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The Director of the Office of Housing Stability, Ellen Shachter, delivered a thorough explanation of the benefits and potential workings of the city's municipal voucher program.

By Jim Clark

Director of the Office of Housing Stability (OHS) Ellen Shachter presented an update on the new municipal voucher program and other tools to promote affordable housing at the latest meeting of the Somerville City Council.

Shachter began by stating that she was excited about the infusion of funds to the municipal voucher and Flex-ARPA programs, then reviewed why establishing a municipal voucher program is important to the city.

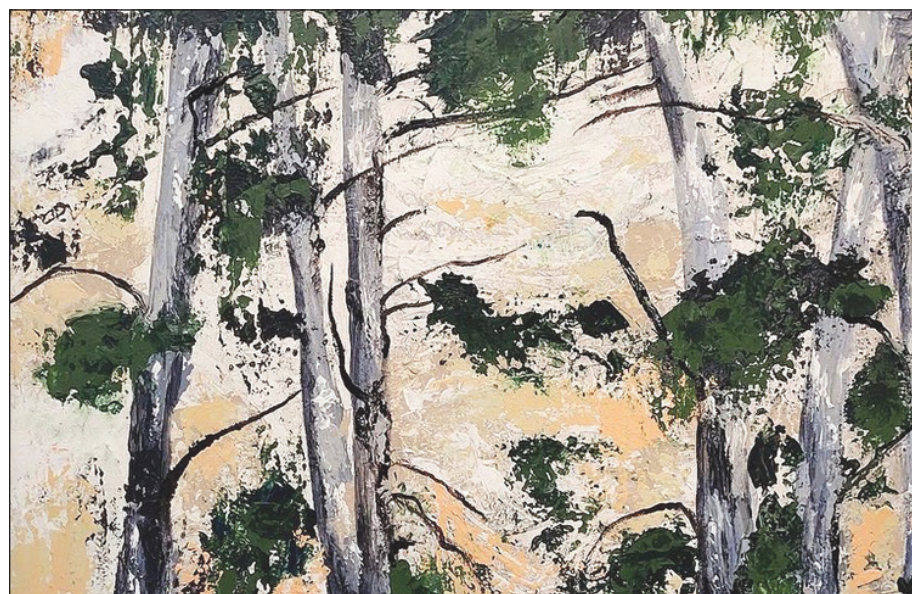
In addressing the lack of deeply affordable units, Shachter pointed out that the city has been producing a significant number of new affordable units, but it has not really been able to reach the lowest tier residents below 50 percent Area *Continued on page 4*

Vernon Street Studios Fall/Winter Open Studios opened once again

On December 3 and 4, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m., after a long four-year hiatus, Vernon Street Studios will open their doors to host their Fall/Winter open studios. While art creation can be a solo practice, art is best appreciated when celebrated with others and the artists of 6 and 20 Vernon Street are thrilled to welcome the public into their work spaces once again.

The Vernon Street community is well known throughout the area for the quality of their work. During this showcase for the arts, mid-career and emerging artists working across a broad spectrum of fine art styles and craft media – including painting, photography, print-making, sculpture, glass, fiber, jewelry, furniture, and ceramics – will exhibit and sell their work, just in time for the holiday season.

From the avid art collector to the *Continued on page 9*



Vernon Street Studios Fall/Winter Open Studios takes place this weekend.

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This Thursday, Prince William and Kate will be visiting Somerville during their trip to Boston for the 2022 Earthshot Prize Awards Ceremony. They will be here to visit and learn about climate innovations being utilized at Greentown Labs, 444 Somerville Ave.

As the holiday gift shopping season intensifies, it's important to remember that our local merchants are depending on us all to do our best to shop local. With the challenges they have dealt with over the past couple of years, let's help them to get back to business and be here for years to come.

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

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to Nancy Fucile. We wish Nancy the very best of birthdays and many more. Happy Birthday to Peter Forcellese. We wish him a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to Lisa Hastings, Continued on page 7

The Somerville Times

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Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of November 30 – December 6 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday November 30	Rain	61°/38°	63%	57%	S 16 mph
 Thursday December 1	Sunny	43°/31°	5%	2%	W 18 mph
 Friday December 2	Partly Cloudy	44°/35°	1%	1%	WSW 8 mph
 Saturday December 3	Cloudy	55°/42°	20%	15%	W 12 mph
 Sunday December 4	Cloudy	49°/35°	9%	6%	SW 10 mph
 Monday December 5	Rain	51°/43°	40%	34%	SW 11 mph
 Tuesday December 6	Rain	51°/37°	56%	42%	WSW 11 mph

NOTE: Conditions subject to change. Always check a daily forecast prior to activities that can be affected by the weather.

2022/2023 snow season parking rules



Because this winter begins in an even-numbered year, snow emergency parking will be on the even side of the street all winter, unless posted signage says differently. Check street 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 to receive alerts specific to your neighborhood. 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: <https://www.somervillema.gov>
- City social media feeds: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications/social-media>
- CityTV: <https://www.youtube.com/@SomervilleGovTV>
- Flashing blue lights at major intersections
- Information is shared with local media

Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Woolies



In 1969 I was 16 years old. I landed a job as a stock boy at Woolworths five and ten cent store in Davis Square. We called it Woolies. Woolworths was where Starbucks is now. I started out doing the stock room duties and got promoted all the way up to luncheonette worker where my favorites were grilled cheese sandwiches and hotdogs.

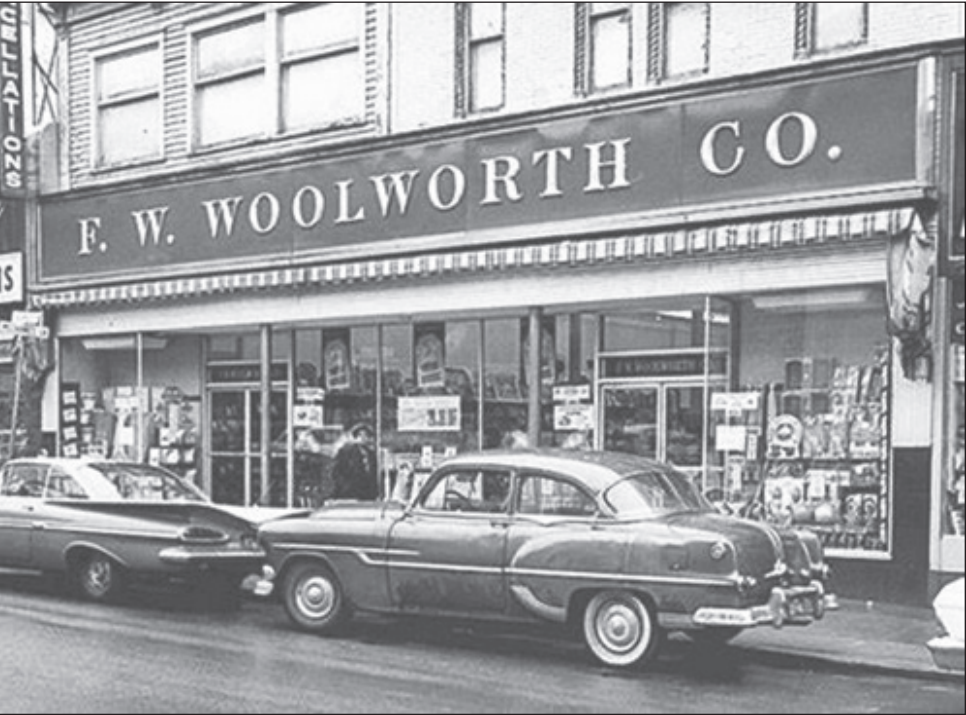
The minimum wage back then was \$1.60 an hour. I remember saving my

money for a Craig stereo cassette deck and got the cassettes at Woolworths with my discount. I bought Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young and Creedence Clearwater, and lots of Beatles. They also had a great pet section too. A friend of mine used to steal the baby turtles. There always seemed to be a canary or parakeet flying around the store. Here are some memories gathered on social media:

“I used to get to go there for lunch every Friday in the 5th and 6th grades instead of having to go home.”

“I used to get goldfish there all the time. They usually lasted a couple months tops.”

“My first job (‘67-‘69?) was the Central



Sq. Woolworths as a cashier and worked other departments also, including the pet section. I enjoyed it!”

“Different balloons had a bunch of prices and you would pop one to see your price.”

“I remember popping the balloons to see if you won something.”

“I remember going downstairs and popping them, I think I won a sundae for a penny once.”

“I put the prices in the balloons a few times.”

If you remember going into Woolworths and seeing that sales lady with the very heavy makeup, that was Mary. She buzzed

around from aisle to aisle reminding us to move along.

“Great place to shop, grab a hot dog or an ice cream, simple fun happiness what retailers are missing today! Miss those days and the old Davis Square.”

When I go to Davis Square, I still glance over at Starbucks and imagine Woolworths being there. Makes me want to sit in that photo booth and get those four little photographs. That was always fun. And I swear I can still taste those hotdogs on the toasted rolls – yum.

Try as they may, they’ll never destroy our old time Somerville memories with a wrecking ball.

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Young people face increased need for food access

Food For Free's Heat-N-Eats program is helping

Hunger is a struggle that can often be invisible at first glance. Christopher Hope, Founder and CEO of Loop Lab – a BIPOC led nonprofit social enterprise that specializes in media arts internships and digital storytelling in Greater Boston – has experienced first-hand how becoming more intimately aware of the gaps in food access has allowed him to identify food insecurity amongst his students.

In February, Hope and his staff at Loop Lab began volunteering monthly at Food For Free, the leading food rescue and distribution organization in Eastern Massachusetts, taking donated bulk prepared dishes that were rescued from local dining halls and repackaging them into single-meals that would later be delivered to members of the community in need through the nonprofit's Heat-N-Eats program.

Through this experience, Hope and his team became more attuned to the challenges and nuances of food insecurity, creating a more heightened ability to recognize and identify when someone is experiencing this in their own lives. This fall, the very same program his team volunteers for is now helping to feed his own students with on-demand delivery of single-serving prepared meals from Food For Free.

"You can't often tell a person is hungry by looking at them," says Sam McDermott, Heat-N-Eats Program Manager at Food For Free. "As the cost of living continues to rise, we want to ensure individuals of all ages, including students, have access to consistent, fresh, and nutritious food. Our partnership with Loop Lab is one example of how we are finding creative ways to reach those in need."

Food For Free's Heat-N-Eats program takes prepared food from corporate, university, and hospital dining services and turns it into attractive, balanced, single-serving meals that are distributed to food-insecure populations. These meals are donated through schools, colleges, homeless shelters, and other community programs. The program provides 900 meals per week. In an area like Kendall Square, where Loop Lab is located and where meals can often range from \$15 to \$20, Heat-N-Eats meals have become a lifeline for apprentices during their lunch break.

"Our partnership with Food For Free is like having a friend always on call," says Hope. "Our organizational missions blend together in a way that allows us to ultimately create access for those in need, especially those coming from underestimated communi-



ties. Eliminating the historically placed barriers for my students is at the forefront of my organization. When we recognized that food insecurity was another challenge our students were facing - Food For Free was the solution to continue creating more opportunity and equity for our students."

Outside of providing meals for its students, Loop Lab also eliminates a host of other barriers these students face. The organi-

zation not only pays students for their time in their apprenticeship, where they are taking classes and learning about the media arts industry, but also subsidizes the cost of public transportation and offers up to 30 college credits for the completion of the program. Upon graduation, many students go straight into the workforce or further explore career opportunities through Loop Lab's paid internships.

Affordable housing tools reviewed by City Council

CONT. FROM PG 1

Median Income (AMI) without vouchers. "It is really, really critical that we figure out how to produce new units, new housing stability for people at the lowest end of the income spectrum," Shachter said.

The next point addressed by Shachter was the lack of access for immigrants. "As we work at OHS with different members of the community, every single day it becomes apparent to us both that there's disproportionate need coming from the immigrant community for housing stability that there has been a disparate impact from Covid and from housing instability in general," Shachter said. "Unfortunately, as many of you know, the federal government put some rules into place dating back over a decade, which essentially prohibits immigrants – any immigrants – from accessing federal housing resources."

According to Shachter, there are very few tools that can be used for those families that are ineligible for these federal programs to

stabilize them over the long term. "As you know, we've been working with rental assistance, we've been holding on, keeping people in place. But there needs to be permanent options for this population," she said. "Because at some point rental assistance is insufficient to meet the need."

Shachter next pointed out that since the opening of the OHS in August of 2018, 43.5 percent of their service requests came from households with a primary language other than English, with over 300 requests for rental assistance this year alone to date.

Inadequate existing solutions were then addressed by Shachter. "We're coming up at OHS with this really significant clump of cases – families, not cases – households that we're working with, with really no solutions," said Shachter. "We have heard the same feedback from the Homeless Coalition, from CAAS, from Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services, that we absolutely

needed to come up with options because there are so many people that we've been serving that we can look and say in eight months there's not a solution they'll either have to leave the city and in some cases go back to countries where they came from and in others maybe just leave the city and find housing elsewhere. But that is probably rare for most of these families."

Finally, Shachter asserted that a municipal voucher program allows the OHS to have a program that is free from state and federal regulations, since a fully funded municipal voucher program is not subject to such regulations.

"That not only means that we're free from immigration restrictions," Shachter stated. "But what are the rents that we can set. Are they appropriate to our own community? What kind of resources are we going to need to get the most vulnerable, many non-English speaking families, into rental housing in this City of Somerville?"

Shachter says that since it's municipal dollars, the OHS gets to figure out what works and design the program that's going to work fast for the people that need it most.

Next, Shachter detailed what exactly the voucher is and what it is intended to accomplish.

Primarily, according to OHS, it is intended to be a long-term housing program providing deep rental subsidies to Somerville residents that are housing unstable. It further intends to prioritize families that are ineligible for federal housing programs due to immigration status as follows:

- Sub-priority One: Families with children in Somerville public schools or preschools and;
- Sub-Priority Two: Seniors and people with disabilities.

The program seeks a permanent vendor, subject to appropriation, with experience administering low term housing subsidy programs.

As currently funded and conceived, the program estimates as-

sistance for 30-35 families.

"I wanted to be really, really clear, this is intended to be a permanent program for so long as the families need the program," Shachter said. "We would be trying to get them out of the program into permanent affordable housing, and they would be applying for that with us. But this program has to be available, subject to appropriation – which you guys [the City Council] are all a part of – but it has to be available over the long haul if it's going to meet the expectations of this administration and my office of keeping people stably housed."

Shachter went on to describe municipal voucher programs in other cities, along with details of how the program would be administered. She then reviewed the benefits of the voucher programs and explained how future funding of the program would work.

Schachter wrapped up by fielding a number of questions asked by members of the City Council.

Local short film ‘We Are Here Too’ screened by the Somerville Museum

By Emilia Wisniewski

The Somerville Museum hosted an online showing of the city-based short film *We Are Here Too* on November 22, capturing the stories of four creative and talented women and their experiences through the global pandemic.

The film, produced by Keidrick Roy, Lili Bayarmagnai, and Julia Reihs and supported by the Somerville Arts Council, initially premiered on June 16 at the Somerville Community Growing Center. The Museum hosted another showing that followed with a question-and-answer session from the subjects of the film.

Iaritza Menjivar, Sneha Shrestha (also known as Imagine), Tori Weston, and Raynel Shephard have individual, artistic talents that were somewhat lost when the pandemic started. The 23-minute short film told the unique stories of their hardships and how their artistry helped them through it.

The film gets very personal with its subjects, showing shots of old family pictures, them in

their work environments, and generally how they live their lives in Somerville. There are also overhead shots of Somerville that help tie in the community aspect that is very central to the film’s purpose.

Menjivar is a photographer that started taking pictures in college, with her main subjects being immigrants, people of color, and, most importantly, her family. She said her photos are “all about people” and the social distancing protocols made it hard to continue her passion when the pandemic arrived.

Her family struggled through the pandemic but, through donations from her photography services in the Somerville community, she was able to help them and other first-generation families who were left jobless.

“I think one thing that we all learned is that we’re in this fight together,” Menjivar said in the film. “We are not separated and that we have to be there to support each other.”

Imagine paints murals, her art heavily reflective of her identity as a woman from Nepal. Living



The short film *We Are Here Too*, which explores the experiences of four women during the Covid pandemic, was recently screened at the Somerville Museum.

in Somerville for a number of years, she meshes her two different worlds in her art. Imagine takes inspiration from graffiti art to create large-scale projects on buildings and walls around Massachusetts.

Imagine raised funds for the #StopAsianHate movements, selling prints of the Nepali alphabet that sold out within 24 hours. She said she believes that by being successful in her business and inspiring people of

Asian descent through her artwork, she is defying the system that has long prejudiced against her and others like her.

Weston is a non-fiction writer and lithographer, her work being reflective of her as a black woman. She gained an interest in hearing other peoples’ stories when listening to her relatives retell their experiences in the Jim Crow era.

Writing helped Weston “remain in touch” with her feelings, especially with the murders of

George Floyd and Breonna Taylor creating a national uproar to call out racial injustice. She said she wants her pieces to start a conversation, from feminism to race, and to be viewed by people from different places.

“The pandemic was time where I could sit in my feelings in a way I never had before,” Weston said. “I had to write it down, I had to sketch it, I have to show the rest of the world what we go through.”

Continued on page 10

Dorothy’s Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Baked Stuffed Shrimp

With the holiday season upon us, I wanted to share this recipe that is a staple in our home on Christmas Eve. Auntie Dot’s baked stuffed shrimp. We serve multiple courses including an antipasto platter along with a baked Brie en croute with cranberries, cheese and crackers, and pâté just before the baked stuffed shrimp are served.

The main courses consisting of shrimp, broccoli and pasta soup, cioppino, ham, tzimmes, roasted potatoes and green bean Almondine are served a short time later. To top it all off, an assortment of fruits and desserts in-

cluding tiramisu, Italian cookies and brownies.

- 1 lb. Shrimp (U16-20) Extra Jumbo or (U 12-15) Colossal (deveined and butterflied, leaving the tail intact)
- 1 sleeve of Ritz Crackers (crushed)
- 5 Tbl. Melted unsalted butter
- 4 Tbl. Extra Virgin olive oil
- Sweet paprika (optional)

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Place one sleeve of the crackers into a food processor and pulse until it’s a breadcrumb consistency. Add the melted butter and olive oil and pulse until the mixture just holds together. Place about

a teaspoon of the mixture into the palm of your hand and squeeze it, then release. If it does not quite hold together, add 1 tablespoon of water to the mixture and retry to see if it holds together.

Put the mixture aside. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil and grease lightly with olive oil. To clean the shrimp, pull the shell off, leaving the tail section intact. Devein the shrimp with a paring knife. Once cleaned, with the paring knife, cut through the deveined side of the shrimp about 3/4 of the way, but not all the way through.

Repeat until all the shrimp are prepared. In one hand hold the shrimp with the cut side down and press in

your palm until flat. You are now ready to place about 1 1/2 teaspoons of the mixture onto the flat side of the shrimp and press it down so it stays in place. Place it onto the prepared baking sheet.

Once all of the shrimp are on the baking sheet, sprinkle the paprika over the top of all shrimp, if desired. Bake for 12-15 minutes until the shrimp just turn opaque. I typically serve about 3-4 shrimp per person (U 16-20) or 2-3 per person (U 12-15). The U stands for the approximate number of shrimp per pound depending on size.

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

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week. This week, *Beacon Hill Roll Call* presents a post-election look at legislative action from 2022 that changed the state’s election laws. Here are the five key important 2022 votes on election laws.

ELECTION LAW CHANGES (S 2924)

House 126-29, approved and Gov. Charlie Baker signed into law a conference committee version of a bill making permanent the mail-in and early voting options used in Massachusetts in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The House and Senate had approved different versions of the bill and a conference committee hammered out a compromise version which did not include the controversial section allowing same day voter registration that was in the Senate version but not in the House one.

The measure requires the secretary of state to send out mail-in ballot applications, with return postage guaranteed, to registered voters before each presidential primary, state primary and biennial state election. It also allows registered voters to request a mail-in ballot for all elections in a single calendar year.

Other provisions include reducing the registration blackout period from 20 days prior to an election to 10 days; electronic voting options for voters with disabilities and military service members; allowing a voter with disabilities to request accommodations including an accessible electronic ballot application, ballot and voter affidavit that can be submitted electronically; ensuring that non-felons who are incarcerated and are currently eligible to vote are provided with voting information and materials to exercise their right to vote; and requiring the secretary of state to conduct a comprehensive public awareness campaign to publicize the new voting and registration options.

“I’m proud to see the [bill] pass in the House and make its way to the governor’s desk,” said Sen. Barry Finegold (D-Andover), Senate Chair of the Committee on Election Laws and the co-sponsor of the bill. “When more people participate in voting, democracy wins.”

“I am concerned about the amount of money we are spending mailing out mail-in ballot applications when there are plenty of ways a voter can request a mail-in ballot if they want one,” said Rep. Colleen Garry (D-Dracut), the only Democrat to vote against the measure. “I would rather see these funds go to something more productive like free IDs so that everyone has an ID to vote, open bank accounts and get certain medications that require IDs. We are also putting a tremendous amount of work on our town clerks, especially in our smaller communities like in my district.”

“We are thrilled that both the House and Senate have voted in support of the [bill],” said the group MassVOTE.

“Even though this version of [the bill] does lack a provision we have long supported—Election Day Registration—we are very glad to see that popular pro-voter policies like mail-in voting, expanded early voting and jail-based voting are included.”

“As a general rule, we should be promoting voting in person and on Election Day,” said Paul Craney, spokesperson for the Mass Fiscal Alliance. “Anytime a voter loses control of their ballot before it’s given to an election official, it’s possible it could be lost or altered. The Postal Service cannot guarantee a 100 percent delivery rate.”

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

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

REPLACE SAME DAY REGISTRATION PROPOSAL WITH A STUDY (H 4359)

House 93-64, approved an amendment to a measure that would implement same day registration (SDR) that allows people to register to vote at the polls on Election Day and on any of the early voting days prior to the election. The amendment would replace SDR with a requirement that Secretary of State Bill Galvin complete a study that would analyze the cost of the proposed policy to the state, cities and towns and what it would take for local city and town clerks to implement SDR. Under House rules, the approval of the study amendment prohibits a roll call vote on the straightforward establishment of SDR.

Supporters of SDR said that the study is simply a tactic by SDR opponents to delay the implementation of SDR and also avoid a direct vote on SDR itself.

Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa (D-Northampton), the sponsor of SDR, said it is an important tool that Massachusetts can use to increase voter access to the polls. “In 2021, we had one day of overlap when voters could vote early and register. There was not a flood of applications; just a few more people across the state who were able to exercise their civic duty. That small data point shows that this can work and [this roll call] vote shows that support for same day registration, already popular with voters, is growing amongst legislators as well.”

Some supporters of the amendment to replace SDR with the study by the secretary of state said the House should not implement SDR without having sufficient facts on its effects. Others expressed concerns about the ability of cities and towns to implement SDR rules without disruption.

(*Beacon Hill Roll Call* urges readers to read the following

carefully and understand what a “Yes” and “No” vote mean on this roll call. The roll call was on replacing SDR with a study. Therefore, a “Yes” vote is in favor of the study of SDR. A “No” vote is against the study and in most cases in favor of SDR itself.)

Rep. Christine Barber	No
Rep. Mike Connolly	No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	No

PROOF OF VACCINATION (H 4359)

House 31-127, rejected an amendment that would prohibit any city or town from requiring that a voter show proof of vaccination as a condition of entering a polling place to vote or to register to vote.

“If any voting location required a vaccination, then a sizable portion of the population would be prevented from entering the facility to exercise their constitutional right,” said sponsor Rep. Peter Durant (R-Spencer). “Since statistically the majority of people not vaccinated are minorities, a major constituency this bill sought to protect, any vaccine requirement would not only be unconstitutional, but would also be seen as an effort to suppress the minority vote.”

Amendment opponents said this is a solution in search of a problem. They noted that voters are not being asked to show proof of vaccination.

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment banning cities and towns from requiring voters to provide proof of vaccination. A “No” vote is against the ban.)

Rep. Christine Barber	No
Rep. Mike Connolly	No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	No

REQUIRE VOTER ID (H 4359)

House 32-126, rejected an amendment that would require voters to show a federal or Massachusetts picture identification at their polling places in order to be allowed to vote. The state would also be required to establish a waiver of the fee for obtaining the ID for indigent persons.

Supporters said it is illogical that all voters are not required to show identification prior to voting and noted that 24 other states have laws requiring IDs. They argued that people cannot cash a check, rent a car, fly on a plane or even enter some government buildings without showing an ID.

“I filed this amendment to protect the integrity of every U.S. citizen’s vote in Massachusetts while providing the opportunity to get a free picture ID for those who don’t have one,” said sponsor Rep. Paul Frost *Continued on page 12*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Don't forget to shop local this holiday season.

Our View Of The Times



Here comes the holiday shopping season once again, and we are ready to embrace the opportunity to celebrate the only way we know how: with enthusiasm and optimistic attitudes.

Let the political and social pundits doom and gloom themselves into their usual perpetual state of the doldrums. We know how to lift ourselves, to rise to the occasion and make the most of what we

have, in spite of whatever challenges may confront us.

Also, we can thankfully breathe a little easier now that the covid pandemic is showing signs of finally subsiding to an appreciable degree.

While the Thanksgiving holiday reminds us to be grateful for the blessings we have received, likewise, the other seasonal holidays that follow allow us the opportunity to share our bounty and to take stock in all the good things that life here in our city has to offer.

We know that prosperity of spirit is far more important than the material wealth that may elude us from time to time. It may sound trite, but when you really think about it seriously the truth of it becomes clear and meaningful.

As we are so often reminded, “local first”

applies to our friends, families, and the occasional stranger as much as it does to our local economy. It’s a time to be a little kinder, and a little gentler with one another, as well as help local business to both survive and thrive.

We are certain that the rewards to be gained from this will soften the effects of whatever excesses we may experience along the way.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

celebrating her birthday this week. Happy birthday to **Peter Blaikie**, who is also celebrating this week. We hope he enjoys his birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Joseph Di Pietro**, **Nancy Robinson Faulkner**, **Linda Chaille Nixon**, **Lee Owen Grassia**, **Deb Feeley**, **Karen Fay**, **Jason Castle**, **Rochelle Jennings**, **Gordon Crook** and **Steve Prescod** 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 **Somerville Museum** offers unique items with a Somerville connection that

are perfect for **holiday gifts, birthdays, or any occasion!** Visit <https://www.somervillmuseum.org/shop>.

The city will kick off the holiday season on **Thursday, December 8**, with the **Holiday Lighting on the City Hall Concourse**, followed by a **meet-and-greet with Santa Claus** in the **Somerville High School cafeteria**. All children who attend will receive a special gift from Santa and will have an opportunity to take a photo with Old St. Nick. Activities begin at 5:00 p.m. with live entertainment prior to the official lighting of the City Hall Concourse. Santa Claus will, as always,

be escorted by the **Somerville Fire and Police Departments** making his grand entrance atop a shiny red fire truck. Light refreshments will be served.

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

The second annual **Boynton Yards Winter Fest** is happening on **December 10**

with music from **The Velvet Dirtmunchers** and **Al Watkins**, activities from **EventThem**, craft vendors, and free food from **Cuisine en Locale**. RSVP: <http://ow.ly/NyYb50LCRN6>.

There have been a lot of complaints lately about the number of **accidents on Temple St**. People are asking what can be done about it. Should the lane for cars be widened? What do you think?

The **8th Annual Union Square Holiday Stroll**, a celebration of Union Square sparkle, discovery, and holiday delight on **Saturday, December**

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's
Olio
#853

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. December marks the summer solstice in which hemisphere?

2. Ford Motor Company introduced the first moving assembly line on what day in 1913?

3. When is Buy Nothing Day?

4. The push-button phone was first offered to the public on November 18, 1963, by which company?

5. In 1940, which politician became the only U.S. President to win a third term in office?

6. On what day in 1901 was the first Nobel Prizes were awarded?
7. When does Hanukkah begin in 2022?

8. CBS showed what movie, featuring a yellow-brick road, in November 1956 for the first time on TV?

9. What vegetable started to be frozen by Clarence Birdseye in November 1952?

10. Who invented Coca-Cola?

11. What is the ninth astrological sign, which falls in December?

12. The Bill of Rights came into effect on December 15 in which year?

Answers on page 13

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. In old Christian art, good angels were red and Satan was blue.
2. Ketchup was used medicinally in the early 1800s.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

- ACROSS
1. Result of too much pressure

6. Stir-fry pan

9. Steps to the river, in India

13. Hindu sage

14. Attorneys' org.

15. Christmas cookies emanation

16. The Brady Bunch, e.g.

17. Mourner's wish

18. Mature, as in fruit

19. Santa's entryway

21. Holiday plum treat

23. Foot the bill

24. Hot alcoholic beverage

25. Not transgender

28. Frosty's corn cob

30. Attract

35. Bad luck prediction

37. Indian cuisine staple

39. The whole amount

40. "Keep this information" button

41. Coveted letter on a dreidel

43. Dry as dust

44. Opposite of digest

46. Inconclusive

47. Dirty air

48. Diplomat

50. Tallest volcano in Europe

52. Like a fox

53. Lion output

55. Beholder's organ

57. Breaking holiday news

61. Not coal on Christmas

65. Courtroom excuse

66. Golf coach at a country club

68. Very, in music

69. Make a logical connection (2 words)

70. Promissory letters

71. Pine or long

72. Chows down

73. Hundredweight, acr.

74. Ooze out

- DOWN
1. Nile denizen, for short

2. Like Duke brothers in "Trading Places"

3. New Year's Eve option: ____ Spumante

4. Title-holder

5. Take for ransom

6. On one's guard

7. ____-Wan of "Star Wars"

8. K, in Greek

9. Rose Bowl field, e.g.

10. Kachina doll maker

11. Answer from the flock

12. Drink for John Glenn

15. Fervent

20. Giving the once-over

22. "Mele Kalikimaka" strings

24. More sordid

25. Trig function

26. Insect in adult stage

27. *Number of candles in Kwanzaa's kinara

29. Sacrifice for gain

31. Eighty-six

32. List components

33. Holiday song offering

34. Lament for the dead

36. Scotland's famous loch

38. Eagle's aerie

42. Lid or lip embellishment

45. Go to bed (2 words)

49. Yule tradition

51. Pirate's "Yes!"

54. Savory jelly dish

56. English county

57. London art museum

58. Hipbones

59. It's sometimes ignored in face of holiday treats

60. Wading bird

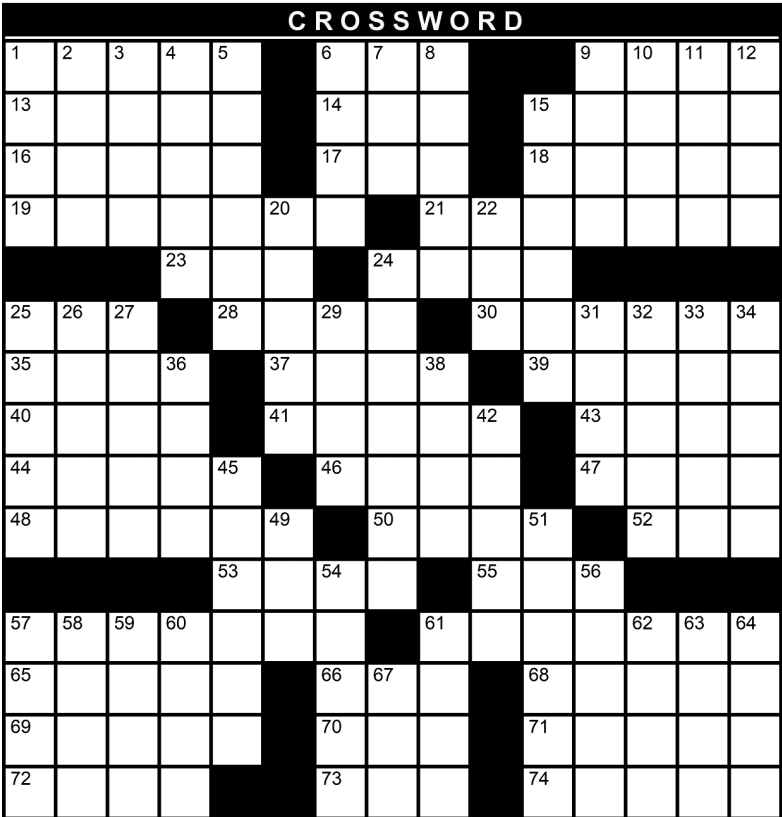
61. Displeasure display

62. Biblical birthright seller

63. Backgammon predecessor

64. Prong of a fork

67. Column's partner





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1-888-416-7103 Offer ends 11/9/22. Offer requires credit qualification. 24-month commitment with early termination fee and a penalty. Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper w/Plus or Hopper 3 55mo. min. upfront fees may apply based on credit qualification.

Offer ends 11/9/22. Offer requires credit qualification. 24-month commitment with early termination fee and a penalty. Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper w/Plus or Hopper 3 55mo. min. upfront fees may apply based on credit qualification.

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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Somerville's best offer Thanksgiving cheer

On Friday, November 18, members of the Somerville Police Superior's Union, Patrolman's Union, Fire Union, and DPW Unions, were able to team up with the Mystic Learning Center to provide over 40 families with Thanksgiving dinners for the holiday. After picking up the food and supplies, all four unions came together to put dinner baskets together. They then delivered them to the families in need.

— Photos courtesy of Somerville Firefighters Local 76



Vernon Street Studios Fall/Winter Open Studios opened once again

CONT. FROM PG 1

holiday gift buyer, there is something for everyone and you never know what treasures you may discover.

Located in an historic 19th century brick industrial building, Vernon Street was one of the first group of artists in the Greater Boston area to open their studios to the public in 1974. The Open Studios event allows attendees to learn about the creative process, interact with artists in the spaces where they create, purchase original artwork, and discover new talent.

The studios are located in the Rogers Foam facility, which is comprised of two buildings on the corner of Central and Vernon Streets. Parking is available in the large lot behind the buildings.

6 and 20 Vernon St, Somerville, MA, United States, 02145.
<http://www.vernonstreet.com>

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
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
INTERIM 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 20, 2022** 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 107 of the Acts of 2022, 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/1471215155116654429>

Webinar ID: 203-777-459

TO CALL IN

Phone Number: 1 (562) 247-8321

Access Code: 630-397-618

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT**Determinations of Preferably Preserved (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)****HPC.DMO 2022.40 – 11 Chester Place**

Applicant: Jim Chen
Owner: Hong Ying Li
The Applicant seeks to demolish a principal structure constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

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

11/30/22 The Somerville Times



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 Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.** using GotoWebinar software to consider the removal of the following public shade tree(s):

- **120 Middlesex Avenue**— Removal of four (4) Freeman maple trees (12", 12", 12", 10" diameter). Trees are in conflict with planned construction activities. Location will be replanted.
- **10 Poplar Street- Poplar Street Pump Station**- Removal of 43 trees in conflict with planned construction. Trees are primarily invasive weed trees. Location will be replanted. Proposed removals include:
 1. Ten (10) Tree of Heaven- (16", 4.5", 3.5", 4.5", 6", 4.5", 4", 8", 5", 5" diameter)
 2. One (1) Boxelder- (4" diameter)
 3. Two (2) Callery pear- (4.5", 3.5" diameter)
 4. Ten (10) Mulberry- (8", 3", 3", 4", 4.5", 4", 10", 4", 4.5", 8" diameter)
 5. Fourteen (14) Norway maple- (12", 11", 16", 9", 14", 14", 15", 10", 8", 7", 9", 7", 9", 14" diameter)
 6. Four (4) Tree lilac- (5", 5", 5", 5" diameter)
 7. Two (2) Japanese pagoda- (3", 5" diameter)

The trees identified above have been posted for public inspection. In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 87, any objections to the removal of any of these trees must be submitted in writing to the Tree Warden prior to or at this public hearing. Documents may be sent via email to: trees@somervillema.gov, or mailed to: 1 Franey Rd., Somerville, MA. 02145.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

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

TO CALL IN

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

11/23/22, 11/30/22 The Somerville Times

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PH: 857-488-5138



City of Somerville
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville **Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, December 14, 2022**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planning@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6539228185885014614>
Webinar ID: 201-677-211

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8422
Access code: 708-197-237

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

292-294 Beacon Street Capital Equity Partners requests an extension to a previously approved Variance (ZBA 2018-118).

231 Morrison Avenue David Fang seeks relief from the maximum height requirement for a pergola accessory structure in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

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

11/30/22 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

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

11/23/22, 11/30/22 The Somerville Times

Local short film 'We Are Here Too' screened by the Somerville Museum

CONT. FROM PG 5

Shephard loves to sing and thought of it as a way to carry on her mother's legacy, as she was a classically-trained singer. But, with the pandemic and a cancer diagnosis, she found it difficult to continue and asked herself "what do I have to sing about?"

Now, she compares her being able to sing as the spring of her life. She mostly sings songs produced or written by women.

After the film, the host and audience asked the women ques-

tions about the filming process and their careers now. One question asked was why they said yes to being in the film. Imagine said she was hesitant at first.

"When somebody wanted to dig deeper into my life at that time, my reaction was 'no,'" Imagine said. "After building that trust (with the documentary team), I was confident that my story will be told in a way that is authentic to me."

Another question posed to the women was what they thought

the audience should take away from the documentary. Shephard said that she feels very hopeful about her future, even though she felt the opposite just a couple of years ago.

"People will always need to express themselves through one creative outlet or another," she said. "And it's never too late to do that."

The short film can be viewed publicly on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/juliareihhs>.



Register for Youth Substance Misuse Prevention Data Share and Discussion event

Somerville, Everett, Arlington, and Lexington (S.E.A.L.) Massachusetts Collaborative for Action, Leadership, and Learning (MassCALL3) cluster will host a Youth Substance Misuse Prevention Data Share and Discussion event on Thursday, December 1, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. To register, please go to bit.ly/masscall3.

Additional sessions in Spanish and Portuguese will also be held via Zoom. The Spanish-language session will be held on Wednesday, December 7, via bit.ly/masscall3span. The Portuguese-language session will be held on Thursday, December 8, via bit.ly/masscall3port. Both sessions will be held from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on their respective dates.

The City of Somerville’s Prevention Services division, the Cambridge Health Alliance, City of Everett, the Town of Arlington’s Youth Health and Safety Coalition, and the Town of Lexington’s Human Services department secured the MassCALL3 grant for regional youth substance misuse prevention work, awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s Bureau of Substance Addiction Services division.

The grant aims to prevent the initiation of first substance misuse among youth. Over the last year, the cluster worked with the Institute for Community Health to gather and analyze information from key stakeholders in each community to inform strategic intervention planning.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

10, from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. www.union-squaremain.org/holiday-stroll. Stroll the Square to see participating businesses light up the night with the splendid **Storefront Decoration Contest** and take elfie selfies with incredible inflatables on the **Festivus Trail**. Dozens of locally-owned businesses await with all you need to stuff your stockings, deck your halls with local art, make your tastebuds celebrate.

Because this winter begins in an **even-numbered year**, snow emergency parking will be on the **even side of the street** all winter, unless posted signage says differently. Check street 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.

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

Save the date for the next **Highlander Theatre student musical production, Into the Woods!** Performances on **December 1, 2, and 3** at **Somerville High School**. This modern classic follows the story of the Baker and his wife (who wish for a child), Cinderella (who wishes to attend the King’s Festival), and Jack (who wishes his cow would give milk). To make their wishes come true they must first venture Into the Woods, which is filled with challenges and adventures that you won’t want to miss. The Highlander Theatre website: <https://www.highlandertheatre.org>.

The **Illuminations Tour** and **citywide caroling** is back. As in recent years, the **Somerville Arts Council** will provide an online map featuring the best and brightest holiday displays. To access the map or sign up to be featured on the tour or to carol, visit somervilleartscouncil.org. Deadline to be listed on **Illuminations Tour, Monday, December 5**. Both homes and businesses may sign up to be on the **Illuminations Tour Map**.

The **City of Somerville** will host a free **COVID-19 booster clinic** for Somerville seniors and their caregivers on **Thursday, December 2**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the **Somerville Council on Aging**, located at 167 Holland St, Somerville, MA. Registration is open now and can be completed here: home.color.com/vaccine/register/somerville. Anyone in need of assistance with registration, can call 311 or the Somerville Council on Aging (617-625-6600 ext. 2300) to schedule their appointment.

The **Somerville Flea 10th Holiday Market** takes place **Sunday, December 4, and December 18** from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. You will find two floors and over 30 vendors of vintage and artisan wonders. Shop local and find that perfect gift that you never even knew existed.

Somerville students are featured in a **Harvard Museum event: Birds & Blooms/Aves y Flores, Saturday, December 3**, 11:00 am–1:00 p.m., **Harvard**

Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. Learn more: <https://hmsc.harvard.edu/birdsblooms> Entry included with regular museum admission. Free parking at the 52 Oxford St. garage.

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

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

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

Mayor **Katjana Ballantyne** and the **City**

of Somerville Housing Division are pleased to announce **two affordable rental opportunities**: one 4-bedroom unit at 126 Cross St. and one 2-bedroom unit at 29 Alpine St. Income-eligible households with a combined gross income at or below 50% of the Median Family Income (Cross St.) or between 81% and 110% of the Median Family Income (Alpine St.) will be eligible to apply. Applications must be submitted by **Thursday, December 22**, at 2:00 p.m. Multilingual applications and full eligibility requirements are available at somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing. Printed copies are available at **City Hall** (93 Highland Ave.), the **City Hall Annex** (50 Evergreen Ave.), and the **Somerville Public Library East and Central branches**.

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

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.

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

(R-Auburn) "A free ID avoids the issues and barriers of a so-called poll tax, while making sure each voter is who they say they are when voting."

Opponents of the amendment said it would disenfranchise thousands of voters including people who do not have a current address because they are in a homeless shelter or domestic violence facility. Other opponents said there have been no widespread reports of voter fraud in Massachusetts.

(A "Yes" vote is for requiring a voter ID to vote. A "No" vote is against requiring it.)

Rep. Christine Barber No
Rep. Mike Connolly No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven No

RAISE PENALTIES FOR VOTER FRAUD (H 4359)

House 32-126, rejected an amendment to a current law that imposes up to a \$10,000 fine and/or up to a 5-year prison sentence on anyone who knowingly engages in any type of voting fraud including illegally registering to vote; illegally voting or attempting to vote; voting more than once; and aiding and abetting a person who is illegally voting. The amendment would raise the fine to up to \$20,000.

"Maintaining the integrity of our elections is of paramount importance and is not a partisan issue," said House Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading), the sponsor of the amendment. "Expanding the existing financial penalties for those individuals who knowingly attempt to engage in voting fraud will provide a strong deterrent to help prevent this type of illegal activity."

"We're in agreement," said Rep. Dan Ryan (D-Charlestown), the House chair of the Elections Laws Committee. "Of course we all want safe and secure elections. That's why we are here ... there are safeguards already in place, in Massachusetts General Law, to prevent such fraud and abuse of our electoral system. And study after study has also shown that election fraud is not as prevalent as some might think it is, or as folks purport it to be. So therefore \$10,000 seems like an appropriate deterrent to election fraud. So I ask for a 'No' vote on the amendment, as what is in place is currently working."

(A "Yes" vote is for raising the fine to up to \$20,000. A "No" vote is against raising it.)

Rep. Christine Barber No
Rep. Mike Connolly No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven No

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

ALLOW PHARMACISTS TO GIVE INSULIN IN AN EMERGENCY (S 691) – Shipped off to a study

committee was a bill that would permit pharmacists to issue insulin to patients in emergency situations, which is described as an event in which authorization for the dispensing of insulin may not be readily obtained from a doctor or other practitioner. The pharmacist would be limited to providing the insulin every six months per individual.

"In Massachusetts, it is unconscionable to think any person living with diabetes could lose their life because they are rationing insulin or unable to access this life-saving medication," said sponsor Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer). "I look forward to refiling this legislation. Data shows that diabetes is on the rise in our communities. The time to take action is now." Gobi also noted that many states cur-


rently have similar laws.

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 21-25, the House met for a total of 28 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 58 minutes.

Mon. Nov. 21	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:24 a.m. Senate 11:02 a.m. to 11:53 a.m.
Tues. Nov. 22	No House session No Senate session
Wed. Nov. 23	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:08 a.m. Senate 11:02 a.m. to 11:09 a.m.
Thurs. Nov. 24	No House session No Senate session
Fri. Nov. 25	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What do you call a bankrupt Santa?
Saint Nickel-less.

The "Original"
All Types Vent Cleaning
Restaurant Hood Cleaning
Dryer Vent/ HVAC Cleaning
Power Washing
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On This Day in History
November 30

1782 – The British sign a preliminary agreement in Paris, recognizing American independence.

1900 – Oscar Wilde dies in a Paris hotel room after saying of the room's wallpaper, "One of us had to go."

1906 – President Theodore Roosevelt publicly denounces segregation of Japanese schoolchildren in San Francisco.

1935 – Non-belief in Nazism is proclaimed grounds for divorce in Germany.

1948 – The Soviet Union complete the division of Berlin, installing the government in the Soviet sector.

1950 – President Truman declares that the United States will use the A-bomb to get peace in Korea.

1974 – Pioneer II sends photos back to NASA as it nears Jupiter.

1982 – Thriller, Michael Jackson's second solo album, released; the album, produced by Quincy Jones, became the best-selling album in history.

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FINANCIAL

WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free Consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 855-428-7954

FOR RENT

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Answers

1. The southern hemisphere

2. December 1

3. November 27

4. Bell Telephone Company

5. Franklin Delano Roosevelt

6. December 10

7. Sunday, December 18

8. The Wizard of Oz

9. Peas

10. Asa Griggs Candler

11. Sagittarius

12. 1791



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Artist Julie C. Baer: A painter who paints and plants

I recently caught up with the artist Julie C. Baer, an artist who revels in nature, as she paints and plants.

Doug Holder: You have exhibited in Somerville. What is your impression as an artist of the vibe of the city?

JCB: It feels like Somerville's cultural life is burgeoning these days by thoughtful young people using a really transdisciplinary approach to social entrepreneurship. You don't see a random restaurant or store opening, but each new space seems to intentionally respond to the local context of the community culture and contribute an interesting, and needed, new dimension, with a focus on sustainability, inclusion, and interdependence. Super exciting and uplifting.

DH: You have a series of painting titled *Weird Season*, created during the pandemic. In the series you explore the flowers and the fauna of the ecosystem. Although to an undiscerning eye there does not seem to be a lot going on in nature, you hear the cacophony of communication. Explain.

JCB: *Weird Season* was my pandemic project. In early Spring 2020, when we all were huddling indoors, fearing invisible danger from outside, I kind of forced myself to go outside every day for a walk around the neighborhood. I probably walked every street in West Somerville and North Cambridge.

I was surprised by how disorienting it felt to see green things pushing up through the cold, hard soil and buds forming on leafless limbs, such a shocking dichotomy between the dark, closed indoor space and the vibrant, open outdoor space.

Soon, spring came on in full force, bravely baring both its vulnerability and fierceness. I began visiting the Alewife Brook Reservation regularly, noticing the seasonal trajectory of plants' life cycles: budding, blooming, fruiting, seeding, dying, renewal. I tried to photographically document my cognitive dissonance by manipulating the composition, cropping, focus, skew, color, and tonality of my casual iPhone photos, using only the built-in features in the iPhone camera – very low-tech. The resulting digital images feel quite abstract yet still organic, fresh, and plant-like.

Initially, I called the series *Weird Spring*, but soon it was pretty evident this nightmare was the new paradigm. I would say we are still in this *Weird Season*, especially in that in March 2020 my family and I had gotten super sick with what we now suspect was Covid, and am currently, in October 2022, after four vaccinations and two-plus years of masking and distancing, we are recovering from a second nasty case.

My natural creative process, at that time, was, honestly, life-altering for me. In 2007, I had stopped painting due to some mental health setbacks, after I'd been making art since I was a teenager. I decided to



return to grad school to study education, particularly language and literacy. From 2007-2021, I taught reading and writing, advised, tutored, recruited, developed curricula, and directed a writing center in a variety of educational settings, including higher education, hospital workforce development programs, college transition programs, and ESOL and adult education programs in community-based organizations. By 2020, I was feeling burnt out from academics, though. And the amazing thing is that this devastating global pandemic forced me to slow down and reset, and gently brought me back to making art.

I was back in the studio, painting initially from those digital images and soon extrapolating, inventing thriving little fantasy ecosystems and the entangled, buzzing, singing cadences of life. I felt freer and more joyful than I'd ever felt making art. Your descriptor of communicative "cacophony" really felt to me like a "symphony." I called these accumulating ecosystem paintings *Confluence* to acknowledge the multiple forces that brought me back to artmaking, and I exhibited this body of work in Somerville last spring at the Armory Center for the Arts Rooted cafe, my first show in forever.

DH: From what I read of you, you seem to want to address the "elitism" of art. You want art to grow everywhere, not just in the 'gardens' of the privileged. What have you done to empower this? What should society do?"

JCB: Sincere art can heal, teach, and include. Making art saved my life, no exaggeration. I have struggled with lifelong PTSD, depression, and hypersensitivity due to early childhood trauma. And since I "discovered" I could draw as a teenager, artmaking has served as a discipline, a calling, an identity, a space where I can belong, where I can

Continued on page 15

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Lloyd Schwartz is a board member of the NEPC and the Poet Laureate of Somerville. He is Elizabeth Bishop's editor, and a critic for NPR's *Fresh Air* and WBUR. His awards include fellowships in poetry from the NEA, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Academy of American Poets, and a Pulitzer Prize for Criticism. His latest book is *Who's on First? New and Selected Poems*.



CROSSWORD

For David

You're doing a crossword.

I'm working on a puzzle.

Do you love me enough?

What's the missing word?

Do I love you enough?

Where's the missing piece?

Yesterday I was cross with you.

You weren't paying enough attention.

You were cross with me.

I wasn't paying enough attention.

Our words crossed.

Where are the missing pieces?

What are the missing words?

Yet last night we fit together like words in a crossword.

Pieces of a puzzle.

— Lloyd Schwartz

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

Tri-Club hosts fundraiser for Project Soup and Respond Inc.

The Somerville Rotary Club hosted a fundraiser with the Kiwanis and Lions Clubs of Somerville at the Mount Vernon Restaurant last week. Known as a Tri-Club meeting, the three service clubs raised money, food, and personal items for the Somerville Homeless Coalition's Project Soup and Respond Inc.

It was the first Tri-Club meeting in several years due to Covid. Rotary President David Worzala presided over the event and praised both the SHC and Respond Inc. "The services provided by both these organizations are crucial for our citizens and make Somerville a better community." Lisa Robinson, Director of Office of Food Access and Healthy Communities was the guest speaker and echoed the importance of these and other organizations in the city that are combating food insecurity. The three service organizations are proud to partner with both Respond Inc and the Somerville Homeless Coalition.

Pictured here, the three service club Presidents David Worzala (Rotary), Haley Adams (Kiwanis) and Liam Seward (Lions Club) and the CEO's of the Mike Libby (Somerville Homeless Coalition) and Greta Herberg (Respond Inc).



Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 14

continue to develop the "adjacent possible" in my creative process. My pain informs my empathy as a teacher, and my sensitivity enriches my depth as an artist and naturalist. And for viewers, art can inspire insight, stir hearts, light souls, stimulate freshness and hope. For example, when I worked on my memorial project *Souls* for ten years, large-scale portraits of children who perished in the Holocaust, I was surprised how many regular folks wanted to buy and live with these sweet faces. I strongly believe the promise of such transcendence should be a public resource, available to all viewers in everyday settings, promoted in every social context, for everyone's intellectual, creative, and spiritual lives, not reserved for privileged, exclusionary spaces.

This is why over the years I have shown my work in public spaces: hospitals, schools, libraries, synagogues, cafes, community centers. I have participated in the DeCordova Museum's Corporate Lending program and donated over 13 works to Boston-area nonprofits via The Art Connection. People who clean hospital rooms and office spaces, who serve in school kitchens, who work in law enforcement, etc., all deserve access. I approached education and literacy in this way too. I want my work to support and inspire viewers to care for themselves and their own biomes, to love themselves and the world.

DH: Tell us about the new series you are working on.

JCB: The natural world is our collective home, family, heritage, and future, yet humans have caused irreparable habitat, resource, and species loss and a rapidly warming climate. Native plant restoration, according to ecologist Douglas Tallamy, is "nature's best hope" for creating self-sustaining, biodiverse ecosystems that attract native pollinators and fauna. The Wild Seed Project states "every landscape must support natural systems." In my *Rewilding* series, I am painting (and planting) eastern New England native plants, and I'm just now embarking on painting the pollinators they attract, one species at a time. Gradually, this collective body will reflect biodiversity, as my urban garden develops into a biodiverse native ecosystem.

DH: I have noticed you have done book art as well. How do determine what art will go on the cover as well as the text? What is your process?

JCB: I have written and illustrated two published pic-

ture books, *Love Me Later* and *I Only Like What I Like*, and written and/or illustrated many others that I have never been able to get published. My stories are always told from the kid's point of view. Of course, they were organically grown from the amazement of raising children. Or in the case of *Lilly Looking*, my (unpublished) semi-autobiographical picture book, telling my own story of trauma. In *Lilly Looking*, we learn through vignettes depicting Lilly's experiences as she grows up, that her baby brother died, but no adults ever talk about it except to say, "We lost the baby." The images are narrated by Lilly's inner thoughts about "losing" and "finding" things. I have often seen middle-school-age girls lying around the library after school, relaxing with picture books. As adults, we understand Lilly has survivor guilt, trauma, and hypervigilance, but what teen girl would want to relax with a book that uses impersonal, clinical ideas?

There is so much learning and healing potential in stories told through pictures, with nominal text. Ideas can slip in through subtle emotional channels. But alas, the publishing industry pretty rigidly markets picture books for readers ages 2-8, so I would get rejection letters saying, "It made me cry. But who is your audience?" I ultimately abandoned the quest to publish my books, though I still am hoping to one day self-publish an e-book of *Lilly Looking* and my other manuscripts sitting in portfolios in storage.

I'm seeing a connection here. I always made my picture books with engaging images and ideas for both the reader and the read-to. I thought of this as nurturing the "read-aloud relationship." As I look back, I see this thread clearly led me to return to school to study education, language, and literacy.

DH: Why should we view your work?

JCB: I can't really answer why folks "should" view my artwork, but just that it makes me happy to share my work, especially if it can provide understanding or healing.

DH: Where and when are you exhibiting again?

JCB: Well, I currently have pieces in a bunch of far-flung juried group shows including in the Fay Chandler Emerging Art Exhibition at the Boston City Hall Gallery and at the Louisiana State University Vet School in their Annual International Exhibition on Animals in



Art. Next year, in 2023:

February 2023 group show

Connections: New Members' Exhibition
February 4 to February 25
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80 Border Street, East Boston MA

August 2023 solo exhibition

Rewilding
Firehouse Center for the Arts
1 Market Square, Newburyport, MA 01950

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