



Inside:



Developers take on city

page 3



The Great Irish Road Race

pages 12-13



A man who plays around a lot

page 21

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

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Sláinte Somerville! St. Patrick's in the city



Everybody's Irish this week, as evidenced by all the green, and the grins, worn by one and all.

By Elizabeth Sheeran

It's a great time for the Irish and the Irish-at-heart. Saint Patrick's Day isn't officially here until this Sunday, March 17, but Somerville has already started celebrating.

"Saint Patrick's Day started on March 1st. It's Saint Patrick's month now," said Desmond Rushe, manager of The Burren in Davis Square, one of many local pubs taking traditional Irish hospitality up a notch this week.

Saint Paddy's Day festivities got off to a running start in Somerville on Sunday morning, March 10, with the annual Rás na hÉireann U.S.A., or "The Race of Ireland and the U.S.A." Around five thousand runners descended on Davis Square for the colorful five-kilometer run, many decked out for the occasion with kilts, caps, and all shades of green. In fact, the "wearing of the green" took on a whole new meaning for one runner painted head-to-toe as the Incredible Hulk.

Continued on page 11

MBTA unveils 33 percent fare hike proposal

By Harry Kane

A 33 percent increase in transportation fares, or a significant reduction in transit service may be implemented after July 1 unless additional funding is provided by a state bailout.

Several options to alleviate an estimated \$140 million deficit crippling the MBTA were proposed during a committee meeting last week. The most controversial is the potential 33 percent fare hike.

Somerville commuters who use the T will feel the impact of the fare increase in their wallets if the bailout from the Statehouse is unsuccessful.

Alderman Jack Connolly shares the frustration of the everyday T commuter.

If the fares are increased, Connolly said, people might visit Davis Square less often. Higher fares could translate to less ridership on the T.

"Instead of coming twice a week, those trips might become limited, might be once every two weeks," he said.

From his office window on College Street, Connolly can see T passengers coming and going for business and pleasure.

Continued on page 3



The MBTA is faced with some unappealing choices in order to remain solvent.

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NEWTALK

Happy Saints Patrick’s Day to everyone out there. All those Irish and Irish for a day crowd here in the Ville, have a safe and happy weekend. And to the rest of us here in the Ville, Happy Evacuation Day, which is the main reason to celebrate here in Boston area.

BUSINESS TOWN MEETING NEXT WEEK. Learn about city plans. Stay to network afterward. On Wednesday, Mar. 20, Mayor Joe Curtatone will map out the city’s economic plans followed by a Q&A at this annual Somerville Chamber of Commerce talk and networking event. It’s free, but seating is limited. RSVPs are required. 5:30 p.m. at Davis Square Theatre, 255 Elm St. (next to Foundry on Elm) Networking reception with appetizers and a raffle afterward at Saloon. RSVP to smackey@somervillechamber.org. More info at http://www.somervillechamber.org/events_meetings.htm.

Thursday at PJ Ryans, 239 Holland Street in Teele Square, the best Irish pub around will be hosting a “Pre-Saint Patrick’s Day” saintly beer social during Boston Beer week. Probably one of the best, if not just the best, darn local or otherwise cozy Irish Pubs in the Boston area, never mind Somerville. It’s a great place to spend St. Patrick’s week and celebrate the saving of the Isle of many shades of Green. While you’re there say “Hi” to Connor, the owner, and have a great time for yourself.

Don't forget tomorrow to wear your green: Thursday, March 14 at the Somerville Council on Aging's Annual St Patrick's Day Party from 11:00 a.m.-2 p.m. Sponsored by the Winter Hill Yacht Club, located behind the Assembly Square Mall at 85 Foley Street in Somerville. For more info call Somerville Council on Aging at (617) 625-6600 or email Billy Tauro at Wmtauro@aol.com.

Continued on page 8

TheSomervilleNews.com Comments of the Week

Response to *Somerville by Design*: A complete streets approach

Spencer says:

I couldn’t agree more. Very excited for all of these improvements.

Jeffrey says:

“we’re discussing the addition of a cycletrack along a reconstructed Beacon Street”

It’s not a discussion. It’s a done deal and you haven’t done anything to prove to us otherwise, Joe. Stop steamrolling long time residents and business owners just so you can add some extra line to your resume before you try running for governor. The neighborhood petitioned against the parking cut. Cyclists are divided on the tracks actually being safe. What happened with the November resolution from the Board of Aldermen requesting OSPCD present alternatives to the cycle track? They never did at any of the following meetings.

Our state senator had to stand up for us and publicly oppose the design because it’s becoming quite clear that city hall doesn’t care about people on Beacon Street. If you did – you would’ve repaved the road a long time ago instead of letting it crumble all these years. Now? You’re trying to permanently inconvenience an entire neighborhood just to build some small sections of cycle track that probably aren’t even that safe. Get over yourself – just repave the street and paint the bike lanes!

sharon says:

Seems like if the city really cared how people felt, and wanted to make it easier for them to get around, they would stop adding brick sidewalks and crosswalks. These are difficult and dangerous for anyone with a walker, cane, crutches, wheelchair, or electric scooter. It’s been pointed out many times but noone seems to care. What happened to the city’s Disabilities Commission? Did they all quit out of frustration?

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 support a potential ban that would prohibit Somerville eateries from dispensing prepared food to customers in disposable food service containers made from expanded polystyrene. If you don’t agree with the results, simply log onto The-SomervilleNews.com.

Do you support a potential ban that would prohibit Somerville eateries from dispensing prepared food to customers in disposable food service containers made from expanded polystyrene?



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Criterion Developers vs. City of Somerville

Residents clash with development proposal for Cross St.

By Izak Shapiro

The scene in the senior room at 165 Broadway could have been from a movie: the team from Criterion Developers, dressed in business suits, sat in a tight row along the right side of the white-walled room. Somerville residents filled the rest of the space, some dressed going to or from work, others coming from home, but everyone meant business.

The meeting's purpose was to discuss the proposal for a new five story, 120,000 square foot building to house 120 rental apartment units at the intersection of Cross Street and Mystic Avenue, adjacent to highway 93. Also part of the developer's proposal is a plan to build a new park in place of the old Harris Playground.

"Changes like this don't happen without community involvement," said Criterion team leader

Jack Englert.

The Criterion landscape leader made sure to emphasize they would not simply build the park, but would actively maintain the park; trees and other vegetation would populate the park as much as possible in order to ensure healthy air quality.

"We need to spend more time in the neighborhood, we have a lot of work to do"

But one Somerville resident said they would need a whole forest to properly filter the air, an area thick with pollution due to Somerville's density and its direct proximity to highway 93.

"They moved the old park be-



Photos by Bobbie Toner

120 rental apartment units may be built at the intersection of Cross Street and Mystic Avenue if Criterion Developers can convince the city and its residents that the project is in everyone's best interest.



cause of health concerns," said Somerville resident Ann Marie DiBella, who lives next to the proposed building site. "Now they're going to build a new one? This isn't going to happen."

Perhaps even more pressing than the environmental issues to the Somerville residents were their concerns about the amount of cars the new residents would put onto the already crowded neighborhood streets. One resident, Dennis Sullivan, noted parking was already a disaster, so where would another potential 120 families park their cars?

The Criterion team set aside

140-150 parking spaces. Englert claims at Criterion's Medford site they did a study of their residents and concluded each residency averages 1.1 cars, thus allowing the Somerville site to fit the new additions to the neighborhood.

Nick Stiles, a Somerville policeman for over thirty years who has lived in the area his whole life, cited the average American family as having two cars, not to mention that Somerville, unlike Medford, has been one of the most densely populated areas in the history of the United States.

So the senior room at 165

Broadway went from a meeting to a corporate versus citizen battlefield. One man stood up and told the Criterion team to "go back to the drawing board." One woman looked at them and said, "You people come here for the money."

"We need to spend more time in the neighborhood, we have a lot of work to do," said Englert after the meeting. "I do believe in this design, but seeing it for the first time is always hard."

The next step in the logistical process is that it has to be affirmed by the Planned Unit Development standards.

MBTA unveils 33 percent fare hike proposal CONT. FROM PG 3

"There's only so much discretionary income that people have," Connolly said. "If that has to be eaten away by increased costs and basic needs like basic transportation, those folks are going to have no other recourse."

The new transportation fare hike is yet another attempt at coping with the economic downturn, a crisis that has spiraled out of control, saddling the bay area with a chronic transportation dilemma.

During 2012 there was a 23

percent increase in fares. This year the MBTA needs more.

Currently the cost of riding the bus is \$1.50, and \$2 on the subway. Under the 33 percent fare hike, both will be increased. The bus fare and subway fare would rise to \$2 and \$2.60, respectively.

A second solution would lessen the fare hikes to 15 percent, but would include the elimination of some nighttime and weekend transit service. In this scenario approximately 30 bus routes would go out of service within the bay area.

Gov. Deval Patrick's administration recently proposed an increase in state income taxes to help pay for education and transportation programs. The \$1.9 billion in revenue generated from a change in taxes would

easily provide a fix to the MBTA crisis.

On Tuesday, March 12 a statewide coalition of united T riders convened at the State House to rally for investment in the MBTA.

Diana Bell is a senior organizer for the Community Labor Union (CLU) and was at the rally on Tuesday. Bell is also a representative of Public Transit – Public Good, an organization that aims at making public transportation affordable and accessible for everyone.

"Bottom line is that these sort of short-term regressive fixes, that these fare hikes represent, are fundamentally not working," Bell said.

According to Bell, if fare increases and service cuts are implemented, there will be a

"devastating effect" on low-income T riders, commuters with special needs, the elderly and the disabled.

Leader of the TRiders Union, Stuart Spina, disagrees with the 33 percent fare hike.

"We cannot afford to continue putting this on the backs of the most vulnerable riders and workers," Spina said. "We need legislation that fully funds public transit across the state."

There's no guarantee of a bailout, according to MassDOT officials.

If the proposed state tax increases are not well received by legislative leaders, the 66 year-old MBTA organization will be forced to make drastic cuts or charge higher fares in order to rectify the budget shortfall.



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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Women arrested after brawl, police assault

Police were dispatched to a Sargent Ave. residence in the early morning hours of last Saturday, responding to a report of a fight in progress.

Upon their arrival, officers reportedly observed several males gathered outside the residence. One of the men appeared to be drunk, according to police reports, and was talking very loudly and behaving in a belligerent manner.

Another man reportedly led officer upstairs in the residence to the second floor, where approximately 15 people were divided into two groups, all of them yelling loudly.

One woman approached the officers and complained that another woman and her daughter had struck her in the face.

Another woman, later identified as Alicia Arana, 58, reportedly pushed past police and grabbed the reporting victim by the throat. The officers quickly responded to subdue and handcuff Arana, but then her daughter, Milady Maraidiaga, 33, stepped up and kicked one of the officers in the shin in an attempt to free her mother, police said.

Maraidiaga was taken to the floor and told that she was under arrest, according to reports, at which time the crowd in the room grew more boisterous and aggressive. The officers called for backup at that point in time.

Maraidiaga reportedly struggled with the officers, resisting their attempts to take her outside. After police backup arrived order was restored in the residence.

The reporting victim then told police that yet another woman on the premises, Martha Rosa, 30, had also struck her, and the woman's husband reportedly confirmed that allegation to police.

Upon questioning, Rosa reportedly told officers that she herself was attacked and struck back in self-defense.

Rosa and Arana were subsequently placed under arrest and charged with assault and battery.

Maraidiaga was placed under arrest and charged with assault and battery on a police officer and resisting arrest.

Would-be burglar stopped, arrested

Somerville police officers responded to a reported breaking and entering in progress at a Morrison Ave. residence last week.

As officers arrived at the residence, officers reportedly observed a man climbing down from the back porch of an upper story unit down to the back porch of the ground floor unit.

The officers detained the man, identified as George Panogopoulos, 30, of Milton, and asked what he was doing there. Panogopoulos reportedly told the officers that his friend "John" lived at the residence.

When asked for the last name of his friend he reportedly told police that he did not know it.

Officers then went to the upper level to investigate and reportedly found evidence that the back porch door to the upper unit had been tampered with, with visible damage to the door and its frame in evidence.

As the reporting party had told police that Panogopoulos was seen with a tool of some sort, police called the witness and asked what had become of the tool. The witness reportedly told police that Panogopoulos threw a screwdriver into an adjoining neighbor's yard as police arrived.

A search of the neighbor's yard turned up the screwdriver.

Panogopoulos was placed under arrest and charged with possession of a burglarious instrument and felony daytime breaking and entering.

Forger helps himself to friend's bank account

A complaint of check forgery brought police to an Edgar Ave. apartment this past weekend.

The reporting victim told police that when he looked up his bank account information he discovered that four unauthorized checks had been forged and used to take money from his account, according to reports.

An involved party reportedly told police that another man, Ryan Stillman, 25, of E. Northport, NY, had convinced him that the victim had written a check to him and that he needed help in cashing it.

Stillman reportedly told the involved party that he himself did not have a bank account and that he could not, therefore, cash the check on his own and that he needed help in doing so.

The involved party reportedly went along with Stillman's request and cashed the check, which Stillman assured was actually given to him by the victim.

This happened not just once, but four times over the course of several days, according to reports. The involved party claimed to have no idea that the checks could have been stolen and forged.

As Stillman was present at the victim's residence during the police investigation, he was questioned by the officers and he reportedly made statements that incriminated himself, police said.

Stillman was placed under arrest and charged with larceny and check forgery.

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SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

Justin McDonald, 30, of 34 Grant St., March 4, 6:11 p.m., arrested at 202 Powder House Blvd. on a warrant charge of receiving stolen property over \$250.

James McLennon, 48, of 3 Heath St., March 5, 10:46 a.m., arrested at home on a warrant charge of larceny over \$250.

Enis Martins, 35, of 69 Swan St., Everett, March 5, 6:32 p.m., arrested at 75 Mystic Ave. on a warrant charge of speeding.

Carlos Santos, 38, of 69 Swan St., Everett, March 5, 6:32 p.m., arrested at 75 Mystic Ave. on warrant charges of unsafe operation of a motor vehicle and operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Mondy Charles, 49, of 155 Central St., March 6, 6:25 a.m., arrested on charges of witness intimidation and assault with a dangerous weapon.

George Panogopoulos, 30, of 54 Central Ave., Milton, March 6, 2:16 p.m., arrested on charges of possession of a burglarious instrument and felony daytime breaking and entering.

Jonathan Lopez, 27, of 83 Cottage St., Lynn, March 6, 4:43 p.m., arrested on a charge of statutory child rape.

Ronald Watson, 27, of 80 River Rd., March 6, 5:27 p.m., arrested on a charge of possession of ammunition without a FID card and on a warrant charge of abuse prevention order violation.

Darryll Lydon, 34, of 151 Windsor St., Cambridge, March 6, 5:54 p.m., arrested at Medford St. on a charge of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Alicia Arana, 58, of 39 Sargent Ave., March 9, 2:04 a.m., arrested at home on a charge of assault and battery.

Martha Rosa, 30, of 142 Albion St., March 9, 2:04 a.m., arrested at 39 Sargent Ave. on a charge of assault and battery.

Milady Maraidiaga, 33, of 39 Sargent Ave., March 9, 2:04 a.m., arrested at home on charges of assault and battery on a police officer and resisting arrest.

Sean Fay, 33, of 21 MacArthur St., March 9, 3:37 a.m., arrested at home on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon.

Charles Stewart, 26, of 170 Washington St., Weymouth, March 9, 1:57 p.m., arrested at 8 Main St. on charges of conspiracy to violate drug law and possession of a class B drug.

Anthony Sadler, 22, of 2 Meacham St., March 9, 1:57 p.m., arrested at 8 Main St. on charges of conspiracy to violate drug law and possession of a class B drug.

Ryan Stillman, 25, of 10 Treetop Ln., E. Northport, NY, March 9, 6:27 p.m., arrested at 14 Edgar Ave. on charges of larceny under \$250 and check forgery.

John Mellone, 32, of 10 Montgomery Ave., March 10, 4:31 p.m., arrested at home on a warrant charge of unarmed robbery.

'Read by the River' makes reading fun

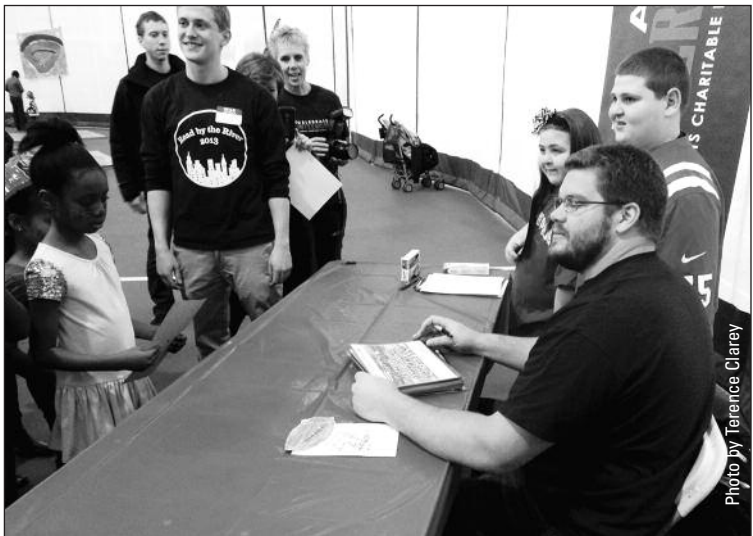
By Terence Clarey

The goal, according to Tufts Hillel, the organizers of the 13th annual "Read by the River" Carnival at the Tufts Gancher Center last Sunday afternoon, was to make reading fun for both kids and parents. To that end, the Tufts Hillel presented an event that combined fun learning activities like word and spelling games with more carnival-like activities such as face painting and cotton candy and popcorn machines.

The day was highlighted by an appearance by New England Patriots starting Center Ryan Wendell, who spoke and then read to a rapt audience of young children.

Student volunteers from Tufts University, Medford and Somerville staffed tables that were set up on the infield portion of the indoor track. The Boston Public Library was on hand with a table piled with children's books, as were local firefighters and police. Music was provided by The Beats.

Midway through the festivities, a crowd of young children, many sporting Patriots gear, sat on floor and gathered around Ryan



New England Patriots Center Ryan Wendell signed autographs read to kids at "Read by the River" Carnival at the Tufts Gancher Center last Sunday.

Wendell to watch and hear him read from, *Curious George* and *Let's Go Patriots*. Wendell invited several lucky kids to help him with *Let's Go Patriots*.

For Ryan Wendell, his first experience regarding the importance of learning to read came when he was in kindergarten and was initiated by his mother. "My mom had to convince my teachers that I didn't know how to read, because I was passing reading," said Wendell. "It was simply because I had had kids read to me so I could memorize the stories. After that my mom hammered it home by rewarding me with books. Since then I fell

in love with reading and still read all the time now."

As the one person who touches the ball on every offensive play, the Patriots center told the young audience that it was crucial that he be able to read and understand detailed scouting reports on other teams to play his position more effectively, stressing that reading is important even for professional athletes.

Assistant Director for Tufts Hillel, Lauren Bloom also noted the importance of parental involvement in helping their kids read.

"I think for parents, just having a day focused on literacy and reading, is important so that they're actually seeing what can happen, and what can be fun about reading outside of the classroom."

Both Bloom and "Read by the River" co-chair, Christopher Blackett, emphasized that the primary goal of the event is to show that reading can be enjoyable.

"We just want to make it easier for parents to read to their children," he said.

"We want to promote literacy in general and let children know that reading can be fun."



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Over the past two years numerous artifacts have been uncovered at Somerville High School, dating back to the 1930's when the Somerville Vocational School for boys existed on Cross Street. In September of 1985, the new comprehensive model opened, thus the beginning of The Center for Career and Technical Education (CCTE) at Somerville High School. Gone are the days when young men dominated the school. Today you may find both male and female students working side by side in Automotive, Carpentry, Electrical, Machine Technology, Metal Fabrication & Welding, Painting and Design Technology, Culinary Arts, Information Support Services and Networking or Graphic and Visual Communications. Walk through the Center for Career and Technical Education today, and you will also likely find students of both genders learning about Cosmetology, studying to be a nurse in Health Careers, or fulfilling their aspirations of becoming a teacher by completing our Early Education & Child Care Program.

Today's competitive job market dictates the need for constant updating of careers and pathways. Staying ahead of the competition involves staying current on career path trends, keeping up with technological advances, and keeping up-to-date on specific job skills. The Center for Career and Technical Education has a strong community advisory committee, led by chair Tom Bent and Co-chair Ron Bonney. Each department also has its own advisory committee, comprised of industry partners, parents, students, alumni and post-secondary members. Each individual advisory committee shares employment trends, job outlook, post-secondary opportunities and a continuous review of program equipment and curriculum. Department committees meet twice a year, while the

general committee meets three times annually.

Recent research conducted through an advisory partnership with the Tisch College at Tufts University has determined a significant growth in the Medical/Health Career field. The School Committee, Mayor Curatone, Superintendent Pierantozzi and Somerville High School Headmaster, John Oteri recognized this opportunity and provided the support and resources to establish the Medical/Health Career Lab at Somerville High School. Somerville High School is now showcasing a brand-new 2200 square foot facility. The new facility will include a Dental Assistant Program, slated to open in September of 2013. Tufts University School of Dentistry provided an incredible boost to our newest Career and Technical Education program with a generous donation of more than \$100,000 in Dental equipment to get the program up and running. A future career path in Occupational Therapy to go along with an EMT certification is also planned to be part of this exciting new Medical/Health Career Lab.

The CCTE advisory committee will meet in May to discuss researching a future HVAC/Plumbing Program, an elective in Barbering and the NEW "Fab-Lab Academy. On Saturday, March 16th from 9:00 a.m. to noon, The Center for Career and Technical Education at Somerville High School will host their Annual Vocational Fair. We hope you'll join us to learn about the many programs we offer and tour our impressive facilities.

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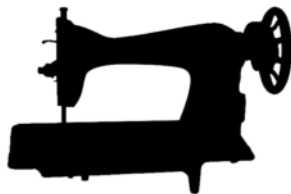
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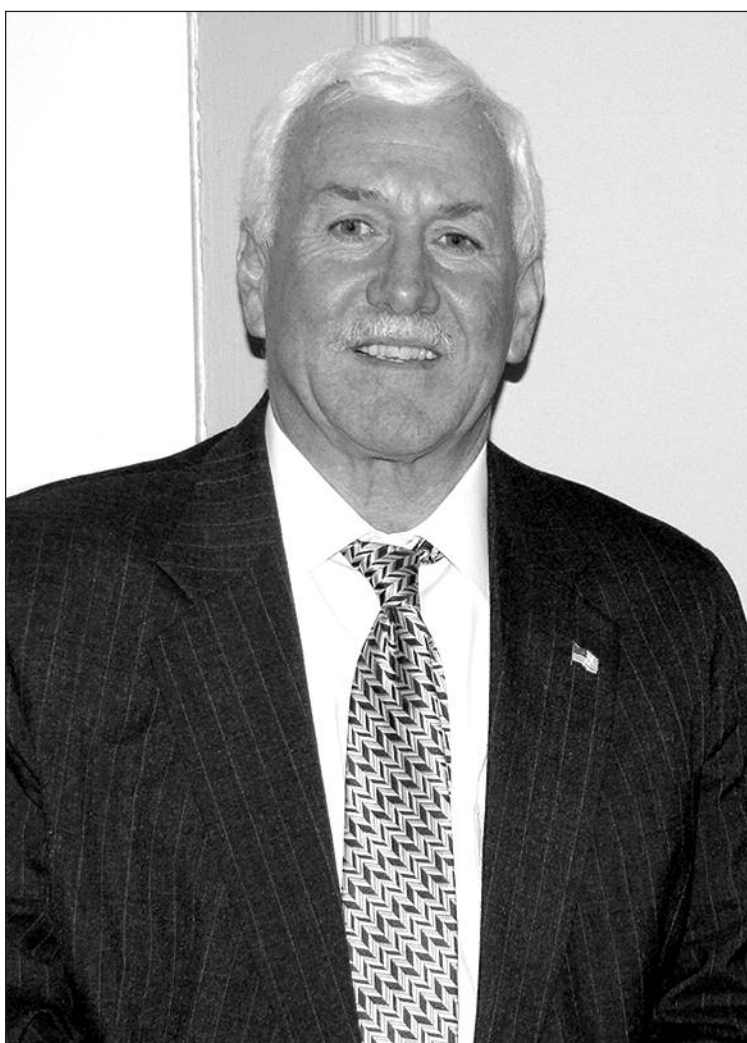
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Bill Roche appointed permanent Director of Personnel

Following approval by the Board of Aldermen at the Thursday, February 28 meeting, Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone announced last week that former Ward 1 Alderman, William M. Roche, has accepted a full-time position with the City of Somerville as the Director of Personnel. Roche had been serving as part-time Acting Director following the departure of former Director, Sarah Kloos, as the city worked to maintain operations. Six candidates were interviewed for the position.

"Bill has played a key role in contract negotiations, filling key vacancies, and other high profile responsibilities within the city, in addition to upgrading and modernizing systems and procedures in just two months of his part-time employment in the Personnel Department. His expertise and knowledge, both of human resources and of the City of Somerville in general, have proven invaluable," said Mayor Curtatone. "Bill was the clear frontrunner in our hiring process for this position, and we are fortunate that he has accepted a full-time role within this administration."

Having retired recently from an 18-year position with the Somerville Board of Aldermen, Bill Roche also has extensive experience as a human resources professional. He worked in



Former Ward 1 Alderman and newly appointed Director of Personnel Bill Roche.

NSTAR's Human Resources Organization since 1999, and had been with NSTAR in various roles since 1971. He holds a Master's Degree in Human Resources from Boston University.

"It is exciting to be able to serve the City for Somerville in a capacity other than as an Alderman, and still be able to have such a positive influence

in the city where my wife and I and a great deal of my family still reside," Roche said. "I am honored that the Mayor has enough faith and trust in me to ask me to serve as Personnel Director, and I look forward to working with the Mayor and his administration in making the City of Somerville a premier municipal employer."

Somerville presence at Annual BAJs banquet

By William Tauro

The Benevolent Asian Jade Society (BAJS) of New England held its Annual Banquet in Boston's Chinatown District this past Friday night to celebrate the year of the snake.

With over four-hundred-fifty attendees at the event, a majority of them law enforcement officers from various agencies, along with their families, from across the nation including New York PD, elected officials and Jade Society members and friends.

At the event a group representing the City of Somerville, led by Ward 2 Somerville Alderman Maryann Heuston, City of Somerville's (BAJS) associate member Rick Willette, and *The Somerville News'* (BAJS) associate member Bill Tauro were present at the event.

There was everything there to enjoy from an eight course dinner to the traditional Chinese New Year Dragon Dance, as well as Martial arts demonstrations performed live by various local Boston Chinatown youth organizations.

The Society was started in 1983 by eight sworn officers of the Boston Police Department known as the Asian Jade Society of Boston. Since then, the name of the Society has been changed to the Benevolent Asian Jade Society of New England (BAJS of New England).

The Society is a Not For Profit organization and a member of

the National Asian Peace Officers Association (NAPOA).

The Society's membership consists of law enforcement officers as defined in their state, county, city or town within the region of the states of New England. The Society also has associate memberships that consist of any person who has worked in or is interested in promoting law enforcement or related fields. The goal of the Society is to establish a network and bring together the Asian American Brothers and Sisters of the various law enforcement entities within New England.

Three individuals were recognized and honored that evening as well at the event. Past Jade Society President/Massachusetts State Police Lieutenant Warren Yee, Associate Jade Society member Co-Publisher *The Somerville News*/Publisher *Boston News Group* Billy Tauro, and Director of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office of Boston Anne Hung were all three recognized and presented awards that evening by Jade Society President Theodore Woo and the Benevolent Jade Society for their many years of community service to make neighborhoods in and around Boston Chinatown a better place to live.

To learn more about the Benevolent Jade Society of New England visit their website: <http://www.jadesociety.com/web/>

13th Annual Rabies Clinic

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone The Health Department and Somerville Animal Control are pleased to sponsor the 13th Annual Rabies Clinic, Saturday, April 6 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the DPW Highway Garage, Located at Franey Road.

Cats and Dogs cost: \$10 per animal. Cats must be in carriers; dogs must be leashed. No Prior record needed. All vaccines are good for one (1) year, unless current rabies certificated is supplied. The City Clerk will be on-site to license dogs: \$20 if dogs have been spayed and neutered (Please bring documentation), \$30 otherwise.

Please contact the Health Department with questions: 617-625-6600 Ext. 4300, <http://www.somervillema.gov/index.cfm>



Photo by Bobbie Toner



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COMMENTARY

TALES OF SOMERVILLE

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Hey! Where did all this styrofoam come from?

The View From Prospect Hill



There's no doubt about it. Modern industrialized societies utilize a lot of packaging material and produce tons of waste that must be disposed of safely. For generations we took for granted that disposal issues were somebody else's problem, the garbage collector's, for instance. Today we realize that the simplicity and cavalier attitudes of "the good old days" are no longer viable options as we search for effective means of dealing with the sheer volume of waste products that we

generate daily. We recycle and take pains to avoid spoiling the environment by littering and carelessly discarding the material by-products of our busy lives. We have the best of intentions, but sometimes it's difficult for the ordinary citizen to understand what policies are for the better and which may be mere folly. Therefore, we tend to leave the "hard choices" to our leaders and their underlings. The technical details can be confusing and, often, downright unintelligible.

The question of the possible banning of "styrofoam" food and beverage containers is now before the lawmakers and citizens of Somerville. Arguments both pro and con have been bandied about, and most of those concerned with the issue have formed strong opinions and beliefs regarding how the city should move forward on the issue. While we would not wish to see retailers suffer any economic hardship as a result of such a ban, we can equally assert that the long-term deleterious effects on our environment should also be taken into consideration.

Styrofoam containers are difficult to recycle, and doing so is a costly process. Would moving away from their use be such a difficult transition to make? We got the lead out of paint and asbestos out of our buildings. Maybe this stuff is best left out of our landfills. Food for thought.

News Talk CONT. FROM PG 2

This Saturday, the 16th, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Nave Gallery Annex, 53 Chester Street, Somerville in Davis Square, an opening reception for Memory Palace takes place, featuring music by Audrey Ryan and the works of artists Natalie Andrew, Kathy Desmond, Chris French, Lee Kilpatrick, Amy Lovera, Rafchel Shatil, and Chadwick Williams. This group exhibition presents the works of artists whose use of familiar images and objects helps to reveal the unfamiliar. Memory Palace refers to a common mnemonic technique that dates back to the ancient Romans and Greeks. Here artists use their 21st century artistic versions of "the method of loci" to investigate issues of memory and identity through painting, photographs, video and sculpture.

Please join The Somerville Museum fund-raising team on Friday, March 15, 5:30-8 p.m. for a Fundraising Party for the museum in a spectacular historic residence in Union Square, located at 1 Summer Street, Sanctuary Unit. Come

to the Historic First Methodist Church, Union Square, to help with an important community resource. Witness this incredible conversion of an historic church and former SCC office space to a unique and elegant residential building, AND enjoy a delightful selection of food and drinks donated by local businesses. You will also be treated to a trio playing enchanting Irish music from the Sanctuary's pulpit, and have an opportunity to try a variety of beers from local breweries: Pretty Things, Slumbrew, and Tower Root Beer produced by Prospect Hill Beverages. If, however, you simply cannot come due to insurmountable conflicts, please consider making a donation to the Somerville Museum Building Fund by purchasing a ticket(s), participating in their silent auction, or offering a larger contribution, all of which are considered tax deductible donations and can be done online. Please join them for *Raising the Roof and More!*, a benefit for the Somerville Museum and a Celebration of the Emerald Isle. Music by Roseanne Santucci and Friends, a splendid array of finger food, libations, and silent auction. \$50 General Admission, \$40 for

Members of Historic Somerville or The Somerville Museum and Seniors or Students with ID. Reserve your tickets in advance at 617-710-7453 or <http://www.somervillmuseumbuildingfund.org>. All proceeds will support critical building projects in progress at the Somerville Museum.

There's plenty of talk out there on the streets of the Ville that about \$850,000 - close to a million dollars - is missing from the city's retirement system, and nobody knows anything? Maybe it's in one of the drawers of the missing desk that's up in that NH landfill somewhere?

Happy Birthday to our good friends Sammy Roselando and Mike Browne. Happy birthday also to Judy Seppala, a lovely woman and avid reader of The News! Big time Happy Birthday to that nice guy, Donald Coutoumas, who, although he lives now in NH, follows The News religiously. HB to Susan Glazebrook, who is a teacher and, we hear, a

damn good one at that. John Ausiello, who is a student now at Johnson and Wales, is from the Ville and also celebrates this week. Big time out to Tiffany Brainard of the famous Brainard family of St. Ann's area. Hard to believe she's getting older. Time flies. We wish a Happy Birthday to Marc Piro, of the great Piro family. Marc runs his family business his grandfather started many years ago. A great guy from a great family. Another great Somerville family is Jim Halloran's, who is also celebrating this week. Another great guy, always with a big smile on his face.

We want to welcome yet another new business that has opened their doors in the Ville this month. Koryn Zamuto has opened Salon 22 in Ward 2. Koryn is a young, hip, and pretty knowledgeable hair stylist who is hoping her business takes off. It's located at 62C Summer Street and the business number is 617-764-5693. If you're around the neighborhood stop in and say "Hi!"

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.

Beyond literacy: Libraries as community centers



By Joseph A. Curtatone

With so many transformative projects under way in Somerville – from the expansion of the Green Line to the development of Assembly Square to the East Broadway reconstruction – it’s easy to overlook the equally critical progress we’ve been making in an area that not all that long ago seemed at risk: the libraries.

Just over a year ago, we announced the Somerville Public

Library system was in danger of needing to close one of its three branches. But residents spoke up. You told us just how much the library means to you, and we listened. Over the past year and a half, we have instead added librarians, extended hours to weekends for the first time since the 1970s, raised funds for the opening of the new Teen Room in our main branch and renovated the children’s room in our West Branch.

Meanwhile, programming continues to thrive, and expand. Thousands of residents come to our lectures, workshops and programs from language development for infants to computer basics for seniors. The Central Library now even offers free

meditation sessions. In short, the libraries are bustling with services every resident should know about. And in the 21st century, this expansion simply makes sense.

Libraries today still serve the critical role of fostering reading and literacy and protecting intellectual freedom. In Somerville, however, our libraries are increasingly serving as community hubs, as centers of learning and civic engagement. Yes, residents come by the thousands to pick up storybooks, great novels, music, or films. But in any given week, you’ll also likely find our libraries hosting immigrants learning English as a Second Language, preschoolers gathered for story times, school kids craft-

ing cool art projects, or job seekers learning career search skills. And it’s not by chance. Under the enthusiastic guidance of our Director of Libraries, Maria Carpenter, and with the support of our committed Library trustees as well as the Friends of the Somerville Public Library, we are developing our libraries into vibrant cultural centers and models for the library of the future. And for this we are gaining national notice.

Just last month, the respected national publication Library Journal featured our innovative new Awesome Box program, and the news spread nationally via Twitter. Via this innovation but simple joint program with Harvard University, residents

can drop their favorite library books into a special “Awesome Box” at the returns desk, and librarians then swipe them in and automatically send the recommendation to a webpage that others can then review for reading recommendations.

Last week, we were also honored to be selected as one of just ten libraries in the nation to receive a Storycorps grant from the American Libraries Association and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This means Somerville librarians will be trained to document your stories for posterity (just as the Storycorps stories you may have heard on *National Public Radio* are doing). It is always important to remember

Continued on page 20

Ten years after



By William C. Shelton

Next week marks the Iraq invasion’s tenth anniversary. It was the first war that our government embraced as being “offensive” and “preemptive.”

The Vietnam War was the defining event of my life. Yet most Americans today don’t understand how it began or that, as the Defense Secretary who presided over its launch

later concluded, it need never have happened. So when the bombing began on March 19, 2003, I wept.

I wept for what I had lived through. I wept for people I had loved who died horribly or came home to live miserably. And I wept for what I knew was to come.

George Santyana famously said, “Those who cannot learn from the past are condemned to repeat it.” In the forlorn hope that we might learn from the past, I’d like to revisit it.

In 1998, Dick Cheney, Lewis Libby, Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, Richard Perle, and other “neocons” urged President Clinton to “remove Saddam

Hussein from power.” Clinton declined. Although Saddam was a brutal dictator, he was contained. He was an important bulwark against a bellicose and Islamist Iran. And UN inspections, going back to 1991, had found no Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs).

With George W. Bush’s election, Cheney became Vice President, and Libby, his chief of staff. Rumsfeld became Secretary of Defense, and Wolfowitz became his Deputy. They came to their jobs looking for a chance to overthrow Saddam.

The World Trade Center attacks provided that chance. In a still-smoking Pentagon on the afternoon of 9/11, Rumsfeld or-

dered a senior aide to find evidence linking Saddam Hussein with Osama Bin Laden.

The next day, Bush met with key security staff and told Counterterrorism Director Richard Clark to find a connection between Al Qaeda and Saddam. Clark responded that extensive research had already disclosed no such connection, that Hussein and bin Laden despised each other. Bush angrily ordered those present to establish the connection.

A now unclassified document records a meeting two months later between Rumsfeld and General Tommy Franks, head of Central Command. Its agenda was how to start a war with

Iraq. Suggestions included linking Saddam to 9/11 and finessing WMD inspection demands with which Saddam could not comply.

The sixteen U.S. agencies that comprise the “intelligence community” knew that these allegations were nonsense. So Rumsfeld created his own intelligence operation and housed in a vault under the Pentagon.

Lt. Col. Karen Kwiatkowski was its Deputy Director. She later testified to Congress that it was “a propaganda shop” that, “through suppression and distortion of intelligence analysis, promulgated what were in fact falsehoods to both Congress

Continued on page 17

Life in the by Jimmy Del Ponte

Let’s all go to the lobby...



Remember the dancing and singing popcorn box and soda cups inviting us to buy refreshments at the movies? Sure you do.

Do you remember the first movie you saw at a Somerville movie theater? Some of us do. My parents took us to the drive-in when we were really young where we saw *The Blob* in 1958. My first movie theater shows were *Ben Hur* in 1959 and *101 Dalmatians* in 1961 at Davis Square. We also saw *The Shaggy Dog* with Fred MacMurray in 1959. In 1965 my mother took us to see *The Sound Of Music*.

I, for one, only remember going to The Davis Square Theatre and the Broadway

Theatre, although there were many more Somerville movie houses in the past. Two of them were in Teele Square, and Ball Square. Here come some testimonials:

Carol says, “I think we paid 15 cents to get in the movies. Two cartoons and a movie for 15 cents, plus candy! We hardly ever saw the whole movie because my cousin would always get in trouble and we would get thrown out! (perhaps tossing Jujubes off the balcony?)”

KN tells us: “We saw *The Three Stooges in The Outlaws is Coming* in 1965 and I think we paid 50 cents.”

MH shares this: “When we went to the Davis Square Theatre, we would buy popcorn at Gorins and candy at The Smoke Shop because it was cheaper. My

dad got mad because we took my little sister to see *Blazing Saddles*. No PG-13 back then! We saw *Hello Dolly* in 1969, *Willy Wonka* in 1971 and *Jaws* in 1975 at the Broadway Theatre.”

Saturday afternoons at Davis... “I think it was 35 cents (I would get 50) you would ‘go in’ with another guy one would buy popcorn for 10 cents and one would buy tonic for 10 cents and each would buy a box of candy and we’d all split everything.”

“My parents would give us each \$2.00 (yikes!) which would cover the bus ride which I think it was .10 each way, admission to the theater, candy, popcorn and soda! Ah, the good ole days!”

“We saw *American Graffiti* in 1973. My

brother Danny snuck us in. We usually went to the Broadway Theatre but Davis was a hell of a lot cleaner!”

This guy goes way back! “On Saturdays, they ran two feature movies and several mini-series plus food for .25cents! Sometimes Major Mudd or Big Brother Bob Emery would show up! Remember those guys?”

Woody remembers a Beatles movie fest in Davis Square, and lots of those Elvis movies.

Here are some of the movies we saw back then. *Carrie*, *Swiss Family Robinson*, *Shirley Temple*, *The Lone Ranger*, *The Thing*, *Where The Boys Are*, *007*, *Smokey and the Bandit*, *Lassie Come Home*, *Buck Rogers*,

Continued on page 17

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. This week, *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' votes on three roll calls from prior legislative sessions. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

Our Legislators in the House and Senate for Somerville:



Rep. Denise Provost

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



Rep. Carl Sciortino

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



Rep. Timothy Toomey

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



Sen. Sal DiDomenico

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

sex; 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.

ACTION ON LOCAL HOME RULE BILLS (H 2015)

House 29-126, rejected a new rule requiring all late-filed home rule bills to be reported out of committee for action by the full Legislature within 45 days. Home rule petitions are proposed laws that have already been approved by a local city or town but also require legislative approval prior to taking effect.

Supporters of the new rule said that these home rule bills are very important to cities and towns and should not be delayed.

Opponents said that all proposed bills a important and that making an exception for home rule petitions would set a bad precedent. (A "Yes" vote is for the new 45-day rule. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

GIVE ALL BILLS A THUMBS UP OR DOWN (H 2015)

House 29-126, rejected a new rule that would require all bills to be given a favorable or unfavorable report by a committee. Current rules allow committees to do so but also give them other options including recommending a bill be sent to a study committee, essentially killing the measure.

Supporters of the new rule said allowing committees to recommend a study gives the committee too much power and discourages the full Legislature from voting on the bill.

Opponents said the committee cannot require, but can only recommend, that a bill be sent to a study committee. They noted the full House and Senate still have the option to agree or disagree with sending it to study. (A "Yes" vote is for the new rule requiring a report. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

ALLOW 24 HOURS TO READ BUDGET AMENDMENTS (H 2015)

House 29-125, rejected a proposal increasing from 30 minutes to 24 hours the period given to legislators to read any proposed consolidated amendment to the House budget prior to debate and a vote on it. Representatives file dozens of amendments on the same general subject matter. Legislators who are interested in that subject are invited to a meeting, during budget debate, to pitch their amendment. A consolidated amendment that includes some of the individual amendments, is eventually drafted by the House leadership and brought to the floor for debate and a vote.

Supporters of the rule said these amendments are often 30 pages long and legislators are asked to vote on them while the paper is still warm from the printer or copying machine. They said that this system is anti-democratic and results in members voting blindly on something that they have not even read.

Opponents said the current 30-minute rule has worked well. (A "Yes" vote is for the 24 hours. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

ON THE LEGISLATURE'S AGENDA - Thousands of pieces of legislation have been filed for consideration in the 2013-2014 Legislature. Here are ten interesting ones:

SCRATCH TICKETS (S 105) - Requires the Lottery to develop a second chance game that awards prizes for nonwinning scratch tickets, in order to encourage recycling and prevent the tickets from being littered in and around stores.

ADOPT-A-SENIOR (S 306) - Establishes a statewide Adopt-A-Senior volunteer program to assist seniors with snow removal and property or home maintenance services. Details include creation of a registry of volunteers.

BAN FORMER LEGISLATORS FROM LOBBYING FOR THREE YEARS (S 1505) - Increases from one year to three years after leaving their jobs, the "cooling off" period that former state employees and former elected officials, including legislators, must wait before going into the lobbying business.

SALARY CAP (S 1504) - Prohibits employees of any state authority from earning more than the governor, whose current salary is \$137,315. State authorities include the MBTA, MassPort, the Health Connector and the Teacher's Retirement. The bill allows the hikes if the authority provides a 30-day public comment period and holds a public hearing.

UNDERAGE DRINKING (S 761) - Allows police officers to take into protective custody, with or without their consent, minors under 21 who have consumed alcohol.

Beacon Hill Roll Call continued



FLAGS AT HALF MAST (S 1561) - Requires the state flag to be flown at half mast following the death of a police officer or firefighter killed in the line of duty.

PRISONERS PAY \$2 PER DAY (S 1173) - Requires non-indigent prisoners to pay the state \$2 per day to defray the costs of their incarceration.

SEX CHANGE (S 813) - Prohibits state funds from being used to pay for sex change surgery, laser hair removal or hormone replacement therapy for any inmates in the prison system.

PARKING ON A HILL (S 949) - Allows cities and towns to prohibit drivers from parking their vehicles on an incline unless they turn their front wheels diagonally against the curb in order to prevent the vehicle from rolling down. The proposal imposes up to a \$300 fine on violators.

ABOLISH \$25 FEE TO APPEAL SPEEDING AND TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS (S 713) - Modifies a current law that imposes a \$25 fee on anyone who challenges a non-criminal traffic violation in court. The bill would waive the fee if the driver is found not guilty.

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 March 4-8, the House met for a total of six minutes while the Senate met for a total of nine minutes.

Mon. March 4	House 11:04 a.m. to 11:06 a.m. Senate 11:03 a.m. to 11:07 a.m.
Tues. March 5	No House session No Senate session
Wed. March 6	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. March 7	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:06 a.m. Senate 11:02 a.m. to 11:07 a.m.
Fri. March 8	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Sláinte Somerville! CONT. FROM PG 1

Alderman Jack Connolly said he was running the road race for the 12th time. “I don't care how fast I run,” said Connolly. “As a second generation Irish-American in Somerville, I'm delighted to be a small part of this. This is not only a symbol of all things Irish in Somerville today, but we have a huge debt to all the Irish that settled here years ago and helped make Somerville what it is.”

Connolly said the event was also a great economic boon for businesses in the area, especially coffee shops, restaurants and pubs. “Every pub in the city is fully staffed today, and the business they'll do will be off the charts,” he said.

Indeed, Irish celebration has always meant good drink, good food, good music and good storytelling, and you can find all of those things in Somerville this week.

Need some hearty sustenance to get you through this weekend's festivities? You can start off your Saint Patrick's Day with a traditional Irish breakfast of rashers (Irish bacon), baked beans, grilled tomatoes, fried potatoes, eggs, soda bread, and black and white pudding, which is not a dessert dish but a

sausage made with meat, oatmeal and barley, with pig's blood being the extra special ingredient in the black pudding.

For early risers, The Burren in Davis Square, Bull McCabe's in Union Square and P.J. Ryan's in Teele Square are all opening earlier than usual this Sunday morning, with breakfast as early as 8 a.m. at The Burren. But you can find Irish breakfast all over town by late morning, including at The Precinct and The Independent in Union Square, Olde Magoun's Saloon in Magoun Square, The Thirsty Scholar on Beacon Street, or The Druid in Inman Square.

For lunch and dinner, corned beef and cabbage is the Saint Patrick's Day standard at local pubs, but most are also rounding out their Saint Paddy's-inspired menus with other Irish pub favorites like Guinness beef stew, shepherd's pie and fish and chips. The Saint Patrick's Day dessert menu at The Precinct includes the tempting Bailey's Cheesecake. And Olde Magoun's owner Greg Coughlin said he's serving up what he calls an “authentic” Irish boiled bacon dinner, with potato colcannon,

carrots and parsnips in a parsley cream sauce.

Of course, all that food comes with plenty of good beer and Irish whiskey to wash it all down, and a generous helping of entertainment on the side.

For a mix of Irish humor, drama and music, Somerville currently boasts at least two Irish-themed stories onstage. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evening, The Burren will present *The Fiddlers of Inishbofin*, an original tale of love and musical rivalry, co-written by Burren owner Tommy McCarthy and Boston playwright Peter Holm.

Just a few steps away, the Davis Square Theatre continues its run of *The Irish ... and How They Got That Way*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Frank McCourt, with performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, and matinees on Saturday and Sunday.

Somerville's live music venues will be hopping all weekend, offering plenty of options for soaking up the sounds of the Emerald Isle firsthand. Ronan Quinn and his band will be playing jigs, reels and familiar Irish classics this weekend at

both Olde Magoun's and Bull McCabe's, who are among a number of pubs promising Irish music throughout the day on Sunday.

At Sally O'Briens, Celtic band The Johnny Come Latelies kicks off the weekend on Friday evening, and the Tom Haggerty Irish Band headlines on Sunday. At The Druid, you can drop in on the weekly Saturday afternoon traditional Irish music session, or sing along with the McGowan Rovers on Sunday.

A full roster of Saint Patrick's Day events at The Burren on Sunday includes fun and games with WAAF radio deejays to benefit Denis Leary's Firefighters Foundation, along with the pub's always-stellar line-up of live Irish music in both the front and back rooms all day, led by musician-owners Tommy McCarthy and Louise Costello.

For a change of pace, a Friday evening benefit for the Somerville Museum will feature Irish music at the Old Methodist Church in Union Square. Or you can check out Boston Irish-transplant rocker Christian McNeill with his band the Seamonsters at The Precinct on Sunday night.

And what to do after all that

partying this weekend? The Independent will be open on Monday morning, March 18, for a special post-Saint Paddy's brunch to benefit the Healey School, said manager Jessica Willis, “so anyone with a Saint Patrick's Day hangover can come in for a Bloody Mary and the proceeds will benefit a good cause.”

For more information, contact these and other local establishments:

Bull McCabe's, 366A Somerville Ave., Union Square, 617-440-6045

The Burren, 247 Elm St., Davis Square, 617-776-6896

The Druid, 1357 Cambridge St. (Cambridge), Inman Square, 617-497-0965

The Independent, 75 Union Square, 617-490-6022

Olde Magoun's Saloon, 518 Medford St., Magoun Square, 617-776-2600

P.J. Ryan's, 239 Holland Ave., Teele Square, 617-625-8200

The Precinct, 70 Union Square, 617-623-9211

Sally O'Briens, 335 Somerville Ave., Union Square, 617-666-3589

The Thirsty Scholar, 70 Beacon Street, 617-497-2294

News Talk CONT. FROM PG 8

It seems like Congressional wannabe, and our own Medford/Somerville State Rep, Carl Sciortino, has as a well-earned reputation from his colleagues for looking after his own interests, rather than those of his constituents. We hear that Carl has now even managed to upset many of his die-hard supporters. Carl first ruffled feathers by announcing his run for Ed Markey's Congressional seat

before Markey had barely started campaigning for the special Senate race, let alone won both the April primary and June election that would open up the seat in Congress that Carl covets. We hear from sources that Carl sent an email to supporters of his congressional bid asking them to help out by canvassing for Markey. The problem for Carl is that the email asked these Somerville supporters to travel to Cambridge for some canvassing that Carl was leading. And, at

the same time, Somerville organizers were scrambling to fill their own canvassing events. Much of Cambridge is now in the Congressional District that Carl has already made known he's going to run in, and he'd rather increase his visibility there than help out the folks in Medford and Somerville who helped get him elected. It seems like Carl's has always been about Carl after all, doesn't it? Now, that's called someone who is making a career of climbing the political lad-

der and doing it his way.

As far as the Somerville Democratic Committee Chairperson is concerned, it appears that the only person to run so far is Kerianne Rodriguez Lorenzo. It seems like she's getting support from all sides. We don't even hear of anyone running against her. The election will take place in a few weeks when the city committee reconvenes.

Ras na hEireann U.S.A.

The Race of Ireland & United States of America

Results:

Place	Div/Tot	Div	Guntime	Nettime	Pace	Name	Ag	S	Race#	City/state
1	1/1	MOPEN	15:02	15:02	4:51	Eric Ashe	24	M	5215	Brighton Ma
2	1/436	M1829	15:06	15:06	4:52	Stephen Pretak	28	M	4468	New London Ct
3	1/594	M3039	15:11	15:10	4:53	Demess Tefera	30	M	5238	New York Ny
4	2/594	M3039	15:19	15:19	4:56	Tukiku Bokan	31	M	5237	New York Ny
5	3/594	M3039	15:59	15:59	5:09	Tadesse Biratu	32	M	4692	Malden Ma
6	2/436	M1829	16:38	16:38	5:22	Brian Gilligan	18	M	1253	Framingham Ma
7	1/232	M4049	16:40	16:39	5:22	Todd Callaghan	43	M	431	Beverly Ma
8	1/1	FOPEN	16:40	16:40	5:22	Tsehay Gebre	20	F	5137	New York Ny
9	4/594	M3039	16:46	16:45	5:24	David Sek	33	M	4536	North Andover Ma
10	5/594	M3039	16:46	16:45	5:24	Eric Ahern	35	M	32	Somerville Ma
11	1/990	F3039	16:49	16:49	5:25	Stephanie Reilly	35	F	5123	Northbridge Ma
12	3/436	M1829	16:54	16:53	5:26	Colin Lyons	26	M	5213	Brighton Ma
13	1/961	F1829	17:11	17:11	5:32	Hiyut Beyene	21	F	5240	New York Ny
14	2/961	F1829	17:17	17:16	5:34	Joanna Murphy	29	F	2535	Cambridge Ma
15	6/594	M3039	17:27	17:25	5:37	Matthew Emond	31	M	1020	Charlestown Ma
16	4/436	M1829	17:32	17:31	5:39	Alec Chapman	28	M	520	Cambridge Ma
17	2/990	F3039	17:34	17:33	5:39	Mariko Neveu	31	F	5211	Austin Tx
18	7/594	M3039	17:37	17:36	5:40	Christian Walsh	36	M	3634	Medford Ma
19	2/232	M4049	17:39	17:37	5:41	Tomas Bok	44	M	278	Somerville Ma
20	5/436	M1829	17:44	17:43	5:42	Alex Federation	23	M	4791	Brookline Ma





SOMERVILLE SPORTS

Former SHS grad Toussaint named All-American

By Mike Stoller

Somerville High grad and UMass Lowell junior Antoinette Toussaint earned All-American status by finishing in seventh place in the pentathlon at the Division 2 NCAA Track and Field Championships Saturday in Birmingham, Ala.

The feat achieved by Toussaint, who graduated SHS in 2008, is remarkably impressive considering it involves competing in five events in one day. Her score of 3604 put her just two points behind sixth place and enough to be recognized as All-American. Toussaint

finished the 60-meter hurdles in a time of 9.07 seconds. She leaped 5 feet, 4 ¼ inches in the high jump and 17 ft. 11 inches in the long jump. She tossed the shot put 26 feet and 1 inch. And she ran the 800 meters in 2 minutes and 17 seconds.

Toussaint's time in the 800 meters was the fastest of all the runners in Division 2.

Toussaint was also a Massachusetts State Champion and All Scholastic in 2008 with a score of 3,164.

"Antoinette has earned this recognition through hard work and talent," Somerville High head track coach Charlie



SHS grad Antoinette Toussaint is making Somerville proud, earning All-American status at UMass Lowell.

O'Rourke said. "Despite working a job while attending UMass Lowell, she has successfully competed at the highest level on the NCAA stage.

"The administration, coaches, and track family at Somerville High School could not be prouder of Antoinette

and her accomplishments both on the track and off," the coach added. "She is a role model for every athlete at Somerville High School that shows hard work and dedication will pay off."

Somerville High senior Andre Rolim, meanwhile, recent-

ly won the 600 meters at the MIAA All-State Championships for the third straight year. Rolim finished the race in fifth place, crossing a 1:21.10.

Rolim set the state record last winter in the 600 meters with a time of 1:19.94.

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#360

1. What was St. Patrick's given name?
2. What year and where was the first St. Patrick's Day publicly celebrated?
3. What did St. Patrick use the Shamrock to represent?
4. What do the leaves on a four leaf clover represent?
5. How can you tell if a four leaf clover is a real one?
6. Who was author of *I Lived To Tell It All*?
7. Who wrote the musical *Porgy and Bess*?
8. What novel was *Porgy and Bess* based on?
9. What are the names of the "Three Tenors"?
10. What is the structure that joins a bone to a muscle called?
11. What instrument is used to measure blood pressure?
12. If you weighed a 100 pounds on earth, how much would you weigh on the moon?

Answers on page 23

A Lions salute



The Somerville Lions Club Wishes Everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day!



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Blatman selected as SAC Artist of the Month

By Cathleen Twardzik

Based in Somerville, Resa Blatman is the artist for March in the Somerville Arts Council (SAC) Artist of the Month Series.

Blatman's artwork has been showcased in a plethora of magazines and online journals.

Although this series does not feature an art show, a review of her two-person show Landscape Remade at Northeastern University, in Big, Red & Shiny was recently featured.

Additionally, she has secured various grants.

Blatman earned a BFA in graphic design from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, and since 1997 she has taught advanced-level graphic design there. Also, she holds an MFA in painting from Boston University.

The process of planning the SAC Artist of the Month Series came into being more than one year ago. It was begun by Tim Devin, Chair of the Volunteer Board of the Somerville Arts Council, and then, Jenn Harrington, Volunteer, and Kellie Veiga, Volunteer, added their talents.

The inaugural program, the purpose of which was to celebrate the incredible variety and amount of talent within the City of Somerville, got underway in January of this year.

Five percent of the city's residents "self-identifies as a creative person of one type or another, so this is the Arts Council's way of showing this range of talent, and celebrating how creative the city is, and a way for members of the community to find out about creative folks they didn't know about before," said Devin. There are approximately 3,500 creative individuals in Somerville.

Each month, a singular artist, musician or writer, among others, is chosen. The process also includes a SAC interview with the person regarding "what they do and why and how they got where they are. It's a way for the artists to share their motives and stories," said Devin. "Since people can nominate artists through the [Somerville Arts] Council's website, it's a nice way for people in the community to support each other, too. It's a continuation of the Nave's old Featured Artist program, which ran from 2005 to 2009."

In December 2013, an event will occur to honor to all 12 artists who were selected in that calendar year. The program will continue on a monthly basis in 2014.

On a fundamental level, the artists who were chosen thus far this year highlighted different types of art.

In January, Susan Berstler, who is in charge of the Nave Gallery, was picked by SAC as the first artist of the Month in the series. Berstler, Visual Artist, also coordinates Somerville events, such as Squeeze-box Slam, which is a city-wide accordion "jam session," the yarnstorming in Perry

Park, and Project MUM, which is dance party that takes place under the McGrath overpass.

Marcus Santos, Percussionist and Teacher at Somerville High School, received the honor of SAC Artist of the Month in February. He has "performed" worldwide. "As a teacher, he's launched a successful instruction program that is now being followed in about 12 cities," said Devin.

"Despite the myriad challenges, my art career gives me great satisfaction, and it makes me happy"

Blatman, a painter, utilizes "pasculptural surfaces. My paintings are made on multi-layered, laser-cut panels." Paper, Mylar and wood serve as additional surfaces on which she creates. The materials with which she paints include different types of oil, and often graphite, beads and glitter, as well as, occasionally, leafing.

"The themes in my work investigate current environmental issues and how our thirst for fossil fuels affects our landscape and our natural resources, including climate changes. My work also speaks to beauty in nature, and how the underbelly of beauty is sometimes frightening and grotesque. I find the contradiction profound and intriguing, especially in its relationship to human behavior and how we perceive and treat nature," said Blatman.

A duo of the paintings which were showcased on the blog of Somerville's Artist of the Month were Tangled and Strange Surroundings. Those creations "are made on layered panels, which are laser-cut. I design the edges of the panels on the computer, and after which the files are sent to the laser cutter who uses my digital files to cut the panels," she said.

Upon returning those panels to her studio, Blatman ponders the way in which the pieces will work together, and she leaves room for changes, which may occur. After that, she commences the painting process.

"It was so natural for me to be an artist. I never imagined doing anything else with my life. Despite the myriad challenges, my art career gives me great satisfaction, and it makes me happy," she said.

Her studio is located at 6 Vernon St. in Somerville, and interested individuals may visit her website at <http://www.resablatman.com>.

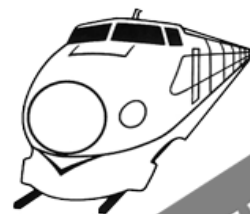
For more in-depth information about the SAC Series artists, interested individuals may peruse <http://somerivillearts council.org/artistmonth>.



Resa Blatman is the artist for March in the Somerville Arts Council (SAC) Artist of the Month Series.

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

PLANNING DIVISION

LEGAL NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing for all interested parties will be held by the Planning Board on **Thursday, March 21, 2013** at 6:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chambers, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA.

315 Broadway/18 Temple St. (Case #PB 2012-22) Applicant, Young Investments, LLC, and Owner, Cynthia R. Gilman Irrevocable Trust, seek a Special Permit with Site Plan review under SZO §6.1.22.D.1 to construct a new five story building, a Special Permit to establish 56 residential units in the building (§7.13.E), a Special Permit to establish 7700 sf of Use Cluster C – Medium Retail and Service, and a Special Permit for signage (§6.1.22.D.5.a). The site would include 68 parking spaces. The existing structure would be demolished. CCD 55 zone. Ward 1.

84 & 90 Washington St. (Case PB #2013-03) Applicant/Owner Cobble Hill Apartment Company seek a Site Plan Approval for a subdivision under SZO §5.4 to divide a 437,090 sf lot into two lots of 173,748 sf and 263,371 sf for a future development proposal for 159 residential units and approx 13,200 sf of commercial space. BB zone. Ward 1.



771 McGrathy Hwy. (Case #PB 2013-05) Applicant, CPC-T Holdings, LLC, and Owner, The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company LLC, seek an amendment to a Planned Unit Development Preliminary Master Plan (PUD-PMP) approved by the Planning Board on Sept 6, 2001 and Nov 1, 2001 under SZO §16.11 to construct a 121-unit residential building. Waivers are requested to supply tandem parking spaces, a reduction in the requirement for landscaped area, signage area and height and reduced setbacks under SZO §16.5.4 and 16.5.5. BA zone/PUD-B. Ward 1.


205 Broadway: (Case #PB 2013-06) Applicant, BB Broadway LLC, and Owner, Maurice Haddad, seek Site Plan Approval (SZO §5.4 & 6.1.22.D.2) to construct a two-story retail building, for reduced number of parking spaces under §9.17 and Special Permit for signage under §6.1.22.5.a. CCD 55 zone. Ward 1.

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

Attest: Kevin Prior, Chairman
To be published in the Somerville News 3/6/13 & 3/13/13.

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





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

PLANNING DIVISION

LEGAL NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Appeals will meet on **Wednesday, March 20, 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:


45 Matignon Rd/0 Alewife Brook Pkwy. (Case #ZBA 2013-05)
Applicant and Owner, Lycee International de Boston/International School of Boston, Inc., seeks a Variance under SZO §5.5 and §10.7.1 to construct a 14 foot fence around the Lower and Middle School play yard. RB Zone. Ward 7.

50 Inner Belt Rd. (Case #ZBA 2013-07) Applicant, InterNAP Network Services & Owner, Penna Realty Associates, seek a special permit with site plan review for an addition of a loading dock and door. This will alter previously approved façade under ZBA 2008-21. 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 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 3/6/13 & 3/13/13.

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



ADVERTISEMENT
Request for Proposals

The Somerville Housing Authority (SHA) is issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for SHA Job No. 1303, Green Physical Needs Assessment and Energy Audit Services (GPNA/EA) at its Federally funded housing developments. The project includes (6) sites containing (11) living units.

The fee for these services is estimated to be between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

Proposals are invited from registered Architects or Firms which provide these services, Proposals shall comply with all requirements of HUD'S new Green Physical Needs Assessment and Energy Audit Protocol.

Proposals shall be hand delivered, or mailed by certified mail, and must be received by the Somerville Housing Authority, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, Massachusetts prior to 2:00 P.M., on April 17, 2013.

RFP documents, prepared by SHA, will be available for pick up at no cost, beginning March 13, 2013, Between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. at the Somerville Housing Authority, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA .02145

Request to mail RFP documents must include a certified or cashier's check for \$25.00 per set, payable to the Somerville Housing Authority.

The Authority reserves the right to reject in whole or in part any or all Proposals received.

Please direct questions or request for RFP documents, to Somerville Housing Authority, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, Massachusetts 02145, Attn: Frank Smith, Tel. 617-625-1152. Fax: 617-623-0137 or e-mail to franks@sha-web.org.

3/13/13 The Somerville News

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

Docket No. MI 13P0747EA

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Estate of: Bertina Sousa
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Also Known As: _____

Date of Death: 7/18/2008

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of

Petitioner Carlos Sousa of Somerville MA
First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)


[x] a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

[] Carlos Sousa of Somerville MA
First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve [] with [x] without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under The Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court: Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representative appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

3/13/13 The Somerville News



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
RFP # 13-65, RE-BID

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

Somerville Library Website Redesign

An Request for Proposals (RFP) and specifications may be obtained at the Purchasing Department, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA. 02143 on or after: **Monday, March 11, 2013**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **Monday, March 25, 2013 at 11:00 A.M.** at which time sealed bids will be open. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

For Bid Packages and Information, please email Karen Mancini, kmancini@somervillema.gov or visit the City of Somerville website, www.somervillema.gov

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

3/13/13 The Somerville News

PATS TOWING

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

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

2000	Ford	Expedition	Vin# 1FMRU15L7YLC15501
2004	Dodge	Durang	Vin# 1D4HB48N54F226271
2002	Honda	Civic	Vin# 2HGES16532H504180
2010	PAG	SPYD	Vin# 5LYSR3248AR048303

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

3/13/13, 3/20/13, 3/27/13 The Somerville News

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

1996	Lexus	ES300	Vin# JT8BF12G1T0176565
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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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
IFB # 13-66 Rebid**

The City of Somerville, through the Purchasing Department invites sealed bids for:
The Supply and Delivery of Ready-Mix Concrete.

An invitation for bid (IFB) and specifications may be obtained at the Purchasing Department, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA. 02143 on or after: **Monday, March 11, 2013**. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at 11:00 A.M.** at which time sealed bids will be open. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

The contract term shall be for a period of one year from 3/27/2013 through 3/26/2014, with one (1), one year option to renew.

Contact **Orazio DeLuca**, Contract Manager for bid packages and information, via email – odeluca@somervillema.gov or visit our website – www.somervillema.gov

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

3/13/13 The Somerville News

Nellie's Wild Flowers

When you want something unique



Let's all go to the lobby...

CONT. FROM PG 9

Creature from the Black Lagoon, Dracula, Frankenstein, The Mummy, Star Wars, Planet of the Apes, Goldfinger, It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World, and Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn.

My movie memories include my dad taking us to the drive in our pajamas. In later years I recall hiding in the trunk of cars to avoid paying. I would have to say that *Swiss Family Robinson* in 1960 (when I was 7 years old) was the most memorable and exciting movie I have ever seen.

We got to see our movies in a full size theatre, not one of those tiny mini-plex things. Of course, we also had to sit through the rumbling, shaking and rattling that happened every time a freight train rolled through Davis Square.

My son is the third generation of Del Ponte men to work at The Somerville Theatre. We will do anything for free popcorn.

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

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

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

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Ten years after

CONT. FROM PG 9

and the executive office of the president."

Bush administration officials spent much of 2002 fabricating a case for war, which they described among themselves as "selling the product." On August 26, 2002, Dick Cheney rolled out the product, stating, "There is no doubt" that Saddam has WMDs and intends to use them.

Italy's military intelligence agency had told the CIA that it had a copy of a contract for Niger to sell Iraq 500 metric tons of yellow cake uranium, suitable for enrichment to weapons grade. The State Department concluded that the contract was a forgery, but Cheney ordered the CIA to dig deeper. The Agency sent former ambassador Joseph Wilson to Niger. His evidence confirmed the hoax, but on September 8, 2002, National Security Adviser Condoleza Rice told CNN that she didn't "want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud."

Czech intelligence officers thought they had a photo of Muhammed Atta, ringleader of the 9/11 attacks, meeting with an Iraqi Intelligence officer in Prague. The FBI determined that the person in the photo was not Atta, who was in Florida at the time. But Cheney went on *Meet the Press* and said that the Prague meeting had been confirmed.

Condoleza Rice told the *PBS News Hour* that, "High ranking detainees have said that Iraq provided training to al-Qaeda in chemical weapons development." In fact, there was one detainee, Faraj al-Libbi. When the FBI interrogated him and found no connection with Iraq, the CIA rendered him to Egypt, where he was tortured into concocting a tale about Saddam's training al-Qaeda in chemical and biological weapons.

CIA analysts concluded that he had "fabricated" this confession. But on October 7, 2002 President Bush stated it as fact. Al-Libbi subsequently acknowledged that he had made it up.

Meanwhile, a former Iraqi engineer told German intelligence that he had helped to design mobile biological warfare labs. The intelligence community knew him to be a liar and called him "Curveball." But Bush repeated Curveball's allegation as fact. In a post-war video interview with the *The Guardian*, Curveball acknowledged that he had lied in hopes of provoking the war.

Administration officials leaked to the *New York Times* a story that Saddam Hussein was accumulating atomic bomb parts, even though the Department of Energy had examined samples of the aluminum tubes in question and determined that they could not be used for that purpose. The story ran October

8th. Hours later, Cheney went on *Meet the Press* and said, "We know...with absolute certainty" that Hussein was acquiring equipment to enrich uranium. He cited the planted *Times* story.

In September, George Bush and his CIA Director George Tenet began lobbying Congress to authorize war. The Senate Intelligence Committee asked for the National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) for Iraq, but the CIA had never prepared one because there was no credible evidence of a threat.

Tenet ordered his staff to slap one together in three weeks and conclude that Saddam Hussein was pursuing WMDs. CIA staff inserted strong dissents throughout the NIE. But while Senators were told its conclusion, only about six actually read it.

On October 16, three weeks before congressional elections, Congress passed the Iraq War Resolution, authorizing the President to use military force. Bush operatives needed a pretext to launch the invasion. They had concluded that their best choice was to impose new sanction-backed WMD inspections and goad Saddam into not complying. So on September 12th, Bush had presented his WMD accusation to the UN General Assembly.

Thereafter, administration officials began intense secret negotiations with key members of the Security Council. On November 8th, it passed Resolution 1441, to give Iraq "a final opportunity to comply with its disarmament obligations." New inspections began on November 27th led by the UN's Hans Blix.

Unlike the armchair generals who were running the Pentagon, Secretary of State Colin Powell had actually experienced war and he enjoyed worldwide credibility. Bush wanted Powell to sell the war.

Powell was reluctant and suspected the legitimacy of the "intelligence." But being the good soldier,

he made a ninety-minute presentation to the U.N. Security Council on February 5, 2003. Although he had been assured that everything he presented was legitimate, his Chief of Staff, Larry Wilkerson, later told MSNBC that it had been "cooked" by Bush officials and was a "hoax." The UN took no action.

In early March, Hans Blix reported that inspectors had found no evidence of WMDs and could be certain whether any existed "within months." Instead, the U.S. launched a surprise invasion without declaring war on March 19.

Ten years after, the War's consequences are legion. No WMDs existed, but American dead number 4,487, and veterans kill themselves at the rate of one per day. Approximately 120,000 Iraqi civilians died violently.

The war increased sectarianism to levels never before seen in the region. Both sides despise the U.S.

A National Intelligence Estimate, written five years after the invasion, found that the War greatly increased and spread the threat of terrorism.

Undistracted by Saddam Hussein, Iran is building real WMDs. With the shift of focus from Afghanistan to Iraq, the Taliban, who had nurtured the 9/11 attackers, reemerged and cannot now be defeated.

Iraq is ruled by an authoritarian regime. Transparency International ranks it as the third most corrupt country in the world.

Economists estimate that total war costs will run to \$3 trillion. Bush declined to pay for it with new revenues, while pushing through sharp tax reductions. Yet the same lawmakers who questioned their political opponents' patriotism for not supporting the War, now blame them for perpetuating the deficit.

Aside from the Taliban and Iran, who benefited? As the father of a former girlfriend of mine once told Woodward and Bernstein, "Follow the money."

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• • • • ‘VILLENS ON THE TOWN’ • • • •

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Wednesday|March 13

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
Homework Help for Teens: Math & Science
Ron Castile/617-623-5000 x2969
3 p.m.- 5 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

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

Thursday|March 14

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 14

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

Central Library
Teen Game Day
Cynthia Mitchem|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

Tuesday|March 19

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

Central Library
Homework Help for Teens: English & History
Ron Castile|617-623-5000 x2969
4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Wednesday|March 20

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
Homework Help for Teens: Math & Science
Ron Castile
617-623-5000 x2969
3 p.m.-5 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

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

MUSIC
Wednesday|March 13

Johnny D’s
The American Symphony of Soul|The Casual
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
The Fiddlers of Inishbofin|7:30 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA’S Lounge
Paul Harkins Trio
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
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
Bomb Squad Comedy
7:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Thursday|March 14

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

Sally O’Brien’s
Spring Hill Rounders grassy
Thursdays|7:30 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
The Fiddlers of Inishbofin|7:30 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA’S Lounge
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
Harbor Lights|Fishing The Sky|Following Trails
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
Classic Ruins|Corin Ashley|Corin Ashley
381 Summer St.

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

Radio Bar
Eye Design Presents: Never Give a Goat The High Road|Bambara|The Big Bucks
8PM, 21+, \$6
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
Castle of Comedy III
7:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Friday|March 15

Johnny D’s
OZ Noy Trio featuring Keith Carlock & Anthony Jackson|Matthew Smart Band|Dave Keller Band
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s
Early St Pat’s with the Johnny Come Latelies|6 p.m.
Brass Knuckles, Double Vision|9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
The Fiddlers of Inishbofin|7:30 p.m.
Dave Foley after the show
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

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

Precinct Bar
Hear Now Live Presents:"Shake it and leave" w/ Skinny Cleveland|OTP|Herban Warfare|Delman Ryder|Slapback
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

PA’S Lounge
God Module|Ludovico Technique|Mordacious|Ten Cent Toys
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
Amy Fairchild & Miriam
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
Van Burens
381 Summer St

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

Radio Bar
Down: Tester|Derailer|Bottlefight|Damn Shame
UP:Allston Pudding|Rogue Present:New Highway Hymnal|Speedy Ortiz|Krestrels|Soccer Mom

379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
Humor from my Pen: Gerardo Hernandez (OPENING RECEPTION)
7 p.m.|Gallery
Richard Cambridge's Poetry Theatre
8 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

Somerville Theatre
Dead Man Walking
7:30 p.m.|55 Davis Square|617-625-5700

Saturday|March 16

Johnny D’s
Porch Party Mamas|The Macrotones|Evolfo Doofeht
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s
Jimmy Ryan Band|6 p.m.
Moving Company|9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
The Fiddlers of Inishbofin|6:30 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Precinct Bar
Three day Threshold
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
Karaoke
65 Holland St

PA’S Lounge
Sara’s 30th Birthday Jam|Check website for details
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

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

Bull McCabe’s
Dave Wells Presents
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
Moxa|The Soul Panacea|The stampede
381 Summer St

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

Radio Bar
Down: Positive/negative Man|Blarin|Headband
UP: Private Party
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
Humor from my Pen: Gerardo Hernandez (OPENING RECEPTION)
Gallery Hours|191 Highland Ave

Somerville Theatre
Dead Man Walking
7:30 p.m.|55 Davis Square|617-625-5700

Sunday|March 17

Johnny D’s
Open Blues Jam featuring The Matthew Smart Band
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s Bar
Happy St Patrick’s! Food & drink specials all day \$5 cover| noon - midnight
Tom Hagerty Irish Band|3:30 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Happy St. Patricks Day open @ 10 a.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

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

Precinct Bar
James Christian Band 4pm in front bar
Christian McNeill & Seamonsters / special guests.|Back Bar 8pm|
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe’s Pub
ST. PATRICK’S DAY- Ronan Quinn Band
Live 4-7
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

Somerville Theatre
Dead Man Walking
3 p.m.|55 Davis Square|617-625-5700

Monday|March 18

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
2nd Annual Zombie Night
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
Electric Lighthouse listening party|2 a.m.- 3 a.m.
381 Summer St

Radio Bar
379 Summer St

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

Somerville Theatre
Dead Man Walking
7:30 p.m.|55 Davis Square|617-625-5700

Tuesday|March 19

JohnnyD’s
Barnaby Bright
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s Bar
Kevin Byrne |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:Tantric Encounter|The Family Dinner|Ninjavitis|Nicole D'Amico & Friends
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

Arts at the Armory
Humor from my Pen: Gerardo Hernandez (OPENING RECEPTION)
Gallery Hours
First and Last Word Poetry Series
7 p.m.|191 Highland Ave

Wednesday|March 20

Johnny D’s
Charlie Keating Band|
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
Paul Harkins Trio
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: Wholly Karaoke with DJ Magic Gus
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
The Key to Happiness
7 p.m.|Cafe

CLASSES AND GROUPS
Wednesday|March 13

Central Library
Membership--Progresive Democrats of Somerville
Lee Palmer/781-330-1740
6:30 p.m.-8:45 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|March 14

Central Library
Drop-In Meditation
Maria Carpenter
617-623-5000 x2910
1 p.m.-2 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

Central Library
4-Part Memoir Writing Workshop with Judah Leblang
Judah Leblang|617-466-9637
6:30 p.m.- 8:45 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

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 16

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 17

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 18

West Branch Library
Book Group: Books Into Movies
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.|40 College Avenue

Tuesday|March 19

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 20

Central Library
Chamber Music Reading Session
Alison LaRosa Montez
908-489-0753
6:30 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

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

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

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

Holland Street Center - 167 Holland Street

Ralph & Jenny Center - 9 New Washington Street

Cross Street Center - 165 Broadway

Some Council on Aging highlights in the coming weeks:

Brain Healthy & Living a Life of Balance and Joy - Two week session with Cathy Zolner, AADP, a health and nutrition coach. Cathy will share her shortlist of delicious brain-healthy foods, along with easy ways to empower us to make necessary changes that can enhance our lives for both short and long-term. Second session on ways to live and eat to feel good and to learn how to create a balance to have joy in our loves. \$5 for both sessions. Pre-registration is a must.

Yoga & Meditation with Lawrence is coming back for the month of April. Starting April 3 through April 24 at 2:30 at Holland Street. \$20 for all 4 sessions. Don't miss out. Pre-registration required.

Creative Writing Class - Free. At Holland Street Center beginning March 19 at 10:30 a.m. with Natasha. Think out of the box and come up with a new idea and how to create a story around that. Pre-registration required. Pen and paper supplied along with snacks to get the creative mind going.

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 p.m. 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 (adult class begins at 12:30) beginning March 12 and Fitness and Nutrition Exploration on Friday mornings at 10:00. 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 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. All 55+ are welcome. April 3.

Lunchtime exercise class for all in the community:

Belly Dancing is during the day from 12:30-1:30 p.m. This is a fun class with great arm and core exercises. Take a chance and join us. Open to men and women.

LBT Community - New program. Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Women Fit-4-Life Fitness and Nutrition Classes with certified instructors. Tuesday and Thursday evenings. \$10 a month with scholarships available. Call Lisa for more info at ext. 2316.

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.

Trip Corner:

Foxwoods - March 11.

Washington D.C. - April 11-14. Amazing trip. Payment plan offered.

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.

Fit-4-Life LBT - Tuesday and Thursday Evenings.

Fit-4-Life General - Wednesday & Friday Mornings.

March 13

1:00 Bowling at Flatbreads

Holland Street

Fit-4-Life Classes Groups A & B

Men's Club - all welcome! 12 p.m.

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

March 14

Cultural Day - Ireland - WHYC

Holland Street Center

LBT Fit-4-Life 6 p.m.

167 Holland Street | 617-625-6600 x 2300

March 15

Armenian Library & Museum

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 18

Holiday Inn Dance

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 19

Holland Street Center

Strengthening Exercise 9:15 a.m.

Bellydancing 12:30 p.m.

SHINE by appt 1 p.m.

Intergenerational Bellydancing 1:30 p.m.

LBT Fit-4-Life 6 p.m.

Caregiver's Group 6:30 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 20

Bowling at Flatbreads 1 p.m.

Holland Street Center

Fit-4-Life Classes Groups A & B

Clutter Control 10 a.m.

Intergenerational Qi Gong 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

COA mosaic nearly complete



Here is the almost finished project from our Mosaic Project. Emily Bhargava still has to grout the large mosaic and then it will be complete. This work was done through a grant with the Somerville Arts Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Look for an announcement of when the Somerville COA will be hanging the mosaic. Thank you to all the "artists" who came to Cross Street Center over the last three weeks to make this happen.

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Beyond literacy: Libraries as community centers

CONT. FROM PG 9

where you came from, and now, thanks to this national grant, a wide array of Somerville voices will have the opportunity to be heard. Not only will we not forget them but, perhaps, neither will the world.

The expansion of library services in terms of additional hours, staff, and programming is just the beginning for us. To outfit our students and residents with the tools to delve into and navigate today's world and workplace, we also continue to expand services. Our selection of digital tools continues to grow, with our electronic databases now offering the historical *New York Times* and

Boston Globe archives for the purposes of historical research, and Learning Express now available for job seekers and test preparation. We are also striving to make our libraries forums for public discourse of the arts, humanities, and sciences, from the serious to the lighthearted.

Our next series of cultural programming will touch upon the Muslim-American experience, thanks in part to a grant from the American Library Association and National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the Muslim Journeys project. The Library is partnering with scholars and clerics from Harvard, Tufts,

Northeastern and many of the fine mosques in the area to present a developed and comprehensive picture of the Islamic experience. This series is founded upon the idea of tolerance, and no doubt will continue our mission in Somerville to celebrate our diversity, and through doing so, enrich the community at large.

We have our residents, Library Board of Trustees, Friends of the SPL, community partners, and library staff to thank for seizing the enormous potential that our libraries can offer. Our libraries are a place where Somervillians can come together to celebrate their past and present through

the stories that surround them. We hope that our residents will learn as much from the people around them as they do from the media and resources available.

So keep an eye out for all of the new and exciting programs going on at the libraries. Creative writing workshops for teens and adults begin this month and are funded in part by the Somerville Arts council and the Friends of the Library. After school homework help has just begun for teens thanks to student volunteers from Tufts University. Job searching and computer workshops will also take place in the near future, thanks to a grant

from the Tufts Neighborhood Service Fund. Our librarians will soon offer workshops on digital resources such as *Learning Express* and historical *New York Times*. And our one city-one book program, Somerville reads, is coming up too and the selected book will be announced before summer vacations begin.

With our community engaged, as I've seen so many times before, we can quickly make the Somerville Public Library a center where oral history, intellectual discovery and community fun can come together to make our libraries a national model. We hope you'll be a part of this.

Michael Murray has been playing around

By Blake Maddux

Somerville musician Michael “Mike” Murray is not showing off when he says, “It’s harder for me to think of a place that I haven’t played around here” (rather than the ones that he has), or that he’s been included “on more stuff [i.e., recorded material] than he can faithfully remember.”

In both instances, the Winchester native is simply being honest. He has built up this impressive résumé over the course of nearly a decade as a musician.

More often than not, Murray is juggling more than one musical project at once, in addition to teaching full time at Community Therapeutic Day School in Lexington and being the father of two-year-old Benjamin Lawrence Murray.

Currently, he sings lead and plays rhythm guitar for Michael Murray & Tsoysli, which he pronounces “so-slee.”

“I was on a camping trip with a friend who speaks Swiss German,” he says about the source of the band’s name. “I get very excited about fire. I really like to look at fire, manage fire, and build fires. I was trying to explain to her that I’m not crazy about fire. She explained that there’s a word in Swiss German for someone who really is into fire but is not a pyromaniac, and that’s the word. She said that it’s kind of a slang word. It doesn’t necessarily have one spelling, but she said if she had to spell it,

that’s how she’d spell it.”

Murray also plays lead guitar in Somerville band Nowhere Lights. This band is fronted by fellow Somervillian Neil Lawrence, who plays bass guitar in Tsoysli, which also includes guitarist Jonas Kahn and drummer Jeff Allison (a current and former Somervillian, respectively).

The two musicians met in late 2004 at PJ Ryan’s in Teele Square. The following April, Murray began a Thursday night residency at PJ Ryan’s that would last until October 2010.

Murray and Lawrence eventually joined up to play in a group that covered the music of the Irish band The Pogues. The band performed under several monikers, including two that were taken from the titles of Pogues songs — Boys From County Hell and Wild Cats of Kilkenny.

During the half-dozen or so years that Murray sang lead, this cover group celebrated St. Patrick’s Day in a big way.

“We used to do four or five shows in a day,” Murray said, “and a huge number of shows over a few days around St. Patrick’s Day. It was a good time!”

Each of these gigs was at a different venue, but according to Murray, “The mainstays became The Indo (The Independent, in Union Square) and PJ’s. They became our definite gigs.”

Murray remembers these times fondly.

“We always finished at PJ’s. By then, we’d be in top shape. Most years, particularly if it was anywhere near the weekend, it was this great experience where there was no separation between the band and the audience. Not just physically, but everybody singing along. There were 10 people in the band, so on the fringe of the band you really would be interspersed with audience members. It was a lot of fun.”

While Murray has always managed to secure a steady flow of work as a musician, it is not how he makes his living.

After graduating from UMass Lowell in 2001, he worked for three years at Ottonson Middle School in Arlington, first as a teacher assistant and later as a teacher.

“I was very excited that I had found something other than music,” Murray said. “I got my sociology degree but that doesn’t really lead to jobs necessarily. I was excited to find something that I seemed like I had a knack for and that I enjoyed doing.”

During this time, he met Debbie Shansky, who would become his wife a few years later.

In 2004, Murray decided to devote himself to music for a year. He had released an EP called You Can Have These Songs. He said that the positive response that he got from people whom he did not know was “the signal” that encouraged him to pursue music more actively.

Not having the steady income that teaching afforded him



Michael Murray knows all the best places to play in Somerville very well.

meant making sacrifices.

“I lived in a tent in friends’ basements and yards,” he explained. “Debbie let me use her basement in her apartment on Cedar Street in Somerville, next to the train track.”

However, he admits that he “had hard time with a lack of structure. I needed to get a job.”

In 2005, he obtained a part-time position at Arlington High School, where he worked for two years before Community Therapeutic Day School in Lexington hired him and Debbie Shansky.

Murray and Shansky got married in August 2007, “at almost the exact same time that we started working there,” according

to Murray.

“I am kind of on a career track now, which I’m excited about,” he confidently declares.

Of course, that does not mean that his pursuit of music is going whiter and die. He is currently recording the first album with Tsoysli (the fifth in his career on which he is at the helm), and things are not getting any less interesting.

“We’re recording it at a studio in Winchester that we have access to where David Hasselhoff used to record.”

Michael Murray & Tsoysli plays at PJ Ryan’s in Teele Square on Saturday, March 23, at 10:00 p.m.

Somerville Writers and Writers Festival Alumni are in force at AWP

By Timothy Gager

The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference (AWP) which features 550 readings, lectures, panel discussions, and forums, as well as hundreds of book signings, dances and informal gatherings was held in Boston last weekend at the Hynes Convention Center. Authors and writers from Somerville and alumni of *The Somerville News Writers Festival* (2003-2009) were well represented at the conference. In fact, I couldn’t throw a stone without hitting someone from the before-mentioned categories. Since there were no stones to be found inside the Hynes, I threw two questions at some of these remarkable writers, when I ran into them during my AWP travels.

1) What is AWP to you?

Doug Holder (co-founder of *Somerville News Writers Festival*)—It’s the chance to become re-acquainted with long time writer friends.

Steve Almond—The blessed and sacrosanct capital of American Literary anxiety.

Tom Perrotta—I’m totally new to AWP. Everyone who teaches or studies creative writing in the entire world is here.

Jennifer Haigh—AWP is an excuse to see the people you never get to see. Whole friendships are solely kept alive being here.

Margot Livesay—It’s a wonderful reminder of how alive publishing is in 21st Century America.

Fred Marchant—It’s an immense gathering, which reminds me that language is a democracy.

Alison Granucci (President of Blueflower Arts, literary speakers agency for the Festival)—AWP is the Academy Awards of literature.

Gloria Mindock—It’s a great place to network and meet new editors and publishers. It’s also a place to expose my press.

Tam Lin Neville—A chance to spread the word about our press (Off The Grid) for poets

over sixty, and also to see people I’ve not seen for a long time.

Harris Gardner—AWP is information gathering’ experiencing and enjoying other authors.

Bert Stern—This year we have a remarkable new book to promote here. I’m a bit too old for all the wandering around.

Christopher Castellani—It’s a chance to connect with old writer-friends and also make new ones.

Rusty Barnes—It’s a time to meet and greet.

Nick Flynn—AWP is a community of folks interested in language.

To my surprise, no one mentioned the panels, unless it fell under the loose definition of information gathering, so I moved on to the second question.

2) What are your recollections of *The Somerville News Writers Festival*?

Doug Holder (co-founder of *Somerville News Writers Festival*)—I recall all the hard work that was put into it but also the time the late Hugh Fox, who I

spoke about this year on an AWP panel, lambasted me for only allowing him four minutes to read.

Steve Almond—I did each and every one of them and after all the pot I smoked, I still remember everything. I look back and I weep tears of joy and mortification.

Tom Perrotta—The night I did it, it went on forever.

Jennifer Haigh—I read something I’d never read out loud before, which was a new experience for me.

Margot Livesay—It was an exuberant and musical evening, reminding everyone that literature is fun.

Fred Marchant—It was a real core sample of an intense writer’s community, great atmosphere all around.

Alison Granucci—Working with *The Somerville News* was a dream.

Gloria Mindock—It was an entertaining festival, where wonderful work was read.

Tam Lin Neville—I really

liked it, it was so democratic. I live in Somerville so it was good for me and was probably the largest audience I’ve ever read before.

Harris Gardner—*The Somerville News Writers Festival* was a nice spectrum of authors and the opportunity to spread the literary and poetry word.

Bert Stern—I remember the obscene lady who hosted the night Junot Diaz read. That’s all in the past. My chance to read was very important because I love Somerville and it made me proud to live in that town.

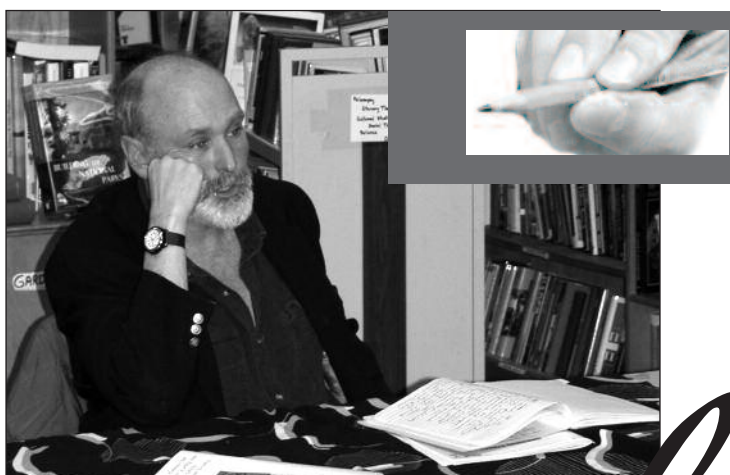
Christopher Castellani—It was nice collection of writers I already knew, along with some that I had never met before. The event showed a real sense of community spirit.

Rusty Barnes—I thought it was a great time. Steve Almond and Malachy McCourt were fantastic.

Nick Flynn—(I approached him right before a panel he was moderating and he had no time to answer. My bad.)

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Wednesday, March 13							
12:00am	Free Speech TV	5:00pm	Jeff Jam Sing Show	11:00am	Dead Air Live	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
6:00am	Heritage Baptist Church	5:30pm	Culture Club (weekly timeslot)	Noon	Reeling Movie Show	9:00am	Revolutionary War in Somerville
7:00am	Healthy Hypnosis	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV (Free Speech TV)	12:30pm	Active Aging	9:30am	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show
7:30am	Life Matters	6:30pm	Art @ SCATV	1:00pm	Bongoman (LIVE)	10:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	7:00pm	Climate Change in Somerville	2:00pm	Henry Parker Presents	11:30am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
9:00am	Science Issues & Innovations	8:00pm	Fouye Zo Nan Kalalou (LIVE)	2:30pm	Copy Cat Festival	1:00pm	Ablevision
10:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	9:30pm	Somerville’s Most Interesting Places	3:00pm	Tele Magazine	1:30pm	Art at SCATV
11:30am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	10:00pm	Energy Theater	5:00pm	Tele Kreyol	2:00pm	Nossa Gentes e Costumes
1:00pm	Abudgida TV	Friday, March 15		6:00pm	Basic Buddha	3:00pm	Exercise with Robyn and Max
2:00pm	Culture Club	12:00am	Free Speech TV	6:30pm	Climate Change in Somerville	3:30pm	Esoteric Science
2:30pm	Somerville Back in the Day	6:00am	Road to Recovery	7:30pm	Somerville Back in the Day	4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)
3:00pm	Medical Tutor	7:00am	The Origins of SCATV	8:00pm	David Parkman (Free Speech TV)	5:00pm	Culture Club
3:30pm	Inside Talk	7:30am	Shrink Rap	9:00pm	Nossa Gente e Costumes	5:30pm	Somerville Back in the Day
4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	10:00pm	Contemporary Science Issues & Innovations	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV
5:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking	9:00am	Energy Theater	11:00pm	Gay TV (Free Speech TV)	6:30pm	Tonight’s Special
5:30pm	Cooking with Georgia & Dez	10:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	Sunday, March 17		7:00pm	Critical Focus
6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV (Free Speech TV)	11:00am	Growing Healthy in Somerville	12:00am	Free Speech TV	8:00pm	SCATV Special
6:30pm	Art @ SCATV	Noon	Revolutionary War in Somerville	6:00am	Program Celebrai	9:00pm	Dedilhando A Saudade
7:00pm	Tonight’s Special	12:30pm	Ablevision	7:00am	Flipside	10:00pm	Bate Papo con Shirley
7:30pm	Basic Buddha	1:00pm	Somerville Open Cinema Selections	7:30am	Talking with Deval Patrick	11:00pm	Copy Cat Festival
8:00pm	Somerville Pundits (LIVE)	1:30pm	Somerville Housing Authority	8:00am	Effort Pour Christ	Tuesday, March 19	
8:30pm	The Entertainer’s Show	2:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking	9:00am	Heritage Baptist Church	12:00am	Free Speech TV
9:00pm	Somerville Rocks!	2:30pm	Cooking With Georgia	10:00am	International Church of God	6:00am	Road to Recovery
9:30pm	Somerville Open Cinema Selections	3:00pm	Brunch with Sen. Bernie Sanders	10:30am	Basic Buddha	7:00am	Outdoor Adventures (SCATV Special)
10:00pm	Play by Play	4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show	11:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
11:00pm	The Literary Scene	5:30pm	Art @ SCATV	Noon	Play by Play	9:00am	Somerville News Reading
11:30pm	The Steve Katso’s Show	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV (Free Speech TV)	12:30pm	The Garage	10:00am	Tele Kreyol
Thursday, March 14		6:30pm	Reeling Movie Reel	1:00pm	Critical Focus	11:00am	Jeff Jam Sing Show
12:00am	Free Speech TV	7:00pm	Eating Locally in Somerville	2:00pm	Somerville Open Cinema Selections	11:30am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
6:00am	Atheist Viewpoint	8:00pm	Culture Club	3:00pm	Rompendo en Fe	1:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking w/ Candy
6:30am	Gerry Leone Show	9:30pm	The Garage	4:00pm	Dedilhando A Saudade	1:30pm	Cooking with Georgia & Dez
7:00am	Physician Focus	10:00pm	Play by Play	5:00pm	Ethiopian Satellite TV	2:00pm	Somerville Housing Authority
7:30am	Ablevision	10:30pm	Copy Cat Festival	6:00pm	Abugida TV	2:30pm	2013 SCATV Annual Meeting
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	11:00pm	Tonight’s Special	7:00pm	African Television Network	3:30pm	Henry Parker Presents
9:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	11:30pm	The Steve Katso’s Show	8:00pm	Telemagazine	4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)
10:00am	Active Aging	Saturday, March 16		9:00pm	Effort Pour Christ	5:00pm	Poet to Poet
10:30am	Talking with Deval Patrick	12:00am	Free Speech TV	10:00pm	OpenAir Circus	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV (Free Speech TV)
11:30am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	6:00am	Arabic Hour	11:30pm	Somerville Rocks!	6:30pm	Real Estate Answer Show
1:00pm	African Television Network	7:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	Monday, March 18		7:00pm	Art at SCATV
2:30pm	Somerville Back in the Day	8:00am	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	12:00am	Free Speech TV	7:30pm	Greater Somerville (LIVE)
3:00pm	Talking about Somerville	8:30am	King of the ‘Ville	6:00am	Atheist Viewpoint	8:00pm	Dead Air Live
4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	9:00am	Festival Kreyol	6:30am	Physician Focus	9:00pm	Open Air Circus
		10:00am	Tele Galaxie	7:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	11:00pm	Contemporary Science Issues & Innovations

City Cable TV Schedule for the Week							
CITY TV 13/22							
Wednesday, March 13							
9:00am:	Voices of Somerville	Sunday, March 17		12:00am:	Senior Circuit	12:25pm	Middle School Intramural Soccer Finals
12:00pm:	School Committee Meeting – REPLAY OF 3/11/13	12:00am:	Somerville Gives Back: The Somerville Home	12:30am:	Clean ‘Ville of Health	2:20pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English
2:15pm:	Three Paths to Italy	12:15am:	Green Line Transportation Finance Forum	12:45am:	Green Line Transportation Finance Forum	4:00pm	Our Schools, Our City: STEM, pt 2
7:00pm:	Green Line Transportation Finance Forum	1:35am:	School Committee Meeting – REPLAY OF 3/11/13	2:05am:	Somerville By Design – 2/11/13	6:00pm	Kid Stuff: Teen Empowerment
8:20pm:	Somerville Gives Back: The Somerville Home	9:00am:	Voices of Somerville	EDUCATIONAL CHANNEL 15		6:25pm	Middle School Intramural Soccer Finals
8:35pm:	Voices of Somerville	12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	Wednesday, March 13		8:20pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English
9:05pm:	BOA Agenda for 3/14/13 Meeting	12:30pm:	Somerville By Design 2/11/13	9:00am	All City Beginners’ Concert	10:00pm	Our Schools, Our City: STEM, pt 2
Thursday, March 14		1:00pm:	Highlander Forum	12:00pm	Highlander Forum	Sunday, March 17	
12:00am:	Green Line Transportation Finance Forum	1:15pm:	Somerville Gives Back: The Somerville Home	12:30pm	All City Beginners’ Concert	12:00am	Middle School Intramural Soccer Finals
1:20am:	Voices of Somerville	7:00pm:	Senior Circuit	1:15pm	Our Schools, Our City: STEM 2	1:00am	Kid Stuff: Teen Empowerment
1:50am:	Somerville Gives Back: The Somerville Home	7:30pm:	Somerville By Design 2/11/13	1:45pm	Middle School Intramural Soccer Finals	1:30am	Our Schools, Our City: STEM, pt 2
2:05am:	Congressional Update	8:00pm:	Highlander Forum	6:00pm	Middle School Intramural Soccer Finals	2:00am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Burke HS
2:35am:	Highlander Forum	8:30pm:	Board of Aldermen Meeting – REPLAY OF 3/14/13	7:45pm	Superintendent’s Awards - 2nd Qtr	12:00pm	Superintendent’s Awards - 2nd Qtr
9:00am:	Green Line Transportation Finance Forum	Monday, March 18		10:00pm	SHS Hockey vs Everett	2:00pm	SHS Hockey vs Danvers
12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	12:00am:	Senior Circuit	Thursday, March 14		3:15pm	Our Schools, Our City: STEM pt 2
12:30pm:	Highlander Forum	12:30am:	Somerville By Design 2/11/13	12:00am	Middle School Intramural Soccer Finals	3:45pm	Highlander Forum
1:00pm:	Congressional Update	1:40am:	Three Paths to Italy	1:45am	Superintendent’s Awards - 2nd Qtr	6:00pm	Superintendent’s Awards - 2nd Qtr
1:30pm:	The Aldermen’s Hour	9:00am:	Congressional Update	4:00am	SHS Hockey vs Everett	8:00pm	SHS Hockey vs Danvers
7:00pm:	Board of Aldermen Meeting - LIVE	12:00pm:	Board of Aldermen Meeting – REPLAY OF 3/14/13	9:00am	Our Schools, Our City: STEM 2	9:15pm	Our Schools, Our City
Friday, March 15		12:00pm:	Somerville Gives Back – The Somerville Home	12:00pm	Superintendent’s Awards - 2nd Qtr	9:45pm	Highlander Forum
12:00am:	The Aldermen’s Hour	7:00pm:	Somerville Gives Back – The Somerville Home	2:00pm	Kid Stuff: Teen Empowerment	Monday, March 18	
12:30am:	GLX Gubernatorial Conference	7:15pm:	Hard Target: Protecting Your Property & Possessions	2:30pm	Our Schools, Our City: STEM, pt 2	12:00am	Superintendent’s Awards - 2nd Qtr
12:55am:	Green Line Transportation Finance Forum	8:00pm:	Congressional Update	3:00pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Acton Boxborough	2:00am	SHS Hockey vs Danvers
9:00am:	Congressional Update	7:25pm:	Congressional Update	6:00pm	Middle School Intramural Soccer Finals	3:15am	Our Schools, Our City
12:00pm:	Somerville Gives Back: The Somerville Home	7:55pm:	GLX Gubernatorial Press Conference	7:00pm	Kid Stuff: Teen Empowerment	3:45am	Highlander Forum
12:15pm:	Green Line Transportation Finance Forum	8:20pm:	Highlander Forum	7:30pm	Our Schools, Our City: STEM, pt 2	9:00am	Our Schools, Our City: STEM, pt. 2
1:35pm:	School Committee Meeting – REPLAY OF 3/11/13	8:50pm:	Voices of Somerville	8:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Burke HS	12:00pm	Middle School Intramural Soccer Finals
7:00pm:	Somerville Gives Back: The Somerville Home	9:20pm:	Prospect Hill to Salisbury Prison	Friday, March 15		2:00pm	Our Schools, Our City: STEM, pt. 2
7:15pm:	Green Line Transportation Finance Forum	Tuesday, March 19		12:00am	Middle School Intramural Soccer Finals	2:30pm	Superintendent’s Awards - 2nd Qtr
8:35pm:	School Committee Meeting – REPLAY OF 3/11/13	12:00am:	Somerville Gives Back – The Somerville Home	1:00am	Kid Stuff: Teen Empowerment	6:00pm	Superintendent’s Awards - 2nd Qtr
Saturday, March 16		12:15am:	Hard Target: Protecting Your Property & Possessions	2:00am	Our Schools, Our City: STEM, pt 2	8:00pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Winthrop
12:00am:	Somerville Gives Back: The Somerville Home	12:25am:	Congressional Update	9:00am	Our Schools, Our City: STEM, pt 2	9:35pm	Highlander Forum
12:15am:	Green Line Transportation Finance Forum	12:55am:	GLX Gubernatorial Press Conference	12:00pm	Kid Stuff: Teen Empowerment	Tuesday, March 19	
1:35am:	School Committee Meeting – REPLAY OF 3/11/13	1:20am:	Highlander Forum	12:25pm	Middle School Intramural Soccer Finals	12:00am	Superintendent’s Awards - 2nd Qtr
9:00am:	Three Paths to Italy	1:50am:	Voices of Somerville	2:20pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English	2:00am	SHS Girls Basketball vs Winthrop
12:00pm:	Somerville Gives Back: The Somerville Home	2:20am:	Prospect Hill to Salisbury Prison	4:00pm	Our Schools, Our City: STEM, pt 2	3:35pm	Highlander Forum
12:15pm:	Green Line Transportation Finance Forum	9:00am:	Senior Housing Symposium	6:00pm	Kid Stuff: Teen Empowerment	9:00am	Highlander Forum
1:35pm:	School Committee Meeting – REPLAY OF 3/11/13	12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	6:25pm	Middle School Intramural Soccer Finals	12:00pm	Middle School Intramural Soccer Finals
7:00pm:	Somerville Gives Back: The Somerville Home	12:30pm:	Congressional Update	8:20pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English	2:00pm	Superintendent’s Awards - 2nd Qtr
7:15pm:	Green Line Transportation Finance Forum	1:00pm:	GLX Gubernatorial Press Conference	10:00pm	Our Schools, Our City: STEM, pt 2	6:00pm	Middle School Intramural Soccer Finals
8:35pm:	School Committee Meeting – REPLAY OF 3/11/13	2:20pm:	The Gerry Leone Show	Saturday, March 16		8:00pm	El Sistema Concert
		7:00pm:	Senior Circuit	12:00am	Middle School Intramural Soccer Finals	8:35pm	Highlander Forum
		7:30pm:	Clean ‘Ville of Health	1:00am	Kid Stuff: Teen Empowerment	9:05pm	SHS Voc Ed Fair
		7:45pm:	Green Line Transportation Finance Forum	1:30am	Our Schools, Our City: STEM, pt 2	12:00am	Middle School Intramural Soccer Finals
		9:05pm:	Somerville By Design – 2/11/13	2:00am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Burke HS	2:00am	El Sistema Concert
				12:00pm	Kid Stuff: Teen Empowerment	2:35am	Highlander Forum
						3:05am	SHS Voc Ed Fair



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Interview with Robin Stratton: Novelist, Poet, Publisher, and Coach

Robin Stratton has been a writing coach in the Boston area for almost 20 years. She is the author of *The Revision Process, A Guide for Those Months or Years Between Your First Draft and Your Last*, and two chapbooks, *Dealing with Men* and *Interference from an Unwitting Species*. A two-time Pushcart Prize nominee, she's been published in *Word Riot*, *63 Channels*, *Antithesis Common*, *Poor Richards Almanac(k)*, *Blink-Ink*, *Pig in a Poke*, *Chick Flicks*, *Up the Staircase*, *Shoots and Vines* and many others. Her novel, *On Air*, (Blue Mustang Press, 2011) was a National Indie Excellence Book Award finalist. A second novel, *Of Zen and Men*, is now available from Big Table Publishing Company. She'd love to have you visit her at robinstratton.com. I had the pleasure to interview her on my Somerville Community Access TV show *Poet to Poet: Writer to Writer*.

Doug Holder: How did you establish yourself as a writing coach?

Robin Stratton: Well, that is a good question because it is hard to break into being a writing coach without a lot of writing credentials. It just sort of happened. I had a number of people who approached me to edit their manuscripts when they learned I was a writer. They knew I had written novels - and they liked them - so it naturally followed. This was in the late 80s and there was not as many people doing coaching as there are today.

DH: Did you have writing coaches?

RS: For about three months. And this was before the Internet - so this is how it worked. You send the book, and it would take a week or so for the coach to get it. Then they would read it. And then they would write up their responses, and that would take another week - and then they mailed it back. But I did learn a lot about how to give feedback from this experience.

DH: How would you define the role of a writing coach?

RS: I think a coach is someone who could tell you what the weakness is in your writing. He or she can advise you how to make it more commercial. They can advise you on the rules to adhere to sell books. I think that is what people need from a coach.

DH: I get the sense from you that you try to instill people with a sense of confidence?

RS: Yes. You have to try to build people up. Anyone who has finished a novel - well that's huge - so you want to cultivate that. It takes a lot to write a book.

DH: Has there ever been a first draft that you can totally go with?

RS: Oh...No. Some poets can be pretty good the first time around - not so much for novelists.

DH: How many drafts do you have for a typical novel of yours?

RS: 15 drafts. I like to have a writing group, and that helps me. I always tell novelists that they should be in a group if they possibly can. Not only is it good to get feedback, but when you give feedback it illuminates weaknesses in your own writing.

DH: You write poetry as well as fiction.

RS: You know I never was a poetry person. I never really enjoyed reading poetry. I thought it



was too short. I was never a short story kind of person either. But I needed publishing credentials to get my book picked up by an agent. Then I thought I would start a magazine. So I started the *Boston Literary Magazine*, and it has been around since 2006. Now it is in print. So it was a great self-made credential to get my book picked up by an agent. In terms of the poetry I like, I lean to narrative poetry.

DH: A lot of your novels are about relationships between men and women. Your new novel *Of Zen and Men* is evidence of this.

RS: I think that is what's most important to me. A reader can see their own relationships through the relationships in the book, I hope. All my characters have to go through a grand transformation. They start out likable but flawed and then something happens, and they wind up more effective. Everybody can relate to this.

DH: Tell us about the book you published from your own Big Table Press, *The Revision Process*.

RS: I published that when I first started Big Table. It was a test book. It's not about the writing but the revision. That is where a lot of writers get stalled - the revision. This is a way to look at their manuscripts with a new set of eyes. To specifically look at things. A writer knows when something doesn't work, but sometimes they don't know why. I thought it was a useful guide. That came out in 2006. I then published chapbooks, and lately perfect bound editions.

DH: If you had a son and he wanted to be a writer would you encourage him?

RS: If I didn't have the contacts I have I might steer him to learn something that could supplement his income. I would say to a young writer: "Make sure you are in a writers group, have a lot of computer skills, make sure you use social networks to promote yourself, and make sure you have a website."

Former *Somerville News* reporter Rose Scherlis has sent us a poem about lost love. As we all know love often appears in the Lost and Found.

Steal Away

It's in the quiet of the night,
Kind of makes me want to light a cigarette,
Kind of makes me want to cry.
It's in my sigh when you turned and said,
Goodbye,
And I get lost in you like the rumbling gray sky.
Nobody knows you like me,
Nobody else cared about me, cared like you
When we were alone lost scared broken burning soldiers.
You turned to me, I turned away,
Said I'd love to steal away,
Steal this day.
And I love you
I love your laugh and your abstract tattoo
I love the way you turn to me and say,
We'll figure it out someday.
We'll figure this out along the way.

— Rose E. Scherlis



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

Ms. Cam's

Answers from page 14

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. His given name was Maewyn – at 16 years he was captured by a group of Irish marauders and sold into slavery – while in captivity he became a Christian and adopted the name Patrick | 5. The fourth leaf is smaller |
| 2. In 1737, Boston, MA | 6. George Jones |
| 3. The Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit | 7. George Gershwin |
| 4. They are said to represent: 1st. leaf-Faith, 2nd. leaf-Hope, 3rd. leaf-Love, 4th. leaf-Luck | 8. DuBose Heyward's novel <i>Porgy</i> |
| | 9. Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo, and José Carreras |
| | 10. A tendon |
| | 11. Sphygmomanometer |
| | 12. About 16 pounds |

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