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Winter Hill lot**
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Spring Hill Sewer Separation project team takes residents' questions



City staff conducted a virtual public meeting last week, providing updates and fielding questions by the public concerning the current and future state of the Spring Hill Sewer Separation project.

By Ryan DiLello

On Wednesday, November 9, the city held a virtual meeting to review the Spring Hill Sewer Separation project. Over 50 residents attended to receive updates on the project and to ask its project managers questions about the local impacts of the construction. For a detailed look at updates by the street, and to hear all the community's questions, you can view the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2n9uwckCDUg> (or on the Somerville GovTV).

Jesse Moos, Construction Liaison to the city and Dan Amelin, Project Manager, co-led the meeting. Moos provided some background to the teams involved in the sewer work, naming P. Gioioso & Sons as the general contractor, Stantec

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P+E Wellness: A safe space for everyone

By Mina Rose Morales

A queer, nonbinary immigrant of color and a queer woman co-founded a Somerville-based boutique fitness studio to provide a safe space for marginalized groups in the community to work out.

Emily Kaplan met Piseth Sam at their previous job. Kaplan worked in human resources while Sam was a trainer. Shortly after Kaplan left the company, Sam was let go. Sam attempted to find a job as a trainer at smaller gyms but found no luck. They decided to open a gym together.

Sam said, "We didn't feel comfortable going to a commercial gym. So, we were like, 'if we don't feel comfortable and this is our space that we know how to engage with how are other people similar to us or have parts that reflect identities that we identify with, how could they come in and feel good about engaging in this space you know?'"

Sam was born in a refugee camp

Continued on page 3



P+E Wellness' Piseth Sam helping a customer.

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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.

Please join the **Davis Station Project Team** for an online public meeting to learn about the **Davis Station Accessibility Improvements Project**. **Wednesday, November 16** at 6:00 p.m. for a virtual meeting. This project consists of making necessary improvements in order to make Davis station safer and more accessible. Improvements will include: New and replaced elevators, Improved wayfinding and signage, Lighting upgrades, Full station accessibility from both entrances. For additional event details, visit: <http://ow.ly/W5RN50LpzaJ>.








Share your voice and help the **School Committee** find our next **Superintendent**. The School Committee is hosting **public listening sessions** in **November and December**. The first session is this **Thursday, November 17**, at 6:00 p.m. (via Zoom). Learn more and find the meeting link: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/listening-sessions>. A community survey will also be available online soon if you can't attend but would like to share your opinions. Apply to the **Superintendent Search Screening Committee** by filling out the form by 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, November 16**. <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/superintendent-search>.

Join **Ward 7 City Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld** on **Thursday, November 17**, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. over zoom for office hours. Sign up here for link: <https://tinyurl.com/w7oh-11-17>.

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of November 16 – November 22 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>November 16</i>	Rain	53°/34°	95%	81%	WNW 14 mph
 Thursday <i>November 17</i>	Partly Cloudy	45°/31°	5%	4%	W 12 mph
 Friday <i>November 18</i>	Partly Cloudy	46°/28°	5%	3%	WSW 13 mph
 Saturday <i>November 19</i>	Sunny	43°/29°	3%	2%	WSW 11 mph
 Sunday <i>November 20</i>	Sunny	44°/25°	32%	26%	W 12 mph
 Monday <i>November 21</i>	Rain	45°/25°	34%	21%	WSW 16 mph
 Tuesday <i>November 22</i>	Sunny	46°/26°	3%	2%	WSW 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: Nissenbaum's

Bill Shelton says:

So many of us will miss this Somerville institution. The story of the Nissenbaums (see <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/1141>) is the story of so many families who came to Somerville, made it the city that we love, and are now fading away.

Tim K. says:

I knew it was only a matter of time. They came thru for me big time once back in the day. They will be missed!

BMac says:

A friend on Electric Ave had a 67 Dart with a slant 6. I don't remember if we got parts for that particular car from Nissenbaum's but I know I bought other things there over the year. Certainly for my Impala and another friend's Cougar.

Steve Keenan says:

So sorry to hear this news. I knew Allen from serving on the Somerville Public Safety Commission some years ago. Best wishes to all for the future.

Log onto [TheSomervilleTimes.com](https://www.thesomervilletimes.com) to leave your own comments

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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Winter Hill Star lot



What do you think they should build in the old Star Market on Winter Hill lot? I've heard rumors that it could be the new central fire station. It sure has been vacant for a long time. It feels like around 10 years. Here are some residents' suggestions. Each new comment begins with quotations.

"Market Basket ... or a Winter Hill Mafia museum." Lol

"A little bike track so everyone can ride their bikes there."

"A New Star Market! With a New Roller Belt with new outdoor baskets to pick up your bundles like days of old, but would be new!"

"Another Star Market with the old conveyor system to bring out the crate/box of groceries to drive through so the bag boy can put the bags in the car for you and you tip him! Yeah! Those were the days! Simple yet very practical! And let's not forget Brighams right next to it."

"How about a veterans home, for homeless vets, obviously with some sort of structure so that they can't ruin it by alcohol or drugs."

"ANYTHING BUT! condos. Lol but we KNOW condos is gonna happen eventually."

"I always thought it would be the perfect spot for a public safety blg. and elderly housing. I know there is another spot. But pretty central and bus lines to everywhere."

"A combination vape store, nail salon and place to play Keno and get some scratch tickets!"

"A Tent city to house the homeless. We need the children of Somerville to appreciate the homeless community. Hopefully some of the wealthy Somerville transplants will open their doors to the less fortunate. We know how welcoming the liberal elite are."

"A parking lot. The parking in and around the neighborhood is a disgrace and the city loves to tag cars for the revenue. Now they are putting islands on Temple St. to screw things up even more to go



along with bus lanes and miserable speed bumps to bottom out cars and to slow things up even more."

"I also like the idea of a school. Somerville has some really aging schools. But they'll never finish it. Like the high school."

"A shelter for the homeless people."

"Housing that working class people can afford, we have enough luxury condos."

"A new YMCA or Boys and Girls club."

"A parking lot/garage for SHS faculty/staff, with shuttles to get them to work during the academic year."

Thank you to my social media friends for their input.

P+E Wellness: A safe space for everyone CONT. FROM PG 1

on the border of southern Thailand and northern Cambodia. They were raised in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Sam's been in Somerville for about 10 years. "This area now feels like home to me," said Sam.

Kaplan grew up in Reading, Massachusetts. She's lived in Somerville for about 10 years. She is studying food and nutrition policy and programing.

"There is something very special about this area," said Kaplan.

Kaplan and Sam were one of many

small business owners who received a grant from the American Express Co. They gave grants to underrepresented and economically vulnerable small business owners and entrepreneurs. The grant is for their "pay it forward" fund, which they use explicitly to offer low cost no cost classes.

"We had these experiences of discrimination. Often out right being asked out while we were working out, often being stared, and ogled. These experiences

that didn't make us feel comfortable being in a space that was open to everyone and that's just unacceptable. It's not ok to feel unsafe while we were working out and so we really wanted to address that problem," said Kaplan. Sam responded, "Right."

They opened P+E Wellness online in January 2021. They had held workout classes in their driveway in May 2021. They installed their equipment onsite in December 2021. In late January 2022, they

had their grand opening and have been in business since then.

"We were like OK, if we don't feel good, we need to make a space. We need to make a space where women can come in ... or however they identify ... and not get stared at, not get unsolicited advice, and feel like you can own these weights. That's really what propelled us."

P+E Wellness, 44 Medford St, Somerville.
<http://www.pewellness.com>

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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Police clean up after machinery theft

On Wednesday, November 9, at 12:43 p.m., Somerville Police Control received a report from a caller that he had learned from a business associate that someone was trying to sell a stolen automatic scrubber that belonged to his company.

The reporting party told the call-taker that the person in possession of the stolen property was driving a white van with a Massachusetts commercial license plate.

The reporting party is a provider of cleaning and maintenance services, and one of their automatic scrubbers, worth at least \$10,000, was stolen from Hannaford's in Leominster. The re-

porting party stated that a police report was filed with Leominster P.D. According to the reporting party, one of his co-workers received information from someone that while in Somerville, a man wanted to sell him an automatic scrubber and noticed a blue/white sticker on the machine with a barcode and the name of the equipment's owner.

When police officers arrived at the Broadway location, they spotted a white van outside the building and a man sitting in the driver's seat. The van began traveling East on Broadway. The officers followed the van, activated their emergency equipment, and

stopped it at the intersection of Broadway and Mt. Vernon Street.

The officers approached the operator and identified him as Alessandro Ribeiro. He was asked to step out of the vehicle and was informed of the reason for the stop. Ribeiro reportedly stated that he came to Somerville to get lunch.

Ribeiro was asked where he lives and he replied Leominster. When asked what he does for work, he reportedly replied, "I work for a cleaning company."

Ribeiro was then asked what he had in the back of the van, and he replied that it was cleaning equipment and opened the back door to the van. In the back of the van,

the officers noticed a large scrubber with other cleaning supplies and accessories.

At this time, a witness approached the officers and said he had met the defendant on Broadway and had gotten in touch with one of their staff members after noticing the sticker on the machine.

Police contacted the reporting party and asked him to meet the officers at Broadway and Mount Vernon St. When the reporting party arrived on the scene, he recognized the scrubber as being one of the stolen items. The reporting party was asked how certain he was, and he responded, "100 percent".

Police contacted the owner

of the van, a cleaning company, and spoke with a representative of the company. She stated that Leominster P.D. contacted her and asked if her van was equipped with a GPS unit. She told the officers that she checked and found the van was at Hannaford's in Leominster when the theft took place.

Based on the witness and reporting party's statement and their observations, the officers placed Ribeiro under arrest for receiving stolen property over \$1200 and an outstanding warrant from Dedham District Court for larceny over \$250 by false pretense.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Do your part - Leave a message on our tip hotline answering machine – All calls are confidential –Your Privacy is Assured. If you choose, you can leave your name and phone number and your call will be returned (not required). Also, if you prefer you may e-mail directly with your crime tip. We will follow up on all information provided to the best of our ability.

Thank you for your assistance.

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

Gerard Divenuti, of Boston, November 8, 11:42 a.m., arrested on warrant charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, possession of ammunition without FID card, discharge of a firearm within 500 ft. of a building, carrying a firearm with ammunition, carrying a firearm

without a license, and assault to murder.

Dragomir Ionut, November 9, 8:23 a.m., arrested at Highland Ave. on charges of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, receiving stolen property under \$1200, unregistered motor vehicle, and attaching wrong motor vehicle.

Alexsandro Ribeiro, of

Leominster, November 9, 8:23 a.m., arrested at Broadway on a charge of receiving stolen property under \$1200, and on a warrant charge of larceny over \$250 by false pretenses.

Ali Cali, of Cambridge, November 10, 5:08 p.m., arrested at Washington St. on warrant charges of carrying a firearm with ammunition,

discharge of a firearm within 500 ft. of a building, and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Anthony Capobianco, November 11, 12:43 p.m., arrested at Oxford St. on charges of drug possession to distribute and distribution of a class D drug.

Marc Jean, November 13,

9:52 p.m., arrested at Walnut Rd. on charges of armed burglary and larceny under \$1200.

Michael Sawler, of Malden, November 13, 8:07 p.m., arrested at Walnut Rd. on a charge of possession of a class B drug, and on warrant charges of unregistered motor vehicle and uninsured motor vehicle or trailer.

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District Attorney Marian Ryan launches ‘Digital Citizenship Academy’

A first-of its-kind partnership to combat high schoolers’ consumption of fake news online

Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan announced last week the forging of a strategic partnership between her office and the California-based Digital Inquiry Group (“DIG”) to create a “Digital Citizenship Academy”. The program will offer high schoolers in Middlesex County best-in-class, research-based critical thinking and reasoning training to both protect them from falling victim to online disinformation and misinformation – and to prepare them to become leaders in the restoration of our democracy.

“There is no question that truth itself is under sustained assault in our Nation today. Our democratic system of government is based on the assumption that citizens can accurately evaluate the world around them and then make reasoned judgements – by voting in their elections and otherwise – about how best to proceed as a society. Build into that assumption, however, is the premise that there is general agreement as to what constitutes the underlying facts. Tragically, and as President Biden pointed out in his National Address several weeks ago, the very notion of objective truth is now under both deliberate attack and unintentional decay – gravely threatening our democracy. Given this state of affairs, I fundamentally believe that I must, as an elected official serving during this frightening time in our history, do something concrete to ensure that our young people have the critical thinking skills they need to navigate the online information ecosystem so that we can protect democracy’s sacred and basic premises,” said District Attorney Ryan.

The Digital Citizenship Academy will be a first-of-its kind, traveling civic online reasoning course – taught by volunteer Assistant Middlesex District Attorneys to any Middlesex County-based high school or high school youth program interested in participating. Specifically, prosecutors will be trained to teach the award-winning Civic Online Reasoning curriculum. This six-session (fifty minutes each) program will teach students critically important skills such as how to fact check online claims; how to investigate clues bearing on a given website’s credibility, and how to optimize their online searching activities – all with the goal of ensuring that they neither come to believe nor disseminate any false or misleading online claims.

“A series of studies show that the Civic Online Reasoning curriculum helps students to make sense of the information that floods their screens. We are excited to collaborate with the Middlesex District Attorney’s Office to provide students with the tools they need to effectively navigate online,” said DIG executive director Joel Breakstone.

Research is beginning to show that the consumption of online disinformation and misinformation can lead individuals and groups to commit violent acts in the “real world.” While the January 6th insurrection might be the most prominent example of this, there are many other incidents around the country which are being linked to the perpetrators’ sustained consumption of online lies.

“As the County’s chief law enforcement officer, I believe that the Digital Citizenship Academy will become a powerful tool for us to fight this growing public safety threat,” District Attorney Ryan continued. “I am very grateful to the Digital Inquiry Group for partnering with us. They offer an innovative and best-in-class curriculum and the citizens of Middlesex County deserve nothing less. While DIG may be located on the other side of our Nation, I am heartened by how closely aligned they are to our Office’s values. I and our volunteer Assistant District Attorneys cannot wait to open the figurative doors of our Digital Citizenship Academy.”

“Our mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. To that end, we know it is necessary for our young people to be able to identify and dismiss fake news. To be a productive, caring, and responsible citizen, a child must be a contemplative, inquisitive, and informed citizen. This ground-breaking Academy will do just that and we’re so proud to partner with the Middlesex District Attorney on this initiative as she continues to implement exceptional programming in our communities.” Adam Rodgers, CEO at Boys & Girls Clubs of Stoneham & Wakefield.

The Civic Online Reasoning curriculum, developed by Professor Sam Wineburg, DIG Executive Director Joel Breakstone, and colleagues at the Stanford History Education Group, builds on research that suggests that students can be misled by websites designed to mask hidden agendas.

The Digital Inquiry Group (DIG) is a new non-profit organization that equips young people to sort fact from fiction online.

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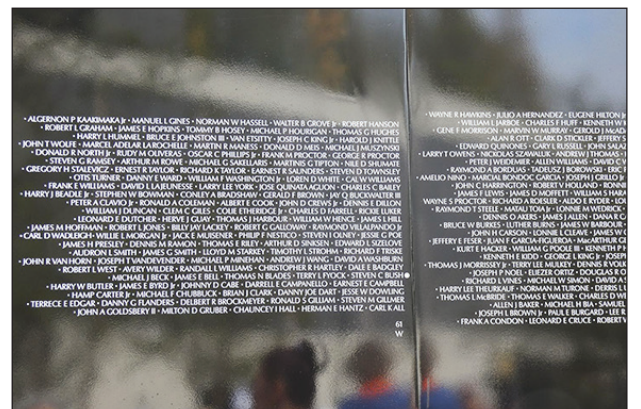
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Somerville's Veterans Day Ceremony 2022

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Director of Veterans Services, Ted Louis-Jacques, and others, honored our veterans at The Veterans Day Ceremony at Mass General Brigham at Assembly Row. The Moving Wall – Vietnam Veterans Memorial was on display. The Moving Wall covers more than 252 feet from end to end and stands six feet tall. Its 74 separate frames display more than 58,000 names of American service members who died in the Vietnam War. — Photos by Claudia Ferro and Michelle Ferro



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Sleeping out is more fun when a good cause is involved.

Our View Of The Times



The Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC) reminds us that as the days grow colder we become more aware of the harsh and difficult living conditions that their clients experiencing homelessness face every day and night.

In recognition of National Hunger and Homelessness month, they encourage you to help them raise support and awareness for those in our community

without a home.

You can be involved too by participating in a fundraising activity throughout November. SHC staff will be holding a sponsored Sleep Out on Friday November 18, where they will stand in solidarity with their clients by spending the night outside.

Join the Somerville Homeless Coalition by braving the elements and sleep outdoors for one night in November to raise

awareness for homelessness. Take on the challenge and sleep on your porch, couch, in a car, or outdoors; basically, anywhere except your bed. Feel like part of the team and do it on November 18. This is when SHC staff will be sleeping outside.

SHC was created by the local community's grassroots response to the social crisis of homelessness in 1985. Neighbors, community activists, university students, faith-

based leaders, business supporters and city officials united to address the escalating problem of homelessness within Somerville. These collaborative efforts resulted in the opening of the city's first emergency shelter and the establishment of SHC.

To learn more and contribute to the cause, go to <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/e/n1P6DA?vid=vnekl>. We think you'll be glad you did.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **Bobby Potaris**, who celebrates this week. A great guy and a great father. Happy birthday to **Joan Puglia**, a lifelong resident and activist who is celebrating this week as well. She's the wife of former alderman **Andy**. Happy birthday to a great friend of ours, **Malitta Knaut**. A great person. We wish her the very best. Happy birthday to **Diane Johansen**, another lifelong and well-known resident from Winter Hill. A gracious and great person, we wish her the very best on this her birthday. Happy birthday to **Joshua Lewin**, of **Juliet** in Union Square. We wish him the very

best. Happy birthday to one of Somerville's well-known activists, **Joe Beckman**. We wish him the very best of birthdays. A big happy birthday to **Joseph McKenon**, we wish him the very best. We hope he has a great day. Happy birthday to **Meghann Viens**, we wish her a very special birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such **Jim Powers**, **Sandrine Jeffreson**, **Dennis Biondo**, **Dennis Biondo**, **Philip D'Arcangelo**, **Nancy Jones**, **Peggy Henderson**, **Bill McCoy**, **Mary Silvestro**, **Todd Easton**, **JoEllen Guidi** and **Suzanne Ferola** 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.

The second annual **Boynton Yards Winter Fest** is happening on **December 10** with music from **The Velvet Dirmunchers** and **Al Watkins**, activities from **EventThem**, craft vendors, and free food from **Cuisine en Locale**. RSVP: <http://ow.ly/NyYb50LCRN6>.

Order a **balsam wreath** from the **Next Wave / Full Circle Schools**. All proceeds go to field trips, exciting learning opportunities, and scholarships for college or career training programs for NW/FC students. Visit <https://somerville.k12>.

ma.us/wreathsale to learn more and to pre-order by **November 25**.

New art showcase alert! To ring in the arrival of autumn and its many mysteries, the **Somerville Arts Council's Inside Out Gallery at Davis Square** presents **Dark Tales, Familiars & Object of Divination Exhibit** by guest curator, **Boriana Kantcheva**. A group exhibit that brings together works to celebrate the darkness and magic of the season's perennial "thinning of the veil." <https://somervilleartsCouncil.org/insideout/darktales>

The **Somerville Arts** Continued on page 15

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#851

1. When is National Fast Food Day?

2. When is the Great American Smokeout?

3. When is National Play Monopoly Day?

4. In which sports game did the first TV commercial air?

5. What was the world's first TV ad for?

6. Which hotel chain banned the band The Who for life?

7. In what show did Wilbur Post own a
- talking horse?

8. Which 2017 show is spin of *The Big Bang Theory*?

9. New England clam chowder is also known as?

10. Which Pink Floyd album features a prism on the cover?

11. In which year did *Charlie's Angels* first air?

12. What rock star once trespassed onto Graceland to try to meet Elvis?
- Answers on page 13

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Apple seeds contain cyanide.
2. The cheesiest pizza ever was topped with 154 varieties of cheese.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
HOLIDAY MOVIES

- ACROSS
1. Concert units

5. Kevin to Buzz in "Home Alone"

8. Emphatic no

12. Phyllo, alt. sp.

13. Chicken of the sea?

14. a.k.a. papaya

15. Biblical firstborn

16. Aquarium show star

17. Type of squash

18. Like George Bailey's life

20. Struggle for air

21. Aggregate

22. Gangster's gun

23. Mount Crumpit's misanthrope

26. They refuse to believe

30. ____ Howard, directed a movie about #23 Across

31. High regard

34. Like dental exam

35. Bullying, e.g.

37. Popular deciduous tree

38. Kaa of "The Jungle Book"

39. Cleopatra's necklace

40. Like characters in Will Ferrell's famous Christmas movie

42. Use a Singer

43. Continuing forever

45. Wonder Woman's ability to fly, e.g.

47. Galley propeller

48. Type of consonant

50. Corner chess piece

52. Nicolas Cage's character gets a glimpse of a different life (2 words)

56. Like famous Moulin

57. Computer image

58. French money

59. Alleviated

60. Target of a joke

61. Iditarod ride

62. Nick Claus' brother, a repossession agent

63. Famous frat house

64. Black and green brews

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
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ALTITUDE

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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

3. Architectural drawing

4. Sudan, in French

5. Rides the wave

6. Ear bone, a.k.a. anvil

7. Jezebel's idol

8. Griswold family's pastime

9. Epic poem

10. Waterproof canvas

11. Part of B.Y.O.

13. Synagogue scrolls

14. Like a Druid

19. Master of ceremonies

22. Engagement symbol

23. Prepare carrots, sometimes

24. R2-D2, e.g.

25. Accustom

26. Bruce Willis' ex

27. Use the blunt pencil tip

28. Autumn laborer

29. Lots and lots
32. Regale with a tale, e.g.

33. Human from North Pole comes to NYC

36. Bill Murray movie, inspired by Charles Dickens

38. Water-covered sandbank

40. Corncob

41. Orthopedic device

44. In the buff

46. Driest, as in humor

48. Vacuum, pl.

49. Be theatrical

50. Katy Perry's 2013 hit

51. Yorkshire river

52. Trivial lies

53. Drug smuggler

54. Pi times square of radius

55. Show of agreement, pl.

56. Game official, for short
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Veterans' Day Commemoration at Milk Row Cemetery

The event, enjoying unusually warm weather for the season, commemorated all of the soldiers who have sacrificed their lives from all American wars, but especially those associated with the Civil War who are noted on the Monument at the historic Milk Row Cemetery (1804). A poppy wreath was also laid for the Unknown British soldier buried on site from the American Revolution by a representative from the British consulate, Tom Nickalls. British Redcoat Eric Niehaus, and many additional members of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company were also in attendance.

— Photos by Mary Mangan



Pictured from L to R: Brandon Wilson (Coordinator, Historic Events & Education), former Mayor Dorothy Kelly Gay, Lawrence Willwerth (key organizer), Barbara Mangum (Somerville Museum) and Mayor Emeritus Eugene C. Brune.



Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Cranberry Sauce

I never purchase store bought cranberry sauce anymore because homemade is easy to make, and tastes so much better. The rosemary and orange essence compliments the tartness of the cranberries perfectly. Feel free to substitute a cinnamon stick for the star anise.

- 12 oz. Fresh Cranberries
- 1 Medium Orange, Zested & Juiced
- 1 Rosemary Sprig
- 1 Star Anise, Optional
- 1/4 Cup Maple Syrup
- 1/2 Cup Sugar

In a 3-quart sauce pan, add all the ingredients, mix well, and cook over medium/low heat. Stir often. When the mixture slowly boils, you will hear the cranberries popping. Cook for about 10 minutes. Turn off the heat and let the mixture cool down. It will thicken while it cools down. Discard the rosemary and star anise. Transfer to a well-sealed container and refrigerate. This can be made a couple of days before the big meal. Yield approximately 2 cups.

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



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

Bid Advertisement

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from general contractors for the SHA Job No. 2211: (AMP-1) Mystic View Apartments Asphalt Shingle Roof Replacement, for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville MA, in accordance with the documents prepared by EHA Design, Inc., dated November 16, 2022.

The Project consists of: Furnish all labor, materials, equipment, and supervision necessary for the complete replacement of the shingle roofing at (AMP-1) Mystic View Apartments Asphalt Shingle Roof Replacement, located at Office, 5, 15 & 25 Canal Lane, Somerville, MA 02145.

The work is estimated to cost: **\$200,000.00.**

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive and federal wage rates established by the Davis Bacon Wage Act and the Secretary of Labor, under the Provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations, as amended. The higher of the two rates shall be paid. The project is subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an online bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.biddocsonline.com. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click the "Tutorial" tab at the bottom footer).

General Bids will be received electronically at www.biddocsonline.com until **2:00 p.m.**, on **Thursday, December 1, 2022**, and publicly opened on-line forthwith. All bids should be submitted and received no later than the date and time specified above.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five percent (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount, and made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority. A one hundred percent (100%) Payment Bond will also be required.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up at www.biddocsonline.com (may be viewed electronically and a hard copy requested) or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

There is a plan deposit of **\$50.00** per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to BidDocs ONLINE Inc.

Deposits may be electronically paid or must be a certified or cashier's check.

This deposit will be refunded for up to 2 sets for general bidders and for one set for sub-bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within thirty (30) days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority. Additional sets may be purchased for \$50.00.

Bidders shall be certified by the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) for the category of Roofing.

General bids shall be accompanied by a DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility, and an Update Statement. Failure to provide a DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility or Update Statement will result in the bid being rejected.

General bidders shall be required to fill out the following forms as part of the electronic bidding of this project:

1. HUD 5369-A Representations, Certifications and Other Statements
2. Non Collusive Affidavit
3. Contractor's Certification of Intent to Comply with Section 3
4. DCAMM Update Statement Supplement
5. HUD 2530
6. Unit Price Form

General Bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five percent (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount. Bid deposits shall be in the form of a bid bond, cash, certified check, or a treasurer's or cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company, payable to the **Somerville Housing Authority**.

A pre-submission site meeting will be held at the offices of the **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY, 30R Memorial Road, Somerville, Massachusetts 02145, on Thursday, November 23, 2022 at 1:00pm.** It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders attend.

For additional information regarding this project contact the Somerville Housing Authority's Modernization Department, at 617-625-1152.

11/16/22 The Somerville Times



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 30, 2022**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, 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/6283724772917671440>
 Webinar ID: 199-622-363

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (213) 929-4212
 Access code: 630-402-928

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

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 620 Broadway | 620 Broadway, LLC requests an extension to a previously approved Hardship Variance (P&Z 21-140). |
| 74 Derby Street | Michael and Andrea Keenan seek relief from the minimum width requirement for a rear projecting porch in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) district, which requires a Hardship Variance. |
| 42-44 Hamilton Road | Jusan Yang seeks to establish a Group Living Use in the Neighborhood Residence District, which requires a Special Permit. |
| 299 Broadway | Applicants, Mark Development LLC and Beacon Communities Services LLC and RISE Together LLC seek a Comprehensive Permit under M.G.L. Chapter 40B. The proposal would create a total of 288 residential units in two (2) new residential buildings, and two (2) new civic spaces. The Applicants are requesting waivers from various sections of the City's ordinances and requirements, including but not limited to waivers related to the following sections of the SZO: building massing and setbacks; screening requirements; and on-street parking in transit areas. |

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.

11/16/22 The Somerville Times

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 BY 12 PM MONDAY
 PH: 857-488-5138**



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
 CITY COUNCIL**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON SETTING THE TAX LEVY PERCENTAGES FOR FY2023

There will be a public hearing at a regular meeting of the Somerville City Council on **Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at 7:00 PM**, on the Order of President Matthew McLaughlin, to determine the percentage of local tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property for Fiscal Year 2023, as required by MGL c40 s56. At this public hearing, Frank Golden, Chief Assessor and Chairman of the Somerville Board of Assessors, will provide information and data relevant to making a determination, including the fiscal effects of the available alternatives.

This meeting of the City Council will be conducted both in person and by remote participation, using the GoToWebinar platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person at the City Council Chamber, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3394412724258788622>. You can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to cityclerk@somervillema.gov, send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or drop them into the secure drop box outside the back door on the School Street side of City Hall. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

**KIMBERLY M. WELLS
 CITY CLERK**

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
 PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
 RFP# 23-25**

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

Wage and Compensation Study

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Monday, November 14, 2022**. 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, November 30th, 2022**.

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 jremy@somervillema.gov for more information.


**Jordan Remy
 Senior Procurement Manager
 617-625-6600 x3400**

11/16/22 The Somerville Times

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City of Somerville

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c. 131 § 40, the SOMERVILLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday November 22nd, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** to review the Notice of Intent submitted by Department of Conservation & Recreation, for a maintenance plan to allow periodic, routine maintenance activities, in compliance with the WPA and Regulations, improving DCR's ability to provide proper maintenance at this location, and enhancing the public enjoyment of the boardwalk.

Copies of the application can be viewed at the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA. Contact Malik Drayton, Conservation Agent, at 617-625-6600 x2514, or send an email to mdrayton@somervillema.gov for more information

This public meeting will be conducted via remote participation.

TO USE A COMPUTER
Webinar ID
340-812-443

Registration URL
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/422825925315222480>

TO CALL IN
UNITED STATES
+1 (415) 655-0060
Access code: 294-480-503

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE

PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP# 23-18

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

Payment Gateway and Merchant Services

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Monday, November 14, 2022**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, November 30th, 2022**.

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 jremy@somervillema.gov for more information.

Jordan Remy

Senior Procurement Manager

617-625-6600 x3400

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Appreciation brunch for the 2022 Historic Docent Volunteers



An appreciation brunch was recently held for the volunteers who generously donated their time and talents to making Somerville's Docent Program for the 2022 season such an enlightening and engaging opportunity for the public, to learn about three highly significant historic sites in the city: the Prospect Hill Tower, Milk Row Cemetery, and the Powder House. The de-briefing and appreciation brunch took place in November at One Westwood Road, at the Somerville Museum, which co-sponsors the program with the city.

— Photo by Brandon Wilson, Coordinator of Historic Events, and of the annual program.

'We Are Here Too': Virtual Event



We Are Here Too is a film that was previously premiered at the Somerville Growing Center during the Summer of 2022. This 23-minute film tells the story of how four women of color living in Somerville at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic used the artistic media they mastered – lithography, photography, paintbrushes, and jazz – to reflect on the global health crisis, the City of Somerville, their families, their history, and the social justice uprisings of 2020. Panel discussion with the artists Iaritza Menjivar, Imagine, Tori Weston, and Raynel Shepard to follow. To learn more about the project and the artists: <https://www.weareheretoo.com>. ADMISSION: Free virtual event; donations always welcome to help support programs like these. Please RSVP through Eventbrite to receive the zoom link. This project was supported by the Somerville Arts Council.

Spring Hill Sewer Separation project team takes residents' questions

CONT. FROM PG 1

Consulting as designers, and Hatch Associates green infrastructure planners.

The project will address issues across five areas of infrastructure: drainage, sewage, green stormwater management and trees, and mobility. "Prior to the start of this project, everyone within the designated area was living with 140-year-old utility systems – time for an upgrade," said Amelin.

Drainage and sewage improvements are currently underway. Surface work within the realm of green infrastructure and mobility is expected to begin in the late spring of 2023. Green infrastructure improvements will include stormwater tree trenches, curb irrigation ways, and bioretention basins. Updates to mobility will include new sidewalks, curb bumpouts, new separated bike lanes, and speed bumps.

The project will impact trees in the area. Amelin shared that the city has excavated 15 of the 25 trees slated for removal, but there are plans to plant 185 additional trees around the affected areas.

Following street-by-street project updates, Amelin launched into an FAQ section sourced

from residents, constituents and counselors. The FAQ was broken into three categories.

What is a temporary water bypass? Why am I connected?

"This is a blue pipe you might have seen connected to your house," Amelin said. "You are connected because they de-energize the existing main so they can either remove sections or replace it in full with brand new pipe. The process to connect each building or home to a water bypass – typically our contractor will connect that plastic blue hose to a spigot and back-feed your house while they take the existing main out of service. More often than not, that means they bypass the water meter on your house," Amelin said.

How does this affect my water bill?

With the disclaimer that the water department knows more, Amelin said the department tends to charge residents an approximate rate based on their usage in the same month during the previous year. Amelin recommended contacting the water department for further details.

Why is water flowing from a hose down Central Street?

"Those who are observing what's happening on central street, just south of summer street, we did have a 2-inch hose that was releasing water down central street for quite some time. That hose was connected to our low pressure main, which in order to construct the new main further up on central street, north of summer, we had to cut that pipe and cap it in place – essentially creating a dead end. One of the challenges with having a dead-ended water main, is that water won't circulate and stays at the dead end, which could cause poor water quality. IT can increase chloroform, bacteria, and the best way to mitigate that is to keep water circulating. So, I'm working with our water department we tapped into that dead-ended main, we allowed water to trickle out so that everyone still connected to it, south of Summer Street, still has clean drinking water." Amelin noted that this work on Central Street will conclude by Thanksgiving, heeding the oncoming colder temperatures and preventing the runoff from freezing up.

Will my sewer service connection be replaced?

"The short answer is for some of

you yes, for some of you no. It really depends on the work we're doing. There are definitely locations where we will replace the sewer lateral up to your property line, and there's certain situations where we'll replace the sewer lateral within that zone of influence of our work."

"The city's infrastructure is more or less ancient..."

I have a sewer backup. What should I do?

"The city's infrastructure is more or less ancient, and from time to time this happens. If you do have a sewer backup, and you think it is a result of ongoing construction, we want you to let us know as soon as possible. A few instances where this has happened, we notified our contractor right away and for some of you, our contractor showed up and fixed the issue. I can't say it's going to be our contractor's fault every time, but we do want to hear

about it every time."

What is being done about dust control?

There's been a lot of dust around Central and Avon Street. There's a lot of gravel and dirt trenches that have been drying. I spoke to our contractor today and they're putting together an improved dust control plan. One question that did come up was how often did they sweep – although they have their own in-house street sweeper, it may not have a vacuum attachment on it so it may just broom some of the dust around which certainly doesn't help. Our contractor is going to be using calcium chloride and spreading that on our open trenches. Calcium chloride pulls in moisture from the air and dampens the soil underneath, so that dust does not get kicked up. It means they don't have to go up and down the street every day, spraying thousands of gallons of water on the street to keep dust down."

Do you have questions regarding the Spring Hill Sewer Separation project? Contact Jesse Moos on Twitter @SomervilleInfr1 or his cellphone, 617-981-2896.

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why is it a bad idea to iron your four-leaf clover?
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On This Day in History

November 16

1813 – The British announce a blockade of Long Island Sound, leaving only the New England coast open to shipping.

1864 – Union General William T. Sherman departs Atlanta and begins his "March to the Sea."

1913 – Swann's Way, the first volume of Marcel Proust's 7-part novel Remembrance of Things Past, is published.

1920 – Metered mail is born in Stamford, Connecticut with the first Pitney Bowes postage meter.

1945 – Eighty-eight German scientists, holding Nazi secrets, arrive in the U.S.

1955 – The Big Four talks, taking place in Geneva on German reunification, end in failure.

1960 – After the integration of two all-white schools, 2,000 whites riot in the streets of New Orleans.

1982 – The space shuttle Columbia completes its first operational flight.

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Ms. Cam's

Olío

Answers

1. November 16

2. November 17

3. November 19

4. July 1, 1941, before a baseball game between the Brooklyn Dodgers and Philadelphia Phillies

5. Bulova watches

6. Holiday Inn

7. Mister Ed

8. Young Sheldon

9. Boston clam chowder

10. The Dark Side of the Moon

11. 1976

12. Bruce Springsteen in 1975



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Sleeping In The Dead Girl's Room' by Cynthia Bargar

I had the chance to catch up Cynthia Bargar and communicate with her about her new collection of poetry, *Sleeping in the Dead Girl's Room*. This is a challenging work about a challenging subject—mental illness. Having worked in the field of mental health for many years I have an acute interest in this book.

Doug Holder: Your new poetry collection, *Sleeping in the Dead Girl's Room*, takes place at Glenside psychiatric facility where you were a patient. I worked for 37 years at McLean Hospital and for the most part patient care was good. But your poetry deals with some traumatic experiences that you had while in that institution. I guess the saying goes, "Great pain brings great art." Does this speak to you?

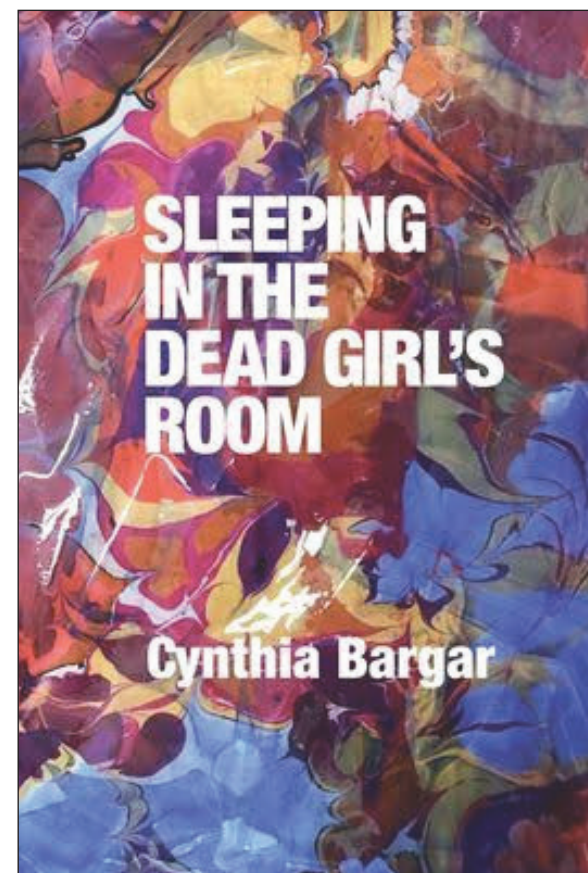
Cynthia Bargar: Glenside Hospital was not a "therapeutic environment" for me. I was lucky that the two staff members I met on intake, Winston and Sterling, were good to me. They tried to show me the ropes and keep me out of trouble. They were a little older than me, sharp and funny, and I have always considered them my guides through that locked ward experience. Despite this connection, I wasn't safe at Glenside. In my poem *WATER CURE*, I write of being raped by a staff person when I was granted a single room. When I was discharged, the chief (and perhaps only) psychiatrist told me, "You'll be in and out of places like this for the rest of your life".

I didn't see this period as one of great pain. It was an adventure, capped by a visitation from my aunt, the one who presumably died by suicide when my mother was pregnant with me and for whom I am named. She spoke to me in an incomprehensible language, but there was a transmission. Only when I started writing the poems that became this book, did I remember her vaporish visit to Glenside. And then it took some years to see what that was about: haunting, entanglement.

If you're saying that my book is "great art," thank you. I don't know if it's great pain that propels artistic endeavors. For me, it's obsession. I can never let go of that drug-fueled (Haldol) time at Glenside. And I was desperate to know what happened to my aunt and if being given her name and her bedroom and living in the house where she died for my first five years had seeded the haunting. I'm grateful to my poems for braiding this all together and then helping me to begin to untangle the braid.

DH: I know Sylvia Plath was referenced in the collection. Of course, Plath met her end by placing her head in an oven. A lot has been said about the romantic notions of the "crazy" poet. Did this influence you at all? Was Plath a sort of mentor?

CB: I first fell in love with Sylvia Plath as a de-



pressed teenager reading *The Bell Jar*. I identified with the protagonist, Esther Greenwood, many of whose struggles seemed to mirror my own. Sylvia Plath lived in Winthrop, MA, for six of her childhood years. I was born in Winthrop and my early childhood was spent there. My aunt was three years older than her, and in my poem *MY AUNT TALKS TO SYLVIA PLATH*, I imagine them meeting in an afterlife. When I started writing poems I didn't have any connection to the idea of the "crazy" poet and I don't connect with nor have I been influenced by that notion. I came to Plath through her novel, way before I wrote or read poems. When I did discover her poetry, I was ecstatic.

DH: You have a Jewish background. How does the culture, your family influence you and your writing?

CB: In Jewish families it's very common to name children after deceased relatives. I think there was an expectation that my parents would name me for my aunt. Oftentimes, the English version of the name, as opposed to the Hebrew, uses the first letter of the deceased's name. So, I could have been a Carol or a Claire and that would have satisfied the tradition. But I was given my aunt's first, middle, and last names: Cynthia May Bargar. My poem *MIDRASH ON NAMING* explores Jewish naming and the potential problems associated with naming a child after someone who died a violent death or by suicide, misfortune (dormant until stirred)/ will find the child.

I'm aware that keeping secrets Continued on page 15

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Ryan writes: My name is Ryan Ammirata, I am from Robbinsville, New Jersey and I am 20 years old. I am currently majoring in Psychology at Endicott College where I wrote both these poems during English class. When I'm not doing school work I'm either playing sports, In the gym, or hanging with friends.



The Frigid Peak

Frozen and bright the sun reflects off the ice cold powder
 Blinding everyone from the bottom
 No life, bones scattered at the top
 Deadly low temperatures
 Anything and everything still
 Trapped inside Ice that's as strong as titanium
 Life has yet to exist

Island to Island

Waves splashing, breeze not to strong or light
 Sand scorching from the sun beating down on it all day
 Trees filled with the purest of green leaves
 Get in the water and start to swim
 Salt so strong it makes my vision blurry
 Land ahead
 Shade appears out of thin air
 Sand is Ice cold, no waves splashing or making any noise
 Leaves the color of burnt Orange

— Ryan Ammirata

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Council announces that the **Illuminations Tour** is back. As in recent years, they will provide an online map featuring the best and brightest holiday displays. Folks are welcome to sign up and/ or welcome to take tours whenever they'd like (any time after the online map goes live). And back by popular demand ... **a night of Caroling**. To participate, sign up at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSctSRpCKsuV_Br6Zy_PX-EC01I-DcaFcGCnRLoGw-RXaD-jazDQ/viewform. Sign up by **December 5**. Caroling sign up by **December 11**: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/illuminationstour>. Save the dates: Illuminations online map launch date: **December 8**. City-wide caroling: **December 15**, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (rain date December 16). Illuminations Bike Tour: **December 17** (rain date December 18, details TBD). Whether you'll be decking your house or singing *Deck the Halls*, we encourage you to participate. Share with friends and neighbors. RSVP to their FB event page for updates: <https://fb.me/e/2WYSJP6zb>.

The **City of Somerville** will offer **limited household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off service** to residents starting **Thursday, November 3**, through the end

of the year. Residents may dispose of eligible items **each Thursday in November and December**, excluding Thanksgiving, between 4:00 and 7:30 p.m. at the **Department of Public Works yard** (1 Franey Rd.). Drop-off will be canceled in the event of heavy snow. HHW will not be accepted outside of the designated hours. For general information about trash, recycling, and waste disposal services, go to somervillema.gov/sanitation.

Fall 2022 Free Vaccine Clinics. Get your flu shot and updated COVID-19 booster at a **City of Somerville clinic** this fall. Visit www.somervillema.gov/vaccineclinics. The flu vaccine and the updated COVID-19 booster dose are provided at no cost, regardless of health insurance or immigration status. Advance registration is required.

November is **Hunger and Homeless Awareness month** and to support our most vulnerable clients, the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** will be holding its first month-long **Hunger and Homeless Awareness event**. Throughout the month, local groups and supporters will take part in a variety of fundraising activities to raise awareness for their clients currently experiencing homelessness and

food insecurity. In alignment with this event, we are bringing back our **Sleep Out** event on **November 18** where **SHC staff** will stand in solidarity with our clients by spending the night outdoors. To learn more about our Hunger and Homelessness event, and to get involved, see the link below. Get Involved: <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/e/n1P6DA?vid=uzvws>

Athletics registration starts today for high school and middle grades students interested in playing a winter sport. The high school medical clearance event is **November 15 and 16**. The middle grades medical clearance event is **November 30** from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Visit the **Athletics Department website** to learn more and register. Somerville has waivers for three SHS winter sports teams (**Boys Ice Hockey, Girls Basketball, Coed Swim**), meaning middle grades students may try out for these teams. Learn more by visiting the **Middle Grades Athletics webpage**. Athletics: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/athletics>. Middle Grades Athletics: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/MGathletics>.

The **13th Annual Somerville Winter Farmers Market (SWFM)** is held **every Saturday through April 8, 2023**. The

Center for Arts at the Armory is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143. To learn more and for a complete listing of vendors, weekly specials, and live entertainment, please visit www.somwintermarket.org. You can find the market on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SomervilleWinterFarmersMarket, and on Instagram **@SomWinterMarket**.

Make your perceptions of local policing and public safety known by taking the **Somerville Department of Racial and Social Justice's survey**. Feedback will set the course of future work for the RSJ department. All residents are encouraged to participate. To learn more about the RSJ department, visit somervillema.gov/rsj.

Every Wednesday through November 23, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. visit the **Davis Square Farmers Market**, across from American Flatbread at **44 Day St**. Visit: <https://www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis>.

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.

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 14

within the family is not exclusively a Jewish phenomenon, but for some reason I do attribute the particular kind of unwillingness to speak about my aunt and the circumstances of her death to our being Jewish in what was as a hostile Christian environment/country. Assuming she died by suicide, I think the shame associated with that act and the fear of further stigmatization contributed to the silence.

Being Jewish — culture, family — has influenced all aspects of my life, including my writing. Some of my relatives spoke Yiddish and had limited fluency in English. The intonations of the Yiddish language probably had an influence on my writing.

DH: The book is dedicated "For all the women and girls whose stories were buried with them." By writing this book, unearthing your story, did you have a catharsis of sorts – a sort of clearing out of the repressed demons?

CB: I wasn't able to fully excavate my aunt's story, which certainly was buried with her. But it no longer seems pressing to know exactly what was going on with her and exactly how she died. I'm okay with the not knowing. During the writing of the poems, I was immersed in the making and not the feelings. But once the book was published and I starting reading the poems to friends, family, and strangers, there was a shift in consciousness and I

no longer felt haunted. I also developed compassion for my father, whose sister the other Cynthia was. We had a rocky relationship when he was alive, and because I was kept in the dark about the family tragedy, I didn't have a way in, couldn't understand what made him tick. I have come to see the poems as my way of making amends to him for judging him harshly.

DH: I was interested in your fractured sense of self that you had under the spell of manic depression. Was this some sort of coping mechanism?

CB: I think the "fractured sense of self" had to do with being haunted by the dead Cynthia, sometimes being confused by who was who, and often having to be differentiated (each of my grandparents referred to her as "my Cindy"). I absorbed much gloominess and grief in the house and family that may have fractured my sense of self. This fracturing was not just when I was in the throes of depression or mania, it was most of the time. It wasn't a coping mechanism. On the contrary, it made it often impossible to cope.

DH: You often use the pronouns "You" and "I" in reference to your late aunt and yourself. You also used "the She" to refer to your aunt. Why did you do this? Is this a way to portray your confused mental state – the blurred

lines between you both? Did you want to have the reader as confused as your younger self?

CB: Regarding the pronouns, I don't know why I did what I did. I wrote the first poem in the book, *CREATIVE NONFICTION*, last, after Lily had accepted the manuscript. As I was writing it, "the She" presented itself and I liked it, so I went with it. The pronouns for me and my aunt are slippery because the line between us was sometimes blurry. The slip and blur are due to my being haunted and how mysterious that was.

I didn't intend to confuse the reader and when I started distinguishing between the she who is not me, and the she who is me, in my mind it was a clarifying gesture. If readers are confused, that's okay. I hope they enter my sphere and just go with it.

DH: Why should we read your book?

CB: I wouldn't say anybody should read my book. I have heard from many readers who were moved by it. I think it resonates with readers because it illuminates some things about family secrets, memory and post-memory, and the human condition that many of us have experienced in very particular and mysterious ways. Even if their circumstances are different from mine, readers have told me they identify.

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