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Second redirect teacher position to continue, School Committee budget determined



Photo by Harry Kane

The School Committee voted closely in its decision to continue the second redirect teacher position at the East Somerville Community School.

By Harry Kane

A request to preserve the position of a second redirect teacher at the East Somerville Community School was put forward by Ward 1 School Committee Member Steve Roix, because of residents' concerns about the fragility of going into a transition year. After much debate, a 5-3 vote favored the continuation of a second redirect position.

The East Somerville Community School will be re-opening this September following reconstruction, as a result of the fire on Dec. 9, 2007. The students were relocated during the re-building, and a second redirect teacher was instituted to address the oversight of vulnerable students with behavioral issues. The role of the redirect teacher is to identify the at-risk students and help them out. This second redirect position was added in September of 2008.

On May 28, Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi presented the budget at the public hearing, giving residents an opportunity to voice their opinions regarding the financial plan. Residents testified, urging the School Committee to include the second redirect position. *Continued on page 11*

Rats stronghold in East Somerville

By Harry Kane

"There were three giant rats just playing. I mean, they're nocturnal animals, so for them just be out during the daylight is a big deal," said Toni Brogna, a resident of Mt. Vernon Street in East Somerville.

Brogna owns a duplex at 19-21 Mt. Vernon St. She's lived at the house for nearly 35 years. Brogna's parents recently passed away, and she made the decision to stay in her family house.

For many years, it was rare to see a rat, she recalls. But a couple years ago, Brogna became concerned. "You started seeing rats, a little bit here, a little bit there. You saw them more frequently."

In the past, the furry pests have been spotted under the McGrath Highway overpass feeding on pigeon carcasses. Apparently, rats eat pigeon droppings and dog stool, too. These scavengers get their nutrition from a variety of sources.

"At the foot of Mt. Vernon Street, 93 goes down towards Sullivan Square, so you are underneath the highway. There are pigeons there all the time," Brogna said. *Continued on page 15*



Photo by Bobbie Toner

East Somerville residents have been spotting more rats than ever lately. Bigger ones, too.

The Somerville News will have a new Service Directory coming soon! Call now and reserve your spot. Reach over 20,000 potential customers in our city. Our readers are your customers!

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NEWTALK

Business After Hours on Somerville Waterfront Winter Hill Yacht Club, 85 Foley Street, Assembly Square, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Thursday, June 6, 2013. The After Hours will happen rain or shine. Weather permitting, you will be able to stroll along the pier and check out Somerville’s sea-going vessels (recommend sensible shoes). Sponsored by ABG Commercial Advisors. Live jazz trio sponsored by ABG Commercial Advisors and Boston News Group/The Somerville News. Free appetizers, excellent networking. Bring your business cards for drawing. Members and their guests welcome. Treat your colleagues and clients. Directions: from Assembly Square’s Middlesex Avenue take Foley Street (starts next to Kmart) all the way to the waterfront. RSVP with name(s) and affiliation(s) of you and your guest(s) to smackey@somervillechamber.org.

Happy Birthdays this week to both Villens here in the Ville as well as outside the border! First of all, to one of the city’s great families, we salute Michael Albano, who grew up here. His father was our senator and Mike is a very successful real estate broker with Weichert, REALTORS® - Metropolitan Boston Real Estate over in Back Bay. Former Villen Brian Peddle, who grew up here in East Somerville. Friends of The News, and sort of a newbie here to the Ville, Brendan Mansfield out of Davis Square. Associated with Harvard University Property Management, he’s a new guy and one that loves living here in the Ville. Our good friend City Councilor of Medford Paul Camuso, who is a great guy and big fan of The News. Happy Birthday to Nancy Wollenburg-Kreimeyer, just back not to long ago from sunny FLA to sunny MA.

Congratulations to our good friend Jerry (JR) Roach over in Cambridge. He just received the distinguished Joseph Warren Medal for his service and dedication to Masonry both here in Somerville as well as Cambridge and, of course, in Massachusetts. He’s a great guy.

Congrats to our good friend Rob Dubois, who got married to Barbara Hinkle. We wish them both a long and happy union. If you see Rob over at MGH say “Hi” and

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TheSomervilleNews.com Comments of the Week

Response to SCC Commentary: Supporting a Somerville That is For Everyone

Jim says:

If you are very poor and qualify for the SCC’s housing, then you can live in Somerville. If you are very wealthy and can afford the market rate units, then you can live in Somerville (until it bores you and you move to the burbs when you have kids). If you are a middle income family that rents, you are going to get tossed out of this town if you haven’t been already.

The density associated with this development is inappropriate for the neighborhood, not nearly enough parking, or respect for the Union Sq. community. The SCC does whatever they want, builds based on Federal Funding formulas, and then calls you a racist if you voice principled opposition to their design.

Lets hope the planning board does their job and requests a change to the design to reduce the density.

Rob says:

People often complain that Somerville is too expensive and that the city is being taken over by higher-income folks. What is to be done about it? When government-subsidized affordable housing developments are proposed, people complain that they want market-rate housing. When developers propose market-rate housing, people complain about high prices and yuppies. When apartments are proposed, people complain about renters, density and traffic. Lacking any concerted effort to increase housing supply or create more government-subsidized affordable housing, I agree that only higher-income people will be able to afford to live here. Are there other viable alternatives that I’m not thinking of? Ideas welcome.

Josh says:

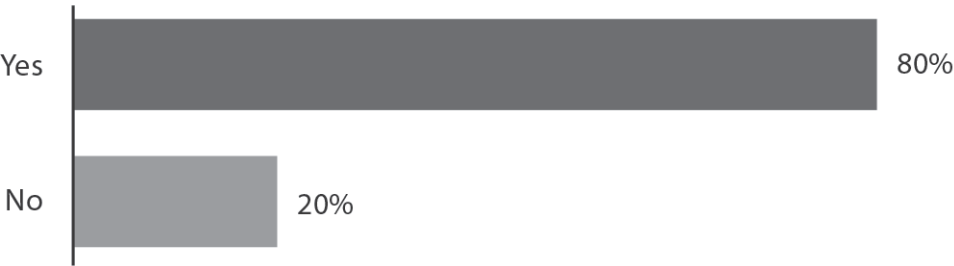
Will this development give priority to current/long-term Somerville residents? If not, then it is just going to be importing more low-income residents which will be a further drain on our tax dollars and city services. It sounds like the SCC has becme what they seem to abhor, just another greedy developer swooping into the city to take advantage of its’ popularity, with the approval of the administration.

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 are in favor of a proposed legislation that would raise the minimum hourly wage from \$8 to \$11 over three years. If you don’t agree with the results, simply log onto The-SomervilleNews.com.

Are you in favor of a proposed legislation that would raise the minimum hourly wage from \$8 to \$11 over three years?



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East Somerville residents brainstorm community design ideas

By Douglas Yu

When it comes to redeveloping and improving the community's culture and vibrancy, but also preserving its unique characteristics, East Somerville's residents and local businessmen were very enthusiastic about sharing their ideas.

Somerville by Design came to East Somerville last week. The initiative has a cutting-edge approach to community planning that crowd-source residents to solve challenging physical planning and urban design issues.

The Mayor's Strategic Planning and Community Development staff announced that they are hoping to release the plan for redesigning Gilman Square Station next week. They also said that Ball Square was waiting on some changes to its design.

"With planning, we can create predictable outcomes, the outcomes that are more oriented to what the community is looking for," said Director of Planning George J. Proakis.

Proakis, who had been involved in Somerville by Design before, said they were trying to bring family, friends and the whole neighborhood together, developing a more sophisticated plan for the whole city.

Besides the changes that Somerville by Design has made, Proakis also acknowledged several other local planners' contributions. "In 2006, East Somerville Main Streets performed, striving for the business community to get here. In 2007, East Somerville Community

Cooperation took a planning called, East Somerville Initiative," Proakis said.

East Somerville Main Streets is a non-profit organization, dedicated to rebuilding the East Broadway District as the heart of the East Somerville community and as a vibrant destination. The board president of Main Streets, Kat Kaminski and Executive Director, Carrie Dancy also attended the crowd-sourcing event. They offered some proposals as well.

"The idea is getting people to know the circumstance in which our community can healthily develop"

"I think we need clear posters to tell neighbors what they can get out of this event," Kaminski said. "[The existing posters] are really visually-appealing, but they are not articulate. Unless you know what that means, you don't know what it means."

Dancy pointed out that unclear communication was not the only problem, regarding how future posters would be designed.

"Somerville is very ethnically-diverse. So multi-lingual signs, posters and bulletin boards are very necessary," Dancy said.

During the crowd-sourcing event, each person was asked to give his or her opinions about possible approaches that could be adopted to redesign



Photo by Douglas Yu

Somerville by Design took its act to East Somerville, engaging in a dialog between city planners and residents.

East Somerville.

"The idea is getting people to know the circumstance in which our community can healthily develop," Proakis said. "We'll see how those ideas fit along with everything else."

Proakis especially talked about SomerVision Numbers, which means the goals that Somerville by Design may help to achieve in the future, such as adding 30,000 news jobs and 6,000 new housing units.

The goals excited East Somerville residents, but certain challenges remained.

"Sometimes, planners don't know what to do, and neighbors are not allowed to design their community," Proakis said. "The resident districts don't really provide predictable outcomes. So we are putting together a

consulting team in June 18. Business owners can reach out to our team."

Even though there are challenges out there, East Somerville residents felt optimistic about the community's continuing growth. "We are still going to develop, because we are close to transportation. And the infrastructure is great," Kaminski said. "We also need to embrace the unique heritage, since every one is welcomed here."

Alderman Maureen Bastardi, offered an applause-winning comment. "We need a better working relationship with Boston when it comes to Sullivan station and lower Broadway." Bastardi also shared her concern that business owners were missing in the community.

Somerville residents are the final decision makers of what their own community should be like, according to Proakis.

"It would be helpful to give a picture of what people want and what people don't want," Proakis said. "The final decisions really come from the residents. Obviously, we have certain things that limit us, like budgets. We want to fit [design ideas] in what's already going on."

More Somerville by Design's public meetings and events will be held during the coming months in order to help come up with better design and redeveloping ideas.

"It's really exciting," Proakis said. "We can definitely get some great ideas out of Somerville by Design. And we'll do everything we can to make them work."

Updated Candidates Roster

The deadline for filing of papers for city elections this fall is Monday, June 10 at 5 p.m. You must return them within 48 hours (Wednesday, June 12) to be certified. Alderman at Large requires certification of 180 registered voter's signatures, Ward Alderman requires 120 registered voters' signatures and Ward School Committee requires 120 registered voters' signatures.

Mayor: Joseph Curtatone, incumbent.

Alderman at Large: John Connolly Jr., incumbent, has not certified yet; Dennis Sullivan, incumbent, certified; William White, incumbent, certified; Mary Jo Rossetti, certified; Sean Fitzgerald, certified; Carol A. Dempkowski, certified; William Medeiros, pulled papers, has not certified yet.

Ward One Alderman Race (3-residents being considered for this race): Maureen Maureen Bastardi, present Alderman; Elio LoRusso, certified; Mathew McLaughlin, certified.

Ward One School Committee race: Steven P. Roix, present school committee member, certified; Kenneth Salvato, has not certified yet.

Ward Two Alderman: Maryann Heuston, incumbent Alderman, certified, no opponent.

Ward Two School Committee (3 residents

considered for this seat vacated by Ms. Teresa Cardozza): Michael D. Nionakis, certified; Catherine L. Thompson, candidate, has not certified yet; Dan J. Futrell, candidate has not certified yet.

Ward Three Aldermen (4 residents considered for this seat open seat vacated by Alderman Tom Taylor): Robert McWaters, certified; Matthew Desmond, certified; Stephen Delani, certified; Gerald Christopher Amaral, candidate has not certified yet; Susanne Bremer, candidate has not certified yet.

Ward Three School Committee: Adam Sweeting, incumbent has not certified yet.

Ward Four Alderman: Tony Lafuente, incumbent, certified.

Ward Four School Committee: Christine Theberge Rafal, incumbent, certified.

Ward Five Alderman: Courtney O'Keefe, present Alderman, certified; Mark Niedergang, candidate, certified.

Ward Five School Committee (3 residents have filed for this position being vacated by Mark Niedergang): Laura Pitone, candidate, certified; Ross Richmond, candidate has not certified yet; Caroline Shea-Rosas, candidate,

certified.

Ward Six Alderman: Rebekah Gewirtz, incumbent, certified.

Ward Six School Committee: Paul Bockleman, incumbent, has not certified yet.

Ward Seven Alderman: Katjana Ballantyne, candidate, certified; Joseph Capuano, candidate, certified.

Ward Seven School Committee (3-residents have filed for this position being vacated by Mary Jo Rossetti): Barry Rafkin, candidate, has not certified yet; Caroline Normand, candidate, certified; Eric R. Saulnier, candidate, has not certified yet.

Aldermen receive \$25,000 compensation plus \$3,000.00 expense account, plus insurance coverage.

No primary for Mayor as of Tuesday, June 4. No primary for Alderman At Large as of Tuesday, June 4. 7 have pulled papers, 9 need to be returned and certified for a primary. Only Ward One, Ward Three, Ward Five would have a primary election.

No challengers so far in Ward 2 Alderman race, Ward 3 School Committee race, Ward 4 Alderman and School Committee, and Ward 6 Alderman and School Committee.

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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Beyond the Call of Duty Award



The Somerville Police Beyond the Call of Duty Award is presented for outstanding dedication and effort for the month of May 2013 to Officer Devin Schneider.

The Somerville Police Department understands the correlation between crime and mental illness and recognizes that treatment of an individual's illness may serve the community far better than incarceration.

Officer Devin Schneider, who has been a member of the Somerville Police Department

for past two years, is an example of this commitment. The department received notification of a threatening letter that had been sent to a community member and it was later learned that the individual that sent this letter may have also violated a restraining order.

Officer Schneider identified the suspect and recognized that the individual was in need of mental health assistance. Instead of arresting the suspect, Officer Schneider was able to document the individual's declining mental health, which

may have resulted in the suspect's involvement with the alleged crimes, and undertook the long process of identifying the suspect's doctor.

Officer Schneider made the appropriate arraignments for this individual to be back in treatment, which also alleviated the individual's involvement with criminal activity. This perseverance and compassion displayed by Officer Schneider was well beyond the call of duty and merits this award.

– Thomas Pasquarello, Chief of Police

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Thank you for your assistance.

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

John Medeiros, 36, of 10 Clayton Ave., Medford, May 28, 4:26 p.m., arrested at 1105 Broadway on warrant charges of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license, speeding, marked lanes violation, and unregistered motor vehicle.

Darryll Lydon, 35, of 151 Windsor St., Cambridge, May 28, 5:37 p.m., arrested at 74 Jaques St. on a charge of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

John Medeiros, 36, of 10 Clayton Ave., Medford, May 28, 8:24 p.m., arrested at 855 Broadway on a charge of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

John McLean, 53, of 240 Albany St., Cambridge, May 29, 6:17 p.m., arrested at Grove St. on a warrant charge of larceny

from a person.

Kalisbek Malikov, 36, of 49 School St., May 30, 1:10 a.m., arrested at 70 Union Sq. on charges of disorderly conduct and destruction of property over \$250.

Joseph Piazza, 25, May 30, 1:00 p.m., arrested at 523 Broadway on warrant charges of failure to stop for police, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, and possession of open alcohol container in a vehicle.

Theresa Ruggiero, 42, of 369 Revere St., Revere, May 31, 8:06 a.m., arrested on warrant charges of felony larceny and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Brendon Foster, 42, of 12 Bradford Ave., Medford, May 31, 8:06 a.m., arrested at 159

Pearl St. on warrant charges of failure to stop or yield, uninsured motor vehicle or trailer, and operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended registration.

Kelly Simonetta, 34, of 242 Highland Ave., May 31, 1:52 p.m., arrested at home on warrant charges of possession of a class A drug and being present where heroin is kept.

Incidents:

Theft:

May 28, 12:46 p.m., police reported a theft at Lowell St.

May 28, 2:05 p.m., police reported a theft at Minnesota Ave.

May 28, 9:04 p.m., police reported a theft at North Union St.

May 29, 12:00 p.m., police reported a theft at Washington St.

May 29, 12:13 p.m., police reported a theft at 14 McGrath Hwy.

May 30, 11:24 a.m., police reported a theft at Dover St.

May 30, 11:50 a.m., police reported a theft at Church St.

May 30, 8:08 p.m., police reported a theft at Bolton St.

May 31, 9:58 a.m., police reported a theft at Fennel St.

June 3, 4:36 p.m., police reported a theft at Lowell St.

Breaking & Entering:

May 28, 7:53 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Burnside Ave.

May 28, 10:50 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Cherry St.

May 29, 12:04 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Beacon St.

June 1, 3:41 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at

School St.

June 1, 10:58 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Prichard Ave.

June 2, 8:53 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at 111 Prospect St.

June 2, 6:06 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Summer St.

June 3, 11:38 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Hancock St.

Vehicle Theft:

May 30, 7:58 a.m., police reported a vehicle theft at Dell St.

May 31, 10:07 a.m., police reported a vehicle theft at Madison St.

Assault:

May 28, 12:52 a.m., police reported an assault at Main St.

May 30, 10:50 p.m., police reported an assault at Montgomery Ave.

Mayor Curtatone proposes FY14 budget

On Tuesday, Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone submitted a \$195.6 million budget for fiscal year 2014 that makes a down payment on the City of Somerville's future by investing in expanded education, inspectional services that protect quality of life, and preventive maintenance that cares for investments already made by the city's taxpayers, as well as new multi-lingual outreach efforts and expanded Veterans Services.

The budget proposal submitted to the Board of Aldermen reflects a 5.7 percent increase over the fiscal 2013 budget, and also demonstrates the importance of "budgeting today with an eye on tomorrow" through investments in the next generation, long-term efficiencies, and strategic planning that will build the commercial tax base. Each and every investment proactively targets the city's orienting values: to make Somerville an exceptional place to live, work, play, and raise a family.

Education is a cornerstone of the proposed budget. Mayor Curtatone advocates for Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi's recommended Somerville Public Schools budget that begins phasing in universal preschool and represents the city's highest ever investment in education with a 6.95 percent increase in funding over fiscal year 2013. That proposal also provides more students than ever before with opportunities to have hands-on experiences with cutting-edge science and technology, learn a foreign language, take music classes and participate in intramural sports.

"This investment in our children's education is a declaration of Somerville's values: that all students get a robust and well-founded education, ensuring every student achieves his or her greatest potential and is equipped with the tools to compete in a 21st century global economy," Mayor Curtatone said. "It all starts with education. Every aspect of the community, from our local economy to our crime rate, stems from how highly we value education. It's one of the pillars—the first pillar—of our comprehensive plans to continue making Somerville an exceptional place to live, work, play, and raise family. The solid foundation is laid. Now we build."

In other new appropriations are investments for strategic long-term development



The \$195.6 million budget includes significant investment in education, as well as quality of life improvements, preventive maintenance, multi-lingual community outreach, and a boost in Veterans Services.

through funding for the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development. These investments include funding for the neighborhood planning process Somerville by Design, Green Line corridor planning, Union Square, Brickbottom and InnerBelt planning, and the closure of the Waste Transfer station on June 30. These investments will be offset in future years as areas such as Union Square, Inner Belt, and Brickbottom evolve into regional employment centers with new offices, housing, and businesses that expand the City's tax base. The closing of the Waste Transfer facility marks the spread of these new opportunities to the McGrath corridor.

"No more ash and pollution spewed into surrounding neighborhoods," Mayor Curtatone said. "No more trash-fueled rodent problem. No more neglect. I have stridently advocated healing that neighborhood's scar—McGrath Highway's McCarthy Overpass—and the state has agreed to bring down that relic of the 1950s. Now the city will continue to do its part to remove the barriers to redevelopment in Brickbottom and unlock the economic potential that will be fully realized with the Green Line extension by the end of this decade."

The good news in the budget from Assembly Row shows this model is working. Tax revenues from the \$25 million Assembly Square District Improvement Financing (DIF) bond outperformed, yielding \$1 million in new tax property tax revenue in FY13 (a net of \$500,000 after debt service). Overall, at least \$2 million in new growth revenue in this budget comes directly from Assembly Row, including \$900,000 in new building per-

mit fees, and the city has seen \$3.1 million in new growth overall as residents and businesses invest in their own properties as well.

"We have aggressively invested in our city and are seeing a return on that investment, as seen in the revenues gained from progress at Assembly Row," Mayor Curtatone said. "This budget proposal emulates our previous success through infusing targeted areas with additional funding now that will pay dividends in the coming years. It will unlock economic opportunities, broaden our tax base and solidify Somerville's already strong foundation. We will not bow to timidity, to sitting back and letting forces around us dictate our future. We will own our city's future by proactively building upon the achievements we have already made."

Mayor Curtatone's budget recommendation also emphasizes that Somerville must protect the investments already made on the behalf of taxpayers. The mayor's proposal would add to the Inspectional Services Division an additional inspector, two clerks, and a new permitting process. This would protect the quality of life in neighborhoods, addressing issues in a timely and efficient manner, while also improving on the city's nationally recognized customer service and making it easier for residents to improve upon their biggest investment: their home.

The budget would also fund a preventive preventative maintenance manager and a fleet manager for the Department of Public Works. These positions would shield taxpayers from incurring steep costs caused by deferred maintenance or for new equipment purchased too soon. It will

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Sean Collier to be made Somerville Police Officer



Gov. Deval Patrick signed into law a bill posthumously appointing MIT police officer Sean Collier a Somerville police officer. Collier, 26, was allegedly murdered by the marathon bombing suspects on April 18, three days after the bombing. He was scheduled to become a Somerville police officer on June 3. Supporters said this brave man deserves this honor for his public service. They noted that this will also provide his family with a badge and badge number that will be retired in his memory.

— Bob Katzen

Rep. Capuano files Officer Sean Collier Campus Police Recognition Act

On June 4, 2013, Rep. Michael Capuano (D-MA) filed the "Officer Sean Collier Campus Police Recognition Act of 2013" in memory of MIT Police Officer Sean Collier, who was murdered on the evening of April 18, by those allegedly responsible for the tragic bombings at the finish line of the Boston Marathon.

The legislation would add campus police officers to the Department of Justice's Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program: <http://www.psob.gov>. This federal program provides financial assistance to police officers, firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) who are catastrophically injured in the line of duty.

If they are killed, the program provides benefits to eligible family members. Rep. Capuano's bill would add campus police officers to the list of public safety personnel eligible to receive benefits under this existing federal program. The change would be retroactive to April 15, 2013, the day of the bombings.

"Officer Collier was a hero who lost his life while doing a job he loved, serving and protecting the MIT community as a member of campus law enforcement. This bill is a small way to honor his memory," stated Congressman Capuano.

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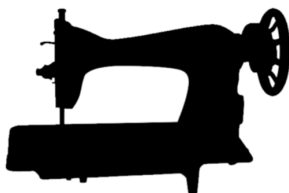
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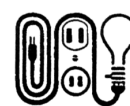
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The Union Square Farmers Market goes wild

By Cathleen Twardzik

On June 8 at 10 a.m. at the Union Square Farmers Market in Union Square in Somerville, a show by Wild Tales entitled *What Makes a City Grow: a Tale of Two Cities* will be presented.

Children, all of whom are from the Mystic Learning Center, as well as the Somerville community and have an interest in urban ecology, will perform in the musical.

Currently in its 4th season, "Wild Tales is a free after school club where children aged 6 to 13 learn about urban ecology and then they create an original musical play. The ideas for each play come from the teachers and children, alike. This year, we wanted to write a play about where we live, what makes a home, especially in a city, for people, animals and plants," said Liza Kitchell, producer of Wild Tales.

Akin to the last three Wild Tales shows, urban ecology is the theme.

This year, the production will include the songs Over the Rainbow, I Love Cities and What Makes a City Grow?, all of which are adaptations of popular songs.

Twice each week for ten weeks, 24 children participated in the program. The initial four weeks were spent engaging in theater and music games, which enabled the children to discover what home means to plants, people and animals, which inhabit a city.

After the play's auditions, 11 children were selected to act in the production, and the remainder of them were placed on "the production crew, and they helped to make the sets, painting felt flowers and bugs, and painting silk banners. Some of



Somerville school kids are learning performance skills with the Wild Tales program.

them will be stage hands, too," said Kitchell.

This year's play will look at the parallel natural universe that lives alongside the man made one inside our city. In *What Makes a City Grow* two children, Dorothy and Toto, move to Somerville when their mother gets a job as a teacher. Dorothy and Toto suddenly learn some shocking news from the friendly bugs and birds who live in a largely unseen world.

They tell them that Mr. Krabbs, an evil developer, has an outrageous plan that threatens everyone's health and happiness. Quickly, the two cities learn to work together to ensure that Somerville stays green and growing in all the right ways.

Wild Tales was born when Kitchell wanted a "fun" idea for her daughter and her friends to learn more in depth about ecology.

The initial two plays' rehearsals and performances took place at the Growing Center in Somerville. Then, in 2012, Kitchell started to collaborate with Heather McCormack at the Mystic Learning Center. "We performed last year's play at the Mystic River Watershed Association's (MyRWA) annual Run & Paddle event at the Mystic

River," she said.

This year, the Union Square Farmers Market was chosen because "I love farmers markets. They are great places for families, and I thought the theme of keeping Somerville healthy and green for kids would resonate well with the Farmers Market," said Kitchell.

Heather McCormack wrote and directed this play. She wanted to focus this year's theme on what makes a home, especially in a city.

What does the future hold for Wild Tales? "I'm already excited about doing a show next spring," said Kitchell. "The kids in the program are great, and the staff that work on the show are wonderful. We have no idea what the theme for our show for next year will be, the idea usually just comes up spontaneously. Our past themes have been wildlife in the city, urban farming and the herring run."

The free event was funded by a Somerville Arts Council (SAC) grant. The SAC has always funded Wild Tales' shows, and children are encouraged to attend.

So, come to the June 8 Union Square Farmers Market to buy local, fresh produce, and then, and remain for the show.

Healey School students return to White House

On Tuesday, May 28, First Lady Michelle Obama welcomed students returning to the White House Kitchen Garden for the second time in as many months with an enthusiastic remark on the results of a joint Kitchen Garden planting effort on April 4, 2013. Five Healey School students: Ariana Docanto, Gaby Lopez, Sarah Sweeting, Brian Chan and Lana Popovic, were among a group of 25 students returning to the White House to help harvest what they had planted less than two months prior.

"Look what you did, it grew!" stated the First Lady as she pointed to the White House Kitchen Garden.

Students from the Healey School were selected to represent the Somerville Public Schools at the April Garden Planting event due to the school's ongoing commitment and consistent efforts in promoting healthy lifestyles and nutrition through hands-on educational gardening opportunities to students, and participation in the district's various healthy nutrition initiatives. All five students are involved in school gardening and other wellness efforts. District school gardens are managed by Groundwork Somerville.

Groundwork Somerville is a critical partner in School Garden efforts throughout the District, managing School Gardens including coordinating volunteers to plant and maintain the Gardens and providing staff to teach a 10-week curriculum each

season. Other educational programs offered by GWS include the popular Maple Syrup Project, Garden Youth Crew, and the "Spring into Action" April Vacation Week program. GWS works with community members and partners to promote "...environmental, economic and social well-being..." through sustainable improvements and management of the environment.

"We are extremely fortunate to have a First Lady who continues to advocate and lay the groundwork for creating a healthier nation, beginning with her *Let's Move!* initiative aimed at addressing childhood obesity," said Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone.

Children from "...schools that have made exceptional improvements to school lunches through implementation of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act..." were selected to participate in the initial Garden Planting event in April. The Somerville Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services department has had great success with healthy school meals, and a Farm to School program that includes events such as taste-testing, recipe samplings, "corn shucking day" and nutrition education programs provided by UMass Extension. Students at the Healey School and throughout the District enjoy healthy lunches, including a fresh salad bar option at many schools. Healthy breakfast is also available daily to all students.



Students made and enjoyed veggie flatbread pizzas with the First Lady following the harvest (Healey students in white t-shirts; Lana Popovic in peach shirt, green high-tops).

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COMMENTARY

TALES OF SOMERVILLE

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Hot enough for you?

The View From Prospect Hill



So, what’s the problem? Wasn’t that you just a few short weeks ago complaining about how unseasonably cold and clammy it was for that time of year? How you’d give your eye teeth for some of that good old summer sweat and swelter? Was it? Come on now. Admit it.

Needless to say, it’s often prudent to be prudent with one’s wishes. Of course, the reality is that we live in a part of the world where climatological extremes can sometimes seem to go off the chart. Summer heat that can curl one’s back hairs, and winter freezes that can

snap them right off. This is the forge that tempers the mettle we are made of. That’s right, no matter how uncomfortable we may feel from moment to moment at times when these extremes are at their zenith, we can take some measure of comfort in realizing

that this is part of what toughens and strengthens us. So, while we caution everyone to keep as cool possible and to be safe in the doing, keep that one special thought fixed and cherished within: These are the times that try our souls, whilst blistering our soles.

News Talk CONT. FROM PG 2

congratulations to him.

Glad to hear that Sophia Carafotes’ mother is home now after a long stay in the hospital.

Big time congratulations to Ida Azzolino who will be big 101 this coming September. She fell and broke her hip this past February and is now home and walking. We wish her continued good health. Ida is a lifelong resident here in the Ville and we are trying to find out what her secret is. Do you think it might be the good old Somerville water?

This Saturday, June 8, The Somerville Democratic City Committee is pleased to announce that former Governor Mike Dukakis will be joining our City Meeting and canvassing in Ward 4 for Ed Markey for Senator. Starting time 10 a.m. and runs to 2:30 p.m. At the VNA headquarters on Lowell Street. All are welcome to come and help out with the canvassing afterwards.

Candidate for Ward Three Alderman, Robert “Rob” McWaters, is having his first fundraiser/campaign kickoff on Monday, June 24, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Precinct in Union Square. We hear a lot of his family will be present too. He is

a great guy and has done more for the city than most. He’s one of 4 candidates in Ward 3 that knows what’s going on here in the city. We sure hope the place is jumping

Not that we want to give any credence to the wanabee political pundit of Somerville Joe Lynch, but we can’t resist responding in part to his “Open letter” to the Farm Team (notice we didn’t get it). Then we hear he read the letter on his local cable access show, which is we hear seen by 10’s of people here in the city. In kicking the crap out of The News, he failed to mention that The Somerville News endorsed him for Alderman in Ward Five in the year he mentioned we were so bad in posting comments. Neither did he further mention that the person who posted those comments was banned from posting from that day on. Poor Joe, he forgets too easily the entire picture that year. The News stuck by him even when he lost by over 500 votes. The only time he chose to run for public office. Guess that means in his mind he’s a political pundit.

So, as for the big time “investigation” here in the city, don’t believe it. We have it from sources that the Phoenix reporter was doing a story on “Old” Somerville

trials and tribulations and the various scandals that rocked this city back in the 80’s. Not such a big “investigation” story, rehashing all the Piro days and trying to link them 25 years later to various Somerville people. If you lived here in the 80’s you know what we’re talking about. If you didn’t, all it was just a bunch of he-said-she-said and they-did or didn’t-do! Nothing new, no political intrigue or scandal today.

Commissioner of Public Works, Stan Koty, is back to work after a short illness. He was supposed to stay home and rest a few more days, but Stan would go nuts doing that and besides, his phone battery would have to be constantly charging.

We hear Julie Brady is back and going to be working very hard for Rob McWaters. She’s going to be Rob’s campaign manager. Julie is a fantastic political ground person. Two years ago she ran Bob Trane’s campaign.

“Backyard Havens of the Somerville Garden Club: A Self-Guided Tour” showcases the unique gardens of Somerville Garden club members, and celebrates the many kinds of gardeners who create backyard (and front yard!) havens for their own pleasure and the

enjoyment of friends and neighbors. The gardeners themselves will be welcoming visitors to their yards on tour day, so this is an opportunity to learn about plants, design, and horticulture from this array of passionate SGC members. The tour is Sunday, June 9, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$15 for a map and guide to 20 gardens to visit at your own pace. (Tour is on rain or shine-gardeners are intrepid!) Proceeds support the educational programs and public plantings of the Somerville Garden Club. Visit www.somervillegardenclub.org for advance ticket sale locations. Day of event ticket sales, Sunday, June 9, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Davis Square Statue Park, opposite the MBTA. Come for fun, leave with inspiration!

Performance dates are still available for the 2013 Somerville Sunsetters. Led by Somerville Youth Arts Coordinator, Jimmy Del Ponte, the Sunsetters are a traveling youth music troupe, performing popular show tunes and contemporary pop music hits on city streets throughout July and August at sunset. Residents may request performances in their neighborhoods by calling the Mayor’s Office, 617-625-6600 ext 2100. Call today and reserve your date. Openings available July and August Monday through Thursday. Shows start at 7 p.m.

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.

Ethanol trains put profits over people, public safety



By Joseph A. Curtatone

Standard practice in an ethanol fire is to let it burn out – and hope for the best – because few have the resources to fight this highly flammable fuel. Now a company wants to use train tracks overwhelmingly used for daily MBTA commuters to instead carry ethanol through Somerville, within striking distance of our schools, homes, as-

sisted living facilities and more. But we too are an area without the resources to battle an ethanol-fueled blaze, and as the most densely populated city in New England, we cannot risk the consequences of letting the fire burn out.

Global Partners LP, which currently ships ethanol to this area by water, has applied for a state Department of Environmental Protection license allowing the company to transport ethanol by rail to its terminal on Route 1A in Revere, putting priority on company profits over public safety. The trains would travel through nearly 100 Massachusetts communities, and all three potential routes evaluated by

the Massachusetts Department of Transportation under this plan run through Somerville. At least twice a week, these mile-long ethanol trains would travel through Somerville on railways almost impossible to secure over the long term, instead of using easily securable water routes from Albany supervised by the Coast Guard and isolated from people and property.

The U.S. Department of Transportation Emergency Response Guidebook recommends that an ethanol train be isolated for a half-mile in all directions, and that populations in that half-mile area be evacuated should there be an explosion. Besides homes, here is what

lies within a half-mile of the three potential routes through Somerville: Ten schools, four assisted living facilities, nine hospitals or medical facilities and 70,480 Somerville residents. There is no option on the table that would not put Somerville schools, senior housing, medical facilities or nearly our entire population at risk from an ethanol explosion.

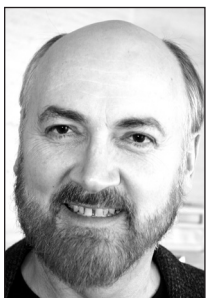
Transporting ethanol is not the same as transporting gasoline through densely populated areas.

Gasoline has a narrow range of flammability, but ethanol is able to ignite in both lower and higher concentrations than gasoline, even including conditions

where oxygen is not readily available to fuel flames. Ethanol can conduct electricity resulting in explosions. Even its vapor easily ignites. Burning gasoline emits thick, black smoke, but ethanol burns without visible smoke in a virtually invisible blue flame, creating an almost undetectable threat to first responders and bystanders.

Ethanol fires are also much harder to fight. Responding to an ethanol fire requires the use of alcohol-resistant foam, of which there is an inadequate supply in our area. A review of the number of foam-capable response units in the region and their capacity shows that the foam capabilities in the region *Continued on page 15*

Walkable Somerville Part 4: Unwalkable Somerville



By William C. Shelton

Those who are the most enthusiastic about the City of Somerville's commitment to "walkability" and the Somerville By Design program seem to be disproportionately those who have the most transportation choices. I am one of them.

But for many of our neighbors,

Somerville is not very walkable. They are the elderly, disabled, wheelchair-bound, and young children. They don't understand why city government is paying consultants to tell them what would be *nice* to do, while it isn't helping them with what they *need* to do.

For many years, the city has failed in its commitment to these citizens, although there is now reason for hope that this will change. The commitment became a legal obligation with the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990. When George H. W. Bush signed the ADA into law,

he said, "Let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down."

The Act defines a disability as "...a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity." One such activity is walking. At least 19.4% of Somerville residents have at least one disability.

To give some momentum to the tumbling, the Act required that all public entities prepare a Self Evaluation and Transition Plan, expanding the mandate of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Such a plan identifies conditions that pose barriers to people with disabilities, states how

the city will provide "equivalent" access, sets forth steps needed to provide such access, provides a schedule for doing so, and estimates the costs. I can find no evidence that the City of Somerville prepared this plan.

Some cities, like ours, operated as if the ADA did not apply to sidewalks, curbs, crossings, signals, and other public ways. But in 1999, the Ninth Circuit Appeals Court ruled in *Barden v. City of Sacramento* that it did apply. The Supreme Court affirmed the ruling by declining to hear an appeal.

Whether or not a city is truly committed to the wellbeing of

its disabled and elderly citizens, it would seem prudent to ensure that the routine street and sidewalk improvements that it makes are minimally compliant with ADA regulations. Somerville didn't.

The people who suffer from this failure remain largely invisible to those who don't, but they are not few. I have heard numerous anecdotes about challenges that make just getting around unnecessarily difficult and dangerous for them.

Here is one example. A mother in a wheelchair asked disabilities advocate Eileen Feldman to help her find a safe *Continued on page 19*

Life in the by Jimmy Del Ponte

Way below minimum



This article first appeared in the October 24, 2007 edition of The Somerville News.

Remember your first job? My first job was delivering newspapers - I used to pick them up at Abe's office (Davis Square News Agency) on Highland Avenue where the new cupcake place is. I had the "Francesca" route - which included my own street.

Balancing the papers in the basket on the front of the bike took some getting used to, but I mastered it pretty quickly. I didn't master getting the paper on people's porches though. I also took out a couple of windows and dented a few screen door

panels, which I had to pay for (remember, Mr. Larsen?).

On Sundays we had to fill these huge, old (and yes splintered), wood rolling wagons with the humongous Sunday papers. Pushing those monstrosities through the snow was especially grueling. If I was lucky I cleared about \$16 a week for all that work, but I developed some pretty strong forearms. My paperboy career ended when I got caught dumping 20 papers down the tracks - I forgot to deliver the Foscett St. papers and I thought they were extras. Instead of pushing them back to Abe's, I tried to make them disappear - one of the other paperboys ratted me out.

Then I got a job taking tickets at the Dodge'em Cars on Revere Beach - that

was a great gig. A buck an hour and all the re-rides I wanted. Clement Hurley hired a bunch of us kids from the Bay State Ave. corner. Because I was the smallest of the group, I used to have to crawl up onto the ceiling and fix the wire mesh that conducted the electricity that made the cars go.

My parents would have been shocked if they knew that. We caught the tail end of a wonderful, gone-by era - and I almost caught 10,000 or so volts.

One of my fondest memories was when Bob Sullivan hired me as stock boy at Woolworth's in Davis Square. Soon after I was hired I graduated to the weekend luncheonette guy. I made hot dogs, grilled cheeses and frappes. Plus, I was one of the guys whose job it was to put those

little slips of paper with different prices for banana splits into the balloons. You would burst a balloon and pay anywhere from 10 cents to 99 cents for your banana split. Yes, you can thank me for making them all 10 cents on the days I worked - and the best part of that job was eating my mistakes on the grille.

After that, my friend Dave Porzio got me a job working at Lyndell's Bakery - another place where I got to eat my mistakes. I was a flour and sugar stocker, a floor scrapper and cleaner and a general bakery helper. My favorite job there was filling the jelly donuts until they almost exploded. That job lasted for about a year and a weight gain of nearly 10 pounds.

The great part about our first jobs was that we lived at home *Continued on page 19*

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. This week, *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators' 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 Middlesex; Boston, ward 2, ward 21, precincts 4, 6 and 7, ward 22, precincts

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



Sen. Patricia Jehlen
DISTRICT REPRESENTED: Second Middlesex. - Medford, Somerville, ward 1, precincts 2 and 3, ward 2, precincts 2 and 3, and wards 3 to 7, inclusive, Woburn, ward 2, and Winchester.

LOTTERY TICKET LITTERING (S 3)
Senate 10-28, rejected an amendment that would require the Lottery to develop a second chance game that awards prizes for nonwinning scratch tickets. Amendment supporters said this would encourage recycling and prevent the tickets from being littered in and around stores. Amendment opponents said a second chance game decreases the profit of the Lottery. They noted the state tried a second chance game in 2001 and it was a failure with minimal participation. (A "Yes" vote is for the amendment. A "No" vote is against it.)

Sen. Sal DiDomenico	No
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

CIVIL LITTERING FINES (S 3)
Senate 15-23, rejected an amendment that would impose civil fines for littering. A first offense would be a minimum fine of \$100, a second offense \$500 and a third offense \$1,000. Amendment supporters said the state has a littering problem that is not being solved because police officers hesitate to issue a more serious criminal complaint, the only option under current law. They said allowing civil fines would substantially increase the number of tickets issued and also discourage people from littering. Amendment opponents offered no arguments. (A "Yes" vote is for allowing civil fines. A "No" vote is against allowing them.)

Sen. Sal DiDomenico	No
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	No

MUST PROVIDE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER FOR PUBLIC HOUSING (S 3)
Senate 11-27, rejected an amendment prohibiting potential tenants who cannot provide a social security number from being placed in a public housing unit prior to any applicant who can do so. Amendment supporters said this would ensure that illegal immigrants who are breaking the law are not given priority over citizens and others who abide by the nation's laws. They argued it is outrageous that illegal immigrants should be considered for scarce public housing units prior to legal residents of the community. Amendment opponents offered no arguments. (A "Yes" vote is for requiring a social security number. A "No" vote is against requiring it.)

Sen. Sal DiDomenico	No
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	No

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

\$2.39 MILLION IN WELFARE BENEFITS TO DECEASED - State Auditor Suzanne Bump issued the results of an audit that identified 1,164 cases in which recipients continued to receive a total of \$2.39 million in welfare benefits for up to 27 months after their death. The audit showed that in many cases, store purchases and ATM transactions were made by unauthorized users after the recipients' date of death. The audit also unveils that the state paid at least \$368,000 in benefits to 178 guardians who were claiming deceased persons as dependents and \$164,000 to 40 individuals being claimed by more than one guardian.

IN MEMORY OF MIT POLICE OFFICER SEAN COLLIER: (H 3450) - Gov. Deval Patrick signed into law a bill posthumously appointing MIT police officer Sean Collier a Somerville police officer. Collier, 26, was allegedly murdered by the marathon bombing suspects on April 18, three days after the bombing. He was scheduled to become a Somerville police officer on June 3. Supporters said this brave man deserves this honor for his public service. They noted that this will also provide his family with a badge and badge number that will be retired in his memory.

ALLOW COMMUNITIES TO TAX CHARITABLE GROUPS' PROPERTY (S 1308) - The Revenue Committee held a hearing on dozens of bills, including one that would allow cities and towns to impose a "payment in lieu of taxes" on currently tax-exempt property owned by charitable organizations. The tax would be equal to 25 percent of the amount that would be paid if the property were not exempt from taxation. Currently, non-profits are allowed to voluntarily make a payment to communities but are under no obligation to do so

STERILIZE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (H 369)
- A local option bill before the Education Committee would require that schools inform parents of children who are using a borrowed wind instrument that while the instrument has been sanitized, it has not been sterilized to eradicate all microbial life within the instrument. The school would arrange to have this done, but the parent would be required to pay the cost. The law would only take effect in cities or towns that choose to adopt the law. Wind instruments include the flute, piccolo, clarinet, oboe, trumpet and trombone. A similar bill was approved by the House last year but died in the Senate. Supporters said studies show that bacteria which cause strep and staph infections can thrive for months inside the instrument. Opponents said the bill is an overreaction and there is no proof that anyone has ever contracted an infection from a musical instrument.

SCHOOL DRESS CODES AND MORE (H 383)
- The Education Committee's hearing agenda also included a proposal giving local school committees the option of establishing dress codes for their public schools. The measure requires that any adopted dress codes be published in student handbooks or handed out to each student and parent. Current law prohibits schools from dictating students' dress and appearance unless school officials determine they violate reasonable standards of health, safety and cleanliness. Other provisions include requiring schools to help low-income students purchase clothing that meets the code and giving parents the option to exempt their children from the code. Other proposed legislation includes requiring that all public schools have programs and policies to address sexual harassment and violence against women and girls,

Beacon Hill Roll Call continued



including acquaintance rape and violence prevention (H 347); requiring all public schools to implement a policy that allows for a limited public forum and voluntary student expression of religious viewpoints at school events, graduation ceremonies and class assignments (H 391); and implementing a pilot program that would install silent alarms in the state's public schools (H390).

HIKE MINIMUM WAGE (S 878) - The Committee on Labor and Workforce Development will hold a hearing on legislation that would raise the minimum hourly wage from \$8 to \$11 over three years. The hearing is scheduled for June 11 at 10 a.m. in Gardner Auditorium at the Statehouse. The wage would rise to \$9 the first year, \$10 the second year and \$11 in year three. The measure also provides that once the wage reaches \$11, it would be automatically raised annually to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index. The most recent hike in the minimum wage was approved by the Legislature in July 2006, when it raised it from \$6.75 to the current \$8. Last year a similar bill was shipped off to study committee where it died. Supporters say the hike would give Massachusetts workers the highest minimum wage in the nation and would help many low-wage earners. Opponents say the hike would hurt many small businesses and efforts to stimulate job growth and result in higher prices being passed on to consumers.

POTLUCK DINNERS (H 1997) - The Public Health Committee on Labor and Workforce Development will hold a hearing on legislation that would prohibit state and local departments of public health from regulating the serving of food brought to potluck dinners sponsored by a group of individuals or by a religious, charitable or nonprofit organization. The hearing is scheduled for June 11 at 10 a.m. in Room A-1 at the Statehouse. There is debate in various states across the nation as to

whether these dinners should be regulated. Supporters of the bill say some local boards of health have gone too far by attempting to regulate this time-honored harmless tradition. Opponents say there is real danger of diners getting an airborne or other illness and noted people have been sick and even died from the food at these events.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Green Bonds represents an innovative approach to financing projects that increase our energy efficiency, lower our greenhouse gas emissions and protect open space for future generations." – *George Bachrach, President of the Environmental League, on Massachusetts becoming the first state in the nation to offer a tax-exempt investment opportunity that funds environmentally sound projects.*

"At a time when taxpayers are being asked to pay billions of dollars more a year in increased taxes, they are faced with the reality that tens of millions of dollars of their hard-earned money are being paid out to individuals who are fraudulently obtaining government assistance." – *House Republican Minority Leader Bradley Jones (R-North Reading) on the state auditor's report that identified more than 1,100 cases in which a total of \$2.39 million in welfare benefits was paid to recipients after their death.*

"There has been great progress made within the Department of Transitional Assistance with Commissioner Monahan's 100-Day Action Plan, and many of the issues identified in this audit have already been addressed. There is always more work to be done, but these are promising steps toward significant and meaningful change." – *Senate President Therese Murray.*

"Infested with abuse...a runaway train." – *Rep. Shaunna O'Connell (R-Taunton) describing the state's welfare system.*

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 May 27-31, the House met for a total of 23 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 41 minutes.

Mon. May 27	No House session No Senate session
Tues. May 28	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:09 a.m. Senate 11:02 a.m. to 11:11 a.m.
Wed. May 29	No House session. No Senate session
Thurs. May 30	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:18 a.m. Senate 11:00 a.m. to 11:32 a.m.
Fri. May 31	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Second redirect teacher position to continue, School Committee budget determined CONT. FROM PG 1

School Committee Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti advocated for the position. Rossetti said that the \$44,692 position is "integral," while debating the issue at a budgetary School Committee meeting on March 30. This year, the recommended budget for Somerville schools would increase the money allocated to educational programs in fiscal 2014 by 6.9 percent. This substantial monetary increase will provide for new full-time teaching positions, a boost in

foreign language classes, a pre-school expansion, more music instruction, and arts, science, and athletics enhancements. The budget, as it stands now, is tallied at \$56,590,504 million. Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi did not include the second redirect in the original budget, and stated his reasons for his recommendation to remove the position were due to a reduction in "disciplinary referrals in that school, over three years." Adam Sweeting from Ward 3

had some concerns about keeping a second redirect on staff. "We need to have a more comprehensive view of our redirect program," he said. Sweeney found it difficult to understand why the position needed to be retained. "I don't share the concern that it's going to be a particularly traumatic year that would require additional support in terms of a redirect." Mark Niedergang from Ward 5 said he has supported the motion for a redirect from the

"get-go." He didn't feel that this was the year to make changes to the schools. Board of Alderman President William A. White Jr., who sat in on the budget meeting, supported the motion to maintain the second redirect, pointing out that removal of the position could potentially cause "adverse effects on the students." "I don't think it's a wise idea now to do away with it," Alderman White said. "Allow the school to go through its transi-

tion, relocate; have the students come together; have a full year to see the benefit of that redirect, and then if it's not necessary, you can deal with it next year." The School Committee added several items to the Superintendent's recommended budget including the second redirect teacher position, additional money for the volunteer coordinator and funds to hire a consultant to improve the Somerville High School Guidance Department.

Mayor Curtatone proposes FY14 budget CONT. FROM PG 5

ensure that roads, sidewalks, city vehicles and equipment and the city's 2.9 million square feet of municipal buildings are maintained at the highest standards early in their life cycle to prevent larger repair costs later. Beyond protecting financial investments, Somerville is also protecting one of the city's most valuable assets: its veterans. Thanks to the tireless outreach of Somerville Veterans Services Officer Jay Weaver, more veterans than ever before are seeking

services, especially younger veterans who have served in recent conflicts. The city will increase funding for Veterans Services, which are reimbursed by the state for 75 percent of the cost of benefits paid out to its veterans. Addressing the city's commitment to engage and serve every resident, additional Language Liaison outreach positions in the Communications Department will be added. Liaisons who are native speakers of Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole will

reach underserved immigrant populations throughout Somerville that are a vital part of the city's schools, neighborhoods and local business community. While continuing to invest, the City of Somerville has also acted diligently to rein in costs, such as moving all city employees' health insurance to the state Group Insurance Commission, which has allowed the city to avoid \$19.7 million in insurance costs in FY13 and FY14 combined, based on a conservative estimate of 6 percent

increases. After joining the GIC in January 2012, this year's budget has a health insurance increase of only 3.5 percent, and Somerville will benefit in future years from controlled health insurance increases. The City of Somerville's aggressive approach to investment balanced with prudent fiscal practices has been recognized by rating agencies. On May 30, Moody's reaffirmed the city's long-term rating of Aa2—the highest rating Somerville has ever received—based upon the-

City's sound fiscal management. Somerville's economic vitality is not only seen on the rating sheet, but in business tax revenues. Local meals excise tax revenues are up 10.2 percent and local room excise tax revenues are up 12.3 percent, as the city's already vibrant business community continues to flourish. Check the online version of this article at www.thesomervillenews.com to find links to download PDF copies of the proposed budget.

Somerville’s Carnaval @ SomerStreets 2013

The heat didn’t stop hundreds from coming out Sunday to enjoy the kick off of the city’s fourth annual SomerStreets series, *Carnaval @ SomerStreets* on East Broadway.

The day was filled with activities for the whole family, arts and crafts, dunk tanks, live music, scavenger hunts, great food and so much more.

Carnaval is produced through a partnership with East Somerville Main Streets.

SomerStreets is an annual series that takes place one Sunday per month in the months of June through October. The next event will be Sunday, July 28: *Seize the Summer @ SomerStreets*, Highland Ave. (Walnut Street to Cedar Street).





SPORTS

Girls Track caps campaign at Division 1 State Meet

By Mike Stoller

The Somerville High girls track team finished a solid season at the Division 1 State Meet held at Andover High last week.

“Our young team competed well,” Highlanders head coach Charlie O’Rourke said. “We did not have any girls score or qualify for the state finals, but this team has made a lot of progress and they are all champions in my mind.”

Highlights for Somerville included:

- Melissa Baptista running the 400 meters in 63.89 seconds, and leaping a combined 32 feet, 9 inches in the triple jump.
- Alison Kaba throwing the shot put 32 feet, 1 inch, and the

discus 77 feet, six inches.

- Saragrace Magre running the 400 meters in 69.92 seconds.
- Kaba, Baptista, Magre, and Gelynnne Berger running a 52.21 second time in the 4 x 100 meter relay, “their fastest time of the year,” O’Rourke praised.

Meanwhile, in the recent Greater Boston League meet, the host Highlanders also shined with a terrific outing, finishing in second place out of five teams with 133 points, one slot above GBL regular season champion Cambridge, which scored 117 points, at Dilboy Stadium. Only Malden outscored Somerville with a tally of 169 points. Everett and Medford also competed, finishing with 44 and 25 points, respectively.

“Our girls really responded to the challenge,” O’Rourke said. “Despite not having one of our captains, Gelynnne Berger, who was out with an injury, we performed great to finish second ahead of the regular season champion, Cambridge.

“A meet like this requires a total team effort and we received that from our squad,” O’Rourke said. This team showed its character when it counted. We have come a long way since the beginning of the year. I couldn’t be happier with their performance.”

The sensational day for Somerville included the following highlights:

- 100m- Melissa Sanon -4th-14.04

- 200m- Saragrace Magre-2nd-28.46, Valencia Augustin-5th-30.5
- 400m- Melissa Baptista-1st-63.03, Kaylee Lima-4th-66.9
- Mile-Delmi Hernandez-1st-6:00, Melina Garro-Duplisea-3rd-6:05
- Two-mile-Miranda rego-2nd-13:59, Maureen McNabb-3rd-14:30.
- 400m Hurdles- Saragrace Magre-1st-71.31, Meghan Lynch-3rd-76.52
- Shot Put-Alison Kaba-3rd-32’00.25, Tamika Michel-5th-23’4”
- Discus-Alison Kaba-2nd-76’3”, Leslie Duarte-6th-61’08

- Javelin-Bianca DeBarros-5th-67’11”, Kaylee Lima-6th-64’8”
- Long Jump-Valencia Augustin-5th-13’5”, Tianna Sebastian-6th-13’4”
- High Jump-Melissa Sanon-2nd-4’6”, Melissa Baptista-3rd-4’4”
- Triple Jump-Melissa Baptista-2nd-33’4”
- 4x100 relay-4th-55.6-Valencia Augustin, Leighann Nguyen, Kiarra Correia, Melissa Sanon
- 4x400-2nd-4:43-Melina Garro-Duplisea, Leighann Nguyen, Kaylee Lima, Delmi Hernandez.
- 4x800-3rd-11:58-Laxmi Spearing, Miranda Rego, Maureen McNabb, Anji Schrestra.

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#372

1. What is the largest of the Southern States?

2. Who was the 41st. President of the U.S.?

3. Which U.S. state is called the Panhandle State?

4. What does the “B” stand for in SCUBA?

5. What is Minneapolis’ Twin City?

6. What is the unit of capacity of fuel wood called?

7. Where in Italy is the Piazza San Marco?

8. Who directed the movie *Heaven Can Wait*?

9. What is IBM’s motto?

10. How many letters are in the Cambodian alphabet?

11. What is a person who studies birds called?

12. According to Fort Knox what does a standard gold bar weigh?

Continued on page 20

Congratulations SHS Class of 2013



After being postponed due to rain, the Somerville High School class of 2013 Graduated Tuesday night at Dilboy Stadium.

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Rats stronghold in East Somerville

CONT. FROM PG 1

Last summer, Brogna remembers more rats than ever before. And this summer she fears the rats will return in larger numbers. "I've never seen the quantity, and the size of them. They are getting bigger and bigger," she said.

Brogna attended a local meeting and alerted city officials that the rats are growing in size and number. "Right now, they're probably about a foot. They're huge, they're probably the size of a small cat."

Rats produce litters roughly a dozen times per year, with only a 21-day gestation period. These incestuous frenzied cannibals multiply at an astounding rate.

Brogna always had a vegetable garden in her backyard. But this year she won't be growing her vegetables like in years past. "I want to do everything and anything to prevent the rats from even coming across my property," she said. "I don't want to see them, at all."

Whether Brogna's backyard is clean or not, the rats scurry through, looking for food and shelter. "I've had a few occasions where I go pick up a dead one."

Brogna just had to replace all of her trash barrels. It cost almost \$400 to replace the plastic barrels. The rats had chewed through them. She asks her tenants to keep everything closed and clean. But the rats keep coming back.

"Now you see them in large numbers," Brogna explained. "You don't see a rat, you see two or three playing."

Brogna used to barbeque, garden and spend afternoons in her backyard. No more. "I won't even go into my backyard anymore."

I won't have a cookout. I don't want to go back there. I don't want to see them," she said.

A farmer suggested that Brogna use mint spray to keep the pesky rodents away. Since then, she sprays Castile peppermint and oil around her property.

A bunch of residents on Mt. Vernon Street share the same concerns. "We're all beginning to hire the same exterminators," she said.

The City of Somerville is not responsible for exterminating rats on private property, so the costs of hiring the exterminator is a price the locals must pay.

Following the last snowstorm, Brogna began hiring the exterminator to bait for this year's wave of rats. She has spent nearly \$600 this year, but she knows it will cost much more to fend off the urban rodents.

Two years ago Somerville brought in specialist Dr. Robert Corrigan from New York to investigate rat infestation. According to Corrigan, rats will come out in the daylight hours when their colony grows too large. Some feel the "rat whisperer" should be brought back to help solve the rampant rodent resurgence.

Elio LoRusso is running for Ward 1 Alderman and lives one street over on George Street. "Basically, my property is in the rear of Toni Brogna's property," LoRusso admitted that there is a serious rodent problem in East Somerville. "It's gotten to a point where we can't even go out at nighttime and sit on our patio."

He said the rodents have been appearing more in the past few years, and that last year it was bad, but this year it's worse.



Inspectional Services Superintendent Goran Smiljic hopes to turn the tide against the apparent growth in rat infestation.

"If you come to George Street in the afternoon, you'll see rodents on the sidewalk, on the street, in the yard," LoRusso said he understands that the city has been baiting but he feels that they need to be more pro-active. "Whatever they're doing, it's not working," he said.

The rodents are affecting the quality of life in East Somerville, LoRusso said. "It's out of control. It's something that really needs to be put on top of the priority list."

Another distressed resident is Barbara Castro, who lives at 8 Mt. Vernon St. She's been at that house since 2003. Castro attributes the increased rodent activity to warmer winters, construction and garbage.

"When we sit on the porch, we watch them kinda run from upper Mt. Vernon Street. We'll see them running across our property. They often go to the

neighbors, under the porch," Castro said.

Castro thinks the massive rats are larger than ever. "Probably the size of large cats or small dogs," she noted.

The residential properties are using bait boxes to kill the rats, but Castro feels that is like a Band-Aid instead of a solution. The real concern, she added, are the commercial properties on Broadway, but she didn't want to single any one business out from the rest.

"When you walk along Broadway, the sidewalks aren't clean, the streets aren't clean," Castro thinks people throw trash on the ground, and the businesses' food attracts the rats.

Castro said the worst experience she's had so far happened when she opened her back door, and a rat ran across her feet as she stepped over the threshold.

The new Superintendent of

Inspectional Services, Goran Smiljic, took over a few weeks back and understands that some "major changes" need to be made to avert rodent infestation before it gets even more out of control.

Right now, there's a tracking system in place to alert the city of repeated rodent sightings. This database will be overhauled in the coming months to better enforce the rodent related concerns in Somerville, according to Smiljic.

Smiljic admitted that he is still learning about the ways to reduce rodent population. "I've never dealt with this many rat issues," he said.

A new cutting edge pilot program in New York's subway system was recently launched to sterilize female rats. If successful, the product, which is orally administered to rats, could cure Somerville of the diabolical rodents.

Ethanol trains put profits over people, public safety

CONT. FROM PG 9

are not sufficient to contain an ethanol-fueled fire, even one involving as little as one ruptured rail car.

A March MassDOT report recommended purchasing four foam tender trucks carrying a total of 12,000 gallons of foam. Currently there are only 5,500 gallons of alcohol-resistant foam available in the area: 500 gallons each in Chelsea, Revere and Everett. The remaining 4,000 gallons of foam currently available are all the way down in Braintree.

Who would pay for purchasing the equipment required to effectively battle an ethanol fire? Who would address public safety issues such ensuring that the junctions where the ethanol trains would travel are maintained to high enough stan-

dards? The MassDOT report noted that funding continues to be cut at all levels of government. "The only way to address this issue is through a collaborative effort that involves all of the parties involved. Each has its own resources, either manpower or funding, to contribute to the safe transportation of ethanol by rail," the report said. In other words: Good luck communities. You're on your own.

Even if the region were equipped to handle an ethanol fire, a MassDEP report notes that most significant fires caused by ethanol have been allowed to burn. For example, in 2011 in Arcadia, Ohio, a town with a population of 590, a massive ethanol fueled fire was allowed to burn for several days. We do not have that op-

tion in a city of almost 80,000 people. In 2009 near Rockford, Ill., an ethanol fire led to one motorist killed, nine injured and an evacuation of 660 homes. That fire was allowed to burn for 24 hours.

Of the more than 70,000 Somerville residents living within the half-mile "isolation" zone, 38,136 live within environmental justice zones. These are Somerville residents who already shoulder a disproportionate burden of the environmental impacts caused by industry. Neither they, nor the rest of us should bear this unnecessary risk.

Yet because federal laws govern railroad operations, neither the Commonwealth nor Somerville or any other community can require any addi-

tional security or safety measures of either Global Partners or the railroads. However, the state Senate included in its approved budget an amendment filed by State Senators Anthony Petrucci, Sal DiDomenico, Pat Jehlen, and Will Brownsberger that would bar the state from issuing a permit for any facility, located in areas


with population density higher than 4,000 people per square mile, that stores or blends more than 5,000 gallons of ethanol per day.

Write to your state representatives and the governor. Tell them this amendment must be included in the final state budget. Ask them: Do you prioritize profits, or public safety?

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LEGAL NOTICES

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



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

MICHAEL F. GLAVIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PLANNING DIVISION

LEGAL NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Appeals will meet on **Wednesday, June 19, 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:

17 Fremont Ave: (Case #ZBA 2013-36) Applicant/Owners Stephanie Hirsch & Joseph Calzaretta seek a Special Permit under SZO §4.4.1 to alter a nonconforming single-family house by adding a small addition in the front, and new windows, door, canopy and deck in the rear and by altering an accessory structure roof and windows. RB District / Ward 2

35 Corinthian Rd: (Case #ZBA 2013-37) Applicant and Owners, Brandee and Chris Hall, seek a Special Permit under SZO §4.4.1 to alter an existing, non-conforming, single-family dwelling by constructing an addition within the existing non-conforming side yard setback. RA zone. Ward 7.

336 Summer St: (Case #ZBA 2013-39) Applicant, Siyuan He, and Owners, Siyuan He and Robert Yi Bao, seek a Special Permit under SZO §4.4.1 to alter a nonconforming structure to create one new two-family dwelling. RA zone. Ward 3.

17 Winslow Ave: (Case #ZBA 2013-40) Applicant and Owner, John Connolly, seeks a Special Permit under SZO §4.4.1 to alter an existing, non-conforming, single-family dwelling by constructing an addition within the existing non-conforming side yard setback. RA zone. Ward 6.

9 Monmouth St: (Case #ZBA 2013-14) Applicant and Owner, Monmouth Street LLC, seeks a Special Permit under SZO §4.4.1 to modify a three-family dwelling, which includes two dormers and a rear addition, and a Special Permit under SZO §9.13.a and §9.13.b for one space of parking relief and to modify parking design standards. RB zone. Ward 3.


45-49 Day St: (Case #ZBA 2013-06) Applicant, Flatbread Somerville, Inc., and Owner, The Marina Trust, Catherine L. Serrano, Trustee, seek a Special Permit with Design Review to expand an existing restaurant and add outdoor seating (SZO §7.11.10.1.2.a), and Special Permit to alter a nonconforming structure to add windows and doors and a Variance from providing approx 22 parking spaces. Six parking spaces will be provided.


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 mwoods@somervillema.gov.

Attest: Dawn Pereira, Administrative Assistant

Published in Somerville News on 6/5/13 & 6/12/13.

6/5/13 The Somerville News





CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
IFB # 13-82CD

The City of Somerville, through the Purchasing Department, invites sealed bids for:
North Street Veteran's Playground

Nature and scope of work: **To fully renovate North Street Veteran's Playground, located on North Street in West Somerville. The reconstruction will include: demolition and removal of asphalt, concrete, and rubber safety surfaces, a children's play structure, retaining walls, tables and chairs, railings, chain link fencing, granite curbing, a wood utility pole and overhead lights, lawns, specified plantings, trees, and tree trimming. New installations will include grading, concrete, and asphalt paving, unit pavers, rubber poured-in-place safety surface, several curved concrete walls, concrete stairs, a water spray feature, swings, a play structure, a large net climber, a tennis backboard, multisport goal, basketball, game courts, sealcoat surfaces etc.**

Plans and specifications will be available form 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon, Fridays, at the Purchasing Department, 1st Floor, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143 from **Monday, June 10, 2013**, upon deposit of **non-refundable fee** of \$ **50.00** for each set of Plans & Spec's, in the form of a check made payable to the City of Somerville. Any person requesting more than two sets will be required to pay a nonrefundable fee in the form of a separate check for each additional set in the amount of \$ **50.00** per set.

Sealed Bids will be received at the Purchasing Department, 1st Floor, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143 until **Monday, July 1, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.** at which time all general bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

All bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit in the form of a certified, cashier's or treasurer's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company made payable to the City of Somerville or a bid bond, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the value of the bid. Prevailing Wage Rates apply to this procurement.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference for all bidders will be held as follows: Tuesday, June 18, 2013, 11:00 a.m., BOA Committee Room, 2nd Floor, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143

Please contact Karen Mancini, Asst. Purchasing Director, x3412, or email kmancini@somervillema.gov, for information and bid packages.

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

6/5/13 The Somerville News



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

MICHAEL F. GLAVIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Committee on Legislative Matters, in concert with the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission, has scheduled a **public hearing on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 6:00 pm** in the Aldermanic Chambers, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, regarding a proposed map amendment to the Somerville Historic District Ordinance. The map amendment proposes to designate one additional property, 237 Washington Street, as a local historic district (LHD) in the City of Somerville. This property is more commonly known as the Union Square Post Office and is formally known as the Somerville Main Post Office.

Property owners and residents of the community are invited to this hearing. The purpose of this public hearing will be to answer questions and receive public comments regarding the proposed map amendment for 237 Washington Street. The Board of Aldermen will use these comments to reach a decision and vote on the proposed map amendment at a later date. A copy of the Somerville Main Post Office Draft Preliminary Report is available for review at www.somervillema.gov (see the Historic Preservation Commission webpage), the third floor of City Hall (93 Highland Avenue), and the Central Library (79 Highland Avenue). Comments regarding the proposed map amendment may be given at the hearing or submitted in writing by Friday, June 14, 2013 to the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission, Attention Amie Hayes (or e-mail ahayes@somervillema.gov). Written comments may also be submitted to the City Clerk, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143.

6/5/13 The Somerville News



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


MICHAEL F. GLAVIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (SHPC)** shall hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 6:40 p.m. in the Third Floor Conference Room, City Hall (93 Highland Avenue) regarding the following proposals:

- 1) Applicant Jose Vale of GS Construction to demolish the c. 1900 barn/stable at 73 Concord Avenue;
- 2) Applicant Two Squares LLC to demolish the c. 1917 garage at 92-96 Prospect Street; and
- 3) Applicant Richard G. Di Girolamo to demolish the c. 1845 Edward Flannagan House and the c.1920 garage at 589 and 593 Somerville Avenue.

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

5/29/13, 6/5/13 The Somerville News



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

There will be a Public Hearing before the Board of Aldermen's Committee on Finance on Tuesday, June 11, 2013, at 7:00 PM, in the Aldermen's Chambers, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, on the Order of Finance Committee Chairman Alderman Maryann M. Heuston, for public input on the proposed FY 2014 budget.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

JOHN J. LONG
CITY CLERK

6/5/13 The Somerville News

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

MIDDLESEX Division Docket No. MI 13P2544EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of: Alice Julia Gordon

Date of Death: 09/06/2009

To all interested persons:

A Petition has been filed by:

Joseph E. Gordon of Townsend MA

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy and for such other relief as requested in the Petition

And also requesting that:

Joseph E. Gordon of Townsend MA

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00a.m. on 06/20/2013

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

This estate is being administered under formal 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 recipients 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.

Witness, Hon. Peter C DiGangi, First Justice of this Court.

Tara E. Di Cristofaro
Register of Probate

Date: May 23, 2013

6/5/13 The Somerville News

Legal Notices can be downloaded from our Web site:

www.TheSomervilleNews.com

A hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Wednesday June 19, 2013** at the Senior Center, Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at **6:00PM** on the application of Papagayo Somerville, Inc. d/b/a Papagayo, 331 Great River Rd., Somerville, MA for a New All Forms Alcoholic Beverages 7 Day Restaurant License, service of alcohol on the outdoor patio and an Entertainment License consisting of Entertainment by Performers and Entertainment by Devices.

For the Commission
Andrew Upton
Vito Vaccaro
John J. McKenna

Attest: Jenneen Pagliaro
Executive Secretary

6/5/13 The Somerville News

LEGAL NOTICES

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

MIDDLESEX DivisionDocket No. MI 13P 2414EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of: Michael T. Rossetti

Date of Death: 02/15/2013

To all interested persons:

A Petition has been filed by:

Pauline Hogan of Woburn MA
and Michele Buckley of Wilmington MA

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy
and for such other relief as requested in the Petition

And also requesting that:

Pauline Hogan of Woburn MA
and Michele Buckley of Wilmington MA

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve
Without Surety on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner
or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so,
you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at
this Court before:
10:00a.m. on 06/13/2013
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a
written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If
you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed
by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date,
action may be taken without further notice to you.

This estate is being administered under formal 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 recipients are entitled to
notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representa-
tive and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate,
including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

Witness, Hon. Peter C DiGangi, First Justice of this Court.

Tara E. Di Cristofaro
Register of Probate

Date: May 16, 2013

6/5/13 The Somerville News

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

MIDDLESEX DivisionDocket No. MI 13P2512EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of:
Richard T. Faber Sr.

Date of Death: 02/20/2013

To all interested persons:

A Petition has been filed by:

Richard T Faber Jr. of Hudson NH

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy
and for such other relief as requested in the Petition

And also requesting that:

Richard T Faber Jr. of Hudson NH

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve
Without Surety on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner
or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so,
you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at
this Court before:
10:00a.m. on 06/19/2013
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a
written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If
you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed
by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date,
action may be taken without further notice to you.

This estate is being administered under formal 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 recipients are entitled to
notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representa-
tive and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate,
including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

Witness, Hon. Peter C DiGangi, First Justice of this Court.

Tara E. Di Cristofaro
Register of Probate

Date: May 22, 2013

6/5/13 The Somerville News

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1993	Nissan	Maxima	Vin# JN1EJ01F8PT414290
1999	Volkswagon	Passat	Vin# WVVWMD63BXXE245164
1986	Nissan	Maxima	Vin# JN1HU11S3GT134459
1999	Toyota	Camry	Vin# 4T1BG22K9XU528259
1997	Honda	Civic	Vin# 2HGEJ6341VH123363

Date of Sale: July 5, 2013
Time: 12:00PM
Location: 160 McGrath Hwy, Somerville, MA 02143

6/5/13, 6/12/13, 6/19/13 The Somerville News

A hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Wednesday June 19, 2013** at the Senior Center, Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at **6:00PM** on the application of Legendary Burger Concepts, LLC d/b/a Burger Dive, 702 Assembly Square Drive, Somerville, MA for a New All Forms Alcoholic Beverages 7 Day Restaurant License and for service of alcohol on the outdoor patio.

For the Commission
Andrew Upton
Vito Vaccaro
John J. McKenna

Attest: Jenneen Pagliaro
Executive Secretary

6/5/13 The Somerville News

A hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Wednesday June 19, 2013** at the Senior Center, Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at **6:00PM** on the application of Kfss Corp., d/b/a Kebab Factory, 414 Washington St., Somerville, MA for a New All Forms Alcoholic Bever- ages 7 Day Restaurant License.

For the Commission
Andrew Upton
Vito Vaccaro
John J. McKenna

Attest: Jenneen Pagliaro
Executive Secretary

6/5/13 The Somerville News

A hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Wednesday June 19, 2013** at the Senior Center, Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at **6:00PM** on the application of American Multi-Cinema, Inc. d/b/a AMC Theatre Assembly Row 12, 395 Artisan Way, Somerville, MA for a New All Forms Alcoholic Beverages License and Entertainment Li- cense consisting of Twelve (12) screen Movie Theatres.

For the Commission
Andrew Upton
Vito Vaccaro
John J. McKenna

Attest: Jenneen Pagliaro
Executive Secretary

6/5/13 The Somerville News

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LGBT Pride
flag raising



A crowd twice the size of last year's joined the Somerville High School Gay/Straight Alliance and Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone on Tuesday for the raising of the Pride flag at Somerville High School. The annual event, which raises the Pride flag in full view of both City Hall and the High School, is a declaration that the City of Somerville is an open, welcoming and affirming city for the LGBT community.

This year's event marked the 13th year that the Pride flag has been raised in Somerville. The tradition began under Mayor Dorothy Kelly Gay with support of the City's Human Rights and Women's Commissions, OutSomerville and the Project 10 East LGBT youth group, who together first raised the Pride flag over Davis Square Plaza in 2000.

In 2005, Mayor Curtatone moved the ceremony to the City Hall Concourse, sending a clear message that all are welcome in Somerville and that City Hall stands with the LGBT community, from students through senior citizens.

On Tuesday, Mayor Curtatone joined the Gay/ Straight Alliance in again proudly raising the flag over the city as the city reaffirmed its commitment to welcoming all regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

"The importance of this kind of symbolic gesture cannot be underestimated. It's affirming and comforting to see this kind of very public support for the LGBT community," said City of Somerville LGBT liaison Elizabeth Field. "Somerville really should be proud that it is such an extraordinarily welcoming City that doesn't just tolerate but rather celebrates diversity."

Also speaking at the ceremony were State Representatives Carl Sciortino and Denise Provost, State Senator Pat Jehlen, Ward 5 Alderman Courtney O'Keefe, Ward 3 School Committeeman Adam Sweeting, SHS teacher and Gay/Straight Alliance Advisor Julia Post, SHS Headmaster John Oteri and the City's LGBT Liaison Elizabeth Field.



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• • • • VILLENS ON THE TOWN • • • •

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Wednesday|June 5

East Branch Library

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

West Branch Library

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

Veteran’s Memorial Rink

Free public skating
12 p.m.-1:50 p.m.|570 Somerville Ave

Thursday|June 6

Central Library

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

Central Library

Teen Room Annex
2:30 p.m.-5 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Friday|June 7

Central Library

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

Central Library

Teen Anime & Manga Meet-up
Cynthia or Ron|617-623-5000-2936
2:30 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

Sunday|June 9

Central Library

Teens Have Something to Say
Marita|*2942
1 p.m.- 4 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Monday|June 10

Central Library

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

Tuesday|June 11

West Branch Library

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

Wednesday|June 12

East Branch Library

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

West Branch Library

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

Central Library

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

Veteran’s Memorial Rink

Free public skating
12 p.m.-1:50 p.m.|570 Somerville Ave

MUSIC

Wednesday|June 5

Johnny D’s

JP Harris|Joe Fletcher
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

Comedy|10 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA’S Lounge

Drunken Logic|Tina Hughes|Carly Tefft
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

On The Hill Tavern

Sports Trivia
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

Orleans Restaurant and Bar

Trivia
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Precinct Bar

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

Bull McCabe’s Pub

The Nephrok All Stars
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen

TJ The DJ Presents The People’s Karaoke
10 p.m.|150 Highland Ave|617-625 -1131

Samba Bar & Grille

608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

Rosebud Bar

Free Pool|Game Night
381 Summer St

Radio Bar

Up: Fantastic Wednesday Returns to Radio!
with Glorious Noise and Safer by the Shore

379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory

Wiretap Wednesday Open Stage
7 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Thursday|June 6

Johnny D’s

Dave Alvin & The Guilty Ones|Sarah Borges
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s

Spring Hill Rounders grassy Thursdays
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

Scattershot 80’s
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

Aquanutz|No Aloha
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

381 Summer St.

Somerville Theatre

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

Radio Bar

Jimmy Ryan & Hayride
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory

Bomb Squad Comedy
8 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Friday|June 7

Johnny D’s

Wheatstraw
Afro DZ AK Allstarz|free, no cover
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s

Sally’s 10th Anniversary Weekend!
Johnnie Come Latelies |6 p.m.
Mike Gent & The Rapid Shave|9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

STP
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Orleans Restaurant and Bar

DJ
10 p.m.|65 Holland St

Precinct Bar

Castle|Waldo|Euphony|Hath The DJ & Ralphs One
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

PA’S Lounge

The Body|Aspects of War|Host|Forn
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

Samba Lolo
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

Mic City
381 Summer St

Casey’s

Entertainment every Friday
173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

Radio Bar

UP: US Air Guitar Regional Competition
Down: Yoni Gordon|The Civil Warblers|The Hard Way|Bread & Roses|The Butts
379 Summer St.

Saturday|June 8

Johnny D’s

The Love Dogs
Marching Band|Cabaret/Folk
Emperor Norton’s Stationary Marching Band|This Way to the Egress|Crystal Bright & The Silver

17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s

Bands all day! |1 p.m.
Autumn Hollow, The Rotary Prophets & Summer Villains|9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

Spitting Vinnies
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Precinct Bar

HearNowLive presents:Dirty Paxton|The Images|Nicole Alexandra|The Symbol-ics|Ivory Wax
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Orleans Restaurant and Bar

Karaoke
65 Holland St

PA’S Lounge

Nightmare River Band|World War I’s|Jon King|Nicholas Nicholas
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

On The Hill Tavern

Live DJ Music
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

Bull McCabe’s

TBA
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

381 Summer st

Casey’s

Entertainment every Saturday
173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

Radio Bar

Down: Scrapes|Tsunami of Sound|Bob Cenci|The Thigh Scrapers \$10
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory

Herbstalk
9 a.m.- 6:30 p.m.|Performance Hall/ Café|191 Highland Ave

Sunday|June 9

Johnny D’s

Open Blues Jam featuring Hot Sauce BPS
Syd Straw of Golden Palominos and The Grownup Noise
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s Bar

Frank Drake Sunday Showcase|5 p.m.
Honky Tonk Masquerade|8 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

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

PA’S Lounge

345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

Precinct Bar

70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe’s Pub

366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen

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

Rosebud Bar

Karaoke
381 Summer St

Orleans Restaurant and Bar

Game Night
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Radio Bar

Roy Sludge Trio 4PM, No Cover
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory

Herbstalk
9 a.m.- 6:30 p.m.|Performance Hall/Cafe
Second Sundays Open Stage
7 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Monday|June 10

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 Con-querors|10 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

Bur- Run|6:45 p.m.
Set Dancing 8 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

On The Hill Tavern

499 Broadway|617-629-5302

PA’S Lounge

345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

Precinct Bar

70 Union Sq|617-623-921

Bull McCabe’s Pub

Stump! Team Trivia
8 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Rosebud Bar

Movie Night
381 Summer St

Radio Bar

379 Summer St

Tuesday|June 11

JohnnyD’s

Camberville Songs for Boston Strong|A Benefit for One Fund Boston hosted by Jimmy Ryan Featuring Dwight & Nicole|-Tim Gearan|Christian Mcneill & tons more
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s Bar

Meals presents All of the Animals|6 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

Family Dinner|Element Of Truth|Isacc Just|Hot Sauce
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

UP: Wholly Karaoke with DJ Magic Gus
8:30p-11:30p
379 Summer St

Wednesday|June 12

Johnny D’s

Rosebudkaraoke
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

Drunken Logic|Joseph Fox |Brian Foye
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

Laura Pitone Kick-off
5:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

CLASSES AND GROUPS

Wednesday|June 5

Central Library

Mystery Book Club

7 p.m.-9 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Arts at the Armory

Walkable Somerville CONT. FROM PG 9

route to accompany her young child to school. After much effort, they concluded that no possible route was safe. Too often, too many 'Villens must choose between remaining homebound and risking injury.

Nine years ago the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities began a prolonged campaign to acquaint city government with the challenges faced by its constituents, and with the liability that the city incurred by flaunting ADA regulations.

The city spends a portion of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that it receives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on street improvements. In 2005, the Disabilities Commission submitted a CDBG proposal. Among its recommendations were to

- Ensure that mandated ADA-access improvements were planned as part of all street improvement projects.

- Ensure that project managers receive guidelines on ADA compliance.

- Hire an ADA-access specialist to review all plans.

As far as the commissioners could tell, their recommendations were ignored. They submitted them again the following year, with the same result.

In 2005, Congress passed the

Safe, Accountable and Efficient Transportation Equity Act. It included the Safe Routes to Schools Program, which provided funds to make walking or riding to school safe. Somerville managed to be one of the first Massachusetts municipalities in line for the cash, linking its proposal to its Shape Up Somerville program, and garnering publicity for both.

In 2006, the city initiated its Safe-START program. The memorandum announcing it stated that "Mayor Curtatone created Safe-START" to "increase safety for all travelers...." Safe-START called for immediate minor improvements in hundreds of intersections and investing between \$4.4 and \$4.7 million in 27 priority locations.

The Disabilities Commission encouraged the mayor and relevant officials to be sure that project plans and implementation were consistent with ADA regulations. They received no acknowledgement.

In 2007, the Disabilities Commission published a survey regarding barriers to full participation in civic life. Inaccessibility of streets, curb cuts, crosswalks, etc. received the most complaints and the most comments. 43% of respondents rated them as poor, citing unlevel and uneven sidewalks, unmarked crosswalks, nonexistent or improperly de-

signed ramps and curb cuts, and poor or nonexistent snow and ice removal.

They received no response from the mayor or aldermen. Instead, they were treated like an irritant. In May 2008, four of the six Disabilities Commissioners resigned. Their resignation letter stated, in part,

We continually witness your designated ADA Coordinator withholding our mail, not forwarding our phone messages, insisting on keeping our membership list and procedures illegitimate, censoring our web page, misrepresenting us to other staff members, and either stonewalling us or answering our questions and concerns with unreliable assertions.... This letter represents an opportunity for you to respond directly to us, and demonstrate that the buck stops with you.

Instead, they received a polite letter from the mayor acknowledging their resignations. So they formed Community Access Project of Somerville (CAPS), an independent advocacy group.

Eileen Feldman, who had been the Disabilities Commission Chair, became CAPS's driving force. She bought equipment, taught CAPS members how to use it to perform street access surveys, and gave thousands of hours of her own time. She tells me that, CAPS' aim was to cre-

ate a pedestrian environment that would "enable all members of the community to mingle, participate and partake of the web of community life." Real walkability.

In the summer of 2009, CAPS surveyed 80 streets listed as "Somerville Street Reconstruction Projects, 2004-2008." Over 80% of this new construction did not adhere to safety and access regulations and codes. Over 700 recently reconstructed intersection and sidewalk locations contained multiple violations, including the Safe-START locations. They examined the Safe Routes to School maps and found 35 freshly built or repaired intersections with violations. The city had wasted millions on out-of-compliance reconstruction projects.

In December 2010, CAPS submitted to the state Architectural Access Board photographic and digital evidence of hazardous conditions at 114 locations within 200 feet of municipal programs and along bus routes.

In October 2011, city officials appeared before the Access Board. They were told that they must provide a plan for compliance, application for variance or proof of compliance by May 15, 2011. The city subsequently proposed fixing the violations at a rate of 15 intersections and \$100,000 per year.

At a hearing to discuss this variance application, the Disability Policy Consortium, a Massachusetts advocacy group, pointed out that, at that rate, it would take 30-to-40 years to fix the mistakes made since 2004. It also became apparent in this hearing that the city was not conducting its intersection surveys accurately.

In March 2012, CAPS filed a complaint with the Federal Highway Administration. Its Office of Civil Right, which oversees municipalities that violate disability laws, opened an investigation the following month.

Two months later, the city issued an \$80,000 request for proposals for professional engineering consultants to prepare a fully ADA-compliant Self Evaluation and Transition Plan. The firm that the city retained is high respected in the disabilities community. And in April the city hired a new Disability Coordinator. Betsey Allen is an attorney with an impressive background in human rights and disability compliance.

The extent to which the new Plan is fully implemented will depend on all of us. I hope that walkability enthusiasts will advocate as forcefully for safe sidewalks and crosswalks as they do for street trees and a sense of enclosure.

Way below minimum CONT. FROM PG 9

and our livelihood didn't depend on our paychecks - we didn't have car payments or insurance to worry about and air for our bike tires was free then. I wish I could go back to the days when my parents took care of everything for me, don't you?

How many of you out there worked at Gorins or Parke Snow? Did anyone bus tables at The Venice? That was a great job - I think the busboys had to clean and

feed the fish in the aquarium.

When I played in The Echoes Band at Johnny D's, to supplement my income I worked on Johnny's horse farm up in Sudbury - it was the closest to nature I had ever gotten up to that point in my life.

The scariest job I ever had was when I was a substitute teacher at the old Trade High School. The students were using three-foot lengths of pipe as blowguns.

The ammunition they used were those little hard plastic twisty things that you put on spliced together wires. That gig lasted half a day.

The Dodge'em cars, Woolworth's and delivering newspapers gave me a few bucks and a lot of memories. The best part was that I could quit whenever I wanted and sponge off my parents.

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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From on page 14

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Syd Straw makes it to Somerville

By Blake Maddux

In the words of singer-songwriter Syd Straw, “I get around, but I’m certainly not a household commodity.”

Perhaps not, but the list of musicians with whom she has collaborated include some of the best representatives of almost every category of popular music.

Among them are British folk-rock legend Richard Thompson, Los Angeles punk progenitor John Doe (of the band X), pop composer and producer extraordinaire Van Dyke Parks, and R.E.M. lead singer Michael Stipe.

“When I look at the list of people that I love and work with,” Straw laments, “this is my only thought: I wish I saw them more often.”

Perhaps so, but when most other musicians look at the same list, their only thought is probably, “I wish that I could work with them once.”

Straw will grace the stage at Johnny D’s on Sunday, June 9.

“I don’t think that I’ve ever been to Johnny D’s,” Straw says. “I’ve heard that [Somerville band] The Grownup Noise are really good, and I’m playing on the bill with them. I’m really, really excited about

June 9 in Somerville.”

Straw is currently on the first of two brief back-to-back tours. The first one includes shows with singer-songwriter Freedy Johnston and Fountains of Wayne vocalist Chris Collingwood.

Johnston and Collingwood will not be coming to Johnny D’s. Rather, Straw says, “I am going to bring some people from my New York band Plankton, among them Don Edgar Piper. He is my real comrade-in-arms.”

Despite the consistently high quality of her output, Straw is not particularly prolific as a solo artist. Between 1989 and 2008, she released only three albums. Seven years separated her debut and its follow-up, and the second and third records were released 12 years apart.

However, her forth and fifth recordings may appear within weeks or months – rather than years – of each other: “I’m making a new record this summer. I think I might even make two new records.”

The new songs that she has written are one of the reasons that she decided to hit the road. The other reason is somewhat more profound.

According to Straw, “I have been really restless and missing

my songs. I feel lonesome for my own songs. So I rented a car and we’re coming to your area to improve your day. I really think it’s going to be good.”

Straw’s excitement and optimism are tempered only by the failing health of her 13-year-old dog Henry. He and another dog, Carol Burnett – whom Straw describes as “a funny little red-head [who] does a lot of physical comedy and pratfalls and stuff” – are travelling on tour with her.

“They’re doing everything except carry my guitar, and they would probably do that if they could figure out how,” Straw notes sadly.

Although she was raised in Los Angeles, Straw has made her home in Weston, Vermont, since 1998. It was a deep “familial history” that drew her to settle there.

“I’ve been in and out of Weston, Vermont, since I was six months old,” Straw explains. “My father [Jack Straw] was an actor and had an inn in Vermont. That’s what drew us to Vermont when I was tiny. It’s a very important place for me to have. It’s my little spot on earth. I know those dirt roads so well. I know them better than the back of my hand.”

So since she is not that far from Boston, why has it been so long



Singer-Songwriter Syd Straw has worked with the best, and brings her personal best to Johnny D’s this coming Sunday.

since she has performed here?

“I’m embarrassed to say this, but I get anxious driving in all of those loops in Boston. Traffic there just makes me nervous, so I don’t come there. If anyone would drive me there, I would come.” [Laughs]

Thankfully, Straw’s “great burning passion to entertain” has at least temporarily overcome her fear of Boston traffic:

“I’m so darn happy to be out and about. I marvel at the mod-

ern audience. Last night we had an audience that was just the nicest people on earth. I think maybe that’s who’s coming out to support people coming to play in their town. I think that they’re going to show up at Johnny D’s.”

Syd Straw and The Grownup Noise play Johnny D’s in Davis Square on Sunday, June 9, at 8:30 PM. Tickets are \$12.00 and are available via www.ticketweb.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:

FITNESS CORNER - NEW CLASSES.

Zumba starts June 5 at 5:15 p.m. with Cheryl. Zumba for All with Cheryl. Come at the end of the day, after work. Open to all. Wednesdays 5:15-6:15 p.m. Holland Street Center. \$3 for a class or \$15 for 6 classes. Get in shape this summer.

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. \$5 per class.

LGBT Events:

June 5 - LGBT Advisory Group of the COA presents “Movies to Come Out To” starting with “Cloudburst.” All LGBT individuals and their allies are welcome to come experience our summer film series. Great refreshments. Holland Street Center at 5:30 p.m. Free.

June 24 - “Movies To Come Out To” continues with “Trans-america.” 5:30 p.m. Holland Street Center. Dinner \$6. More details to come.

July 8 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch time together. Holland Street. More details to come. \$6.

LBT Women Fit-4-Life Fitness and Nutrition Classes. Tuesday and Thursday evenings. \$10 a month with scholarships available.

June 18 - Join us on our trip to India for some wonderful food and dancers. \$6 at Holland Street Center.

Men’s Club meeting June 5. 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.

Farmer’s Market is back at Holland Street Center on June 27. **Need to get your Charlie Card updated?** Come June 13 to Holland Street at noon time.

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

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

Trip Corner:

Davenport Yacht Club with Charlie Thomas & The Drifters - June 11.

Suffolk Downs - June 12.

Hanscom - Dinner & Bingo - June 19.

Mohegan Sun/Foxwoods - July 30-31.

Lowell Spinner’s and all you can eat BBQ Pit - August 1.

Foster’s Clambake - All you can eat - August 13.

Penobscot High Stakes Bingo - September 13-15.

Suffolk Downs - September 18.

Twin Rivers - Tom Jones Tribute Show - September 24.

Italian Festival at Luciano’s - October 15.

Penn Dutch - December 2-6.

June 5

Holland Street

Fit-4-Life Classes Groups A & B
Flexibility & Balance|1:15 p.m.
Yoga/Meditation|2:15 p.m.
Zumba for All|5:15 p.m.
Movie/LGBT Event: “Cloudburst”|5:30 p.m.
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Cross Street Center

Closed

Ralph & Jenny Center

Cards & Cribbage|10 a.m.
Bingo|12:45 p.m.
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

June 6

Holland Street Center

Flexibility & Balance|10 a.m.
Current Events|10 a.m.
Bingo|12:45 p.m.
LBT Fit-4-Life|6 p.m..
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Ralph & Jenny Center

Cards & Cribbage|10 a.m.
Strengthening Exercise|10 a.m.
Crochet & Knitting|10:45 a.m.
Bingo|12:45 p.m.
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

June 7

Holland Street Center

Fit-4-Life Groups A & B
Book Club|10 a.m.
Bingo|12:45 p.m.
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

June 10

Holland Street Center

Indoor Gardening|9 a.m.
English Conversation|11 a.m.
Wii Bowling|1:30 p.m.
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Ralph & Jenny Center

Cards/Cribbage|10 a.m.
Bingo|12:45 p.m.
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

June 11

Davenport - the Drifters

Holland Street Center

Strengthening w/ Geoff|9:15 a.m.
SHINE by appt.|10 a.m.
Low Vision Group|10:30 a.m.
Bellydancing|12:30 p.m.
LBT Fit-4-Life|6 p.m.
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Ralph & Jenny

Cards & Cribbage|10 a.m.
Walking Club|10:30 a.m.
Bingo|12:45 p.m.
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

June 12

Suffolk Downs

Holland Street Center

Fit-4-Life Classes Groups A & B
Flexibility & Balance|1:15 p.m.
Yoga/Meditation|2:15 p.m.
Zumba for All|5:15 p.m.
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Cross Street Center

Closed

Ralph & Jenny Center

Cards & Cribbage|10 a.m.
Bingo|12:45 p.m.
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

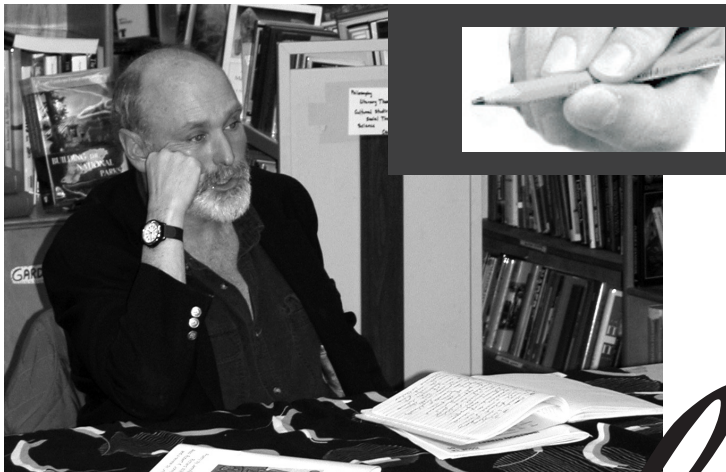
Somerville Community Access TV Ch.3 Programming Guide

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Wednesday, June 5							
12:00am	Free Speech TV	5:30pm	Culture Club (weekly timeslot)	2:30pm	Bullying Public Service Announcement	11:00am	Nossa Gente e Costumes
6:00am	Heritage Baptist Church	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV (Free Speech TV)	3:00pm	Tele Magazine	12:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
7:00am	Healthy Hypnosis	6:30pm	Art @ SCATV	4:00pm	Somerville Arts Festival	1:00pm	Ablevision
7:30am	Life Matters	7:00pm	SCATV Producer's Reflection on 30 years	5:00pm	Tele Kreyol	1:30pm	Art at SCATV
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00pm	Fouye Zo Nan Kalalou (LIVE)	6:00pm	Basic Buddha	2:00pm	Jimmy Tingle: The Battle for the Bottle Bill
9:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	9:30pm	Teen Empowerment Late Night 2013	7:00pm	Jimmy Tingle Special: The Battle for the Bottle Bill	3:00pm	Exercise with Robyn and Max
10:00am	Science Issues & Innovations	Friday, June 7		8:00pm	David Parkman (Free Speech TV)	3:30pm	Esoteric Science
11:00am	Abugida TV	12:00am	Free Speech TV	9:00pm	Nossa Gente e Costumes	4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)
12:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	6:00am	Road to Recovery	10:00pm	Copy Cat Festival	5:00pm	Cop Cat Festival
1:00pm	Somerville Housing Authority	6:30am	The Origins of SCATV	10:30pm	A Conversation with Governor Deval Patrick	5:30pm	The Folklorist
1:30pm	Henry Parker Presents	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	11:00pm	Gay TV (Free Speech TV)	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV (Free Speech TV)
2:00pm	Culture Club	9:00am	Energy Theater	Sunday, June 9		6:30pm	Tonight's Special
2:30pm	Somerville Back in the Day	10:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	12:00am	Free Speech TV	7:00pm	I finally Did it!
3:00pm	Medical Tutor (LIVE)	11:00am	Mass Factor	6:00am	Program Celebrai	8:00pm	Chef's Table
3:30pm	Inside Talk	11:30am	The Struggle	7:00am	Flipside	9:00pm	Dedilhando au Saudade
4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	Noon	Somerville's Most Interesting Places	8:00am	Effort Pour Christ	10:00pm	Bate Papo con Shirley
5:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking	12:30pm	Shrink Rap	9:00am	Heritage Baptist Church	11:00pm	Couch's Corner
5:30pm	Cooking with Georgia & Dez	1:00pm	Somerville Housing Authority	10:00am	International Church of God	11:30pm	King of the 'Ville
6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV (Free Speech TV)	1:30pm	Next Generation Producers	10:30am	Basic Buddha	Tuesday, June 11	
6:30pm	Art @ SCATV	2:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking	11:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	12:00am	Free Speech TV
7:00pm	Tonight's Special	2:30pm	Cooking With Georgia	Noon	Play by Play	6:00am	Road to Recovery
7:30pm	Basic Buddha	3:00pm	Brunch with Sen. Bernie Sanders	12:30pm	Neighborhood Cooking with Candy	7:00am	The Struggle
8:00pm	Somerville Pundits (LIVE)	4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	1:00pm	From the SCATV Archives	7:30am	Drawing with Mark
9:00pm	Somerville Biking News (LIVE)	5:00pm	Press Pass TV: Stand up for Women	2:00pm	Inside Talk	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
10:00pm	Play by Play	5:30pm	Art @ SCATV	2:30pm	Life Matters	9:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading
10:30pm	The Literary Scene	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV (Free Speech TV)	3:00pm	Rompendo em Fe	10:00am	Tele Kreyol
11:00pm	Python Force	6:30pm	Real Estate Answers Show	4:00pm	Dedilhando A Saudade	11:00am	Jeff Jam Sing Show
Thursday, June 6				5:00pm	Ethiopian Satellite TV	11:30am	Ablevision
12:00am	Free Speech TV	7:00pm	Reeling Movie Show	6:00pm	Abugida TV	12:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
6:00am	Atheist Viewpoint	7:30pm	Culture Club	7:00pm	African Television Network	1:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking w/ Candy
7:00am	Physician Focus	8:00pm	Visual Radio	8:00pm	Telemagazine	1:30pm	Cooking with Georgia & Dez
7:30am	Ablevision	9:00pm	The Garage	9:00pm	Effort Pour Christ	2:00pm	Somerville Housing Authority
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	9:30pm	Boss Lady News	10:00pm	Farrakhan Speaks	3:30pm	Henry Parker Presents
9:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	10:30pm	Jimmy Tingle: The Battle for the Bottle Bill	11:00pm	Somerville Rocks!	4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)
10:00am	Basic Buddha	11:30pm	The Steve Katso's Show	11:30pm	Couch's Corner	5:00pm	Poet to Poet (LIVE)
10:30am	Neighborhood Cooking with Candy	Saturday, June 8		Monday, June 10			
11:00am	Chef's Table	12:00am	Free Speech TV	12:00am	Free Speech TV	5:30pm	The Literary Scene
12:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	6:00am	Arabic Hour	6:00am	Atheist Viewpoint	6:00pm	Al Jazeera TV (Free Speech TV)
1:00pm	African Television Network	7:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	6:30am	Physician Focus	6:30pm	Real Estate Answer Show
2:00pm	Greater Somerville presents: Community Path Update	8:00am	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	7:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	7:00pm	Art at SCATV
3:00pm	Talking about Somerville	8:30am	Drawing with Mark	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	7:30pm	Greater Somerville (LIVE)
4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	9:00am	Festival Kreyol	9:00am	Stand up to Bullying	8:00pm	Dead Air Live
5:00pm	Jeff Jam Sing Show	10:00am	Tele Galaxie	9:30am	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	9:00pm	Teen Empowerment Late Night 2013
		11:00am	Dead Air Live	10:00am	Somerville Biking News (timeslot)		
		Noon	Reeling Movie Show				
		2:00pm	Henry Parker Presents				

City Cable TV Schedule for the Week

CITY TV 13/22			
Wednesday, June 5		Wednesday, June 12	
9:00am:	Assembly Row Groundbreaking	12:30pm:	East Somerville Walking Tour
9:30am:	Congressional Update	1:30pm:	Congressional Update
12:00pm:	Memorial Day Parade 2013	2:00pm:	Memorial Day Parade 2013
1:30pm:	Som Dog Spring Fling	7:00pm:	Taste of Somerville
2:00pm:	Congressional Update	7:30pm:	East Somerville Walking Tour
2:30pm:	Assembly Row Groundbreaking	8:30pm:	Congressional Update
6:30pm:	Memorial Day Parade 2013	9:00pm:	Memorial Day Parade 2013
8:00pm:	FY2014 Board of Aldermen Budget Hearing 6.4.13		
Thursday, June 6			
12:00am:	Memorial Day Parade 2013	12:00am:	Taste of Somerville
1:30am:	FY2014 Board of Aldermen Budget Hearing 6.4.13	12:30am:	East Somerville Walking Tour
9:00am:	East Somerville Walking Tour	1:30am:	Congressional Update
12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	2:00am:	Memorial Day Parade 2013
12:30pm:	Somerville Academy for Innovative Leadership	9:00am:	Community Path Groundbreaking
12:45pm:	Voices of Somerville	12:00pm:	Senior Circuit
1:15pm:	FY2014 Board of Aldermen Budget Hearing 6.5.13	12:30pm:	Veterans in the "Ville
7:00pm:	Voices of Somerville	1:00pm:	SomerStreets - Carnival
7:30pm:	Milk Row Cemetery Tour	1:30pm:	FY2014 Board of Aldermen Budget Hearing 6.6.13
8:30pm:	FY2014 Board of Aldermen Budget Hearing 6.5.13	7:00pm:	Senior Circuit
Friday, June 7		7:30pm:	Veterans in the "Ville
12:00am:	Voices of Somerville	8:00pm:	SomerStreets - Carnival
12:30am:	Milk Row Cemetery Tour	8:30pm:	Memorial Day Parade 2013
1:30am:	FY2014 Board of Aldermen Budget Hearing 6.5.13		
9:00am:	SomerStreets - Carnival	12:00am:	Senior Circuit
12:00pm:	Taste of Somerville	12:30am:	Veterans in the "Ville
12:30pm:	East Somerville Walking Tour	1:00am:	SomerStreets - Carnival
1:30pm:	Congressional Update	1:30am:	Memorial Day Parade 2013
2:00pm:	Memorial Day Parade 2013	9:00am:	B2Green
7:00pm:	Taste of Somerville	12:00pm:	Somerville By Design 5.21.13
7:30pm:	East Somerville Walking Tour	1:30pm:	Veterans in the "Ville
8:30pm:	Congressional Update	2:00pm:	Voices of Somerville
9:00pm:	Memorial Day Parade 2013	7:00pm:	School Committee Meeting - LIVE
Saturday, June 8		Tuesday, June 11	
12:00am:	Taste of Somerville	12:00am:	East Somerville Walking Tour
12:30am:	East Somerville Walking Tour	1:00am:	Congressional Update
1:30am:	Congressional Update	1:30am:	School Committee Meeting – Budget Hearing 5.28.13
2:00am:	Memorial Day Parade 2013	9:00am:	Talking Business
9:00am:	Som Dog Spring Fling	12:00pm:	Senior Circuit
12:00pm:	Taste of Somerville	12:30pm:	Talking Business
		1:00pm:	Community Path Groundbreaking
		1:30pm:	Mayor's Fitness Challenge Kickoff
		1:45pm:	SomDog Spring Fling
		7:00pm:	Senior Circuit
		7:30pm:	Talking Business
		8:00pm:	Somerville Academy for Innovative Leadership
		8:30pm:	School Committee Meeting – REPLAY OF 6.10.13



OFF THE SHELF by Doug Holder

Somerville's Callie Chapman Korn and the Zoe Dance Company

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

A creative writing student of mine at Endicott College Danielle Murdock wrote a poem about a former teacher she had. And indeed she learned a valuable lesson from her, but not in the way you would expect.

Mrs. Walker

Fourth grade.
Mrs. Walker,
Pointed nose with glasses down to the final inch,
Like a pirate about to fall off the end of the plank.
Time and time again I'd raise my hand in her classroom,
Her lair,
Eager to spout the answers like a rocket taking off for the very first time.
I couldn't control my curiosity,
It foamed over like a cola shaken a bit too hard,
Ambitious I was, just as I am now,
But as a child this is someone who is too loud.

"too many questions..." Mrs. Walker would say.
Disappointed, and friendless, a child of nine,
I only wanted to show investment,
Interest,
To be accepted by my peers.
Mrs. Walker was the pinpoint, where it all began,
The year I learned happiness was not always present,
And that confidence could be thrown away by an adult,
A person.
Disposable is what I was in the teachers eyes.
A crumpled up piece of paper, tossed to the trash.

My confidence crumbled, a soggy cookie falling about bit by bit,
Losing its original shape.
"Mrs. Wackadoo" I would whisper behind her back,
in an attempt to keep my confidence intact.

I saw my self on footage, at the end of that year,
And I learned that body image was something to fear.
My confidence stringing bit by bit,
I thought I was ugly.
A nine year old child,
Stretched to the point of no return, like a piece of dough that's
been thinned to the end of the table,
A single stretch more and there would be a tear that could not
be mended.
Mrs. Walker was the one who started it all. "No questions, too
loud, sit at the wall."
I'll never forget what she did to me,
As I've grown to a woman that I am proud to be.

– Danielle Murdock



One might pass the window of the Sherman Café in Union Square and see a man in his middle years praying over his *New York Times*, nursing a cup of coffee, and pondering the remains of his oatmeal scone. That would be me. On this particular morning I was waiting to interview the Artistic Director of the *Zoe Dance Company*, Callie Chapman Korn.

Korn is originally from Lynn, Mass. but for a number of years has lived in Somerville with her husband and kids.

Korn, a graduate of the Boston Conservatory, started the Zoe with her classmates in 2002. They used to perform at places like the Boston Common accompanied by a boom box. They kept at it and they were later performing at a number venues in and around Boston and internationally, such as Somerville's *Art Beat*, Harvard Square's *May Fair*, *Boston Center for the Arts*, *Mass. College of the Arts*, *Green Street Studios*, *Corporacion Cultural de Las Condes* (Santiago, Chile), and many others.

I asked Korn if she considers her company a Modern Dance company. She replied: "Modern Dance was basically a movement of the 1950s. The Postmodern movement was in the 1960s. I like to call us a Contemporary Dance company. We have

a fusion of many styles and influences."

One part of Zoe's mission statement (according to their website) is to increase social awareness. Korn has a special interest in the 1970 coup in Chile, and the corruption of government. Through movement, video, and vocalization, some of her dance pieces have addressed this.

Zoe has no official office. Korn said this true of most local dance companies.

She said she strives to expand her audience base beyond "rich white people." In this regard the company has performed at such venues as the *Somerville Dance Festival*, and has had performances at the Union Square Plaza, events that are free and open to all.

I asked Korn what themes she brings to her dance. She said: "Emotion, how people love, how they hate, and how they react to each other."

This young choreographer told me she has a performance coming up at the Dance for World Community Day on Saturday, June 8, where she will be performing an excerpt from "Past is Prelude". It may well be worthwhile for my fellow Somervilians to cross the border to the Republic to view the work of this gifted artist who resides in the Paris of New England, Somerville, Mass.

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