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original
independent
newspaper

The Somerville Times

www.thesomervilletimes.com



VOL. 9 NO. 45

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:



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elect...

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Somerville officials press for condo charging stations



The Somerville City Council's Legislative Matters Committee put electric vehicle charging station availability for condo residents in focus at their latest meeting.

By Eileen Qiu

Condos could have electric vehicle charging stations installed on the property as discussed during the Legislative Matters Committee meeting last Thursday.

Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis said the Home Rule Petition is still getting drafted and would enable a right to charge, ensuring tenants have access to charging stations on property grounds.

The intent of the ordinance is to reduce barriers for residents of condos, and the intent is good and going in the right direction, said Christine Blais, acting Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment.

However, Blais was concerned that the ordinance did not define landlord or tenant, which could lead to practicality issues concerning who would be responsible for maintenance and repairs of the stations over time. *Continued on page 4*

Nibble Kitchen serves up bites at Bow Market

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

Dishes from all over the world are currently being served at Nibble Somerville, a local kitchen. The kitchen, located at Union Square's Bow Market, has been serving bites since September 2019.

Sponsored by the Somerville Arts Council, the kitchen is part of an initiative to highlight immigrant communities and cuisines in Somerville. Currently the kitchen serves the three cuisines mentioned before from Thursday to Sunday.

The peculiar aspect of the menu: each cuisine is represented on different days of the week. According to their website, Bengali cuisine is served on Wednesdays and Fridays, Salvadoran pupusas are served on Thursdays and Saturdays and Venezuelan arepas are served on Sundays.

Cultural Director of the Somerville Arts Council Rachel Strutt spoke on the founding of the kitchen and the reasons behind it. "Nibble Kitchen is a restaurant at Bow *Continued on page 4*



Nibble Kitchen is thriving at its Bow Market location, offering international culinary treats to its patrons. — Photos by Fernando Cervantes Jr.

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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.

We wish everyone a happy and meaningful **Veterans Day** this week. Let's let our local veterans know how much we appreciate their service and the sacrifices they made in defending our homeland.

The **Public Safety Building Project community meeting** has been moved from November 10 to **December 13** at 6:00 p.m. At this meeting, staff will share the design progress of the new building, present plans for the realigned **New Washington Street**, and outline site preparation work planned for this winter, which includes tree removal. Attendees will be able to provide input on the public space related to the project. To learn more and register to attend, go to somer ville.ma.gov/publicsafetybuilding.








Next Wave/Full Circle is holding its annual **Winter Holiday Wreath Sale**. Each balsam wreath is decorated with a red bow and costs \$25. Payment can be made with check or by Venmo, and there will be three convenient pick-up locations the week after Thanksgiving. Learn more and find the link to preorder at www.somer ville.k12.ma.us/wreathsale. Next Wave/Full Circle staff and students are grateful for ongoing community support of this annual event. All proceeds go toward enrichment programming for students. There will be no tree lot this year due to logistical complications from the pandemic. Learn more about this tight-knit Next Wave/Full Circle school community at their website, www.somer ville.k12.ma.us/nwfc.

Happy birthday's this week: Happy birthday to our friend and local TV celebrity **Joe Lynch**, who is celebrating this week. We wish him a great birthday. Happy birthday to **Joe Nardella**. We wish him a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to a former Alderman At-Large, amongst her many other accomplishments, **Helen Corrigan**. We wish her the very best of birthdays. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such **Victoria Macrokanis**, **Donald Gallarelli**, **Elena**

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of November 10 – November 16 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>November 10</i>	Partly Cloudy	62°/37°	13%	11%	WNW 10 mph
 Thursday <i>November 11</i>	Partly Cloudy	55°/47°	6%	5%	ENE 8 mph
 Friday <i>November 12</i>	Rain	61°/52°	46%	37%	SSE 12 mph
 Saturday <i>November 13</i>	Rain	60°/44°	52%	41%	SW 11 mph
 Sunday <i>November 14</i>	Partly Cloudy	51°/38°	25%	17%	WNW 11 mph
 Monday <i>November 15</i>	Rain	49°/37°	33%	25%	W 13 mph
 Tuesday <i>November 16</i>	Sunny	49°/35°	17%	14%	WNW 11 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: Letter to the Editor – October 27

Frankly says:

Our Revolution's slogan is "ORGANIZE TO WIN" which perfectly sums up what they care about. Power. Becca Miller is no exception. The idea that Becca or her slate is going to do anything about affordability is laughable. If anything electing a slate of overeducated underemployed upper middle class socialists is only going to attract more of the same, driving housing costs up further. Ending the "revolution" would do more to moderate housing prices than anything else.

Rand Wilson says:

Politics is all about power. And in Somerville, big landlords, banks, real estate developers and large employers like Tufts and Partners (MGH-Brigham) have had the upper hand for far too long. From what I see, electing the Our Revolution slate would help to provide some balance to their continued plundering of our community and rapacious greed!

Response to: Opioid crisis in the crosshairs of the Board of Health

Courtney O'Keefe says:

While AA is a great tool for the journey through recovery and sobriety, it is not best used to enter recovery or sobriety. A medical detox is needed as one can have severe even fatal consequences from detoxing on their own, a solid stint in a rehabilitation center and sober living for a proper transition. Supervised consumption sites offer a space for intervention and transport to a medical detox and have already proven successful where implemented.

Response to: The Class of '71

harry w says:

what a nice time we all had. so good to see every one and dance those dances. thanks to all who put it together.

Response to: A costumer in the making

Richelle Murray says:

Fantastic!

Rachel Klein says:

Very imaginative and well put together. A very talented young woman.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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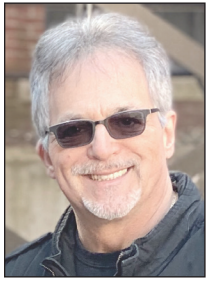
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Life in the by Jimmy Del Ponte

Dear mayor elect...



As the messenger, I posed this question to Somerville's social media. What would you tell Somerville's new mayor is the most important thing to

add or to fix? And here we go! Your comments follow:

- Get rid of the rats.
- Build a parking garage! Maybe in Ball Square for instance.
- While I realize there are many and more important problems the new mayor will inherit ... what must not be forgotten is we the taxpayers of Somerville and their specific problems personal to them, such as the rodent and also city tree problems. Trees are uplifting side-walks to the point of ruining expensive walls that were put up to beautify our homes and tree roots that are uplifting basement floors which need thousands of dollars to repair ... I personally can't even manage to have the city trim the tree to deter the squirrels from dancing on my brand-new roof.
- Stop tearing down neighborhoods.
- More affordable housing.
- Don't confiscate any more buildings like the Armory.
- Ticket jay walkers and bike law breakers.

- Put Broadway back the way it was!
- Set up police checkpoints for drivers who text and who are on their phones.
- Give tickets to jay walkers and cyclists who break the laws of the road.
- Rats and those straws all over every road! I drove down from Methuen for my fav Leones, and I felt like a ball in a pin-ball machine.
- Remember the senior citizens.
- Better schools for #1, simplifying and streamlining ISD process for residential and commercial projects, and cleaning up the streets of garbage and known drug dealers/users.
- Be good and remember we with Somerville pride won't let you bring Somerville down.
- The roads!!!!
- The rat problem.
- Stop building out priced high rises and build efficiency apartments to make it more affordable.
- Homelessness.
- More Dog Parks!
- Cut down street cleaning to once a month on each side of the street. Hard to find parking spots on side streets.
- Make the citizens who built this city, generation after generation more important than the newcomers who want to change everything.
- STOP putting UGLY condos on every available space. And make Broadway



what it USED to be where we can drive in all lanes MINUS the RED Lanes that just hold up traffic for everyone and add exorbitant fines for driving in one. Lots more but I haven't the time right now.

- Fix the sewers so the streets stop flooding. When School Street was closed and had a piece taken out my street didn't flood. As soon as they reconnected it Richdale Ave. started flooding again. Put in the parking garage under the soccer field and put one of those giant rain tanks under the Homan Building site to stop the flooding.
- Paint City Hall.
- Easy win is rats.
- Ticket people/businesses who have garbage and water sitting around. Treat it like parking tickets and traffic violations.
- Bicycles should be registered and insured.
- Affordable housing, get rid of the white poles, charge the bikes \$100 a year for the roads, and give them a small license plate, so when they hit someone and leave we can get them, if you ride against the traffic you will see them open

car doors, see there blinker when the turn the corner, thanks.

- Fix the streets
 - Streets, Parking, etc. Central Street was flooded from the stupid bumps they put in the road. They put them in where there wasn't a sewer drain!! How stupid.
 - More police presence especially around the city's squares especially Davis.
 - Fix handicap sidewalk access around city finish street repairs and then pave them.
 - Rats roads.
 - Make bike riders pay for roads.
 - How long has the bridge behind the high school been under construction?
 - Stop ticketing vehicles for such high amounts.
 - Please stop shortening our streets for cars
 - Make dealing with the rats your first priority
 - Community policing in schools!
 - Hold stealth city councilors to do their jobs and to answer phone calls from voters and taxpayers.
- Well, there you have it. Godspeed.

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Somerville Veterans Day Ceremony



The City of Somerville is hosting a Veterans Day ceremony to honor those who have served in the military.

The event will take place Thursday, November 11, at Veterans' Memorial Cemetery on Broadway at North Street. Speaking remarks will begin at 10 a.m. featuring City Council President Matthew McLaughlin and Somerville Director of Veterans' Services Ted Louis-Jacques. A wreath-laying ceremony will follow. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

The ceremony will be livestreamed on the CityTV Facebook page (facebook.com/SomervilleCityTV) and broadcast after the event on GovTV (RCN channels 13 or 613; Comcast channel 22) and on the City's YouTube channel (youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV). For more information, email veterans@somervillema.gov.

THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Somerville Police Respond to Robbery

On 11/1/21 at approximately 3:20 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business near Mystic Ave. and Revolution Dr. for report of a shoplifter. Upon arrival, officers spoke with an employee who stated he observed a man shoplifting and confronted him. The man then became hostile and struck the employee multiple times. The suspect was described as senior bald black man, with a thin build. He fled in a red Dodge Charger.

Somerville Police Drug Arrest

On 10/26/21 at approximately 5:30 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business in Assembly Row for report of man shoplifting. Upon arrival, officers located three individuals, one of whom matched the suspect description. Officers identified all individuals and learned that one had outstanding warrants and was placed under arrest. During the booking process, officers located 21 grams of heroin and 7 grams of cocaine in his jacket.

Somerville Police Burglary Arrest

On 10/29/21 at approximately 4:00 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a multifamily residence on Newton St. for report of a breaking and entering that had just occurred. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she woke up to a man standing in her apartment. The victim provided officers a description of the suspect and officers located the man nearby on Clark St. He was placed under arrest.

Somerville Police Respond to Assault

On 10/27/21 at approximately 5:40 p.m., Somerville Police responded to the area of Highland Ave. and Walnut St. for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated that while walking on Highland Ave., he engaged in an argument with a woman. During the argument, the woman assaulted him. Officers located and identified the woman.

Somerville Police Respond to Assault

On 10/30/21 at approximately 3:55 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business in Assembly Row for report of a past vandalism. Upon arrival, officers spoke with an employee who stated three women entered the store and engaged in an argument with her. During the argument, one woman attempted to strike the employee. The women then started throwing merchandise around the store. Officers were informed that the same women had caused a similar incident at a business in Medford resulting in Medford PD identifying two of women.



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Somerville officials press for condo charging stations

CONT. FROM PG 1

A good portion of Somerville residents do not hold a lease for more than a year, so Blais questioned whether it was reasonable to ask tenants to install charging stations or remove them at the end of their leases. Who the ordinance is for, was also a topic of debate. Blais suggested taking a step back to define what problems need to be solved in terms of accessibility and installation of charging stations and the specific needs of the people who

want charging stations. Ward 5 Councilor Mark Niedergang also questioned the language asking condo owners who do not live in Somerville to appoint someone who lives within a 20-mile radius of the city or works in the city. Niedergang understands it is to hold landlords accountable for the stations, but even landlords who live in Somerville might not be the best at responding to potential issues. Council members also pro-

posed an ordinance for the Mayor's Office to send a yearly housing report including data regarding the total number of new rental units created, former rental units that were converted into condos and the number of affordable housing units lost. It might make more sense for the report to come out every 3 or 5 years instead of annually because of the time it takes to collect all the data, city staffer Hannah Carrillo said. It is important to make sure the data in

the yearly housing report does not repeat what the housing needs assessment already covers. Earlier in the year, the surveillance technology ordinance was put in place so the public has a sense of what technology is out there and how it was used. There are approximately 30 security cameras fixed to poles throughout the city that are intended to monitor traffic and roadways in the event of an emergency, Police Lieutenant Sean Sheehan said in the 2021

Surveillance Technology Annual Report. However, the department did not use any covert cameras in the fiscal year of 2021. The technology Advanced/Next Gen 911 was used in the event of 911 calls to find the locations of landline and cellphone callers in emergency situations. The intent is to be as transparent as possible, Sheehan said. The next Legislative Matters Committee meeting will be Thursday, November 18.

Nibble Kitchen serves up bites at Bow Market

CONT. FROM PG 1

Market in Union Square which celebrates the talents of cooks and chefs from our immigrant communities," Strutt said. Moreover, the kitchen has a deeper purpose: to be a proving ground for up-and-coming chefs. According to Strutt, Nibble gives these chefs a taste of what running a kitchen is like, in order to use this experience in the future. "[The kitchen] gives

cooks an opportunity to learn about what it entails to pursue a culinary profession," Strutt said. Strutt offered some details on how Nibble provides assistance to these chefs, through connections and other types of help, citing a recent example with one of their chefs. "With the Carolinas, for example, we worked with them to connect them with people within the city and out-

side to advise them," Strutt said. The restaurant has now been open for more than two years. Like many restaurants, it was affected by the COVID pandemic, but Strutt considers Nibble one of the lucky ones, as they weathered the pandemic fairly well. "It's essentially a to-go restaurant, so when some restaurants with big dining rooms were super hard hit, I think Nibble was

able to eschew that quite a bit," Strutt said. Looking towards the future, Strutt hopes to hold regular cooking classes at Nibble Kitchen in order to connect Somerville residents to new cuisines. "We want to expand our programming to include cooking classes and we just held our first cooking class. It was our first one in about four years," Strutt said.



Understanding Urban Ecology: Understanding Urban Soils

Like digging in the dirt? Been curious about why not all dirt looks the same?

Join the Somerville Public Library for a family-friendly, hands-on virtual workshop that encourages urban explorers of all ages to get outside and pay closer attention to the world around them. Dig up some samples and learn to categorize the different types of dirt to discover what makes the dirt in your neighborhood unique.

Saturday, November 13, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m, on Zoom, registration required

Reserve a space here for you and your group, and pick up a kit at the library the week of November 8.

You'll meet for an introductory Zoom and orientation on Saturday, November 13 at 11 a.m. Then, you'll head out for a field exercise during the following week.

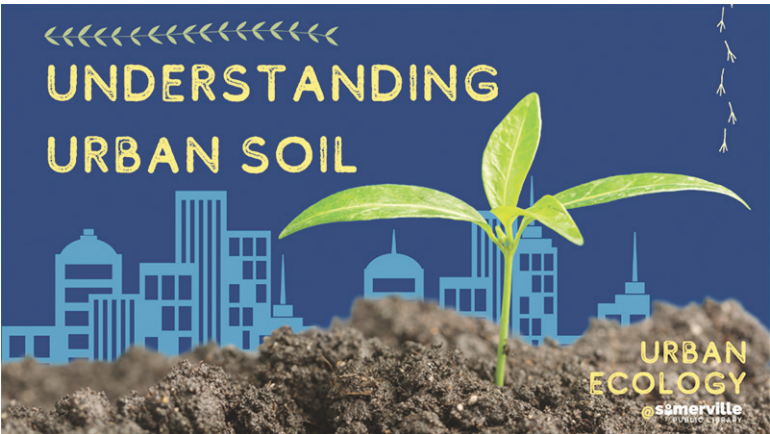
Created by the Public Library Innovation Exchange (PLIX) in collaboration with the MIT Media Lab, the Understanding Ecology workshop series was originally designed for middle grade students, but is engaging and fun for urban explorers of all ages. Grab a buddy and go exploring together!

This program is made possible through CARES Act funding to Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. For more information, contact Kerry: kodonnell@minlib.net.

To register, go to: <https://somervillepubliclibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/understanding-urban-ecology-understanding-urban-soils/>

CAPACITY: 25 of 28 spaces available.

NOTE: Registering more attendees than spaces available will automatically place your attendees on this event's wait list.



Gilman Square Street Design public meeting

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Ward 1 Councilor Matt McLaughlin, Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, and Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan invite you to a virtual community meeting to discuss proposed streetscape changes in Gilman Square.

This meeting will primarily focus on the feasibility study for constructing an accessible path from Marshall Street to the Medford Street bridge and Community Path, as well as options for protected bicycle lanes on Medford Street and Pearl Street from School Street to Skilton Avenue.

The meeting will take place Monday, November 22, at 6:00 p.m. To learn more and register to attend, go to somervillema.gov/gilmansquare.

Interpretation into Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol, or Nepali may be available upon advance request by contacting the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs at somerviva@somervillema.gov or calling 311 at 617-666-3311.

Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should please contact Nancy Bacci at 617-625-6600 x 2250 or nbacci@somervillema.gov.



Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Pasta E Ceci

This is one of those simple comfort dishes that reminds me of my childhood. It's hearty, flavorful, and satisfying. A dish that can be made from start to finish is under 30 minutes. As a bonus, this whole meal is made in one pot.

3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1/4-1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
1 cup finely diced onions
4 garlic cloves, minced
4 tablespoons tomato paste
1 15 oz. can tomato sauce
2 1/2 cups water, vegetable stock, or chicken stock
1 15.5 oz. can chickpeas, do not drain
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1 teaspoon dried basil
1/4 teaspoon rosemary powder/or 1

fresh rosemary sprig
8 oz. dried pasta, ditalini or small pasta of your choice
Freshly grated parmesan

In a 6-quart pot, add the olive oil, red pepper flakes, and onion. Cook until the onions have some caramelization, 5-7 minutes. Add the garlic, and cook for 30 seconds. Add the tomato paste, stir until well blended with the onions and garlic, and continue to cook for another minute. Add the tomato sauce, the water or stock, can of chickpeas with its liquid, salt, basil, and rosemary.

Stir well and bring to a boil. Add the pasta and cook for the time indicated on the package, stirring constantly. If the sauce thickens up too much, you can always add some hot water. Once the pasta is done, remove from



the heat. Serve in bowls and add the freshly grated parmesan cheese.
Serves 4.

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

COMMENTARY

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

Somerville’s time-bomb issue
Part 2: What do we do?



By William C. Shelton

The City of Somerville’s buildings, roads, sidewalks, water distribution, and sewer systems are all at or near the end of their lifespans. A cogent memo to the City Council last spring detailed our infrastructure needs and estimated their costs. Its implications obligate reconsideration of basic assumptions guiding land-use policy in this city with severe constraints on developable land.

The few elected officials who have taken public notice of the report appear to have drawn inaccurate conclusions. The first is that the \$1.1 billion repair-and-replacement costs explicitly stated in the memo define the size of the challenge.

That amount would be daunting by itself. It is several times our total current bonded debt. And now we must bond the new high school (\$130 million plus overruns) and the new public safety building (estimated at about \$100 million).

But \$840 million of the \$1.1 billion is only what we need to invest now to prevent emergencies and meet code requirements. Bringing our infrastructure to nominal condition with such an investment would still be inadequate to achieve the city’s goals, as championed by elected officials, specified in the city’s comprehensive plan, and supported by most residents. To accomplish that would require a multiple of \$1.1 billion. Richard Raiche, the memo’s author, did not attempt to estimate the multiple’s size.

I have also heard some City Council members say that we have fifty years to complete and pay for the required work. But the memo’s fifty-year figure refers only to how long we have to reconfigure our water distribution system to meet long-term goals.

Our need to counter generations of deferred maintenance of our water distribution and

all other infrastructure systems is immediate, as those systems disintegrate before our eyes. The time horizon to reconfigure our systems depends upon whether and when elected officials intend to achieve their stated housing, economic development, urban design, public-space, mobility, and sustainability goals, all of which require modern infrastructure.

The city’s just-concluded election campaign confronted a few candidates with a question about how to fund this investment. Those who responded cited the \$77.5 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds coming to Somerville. But all \$77.5 million would be less than five percent of what is needed, and diverse interests are already vying for a portion of those monies.

The Commonwealth’s strictures on how cities finance themselves leave property taxes as the only means for us to pay for renewed infrastructure. If we don’t want to drive out all but the most affluent homeowners and renters, we can’t drastically increase residential taxes. And at current tax rates, residential properties lose the City money, even though they constitute 84% of assessed property value, as opposed to 66% for Boston and 59% for Cambridge.

The following graph summarizes the only study done of net property tax income by land use – what properties pay, minus the cost of providing city services to them.

City officials directed Carson Bise to use a marginal-cost approach and to exclude from this analysis costs of debt on the new high school, the new public safety building, and all other new infrastructure. With more accurate assumptions, each of these net-income estimates would have been lower.

So virtually all residential property produces a net loss. Yet production of largely unaffordable housing increased the residential proportion of property valuations between fiscal years 2014 and 2021.

If lab space had been included in the analysis, the average annual return per 1,000 square feet would be about \$5,000, as lab space is costly and lab equipment is taxed. And right now we are enjoying a land rush by bio-

tech developers. Something like fourteen major office and lab buildings are in the development pipeline. Indeed, this fiscal year’s tax base went up by 10%, and the current City budget depends upon \$20 million in one-time building permit fees and adds forty new positions.

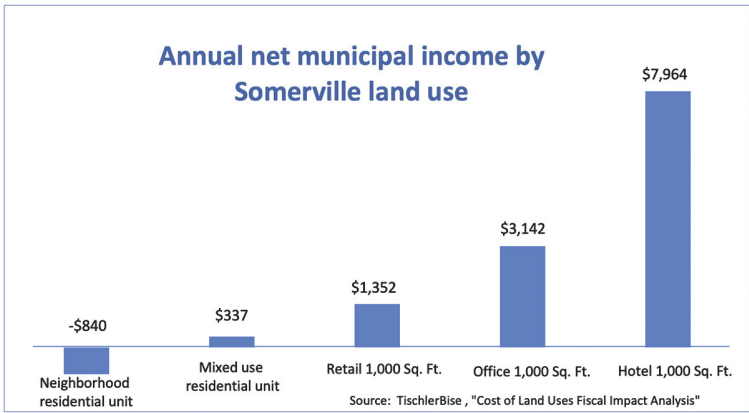
But those very development projects have shown that we cannot rely on our Comprehensive Plans’ land-use assumptions if we want to maintain affordability and fiscal health. The first SomerVision plan designated five areas in the city as transformation districts, estimated the amount of developable land in each, and set a goal of 60% commercial and 40% residential development, by square footage.

"Our leaders must seriously rethink the Comprehensive Plans’ land-use assumptions..."

We are now learning that mobility infrastructure in four of these areas cannot support the level of development anticipated and therefore creates the need for a greater commercial land-use allocation. This is becoming apparent first in Boynton Yards. The area can only be entered by Medford Street and Webster Avenue, which both become glacially-moving parking lots twice a day.

So, zoning now limits parking spaces to 1,500 for the entire district. Yet one developer of 6.5 acres has absorbed 1,200 spaces. Even though all those spaces must be open to the public, interest by developers in Boynton Yard’s properties – once intense – is dropping off.

City mobility staff are working to demonstrate that continued development there is a matter of persuading developers that the Green Line, shuttles, and bicycles will make projects viable. Their efforts are laudable. But the people who must be convinced are those who are unwilling to give up their cars or who have no choice but to drive if



they want a job and a family.

Another concern is that most developers who have the capacity to build lab space are now looking for viable locations wherever they can find them. The regional market may become saturated before potential Somerville sites become persuasive of their viability. However, the presence of a nascent enviro-tech cluster here may eventually attract those who develop property for that industry and its sustainability-conscious tenants.

If our elected leaders have any hope of keeping our city affordable, much less accomplishing the goals they have embraced, they must think systemically. They must avoid the many temptations to spend on cool and innovative programs, investing in need-to-do projects now so as to create capacity for nice-to-do projects in the future.

They must maximize commercial development. They must ban above-ground parking in the transformation areas, thereby benefitting both the city and developers, as Somerville land values now make above-ground parking a foolish waste.

When city officials determined that requiring underground parking in Union Square’s Green-Line block would cost developer US2 an additional \$13 million, US2 got a pass on a seven-story, 345-foot-long parking/residential structure that will barricade the neighborhood for generations. Given current land values, building more compact commercial space above underground parking there could have netted US2 many times that amount in profit, and a lot more tax revenue for the city.

Our leaders must seriously rethink the Comprehensive Plans’ land-use assumptions, including the commercial-residential mix in the transformation districts, in certain blocks within our

commercial centers, and near all transit nodes. Regarding the latter, evidence is clear that residents are willing to walk longer distances to transit nodes than employers are willing to locate jobs from them.

Despite these imperatives, planning staff is hustling neighborhood plans for Assembly Square and Brickbottom that are based on the old land-use assumptions. The Assembly plan even assumes a 50/50 residential/commercial mix. And some staff members have encouraged at least two developers to hasten their permit preparation and file before the new city administration and council can take office.

Their stated rationale is that housing development is needed to make the transformation districts 18-hour-per-day neighborhoods. They are right. Mixed-use neighborhoods offer greater security. But this can be achieved with substantially less than a 40% housing mix.

A second rationale is that we need to house those who would work in the new commercial spaces. But the workers are already here. The last time that the U.S. Census studied Somerville residents’ journey-to-work, it found that 85% of us must leave the city to go to our jobs. In fact, our skilled workforce is an essential factor that attracts commercial developers.

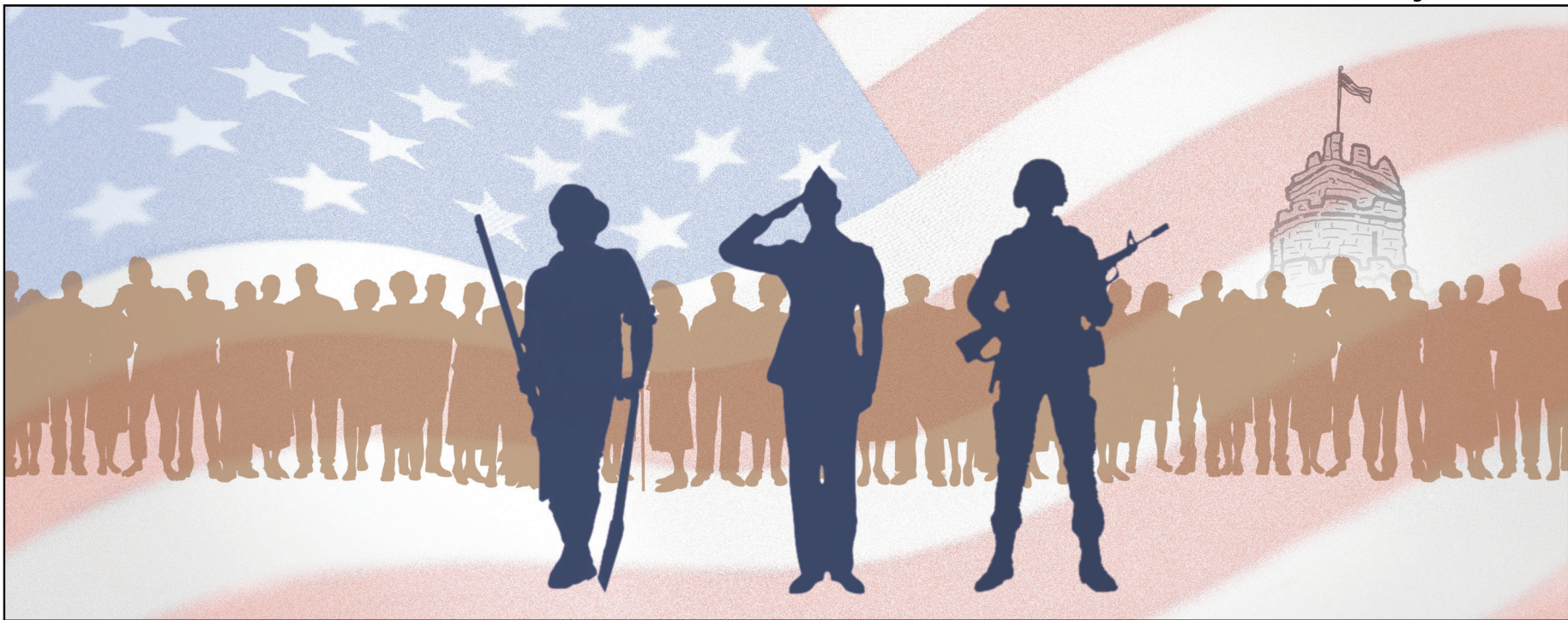
Most city officials no longer defend the baseless claim that boosting largely unaffordable housing production in New England’s densest city will somehow lower prices in what is a fragment of a regional market.

Increasing the proportion of land zoned for commercial development is also a key factor in meeting that other greatest challenge – maintaining and expanding housing affordability. That is the subject of the final column in this series.

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville salutes and says “Thank you” to our brave veterans, past and present.

Our View Of The Times



Veterans Day is one occasion that all Americans can relate to equally. There is virtually no one in this land that has not been affected positively by the sacrifices made and courage shown by the many who have served their country in uniform.

We may disagree on the policies and actions undertaken by the government itself, but all right-thinking people surely stand with loyalty and pride alongside those who serve and protect us against those who would do us harm.

And so, we take this one day out of the year to shine a light on these courageous individuals who have given wholly of themselves so that we all might live more freely.

As we do so, let’s make a special effort to connect in a real way with those around us who have served and quietly settled back into civilian life, content in the knowledge that they have done their share. Let’s make sure they know that we believe they did their share.

As it has been said in Holy Scripture, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” That anyone should do this for us is humbling beyond all measure. We must do our utmost to express our heartfelt gratitude for this.

Regardless of one’s religious faith, this sentiment is understandable to everyone. These are people who stepped up and put their lives on the line in order to protect the homeland and its people.

And so, as this special day comes, seize the opportunity to do so. It only comes along once a year.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Clamen, Jerry DiGiovanni, Cheryl Bertocchi, John Kane, Antonette Almeida, Dottie Bowman, Antonette Biondo, Tanya Kalousdian and Jim Powers 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.

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, Ward 5 Councilor Mark Niedergang, and Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis invite you to a virtual public meeting to discuss the redesign of Highland Avenue. The city is completely reconstructing nearly the entire length of Highland Avenue. Underground improvements to upgrade aging sewers and stormwater infrastructure will begin this winter on portions of Highland Avenue as part of the Spring Hill Sewer Separation Project, and streetscape changes are expected to follow in 2023. The new streetscape design will include protected bicycle lanes, pedestrian safety measures, and MBTA bus improvements. Achieving this vision will require fewer on-street parking spaces and changes to parking regulations, with particular focus paid to loading zones, pickup and drop-off loca-

tions, and accessibility. At this meeting, city staff will detail the project scope and timeline, present parking data, summarize responses from customer and business surveys, and gather feedback from meeting attendees. The meeting will take place virtually on **Wednesday, November 17**, at 6:30 p.m. To learn more and register to attend, visit somervillema.gov/highlandave.

Somerville’s **COVID case numbers** in October did drop for the first time in five months, though sadly there were six COVID deaths, bringing the city’s COVID death total since March 2020 to 96. Cases during the Delta outbreak of the virus have been more evenly distributed throughout the city. General caution is warranted. Currently, 75% of all Somerville residents are fully vaccinated. See the latest Somerville case data at somervillema.gov/covid19dashboard.

Kitty Connection, an all-volunteer non-profit dedicated to rescuing and finding safe, loving homes for local cats and dogs, will hold a **Silent Auction** on **Saturday, November 20**, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., at the **Medford Professional Firefighters Association**, 340 Salem

Street, Medford. In addition to the chance to browse and bid on dozens of auction items in time for the holidays, the event includes a delicious lasagna dinner, raffles, and beer, wine and mixed drinks available for purchase. Auction items available for bidding include a brand-new Michael Kors purse, local artwork, a \$100 Mobile gas gift card, tickets to the Improv Asylum and much more! Tickets, which include one door prize entry, are \$25 and can be purchased online at <https://kittyconnection2021auction.eventbrite.com>. To learn more about Kitty Connection and pets available for adoption, visit: www.kittyconnection.net.

The **CHA vaccination site** at 176 Somerville Ave. (next to Target in Union Square) and **many local pharmacies** offer walk-in vaccinations. To find out more about these three clinics and where else you can get vaccinated, visit somervillema.gov/vaccine. Remember, vaccines are free, regardless of immigration status or health insurance. If you’re not vaccinated, make a plan today to get your shot. **At-home vaccinations available:** Massachusetts offers in-home vaccinations for anyone who can’t travel

to a vaccination location. To learn more and sign up for an in-home vaccination, call (833) 983-0485.

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

The **Highlander Theatre Company (HTC)** at **Somerville High School** will offer six outdoor performances of **Almost, Maine** the weekend of **November 12-14** at **The Growing Center**, 22 Vinal Ave., Somerville. Written by **John Cariani**, the HTC production is presented by special arrangement with **Dramatists Play Service, Inc.** of New York. Learn more about this delightful upcoming production and how to get tickets at: <https://www.highlandertheatre.org/almostmaine>. *Continued on page 11*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olío

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#802

1. Who is known as the Father of Veteran's Day?
 2. When did World War I formally end?
 3. To date, how many U.S. presidents are veterans?
 4. Whose words are "It is fatal to enter any war without the will to win it"?
 5. In what state is the United States Naval Academy?
 6. WAC is an abbreviation for?
 7. How many stars were on the American flag in 1954 when November 11 officially became Veterans Day?
 8. What flower is a symbol of Veterans Day?
 9. Which organ is responsible for regulating metabolism?
 10. Who starred as John Walton Sr. in TV's *The Waltons*?
 11. Eric Cartman is a main character in which animated television series?
 12. Which composer wrote the opera *La Traviata*?

Answers on page 11

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Ketchup was originally a fish sauce originating in the orient.
2. Hummingbirds are the only animals that can fly backwards.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THANKSGIVING

ACROSS

1. "If all ____ fails..."
5. Male Thanksgiving bird
8. Yoko's last name
11. Indian restaurant bread
12. Carhop's carrier
13. "Kiss the Cook" garment
15. Homer's "The Odyssey", e.g.
16. *Grandpa or Grandma, often
17. Moolah or dough
18. Pilgrim's colony
20. Allah's cleric
21. Arranges into categories
22. Chance's genre
23. "Plains, Trains and Automobiles" star
26. Woven containers
30. Kimono sash
31. Aristotle's school
34. Part of ideal
35. Hurricane feature, pl.
37. Comedian Schumer
38. Teen worry
39. Side of a ruler
40. Left over
42. When will the guests be here?, acr.
43. Rejuvenate
45. Expression of agreement (2 words)
47. What Turkey Trot participants did
48. Outdoor entertainment area
50. Messy substances
52. It makes Thanksgiving wishes come true?
55. Half of diameter, pl.
56. Flu symptom
57. Accompanies relief
59. Leaves out
60. More than a talker?
61. Isaac's firstborn
62. Skin cyst
63. " ____ my party, and I'll cry if I want too..."
64. Confederate or Union, e.g.

DOWN

1. Compass dir.
2. Arctic native
3. Go yachting
4. Become enclosed in a cyst

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

B	O	R	A			S	I	S					R	P	M			
A	D	O	S			D	U	N	K			S	C	A	R	E		
R	O	M	P			E	D	G	E			T	E	N	O	N		
F	R	E	E	T	H	R	O	W				E	N	I	D			
				C	R	O	A	T			O	A	T					
P	L	A	T	E	R				N	U	M	E	R	A	L			
A	I	L			A	N	T	H	E	R			R	I	G	A		
I	N	E	R	T			B	E	E			A	S	S	A	Y		
S	E	R	E			F	A	R	R	O	W			E	M	U		
A	N	T	B	E	A	R				S	A	T	R	A	P			
				O	A	R			M	E	T	R	O					
		T	H	U	S				F	I	E	L	D	G	O	A	L	
N	O	O	N	E					R	A	R	E			G	Y	R	O
B	I	N	D	S					E	M	I	R			L	E	T	S
A	L	E							T	I	E				E	R	S	E

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

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

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
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		

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5. Freshwater fish
 6. Hop-drying kilns
 7. Pumpkin pie at the first Thanksgiving, e.g.
 8. Sea World's performer
 9. "Cheers" regular
 10. Top seed
 12. Like a rosebush
 13. Spy name
 14. Kind of squash
 19. Toils
 22. Truck brand motto: "Guts. Glory. _____"
 23. Lawn trimmer
 24. Toe the line
 25. Designs on lemur's tail
 26. Purchases
 27. #39 Across, pl.
 28. T in Ferrari TR
 29. Thai restaurant chicken staple
 32. Elder's support
 33. Flightless bird
 36. Thanksgiving football game host city since 1934
 38. Impromptu
 40. Big coffee holder
 41. Choice word
 44. Desert mirage
 46. Makes less tight
 48. Lace loop
 49. "Angela's _____," memoir
 50. Raiders vs. Cowboys, e.g.
 51. Scandinavian war god
 52. Dry riverbed
 53. Not final or absolute
 54. Exclamation of surprise, archaic
 55. Propel your boat!
 58. Color wheel feature
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.*

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Tobin Sprout revisits the 19th century, along with a visit to the Armory

By Blake Maddux

As a member of the scrappy indie rock band Guided by Voices from 1986-1997, Tobin Sprout played on and wrote songs for beloved lo-fi classics such as *Bee Thousand*, *Alien Lanes*, and *Under the Bushes Under the Stars*. Between 2012 and 2014, he did the same for six releases that appeared after the band's "classic lineup" reunited in 2010.

As a solo musician, he has recorded only a half-dozen albums under his own name in the past quarter century, only three of which have come out since 2010. Still, these numbers do not tell the whole story, as he also recorded in a duo called Airport 5 with Guided by Voices lead singer/ songwriter Robert Pollard and as the leader of a trio called Eyesinweasel in the early 2000s.

Despite all of this musical output, Sprout's most enduring passion is visual art.

Since discovering his drawing talent in his youth and honing his skills as a graphic design student at Ohio University, Sprout has developed an impressive portfolio as a painter whose work has been commissioned by corporate clients and celebrity admirers. Further evidence of his talents can be found in the two children's books that he has written and illustrated: *Elliott* (2009) and *Tinky Puts His Little Moon to Bed* (2013).

September 2020 saw the release of *Empty Horses*, a collection of songs that sound on the whole like nothing else in Sprout's discography. The 10 tracks paint with their words and music a desolate 19th-century American landscape, one decimated by the Civil War and inhabited by confused individuals who desperately try to cope with

literal and figurative destruction.

One need listen no further than Sprout's 2017 LP *The Universe and Me* or even just the more characteristic 2021 single *Supersonic Chairman* to appreciate what a stylistic departure the new album is for its creator.

I spoke to Sprout by phone about *Empty Horses* in advance of his November 14 show at Arts at the Armory.

The Somerville Times: How would you contrast *Empty Horses* with your last album, 2017's *The Universe and Me*?

Tobin Sprout: I think *The Universe and Me* is more along the pop styling. More along the rest of the albums that I've put out. This one, I think, is just a little bit darker, but it's got some hope in there, too. It kind of reminds me of [my 1997 album] *Moonflower Plastic*, where I was doing songs that normally you wouldn't have on a GBV [Guided by Voices] album. Piano-based stuff that I'd kind of written and then didn't use until I started doing solo albums.

TST: Many of the tracks on *Empty Horses* share themes of war and religion. Were all of the songs written as a batch during a specific period of time?

TS: It's an album I had kind of been trying to put together for a while. I put out *Antietam* right before the GBV reunion, and never really got anything going with that. I wasn't going to put it on there until towards the end, then it just seemed to be the perfect fit for the rest of the album.

TST: What prompted you to write a song about that notoriously bloody battle?

TS: I didn't really decide to do an Americana album, but that's kind of how it turned out. I've always been interested in American history. A lot of my songs,



Tobin Sprout makes a stop at Arts at the Army next Sunday. L to R: Steve Vermillion, Tommy Schichtel, Gary Vermillion, Tobin Sprout.
— Photo by Wayne Pickard

like *To Remake the Young Flyer* [from the 1996 Guided by Voices album *Under the Bushes Under the Stars*], kind of touch on historical points, but don't really delve into them. This kind of more delves into the Civil War and ties the album together with that theme. It doesn't go all the way through, but it's there. It begins and ends, and there's sort of an intertwining of the carnage that went on.

TST: Of all the episodes in American history to write songs about, why the Civil War specifically?

TS: My grandfather was a big Civil War ... I don't want to say "buff," but that's what you call them. We had a relative in the Union army who was a mail clerk. So, we kind of had a family history, and I think that's where he got his interest. He actually had my great-great-grandfather's pistol, which was eventually stolen out of his house. He used to shoot off blanks on the 4th of July.

TST: What would you say accounts for the lyrical and musical unity of *Empty Horses*?

TS: It just sort of all came together. When we started, it was sort of two albums. We had some of the more pop songs on there, like *Supersonic Chairman*, which would have been on the album. But we just got to the point where, and the band mentioned it first, we had two albums and maybe we should split them up. When Fire [Records] signed for this album, they said the same thing. So, we kind of went through and picked out what wasn't working and what was and kind of put it together

er that way. I wrote *No Shame* to kind of finish the album off. That was one of the last songs that I put on there.

TST: Did anything that you had been listening to recently inspire the musical direction?

TS: Not that I can think of directly. But I've always liked that sort of, I don't know, southwestern style. It's not really country. Like Son Volt, who have sort of a twang to them, I guess.

TST: I couldn't help but be reminded of *The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down* as I listened to the album.

TS: Oh yeah, definitely. I'm a big Band fan, so that's definitely in there.

TST: Somewhat to my surprise, your singing on some of these songs occasionally reminded me of Tom Waits and Leonard Cohen.

TS: Oh yeah? My wife's always said, "You know, you can sing lower. Why don't you sing lower some time?" So, I just started experimenting with that. It's sort of exciting to experiment with different voices. You can kind of take on different characters. So that's kind of where that came from. Then it just became comfortable to sing in a lower register, 'cause I'm so used to singing harmonies, so I stay up in that high register. It was kind of fun to do.

TST: Speaking of that, were you expressing your own feelings or those of your subjects with your mentions of God, Jesus, and the Bible?

TS: A little of both. I think a lot of it is through the characters. It was prominent during the

Civil War, people praying out on the battlefield. Why would [God] make something like this happen, and would they still believe after going through all this that there is a god? It takes a lot to keep your faith after going through something like that.

TST: What inspired the long instrumental passage the end of *All in My Sleep*, a song that is uncharacteristically long at 6:20?

TS: That was a piece that I wrote a long time ago. I'd tie it into different songs and it just never worked until now. Drew Howard, the pedal steel player, and I just experimented with it. I had him come into play on *Breaking Down*, and while he was there, we asked him to try doing the end of this piece that we wrote. And it was sort of this haunting thing that flows through the whole end of it.

TST: Will there be another release consisting of the remainder of the two albums' worth of material?

TS: Both sides of the single [*Supersonic Chairman* and *We Should Be Wishing*] were going to be on the album. I'm thinking about putting out another single with a couple of the other ones. And then move on to newer ground.

TST: Do you think that the songs that are not released as singles/B-sides will find a home on your next album?

TS: They'll all find a home eventually!

Tobin Sprout with Hallelujah the Hills. Sunday, November 14, at Arts at the Army (191 Highland Ave). Doors at 6:30.



The cover of Sprout's latest album, "Empty Horses," painted by Sprout himself.

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**City of Somerville
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville **Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, November 17, 2021**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planning@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/861765746771397648>

Webinar ID: 921-829-339

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8422

Access code: 482-479-809

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

27 Cutter St / 32 Glen St North American Development LLC seeks a revision to a previously issued special permit (SP) and special with site plan review (SPSR) issued July 28, 2018 (ZBA 2018-64).

59 Albion Street Marilyn Moedinger proposes to establish a Backyard Cottage in the Neighborhood Residence district which requires Site Plan Approval.

483 Broadway Tavis Babbitt seeks a variance from the minimum number of stories in the Mid-Rise 4 (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 Zoning Board of Appeals 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.

11/3/21, 11/10/21 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP# 22-16**

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites proposals for:

Armory Master Planning Consultant

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/procurement-and-contracting> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress landing page <https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/33100/home> on or after: **Wednesday, November 10, 2021**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **1:00 pm, Wednesday, December 1, 2021**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any minor informality in the RFP process, and accept the proposal(s) deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.

Please email purchasing@somervillema.gov for more information.

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Senior Procurement Manager
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11/10/21 The Somerville Times

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IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

The Somerville Housing Authority (SHA) announces a PUBLIC HEARING regarding the 2022 Federal Annual Plan and the 2023 State-Aided Annual Plan on **Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.** Due to social distancing guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic, this hearing will be held remotely. The public is invited to listen to the meeting via phone, computer, laptop, or tablet.

Somerville Housing Authority Public Hearing
Wed, December 15, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.


Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/818122117>

You can also dial in using your phone.
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United States: +1 (571) 317-3129
Access Code: 818-122-117

The Plan(s) and related documents are available on the Somerville Housing Authority's website at <http://www.sha-web.org/>. You may also view the Plan(s) at 30 Memorial Road in Somerville, MA by appointment only. Substantive comments will be summarized and included in the Annual Plan when it is submitted to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A forty-five (45) day review and comment period will commence on **Friday, October 29, 2021**. Any questions may be directed to Kevin Bumpus, Director of Operations, at 617-625-1152.

10/27/21, 11/3/21, 11/10/21 The Somerville Times

 EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

**SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**
30 Memorial Road
Somerville, Massachusetts 02145
Telephone (617) 625-1152

Web: www.sha-web.org

Project Manager: Travis Panzini

The Somerville Housing Authority is requesting quotes from qualified contractors to furnish and install 20 countertops on an as needed basis for all SHA Developments.

Quotes are subject to M.G.L c.149 sec.44A (2)(A) and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

The Project consists of: Labor and material for the installation of corner solid surface kitchen counters and backsplashes with sinks on newly renovated apartments. The apartments will be a mix of handicap (ADA-compliant) and non-handicap units. General cabinet layouts are provided within the bid package.

Contractors who intend on providing a quote shall email Travis Panzini at travis@sha-web.org after **11:00AM on Wednesday, November 10th** to request a quote package.

Proposals must be received by **11:00AM on Wednesday, November 24th**. Proposals can be emailed to travis@sha-web.org. Please contact Travis Panzini at travis@sha-web.org with any questions.

11/10/21 The Somerville Times

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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.

Give Somerville 100 days to plan for 100 years?

Twenty-three years ago, our city was in decline, with meager job opportunities, underfunded city services, malnourished nonprofits, and scarce and poorly maintained usable open space. At the same time Greater Boston's most promising development site lay on our eastern edge – 145 acres next to \$7 billion worth of transportation infrastructure.

An ill-conceived development plan supported by city officials proposed squandering this asset on seven big-box stores. A group of Somerville citizens proposed an alternative plan that would produce 30,000 new jobs, \$30 million in annual net tax revenue, and 30 acres of open space. While their eight-year campaign was only partially successful, it stimulated the construction of a new transit stop and a wave of economic development, transforming our city's prospects and its regional reputation.

Seven years ago, city planning staff promoted a collaborative process to plan Union Square's redevelopment. Hundreds of citizens collectively gave thousands of hours, pouring out their hopes and best thinking for their neighborhood and city. Retained consultants came back with a plan. Heavily constrained by city staff and developer US2, much of it somehow embodied the opposite of what the public had said it wanted.

Planning staff cajoled and bullied community advocates and others into capitulation. Elected officials approved zoning to implement the plan. Today a twenty-six-story residential tower rises in front of the Union Square Green Line station, next to a 345-foot-long parking structure that will truncate the neighborhood like a seven-story tumor – a hundred-year blunder.

Last November planning staff promoted participation in an Assembly Square planning process. Scores of Somervillians, including professionals in urban design, economics, sustainability and infrastructure, participated in a series of charrettes, offering rich insights. That process ended with a preliminary design that most participants felt good about. Consultants went off to improve on it.

Last month the Planning Division released a 138-page plan, nominally produced by consultants, but heavily influenced by planning staff, that was somehow worse than the draft they had been entrusted with eleven months earlier. Citizens were told that they had sixteen days to submit comments. While those of us with jobs and families have not had time to detail all of the plan's inadequacies, this is some of the more obvious damage that it would codify.

- Somerville cannot meet its long-term fiscal needs, replace crumbling infrastructure and pay for affordable housing without greatly increasing the commercial portion of our property tax base. Yet the Plan anticipates that 50% of built square footage would be residential, mostly unaffordable housing. This contradicts SomerVision's stated objectives.
- Massive above-ground parking structures waste precious land that can host usable open space or the commercial development that can pay for it. But with current Assembly Square property values, capable developers can realize more profit by building and leasing on top of underground parking.
- The preliminary plan showcased a visionary linear park running the length of Assembly Square, surrounded by dense urban development. Few cities in the world enjoy such an amenity, and our city, starved for green space, deserves it. The debased plan cuts the park by two-thirds.
- The treatment of all connections between Assembly Square and the rest of the city is inadequate to the need. Everett and Medford residents and Orange Line riders can more easily and safely reach the Square than most Somervillians. The potential of Assembly Square as an employment center for Somervillians cannot be realized without adequate mobility options.
- Moving the eastern entry road from McGrath Highway further from the river would create substantially more green space.

In response to these and other flaws, citizens requested a ninety-day extension of the comment period. At its November 4 meeting, Planning Board members and planning staff disregarded them.

Two decades ago, the intransigence of city officials led Somerville citizens to prosecute three successful lawsuits. Although their outcomes improved a defective Assembly Square planning process, litigation, by its limited nature, could not realize the Square's potential.

Collaboration works better.

*Mystic View Task Force
Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership
Union Square Neighborhood Council
Green and Open Somerville*

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

New **Learn-To-Skate** classes for children, ages 4 to 18 are being held at the **Founders Memorial Rink**, 581 Somerville Avenue, starting last Sunday, at 2:00 p.m. for 6 weeks. Classes are also available at 10 area rinks. Use either figure, recreational or hockey skates. Beginner, intermediate and advanced classes taught by professional instructors. For information and to register, call **Bay State Skating School** at 781-890-8480 or visit online at www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org. Bay State Skating School is compliant with the **Commonwealth of Massachusetts Covid-19 guidelines**. The number of students allowed on the ice will be limited.

The **Somerville Chamber of Commerce** is celebrating their **75th Anniversary** with their **Annual Dinner and John W. Fitzgerald Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation**. Reception followed by dinner. **Wednesday, November 17, 5:30 p.m., Holiday Inn**, 30 Washington St. Table of 8 guests \$800; non-members \$1,200; Individuals \$100 per person; non-members \$150. **Major Presenting Co-Sponsors: Bunker Hill Community College and Verizon.** **Reception sponsor: East Cambridge Savings Bank.** RSVP to smackey@somervillechamber.org.

The **Somerville Board of Health** has extended the **citywide residential eviction moratorium until April 30 of next year**. The moratorium applies to both renters and homeowners, and it means residents cannot be physically removed from their homes, though eviction cases may pro-

ceed through court. Back rent ultimately must be paid. If you find yourself or anyone you know unable to make rent or mortgage payments (or if you are a landlord owed back rent), assistance may be available. Immediately contact the **Office of Housing Stability** at 617-625-6600 x2581 or the **Community Action Agency of Somerville** at 617-623-7370.

Get an early start on your holiday shopping on **November 20** from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the **East Somerville Main Streets Holiday Market**. Support small businesses as you shop local for food, art, jewelry and books. **Wild Fox Pierogi** will be on site serving their delicious food, and **DJ Panda** will be spinning all your favorite market jams. Located at **Connexion**, 149 Broadway in Somerville.

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

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.

Celebrate Family Literacy Month with a StoryWalk™

Mosaic StoryWalks by Emily Bhargava and the Beautiful Stuff Project are available in outdoor locations across the city. Take a walk, read a story, and talk with your child about what you read – a way for families, caregivers, and educators to encourage outdoor activity as well as literacy in young children. Visit a StoryWalk at the following locations and enjoy:

Somerville Public Library, East Branch – 115 Broadway
John F. Kennedy School – 5 Cherry Street
East Somerville Community School – 50 Cross Street
Hodgkins-Curtin Park – Holland Street & Paulina Street

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

1. Raymond Weeks

2. At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918

3. 31

4. General Douglas MacArthur

5. Maryland

6. Women's Army Corps

7. 48

8. Poppy

9. Thyroid gland

10. Ralph Waite

11. South Park

12. Giuseppe Verdi

SCES recognizes unsung heroes at Serving Seniors '21

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) recognized six people who are doing essential work to support the independence and dignity of local older adults at Serving Seniors 2021.

The annual awards ceremony was held virtually on Nov. 4, though most of the award presentations were pre-taped.

Executive Director Paul Hollings opened the ceremony by thanking SCES staff for their steadfast commitment to the agency's mission throughout the pandemic.

"It is important to celebrate all of our staff and our collaborators in the community who are strengthening the support of independence and well-being for elders," said Hollings. "Recognizing those stakeholders is a centerpiece of Serving Seniors."

The following awards were given at Serving Seniors 2021:

The Kahn Collaboration Award was presented to Courtney Libon, an attorney at the De Novo Center for Justice and Healing who helps low-income and vulnerable older adults with a wide range of housing issues. Libbon was nominated for the award by Adult Protective Services Director Norah Al-Wetaid.

The Sousa Advocacy Award was presented to Fred Berman from the Somerville Office of Housing Stability, for out-

standing dedication to helping older adults navigate critical housing issues. This nomination was made by Director of Volunteers and Special Projects Colleen Morrissey.

The Compassionate Care Provider Award was presented to Paula Nazaire, a Home Health Care Aide and homemaker who has been providing caring and outstanding services at 116 Norfolk Street for 32 years. Paula was nominated by the Social Services Coordinator at 116 Norfolk, Jeffrey Clement.

The Outstanding Caregiver Award was presented to John Marshall, an Adult Family Care caregiver who retired in 2016 to care for his mother. Marshall was nominated for the award by Adult Family Care Social Worker Carly Ellis.

The Tingle Volunteerism Award was presented to Marsha Gerstein, a Money Management volunteer who has been helping the same client for 11 years. She was nominated for the award by Rachel Marta Greenberg of the Money Management program.

The Spirit of SCES Award was presented to SCES Social Worker Courtney Johnson, for her dedication to supporting the mental and emotional health of local older adults through the SCES Elder Mental Health Outreach Team. She was nominated for the award by SCES Clinical Director Stephanie



The Serving Seniors 2021 honor roll: Courtney Libon (De Novo Center for Justice and Healing), Courtney Johnson (SCES Social Worker), Paula Nazaire (Anodyne Home Health Care Aide), John Marshall (Adult Family Care caregiver), Marsha Gerstein (Money Management Volunteer), and Fred Berman (Somerville Office of Housing Stability)

Becker Stone.

Serving Seniors also includes an employee recognition, which recognizes the contributions of longtime employees. The following staff recognitions were made at Serving Seniors 2021:

5 years:
AFC Social Worker Allison Alaimo
Accounts Receivable and Data Entry Clerk Deborah Brosz
SCO Bilingual Case Manager Mirlande Gassant
SCO/OneCare Supervisor Amanda Goguen
Home Care Community Health Nurse Amy Goodwin

Administrative Assistant/Transport Specialist Elizabeth Graham
Home Delivered Meals driver Bessy Hernandez
Home Care Assessment Specialist Alissa Wright
Director of Outreach and Community Relations Nathan Lamb
Center Coordinator for the Nutrition program Joan Mahoney.

10 years:
Home Delivered Meals Supervisor Milagro Mancía
Home Delivered Meals Driver Nidia Segovia
Home Care Nurse Manager Myclette Theodule

SCO Bilingual Case Manager Lichun Yang
15 years: Senior Community Health Nurse for the Adult Family Care program Kathleen Gillespie

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is a non-profit agency that supports the independence and well-being of older adults in Somerville and Cambridge. For free advice and guidance on questions of aging, caregiving or disability, contact our Aging Information Center at 617-628-2601, email info@eldercare.org, or visit our website eldercare.org.

Upcoming COVID-19 vaccination clinics

Students ages 5 years and older are now eligible for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Sign up for one of two vaccine clinics coming up this week and next at SPS facilities. This Friday, November 12, 4:00-7:00 p.m. at ESCS, and next Friday, November 19, 3:00-6:00 p.m. at the Winter Hill. Visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/vaccineclinic for more information and registration link. Please reach out to your school family liaison if you need assistance setting up an appointment.



BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What do houses wear?
An address.

On This Day in History November 10

- 1647 – All Dutch-held areas of New York are returned to English control by the treaty of Westminster.
- 1775 – U.S. Marine Corps founded.
- 1782 – In the last battle of the American Revolution, George Rogers Clark attacks Indians and Loyalists at Chillicothe, in Ohio Territory.
- 1871 – Henry M. Stanley finds Dr. Livingstone at Ujiji near Unyanyembe in Africa.
- 1911 – President Taft ends a 15,000-mile, 57-day speaking tour.
- 1917 – Forty-one US suffragettes are arrested protesting outside the White House.
- 1952 – U.S. Supreme Court upholds the decision barring segregation on interstate railways.
- 1969 – The PBS children's program Sesame Street debuts.
- 1989 – German citizens begin tearing down the Berlin Wall.

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Somerville Sweeps Greater Boston League XC Championship Meet

The Somerville Boys and Girls Cross Country teams both rolled to victory at the Greater Boston League (GBL) League Championship meet held at MacDonald Park in Medford last Thursday. Somerville took home the title on both the girls' and boys' sides in the eight team conference. In the boys' race the Highlanders came in the top three spots. Somerville junior Sam Buckley claimed the individual conference title, covering the 2.85-mile course in 15:03. The Boys team captured the first three spots in a dominant performance, totaling 27 points, with senior Calvin Wicks finishing 10th to claim All Star honors. Runner up Medford came in second with 60 points.

The Somerville girls team won in close battle with Medford, tying the Mustangs at 51 all to both be awarded GBL co-champions. Medford phenom Anna Casey won the race with a time of 17:18, with fellow mustang Jasmine Viera in second. The Lady Highlanders were led by freshman Charlotte Johnson in 4th, sophomore Anna Siebler 5th, and senior Cindy Luxama in 10th place.

Top ten finishers in both races are designated GBL All League All Stars. Somerville claimed four Boys and three Girls All Star slots.



Boys:		Girls:	
1 Sam Buckley Somerville 15:03	2. Atticus Kaye Somerville 15:04	1. Anna Casey Medford 17:18	2. Jasmine Viera Medford 17:49
3. Atticus Borggaard Somerville 15:08	4. Marcus Riuz Malden 15:10	3. Gizelle Rodriguez Chelsea 18:38	4. Charlotte Johnson Somerville 19:08
5. Sam Orcutt Medford:20	6. Ian Padilla Chelsea 15:27	5. Anna Siebler Somerville 19:45	6. Rocio Gonzalez Revere 20:01
7. Chris Hunt Medford 15:28	8. Eamon McHale Lynn English 15:32	7. Rikita BK Medford 20:17	8. Cindy Luxama Somerville 20:48
9. Nick Wong Malden 15:37	10 Calvin Wicks Somerville 15:50	9. Yasmine Riuzi Revere 20:53	10. Mia Kebreau Lynn Classical 20:59

The SomervilleTimes

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SCATV Channel 3 Schedule

SCATV is part of Somerville Media Center, home to Boston Free Radio, Somerville Neighborhood News and SMC Youth Media!

Join SMC today to make your own TV or Radio Production, learn skills like editing and field production and sign up for special media making workshops and classes for youth and adults! somervillemedia.org

Wednesday, November 10

12:00am Free Speech TV
6:00am NASA TV
7:00am Community Bulletin Board
7:30am DW In Good Shape
8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
9:00am DW Global 3000
9:30am Both Sides of the Bars
10:00am Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer
10:30am Somerville Neighborhood News
11:00am SNN Neighborhood Update
11:30am From My Heart to Yours
12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show
1:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News
1:30pm Somerville Neighborhood News
2:00pm Colores Latinos
3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
4:00pm DW Conflict Zone
4:30pm Autumn Reads with Somerville Public Library
5:00pm Hello Neighbor
5:30pm From My Heart to Yours
6:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News
6:30pm VOX POP: Somerville Connects
7:00pm "The Cask of Amontillado" at VOX POP
7:30pm Sidewalks Entertainment
8:00pm LIVE - Somerville Pundits
8:30pm DW Euromaxx
9:00pm Revolution Awakening at VOX POP
10:00pm LIVE - Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party
11:00pm Flotilla

Thursdays, November 11

12:30am SCATV Secret Stash
1:00am Free Speech TV
1:30am Free Speech TV
2:00am Free Speech TV
3:00am Free Speech TV
6:00am Bate Papo com Shirley
7:00am DW Conflict Zone
7:30am DW Euromaxx
8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
9:00am DW Tomorrow Today
9:30am Hello Neighbor
10:00am The Chef's Table Series
10:30am The Chef's Table Series
11:00am Joanna Bremis HMS Clinicals
11:30am Joanna Bremis HMS Clinicals
12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show
1:00pm The Somerville Line
1:30pm The Somerville Line

3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
4:00pm VOX POP: Somerville Connects
4:30pm The Struggle
5:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News
6:00pm #AFAD
6:30pm #AFAD
7:00pm Community Lens: SHC 5K Race
8:00pm LIVE - Our View
9:00pm PABFONE Closing Day Ceremony
10:00pm Community Bulletin Board
10:30pm The World Fusion Show
11:00pm VOX POP Comedy Night

Friday, November 12

12:00am Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party
1:00am SCATV Secret Stash
1:30am SCATV Secret Stash
2:00am Free Speech TV
6:00am NASA TV
7:00am The Bill Press Show (Free Speech TV)
8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
9:00am DW Euromaxx
9:30am Strata
10:00am NASA TV
11:00am SOM ARTS
11:30am Cambridge Calendar
12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show
1:00pm Community Benefits Agreement
2:00pm Somerville Pundits
2:30pm Autumn Reads with Somerville Public Library
3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
4:00pm Gay USA
5:00pm DW Global 3000
5:30pm What's New Massachusetts?
6:00pm Grandstanders
7:00pm Emergency Preparedness
7:30pm The Somerville Labor Show
8:00pm LIVE - Greater Somerville
8:30pm Greater Somerville
9:00pm Fur, Fins and Feathers
10:00pm Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party
11:00pm Heavy Leather Music Video Show

Saturday, November 13

12:00am VOX POP Comedy Night
1:00am Free Speech TV
2:00am Free Speech TV
3:00am Free Speech TV
5:00pm DW Focus on Europe
6:00am Effort Pour Christ
7:00am

8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
9:00am SMC Youth Media
9:30am Science 360
10:00am Dead Air Live
11:00am TeleGalaxie
12:00pm Somerville Storytellers
1:00pm Tele Magazine
2:00pm Reeling Review
3:00pm MA House of Representatives Formal Session
4:00pm Tele Kreyol
5:00pm Henry Parker Presents
5:30pm Henry Parker Presents
6:00pm Somerville Pundits
6:30pm The Somerville Labor Show
7:00pm BLOWW Show a Go Go
7:30pm Somerville Neighborhood News
8:00pm #AFAD
9:00pm Nossa Gente e Costumes
10:00pm Heavy Leather Music Video Show
11:00pm SCATV Secret Stash
11:30pm Queer Cats

Sunday, November 14

12:00am Flotilla
1:00am NASA TV
1:30am NASA TV
2:00pm NASA TV
3:00pm Free Speech TV
6:00am Bate Papo com Shirley
7:00am Nossa Gentes e Costumes
8:00am Effort Pour Christ
9:00am NASA TV
10:00am Tele Kreyol
11:00am House of Representatives Formal Session
12:00pm Sidewalks Entertainment
1:00pm SOM ARTS
1:30pm SNN Neighborhood Update
2:00pm Chico and B-Man
3:00pm African Television Network
4:00pm Dedilhando a Saudade
5:00pm Gay USA
6:00pm VOX POP: Somerville Connects
6:30pm DW Tomorrow Today
7:00pm Emergency Preparedness
8:00pm Dead Air Live
9:00pm Tele Magazine
10:00pm Community Lens: Somerville 5K Detour
11:00pm TUTV
11:30pm SCATV Secret Stash

Monday, November 15

12:00am Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party
5:00am Free Speech TV
6:00am NASA TV
7:00am Somerville Storytellers
8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
9:00am Science 360
10:00am Somerville Neighborhood News
11:00am Our View
12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show
1:00pm SOM ARTS
2:00pm Somerville Storytellers
3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
4:00pm African Television Network
5:00pm Community Lens: SHC 5K Race
6:00pm LIVE from VOX POP
6:30pm Fur, Fins and Feathers
7:00pm Tele Galaxie
8:00pm LIVE -Somerville Overcoming Addiction
9:00pm Dedilhando au Saudade
10:00pm Colores Latinos
11:00pm Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party

Tuesday, November 16

12:00am Public Safety/Homeland Security Hearing
6:00am NASA TV
7:00am NASA TV
8:00am Democracy Now!
9:00am The Chef's Table Series
10:00am Strata
11:00am Joanna Bremis HMS Clinicals
12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show
1:00pm Revolution Awakening at VOX POP
2:00pm Somerville Overcoming Addiction
3:00pm Democracy Now!
4:00pm SMC Youth Media
4:30pm Going Postal
5:00pm LIVE - Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer
5:30pm What's New Massachusetts?
6:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News
6:30pm From My Heart to Yours
7:00pm The Somerville Labor Show
7:30pm LIVE - Greater Somerville
8:00pm LIVE - Dead Air Live
9:00pm The World Fusion Show
10:00pm Totally Working Out
11:00pm Box House Productions Presents
11:30pm SCATV Secret Stash

CITY TV 22 (Comcast) | 13 (RCN) Schedule

Wednesday, November 10

6:00am Lets Talk About a Poem - L. Schwartz
7:30am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
8:15am SPL Cooking - Simple Chocolate Cake
8:30am SPL Gardening - Garlic-Scapes
9:00am Town Hall w/ Mayor Curtatone
10:30am Senior Circuit
11:00am Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7
11:30am Finance Committee Meeting 10-26-21
3:00pm COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA
4:00pm Fit-4-Life Video #4
4:30pm Lets Talk About a Poem - L. Schwartz
6:00pm HONK! 2021
7:00pm West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting
7:30pm Winter Hill Walking Tour
8:45pm SPD Ride Along
9:00pm School Committee Meeting 11-1-21
11:15pm COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA

Thursdays, November 11

12:00am Land Use Committee Meeting 11-8-21
6:00am Chair Yoga w Chris
6:30am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II
7:30am Town Hall w/ Mayor Curtatone
8:35am Senior Circuit
9:00am West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting
9:30am Healey Community Play Area Ribbon-Cutting
10:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
10:45am Mental Health Resources
11:00am Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #6
11:30am School Committee Update - Andre Green
12:00pmSenior Circuit: Benefits of Music & Movement
12:25pm Mabel And Jerry - Senior Story
1:00pm Finance Committee Meeting 10-26-21
4:30pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #2
5:00pm West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting
5:30pm Climate Webinar Climate Resilience & Health
6:30pm SPL Gardening - Summer's Bounty pt. 1
7:00pm Senior Circuit

7:30pmThe Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope
9:00pm Veterans' Day Ceremony 2021
10:00pm SPL Gardening - Garden Tour
10:30pm Town Hall w/ Mayor Curtatone
11:35pm Senior Circuit

Friday, November 12

12:00am Finance Committee Meeting 10-26-21
6:00am Winter Hill Walking Tour
7:30am Chair Yoga w Chris
8:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I
8:35am Senior Circuit
9:00am Veterans' Day Ceremony 2021
10:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I
11:00am Fit 4 Life 2020 #3
11:30am West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting
12:00pm HONK! 2021
1:00pm Winter Hill Walking Tour
2:15pm COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA
3:00pm Healey Community Play Area Ribbon-Cutting
4:00pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #3
4:30pm Town Hall w/ Mayor Curtatone
6:00pm Land Use Committee Meeting 11-8-21
9:00pm Town Hall w/ Mayor Curtatone
10:04pm SPL Gardening - Garden Tour
10:31pmThe Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope

Saturday, November 13

12:00am Land Use Committee Meeting 11-8-21
6:30am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
7:15am SPL Cooking - Simple Chocolate Cake
7:30am West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting
8:00am COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA
9:00am Town Hall w/ Mayor Curtatone
10:04am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice III
10:50am Mental Health Resources
11:00am Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7
11:30am School Committee Meeting 11-1-21
2:00pm PorchFest 2021
3:00pm COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA

4:00pm Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7
5:00pm Raising Families "Special Needs Education"
5:31pm Mabel And Jerry - Senior Story
6:10pm PorchFest 2021
7:00pm Legislative Matters 10-21-21
9:30pm SPL Gardening - Summer's Bounty pt. 1
10:00pm Town Hall w/ Mayor Curtatone
11:05pm Healey Community Play Area Ribbon-Cutting
11:20pm Mental Health Resources
11:30pm School Committee Update - Andre Green

Sunday, November 14

12:00amThe Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope
1:30am School Committee Meeting 11-1-21
6:30am Winter Hill Walking Tour
7:45am PorchFest 2021
8:35am Senior Circuit
9:00am City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan
10:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II
11:00am Chair Yoga w Chris
11:30am West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting
12:00pm Senior Circuit
12:30pmThe Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope
2:00pm HONK! 2021
3:00pm Veterans' Day Ceremony 2021
4:00pm Fit-4-Life Video #4
4:30pm Winter Hill Walking Tour
6:00pm Veterans' Day Ceremony 2021
6:30pm Senior Circuit
7:00pm City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan
7:30pm City Council Meeting 11-9-21

Monday, November 15

12:30amSenior Circuit: Benefits of Music & Movement
1:00am The Bilingual Brain Benefits of Bilingualism
2:30am Virtual Town Hall en Español 7-2-21
6:00am Raising Families "Special Needs Education"
6:31am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
7:15am Mental Health Resources
7:30am Healey Community Play Area Ribbon-Cutting

8:00am COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA
8:41am SPL Cooking - Simple Chocolate Cake
9:00am West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting
9:30am The Bilingual Brain Benefits of Bilingualism
11:00am Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7
11:30am City Council Meeting 11-9-21
4:00pm Fit-4-Life Video #4
4:30pm Climate Webinar Climate Resilience & Health
7:00pm School Committee Meeting - LIVE
11:00pm West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting

Tuesday, November 16

12:00am Winter Hill Walking Tour
1:15am Climate Forward Presentations
6:00am COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA
7:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II
8:00am HONK! 2021
9:00am City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan
9:30am Veterans' Day Ceremony 2021
10:00am COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA
11:00am Fit 4 Life 2020 #1
11:30am SPL Gardening - Summer's Bounty pt. 1
12:00pm Senior Circuit
12:25pm Mabel And Jerry - Senior Story
1:00pmThe Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope
3:00pm HONK! 2021
4:00pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #3
5:00pm Healey Community Play Area Ribbon-Cutting
5:30pm Winter Hill Walking Tour
7:00pmSenior Circuit: Benefits of Music & Movement
7:30pm West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting
8:00pm Town Hall w/ Mayor Curtatone
9:04pm Land Use Committee Meeting 11-8-21

Wednesday, November 17

12:00amSenior Circuit: Benefits of Music & Movement
12:30am City Council Meeting 11-9-21

Educational TV 15 Schedule

Wednesday, November 10

8:00am Lets Talk About a Poem - L. Schwartz
9:30am SPL Gardening - Summer's Bounty pt. 1
10:00am School Committee Meeting 11-1-21
1:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21
3:00pm SHS Volleyball vs Masco 11-3-21
4:00pm SHS Volleyball vs LC 9-27-21
5:00pm Lets Talk About a Poem - L. Schwartz
6:30pm SPL Gardening - Summer's Bounty pt. 1
7:00pm School Committee Meeting 11-1-21
10:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21

Thursdays, November 11

12:00am SHS Volleyball vs Masco 11-3-21
1:02am SHS Volleyball vs LC 9-27-21
2:00am SHS Football vs Ipswich 10-5-19
8:00am SHS Boys Soccer vs Everett 10-28-21
10:00am SHS Boys Soccer vs Medford 10-19-21
11:30am SHS Football vs Medford 10-15-21
1:05pm SHS Football vs Malden 10-1-21
3:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21
4:30pm SHS Girls Soccer vs LC 10-29-21
6:00pm SHS Boys Soccer vs Everett 10-28-21
8:00pm SHS Boys Soccer vs Medford 10-19-21
9:30pm SHS Football vs Medford 10-15-21
11:05pm SHS Football vs Malden 10-1-21

Friday, November 12

1:00am SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21
2:30am SHS Girls Soccer vs LC 10-29-21
8:00am Highlander History - ORourke and Dickerson
8:30am Highlander History - Bonhomme & Knight
9:00am SHS Girls Soccer vs Lynn Eng 10-14-21
10:30amHealey Community Play Area Ribbon-Cutting
11:00am SHS Boys Soccer vs LC 9-30-21
12:30pm SPL Gardening - Garden Tour
1:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs Medford 9-23-21
3:00pm SHS Boys Soccer vs LC 9-30-21
5:00pm Highlander History - ORourke and Dickerson
5:30pm Highlander History - Bonhomme & Knight
6:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs Lynn Eng 10-14-21
7:30pm Healey Community Play Area Ribbon-Cutting
8:00pm SHS Boys Soccer vs LC 9-30-21
9:30pm SPL Gardening - Garden Tour
10:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs Medford 9-23-21

Saturday, November 13

12:00am SHS Boys Soccer vs LC 9-30-21
1:30am SHS Football @ N Quincy 9-10-21
3:30am SHS Hockey vs Everett 4-8-21
8:00am Lets Talk About a Poem - L. Schwartz
10:00am SHS Football vs LC 9-24-21
12:00pm SHS Football @ N Quincy 9-10-21
2:00pm SHS Football vs Medford 10-15-21
4:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21
1:30am SHS Football @ N Quincy 9-10-21
3:00am SHS Hockey vs Everett 4-8-21
8:00am Lets Talk About a Poem - L. Schwartz
10:00am SHS Football vs LC 9-24-21
12:00pm SHS Football @ N Quincy 9-10-21
2:00pm SHS Football vs Medford 10-15-21
4:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21

5:30pm SHS Volleyball vs Masco 11-3-21
7:00pm SHS Football vs LC 9-24-21
9:00pm SHS Football @ N Quincy 9-10-21
11:00pm SHS Football vs Medford 10-15-21

Sunday, November 14

1:00am SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21
2:30am SHS Volleyball vs Masco 11-3-21
7:00am SHS Boys Soccer vs Malden 10-12-21
8:30am SPL Gardening - Summer's Bounty pt. 1
9:00am SHS Football @ N Quincy 9-10-21
11:00am SHS Football vs Medford 10-15-21
1:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs Revere 10-5-21
2:30pm SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21
4:00pm SHS Volleyball vs Malden 10-6-21
6:00pm SHS Boys Soccer vs Malden 10-12-21
7:30pm SPL Gardening - Summer's Bounty pt. 1
8:00pm SHS Football @ N Quincy 9-10-21
10:00pm SHS Football vs Medford 10-15-21

Monday, November 15

12:00am SHS Girls Soccer vs Revere 10-5-21
1:30am SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21
3:00am SHS Volleyball vs Malden 10-6-21
8:00am West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting
9:00am School Committee Meeting 11-1-21
11:30am SPL Gardening w Green City Growers
10-13-20

12:00pm SHS Volleyball vs Masco 11-3-21
1:00pm SHS Volleyball vs Medford 10-12-21
2:30pm Healey Community Play Area Ribbon-Cutting
3:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21
5:00pm West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting
6:00pm School Committee Meeting 11-1-21
8:30pm SPL Gardening w Green City Growers
10-13-20

SHS Volleyball vs Masco 11-3-21

9:00pm SHS Volleyball vs Masco 11-3-21
10:00pm SHS Volleyball vs Medford 10-12-21
11:30pmHealey Community Play Area Ribbon-Cutting

Tuesday, November 16

12:00am SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21
1:30am SHS Football vs LC 9-24-21
8:00am Lets Talk About a Poem - L. Schwartz
9:30am SPL Gardening - Summer's Bounty pt. 1
10:00am School Committee Meeting 11-1-21
1:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21
3:00pm SHS Volleyball vs Masco 11-3-21
4:00pm SHS Volleyball vs LC 9-27-21
5:00pm Lets Talk About a Poem - L. Schwartz
6:30pm SPL Gardening - Summer's Bounty pt. 1
7:00pm School Committee Meeting 11-1-21
10:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21
12:00am SHS Boys Soccer vs Everett 10-28-21
1:30am SHS Girls Soccer vs Lynn Eng 10-14-21

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

33 IBBETSON STREET:

The Orange House Down the Block

Back in 1994, I decided to give up my small, rent-controlled flat in the Republic of Cambridge, to get married. My late wife Dianne said, "I am convinced you loved me, because you gave up a rent-controlled apartment for me."

As it turns out, rent control was soon to be abolished, and there was a mass exodus to Somerville, where – if you can believe it – rents were cheap.

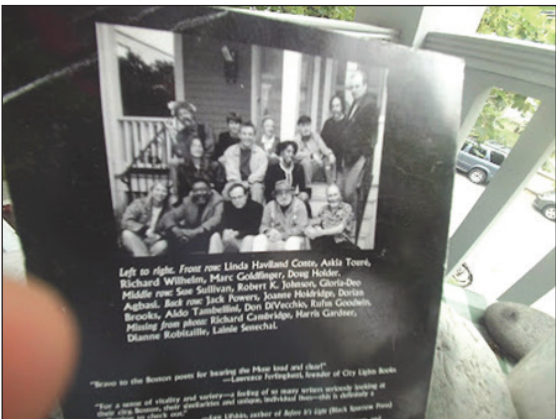
But moving to Ibbetson Street and Somerville proved to be the best move we made. At 33 Ibbetson Street, we had a huge apartment, with a parlor, dining room, large kitchen, a bedroom and a study.

It was there the idea of the Ibbetson Street Press was birthed. We started this press in 1998, and threw a party where many people from the community and small literary presses gathered.

We got coverage in the *Boston Globe* and other local papers. That unassuming, orange house will always have special meaning to me – the heated editorial meetings, the documentary that was filmed there, the late-night sessions getting the books and magazines ready for print, the City of Poets anthology we put out – with a diverse group of poets like the late Jack Powers, Don DiVecchio, Aldo Tambellini, Linda Conte, Richard Cambridge, Askia Toure, Harris Gardner and many others.

I wrote my first book introduction, and helped mediate the many differences that these talented folks had with the anthology and each other.

In 2001 we moved to School Street, just outside Union Square. These were the most productive



City of Poets Anthology (Don DiVecchio, Richard Wilhem and Doug Holder editors) 1998, produced at 33 Ibbetson St.

years. We produced books, and we are releasing our 50th issue of the *Ibbetson Street* magazine.

We couldn't have done it without our great landlords – who are supporters of the arts – and have given us a break on the rent, so we could still afford to live in Somerville.

During this time, I was able to help get the Poet Laureate position up and running in Somerville, I have an arts column in *The Somerville Times*, and for years have had a TV show, *Poet to Poet/Writer to Writer*, on Somerville Community Access TV.

I think this all happened because we moved to Somerville, where all these opportunities are available. On the rare occasion that I pass that unassuming, orange house on Ibbetson Street, I can picture that group of Ibbetson poets sitting on the front steps, gazing out into the street, probably contemplating another poem.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Shira Hoffman (she/her) is a poet living with multiple invisible disabilities. Her poetry is featured in *A Thin Slice of Anxiety* and *Muddy River Poetry Review* and is forthcoming from *Ibbetson Street Press* and the *Bagel with the Bards Anthology*. After getting her MFA from the New School and working in traditional publishing, she relocated to Somerville where the air is cleaner, but the people are still weird. Follow her on twitter @ShiraSHoffman for updates.



Spontaneous Combustion

Overheated fat cells, garment friction, methane build up.

It can happen for any reason. Or, so they tell me.

Fires just waiting to emerge, tragedies packed down
could solidify to diamonds or compress to coal

until one spark sends you up in flames.
We go up like a flare, consuming lipids

taking the drapes with us. We might take
down the whole block, every house a casualty.

w
What will they say? Now that they can't blame smoking
in bed or film canisters exploding, erasing the past.

We'll have to explain why generations
of women keep igniting.

Police wearing booties storm the scene.
The coroner is stumped, as usual.

There is only so long you can ignore us.
They'll keep marking it down.

Source of fire: unknown.

— Shira Hoffman

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

Cervena Barva Bookshop closing sale

Our Arts Editor Doug Holder attended Gloria Mindock's closing sale at the Arts Armory last Saturday for her Cervena Barva Bookshop (<http://www.cervenabarvapress.com>), a well-loved institution for the literary crowd in Somerville and beyond.

— Photo by Jennifer Badot





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