



MOUNT VERNON

RESTAURANT A tradition of fine foods since 1935

14 Broadway, Somerville MA 617-666-3830

Outdoor seating available in our spacious tent.
Limited inside dining available.

Kitchen Hours: Sun-Wed 11:30am to 8:30pm • Thurs-Sat 11:30am to 9:00pm

For delivery, please visit **doordash.com**

Somerville's
original
independent
newspaper

The Somerville Times

www.thesomervilletimes.com



VOL. 8 NO. 42

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:



Save those trading stamps!

page 3



What's in America's attic

page 5



Early voting starts this week

page 10

New 'quick-build' bus/bike lanes planned for Washington Street



Route 86 buses carry 6150 riders per day and often get stuck in traffic in Somerville. Early morning and late-night trips take 30 minutes. During rush hour it can take up to an hour.

By Denise Keniston
tw:@denisekeniston

The city of Somerville's Mobility Division is planning new "quick-build" bus/bike lanes for the western portion of Washington Street between Union Square and Beacon Street clearing a path for Somerville's most-used MBTA Route 86 buses. The plan also includes new bike lanes on Washington Street – an important connection between Union Square and Harvard Square in Cambridge.

Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott, described the "quick-build" pilot as "a test run" at a recent online meeting. He expects a complete reconstruction of the street in the next few years, which would be an opportunity for the city to implement a more permanent design using data from the pilot.

"It's just paint on the street at Continued on page 4

Hello from Ball Square: An Interview with Jeffrey Shwom

By NaBeela Washington

The need for community has never been more critical. With COVID-19 continuing to dismantle daily routines and shift how individuals are able to engage and interact with one another, community has come to mean and look like something very unorthodox; something critical for making sense of and navigating current events.

This interview with Jeffrey Shwom illustrates how one small neighborhood of Somerville, known as Ball Square, is banding together to redefine community and overcome the odds:

NaBeela Washington: What's the story behind ballsquaresomerville.com?

Jeffrey Shwom: Before Ball Square District Association name was used, Laura Pitone (Ward 5 School Committee member), Mark Niedergang (Ward 5 Councilor), and others like Jennifer Dorsen (GLX working group member) and South Medford Continued on page 11



Meet Jeffrey Shwom, whose efforts to further a sense of community to the Ball Square area has culminated in the creation of the ballsquaresomerville.com website.
— Photos by NaBeela Washington

ATTN: LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS

REASON #9 WHY ADVERTISING IN PRINT IS BETTER:

Cost Effectiveness

While running online ads may seem cheap, in the long-term you're often going to spend more because you have to change your messaging and artwork more frequently on that platform. With print, there is more permanence in what you say, how you look and what action you want your audience to take.

Contact us and let us show you the many ways we can help you achieve your marketing goals

The Somerville Times
BETTER THAN EVER

phone – 617-666-4010
email – adv@thesomervilletimes.com
699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144

Green & Yellow Cab

Serving Somerville & Surrounding Areas!

617-628-0600 617-625-5000

Logan reservations our specialty - Call 3 days in advance to book your trip.

OPEN 24-HOURS
A DAY!

24 hour GPS automated
dispatching system

We'll get you home safely.
Please don't drink and drive.

T.J.SILLARI, INC.

Over 50 Years
Experience

Plumbing • Heating • Gas Fitting • Industrial Work • Water Heater Replacement • Complete Drain Service

Residential - Industrial - Commercial

625-9877

Proud to be a Somerville resident

Master Plmb. Lic. #6106



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.








The Somerville Museum presents: *Voices from Somerville's Haitian Community*. A local dancer whose work received a Governor's citation. A son who runs a Somerville restaurant started by his mother. A pastor who co-leads a local congregation that purchased its church in 2008. Come hear members of the local Haitian community talk about their work in Somerville's neighborhoods and listen to a historian from Somerville discuss connections between Haitian and U.S. history on **Wednesday, October 14**, 6:30 p.m. This event is part of a Somerville Museum Zoom Series called *Voices from Somerville: Culture, Community and History*. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84212593903?pwd=cEYzTXZTdEJCRC1o5b1VQamhPUUlmQT09>.

ResiStat will host a series of virtual events in the coming weeks, giving residents the opportunity to engage with Somerville elected officials and staff on key topics. The fall ResiStat series kicked off with an arts community town hall on September 15 and will continue with five more installments beginning on **Thursday, October 15**, covering the City's COVID-19 response, housing issues during this pandemic, mental health and wellness, racial and social justice, and senior issues. All meetings will start at 6:00 p.m. and are scheduled to run at least an hour. Residents can log in to the meetings through somervillema.gov/virtualtownhall. Live simultaneous Spanish interpretation and English captioning will be available. Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol and Nepali interpretation can be requested by emailing sbernt@somervillema.gov.

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 **Valerie Spinale**, who grew up in East Somerville. We hope she has a great day. Happy birthday to **Steve Hardy**, a great guy who works very hard here in the city. Happy birthday to **Naomi Harrison**,
Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of October 14 – October 20 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>October 14</i>	Sunny	70°/47°	10%	11%	WNW 8 mph
 Thursday <i>October 15</i>	Partly Cloudy	69°/56°	9%	15%	S 13 mph
 Friday <i>October 16</i>	Rain	72°/54°	39%	27%	S 9 mph
 Saturday <i>October 17</i>	Rain	57°/41°	49%	30%	W 17 mph
 Sunday <i>October 18</i>	Sunny	60°/48°	11%	11%	SW 10 mph
 Monday <i>October 19</i>	Partly Cloudy	65°/50°	14%	14%	SSW 9 mph
 Tuesday <i>October 20</i>	Cloudy	66°/52°	21%	16%	SSW 10 mph

NOTE: Conditions subject to change. Always check a daily forecast prior to activities that can be affected by the weather.

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Zoning Board of Appeals approves Clarendon Hill Redevelopment Project

LindaS says:
It's a start, but when the number of affordable housing units actually exceeds the moderate-income and new market units, they will really be saying that they care more about housing people, especially now.
There will never be a shortage of homes for people who can afford them. The real problem is making sure the same is true for people who can't.

B Curtis says:
Too bad this was delayed for YEARS by construction unions and some City Councilors who held many poor families hostage to the demands of mostly white, middle class, suburban men with jobs. Structural racism and misogyny on display right here in Somerville. Thank goodness these families and kids will no longer have to live in decrepit living conditions. They shouldn't have had to wait this long for housing justice.

Suzie Q says:
B, what is housing justice? Confused. Also, seems you're vilifying "white, middle class, suburban men with jobs." Maybe I read that wrong, but I can't help laughing at people who hate the middle class. The middle class (those who work and pay taxes) is who built the Somerville you've hijacked and are now are driving into the ditch with your socialism.
This project? It's going to be an eye sore having 4 or 5 buildings 7 to 10 stories high when no other structure is anywhere close to that. Plus, can you imagine the next 4 or 5 years living in ward 7 and trying to get around? I am glad though that they're going to mix low-income families with market rate paying couples. Should be interesting to see how long that lasts before the hookers/druggies take back over.
Also, are they sure they're going to have enough market rate couples who are going to even want to live there? The walk to Davis – while not far – is still close to a mile and good luck walking to the green line stop in Ball square in the winter.

Response to: Happy 100th birthday dad

Paula LeBlanc says:
Nice tribute to a GREAT man....I loved Uncle Fred...fond memories of him and your mom...

Response to: In Memoriam: Donald and Patricia Norton

Doug Holder says:
Rest in peace Donald,,,,,

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144
news@thesomervilletimes.com
www.thesomervilletimes.com
617-666-4010 • Fax: 617-628-0422

 @somervilletimes  www.facebook.com/thesomervilletimes

Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.
Editor – Jim Clark
Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

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,
Blake Maddux, Bob Doherty, Ross Blouin
Photographer: Claudia Ferro

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

A proud member of the following newspaper organizations:



Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Save those stamps!



Originally published July 20 2013.

Remember helping your mom stick S&H Green stamps into the booklets? In one of their heyday years, three times as many S&H Green stamps were printed than U.S. Postage stamps. They were popular from the 1930's until the late 1980's.

S&H Green Stamps were given to shoppers based on the dollar amount they spent. The booklets contained 24 pages each holding 50 points. Each book held 1200 points. S&H stood for Sperry and Hutchinson, the company that started the stamps. We still have a lamp that my mom got with green stamps.

One of my friends remembers that one of the redemption centers was on the

Lynnway. His mother got a sewing machine with her stamps. Another friend recalls, "My aunt went to the redemption center in Waltham and got an Electrolux vacuum cleaner."

Someone else tells me that there was another redemption center next to the old Child World toy store in Wellington Circle, Medford. Her mother got sheets, blankets and toasters. Others got "a coffee table, a very fancy mirror that hung in the living room, a glass ashtray shaped like a stork, and several knick-knacks. Actually, everything we got there was pretty good quality." One of my friends got a sleeping bag and a basketball.

We got a lot of our stamps at the A&P in Davis Square. It was where that veterinarian's office is across from the Dilboy Post on Summer St.

Here's a great story from a reader: "My dad bought a Lionel train set at Star Market (I guess you could redeem them at some stores too) with S&H Green Stamps. It was the year my parents got married, in 1950, and ten years before I was born. The trains were produced in 1948. It was the start of a great hobby for both of us and sparked an interest in building electronic projects kits from Radio Shack in the 70's. Life was good then before smart phones and video games! All because of those little green stamps!"

Gale tells us, "I remember getting this



beautiful doll with blonde curls. I was about eight. I will never forget finally having enough stamps to get it and me and my mom went there to pick it up. The redemption Center was at Wellington Station. Happy days."

There is actually an online version of S&H Green Stamps and you can still cash in those old stamps and even get new ones. It's now called Greenpoints, at greenpoints.com. Just as an example, to get a \$25 Gap gift card, it will cost you 27,000 Green Stamps. Boy, what a deal! Here's a great quote: It took thousands of stamps and tons of spit to get anything worthwhile!

I bet if you look around your house, and you have a good memory, you will find an item or two that was obtained from dozens and dozens of books of S&H Green Stamps.

Sitting around the kitchen table helping my mom stick those stamps into the books is one of those great old memories. I think I can still taste the glue.



MOUNT VERNON

RESTAURANT

14 Broadway, Somerville MA

617-666-3830

A tradition of fine foods since 1935

Outdoor seating available in our spacious tent. Limited inside dining available.

Please note that we are offering in addition to our full menu platters and trays of food to go as well.

For delivery, please visit doordash.com

Our menus and specials are posted on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/Mount-Vernon-Restaurants-103209019028/>

We ask you to bear with us while we follow established guidelines. The safety of our patrons and employees remain our number one priority as we continue to operate and maintain our small business during this difficult time.

Kitchen Hours:

Sun-Wed 11:30am to 8:30pm
Thurs-Sat 11:30am to 9:00pm

Be safe and stay healthy – The Mount Vernon Restaurant

LEGAL NOTICE

VOTER REGISTRATION

LAST DAY TO REGISTER

Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 8pm.

FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Election Department: Somerville City Hall Hours (for answering calls and emails only as City Hall is currently closed to the public)

MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY ----- 8:30 a.m. ----- 4:30 p.m.
THURSDAY ----- 8:30 a.m. ----- 7:30 p.m.
FRIDAY ----- 8:30 a.m. ----- 12:30 p.m.
SATURDAY THE 24th --2:00 p.m. -----8:00 p.m.
(this day only our office is open to the public)

To request a voter registration form

- + CALL 617-625-6600 ext. 4200 for a Mail-In Voter Registration form to be mailed to you
- + Download a Mail-In Voter Registration form from the City Website and mail it to the Election Department
- + Register Online by visiting the City Website

All mail-in voter registration forms must be post-marked by 10/24/20.

The City of Somerville does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, national origin, sexual preference, disability, or any other protected category in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities. Auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, reasonable modifications in policies and procedures will be provided to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Somerville police officer facing assault and battery charges

By Jim Clark

Michael McGrath, a Somerville police officer, was placed on administrative leave and his pay revoked after an investigation into an October 1, 2019 arrest reportedly turned up evidence that he had used pepper spray on a suspect who had been placed under arrest and was already in handcuffs.

McGrath was formally charged on Wednesday by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office with felony assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon and is scheduled to be arraigned in the matter on November 13.

According to McGrath's arrest report, the suspect resisted arrest, but a video of the incident reportedly showed that the suspect was already handcuffed at the time and posed no threat of danger to McGrath. Investigators filed charges against McGrath in September.

In his report, McGrath stated, "Because [the suspect] was refusing to get in the wagon, along with the safety concerns of having a defendant on the top step of the wagon with his feet so close to our upper torso, I sprayed the defendant."

Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone issued a public statement on the incident that reads as follows: "Our officers are entrusted with tremendous responsibilities, and our residents must be confident that every officer will perform those duties to the highest standards, using force only when necessary and according to departmental training, policy, and the law. We have referred this case to the District Attorney and we will continue to fully cooperate with their investigation. Let me be perfectly clear, the City of Somerville and the Somerville Police Department do not and will not tolerate any

unnecessary use of force." Somerville Police Chief David Fallon said in a public statement, "This is the antithesis of everything the Somerville Police Department stands for and is not indicative of the tens of thousands of interactions – many on video – we have with residents every year. Within hours of the Command Staff viewing the video, the Officer was placed on Administrative Leave, relieved of all Police Powers, and the video was turned over to the Middlesex District Attorney's Office."

McGrath currently serves as the president of the Somerville Police Employees Association, as well as the vice president of the Massachusetts Municipal Police Coalition. Neither McGrath nor representatives from these organizations have responded to requests for comments.

The matter remains under investigation at this time.



The police video of the incident has been released to the public.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

New 'quick-build' bus/bike lanes planned for Washington Street

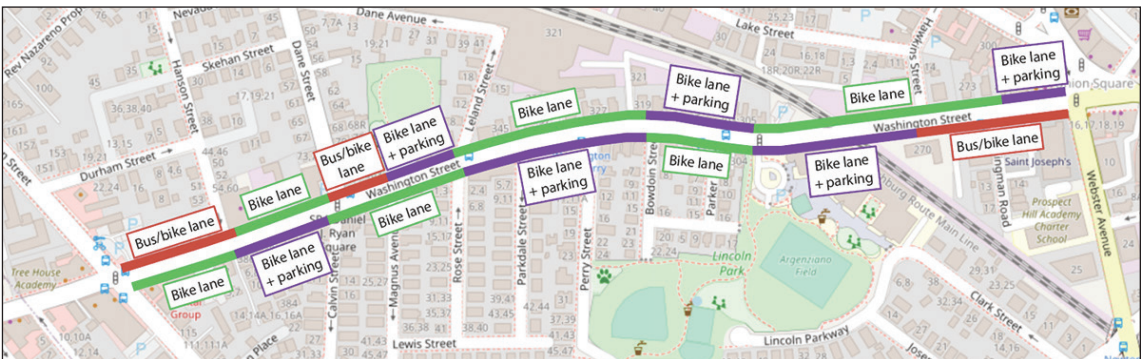
CONT. FROM PG X

this point, which is the most cost-effective way to try this out. This pilot will give us the chance to see what works and what doesn't, so that in 2022 or 2023, when we rebuild Washington Street, we'll be ready and it can be the best possible street for everyone who uses it," said Scott.

Route 86 buses use Washington Street on its route between Sullivan Square, Harvard Square, and Cleveland Circle and is the MBTA's eighteenth busiest bus route. According to MBTA data, Route 86 buses makes the trip in about 30 minutes during early morning and night trips, but during peak hours, the trip often takes an entire hour. To make room for new dedicated bus lanes and bike lanes, the city estimates that up to 66 on-street parking spaces will be eliminated. Jeffrey Robbins lives on Washington Street and says parking is already "challenging." He says, "I'll be one of the people affected by the re-

moval of parking spots. Night-time parking is challenging and I do live in the red zone and anecdotally if there aren't spots on Washington, I have to make several circuits to find a place to park and then I'm forced to walk quite a distance." He adds, "My own anecdotal data is that it's pretty tough going at night."

The MBTA, the City of Boston, the City of Somerville, the City of Everett, and the City of Chelsea are taking on an unprecedented regionwide effort to implement up to 14 miles of dedicated bus lanes throughout the upcoming fall and spring to speed up buses on congested streets. Projects were selected by targeting corridors that have seen some of the highest rates of bus ridership since March and experience above average chronic delay, thereby improving service for the most vulnerable users. Mayor Curtatone advocates "building Somerville around people" not "around cars." He



66 parking spots will be eliminated on the stretch between Union Square and Beacon Street (seen here in the red). Western Washington is one of several "quick-build" improvements projects in Somerville.

says, "This COVID-19 crisis has reminded us of the deep disparities across our region. Our roadmap to recovery must include efforts like bus lanes that quickly enhance access to safe transit, cut commute travel times, and improve air quality for our most vulnerable residents."

Somerville residents can expect more "quick-build" bus/bike lanes. The COVID-19 pandemic environment has accelerated previous plans by the MassDOT, the MBTA, and city of Somerville to provide safe and clean transportation for bus

riders including essential workers – many of which take the bus to work. Somerville homeowner Lena Webb takes bus 87 or 88. "I think a lot of people consider the bus to be an unreliable mode of transit," She says. "But I'm not sure how many see that the main reason a bus is delayed is because it's stuck in car traffic. Dedicated bus lanes combined with the apps that allow you to track bus locations based on MBTA GPS signals will make the mode much more appealing."

Current projects include the Davis Square (Holland and Col-

lege) Bus Priority Project where "bus-only" pavement markings started this week and a complete reconstruction is scheduled for 2021. Current projects also include the Eastern Washington Street Bus and Bike Lanes Project (McGrath to Sullivan Square) which is funded by a grant from the MassDOT, and Western Washington Street Bus and Bike Lanes Project (Beacon Street to Union Square) which is also planned for this fall. Residents can learn more here <https://somerville.somerville-ma.gov/quick-build-bus-lanes>

ResiStat to hold virtual, topic-based fall meetings

With the City still unable to hold in-person meetings due to coronavirus concerns, ResiStat will host a series of virtual events in the coming weeks, giving residents the opportunity to engage with Somerville elected officials and staff on key topics.

The fall ResiStat series kicked off with an arts community town hall on September 15 and will continue with five more installments beginning on Thursday, October 15, covering the city's COVID-19 response, housing issues during this pandemic, mental health and wellness, racial and social justice, and senior issues.

Normally, ResiStat holds seven separate meetings each fall and spring in each of Somerville's seven voting wards. Given the socially-distanced circumstances necessitated by the current pandemic, online meetings that enable residents from all around the city to attend are designed to foster maximum participation. Members of the public are encouraged to attend as many meetings as they like.

"We have held a number of virtual town halls in recent months dealing with coronavirus topics, and have gotten strong attendance for them," said Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone. "This is the most effective way for us to create an opportunity for community engagement at this point in time. Just because we can't gather together doesn't mean we can't still be involved with the issues affecting our city. I look forward to a productive set of meetings."

The schedule for the fall 2020 ResiStat meetings is:

- October 15, Thursday - Housing during COVID-19
- October 20, Tuesday - Coronavirus update & response
 - October 21, Wednesday - Senior issues
- October 28, Wednesday - Mental health/wellness
 - TBA - Racial and social justice

All meetings will start at 6:00 p.m. and are scheduled to run at least an hour. Residents can log in to the meetings through somervillema.gov/virtualtownhall.

Live simultaneous Spanish interpretation and English captioning will be available. Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol and Nepali interpretation can be requested by emailing sbernt@somervillema.gov.



Follow us on Twitter
[@somervilletimes](https://twitter.com/somervilletimes)

Open House

Two Family - Winter Hill, Somerville

\$1,100,000

Saturday October 17 • 12 - 2 p.m.

Sunday October 18 • 12 -2 p.m.

12 Rooms - 4 Bedrooms - 3 Baths

222 School St, Somerville

CENTURY 21 NORTH EAST NORTON GROUP RE

Bobbie Toner • 857-488-5138 • bobbietoner@aol.com

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #215

America's Attic

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

On August 10, 1846 the United States Senate passed an act establishing the Smithsonian Institution. It was formed with over \$500,000 in gold sovereigns that were bequeathed from James Smithson (1765-1829).

Smithson was a British scientist who was born in France, died in Italy and never set foot on American soil. Why he was so generous to the United States is a mystery. Most say, like Lafayette, he loved the experiment of the young American democracy. His legacy was a trust which has developed into the world's largest historical and educational museum and research complex, frequently referred to as the Nation's Attic.



In later years, Alexander Graham Bell, of early Somerville telephone fame, was a member of the Smithsonian's Board of Regents. He and his wife went to Italy and rescued Smithson's remains from cemetery developers. Thanks to Bell, the disinterred founder and benefactor of America's National Museum now sleeps in the Washington D.C. Castle of the Smithsonian.

The following is a partial list of men, woman and items that touched Somerville and have been noted by the Smithsonian:

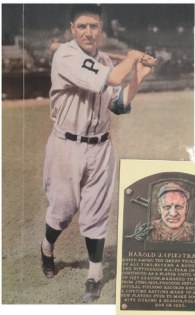


• A Somerville treasure based on Smithsonian oil paintings lies on the inside wall of the former Union Square Post Office building. It is titled "A skirmish between British and Colonists

near Somerville in Revolutionary Times."

• Harry Cheetham was president of the Somerville High School Wireless Society. While on the ship RMS Carpathia, he was the first to communicate to shore the fate of the HMS Titanic survivors. In 1930, he donated his collection of instruments to the Smithsonian.

• The museum holds a 1935 Pittsburgh Pirate's baseball signed by the team. These signatures include the legendary Honus Wagner, then the team's coach, and Somerville's Pie



Continued on page 12

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.

We need a city-wide ‘Affordable Housing Overlay District’ in Somerville



By Ben Ewen-Campen
Ward 3 City Councilor

I’m very happy to say that my wife Alex and I are expecting our first child in November. So, even more than usual, I’ve been thinking about the future of Somerville. This city is an incredible place to be born - if you can afford to stay. Every year, rents and home prices ratchet up relentlessly, and it becomes harder and harder for anyone who isn’t already well-off to live or start a family here. We all want a diverse and economically just Somerville, yet today’s status quo is pulling us in the exact opposite direction.

According to the Somerville Public Schools, at least 42% of our students are classified by the State as “economically disadvantaged,” and 37% of Somerville families are “severely rent burdened,” meaning they spend more than half their income on housing costs. To put it simply, many thousands of Somerville families are perilously close to - or already have been - forced out of our community by housing costs. The affordable housing waitlist in Somerville is so long that, at the current rate, it will take three decades to find a home for every Somerville resident currently in need. And, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, our housing crisis is threatening to transform into a catastrophic “tsunami of evictions” for lower-income families, disproportionately affecting

people of color.

If we want a diverse and thriving Somerville, we need to do everything in our power to ensure that you don’t have to be wealthy to live here. And right now, the single most impactful action we can take at the municipal level is to make it easier to build more affordable housing in Somerville. And I believe that the best tool that the City Council has within its authority to enact right now is a city-wide Affordable Housing Overlay District. This policy would make it easier to build affordable housing by offering permitting, density, and height benefits to 100% affordable buildings, and as Chair of Land Use, it is my top legislative priority for the coming months.

This past summer, I asked our City Staff to conduct interviews with a wide range of affordable housing developers, to better understand the major obstacles, at the municipal level, to creating affordable housing in Somerville. Overwhelmingly, we heard about two obstacles. First, and most obviously, is the cost of land. Today, it is nearly impossible for any non-profit housing developer to purchase property in Somerville. This is no surprise: they are competing against “market rate” developers and investors who can afford to pay far more because they’ll soon be making windfall profits in our red-hot real estate market. Second, the funding agencies that support affordable housing are looking for predictability and certainty in the projects they support. This means that the uncertainty, delays, and discretionary nature of the permitting process in Somerville can be a major issue when attempting to secure funding. Together, these two obstacles mean that new affordable units in Somerville are almost always created by market rate developers

through Somerville’s “20% inclusionary zoning” policy, which is absolutely necessary but nowhere near sufficient to meet Somerville’s goals for affordability.

We have taken this feedback and used it to generate a proposal for a Citywide Affordable Housing Overlay District that would directly address both issues. A working draft was introduced to the Land Use Committee on September 29. Essentially, the proposal does two things: first, it gives a “height bonus” to 100% affordable buildings, meaning that these buildings can be taller than would otherwise be allowed for market rate developers. This greatly helps to level the playing field when it comes to buying property, because non-profit developers get more “bang” (livable square footage) for their buck. And second, it simplifies and streamlines the permitting process specifically for 100% affordable buildings, providing predictability and security for when non-profit developers are lining up funding sources.

Modern affordable housing buildings are well-made, beautiful, and held to incredibly high standards of energy efficiency. To see some local examples, go to <https://twitter.com/ABetterCambMA/status/1312060441871495169>, or pay a visit to the gorgeously renovated historic Somerville Waterworks building, which was recently transformed into affordable senior housing. That said, I know that the idea of taller buildings can be a hot-button issue for some people, so I want to be clear about what this proposal would and would not entail.

The proposed overlay would not change lot setbacks or open-space requirements, and it would not mean that buildings of any height can be built on any lot, willy-nilly. Instead,

the proposed overlay will continue to follow the underlying zoning map for Somerville: taller buildings in major squares and along major travel corridors (“mid-rise districts”) and more modest buildings on smaller neighborhood streets (“neighborhood residence” or “urban residence” districts.) The overlay would mean that, in areas where a market-rate developer would be allowed to build a four- or five-story apartment building, a 100% affordable building could go to seven or eight. On a smaller residential street where two-and-a-half story buildings are normally allowed, a 100% affordable building could be three or four stories. When it comes to these policy details, the City Council is still actively deliberating, and we are looking forward to hearing public input at an upcoming Public Hearing in the coming months. Altogether, this policy will go a long way towards removing some of the common obstacles that non-profit housing developers face in Somerville.

(A personal note: my wife and I lived for years on Warren Avenue in Union Square, just up the block from Properzi Manor, an 11-story apartment building managed by the Somerville Housing Authority, and we never had a single problem with shadows, parking, noise, or anything else - just a lot of great neighbors. So, in my experience, while the idea of a taller building can sometimes be unpopular, as soon as these buildings actually exist and fill up with neighbors, they quickly become part of the neighborhood.)

Our proposed Affordable Housing Overlay District wouldn’t cost the city a dime, and unlike many other bills we want to pass, it does not require State approval to enact. Our proposal is similar to one

that was just passed in Cambridge, and Boston seems likely to move in a similar direction, too, which is great news considering the regional nature of our housing crisis.

There is no silver bullet to addressing our affordable housing crisis, but that is no excuse for inaction. When City Council President Matt McLaughlin gave his inauguration speech last January, he emphasized that local government officials can learn a lot from the Serenity Prayer: “Grant this City Council the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

No City Council can single-handedly fix the profound structural inequalities driving our housing crisis. And, so many of the policies we are fighting for - rent control, a transfer fee on developers to fund affordable housing, and increased tenant protections - require State approval. But when it comes to powers that we do hold locally, I believe we have an obligation to act.

Earlier this summer, President Trump made it blatantly clear that outright opposition to affordable housing is a central plank in his platform: “*You will no longer be bothered or financially hurt by having low income housing built in your neighborhood.*” My hope is that Somerville will take this opportunity to stand up as the polar opposite to his hateful worldview, by saying “yes” to diversity and affordability in our neighborhoods.

I will soon be scheduling a Public Hearing to welcome your feedback on this proposal - keep an eye out for the date. In the meantime, please contact City Councilors at CityCouncil@SomervilleMA.gov to share your thoughts on this proposal.

SFLC In This Together and new parents support groups

In This Together is a support group for families with young children who would like to connect with other parents, share ideas, frustrations, and resources, especially in these chaotic, confusing times with COVID-19 stress. Open to all parents of toddlers and young children, the group meets Thursdays from 4:00-5:30pm. This group is open to Somerville and non-Somerville residents for the 2020-2021 school year. The New Parents support group meets Fridays, 1:00-2:30pm and is for expectant parents and parents of babies from Birth - 15 months old. Talking with others who are going through similar experiences can help. Support groups are facilitated by Amy Bamforth, MS (ED.), LICSW, Early Childhood Specialist at the SFLC. Please email sfn@k12.somerville.ma.us for the Zoom link to join.

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Step right up folks, the shots are on the house.

Our View Of The Times



Who among us actually likes getting a shot of any kind? There are certainly a given number of masochistic types out there who don't mind taking a little jab in the arm or ... elsewhere.

But many of us put off or completely avoid the prickly deed for as long as we can push it, until the cold and flu season completely bypasses us altogether, or we fall victim to the merciless clutches of our

microbiological nemeses. What's more, with the threat of COVID-19 looming over our heads, it's more important than ever to protect ourselves though the on-coming flu season.

And so, the City of Somerville comes to the rescue with its annual flu vaccine clinics, already in progress, offering free flu vaccines for Somerville residents ages 3 and older at various times and locations

throughout the city until the city's supply of vaccine is exhausted.

Go online right away to find out the times and locations of the scheduled clinics at: <https://www.somervillema.gov/flu>. Pre-registration is required for all city flu clinics.

As a coronavirus safety measure, attendees must make an appointment in advance so that staff can safely manage the

flow of those seeking vaccinations

One quick jab in the arm or ... you know where ... can make a difference between enjoying a happy, healthy fall and winter or facing a miserably bleak one. Let's face it, taking the time and effort to do this will be well worth it.

And your family, friends, coworkers, and everyone else you regularly come into contact with will thank you too.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

daughter of Kaitlin Norton and the great granddaughter of the late Don and Pat Norton. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Ron Sensale, Mary Del Roccio, Courtney Nelson, Laurie Tierno Johnson, Byrne Lock, Darell Shanafelt and Michael Barry a very 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.

Early Voting for the 2020 State (Presidential) Election will begin **October 17**, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at **Somerville City Hall**. Please be advised that early voting will be available exclusively at Somerville City Hall. Visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/events/2020/10/17/early-voting-2020-state-presidential-election> for a complete list of dates and times. If you are not registered to vote, or if you need to update your address or party affiliation, you have until **Saturday, October 24** to do so. Visit the city's Register to Vote page <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/elections/register-to-vote> to learn more about your options for registering.

Drive-up Flu Clinic for all residents will be held **October 17**. Pre-registration at [somervillema.gov/flu](https://www.somervillema.gov/flu) is required for all city flu clinics. If you need assistance to sign up, call the **Health & Human Services Department** at 617-625-6600 x4300. For all clinics, up to four people per household can be registered for an appointment and 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. **Saturday, October 17**, Somerville Department of Public Works site at 1 Franey Rd. from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Jungle in Union Square will be closed for winter after their last concert on **October 17** and operating the outdoor patio one more time for a day of activism for democracy on **October 18**. They will reopen in 2021 as soon as it is safe enough inside or warm enough outside. Concert schedule: 10/14 – Shotdy at 6:00 p.m.; 10/15 – Erin Powers at 8:00 p.m.; 10/16 – The Fools Agenda at 8:00 p.m.; 10/17 – Sierra & Andrew of Unnamed Colors at 7:00 p.m.; 10/18 –

NC phone bank from The Jungle patio at 1:00 p.m. RSVP now. They are open 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday for dinner and full bar on the outdoor patio. No reservation required but they suggest calling to check if they are busy if you plan to arrive around the time of a show. Their neighbors are also small businesses with great food and patios, so you can livestream each show to a seat on a nearby patio if we are full. You can order takeout and delivery from the link on their website.

As the weather gets colder, **tents and outdoor heaters** may be cropping up on Somerville streets as local restaurants dig in to continue outdoor dining during the cooler weather. The recent expansion of outdoor dining in Somerville in response to the pandemic had been scheduled to end **November 1**, but it will now be allowed to continue through **December 31, 2021**, weather and safety permitting.

#WearAMask to protect your friends and family. Wear one for the people in your community you don't know you're connected to: the friend of a friend, the elderly neighbor, the person with an un-

derlying condition who shops at your grocery store.

Reminder: **city buildings** are still closed to the public. Although city buildings remain closed to the public, a number of city services are still available online or by calling 311. Check the "City Service Status" tab on the city's COVID-19 page for more information.

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.

Support your neighbors through the **Somerville Cares Fund** (or apply for assistance): Now that the additional \$600 per week federal unemployment benefit has ended, more people in our community are facing financial hardship and making tough choices when it comes to paying for essentials. If you're fortunate enough to be able to, please consider making a donation to the Somerville Cares Fund. If you are in need of assistance, you can apply to the fund via the same link. *Continued on page 12*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#751

1. Before getting a recording contract, what LA club was Van Halen known to play in?

2. What TV sitcom did Eddie Van Halen appear in an episode of?

3. What solo guitar technique did Eddie Van Halen make popular?

4. How many NBA championships does LeBron James have?

5. Which is the only vowel on a standard keyboard which is not on the top row?

6. What is London's biggest airport?

7. When a beach posts a purple flag, what does it mean?

8. What are the two consecutive months in the same year that have 31 days?

9. Who originated the character Ronald McDonald?

10. What name do the Japanese call the Ronald McDonald character?

11. A fisherman's bend and a cat's-paw are both types of what?

12. What is the currency of Turkey?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Bulgarians are known to be the biggest yogurt eaters in the world.

2. Dogs and cats consume over \$11 billion worth of pet food a year.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THE 1970s

- ACROSS
1. Bobby Fischer's game

6. Reggae precursor

9. Octagonal sign

13. Haile Selassie's disciple

14. Goose egg

15. Water-filled gorge

16. Blue eyes, e.g.

17. Jean of Dadaism

18. Pariah, for medical reasons

19. Pumpkin's Halloween precursor

21. Famous magician who died on Halloween

23. ____ mortuaire, or body bag in Paris

24. Nordstrom's outlet

25. "____ Now or Never"

28. Good or bad and felt by others, sing.

30. Haiku, e.g.

35. Equal to distance divided by time

37. Post-it slip

39. Quickly fry

40. Type of mountain goat

41. Graveyard denizen

43. Heart of the matter

44. Tender spots

46. Bailing twine, e.g.

47. Icelandic epic

48. Boss

50. Greek muse's strings

52. Up and down nod

53. "Beware the ____ of March"

55. One of seven, in eponymous 1995 film

57. Dead one

61. Jordan Peele's scary 2017 film

64. Dodge

65. Freud's concern

67. Pertaining to hours

69. Funereal feeling

70. Swindle

71. Boredom

72. Adult elvers

73. Human digit

74. What vampire does in a coffin
- DOWN
1. TV tube in days of yore

2. Wagner or Powers in a TV classic

3. Isaac's firstborn

4. Mixes up

5. Geo-spacial positioning system, for short

6. Ginger cookie

7. Crème de cassis plus wine

8. Top dog

9. Musher's ride

10. Language of Tupi people

11. Black cat, possibly

12. ____ wig or ____ wrinkle

15. Oopsie daisy moments

20. Best part of cake?

22. Halloween month

24. Alters to be more useful

25. Type of coffee with alcohol

26. Forbidden

27. Howard of radio fame

29. Physicist Niels ____

31. Preakness, e.g.

32. Like cottage cheese

33. Piano student's exercise

34. Leatherface's state

36. Biz bigwig

38. ESPN award

42. To the point

45. Scary story-related sensation

49. Lyric poem

51. Choice word

54. Upright

56. Nary a soul

57. Give up

58. Skin soothing gel

59. Boring

60. Fussess

61. Departed

62. RIP pots

63. Like a bow string

66. Gunk

68. Fleur-de-____

CROSSWORD

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

AMERICA'S ORIGINAL BUTCHER

OMAHA STEAKS

SINCE 1917

100% GUARANTEE

+ 4 MORE BURGERS FREE

THAT'S 20 COURSES + SIDES & DESSERT!

ORDER NOW! 1.833.406.1259 ask for 63281KXJ

www.OmahaSteaks.com/family588

GET THE GRILLER'S BUNDLE

INTRODUCTORY PRICE: \$79⁹⁹

4 (5 oz.) Butcher's Cut Filet Mignon

4 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops

4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers

4 (3 oz.) Gourmet Jumbo Franks

4 (2.8 oz.) Potatoes au Gratin

4 (4 oz.) Caramel Apple Tartlets

Omaha Steaks Seasoning Packet

\$224.99* separately

*Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Standard S&H applies. ©2020 Omaha Steaks, Inc. Exp. 10/31/20

SUDOKU

FREE!

Savings Include an American Standard Right Height Toilet FREE! (\$500 Value)

AS SEEN ON TV

Backed by American Standard's 140 years of experience

Ultra low entry for easy entering & exiting

Patented Quick Drain® Technology

Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND installation, INCLUDING labor backed by American Standard

44 Hydrotherapy jets for an invigorating massage

Limited Time Offer! Call Today!

866-612-7490

Or visit: www.walkintubinfo.com/spm

5

2

7

1

6

1

9

2

8

8

3

4

1

3

6

1

2

9

7

7

4

3

9

8

5

6

4

7

© StatePoint Media

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.

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

1

4

7

9

8

2

6

5

3

5

9

2

4

6

3

7

1

8

6

3

8

1

5

7

2

4

9

3

8

4

6

7

5

1

9

2

7

5

9

3

2

1

8

6

4

2

1

6

8

4

9

3

7

5

9

2

3

5

1

6

4

8

7

8

7

1

2

9

4

5

3

6

4

6

5

7

3

8

9

2

1

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

S

P

A

S

M

P

O

L

P

H

E

W

A

O

R

T

A

A

I

D

W

E

A

V

E

C

L

E

A

N

I

L

O

I

S

L

E

T

S

A

I

G

O

N

P

A

T

T

O

N

R

E

V

O

A

T

H

R

N

A

L

O

A

F

M

I

D

R

I

B

H

A

L

E

I

N

F

O

N

I

E

C

E

O

V

I

D

D

I

S

C

O

B

A

H

T

D

E

B

A

R

S

E

A

R

S

C

O

T

A

S

I

M

O

V

T

S

A

R

T

R

Y

B

I

A

S

T

E

A

S

K

Y

L

A

B

G

E

O

R

G

E

A

E

R

I

E

A

L

A

P

O

N

D

S

D

R

I

P

S

F

E

Z

E

M

A

I

L

S

A

S

S

T

E

E

N

A

T

T

Y

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.

Freedom, originalism and hypocrisy



By William C. Shelton

The Senate is considering the lifetime appointment of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. She proudly presents herself as a disciple of Antonin Scalia, and as such, an “originalist” and “textualist.”

She believes that the Constitution must be interpreted based only on the understanding of those who wrote it, and on the meaning that ordinary people of that time would have given to its language. As Ruth Bader Ginsberg said of her friend Justice Scalia, “Some very good people can have very bad ideas.”

An essential problem with this theory is that both the framers and their “ordinary” countrymen disagreed – at times violently – over the meaning of key words. Linguistic ambiguity was a way to persuade enough decision makers from antagonistic states to ratify this compromise document.

Perhaps the clearest example of this is the interrelated words “freedom,” – which appears once – and “liberty” which appears three times, including as part of the statement of the Constitution’s purpose: “...to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity...”

“Freedom” is sometimes differentiated as meaning the ability to do as one wishes, while “liberty” denotes the absence of artificial constraints. The “ordinary people” of our time use them interchangeably, and doing so has little impact on Constitutional interpretation.

Americans of the late 18th Century had very different notions of what constituted freedom, or liberty. In one view, the pursuit of freedom is collective and involves ensuring opportunity for all of us to become and live better. In the other, freedom is individual and is achieved when others do not or cannot interfere with the individual’s pursuits.

In my view the individualistic notion ultimately understands other people as obstacles in the way of, or instruments towards, one’s freedom. The more social version ultimately understands cooperation with other people

as the only means of achieving freedom. The most extreme differences in these opinions existed between the Puritans who founded New England and the Barbadian slave lords who founded the Carolinas and Georgia.

The Puritans came to this continent to found a spiritual utopia that would be a model for the world, “as a city upon a hill” in the words of Governor John Winthrop, whose Ten Hills Farm gave its name to today’s Somerville neighborhood. They were intolerant of those with differing beliefs, and harsh in enforcing norms. But they divided land on an egalitarian basis, were hostile to inherited privilege and displays of wealth, revered education, and were committed to the mutual betterment of all.

Their insistence that each community be a self-governing republic persists today in New England town meetings. Their belief in government’s capacity to make things better grew from the understanding that they were the government. For them, freedom was social.

By the mid-1600s, Barbados was known as the most brutal society on earth, ruled by a small elite of avaricious, tyrannical,

and ostentatious planters. When they ran out of land, their sons and grandsons came to Charleston, spread out, and created a copy of Barbadian society.

Because they worked their slaves to death, they had to continuously import new slaves from Africa rather than increasing the population through reproduction. Thus, Charleston became North America’s primary slave port, and the region, it wealthiest. That wealth was the most concentrated in the new nation, protected by despotic laws, enforced by state-sponsored terrorism. For them, freedom was individual.

New York city’s original founders added tolerance to the more social concept of freedom. Tolerance during a time of religious wars had allowed Amsterdam to become Europe’s trade center at the time, and the Netherlands to become its wealthiest nation. The New Yorkers were responsible for the Bill of Rights.

Those who settled the Southern Appalachians added to the more individualistic concept a bitter and abiding distrust of governments and social reformers, who they viewed as infringing on personal sovereignty.

They came from areas in Northern Ireland, Northern England, and the Scottish lowlands that had been in a state of war and upheaval for generations.

Pennsylvania’s German immigrants’ and Quakers’ concept of freedom tended toward that of the Yankees. The gentlemen planters of Virginia’s, Maryland’s, and Delaware’s lowlands sided with the slave lords.

These differing understandings of a seemingly simple word illuminate the philosophical motivations for the civil war and the political genealogy of what we today call “Red” and “Blue” America. So, Patrick Henry, who owned slaves throughout his adult life, could with no sense of irony proclaim, “Give me liberty or give me death.” Just as Georgia Governor Lester Maddox proclaimed that he had been “enslaved” by the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Judge Barrett’s sanctimonious insistence on the primacy of the Constitution’s original text ignores the reality that those who wrote and ratified it, themselves, disagreed about its meaning. Her past products and her Republican sponsors leave no doubt as to whose version will guide her.

Bike count discussed at Somerville Bike Advisory Committee meeting

By Emmanuel Vincent

The Somerville Bike Advisory Committee held a meeting last Thursday. Held monthly, data was examined and discussed during the duration of the event.

One of the items on the agenda was bike count, done throughout the city. This is critical because it plays a role in taking the necessary steps in keeping cyclists safe. “The individual counts have had some variability, but in aggregate we’ve found the bicycle and pedestrian counts useful for understanding where a lot of people are walking and biking where safer infrastructure is most needed,” explained Tom Lamar, Chairman of the Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee.

“For example, counts from a few years ago showed a high volume of bike traffic on Webster Ave., despite it being a gap in the bike network. This made im-

proving Webster Ave. a priority, and after a community led process, the city installed protected bike lanes and higher visibility crosswalks,” said Lamar.

This count is vital as there is a correlation between cyclists and pedestrians. Data gathered shows that there has been an increase of pedestrians in areas such as the Community Path and Buena Vista Rd., as well as Park Street and Somerville Ave.

Another item on the agenda was a survey conducted by Livable Streets. The 20-page report, which can be found online at livablestreets.info, examines how and when buses and bikes should copy the same space, in the effort for a safe traveling experience.

While the roads can feel congested for some using bicycles as their main mode of transportation, the MBTA does an excellent job at preparing their drivers to be focused as well as cautious

while operating the buses.

“MBTA bus drivers are less distracted than regular drivers and have more training,” says Kristiana Lachiusa, Community Engagement Manager for LivableStreets Alliance. “They generally do a better job in terms of keeping people safe and comfortable in the lanes.”

Based on the data gathered, it was determined that most successful bus-links are the ones that enhanced the bus traveling conditions for both groups. In addition, shared bus-bike lanes should be placed on constrained corridors, where separated bus and bike infrastructure is not feasible.

Feedback from the community is pivotal as it serves as a solid foundation in an effort to make them feel comfortable while navigating the streets. “A lot of safe street planning starts with analyzing counts and the overall street network, combined with



specific experience of neighbors who bike to get the details,” according to Lamar. “A good example is the bus lanes on Broadway, where the community is pointed out that bikes going downhill could safely share a lane with buses, but going uphill the speeds are too different.”

The end goal is to make sure that everyone biking as a means of transportation within the city feels like that they too have the right to be a part of the road, just as buses and automobiles do. These crucial steps by the committee will certainly do just that.

Hello from Ball Square: An Interview with Jeffrey Shwom

CONT. FROM PG 1

Together's Jim Silva had gotten together and organized. They had talked about organizing better, the importance of the "Broadway corridor" that connects Winter Hill to Ball Square to Teele Square, and more. I started to get involved in October 2019 after my wife and I moved into a place along the green line extension. I spoke with all of these founding members and one thing that they all said was that there needed to be a leader to step in and further organize us. So I stepped up and have been happy to organize since.

NW: How do you promote the website? Any goals you'd like to accomplish?

JS: Local business owner Lori Pino, the owner of Amal Nicoli, started the website a few years back. There was a business directory, a Back in the Day section (which still exists), Ball Square Festival 2018 photos, and some business specials. She, along with Lindsay Griffin (Lindsay Griffin + Co), Jo-Ann Smith (Stinky Kittens and Doggies Too) continue to make important contributions to our social media game to promote Ball Square.

They are in charge of the Ball Square Instagram account (@ball.square) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Ball-Square-Somerville-443181106094388>). I do what I can as well to promote the square from my personal account (Instagram @jeffshwom)

These our goals that have been spelled out in our mission statement:

- Organizes social activities and events in and around Ball Square for residents and visitors
- Encourages involvement of businesses, residents, and the city in the planning process
- Strives for equity by creating a more lively business district and spaces that bring all city folk together, regardless of income or background
- Promotes and creates art and culture events in businesses
- Has an easy-to-access central



information site for the District that can be shared amongst all forms of media (social, person-to-person, etc.)

At our big meeting, back in February at Sound Bites, all of these ideas were suggested above. Someone there made the keen suggestion that the website should be a central place for information. Another suggested an updated business directory, and another a place for historical preservation. That's what we strive to do. We have three different areas of the website dedicated to these ideas and they came directly from the neighbors, businesses, and elected officials.

NW: Why do you feel "building a happier, more connected community" is important? How has this model impacted the Ball Square community?

JS: Building a place for everyone to hang out, to connect with others, and to advocate for ourselves and others, to me, is the essence of a happier urban life. If we create a place that makes Somerville (and parts of South Medford) feel even smaller and more local, more people can enjoy it. More importantly, the smaller and more personal we make our place, the more we are in tune with the needs of what is important to our community. Ultimate happiness is being a part of any organization and neighborhood that is here to ask: how do we welcome others from within or outside Somerville to our square? How do we placemake, how do we help others in our neighborhood, in Somerville, in Massachusetts and beyond? Susie Husted and neighbors on Josephine Ave have created a sister neighborhood relationship with the Eagle Hill neighborhood in East Boston. They have organized a food drive for 120 families there every month and recently we have raised over \$6,000 to provide food for that community in need for a month. That is happiness!

The model of the association is framed around Jane Jacobs's ideas about districts, which are composed of many groups doing community work. There are quite a number of organizations doing awesome work in our neighborhood, including South Medford Residents Together, the Josephine Avenue Mailing List, Eco-Parents of Camberville, Somerville Bicycle Safety, Mutual Aid Medford & Somerville, Somerville YIMBY, and the Somerville Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Com-

mittee, to name a few. Whenever we can, we try to spread the word about what they are doing, work together to hear more about their needs, and try to stay in touch with the issues that are important.

NW: What's your favorite aspect of Ball Square?

JS: My favorite aspect is the physical urban diversity. The Ball Square area goes from the Somerville Community Path to the south, Liberty Ave/College Ave on the west up to Dearborn in the north, and parts of South Medford down along Cedar Street, Somerville on the east. Sure, we don't have mountains or rivers or wild animals running around (we do have a lot of bunnies, squirrels, and birds though!). Within the boundaries of the Ball Square area, we have the Somerville Community Path, Powderhouse/Nathan Tufts Park, Curtis Tufts Park (S. Medford), The Brown School playground, and Lexington Park. We have an urban district on Broadway, which features at least 6 minority-owned businesses, 4 women-owned businesses, a longtime hardware store, and a 132-year-old bakery. We have the triple-deckers, single-family homes, one-way streets, and now Shared Streets. We have gridded neighborhoods. We are a part of Somerville and part of South Medford. As Jim Silva has pointed out, the future Ball Square station will be in Medford! We have trains coming by, planes overhead, bikes cruising over the bridge, and pedestrian foot traffic.

NW: How might ballsquare-somerville.com help someone new to Ball Square get acquainted with the community?

JS: We have an up-to-date business directory to help people shop and patronize local places. We have the Ball Square District Association mission statement and email sign up (already over 120 folks on the email list, including 35 business members). The news and event page is updated every one to two weeks and the community bulletin is just getting started.

Another program that is to begin is the Ball Square Welcome Wagon, another neighbor organized venture. This will be a welcome packet to new homeowners that move in. It will include some information about the Association, about some restaurants, and a personal visit from volunteers who will greet the new neighbors. Another way to make things feel smaller and more personal.



NW: How does the Community Bulletin board work?

JS: The bulletin is the brainchild of a neighbor on Boston Ave. It works much like the corkboard at the local coffee shop. We aim to support community artists, entrepreneurs, and more. If you have an artistic skill or hobby that you want to share with the neighborhood (for a fee or free), this is the venue to post it. If you are looking for ways to support the neighborhood economy, entertain your family off-screen safely, or sponsor some creative joy as winter approaches.

Examples include: musical/theatrical street performance, porch family photo session, links to your Etsy shop, leaf raking or sidewalk snow removal, dog walking, helping the elder with tasks, and over-the-phone IT support on how to use video calls.

If people want to put items up, they can email jshwom@gmail.com with the following information: 1. Title and a short description (include fee or free), 2. Photo or link (if appropriate), and; 3. How people can get in touch with you.

NW: Can you share one fun fact or secret about Ball Square that others may not know?

JS: Ball Square is really half in Somerville and half in Medford. This was the case at the old Ball Square Bowling alley (future location of the Ball Square station). When my friends and I briefly joined the Thursday night league a few years back and someone was having a medical emergency, we were patched to both town's police and fire departments. Haha.

There are 70 businesses in our

area, from health, fitness, real estate, legal services, food and wine, and more!

NW: How are you hoping <http://www.ballsquaresomerville.com> will preserve the history and charm of Ball Square?

JS: To understand Ball Square is to understand the history from which we came and the future we strive for when the Green Line station is finally opened sometime in 2022. Brandon Wilson has a great walking tour video featured on our website that was conducted in 2019. We have eager neighbors like Kate on Josephine Ave who will help any homeowner or renter do historical investigations into your house!

We have often been labeled the place with the best brunch in town (Sound Bites, Ball Square Cafe, Kellys, and Avenue Kitchen + Bar). The place that had Victor's, Pescatores, the Willow Jazz club, and the old movie theatre way back. This website and our organization are trying to show that we appreciate what has put us on the map and look to what will ultimately bring us forward to the future.

The present and future are where we really fit in. The first question I asked Mark Niedergang and Laura Pitone when I met them at True Grounds last fall was "how are we going to welcome people into our neighborhood when the train station opens?" What I meant was really how will we strive to be equitable for all residents, visitors, artists, organizations, businesses, and more? The website and the organization are here to represent all of these items.

5 things to know about Medicare Open Enrollment 2020

By Nathan Lamb

Medicare Open Enrollment runs from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7, and it's the one time of year that all Medicare recipients can change between any of the Medicare plan options. Medicare plans often change, so we recommend reviewing coverage annually, to ensure that your coverage will still be a good fit in the coming year.

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) provides free and unbiased Medicare counseling through a program called SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone). We asked SCES SHINE counselor Corinne Lofchie for some tips on Medicare Open Enrollment 2020, and this was her advice:

Be mindful of name changes

Have you ever received a notification that your plan name is changing? If that happens, it's a good idea to review the specifics of the new plan.

We had this happen this year. One of the cheapest plans had

a name change, and people who were in that plan will automatically be enrolled in the new version for the coming year. Unfortunately, the new plan is twice as expensive. This happens from time to time, so review the terms if your plan changes names. A different plan might be a better fit.

Medicare Medical Savings Account Medicare Advantage Plans are a private model for getting Medicare insurance. They typically replace Medicare insurance with Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) or Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plans, which are similar to employer plans.

This year, there is a new type of plan available in our area: a Medicare Medical Savings Account. Under this model, the insurance company puts a certain amount of money into an account, and you use that to pay for medical care. If that account is used up, the person receiving coverage would need to pay a certain amount of expenses out-

of-pocket. After that amount, the plan would pick up the rest of expenses, excluding medications. You also need a Medicare Part D plan along with this type of plan.

There is only one company offering this in Massachusetts right now and they have two plans, both of which are free. One plan starts with a \$2,000 account, followed by \$3,000 of out-of-pocket expenses. The other starts with \$3,000, with \$5,000 out-of-pocket afterward.

We haven't seen these plans in action yet, but they could be good for people who anticipate small medical costs. Insurance plans that cover everything are often about \$200 per month, so that's about \$2,400 per year. The cheaper savings plan covers the first \$2,000, and has a maximum of \$3,000, so it could be good for some people.

Need Insulin? There is a new program for people who take insulin, which is often very expensive on Medicare plans. Part

D Senior Savings is an optional program that caps the co-pay for some insulin medications at \$35 per month. It's usually more than that, so this can lower the cost, if you pick a Part D plan that offers this program.

SHINE is here to help

SHINE counselors are volunteers who have undergone 40 hours of training, with the goal of helping others receive the best possible Medicare Advantage of Prescription Drug plans. To set up an appointment with a SHINE counselor, contact the Aging Information Center at Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services. There are a limited number of SHINE slots, so it's best to call early.

Bonus tip

The Medicare website has become more user-friendly over the years. By logging on and creating a My Medicare Account, users can see their current coverage and costs, make changes, and compare plans. SHINE counselors can also



Corinne Lofchie is an Elder Care Advisor and SHINE Counselor at Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services.

provide help for people who are new to that process.

Corinne Lofchie, LICSW is an Elder Care Advisor and SHINE Counselor at Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES), a not-for-profit that supports independence and well-being of older adults in Somerville and Cambridge. For free and advice and guidance on questions of aging, caregiving, or disability, contact our Aging Information Center at 617-628-2601 or email info@eldercare.org.

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 5

Traynor, the team's player and manager. Traynor was also baseball's best third baseman for ten years straight.

- Bette Davis was generously honored by the museum. She lived in both Teele Square and Davis Square when she was very young. It is also where Bette Davis's Eyes first came to light near the Somerville Theatre. She gave the name to the "Oscar" statue for which she was nominated ten times and won twice for her nearly 100 films.
- Amelia Earhart has been honored by the Smithsonian in its magazine, channel, gallery and exhibits. Somerville's tallest monument, which looks like a modern castle in the middle of the Mys-

tic River, is a tidal dam that honors this aviation pioneer who lived nearby in Medford. In 1937 while attempting to fly around the world, she disappeared over the Pacific Ocean.

- Eighteen-year old Alfred Fuller's life is well chronicled by the Smithsonian. In 1903, he came to live in his sister's Davis Square home in Somerville from Canada where he was fired from his first three jobs. Humiliated, he retreated to her basement shop where he poked, tinkered, and created the first "Fuller Brush" which led to a billion-dollar empire.

These stories pale with the millions in the American Attic of James Smithson.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

This donation-based fund gives direct assistance to Somerville residents, workers, and families to help cover basic needs like groceries, diapers, personal hygiene products, medical copays, and prescriptions. The community has been immensely generous, donating more than \$650,000 so far, but the fund has run dry. Even a small donation will help.

CHA Somerville Hospital offers free

COVID-19 testing at Assembly Row by appointment. To make an appointment, call 617-665-2928 (Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.). The mobile testing unit also offers testing in our neighborhoods to make access easier for residents. Mobile testing schedules and more information on both can be found under the "Symptoms, Testing, & Medical Info" tab on somervillema.gov/covid19.

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

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why are elevator jokes so good?
They work on many levels.

The "Original"

All Types Vent Cleaning

Restaurant Hood Cleaning

Dryer Vent/ HVAC Cleaning

Power Washing

Licensed and Insured in Massachusetts

We travel all over Massachusetts

Call today to find out our weekly specials!

Call Jimmy 857-366-3761

To advertise in

The Somerville Times

call

Bobbie Toner

617-666-4010

On This Day in History

October 14

1651 – Laws are passed in Massachusetts forbidding the poor to adopt excessive styles of dress.

1884 – Transparent paper-strip photographic film is patented by George Eastman.

1912 – Former U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt is shot and wounded in assassination attempt in Milwaukee.

1947 – Test pilot Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier aboard a Bell X-1 rocket plane.

1964 – Rev. Martin Luther King is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for advocating a policy of non-violence.

1968 – US Defense Department announces 24,000 soldiers and Marines will be sent back to Vietnam for involuntary second tours of duty.

1998 – Eric Robert Rudolph charged with the 1996 bombing during the Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia

CLASSIFIEDS

Place your classified ad today – only \$1 per word! E-mail: ads@thesomervilletimes.com

AUTOS WANTED

CASH FOR CARS! We buy all cars! Junk, high-end, totaled-it doesn't matter! Get free towing and same day cash! NEWER MODELS too! Call 844-813-0213

CARS/TRUCKS WANTED!!! All Makes/Models 2002-2019! Any Condition. Running or Not. Top \$\$\$ Paid! Free Towing! We're Nationwide! Call Now: 1-888-985-1806

CARS/TRUCKS WANTED!!! 2002 and Newer! Any Condition. Running or Not. Competitive Offer! Free Towing! We're Nationwide! Call Now: 1-888-416-2330.

EDUCATION

Train online to do medical billing! Become a Medical Office Professional at CTI! Get trained & certified to work in months! 888-572-6790. (M-F 8-6 ET)

FOR RENT

Warm Weather Is Year Round In Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.

HEALTH & FITNESS

DO YOU HAVE CHRONIC KNEE OR BACK PAIN? If you have insurance, you may qualify for the perfect brace at little to no cost. Get yours today! Call 1-800-217-0504

OXYGEN-Anytime. Anywhere. No tanks to refill. No deliveries. Only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! FREE info kit: Call 1-855-917-4693

GENERIC VIAGRA and CIALIS! 100 Pills \$99.00 FREE Shipping! 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 888-889-5515

Recently Diagnosed w/Lung Cancer or Mesothelioma? Exposed to Asbestos Pre-1980 at Work or Navy? You May Be Entitled to a Significant Cash Award! Smoking History Okay! Call 1-855-591-0517

SERIOUSLY INJURED in an AUTO ACCIDENT? Let us fight for you! Our network has recovered millions for clients! Call today for a FREE consultation! 1-888-409-1261

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 100 Generic Pills SPECIAL \$99.00 FREE Shipping!

100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 888-445-5928 Hablamos Espanol

MISCELLANEOUS

DEALING WITH WATER DAMAGE requires immediate action. Local professionals that respond immediately. Nationwide and 24/7. No Mold Calls. 1-800-506-3367

DISH TV - \$59.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Call 1-877-925-7371

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-964-1491

GENERAC Standby Generators. The weather is increasingly unpredictable. Be prepared for power outages. FREE 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!) Schedule your FREE in-home assessment today. Call 1-877-378-1582 Special financing for qualified customers.

INVENTORS-FREE INFORMATION PACKAGE Have your product idea developed affordably by the Research & Development pros and presented to manufacturers. Call 1-855-380-5976 for a Free Idea Starter Guide. Submit your idea for a free consultation.

MOBILEHELP, AMERICA'S PREMIER MOBILE MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM. Whether you're Home or Away. For Safety and Peace of Mind. No Long Term Contracts! Free Brochure! Call Today! 1-844-892-1017

STAY IN YOUR HOME longer with an American Standard Walk-In Bathtub. Receive up to \$1,500 off, including a free toilet, and a lifetime warranty on the tub and installation! Call us at 1-866-945-3783 or visit www.walkintubquote.com/pennysaver

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for [350+] procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. [Don't wait!] Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-877-308-2834 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/cadnet)

Two great new offers from

AT&T Wireless! Ask how to get the Next Generation Samsung Galaxy S10e FREE. FREE iPhone with AT&T's Buy one, Give One. While supplies last! CALL 1-866-565-8452 or www.freephonesnow.com/cadnet

Stay in your home longer with an American Standard Walk-In Bathtub. Receive up to \$1,500 off, including a free toilet, and a lifetime warranty on the tub and installation! Call us at 1-855-481-3969 or visit www.walkintubquote.com/national

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-402-0373

Cross country Moving, Long distance Moving Company, out of state move \$799 Long Distance Movers. Get Free quote on your Long distance move. 1-844-452-1706

Call EmpireToday® to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-855-404-2366

DIRECTV - Switch and Save! \$39.99/month. Select All-Included Package. 155 Channels. 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand. FREE Genie HD DVR Upgrade. Premium movie channels, FREE for 3 mos! Call 1-855-781-1565

Need IRS Relief \$10K - \$125K+ Get Fresh Start or Forgiveness Call 1-877-378-1182 Monday through Friday 7AM-5PM PST

HEARING AIDS!! Buy one/ get one FREE! High-quality rechargeable Nano hearing aids priced 90% less than competitors. Nearly invisible! 45-day money back guarantee! 888-986-3616

DISH Network \$59.99 For 190 Channels! Add High Speed Internet for ONLY \$19.95/month. Call Today for \$100 Gift Card! Best Value & Technology. FREE Installation. Call 1-855-837-9146 (some restrictions apply)

Dental insurance - Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Covers 350 procedures. Real insurance - not a discount plan. Get your free dental info kit! 1-888-623-3036 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/58)

Protect your home w/home security monitored by ADT.

Starting at \$27.99/mo. Get free equipment bundle including keypad, motion sensor, wireless door & windows sensors. 833-719-1073

Computer & IT training program! Train to become Computer & Help Desk Professional! Grants & scholarships for qualified applicants on certain programs. 888-449-1713 (M-F 8-6 ET)

Life Alert. One press of a button sends help fast, 24/7! At home & on the go. Mobile Pendant w/GPS. Free first aid kit with subscription. 877-537-8817 free brochure.

AT&T Internet. Starting at \$40/month w/12-mo agmt. 1 TB of data/mo. Ask how to bundle & SAVE! Geo & svc restrictions apply. 1-888-796-8850

Directv Now. No Satellite. \$40/mo 65 Channels. Stream news, live events, sports & on demand titles. No contract/commitment. 1-866-825-6523

Attention oxygen therapy users! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. Free info kit. Call 877-929-9587

Dish TV \$59.99 190 channels + \$14.95 high speed internet. Free Install, smart HD DVR & voice remote. Restrictions apply. 1-833-872-2545.

New authors wanted! Page Publishing will help self-publish your book. Free author submission kit! Limited offer! 866-951-7214

Hearing aids! Bogo free! High-quality rechargeable Nano hearing aids priced 90% less than competitors. Nearly invisible! 45-day money back guarantee! 833-669-5806

Thinking about installing a new shower? American Standard makes it easy. Free design consult. 1-888-674-3005 today to see how to save \$1,000 on installation or visit www.newshowerdeal.com/display

Attention homeowners! You can protect your appliances & systems. For just a little more than a \$1.00/day. Call now for 1st month free, \$75.00 /off 1st year. 1-855-514-1183

Boy Scout compensation fund - Anyone inappropriately touched by a Scout

leader deserves justice & compensation! Victims may be eligible for significant cash settlement. Time is limited. 833-729-0164

Wesley Financial Group, LLC timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get free info package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consult. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 844-909-3339

Generac generators. Weather is increasingly unpredictable. Be prepared for power outages. Free 7-yr ext warranty. Schedule free in-home assessment 1-844-334-8353. Special financing if qualified.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, most advanced debris-blocking protection. Schedule free estimate. 15% off Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-995-2490

CASH FOR CARS: We Buy Any Condition Vehicle, 2002 and Newer. Nationwide Free Pick Up! Call Now: 1-800-864-5960.

WANTED TO BUY

Wants to purchase minerals and other oil and gas interests. Send details to P.O. Box 13557 Denver, Co. 80201

Reader Advisory: The National Trade Association we belong to has purchased the above classifieds. Determining the value of their service or product is advised by this publication. In order to avoid misunderstandings, some advertisers do not offer employment but rather supply the readers with manuals, directories and other materials designed to help their clients establish mail order selling and other businesses at home. Under NO circumstance should you send any money in advance or give the client your checking, license ID, or credit card numbers. Also beware of ads that claim to guarantee loans regardless of credit and note that if a credit repair company does business only over the phone it is illegal to request any money before delivering its service. All funds are based in US dollars. Toll free numbers may or may not reach Canada.

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1



Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder



Dexter Roberts has had his art featured throughout Boston and Cambridge. His poetry has been most recently published in *Stone's Throw*.

I write poems to mind track how many dents are on the moon, a clearing in the Sun's flares reveal a universe shimmering on a wavy surface, that dwells a galaxy of nerves that channel surges wind-blown ripples, faint light reflects murky twigs, fuzzy branches, a cluster of leaves, a grove, a forest, teeming sounds, colors, difference, wings fang claws, the only law, that draw crowds.

— Dexter Roberts

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

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

1. Whisky a Go Go

2. Two and a Half Men

3. Tapping

4. Four – 2012, 2013, 2016, 2020

5. "A"

6. Heathrow

7. High hazard, dangerous marine life

8. July/August

9. TV/radio personality Willard Scott

10. Donald McDonald

11. Knots

12. Lira

OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville's Julia Csekö:

A weaver of art and words



I am a poet, so I work with my words. My canvas is a computer screen or a blank piece of paper. So, I was pleased to find an artist who incorporates words into her art. Csekö, through her murals and other works confronts racism, consumerism and other vital issues head on.

DH: You moved from Brazil to Somerville – quite a contrast. As an artist, how has your experience differed?

JC: It is a huge contrast indeed and even though I've lived in Somerville for almost 10 years, you never fully get used to it, although you adapt.

I'm from Rio, so, for starters I didn't grow up with seasons like we have here. The low temperatures are something I still struggle with every winter. Pretty early on I learned that the Brazilian sense of humor can be a little abrasive to New Englanders and to not kiss my friends on the cheek when I greet them (not that we'd be doing a lot of that now regardless!). I do miss the warmth of my Brazilian friends and family, as well as the general festive and beach-city vibe in Rio. The tropical chic fashion, the stunning views, the late nights and incredibly fun and indescribable experience of Carnival in the streets.

On the flip side, Rio is an astoundingly unequal and violent city, where you have to know the no-go zones, have to be informed about ongoing turf wars around the city and have to be very aware of your surroundings all the time. As a white Brazilian I many times was perceived as a gringa, or tourist, which was quite unnerving, and quickly solved by speaking the language in the local Rio slang – and accent.

Either way the experience of growing up hearing intense firefights near my house and ducking for cover is still vivid in my memory, and I can recognize many different types of firearms by their sound to this day.

I do love the sense of tranquility and safety I experience living in Somerville. The concentration of higher education organizations is really something, and I never take it for granted. I live right next to Tufts, where I did my MFA, and I love the diverse and fascinating people that are attracted to this area.

It is much easier to make plans here, perhaps because of the cold? People honor their commitments and I cannot say the same about the cariocas (people from Rio). I love the fall colors, and the flowers in the spring, which "surprise me" each year,

and a sense that this is a city with the benefits of a small town and big city all at once, such as museums, concert halls, galleries, public transportation, and an international population, still it is fairly quiet, traffic is bad but not unmanageable, and it is relatively clean. I also appreciate Boston's skyline, which is beautiful, but not overwhelming. Rio can be overwhelmingly big sometimes, and just going from here to there can be an adventure in terms of traffic and the fast pace.

DH: You incorporate the written word in your art. How do you decide to weave this element in your work?

JC: This started early in my BFA at the Federal University of Rio, probably around 2004, when I was about to graduate. The course was very hands-on and the theory was not addressing the issues I was interested in, so I did my own readings. I was fascinated by philosophy and poetry, and was eager to share these ideas with my fellow art majors, and anyone really. How to do that without tapping someone on the shoulder and reading to them?

I decided to make paintings that would share the work of these authors on a monumental scale. Using bright colors to lure people's attention. My desire was to create murals from the very beginning, but making public art does not come easy, so I started making paintings hoping that they would lead to public spaces. I wanted to take literary works that might be too obscure/controversial, or perhaps too dissonant to mainstream consumerist culture to the most public settings possible. Another reason to use text is a desire to let the viewers' imagination construct their own imagery. I provide ideas, and they can illustrate them and hopefully bring them to fruition within their own internal dialog.

DH: Your works often deal with racism. In fact, a mural of yours at Emerson College incorporated the words of the late civil rights activist John Lewis. Why did you take the words of Lewis, as there are many other texts you could have used?

JC: Whenever I work in a public space or receive a commission, my work becomes a collaborative effort. In this particular case, the work was responding to a very specific event. Earlier this year, the Emerson Administration found antisemitic and white supremacist graffiti at the Piano Row campus. They were quick to engage their community in a conversation, asking the student body how they would like to respond to

Continued on page 15

Tufts University to provide free COVID-19 testing for abutters

Tufts University is launching a free COVID-19 community testing program for neighbors in Medford and Somerville who live on select streets close to the university's Medford/Somerville campus. A limited number of asymptomatic tests will be available each week during the program, which launched on Tuesday, October 13 and concludes at the end of Tufts' fall semester in December.

"The testing program was developed to support Tufts neighbors during the unprecedented COVID-19 public health crisis," said Anthony P. Monaco, Tufts University president. "We appreciate Medford and Somerville's continued collaboration to prevent the spread of this dangerous virus, and keep both the Tufts campus community and host communities safe. This is one more way in which the university, Medford and Somerville are working together to support each other through this pandemic."

The tests, which take roughly 10 minutes, will be conducted by appointment in Breed Memorial Hall at 51 Winthrop Street in Medford on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Only qualifying community members with appointments will be permitted to enter the testing facility due to social distancing and other health con-

siderations. Any residents under the age of 18 – including the children of neighbors with appointments – cannot be tested or enter the testing facility.

Qualifying neighbors may schedule an appointment at www.communityrelations.tufts.edu/community-testing-program/.

Only neighbors who reside on select streets abutting the Medford/Somerville campus and meet other criteria are eligible for this testing program. The complete list of streets and criteria are below.

"We are very thankful to Tufts University for opening up asymptomatic testing for residents in the Tufts area," said Breanna Lungo-Koehn, mayor of Medford. "The availability of community testing will allow us to continue to track and monitor cases within our community, especially asymptomatic spread, and will hopefully provide some peace of mind for residents in the shorter term. We look forward to continuing our weekly conversations and check-ins with Tufts staff to continue our joint goals of keeping our communities safe and healthy."

"We're appreciative that Tufts is stepping up and making it easier for Somerville residents who live near campus to get tested for COVID-19 and adding to the options that the community

already has for testing," said Joe Curtatone, mayor of Somerville. "Robust testing is a key part in containing this disease, so anything that can be done to make testing easier and more convenient is a boost for public health."

In order to qualify for a test, neighbors must satisfy the following requirements:

Must be 18 years or older.
Must be asymptomatic for COVID-19.

Must make an appointment at least one day in advance. Anyone who arrives at the testing facility without an appointment will not be tested.

Must fill out a consent form.
Must be wearing face covering over mouth and nose.

Must bring a photo ID and/or a utility bill with your address.
Must live on one of the eligible streets, listed below.

Parking at the testing facility is extremely limited and will only be available to individuals who have a handicapped parking permit. Public metered parking is available a short distance from the testing facility on Boston Avenue in Medford. A staff member will greet community members arriving for their appointments to check them in.

More information about the testing program can be found on the frequently asked questions page here. Neighbors with ad-



ditional questions or concerns may contact the Tufts University Office of Government and Community Relations at communityrelations@tufts.edu or 617-627-3780.

Anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms should contact their primary healthcare provider.

Tufts has one of the nation's most comprehensive COVID-19 testing program for students, both those who live on- and off-campus and are attending classes in person this semester. The program includes twice-weekly COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and quarantine and isolation protocols, as well as requirements that students wear face coverings, observe social distancing guidelines, and practice good hand hygiene. Testing results are posted publicly and updated daily at the Tufts COVID-19 dashboard.

More information about the university's COVID-19 re-

sponse can be found here.

In Somerville, the testing program is available to neighbors who reside on the following streets:

Bailey St., Bromfield Rd., Chetwynd Rd., College Ave. (between Powder House Circle and Boston Ave), College Hill Rd., Conwell Ave., Curtis Ave., Curtis St., Dearborn Rd., Electric Ave., Hillsdale Rd. (between Conwell Ave and Sunset Rd.; remainder of the road is in Medford), Lovell St., Mason St., North St (between Powder House Blvd and Boston Ave), Ossipee Rd., Packard Ave. (between Professors Row and Broadway), Pearson Rd., Powder House Blvd. (between North St. and Powder House Circle), Raymond Ave., Sawyer Ave., Sunset Rd., Teele Ave., Upland Rd. (even-numbered addresses only), West Adams St., West Quincy St., Westminster St., Whitfield Rd., and Whitman St.

Somerville's Julia Csekö: A weaver of art and words

CONT. FROM PG 14

the incident. The idea emerged to create a piece of art in response to the event.

The Emerson Contemporary Gallery curator Leonie Bradbury put together a student advisory board and a conversation began between myself and the group to decide what text would be a good response to the hateful graffiti found on campus. I originally proposed working with a woman Jewish author, and Hanna Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism* was close to being the selected text. However, on July 30, 2020, the very day we were to decide the author, Leonie sent me the essay written by John Lewis published that same morning on the NYT, on the occasion of his passing.

We were both in awe, it was beautiful, it was uplifting, it was incredibly hopeful and it was a historical moment that we were witnessing. We took the essay to the student advisory board and after a brief discussion we all agreed that John Lewis was speaking loud and clear against white supremacy and all forms of bigotry as he did his whole life. It was a way to honor him and his memory, and to respond to the desire of the student body to use a text that showed hope and conveyed a message to guide us into a better future, more just, more equal, more peaceful.

DH: The mural is titled *The Coney Island of the Mind*. That's also the title of the great beat poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti's poetry collection. Were you influenced by Ferlinghetti? Any other poets?

JC: Oh, Ferlinghetti definitely inspired the title of this series, I love his work. There is something about

the beat generation poets that viscerally attracts me, a certain spontaneity, an ability to criticize openly, to think critically, look for alternatives and to perhaps search for ways to course correct, or just admit fault, admit fallibility and vulnerability. I love their call to be less rigid, more in touch with our needs, instincts and desires. We live in a time that is so conflicting. People in power are allowed to essentially behave like buffoons and criminals in the public sphere for anyone to see, while people who live paycheck to paychecks are expected to fall in line and behave. Wealth accumulation has never been so absurdly unequal globally. As a pacifist, I don't condone looting or rioting, but I am surprised that it doesn't happen all the time these days; people can only take so much abuse before snapping.

Either we get to a point where we are all accountable for our actions and words, or we will get to a point when no one will be accountable. I believe that words have meaning and power, and that they should not be used lightly. We see so many words lose their meaning these days. We need to reclaim the power and meaning of words, and hold our leaders accountable to what they say. We need leaders that walk like they talk. We may be far from this right now, but I believe in course correction. It will be a long process and it starts with taking education way more seriously.

We can't form people to be a workforce, we need to form people to be citizens. We can't expect people to vote or make good decisions when voting without hav-

ing a good education. For that to happen we need social equality to sweep in simultaneously, since if you are living below the poverty line, survival becomes prioritized over education. This is a complex conversation, and we are just scratching the surface here. I hope that my work will contribute even if in the slightest way for course correction, to reclaim the power and meaning of words. I read and admire many poets, but ironically, I am back to the beats, and I am just starting to work with Diane Di Prima's *Revolutionary Letters*.

I realized I need more women authors in this series. After 16 years making these paintings in a non-linear way, I want to be more intentional about representing a more diverse selection of authors, less Eurocentric and less patriarchal. I was shocked recently to look at my bookshelf and discover the much lower number of women/queer writers and artists on there.

DH: Why should people view your work?

JC: I hope folks will become curious about the ideas and authors I share. I hope they will share my excitement in these ideas. As an artist I find that one of my roles is to educate myself continuously in hopes to be able to educate others. As an educator I believe that I learn from my students in the same measure that I teach them. I am hopeful that we will reach a point where the vision of Brazilian philosopher and educator Paulo Freire will be common sense, and that critical pedagogy will clear the way for an education and communication based in dialogue and diversity, freeing our minds and bodies from oppression.

The Somerville Times


To advertise in our Business Directory,
call or fax.

Phone: 617-666-4010


Fax: 617-628-0422

Let your customers find you in Somerville's
most widely read newspaper!

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



CENTURY 21
North East
Len Ferrari
Sales Associate
Cell: 781.608.5008
Office: 617.623.6600
lenferrari@c21ne.com



The Official Real Estate Company of the Boston Bruins

CENTRAL DISPOSAL
Commercial/Residential
Fully Insured

Steve Dervishian
78 Plymouth Road
Malden MA 02148
centraldisposal@comcast.net
617-967-5792
Est. 1984




Mónica Calvo, Realtor®
(617)605-3308
monicacalvoprestige@gmail.com




Juscelia LoRusso
617.686.8095

Cakes for all occasions


facebook.com/JusceliasCakes
facebook.com/Juscelia.Lorusso



CENTURY 21
North East
Clifton Verdieu
Sales Associate
Cell: 617-230-7013
Office: 617-623-6600
699 Broadway
Somerville, MA 02144
cverdeu@c21ne.com
www.c21ne.com



The official real estate company of the Boston Bruins



Alibrandi's Barber Shop
Men & Boys Haircuts
"Best Somerville Barber"

194 Holland St, Somerville, MA 02144
617-628-4282

Closed Wednesday

Richard G. Di Girolamo
Anne M. Vigorito
Michael LaRosa

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

Real Estate Law
Zoning
Civil Litigation
Criminal Defense
Family Law
Personal Injury

TELEPHONE: (617) 666-8200

FAX: (617) 776-5435

EMAIL: digirolamolegal@verizon.net

424 BROADWAY, SOMERVILLE, MA 02145

**WINTER HILL
HOMES**



Josue Velney
Director of Acquisitions

WE BUY HOUSES
ANY CONDITION CASH & FAST

617-684-5363
Josue@WinterHillHomes.com
www.WinterHillHomes.com

T. J. SILLARI, INC.

Over 50 Years Experience
Proud to be a Somerville Business Resident



- Plumbing • Heating
- Gas Fitting • Industrial Work
- Water Heater Replacement
- Complete Drain Service

Residential - Industrial - Commercial

Master Plmb. Lic. #6106

625-9877

To advertise in
The Somerville Times
call **Bobbie Toner: 617-666-4 010**

**Sell your
house today!**


"We'll sell your house fast!"




~ Notary Public ~ Justice of the Peace ~

MARIE HOWE
REAL ESTATE

617-666-4040



CENTURY 21
North East
Denise Cosby
Sales Associate
Cell: 857.928.4282
Office: 617.623.6600
dcosby@c21ne.com



The Official Real Estate Company of the Boston Bruins

Telephone:
(617) 625-2244
(617) 625-4344

Fax:
(617) 625-4350

EDWIN J. SMITH
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
RUMERY & SMITH

403 HIGHLAND AVENUE
SOMERVILLE, MA 02144

edsmithlaw@gmail.com

Martin B. Dropkin
Nancy G. Matza



Attorneys at Law

Tel: 617-623-4600

Fax: 617-625-7315

DROPKIN & MATZA LLP

Attorneys at Law

424 Broadway
Somerville MA 02145

Bankruptcy
Family Law
Immigration
Personal Injury
Business Law
Estate Planning and Probate
Real Estate
Elder Law
Civil Litigation

mdropkin@dropkinmatza.com