



Inside:



Villens helping Villens

page 7



The Quiz Kids take the stage

pages 12-13



Somerville school sports

page 14

Newstalkp.2
The Week in Crime ...p.4
Commentaryp.8-9
Beacon Hill Roll Call ..p.10
TV Logsp.22
Off The Shelfp.23

A new School Committee member, finally

By Jim Clark and Donald Norton

The City of Somerville School Committee has a new member representing Ward 1 as of Tuesday afternoon of this week.

The new member, however, is not Benjamin Echevarria, who was selected by the sitting Committee members after a lengthy review process ran its course. Instead, runner up Steven Roix – former Committee member Maureen Cuff-Bastardi's original recommendation for her replacement – was sworn in to the position at City Hall on Tuesday.

After weeks of non-participation by Echevarria, who sent out a letter explaining that a personal matter has caused him to withdraw from the position, the Committee met Monday night and resolved to offer the seat to Roix, who had been considered the Committee's second choice during the vetting process back in January.

Echevarria's letter was read to the Committee at the meeting, and then member Christine Rafael made a motion to offer the seat to the runner up, Roix. Committee member Sweeting seconded the motion and, after some discussion on the matter, a majority of the members - 7 of the 8 present - voted for Roix's appointment.

Committee member Mark Niedergang was the sole dissenter, requesting

Continued on page 3



Photo by Maureen Cuff-Bastardi

Steven Roix was sworn in Tuesday as the new School Committee member representing Ward 1.

A blast from the past

Somerville opens St. Polycarp time capsule

By Elizabeth Sheeran

Camille Amato Long remembers the day in third grade when all the students lined up to sign their names. It was 1951. Harry Truman was in the White House. Ted Williams was playing for the Red Sox. And at Saint Polycarp Catholic School in Somerville, Long and her fellow classmates were committing their names to posterity, in a time capsule placed in the cornerstone of the newly opened school.

Little did she know she'd be there to see the time capsule re-opened over sixty years later, when the old school building along Mystic Avenue was demolished to make way for affordable housing.

"I don't think I gave it another thought until I drove by and saw the signs that the school was being torn down, and I thought, 'Oh no, the time capsule,'" said Long.

The Boston Roman Catholic Archdiocese closed Saint Polycarp Parish in 2002, and in 2006 the non-profit

Continued on page 5



Photo by Elizabeth Sheeran

Left to right: Mayor Joseph Curtatone, David Pignone and Sal Querusio work to open a time capsule removed from the cornerstone of the former Saint Polycarp School. Looking on are Ursula Salerno, Meredith Levy and Camille Long.

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NEWTALK

The Mass DOT is having an informational meeting for the residents and abutters of the proposed Green line MBTA extension along Ball Square up to Tufts, The meeting is this coming Monday night, March 5 at 7 p.m., to be held in the St. Clements School cafeteria, 579 Boston Avenue, Medford.

Save the date to help preserve a big piece of Somerville History in our city. Did you know that the Masonic Lodge Hall located at 125 Highland Avenue (old Universalist Church building) was built in 1917 and designed by Robert Crane (lead architect of the old John Hancock building)? In 1984 the Highland Masonic Temple Association purchased the property for the members of King Solomon's Lodge AF & AM. Masons worldwide donate over \$4 million dollars per day to help local charities and children around the world. The Highland Masonic Temple Association (HMTA) in Somerville is having a fundraiser to help pay down the mortgage at the 125 Highland Avenue lodge. Help to preserve the historic landmark building. The association for the members of the lodge is hosting a HMTA 1st Annual "Comedy Night" at Giggles Comedy Club at Prince Pizzeria located on Rt. 1 in Saugus on Wednesday, March 27 at 7 p.m. For \$25 per person you will see three well-known comedians perform, enjoy all the pizza that you can eat, and participate in a silent auction. There will also be drawings and a surprise celebrity. It's fun for the entire family, and everyone is welcome. More importantly, you will be helping to preserve the historic lodge building for generations to come. So come on all you Somervillens out there, please be a part of history and enjoy a fun night out at the same time. For more info and tickets, Facebook message Billy Tauro or call him at (617) 293-2016 or email him at Wmtauro@aol.com and have a great night out with others from the Ville.

We were glad to hear from Benjamin Echeverria this past week. He was selected by the School Committee to fill the vacancy in Ward 1 back in January. Ben

Continued on page 8

TheSomervilleNews.com Comments of the Week

Response to A 'SafeSTART' for safe streets

Somerbreeze says:

Some of this is just so much MALARKEY! If the Mayor really had pedestrian safety as a priority, why do we still see sidewalk cycling in the business districts?
The so-called enforcement ballyhooed in April sputtered into oblivion by July; it was nothing more than a slick PR gambit to throw the citizenry off.
The Mayor has empathy for cyclists and BS for pedestrians. And Joe C., the longer you hold forth on public safety, the longer your Pinocchio honker gets....

Somtomb says:

Infrastructure means zero/zip/nada without enforcement. Walking and driving, I continue to see – every single day – dozens of rules of the road violations by cyclists on the streets and sidewalks of Somerville.
Hizzoner, with his meaninglessly massaged statistics, says "our policies and recent enhancements are successful" but as a walker, driver, taxpayer, voter, and yes, even occasional cyclist, I don't. The only "recent enhancement" I've seen is a higher tax bill. My policy from now on is to do anything and everything I can to see that someone else, someone who shares my priorities by spending less money and enforcing more laws, is the next mayor of Somerville.

JAR says:

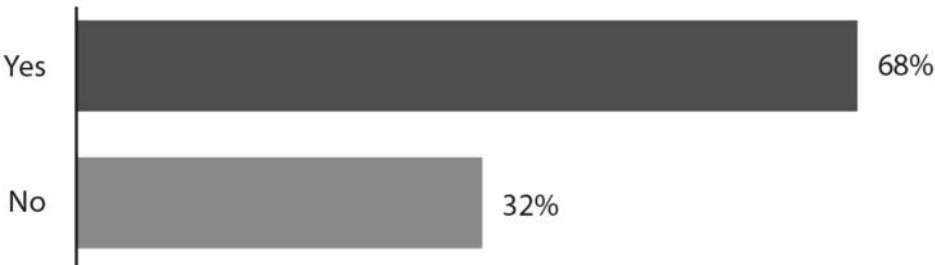
... and still I, and others, wait at light after light on Highland Ave., whose traffic light timing—one of the least costly and most effective traffic calming, fuel saving, pedestrian safety and greenhouse gas-reducing measures there is—doesn't warrant so much as a passing mention.

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 check the fire hydrants near your home to make sure they are shoveled out and clear of snow. If you don't agree with the results, simply log onto TheSomervilleNews.com.

Do you check the fire hydrants near your home to make sure they are shoveled out and clear of snow?



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Washington Street structure 'preferably preserved'

By Cathleen Twardzik

On February 19, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) held a meeting to discuss and determine the fate of the building now standing at 197 Washington St.

"The HPC determined the structure to be 'preferably preserved' on February 19, due to the scarce combination of specific architectural features and as the structure is well known to many residents in the city. The HPC determined, per Ordinance 2003 to 2005, Section 4.2.d, demolition of the building would be detrimental to the heritage of the city," according to the Planning Department.

"The National Park Service identifies historic integrity as the ability of a property to convey significance. A property should possess sufficient integrity to convey, represent or contain the values and qualities for which it is judged significant. Therefore, the following is an identification and evaluation of these qualities and alterations as they affect the ability

of the subject property to convey significance, location, materials, design and alterations are taken into account," according to the Staff Report for Determination of Significance.

The structure was built in 1860, which proved to be a "transitional" time in Union Square. Those changes ranged from suburban to agricultural. Then, during the 1860s and 1870s, subdivision plans started to influence the residential neighborhood, which is currently situated in that area. 1933 marked the year in which that portion of Somerville was completely developed.

"The structure was built for Samuel W. Holt, a teamster. He also served on the Common Council from 1884 to 1885, as well as on the Board of Alderman from 1886 to 1887. In the early 20th century, William E. Plumer became the owner, and he had a hardware store at 52 Union Square. The structure is listed as "undertaker" on the 1933 Sanborn Map. However, Anthony Cota, the current owner, did not take ownership until



On February 19 the Historic Preservation Commission held a meeting, and 197 Washington St. was determined to be "preferably preserved."

the 1940s," according to the planning department.

"The HPC determined the structure 'Significant' on January 15 due to an important association with Samuel Holt, as well as due to retention of the side-gable form, Italianate details such as deep eaves with double brackets, square cupola

and center pediment with fanlight, original site plan. And since 1933, use of the building as a funeral parlor," according to the Planning Department.

The HPC manages each request for demolition for each building which is greater than 50 years of age. The Demolition Review Ordinance does

not eradicate the property owner's right to destroy a construction. In fact, the HPC may simply postpone the demolition for a period of nine months. Throughout that time, the HPC will assist each applicant to conclude if another option, aside from a structure's demolition, exists.

A new School Committee member, finally

CONT. FROM PG 1

that another of the initial finalists be considered. In the end, the majority vote sealed the appointment for Roix.

The vacancy on the Committee was created when member Maureen Cuff-Bastardi was selected to fill the Ward 1 Alderman seat vacated by retiring Bill Roche late last year. Roix stood as Bastardi's recommended replacement, but a somewhat controversial decision to implement a vetting process to choose its own candidate implemented by the sitting Committee members prolonged the appointment of a replacement by many weeks.

Although Echevarria was selected by the Committee on

Jan.22, his failure to appear to be sworn in to the position or to attend any Committee meetings left Ward 1 unrepresented until now.

"...I was honored to have been called back..."

In speaking with *The News*, Echevarria said that he has been ill and that stepping into the position would not be possible at this time. He also wishes Roix the best as he assumes his role as the School Committee's repre-

sentative for Ward 1.

Roix told *The News*, "I was sorry to hear that Ben was not able to serve the interim appointment, but I was honored to have been called back and will do my best to represent Ward 1 on the school committee for the rest of the year. I'm excited about the opportunity and look forward to meeting with as many Ward 1 residents and especially parents - and children - as I can. I want to work together to make sure the Somerville Schools are the best they can be and that we as a District are serving the needs of the community."

Roix was sworn in at City Hall on Tuesday afternoon.

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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Suspected bike thief lets his hair down

Police were called to Wally's Barber Shop on Broadway last Thursday on reports of a man behaving violently and threatening customers.

Upon arrival, officers were waved into the shop by the owner of the business, who then led them to the man who was reportedly causing a disturbance.

The officers immediately took notice of two men who were arguing, while one in particular appeared to be highly intoxicated and was extremely aggressive and insulting to people in the barber shop.

Police asked the man, Edwin Vazquez, 49, to step outside, but he reportedly continued his tirade as they left the building. Officers reportedly noted that passers-by on the sidewalk were frightened by Vazquez's behavior.

After being asked several times to calm down, Vazquez still continued to vent his anger, even threatening the officers themselves. Police decided to handcuff Vazquez for the sake of everyone's safety while witnesses to the disturbance were questioned.

The owner of the shop reportedly told police that Vazquez had entered the establishment and asked if anyone wanted to buy a bicycle. When no one took him up on the offer Vazquez reportedly began insulting everyone in the shop and threatened physical violence. It was then that the shop owner called the police.

Upon examination of the bicycle, officers contacted the victim of a recent bicycle theft, based on the fact that the bicycle in Vazquez's possession matched the description of the missing bike.

The bicycle theft victim came to the barber shop and reportedly positively identified the bicycle as his, offering police unmistakable information about certain markings and equipment on the bike.

After Vazquez witnessed the victim's identification of the bike, he reportedly threatened to kill him.

Vazquez was placed under arrest and charged with disorderly conduct, threat to commit a crime, and receiving stolen property over \$250.

A case of mistaken residency

A Cross St. resident phoned police in the early hours of Sunday morning this past week to complain that two reportedly drunken individuals had been pounding on his door, trying to gain entry to his home, according to reports.

Officers were dispatched to the scene and, upon arrival, spotted three men on the front porch of the residence in question, police said.

One of the men was the reporting party and rightful resident of the home. He reportedly told police that the two other men had awakened him by pounding on the door and ringing the doorbell. The reporting party emphasized that he did not know the other men at all, as reported by the investigating officers.

Officers were able to obtain identification from one of the men but not the other. The man who was unable to produce any I.D. was reportedly heavily intoxicated and was barely able to stand, according to reports.

The other individual, identified as Andrade Hernandez, 21, of East Boston, was reportedly not completely fluent in English, but his companion, later identified as his uncle, Oscar Hernandez, 43, did manage to say some insulting things about the police and about Somerville, police said.

When asked why they were knocking at this residence's door one of the men reportedly told the officers that his cousin lived there. When told that the resident of the house did not know them nor anyone related to them they still insisted that their cousin resided there and they refused to leave.

The officers were reportedly convinced that the two men were hopelessly confused about the location of this house due to their level of intoxication.

As they refused to leave the area, they were placed under arrest, each charged with disturbing the peace.

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SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

Mibrahtu Sisay, 27, of 265 Columbia St., Cambridge, February 18, 10:54 a.m., arrested at Central St. on warrant charges of distribution of a class D drug, conspiracy to violate drug law, drug possession to distribute, and drug violation near a school or park.

Elen Frith, 64, of 163 Summer St., February 19, 6:37 p.m., arrested at home on warrant charges of destruction of property under \$250, misdemeanor breaking and entering, and assault.

George Burns, 30, of 99 Riverside Ave., Medford, February 20, 10:44 a.m., arrested at 175 Fellsway on warrant charges of receiving stolen property over \$250 and receiving stolen property under \$250.

Daunte Cheers, 24, of 111

Walnut St., February 20, 12:10 p.m., arrested at home on charges of threat to commit a crime and assault and battery.

Edwin Vazquez, 49, of 58 Mt. Vernon St., February 21, 2:37 p.m., arrested at 140 Broadway on charges of disorderly conduct, threat to commit a crime, and receiving stolen property over \$250.

Laurinda Dudley, 27, of 60 Washington St., February 22, 3:47 p.m., arrested at home on a charge of abuse prevention order violation and on a warrant charge of assault and battery on a police officer.

Erica Nunez, 24, of 166 Exchange St., Lawrence, February 22, 8:18 p.m., arrested at 75 Mystic Ave. on a warrant charge of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Bryan Espinal, 25, of 580

Hyde Park Ave., Roslindale, February 23, 12:39 p.m., arrested at Broadway on a charge of possession of a class B drug.

Andrade Hernandez, 21, of 55 West Segal, East Boston, February 24, 2:41 a.m., arrested at 21 Cross St. on a charge of disturbing the peace.

Oscar Hernandez, 43, of 18 Everett Ave., February 24, 2:41 a.m., arrested at 21 Cross St. on a charge of disturbing the peace.

Incidents:

Theft:

February 20, 8:08 a.m., police reported a theft at 5 Cutter Ave.

February 20, 11:20 a.m., police reported a theft at Vinal Ave.

February 21, 9:09 a.m., police reported a theft at Wheatland St.

February 21, 7:11 p.m., police

reported a theft at Putnam Rd.

February 22, 11:18 a.m., police reported a theft at Broadway.

February 23, 2:18 p.m., police reported a theft at 701 Somerville Ave.

February 25, 3:29 p.m., police reported a theft at 701 Washington St.

Breaking & Entering:

February 19, 8:30 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Appleton St.

February 20, 6:11 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Lincoln Ave.

February 21, 8:31 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Village St.

February 21, 10:11 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Sycamore St.

February 21, 7:06 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering

at Walnut St.

February 23, 2:32 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Pitman St.

Vehicle Theft:

February 19, 1:18 p.m., police reported a vehicle theft at Wheatland St.

Assault:

February 20, 12:10 p.m., police reported an assault at Walnut St.

February 21, 4:57 a.m., police reported an assault at Broadway.

February 24, 6:23 p.m., police reported an assault at Glen St.

February 25, 9:02 p.m., police reported an assault at Pearl St.

Drug Violation:

February 23, 12:39 p.m., police reported a drug violation at Broadway.

African Americans in Somerville: What we know

By Terence Clarey

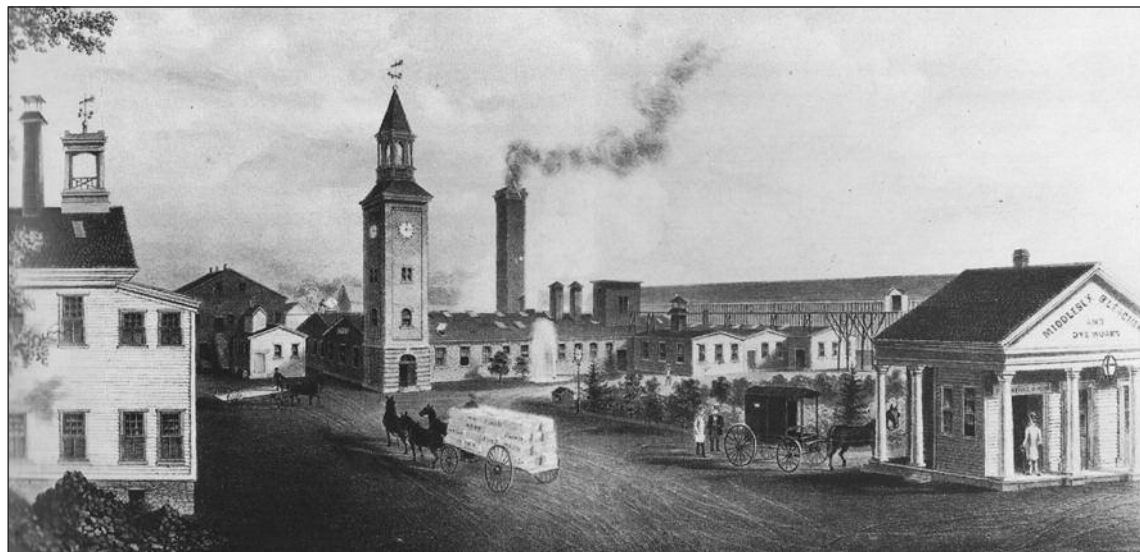
The event was almost canceled due to the unpredictability of New England weather but because of heavy interest, the Somerville Museum decided to go ahead with a scaled down version of a lecture celebrating Black History Month entitled *The Somerville I Didn't Know: The Influence of Africans, West Indians and African Americans on Somerville, 1630-1860*. The event was introduced by Cambridge African American Heritage Trail Committee member Kathleen Walcott, and featured Somerville native, poet, and storyteller, Alice Mack.

Much is still to be learned of the earliest African American and West Indian peoples who called Somerville home, and sometimes they have been discovered at random. Walcott said she was "floored" when told by the pastor of her church that one of the elderly members, who bore a striking resemblance to escaped slave, author and abolitionist Fredrick Douglass, was none other than his grand niece, Ruth A. Jones. It is believed that Jones was the first black graduate of

Somerville High School and may have been one of the first blacks to vote register to vote in Cambridge. Also, because she had such a beautiful voice, may have also been one of the first black telephone operators in the area.

It is known that in Somerville's early days there was quite a bit of prejudice sentiment in the city against allowing blacks to live and buy property in the city but, in spite of this, an enclave of blacks sprung up in the areas of Somerville and Cambridge that were once the site of Camp Cameron, a way station for Union Troops traveling south to fight in the Civil War. It was close to a branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad and after the war the land was sold off, and many black porters who worked on the trains for a number of years and had saved money, could afford to buy parcels and build their houses in the area around Malvern Ave. and Elmwood.

Alice Mack discussed the role that cotton played as the engine that drove the early American economy after the invention of the cotton gin and increased the demand for



The Bleachery, which produced finished good made of cotton and stood where the Conway Rink now stands, was one of Somerville's largest businesses that benefited from the labor of slaves.

slaves. After it was harvested on vast southern plantations, the cotton was sent north to the textile factories in Massachusetts where it was woven into cloth and sent for finishing to places like "The Bleachery" on Somerville Avenue where they produced finished material to be used to produce cloth to be used by clothing manufacturers, and especially the linings of steamer trunks. For a time the Bleachery, which stood on the land now occupied by the Conway Ice Rink, was the biggest business in Somerville and it was all supported by the

hard work of African American slaves in the south.

She finished with the story of Peter Still, which played out like a real-life *Django Unchained*, without all the gratuitous violence. His speaking tour to raise funds to free his family brought him to Somerville where residents took him in and helped him raise a significant amount of money to help his cause.

The uncertainty of putting on the event left the presentation somewhat incomplete, so the lecture will be held again on June 19. There is still much to learn and discover, so between now

and then there could be even more history that emerges regarding the African Experience in Somerville in the meantime.

The Somerville Museum will be hosting a fundraiser for building improvements on March 19 at the First Methodist Church at 1 Bow Street in Union Square. Food and beverages will be served and there will also be live music. For more information about upcoming events, to add information about the history of Somerville, or to make a donation to the Somerville Museum, you can visit their website at www.somervillemuseum.org.

A blast from the past CONT. FROM PG 1

Somerville Community Corporation (SCC) acquired the property with a plan to redevelop the 3.5-acre site as Saint Polycarp Village, with a mix of uses that include 84 affordable housing units.

When Long first noticed the construction signs a few years ago, she picked up the phone and called the builders to tell them about the time capsule. Her campaign eventually led her to the SCC, who worked to keep her in the loop, along with other Saint Polycarp students from the 1950s who had begun to re-connect over their fondness for the old school that was soon to disappear.

As the school building was finally demolished last month to make way for the third and final phase of the new development, local tradesmen carefully removed the cornerstone, with the time capsule still intact, to be opened at the Phase Three groundbreaking ceremony on February 25.

"We always love coming to groundbreakings and ribbon-cuttings, but today's event has a special significance because it ties our past with our present and our future," said Mayor Joseph Curtatone, referring not only to the Saint Polycarp School memories and the time capsule about to be opened, but to the 31 new homes to be built on the site of the old school.

"I want to thank you for pass-

ing on an incredible legacy, because the new families feel the same way about this community that you do," said Mayor Curtatone to former students who attended the groundbreaking, along with numerous public officials, project sponsors, and siblings, children and grandchildren of alumni. "The new families that will move into these units will be connected with all of us in a very special way," said the Mayor.

The Saint Polycarp alumni had a chance to reminisce about their schooldays, recalling Sister Georgina and her clicker, handsome Father Donovan with the blue eyes, and Monsignor Garriety, who was most concerned about the conduct and deportment grade. They shared fond memories of having 65 students to a class, of using the street as a playground, of saying the Hail Mary every time a fire truck went by, and of walking all the way home and back for lunch, no matter the weather.

They all said they were sad to see the school go, but thankful the time capsule had given them a chance to recognize how much it had meant to them. David Pignone pointed out that along with First Communions and Confirmations, most of them had also been married at Saint Polycarp.

"Today I have a lot of mixed

emotions. Sadness. I'm going to be 71 and I hate to let things go," said Theresa Pappalardo Finnegan, who credited the nuns at Saint Polycarp with teaching them well. "We have a strong foundation that I brought up through life with me," said Finnegan.

But apart from the students' names, none of them had any idea what was inside the time capsule itself. Long, who was wearing her blue and yellow "Saint Polycarp Class of 1956" ribbons for the occasion, said she hoped there would be a newspaper. Her lifelong friend Carol Lanzoni Giordano thought there might be an old 45 record. Pignone joked they might find a meatball sandwich.

With a hammer and crowbar, Pignone and fellow alumnus John Burns took the first crack at trying to extract the metal box from the cornerstone, where it had remained tightly wedged for over six decades. They were soon joined by Mayor Curtatone and local contractor Sal Querusio, who wrenched it free and pried it open.

Roughly 11 inches long, and about four to five inches high and wide, the box appears to have been made of copper and welded shut. Inside, there was no meatball sandwich, nor a vinyl disc. Rather, the capsule held items important to Saint Polycarp at the time: A four-page



Photo by Elizabeth Sheeran

This metal box was inserted into the cornerstone of the former Saint Polycarp School, where it remained for over 60 years until the building was recently demolished. The 1950 date marks the year the cornerstone was laid.

typed history of the parish. An assortment of religious medallions. Photos of Pope Pius XII and of Archbishop (later Cardinal) Cushing, who had dedicated the school. And reunion programs, sponsored by such enterprises as Suffolk Downs.

There was indeed a newspaper: the May 12, 1951 edition of *The Pilot*, the official newspaper of the Boston Archdiocese. Maybe not *The Boston Globe*, but the paper still reflects the times as they were then, at the outset of the Cold War, with headlines like "Bay State Priest Seized by Reds Seen In Prison," and news of a directive in Czechoslovakia that "Warns Priests Against Red Regime's Wily Propaganda."

And there were the names, just as the alumni had remembered

them: An envelope for each class, filled with small pieces of paper, each with a carefully penned signature. As former students read out the names, one by one, there were murmurs of recognition.

Carol Giordano said she could remember all but four of her more than 60 classmates. She found her own name and her brother's, and took a good long look at each before she put them back in the hands of the SCC, which will work with the Somerville Historical Commission to decide on a permanent home for the capsule's contents.

Said Giordano, "It's a nice memory. It's a lot of years. And you don't think of that when you're in the third grade, that you're going to be at this kind of an event."

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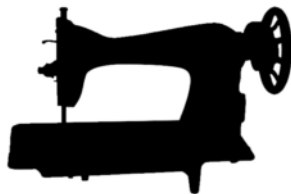
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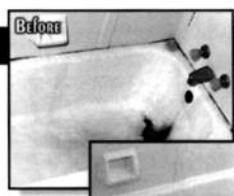

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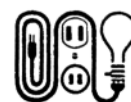


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Mayor, city delegation deliver donations to hurricane victims in NJ

Following a local donation drive spanning several months, Mayor Curtatone and a delegation of city staff traveled to the New Jersey coast this weekend to deliver a truck load of supplies to victims of October's Hurricane Sandy. In a partnership with the communities of Somerville, New Jersey and Summerville, South Carolina, the City of Somerville, Massachusetts collected cleaning supplies, food, and other items needed by victims in New Jersey to assist with cleanup efforts and rebuilding after the super storm demolished many communities there. The delegation departed from City Hall Friday afternoon at 1 p.m.



Somerville businesses and individuals donated their goods and efforts to help bring relief to those still recovering from the devastating damage caused by Hurricane Sandy.

"Whenever tragedy strikes, the Somerville, Massachusetts community is quick to mobilize in many ways"

"Many times, in the aftermath of devastating events like earthquakes or hurricanes, we are quick to support victims in the weeks immediately following the storm. Yet we often forget that victim's need can be even greater weeks and months later, as they try to rebuild and restructure

their homes and lives," said Mayor Curtatone. "Thanks to the very generous support of the Somerville community, and partners like Stop and Shop, Market Basket, and UHaul, we have been able to fill a truck with enough supplies to support these victims in their efforts, which will continue for many months."

Through the Somerville-Summerville-Somerville partnership, each community collected items of need for various neighborhoods along the Jersey Shore, coordinated locally by Mayor Brian Gallagher of Somerville, NJ. The delegation from Massachusetts joined with Mayor Gal-

lagher to deliver supplies to the community of Highlands, NJ, which sustained damage to most of the town's 1,500 homes and almost all of its businesses.

"Whenever tragedy strikes, the Somerville, Massachusetts community is quick to mobilize in many ways. Knowing we have a partner community in Somerville, NJ, and having weathered some of the minor effects of Hurricane Sandy in New England, this hit close to home. I immediately contacted Mayor Gallagher to find ways that we could help," Mayor Curtatone said. "Thanks to Mayor Gallagher and his staff, we've been able to provide assistance to so many residents and businesses, and hope we can continue to find ways to help in the months to come."

Thank you to the following local partners for their generous donations and support for our donation drive: Market Basket; Stop and Shop; UHaul; Boston Burger; The Burren; Flatbread Pizza; Kick*ss Cupcakes; the New England Revolution; Orange Leaf; Raytheon; and Redbones.

Asian restaurant opens at old KFC site



Lotus Express Cuisine, a new Asian restaurant, opened its doors this past week where the old Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) once occupied the building for decades at 167 Broadway in Somerville. The building has been vacant for a couple of years, but since Lotus purchased the building last year it has been completely renovated and is now open for business. Lotus Express is one of a handful of new business that have been opening up in Somerville hoping to hit the ground running once the recession subsides.

— William Tauro

Volunteer Day at COA



Mitch Krigest, one of the Council On Aging's Social Work interns, lead last week's Volunteer Open House. It was a great time for the community to learn about the myriad of opportunities at the COA for either volunteering with an older adult as a friendly visitor, or being a caller, or for working at one of the centers. Call Mitch at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300 if you are interested.

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COMMENTARY

TALES OF SOMERVILLE

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Villens in need have friends indeed.

The View From Prospect Hill



It does the heart good to know that we live in a community that cares, as well as one that knows how to put that sentiment into action.

It’s more than a mere P.R. gimmick, this relief effort the city has undertaken, intent on helping the hurt and homeless victims of Hurricane Sandy. We ourselves

felt a bit of the bite that the super-storm took out of the northeast, and we can easily imagine how much harder it must be for those who bore the brunt it.

As genuinely thoughtful and generous people, it takes no arm-twisting to set our best efforts into motion. Local businesses have given magnanimously of their goods

and services, while civic leaders and average citizens alike, hustled to put it all together and get it on the road.

The best part is, we do it all for the best of reasons. For the sheer humanity and decency it represents. We can expect no less from ourselves, as we routinely prove to ourselves in our finest moments.

We wish our neighbors to the south a full and revitalizing recovery, and have done our small part in helping this to happen. We would surely do it all again without a moment’s hesitation.

As a city that knows how, we also need to remember why. It is for those who are hurting. As we all can sometimes be.

News Talk CONT. FROM PG 2

sent a letter of thank you to the School Board that was read this past Monday night at their meeting. In the letter he stated that for health reasons he was declining to take the seat. This illness came on suddenly and has thrown everything up in the air for him and his family. Ben is a good guy, going through some tuff times and we wish him well and speedy recovery. He’s a product of the school system here and would have been a good spokesman for the residents of Ward 1. He comes from a good Somerville family that has been active in many roles here in the city and hopefully Ben will once again become an active voice in the community.

We still think the selection process wasn’t as transparent and definitely not good for the residents of Ward 1, although everyone on the School Board made comments and personal pats on the back this past week on how wonderful each one was during this process. They spent two plus months wasting time and in the end voted to give the seat to Maureen Barstardi’s choice whom she suggested back in December, Steven Roix of Pinckney Street. Steve has said he will serve out the term left vacant and would be sworn into office immediately.

We wonder if he’s going to run for the seat in September.

Speaking of Maureen Bastardi, now we hear that she just might have a primary race down in Ward 1 for her seat. There are rumblings going on about a name, McLaughlin, thinking of running. Elio LoRusso has made it well known he is in it to win it. Now let’s see if Ward 1 is going to have a candidate for School committee.

We hear that one of the Alderman At Large members might be leaving/resigning very soon for a job being offered at City Hall that would leave a vacancy. We also hear that Tom Taylor just might not run as well in Ward 3, and that some very interesting names have surfaced that might want to run if he steps down. Ward 5 will have a race in both Alderman and School Committee, and in Ward 7 it looks like it will be a rerun of two years ago of the two finalists.

We found it interesting that State Representative Carl Sciortino wasn’t even going to wait to see what happens between Congressman Markey and Con-

gressman Lynch in their bid for a U.S. Senator’s seat. He’s come out early to make it well known he’s in the race for Congressman Markey’s seat. It appears that this may have ticked off a few other office holders from Medford through Malden and Melrose and beyond in that district. Carl probably thinks he’s scaring a couple of State Senators who are also eyeing to see if Markey gets elected Senator, but we hear he’s quickly making enemies.

Somerville Little League Player Evaluations take place Saturday, March 2, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. at the Somerville High School Gym located at 81 Highland Avenue in Somerville. 2013 online registration is now open so register today at: www.somervillelittleleague.org. In person registration at these venues: (no cost to SLL registered players) SLL baseball clinic Every Sunday, through March 10, 12 – 3 p.m. at the Edgerly School Gym, 8 Bonair St. and Tufts/SLL baseball clinic Saturday March 9, 2–4 p.m. at Cousins Gym, 161 College Ave, Medford. Evaluations required for the following: New players to SLL wanting to play in the Minors or Majors, players moving from Farm to Minor or Minor to Major League. Evaluations are not required for

T-Ball, Farm League, and players remaining in the same league as last season. For more questions and info please call (617) 849-8478 or email: Registration@Somervillelittleleague.org

We hear that a proposed liquor store called McGrath Beer and Wine wants to open up in Somerville and would locate itself inside the Shaw’s located at 14 McGrath Highway, at the Twin City Plaza. We also hear that Ward 2 Alderman Maryann Heuston has concerns and agreed that the area around Twin City Plaza already has its fair share of liquor stores and is opposed to its opening for all the right reasons. But so isn’t the gentleman that owns Sav-Mor Liquors at 15 McGrath Highway directly across McGrath Highway, who said at the public meeting concerning the new store opening that he also objected to the proposal. He was also quoted in saying, “The controversy is that you want to put a liquor store at 14 McGrath, next to 15 McGrath. I don’t see anybody dying of thirst not being able to get across the street to my store.” We here at Newstalk, looking in from the outside, can see that the alderman is opposed for all the right reasons, like we said,

Continued on page 21

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.

Sequester not the answer



By Joseph A. Curtatone

Like most people in America, I hope that the federal government does not do something

painful and senseless this Friday by allowing \$85 million in arbitrary budget cuts ("the sequester"). It would cut education funding for children with disabilities, eliminate vital Head Start programs for disadvantaged children, curtail meat inspections, slash hazardous waste cleanup funds, compromise our national air defense, eliminate summer jobs programs for teens, make us more vulnerable to pub-

lic health threats, snarl national air travel, slash money for substance abuse treatment (which is also an anti-crime program), cut money to help victims of domestic violence, eliminate meals for seniors, and leave tens of thousands of children without vaccinations.

In most cases these are not even real savings. These are classic cases where an ounce of prevention today is more cost

effective than a pound of cure tomorrow. On top of that, just about every economist in America agrees it would slow economic growth during what is still a fragile recovery.

Basically, it's a bad deal for everyone. To a degree, that's why President Obama and the U.S. Congress agreed to the sequester in the first place. The idea was that the sequester would be so objectionable that it would force

both parties to compromise on a larger deficit reduction package. But as I write this, it looks increasingly likely that a sequester will happen, and Congress either needs to strike a deal or eliminate it. Both sides want deficit reduction and both sides know the sequester is the absolute wrong way to do it. It cannot be allowed to take effect.

The President has issued a detailed, *Continued on page 11*

Assembly Square betrayal?



By William C. Shelton

If you had an urgent need to get to Denver, would you begin by sailing east? Probably not. Most

of us don't pursue important goals by heading in the opposite direction.

But that is what the Board of Aldermen will soon consider doing. They will vote on a Zoning Ordinance amendment designed to permit construction of a one-story 130,000-square-foot supermarket on the property next to the new Assembly Square Orange Line Station.

This would betray stated goals

of Somerville's Comprehensive Plan, whose process and products have won high praise as models of effective planning.

Ellin Reisner is President of Somerville Equity Partnership, and a member of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. She tells me, "To go against what was agreed to in the plan would be very disappointing. Contradicting such a critical element worries me that the city

won't follow through."

If Ms. Reisner feels a sense of impending betrayal, it is widespread and understandable. Hundreds of people attended 50 meetings and contributed thousands of hours to produce the Comprehensive Plan. City staff produced rich data and insightful analysis, providing an objective basis on which neighborhood advocates, business people, nonprofit adminis-

trators and public officials resolved conflicting interests and perceptions to find common ground.

Among the Plan's consensus goals are preserving diversity, increasing jobs within Somerville, and growing the city's commercial tax base. These days, preserving diversity means enabling people who grew up here to afford to keep living here.

The best *Continued on page 15*

A butcher, a baker, a Greek food maker: The new Magoun Square



By Courtney O'Keefe

Slowly, but surely the empty storefronts in Magoun Square are, not only filling up, but being

occupied with businesses that are offering important services to residents, patrons and current business owners! They are complimenting the other great occupants that are already here, helping Magoun return back to the bustling business district it once was.

For the past couple of years, Magoun endured tough losses that included multi-year tenants Basil Tree Catering and Lil' Vin-

ny's. Other businesses, such as Mimi's Nail Salon, soon followed suite.

Mid-2012 began a revival in the square as we welcomed Daddy Jones Bar with its lovely Greek fare and the promise of K2 Beer and Wine opening despite a previous real estate bump in the road. Olde Magoun's Saloon hosted a successful Biergarten and monthly clean-ups kept the square looking pristine!

Residents and patrons are now looking forward to the opening of the Modelo Butcher Market and King of Wings!

Services such as dry cleaning and tailoring have also found their way to Medford Street. These businesses now share the same customers as Magoun's mainstays Olde Magoun's Saloon, White Sport Pizza, Caprese Pizza & Grille, and Panificadora Modelo Bakery just

to name a few. New and historical business owners put their faith and, of course, finances into Magoun and I hope they realize the immense appreciation that so many of us feel for their dedication to this part of Somerville.

As the Magoun Square construction project winds down to traffic light recalibrations, the square is ready for our well-served *Continued on page 15*

Investing in transportation is investing in our future

By Senator Patricia Jehlen and Kristina Egan

Transportation is key to Massachusetts' economic future, but it is currently at risk.

Public transportation's power

to grow our economy and create great communities can be seen in the growth of places like Davis Square, which flourished with the extension of the Red Line in 1985. Today, with development at Assembly Square and con-

struction on the Green Line extension, we are creating jobs in Somerville and making it one of the most well-connected regions of the commonwealth.

Unfortunately, the MBTA, and the rest of our transportation

system, is falling further into debt and disrepair. Red Line service is regularly disrupted and delayed by breakdowns because it is operating 43-year-old train cars, cars that should have been retired 15 years ago. Our roads

are riddled with potholes and haven't been upgraded. The McCarthy overpass is just one example of the hundreds of bridges across the commonwealth that need urgent repairs to avoid collapse. *Continued on page 21*

Life in the by Jimmy Del Ponte

Leather or not



I recently treated myself to a new pair of leather gloves. The new leather smell brought back strong memories of the first leather jacket I ever had. I was actually amazed and surprised that a simple pair of new gloves

could uncork so many feelings.

The year was 1968 and I was 15 years old. I had just successfully escaped from eight painful years of parochial school and my new freedom was blossoming. I was a musician in a band, I had long hair and I was from Somerville.

Let's face it, back then a leather jacket

definitely made you feel special in a cool sort of way. When you are an awkward teen going through growing pains, anything that made you feel better was important to you.

The older kids had leather jackets and to me they looked cool, so I wanted one. Paul McCartney and Marlon Brando

wore them, and I had to have one. I thought it would change my life. I actually became obsessed with it.

I know it seems superficial but back then it was a big deal. The problem was that my parents felt that a leather jacket would turn me into a thug, a gangster, a punk, and a juvenile *Continued on page 16*

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. As is customary during the February school vacation week, there were no roll call votes in the House or Senate last week.

Our Legislators in the House and Senate for Somerville:



Rep. Denise Provost

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



Rep. Carl Sciortino

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



Rep. Timothy Toomey

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



Sen. Sal DiDomenico

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

22, precincts 1, 2 and 5, Chelsea and Revere, ward 6, in the county of Suffolk; and Saugus, precincts 2, 6 and 10, in the county of Essex.



Sen. Patricia Jehlen

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

Beacon Hill Roll Call has obtained the 2012 official list from the state treasurer's office of the "per diem" travel, meals and lodging reimbursements collected by the Legislature's 40 state representatives from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. The list reveals that representatives collected a total of \$298,999. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* reported a few weeks ago that state senators in 2012 collected \$58,304 in per diems. The combined 2012 total collected by representatives and senators is \$357,303.

Under state law, per diems are paid by the state to representatives "for each day for travel from his place of residence to the Statehouse and return therefrom, while in the performance of his official duties, upon certification to the state treasurer that he was present at the Statehouse." These reimbursements are given to representatives above and beyond their regular salaries.

The amount of the per diem varies and is based on the city or town in which a representative resides and its distance from the Statehouse. The Legislature in 2000 approved a law doubling these per diems to the current amounts. The payments range from \$10 per day for legislators who reside in the Greater Boston area to \$90 per day for some Western Massachusetts lawmakers and \$100 per day for those in Nantucket. Members who are from areas that are a long distance from Boston's Statehouse often collect the highest total of annual per diems.

Supporters of the per diems say the system is fair and note the rising costs of travel, food and lodging. They note many legislators spend a lot of money on traveling to Boston and some spend the night in Boston following late sessions.

Some opponents argue most private sector and state workers are not paid additional money for commuting. Others say the very idea of paying any per diem is outrageous when thousands of workers have lost their jobs and homes, the state is in the midst of a recession, and funding for important programs has been cut.

The 2012 statistics indicate that 101 state representatives received reimbursements ranging from \$432 to \$9,400, while 59 have so far chosen not to apply for any money. State law does not establish a deadline that senators must meet in order to collect the per diems.

The representative who received the most money in 2012 is Rep. Timothy Madden (D-Nantucket) with \$9,400.

Representatives rounding out the top ten include Gailanne Cariddi (D-North Adams), \$8,460; William "Smitty" Pignatelli (D-Lenox), \$8,100; John Binienda

(D-Worcester), \$7,776; Former Rep. Demetrius Atasalis (D-West Barnstable), \$7,350; Paul Mark (D-Hancock), \$6,840; Michael Finn (D-West Springfield), \$6,732; Tricia Farley-Bouvier (D-Pittsfield), \$6,660; Ellen Story (D-Amherst), \$6,480; and Angelo Puppola (D-Springfield), \$6,420.

REPRESENTATIVES' 2012 PER DIEMS

The dollar figure next to the representative's name represents the total amount of per diem money the state paid him or her for 2012. The number in parentheses represents the number of days the representative certified he or she was at the Statehouse during that same period.

Rep. Denise Provost	\$1,530	(153 days)
Rep. Carl Sciortino	\$900	(90 days)
Rep. Timothy Toomey	\$0	(0 days)

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

VIOLENCE PROTECTION (H 57) - A new law, signed by Gov. Deval Patrick as part of a supplemental budget, requires that any state-operated or state-funded human service program providing direct services to clients have a workplace violence prevention and crisis response plan for its social workers, human services workers, volunteers and all other employees. The proposal was prompted by the 2008 death of 53-year-old social worker Diruhi Mattian, who was performing a home visit when she was murdered by her client.

Supporters say that more than 50 percent of social workers in Massachusetts have been physically assaulted in a work-related incident, ranging from pushing, hitting, and choking to life-threatening attacks. They note it is time to protect these dedicated, often underpaid workers.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR U.S. SENATE ELECTION - April 10 is the last day to register to vote in the special state primary to fill the U.S. Senate seat given up by Secretary of State John Kerry. Registration hours are from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., except in towns with under 1,500 registered voters, where the hours are 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

EARLY CANDIDATES - Meanwhile, Sens. William Brownsberger (D-Belmont) and Katherine Clark (D-Melrose), and Rep. Carl Sciortino (D-Somerville) have taken the unusual step of already announcing their intention to run for U.S. Rep. Edward Markey's seat if Markey is elected U.S. senator in the special election.

THOUSANDS OF PROPOSALS FOR THE 2013-2014 SESSION - Many pieces of legislation have been filed for consideration in the 2013-2014 Legislature. Here are ten of the more interesting ones:

LABEL TUNA TOXINS - Requires labels on tuna, swordfish and other saltwater fish to provide information about the toxin levels' hazards to consumers' health including young children and pregnant women.

BALLOT LISTING OF CANDIDATES - Prohibits the use of the word "incumbent" next to a candidate's

Beacon Hill Roll Call continued



name on local and state ballots and replacing the word “unenrolled” with “independent” when referring to a candidate without a party affiliation. Also provides that candidates be listed on the ballot in an order determined by a random lottery. Current law requires incumbents to be listed first, followed by an alphabetical listing of candidates of established political parties and then an alphabetical list of non-party candidates.

NO SMOKING IN CARS WITH YOUNG KIDS - Prohibits smoking in cars in which there is a child who is required to be in a child passenger restraint. Under Massachusetts law, children must use a restraint until they are at least eight years old or at least 57 inches tall.

DONATE FOOD WITHOUT LIABILITY - Immunizes from criminal and civil liability, businesses that make good-faith food donations to food pantries and homeless shelters. Current law immunizes only individuals.

OPTIONAL SEX EDUCATION - Requires any school's sex education courses to be offered only on a non-mandatory elective basis in which parents may choose to enroll their children through written notification. Also requires schools to implement a written policy ensuring that parents are notified of the programs and their content and prohibits public school teachers or administrators from being required to participate in any school programs that violate their religious beliefs.

NO NAMES (H 2773) - Prohibits the placing of the name of any appointed or elected official on any state signs and property.

SIMPLIFY LANGUAGE (H 2809) - Requires all documents published by the state to be written in language understandable by a child at a third grade reading level.

VISITING NURSES (H 3018) - Exempts from city and town parking fines any vehicles driven by visiting nurses on duty.

PROSTITUTES (H 1322) - Increases the prison sentence for “johns” of prostitutes from the current one-year sentence and/or up to a \$750 fine to 2.5 years in prison and/or up to a \$5,000 fine.

ALLOW SUNDAY HUNTING (not yet numbered) - Allows hunting on Sundays with a bow and arrow. Current law bans hunting on Sundays.

ELDERLY ABUSE (not yet numbered) - Requires mandated reporters, including doctors, nurses, social workers, police and firefighters, to report incidents of compulsive hoarding by senior citizens. Hoarding is acquisition of and unwillingness to discard large quantities of items that cover the living areas of the home and threaten the health and safety of the resident.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“The governor’s blizzard leadership was interesting. First we’re all ordered by the state to stay off the highways or face a year in jail, then some residents were ordered by their local government to evacuate. People were asking, on talk shows and Facebook, which order should prevail.” – *Barbara Anderson, Executive Director of Citizens for Limited Taxation.*

“Defendant must testify truthfully and completely before any grand jury and at any hearing and trial ... Defendant must not attempt to protect any person or entity through false information or omission.” – *From the plea bargain agreement between the federal government and disgraced former Chelsea Housing Authority chief Michael McLaughlin in which McLaughlin agrees to cooperate with investigators to help them prosecute others in exchange for a possible*

reduced jail sentence. McLaughlin pled guilty to concealing his inflated salary from state and federal authorities for four years including reporting only \$160,415 in income in 2011 when his actual salary was \$283,471.

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 February 18-22, the House met for a total of six minutes while the Senate met for a total of one hour and 33 minutes.

Mon. February 18	No House session No Senate session
Tues. February 19	House 11:07 a.m. to 11:11 a.m. Senate 11:02 a.m. to 11:05 a.m.
Wed. February 20	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. February 21	House 12:04 p.m. to 12:06 p.m. Senate 11:06 a.m. to 12:36 p.m.
Fri. February 22	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Sequester not the answer CONT. FROM PG 9

alternative deficit reduction plan that involves making Medicare more efficient and cost effective, relatively small cuts in discretionary defense and domestic spending, reform of federal retirement programs, elimination of certain agricultural subsidies, reducing oil subsidies, and closing federal tax loopholes for the wealthy.

You’d think those would be generally acceptable terms. The majority of Americans support each and every one of those ideas. However, Congressional Republicans seem willing to make anyone and everyone else suffer in the name of protecting tax loopholes for the wealthy and corporate subsidies, especially to the oil industry.

Meanwhile, they’re using the budget as an excuse to shoehorn two of their worst ideas into the deal: The elimination of Medicare as we know it and an overhaul of the tax code to favor the wealthy.

President Obama’s plan is to make common sense cost adjustments to Medicare so that it is preserved for you, me, our children, and everyone who currently is or hopes to be a senior citizen. Good management can make that happen.

Congressional Republicans instead keep pushing to mutilate the program, turning it into a voucher program that will leave our nation’s seniors in danger of not being able to afford treatment of serious medical conditions. Essentially, it’s a raw deal for anyone 55 and under, and the viability of the program also becomes an issue for anyone currently 55 and over. It’s a tremendously bad idea, but Republicans keep trying to gut Medicare rather than agree to sensible reforms.

The Republican desire to overhaul the tax code in order to tip the scales even more in favor of the wealthy is equally unjust. In the latest national election, voters rejected this key

point of the Republican platform. Moreover, this has nothing to do with deficit reduction. In fact, it would likely increase the federal deficit. It’s an excuse to skirt the debate over closing loopholes and ending subsidies. They don’t want to discuss the plans that could save us money here and now because they prefer their pet idea.

We know blind, across-the-board cuts are exactly the wrong way to balance a budget. I’ve said it more than once: You cannot cut your way to success. In Somerville, we know this firsthand. We used to have some of these same problems. When I took office, one of the first things I did was ask Harvard Kennedy School professor Linda J. Bilmes to help us come up with a better annual budget process to make city government more effective and responsive for our residents. As a result, we now use an “evidence-based budget;” our department managers identify their central

missions and goals, and resources are organized to achieve those goals, measuring their success along the way.

Our success with this budgeting system is evident: dozens of new and rebuilt parks and playgrounds, vastly improved constituent services, a dramatic increase in the number of streets we repave every year, and schools that have consistently improved while preserving no fees for early childhood education, music programs and high schools sports...well, that didn’t happen by accident. We now give the taxpayers more bang for their buck. In fact, we spend less per capita than any other city in Massachusetts with a population of 3,000 or more.

I know from personal experience that President Obama has tried to do something similar in Washington. He and his staff have asked mayors like me what has worked at the local level and tried to replicate those best practices. However, as Prof.

Bilmes noted in an excellent piece in *The Boston Globe* last week, Congress tends to ignore that work and conduct business as usual when it comes to the budget. And this is not a party line issue. Both parties have been resistant to needed changes in how we put together the federal budget. Professor Bilmes suggests budgeting for two years at a time instead of one, better transparency of costs to cut down on overhead expenses, and a simplified budgeting process. All of that should be done.

If you really want deficit reduction, if you really want a better run federal government, then follow the President’s lead and improve the way we put together the federal budget. That’s how to deliver better, more cost-effective government. The sequester does nothing but move our nation backward. And perhaps the one thing we can all agree on is that the direction we need to be moving is forward.

SHS Trivia Team competes on WGBH Quiz Show

Somerville High School’s Trivia Team returned to the WGBH High School Quiz Show, as one of the top 16 academic teams in Massachusetts. Somerville faced off against Lincoln-Sudbury in a four-on-four televised trivia competition, which was taped on January 26, at 2:45 pm and will air on March 3 at 6:30 pm.

The team is composed of senior Zoe Iacovino, the veteran of the team and a founding member of the Trivia Club, juniors Miles Bain and Celine Lessard-Brandt, who both returned for a second season on the Quiz Show, and sophomore John Iacovino, who is joining his older sister on the team. Junior RJ Bingham and sophomore Graham Lessard-Brandt are the team’s two alternates. RJ was the team’s alternate last year, and Graham is another younger brother joining his older sister on the squad.

The team is coached by Ted Blake, a 5th-year Social Studies teacher at Somerville High School. Mr. Blake founded the team three years ago and does most of the recruiting for it from his AP US History class. All six team members are Mr. Blake’s current or former “APUSH” students, though any SHS student is allowed and invited to join the Trivia Club.

Somerville qualified at the show’s “Super Sunday” open tryout on November 4. Somerville beat out over 80 different schools in a 100-question verbal trivia test to earn one of the 16 spots on the High School Quiz Show. This was Somerville’s third year attending “Super Sunday”.

Senior, Zoe Iacovino said that the “Quiz Show is one of the most fun things I’ve done in High School. I’ve done it for three years, and loved every experience, regardless of the outcome.”

This is the fourth season of the High School Quiz Show, and Somerville’s second straight appearance on the show. Last season, Somerville was defeated 375-280 by Rockport High School. The show is open to all Massachusetts schools. The 16 schools compete in a single-elimination tournament, with the winning team facing off the winner of the “Granite State Challenge,” New Hampshire’s version of the show.

If Somerville wins its first-round match against Lincoln-Sudbury, it will return to WGBH the following weekend, February 2nd, to play the winner of the matchup between Advanced Math and Science Academy and Brookline.

The other teams to qualify were Hopkinton, North Quincy, Acton-Boxborough, Hingham, Chelmsford, Wellesley, Rockport, Sharon, Lexington, Needham, Framingham, and Wachusett. 2012 champion, Hamilton-Wenham did not qualify for the show this year, though Lexington was last season’s runner-up.

Admission to the taping of the show is free, and the Trivia Team encourages all students, faculty, and Somerville community members to attend and cheer on SHS. Tune in on March 3 to see if Somerville will move on to the next round of competition.



Somerville High’s Trivia Team - From Left to Right: Graham Lessard-Brandt, RJ Bingham, Zoe Iacovino, John Iacovino, Celine Lessard-Brandt, Miles Bain.



Zoe of Somerville High School tests the buzzer during the taping of first round playoffs of High School Quiz Show. Episode airs Sunday, March 3 at 6:30pm on WGBH 2.



The academic team from Somerville High School before the taping of first-round playoffs against the academic



High School Quiz Show host Billy Costa with members of the studio audience during the taping of first round playoffs between Somerville High School and Lincoln-Sudbury High school.



team from Lincoln-Sudbury.



"Behind the Scenes" at *High School Quiz Show*.

SOMERVILLE SPORTS

Boys hoops opens tourney tonight

By Mike Stoller

It has hardly been a smooth ride for the Somerville boys' basketball team, but the Highlanders are heading into the Division 1 North Sectional tourney as the No. 11 seed against No. 6 host Lynn English when the postseason gets underway tonight.

Somerville, which finished with a 12-8 record, clinched a state tourney berth last week with a win over non-league foe Burke. Lynn English enters the tourney with a 15-5 ledger.

The Highlanders played their last regular season game on Senior Night last Thursday, when they defeated visiting Peabody, 45-42. The squad's eight seniors were recognized for their contributions to the program.

Somerville's graduating class includes Captain Ruairi Palmer, John Lubin, Richard Guerrier,

Corey Hairston, Danny Roche, Roubins Guerrier, Bobby Cassidy, and Patrick Cherenfant.

The Highlanders, who play in the Greater Boston League, soared to a 9-2 record to start the season, before losing five straight. But, Somerville, which battled injuries and lineup changes, bounced back nicely to finish the campaign on a high note.

"I like where we are," Somerville head coach Mark Antonellis said. "We're definitely on the upswing of things."

Somerville finished in fourth place in the competitive GBL, where all five teams made the postseason.

Lubin, a forward, led the Highlanders this winter, averaging 17 points per game. Junior guard Rayoni Matos also proved to be a force, averaging 11 points. Roubins Guerrier

followed at 10.1.

Two other players who shined were junior Jonathan Santana and freshman Fru Che, particularly in rebounding.

"They're both doing a great job on the boards," Antonellis said.

The coach added about Che: "As a freshman, he went above and beyond expectations. At first, it was a learning process, but around the Christmas tournament, he started grabbing more minutes, probably a good 16-20 minutes a game and doing very well."

As they head into the postseason, the Highlanders know it's time to turn it up a notch.

The kids are playing hard," Antonellis said. "Even in the games we lost, we were playing well. The execution has been good."

The girls' basketball team also earned a postseason berth. The No. 9 Highlanders (14-6) lost to No. 8 Andover (16-6) on the



The Somerville High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team 2013.

road, 59-50, in the first round Monday night.

The No. 9 boys' hockey team, meanwhile, was slated to play No. 8 Danvers in a Division 1

North first round tilt Tuesday at Salem State. The result would have occurred too late by the time this newspaper went to print.

Somerville Boxing Club fighter wins Silver Medal

Team USA enjoyed a busy finals night with five American boxers advancing to championship night at the 2013 Independence Cup in Santiago, Dominican Republic.

Flyweight Shawn Simpson (Chicago, Ill.) and light welterweight Erickson Lubin (Kissimmee, Fla.) each won their championship night contests to claim gold medals for the United States.

Light flyweight Leroy Davila (New Brunswick, N.J.), lightweight Kenneth Sims, Jr. (Chicago, Ill.), and welterweight Rashidi Ellis (Somerville Boxing Club fighter) all won silver medals following championship round losses to Cuba on Friday.

Simpson won flyweight gold in his championship bout with the Dominican Republic's Hector Luis Garcia. It was the second straight bout against a home nation boxer for the 2012 U.S. Olympic Training Partner and once again, he emerged victorious. Simpson won a 13-11 decision over Garcia to take home gold for Team USA.

Once again, Lubin impressed the Independence Cup crowd with a standout performance. One night after upsetting Olympic bronze medalist Yaniel Toledo Lopez of Cuba, the 17-year-old dominated his

Puerto Rican foe in the light welterweight final. Lubin won a 34-5 decision over Puerto Rico's Jose Rafael Lopez Rosario to claim gold in his first senior international competition.

Davila was the first U.S. boxer to take the ring in Friday's finals as the light flyweight battled Cuba's Yosvany Veitia Soto in the championship round bout. The American boxer dropped a 14-8 decision to Veitita Soto, taking a silver medal in his first major international competition.

Sims was the only American competitor to box every day of the 2013 Independence Cup, winning four times en route to Friday's lightweight final. He faced Cuba's Ivan Onate Louit in the lightweight finale, looking for his fifth victory of the tournament. Sims fell just short, losing an 18-15 decision to Louit to earn a silver medal for Team USA.

Ellis faced the toughest test of the evening, battling reigning light welterweight Olympic gold medalist Roniel Iglesias of Cuba. The 19-year-old kept it close in the first round, but Iglesias began to pull away over the final two rounds. He won a 23-12 decision over Ellis in the welterweight championship bout, giving the American boxer the silver medal.

Team USA finished second

in overall team points with two gold, three silver and two bronze medals at the 2013 Independence Cup.

Female lightweight Queen Underwood (Seattle, WA) and female middleweight Raquel Miller (San Francisco, CA) won the two bronze medals for the United States.

The Independence Cup was the first major international event for the United States in 2013 and marks the start of a busy international schedule for USA Boxing. Coaches Ed Rivas (San Antonio, Texas) and Jason Galarza (Orlando, Fla.) led the U.S. squad at the event following a preparatory training camp at the Olympic Training Center with USA Boxing International Teaching Coach Pedro Roque.

U.S. Results:

108 lbs: Yosvany Veitia Soto, CUB, dec. Leroy Davila, New Brunswick, N.J./USA, 14-8.

114 lbs: Shawn Simpson, Chicago, Ill./USA dec. Hector Luis Garcia, DOM, 13-11.

132 lbs: Ivan Onate Louit, CUB, dec. Kenneth Sims, Jr., Chicago, Ill./USA, 18-15.

141 lbs: Erickson Lubin, Orlando, Fla./USA dec. Jose Rafael Lopez Rosario, PUR, 34- 5.

152 lbs: Roniel Iglesias, CUB, dec. Rashidi Ellis, Lynn, Mass./USA, 23-12.

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#358

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. What band recorded the album <i>The Joshua Tree</i> ? | signed the treaty returning the Panama Canal back to Panama? |
| 2. What is wire rope often referred to as? | 8. What is the meaning of the "debt ceiling"? |
| 3. What Latin word is the unit of length "inch" derived from? | 9. What color were the black boxes on flight TWA 800? |
| 4. How many brothers were in the original Jackson group? | 10. What is it called when someone walks with the basketball while playing? |
| 5. What was General George Patton's nickname during World War II? | 11. What was the first U.S. city to fluoridate its water? |
| 6. How many minutes in an Olympic basketball game? | 12. What song was used in the 1970's Heinz ketchup commercials? |
| 7. What U.S. president | |

Answers on page 16



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Assembly Square betrayal? CONT. FROM PG 9

affordable housing program is a good job. But Somerville has only 20,000 jobs and 45,000 working residents, the greatest imbalance among the Commonwealth's 351 municipalities. And our constrained city budget relies heavily on State Aid, which dropped from \$57 million in 2002 to \$30 million last year.

So the Comprehensive Plan calls for dense commercial development that would solve our fiscal woes and bring 30,000 new jobs to Somerville. It states that over 60% of job growth in the next ten years should be in Assembly Square. In fact, there is nowhere else that that much could come from.

But it's a realistic goal, because Assembly Square bestrides \$7 billion worth of transportation infrastructure. It's realistic because research and development facilities offer the highest value land use, and Assembly Square is the best location for that sector, after Kendall Square and Longwood, which are filling up. It's realistic because large office buildings and R&D facilities bring a wide spectrum of jobs with upward mobility, from entry-level to highly skilled.

But it's realistic only if we enforce high-density zoning. That's why the 12-acre IKEA parcel that abuts the new T station site is zoned to allow construction of 5 million square feet of office space. A development that took full advantage of that zoning would generate about \$33 million in annual property taxes and bring about 15,000 permanent jobs.

A project that large is unlikely. So assume a project only a quarter that size, and compare that to what a 130,000-square-foot supermarket using 40% of the site would produce—about 200 permanent jobs and \$320,000 in annual property taxes.

Jim Gallagher, a transportation planner and Steering Committee member, raises another interesting concern. "As a taxpayer, I don't see how this helps me. Two supermarkets within a mile means one of them will fail. Either this one or the Stop and Shop would not be in operation within a few years, so the taxes collected would be the same. A supermarket on Winter Hill might be successful, but here just seems redundant."

Aldermen Jack Connolly and Bill Roche submitted the proposed amendment in behalf of Federal Realty In-

vestment Trust (FRIT) who own Assembly Square Marketplace and are now building four well-designed multi-story buildings in a well-designed urban fabric, across the parking lot from the Marketplace.

They have signed a purchase and sale agreement for the IKEA property, the parcel in question. Neither FRIT, nor the commercial real estate market, is ready to build the dense development the property is zoned for. So FRIT would need a source of revenue to service their mortgage debt. Rent from a big-box supermarket lease would be a big help.

Ms. Reisner, Mr. Gallagher, and many others believe that a grocery store that would serve the Square's future residents would be a worthwhile contribution to the emerging neighborhood. But squandering the IKEA property's potential on a one-story supermarket and parking lot is not in the city's best interest. That's why it's illegal.

Advocates have suggested a multistory supermarket design, like the Star Market in Cambridge's University, as part of a larger structure. FRIT rejects this approach.

I can't feel angry towards them. I like all the people that I know at FRIT. They are friendly, honest, forthright, and have complied with all the city's and state's legal requirements. But I understand that, by law, their primary obligation is to maximize return on their shareholders' investment, and they are fulfilling their obligation admirably.

Our elected officials have other obligations that include our city's fiscal health and its citizens' wellbeing. I believe that approving the Zoning Ordinance amendment would betray those obligations.

Nor do I think that 'Villains who advocate for wise development are the only ones who would feel betrayed. The Commonwealth, federal government, and MBTA have invested tens of millions of dollars to support high-density development at Assembly Square.

As Steering Committee member Wig Zamore testified to the Planning Board, "If we put a single story grocer next to the state's first new subway stop in a generation, why would any future governor invest in Somerville? And why should our citizens continue to have faith in their future?"

A butcher, a baker, a Greek food maker: The new Magoun Square CONT. FROM PG 9

reconnection with other notable Somerville locations through the reinstallation of Magoun Square sign set for April—a very ironic month choice considering just three years earlier, the month of April would jumpstart the very construction project that improved our streets, sidewalks, and lighting.

Magoun still has some ways to go, but as a life-long patron and daughter of a former Magoun Square business own-

er, I, along with others, are so happy at how far it has come. The amount of concerned and loyal Gouners is growing and prepped to do whatever it takes to keep this momentum continuing far beyond the Green Line arrival.

Courtney O'Keefe
Creator of Ward 5 Online
Moderator of the Magoun Square United Listserv

Gift for Boxing Club



Tom Leyne from American Legion Post 19 generously presenting a check to the Somerville Boxing Club.

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

**Michael F. Glavin
Executive Director**

PLANNING DIVISION

**LEGAL NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Zoning Board of Appeals will meet on **Wednesday, March 6, 2013**, in the Aldermanic Chambers, 2nd Floor, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, at 6:00 p.m. to hear pending applications and to hold public hearings:

91 Perkins St: (Case #2013-03) Applicants, John Morley and Denis Fullerton Jr. and Owner, 91 Perkins Street LLC seek a Special Permit under SZO §4.4.1 for relief under the provisions of SZO §8.5.E to alter a nonconforming structure to increase the floor area ratio of the property by finishing a portion of the basement. RB zone. Ward 1.

49 Lowden Ave: (Case #2013-04) Applicant & Owner, Frank Rocci, seeks a Special Permit under SZO §4.4.1 to alter a nonconforming structure by extending the length of an existing dormer on the right side facade. RA zone. Ward 6.

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

Attest: Dawn Pereira, Administrative Assistant

Published in Somerville News on 2/20/13 & 2/27/13.


2/20/13, 2/27/13 The Somerville News

The Somerville Licensing Commission is accepting applications for ONE available Wine and Malt Restaurant License and FIVE available All Forms Alcoholic Beverages 7 Day Restaurant Licenses. Interested parties may obtain applications online at Somervillema.gov or at the City Clerks Office, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA Applications are being accepted until March 22, 2013.

For the Commission
Andrew Upton
Vito Vaccaro
John J. McKenna

**Attest: Jenneen Pagliaro
Administrative Assistant**

2/27/13 The Somerville News



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

**Michael F. Glavin
Executive Director**

PLANNING DIVISION

**LEGAL NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING**

A **public hearing** for all interested parties will be held by the Planning Board on **Thursday, March 7, 2013** at 6:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chambers, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA.

200 Inner Belt Rd: (Case #PB 2013-04) Applicant/Owner, Fine Art Storage Partners (Somerville) LLC, seek a Site Plan Approval for a subdivision under SZO §5.4 to divide a 368,388 sf lot into two lots. IA zone. Ward 1.

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

Attest: Kevin Prior, Chairman

To be published in the Somerville News 2/20/13 & 2/27/13.

2/20/13, 2/27/13 The Somerville News

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1999	GMC	Yukon	Vin# 1GKEK13R2XR900828
1998	Honda	Civic	Vin# 2HGEJ6670WH523115
1992	Toyota	Pick-up	Vin# 4TARNS81P9NZ023732
2008	Honda	Civic	Vin# 2HGFA16568H535195
1988	Lincoln	Town Car	Vin# 1LNBMM81FXJY704493

Date of Sale: March 14, 2013
Time: 12:00P.M.
Location: 160 Mc Grath Hwy. Somerville, MA. 02143

2/13/13, 2/20/13, 2/27/13 The Somerville News

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Essex Probate and Family Court
36 Federal Street
Salem, MA 01970
(970) 744 - 1020**

Docket No. ES 13A0004AD

In the matter of: Rhuana Ramirez De Carvalho
To:
Pavel Barros last known of, 66 Myrtle St, #2 Somerville, MA 02143

**CITATION
G.L. c. 210, ss6**

persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth. Legal Dept. 15 Union St. 2nd.fl. Lawrence, MA. 01840

A petition has been presented to said court by:

Raymond E. Arsenault of Danvers, MA
Pamela Arsenault of Danvers, MA

Requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Rhuana Erica Arsenault

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT;
Salem
ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON:
04/16/2013

WITNESS, Hon. Mary Anne Sahagian, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 28, 2013

**Pamela Casey O'Brien
Register of Probate**

2/20/13, 2/27/13 The Somerville News

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2009	Toyota	Corrola	Vin# 1NXBU40E492075057
2004	Honda	STI 300	Vin# 1HFSC55054A010373

Date of Sale: March 27, 2013
Time: 12:00 P.M.
Location : 160 McGrath Hwy, Somerville, MA. 02143

2/27/13, 3/6/13, 3/13/13 The Somerville News

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Leather or not CONT. FROM PG 9

delinquent (by the way, the jacket had nothing to do with that!).

I couldn't believe that my folks actually caved in and bought me a beautiful zip up, dark brown leather jacket from Anderson Little, formerly in Medford. The jacket was my prized possession for many years and I haven't been without one since.

I know a simple jacket does not make you any different, but for the little kid coming from "sister school" to a public junior high (Western Junior) where I didn't know too many students, it was a real morale boost. It sure beat that grey wool tweed nerdy jacket I had before! Imagine gaining confidence from a simple hunk of cowhide? Somehow I felt different when I put that jacket on. But I have to add that the bully who made my life miserable that first year at the Western wasn't impressed by the jacket. He didn't back off until I made friends with a couple of football players! RIP Joe Lutoff!

The following is a story one of my friends shared: "I was 14 and I had my eye on a cool leather jacket in Jordan Marsh at Assembly Square Mall. I tried to drop

subtle hints to my parents that this particular jacket would make a great birthday present. My birthday comes and my mom DID buy me a jacket at Assembly Square Mall at Kmart because she said she got the same coat for half the price. This jacket looked like someone had skinned a couch (vinyl or pleather). I would wear it to the end of the street then roll it in a ball and freeze the rest of the way to the Southern (Junior High). One day I threw it on the tracks behind Lincoln Park School. I told my parents that the neighborhood bully started a fight with me because she was jealous of my cool jacket and then threw it on the tracks. I can't help but chuckle when I drive over the Washington Street Bridge all these years later. I bet the coat is still down there."

There were many different styles and colors of leather jackets that we wore back in the day. One gal remembers hers as a black maxi that was so long she actually used to get her heels caught on the bottom and trip. She admitted that she did not pay full price for the coat, and it was purchased from a shady character

who sold them out of his trunk. We used to say this type of merchandise "fell off the truck."

Other styles were big buttons with wide lapels, belted car length, short biker style, full, waist length, ¾ length, fringed, and suede.

This testimonial comes from a lifelong Somerville guy: "I bought a three quarter long black leather. I bought it in Brighton at a leather company near the Skating Club of Boston (Snyders?)." Another friend's first leather was dark green from Cummings in Davis Square. A lot of my friends got their leather biker and bomber jackets at the Army Navy store in Central Square. An old friend of mine tells me that she got her short, waist length purple leather when the Cambridge side Galleria first opened and she still wears it and loves it! Another young lady got hers at the Bargain Center in Davis Square and was ashamed to tell anyone where it came from. Here's a good one: "I got my maroon 3/4 length (or fingertip length) as a surprise from my parents one Christmas back around 1977-78. I loved that jacket!"

We got our first leathers at Tellos, Ann and Hope, Jordan Marsh, Filene's Basement, Mickey Finns (Davis Square) and the other stores mentioned above. A lot of our leather jackets outlasted the stores. Many of us still have them. I still can't really put my finger on why those leather jackets made us feel a little more confident, more comfortable in our surroundings, and generally cooler. But one thing is for sure, back in the day when we were teenagers in Somerville, when we looked in the mirror and saw ourselves in those leather jackets, we looked "Pissah."

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 jimmy-del@rcn.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

Book Club - Meeting March 1 at Holland Street - "Caleb Crossing" - Get your book from Janine.

Questions about your medications? Unsure how they affect you? Here is your chance to talk to Health Science Student Outreach - Students from Northeastern University of Health Science that are coming here. Education about chronic health conditions, blood pressure screenings and answers to your medication related questions. If you have questions about your medications, bring them and they will answer. February 28, 10 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Holland Street Center.

Intergenerational Fitness Fun with Tufts Educational Day Care Center - Join us as we have some fun while getting fit. Qigong on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Navarasa - India Storytelling through hand and body movement on Thursdays from 10:45-11:30 a.m. Belly Dancing on Tuesdays right after the adult class at 1:30 p.m. (adult class begins at 12:30 p.m.) beginning March 12 and Fitness and Nutrition Exploration on Friday mornings at 10:00 a.m. All FREE.

Men's Club - Recently retired? Looking to connect with other men in the community? Join our Men's Group and connect with your old friends or come make some new friends. Wednesdays at Holland Street Center. 12:00-1:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served. All 55+ are welcome. March 6.

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. March 5 and 12 from 10-11:30 a.m. Limited enrollment. A few spots left. Stay for lunch and get free transportation. Bingo after. Sign up early. With artist Emily Bhargava.

Lunchtime exercise class for all in the community!

Looking to get and stay fit this year? We have the program for you. Fit-4-Life General Group is a fitness/nutrition program on Wednesday and Friday mornings. This is a great fitness/nutrition program. Call Lisa if you are interested.

We heard you singing in the shower - now join us in person. The Moonlighters meet every Monday at 10:30 a.m. at Holland Street. All levels welcome. No experience needed.

Cards and Games hour at Ralph & Jenny at 10:00 a.m. every day the center is open. Come join your friends or make some new ones. Cards, Scrabble and Cribbage.

Do you crochet or would you like to learn? Thursdays at 10:45 a.m. At Ralph & Jenny Center. Join a great group in learning to crochet or share your projects you are working on.

Trip Corner:

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 - Tuesday 9:15 a.m. at Holland and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. at 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.

February 27

1:00 Bowling at Flatbreads

Holland Street

Fit-4-Life Classes Groups A & B

Intergenerational QiGong - all welcome|1 p.m.

QiGong|1:30 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

February 28

Holland Street Center

Flexibility & Balance|10 a.m.

Current Events - new members welcome|10 a.m.

Blood Pressure|10 a.m.

Bingo|12:45 p.m.

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

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Ralph & Jenny Center

Cards & Cribbage|10 a.m.

Bingo|12:45 p.m.

9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

March 1

Holland Street Center

Fit-4-Life Groups A & B

Intergenerational Fitness & Nutrition Exploration|10 a.m.

Indoor Exercise|11 a.m.

Bingo|12:45 p.m.

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

March 4

Monthly Breakfast - Meghann from Resistat

Holland Street

Veteran's Group|9:30 a.m.

Singing|10:30 a.m.

English Conversation|10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

March 5

Holland Street Center

Strengthening Exercise|9:15 a.m.

SHINE by appt|1:15 p.m.

Bellydancing|12:30 p.m.

LBT Fit-4-Life|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

Cross Street Center

Mosaic Project - All welcome|10:30 a.m.

Bingo|12:45 p.m.

165 Broadway

March 6

Bowling at Flatbreads 1 p.m.

Holland Street Center

Fit-4-Life Classes Groups A & B

Grandparents Day|10:30 a.m.

Intergenerational Qi gong|1p.m.

QiGong|1:30 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.

COA at the Fuller Craft Museum



This month's Council on Aging's "Jaunt with Janine" featured a visit to the Fuller Craft Museum. Pictured here, Peg Durkin admires a quilt. Next month it's the Armenian Museum and in April it is a Foodie Tour of Somerville.

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• • • • ‘VILLENS ON THE TOWN’ • • • •

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Wednesday| February 27

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|February 28

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

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

Central Library
Homeschool Games Program
Lauren Bell|617-718-0501
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Friday| March 1

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

Central Library
Teen Movie Day
Ron Castile|617-623-5000-2936
3 p.m.-5:30 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

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

Saturday|March 2

East Branch Library
Nepali Language Class for Kids Ages 6-12
Rachel Strutt|617-625-6600 x2985
10 a.m.-11 a.m.|115 Broadway

Central Library
People to People Student
Ambassador Meeting
Eileen Sullivan|413-531-0208
10 a.m.-11 a.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Central Library
Maple Syrup Workshop
2 p.m.-3 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Sunday|March 3

Central Library
Ding-Dong, ¿Quién es? Playing and Learning Latin Rhythms
Cathy Piantigini|617-623-5000 x2950
2 p.m.-3 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Monday|March 4

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

Tuesday|March 5

Central Library
Homeschool Reading Group for Ages 9-11
Tammy McKanan
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 |March 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

Central Library
Book Group for Kids
Cathy/x2950
7 p.m.- 8 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

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

MUSIC
Wednesday|February 27

Johnny D's
Charlie Parr|Cannibal Ramblers
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
Missing Mars|Cody Masters|Nadia Syed
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
UP: Warp Speed Wednesday Presents: Immortal Kombat-Doctor Who & Star Trek TNG Playing|Mortal Kombat Tournament- Free
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
The Vagina Monologues
7 p.m.|Performance Hall |191 Highland Ave

Thursday|February 28

Johnny D’s
Los Fletchers|Portmanteaux
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

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

PA’S Lounge
Mojo Kick|Today Junior|Twin Berlin|Tha Clitorati
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
Jenna Bortolotti|Chaparrals|Jeanne Jolly
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
Hot Sauce
381 Summer St.

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

Radio Bar
UP: Lindsay Starr|Destry|American Echoes \$7
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
Classical Cafe: Ensemble 451 at the Armory
7:30 p.m.|Café:191 Highland Ave

Friday|March 1

Johnny D’s
Rod Picott|Booty Vortex
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s
Stan Martin Band|6 p.m.
Emily Grogan Band, American Beauties|9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Jimmys Down
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

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

Precinct Bar
Hear Now Live Presents:Ellis Ashbrook|Ryan Jackson Troika|Tik Tok|Hear We Just Dream|Bitch Trifecta
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

PA’S Lounge
Why Wolves|Don't Chew Cords|The Hammond Group|The Birthday Suicide
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
Unregular
381 Summer St

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

Radio Bar
UP: Billy Joel Night featuring members of bands:Apple Betty,Full Body Anchor, The New Alibis, The Alrighters, The Larkin Brigade, (Opening Strip Down Set with Gene Dante & Max Butler, Jenn Kitten). Mac n Cheese cook off starts at 8p.m.get your ballot at the door 10 chefs, 1 Winner. \$10
Down: Freak Flag First Friday-Hunters from NYC|The Numerators From NYC|True Cross \$5
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
Dan Fox Jazz Singers Showcase
6 p.m.|Café
The Vagina Monologues
7 p.m.|Performance Hall|191 Highland Ave

Saturday|March 2

Johnny D’s
The Stompers|Duppy Conquerors
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s
Family Jewels|6 p.m.
Nihility, SWYM, The Screw-Ups, Skinny Bones \$5 cover|9 p.m.

335 Somerville Ave|617-666 3589

The Burren
Red Square
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Precinct Bar
Ryan Taylor Band front bar 5pm
Hear Now Live Presents:Ryan Jackson Troika|Vending Machetes|The Doctors Fox|Adrian Emberley
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
Rockin Rose Presents
381 Summer St

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

Radio Bar
UP: Cocked And Loaded|White Dynamite|Hey Zeus|We Own Land (from Newport)
Down: The Legendary Rockin' Prophets|Nick and The Adversaries|The Reactive
379 Summer St

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

Sunday|March 3

Johnny D’s
Open Blues Jam featuring The Matthew Smart Band|The Deer Tracks
8:30 p.m.
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s Bar
Session Planetaria: rhythm, rhyme, story & song with open jam|2 p.m.
Paul Ahlstrand Quartet|5 p.m.
Amber Casares Band|8 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

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

PA’S Lounge
Fins|Rare Monk|Devil Twins|Boom Said Thunder
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

Precinct Bar
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

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

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
379 Summer St

Monday|March 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|6:45 p.m.Set Dancin|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
381 Summer St

Radio Bar
379 Summer St

Arts at The Armory
Salsa Basics with Mambo Soul!
7 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

Tuesday|March 5

JohnnyD’s
Lord Geoffrey Presents Richard Wood & Gordon Belsher
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s Bar
Honky Tonk Masquerade country & western swing|9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

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

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

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

Precinct Bar
UnRegular Radio Presents:Nicole D'Amico & Friends|Hot Letter|Low Key Confusion
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
379 Summer St

Wednesday|March 6

Johnny D's
Pre-SXSW Pre-Heat|Local bloggers, musicians & writers spin tunes from the bands they’re excited to see at SXSW in Austin!FREE!
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

• • • • ‘VILLENS ON THE TOWN’ • • • •

PA'S Lounge
Paul Harkins Trio|Adam Block
Band|Charles Johnson Band
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

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

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

Precinct Bar
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
UP: Fantastic Liars|Dave
Wells|Crooked Mirror \$5
379 Summer St

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

CLASSES AND GROUPS
Wednesday|February 27

Central Library
K + A Call Backs
Michael Madden/508 498 2150
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

Thursday| February 28

Central Library
Mindfulness and Stress Management
Workshop with Sunada Takagi
Sunada Takagi
7 p.m.-8:30 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| March 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| March 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|March 4

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

Avenue

Tuesday| March 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| March 6

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

PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO!

COA's Grandparents Week

Grandparent's Week is always special at the Council on Aging. For Grandparent's Day they were fortunate to have Navarasa Dance Theater come to the Holland Street Center.

Navarasa Dance Theater is a contemporary dance theater company founded in 1991 as "Navarasa Natyalaya" by renowned dancer and choreographer Aparna Sindhoor in Mysore, India, and now located in Somerville.

Aparna will be coming to the Holland Street Center on Thursdays as part of the intergenerational program "Intergenerational Fitness and Fun" with

Tufts Educational Day Care Center beginning February 28 at 10:45-11:30 a.m. This program is free and quite enjoyable.

Other intergenerational programs are QiGong on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. running through March 27. Belly Dancing begins on March 12 on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. after the regular Belly Dancing class at 12:30 and Fitness and Nutritional Exploration on Fridays from 10:00-10:30 a.m. starting March 1. All programs are free and open to the public. Call the COA at 617-625-600 ext. 2300 for questions or to sign up.



Storyteller Aparna from Navarasa.

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Ms. Cam's *Answers* from page 14

Olio Answers

1. U2	8. It is the cap set by Congress on the amount of debt the Federal Government can legally borrow - the cap applies to debt owed the public, i.e anyone who buys U.S. Bonds, debt owed to Trust Funds, Social Security, Medicare, etc.
2. Cable	
3. "Uncia" - meaning 1/12 part	
4. Five	9. Orange
5. "Old Blood and Guts"	10. Travelling
6. 40 minutes - 10 min. each quarter	11. Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1954
7. President Carter	12. Anticipation by Carly Simon

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Investing in transportation is investing in our future CONT. FROM PG 9

In a 2007 report, the Transportation Finance Commission stated that Massachusetts is facing a funding gap of \$15 billion to \$19 billion over the next 20 years to properly maintain our roads, bridges, and public transit infrastructure. The disrepair of our transportation infrastructure is endangering future economic growth. Every year CNBC ranks “America’s Top States for Business.” From 2011 to 2012, Massachusetts fell from 6th overall to 28th. While we remain among the top ranked states in many categories, our ranking in the category of Infrastructure & Transportation fell from 29th to a dismal 45th. This trend cannot continue, and substantial new revenue is needed to mend the gap.

It is important that we create a final plan that will generate adequate revenue to meet basic operating, maintenance, debt service and capital needs along with service expansions that spur economic growth. The Governor’s budget proposal aims to raise necessary transportation revenue in a way that will not disproportionately affect low and middle income families and individuals. As we move forward on creating long-term, comprehensive funding solutions to meet all of our statewide transportation needs, we should consider the Governor’s budget proposal among many of the other revenue options that are on the table.

Transportation funding is at a crisis point. For decades, Massachusetts has underfunded repairs of our transit, roads, and bridges. Report after report has shown the need for major investment in repairs to our entire transportation infrastructure. We now have a unique opportunity to restore our transportation system and we must not let it pass. With crumbling roads and bridges, severely outdated MBTA vehicles, and the specter of further cuts to transit service, addressing the transportation funding gap can’t wait. When we invest in transportation, we invest in those things we all care about: jobs, the economy, education, a better quality of life, and our environment. Following World War II, our nation invested in highways and public transportation, spurring a period of growth, but recently we have postponed maintenance and avoided needed improvements. The time has come to invest in a 21st century transportation system for ourselves and future generations.

As a part of the statewide conversation we have planned a community forum about the importance of transportation to residents and businesses alike, along with proposed solutions for how to raise the needed revenue. The forum, co-hosted by the Somerville delegation, other area legislators, the Somerville, Medford and Winchester Chambers of Commerce, and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, will be held on March 6th from 5:30-7:30pm at Century Bank (400 Mystic Ave Medford 02155). Please join us to hear from MassDOT Secretary Richard Davey, Mayor Joseph Curtatone, Thomas Bent (Somerville representative to the Metropolitan Planning Organization) and others, and to share your thoughts for the future.

Senator Pat Jehlen represents Somerville and is co-chair of the MBTA caucus. Kristina Egan is the director of the Transportation for Massachusetts coalition.

News Talk CONT. FROM PG 8

but we are also hearing rumors out there that the owner of Sav-Mor Liquors might not want to operate his store during certain hours that would accommodate that area's customer demands as the new proposed McGrath Beer and Wine's scheduled hours would. So let's get this straight, this guy at Sav-Mor is getting the benefit of the doubt by the alderman who is opposing the new opening that is also keeping a competitor from opening up shop across the highway from the existing liquor store, but the existing liquor store doesn't want to accommodate his consumers with regular hours? Mmm-mmm? So why not just let the McGrath Beer and Wine come in and operate and meet the demands of his clientele in that area? More power to them we say, because some people just don't get it.

Happy Birthday to a special Villen, Michael Gabriel Curtatone Chiaravalloti, who turned 8 years old this past Sunday. Wow, how time flies. It was just like yesterday when he was born. Michael's mom, Maria Curtatone, was in “birthday party planning mode” all weekend long and made sure that her son had a fun birthday with all his little friends.

Also, we would like to wish a 27th Happy Birthday to our good friend Amanda Roderick. As her dad, our very good friend John Roderick, always says, “She will always be our ‘Little But-terball!’”

A special Happy Birthday to our good friend Tea Desmond! Tea is celebrating her 11th birthday here in the Ville this week. Happy Birthday greetings go out to our good friend, Somerville's favorite exterminator, Rod Kreimeyer, who keeps

us entertained all winter long with his Facebook fishing stories. Some longer than others, but all very interesting, especially the one about the yellow fish he once caught. Happy Birthday! A very happy birthday as well to Nick Bennett from England, who is married and raising his family here. A real nice guy. A big Happy Birthday to Debbie Farias Pereira. Happy Birthday to Kelly Bruno, a lifelong resident who works for ReMax. Toby McGuire is also celebrating this week. A nice guy. Another guy celebrating and who is responsible for a good many new homes built here in the city, we wish Eamon Fee a big Happy Birthday. Some notables and big shots this week here in the Ville: Mr. Sean Fitzgerald who is celebrating this week and is also, by the way, a candidate for Alderman at Large. Another notable here is the famous better half of Alderman Robert Trane, his lovely wife with a great smiling positive attitude, Nancy Trane, is celebrating - we hear her 29th - birthday - LOL. Peter Miller, a well known City Hall Board Member in the past and a developer, is celebrating.

Now you heard the story of when President Obama resided here in Winter Hill back in the 80's and, of course, we were the ones that broke the story on his unpaid parking tickets back in 2007 when he was running. But did you know that his lovely wife Michelle also resided here in Somerville while she attended Harvard? We have the address but are currently checking it out to confirm that she did in fact live here in Somerville. We will keep you posted. Now, it seems we heard that Michelle Robinson resided here until about June of 1988 in Somerville, graduated from Harvard and moved back to Chicago where she got a job in a well known Chicago law firm. About August of

1988 President Obama arrived here in the city and resided in Winter Hill and after he graduated from Harvard moved to Chicago, where he also got a job with the same law firm that Michelle was working, that's where they met.

“To bike lane or not to bike lane, that is the question!” Here's another important date to save: Tuesday, March 5 at 6:00 p.m. at Argenziano School, located at 290 Washington Street. Mayor Curtatone, Ward 2 Alderman Maryann Heuston and the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development are hosting a follow-up meeting on the proposed Beacon Street reconstruction and streetscape project. Check out the city's website for more info: www.somervillema.gov/beaconstreet.

Our condolences go out to the family of Virginia (Mazzola) Tsunis, 85. A resident of Somerville since 1940, she died on February 16. Virginia was a wonderful woman and will be missed by many of her friends here in the Ville.

Congratulations to Joey and his lovely wife Krystal Baldasaro on the birth of their newborn daughter, Jadyn Marie Baldasaro, born yesterday (Tuesday) morning at 5:30 a.m. Baby Jadyn is granddaughter to our good friend, East Cambridge born, NH State Representative Al Baldasaro. We wish them all the best!

Transportation Secretary Davey will present “The Way Forward: A 21st Century Transportation Plan” followed by a discussion with local businesses and state officials. Transportation Finance Forum with

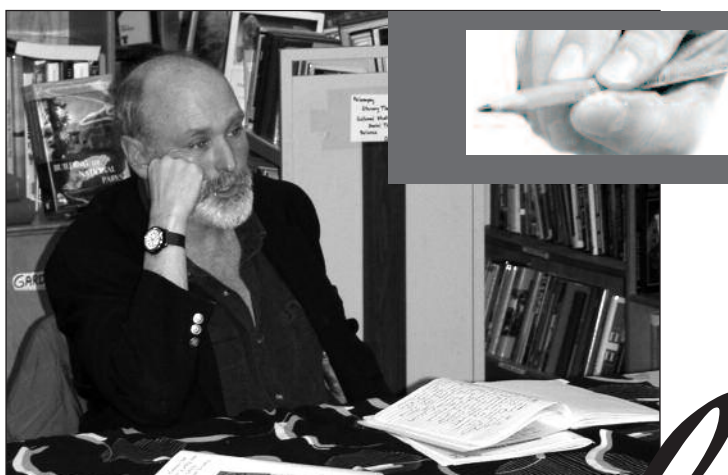
Mass DOT Secretary Richard Davey, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 6, at the Century Bank 400 Mystic Avenue, Medford. Free admission. RSVP with name(s) and affiliation(s) tosmackey@somervillechamber.org Stephen V. Mackey, President/CEO. You can call the Somerville Chamber of Commerce at 617-776-4100 or email smackey@somervillechamber.org.

Get well wishes to Ida Azzolino, who fell earlier this month and broke her leg. She, you'll remember, recently celebrated her 100th birthday here in Somerville this past September. We wish her a speedy recovery and we are pleased to announce she's doing good at the rehab center. She has a great sense of humor and can't wait to be back on her feet.

The season for ice-skating is here. Come learn to skate or improve your recreational, figure or hockey skating skills. Classes are held at the Cambridge Simoni Rink on Gore St., with lessons starting on Saturday March 2 at 2:00 p.m. for a 6-week series. Also, at the Somerville Veterans Memorial Rink located on Somerville Ave., with lessons on March 3 for a 4-week series. The Learn-to-Skate classes, as featured on Chronicle, are for children ages 4 ½ and up and adults wearing either figure or hockey skates. Professional instructors teach beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Come join the fun and advance your skills at the Cambridge and Somerville rinks, or at any of 10 other rink locations. To register for classes or to get additional information, please call the Bay State Skating School at 781-890-8480, or visit them online at <http://www.baystateskatingschool.org/> www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org. Ice skate and feel great!

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Wednesday, February 27							
12:00am	Free Speech TV	3:00pm	Talking about Somerville	11:00am	Dead Air Live	9:00am	Revolutionary War in Somerville
6:00am	Heritage Baptist Church	4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	Noon	Reeling Movie Show	9:30am	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show
7:00am	Healthy Hypnosis	5:00pm	Ablevision	12:30pm	Active Aging	10:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading
7:30am	Life Matters	5:30pm	Culture Club	1:00pm	Bongoman (LIVE)	11:00am	Nossa Gente e Costumes
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV (Free Speech TV)	2:00pm	Henry Parker Presents	Noon	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
9:00am	Science Issues & Innovations	6:30pm	Art @ SCATV	2:30pm	Copy Cat Festival	1:00pm	Ablevision
10:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	7:00pm	Climate Change in Somerville	3:00pm	Tele Magazine	1:30pm	Art at SCATV
11:00am	Abugida TV	8:00pm	Fouye Zo Nan Kalalou (LIVE)	4:00pm	Boston Tango Festival	2:00pm	Talking about Somerville
12:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	9:30pm	Tonight's Special	5:00pm	Tele Kreyol	2:30pm	Somerville Housing Authority
1:00pm	Somerville Housing Authority	10:00pm	Energy Theater	6:00pm	Basic Buddha	3:00pm	Exercise with Robyn and Max
1:30pm	Henry Parker Presents	Friday, March 1		6:30pm	Climate Change in Somerville	3:30pm	Esoteric Science
2:00pm	Culture Club	12:00am	Free Speech TV	7:30pm	Somerville Back in the Day	4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)
2:30pm	Somerville Back in the Day	6:00am	Road to Recovery	8:00pm	David Parkman (Free Speech TV)	5:00pm	Culture Club
3:00pm	Medical Tutor	7:00am	The Origins of SCATV	9:00pm	Nossa Gente e Costumes	5:30pm	Somerville Back in the Day
3:30pm	Inside Talk	7:30am	Shrink Rap	10:00pm	Contemporary Science Issues & Innovations	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV
4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	11:00pm	Gay TV (Free Speech TV)	6:30pm	Tonight's Special
5:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking.	9:00am	Energy Theater	Sunday, March 3		7:00pm	Critical Focus
5:30pm	Cooking with Georgia & Dez	10:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	12:00am	Free Speech TV	8:00pm	SCATV Special
6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV (Free Speech TV)	11:00am	Somerville Youth Green Team	6:00am	Program Celebrai	9:00pm	Dedilhando A Saudade
6:30pm	Art @ SCATV	Noon	Revolutionary War in Somerville	7:00am	Flipside	10:00pm	Bate Papo con Shirley
7:00pm	Tonight's Special	12:30pm	Ablevision	7:30am	Talking with Deval Patrick	11:00pm	Copy Cat Festival
7:30pm	Basic Buddha	1:00pm	Somerville Open Cinema Selections	8:00am	Effort Pour Christ	Tuesday, March 5	
8:00pm	Somerville Pundits (LIVE)	1:30pm	Somerville Housing Authority	9:00am	Heritage Baptist Church	12:00am	Free Speech TV
8:30pm	The Entertainer's Show	2:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking	10:00am	International Church of God	6:00am	Road to Recovery
9:00pm	Somerville Rocks!	2:30pm	Cooking With Georgia	10:30am	Basic Buddha	7:00am	Outdoor Adventures (SCATV Special)
9:30pm	Somerville Open Cinema Selections	3:00pm	Brunch with Sen. Bernie Sanders	11:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
10:00pm	Play by Play	4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	Noon	Reeling Movie Show	9:00am	Somerville News Reading
10:30pm	2013 SCATV Annual Meeting	5:30pm	Art @ SCATV	12:30pm	The Garage	10:00am	Tele Kreyol
11:00pm	The Literary Scene	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV (Free Speech TV)	1:00pm	Critical Focus	11:00am	Talking with Deval Patrick
11:30pm	The Steve Katso's Show	6:30pm	Reeling Movie Reel	2:00pm	Somerville Open Cinema Selections	11:30am	Origins of SCATV
Thursday, February 28		7:00pm	Eating Locally in Somerville	3:00pm	Rompendo en Fe	Noon	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
12:00am	Free Speech TV	8:00pm	Creepy Castle	4:00pm	Dedilhando A Saudade	1:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking w/ Candy
6:00am	Atheist Viewpoint	9:30pm	The Garage	5:00pm	Ethiopian Satellite TV	1:30pm	Cooking with Georgia & Dez
6:30am	Gerry Leone Show	10:00pm	Play by Play	6:00pm	Abugida TV	2:00pm	Somerville Housing Authority
7:00am	Physician Focus	10:30pm	The Entertainer's Show	7:00pm	African Television Network	2:30pm	2013 SCATV Annual Meeting
7:30am	Ablevision	11:00pm	Tonight's Special	8:00pm	Telemagazine	3:30pm	Henry Parker Presents
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	11:30pm	The Steve Katso's Show	9:00pm	Effort Pour Christ	4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)
9:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	Saturday, March 2		10:00pm	2013 SCATV Annual Meeting	5:00pm	Poet to Poet
10:00am	Active Aging	12:00am	Free Speech TV	11:30pm	Somerville Rocks!	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV (Free Speech TV)
10:30am	Talking with Deval Patrick	6:00am	Arabic Hour	Monday, March 4		6:30pm	Real Estate Answer Show
11:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	7:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	12:00am	Free Speech TV	7:00pm	Art at SCATV
Noon	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00am	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	6:00am	Atheist Viewpoint	7:30pm	Greater Somerville (LIVE)
1:00pm	African Television Network	8:30am	King of the 'Ville	6:30am	Physician Focus	8:00pm	Dead Air Live
2:30pm	Somerville Back in the Day	9:00am	Festival Kreyol	7:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	9:00pm	Actors Shakespeare Theater
		10:00am	Tele Galaxie	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	11:00pm	Contemporary Science Issues & Innovations

City Cable TV Schedule for the Week							
CITY TV 13/22							
Wednesday, February 27							
9:00am:	The Gerry Leone Show	9:35pm:	The Gerry Leone Show	EDUCATIONAL CHANNEL 15			
12:00pm:	School Committee Meeting – REPLAY OF 2/25/13	Sunday, March 3		Wednesday, February 27			
2:15pm:	Somerville By Design #4	12:00am:	Somerville By Design #4	9:00am	ESCS Construction Update #2	1:25pm	MIAA Rd 1:SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English
7:00pm:	Somerville By Design #4	2:05am:	Quincy Street Park Dedication	12:00pm	WSNS Science Fair	3:15pm	MIAA Rd 1:SHS Girls Basketball vs Andover
9:05pm:	Snow Plowing in Somerville	2:35am:	The Gerry Leone Show	12:55pm	Kid Stuff: Chief Pasquarello	6:00pm	MIAA Rd 1: SHS Hockey vs Danvers
9:15pm:	Voices of Somerville	9:00am:	The Aldermen's Hour	1:25pm	Our Schools, Our City: Health & Wellness	7:25pm	MIAA Rd 1:SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English
9:45pm:	The Gerry Leone Show	12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	1:55pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Medford	9:25pm	MIAA Rd 1:SHS Girls Basketball vs Andover
Thursday, February 28		12:30pm:	Congressional Update	6:00pm	MIAA Rd 1:SHS Girls Basketball vs Andover HS	Sunday, March 3	
12:00am:	Somerville By Design #4	1:00pm:	Voices of Somerville	7:30pm	MIAA Rd 1:SHS Hockey vs Danvers	12:00am	MIAA Rd 1: SHS Hockey vs Danvers
2:05am:	Snow Plowing in Somerville	1:30pm:	Highlander Forum	8:50pm	Kid Stuff: Chief Pasquarello	1:25am	MIAA Rd 1:SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English
2:15am:	Voices of Somerville	2:00pm:	Clean 'Ville of Health	9:20pm	El Sistema February Concert	3:15am	MIAA Rd 1:SHS Girls Basketball vs Andover
2:45am:	The Gerry Leone Show	2:15pm:	Three Paths to Italy	9:50pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs NDA	12:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Burke
9:00am:	Voices of Somerville	7:00pm:	Senior Circuit	Thursday, February 28		1:35pm	SHS Hockey vs Medford
12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	7:30pm:	Congressional Update	12:00am	MIAA Rd 1:SHS Girls Basketball vs Andover HS	3:00pm	SHS Hockey vs Latin Academy
12:30pm:	Voices of Somerville	8:00pm:	Voices of Somerville	1:30am	MIAA Rd 1:SHS Hockey vs Danvers	6:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Burke
1:00pm:	Chamber of Commerce Dinner & Awards	8:30pm:	Highlander Forum	3:20am	El Sistema February Concert	7:35pm	SHS Hockey vs Medford
7:00pm:	GLX Gubernatorial Press Conference	9:00pm:	Clean 'Ville of Health	9:00am	SHS Girls Basketball vs NDA	9:00pm	SHS Hockey vs Latin Academy
7:25pm:	Clean 'Ville of Health	9:15pm:	Three Paths to Italy	12:00pm	El Sistema February Concert	Monday, March 4	
7:40pm:	Jimmy Tingle's Somerville: Rex Trailer Special	Monday, March 4		12:25pm	Raising Families: Tobacco Awareness	12:00am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Burke
8:30pm:	The Aldermen's Hour	12:00am:	Senior Circuit	1:50pm	SHS Hockey vs Revere	1:35am	SHS Hockey vs Medford
9:00pm:	Prospect Hill to Salisbury Prison	12:30am:	Congressional Update	3:20pm	Our Schools, Our City: Health & Wellness	3:00am	SHS Hockey vs Latin Academy
Friday, March 1		1:00am:	Voices of Somerville	6:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Peabody	9:00am	Our Schools, Our City: Health & Wellness
12:00am:	GLX Gubernatorial Press Conference	1:30am:	Highlander Forum	7:30pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Peabody	12:00pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Cambridge
12:25am:	Clean 'Ville of Health	2:00am:	Clean 'Ville of Health	9:00pm	SHS Hockey vs Latin Academy	1:30pm	Our Schools, Our City: Health & Wellness
12:40am:	Jimmy Tingle's Somerville: Rex Trailer Special	2:15am:	Three Paths to Italy	10:30pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs NDA	2:00pm	Raising Families: Tabacco Awareness
1:30am:	The Aldermen's Hour	9:00am:	GLX Gubernatorial Press Conference	Friday, March 1		2:30pm	WSNS Science Fair
2:00am:	Prospect Hill to Salisbury Prison	12:00pm:	The Gerry Leone Show	12:00am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Peabody	3:00pm	SHS Hockey vs Revere
9:00am:	Congressional Update	12:30pm:	Voices of Somerville	1:30am	SHS Hockey vs Latin Academy	6:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Newton S
12:00pm:	Somerville By Design #4	1:00pm:	Somerville By Design #4	3:00am	SHS Girls Basketball vs NDA	7:30pm	WSNS Science Fair
2:05pm:	Congressional Update	7:00pm:	School Committee Meeting - LIVE	4:30am	El Sistema February Concert	8:25pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett
2:35pm:	The Gerry Leone Show	9:30pm:	Hard Target	9:00am	Raising Families: Tobacco Awareness	9:45pm	SHS Hockey vs Cambridge
7:00pm:	Somerville By Design #4	9:40pm:	Congressional Update	12:00pm	MIAA Rd 1: SHS Hockey vs Danvers	Tuesday, March 5	
9:05pm:	Congressional Update	Tuesday, March 5		1:25pm	MIAA Rd 1:SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English	12:00am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Newton S
9:35pm:	The Gerry Leone Show	12:00am:	Congressional Update	3:15pm	MIAA Rd 1:SHS Girls Basketball vs Andover	1:30am	WSNS Science Fair
Saturday, March 2		12:30pm:	The Aldermen's Hour	6:00pm	MIAA Rd 1: SHS Hockey vs Danvers	2:25am	SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett
12:00am:	Somerville By Design #4	1:00am:	Prospect Hill to Salisbury Prison	7:25pm	MIAA Rd 1:SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English	3:45am	SHS Hockey vs Cambridge
2:05am:	Congressional Update	1:55am:	Hard Target	9:25pm	MIAA Rd 1:SHS Girls Basketball vs Andover	9:00am	WSNS Science Fair
2:35am:	The Gerry Leone Show	9:00am:	Senior Housing Symposium	Saturday, March 2		12:00pm	ESCS Construction Update #2
9:00am:	Somerville Fire Dept. Ride Along	12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	12:00am	MIAA Rd 1: SHS Hockey vs Danvers	12:30pm	El Sistema February Concert
12:00am:	Somerville By Design #4	12:30pm:	Somerville By Design #4	1:25am	MIAA Rd 1:SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English	1:00pm	SHS Hockey vs Latin Academy
2:05am:	Congressional Update	2:35pm:	Congressional Update	3:15am	MIAA Rd 1:SHS Girls Basketball vs Andover	6:00pm	ESCS Construction Update #2
2:35am:	The Gerry Leone Show	7:00pm:	Senior Circuit	12:00pm	MIAA Rd 1: SHS Hockey vs Danvers	6:30pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Peabody
7:00pm:	Somerville By Design #4	7:30pm:	Prospect Hill to Salisbury Prison	1:25am	MIAA Rd 1:SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English	8:00pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett
9:05pm:	The Gerry Leone Show	8:30pm:	School Committee Meeting – REPLAY OF 3/4/13	3:15am	MIAA Rd 1:SHS Girls Basketball vs Andover	9:30pm	SHS Hockey vs Matignon
		12:00am:	School Committee Meeting – REPLAY OF 3/4/13	12:00pm	MIAA Rd 1: SHS Hockey vs Danvers	12:00am	ESCS Construction Update #2
						1:30am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Peabody
						2:00am	SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

The Poetry Czars of The South Shore Visit Somerville

Jack Scully is the co-founder with the late Mike Amado of two ongoing poetry venues in Plymouth, Massachusetts, *Poetry: The Art of Words* a monthly poetry series and *The Poetry Showcase* a yearly poetry reading held in conjunction with the Plymouth Guild for the Arts yearly juried art show. In 2012 Scully organized Visual Inverse a joint effort between poets' and visual artists at the Plymouth Center for the Arts.

Mike Amado published three books of poetry during his short time on this earth. Scully and poet Nancy Brady Cunningham have edited his fourth book. Scully, who currently serves as the literary executor of Mike's work has read Mike's poetry as a feature reader at Greater Brockton Poetry and Arts Society, Boston National Poetry Month Festival, Main Street Café, Poetry in the Village, Stone Soup Poetry, Poets Pathway, Poetry at O'Sheas' and Salem Literary Festival 2010. He also serves as the unofficial photographer of numerous poetry venues.

Rene Schwiesow is the co-host for the South Shore Poetry venue *The Art of Words*. A Somerville Bagel Bard, her publishing credits include *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *the Waterhouse Review*, and *Ibbetson Street Press*. Rene's work has been aired on the *Talking Information Network*, a non-profit service for the visually impaired. April, 2012, she was a guest on WGDH, Vermont, along with New York/Vermont poet Michael Palma. In recent news, her work, *Shades*, has been chosen as Poem of the Week by the Massachusetts Poetry Festival and will appear beginning January 25, 2013. Rene is a reviewer for *Boston Area Small Press*, writes a column for the arts in *The Old Colony Memorial* newspaper, Plymouth, MA, and is currently working on a third poetry manuscript slated for a 2014 publication date by Cervena Barva Press.

I had the pleasure to talk to these two on my Somerville Community Access Community TV show *Poet to Poet: Writer to Writer*.

Doug Holder: The late poet Mike Amado was special to you both. What was it about him that inspired you?

Rene Schwiesow: He was accepting of everyone. So he made it very comfortable to open up to and discuss things. He was inspired by his Native American and Portuguese background. I have always had an interest in many different cultures. So that inspired me.

Jack Scully: Mike was basically a builder. Mike's great idea was to build a bridge between the South Shore area and the Boston area. Originally I got Mike involved with the Somerville literary group the Bagel Bards. I read about the group in a column by Ellen Steinbaum in *The Boston Globe*, and I asked Mike if he would be interested in attending. So I took him to a meeting. At that time the meetings took place at Finagle-A-Bagel in Harvard Square. As a result Mike had two of his books of poetry published by the Ibbetson Street Press and the Cervena Barva Press of Somerville.



At that time, back in 2004, there was really not much going on in the Plymouth area poetically speaking. They had open mics but that was basically for music. Mike was looking for a place to start something for poetry.

In April 2008 we had our first poetry reading. David Surrrette was our featured reader. We had a small audience. Now we average 30 to 50 people. We have a great open mic. So Mike and I founded two ongoing poetry venues in Plymouth, Massachusetts, *Poetry: The Art of Words* a monthly poetry series and *The Poetry Showcase* a yearly poetry reading held in conjunction with the Plymouth Guild for the Arts yearly juried art show. Our mission was and is to basically to give poets a place to meet other poets, and a place for poets to read their work. We hope to come out with an anthology in a couple of years.

We also started a new program connected with the Plymouth Center for the Arts where we match poets and artists, and have a public reading.

DH: Renee you are a well-respected book reviewer. How do you attack a review?

RS: I thoroughly enjoy reviewing because it has given me an interesting viewpoint on poetry and fiction. I generally read a book cover to cover. And then I do research on the author and the book. I make sure I include a few excerpts. But I try to highlight the good points, and then delicately discuss the not too good things. It is a ballet of sorts—a delicate dance.

DH: Jack you are editing the late Mike Amado's 4th book of poems.

JS: In October of 2008 Mike knew he was going to die of kidney failure. So he gathered all his poems and put them into what he called books. And so Nancy and I went to his computer and basically put the *Book of Arrows* together. The book is in three parts and deals with his childhood in Plymouth, the plight of the Native American, and poems he wrote 3 or 4 weeks before he died. He has several poems about the National Day of Mourning, a Native American holiday that takes place at Thanksgiving. He attended this event shortly before his death.

DH: Jack do you have any ambitions for your own poetry?

JS: I attempt to write poetry. I have dabbled. I have scribbled on pieces of paper in my drawer at home.

DH: Renee any young talents you have discovered on the South Shore?

RS: We have a 12 year old Alicia Reed. She has a lot of promise. But it has been to attract poets under 30, but we are trying.

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Well, one of my colleagues at Endicott College, Linda Emma has contributed a poem to this issue of the *LYRICAL*. Linda is an author, educator and freelance writer for newspapers, magazines, online sites and private clients.

Her first novel, *Prime Meridian*, was published in 2009 and she recently published an EBook version of her noted blog - Kidssuck.net.

Sailor's Flight is the story of addiction as seen through the eyes of a little sister watching as her brother succumbs to its peril.



Sailor's Flight

I watched as a bottle pulled you away
From the man you were intended to be
Hid from you like you were a dragon
And I the princess with an only key

I propped you on top of a sunshine throne
Followed full throttle the pull of your light
Drawn to the warmth; no fear of the burn
You were my hero and fairy tale knight

But then the surf crashed and washed you away
Swallowed your vessel and threatened your soul
Harsh rolling storms you weathered so well
A brave sailor's fight 'gainst wind, wave and cold

I watched the sun dip his toes in the sea
And felt the warm blush of soft summer kiss
Knew it was you a watch over me
Your whisper in dreams, a sweet reminisce

— Linda Emma

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

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