VOL. 10 NO. 47

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2022

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:



What we are thankful for

page 3



A call to keep SMC in Union Square page 6



Getting ready for the holidays page 9

Somerville Redevelopment Authority allocates lot for temporary snow storage



The Somerville Redevelopment Authority is making plans for snow storge in advance of the winter months ahead.

By Maeve Lawler

The Somerville Redevelopment Authority (SRA) unanimously approved 90 Washington Street to be used for temporary snow storage this winter at their meeting on November 16.

90 Washington Street, a paved lot between a sidewalk and a grassy area, is currently the only vacant and unused property that the Somerville Department of Public Works can use for snow storage this season. The property is currently owned by the SRA. The temporary plan to store removed snow from city property allows for it to be dropped efficiently and cheaply to the site, compared to paying for off-site snow storage. The location will mostly be used for snow storage, as well as temporary storage for DPW equipment and other Continued on page 4

Full Circle and Next Wave make an impact with Habitat for Humanity

By David Aronofsky

Full Circle and Next Wave students recently completed two days of volunteering with Habitat for Humanity/Boston on October 18 and 25.

On the 18th, students worked on a house in the Fenway neighborhood of Boston. Students Elkis

"Kiki" Antunez Espino, Heidy Portillo, and Derrick Sams spent the day installing blueboard in preparation for the plasterers to come in. Kiki, Heidy, and Derrick were able to install blueboard to complete a stairwell and mudroom. Given a tape measure, a screw gun, and a little instruction, the crew was able to reach their goal by the end of the day.

On the 25th, Kiki, Heidy, and Derrick were joined by Tonishae Lewis on a site in Malden. This was a special day for Full Circle

Continued on page 4



Students from Full Circle and Next Wave recently volunteered their time and energies to projects for Habitat for Humanity/Boston.





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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 here at The Times wish everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday. As we approach holiday gift shopping don't forget to shop local to support local businesses.

City offices will be closed on Thursday, November 24, and Friday, November 25, for Thanksgiving. Trash, recycling, and yard waste collection will be delayed by one day. No street sweeping on Thursday or Friday.

Local small business owners can now apply for forgivable loans of up to \$15,000 to assist with financial losses related to COVID-19 via Somerville's Small Business Recovery Program. To qualify, businesses must be located within the City of Somerville, have 20 or fewer full-time employees, and be able to demonstrate a decline in revenue during the past two years. Home-based and brick-andmortar businesses are welcome to apply. Learn more and apply www.somervillema.gov/bizrelief

SeedMoney Challenge time is now! The Somerville Community **Growing Center** hopes to raise \$1500 over the next 30 days of this crowdsourced fundraiser (November 15 - December 15). If they raise enough money fast, they qualify for more funding. To donate visit bit.ly/seedsforsomerville.

********* Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy Continued on page 7

The Somerville Times

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Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of November 23 - November 29 as provided by the National Weather Service

	DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
•••	Wednesday November 23	Sunny	50°/30°	3%	1%	WNW 12 mph
	Thursday November 24	Sunny	46°/35°	7%	5%	W 7 mph
	Friday November 25	Rain	51°/36°	45%	38%	SW 13 mph
*	Saturday November 26	Sunny	51°/41°	15%	12%	W 11 mph
*	Sunday November 27	Rain	57°/44°	69%	57%	SW 14 mph
•••	Monday November 28	Partly Cloudy	49°/32°	9%	6%	WNW 16 mph
*	Tuesday November 29	Sunny	45°/31°	5%	3%	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: Speak Your Mind: Broadway Bus Lanes Forum

Mike's definition of equity is braindead. The number of people using cars vs other transportation (buses, trains, foot, wheel) is directly impacted by the infrastructure and services available. Dedicate more to cars, more people use cars. We shouldn't design the city for people driving through Somerville, we should design it for how we want to live here.

mem says:

Gee, if only there was a place to find information about things going on where you live, like before a thing happens...https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/89188

Should we tell Mike about newspapers? He seems uninterested in all the other routes-besides the city notices you can sign up for, the neighborhood groups on facebook and non-facebook blogs, twitter, Nextdoor, the email lists...What does he need, a concierge to ask him about all future bike lanes? Sorry-plenty of us don't have staff for that kind of thing and manage to stay involved with our neighborhood by various means. Not everyone can get to every meeting-but if you actually participated with your neighborhood group someone could go and represent the group, or report back with the issues. Gosh, if only this had existed. [Narrator: it did exist. I went to the Winter Hill in Motion meetings] Now that I think of it, I didn't see him in the MBTA Better Bus meetings either. He better get his concierge on that, he might not like it.

Wow the bike advocates are coming for Mike in these comments. I think they are just mad that he made some good points. I too live in winter hill and the bike lane was a total shock to me and I hate it - and I take the bus. It doesn't actually make my commute any better and has resulted in traffic and idling cars on Broadway 7 days a week. Winter Hill in Motion sounds like a group about ADA issues - I talked to Jessie Clingan and even he agreed the name was misleading. Most people in my neighborhood had no idea any meetings were being held before the change was implemented and we feel that our opinions were not solicited and have been disregarded. No one in my neighborhood considers the bus lane a success.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

Life in the by Jimmy Del Ponte

Thankful



Thanksgiving is a time to be grateful for the things that we have. Things like health, happiness, and family. I asked my Somerville social media friends what they were thankful

for. Each new comment is in quotes.

"I was given 6 to 12 months to live October 2020, I'm still here and very thankful for it."

"Thankful for my family who've been there for me when so called friends haven't."

"Finally, finding someone who cares

"I'm grateful for the family I have left on this earth. We will miss you this year

"My family, both blood & chosen."

"Thankful for my family who've been there for me when so called friends haven't."

"My two Michaels who are my family,

and all the wonderful adventures I've lived with great family and friends."

"I am most thankful for my big brother! He has saved me my entire life!"

"A roof over my heat, heat in my home, food on the table and my friends and family who are there for me."

"The cancer treatment worked. I can spend another year with family."

"A wonderful woman in my life and living in Florida."

"I am grateful for my children and their spouses ... my grandchildren and their spouses."

I celebrate the life of my father who passed away on Thanksgiving Day, 1994. I am extremely grateful that I had such a great father and lots of happy memories.

This last comment really sums it up.

"I'm grateful that at this stage of life I'm still waking up every morning."

Amen. I'm grateful for the love and devotion my family has. I wish everyone a healthy and happy Thanksgiving.





Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Skeffington-Silva Properties, LLC are pleased to announce 2 income-restricted rental apartments available through the City of Somerville Inclusionary Housing Program at

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Household Size Minimum Income (126		Cross St.) 126 Cross St. Tier 1 (50% MFI) Maximum Income Lim		
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5			\$77,110	
6			\$84,120	
29 Alpine St: 2	-BR at 110% MFI	\$2,804(includes utilities)		
House	hold Size	29 Alpine St. Tier 3 (81%-110% MFI) Income Limits		
	2	\$89,729 - \$123,376		
	3	\$100,945 - \$138,798		
	4	\$112,161 - \$154,220		

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE: November 21st- December 22nd

Online at: somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing Hard copies and more information: Call (617) 625-6600 X 2566 or email us at inclusionary@somervillema.gov

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Thursday, December 22nd, 2022 at 2:00 PM

Emailed to: inclusionary@somervillema.

Mailed/Dropped off to: City Hall Annex: 50 Evergreen Ave., Somerville, MA 02145; LOTTERY: Wed. Jan, 11th, 2023 @ 2PM | Register to view the lottery here:

https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4893441797021501198

VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays @ 5:30-7:30 PM

Online: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/591022621 Call in: +1 (872) 240-3412 / Access code: 591-022-621 FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: INCLUSIONARY@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV / 617-625-6600 ext. 2566 Visit: somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing



Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative forma reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to att meetings, should contact the ADA Coordinator, Adrienne Pomeroy, at 617-625-6600 x2059 or apomeroy@somervillema.gov

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By Jim Clark

Don't bring a phone to a shovel fight

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to a Canal St. location last Saturday on reports of a fight in progress.

Upon arrival, the officers encountered a large group of intoxicated and uncooperative individuals. They were informed that a man assaulted two women, but they were unable to locate any victims.

The man in question was highly intoxicated and behaving emotionally, but was able to get a ride

home after being advised to leave the scene.

The officers left the scene, but three minutes later a fight involving four people outside a Canal St. apartment building was reported to Police Dispatch by several callers. One caller stated that one of the individuals involved in the fight had an axe or something with a handle.

Police officers were once again dispatched to the area, where

they observed a man bleeding from his right cheek, chin, and hand, and walking with a limp.

The man approached the officers and stated that he was struck in the face with a shovel by Antonio Batista, but he did not want to press charges.

The victim was asked why he returned to the building after he had left, to which he stated that he was looking for his phone and it was then that he was allegedly

attacked by Batista.

The officers requested Somerville Fire and EMS to respond to the scene, whereupon the victim was evaluated and transported to an area hospital by ambulance.

Police soon stopped a car owned and operated by Batista, who was asked to step out of the vehicle, and he was advised that they were investigating an assault and that he was named as a suspect.

The officers asked Batista if

they could look in the trunk of his vehicle, at which time he consented and opened the trunk of his vehicle. A shovel was located in the trunk of the vehicle, corroborating the victim's statement.

Based on the reporting parties' statements, the victim's statement, and the injuries sustained by the victim, Batista was placed under arrest under arrest on a charge of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Leave a message on our tip hotline answering machine – All calls are confidential

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

Somerville Redevelopment Authority allocates lot for temporary snow storage CONT. FROM PG 1

equipment from city municipalities.

DPW Commissioner Jill Lathan gave a presentation about the plan to the Board Members and explained why it's necessary for the city to have a place to store snow this winter.

"When we have significant snow events there is literally nowhere to put the snow," Lathan said.

Dedicating 90 Washington Street for snow storage allows the DPW to ensure schools can stay open, streets are cleared without snow banks blocking lines of sight, and residents can access public walkways.

Lathan acknowledged the public's feedback on snow removal last year, with some residents citing snow piling on sidewalks and trucks creating too much noise. With this in mind, Lathan proposed limiting the hours of oper-

ation for plows to stop after 8:00 p.m., granting this may change depending on the heaviness of snowfall. She also said the DPW will ensure sidewalks are clear and break up snow banks to help them melt faster.

Pending approval from the City Council for funding, a new fence will also be built at 90 Washington Street to replace the current temporary one. This fence will be decorated with artwork from Somerville Public Schools. Lathan said the new fence will help retain the snow and block unsightly views of snow piles.

Lathan emphasized this snow storage plan is only a temporary solution while the DPW looks for other spaces to store snow.

"We need time at DPW to be able to actually find another alternative for snow," Lathan said.

SRA Board Member, Chris-

tine Stone, suggested amending the proposal to include that the DPW will discuss with the SRA the effectiveness of snow storage at 90 Washington Street by July 1. All Board Members voted in favor of the snow storage proposal and this amendment.

The Board Members also discussed:

- The selection process of a development partner for the 90 Washington Street redevelopment project [1]. Ted Fields, the senior economic development planner for the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, presented the plan [2]. The development partner will be selected by the SRA in December 2023.
- A review of the SRA's drafted annual reports from 2018-2021. All Board Members unanimously accepted the reports with an

amendment, proposed by Board Member Patrick McCormick, to clarify in the 2021 report that the Union Square Station elevators were scheduled to open with the rest of the station, but did not.

- Advisory letter from Just A Start. Just A Start [3], a local non-profit community development organization, owns 24 Webster Street and plans to renovate this building into affordable housing. Construction would start in January 2024 at the earliest.
- Advisory letter from Eversource. Eversource proposes several construction projects in Somerville, Cambridge, Allston, and Brighton. Eversource wants to install eight underground transmission lines, a new substation between Broadway and Binney Streets in Cambridge, and a modification to existing substations in all four locations. Board

Member, William Gage, raised concerns about the potential negative health effects caused by electromagnetic fields from the substation upgrades. All Board Members supported the proposal to write a letter on behalf of the SRA expressing these concerns. The letter, drafted by Gage, awaits the Board's approval.

The next SRA meeting is on December 21. To view a recording of the November 16 meeting, go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y15KnBtvy4k.

- [1] https://voice.somervillema. gov/90washington_redevelopment
- [2] https://s3.amazonaws.com/somervillema.gov.if-us-east-1/s3fs-public/2022-11/SRA-me-mo-90-Washington-dev-selection-11.14.22-final.pdf
- [3] https://justastart.org/

Full Circle and Next Wave make an impact with Habitat for Humanity

CONT. FROM PG 1

and Next Wave as this was a site that they worked on in 2019. Back then, FCNW students worked on framing the house. This time, the houses

were completed and homeowners were living in the homes. The crew spent the day landscaping.

While it was hard work, they

once again were able to reach their goal. They completely weeded the yards of the two homes, spread a layer of topsoil and then covered the lawns with grass seed.

In addition to being able to contribute to a community project and help families realize their goals of home ownership, it was a great learning experience for the students. They came away with some new skills and some insight into possible career paths.

MBTA public meeting on development of Elevator Program at Davis Station

By Ana Célérier Salcedo

On Wednesday, November 16, the MBTA held a virtual meeting to discuss upcoming accessibility improvements to Davis station. The station has been operating since 1984 and provides transit connections for the MBTA Red line and the T bus routes.

Once Davis station undergoes planned accessibility improvements, the station will include new and replaced elevators, new signage, way-finding resources, and lighting enhancements, including energy-efficient lighting.

MBTA Senior project manager for the Davis station, Eitan Normand, said the improvements to the station "will significantly increase accessibility, safety and reliability. Which will hopefully result in a more positive customer experience."

The project at Davis station is a part of the MBTA's ongoing elevator accessibility program, which aims to ensure that all stations are fully accessible to T users and address the need for elevator replacements and renovations stretching across nine MBTA stations.

Design for the elevator pro-

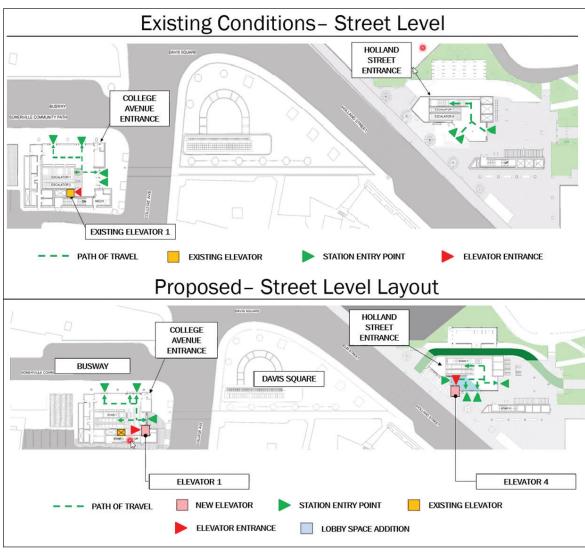
gram began in the fall of 2020 and is now at 75 percent completion. It is currently totaled to cost an estimated \$6.6 million. The project is under the supervision of Kleinfelder Inc., an engineering, construction management, design, and professional environmental services firm.

Normand said that at the College Avenue entrance, an elevator, known as elevator one, will be stretcher compliant and allow for easier wheelchair accessibility. He added that elevator one has been designed with glass paneling for higher visibility both in and out of the elevator.

In regard to the Holland Street entrance, a new elevator will be added, currently known as elevator four.

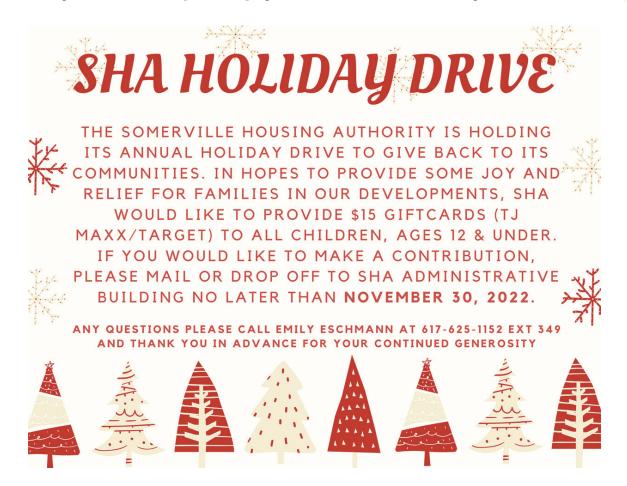
According to the manager of stakeholder engagement at the MBTA, Katy Zazzera, the elevator project is still in design and is expected to be completed in the summer of 2023. Zazzera added that the project is working on identifying construction funding.

Members of the public interested in receiving updates about the project were urged to visit the program website, www.mbta.



Views of the existing and proposed improvements to Davis station were presented at the meeting.

com/ElevatorProgram, or contact the program via email at ElevatorProgram@mbta.com.





Enjoy complimentary chair massages, hand and feet massages with hot rocks. Warm up with our hot cider or fresh juice and healthy vegetarian snacks. Learn about the benefits of aromatherapy. Save more on gift certificates and session packages. 10% Off retail products.







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 Media Center should remain in the heart of Union Square

Today, the Somerville Media Center Is operating under the threat of eviction from the City of Somerville. We, believe, this eviction decision needs to be, immediately, reconsidered and reversed. SCM, in its original form, as Somerville Community Access television (SCAT) has been a fixture in Union Square for more than four decades. It has not only, in those forty plus years, been a pure vehicle for the first amendment expression, but has served as a gateway of communications for diverse populations of immigrants, youth, and marginalized population who otherwise would be lacking a voice.

SCAT has always served to reshape politics in the City of Somerville by shedding light on political decisions and behavior - and our local election has been, positively, impacted. Beyond, that, SCAT has been a recognized model for the community access and local expression of news and art for the whole country - an eight-time winner of

awards from the National Alliance for Community Media.

So, why then, as a community would we want to put the Somerville Media Center, within which the public access channel continues to operate, the hardship of finding the proper space needed and the major expense for renovation and equipment - which will be more than what they could ever afford. Why would we remove an oasis of the community, creativity and participation in a growing zone of commercial development? Should we not have a positive and steady community anchor in this new sea of change in Union Square?

In 1982 when we finalized our negotiations for our cable contract with Warner Communications, we both realized that this may be one of the most important contracts that will determine the future of communications in our city. We made the conscious decision to locate the public access television channel, centrally,

and in a municipal building. We made sure the public access television channel was independent and free from political influence and coercion and provided an ongoing funding mechanism from the cable company, to do so.

As we have stated, SCAT, has evolved with the times, becoming The Somerville Media Center. It not only boasts the longest running access program in the world since "(1972)", Dead Air Live", but is now, also serving greater Boston by providing training, technology and transmission means for the community to share beyond the boundaries of Somerville.

In 2011, Somerville Media Center launched Boston Free Radio, an internet radio, covering community events, meetings, and political forms. So, the Somerville Media Center is also a training program where with several hundred of members have attended workshops to learn the technology so that they can share their diverse voices via the electronic media.



In a time where there is much debate around the contours of the First Amendment, and whether social media giants should be the subject to some kind of access requirements, and whether certain speakers should be banned from college campuses, we have right within our city a shining example of the First Amendment in one of its purest forms. We believe the Somerville Media Center should not only remain centrally located in the Somerville Fire Station but should receive more support and recognition for the valuable services it provides to the public.

Again, let's not have a decision

like the eviction of the Somerville Media Center to be made hastily just so we can accommodate the needs of universities or developers. Let's have a good discussion with Mayor Ballantine and the City Council before displacing such a precious resource - so we don't also, inadvertently, displace the special role that this enterprise has played within the City of Somerville for decades.

Eugene C Brune (Mayor Emeritus) Howard E. Horton (Director of the City's Office of Communications 1980-1984)

Joint Statement on the Club Q Mass Shooting in Colorado

City of Somerville, Somerville Public Schools, City Council, Somerville School Committee

By now, many of you have already heard reports from Colorado Springs, Colorado about a fatal shooting at an LGBTQ+ nightclub. The shooting is currently being investigated as a hate crime, and rightfully so.

That we are yet again issuing a joint statement condemning a horrific act of violence in our country should be unfathomable. Sadly it is not. In the United States this year there have been more than 600 mass shootings, with more than 26 in the month of November alone. Our LGBTQ+ communities are reeling from another senseless and targeted attack while continuing to heal from the Pulse Nightclub shooting and innumerable other anti-LGBTQ+ acts of violence. Over the last two years, hate crimes and hate speech against LGBTQ+ individuals and communities have increased more than 50 percent, with record violations against transgender and gender-nonconforming people according to The Human Rights Campaign.

We are heartbroken. We are angry. We are once again reaffirming Somerville's commitment to remain a safe and welcoming community for all people who call our city home, and to all students who attend our schools. Despite the more than 300 anti-LGBTQ+ pieces of legislation that have been introduced across our nation this year including more than 140 directed at youth, Somerville will remain a welcoming city and will continue to stand with, advocate for, and provide critical care and resources for all of our residents regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, ability, age, socioeconomic status, or any other identifier. On Tuesday, November 22 at 3 p.m., the City of Somerville, the Somerville Department of Health and Human Services, and the Somerville High School Gender and Sexuality Awareness Alliance (GSAA) will be holding our annual Transgender Day of Remembrance ceremony and flag raising in memory of those who have lost their lives to violence. The event is open to the public, and additional support will be available on site for anyone who may need it, particularly in the wake of this weekend's senseless violence.

— November 20, 2022

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne City Council President Matt McLaughlin School Committee Chair Andre Green Superintendent Dr. Jeff Curley

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



May health and happiness bless you and yours on this and every other day to come.

Our View Of The Times



Giving thanks for our blessings is normally an easy thing to do. We may often get caught up in the day-to-day trappings of scratching out a living, ducking misfortune, and seeking out an occasional highlight to add to our mental scrapbooks. Usually, though, we come around to feeling and expressing that special sense of appreciation and gratitude that comes in moments of quiet reflection just in time to

validate ourselves as worthy recipients of such blessings.

Thanksgiving Day gives us that little nudge we sometimes need to take stock in what is most important for us and to share in the sense of appreciation that we feel amongst one another.

Of course, for those of us who may be blessed with material abundance, it is also important to help the less fortunate who may be in need as the winter holiday season unfolds. Consider giving a little of your time or money to make another's life a little better, particularly during the winter months to come.

For those among who may be struggling to keep it all together, remember to look at what is good in life and remain faithful that change for the better is always waiting just around the corner. In most cases, we all bounce back from adversity and emerge stronger than ever for having gone through various trials by fire. Yet another thing to be grateful for.

May this holiday provide a meeting ground for all of us. One in which we can share in the goodness of life and fellowship between us all.

There's no better way to express our gratitude.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

birthday to Jason Fucile, who celebrates this week. We wish Jason a great birthday. Tracey Leah Pratt is also celebrating this week. We wish Tracey a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to Craig Resmini. We wish him a great birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Diane Johansen, Marie Coady, Todd Easton, Peggy Ryan Lookliss, Mary McGuire, Julie Adelsberger, Gamal Elfouly, Brian Kirk and Kim Volza 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 Dirtmunchers and Al Watkins, activities from Event Them, 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.

Somerville teens 13 years and older are invited to earn some extra money by snow shoveling this winter with the City of Somerville Teen Snow Shoveling Crew. www.somervillema.gov/applytoshovel.

Save the date for the next Highlander Theatre student musical production, *Into the Woods!* Performances on December 1, 2, and 3 at Somerville High School. This modern classic follows the story of the Baker and his wife (who wish for a child), Cinderella (who wishes to attend the King's Festival), and Jack

(who wishes his cow would give milk). To make their wishes come true they must first venture *Into the Woods*, which is filled with challenges and adventures that you won't want to miss. The Highlander Theatre website: https://www.highlandertheatre.org.

The Somerville Arts 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 Continued on page 12

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's lio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

- 1. What is the chemical symbol of gold?
- rect name for a male what?
- 2. How many moons does Saturn have?
- 8. Dover is the capital of which U.S. state
- 3. Who painted Freedom from Fear?
- 9. Where is the birthplace of Beethoven?
- 4. Which American comedy series won a record 37 Emmy Awards?
- 10. What is the fifth sign of the zodiac?
- 5. Which popular TV show featured Buffy and Jody?
- 11. hich popular TV show featured the houses of Targaryen and Stark?
- 6. Who sang with Ed Sheeran on the duet song Perfect?
- 12. What is the longest-running Broadway show?

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

2. There's a city called "Rome" on every continent except Antarctica.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

CLASSIC TOYS

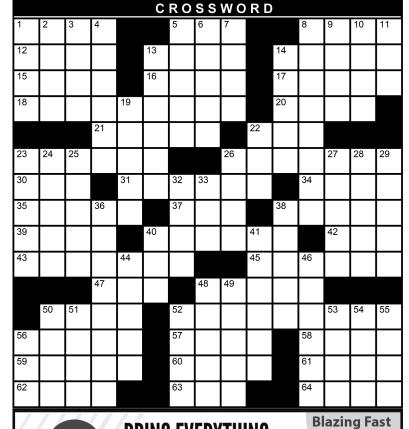
ACROSS

1. "____ Wars" toys from Kenner in the

- 5. Certain toy G.I.
- 8. Miss America's accessory
- 12. Pot inhale
- 13. Morsel of Little Miss Muffet's meal
- 14. Private
- 15. Larger-than-life
- 16. Children's author ____ Blyton
- 17. Post-Its
- 18. Sticks and spools toy set
- 20. One of the Olsens
- 21. Gibson garnish
- 22. Middle-earth creature
- 23. Bias
- 26. Neat in appearance
- 30. Chasing game
- 31. Chancellor, in Europe
- 34. Not happening
- 35. Anomie, alt. sp.
- 37. Local area network
- 38. Re-attempt
- 39. Wyatt Earp's card game
- 40. Common parakeet, colloquially speaking
- 42. Snakelike fish
- 43. Not yet a wife
- 45. Like certain toy Cathy
- 47. Mine deposit
- 48. Water nymph
- 50. Cassette contents
- 52. Illuminated picture maker
- 56. Wainscots
- 57. Play parts
- 58. The Fonz: "Sit_
- 59. Face-to-face exams
- 60. Not this
- 61. Brainchild
- 62. Homey, alt. sp.
- 63. "Fight for You" singer
- 64. High rocky hills

DOWN

- 1. Editor's mark
- 2. African antelope
- 3. Related
- 4. Suppose





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- 5. Political club, in the olden days
- 6. Celestial hunter
- 7. Whirlpool
- 8. *Sno-Cone, actually (2 words)
- 9. Opposed to
- _ on TV" 10. "As _
- 11. Retail posting acronym
- 13. Blood-red
- 14. Beginning of essay
- 19. "Dear Diary" bit
- 22. Hockey legend
- 23. "The Office" people, e.g.
- 24. Veranda on Oahu
- 25. Ancient Greece marketplace
- 26. "The ____ Show" (1976-1980)
- 27. Sacred song 28. White heron
- 29. *Raggedy Ann or Strawberry Short-
- cake, tenderly

32. Professor Plum and Colonel Mustard game

Internet!

- 33. Little bit
- 36. Avenues and rail roads game
- 38. Betty Ford Center, e.g.
- 40. Spelling contest
- 41. Superlative of icy
- 44. Edible herb
- 46. Quick and skillful
- 48. Specialty
- 49. Rose oil
- 50. Tropical edible root
- 51. Dwayne Johnson's role Black _
- 52. Wooden slat
- 53. -China
- 54. Part of a traditional wedding cake
- 55. Greek Hs
- 56. *Play-_
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Celebrate the holidays in Somerville in December



All are invited to join Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and City staff for Somerville's 2022 holiday celebrations throughout the month of December.

Holiday Lighting and Santa Visit

We'll kick off on Thursday, December 8, with the Holiday Lighting on the City Hall Concourse, followed by a meet-and-greet with Santa Claus in the Somerville High School Cafeteria. All children who attend will receive a special gift from Santa and will have an opportunity to take a photo with Old St. Nick. Activities begin at 5:00 p.m. with live entertainment prior to the official lighting of the City Hall Concourse. Santa Claus will, as always, be escorted by the Somerville Fire and Police Departments making his grand entrance atop a shiny red fire truck. Light refreshments will be served.

Menorah Lighting

On Sunday, December 18, a ceremonial Menorah Lighting event will take place on the City Hall Concourse beginning at 5 p.m. All members of the community are invited to join Mayor Ballantyne, Rabbi Eliana Jacobowitz, and city staff for a brief ceremony and photo on the City Hall Concourse. A short informal program of traditional songs and sing-alongs will be performed, special gifts will be available for children, and light refreshments will be served. The Menorah will be lit each night of Hanukkah.

Illuminations Self-Guided and Bike Tours and Citywide Caroling

We are happy to announce that the Illuminations Tour and citywide caroling is back. As in recent years, the Somerville Arts Council will provide an online map featuring the best and brightest holiday displays. To access the map or sign up to be featured on the tour or to carol, visit somervilleartscouncil.org.

Important Illuminations Tour and Caroling Deadlines and Dates:

Deadline to be listed on Illuminations Tour, Monday, December 5: Both homes and businesses may sign up to be on the Illuminations Tour Map

Anticipated Illuminations Tour map launch, Thursday, December 8: They will release the map as soon as it's done.

Deadline to sign up for caroling, Friday, December 11: Plan to join us! Let us sing!

Citywide Caroling, Thursday, December 15: Citywide Caroling (rain date December 16).

Illuminations Bike Tour, Saturday, December 17: meet at Somerville City Hall at 5:45 p.m., depart at 6:00 pm. (rain date Dec 18).

For more information on the city's holiday events, please call 311 (617-666-3311 from outside the city).

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #268

The Year Was 1872 By Bob (Monty) Doherty

This article first appeared in the April 18, 2018 edition of The Somerville Times. This reprint is in recognition that it was 150 years ago this month that Boston was in ruins from the Great Boston Fire.

The date was January 1, 1872, a time when Somerville would celebrate her incorporation from a thirty-year old sleepy town into a young city. One of her immediate priorities was public safety. Less than three months earlier, a fire destroyed the city of Chicago on October 8 and 9, 1871. It remained the worst fire in American history until the attack on the World Trade Center in New York on September 11, 2001. The Chicago fire killed over 250 people, burned over 200 acres and destroyed over 17,000 structures.



The following summer, insurance balloons were flown above Boston for the first time ever. Their purpose was to assess the city's fire danger; and as a result, many insurance policies were cancelled. Chicago was such a fire prevention wake-up call across America and the world, that you would think it would never happen again ... but it did.



Just thirteen months later to the day, on November 9 and 10, Boston experienced its own conflagration. It destroyed over 776 buildings and consumed over 65 acres of downtown property worth over 75 million dollars before it was extinguished. Eleven firefighters lost their lives and

17 were severely wounded. The main reason for the fast spread of fire was a horse-flu called the Epizootic Plague that crippled almost all metropolitan fire horses including Somerville's. As an emergency measure, five hundred men were added to Boston's department to physically haul its fire apparatus. Outside towns performed half marathons under load, dragging their engines from Continued on page 11

LEGAL NOTICES

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NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (NOI/RROF)

Date of Publication:

11/23/2022

Responsible Entities

City of Somerville

Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development 93 Highland Avenue, 3rd floor Somerville, MA 02143 Tel: 617-625-6600, x. 2585

These notices shall satisfy two separate, but related, procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Somerville (The City), acting by and through the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (SPCD).

On or about December 8, 2022 The Somerville Housing Authority will submit a request to the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Boston Office, for the release of Housing Choice Voucher Program funds under the Section 8 The Housing Act of 1937, as amended, for the purpose of potentially attaching thirty-eight project-based vouchers through the Somerville Housing Authority to be utilized in a project known as Clarendon Hill, Phase 1, located at 34 North Street, Somerville, Mass. Phase I consists of 168 units in one 10 story building 130 of which are replacement public housing and 38 are new middle-income affordable units. The building will be financed through 4% Federal LIHTC funding and utilize income averaging to serve households from 30% AMI to 80% AMI, with additional funding from DHCD via funding from the Program to Expand Housing Opportunities and commitments from Somerville Affordable Housing Trust and CPC. The project will continue to receive state public housing operating subsidy from DHCD, and $\,$ 38 of the replacement public housing units will receive Project Based Vouchers (PBV). These PBV units include 5 1-bedroom, 31 2-bedroom, and 2 3-bedroom units. Funds for other Phases in the project are not included in this RROF.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at Housing Programs, 2nd floor, City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Avenue, Somerville, MA 02145 and may be examined and/or copied Monday-Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Thursday from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to The City at the address given above. All comments received by the end of the business day on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 will be considered by The City prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City certifies to HUD/Boston that Joseph A. Curtatone, in his capacity as Mayor and Certifying Officer of the City of Somerville, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD/Boston's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows The City to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD/Boston will accept objections to its release of funds and The City's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officers of the The City; (b) the The City has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, or incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD/Boston.; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to: HUD/Office of Community Planning & Development, Thomas P. O'Neil Jr. Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02222-1092. Potential objectors should contact HUD/Boston (617-994-8200) to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Katjana Ballantyne, Mayor of the City of Somerville



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.\$526 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 <a href="mailto:Thursday, December 1, 2022, and publicly opened online 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

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:

- HUD 5369-A Representations, Certifications and Other Statements
- 2. Non Collusive Affidavit

HUD 2530

- 3. Contractor's Certification of Intent to Comply with
- Section 3
- 4. DCAMM Update Statement Supplement
- 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 **SOMER-VILLE 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, 11/23/22 The Somerville Times

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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 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

299 Broadway

Jusan Yang seeks to establish a Group Living Use in the Neighborhood Residence District, which requires a Special Permit.

A I' A MALE A LICE LE

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, 11/23/22 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on 12/14/2022 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Christopher Brody unit #229AMZ; Claudia Cadet unit #2633. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

11/23/22 The Somerville Times

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CONTACT US BY 12 PM MONDAY
PH: 857-488-5138

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING Removal of Public Shade Trees City of Somerville

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 87, the City of Somerville will hold a virtual public shade tree hearing on $\underline{\text{Thursday, December 1, 2022}}$ at 5:00 p.m. using GotoWebinar software to consider the removal of the following public shade tree(s):

- 120 Middlesex Avenue— Removal of four (4) Freeman maple trees (12", 12", 12", 10" diameter). Trees are in conflict with planned construction activities. Location will be replanted.
- 10 Poplar Street-Poplar Street Pump Station-Removal of 43 trees in conflict with planned construction. Trees are primarily invasive weed trees. Location will be replanted. Proposed removals include:
 - 1. Ten (10) Tree of Heaven- (16", 4.5", 3.5", 4.5", 6", 4.5", 4", 8", 5", 5"
 - 2. One (1) Boxelder- (4" diameter)

 - 2. One (1) Boxerder (4 diameter)
 3. Two (2) Callery pear- (4.5", 3.5" diameter)
 4. Ten (10) Mulberry- (8", 3", 3", 4", 4.5", 4", 10", 4", 4.5", 8" diameter)
 - 5. Fourteen (14) Norway maple- (12", 11", 16", 9", 14", 14", 15", 10", 8", 7", 9", 7", 9", 14" diameter)
 - 6. Four (4) Tree lilac- (5", 5", 5", 5" diameter)
 - 7. Two (2) Japanese pagoda- (3", 5" diameter)

The trees identified above have been posted for public inspection. In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 87, any objections to the removal of any of these trees must be submitted in writing to the Tree Warden prior to or at this public hearing. Documents may be sent via email to: <u>trees@somervilleMA.gov</u>, or mailed to: 1 Franey Rd., Somerville,

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this Public Shade Tree Hearing will be conducted via remote participation. A recording of this hearing will be available upon request to trees@somervillema.gov

TO USE A COMPUTER

Webinar ID: 768-006-755 Registration URL: https://tinyurl.com/bddj93bc

United States: +1 (562) 247-8422 Access code: 219-364-262



LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to 24 CFR 91.105(e) (1), the City of Somerville will hold a public hearing to present the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the City's 2021-2022 programs funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and to obtain public input on the City's performance regarding its current grants funded by HUD, including the Community Development Block Grant Program, the Emergency Solutions Grant Program and the HOME Program.

The Public Hearing will be held virtually at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 8, 2022 and will be accessible via the following link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6236118118718442766

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville should contact Adrienne Pomeroy, at <u>APomeroy@somervillema.gov</u>.

Accommodations for non-English speaking persons are available by contacting (OSPCD) at ospcd@somervillema.gov. All requests for accommodations should be made by the close of business on Tuesday, December 6th, 2022. General questions about the hearing should be directed to the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) at ospcd@somervillema.gov. Written comments will be accepted until Thursday December 7, 2022 @ 7:30 p.m. and should be sent to the attention of Alan Inacio at the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD), 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143 or via email to ospcd@somervillema.gov.

Katiana Ballantyne Mayor

11/23/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, invites sealed bids for:

Somerville Parks Tree Health Program FY23

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after 11/23/2022. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: 12/06/2022 3:00PM EST. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact PCS Department at <u>acaruth@somervillema.gov</u> for more

5% Bid Deposit required.

Andrea Caruth Deputy Chief Procurement Officer 617-625-6600 x3400

11/23/22 The Somerville Times

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PH: 857-488-5138

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From on page 8 Ms. Cam's

1. Au 7. Falcon

2.82 8. Delaware

3. Norman Rockwell 9. Bonn, Germany

4. Frasier 10. Leo

5. Family Affair 11. Game of Thrones

12. The Phantom of 6. Beyoncé the Opera

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9



over twelve miles away.

On notification of the fire, Somerville's James Hopkins, in his first year as Chief, ordered his entire department to respond to Boston's aid. They worked the fire at Winthrop Square until ordered to reposition to protect the historic Old South Meeting House/Church that was amazingly saved. One of the steamers, the Kearsarge-Engine #3, arrived by train from Portsmouth, New Hampshire just in time to help save the Meeting House's steeple.

The last building to burn in this horrific fire was a foundry owned by Edward Revere Curtis, grandson of Paul Revere. He served in the Common Council of Somerville and was also a member of its Board of Alderman. Curtis Street was named after him.

Four years later in 1876, Somerville's Mary Tyler, object of the poem Mary Had a Little Lamb would help rescue the Old South Meeting House/Church once again. This time it was to save it from developers. She gave talks to hundreds of children and sold bits of yarn made from her lamb's wool that were auctioned off for the cause.

Colonel Russell Conwell, Editor of the Somerville Journal, felt that words had to be written to describe the horrific fire in depth. The following year in 1873, his book,

History of the Great Fire in Boston, went to press. Its dedication read, "To the City of Chicago who, notwithstanding her recent suffering and losses, was the first to offer assistance in the hour of Boston's greatest trial." In this way, Chicago became America's second City of Brotherly Love.



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

popular demand ... a night of Caroling. To participate, sign up at https://docs.google. com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSctSRpCKsuV_Br6Zy_PXECo1I-DcaFcGCnR-LoGw-RXaDjazDQ/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 host a free COVID-19 booster clinic for Somerville seniors and their caregivers on Thursday, December 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Somerville Council on Aging, located at 167 Holland St, Somerville, MA. Registration is open now and can be completed here: home.color.com/vaccine/register/somerville. Anyone in need of assistance with registration, can call 311 or the Somerville Council on Aging (617-625-6600 ext. 2300) to schedule their appointment.

The Somerville Flea 10th Holiday Market takes place Sunday, December 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave. You will find two floors and over 30 vendors of vintage and

artisan wonders. Shop local and find that perfect gift that you never even knew existed.

The City of Somerville has been recognized by CDP as one of 122 cities and counties across the globe that is taking bold leadership on environmental action and transparency, despite the pressures of a challenging global economic situation. Designed to encourage and support local governments to ramp up their climate action and ambition, CDP's Cities A List is based on environmental data disclosed by local governments to CDP-ICLEI Track. A clear momentum in local climate disclosure and action is building – for the first time, over 1,000 cities and counties (1,002 in total) received a rating for their climate action from CDP in 2022, a rise on the 965 cities and counties scored in 2021. In 2022, just over one in ten local governments scored by CDP (12% of such local governments) received an A.

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 ser-

Get your flu shot and updated COVID-19 booster at a City of Somerville clinic this fall. Visit www.somervillema.gov/vaccine-clinics. 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.

The Fuel Assistance Program, also known as the Home Energy Assistance Program, helps low-income households pay their winter heating bills between November 1 and April 30. Renters and homeowners in Somerville are eligible to apply if they meet federal income guidelines. Learn more and apply online at somervillema.gov/fuelassistance

The Somerville Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is seeking public feedback on current applications for the Committee's general public open seat, for which three Somerville residents applied. The Committee must solicit feedback from the community prior to appointing any person to an open seat, per city ordinance. The CPC is made up of Somerville residents who set the priorities for approximately \$3 million in Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds each year and recommend which projects should be funded to the City Council. All Somerville community members are invited to share feedback on the applicants' qualifications, which can be found at www.somervillema.gov/CPA. Feedback

must be emailed to the CPA Manager Roberta Cameron at rcameron@somervillema.gov by Friday, December 2, at 12:30 p.m.

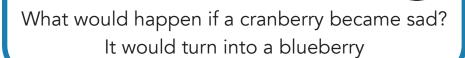
The 13th Annual Somerville Winter Farmers Market (SWFM) is held every Saturday through April 8, 2023. The Center for Arts at the Armory is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143. To learn more and for a complete listing of vendors, weekly specials, and live entertainment, please visit www.somwintermarket. org. You can find the market on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SomervilleWinter-FarmersMarket, and on Instagram @Som-WinterMarket.

Registration is open for the Teen Center at the Edgerly Education Center (33 Cross St.), operated by Somerville Recreation. A Teen Center membership provides teens access to a safe space to hang out with friends with amenities including a gym, computer room, music room, and daily snacks, activities, and programming. Somerville teens ages 12 to 18 are eligible to enroll. Memberships are free and last for the duration of the school year. Enroll your child at: https://somervillema.myrec.com/.../program_details.aspx.

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Bobby's DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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Restaurant Hood Cleaning
Dryer Vent/ HVAC Cleaning
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On This Day in Kistery

November 23

1785 – John Hancock is elected president of the Continental Congress for the second time.

1863 – The Battle of Chattanooga, one of the most decisive battles of the American Civil War, begins.

1903 – Italian tenor Enrico Caruso makes his American debut in a Metropolitan Opera production of Verdi's *Rigoletto*.

1909 – The Wright brothers form a million-dollar corporation for the commercial manufacture of their airplanes.

1933 – President Franklin D. Roosevelt recalls the American ambassador from Havana, Cuba, and urges stability in the island nation.

1943 – Andrew Goodman, civil rights activist; murdered by Ku Klux Klan in 1964 near Philadelphia, Miss.

1968 - Four men hijack an American plane, with 87 passengers, from Miami to Cuba.

1992 - The first Smartphone, IBM Simon, introduced at COMDEX in Las Vegas.

SCES highlights supports during Caregiver Appreciation Month

November is National Family Caregiver Appreciation Month, a time for recognizing and honoring the vital work of family caregivers.

Roughly one in seven American adults are caregivers. A 2018 Pew Research study found that on average they dedicate about 80 minutes per day helping friends or loved ones receive the care they need. That same study found that roughly half of caregivers described the experience as very meaningful, with roughly a third saying they're extremely happy.

However, a significant percentage of caregivers also reported feeling tired or stressed – so this is probably a good time to highlight some of the ways Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services

(SCES) provides support for family caregivers.

Information and Guidance Family Caregiver Support is a free program that provides shortterm consultation with a social worker to identify resources and develop a caregiving plan.

Compensation and Training Adult Family Care (AFC) provides compensation and ongoing support for caregivers living with adults who cannot live alone due to a medical diagnosis.

Another option is Take Charge. Available through Home Care, Take Charge provides a limited budget to pay friend or family caregivers that assist with personal care and household tasks.

Assistance connecting with

resources: Options Counseling provides one-on-one consultation that provides information and resources.

Habilitation Therapy Available through Home Care, this program provides a one-on-one coach who meets with families to provide education and tools to help with challenges of memory loss.

Home Care Support our Home Care program can provide assistance that makes life easier for caregivers, such as transportation, Adult Day Health, laundry, personal emergency response system, meals, and grocery shopping.

These are just a few of the programs SCES provides that regularly support caregivers. Contact our Aging Information Center to

Adult Family Care Nurse Clare Maggio (left) and Social Worker Nathaniel Meyer provide support and training during a monthly home visit with an AFC caregiver.

learn more about resources in our community.

Thank you again family caregivers, for the vital work you do in our community. We recognize and appreciate your contributions throughout the entire year.

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Ser-

vices 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.

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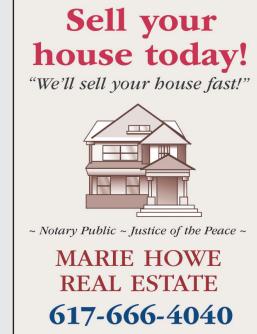
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edited by Doug Holder

Shifra Freewoman is a poet, artist, music maker, writer and social justice activist of longstanding. Shifra, a modern day bard, makes music/poetry everywhere she goes to wake people up to the truth of



who we are, to uplift and help bring justice, healing/transformation. She facilitates a Zoom Open Mic/Sacred Salon, Transformation Station. She belongs to Havurat Shalom, and is deeply involved in interfaith worship/activism. Her focus is on connecting with Spirit to transform and repair ourselves/our world - Tikkun Olam. To embody love in action by standing up to what divides and hurts us for the Unity of the Hueman Race/All Creation.

Till - Till Justice and Love is Done for a Mother and Her Son, for All Mothers, Daughters, Children, Sons, Till Love Supremacy is Finally Won

May This Poem Inspired By The Movie Till, and Far More So by the Lives of Mamie and Emmett Till, Help Bring Justice Till Love Supremacy Is Won

I saw Till today certainly cannot say it was a thrill A most bitter racist pill though I know it was Divine will that I see it that you see it that we see it

Hard to see what white people do to try to keep Black People from being free

Hard... so hard to see
a mother so full of gracious tender strong love for
her child
wild
sweet complete love
shattered battered lynched
her son her boy her joy her love
battered mutilated murdered hated

White society cannot stand Love so they we mutilate it hate it to destruction

How can anyone try to destroy love like that? you cannot make it scat no! no! no! no! not love like that

Love so strong
in moments
it overcomes all fear
love so wild
it could drown in its tears for life gone

What happens to the song when one of our children is lynched when life is pinched and killed?

OMG

Why did they kill such a life such a young man as Till?

How will we till the meaning and purpose of this sad mad outrageous horror story?

How will love rise from mutilation and assume another station a new vibration?

Here is an incantation...

May Black Voices May All Voices my voice your voice our voice and the voice of the trees of the wind and the leaves

Of the Rising Son and Sun of the Daughter Moon

May My Your Our Voice Rise

With a Shout a Cry So Loud so piercing it rumbles the earth and reacheth the sky

And turns this horror to lullaby

That movie that real life horror enough to make me you us cry without cease Our tears of rage and sorrow guilt

Turn this poem to a quilt

So much blood spilt so many dead

My heart could be lead or led to cry and moan and sing and poem and protest and organize

There must be a place inside to make the horror have a home in me

in thee in we cause we are all family

I pray for a consciousness that feels what they do to you they also do to me

we have an Entwined Destiny

May this poem that is not mine shine with Love Divine to heal the rifts between Black and White so there is no more killing no more lynching pinching out of life

So much strife so much cruelty hate

This must not be our fate

By insisting that we see her child mutilated this was an act of love not of hated or hatred

Of love for her beautiful magnificent Black Man-Child who had his wild beauty so cruelly stolen from her from him from us

We must find a way to win out of this grim

Out of this hate must come a change in our fate

The hour so late how do we stop the killing?

She had to make us look.....

to have mutilated with hatred This beautiful Black Bun

and murdered him with America's gun

America killed him

Not just the men and woman and women who did this monstrous diss to Black and all huemankind

I send a kiss to the Mother who was so brave

Though her son she could not save she rose him in her love from his grave

Though he could not as in the Christ Story truly live again with glory spiritually he rose Like a Black Jesus Christ

He died for America's sin

The original sin of this country that destroys us from within and without

This poem is a shout to rout the forces of white male supremacy

The Somerville Times

with Love Supremacy so we can rise in the midst of this all madness be free even as we cry tears of rage

Arise the Emmett and Mamie Sage and turn this sick nation around as we reach higher deeper ground

And hear a Mother's Cry

That her child live not die That child truly must be known as you as I

Because when you kill the Black you destroy the light you destroy the right to live at all

And this poem is a call to rise from this fall

Because I still do believe in a Mother's Love that is stronger than death and that is and will conquer all

Love love real courageous love in the end right now conquers all

And we rise from and in this fall

Mamie's voice rises throughout the ages one of our activist sages telling us that we must make all struggles our own

That together we must be sewn to rise as one for all the call is that an attack on one is an attack on all

And so we rise against this attack against all attacks on all

We rise to defend each other see us all as lovers sistars brothers significant others

We rise to save and heal and uplift all we rise above the walls above the killing and are willing to stand for love and protection of

For this

for Love for Protection for Justice for Peace for Transformation of this white male supremacist

to a Love Supremacy Transformation Station

We rise rooted and yet reaching the skies

We rise for Emmett for Mamie for Sandra Bland one so grand for George Floyd lives not void

We rise for love protection justice and resurrection for one and all for one and all for all all all

This fall We Rise Black/Rainbow Butterflies 3x

Shifra Freewoman/Shira LightBeing/ Sister Rainbow/The Rattlin Rabbi Susie Fielding. She Who Transforms All With Love November 3, 2022



by Doug Holder

Somerville's Creative Writers on Writing from Place

By Off the Shelf Correspondent Rachel Ranie Taube

What does it mean to write from Somerville? To find out, I asked writers associated with our city three questions: How does living here influence your writing practice? What does it mean to write from this place? And what do other Somerville writers need to know?

A dozen writers replied to my call for interviews, and participants included present and past Somerville Poets Laureate Lloyd Schwartz and Gloria Mindock; award-winning novelists Daphne Kalotay and Elizabeth McCracken; as well as a number of emerging writers. They talked about the unique privilege and responsibility of writing from Somerville, shared writing advice, and offered plenty of recommendations for local writers' haunts, groups, and programming.

Many specifically talked about the possibilities of writing about Somerville itself:

To write from - not simply in - any place requires some significant knowledge and connection. Cities have many layers and corners; it's helpful to visit and understand as many as you can. Longevity in a place can bring about this familiarity, but so can delving into it—walk around, talk to people, look and listen ... Personally, I think it would be difficult not to write here in Somerville. My first book, Curious Peach, follows the cycle of the seasons. But it's about the fringe and remnants of nature in this heavily paved and built-up city.

—Denise Provost (poet)

Somerville is lively, dense, with a weird history and more artists per square mile than anywhere. You will feel right at home... Just know that everything in Somerville has been written about at least once if not twice, but not from your perch.

—Gary Duehr (artist and critic)

I feel like I know the most about Somerville through the people I know who have always known it, in all its incarnations. I tried to set a novel in Somerville a while ago, but I couldn't do it justice. In the end I had to make up a city because I couldn't make Somerville obey the rules of fiction.

-Elizabeth McCracken (novelist)

An experience I had here is the subject of my poem "Jerry Garcia in a Somerville Parking Lot," in which that classic Somerville experience makes me conclude "how little it takes to restore [my] affection for the city." The incredible diversity of Somerville and the community of poets here are consistent inspirations.

—Lloyd Schwartz (poet)

In fact, many interviewees commented on that community. Gloria Mindock said, "Somerville has more artists

and writers than I have ever encountered in other cities [and s]o many writers in Somerville and the surrounding area have books out published by presses here ... I could not imagine living any place else."

[I] have long associated Somerville with creativity. One of my fondest memories is of a reading/performance a writer friend put on in a little building here that was so packed, some of us ended up standing on the sidewalk and watching through the open window. That to me summarizes the energy, enthusiasm, and support of the creative community here.

I take my inspiration from the streets and houses, have written about my neighborhood and the vast, extreme changes that this area has undergone.... To me, the best thing about Somerville is the opportunity for exchange with all sorts of people, from college and grad students half my age to longtime homeowners who have been here for generations... Inspiration is important, but so is feeling part of community, part of humanity.

—Daphne Kalotay (novelist)

So, how to connect with this writing community? Denise Provost suggests checking out the local presses Ibbetson Street Press (founded by Doug Holder, it publishes poetry and a nationally respected literary journal) and Červená Barva Press (founded by Gloria Mindock, it publishes fiction, poetry, and translation from around the world), and the public library's listings of readings, book clubs, book launches, and other literary events.

One important source of support and connection, referenced by several of the interviewees, is the Somerville Arts Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. In fact, a literature grant from the Council made this interview project possible. A not-soside note: The annual deadline is October 15th, and any artist living in Somerville can apply for funding for a public arts project - I highly encourage you to apply. Sign up for their listsery, too.

Many interviewees also got specific about the best places in town to write. Suggestions included Bloc Café (with several votes), Diesel Café, The Somerville Museum, The Arts at the Armory (with a lovely café as well as a slate of arts events), and of course the public libraries (check out their local history collections).

I cherish living somewhere that has a Brazilian market, a Korean and Japanese market, an African market, three other bodegas, a bougie donut shop, and a natural wine bar, all within a two-block radius. To write from here means to speak of an entirely small community, that feels so vast at the same time.

Grab paper and a pen. Diesel in Davis Square turns their wifi off on the weekends to discourage people from hunkering down at their laptops. Bloc Café is calmer during the week, but still bustling on the weekends. It's



much easier to take your coffee outside and your notebook with you when places are crowded. As a laptop writer this dynamic helps me write in a different, more present way.

—Madelyn Musick (poet)

Several people also commented on the rising cost of living in Somerville. Doug Holder said, "Somerville has vastly gentrified over the years, and many artists have had to vacate the city because of high rents, etc... I hope this will not change the sensibility of the city." One anonymous submitter agreed, "We are getting pushed out of the city by rising rents and by those able to pay the rising rents. While you are here, be sure to give back to the community."

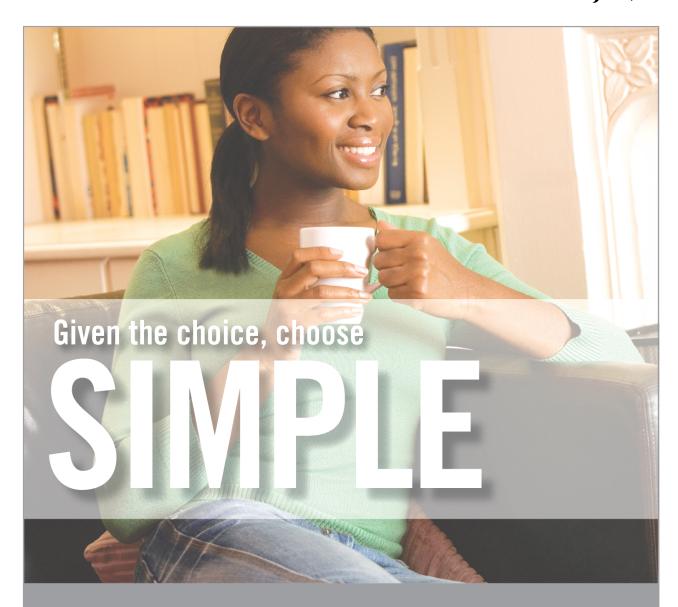
How do they suggest you give back to the arts community? By supporting our local presses and buying local writers' work (Červená Barva Press, for example, published a high school poetry anthology edited by Lloyd Schwartz); by "getting to know [your] neighbors" (Schwartz); by "volunteer[ing] with the Somerville Arts Council, Somerville Open Studios, and other local groups that continue to make Somerville an interesting place to live" (anonymous); and by making sure that, when you visit a café, you "buy food and drink - don't just use free internet!" (Provost).

Somerville obviously offers inspiration and community aplenty, but still, the work is the writing. A local writer and editor had some parting advice:

There is no such thing as a perfect book. And the closer you get to finishing, the louder the voices in your head will become, telling you it's no good, reminding you of a plot hole, or repeating a critique you got once that stung just a little too hard. The secret to finishing a book is to finish it. The rest can come later. I think that here in Somerville, I learned to be myself – I learned that I am good enough as I am. And that helps my writing every day.

—Amy Maranville (editor and children's author)

You can read these interviews in full (or add your own submission) here: https://somervillewrites.wixsite.com/place



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