on the gangrene that was creeping up my leg."

"We would put a bowl of M&M's out for the doctor when he came because he loved them."

"The Norman Rockwell pictures of kids getting shots hanging in his office scared me."

"Once my sister was so sick he came and stayed the whole night."

Here is a partial list of the doctors of Somerville way back when: Dr Goldenberg, Dr. Mucci ,Dr Baldasari, Dr. Rosenthol, Dr.Russo, Dr.

Russman, Dr. Ciampa, Dr. Sewell, Dr. Kusna, Dr. Kelley, Dr.Bloom, Dr. Receputo, Dr. Sokol, Dr. Picariello, Dr. D'Orio, Dr. Schwartz, Dr. Frasier, Dr. Thomas Kelley, Dr. Sweeney, Dr. Giobbe, Dr. Smith, Dr. Carr, Dr. Connors, Dr. Dwyer, Dr. Giobbi, Dr.Robinson, Dr.Hodos, Dr. Arthurs, Dr. Rosenberg, Dr. Martin, Dr. McSweeney, Dr.Crocker, Dr.O'Brien, Dr.Bloom, Dr.Marcus, Dr.MacDonald.

Dr.Harry Goldenberg's office served as a haven for me when stress and anxiety drove me to walk out of school. I would show up at his office and he would talk me into going back to school. And he never told my parents.

In closing, I would like to pay tribute to another one of my favorite physicians, the infamous Dr.Vinnie Boombatz.

Please send me your ideas for articles and stories. You can go to my Facebook page, email me at jimmydl@rcn.com or leave a message at 617-623-0554.

Jimmy is available to host your event, play music, or just spice up any party or function. Call 617-623-0554 or jimmydel@rcn.com

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

• • • • ‘VILLENS ON THE TOWN’ • • • •

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Wednesday|January 30

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

West Branch Library
Preschool: Babygarten
11 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.|40 College Avenue

Veteran's Memorial Rink
Free public skating
12 p.m.-1:50 p.m.|570 Somerville Ave

Thursday|January 31

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

Central Library
Reading Group for 6-8 Year Olds
Tammy McKanan|617-591-0216
3 p.m.-4p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

West Branch Library
Amelia Bedelia's Birthday Party
3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.|40 College Avenue

Friday|February 1

Veteran's Memorial Rink
Free public skating
12 p.m.-1:50 p.m.|570 Somerville Ave

Sunday|February 3

Central Library
Fire and Ice read/sing-through
Colleen Campbell|617-461-0596
2 p.m.-4:30 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Monday|February 4

Central Library
Sing-along with Jordan!
Cathy|2950
11 a.m.-12 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Tuesday|February 5

Central Library
Homeschool Reading Group for Ages 9-11
Tammy McKanan|617-591-0216
10 a.m.-12 p.m| 79 Highland Avenue

West Branch Library
Preschool Storytime
11 a.m.-11:45 a.m.|40 College Avenue

Wednesday|February 6

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

West Branch Library
Preschool: Babygarten
11 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.|40 College Avenue

Veteran's Memorial Rink
Free public skating
12 p.m.-1:50 p.m.|570 Somerville Ave

MUSIC
Wednesday|January 30

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

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Free Poker, lots of prizes! 8 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Pub Quiz 8 p.m.
Comedy 10 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

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

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

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

Precinct Bar
3penny Open Mic (No Cover)
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe's Pub
The Nephrok All Stars
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

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

Rosebud Bar
Free Pool|Game Night
381 Summer St

Radio Bar
Warp Speed Wednesdays: Sci-fi,
Comics, Horror & Fantasy with Space
Krinty and Rocket Richard.
Wednesday night karaoke No Cover
Charge for both events
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
Greater Ease, Clarity & Connection in
2013
Cafe|191 Highland Ave

Thursday|January 31

Johnny D's
Los Texicanos|The Darlings
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's
Demolition String Band grassy
Thursdays |7:30 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

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

PA'S Lounge
Dust Clouds of Mars|Dirty Water
Brass Band|Litehouse|Cargo Cult
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
The Upper Crust|Gymnasium
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe's
Dub Down Featuring The Scotch
Bonnet Band
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

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

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

Rosebud Bar
Beekeeper
381 Summer St.

Somerville Theatre
Awkward Compliment's Thursday
Night Comedy Night
8 p.m.|55 Davis Square

Radio Bar
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
Classical Cafe Ensemble presents: ME-
GURI
7:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Friday|February 1

Johnny D's
Wreckless Eric & Amy Rigby|The Dirty
Truckers|John Powhida International
Airport
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's
Les Sampou Band |6 p.m.
Nowhere Lights and friends |9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
DJ
10 p.m.|65 Holland St

Precinct Bar
Hear Now Live Presents:51
Shortfalls|Ginger Ibex|Dirigible
Ego|Butterworth & Co|Melt
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

PA'S Lounge
Original Gravity|Bubba Loaf|Crooked
Mirror|So Sol
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

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

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
DJ starting at 10 p.m.
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Bull McCabe's
Jess Tardy Band
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

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

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

Rosebud Bar
Cameo Harlot|Dead Cats Dead
Rats|The Pants|Zip tie Handcuffs
381 Summer St

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

Radio Bar
Upstairs: Arto Vaun CD Release Await
Rescue, For Sleeping or Jumping,

Mammothor
Downstairs: New Million Box, Airport,
The Rotary Prophets
379 Summer St

Saturday|February 2

Johnny D's
The Agents|The Poms|Riki
Rocksteady & The Arraignments
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's
Family Jewels |6 p.m.
Paul Harkins |9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Precinct Bar
My Secret Boston Presents:Otis
Grove|Akashic Record
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
Karaoke
65 Holland St

PA'S Lounge
Drama / Leah V Presents!
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

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

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

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

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

Rosebud Bar
EratOk|Junta|Look Sharp
381 Summer St

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

Radio Bar
Down: The Oggs|The Pandemics|Bob
Cenci|The Unholy III \$8
Black & White Benefit: Black
Helicopter, Whitey, Blackhouse, Black-
wolfgoat 9p.m., 21+, \$12
379 Summer St

Arts at The Armory
Somerville Songwriter Sessions
7 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

Sunday|February 3

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

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Super Bowl on the big screens |2
p.m.
Session Planetaria: rhythm, rhyme,
story & song + open jam |8 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Burren Acoustic Music Series
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

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

Precinct Bar
Super Bowl XLVIII!!
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

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

Highland Kitchen
Sunday Brunch Live Country &
Bluegrass
Sunday Night Live Music
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Rosebud Bar
Karaoke
381 Summer St

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

Radio Bar
Roy Sludge Trio 4 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
379 Summer St

Monday|February 4

Johnny D's
Team Trivia
8:30 p.m.|17 Holland St | 617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Cheapshots Comedy Club open mike
|7:30 p.m.
Marley Mondays with The Duppy
Conquerors|10 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

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

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

PA'S Lounge

345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

Precinct Bar
70 Union Sq|617-623-921

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

Rosebud Bar
Movie Night
Sci -Fi meet up
381 Summer St

Radio Bar
379 Summer St

Arts at The Armory
Knucklebones: For the Love of Play!
9 a.m.|Performance Hall
Salsa Basics with Mambo Soul!
7 a.m.|191 Highland Ave

Tuesday|February 5

Johnny D's
Bean Picker's Union|Liz Frame & The
Kickers
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Honky Tonk Masquerade country &
western swing |8 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
The Lousy Instruments
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe's Pub
Skiffy & The Ghetto People Band
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen
First Tuesday of the Month|Spelling
Bee Night
hosted by Victor and Nicole of
Egoart.
The fun starts at 10:00p.m.
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

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

Rosebud Bar
Karaoke
381 Summer St

PJ Ryan's
Pub Quiz
10 p.m.|239 Holland St.|617-625-8200

Radio Bar
The Lousy Instruments
379 Summer St

Arts at The Armory
Self-Publishing in 2013 - A
Conversation with Jennifer Ciotta
7 p.m.|Mezzanine|191 Highland Ave

Wednesday|February 6

Johnny D's
Kristen Ford|Audrey Ryan|Jenee
Halstead
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Free Poker, lots of prizes! 8 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Pub Quiz 8 p.m.
Comedy 10 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA'S Lounge
Dreaded Silence|Baliset|Blue
Aside|Nocuous
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
3penny Open Mic (No Cover)
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe's Pub
The Nephrok All Stars
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

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

Rosebud Bar
Free Pool|Game Night
381 Summer St

Radio Bar
Warp Speed Wednesdays: Sci-fi,
Comics, Horror & Fantasy with Space
Krinty and Rocket Richard.
Wednesday night karaoke No Cover
Charge for both events
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
Wiretap Wednesday Open Stage
7 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

CLASSES AND GROUPS
Wednesday|January 30

Central Library
Tufts University Focus Group on
Ambient Noise in Somerville
Ellen Jacobs|617-623-5000 x2914
6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

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

Thursday|January 31

Central Library
Centro Presente
Patrick McDermott|617-684-4665
6 p.m.-8 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

West Branch Library
Learn English at the Library
6 p.m.-7 p.m.|Session 1
7:15 p.m.-8:15 p.m.|Session 2
40 College Ave

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

Third Life Studio
Roots and Rhythm
33 Unions Sq| www.libana.com

Saturday|February 2

Arts at the Armory
Winter Farmers' Market
9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.|Performance
Hall|191 Highland Ave

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

Sunday|February 3

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.

Third Life Studio
Discover Belly Dance with Nadira
Jamal
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.|33 Union
Sq|www.nadirajamal.com

Monday|February 4

Central Library
Chess Night
7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.|79 Highland
Avenue

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

Tuesday|February 5

Central Library
Learn English at the Library
6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.|Session 1
79 Highland Ave

Third Life Studio
Vinyasa Flow Yoga & Meditation
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
The Art of Group Singing For Women
with Susan Robbins,www.libana.com
7 p.m.- 9:15 p.m.|33 Union Sq

Wednesday|February 6

Central Library
Yoga with Janine Duffy
1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.|79 Highland
Avenue

Central Library
Mystery Book Club
7 p.m.-9 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

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

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Welcome to our centers! Everyone 55+ are encouraged to join us for fitness, culture, films, lunch and Bingo. Check out our calendar and give a call with any questions or to make a reservation. 617-625-6600 ext. 2300. Stay for lunch and receive free transportation.

Holland Street Center - 167 Holland Street

Ralph & Jenny Center - 9 New Washington Street

Cross Street Center - 165 Broadway

Some Council on Aging highlights in the coming weeks:

Mosaic Project - Thanks to a grant from the Somerville Arts Council, we are happy to present a three-part series that will culminate with a group mosaic that will be hung at the COA. Starts February 26 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Limited enrollment. Sign up early. With artist Emily Bhargava.

We are heading to El Salvador on February 11 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Cross Street. An event not to be missed.

Grandparents' Week at the Centers

February 19 - Cross Street - Arts and Fitness Fun.

February 20 - Holland Street - Storytelling through Dance.

February 21 - Ralph & Jenny - Gardening and Fitness Fun.

Trip Corner:

Lunch at Culinary Arts - January 29.

Hanscom Dinner & Bingo - February 13.

Fuller Craft Museum - February 15.

Foxwoods - March 11.

Washington D.C. - April 11 - 14.

Wildwood, N.J. - May 13 - 17.

STAY ACTIVE:

QiGong - Wednesdays at Holland Street from 1:15 - 2:00 p.m. \$3.

Flexibility & Balance - all three centers Strength with Geoff - Tuesdays at Holland and Thursdays and Ralph & Jenny. \$3.

Belly Dancing - Tuesdays at 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. \$5.

Flexibility & Balance - (R&J) Tuesday 10:30 a.m. (H) Thursday 10:00 a.m.

January 30

Bowling at Flatbreads 1 p.m.

Holland Street Center

Fit-4-Life Classes Groups A & B

Qi gong|1:15 p.m.

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Cross Street Center

Closed

Ralph & Jenny Center

Cards & Cribbage|10 a.m.

Crochet & Knitting|10:45 a.m.

Bingo|12:45 p.m.

9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

January 31

Hanscom AFB

Holland Street Center

Flexibility & Balance - NEW DATE|10 a.m.

Current Events|10 a.m.

Bingo|1:30 p.m.

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Ralph & Jenny Center

Strengthening Exercise|10 a.m.

Cards & Cribbage|10 a.m.

Bingo|12:45 p.m.

9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

February 1

Holland Street Center

Fit-4-Life Groups A & B

Book Club - all welcome|10 a.m.

Indoor Exercise|11 a.m.

Bingo|12:45 p.m.

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

February 4

Community Safety Day at the Monthly Breakfast at Holland Street

RSVP a must.

Holland Street Center

English Conversation|10:30 & 12:30

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Febraury 5

Holland Street Center

Strengthening Exercise|9:15 a.m.

SHINE by appt|10 a.m.

Bellydancing|12:30 p.m.

Yoga/Meditation|2 p.m.

LBT Fit-4-Life Program|6 p.m.

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Ralph & Jenny Center

Cards & Cribbage|10 a.m.

Flexibility & Balance|10:30 a.m.

Bingo|12:45 p.m.

9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

February 6

Bowling at Flatbreads 1 p.m.

Holland Street Center

Fit-4-Life Classes Groups A & B

Flexibility & Balance|9:30 a.m.

Qi gong|1:15 p.m.

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Cross Street Center

Closed

Ralph & Jenny Center

Cards & Cribbage|10 a.m.

Crochet & Knitting|10:45 a.m.

Bingo|12:45 p.m.

9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

Check out our Facebook site for photos from our events and exercise and tips for everyday healthy living at www.facebook.com/somervilleCOA.

Greece Cultural Day



Nearly 90 people traveled for a quick trip to Greece on January 24 from the Holland Street Center with the Somerville Council on Aging. It started off with lunch from the Greek Corner Restaurant. Professor Ioannis Evrigenis from the Political Science and Classics Department at Tufts University talked about the political and economic climate in Greece. It was enlightening to learn from him what is going there and to better help attendees understand what they hear and read about Greece. Dora Tevanian of Somerville, a Martin Luther King, Jr. Award winner, shared information on Greek culture and dance. With tambourines and drums participants were brought into her world of dance and music. The program ended with a magical show of belly dancing by the COA's own instructor, Sue Leach. She had many on their feet, shimmying, hip swaying and using their arms for some great serpent and snake movements. Her class is held every Tuesday at 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. It was a great trip. Next month, El Salvador.

LGBT Aging Project Workshop



The LGBT Aging Project and the Somerville Council on Aging presented a workshop for many of the city Departments on Cultural Competency for LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) clients. This workshop was held on January 23 at the Holland Street Center and was attended by representatives from the Somerville Housing Authority, Somerville Health Department, Fire Department and the City LGBT Liaison along with the staff of the Council on Aging. Lisa Krinsky, LICSW, Director of the LGBT Aging Project, led the workshop that included selections from the acclaimed documentary Gen Silent. This film follows seven LGBT older adults as they face challenges having to do with aging. As Cindy Hickey, Executive Director of the COA, said in her welcoming remarks, "It is important to create an environment where all older adults feel welcome and safe and for us as professionals to understand the complexities of the populations we serve." The Somerville Council on Aging has sponsored numerous events for both the older and intergenerational LGBT community.

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Johnny D's UPTOWN
LUNCH • BRUNCH • DINNER • LIVE MUSIC
(617) 776-2004 • 17 Holland St
Davis Square • Somerville MA
directly across from Davis T-stop

Supreme Kitchen
233 Highland Avenue
(across from Somerville Hospital)
617-628-4440
Breakfast All Day and Lunch! 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The Broken Yolk
Great breakfast to stay or go
617-628-6621
136 College Ave
Present this ad for a \$1.50 discount

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Somerville musician Brian E. King takes a walk in Parks

By Blake Maddux

Most people who aspire to become professional musicians either learned an instrument at a young age or were exposed to copious amounts of music as a child. Such individuals also probably pay their dues in bands as teenagers or young adults.

Brian E. King, lead singer of the Somerville-based band Parks, took a less traditional route in his pursuit of a career in music. He joined his first band, Oranjuly, in 2009, several years after he had graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth.

"I started playing bass in 2000, in high school," he says. "I didn't play music growing up at all. I learned guitar in 2003 or so, and started playing piano in 2005. I learned everything really, really quickly."

"I have a really good ear," King explains. "That's where it all lies for me. I can't read music at all."

As to how much music he took in as a youngster, King says, "I didn't hear The Beatles until the year 2000, when I started playing bass. I'd heard of them but I'd never heard any of their songs. We had to play *Oh! Darling* for jazz band, and I learned the bass line. My mom said, 'Oh, I'll buy you some of their records.' She bought me some, and it changed everything."

Brian E. King is originally from

West Bridgewater, Massachusetts, where he lived most of his life before attending Umass Dartmouth. At Umass, he majored in English and film and took graduate classes in journalism while working on his undergraduate degree. He moved to Boston in 2007 and to Somerville in 2009.

His interest in journalism led to an internship at *The Boston Phoenix*, some paid writing assignments for *Performer* and *SPIN* magazines, and ongoing freelance work for *DigBoston*.

"Journalism was really, really important to me until I started playing music and people started paying some attention," King told me.

As a musician, he continues, "I feel like you have more of a direct response. You hear people clapping for you. It's really immediate. I love that."

Oranjuly, which King describes as "more of a solo project for me," never really took off as a group.

"The first line-up of the band was so bad live," he readily admits. "It was embarrassing." This, coupled with the fact that the members did not get along very well personally, resulted in the band's ultimate demise.

This unfortunate combination did not prevent King from having some memorable experiences during Oranjuly's brief existence.

"We played with Fountains of

Wayne," King says. "We did a few shows with them, one in Boston and one in New Jersey. We played a huge show with them at Northeastern University. We played to hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people. It felt like we were at a big festival. It was my most favorite show that I've ever played."

In 2010, Oranjuly shared a bill with a then little-known band that currently has the #7 album on the Billboard top 200 albums chart.

"We played with The Lumineers in Worcester," King recounts. "That was in 2010. Never in a million years would I have thought that they'd even keep playing together as a band because their [first] record was so bad. But now they're nominated for Grammys. They were really great live, however."

King formed Parks last year when he realized that his songs were changing and he really wanted to play with different people. However, he retained bassist Matt Girard, who played in Oranjuly for about a month before the band's break-up. Girard is also King's current roommate in the Ten Hills neighborhood, which King proclaims is "the absolute perfect place" to live.

The other members of Parks are guitarist Stu Dietz, drummer Brian Fitch, and Liz McBride, a vocalist and keyboard player who is also King's



Brian King and his band Parks are on their way to wider recognition.

girlfriend. Last November, the band released its first single, *Sweater Weather*, for which they plan to release a video that they shot on beaches in Maine.

"The biggest change with Parks is that this is a band," King said. "I still write the songs, but I'll actually seek their advice, because they're all really good musicians in this band. They're all creative, and we're all on the same page."

King adds that, in contrast to Oranjuly, "We're all friends. We hang out outside of the band."

Having received some highly favorable notices in the *Herald*, the *Globe*, and the *Phoenix*, King is nothing but optimistic about the future of Parks.

"We're trying to get the record done," King says confidently of the record that he will also be

producing. "We really want to see if someone will put it out, because it's going to be a really, really good record. Every song's going to be great on it."

Moreover, King wants to lasso up some fans from outside of Boston: "We just want to not play to [only] our friends anymore. We want a bigger band to take us out on the road, because when we play in front of totally different audiences we do really, really well."

Parks is playing with The Explorers Club and Kurt Baker at the Lizard Lounge in Cambridge on Saturday, February 9. Doors open at 8:30 p.m., and the show starts at 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door or in advance at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/326125>.

O.N.C.E. in Valhalla - again

By William Collins

Last Friday night, at the Arts at the Armory on Highland Avenue in Somerville, a journey into the Viking afterlife, Valhalla, replete with Odin, oysters, mead, song, dance, and delightful food took place. Put on by the local restaurant Cuisine en Locale, O.N.C.E. (One Night Culinary Events) in Valhalla was rife with good spirits as a ten course meal was served amid general Nordic frivolity to the sold-out and hungry crowd.

As this was the third annual O.N.C.E. in Valhalla event, it was clearly organized with zest and a passion for providing entertaining, if not entirely authentic, Viking traditions, as well as a myriad of beers, wine, gourmet foods and friendly hosts.

General Manager of Cuisine at Locale, Angie Gaimari, described the fare as "food [Vikings] would dream of eating," and as I watched the chefs chopping pork liverwurst before

my eyes, and enjoyed the aroma of the rich, malleable sausage, I couldn't help but think that the Vikings were not alone.

You might be thinking, as I was, "What in the heck is Viking food like?" And for an answer to that question I consulted Head Chef Brian Sway. "Lamb, big bone and savory" was to be the main dish. In a ten course meal, what does "main dish" mean anyway? It was to be preceded with delicacies such as parsnip soup, ryeberry pilaf and cheesy oats, ancient inspired food with that modern gourmet touch.

Mr. Sway informed me that the food served that night, as well as at Cuisine en Locale, was sourced locally, with much of the raw materials provided by Stillman Farms in Jamaica Plain. Island Creek provided the oysters, which were shucked by the chef at an open oyster bar preceding the meal, a good start for any feast.

The libations consisted of a

healthy mix of meads, wine and beer, with an early evening tasting provided by local Somerville brewers, Slumbrew. The crowd happily indulged while bassoons, flutes and fiddles played throughout the night.

It was a family affair, attended by couples and groups of friends, and to enhance the fantastical atmosphere there were hordes of face-painted, snarling kids, "Loki's monsters" as they were called, and adult volunteer Vikings arm-wrestling, pontificating, and generally providing flair and good fun for the engaged guests. Some of the more enthusiastic members of the crowd came in costume, but for those who didn't, Miri Rooney, designer of hats at Shortarmy.com, peddled purchasable horned Viking beanies.

If there was ever a time to be fully immersed in Viking culture, this was it. Assistant Chef Sean O'Brien called the evening a "fantasy vision of Viking lore," and as costumed Viking imper-



O.N.C.E. in Valhalla, always in Somerville, is a one-of-a-kind Viking-style bacchanal of gastronomic adventure and making merry.

sonators spoke of myths in front of a giant blazing televised fire, it was easy to agree with him.

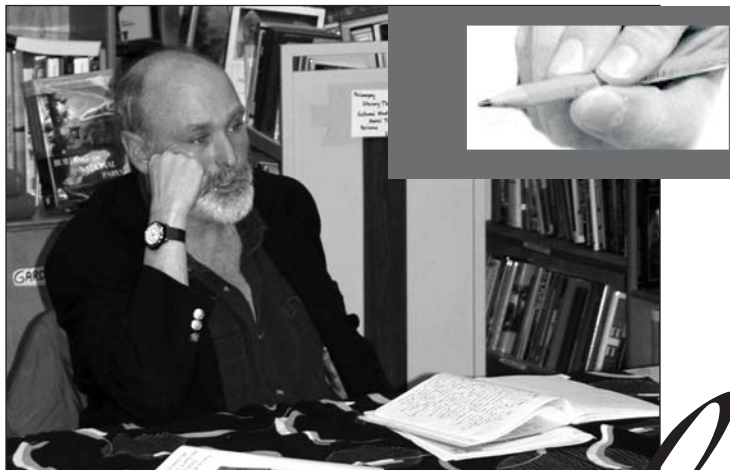
In general, the air was filled with merriment among those attending the event, as well as those working it. Beards were aplenty, weaponry was that of

fork, knife and chalice, and all were induced by the great god Odin to enjoy and be happy.

Visit Cuisine en Locale in Somerville if these tastes apply to you, though I wouldn't expect to find Vikings perusing the grounds.

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Wednesday, January 30							
12:00am	Free Speech TV	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV (Free Speech TV)	2:00pm	Henry Parker Presents	1:00pm	Ablevision
6:00am	Heritage Baptist Church	6:30pm	Art @ SCATV	2:30pm	Esoteric Science	1:30pm	Art at SCATV
7:00am	Healthy Hypnosis	7:00pm	SCATV Annual Producer Awards Ceremony	3:00pm	Tele Magazine	2:00pm	Talking about Somerville
7:30am	Life Matters	8:00pm	Fouye Zo Nan Kalalou (LIVE)	4:00pm	Boston Tango Festival	2:30pm	Somerville Housing Authority
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	9:30pm	Tonight's Special	5:00pm	Tele Kreyol	3:00pm	Exercise with Robyn and Max
9:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	10:00pm	Energy Theater	6:00pm	Basic Buddha	3:30pm	Esoteric Science
10:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	11:00pm	Green Line Extension Update	6:30pm	Rooster Tails	4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show
11:00am	Abugida TV	Friday, February 1		7:00pm	Couch's Corner	5:00pm	Culture Club
12:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	12:00am	Free Speech TV	7:30pm	Somerville Back in the Day	5:30pm	Somerville Back in the Day
1:00pm	Somerville Housing Authority	6:00am	Road to Recovery	8:00pm	David Parkman	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV
1:30PM	Henry Parker Presents	7:00am	Culture Club	9:00pm	Nossa Gente e Costumes	6:30pm	Tonight's Special
2:00pm	Culture Club	7:30am	Shrink Rap	10:00pm	Contemporary Science Issues & Innovations	7:00pm	Critical Focus
2:30pm	Somerville Back in the Day	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	11:00pm	Gay TV (Free Speech TV)	8:00pm	Grill Dog presents
3:00pm	Medical Tutor	9:00am	Energy Theater	Sunday, February 3		8:30pm	Play by Play
3:30pm	Talking about Somerville	10:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	12:00am	Free Speech TV	9:00pm	Dedilhando A Saudade
4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	11:00am	Somerville Back in the Day	6:00am	Program Celebrai	10:00pm	Bate Papo con Shirley
5:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking.	Noon	Talking about Somerville	7:00am	Flipside	11:00pm	Creepy Castle
5:30pm	Cooking with Georgia & Dez	12:30pm	Ablevision	7:30am	The Struggle	Tuesday, February 5	
6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV (Free Speech TV)	1:00pm	The Entertainer's Show	8:00am	Effort Pour Christ	12:00am	Free Speech TV
6:30pm	Art @ SCATV	1:30pm	Somerville Housing Authority	9:00am	Heritage Baptist Church	6:00am	Road to Recovery
7:00pm	Tonight's Special	2:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking	10:00am	International Church of God	7:00am	Outdoor Adventures (SCATV Special)
7:30pm	Basic Buddha	2:30pm	Cooking With Georgia	10:30am	Basic Buddha	8:00am	Democracy Now!
8:00pm	Somerville Pundits (LIVE)	3:00pm	Brunch with Sen. Bernie Sanders	11:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	9:00am	Somerville News Reading
8:30pm	The Entertainer's Show	4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show	Noon	Gerry Leone Show	10:00am	Tele Kreyol
9:00pm	Somerville Rocks!	5:00pm	Couch's Corner	12:30pm	The Garage	11:00am	Somerville Most Interesting Places
9:30pm	Couch's Corner	5:30pm	Art @ SCATV	1:00pm	Critical Focus	11:30am	Ablevision
10:00pm	Play by Play	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV	2:00pm	2013 SCATV Annual Meeting	Noon	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
11:00pm	2013 SCATV Annual Meeting	6:30pm	Reeling Movie Reel	3:00pm	Rompendo en Fe	1:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking w/ Candy
Thursday, January 31		7:00pm	2013 SCATV Annual Meeting	4:00pm	Dedilhando A Saudade	1:30pm	Cooking with Georgia & Dez
12:00am	Free Speech TV	8:00pm	Creepy Castle	5:00pm	Ethiopian Satellite TV	2:00pm	Healthy Hypnosis
6:00am	Atheist Viewpoint	9:30pm	The Garage	6:00pm	Abugida TV	2:30pm	2013 SCATV Annual Meeting
6:30am	International Church of God	10:00pm	Play by Play	7:00pm	African Television Network	3:30pm	Henry Parker Presents
7:00am	Physician Focus	10:30pm	Somerville Rocks	8:00pm	Telemagazine	4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show
7:30am	Ablevision	11:00pm	Tonight's Special	9:00pm	Effort Pour Christ	5:00pm	Poet to Poet
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	11:30pm	The Steve Katso's Show	10:00pm	Nepali SCAT Studio Show	5:30pm	Jeff Jam
9:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	Saturday, February 2		11:30pm	Somerville Rocks!	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV (Free Speech TV)
10:00am	Active Aging	12:00am	Free Speech TV	Monday, February 4		6:30pm	Real Estate Answer Show
10:30am	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	6:00am	Arabic Hour	12:00am	Free Speech TV	7:00pm	Art at SCATV
11:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	7:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	6:00am	Atheist Viewpoint	7:30pm	Greater Somerville (LIVE)
Noon	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00am	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	6:30am	Physician Focus	8:00pm	Dead Air Live
1:00pm	African Television Network	8:30am	King of the 'Ville	7:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	9:00pm	Literary Scene
2:30pm	Somerville Back in the Day	9:00am	Festival Kreyol	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	9:30pm	Basic Buddha
3:00pm	Talking about Somerville	10:00am	Tele Galaxie	9:00am	Rooster Tails	10:00pm	Somerville Back in the Day
4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	11:00am	Dead Air Live	9:30am	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	10:30pm	The Entertainer's Show
5:00pm	Ablevision	Noon	Reeling Movie Show	10:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	11:00pm	Contemporary Science Issues & Innovations
5:30pm	Culture Club	12:30pm	Active Aging	11:00am	Nossa Gente e Costumes		
		1:00pm	Bongoman (LIVE)	Noon	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)		

City Cable TV Schedule for the Week							
CITY TV 13/22							
Wednesday, January 30							
9:00am:	MLK Day Celebration	2:30pm:	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill	Wednesday, January 30		7:30pm	SHS Hockey vs Cambridge
12:00pm:	School Committee Meeting - REPLAY	7:00pm:	The Gerry Leone Show	9:00am	Learning About the Somerville Public Schools	8:45pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Cambridge
2:30pm:	Quincy Street Park Dedication	7:30pm:	Somerville By Design #3	12:00pm	Raising Families: Kindergarten Registration	10:30pm	Kid Stuff: Library Teen Room
7:00pm:	The Gerry Leone Show	9:00pm:	The Aldermen's Hour	12:20pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Arlington	Sunday, February 3	
7:30pm:	Somerville By Design #3	9:30pm:	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill	1:50pm	Our Schools, Our City	12:00am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Cambridge
9:00pm:	Hard Target	Sunday, February 3		2:20pm	SHS Hockey vs Everett	1:30am	SHS Hockey vs Cambridge
9:10pm:	MLK Day Celebration	12:00am:	The Gerry Leone Show	3:30pm	SHS Girls' Basketball vs Medford	2:45am	SHS Girls Basketball vs Cambridge
Thursday, January 31		12:30am:	Somerville By Design #3	6:00pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett	4:30am	Kid Stuff: Library Teen Room
12:00am:	The Gerry Leone Show	2:00am:	The Aldermen's Hour	7:30pm	SHS Girls' Basketball vs Medford	12:00pm	Highlander Forum
12:30am:	Somerville By Design #3	2:30am:	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill	9:05pm	Our Schools, Our City	12:30pm	Learning About Somerville Public Schools
2:00am:	Hard Target	9:00am:	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill	10:00pm	SHS Hockey vs Cambridge	1:30pm	SHS Hockey vs Medford
2:10am:	MLK Day Celebration	12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	Thursday, January 31		3:00pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Medford
9:00am:	The Aldermen's Hour	12:30pm:	Quincy Street Park Dedication	12:00am	SHS Hockey vs Cambridge	6:00pm	Highlander Forum
12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	12:40pm:	MLK Celebration Day	1:30am	SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett	6:30pm	Learning About Somerville Public Schools
12:30pm:	GLX Gubernatorial Press Conference	2:10pm:	GLX Gubernatorial Press Conference	3:30am	SHS Girls' Basketball vs Medford	7:30pm	SHS Hockey vs Medford
12:55pm	The Gerry Leone Show	2:35pm:	Three Paths to Italy	9:00am	Highlander Forum	10:00pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Medford
1:25pm:	The Aldermen's Hour	7:00pm:	Senior Circuit	12:00pm	SHS Hockey vs Everett	Monday, February 4	
1:50pm:	Clean 'Ville of Health	7:30pm:	Quincy Street Park Dedication	12:30pm	Learning About Somerville Public Schools	12:00am	Highlander Forum
7:00pm:	2013 City Hall Midterm Ceremonies	7:40pm:	MLK Celebration Day	3:00pm	Our Schools, Our City: STEM Education -LIVE	12:30am	Learning About Somerville Public Schools
8:10pm:	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill	9:10pm:	GLX Gubernatorial Press Conference	6:00pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Cambridge	1:30am	SHS Hockey vs Medford
9:05pm:	The Aldermen's Hour	9:35pm:	Three Paths to Italy	7:45pm	SHS Hockey vs Cambridge	3:00am	SHS Girls Basketball vs Medford
9:30pm:	The Mayor's Report	Monday, February 4		9:10pm	Our Schools, Our City: STEM Education	9:00am	Highlander Forum
10:00pm:	Somerville Fire Dept. Ride Along	12:00am:	Senior Circuit	9:40pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Arlington	12:00pm	Our Schools, Our City
Friday, February 1		12:30am:	Quincy Street Park Dedication	11:10pm	Highlander Forum	12:30pm	Highlander Forum
12:00am:	2013 City Hall Midterm Ceremonies	12:40am:	MLK Celebration Day	Friday, February 1		1:00pm	Learning About the Somerville Public Schools
1:10am:	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill	2:10am:	GLX Gubernatorial Press Conference	12:00am	SHS Girls Basketball vs Cambridge	2:00pm	Raising Families: Kindergarten Registration
2:05am:	The Aldermen's Hour	2:35pm:	Three Paths to Italy	1:45am	SHS Hockey vs Cambridge	2:30pm	SCAP's Community Gameshow
2:30am:	The Mayor's Report	9:00am:	Somerville By Design #3	3:10am	Our Schools, Our City: STEM Education	6:00pm	SHS Boys' Basketball vs Arlington
3:00am:	Somerville Fire Dept. Ride Along	12:00pm:	MLK Celebration Day	3:40am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Arlington	7:30pm	SHS Hockey vs Everett
9:00am:	Quincy Street Park Dedication	1:30pm:	2013 City Hall Midterm Ceremonies	5:20am	Highlander Forum	8:40pm	SHS Hockey vs Revere
12:00pm:	The Gerry Leone Show	2:20pm:	Somerville Fire Dept. Ride Along	9:00am	Learning About the Somerville Public Schools	10:10pm	SHS Girls' Basketball vs Malden
12:30pm:	Somerville By Design #3	7:00pm:	School Committee Meeting - LIVE	12:00pm	El Sistema Somerville	Tuesday, February 5	
2:00pm:	The Aldermen's Hour	10:00pm:	The Aldermen's Hour	12:40pm	Raising Families: Kindergarten Registration	12:00am	SHS Boys' Basketball vs Arlington
2:30pm:	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill	Tuesday, February 5		1:00pm	SCAP's Community Gameshow	1:30am	SHS Hockey vs Everett
7:00pm:	The Gerry Leone Show	12:00am:	Clean 'Ville of Health	3:30pm	SHS Hockey vs Cambridge	2:40am	SHS Hockey vs Revere
7:30pm:	Somerville By Design #3	12:15am:	The Aldermen's Hour	4:45pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Cambridge	4:10am	SHS Girls' Basketball vs Malden
9:00pm:	The Aldermen's Hour	12:45am:	Somerville By Design #3	7:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Cambridge - LIVE	9:00am	Kid Stuff: Library Teen Room
9:30pm:	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill	9:00am:	Hard Target	10:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Cambridge	12:00pm	Kid Stuff: Library Teen Room
Saturday, February 2		12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	Saturday, February 2		12:30pm	Highlander Forum
12:00am:	The Gerry Leone Show	12:30pm:	Senior Housing Symposium	12:00am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Cambridge	1:00pm	Our Schools, Our City: STEM Education
12:30am:	Somerville By Design #3	2:00pm:	GLX Gubernatorial Press Conference	1:30am	SHS Hockey vs Cambridge	1:30pm	SHS Boys' Basketball vs Arlington
2:00am:	The Aldermen's Hour	7:00pm:	Senior Circuit	2:45am	SHS Girls Basketball vs Cambridge	3:00pm	SHS Boys' Basketball vs Medford
2:30am:	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill	7:30pm:	Joe's Jazz & Blues Fest	4:30am	Kid Stuff: Library Teen Room	4:30pm	SHS Boys' Basketball vs Cambridge
9:00am:	Hard Target	8:30pm:	School Committee Meeting - REPLAY	12:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Cambridge	7:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Everett - LIVE
12:00pm:	The Gerry Leone Show	12:00am:	Senior Circuit	1:30pm	SHS Hockey vs Cambridge	10:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Everett
12:30pm:	Somerville By Design #3	12:30am:	Joe's Jazz & Blues Fest	2:45pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Cambridge	12:00am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Everett
2:00pm:	The Aldermen's Hour	1:30am:	School Committee Meeting - REPLAY	4:30pm	Kid Stuff: Library Teen Room	1:30am	SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett
		EDUCATIONAL CHANNEL 15		6:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Cambridge	3:00am	SHS Hockey vs Everett



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Ed Hamilton: One of the last Chelsea Hotel Bohemians

Author of 'Legends of the Chelsea Hotel: Living with Artists and Outlaws in New York's Rebel Mecca'

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

I met John Roche, a professor of English at the Rochester Institute of Technology, at a Modern Language Association meeting he was attending in Boston. We went over to Bukowski's Pub for a few tall ones and talked poetry. He warned me that there are these strange creatures lurking in the basements of institutions of higher learning. I will stay on the alert!



Joe the Poet in Academe

Joe's office is down at the end of the hall
or maybe in the basement
used to be in a Quonset hut
surrounded by unmown grass and candy wrappers
Joe keeps the office door closed
plays Sun Ra, Buell Kazee, and Harry Partsch lps real loud
Joe never attends department meetings
students think he's the janitor
In 500 years a vellum broadside of 1 poem from his
1000-page epic
will be the only surviving relic of our civilization

— John Roche

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It was the kind of winter day you may remember from your childhood, before things became so heated. Bone chilling winds whipped my face making my cheeks look like they were reddened from deep embarrassment. On this day I was to meet author Ed Hamilton at the Grey Dog Café in the Chelsea section of Manhattan to talk about the glory days of the famed Chelsea Hotel in New York City. Hamilton, 53, a longtime resident of the hotel, and author of the book *Legends of the Chelsea Hotel*, had an interesting tale to tell about this bohemian flophouse.

The Chelsea Hotel on 23rd St. in the Chelsea section of Manhattan has a unique history. Built in 1883 it originally was a residential hotel that housed the stars of the theatrical world. But over the years it was also the home for an eclectic group of literary, visual and musical artists of all stripes. The Welsh poet Dylan Thomas stayed at the hotel and was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital in the Village where he died from the result of excessive drinking, mostly at the famed White Horse Tavern, near the environs of the Chelsea. William Burroughs reportedly wrote *Naked Lunch* at the Chelsea, and Kerouac is rumored to have had a fling with Gore Vidal in one of the rooms, and some believed he completed *On the Road* there. Arthur Miller hung his hat there in his pre and post Marilyn periods, as well as noted punker and poet Patti Smith and the photographer Robert Mapplethorpe (As recounted in Smith's acclaimed memoir *Just Kids*). And, of course, Sid Vicious and Nancy met their infamous end in a gone-to-seed room in the Hotel.

For many years the hotel was run benevolently (more or less) by Stanley Bard. Since 1957 Bard had made the Chelsea a welcoming refuge of sorts for young artists to make a go of it in the big city. He provided rooms at a reasonable rate for aspiring artists, and was often forgiving if they came up short with the rent. He sometimes took payment in the form of a painting or labor. But Bard was pushed out. Now with gentrification, condo conversion, astronomical real estate prices, the days of the Chelsea Hotel and others if its ilk are certainly numbered. With Bard's removal the Chelsea is undergoing renovation and all the artwork that gave the building its unique flavor has vanished. Many of the permanent residents have been evicted. Hamilton told me a total of 58 have been forced out. Sixty residential apartments are left. Hamilton said: "I was in court for five years, but I finally won the right to stay because I have a Rent Stabilized apartment." Indeed, Hamilton, who has been at the Chelsea since 1995, is the last of the breed who came to this hotel and lived the life of a bohemian writer, in a room lined with books, and a bathroom down the hall. He and his wife have lived outside "The broad lawns and narrow minds of the suburbs," as Hemingway once wrote.

According to Hamilton, the building was bought for 80 million dollars by a Moroccan family headed by real estate mogul Joseph Chetrit. Hamilton said: "It is a huge conglomerate that bought the Sears Tower in Chicago and other far flung interests...the Chelsea is only a mere speck of dust in the whole perspective of things." It seems that many of the tenants who were not evicted were bought out for well below the market rate. Hamilton does not want to sell, and certainly not for a price that will not allow him to stay in Manhattan. Hamilton said he tried to enlist famed punker and poet Patti Smith, the author the awarding-memoir set in the Chelsea, *Just Kids*, but she ignored him. Finally she came out of the closet, but according to Hamilton, decidedly on the management's side. She agreed to do a concert for the tenants that was supposed to introduce them to the wonderful new world of the Chelsea Hotel under Chetrit. Hamilton feels she was working for the management, in spite of the common knowledge of the evictions and the destruction of the interior of the hotel. When the tenants threatened a book burning, in addition to the media deluge spurred on from Hamilton's Chelsea Hotel blog, Smith reneged.

Hamilton and his wife Debbie Martin came to the Chelsea after Hamilton's stint at the University of Mary-

land, where Hamilton was teaching philosophy and working on his doctorate. But Hamilton did not really like the academic life. He was a product of the suburbs, and he was horrified to think he would wind up in a conventional lifestyle near some strip mall. Hamilton and Martin always knew about the Chelsea and its rich history, and they were determined to come to New York City to live there. According to Stanley Bard to gain entrance into the Chelsea was harder than getting into an Ivy League college, but the duo got in through a sublet. Since then, with the help of Martin, Hamilton started the Chelsea Hotel Blog, and penned the book *Legends of the Chelsea Hotel*.

Hamilton made a point in his book to write not only about the famous folks who lived there but the unsung holy fools as well. Hamilton said: "The everyday folks who lived in the Chelsea brought this weird energy to the place. I think this contributed to the creativity of the Chelsea. I am sure some of the great works conceived here as well as the obscure were fired by the sparks in the atmosphere." Hamilton told me that many artists, even after it was long apparent that they didn't have the talent or luck to make it on a big scale, stayed on. Most folks after achieving some sort of success moved out. For the ones that stay it can be a negative experience...a reminder of what they are not.

I asked Hamilton about some of the long-term residents who are still pursuing their passion. One lady, Bettina G., has been in the hotel for many decades. She is a visual artist, and a young artist who lived in the Chelsea, Sam Bennett, produced a documentary about her. According to a newspaper account she had her paintings stacked to the ceiling, and she was partially living in the hallway. Gerald Busby a current resident and a protégé of Virgil Thompson had early success (he wrote the film score for Robert Altman's *3 Women*), then went into obscurity and now has been rediscovered.

Since I always have had an interest in the poet Charles Bukowski, I asked him if the Buk ever spent time at the Chelsea. Hamilton thought Bukowski spent one night or so there, and the poet mentioned the hotel in a poem and short story he wrote. Hamilton then went on to tell me that Harry Smith, the noted archivist, ethnomusicologist, experimental filmmaker, also known for his *Anthology of American Folk Music*, was a resident as well. He died at the Chelsea in 1993.

I remember in the late 70's when I came to Boston I lived in a number of rooming houses in Boston and Cambridge. One, the Irving Inn in Cambridge, advertised itself for Lean Pocket Transients. The other was on Newbury Street in the Back Bay of Boston. Many young people and not a few artists were able to get a reasonably priced room in the city to pursue their art or passion. When I came to the city there were a number of these places. Now they have seemed to have disappeared. Hamilton said this is true of New York as well. Rent Stabilization is vehemently opposed by the current city administration, and tenants can't stand up to the moneyed interests they are in conflict with.

Hamilton, continues to write fiction, his first love, and has had his work in online and print journals such as *Penduline* and *Omphalos*. Some of his fiction is loosely autobiographical and at times deals with his life growing up Catholic, and all the repressive baggage that comes with it. Although Hamilton's *Legends of the Chelsea* continues to sell and sell well, he is having trouble finding an agent for his fiction.

Hamilton has hopes for his fiction as well as for the last outpost of bohemia, the Chelsea Hotel. He thinks the chances that he and his partner will remain in the Chelsea are slim. But hope springs eternal, and he still holds a candle in the encroaching darkness. Hamilton is a creature of the city. He needs to breathe the asphalt, blink back at the blinking neon, and pursue that ephemeral light that the artist seeks. And the city, this Naked City – New York City – that has a million stories, is the one that will keep the pilot light of his creative life burning.

Ms. Cam's

Answers from page 14

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. West Point | 7. Mount McKinley in Alaska |
| 2. Athena | 8. The numerator |
| 3. Stephen Grover Cleveland | 9. He was a dentist |
| 4. K and M | 10. Little White Dove |
| 5. Moonlighting | 11. Ethel Barrymore |
| 6. Libya | 12. Love Story |

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