





VOL. 9 NO. 41

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021

### TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

# Inside:



Those homemade Halloween costumes page 3



Vive la (Re)sistance page 11



# Language a key factor in charter review process



The Charter Review Committee continues its efforts to finalize the revised city charter through the next several weeks.

### By Eileen Qiu

Language became the center of attention at last Thursday's Charter Review Meeting as examination over article one and two of the charter draft drew conflicting opinions.

"One of the reasons why this is here, and it will probably come up in the transition position too, is to ensure that the ordinances are in harmony with the charter," meeting member Elizabeth Corbo said. "In reviewing the charter every 10 years, if there are amendments in the charter, then that can be reflected in the next review"

Committee member William White said a review every decade would be a good idea since it should not be a big task for the city council, but it might be a big task for the committee that has to review all the ordinances.

He said ordinances are not reviewed periodically in other cities because it *Continued on page 4* 

# **City hosts Healey School Tot-Lot reopening ceremony**

### By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

The Public Space and Urban Forestry Division of the City of Somerville hosted a ribbon cutting on Thursday. The occasion: the opening of a renovated Healey School Tot-Lot.

The ceremony was attended by Mayor of Somerville Joseph Curtatone, a handful of city government members, and members of the public.

The Tot-Lot had previously been open, but it has gone through a plethora of renovations including updated playsets. Updates have been in the works since September 2020, and the ribbon cutting is the final stage of this process.



HONK! festival is a blast page 14

After the ribbon cutting, Mayor Curtatone answered some questions regarding the renovated Tot-Lot and spoke of the significance of the re-opening and its advancement of equality in Somerville. "It was really about equity and community and this is a small but powerful example of everyone's hands having *Continued on page 4* 



City officials and members of the general public celebrated the reopening of the Healey School Tot-Lot last week. — Photos by Fernando Cervantes Jr.





The views and opinions expressed in Newstalk do not necessarily reflect those of The Somerville Times, its publisher or staff. The column has many contributors.

Voters have until 8:00 p.m. today, Wednesday, October 13, to register to vote or update their voter information for the November 2 election. Massachusetts voters have the option to register online or via a paper form. To register by mail, call (617) 625-6600 ext. 4200 and request a form be mailed to you or download one from the Elections website, somervillema. gov/elections. Don't forget that your form must be received by the Somerville Elections Department by 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 13.

### \*\*\*\*

The Somerville Council on Aging is holding Nutrition Classes, in-person, Mondays at 12:30 p.m. at our Ralph and Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Virtual classes are offered Mondays at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. New and returning members are welcome. To RSVP please call Mary Marshall at 617-625-6600, ext. 2316 or email her at headtofitness10@yahoo. com. Masks are required.

#### \*\*\*\*

Sts. Louis and Zelie Martin Parish's Annual Holiday Bazaar will take place on Friday, October 15, from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, October 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in St. Catherine's Parish Hall, 179 Summer Street, Somerville. Free Admission.

#### \*\*\*\*\*

Happy birthday greetings this week to several locals: Happy birthday to former Alderman Maryann Heuston, who is celebrating this week. We're wishing her a very happy birthday. Happy Birthday to current City Councilor and mayoral candidate Will Mbah, we wish him a very happy birthday. Hope he takes the time to celebrate. Happy birthday to Valerie Spinale, we hope she has a great day. Happy birthday to Steve Hardy, we wish him a great day. Happy birthday to Naomi Harrison, daughter of Kaitlin Norton. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as George Bevans, Continued on page 7



699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144 news@thesomervilletimes.com www.thesomervilletimes.com Phone: 857-488-5138



# Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of October 13 – October 19 as provided by the National Weather Service

	DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
*	Wednesday October 13	Sunny	75°/59°	8%	5%	SW 9 mph
•	Thursday October 14	Sunny	74°/58°	7%	4%	N 8 mph
Ť	Friday October 15	Partly Cloudy	74°/61°	13%	9%	SSE 9 mph
•••	Saturday October 16	Rain	76°/63°	39%	22%	SSW 11 mph
•••	Sunday October 17	Rain	66°/59°	50%	29%	W 13 mph
¢-	Monday October 18	Sunny	64°/46°	4%	3%	WNW 11 mph
¢-	Tuesday October 19	Sunny	65°/49°	5%	4%	W 10 mph

TheSomervilleTimes.com

**Comments of the Week** 

### **Response to:** Our View of the Times – October 6

### JWE says:

I would like to congratulate the Somerville City Council and the city administration for striking this blow against the lawncare industrial complex. Over the pressing demands of responding to the Covid pandemic, the Council and administration spent, what seemed to be, thousands of hours debating and crafting this ordinance. I can now work on my podcast or update my Instagram or tweet secure that my thoughts will no longer be disturbed by these wailing banshees of environmental destruction. I look forward to attending (virtually of course) the swearing in of Somerville's first Landscape Enforcement Chief and I welcome the officers of this new department in my neighborhood. Let it be known that the days of Somerville as a yard care wild west are over!

I also applaud the Council's and administration's continuing work towards the elimination of another major source of noise - children. From zoning policy that encourages the building of family-hostile housing to the yearlong closure of the schools, Somerville continues to advance the cause of peaceful streets free of the cries of babies or the shrieks of kids at play.

I look forward to the day when the only sounds you hear in our streets are the horns or rideshares, the rumble of Amazon delivery trucks and the barks of furbabies!

### **BMac** says:

Wonder how this will affect roofers, who I hear using leaf blowers when stripping a roof more than I have ever heard from people cleaning up their yards.

### Marie says:

Another thing to drive seniors away and more contractors who won't do work in the city. As a senior who has medical conditions that makes sweeping and raking something I can not do, therefore, using leaf blower is the way to keep my property clean. If no one needs to use leaf blowers from June through September according to the city counselors, then there should be no need for street cleaning during those months either! Give us back our parking spots for the summer. Also expecting companies to list all their equipment etc is out of controll, they will stop working in Somerville.

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Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Denise Keniston, Isabel Sami, Rachel Berets, Elizabeth Long

Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte, Dorothy Dimarzo, Joe Creason, Bob Doherty, Ross Blouin Photographer: Claudia Ferro

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With money saved on street cleaning, the city can use that money to have someone take and sweep for the seniors.

### **Response to:** Sitcom Ville

**BMac** says:

I went to preschool at Tufts' Eliot Pearson. The would give us IQ tests, which included word associations. They say "yes", you reply "no" etc. When they said "black" to me, I replied "gold" and the whole test stopped. My mom was watching from behind the mirror in the other room and was apparently laughing as she knew why it was my reply, but none of the teachers did.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

# Life in the VILLE by Jimmy Del Ponte **Those homemade Halloween costumes**



neck, cigar ash goatees and you have instant Beatnik!

The worst part of trick or treating when we were kids was having to wear

your clunky winter coat over your costume. We prayed for mild weather. The second worst thing was your parents refusing to spend money on a store-bought costume and forcing you to make one.

I asked my friends to share their homemade costume memories. A friend of mine entered a costume contest by building a stereo speaker that actually worked.



Mom's Beret, turtle He plugged himself in and won first prize. Here some more stories about original homemade Halloween costumes.

"Half man half women. My mom did the whole costume, even cut the yarn off of her bathroom rug for my mustache, and the other part of my mouth was lip stick. Jeans on one side sewed a skirt on to the zipper of the jeans for the other side! I know she had more fun than me making costume. Those were the days. Fun times with My mother Marcia!"

"I had caught my cousin's flowers at her wedding a month before. I dressed up as a bride ditched at the altar. Mascara flowing down my face. Veil, dress and all."

"6 of us as a 6 pack of Heineken won first prize at 6 Lansdowne Street."

"Grants or Kressgee had the best costumes! My sister was a bride one year and I was Honey West! Those plastic face masks steamed up, making my nose wet!"

"My kid costume was a default hobo. My dad's flannel shirt baggy big jeans, messy hair and make-up to make me look dirty and done hahaha. Another we're the short people. My mother was a den mother and made short people with pillow cases with faces drawn on them. Pillow case goes over your head, draw your face on the pillow case, cut eye holes out, put overhead, belted at knees. Can you picture this!"

"Harpo Marx."



"Hawkeye from M\*A\*S\*H."

"Bag of pretzels and a box of popcorn! "Table and chair! Devil in a shower."

"An angel costume I made for my daughter's Halloween party at St. Catherine of Genoa school about 7 years ago. I hand stitched the entire costume from halo to wings & gown. She won 1st place that year."

"Work boots, pair of shorts and Hawaiian shirt, white beard and wig red Santa hat. I was Santa in the off-season."

"A nun! It was so good that people actually thought I was a real nun. Funny that I'm not even Catholic."

"Spider with eight legs that turned into an octopus the following year. I cut the suction cups off a rubber bathmat and glued them along the legs."

"When my son was in kindergarten he wanted to be a tree. We used brown paper bags and taped twigs and leaves all over them. He was so cute and got rave reviews from all the houses we visited. Still makes me smile even though he celebrated his 50th birthday last week."

"I have quite a few. Cousin Itt (from The Addams Family) was Continued on page 13

# **O'Donovan Law Office** 741 Broadway Sean T. O'Donovan, Esq.

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Sunday, October 31st, 2 - 5PM at Milk Row Cemetery 400 Somerville Avenue, next to Demoulas Market Basket

ter Mashed-Up" (2-6PM)! This ghostly gathering more about Somerville from those who lived it!

**Civil and Criminal Litigation** 

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Suggested donation of \$5 for those over 12 years and younger families. Proceeds support the preservation and educational activities of the Somerville Museum.



Questions? Email bwilson@somervillema.gov https://www.somervillemuseum.org www.somervillema.gov/historicpreservation MAYOR JOSEPH A. CURTATONE





# Wrong way driver from a long gone bar

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to the 1 Davis Square area last Friday on reports of a motor vehicle accident.

Upon arrival, the officers discovered two motor vehicles in the roadway at the intersection of College Ave. and Elm St.

One vehicle was facing the wrong direction and headed north bound on College Ave. This particular south bound portion of College Ave is a one way. The other vehicle was facing the correct direction on College Ave.

The driver of the vehicle traveling in the correct direction told police they were driving south bound on College Ave. heading into Davis Sq. when the other vehicle drove straight off of Day St. driving the wrong direction onto College Ave. and then collided with his vehicle in the front driver's side bumper causing minor damage.

The officers then questioned the driver of the other car, later identified as Justin Castor, of Arlington, who initially could not really tell them what had happened.

They again asked Castor what had happened, but he reportedly did not respond and just stared at them. They immediately observed that he reportedly had bloodshot and glassy eyes. They also observed that his pupils were very small and pin point.

The officers asked Castor if he required medical attention and he denied needing any.

They asked Castor where he was coming from and he said Joshua Tree, a bar that used to be located in Davis Sq. but had closed a couple of years ago. They told him that Joshua Tree does not exist anymore and he said that they were right about that.

The officers asked Castor if he had consumed any alcoholic beverages that night, and he said that he had consumed one beer. His speech was slurred during this initial interaction and continued to be slurred throughout the questioning.

At the officers' request, Castor stepped out of the vehicle and he was moved to a safe place on the side walk. According to police, he was unsteady on his feet on multiple occasions, used objects to steady himself, and it was difficult at times for him to walk in a straight line.

The officers again asked Castor where he was coming from and if he had consumed any alcoholic beverages. This time he told them that he was coming from Sligo's and had two beers. They then asked him again what had happened in reference to the motor vehicle accident. He reportedly told them that he was trying to turn and then hit the other car.

While speaking with Castor, the officers could smell a moderate level of alcoholic beverage emanating from his breath.

They asked Castor for his driver license and registration and he told them they were in the car. A check of his car could not produce either of those documents. When they told Castor those documents were not in his car he reached into his back pocket, removed his wallet, and then said he had his driver's license on him.

According to reports, it took Castor several attempts to successfully remove his driver's license from his wallet.

The officers asked Castor if he would consent to a series of

Field Sobriety Tests, and he kept changing his answer from no to yes then back to no every time they asked him.

Castor reportedly asked the officers the same questions over and over, even after being given answers to these questions multiple times.

Once the scene was safe enough to conduct Field Sobriety Tests, they moved Castor to a well lit area that had a flat surface to conduct my them.

The officers asked Castor one last time if he would consent to a series of Field Sobriety Tests, and again he told them that he would not consent to any.

It was at this time that Castor was placed under arrest on charges of negligent operation of a motor vehicle, operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, and failure to stop or yield.



### Language a key factor in charter review process CONT. FROM PG 1

is such an enormous task, but it must be done either with an appointed firm or agency.

In deciding which members of the community could review ordinances, White said the term "voters" should be changed to residents in order to be more inclusive. "If you're not a resident, then you can't vote," he said.

It might be hard to distinguish residents from none-residents, but determining who is a registered voter or not, would be simpler Corbo said. review does not have to happen every decade, and the language isn't set in stone, but the goal is to get the discussion started.

Corbo clarified it could be any standard for members of the review committee, but there needs to be a way of verifying the standard. The goal isn't to exclude members of the community who can't register to vote.

Another hot topic of discussion was group health insurance and life insurance. There are other communities that question whether elected officials should vote on their own benefits Corbo said. It might not be what Somerville residents want to do, but it's another example and opportunity to start the conversation.

Health insurance could be a good incentive for people to get their foot into political service some comments typed in from remote spectators stated. Health insurance and benefits should not be taken away from elected officials in the interest of diversity and inclusion committee



The language of the section is just an example and not a recommendation for what would work for Somerville, she said. A member Kat Rutkin said.

The provision is not taking away from members who already have health insurance but would only apply to new elected members. However, Rutkin said that would limit groups to only

wealthier people who already have benefits and can afford to support themselves as a political service member.

The provisions reviewed in the

meeting were reserved in the draft after the conclusion. The next meeting will occur on October 13, regarding administration organization and finance.

### City hosts Healey School Tot-Lot reopening ceremony CONT. FROM PG 1

something to do and forwarding the values of the community and equity," Curtatone said.

In addition, Curtatone talked about the therapeutic effects that the opening of a new park has on the community after a year and a half of the COVID-19 pandemic. "I think, just listen to those sounds that are here behind us, that we haven't heard in what it feels like forever because of COVID and seeing the smiles. Ina way it serves an important medicinal healing purpose, so it's great. There's nothing like opening a park to get a sense of the community," Curtatone said. With this being his last year in a four term, nearly 18-year tenure, Curtatone spoke of the future plans for these types of openings, with an added emphasis on the Somerville community's role in these types of projects. "I have the privilege of being mayor now, but I am leading on the community's values. These are not my ideas, these are the community's values and ideas," Curtatone said. "Anything we do is the product of many hands."



# Somerville will participate in regional gun buyback initiative 2021

The City of Somerville Police Department and the Middlesex Sheriff's Office will partner to host the Somerville gun buyback initiative Saturday, October 16, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Somerville Gun Buy Back Day will take place at the Somerville Department of Public Works Yard located at 1 Franey Road. You may receive up to \$200 dollars in gift cards per firearm. The Somerville Police will accept disposals of BB guns and ammunition but these items will not qualify for gift cards.

The regional initiative includes several communities in the Middlesex County over the past couple of years. The focus is on providing residents with a safe and secure way of removing unwanted firearms from their homes. The Somerville Police Department and Middlesex Sheriff's Office ask that the following steps be taken for anyone interested in disposing their firearms at the event.

• Please bring firearms unloaded with the safety engaged in a bag, box or case.

• Leave the unloaded firearms inside the trunk of your vehicle upon arrival at the Somerville Department of Public Works Yard located at 1 Franey Rd.

The Middlesex Sheriff's Office and Massachusetts State Police will safely destroy all guns collected at the event.

The Somerville Police encourages residents to take advantage of this opportunity to help prevent accidents and injuries in our homes and community.



### Somerville reprecincting process underway, public comment welcome

Every 10 years, Massachusetts cities and towns are required to review their population data from the most recent U.S. Census and submit an updated ward and precinct map to the State for approval. The State provides municipalities with strict guidelines that must be followed for this process. An internal working group is collaborating with the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office to propose new ward and precinct boundaries that will be submitted to the City Council for local approval on October 28.

Somerville's official population grew 7 percent since the last U.S. Census, expanding from 75,754 to 81,045. Changes to accommodate this increase as well as anticipated population growth are expected to result in minimal impacts for most voters. The working group is proposing to increase the number of precincts in each of the city's seven ward from three to four precincts per ward. By expanding the number of precincts, the expectation is that only minor adjustments to ward boundaries will be necessary. Under this proposal, the only change most voters might experience due to reprecincting would then be a new voting location. For the vast majority, their ward assignment, Ward Councilor, and School Committee Member would remain the same. Voters residing in the small number of blocks that will need to be shifted to an adjacent ward to meet State guidelines would have a new Ward Councilor and new School Committee Member.

This change will not affect voting for the 2021 November election. New representation would go into effect on December 31, 2021.

Feedback from the public on the proposed map is welcome. For more information and to review the proposed new map, please visit somervillema.gov/Precincts. All comments must be received by 4:30 p.m., Thursday, October 14. Please email comments, questions, or suggestions to: reprecincting@somervillema.gov. Comments may also be mailed to: Attn.: Reprecincting Working Group, c/o Elections Department, City of Somerville, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143.





### Crispy Oven Roasted Potatoes

One thing I really look forward to when I roast vegetables is caramelization and crispness of that vegetable. In my opinion, roasted potatoes are the best example. I found that if you start with a hot oven and a cool sheet pan it takes much longer to get the potatoes crispy and by the time you get it to where you want, the potatoes are usually over cooked. So, to eliminate that problem, see below.

Preheat oven to 425°. The secret here is to put the sheet pan in the oven while you're preheating it. That's it! Now, add all the potatoes along with the rest of the ingredients to a large bowl, and coat thoroughly. Once the oven comes up to temperature, add the potato mixture to the hot sheet pan all in one layer. Roast for 20-25 minutes, turning the potatoes once at the half way point. This is a total game changer and works especially well with root vegetables. To reheat any leftovers, just put them into a dry nonstick skillet and heat through. I've been known to use leftovers to make home fries. Whatever you decide to do, just enjoy them! Serves 4-5 people.



1 lb. small potatoes, your choice, cut in half

3-4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil 1-1/2 teaspoons kosher salt, or truffle salt

3/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Visit Dorothy's website at http://ddimarzo2002.wix.

# COMMENTARY

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of The Somerville Times do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Somerville Times, its publishers or staff.

Let's fire Columbus



#### By William C. Shelton

Fourteen years ago, we published the following column by Bill Shelton in which he argued that we should not celebrate Christopher Columbus because his deeds were inimical to what is best in American history, law, and culture. This week the City of Somerville has chosen to celebrate Indigenous People's Day instead.

There is so much in our past of which Americans can be justly proud, but that we never learn in school – stories of great courage, innovation, endurance, and self-sacrifice. At the same time, we celebrate stories that just aren't true.

Our national holidays reflect this pattern. In February, we honor our two greatest presidents, Americans who really were extraordinary leaders and extraordinary people. At Thanksgiving, we retell a feel-good story whose underlying truth is rather more complex. And among our most misleading myths is the one that we repeat on our next national holiday, Columbus Day.

This is the story that I was told in elementary school: In the 15th Century, Europeans thought the world was flat. But in Genoa there lived a young merchant's clerk who embodied the American virtues of common sense, daring, and entrepreneurial spirit. The ships that he watched sailing out of the harbor seemed to sink lower on the horizon as they sailed into the distance, until they disappeared. He reasoned that this optical phenomenon occurred because ships were sailing around the curve of a round world.

With pluck and determination, he tried to persuade Europe's powerful to invest in an expedition that would circle the earth. It would open a direct sea route to the mysterious East. He finally found visionaries in Spain's King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. They provided him with three small ships, and he sailed west.

It was a long journey filled with hardship and privation. Columbus's sailors were superstitious and mutinous in their fear that they would fall off the earth. But Columbus' courageous leadership prevailed. In the end, he discovered a whole "new world," launching a new chapter in human history.

The story that historians tell is considerably different. Greeks in the 3rd Century BCE knew that the earth was round. Using an obelisk's shadow, a long hike to the southernmost Greek outpost of Sayene, and the Pythagorean theorem, a librarian in Alexandria had calculated the earth's circumference to within 240 miles of its true measure. Mariners and other informed Europeans of Columbus's day knew that the earth was round.

The Spanish nobility were 2 percent of the population and owned 95 percent of the land. They had recently unified as a nation state, driven out Jews and Moors, and wanted gold, which they imagined to be in abundance in Asia. Hostile Turks controlled the land routes. So, the Spanish monarchs promised Columbus that he could have 10 percent of the gold and governorship of the lands that he found.

The first sailor to sight land

was to receive an annual pension of 10,000 maravedis for life. In the early morning of October 12, 1492, a sailor named Rodrigo de Triana saw the moon shining on white sands and cried out. Columbus took the reward for himself instead.

Arawak Indians wearing small gold ear ornaments swam out to greet the new arrivals. Columbus took some of them prisoner and forced them to guide him to the gold's source. They sailed to an island that he named Hispañola, now the location of Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The natives were, in Columbus's words, "so naïve and so free with their possessions that no one who has not witnessed them would believe it. When you ask for something they have, they never say no. To the contrary, they offer to share with anyone." So, Columbus built a fort from timbers of the wrecked Santa Maria and began slaughtering the Arawak who would not give him what he wanted.

Her persuaded the Spanish monarchy to finance a new expedition of 17 ships and 1,200 men. When he couldn't find gold, he sent 500 hundred Arawak to Spain as slaves. Of these "best specimens," 200 died in route.

Columbus ordered that all natives 14 years and older be required to produce a quota of gold each month. Those who did were given a copper token to wear about the neck. Those found without tokens had their hands cut off and bled to death. Those who resisted were hung or burned to death.

After two years, half of Hispañola's 250,000 natives had died from murder, mutilation, or suicide. When the Spaniards accepted that there was no more gold, they enslaved the Arawak on huge estates. By 1515, 50,000 Arawak remained alive. By 1550, there were 500.

I don't imagine that we'll stop celebrating Columbus Day in the foreseeable future. But it would be good if we marked that date with some humility, remembering that we get into trouble when we uncritically accept broad statements about other peoples. One example that comes to mind is Dick Cheney's assurances that ordinary Iraqis would welcome American troops with jubilation, liberated oil revenues would finance the war, and Iraq would become a Middle Eastern beacon of democracy.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of *The Somerville Times* do not reflect the views and opinions of *The Somerville Times*, its publishers or staff. Readers are invited to send letters to the editor to *The Somerville Times*. Please email your letters to News@TheSomervilleTimes.com or mail them to 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. *The Somerville Times* Reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and length. All letters must include an name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

When did the city of Somerville stop with democracy and become a dictatorship? What is this that residents are being told when & how they can clean their property? So all the trees that the City of Somerville planted and do NOT manage or take care of lose their leaves and go into our yards, how do you expect us to gather them up and pick them up? Is the City going to start cleaning up all those leaves that fall from those trees that residents did not ask for?????? Those trees are affecting our safety - the leaves fall, which can cause someone to slip; the branches are high hitting the wires yet the city won't trim. In order to promote the health, safety, and comfort of its residents, the City of Somerville is implementing the following leaf blower regulations [1] effective immediately.

fort during the winter when the school superintendent has the snowblows scheduled between 12 am - 4 am on a Sunday morning waking up all the residents, have dump trucks sitting idling on a residential street at 1 am waiting for 5 inches

in the city for 1 - 2 years).

So clean an area of MY property which I pay Property tax, to clear the area so my 86 year old mother doesn't slip, I have to request an operations plan? Or I have to break my back and try to sweep up these

without any say for the residents but the city, school committee can do what they want, can wake people up at 2 am on a Holiday for 3 inches of Snow.

A leaf blower isn't going to affect anyone's health, let's have some common

AND what about my health and com-

of snow to get picked picked. IS anyone concerned with our health at that time.... What about allowing the school to take away the parking during snow emergency leaving people to find parking and walking blocks away from their howe - that could be dangerous - not to mention that wasn't very neighborly of the city, was it. And it isn't good for my health being woken up at 4 am by a garbage truck ... so there should be a regulation about that. When did the residents stop having a say or is it just certain residents? I remember a time when all residents had a voice, that the city thought of all residents not a small population (who only remain

leaves (again fall from the city trees which the city won't take responsibility) ... so my health is affected.

This regulation is ridiculous, it is unfair and now you are isolating another business type from coming info Somerville. IS that the goal - to keep all businesses out of Somerville? Having a regulation stating that cannot blow leaves into street / sidewalk - I get, and having so that loud noises after 6 pm okay. But there are people who work during the week 8 am - 5 pm and cannot work in their yard till the weekends which includes Sunday, and some only holidays.

Why are there regulations for residents

sense and practicality - this is just another ploy to keep businesses out of Somerville and hope certain residents will leave.

I use to be proud to live in Somerville, but now what the city government is trying to do is sad and pathetic. I would just like to give all an FYI - city of Somerville is not the BackBay ... Somerville is a working, middle class city.

So I am expecting that the residents will not be woken up at 2 am by the school committees snow removal vendor, you know in order not to affect our health

Unhappy resident, Donna

Visit us online at **www.TheSomervilleTimes.com** 

# COMMENTARY

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES

**Illustrated by Jim Clark** 



Somerville proudly celebrates Indigenous Peoples' Day.

# **Our View Of The Times**

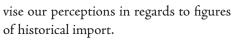
With the passage of time, more and more cities and states in America are officially recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day in lieu of the traditional observance of Columbus Day.

Somerville has been onboard for a couple of years now, and more of our neighboring communities across the Commonwealth, including the City of Boston, are joining in each year.

And just last week the Biden administration announced its proclamation endorsing the nation's adoption of the occasion. While not yet an official federal holiday, the move signals the possibility of just such an upgrading in the foreseeable future.

Not everyone agrees with the abandonment of Columbus Day. Some of those who are of Italian ancestry in particular are taking umbrage with the situation, taking it as a sight to their national heritage. This point of view would seem to be unfairly skewed, however, since the primary reasons for this relegation have everything to do with the explorer's own actions in the New World, and nothing at all to do with his particular nationality.

As the historical record becomes clearer over time, we must learn to adapt and re-



As Americans we are completely free to celebrate and honor anyone we wish to. Either as a society in its entirely or in smaller groups who share common interests.

In the meantime, Indigenous Peoples' Day provides a much needed opportunity to shed light on a segment of our society that has for too long been neglected.

### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Pamelibra Bono Bromberg, Mary Marshall, Ron Sensale, Courtney Nelson, Laurie Tierno Johnson, Bill McCarthy, and Darell Lee Shanafelt a happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, the Somerville Commission for Women, and **RESPOND** Inc. invite residents to join them for the annual Domestic Violence Vigil on Tuesday, October 26, to remember and honor those who lost their lives to domestic violence in 2021. The vigil will take place from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Statue Park in Davis Square.

"PorchFest Staff Picks!" There will also be spooktacular activities and a Halloween costume parade! RSVP to our event to receive updates. https://fb.me/ e/1tWFHrniK.

\*\*\*\*\*

See the latest Somerville case data at somervillema.gov/covid19dashboard. Need a COVID test? Go to somervillema.gov/covid19testing to find a testing location.

measure, attendees must make an appointment in advance so that staff can safely manage the flow of those seeking vaccinations. City flu clinics offer both the high dose flu vaccine for persons 65 and older and the regular dose flu vaccine for those under 65. Pre-registration at somervillema.gov/flu is required for all city flu clinics. Be sure to select "Flu vaccine (influenza)" when scheduling your appointment. If you need assistance or language support in any language to sign up, please call 311 (617-666-3311). For all clinics, face coverings must be worn. Those who have health coverage should bring their insurance cards (including MassHealth and Medicare) with them, but the vaccines are free to all Somerville residents regardless of whether they have insurance. Flu vaccine clinic schedule: Wednesday, October 13 at the East Somerville Community School at 50 Cross St. from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Saturday, October 23 at the Somerville Public Library West Branch at 40 College Ave. from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

immigration status or health insurance. Identification is not required. The CHA vaccine site at 176 Somerville Ave. (next to Target in Union Square) and many local pharmacies also offer walk-in vaccinations. To find out more about these clinics and where else you can get vaccinated, visit somervillema.gov/vaccine. If you're not vaccinated, make a plan today to get your shot. Monday, October 18: City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Ave., 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At-home vaccinations available: Massachusetts offers in-home vaccinations for anyone who can't travel to a vaccination location. To learn more and sign up for an in-home vaccination, call (833) 983-0485.

\*\*\*\*\*\*

The final SomerStreets event of 2021, Monster Mashed Up, presented by Parkour Generations Boston and the Somerville Arts Council, will take place on Sunday, October 31 (rain date November 7) from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. outside of Union Square on Somerville Ave. between Hawkins St. to Park Ave. Get ready for two stages of music. One stage will be a partnership with School of Rock and another stage curated by \*\*\*\*\*

East Somerville Main Streets and the Somerville Arts Council will host a Halloween Block Party and Pet Parade, Saturday, October 30, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Chuckie Harris Park, 15 Cross At., Somerville. There will family friendly/all ages events that you love again this year. Come in costume ready to party.

\*\*\*\*\*

The City of Somerville has set up two free flu vaccination clinics for residents in October that will be open by appointment. Additional dates will be added through the fall and winter and will be posted on somervillema.gov/flu. Flu clinics are for Somerville community members ages 3 and up, with or without health insurance. As a coronavirus safety

#### \*\*\*\*\*

Pfizer vaccine clinic is open to all people age 12+ will be held at the location below. The vaccines are free, regardless of

#### \*\*\*\*\*

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott, Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, and the Union Square Community Design Team invite you to a virtual public meeting to share updates on the Union Square Plaza and Streetscape Redesign project. This transformative public space and infrastructure project will reimagine the Union Square Plaza and adjoining streetscapes to better serve the community. Over the summer, the Community Design Team Continued on page 10 Ms. Cam's

mixture, hodgepodge

1. In what movie

15

18

39

51

31 32 33

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> 63 64

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2-YEAR

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**GUARANTEE** 

# **FUN & GAMES**

### The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

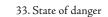
1. The male gypsy moth can smell the virgin female gypsy moth from 8 miles away. 2. Dr. Seuss coined the word nerd in his 1950 book If I Ran The Zoo.

HALLOWEEN

1. Hitchcock's 1963 movie, with The

6. Bad-mouth

- 9. H or O in H2O, e.g.
- 13. France's longest river
- 14. Bauxite, e.g.
- 15. Opposite of adore
- 16. Proprietor
- 17. Quaker Man's cereal
- 18. Oozes
- 19. Corpse
- 21. Bobbing for what?, pl.
- 23. One time around
- 24. Bébé's mother
- 25. General Post Office
- 28. Actuary's concern
- 30. Named, in bygone era
- 35. Not easy
- 37. Accepted behavior
- 39. Kitchen floor layer?
- 40. Northern European capital
- 41. Overly consumed on Halloween?
- 43. Actress Spelling
- 44. Nature's rage
- 46. Bangladeshi currency
- 47. Colossal
- 48. Bowling prop
- 50. Famous Himalayan
- 52. Bugling ungulate
- 53. Valedictorian's spot
- 55. Possessive of "it"
- 57. Pennywise and Joker, e.g.
- 60. Traditional Halloween garb
- 64. Honolulu greeting
- 65. Costa del \_
- 67. Plant fungus
- 68. Mild and pleasant, weather-wise
- 69. E.T. transporter
- 70. Popular spring flower
- 71. Hole-making tools
- 72. Young newt
- 73. Country singer \_\_\_\_\_ Hill



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64<sup>99</sup> MO.

- 34. As opposed to treat
- 36. Small town or hamlet
- 38. Manufacture
- 42. 2:3, e.g.
- 45. Carnie's domain
- 49. Grandmother, for short
- 51. Reflexive of "it"
- 54. Question in dispute
- 56. Parallel grooves
- 57. Raven's grabber
- 58. Take it easy
- 59. Electrical resistance units
- 60. Blood-related problem
- 61. Tangerine grapefruit hybrid
- 62. Castle protector

63. Carve, as in stone 64. Lawyers' league 66. "\_\_\_\_\_ with their head!"

#### was there a character named Mike Myers? 7. In The Hunger Games, how often do

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous

Dio

WWII?

the games happen?

8. What country did

Iraq invade in 1990?

9. What make of car

video for Love Shack?

do The B-52's hop

into in their music

10. What country

currency?

football?

uses the gourde as its

11. What is the name

of a backwards pass in

12. Who played

Andy in The Shaw-

shank Redemption?

Answers on page 15

FROM

2. Which band from Iceland was Bjork a part of in the 80's?

3. For which U.S. President's inauguration did Fleetwood Mac reunite to perform *Don't Stop?* 

4. The Patriots set a record in Super Bowl LII with most total team yards, how many did they have?

5. The line "If you build it, he will come" is from which movie?

6. Who did Winston Churchill call the "American Carnot" in

### SUDOKU

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58 59 60

36

P f 🖏 dish

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3. Drink garnish

4. Cheerlessness

6. Door-to-\_

8. Plural of seta

11. Uh-oh

15. Facet

22. Be nosy

12. Wife's title

5. Offered on a platter

7. George Gershwin's brother

20. Actress Linda of "Dynasty" fame

24. South American wild cats

26. Command that follows "cut"

25. Bedsheet with holes?

9. Cain's biblical brother

10. You, in bygone era

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### ACROSS

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

DOWN

1. Coalition

2. Corn Belt state

27. Acrylic fiber

29. Show off

31. Low-cal

32. Skip the wedding hoopla

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

#### Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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5 2 4 1 3 6	9	7	8	
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6 3 9 4 8 5	2	1	7	
2 4 5 7 9 1	8	3	6	(
4 5 7 6 1 8	3	2	9	(
3 9 2 5 4 7	6	8	1	
8 1 6 9 2 3	7	4	5	; 

#### Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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5				G	0	V		κ	-	L	0				
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# Highlanders place 5th at Fort Devens XC Invitational Challenge



The Somerville High School Boys and Girls Cross Country teams traveled to the military base at Fort Devens last Saturday, to compete in the Fort Devens XC Invitational Challenge.

A split divisional race format that had three different challenging race configurations, the Somerville Highlanders placed 5th in the highly competitive field of over 25 teams.

Individual honors were bestowed to the top 25 in each race, and Highlanders runners garnered nine of these coveted medal slots, a very impressive achievement.

The team was led by Junior Sam Buckley and Sophomore Atticus Kaye, who battled to secure 18th and 20th place, respectively, in the premiere Open race.

The 4K race saw senior Calvin Wicks run his best. After briefly flirting with the lead at the mile mark, he finished in 8th place, with rising Sophomore talent Zach Fellinger in 9th.

The intitial 3K race had Rowan Ferguson and Evan Zraket run the best race of their young careers, slotting in at 20th and 24th.

The Lady Highlanders were equally as impressive, with Freshman phenom Charlotte Johnson clocking in at 6th place, and Anna Siebler there at 13th. Senior Rio Hunter Black finished in 21st in the Girls 4K race.

"It's these kinds of meets that bring out the best in teams, and it's heartening to see these kids so dedicated and focused. Both teams are well positioned for the second half of GBL competition, and beyond," said Head Coach Sean Fitzgerald.

### **Tufts Sunday Concert Series: Bach and the early 20th century**

The Tufts University Department of Music presents Tufts Sunday Concert Series: Bach and the early 20th century at Distler Performance Hall at the Perry and Marty Granoff Music Center on Sunday, November 7 at 3:00 p.m. Pianist Andrew Rangell plays works by Webern, Berg, Scriabin, and others, interspersed with preludes and fugues from Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 2.

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/ Somerville campus. Admission is free. Due to COVID regulations, live audienc-

# We Are In It To Win It! On November 2nd Write In:William Tauro

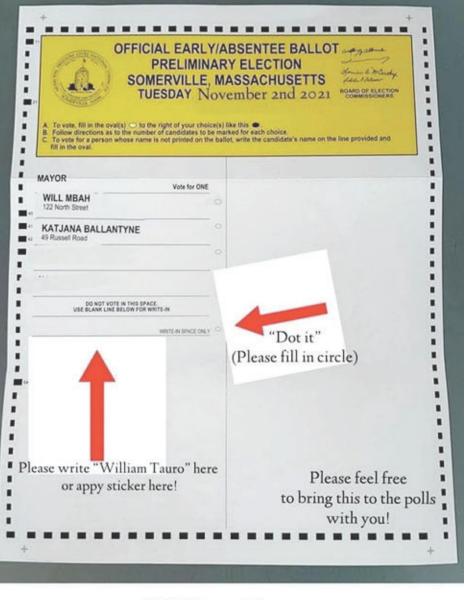


#TEAMTAUROforMAYOR2021 "Out to save Somerville"

WILLIAM "Billy" TAURO Candidate for Mayor of Somerville 2021 wmtauro@aol.com 617.293.2016

Paid for Committee to Elect William Tauro

On November 2nd Either: "Write it", "Stick it" & "Dot it"



es at Tufts Music events are restricted to individuals with a Tufts ID only who have filled out the Daily COVID-19.

### Treasury Department Launches Online Self-Service Tool

The City of Somerville's Treasury Department launched Citizen Self-Service (CSS), an online tool that allows residents to look up and access bill information. Residents can now view real estate tax bills, water and sewer bills, and personal property tax bills online, in real time, 24/7. CSS also allows residents to see official City records and check their payment history directly, and it links to City Hall Systems, the City's online payment vendor, enabling easy payment access that is safe, secure, and free of charge if a checking account is used as the payment method.

To use CSS, visit <u>somervillema.gov/treasury</u>.

William Tauro

### **LEGAL NOTICES**

#### Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com

#### MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Elm Court, LLC, to Athas Capital Group, Inc., dated March 5, 2019, and recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 72305, at page 398, as assigned to The Rama Fund, LLC, by assignment recorded on March 29, 2019, in said Deeds in Book 72400, at page 204, and as further assigned to PS Funding, Inc., by assignment recorded on April 11, 2019, in said Deeds in Book 72443, at page 93, and as further assigned to Wilmington Trust, National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of MFRA TRUST 2016-1, by assignment dated July 21, 2020, recorded on August 10, 2020, in said Deeds in Book 75328, at page 438, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at One o'clock PM, on the 4th day of November A.D., 2021, on the premises below described being known as 111 Elm Street, Somerville, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage as set forth below:

To wit: "A certain parcel of land together with the buildings thereon situated in the City of Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, and being lot numbered 27 on a plan of land entitled "Plan of Land in Somerville, belonging to Timothy Tufts arranged and numbered by L.R.W., May 6, 1890" which plan is recorded with Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 62, Plan 39. Said land is bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHWESTERLY by Elm Street, eighty-six and 01/100 (86.01) feet; NORTHWESTERLY by land now or formerly of Wentworth, Trustee, fifty-one and 47/100 (51.47) feet;

NORTHEASTERLY by lot numbered 26 on said plan, seventy-seven 88/100 (77.88) feet; SOUTHEASTERLY by Hancock Street, eighty-seven and 96/100 (87.96) feet. Containing 5,429 square feet more or less, according to said plan of land.

Subject to restrictions of record insofar as the same are now in force and applicable, Said premises are conveyed subject to and with the benefit of easements and restrictions of record insofar as the same are now in force and applicable.

#### APN: 030-C. 00019-000000

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 111 ELM STREET, SOMERVILLE, MA 02144"

The above premises will be sold subject as above and to the following: any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal assessments and liens; any and all outstanding water and/or sewer charges; any and all covenants, easements, restrictions, rights, reservations, conditions and/or other enforceable encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage; and to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession, if any of the aforesaid there be.

Terms: Thirty-five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$35,000.00) will be required to be paid in cash or by certified check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale as earnest money, with an additional deposit to be paid within five (5) business days after the sale to bring the total deposit to five percent (5%) of the successful bid price. The successful bidder (other than the mortgagee) shall also be responsible for a five percent (5%) buyer's commission payable to the auctioneer at the time of closing. The balance of all amounts due is to be paid in cash or by certified check within thirty (30) days of the sale at the Law Offices of Ford & Paulekas, LLP, 280 Trumbull Street, Hartford, CT 06103. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

> WILMINGTON TRUST, N.A., NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF MFRA TRUST 2016-1 Present Holder of Said Mortgage

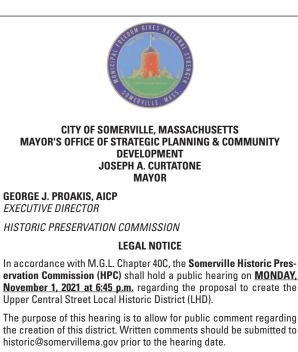
By: /s/ David A. Hill, Jr. David A. Hill, Jr. Its Attorney

Attorneys for Mortgagee: Ford & Paulekas, LLP 280 Trumbull Street Hartford, CT 06103 (860) 527-0400

Dated: October 6, 2021

10/13/21 The Somerville Times

Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website: www.TheSomervilleTimes.com



Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this public hearing of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to historic@somervillema.gov

#### **TO USE A COMPUTER**

Registration URL · https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2318812167051438095 Webinar ID: 924-807-579

	TO CALL IN					
Phone Number:	1 (914) 614-3221					
Access Code:	206-933-785					
10/13/21 The Somerville Times						

#### **NOTICE OF ACTION** Middlesex County

**BEFORE THE BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES** 

IN RE: The certificate to practice as an Emergency Medical Technician Joseph R. Merry, Jr.

333 Great River Road #527 Somerville, MA 02145

17 Florence Street, Apt. 287 Malden, MA 02148-3983

150 Rivers Edge Drive, Apt. 408 Medford, MA 02155-5448

CASE NO .: 2020-24237

LICENSE NO.: EMT569778

The Department of Health has filed an Administrative Complaint against you, a copy of which may be obtained by contacting, Kimberly Marshall, Assistant General Counsel, Prosecution Services Unit, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #C65, Tallahassee Florida 32399-3265, (850) 558-9810.

If no contact has been made by you concerning the above by November 3, 2021 the matter of the Administrative Complaint will be presented at an ensuing meeting of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services in an informal proceeding.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency sending this notice not later than seven days prior to the proceeding at the address given on the notice. Telephone: (850) 245-4640, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (V), via Florida Relay Service.

9/22/21, 9/29/21, 10/6/21, 10/13/21 The Somerville Times

### **Coalition kick-off for** two ballot campaigns

Somerville Stands Together, a coalition of community, environmental, and labor organizations will launch its grassroots effort to pass the Fair Share Amendment and oppose Uber, Lyft and other Big Tech companies' Prop 22 clone ballot measure. Both measures will be on the November 2022 ballot.

If passed, the Fair Share Amendment would tax incomes above \$1 million and raise approximately \$2 billion a year for spending on transportation and public education. If passed, Big Tech's Prop 22 clone would undermine the rights and benefits of workers, shield companies like Uber and Lyft from liability to their customers, and makes Massachusetts taxpayers pick up the tab.

"The same billionaires and millionaires who support the Uber Lyft initiative will be pouring dark money against the Fair Share amendment into Massachusetts," said Marianne Walles, an SEIU Local 509 member and long-time Somerville resident. "That's why we have to get out to talk with voters early, before the deceptive and hugely expensive advertising blitz begins."

On Wednesday, October 13 at 5:30 p.m., Somerville Stands Together coalition leaders (and many others) will gather in Davis Square's Statue Park to pick up pledge cards to enlist members of their respective organizations to support the campaign. RSVP on Facebook here.

"We're stepping up to be part of this campaign because we know how important it is to raise new revenue and to defeat the Prop 22 initiative," said Rand Wilson, a union organizer and community activist."We also know that the billionaire class is preparing to spend millions for their side to win. That's why we aren't waiting for that vote to start building our campaign in Somerville that will take the Fair Share Amendment over the finish line and stop the big tech ballot initiative in its tracks next November."



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launched a research and engagement campaign and collected feedback from more than 800 people. This meeting will summarize key findings from the community outreach process thus far and present preliminary design possibilities for the future Union Square. Meeting attendees will be able to ask questions and provide input. The presentation will also be posted on the project website after the meeting, along with additional opportunities to share feedback. The meeting will take place Wednesday, October 20, at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. To learn more about the project and register to attend, visit somervillema.gov/ UnionSqRedesign.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Somerville Council on Aging is holding Arts & Crafts - Friday, October 22 at 10:00 a.m. – at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn). Join in as they decorate and paint pumpkins. Please RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600 ext. 2335 or email her at mbastardi@somervillema.gov. Space is limited and masks are required. \*\*\*\*\*

The Somerville City Council has passed a new ordinance that sets guidelines for when and how leaf blowers may be used within the city. With the fall season now here, community members are urged to familiarize themselves with the new rules, which apply to all users including

the city and city contractors, residents, commercial properties, and landscaping or property maintenance companies that deploy leaf blowers. A full copy of the ordinance and regulations can be found at somervillema.gov/leafblower

\*\*\*\*\* The Somerville Board of Health (BOH) approved a face-covering mandate for all indoor public places. The mandate applies to anyone two or older, and face coverings can be removed when people are actively eating or drinking. Masks should have a snug fit and cover the nose and mouth. The order can be read at https://www.somervillema.gov/ sites/default/files/COVID-19-Mask-Order-Proposed-8.21.pdf.

#### \*\*\*\*\*

The Somerville High Class of 1971 is looking for classmates for their 50th reunion on Saturday, October 23, at Anthony's Function Hall in Malden from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. The price is \$65 per person. Please contact Rosalie DeLucia or Jimmy Del Ponte, or the SHS71 page on Facebook for more information. Wave high your guilded banners as SHS 71 celebrates their 50th!

\*\*\*\*\* Don't forget, if you would like to subscribe to receive a digital edition of our paper, go directly online to our website over to the right side and fill out your email address to receive a free, full PDF copy of the paper.

# The Somerville Times -Women's stories of resistance told through art

### By Michelle Tian

An unexpected attraction awaits at the Brickbottom Gallery, the (Re)Sisters: Speaking Up, Speaking Out exhibit. The gallery's white walls are decorated with artistic pictures of uteruses, interpretations of the word "resistance" and an array of feminine accessories and clothing like purses and multi-colored dresses.

The exhibit opened on September 11, 2021 and pays homage to the women's issues that have arisen in the past year, from the disproportionate effects of COVID-19 to the recent abortion ban in Texas.

Pamela Bower-Basso, one of the two curators of the exhibit, said the collection of pieces came together in response to a variety of political events, including the 2016 election.

"I started doing a lot of art work around that time that connected with the sexism and misogynistic rhetoric that was coming out of the campaign and then the election," Bower-Basso said. "So, politics, I would say, had a big impact on how this show came about."

The exhibit's title, (*Re*)Sisters, is a play on words that focuses on women as resistors. Bower-Basso said the exhibit's main theme highlights the struggle to secure reproductive rights while also displaying artwork related to the fight for women's rights in general.

Recalling the day the exhibit opened, Caitlin Doering, the second of the two curators of the collection, said it was a big moment to be able to stand in one room with women who had all been impacted by sexism and were passionate about the same topic.

"Everybody was coming from a partially shared experience," Doering said. "It was really interesting and powerful to be able to network and talk about experiences with a group of female artists."

Azita Moradkhani, one of the participating artists, created a drawing of pink underwear stained with blood. She said it was based on her impression of walking into a Victoria's Secret store for the first time in Boston after moving from her hometown of Tehran, Iran.

"I was thinking about the power of censorship and oppression and female bodies," Moradkhani said."That was the starting point for me, thinking about the ideas of private versus public, pleasure versus pain."

Moradkhani said she wanted to highlight the power and range of the vagina because, "one of the most amazing things happen on that part of the body [which is childbirth]," yet it is also the target of "violence and rape."

One of the other pieces that also focused on reproductivity was a photograph of Thalia Berard, an artist whose work is also showcased in the exhibit. In the picture, Berard sits in front of the statehouse with her legs wide open and the words "Mind Your Own Business" sewn into her jeans.

Berard said the piece was meant to highlight her being pro-choice. The work was originally inspired by a protest poem called If My Vagina Was a Gun.

"[The piece] is in favor of women being able to be women and other people who have vaginas being able to have an abortion if they would like one," Berard said.

Berard added that she created her piece of art to express the oppression she felt from the Trump administration. She hoped that her work "would not need to be as relevant going for-



"(Re)Sisters: Speaking Up, Speaking Out" exhibit at Brickbottom Gallery.

ward." But she recognizes that's not the case.

"Women and people living in the south are still dealing with these ridiculous laws being passed," Berard said. "Unfortunately, it's very relevant to today." Growing up in Iran, Moradkhani didn't have a chance to learn much about feminism so, when she immigrated to the United States in 2012, she was "shocked to the bones" to learn that this country was still dealing with abortion rights.

"You can shoot a person in the United States if they enter your house without your permission," Moradkhani said. "But if you have something in your body, you don't have the right to decide about it. Someone else, and probably a guy, should decide."

Moradkhani said she was "honored to be a part of this show," and talked about her inspiration for participating in an exhibit highlighting the power of femininity.

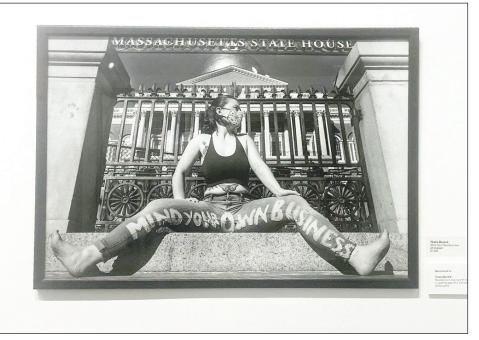
"I'm different from a man in many ways," Moradkhani said. "But we are equal, and that's the most important thing for me to express and explain in my words."

(Re)Sisters: Speaking Up, Speaking Out through October 16, 2021, Brickbottom Gallery, 1 Fitchburg St., Somerville, MA 02143 (617) 776-3410.









Thalia Berard: "Mind Your Own Business'

Nina Fletcher: Artistic interpretations of the uterus.

### SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Game Club – starting Monday, October 18 and every Monday following from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn.) Please join us as we play a wide variety of board and card games. Please RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

Nutrition Classes – In-person, Mondays at 12:30 p.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Virtual classes are offered Monday at 11am via Zoom. New and returning members are welcome! To RSVP please call Mary Marshall at 617-625-6600, ext. 2316 or email her at headtofitness10@yahoo.com. Masks are required.

Ageless Grace Program – Ageless Grace is a fitness and wellness program consisting of 21 simple exercise tools designed for all ages and abilities. These exercises, based on everyday movements, focus on the healthy longevity of the body and mind. Classes are held via Zoom. Please contact Chris at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315 or email ckowaleski@somervillema.gov with any questions or for additional information.

Walking Group – Fridays at 9:30 a.m. The walking group will meet in front of the Holland Street Center and will enjoy walks through area neighborhoods. All classes and groups will be limited to 8 participants and will follow City of Somerville social distancing and mask policy. Pre-registration is required. For additional info or to register for one of the above programs, contact Chris by email at ckowaleski@somervillema.gov or by phone at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315.

English Conversation – Every Monday at 10:30 a.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (Behind the Holiday Inn.) Meet people from all over the world as we discuss a range of topics. No books – no test – Just friendly conversation. This program is in person; pre-registration is required as space is limited. Please contact Maureen Bastardi, Program Coordinator at MBastardi@Somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 to RSVP.

**Forest Flow Mindfulness with Libby Curtis Webb** – Monday, October 25 at 12:00 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. Come join us for

fall morning of gentle exercise and mindfulness. Whether you are new to spending time in nature or are a seasoned tree hugger, our approach to finding flow in the forest is safe, supportive, and inclusive. All Forest Flow experiences include gentle body and mind warmups, walking with awareness, nature meditation, and group reflection. By practicing mindfulness in nature, we bring attention to our inner life and build compassionate engagement with the natural world. Nature therapy benefits include: Relieves stress and anxiety, improves mood, boosts immunity and cultivates feelings of happiness. Please call Debby Higgins at dhiggins@ somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 to reserve your spot.

#### Ralph & Jenny Bingo with Grab n' Go Lunch

– Tuesdays, October 12, 19 and 26 – Located at 9 New Washington Street (Behind the Holiday Inn.) Join us for in-person Bingo! Pre-registration is required as space is limited. Please contact Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319 to RSVP. Masks will be required. Grab and go lunch available following Bingo.

#### **ONGOING EVENTS**

**Taxi Rides** - Do you need a ride? The COA has a program just for you. Taxi Rides for Somerville Residents 60 and Over Rides can be used for: Grocery Shopping in Somerville Pharmacy Prescription pick up in Somerville, Routine Medical Appointments in the follow areas: Somerville, Cambr idge, Medford, Boston or the V.A. in Jamaica Plain or West Roxbury. Two Days Advanced Notice Required. For more info, please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

**Friendly Caller Program** - Looking for a way to practice social distancing but still remain connected to other people? Look no further than the Somerville Council on Aging's Friendly Phone Caller program. We have many wonderful volunteers who are waiting to give you a call. Whether you are looking to make a new friend or would just like a friendly chat to look forward to every week, this program has you covered. Call Natasha at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 to learn more about the program and to sign up.

### **EXERCISE**

#### VIRTUAL FIT-4-LIFE SCHEDULE

Mondays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise

Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise Thursdays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise Thursdays 6:30 p.m. = LBT Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise

### Fit-4-Life YouTube

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video # 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hd26HjpwBl&t=68s Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #2: https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=QwHfyoEZaws&t=247s Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #3: https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=Fcl2eBSS024&t=158s Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #4: https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=7EDtaldYSz0 Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #5: https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=AAnwfwGybTI **OUTDOOR EXERCISE PROGRAM** Mondays at 10:00 a.m. Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. **OUTDOOR WALKING GROUP** Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Somerville City Cable RCN = 13/Comcast = 22The Fit-4-Life Exercise Show = Daily at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Yoga YouTube Yoga with Janine video #1: https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=vDGF\_EEbqF0&t=130s Yoga with Janine video #3: https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=6Zezcj9XXBU For questions or to register for a Fit-4-Life Zoom exercise class, please contact Chris at CKowaleski@somervillema.gov or call 617-625-

### 6600, ext. 2315. SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected via our Facebook page - often updated by Debby or Maureen. Informative, entertaining, lots of photos and updates. Visit our page at https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCOA/

#### **JOIN OUR MAILING LIST**

If you would like to receive a virtual copy of our monthly newsletter and daily tips please contact Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at MBastardi@Somervillema.gov. If you would like to become part of our Google Group please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at DHiggins@ Somervillema.gov

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By Bobbygeorge Potaris

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### October 13

On This Day in History

0054 – Nero succeeds his great uncle Claudius as the new emperor of Rome.

1307 – Members of the Knights of Templar are arrested throughout France, imprisoned and tortured by the order of King Philip the Fair of France.

1670 – Virginia passes a law that blacks arriving in the colonies as Christians cannot be used as slaves.

1775 – The Continental Congress authorizes construction of two warships, thus instituting an American naval force.

1792 – President George Washington lays the cornerstone for the White House.1849 – The California state constitution, which prohibits slavery, is signed in Monterey.

1903 – Boston defeats Pittsburgh in baseball's first World Series.

1904 – Sigmund Freud's The Interpretation of Dreams is published.

**2010** – After being underground for a record 69 days, all 33 miners trapped in a Copiapo, Chile, mine are rescued.

# **CLASSIFIEDS**

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#### Those homemade Halloween costumes CONT. FROM PG 3

one of my favorites, but I've won or placed in many, many contests. I absolutely love Halloween and going to parties dressed up!"

"Marty McFly and Doc Brown."

My mom made me up as a Chinese doll in a brocade silk kimono (which she made). Braided my hair, perfect makeup, shoes, head piece. A cute doll I might add. Lol"

The third worst part of Halloween was

getting a piece of fruit that crushes your candy bars when it's dropped into your goody bag.

I wanted to dress as Zorro around 1959 and my parents bought the hat, mask, and cape but wouldn't get me the sword. They thought it was too dangerous so I ended up with a small plastic knife. Lame! The experience was much like the brown shoes I wore with my white holy communion suit!



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### **Return of the HONK! festival of activist street bands**

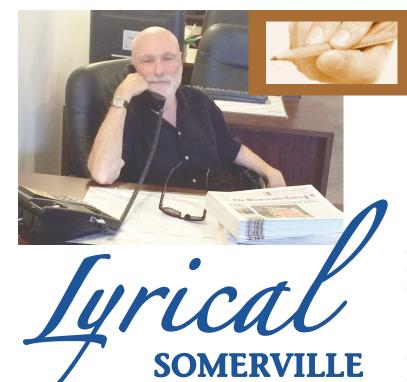
The 16th annual HONK! Festival returned to the streets of Somerville last Saturday with its signature spirit of joy and justice in a new, hyperlocal format. The festival featured multiple neighborhood events cosponsored by grassroots community organizations across Greater Boston. HONK! performers joined activist groups in their own neighborhoods, playing music and raising awareness for arts and social justice causes. More than 15 local brass and percussion bands took to parks, squares, and street corners across Somerville, Boston, Cambridge, and Chelsea. The day kicked off at Somerville's Seven Hills Park with a performance by the Second Line Brass Band and tributes to Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and Somerville Olympian Phil Reavis, Sr. The Uncivil Servants, a new band featuring Mayor Curtatone and City of Somerville staffers played later in the evening. — Photos by Claudia Ferro











### edited by Doug Holder

"My name is Casey Allen and I'm a student at Endicott College. Here's a little bit about me. I am nineteen years old and I'm from Burlington Vermont. Being away from home is complicated but I'm settling in nicely in Beverly. Another thing to know about me is that winter is my favorite season. There's nothing like



the first snowfall complete with a warm hot chocolate. There's a wholeness to the little things in winter that fall together that make it my favorite season."

### Moth a million

I ripped off their wing believing they would still fly, little did I know I took away their freedom of the sky. It's my deepest regret of a childish claim, but now that moth will suffer through wind and rain. I took apart an essential part of who they are, of where they start--

the paper-thin wing in my hand, floats away.... It's gone with the wind and all I am left with is a feeling of sin.

It's so light and fragile as it drifts away The moth remains, dying from the pain.... The one-winged moth will live out the rest of its day Knowing it will suffer through wind and rain. A once peaceful promise seems like a joke, You'll be fine! Was the last promise I ever spoke. I'm sorry for the moth where it is now Even decomposed within the earth, You must dream of the sky and a world of hurt.

— Casey Allen

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

### **OFF THE SHELF** by Doug Holder

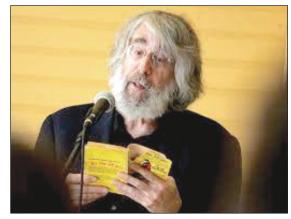
# New Somerville poet anthology announced by Somerville Poet Lloyd Schwartz

I received this letter from Somerville Poet Laureate Lloyd Schwartz. It is a fine opportunity for young Somerville poets to be published. Please check it out:

As a poet myself, who has lived in Somerville for many years, I was honored to be named Somerville's Poet Laureate, the person who's in charge of spreading the word about the importance of poetry in all our lives. I've been discovering that some really good poems are being written by our younger citizens—high school students and even students younger than that.

This year I was one of 23 American poets from around the entire country to be awarded a "Poets Laureate Fellowship" from the Academy of American Poets, which provided me with some money to fund a variety of programs related to poetry.

The one I'm most excited about is the creation of an anthology of poem by younger Somerville poets, 6th through 12 grades. I've met some of you and I'm very impressed with how good your poems are. So, I'd like to invite all Somerville students, from grade 6 through high school seniors to write poems about some aspect or quality of Somerville. It could be about your experience of living in or moving to Somerville, your room, your house, your neighborhood, your friends and neighbors, what you see from your window, where you like to hang out or eat, Somerville's diversity, or even something about Somerville's fascinating history (like the Nunnery Grounds, Paul Revere's ride, or even how Somerville got its name). Your poems could be about what you like about Somerville, what you don't like about Somerville, or how you think Somerville could be better.



What interests you about Somerville that you could write a poem about?

Could you please send me one, two, or three poems to somervillepoet@gmail.com? A committee will help me select up to three of your submitted poems to be published in a book called The View from Somerville: Somerville Poems by Somerville Students. Contributors would each receive 20 copies of the book, which you could sell for whatever price you chose (say \$15 or \$20) or give as gifts. You'd be a published poet!

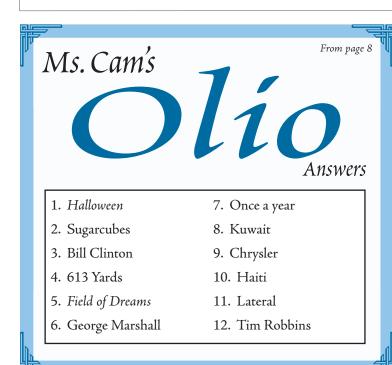
Please submit your poems by November 18, and I will get back to you as soon as possible after that date. I know you will have some great poems and I look forward to seeing them!

Sincerely, Lloyd Schwartz Somerville Poet Laureate

This publication is made possible by the Academy of American Poets with funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

## New Commodity Supplemental Food Program for elders delivers





SCES volunteer Irene Carmen prepares to make deliveries for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). Offered through a partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank, the program provides two bags of groceries each month. CSFP is open to Cambridge and Somerville residents age 60 and over who meet income eligibility requirements. They are also still seeking Volunteers to help with the program. Call 617-628-2601 or email info@eldercare.org for more information.



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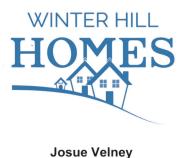
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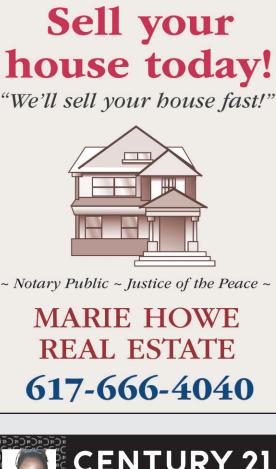
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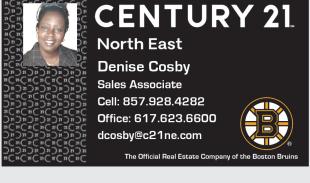
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