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VOL. 8 NO. 44

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020





Full size Halloween page 3



Avoiding the conflicts page 11



Music, peace and excitement – early voting going smoothly in Somerville



Somerville residents have been participating in the city's early voting program since October 17. — Photos by Angi Zhang

By Anqi Zhang

Strolling along streets on the sunny Saturday afternoon of October 24 in Somerville, one could find it natural to slow down and watch the surroundings – paths covered with yellow and red leaves, creatively decorated houses and yards, festive storefront. And the long line stretching from the entrance of Somerville City Hall to the square's back was in harmonious order.

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

The line was for early voting for the 2020 State (Presidential) Election, taking place from October 17 to October 30 in Somerville. In addition to voting in person, this year all residents are eligible to vote by mail, with the deadline of returning their ballots being before 8:00 p.m. on November 3.

Until October 24, approximately 5,000 Somerville residents have taken part in early voting, according to Nicholas *Continued on page 4*

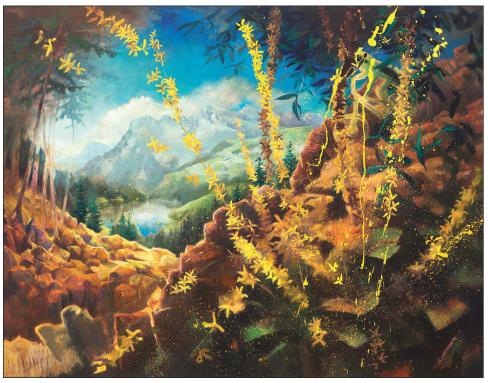
Somerville artist debuts pandemicborn paintings at art gallery

By Rachel Berets

While riding the Somerville Bike Path from his home to his studio this spring, Somerville artist Wilhelm Neusser watched the natural world come back to life in all its color and intensity, just as stay-at-home orders went into effect.

Neusser sensed a disconnect between the growth of the changing season and the stifling nature of life during the pandemic. This disconnect inspired Neusser's latest solo exhibition, titled *The Sixth Season*, which is on display from now until mid-December at the Abigail Ogilvy Gallery in Boston.

His exhibition uses elements of the traditional landscape painting as a filter for a spring season lost to the pandemic. The landscape paintings that Neusser started in March are brimming with bright layers of yellow forsythia, obscuring a cloudy blue-green background.





Somerville's Ally Sass page 15

"It all started to bloom and spring was popping, but we were kind of not *Continued on page 6*

Somerville artist Wilhelm Neusser's "Downhill" - oil on canvas, 48" x 66" - currently on display at Abigail Ogilvy Gallery in Boston. — Photos by Julia Featheringill Photography

ATTN: LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS

REASON #1 WHY ADVERTISING IN PRINT IS BETTER:

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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.

This Halloween, Saturday, October 31, the city invites all residents to join in celebrating Howl-o-ween. Put on a face covering at 6:30 p.m. and give your best Halloween growls, ghost boos, and woops (or to just politely holler out your COVID-19 woes and frustrations) from your door or window. Closer to Halloween, the Somerville Arts Council will also be sharing a map of Halloween decorations if you'd like to plan your own spooky stroll, as well as a list of virtual Halloween happenings. https://somervilleartscouncil.org/. *****

Join SCC on November 7 at 6:00 p.m. for a Light Up Somerville Illuminated Walk. Join in for a socially distant and safe Illuminated Walk to spread awareness about the dire need for affordable housing in Somerville. Walk participants will be given a handmade lantern representing one of SCC's 100 Homes. They will walk from Dunkin' Donuts, 220 Broadway through the streets in safe pods of less than ten and end in Leathers Park. If you care about keeping Somerville equitable, inclusive, and affordable, please be a part of our inaugural walk. This is a family friendly event. Masks required. #SomervilleforAll #KeepSomervilleLit

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to a very good friend a super guy Richard Hart of the famous Hart family. We wish him a very happy 80th. He deserves the best. Happy birthday to one of Somerville's nicest real estate agents, Clifton Verdieu, who also grew up in East Somerville. He works for Century 21 North East Norton Group RE. Happy birthday to a former alderman and great guy, Dennis Sullivan. A nice guy who served Somerville for many years. We wish him a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to Eric Erb, from Somerville, who is celebrating this week. Happy birthday to another good guy who served Somerville years ago, Charles Chisholm. We hope he has a great birthday. And finally, happy birthday to another great guy and writer, Timothy Gager. A very talented Continued on page 7



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



Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of October 28 – November 3 as provided by the National Weather Service

	DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
•••	Wednesday October 28	Rain	50°/43°	49%	23%	SW 7 mph
•••	Thursday October 29	Rain	50°/35°	89%	27%	N 6 mph
•••	Friday October 30	Rain	40°/27°	90%	26%	NNE 16 mph
*	Saturday October 31	Sunny	45°/32°	1%	14%	NNE 8 mph
	Sunday November 1	Cloudy	56°/35°	19%	12%	S 12 mph
*	Monday November 2	Sunny	43°/32°	21%	9%	WNW 15 mph
*	Tuesday November 3	Sunny	47°/33°	0%	8%	WNW 13 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: Somerville seeking resident to serve on City's **Conservation Commission**

Yet another poster says:

We have a conservation commission in Somerville? We have wetlands? We have nature? How did I not know this?

Michael says:

YAP- wetlands aren't the biggest issue the commission needs to deal with in Somerville, though we do have the Mystic River to the north. Don't be confused by the name of the MA law which the commission is there to enforce. Note, for example, that "stormwater engineering" appears before wetlands in the posting.

Response to: SMC Honors 2020 – Celebrate Community Media in Somerville

Joe Lynch says:

Once again, congratulations to all the award recipients and honorees. Terrific job all.

SaaS website says:

A great journey, congratulations to all the winners and participants. Good luck for your future.

🕒 @somervilletimes

thesomervilletimes

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

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Response to: Squash, Plain & Simple

Lynne LeNoir says:

Great article! Great recipes for fall

Response to: Community meeting: Washington St. bus and bike lane pilot

dave says:

Dedicated bike lanes are nice, but dedicated bus lanes are a bad idea (included ones on Broadway and Prospect already installed).

Bus lanes seek to get bus riders to their destination a few minutes (at best) earlier at the expense of making traffic worse for everybody else and taking away parking. It's just not worth it. There is one bus per 15 minutes, perhaps, and a nonstop flow of people in cars that are being delayed because of the lost lane. The cost-benefit analysis simply does not support a bus lane, and it's time for pro-MBTA/bike voices to admit that not every idea that benefit MBTA riders or cyclists is actually smart policy.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times -

Life in the VILLE by Jimmy Del Ponte

Halloween, full size



If there's ever a real argument comparing these days to the good old days, two words can help win the discussion, full size. Not just candy bars either. Back

then there was no such thing as fun size. And instead of a regular size goody bag,



my friends and I carried full size pillowcases. Everything back then (60's-80's) was bigger. Cars were bigger, toys seemed bigger and, of course, Halloween candy bars were ... full size.

On Halloween night the streets were full of kids. Each house on my street near Davis Square, had a family with kids. There were parents and kids everywhere. As always, I've asked some of my Somerville friends to share their memories of Halloweens gone by.

Peter: "I remember sitting on the living room floor trading candy I didn't like with my sister, and they were full size candy bars!"

Sophia: "We had six kids trick or treating for candy, so it was a candy store at the end of our run. We kids brought so much candy home, my mom emptied shoe boxes and filled at least a dozen of them according to the type of candy. My favorite boxes were the Milky Way bars and Milk Duds."

Pamela: "We used to leave our house in Ball Sq. to trick or treat with pillow cases for bags. We would go back when they were full. One year we each filled six pillow cases. Wish I had that energy today!" Maureen: "Lasting memory for me until the end of time, Mrs, O'Hare on Highland Rd., dressed up in costume and scaring all the kids. One year it was a gorilla



with Tarzan like sound effects played in the background, another year a witch. She was unrecognizable and the attention to detail was insanely good. What good times."

Bob: "I remember hiding the wood for the bonfire in the Northeastern JR High schoolyard from the 'authorities' until we were sure the coast was clear and then it was 'burn baby burn."

Jon: "There was an elderly couple somewhere in our Continued on page 12



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dining available.

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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.

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

Be safe and stay healthy – The Mount Vernon Restaurant

Music, peace and excitement – early voting going smoothly in Somerville CONT. FROM PG 1

Salerno, the Chairman of the Board of Election Commissioners for Somerville. Compared with four years ago, he said the figure was "a little bit less" due to a series of safety protocols including setting up fewer polling computers, conducting social distancing.

On the second floor of City Hall, voters waited before entering the ballot room. Inside, each booth could only be used by one person to register their votes. The cleaning staffer sanitized the booth right after each voter left.

The staff set up tents at the entrance, under which they organized the line and controlled the number of people entering the building. Richard Blewett is an election worker was in charge of distributing the yellow envelopes to the people in line. The envelope is for voters to fill in their information, and is sealed up with the ballot inside before voters put it into a ballot box. It is the same envelope for voting by mail. Blewett said that the voting process has been "very positive." "People have been very respectful and have been observing social distance," he said. "We've had musical entertainment, which is lovely."

He was speaking to Mike Block, who was playing cello at the corner of the square for the voters in queue. Block is the creator of Play For The Vote, a grassroot organization offering musical performances at polling locations across the country.

"Our goal is simply to make voting a more positive experience," said Block, who already got his mail-in ballot. "I've already run into two friends who were in line to vote, so it's nice to feel connected to everybody," he said.

Jamie Baik, 28, chose early voting to avoid busy crowds. She prefers not to do mail-in because she felt unsure about it. "I know it was like kind of like extra paranoid, but I live here, so why not?" she said.

"So great!" Katie Kottas, 35,



said with a delightful voice when asked about her feelings after finishing voting. She came with Brian Chappell, 35, who shared her joy. "I feel giddy. It's cool to be able to do our civic duty, to do what we can to help change some things around here," he said.

They waited in line for more than 50 minutes, and expressed

their understanding towards the necessary waiting and satisfaction with the orderly polling process. Both working full time, doing early voting on a Saturday better fits their schedule, and they wanted to save the worry about ballots getting lost on the way.

"Considering Massachusetts starts to count votes immedi-

ately as they come in, I want to make sure that we got ours in as early as possible," Chappell said.

"I feel amazing! It's so cool! It's so invigorating!" said 19-yearold Isabel Montanez-Roderick after finishing her first ever voting experience on this special Saturday. Her father witnessed the moment with her.





Three Somerville polling places relocated for November 3 election

Three of Somerville's polling places have been relocated for the November 3 election to accommodate COVID-19 safety measures. All other polling locations will remain the same as they were for the September primary election. If you plan to vote in person on November 3, don't forget to double-check your polling location.



The new polling locations are as follows:

Ward 2 Precinct 3

New Location: Argenziano School, 290 Washington St. *Former Location:* Fire station at 651 Somerville Ave.

Ward 5 Precinct 2

New Location: Kennedy School, use the entrance across the street from 21 Sartwell Ave. *Former Location:* Brown School

Ward 5 Precinct 3

New Location: Kennedy School, use the entrance across the street from 21 Sartwell Ave. *Former Location:* Fire station at 265 Highland Ave.

You can look up your polling location by visiting www.somervillema.gov/mysomerville and entering your address. You can also call 311 for assistance. All polling locations are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 3.

Vote by Mail and Early Voting

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all Massachusetts voters can vote by mail this year. Applications for a November 3 election ballot must be received by the City of Somerville Elections Department by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28.

If you are returning your vote by mail ballot via one of the City drop boxes, it must be in by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3. If you are returning it by mail, it must be received by Friday, November 6, with a postmark no later than November 3.

Voters also have the option of casting their ballot in person during early voting, which continues through Friday, October 30. All early voting takes place at Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., and the remaining schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, October 27, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 28, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 29, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 30, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

By taking advantage of early voting, anyone wishing to vote in-person can help spread out crowds, which will help with social distancing. If you have questions about early voting, please email elections@somervillema.gov or call the Elections Department via 311.

Visit www.somervillema.gov/elections for more voting information or call 311 to connect with the Elections Department.

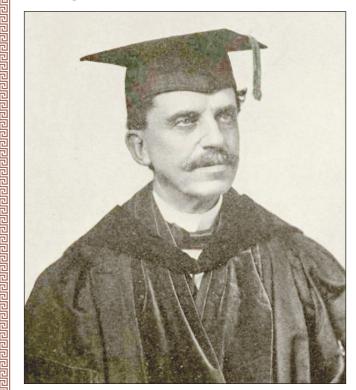




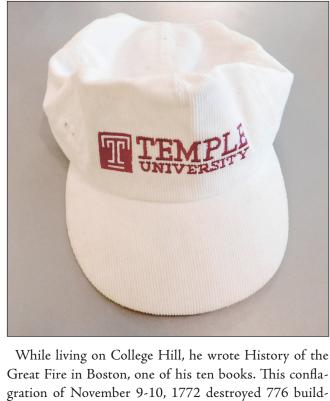
Eagle feathers #216



To say that Russell Conwell made some people feel good about themselves is a colossal underestimate. He was best known as the founder and first president of Philadelphia's Temple University, founder of an affiliated church, two hospitals, and author of the inspirational speech, Acres of Diamonds, which he gave over six thousand times. During his life time, he lectured to over eight million listeners, educated over ten thousand students and repeatedly turned down requests to name the school after himself.



He was born in South Worthington, Massachusetts and educated at Wilbraham Wesleyan Academy and Yale University. Before the Civil War, his parents used their home as a station on the underground railroad. He married and moved with his wife Sarah to Somerville, Massachusetts, where they worked in real estate and started a city newspaper, *The Somerville Journal*.



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While living on College Hill, he wrote History of the Great Fire in Boston, one of his ten books. This conflagration of November 9-10, 1772 destroyed 776 buildings. He and his wife had two children, a daughter and a son, Leon, who would later become a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and the 19th Mayor of Somerville.

When war clouds came, Russell helped 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.

To honor Justice Ginsburg's legacy, we must pass the ROE act



By State Representative Christine P. Barber

In Massachusetts, we often believe that our health care rights are protected, no matter the chaos at the federal level. But with the recent death

of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the rushed confirmation of radical conservative Amy Coney Barrett, our reproductive rights are at risk. Right now, 17 abortion-related cases are just one step from the Supreme Court – and any one of them could dismantle Roe v. Wade. The reality is that our reproductive rights are holding on by a thread in this country even in Massachusetts.

When someone makes the personal decision to have an abortion, they should be able to access that care without shame,

stigma, or medically unnecessary barriers. That is their legal right. Period.

Yet for far too many people in our Commonwealth - particularly people of color, people with modest incomes, and LGBTQ+ people – barriers push abortion dangerously out of reach.

That's why I am proud to be a co-sponsor of the ROE Act. As a long-time health advocate, I know the ROE Act is a common-sense public health policy to preserve reproductive rights and dismantle medically unnecessary barriers to abortion.

Barriers like forcing young people to go before a judge to access the care they need. Or for people who learn the heart-wrenching news that their pregnancy is not viable beyond 24 weeks and who are currently forced to travel across the country to get care that they can't get in Massachusetts - if they can afford to do so.

Every Massachusetts resident deserves the freedom to make decisions that are right for them and their families. Every Massachusetts patient should be able to receive care when and where they need it. That includes re-

productive care. We have the opportunity to lead the nation by tearing down barriers to care by passing the ROE Act.

It is time to take a stand for our right to reproductive justice and honor Justice Ginsburg's Legacy. Massachusetts can act now to make abortion safe, legal and accessible for all. Almost 30 years ago, Justice Ginsburg said access to reproductive care is "central to a woman's life, to her dignity." In the legislature, we must ensure that our laws continue to uplift dignity.

That's why I'm fighting for the ROE Act.

Financial Literacy Workshop

Somerville Family Learning Collaborative and the National Campaign for Financial Literacy invite you to a free virtual Financial Literacy workshop on Wednesday, October 28, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. Learn and understand strategies to improve your finances and build a strong financial foundation.

Register at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXDZulix76vUxUq4G-in2sTBTIUT0UWEEmZKHS-MOst1fRqDQ/viewform.



For more information, contact Francia Reyes at freyes@k12.somerville.ma.us, or call or text (617) 845-6014.

Somerville artist debuts pandemic-born paintings at art gallery

CONT. FROM PG 1

allowed to go out," said Neusser. "There's nature, there's spring, there's this awakening, and then there's at the same time this kind of uncertainty or skepticism of the outdoors."

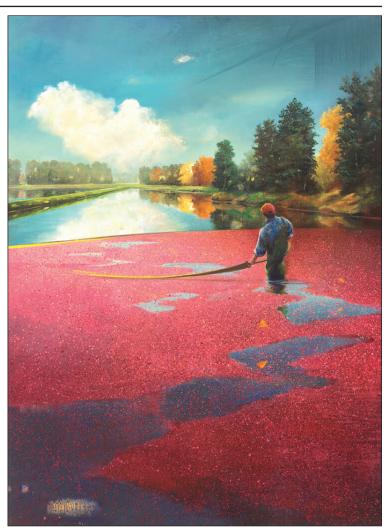
For Neusser, these pandemic-inspired works are a continuation of his interest in landscape paintings. Born and raised in western Germany, Neusser has lived and worked in the United States for almost ten years.

mostly avoids the figure in his paintings, making the viewer contemplate and negotiate their own relationship to the landscape. "The viewer becomes the figure that's about to step into the landscape," said Neusser.

Many of Neusser's paintings are hyper-local, such as his Sixth Season painting Picnic, a recognizable scene of Fresh Pond Reservation in Cambridge. But he also hopes a cranberry bog or New England scene could be accessible to a larger audience. "The initial inspiration is the walk around Fresh Pond, but I hope this is a painting that could also appeal to someone in Munich. He doesn't know anything about Fresh Pond, maybe it doesn't matter, but sees the kind of looming dark clouds and thinks this is actually conveying a mood that's somewhat foreboding." The "looming dark clouds" in the background of Neusser's paintings are similar to those found in Dutch 16th century painter Pieter Bruegel's series Six Seasons for a Dining Room. During Bruegel's time, there were considered by the Dutch to be six seasons - fall, winter, early spring, spring, early summer, and late summer. Bruegel painted six large-scale landscape paintings depicting each one of the six seasons, but the spring-inspired painting was lost.

The title for Neusser's show, The Sixth Season, is a reference to Bruegel's lost spring painting and a season lost to the pandemic.

Neusser also mentions the



His previous work includes a series on cranberry bogs, an essential New England scene that fascinated the German-born painter. "On the one hand it is a very low-key traditional thing, but then I thought it's a very strong picture of a certain mood," said Neusser.

"There's the expression of being 'bogged down' by something and it's called a cranberry bog. For me as a non-native speaker that totally fit together, 'bogged down' and being in the bog - it's this kind of not knowing where to go or hard to get out of."

Neusser sees his Sixth Season paintings and his work on the cranberry bogs as small windows to something bigger. He pressure for artists to turn a "season lost" into a period of increased creativity. "I think what happened is that it drew me in in a good and in a bad way," said Neusser, referring to the allure of pandemic productivity. "I think I got absorbed in a

way that was sometimes too close for comfort because I didn't have the balance of social encounters. At the same time there were paintings where I just struggled and fought with for longer and that brought out qualities that I wouldn't have received under so-called 'normal circumstances.""

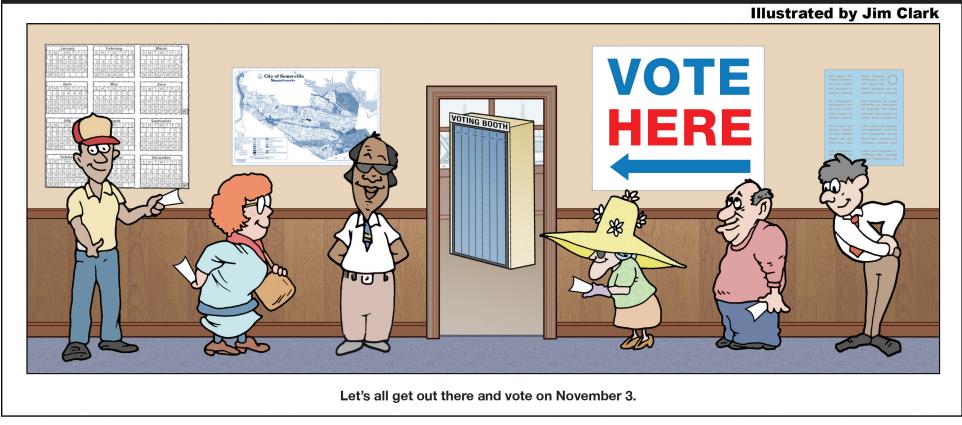
Neusser is done fighting with the painting for now, but

"Bog/White Cloud" - oil on linen, 66" x 48" - currently on display at Abigail Ogilvy Gallery in Boston.

doesn't know when he will go back to creating art under "normal circumstances." "There will always be a new normal," said Neusser. "It's not up to me to decide, but describing the way there, that would be my goal."

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES



Our View Of The Times



As we contend with the awful effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, then do our best to give the little ones some semblance of normalcy as they look to celebrate Halloween, we are triply tasked with searching our souls for the right answers to questions posed at the ballot box next week.

For some of us the choices are blessedly clear, while others may have difficulty

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

guy. We hope he has a great day. A belated birthday to our own Mike Rais, who you see delivering the papers each week for us. We wish him a great year to come. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Jeffery Varney, Diana Riel, Dorothy O'Malley, Russell Chiary, Erin DiBenedetto, Gene Beraldi, Candy Feldt, John Blute, Katie Marsh, Cathryn Chandler Dubay, and Diane Sylvester Ames a very hapculling the wheat from the chaff amidst all of the conflicting messages put forward on each side of almost every issue. Politics as usual, really.

From the national race for the leadership of our country right on down to the regional issues that touch our everyday lives right here at home, it is an important election day. Every eligible voter should consider it his or her duty to vote and do the thing that makes life in this land such a precious gift: help to decide the course that we are to follow in the immediate future, and play their parts in writing the historical record for what is to follow.

Every single vote does count, be assured of that. Vote by mail ballots can be returned by mail to Somerville Elections Department, or through one of ten drop boxes located around the city. So, don't let a little rain or chilly weather or anything else stop you. From the troops at Valley Forge straight through to our humble present-day letter carriers, service to one's country should not be hindered or halted due to a bit of inconvenient inclement weather. Or almost anything else, actually.

Let it be so for us as well. We are no less important.

and Nepali interpretation, email sbernt@somervillema.gov.

Don't forget the Union Square Farmers Market is still open but is in its final stretch of the season. Union Square Main Streets runs a COVID-19 prepared market with a \$15 SNAP match every Saturday until November 21, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Union Square Plaza, 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. reserved for seniors and immuno-compromised shoppers. For more information visit https://www. unionsquaremain.org/2020-season. City of Somerville will be jointly hosting a second online Schools Reopening Town Hall on local efforts related to the 2020/2021 school year amid the pandemic, including updates on building ventilation and COVID-19 testing plans. Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole interpretation will be available. More information on the meeting, including how to join, is here https://www.somervillema.gov/ pany. For example, shutoffs are prohibited without DPU permission between **November 15** and **March 15**, and if the utility service is necessary to heat your home. If you are having trouble paying your utility bills, you may be eligible for fuel assistance. You can also contact your utility company to try and set up a payment plan.

py 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.

Mental Health and Wellness Covid-19 Town Hall, Wednesday, October 28, 6:00 p.m. As part of a series of virtual ResiStat meetings being held this fall, join the mayor, City Councilors, and staff for a meeting geared toward mental health and wellness during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. They will also take your questions. You can either call in, join on Zoom, or watch on City TV. Details at somervillema.gov/virtualtownhall. Spanish interpretation and English captioning will be available. To request Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol, ******

Covid case counts as of **October 25**: a total of 1,417 Somerville residents have tested positive for COVID-19 since March, another 109 are considered probable positive cases (some current, some in the past), 1,332 have since recovered, and sadly there have been 44 deaths. See more Somerville case data on the city's **COVID-19 Dashboard**.https://public.tableau.com/profile/cityofsomerville#!/vizhome/SomervilleCOVID-19Dashboard2/Dashboard3.

Schools Reopening Town Hall, Thursday, October 29, 6:00 p.m. The Somerville Public Schools and the events/2020/10/29/schools-reopening-town-hall.

Early voting for the November 3 election ends this Friday, October 30. All early voting takes place at City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., and you can find a list of early voting hours at https://www. somervillema.gov/departments/elections/early-voting. By taking advantage of early voting, anyone wishing to vote in-person can help spread out crowds, which will help with social distancing.

Information on **utility shutoffs**: There are several circumstances under which your utilities cannot be shut off without permission of the **Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities**, even if you owe money to your utility comCOVID-19 testing at Assembly Row. To make an appointment, call 617-665-2928 (Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.). The mobile COVID-19 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.

Teen Empowerment is looking for Somerville youth ages 13 – 21 to join their team of youth organizers. Learn more about Teen Empowerment at https://teenempowerment.org/somerville/. Sign up for an interview this month at https://tinyurl.com/ApplyTESomerville. *Continued on page 12* Ms. Cam's

mixture, hodgepodge

come from?

ed house?

UNICEF?

Halloween?

2. Where is the

3. Who invented

Trick-or-Treat for

4. Who was the first

First Lady to decorate

the White House for

5. What is the sig-

nificance of seeing a

6. Who wrote the

story The Legend of

1

Sleepy Hollow?

spider on Halloween?

world's longest haunt-

1. Where does the

term "jack o'lantern"

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous

Cams lío

FUN & GAMES

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Russians generally answer the phone by saying, "I'm listening." 2. Greenland is the largest island in the world.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD PROVERBIALLY SPEAKING

ACROSS

#753

7. What is the name

of the Vampire Mup-

pet on Sesame Street?

8. What are the only

mammals that can fly

and the only ones that

survive on blood?

9. What was The

Munsters' address?

10. Mary Shelley?

1. Bornean ape

6. Casino's pull 9. Elbow-wrist connection

13. Paralyzing disease

14. Pigeon sound 15. Teething drops

16. Mary's subjects (1542-1567)

17. Ostrich-like bird

18. September stone

19. One responsible for someone else's

welfare

21. Both rodents and humans like to

come up with these

23. Name fit for a king

24. Wedding cover

25. Like a dim star

28. Head vermin

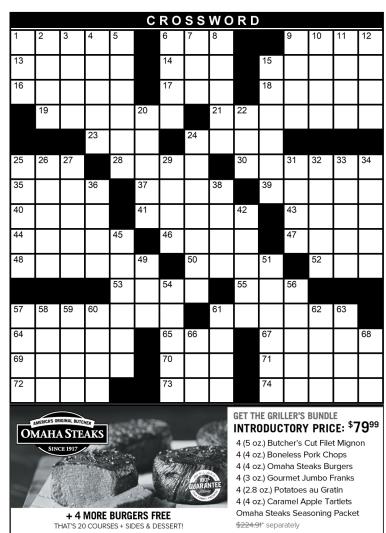
30. Like the schemes of a fool, biblically

speaking

35. Thor's father

37. Cleopatra's necklace

- 39. Blood carrier
- 40. Ice on a window
- 41. Famous Teatro alla _
- 43. Took to court
- 44. Prevent
- 46. Burden of proof
- 47. Leprechaun's land
- 48. Fit
- 50. Cabinet div.
- 52. Steadfast Soldier's material
- 53. Letter before kappa
- 55. European Economic Community
- 57. It increases love and friendship
- 61. It will cause additional harm
- 64. Raccoon relative
- 65. Short for the Metropolitan Muse-
- um of Art in NYC
- 67. Huey, Duey and Louie, e.g.
- 69. #41 Across location
- 70. Prior to, pref.
- 71. Organ swelling 72. Benevolent fellows
- 73. African tam-
- 74. English county



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- 4. Fertilizer ingredient 5. Luke's teaching, e.g. 6. Laptop manufacturer 7. Data storage acronym 8. Cowards are sometimes compared to this 9. Encourage 10. Good earth 11. Sound on a scale 12. Saloon selections 15. Perennial garden flower 20. Signs for escape 22. Post-Soviet Union alliance, acr. 24. Covered porch 25. Can't use these to break a skeleton 26. Farewell, to ami
- 33. First cradles 34. Filled with cargo 36. Like whiskey right out of bottle 38. Classic board game 42. Colorado ski resort 45. Curb, two words 49. Disney dwarf 51. ACT taker, e.g. 54. Dangle a carrot 56. Miss Muffet's meal 57. "The Road Runner" corporation 58. Skin infection 59. #13 Across conqueror 60. J.F.K. postings 61. Bookkeeping entry 62. Don't make inquiries if you don't want to hear this

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Λ

- 11. Who was the first presidential wife to be referred to as FLO-TUS, for First Lady of the United States?
- 12. Who was the first US president Barbara Walters interviewed?

Answers on page 12

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

DOWN

1. Roman goddess of plenty 2. It's just as unpleasant as a hard place 3. Sunburn soother

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

29. Gabrielle Chanel's nickname 31. Keep it clean to stay out of trouble 32. It's tastier if one is not allowed to have it

27. Nimbus, pl.

63. Hefty volume 66. Chapter in history 68. Coltrane's woodwind

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Alternate Halloween activities: Howl-o-Ween, Spook-tacular Stroll, and more

To help support the holiday spirit, the City of Somerville and the Somerville Arts Council are offering some fun ways to celebrate Halloween safely this year. The city is hosting a citywide Howl-o-Ween, inviting community members to don a face covering and then give their best Halloween growls, ghost boos, or to just politely holler out their COVID-19 woes and frustrations (keep it family friendly, please) from their doors and windows at 6:30 p.m. on Halloween, Saturday, October 31.

The Arts Council put together an online map of outdoor Halloween decorations for a self-guided Somerville Spook-tacular Stroll. On Friday, October 30, and Saturday, October 31, pull up the map at somervilleartscouncil.org/halloween and take a walk around your neighborhood to see how many ghosts, goblins, and ghouls you can find. Help everyone join in the fun by posting photos with the hashtag #SomervilleSpooktacular.

The Arts Council is also compiling a list of virtual Halloween happenings. If you're planning to host a spooky virtual concert, show off your pumpkin carving skills online, or have a Halloween craft you'd like to teach others via the web, fill out the form on somervilleartscouncil.org/halloween to have your event included in the resource guide, which will be posted later this week.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

New help to quit menthol tobacco products

Gift cards totaling \$50 can motivate smokers and vapers to quit

Dear Editor,

Smoking and vaping may put people at higher risk of complications from COVID-19, especially because they can weaken the immune system and damage the lungs. So, this is an especially good time for those who smoke or vape to try to quit.

In addition, as a result of a new law, menthol tobacco products have been removed from regular stores in Massachusetts. With menthol tobacco products unavailable and COVID-19 risks continuing, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has found a new way to help people quit. The Massachusetts Smokers' Helpline is now offering up to three gift cards totaling \$50 to people who use menthol tobacco products and the Helpline's free coaching services. Residents can call the Helpline at 1-800-QUIT NOW (1-800-784-8669) about the program and for free coaching and support 24 hours each day, seven days a week. They can also enroll online at makesmokinghistory.org.

Helping people who use menthol products quit is especially important because the tobacco industry has strategically and successfully targeted Black, Latinx and LGBTQ+ people with menthol products. As a result of aggressive marketing practices and pressures related to discrimination and daily stressors, menthol tobacco use is high in these communities.

Massachusetts residents who use menthol tobacco products who speak with the Helpline's supportive coaches can receive a \$10 gift card after completing the first coaching call, a \$15 gift card after the second and a \$25 gift card after the third coaching call. In addition, up to 8 weeks of FREE nicotine patches, gum or lozenges are also available to residents who speak with a coach (with medical eligibility).

While supplies last, the offer of gift cards can motivate smokers and vapers to call the Helpline. For more information contact Edgar Duran Elmudesi at the Metro Boston Tobacco-Free Community Partnership at 617-451-0049 x549or eduran@hria.org.

Sincerely, Edgar Duran Elmudesi, MSW Metro Boston Tobacco-Free Community Partnership

N I O R ENINGS: E R Н A I B N E Р

UPCOMING EVENTS

Healthy Eating Workshop - Wednesday, October 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on ZOOM. If you missed last month's workshop, then it will be great for you to join us this month in our healthy eating workshop. Planning meals can be tiresome and gets to be redundant. Let's share ideas on how to balance out your day with tasty, nutritious meals and snacks. We will focus on getting in all of the daily food groups while enjoying some fall treats. RSVP to Mary Marshall at 617 625-6600 ext. 2316 Please leave your name, number and email or you may email me at headtofitness10@ yahoo.com.

Box Lunch Pick Up - Thursday October 29, Beginning at 10:30am - Ralph & Jenny Senior Center 9 New Washington Street. While we aren't able to share lunch together we hope you can stop by for this fun treat! RSVP is a must; spaces are limited. To enjoy a box lunch please call Connie at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319.

of the following year. You don't have to make the decision alone, the Somerville Council on Aging has SHINE Counseling available over the phone or on Zoom to assist you with finding out what health insurance options are available for you. Call Natasha at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317, to book an appointment.

Taxi Rides - Do you need a ride? The COA has a new program just for you. Taxi Rides for Somerville Residents 60 and Over Rides can be used for: Grocery Shopping in Somerville

Pharmacy Prescription pick up in Somerville -Routine Medical Appointments in the following areas: Somerville, Cambridge, Medford, Boston or the V.A. in Jamaica Plain or West Roxbury. Two Days Advanced Notice Required. For more information please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

Thursdays 6:30 p.m. = LBT Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise

Somerville City Cable

RCN = 13/Comcast = 22

The Fit-4-Life Exercise Show = Daily at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Fit-4-Life YouTube

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video # 1: https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=4hd26HjpwBI&t=68s

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #2: https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=QwHfyoEZaws&t=247s

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #3: https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=Fcl2eBSS024&t=158s

Yoga YouTube

Yoga with Janine video #1 = https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=vDGF_EEbqF0&t=130s



Mask Pick Up – Tuesday, November 3 – 10:30 a.m. to Noon - At the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. The COA has masks available for Somerville residents who are 60 and over. If you are in need of a mask or may know of a friend or neighbor who may need a new mask, you can pick it up at our Drive -Thru location. If you have any questions, please call 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

ONGOING EVENTS

Open Enrollment for Medicare is here. October 15 to December 7. - Medicare recipients are able to change their health insurance plans for January 1

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

EXERCISE

Exercise Schedule

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

Yoga with Janine video #2 = https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=6Zezcj9XXBU

For questions or to register for a Fit-4-Life Zoom exercise class, please contact Chris at CKowaleski@ somervillema.gov or call 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

LEGAL NOTICES

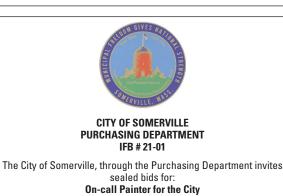
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umentation may be viewed online at https://www.somervillema.gov/ departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

10/21/20, 10/28/20 The Somerville Times



An invitation for bids (IFB) and specifications may be obtained at the Purchasing Department, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA. 02143 on or after: Wednesday, October 28, 2020. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: 11/12/2020 at 12:00PM EST at which time sealed bids will be open. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best

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

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

MIDDLESEX Division

Docket No. MI20P4632EA

Date of Death: 01/09/2019

To all interested persons

A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by:

Timothy D. O'Leary of Somerville, MA

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

The Petitioner requests that:

Timothy D. O'Leary of Somerville, MA

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

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/13/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHU-SETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Witness, Hon. Maureen H. Monks, First Justice of this Court. Tara E. De Cristofaro **Register of Probate**

Date: October 15, 2020

10/28/20 The Somerville Times



PURCHASING DEPARTMENT RFP # 21-24

Lease or Purchase of Space for Assembly Square Fire Station

The City of Somerville, acting through the Purchasing Department invites sealed proposals for a lease or purchase of commercial space for use as a fire station to service the neighborhoods of Assembly Square and Ten Hills.

A request for proposals (RFP) and specifications may be obtained online at https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing and from the Purchasing Department, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143 on or after <u>Wednesday, October 14, 2020</u>. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until **November** 13, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. at which time sealed proposals will be opened. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.



City of Somerville PLANNING BOARD City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville Planning Board (PB) will hold a public hearing on Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 6:00pm. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

The meeting will be held using GoToWebinar. TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/669920750131564557 Webinar ID: 237-994-835

TO CALL IN

+1 (415) 930-5321

Phone number: 214-362-495 Access code:

The Planning Board will consider the following pursuant to M.G.L. 40A and the Somerville Zoning Ordinance:

76-82 Central Street East Coast Remedies, Corp. seeks a Use Special Permit to establish a Cannabis Retail Establishment in the MR4 district.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at https://www.somervillema.gov/ departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

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

GEORGE J. PROAKIS, AICP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a virtual public meeting / public hearing on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 6:45pm

The purpose of this public meeting / public hearing is to approve materials and minor architectural details for two new residential structures at 9-11 Aldersey Street and to approve the restoration of the existing historic structure located at same, as ordered by Judge William Ritter of the Massachusetts Superior Court, Middlesex District, in accordance with his remand order. A Certificate of Appropriateness will be issued. Somerville Historic Preservation Commission case number: HPC 2013.085 . Applicant Name: Gerard Meehan, Trustee for G&T Realty Trust.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public meeting and hearings will be conducted via remote participation

interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing

The contract term shall be for a period of 1 year.

A 5% bid deposit is required. Prevailing wage applies to this procurement.

For more information, please contact Prajkta Waditwar: pwaditwar@ somervillema.gov

> Prajkta Waditwar **Construction Procurement Manager** 617-625-6600 x. 3407

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Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on 11/9/2020 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Russel Eliacin unit #0171; Emily Paron unit #0261; Roberta Mendoza unit #0431; Patricia Knight unit #1302; Judith Nunes/Vinfen Corp. unit #307B. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

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The preferred space will be located within the Assembly Square / Ten Hills neighborhood and encompass a minimum of 15,000 sq. ft. The City anticipates building out and finishing the space to function as a branch fire station.

If the property owner is offering a lease, the lease term must be for thirty (30) years. All property leases held by the City of Somerville are subject to approval by the City Council. Refer to the RFP for details and contact the Purchasing Department in writing with any questions by October 28, 2020.

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<u>use a computer: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/regis-</u> То ter/2060389543363693840 Access code: 793-069-563 To use a phone: call 1 (415) 655-0060 & use access code 338-800-294

Note: Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov NO LATER THAN NOON one week prior to meeting date. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website. Email historic@somervillema.gov with inquiries.

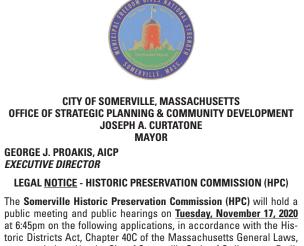
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as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16-7-28.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public meeting and hearings will be conducted via remote participation.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1017778741966988043

Webinar ID: 347-015-875

TO CALL IN

Phone #: +1 (631) 992-3221

Access code: 987-850-408

DETERMINATIONS OF "PREFERABLY PRESERVED" (STEP 2 IN THE **DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)** (Public Hearings)

HPC.DMO 2020.21 - 211 Holland Street Applicant: Silva Realty 8, LLC Owner: same as applicant Demolish principal structure

While City Hall continues to be closed in response to the COVID19 pandemic, case documents reviewed by the HPC are only available on the City website at https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ historic-preservation/hpc-cases. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email historic@somervillema.gov to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. Note: Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov NO LATER THAN NOON one week prior to the meeting date. Email historic@somervillema.gov with inquiries.

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Massachusetts temporarily pauses all indoor ice rink and ice skating facilities operations

Due to rising cases of COVID-19 connected to indoor ice hockey, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued a new public health order prohibiting indoor ice rinks and ice skating facilities from operating from October 23, 2020 to November 7, 2020.

This order is in response to multiple COVID-19 clusters occurring at rinks throughout the state following games, practices and tournaments. Neighboring states including New Hampshire have enacted similar temporary restrictions regarding indoor ice hockey.

As COVID anxiety grows, tips to avoid crisis and conflict

Among mask mandates, social distancing, outspoken political views and personal challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a heightened risk for public spaces turning into places of conflict.

According to experts at the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI), the global leader in de-escalation training for over 40 years, mentally preparing and practicing responses can best ensure non-confrontational experiences. Potential challenging situations could include disagreements over mask requirements or social dis-



tancing, family gatherings, shopping lines, acclimating to more densely populated work environments or navigating political discussions.

"Having trained teachers, nurses and others who interact with the public, and being a social worker myself, I know the immense need for de-escalation training in the workplace and in everyday life," says Amber Belle, a global CPI trainer. "Learning conflict-prevention techniques can help ensure you have positive experiences in your community."

CPI has identified probable areas of conflict and how to best mitigate tension. They recommend embracing four simple techniques to prevent and reduce conflict:

1. Avoid judgment. Understand that everyone has different life experiences and may be overwhelmed with struggles and anxiety from things you know nothing about. Listen and focus on the feelings behind the message.

2. Don't take it personally. Another person's behavior is not about you. You are likely not the true target of someone's behavior. Tell yourself, "This may not be about the two of us; it may be about other issues in their life." Or repeat to yourself, "I'm going to be respectful. I'm going to be respectful."

3. Control your reactions. You can't control another person's behavior, but you can control how you react. Avoid using facial expressions, gestures and language that could make another person feel anxious or defensive.

4. Be prepared if you have to engage. Have a plan to acknowledge and redirect. Here are some things you could potentially say:

• "Yeah. This year has been difficult on everyone."

• "I can understand where you're coming from."

• "We'll all be glad to have this pandemic behind us."

Over four decades, CPI has trained more than 15 million individuals in its techniques, spanning many industries and professions, especially health care and education. CPI tracks violent incidents in the industries it trains, and data shows that de-escalation skills, when used correctly, can quickly decrease violence regardless of the industry.

For more de-escalation tips and information on de-escalation, visit www.crisisprevention.com.

During a particularly tense time in our nation's history, having a few techniques at the ready can help you avoid conflict wherever you are. (*StatePoint*) — Photo © YurolaitsAlbert / iStock via Getty Images Plus

Safe holiday season volunteering ideas

The economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have created instability for many. Looking for ways to give back? Consider these socially distant



There have been at least 30 clusters of COVID-19 associated with organized ice hockey activities involving residents from more than 60 municipalities in Massachusetts. Each of these includes two or more confirmed or probable COVID-19 cases, totaling 108 confirmed cases.

Current protocols include limitations on the number of people allowed in an arena, social distancing and other precautions. This order includes all indoor ice rinks and ice skating facilities in Massachusetts. These rinks and facilities may not operate during this temporary twoweek pause. It went into effective 5:00 p.m. on October 23, 2020, to 12:01 a.m. on November 7, 2020. College and professional programs are exempt from this order.

volunteer ideas:

+ By hosting a virtual fundraiser, you can support a non-profit organization and amplify its work while connecting with friends and family during an unusual holiday season. To get people excited about the cause, go beyond simply asking for donations. For example, host a dance-a-thon to be conducted over video conference and have each participant rally to get sponsors. Or, perform a concert and live stream it, asking friends to make a donation in order to watch.

+ Spread holiday cheer by donating toys, books, games and other gifts to kids who may not otherwise receive gifts this season. Just be sure to review the policies of the organization you select. For example, some charities ask that gifts remain unwrapped. At the same time, look for drop-off sites thwat allow you to donate in a safe, socially distant way.

+ Older adults often lead isolated lives, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated these circumstances. Unfortunately, isolation and loneliness can lead to depression and a number of other health risks. Become a pen pal to an older adult in your community. Whether you write to each other with handwritten cards and letters or you use video conferencing, your friendship will provide much needed connection. (SPM Wire)

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 5

organize and captain Company F of the 27th Regiment Massachusetts Infantry, better known as the Mou ntain Boys. He rose to Lieutenant Colonel, a patriot who was twice wounded in battle during the Civil War. This life-altering experience and the death of his young wife changed his course of atheism to religion. Before leaving Massachusetts, he established a West Somerville Mission.

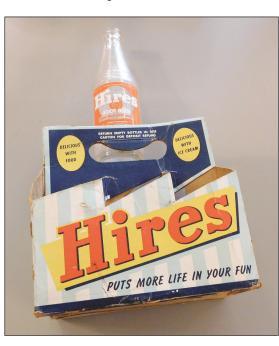
He became a practicing minister, first in Lexington, and then on to Philadelphia. There he began lecturing in the basement of a warehouse. In time, he had so many followers that people scalped tickets to listen to his inspirational advice. His self-confidence teaching method was a prelude to Dale Carnegie's style.

In 1876 Conwell asked one of his students, Charles Hires, a part-time druggist, to concoct a soft drink substitute for alcohol. He wanted It to appease the Temperance Movement and appeal to the rough and tumble Pennsylvania miners. Hires did as his friend asked and returned with a beverage he referred to as "herbal tea." Conwell suggested that the name be changed to "root beer," a product to be marketed to tough laborers. Today, hundreds of root beer recipes stock our shelves, one of which is our local Tower Root Beer. Hires became America's second soft drink, preceded only by ginger ale.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Kitty Connection, an all-volunteer non-profit dedicated to rescuing and finding safe, loving homes for local cats and dogs, will hold its fourth annual Silent Auction online this year due to health and safety concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic. The online event will run from 6:00 p.m. Thursday, November 12 through 6:00 p.m. Sunday, November 15 at www.myminiauction.com/kittyconnection.Kitty Connection will share auction guidelines and policies on the auction website the week before the November 12 - 15 online event. Items up for bid will be listed at the auction start time. Kitty Connection is still accepting donations for the silent auction. To donate, or for any questions, please email kcsilentauction@gmail.com. For decades there was a Hires warehouse behind Trum Field.

Somerville's Conwell Street, Conwell Avenue, and the former Conwell School carry on the family name, as well as Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Massachusetts. In 1923, two years before his death, Conwell was honored with The Philadelphia Award created by Edward Bok which is the City of Brotherly Love's equivalent to the Nobel Prize. To them, he was their "Mr. Philadelphia."



To learn more about Kitty Connection and pets

available for adoption, visit: www.kittyconnec-

Reminder: city buildings are still closed to the public. Although city buildings remain closed to

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Halloween, full size

CONT. FROM PG 3

neighborhood who used to make 4-5 dozen homemade taffy apples. They made the taffy themselves. When they ran out they would apologize and offer you either some homemade cookies or a quarter."

Mike: "Some of the things we did on Halloween (as kids) could still get us jail time today!

Thank God we could run fast in those days!"

The Somerville Times

This year, because of the virus, we will have a scaled down, funsize Halloween. Exercising safety precautions, including masks, under your masks and social distancing hopefully will ensure that we go back to a full-size Halloween next year.

From page 8



Ms. Cam's Cams Answers

1. From an Irish folktale 6. Washington Irving about a man named Stingy Jack 7. Count von Count 2. The Haunted Cave in 8. Vampire bats Lewisburg, Ohio 1313 Mockingbird 9. 3. Mary Emma Allison, Lane 1950 10. Mary Shelley 4. Mamie Eisenhower in 1958 11. Mary Todd Lincoln, it was an acronym used by 5. It is thought to be White House staff the spirit of a loved one watching over the person who finds the spider 12. Richard Nixon

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On This Day in Histo

Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner **By Bobbygeorge Potaris**

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October 28

1636 – Harvard College, the oldest institution of higher learning in the United States, is founded in Cambridge, MA.

1793 - Eli Whitney applies for a patent on the cotton gin, a machine which cleans the tight-clinging seeds from short-staple cotton easily and effectively.

1886 - The Statue of Liberty, originally named Liberty Enlightening the World, is dedicated at Liberty Island, NY.

1904 – The St. Louis police try a new investigation method: fingerprints.

1914 - George Eastman announces the invention of the color photographic process.

1919 - Over President Wilson's veto, Congress passes the National Prohibition Act

1962 - Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev orders Soviet missiles removed from Cuba, ending the Cuban Missile Crisis.

1965 - Construction completed on the St. Louis Arch.

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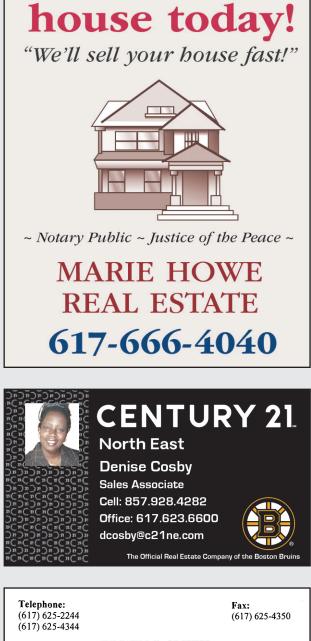
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The Somerville Times -

edited by Doug Holder

Listen is Steven Cramer's sixth collection of poetry. The book's inaugurating subject, a prolonged struggle with depression, brings closer to home the purely imagined speaker of Cramer's previous book, *Clangings* (2012), whose language manifested the "clang associations" of manic and schizophrenic speech. *Listen's* poems face what



Dickinson called "that White Sustenance/Despair," offering deeply intimate lyric testimony about a widespread human condition. But, as Kevin Prufer writes, "these poems begin in depression, but their territories are wide, diverse, and very vivid." The later sections of *Listen* intensely grapple with the magical thinking that shapes, or misshapes, our deepest attachments; dramatize the anxieties of this especially perilous moment in history; and ultimately pay homage to the fragile consolations of art.

COSTCO

Jars of Heinz the size of Grecian urns; enough Reynolds Wrap to foil an asteroid,

Eros in particular. Who's not aroused by sales? My cart's heavy as the Fiat

I watched four Romans lift into a spot downwind from the Coliseum's air

of cat piss. Sun through skylights makes lap-tops, flat-screens, and vats

of Tide shine. Putti-like, kind of, sparrows loft down from the vaults.

But when a day's gone oyster-gray, its weight a ten-pound tub of putty,

OFF THE SHELF by Doug Holder

Somerville's Ally Sass: A playwright who thrives in our "earthy, queer and very artful" city



I have always loved the theatre, and over the years I have interviewed a number of aspiring and accomplished playwrights, actors, directors, etc. So, it was a pleasure to connect to Ally Sass, who despite the pandemic keeps on keeping on.

Doug Holder: You are originally from Cambridge, but you have lived in New York and now "The Paris of New England," Somerville, MA. As a writer, how has your Somerville experience stacked up?

Ally Sass: I think Somerville is a really special part of Boston. It actually feels like the Cambridge I grew up in in the late 90s/early 2000s; earthy, queer, very artful. I live near Union Square and love everything the area has to offer. During my first year of grad school, I wrote late at night and as a form of procrastination, I would go to the Somerville Market basket and buy a few different exotic fruits. I don't know why, but that became a highlight of my first year. I was excited to really explore the area now that I'm in my third year of school and not taking classes, but because of the Pandemic, a lot of the fun stuff has shut down. Finding community is harder right now, but I can still appreciate the liveliness of Somerville.

DH: Do you feel it is still true that Boston is a tryout town, and a playwright has to go to Broadway to make a name for oneself?

AS: Returning to Boston for my MFA in Playwriting, I was actually delighted to experience a really thriving theater scene. Through my awesome professors, I go to see a lot of shows in the area that really blew me away. I know plenty of Boston theater makers who are constantly working here, and feel no need to relocate. And because of the size, you can form community really quickly. That said, one can also take advantage of how close Boston is to New York. The theater scene in New York is of course much bigger, and one can certainly make a name for themselves in both cities. While having a play produced on Broadway is a fun goal to have, Broadway itself it really only one facet of the American theatre and can actually have some limitations in terms of what kind of work can be produced, how "marketable" it is, etc. Some of the best plays I've seen have been outside of that community.

DH: You will be on a Zoom conference for the Boston Playwright's Theatre that is based at Boston University. What is this about, and what will you talk about?

AS: Yes, on November 24th I will be chatting on Zoom with BPT Artistic Director, Kate Snodgrass, as well as with my thesis director, Erica Terpening-Romeo, about my new play, *Very Good Boys, and Other Myths.* This is part of a series called "BPT Talks," where each BU MFA Playwright is given an opportunity to discuss their thesis play, and also present a short excerpt from the play.

Very Good Boys and Other Myths is a story about a mother named Elaine, and her son, Avery. After Avery leaves his high school due to bullying, he takes refuge through online through World of Warcraft, Youtube, and the "incel" community. In attempt to get through to Avery, Elaine makes her own account on World of Warcraft, only to become fixated by the game herself and get lost in the realm that Avery finds himself in. The play then explodes into a modern, mythical journey deep into the underworld of a mother and her son. What starts as an exploration of various internet communities, becomes a surreal exploration of masculinity, gender, and the internet. This play is a continuation of an ongoing fixation I have with masculinity and all that it imposes on a society. DH: In one of your plays, a pedestrian meatball sub is the smoking gun for conflict among a group of vegetarians. Do you find that the most banal of objects can seed a play for you? AS: Yes, that play was a lot of fun. That was The Cleanout, a one-act play about four vegan artists living together, who essentially implode as a community when someone finds a meatball sub in their fridge. That play stemmed from a prompt I was given to write a play where the central object is a refrigerator. Immediately, this story came out, which I guess was a response to a certain

culture/elitism surrounding food that I observed while living in Brooklyn. The meatball sub of course was a metaphor for the things that aren't on-brand about us that we keep hidden away. I would say that every-day-objects can spark a lot of inspiration for me. They typically tap into something that I didn't realize was on my mind, but once I start writing about them, I can't stop.

DH: My brother Donald Holder is a Tony Award– winning lighting designer, so I have to ask, how important is lighting in your plays?

AS: Lighting is crucial in any play! One of the best classes I took as an undergrad at the University of Vermont was "Fundamentals of Lighting" taught by John Forbes. We had to make a 10-minute performance just by lighting a certain object to music, and it was one of the coolest projects I had ever partaken in. So many components of technical theater must fuse together in the right way to make a play compelling. Lighting can set the tone in these inexpressible ways – it's definitely the facet of technical theatre that I'm most interested in.

DH: You are working on your MFA at Boston University. Have you worked with Kate Snodgrass? How has the program fueled your growth as an artist?

AS: Yes, I often refer to Kate Snodgrass at the Fairy Godmother of Boston theatre. Kate is amazing. She works endlessly to make this program run smoothly, to give us the opportunities that will help us grow as artists, and has some of the coolest shoes I've ever seen. Kate is extremely knowledgeable about the American theatre, and there are many artists in Boston who would say that they are very much indebted to Kate. I certainly feel that way. I have gained an immense amount of knowledge from this program, both artistically and professionally. The opportunities that Boston Playwright's Theatre provides to graduate students, including our extensive in-class writing workshops, collaborations with professional actors, and most importantly, our third-year thesis productions, are unparalleled. What I consider to be the most impressive aspect of our playwriting program is that, while having only transitioned from an MA to a fully-funded MFA program in the past six years, it's gained a level of national recognition and alumni success comparable to top MFA programs that have been around for decades. This program has helped me understand who I am, what I write and how I write.

DH: How has the pandemic affected you, and your work?

AS: It's been a bummer. But also, weirdly a gift? First, the part of it that has been that hardest is that since this is the third year of our program, our thesis year, we were each set to have a full production run for two weeks; actors, set, costumes, director, everything. These shows of course had to be cancelled and rescheduled for next year (let's pray). This was a major shock to all of our systems Much of our schooling was preparing us for these productions in some way or another. We each have spent months sitting with these scripts, priming them for the stage. It's also unnerving not know what the future looks like for theatre on the whole, but my guess and my hope is that it will be absolutely come back, and stronger than before. I know I personally have been deeply craving the opportunity to sit and absorb a live performance again. I will say though, the extra time to sit with my script has been really illuminating. I've had new, unexpected time to dive deep into the story in a way that only this precarious period could have evoked. DH: Tell us a bit about new projects coming up. AS: Very Good Boys, and Other Myths, which was previously scheduled for January 2021, will happen sometime next year, 2021-2022. I will have a workshop of this production in this spring though, and I believe there will be a Zoom reading of the play, with actors. I'm also working on another play titled, Zygote, which dissects a modern Jewish-American family's relationship to the Israel-Palestine conflict. I've also begun writing a TV pilot. We will see where it all leads!

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— Steven Cramer

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