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## The Somerville Times





VOL. 9 NO. 47

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

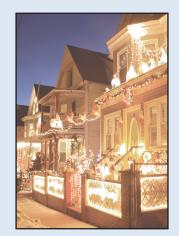
## **Inside:**



Having a happy **Pranks-giving** page 3



**COVID** rising for the holidays page 5



A festive month of Illuminations page 12

## Parking a concern for Highland Ave. redesign



A possible reduction of parking spaces is a major concern in planning the Highland Ave. Redesign Project, scheduled to begin next year.

#### By Eileen Qiu

Drafting designs for the Highland Ave. Redesign Project will start this winter with the goal of having a concrete blueprint by spring 2023 and starting construction at the end of 2023, according to Senior Transportation Planner, Viola Augustin.

Visions for the new Highland Ave. include pedestrian friendly and safe streets with improvements to the tree canopies and new environmentally friendly stormwater infrastructure, Augustin said. The vision also includes protective bike lanes to make it possible for everyone to reach their destinations safely, she said.

Designs for the streetscape would satisfy goals influenced by Somervision 2040, a comprehensive 30-year plan for the future of the city.

The Highland Ave. Redesign Project was part of project area #1 of the Continued on page 4

## **Union Square Farmers Market** last week of the season

#### By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

Back in June, The Somerville Times covered a story on the beginning of the Union Square Farmers Market in Somerville. Last Saturday, was the last week of the season for the market.

Located in Union Square and running from May 15 to November 20, the market was advertised as a COVID-19 cautious market as it was held outdoors week in and week out.

Executive Director of Union Square Main Streets, Jessica Eshleman, expressed a great deal of gratitude to the Somerville community for this year's market.

"I really have a huge appreciation to the community, to our vendors, the local businesses along Somerville Ave. This has been such a fantastic pilot season for us here," Eshleman said.

Eshleman also spoke on this year's sales, and their record-breaking figures in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. "Our vendors are reporting some of the strongest Continued on page 4



The Union Square Farmers Market wrapped its highly successful 2021 season last week in Union Square. — Photo by Fernando Cervantes Jr.

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The views and opinions expressed in Newstalk do not necessarily reflect those of The Somerville Times, its publisher or staff. The column has many contributors.

We here at The Times wish everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday. Please observe all safety guidelines to make sure we'll all be together again for next year's celebration. And don't forget to shop local when starting your holiday gift shopping. This year more than ever it is important to support local businesses.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Our hearts are broken to hear the passing of Sal Ferro (our photographer Claudia Ferro's husband). Sal and Claudia have been married since they were young and raised a big loving family together here in Somerville. Sal was a great father. You could see that in his family who were by his side every step of the way helping him through his sickness. Sal will be missed so much. Our condolences go out to Claudia and her family.

City offices will be closed Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Trash, recycling, and yard waste collection will be on a one-day delay if your normal pick-up day is Thursday or Friday. Residential parking permits and meters will not be in effect Thursday or Friday, and there is no street sweeping Friday

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

The Somerville High School Highlanders battle the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School Falcons Thanksgiving Day. Cambridge hosts the game at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 25 at Russell Field. Don't miss the chance to support our team. The game location is subway accessible by taking the Red Line to Alewife Station.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to Jason Fucile, who celebrates this week. We miss seeing Jason and Nancy now that Victor's is closed but we wish them the best. 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 Continued on page 7

## The Somerville Times

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## Somerville Weather Forecast

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

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	NW 11 mph	
Wednesday November 24	Sunny	44°/33°	0%	1%		
Thursday November 25	Partly Cloudy	54°/36°	2%	1%	WNW 8 mph	
Friday November 26	Cloudy	45°/24°	25%	17%	W 11 mph	
Saturday November 27	Partly Cloudy	40°/30°	10%	6%	W 13 mph	
Sunday November 28	Partly Cloudy	42°/28°	6%	4%	WSW 11 mph	
Monday November 29	Partly Cloudy	43°/31°	4%	2%	WNW 12 mph	
Tuesday November 30	Partly Cloudy	44°/31°	16%	9%	W 12 mph	
	Wednesday November 24  Thursday November 25  Friday November 26  Saturday November 27  Sunday November 28  Monday November 29  Tuesday	Wednesday November 24SunnyThursday November 25Partly CloudyFriday November 26CloudySaturday November 27Partly CloudySunday November 28Partly CloudyMonday November 29Partly CloudyTuesdayPartly Cloudy	Wednesday November 24Sunny44°/33°Thursday November 25Partly Cloudy54°/36°Friday November 26Cloudy45°/24°Saturday 	Wednesday November 24Sunny44°/33°0%Thursday November 25Partly Cloudy54°/36°2%Friday November 26Cloudy45°/24°25%Saturday November 27Partly Cloudy40°/30°10%Sunday November 28Partly Cloudy42°/28°6%Monday November 29Partly Cloudy43°/31°4%TuesdayPartly Cloudy44°/31°16%	Wednesday November 24         Sunny         44°/33°         0%         1%           Thursday November 25         Partly Cloudy         54°/36°         2%         1%           Friday November 26         Cloudy         45°/24°         25%         17%           Saturday November 27         Partly Cloudy         40°/30°         10%         6%           Sunday November 28         Partly Cloudy         42°/28°         6%         4%           Monday November 29         Partly Cloudy         43°/31°         4%         2%           Tuesday         Partly Cloudy         44°/31°         16%         9%	

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: Before the changes

Steve says:

"The conveyor belt for grocery pick-up at the Winter Hill Star Market." Wow! I hadn't thought of that in YEARS! What a great memory!

Ron Newman says:

The Porter Square Star Market had one as well. You could not bring your shopping cart out of the store into the parking lot, but had to put your groceries on the belt and pick them up outside.

### Response to: Somerville Police seize large amounts of marijuana in Assembly Row

Somerville resident says:

It appears someone forgot to take his stash with him on his way back to Tewksbury.

Ron Newman says:

Since marijuana is now legal, why is the police department wasting its time on this victimless

Reasonable MA Stoner says:

I don't know Rob maybe because 87 pounds is way over the legal limit written in the law

#### Response to: Obituary: Salvatore A. Ferro, Jr.

Jimmy says:

Claudia Sam was a great man one of the nicest people I've met I'm so sorry for your loss you and Sam were very good to me especially when my mom passed away you and Sam have a great family may he Rest In Peace

### Response to: The Seventh Element: Kidney's Signal and Key Ingredient for Life

Terry Musick says:

A great read! It's full of information I've never heard about, at least that I can remember. Thank you!

#### Response to: Game Jam #2 winners and sponsors

Heather Heimarck says:

Congratulations to all the participants and thank you to Somerville Math Fund for being so creative!

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

## Life in the Jimmy Del Ponte

## **Pranks-giving!**



Thanksgiving is a day where friends and relatives join together to give thanks. Like any other large gathering there are bound to be disagree-

ments, funny episodes and unexpected circumstances

I asked my Somerville friends to share their Thanksgiving horror stories, nightmares, mishaps or family feuds with us. Huge family gatherings are bound to fuel some heated conversations and situations, and here they are:

- + Oh boy, it's still vivid in my mind. Our family was sitting down for Thanksgiving dinner and my brother Mark and I decided to "pull the chair out from grandpa!" To this day I still see the top of grandpa's head his glasses peering at me across the table! We laughed so hard for about 15 seconds!
- The first time I roasted chestnuts on Thanksgiving I didn't score them. It sounded like WW3 in the oven - boom, boom, boom!
- · Really cannot think of anything negative. Our mother made it very special and included people who needed a family meal that day.
- The funniest family Thanksgiving story of my family: one of my sister's birthday falls on Thanksgiving every year. My grandmother always made her a homemade cake and grandmother was an awesome baker, but she also liked the tip a

few back. One year while she was making the birthday cake, she tipped a few too many back and confused the flower with plaster of Paris. When she carried the cake out to the table after Thanksgiving dinner, we couldn't get a knife through it. It was rock.

- · When we were kids and lived on Church Street, the adults table was in the kitchen and the kids table was in a room off the kitchen. We all hated my aunt's, stuffing but my mother made us eat it. So, one year my sister took the empty eggnog container and threw her stuffing in it. We all did the same. When the adults weren't looking, my sister eased open the window and dropped the container which landed perfectly in the trash barrel in the driveway. We all giggled for the rest of the day and drove the adults crazy trying to figure out why.
- I walked into my aunt and uncle's new house, hugged everyone, handed them my pie – all while wondering why I didn't recognize anyone when it had only been a few years since I'd seen them. Eventually, someone introduced himself using his relationship to the host and we realized I was at the right house number on the wrong street. I took my pie and left.
- + I was hosting my first Thanksgiving dinner, in my first apartment, on Hancock Street. I was very proud the whole family said yes. I should mention there were seven of us Grant kids, plus mom and her parents, and a few significant others. It was quite a group! I am just about ready to sit everyone down to eat, when I



proceed to accidentally catch a dish towel on fire while removing the carrots from the stove. I burned the heck out of my fingers. Needless to say, I immediately had to leave to get to the Somerville Hospital ER. It is a nasty burn so I get in immediately, and the triage nurse said to me, "not one year goes by without at least two of you Grant kids coming into this ER laughing!" She gets me all bandaged up and says, "Please make sure you say hello and happy Thanksgiving to your mother from me." Of course, they went to high school together. When I got home everyone said dinner was delicious!

• My first pumpkin pie. I looked around Thanksgiving.

the table waiting for accolades and saw aunt Peggy making a sour face. I forgot to put the sugar in the pie.

+ Large family (12) kids. No dishwasher. We put names in a hat and picked who would do all the dishes, pans etc. I got picked, like, four years in a row. Such lovely siblings to put only my name in that hat. I just continued doing it every year after. I will never be a hand model.

Thanksgiving is always a bittersweet time for me. My dad passed away on Thanksgiving Day 1994, so for me it's a day to reflect and celebrate his life. I hope everybody has a wonderful and fulfilling

## **ArtAssembled: The Space is Booming**

ArtAssembled is a Somerville Arts Council space project in partnership with Federal Realty at Assembly Row. This project activates vacant storefronts and transforms spaces into places to create. Focusing on low-volume performing arts practices, ArtAssembled currently has over 50 participating



artists utilizing space mainly for rehearsals and inquiry.

Recently, ArtAssembled's Emily Beattie performed her "Hyphae," an interactive installation for a select audience. Coming up they are happy to announce their partnership with Monkeyhouse's "Residency" program, allotting a total of 120 hours of rehearsal space to six selected movement artists from the community (selected by Monkeyhouse).

"After all the dance space closings in recent years, this new fully accessible, interdisciplinary performing arts space so close to the Orange Line is vital to the local dance ecosystem," says Karen Krolak of Monkeyhouse.

ArtAssembled is looking forward to expanding their programming to support artists even further by launching an upcoming residency program to existing artists. If you are a performing artist with a low-sound profile who is looking for rehearsal space, check out www.artassembled.org.

ArtAssembled boasts a 15'x40' sprung dance floor covered with marley, black curtain on a track, LED lights, and sound system. Their capacity is 10 people at a time and is best used as a rehearsal space for art-making/performative practices. ArtAssembled is fully ADA compliant and accessible.



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# By Jim Clark

#### Somerville Police Seized Large Amounts of Marijuana in Assembly Row

Somerville Police Officers seized approximately 87 lbs. of illegally possessed marijuana in an apartment on Artisan Way. The street value of this seizure is estimated to be approximately \$174,000. This is an active investigation and Somerville Police urges anyone with information regarding this seizure to call the Somerville Police Department at 617-625-1600 Extension 7234.

#### Somerville Police Respond to Commercial Breaking and Entering

On 11/16/21 at approximately 2:52 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Elm St. for report of a breaking and entering in progress. Upon arrival, officers observed the front glass door had been smashed and numerous items were stolen. The reporting party described the suspect as a white male wearing a white or light colored hoodie, backpack and a white hat.

#### Somerville Police Respond to Residential Breaking and Entering

On 11/13/21 at approximately 11:45 a.m., Somerville Police responded to an apartment complex in the area of Broadway and Alewife Brook Pkwy. for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she came back to her apartment to retrieve her belongings and noticed multiple items were missing. Officers observed a broken lock on a window.

#### Somerville Police Respond to Assaults

On 11/9/21 at approximately 3:14 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Gilman St. and Walnut St. for report of a fight. Upon arrival, officers located a juvenile female suffering from leg and head pain. The victim stated she was attacked by two females and struck in the head with a rock.

On 11/15/21 at approximately 3:57 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business in the area of McGrath Hwy & Rufo Rd for report of an intoxicated male trying to break the door. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a male suspect entered the store and stole a bottle of alcohol. The victim confronted him and the suspect struck him in the back. Officers identified the suspect.



## **Help Keep Somerville Safe!**

## Parking a concern for Highland Ave. redesign CONT. FROM PG 1

Spring Hill Sewer Project, initiated in 2019, which aims to upgrade the city's sewers to mitigate flooding and design a more environmentally friendly drainage system.

"One of the biggest challenges is upgrading city's infrastructure," city Project Manager Daniel Amelin said.

However, after community input, the Highland Ave. Redesign Project evolved into an independent project, since their last public meeting in Dec. 2020 found that plans for an updated streetscape did not consider cyclists as much as pedestrians and vehicles, Augustin said.

Justin Schreiber, the city's Transportation Planner acknowledged that although there aren't any designs in the makings yet, there could be a reduction of parking spaces.

Many of the more than 300 meeting participants were concerned about accessibility and access to parking spaces. Participants typed in questions regarding accessibility of roadways for members of the community who might not be able to walk or bike. They will figure out a way to prioritize parking for those with mobility issues Schreiber said. Plans to organize pick up and drop off zones will also be taken into consideration.

The department has been collecting data on parking, conducting surveys with businesses and visitors, so that when there is a design, they have the

data ready to show designers, Schreiber said.

"The process is just getting started tonight," Schreiber said.

Data from a 5:00 a.m. count of cars parked in overnight spaces on Highland Ave. and nearby areas found a surplus of empty spaces, he said.

However, participants contradicted him in the chat, and said most of the time they had trouble finding spaces for overnight parking.

Schreiber acknowledged parking availability did vary by block, with some blocks at full capacity and others empty.

Daytime counts are now underway, and data for those will be shared once complete, he said. Residents of Highland Ave.,

business owners, or employees that commute to Highland Ave. were more than welcome to submit their input and concerns on an interactive map.

Small businesses with concerns about the project, that did not get a change to participate in the survey, may also email transportation@somervillema.gov to ensure parking regulation meets business needs.

Residents living in older buildings were also worried about how heavy construction could affect the foundation of those buildings.

Pre-construction engineers will inspect a building and make a record of the foundation and infrastructure and compare that to the building post construction.

If anything was damaged, a contractor will make all the necessary repairs, Amelin said.

The project is still in its conceptual phase. The team hasn't partnered with a designer or engineering firm yet. The team is still collecting input from the community to get a better idea of the needs of the community.

However, a comprehensive parking measurement plan is in the works for this project Schreiber said. The team absolutely intends to provide expanded spaced for commercial loading and is learning from past city projects, he said.

It is early into the data collection phase with no concrete timeline for a design yet, Schreiber said.

**CONT. FROM PG 1** 

## Union Square Farmers Market last week of the season

sales that they have ever had as part of the Union Square Farmers Market," Eshleman said.

Vendors in the market also expressed this same sentiment. Paul O'Connell from Mariposa Bakery also talked about this year's season. "It was a great farmers market season," O"Connell said, "It went really well, it was much busier than last year."

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many shops and businesses had to close due to the lack of in person traffic. According to Eshleman, this year's farmers market was buoyed by the pandemic.

"In terms of sales, I believe the pandemic encouraged more people to think about open-air shopping," Eshleman said.

O'Connell also shared this

same feeling, but was not as confident as Eshleman. "The market is accessible I think," O'Connell said, "But I know of people that are still shy about going out."

Although the Union Square Farmers Market has come to a close, the Somerville Winter Farmers Market will be opening at the Armory on Highland Ave. on December 4.





## Covid cases expected to rise ahead of holiday season

#### By Eileen Qiu

Covid cases are expected to rise in the city as the holiday season nears, Director of Health and Human Services, Doug Kress, said during last Thursday's Board of Health Meeting.

There were 210 new cases in November at the time of the meeting, but the number is expected to rise to about 300, Kress said.

In total, there are around 7,500 cases in the city, with 500 of those as positive probable cases, according to the most recent data on the COVID-19 dashboard, updated every Tuesday.

Kress said an uptick was expected as people make travel plans, but the good news is that over 75% of the city is now fully vaccinated.

"Moving forward we continue to improve in making sure our individuals and our residents to follow guidelines," he said.

The state has announced it's going to keep the Stop the Spread locations open through March 2021, but contact tracing will be suspended, Kress said.

However, the Board of Health will expand its work team to cover new cases in preparation and continue the work contact tracing in Somerville. The team is also in the process of gathering data regarding the percentage of residents in the city who may have a booster shot, he said. Kids over 5 are now eligible for

Masks are still required in public indoor spaces - and will be required until the number of positive cases decrease, vaccinations continue to persist and overall people are at less risk of catching the virus, Kress said.

a COVID-19 vaccine as well.

"We really do want to slow the spread of the virus itself,"

Kress said. "One way to do that is not to get infected, so a mask is an excellent way to protect you, your family and our community members."

As a father, Boar Chairman Dr. Brian Green said he understood how difficult it could be for children to wear masks since they aren't all that responsive to regulations, but masks are the best form of protection, since younger kids can't get vaccinated.

"As soon as we feel like rates are going down, and vaccinations are persisting, and people are at a lower risk of contracting the disease, then mask mandate can be lifted," Kress said.

In addition to COVID-19 updates, the board also revised regulation for businesses that sell tobacco products.

So far, there are 78 businesses in the city that are licensed to sell tobacco products, Director



of the Six City Tobacco Initiative, Bonny Carroll said.

The board decided concreate repercussions for businesses that may violate the regulation.

A first offense will result in a fine of \$300. A second violation, occurring within 3 years of the first one will result in the same fine and having the business license suspended for 7

business days. Three of more violations within three years will result in the fine and having the business license suspended for 30 business days. Repeated violations could result in revoking the sales permit.

The next meeting date was scheduled for December 16 has been moved to December 21, Kress said.

## **ABCC Kicks Off 'Operation Safe Holidays'**

To ensure safety for the citizens of Massachusetts, the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) will be conducting alcohol enforcement operations at bars in major Massachusetts cities from Thanksgiving Eve through New Year's Eve.

The primary objective will be to prevent impaired driving and other alcohol-related harm during the holiday season, which is known for heavy alcohol consumption. The ABCC will focus enforcement efforts at bars identified as the last to sell alcohol to a convicted drunk driver.

"We want to ensure that the holiday season is enjoyed by everyone, and to do so people need to celebrate in a responsible way," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg, who oversees the ABCC. "Strong enforcement and helping to deter bar owners from over-serving can prevent tragedies before they happen and helps to keep the public safe."



The program is run in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Impaired Driving Crackdown, from Thanksgiving Eve through New Year's Eve, and is funded through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security – Highway Safety Division.

The ABCC will also be working with local police de partments that have identified high-risk locations in their communities.

Alcohol is involved in 40 percent of traffic crash fatalities resulting in 17,013 fatalities and injuring an estimated 275,000 people annually. Data indicates that well over 50% of impaired driving arrests originate at bars.

## Dorothy's Corner By Dorothy DIMARZO



## Almondine

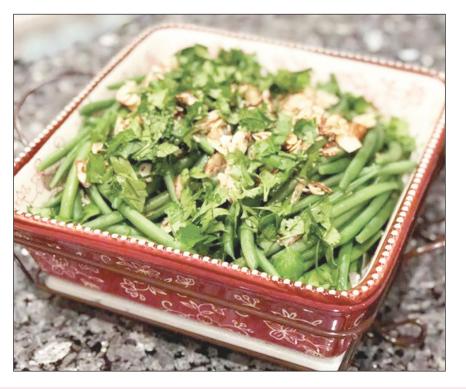
Here's a side dish that is easy to prepare and is packed full of flavor. The addition of the lemon zest and juice brightens up the dish. This is a perfect throwback side that will have your guests craving more.

1 lb. Haricot Vert 2 tablespoons unsalted butter 1/2 cup slivered almonds 1/2 Lemon, zested and juiced Freshly ground black pepper Kosher salt

Bring a stockpot of salted water to

a boil. Add the haricot vert and boil for 3 minutes. Drain into a colander and add the haricot vert to a bowl of iced water to stop the cooking process. Drain again once cooled. In a large skillet, add the butter and melt. Add the almonds and toss in the butter for about 30 seconds. Add the drained haricot vert to the skillet and coat with the butter. Cook for an additional 2-3 minutes. Add freshly ground black pepper, (about 2 turns from the pepper mill), a pinch or 2 of the Kosher salt, the lemon zest and juice and plate immediately. Serves 4-5.

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



## **Beacon Hill Roll Call**



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. Beacon Hill Roll Call records local senators' and representatives' votes on roll calls from the week of November 15-19.

#### **CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING (H 4256)**

House 151-8, Senate 26-3, approved and sent to Gov. Charlie Baker a bill that redistricts the state's nine congressional districts. The plan is based on the 2020 U.S. census and will be in effect until the next redistricting cycle following the census in 2030.

Supporters said the process has been the most open, inclusive and transparent redistricting process in the history of the state.

"The Joint Committee on Redistricting conducted a broad, transparent examination of the congressional districts," said Senate Redistricting Committee chair Sen. Will Brownsberger. "Hundreds of people participated. At the end we felt we had a plan that met all legal standards and it was uncontested in most respects."

"This proposal simply does not meet the mark for millions of Bay Staters, slashing MetroWest into five different bits and bifurcating Fall River and New Bedford," said Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham). "This map will have an impact on our democracy for at least the next decade to come. It is imperative that we do this right and that means advancing equity and compactness, not diluting representational power."

"There is an inherent conflict of interest in having sitting office holders deciding where district lines should go," said Rep. Lenny Mirra (R-Georgetown). "Other states have figured this out and have created independent commissions to do redistricting. It's time Massachusetts does the same."

(A "Yes" vote is for the new districts. A "No" vote is against them.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven Yes Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

## REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO TEACH ABOUT GENOCIDE (S 2557)

House 157-2, approved a bill requiring public schools to educate middle and high school students on the history of genocide. The measure also establishes a Genocide Education Trust Fund to help fund the teaching. The funds would come from the Legislature, private and public gifts and grants and revenue from fines imposed for hate crimes.

Supporters cited a 2020 survey, commissioned by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, which gauged Holocaust knowledge and found that 63 per cent of millennials and Generation Z population, did not know six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust. The survey also found that nearly half were unfamiliar with Nazi concentration camps like Auschwitz.

"It is shocking how many young people today have never heard of the Auschwitz concentration camp, the Holocaust or other heinous genocides perpetrated in the past," said Sen. Jason Lewis (D-Winchester), Senate Chair of the Committee on Education. "This important legislation will ensure that more students understand the history of genocide so that it never happens again."

"It is very important that the history of genocide is taught in our schools," said Rep. Kelly Pease (R-Westfield) one of the two representatives who voted against the proposal. "However all the genocides that were discussed for the bill are already covered by Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) curriculum. If there are shortcomings in how it is taught then that should be addressed, but not by setting up a separate fund that includes money from public and private sources such as gifts, grants and donations. DESE has already established the curriculum, why is more public and private money needed?"

"Massachusetts has always been at the forefront of human rights issues, and today, with the passage of this bill, we can do it again," said Rep. Jeff Roy (D-Franklin). "We can arm our students with the knowledge they will need to recognize the warning signs and feel empowered to prevent genocides in the future. Making genocide education a mandatory topic for teaching in our schools is a reaffirmation of the commitment of free people from all nations to never again permit the occurrence of another genocide and to deter indifference to crimes against humanity and human suffering wherever they occur."

Rep. Peter Durant (R-Spencer), the only other representative to vote against the bill, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call to comment on his opposition to the bill.

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven Yes

## BAKER ADMINISTRATION WITHDRAWS FROM TRANSPORTATION CLIMATE INITIA-

TIVE (CTI) – Until recently, Gov. Baker was a strong supporter of TCI—a regional collaboration which originally captured the interest of 12 states and the District of Columbia and was envisioned to reduce carbon emissions and improve transportation.

"The Baker-Polito Administration always maintained the commonwealth would only move forward with TCI if multiple states committed and as that does not exist, the transportation climate initiative is no longer the best solution for the commonwealth's transportation and environmental needs," said Baker press secretary Terry MacCormack.

"At the same time, the new federal infrastructure funding package, American Rescue Plan investments, as well as tax revenue surpluses generated by Massachusetts' strong economic recovery make the commonwealth better positioned to upgrade its roads, bridges and public transportation systems, while also making investments to reduce transportation emissions, deliver equitable transportation solutions and benefits and meet the state's ambitious climate goals."

"MassFiscal took a lot of punches for usually being the loudest voice against TCI," said Paul Craney, the alliance's spokesman. "At times, we were the only voice. We worked diligently to ensure people knew exactly what it was that policy makers were getting our state into and by the end we formed a solid and robust coalition of opponents. Mass-Fiscal is stronger for the effort. Ultimately, it's the everyday citizens of Massachusetts that benefited the most for our persistent advocacy to see the program ended and never settling for anything less than its defeat."

Josh Ostroff, Interim Director of Transportation for Massachusetts, was disappointed in the decision. "While Gov. Baker has made a decision to withdraw ... the goals of TCI remain as important as ever. For the sake of the entire commonwealth—but particularly our environmental justice populations that have been most adversely impacted by transportation pollution and by the COVID-19 pandemic—reducing carbon emissions and tailpipe pollution must remain a high priority, and the commonwealth's laudable climate goals must be backed up by decisive action."

BAN SALE OF FUR PRODUCTS (S 623) – The Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee held a virtual hearing on a proposal that would make it illegal to sell a new manufactured fur product in Massachusetts and impose a fine between \$500 and \$5,000 per fur product for anyone convicted of the sale.

The measure exempts used fur products, fur products used for traditional tribal, cultural or spiritual purposes by a member of a federally recognized or state-recognized Native American tribe; and leather cowhide and shearling. The bill would not restrict licensed trappers and hunters from selling raw fur pelts and hides generated in the course of their lawful activities.

"Every year, more than 100 million undomesticated animals like foxes, raccoon, dogs and mink are confined to small wire cages and then subjected to cruel killing methods that are not regulated by federal humane slaughter laws. Animal protection organizations have documented animals being gassed, electrocuted, bludgeoned to death and skinned alive and this excruciating process must be ended. With so many fur alternatives available, public sentiment against the fur industry has been growing for years and our commonwealth should not be complicit in this truly horrific industry any longer."

#### HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of November 15-19, the House met for a total of 14 hours and 47 minutes while the Senate met for a total of eight hours.

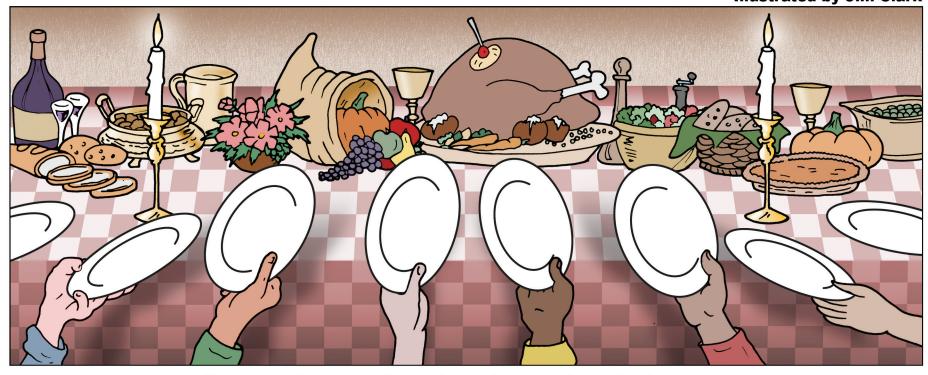
Mon. Nov. 15	House 11:06 a.m. to 1:29 p.m. Senate 11:15 a.m. to 11:41 a.m.
Tues. Nov. 16	House 11:05 a.m. to 4:02 p.m. No Senate session
Wed. Nov. 17	House 11:02 a.m. to 6:25 p.m. Senate 11:07 a.m. to 6:38 p.m.
Thurs. Nov. 18	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:04 a.m. Senate 11:09 a.m. to 11:12 a.m.
Fri. Nov. 19	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

## COMMENTARY

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

**Illustrated by Jim Clark** 



Have a happy Thanksgiving Day - and remember to help the needy to have one too.

## **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. Of equal importance is supporting our local businesses during the following holiday shopping season as they endeavor to bounce back from the setbacks brought on by Covid-19 restrictions.

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

as Peggy Ryan Lookliss, Mary Mc-Guire, Julie Adelsberger, Brian Kirk, Kim Volz, Joseph Di Pietro, and Nancy Robinson Faulkner 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 COVID-19 incidence rate is rising again. After a brief dip in local case numbers in October, Somerville's incidence rate has risen more than 50% over the past two weeks. See the latest Somerville case data at somervillema. gov/covid19dashboard.

COVID cases in Massachusetts just reached a nine-month high. In order to not repeat the tragic fall and winter surge of last year, COVID precautions are urged for this holiday season. The CDC has a holiday safety guide. The main thing to keep in mind is responsible behavior leading up to the holidays will lead to safer celebrations. Making sure everyone at the gathering is vaccinated, getting a booster if you are eligible, and masking up in indoor public spaces will lessen the chances of people contracting the virus and spreading it to

others during what should be a happy occasion. Having smaller holiday get-togethers and keeping it among people who regularly associate with each other also can lessen the spread. Outdoor celebrations (sunny weather is currently forecast for Thanksgiving) are safer than indoor gatherings. Finally, get tested in the days leading up to the holiday if you think you might pose a risk. Go to somervillema.gov/covid19testing to find a testing location.

\*

Get Elfie + Keep Small Strong for Union Square Main Streets 7th Annu-

Union Square Main Streets 7th Annual Holiday Stroll. Join in The Holiday Stroll, a three-day celebration of Union Square sparkle, discovery, and holiday delight on December 9, 10, and 11. Revel in this Union Square neighborhood tradition and enter to win cash prizes up to \$1000 by helping to judge the Storefront Decoration Contest, conquering the Keep Small Strong Challenge when enjoying unique eats and rad retail, following the Festivus Trail, and taking Elfie Selfies. Dozens of locally-owned businesses await with all you need to stuff your stockings, deck your halls with local art, make your tastebuds celebrate, and more. Bundle up and

come on down or snuggle up and shop from home to unwrap Union Square in all its wintry wonderment. For more info on how to enter to win \$1000 cash, visit: https://www.unionsquaremain.org/ holiday-stroll

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

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

Join East Somerville Main Streets for another Pop-Up Holiday Market at Connexion in Somerville. They'll have some new vendors, more food and more

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

music. Support small, local businesses while you do your holiday shopping. Saturday, December 11, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Connexion, 149 Broadway.

The Centers for Disease Control has approved COVID-19 booster shots for all adults. That means if you are age 18 and you are at least six months past your second shot of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or two months past the date of your Johnson & Johnson vaccine, you can immediately get a COVID-19 booster shot at any medical facility or pharmacy where boosters are being offered. The boosters are strongly recommended as a way to bolster immunity. This is important because immunity from the initial doses wanes over time. The state has put together a list of frequently-asked questions about booster shots: https:// www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19booster-frequently-asked-questions. The three main things to know is they are safe, free, and available regardless of your citizenship status.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Boosters** will be an important part of lessening the spread of the disease during the upcoming winter months. Our suggestion for the Continued on page 11

10

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CROSSWORD

## **FUN & GAMES**

## Ms. Cam's Sams 110

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#804

- 1. What editor campaigned for a national Thanksgiving Day to promote unity?
- 7. Who began the tradition of "breaking the wishbone"?
- 2. Who was the captain of the 1620 voyage of the pilgrim ship Mayflower?
- 8. What holiday happens the day after Thanksgiving?
- 3. What artist painted an oil painting named The First Thanksgiving 1621?
- 9. Where would you find the Shrine of the First U.S. Thanksgiving in 1619?
- 4. Which Friends character said he hates Thanksgiving?
- 10. What poet wrote The Courtship of Miles Standish?
- 5. When was the first Thanksgiving NFL football game?
- 11. What is the name of the only child born at sea during the Mayflower voyage?
- 6. In 2021, how many years has the annual Gobble Gobble race taken place in Somerville?

**GRAND ALASKAN** 

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promo code N7017

**CRUISE & TOUR** 

12. Which is the only place in Australia that celebrates Thanksgiving?

Answers on page 10

## The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Gorillas often sleep for up to fourteen hours a day. 2. A necropsy is an autopsy on animals.

13

60

2-YEAR

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2. Gospel writer

3. "Tosca" song, e.g.

5. Balance in the sky

7. Gave the once-over

9. Not active

10. Point of entry

13. Foot, to a child

11. Sixth sense

14. Aussie bear

4. Like sunroom, hopefully

6. "Pop \_\_\_\_\_" and "American \_\_\_

8. "Outwit, Outplay, Outlast" show

f dish dish

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

REALITY TV

#### ACROSS

- 1. "Oh, my!"
- 5. Say untruth
- 8. Left or right
- 12. Spiritual leader
- 13."\_\_\_ing Up with Marie Kondo"
- 14. Great reviews
- 15. Related
- 16. Double reed woodwind
- 17. Fourth deck
- 18. "The \_ \_\_\_\_," MTV's trailblaz-
- ing reality show
- 20. Affirm with confidence
- 21. I to Greeks, pl.
- 22. \_\_\_\_ Baba
- 23. Powerball and such
- 26. Swaggering show of courage
- 30. Spermatozoa counterparts
- 31. Based on two
- 34. Has a mortgage
- \_ dog, gin and grapefruit juice cocktail
- 37. DNA transmitter
- 38. \*"The Real Housewives" is full of
- this type of conflict
- 39. Write on a tombstone 40. Unwholesome atmosphere
- 42. Hairpiece, slangily
- 43. Stitched again
- 45. Unit of electric current flow
- 47. Solemn pledge
- 48. Like nose during hayfever
- 50. Uncouth one
- \_\_ a Million-52, "Who

aire?"

- 56. Front of cuirass
- 57. Sixth month of civil year
- 58. "Jack and the Beanstalk" instrument
- 59. Travesty
- 60. Italian money
- 61. \*"Vanilla Ice Goes Amish" and
- "Cleveland Hustles" state
- house Masters" on Animal

- 63. Not KhloÈ or Kourtney
- 64. Common allergens

**DOWN** 

1. Gelatin substitute

19. Buzz Lightyear's buddy 22. Brow shape 23. "The Biggest 24. Egg-shaped 25. Same as talcums 26. Civil rights concern 27. In the know

28. Raise objections

29. Missouri River tributary

32. Like a desert

YOU LOVE TOGETHER!

33. Crime scene evidence

36. Singing competition (2 words)

38. Curses

40. Feline sound

41. "I think I can, I think I can...", e.g.

44. "For better or for \_\_\_\_\_"

46. "Monty \_\_\_\_\_'s Flying Circus"

48. r in a circle, pl.

49. Deprive of weapons

50. Star of wilderness reality shows,

\_\_\_\_ Grylls

51. Fairytale beast

52. Street-crossing word

53. Hawaiian island

54. Londoner, e.g

55. Narrative poem

56. Back of a boat

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

## 1-855-208-9533

SUDOKU

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

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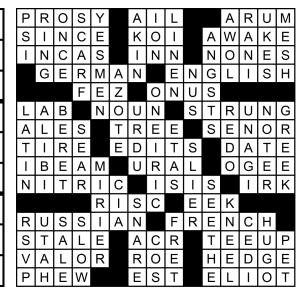
Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

### Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

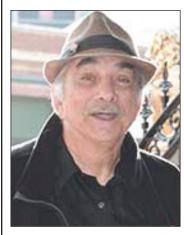
3	1	9	7	8	2	5	6	4
5	4	8	6	1	3	7	9	2
2	6	7	5	4	9	8	1	3
4	9	5	8	7	1	2	3	6
8	2	3	တ	6	4	1	7	5
6	7	1	3	2	5	4	8	9
7	8	4	2	9	6	3	5	1
9	5	2	1	3	7	6	4	8
1	3	6	4	5	8	9	2	7

#### Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:



#### **OBITUARY**

Salvatore A. Ferro, Ir.



Salvatore A. Ferro, Jr., of Somerville, passed away on November 18, 2021. He was 79 years old. Sal was the beloved husband of Claudia N. (Ficarra) Ferro. Born in Cambridge, he was the son of the late Salvatore A. and Josephine (Grassia) Ferro Sr.

Prior to his retirement, Salvatore was the proprietor of Ferro Printing Company in Somerville. He was a member of Project Outlook with his wife Claudia in Somerville and was a member the Somerville Chamber of Commerce.

Salvatore was the devot-

ed father of Paul M. Ferro of Chelsea, Martin A. Ferro and his wife Michelle A. of West Peabody, Salvatore A. Ferro III, Gina Ferro-Pino and Michelle Ferro, all of Somerville. He was adored grandfather of Paul Jr., Michael and Anthony Ferro, Nicole and Chelsy Ferro, Jimmy, Salvy IV, Christina and Nicholas Ferro, Jimmy, Arianna, Samantha and Christopher Pino, Peter Jr., Makayla, Daniel and Delilah Lancaster and the loving great-grandfather of Michael Jr., Briella, Angelo, and Gianna. Salvatore was the dear bother of the late Susan Souza, cherished uncle of Laura and Brian and brother-in-law of Adrienne Ficcara of Somerville.

His funeral took place at Dello Russo Funeral Home in Medford on Wednesday, November 24, followed by a funeral Mass in St. Mary the Annunciation. Services concluded with interment in Calvary Cemetery, Woburn.

## City reviews housing and development program under Covid-19

#### By Joe Creason

The Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development held a public hearing on Thursday, November 18. The purpose of the hearing was to present the consolidated annual performance evaluation report (CAPER) for the July 2020 -June 2021 program year.

"CAPER is the annual performance reporting that is required by the city to HUD, in order to benefit from entitlement programs like the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership, and Emergency solutions grants (ESG)," said OSPCD Director of Finance Alan Inacio.

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has made CDBG CARES Act (CDBG CV) funds available during this program year to help communities fight against the spread of Covid-19.

"Tonight is a review of the stated goals and objectives in the CAPER five-year action plan. This was also a particularly busy year because we received additional funding in CDBG and ESG," Inacio said.

CAPER is a mandatory filing and, in conjunction with HUD's Integrated Disbursement Information System, fulfills statutory and regulatory program reporting requirements.

The report provides the City of

Somerville and HUD with the necessary information to assess the overall effectiveness of entitlement programs.

"Somerville has outlined four primary goals and objectives in its five-year plan. These goals include, stabilize and revitalize diverse neighborhoods, preserve and maintain existing affordable housing, family stabilizing and job readiness, ending and reducing homelessness. These objectives will utilize CDBG and ESG funds to provide infrastructure projects, homebuyer assistance, family and housing services," Inacio said.

According to the 2020-2021 CAPER, Covid-19 small business loans made up the largest CDBG expenditure at \$1,769,118.91. The remaining \$2,289,025.09 in CDBG expenditures were allocated towards funding Neighborhood infrastructure, parks, public spaces, housing acquisition and covid-19 services.

"In terms of parks and open

space, we planted approximately 100 trees throughout CDBG eligible districts across the spring and fall planting season, increasing the urban tree canopy to improve quality of life in those areas," Inacio said.

Further family and economic development approaches were implemented using ESG funds.

"ESG went towards public services during Covid-19. There were senior and handicapped services to assist with transportation and housing counseling for individuals who struggled with housing and rental assistance. Additional funds were also set toward child care services and job retaining, as layoffs forced many individuals to be retrained," Inacio said.

In total, over 13,000 people were assisted with these funds. The 2020-2021 CAPER details \$331,131 in public service expenditures and an additional \$661,604 spent on CDBG-CV public service expenditures.

There were no comments from the public during the hearing.

## Busy day in the arts

On Saturday of last week, Denise Provost (above) brought her new book of poetry City of Stories (Cervena Barva Press) to the weekly Bagel Bards gathering. Later that day, Doug Holder stopped by to see his friend and local artist Alexandra Rozenman (brlow) - https://www.saatchiart.com/Rozenman - at the Joy St. studios as part of Brickbottom Open Studios 2021.





## Prepare for the 2021/2022 snow season

Because this winter begins in an odd-numbered year, snow emergency parking will be on the odd side of the street all winter, unless posted signage says differently. Check streets signs in your neighborhood so you know where you can park ahead of winter weather. You can also learn more about the City's snow policies at somervillema.gov/snow.



Snow emergencies are announced in a variety of ways, including through phone, text, and email City alerts. Make sure you're signed up for alerts in every way you can receive them and at your current address so that you get neighborhood-specific alerts. Alerts are available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, and Nepali. You can update your information by visiting somervillema.gov/alerts or calling 311.

In addition to City alerts, snow emergencies are announced the following ways:

City website City social media feeds CityTV

Flashing blue lights at major intersections Information is shared with local media

## **LEGAL NOTICES**

#### Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com



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

**GEORGE J. PROAKIS, AICP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 

#### **LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)**

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 - 7-28.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to historic@somervillema.gov.

#### **TO USE A COMPUTER**

Registration URL:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/980886836991422224

Webinar ID: 183-390-427

**TO CALL IN** 

Phone Number: 1 (213) 929-4212 Access Code: 347-705-326

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING

**Determinations of Historic Significance (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLI-**

**TION REVIEW PROCESS)** 

HPC.DMO 2021.31 - 82-86 Prospect Street

Applicant: 86 Prospect Street, LLC

Owner: Vivaldo Meneses Sr. & Maria Meneses, Trustees of V&M Re-

alty Trust Demolish all structures

H<u>PC.DMO 2021.32 – 17 Allen Street</u>

Applicant: 13-17 Allen Street, LLC Owner: Saul A. Rivera Demolish principal structure

<u>Determinations of Preferably Preserved (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)</u>

HPC.DMO 2021.23 - 256 Elm Street Applicant: Welch Liles

Owner: AP Davis Square Plaza, LLC Demolish principal structure

HPC.DMO 2021.20-16 Woodbine Street

Applicant: Sal Querusio

Owner: Mark R. & Jill T. Ardelino

Demolish principal structure

HPC.DMO 2021.28 - 227 Holland Street

Applicant: 227 Holland, LLC

Owner: Maria Melo and Carmilla Turner, Trustees of the Gilda Santos 2019 Revocable Trust

Demolish principal structure

While City Hall continues to be closed in response to the COVID19 pandemic, case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at

Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email historic@somervillema.gov to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. Note: Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov NO LATER THAN NOON one week prior to the meeting date. Email historic@somervillema.gov with

11/24/21 The Somerville Times



The public hearing will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. The public hearing will open with a brief presentation by City staff on the project history and objectives. Following the presentation, members of the public will be invited to speak. The typical two-minute time limit will be enforced. The hearing will be hosted through the zoom video conferencing platform and there will be an option to call into the meeting from a phone. Copy and paste the link below into your web browser to join

https://bit.ly/TrafficBoardHearing

You can also join by phone by calling 646-558-8656 and inputting the Webinar ID: 850 2470 2442

The public hearing will be recorded and rebroadcast on GovTV (channel 13 on RCN, channel 22 on Comcast) and on the City's YouTube channel, youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV.

Written testimony will also be accepted until 4 p.m. on Wednesday, December 1, 2021. Written testimony can be emailed to transportation@somervillema.gov or mailed to: Mobility Division, ATTN: Hearing, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143.

Interpretation into Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol, or Nepali may be available upon advance request by contacting the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs at <a href="mailto:somervillema.gov">somervillema.gov</a> or calling 311 at 617-666-3311.

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

11/24/21 The Somerville Times

TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISMENTS IN THE **SOMERVILLE TIMES, CONTACT US BY 12 PM MONDAY** 

PHONE: 857-488-5138

**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 December 2nd, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. using GotoWebinar software to consider the removal of the following public

(3) trees for mixed-use development. Trees include one 8-inch diameter American Elm, one 5-inch diameter Ornamental Cherry, and one 15-inch diameter Ornamental Cherry. The area The trees identified above have been posted for public inspection. In

495 Columbia Street (near Webster Avenue) - Removal of tree

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: trees@somervilleMA.gov, or mailed to: 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA. 02143.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this Public Shade Tree Hearing will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of this hearing will be available upon request to trees@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

**Registration URL** 

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7794119489896499983

**UNITED STATES** +1 (415) 930-5321 Access code: 419-394-601

11/17/21, 11/24/21 The Somerville Times



#### CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES

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

### **Printing & Mailing of Annual City Census Forms**

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at http://www.somervillema.gov/BidsExpress, https://www.somervillema.gov/Procurement or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after 11/24/2021. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: 12/13/2021 1:00PM 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 Alexander Berdick at aberdick@somervillema.gov for further information

> **Alexander Berdick Construction Procurement Manager** 617-625-6600 x. 3400

11/24/21 The Somerville Times

## **Celebrate the Holidays in Somerville** with a Christmas Tree Lighting and Menorah Lighting

Please join Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and special guests for two of Somerville's annual holiday celebrations.

The festivities will begin with the annual Christmas tree lighting on Thursday, December 2, at 5:00 p.m. on the City Hall concourse. After the tree lighting, Santa Claus will join us for a meet and greet next door at Somerville High School (don't forget your camera if you'd like a photo). Santa will be escorted by the Somerville Fire and Police departments, with a gift and cookies for each child in tow. Live entertainment will feature the Somerville High School Chorus, Somerville High School Orchestra, El Sistema Somerville, and the Somerville High School Jazz Band.

Later in the week, the ceremonial menorah lighting will take place on Sunday, December 5, at 5:00 p.m. on the City Hall concourse with Rabbi Eliana Jacobowitz from Temple B'nai Brith. Light refreshments will be served. Both events are open to all members of the community. Social distancing will be enforced and masks will be required indoors.





- 1. Sarah Josepha Hale of Godey's Lady's Book
- 2. Master Christopher Jones Jr.
- 3. Jean Leon Gerome Ferris
- 4. Chandler
- 5. 1934, The Detroit Lions hosted the Chicago
- 6. 25 years
- 7. The ancient Romans
- 8. Native American Heritage Day
- 9. Berkeley Hundred in Charles City County,
- 10. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- 11. Oceanus Hopkins 12. Norfolk Island

## **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.

## The TOPA solution to housing issues



By State Senator Pat Jehlen

Speculators driving are up prices, blocking new home-buyers, and promoting destabilization of neighborhoods, displacement of longtime residents, and gentrification. Is this inevitable?

Those issues were the topic of my last newsletter: https://mailchi.mp/electpatjehlen/home-ownershipdown-prices-and-rents-up2686414?e=[UNIQID]

One solution is a bill known as TOPA, Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act, which I'm sponsoring with Reps. Jay Livingstone and Rob Consalvo.

TOPA would allow communities to adopt local ordinances giving tenants of multi-family housing the right to purchase their homes at market price.

Tenants could become homeowners by matching the highest offer of a third-party buyer.

Or they could assign their right to the municipality or a non-profit, which could purchase the housing and keep or make it affordable.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The bill doesn't apply to a seller who owns fewer than 7 units in the municipality. We sometimes hear that this bill will be a burden to homeowners who can't afford any delay in the sale of their property. This bill does not touch them at all.

It also does not apply to sales to immediate family members.

TOPA would allow communities to slow displacement and gentrification by removing some homes from the for-profit, speculative, escalating market, and making them permanently affordable.

TOPA would provide more affordable housing faster than any other investment. It is much cheaper and much quicker to buy and stabilize naturally occurring affordable units rather than to construct new ones.

Here's just one example of where TOPA could have helped

keep people housed:

At 6 Humphreys Place in Dorchester, the owner sent building-wide eviction notices to residents, because a buyer wanted to purchase the building empty. With support of City Life/Vida Urbana, the 20+ residents organized a tenants association and found non-profit buyers that could pay the market price. But the owner sold the building to the initial buyer, who continued to evict the residents. Had TOPA been in place, a non-profit buyer could have purchased the building at the third-party price, avoiding a long and very difficult battle by the residents to stay in their homes and guaranteeing permanently affordable housing in the community.

TOPA passed both houses at the end of the last session, too late for us to override Gov. Baker's veto. I hope we will take it up again soon.

You can watch the hearing on this and other housing bills https://malegislature.gov/ Events/Hearings/Detail/4003. And there is an article from last year about TOPA by Councilor Lydia Edwards and leaders of community development corporations at https:// commonwealthmagazine.org/ economy/tenant-purchase-legislation-could-stave-off-displacement/

I'll have more on housing soon: what people wrote about their experiences, the role of more housing development, and more. So stay in touch!

## Somerville High School ribbon cutting, December 8

Please join Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Superintendent Mary Skipper, and local elected officials for a ribbon cutting to celebrate the renovated and reconstructed Somerville High School campus on Wednesday, December 8, at 6:00 p.m.

The new building opened to students in March 2021 to support the District's return to in-person learning while final renovations continued on a 750-seat auditorium. Those renovations finished in early November, and all building construction is now complete.

On top of Central Hill between City Hall and the public library, the new campus will be a fixture of both academic and civic life in Somerville for decades to come. The six-story, 396,000-square-foot school was designed to support a wide range of teaching and learning methodologies, expanding educational opportunities for students and preparing them for future success in college and the workforce. The new building will also serve as a premier gathering space for all Somerville residents, offering several much-needed options for community meetings or events.

This ribbon cutting will be the first opportunity for the Somerville community to come together in the new building to mark this historic milestone, celebrate this incredible state-of-the-art campus and public amenity, and recognize the work of so many who brought this transformational project to life.

The ceremony will begin in the Somerville High School auditorium, 81 Highland Avenue. The auditorium entrance is between City Hall and the high school's main entrance, facing Highland Avenue. Following speaking remarks, guests will be invited to enjoy music by student performers and take a guided tour of the school.

RSVP is not required. All attendees must wear a mask indoors. For more information about the new building, visit shsproject.org.

#### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

first place to try is the Somerville CHA Vaccine Center in the Target shopping plaza near Union Square. The site accepts both walk-ins and appointments (though pre-registration could speed your processing and wait times). CHA offers boosters for all vaccine types in addition to initial COVID-19 vaccines for everyone age 5+. One tip when getting a booster shot: bring your vaccine card with you for faster processing. Other options include local pharmacies (pre-registration may be necessary), your primary care provider, vaxfinder. mass.gov, and calling 211.

The Somerville Arts Council's Illumination Community Lantern Project

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

returns. As the days get shorter and the nights get longer, they are looking for ways to brighten the darkness. Building off of the success from last year's Illuminations Community Lantern project, they are encouraging residents to create their own lantern displays in their neighborhoods and Squares as a part of this year's month-long festivities. If you are interested in leading the charge in your neighborhood, contact SAC and they will put you on the official Illuminations Map. The deadline to be included on the Illumination map is **December 1**. To light up your neighborhood and get involved, visit https://somervilleartscouncil.org/illuminationstour

Giving Tuesday 2021 takes place November 30. There are so many different ways to express generosity on Giving Tuesday and every day. It's a simple idea: whether it's making someone smile, helping a neighbor or stranger out, showing up for an issue or people we care about, or giving some of what we have to those who need our help, every act of generosity counts and everyone has something to give. Visit /www.givingtuesday.org/ united-states

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

The Somerville Council on Aging is

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

\*\*\*\*\*\*

The Somerville Board of Health has extended the citywide residential eviction moratorium until April 30 of next year. The moratorium applies to both renters and homeowners, and it means residents cannot be physically removed from their homes, though eviction cases may proceed through court. Back rent ultimately must be paid. If you find yourself or anyone you know unable to make rent or mortgage payments (or if you are a landlord owed back rent), assistance may be available. Immediately contact the Office of Housing Stability at 617-625-6600 x2581 or the Community Action Agency of Somerville at 617-623-7370.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

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

Don't forget, if you would like to subscribe to receive a digital edition of our paper, go directly online to our website over to the right side and fill out your email address to receive a free, full PDF copy of the paper.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

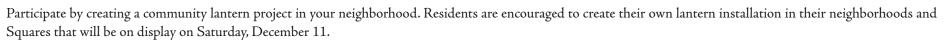
## A month-long Illuminations celebration

Plug your lights in, don your bike helmet, and hit your high notes for Somerville's interactive Illuminations extravaganza. This year Illuminations includes self-guided car tours, a bike tour, porch caroling around town, and a community lantern project.

Once the official Illuminations map is live (December 9), folks can take self-guided tours of decked-out houses any time they like! So, whether you're a business or a resident, time to deck the halls and plug things in! The map will also include locations for caroling (December 9 only) and community lantern installations (December 11 only).

Illuminations month will kick off on Thursday, December 9 (rain date December 11), with caroling around town. If you, your family, choir, or a group of friends, would like to sing a few Holiday numbers on your porch or driveway, you are invited to participate. Caroling will take place between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. (Please note: acoustic only outdoor vocal performances, or with one or two classical instruments as accompaniment).

Participate by adding your home, business, or carol performance to the google map. A digital map will be created so folks can take a "deconstructed tour" on their own time: https://forms.gle/ted-cq8kg3MEJiL5f8.



If you are interested in leading the charge in your neighborhood sign-up via this Google Forms link: https://forms.gle/SMrUGFLXaCSEexWp8

Deadline to sign up is December 1. The Illuminations 2021 map will be available starting on December 9, the night Illuminations month kicks off and will be available through the beginning of January 2022.

Illuminations Timeline:

December 9 through early January 2022: Self-guided tours using the SAC's official online Illuminations Map

December 9, 6-8pm: Illuminations kick off with city-wide caroling (rain date December 12)

December 11: Community Lantern project

December 18: Illuminations Bike Tour, starting at City Hall at 5:45 p.m. (departure at 6:00 p.m.) (rain date December 19)

So, as a participant or tour goer, celebrate the folk artistry and creativity of residents and businesses that transform their spaces and yards with lights, ornaments, and shrines of devotion and fantasy and song.

Stay updated on social media – Facebook: https://fb.me/e/mh4ykhrU4; Instagram: @SomervilleArtsCouncil. For additional questions contact Iaritza at imenjivar@somervillema.gov.



The City of Somerville Traffic Board will hold a virtual public hearing on Wednesday, December 1, regarding the Somerville Traffic Commission July 15, 2021, actions making regulatory changes for the College Avenue Mobility Improvements Project. The public hearing will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will open with a brief presentation by city staff on the project history and objectives. Following the presentation, members of the public will be invited to speak. The typical two-minute time limit will be strictly enforced.

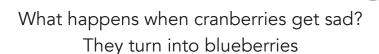
The hearing will be hosted on Zoom. To join online, go to bit.ly/TrafficBoardHearing and enter passcode 154771. To join by phone, dial 646-558-8656 and enter Meeting ID 850 2470 2442.

Written testimony will also be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 1. Written testimony can be emailed to transportation@somervillema.gov or mailed to: Mobility Division, ATTN: Hearing, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143.

The public hearing will be recorded and rebroadcast on GovTV (channel 13 on RCN, channel 22 on Comcast) and on the City's YouTube channel, youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV.

## Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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## On This Day in Kistery November 24

1542 – The English defeat the Scots at the Battle of Solway Moss in England.

**1864** – Kit Carson and his 1st Cavalry, New Mexico Volunteers, attack a camp of Kiowa Indians in the First Battle of Adobe Walls.

1950 – UN troops begin an assault into the rest of North Korea, hoping to end the Korean War by Christmas.

1961 – The United Nations adopts bans on nuclear arms over American protests.

1963 – Jack Ruby fatally shoots the accused assassin of President Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald, in the garage of the Dallas Police Department.

1979 – The United States admits that thousands of troops in Vietnam were exposed to the toxic Agent Orange.

**1992** – US Congress passes the Brady Bill requiring a 5-day waiting period for handgun sales



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## SCES celebrates and supports family caregivers

#### By Nathan Lamb

November is National Family Caregivers Appreciation Month - a time to recognize those who provide essential support for their loved ones.

Chances are, you probably know at least one caregiver. A 2018 review of Bureau of Labor statistics by Pew Research found that 15% of adults were providing care for another adult - on average devoting nearly 80 minutes daily to providing assistance.

That same study found that 47% of those caregivers found the experience very meaningful more so than housework, career, or leisure.

The story behind these numbers is one of commitment and compassion, and we see

those dynamics daily at Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES). As a non-profit focused on helping older adults Age in Place, we worked with more than 450 caregivers last year, providing support and helping them access helpful resources. We are honored to help these families provide the care their loved ones need, at home. Thank you for all that you do!

Lastly, I would like to highlight some of the programs SCES offers to support family caregivers:

Adult Family Care helps people receive the care they need from friends and family, by providing training, compensation, and ongoing support for live-in caregivers. Available with no out-of-pocket costs for eligible households, AFC provides caregivers with a monthly stipend, two weeks paid respite annually, and ongoing support from our team of nurses and social workers.

Adult Family Care is free for MassHealth-eligible adults who cannot live alone due to a medical diagnosis. Open to ages 16+ across the Greater Boston, North Shore, and Merrimack Valley areas.

Family Caregiver Support offers caregivers information about services, provides educational programs, and shortterm individual or family consultation. This program is free and open to all residents of Cambridge and Somerville and non-resident caregivers.

Savvy Caregiver is a training program that provides family caregivers with skills and knowledge about dementia. Participants receive an overview of dementia, plus support developing strategies for challenges they are facing. This program is free and open to non-professional caregivers of individuals diagnosed with dementia, who are residents of Cambridge, Somerville, and surrounding communities.

The SCES Aging Information Center provides free advice and guidance on questions of aging, caregiving, and disability. Our Elder Care Advisers can provide more information about SCES Caregiver support programs, and about other resources in the community.

Nathan Lamb is Director of Outreach and Community Relations for Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) a non-profit



Director of Outreach and Community Relations for Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) Nathan Lamb.

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.

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

#### Wednesday, November 24 6:00am Chair Yoga w Chris Town Hall w/ Mayor Curtatone 6:30am 7:34am SPL Cooking - Orange Cornmeal Cake 7:45am Mental Health Resources 8:00amThe Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting 9:00am 9:30am City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan 10:01am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV 11:00am Fit-4-Life Video #4 11:30am School Committee Meeting 11-15-21 1:00pm Winter Hill Walking Tour 2:15pm COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA 3:00pm PorchFest 2021 4:00pm Chair Yoga w Chris 4:30pm HONK! 2021 Raising Families "Special Needs Education" 5:30pm 6:01pm Somerville Chamber of Commerce Awards

President Taft Comes to Somerville

Veterans Day at Milk Row Cemetery

Veterans Day at Milk Row Cemetery

Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7

9:30pm City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan 10:00pm 11:00pmThe Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope

8:00pm

3:30pm

4:30pm

Thursday, November 25 Veterans' Day Ceremony 2021 12:00am Winter Hill Walking Tour 12:30am 2:00amThe Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope 6:00am Town Hall w/ Mayor Curtatone 7:05am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II Winter Hill Walking Tour 8:00am Mental Health Resources 9:15am 9:30amThe Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope 10:20am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I Chair Yoga w Chris 11:00am 11:30am City Council Meeting 11-9-21 SPL Cooking - Simple Chocolate Cake 1:40pm 2:00pm City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA 2:30pm

Veterans' Day Ceremony 2021 Winter Hill Walking Tour 5:30pm SPD Ride Along 6:45pm 7:00pm Senior Circuit: Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21 Somerville Chamber of Commerce Awards 8:00pm SPL Cooking - Mujadara 9:40pm 10:00pm School Committee Meeting 11-15-21 City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan 11:30pm

Friday, November 26 12:00am City Council Meeting 11-23-21 6:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice III 7:00am West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting 7:30amThe Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope 8:25am Mabel And Jerry - Senior Story 9:00am City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan 9:30am Town Hall w/ Mayor Curtatone 11:00am Fit-4-Life Video #4 11:30am Land Use Committee Meeting 11-8-21 COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA 3:10pm 4:00pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #3

Raising Families "Special Needs Education" 4:30pm 5:01pm SPL Gardening - Summer's Bounty pt. 1 6:00pm Somerville Chamber of Commerce Awards 7:30pm Veterans Day at Milk Row Cemetery 7:45pm SPD Ride Along 8:00pm COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA 8:45pm SPL Cooking - Simple Chocolate Cake Veterans' Day Ceremony 2021 9:00pm

HONK! 2021 City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting SPD Ride Along

Saturday, November 27

9:30pm

10:30pm

11:00pm

11:31pm

12:00am President Taft Comes to Somerville 1:30am Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone 6:30am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV 7:15am Mental Health Resources 7:30am Climate Webinar Climate Resilience & Health City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan 8:30am

9:01am School Committee Meeting 11-15-21 10:30am SPL Gardening - Summer's Bounty pt. 1 11:00am Fit-4-Life Video #4 11:30am City Council Meeting 11-23-21 City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan 3:30pm 4:00pm Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7 4:30pm The Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope 5:30pm Town Hall w/ Mayor Curtatone Land Use Committee Meeting 11-8-21 10:15pm SPD Ride Along

President Taft Comes to Somerville

Sunday, November 28

10:30pm

6:32pm

7:00pm

1:00am

2:00am

6:00am

6:35am

7:30am

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12:00am Somerville Chamber of Commerce Awards 1:30am School Committee Meeting 11-15-21 6:30am Climate Webinar Climate Resilience & Health 7:30am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II 8:20am Mental Health Resources City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan 8:30am 9:00am President Taft Comes to Somerville 10:30am West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting 11:00am Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7 City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan 11:30am 12:00pm Senior Circuit Land Use Committee Meeting 11-8-21 12:30pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 4:10pm **Climate Forward Transportation Solutions** 5:00pm 6:10pm SPL Cooking - White Bean Tuna Salad 6:20pm SPL Cooking - Simple Chocolate Cake

City Council Meeting 11-23-21 7:30pm Monday, November 29

12:00am Senior Circuit 12:30am Veterans Day at Milk Row Cemetery HONK! 2021 Winter Hill Walking Tour Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I Veterans' Day Ceremony 2021 City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan SPL Gardening - Summer's Bounty pt. 1

Veterans' Day Ceremony 2021

Senior Circuit

COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21 11:00am Fit 4 Life 2020 #2 11:30am Chair Yoga w Chris City Council Meeting 11-23-21 12:00pm 4:00pm Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7 Winter Hill Walking Tour Somerville Chamber of Commerce Awards 6:00pm City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan President Taft Comes to Somerville 9:30pmThe Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope 10:30pm Town Hall w/ Mayor Curtatone Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21

11:40pm Tuesday, November 30

4:30pm

7:30pm

8:00pm

City Council Meeting 11-23-21 12:00am 6:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II 7:00am Climate Forward Webinar Building & Energy City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan 8:30am 9:00am West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting 9:31am Somerville Chamber of Commerce Awards 11:00am Fit-4-Life Video #5 2020 11:30am Mabel And Jerry - Senior Story 12:04pm Senior Circuit Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21 12:30pm 1:00pm School Committee Meeting 11-15-21 2:30pm West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting 3:00pm PorchFest 2021 4:00pm Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7 Winter Hill Walking Tour 4:30pm 6:00pmThe Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hone 7:00pm Benefits of Music & Movement 7:30pm Somerville Chamber of Commerce Awards 9:00pm Dilbov Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21 9:30pm City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan

Wednesday, December 1

10:00pm

11:30pm

12:00am Mabel And Jerry - Senior Story 12:34am Land Use Committee Meeting 11-8-21

President Taft Comes to Somerville

Benefits of Music & Movement

## **Educational TV 15 Schedule**

Wednesday, November 24 8:00am School Committee Meeting 11-15-21 Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21 10:00am SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage 11:00am 12:00pm SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21 2:00pm West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting 3:00pm SHS Volleyball vs Masco 11-3-21 4:05pm SHS Girls Soccer vs LC 10-29-21 6:00pm School Committee Meeting 11-15-21 Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21 8:00pm SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage 9:00pm SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21 10:00pm

Thursday, November 25 12:00am West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting 1:00am SHS Volleyball vs Masco 11-3-21 SHS Girls Soccer vs LC 10-29-21 2:05am 8:00am SHS Fall Sports Rally 11-24-21 10:00am SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-28-19 12:05pm SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-21-18 SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-22-17 3:00pm 5:30pm SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-23-16 SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21 8:00pm 10:30pm SHS Fall Sports Rally 11-24-21

SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21 SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-23-16 2:30am 8:00am SHS Fall Sports Rally 11-24-21 9:30am SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21 SHS Football vs Medford 10-24-14 12:00pm SHS Football vs Peabody 9-8-17 2:30pm SHS Football vs N Reading 11-9-18 4:30pm 7:00pm SHS Fall Sports Rally 11-24-21 SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21 8:30pm SHS Football vs Medford 10-24-14 11:00pm

#### Saturday, November 27

1:30am

3:30am

8:00am

9:30am

6:30pm

SHS Football vs Peabody 9-8-17 SHS Football vs N Reading 11-9-18 School Committee Meeting 11-15-21 SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21 SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage 12:00pm SHS Fall Sports Rally 11-24-21 1:00pm 2:00pm Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21 SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21 2:30pm 5:00pm Lets Talk About a Poem - L. Schwartz SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21 SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage

### Sunday, November 28

SHS Football vs Malden 9-20-19 12:30am SHS Football vs Belmont 11-6-15 Lets Talk About a Poem - L. Schwartz SPL Gardening - Summer's Bounty pt. 1 SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21 10:00am SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21 SHS Volleyball vs Masco 11-3-21 SHS Volleyball vs LC 9-27-21 SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage SPL Gardening - Summer's Bounty pt. 1 School Committee Meeting 11-1-21 SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21 SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage 11:00pm

#### Monday, November 29

SHS Fall Sports Rally 11-24-21 12:00am SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21 1:00am 8:00am Lets Talk About a Poem - L. Schwartz 10:00am Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21 11:00am SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21 12:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21

3:30pm SHS Fall Sports Rally 11-24-21 4:30pm SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21 7:00pm Lets Talk About a Poem - L. Schwartz Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21 9:00pm SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage 10:00pm SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21 11:00pm

#### **Tuesday, November 30** 1:00am

2:30am

SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21 2:30am SHS Fall Sports Rally 11-24-21 4:00am SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21 8:00am Lets Talk About a Poem - L. Schwartz Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21 10:00am 11:00am SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21 12:00pm 2:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21 3:30pm SHS Fall Sports Rally 11-24-21 SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21 4:30pm 7:30pm Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21 SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage 8:00pm SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21 9:00pm Dilhov Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21 11:00pm SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21 12:00am

SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21

## The Somerville Times -

# lyrical **SOMERVILLE** edited by Doug Holder

Janelle Solviletti is a writer from Boston, Massachusetts. She is the author of two poetry collections, Euphony and The Cameo. Previously, she published works in The Horn Pond Review, The Feathertale Review and The Lyrical Somerville. She attended Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, and currently lives and works in Boston.



#### **Hometown Concerto**

At your request I bring in the cellos, remind the violins to beat loudly until decrescendo. Your one-hand beckon catches me by surprise, same as when we cold-shouldered rehearsal. You say, a composer without first-chair is like November without ripe color but somewhere in the off season our tongues frost over like an oath to autumn, and the auditorium hushed our hands go on with the show. Now this dream never goodbyes. I would give up our language to steady that midnight in your hometown but I am lost in concerto too electric in your current of gestures and now our dewed palms swiftly meet and part with an audience to cue the show. What a noisy amen to interpret. I am on the precipice of your greatest work breathing in chorus living in black and white film preparing the melody for you. And from your high stand, you'll ask for translation: Two sad hearts meet before fall over accordion swoons, I want to tell you what it feels like to bow in return for the language of strings but the pendulum swings. And now I pass through

— Janelle Solviletti

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

your neighborhood cloaked.

## OFF THE

by Doug Holder

## Somerville's Ian Judge:

The Man Behind the Somerville Theatre



I spoke to Ian Judge recently about the Somerville Theatre, where he presides as Chief of Operations. The Somerville Theatre is an independent movie theater and concert venue in the Davis Square neighborhood of Somerville, Massachusetts. Founded in 1914, the Somerville Theatre started off as a vaudeville house and movie theater.

Doug Holder: You grew up in Somerville. Would you say the Somerville Theatre was a factor in you becoming a film buff?

**Ian Judge:** It was, in the sense that I appreciated the somewhat magical experience of seeing a movie in that classic setting - how it elevated and enhanced the movie. And it had some great programs too. The communal fun of seeing a movie with an enthusiastic crowd is made more meaningful in community-based theaters.

DH: I know that the Somerville Theatre was built in 1914. It was used to host vaudevillian shows at its start. Have you hosted any contemporary vaudeville-style productions at the theatre? Tell us what you present besides movies?

IJ: We did host vaudeville as part of our centennial in 2014 - movies with vaudeville is literally what the space was built for originally - so that was fun! Aside from first-run movies, we show classic films as much as possible, especially in 35mm and 70mm, and host around 30-40 live events - mostly concerts - per (non-pandemic) year. We also host the annual Slutcracker burlesque, which is in some ways a throwback to the vaudeville days, but with a feminist inclusionary twist, plus it's a ton of fun.

DH: The climate for movie-going has been greatly disrupted by the pandemic. What changes have come to the theatre? Do you see audience levels coming back up?

IJ: Well, certainly the actual business of movie-making and distribution has been disrupted, and continues to evolve. Naturally the studios turned to streaming during the worst of the pandemic, and that is still prevalent for some releases, but not all. But they've also discovered that they lose out on billions collectively when they don't

play theaters exclusively for even a few weeks, so now they're pulling back from instant streaming quite a bit. They've also discovered that streamed movies are instantly pirated. For us on a local level, I do think our market is more cautious (or paranoid, some might say) than most areas when it comes to Covid, so there are other parts of the country where movie attendance is stronger than here, but really what it takes is a good movie for people to come out. When we opened Dune this month we had more than 400 people in the opening Friday night show, which is definitely a return to normal for us. But we do know that there are likely to be less movies in release and that they will stay in cinemas for less time than they used to, so we've hedged our bets and shifted a bit more towards events and live shows by removing two of our five cinemas in the building and renovating the ballroom they were built in 25 years ago. That just opened this month too.

I do think attendance will not return to old levels till spring, till Covid becomes an endemic and not a pandemic.

DH: What are your favorite Boston-based films? I think my fav is The Friends of Eddie Coyle.

IJ: Eddie Coyle is a classic on any level, and certainly for a Boston picture. The original Thomas Crown Affair is another amazing one, Charly, and The Verdict of course. I love to see the Boston that no longer exists in a film - the gritty, blue-collar town it was, not the plastic tourist trap filled with rich kids it is now. Even goofy stuff like Brinks Job or the Burt Reynolds movie Fuzz have lots of little Boston gems in them.

**DH:** Do you think that Somerville is a cinematic

IJ: There are a lot of interesting stories that could be told about here, that's for sure. The stuff my dad has told me about growing up here in the 50's and 60's alone would make for an incredible film. And walking home from work as the sun sets over Clarendon hill can be downright cinematic. But right now, Somerville seems more like that TV show Portlandia – a satire of a hip coastal city!

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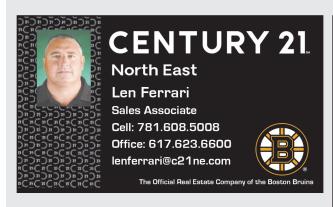
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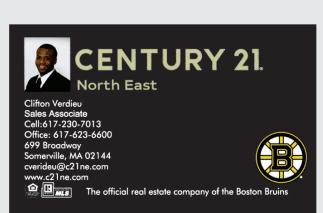
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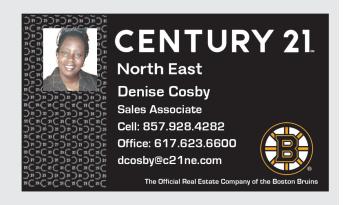
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