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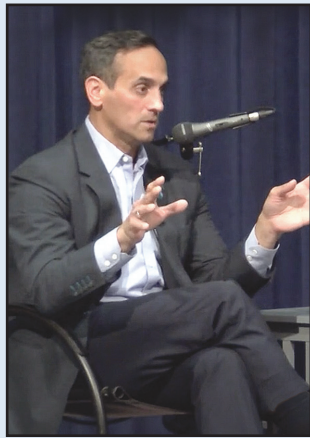
SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:



Celebrating the Class of '71 page 3



Mayor Curtatone sounds off page 9



A monstrous mash-up page 13

Ballantyne defeats Mbah to become new mayor



Katjana Ballantyne prevailed in her bid to become the next mayor of Somerville in Tuesday's General Election.

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

Katjana Ballantyne defeated Will Mbah on Tuesday night in the Somerville mayoral race. With about 56 percent of the vote, Ballantyne became the new Mayor-Elect of Somerville. She will be the first person not named Curtatone to hold the office in almost 18 years.

Ballantyne, who has represented Ward 7 in Somerville City Council for about eight years, faced off against Mbah, who has been an At-Large City Councilor for approximately three years now.

The race was a close battle with a plethora of endorsements coming in for both candidates, from U.S House Representative Ayanna Pressley to State Representative Erika Uytterhoeven.

The Mbah campaign posted a statement regarding the results of the election at about 9:00 p.m. "While I had hoped for a *Continued on page 4*

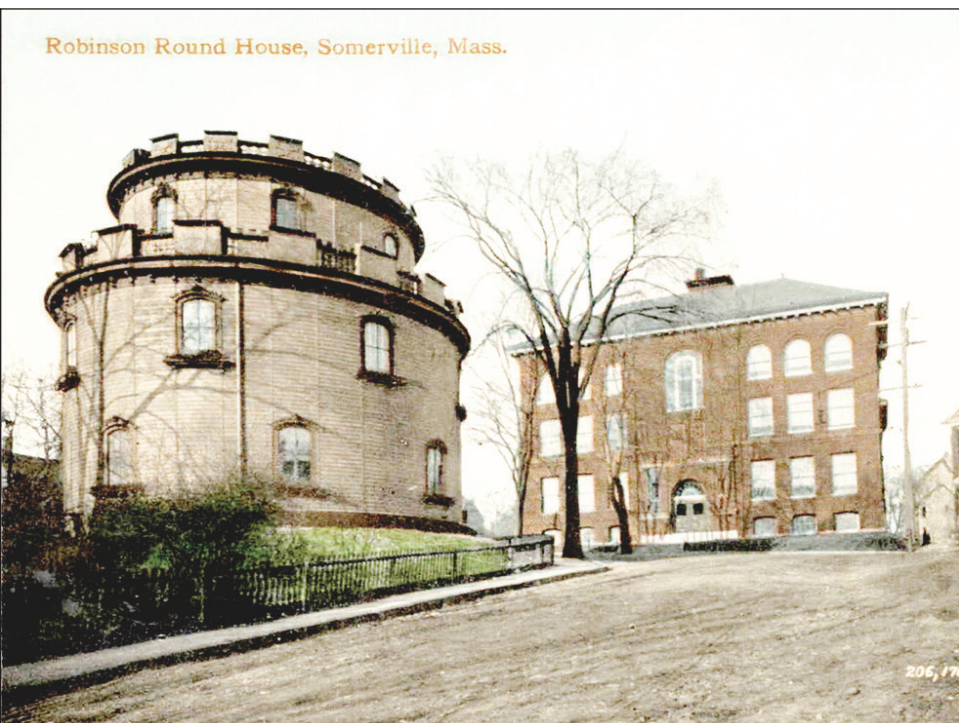
A Penny Chronicles Event: Heaven's Hardware The Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope

A talk by E. R. Butler. A leading hardware manufacturer with showrooms in NYC and Boston, E. R. Butler has not only kept Enoch Robinson's visionary line of products alive but has also become a leading scholar of Robinson's life and work. Currently completing the first comprehensive biography of Robinson, Butler will discuss the innovations and challenges that led to the construction of the roundhouse, that extraordinary building at the corner of Atherton and Beech Streets.

Event free for Museum members with active membership (with code: MEMBEREVENT). To join or renew your membership: Join/Renew Museum Membership.

Space is limited to 35 people. All reservations must be made online prior to the event and are first come first serve. Tickets will not be available at the door for this event.

All visitors are required to wear a mask while indoors. Click here for more information about location and parking.



Penny Chronicles Lecture Series: Thursday, November 4, 2021, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Somerville Museum, One Westwood Road Somerville, MA 02143. Admission: \$10/person. This program is made possible by a grant from Mass Humanities, partnership with the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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Congratulations to those who were elected to public office in Somerville this week, and thanks to all who tossed their hats into the ring, whether successful or not. Every candidate should be proud of their efforts in contributing to the diversity of choice in every office. Our new mayor, **Katjana Ballantyne**, faces many challenges as well as opportunities in their upcoming term. Let's wish her and our new and returning **Councilors** the best as they head into the new year.

Don't forget **daylight savings time**. It's almost time to turn our clocks **back one hour**. Daylight saving time ends at 2:00 a.m. on **Sunday, November 7**.

Members of the public are invited to join the **annual meeting** of the **Job Creation and Retention Trust (JCRT)** on **Tuesday, November 9**, at 6:00 p.m. This virtual public forum will be an opportunity to learn about the JCRT's members, hear about this past year's investments, and give input on future investment ideas. The Job Creation and Retention Trust Fund was created in 2018 to use the linkage fees collected from commercial development to provide and enhance employment opportunities for Somerville residents. The Fund has allocated \$254,000 over the past year toward contextualized ESOL and experiential learning opportunities, in addition to continuing to support industry-specific training programs and workers' rights trainings funded in the previous year. To learn more about the JCRT and register for the meeting, visit somervillema.gov/jcrt.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **Amanda Fee**. We wish her the very best on her birthday. A special happy birthday to **Diane Suffredini** who is celebrating this week. Diane recently was a guest writer for us in **Jimmy Del Ponte's** column a few weeks ago, she covered this year's **SHS 1960 reunion**. We wish her the best and hope she has a great year. We wish all of our Facebook *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of November 3 – November 9 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday November 3	Cloudy	54°/34°	6%	4%	WSW 10 mph
Thursday November 4	Sunny	51°/39°	7%	5%	NNW 8 mph
Friday November 5	Cloudy	51°/37°	23%	19%	N 10 mph
Saturday November 6	Partly Cloudy	52°/36°	20%	16%	N 11 mph
Sunday November 7	Sunny	54°/37°	15%	9%	N 10 mph
Monday November 8	Partly Cloudy	55°/41°	22%	12%	N 8 mph
Tuesday November 9	Rain	53°/40°	30%	22%	N 11 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

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

Tom says:

What about opening a detox in City to help these people? There was one in Somerville hospital years ago. Let's help these people to recover. Opening a safe injection site will enable the people suffering from this disease.

Courtney O'Keefe says:

As someone who lost their Mother to a fentanyl overdose in 2018, I encourage all to begin disconnecting from the traditional "war on drugs" mentality and begin embracing more modern approaches to this epidemic. Data shows that supervised consumption sites are effective in transitioning our addicted neighbors to sobriety. If implemented correctly and responsibly, this method can help curb this multi-decade issue that has taken the lives of so many.

TheoNa says:

A safe injection site is a recipe for disaster. Those who are too foolish to learn the lessons of the current methadone mile in Boston. will just be creating Methadone Mile 2.0 in Somerville. All it will do is increase crime, attract more drug dealers to the area, have a negative impact on businesses, and decrease the quality of life in Somerville.

Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

Sit down, grandpa. The serious adults are talking.

Matt C says:

I don't love the idea of supervised consumption sites, but the evidence shows they work so i am willing to give it a try, what raises my hackles is the idea that its a free-for-all in terms of access. It should be limited to somerville residents and partner with the state public health dept. to document the impact. if its successful it can be adopted elsewhere.

Response to: Citywide parking and curb use study kick-off, November 9 and 10

Andrew says:

"Driving is a normal part of adult life." That is not true for all Somerville residents. Many Somerville residents including myself do not own a car or rely on it for our jobs. Among many of friends who live in Somerville (Union Square/Porter Square/Davis Square area) the majority of us do not own a car. I think there are a significant number of car owners in Somerville and taking into account their needs is important. However, there are also a signifiant number of Somerville residents who do not own a car and walk, bicycle, and use public transportation. Their needs should be met as well.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138



Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

Editor – Jim Clark

Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner

Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Denise Keniston,
Isabel Sami, Rachel Berets, Elizabeth Long

Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte, Dorothy Dimarzo,
Joe Creason, Bob Doherty, Ross Blouin
Photographer: Claudia Ferro

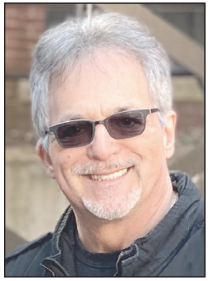
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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

The Class of '71



Somerville High School's class of 1971 had their 50th class reunion on October 23. It was a fun night of food, dancing and catching up for about 50 classmates. Fifty years! Yikes. I decided to look back over those fifty years to reminisce.

In '71 the train still rolled through Davis Square, there were no bus or bike lanes, no social media and no cell phones. At our fun-filled reunion we danced to songs of that era. Here are some of those songs:

Some of the top tunes of 1971 were Three Dog Night's Joy to the World, Rod Stewart's Maggie May, Carole King's It's Too Late, Janis Joplin's Me and Bobby McGee and John Denver's Take Me Home Country Roads.

On TV we were watching All in the Family, Columbo, Cannon and Soul Train.

Back in 1971 gas cost 40 cents a gallon and the average cost of a new house was around \$25,000. The average yearly salary was \$10,600 and rents were about \$150. Stamps were eight cents and a movie ticket was \$1.50.



At the reunion we passed around a 1971 Radiator, our class yearbook. The boys and the girls had very big hair! Some of our classmates didn't seem to change that much. We reminisced about memories of massive walkouts and demonstrations against dress codes and heating problems.

No one could believe it was fifty years ago. It seemed to go by in a flash. We shared photos of our kids and grandkids. We shared stories of talent shows and assemblies. We remembered favorite teachers, principals and building masters.

Bell bottoms, love beads and peace sign medallions were popular back in 1971.

Walking to Dilboy Stadium for graduation ceremonies with my best friend Charlie seemed like

Continued on page 13



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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Shoplifter caught with hard drugs

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to the Assembly Row area last week on reports that a man had grabbed several pairs of sunglasses from the Sunglass Hut and ran out of the store towards the train station.

Officers located a man matching the provided description walking into the train station along with another male and a female.

Police stopped the three indi-

viduals and informed them of the reason for the stop. They asked all three individuals for their names and dates of birth and learned that one of them, Herbert Smith, of Boston, had seven outstanding warrants.

Smith was placed in handcuffs, frisked for weapons, then transported to Somerville Police headquarters for booking.

En route to the station, an officer reportedly observed Smith

moving his hands and attempting to reach his waist area. Smith was told to stop moving, and he replied that the handcuffs were tight.

During the booking process, nine baggies containing a brown powdery substance believed to be heroin was located in the right pocket of Smith's jacket. Additionally, 12 baggies and a clear bag containing a white powdery substance in a fanny

pack underneath Smith's sweat-shirt were also located.

The substances were tested and determined to consist of 21 grams of heroin and 7 grams of cocaine.

Smith was charged with drug possession to distribute and trafficking in heroin-morphine-opium, and booked on warrant charges of malicious wanton defacement of property, trespassing, possession

of a burglarious instrument, construction of larceny tools, larceny under \$1200, possession of a class A drug, receiving stolen property under \$1200, carrying a dangerous weapon, shoplifting by asportation, felony daytime breaking and entering, and drug possession to distribute.

The other two individuals stopped by police were not charged and released by police.

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Thank you for your assistance.

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

Herbert Smith, of Boston, October 26, 5:29 p.m., arrested at Assembly Row on charges of drug possession to distribute and trafficking in heroin-mor-

phine-opium, and on warrant charges of malicious wanton defacement of property, trespassing, possession of a burglarious instrument, construction of larceny tools, larceny

under \$1200, possession of a class A drug, receiving stolen property under \$1200, carrying a dangerous weapon, shoplifting by asportation, felony daytime breaking and entering, and

drug possession to distribute.

Darnell Walker, of Cambridge, October 29, 4:00 a.m., arrested at Newton St. on a charge of felony nighttime breaking and entering.

Patrick Farris, of Charlestown, October 31, 4:22 p.m., arrested at Washington St. on a warrant charge of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

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Ballantyne defeats Mbah to become new mayor

CONT. FROM PG 1

different result, the people of Somerville have spoken and I respect their decision," Mbah said. "I want to congratulate Councilor Katjana Ballantyne on her victory and on the honor of being selected to represent the great city of Somerville."

Ballantyne spoke of her victory and her feelings immediately af-

ter results were released. "Thank you to all of the Somerville voters, certainly congratulations to Will [Mbah] on a good campaign, and now it's time for us to do work," Ballantyne said.

Some Somerville voters spoke about a number of issues that influenced their vote and their reason to vote in this election at all.

Ally Madden, a 3-year resident of Somerville reflected on why she decided to vote on Election Day. "Since getting out of undergrad, I've realized how important it is at every level to get out and vote. I also had a canvasser come by my apartment to let me know where the voting location was and everything," Madden said.

Arah Schuur, who has lived in Somerville for about 17 years, talked about the special opportunity to shape the city for the future. "This is our opportunity to shape the future of our city, and I want elected officials to reflect my priorities and values," Schuur said.

Moreover, Schuur also spoke on the specific issues that influenced her vote in the election. "Safety on our streets, so align-



— Photos by Fernando Cervantes Jr.



ing our decisions on our streets with our long-term policy values about climate change, vision zero and affordable housing," Schuur said.

Madden had her own ideas on what the new mayor should address on their first day in office. "COVID things, safety and

making sure getting vaccinated is accessible to everyone," Madden said.

Official results of the election and full results of other races can be found at: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/vote-somerville>.

City takes aim at opioid harm reduction

By Eileen Qiu

The most recent data from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health show there were nearly 300 suspected opioid related emergency medical service incidents in Somerville from 2019-2020, 31 of which were suspected overdoses.

The Director of Health and Human Services Doug Kress motioned to declare the opioid addiction and overdose epidemic as an existing public health emergency earlier this month during a routine health meeting.

However, overdoses aren't the only risks associated with opioid use. Sharing syringes is the second riskiest behavior for contracting HIV, and about 10% of new HIV diagnoses in the United States can be traced back to injection drug use according to statistics from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

The 2019 Massachusetts Harm Reduction Commission Report stated synthetic opioids like fentanyl is one of the primary drivers in overdose deaths and Massachusetts is in the top ten states with the highest rates of opioid related overdoses.

The report stated the Commonwealth must harbor a culture of harm reduction with the primary goal of keeping people alive. Fenway Health is the con-



tracted agency that provides the needle exchange program for Somerville Kress said.

The first needle exchange program in Massachusetts began in Boston in 1994, and others followed later in Cambridge, Northampton and Provincetown, Director of Communications at Fenway Health Chris Viveiros said.

"Our program began operations in the early 1990s under Cambridge Cares about AIDS. CCA merged with AIDS Action Committee in 2010 with later merged into Fenway Health. The syringe exchange has maintained a presence in Central Square throughout that time," Executive Vice President of External Relations of Fenway Health Carl Sciortino said.

"Our program does more than

just exchange syringes, it is a comprehensive drug user health program, providing harm reduction services including Narcan and overdose prevention, HIV, Hep C and STI testing and treatment access, access to behavioral health and clinical staff for an array of health needs, and support in seeking treatment."

The Massachusetts legislature approved the creation of 10 pilot needle exchange programs in 1993 and in 2002, the Massachusetts state court ruled it wasn't a violation to possess a needle if obtained through a needle exchange program, Sciortino said.

The Commonwealth is now pushing to expand harm reduction sites and pushing for the creation of a pilot program for safe consumption sites, he said.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week

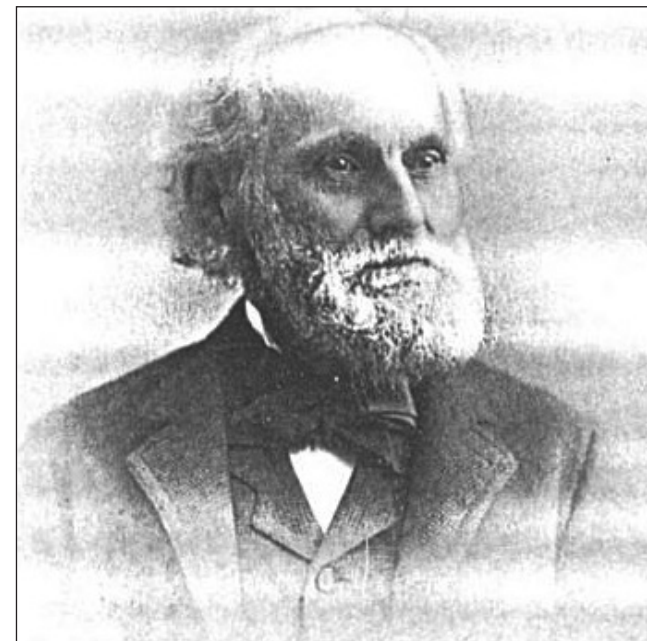


Eagle feathers #241

Holland

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

In the late 1860's the Middlesex County Commissioners authorized the building of Holland Street which connects Davis Square to Teele Square. This opened up West Somerville to post Civil War development.



Holland, correctly acknowledged as the Netherlands, is a low-lying country on the Northwest Atlantic Coast of Europe. It is popularly known for its art, cheese, windmills and its reputation as the flower exporting capital of the world, particularly tulips.

In 1634, after tulips came to Holland from Germany, the world went mad. The tulip market grew, and the cost of the rarest bulb was six times the average person's annual salary. This tulip mania lasted until 1637 when the bubble finally broke and fortunes were lost by the dramatic drop in prices.



Another export of the Netherlands was its name, Holland. Many of its citizens trace the name of their country to America by way of the British Isles where the name is quite common. Samuel Holland, a sailor by trade, and his wife Martha came to Boston in the early 1800's from Liverpool, England.

Samuel, a ship captain was lost at sea shortly after the birth of his second child, Silas Harvey Holland, who is the focus of our narrative. Silas spent 18 years working with a Cambridge railroad car establishment before he began his retirement in Somerville. Here, he bought the Thomas Teele Farm on Broadway, which is today's Teele Square. He began market gardening of fruits, vegetables, and flowers and continued for the next 35 years.

Silas was a busy man. He was on the Board of his Methodist Church on Park Street in Davis Square and its chapel on Broadway in Teele Square. He also *Continued on page 14*

A costumer in the making

Full Circle School student Makayla Lancaster models her latest costume creation. She hopes to go into costume design professionally in the future and has been designing them for a few years.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' and senators' votes on roll calls from the week of October 25-29. All the House roll calls are on the \$3.82 billion package which spends the federal money the state received from the American Rescue Plan Act and the surplus left over from the state's fiscal year 2021 budget on relief and recovery from the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic over the past 18 months.

A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE \$3.82 BILLION FOR COVID RELIEF AND RECOVERY "DEBATE"

All of the decisions on which representatives' amendments are included or not included in the relief and recovery package are made "behind closed doors." Or in the COVID-19 era, "behind closed Zoom meetings." The vast majority of the more than 1,000 amendments proposed were on local projects for cities and towns in individual representatives' districts and were bundled into consolidated "mega" amendments. There were four mega amendments and all but one, which had just one vote against it, were approved unanimously. There is no real "debate" on the House floor. Everyone who spoke on any of the consolidated amendments spoke in favor of them.

The system works as follows: Individual representatives file amendments on several topics. All members then pitch their amendments to Democratic leaders who draft consolidated amendments that include some of the individual representatives' amendments while excluding others.

The categories of consolidated amendments relate to many subjects including programs for health and human services, education, housing, the environment climate, economic development and jobs.

Supporters of the system say that any representative who sponsored an excluded amendment can bring it to the floor and ask for an up or down vote on the amendment itself. They say this system has worked well for many years.

Opponents say that rarely does a member bring his or her amendment to the floor for an up-or-down vote because that is not the way the game is played. It is an "expected tradition" that you accept the fate of your amendment as determined by Democratic leaders. Last week no member brought their individual amendment to the floor for debate and a separate roll call vote.

Rep. Peter Durant (R-Spencer) was the only member who voted against one of the consolidated amendments—the one that added an estimated \$26.6 million in spending on environment, climate and infrastructure.

\$3.82 BILLION FOR COVID RELIEF AND RECOVERY (H 4219)

House 159-0, approved and sent to the Senate a \$3.82 billion package which spends the federal money the state received from the American Rescue Plan Act and the surplus left over from the state's fiscal year 2021 budget on relief and recovery from the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic over the past 18 months. The plan includes one-time investments in health and human services, education, housing, the environment including climate mitigation, economic development and jobs. The House added an estimated \$174 million to the package through the passage of four mega-amendments.

Provisions include \$500 million to provide premium

pay bonuses for low- and middle-income workers who worked in-person during the COVID-19 State of Emergency; \$250 million for financially strapped hospitals; \$20 million for community health centers; \$10 million for community-based gun violence prevention programs; \$78 million to address food insecurity; \$100 million for homeownership assistance; \$100 million for production and preservation of affordable rental housing for residents of municipalities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; \$100 million for infrastructure for communities to adapt and become climate resilient; \$100 million for grants to public school districts with high concentrations of low-income students, English language learners and communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19; \$75 million for capital and maintenance projects for higher education; \$10 million for programs focused on recruiting and retaining educators of color; \$40 million for youth summer and school-year jobs; \$50 million to close the digital divide; \$12 million to assist in the resettlement of Afghan refugees in Massachusetts; and \$5 million for the Inspector General's office to create a public database and website to track total spending, including the percentage of funds spent in communities that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and to track the number of projects awarded to minority-owned businesses and organizations.

"The funds distributed in this legislation have the potential to be transformative," said Rep. Ann-Margaret Ferrante (D-Gloucester), Vice Chair of House Committee on Ways & Means. "Every dollar appropriated toward areas such as workforce development, housing and mental health services has the ability to reverse the secondary crises caused by the pandemic and assist Massachusetts residents in resetting their lives."

"The investments made by the House today address evident needs across all Massachusetts communities and sectors of the economy, particularly among those who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy).

"Today the Massachusetts House once again proved to the rest of the world why they maintain the top spot as the most secretive and opaque legislative body in America," said Paul Craney, spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. "Only Speaker Ron Mariano would come up with a plan to negotiate all the 1,000 plus amendments behind closed doors at off-hours of the evening and not offer any debate on the floor. Transparency is replaced with opaqueness and the public suffers as democracy continues to decline in our state. Regular people have no way of knowing the deliberations behind how their tax dollars are spent in the Massachusetts House of Representatives."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill).

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

\$11.7 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR HOUSING AND FOOD SECURITY (H 4219)

House 159-0, approved a consolidated amendment adding an estimated \$11.7 million in spending on housing and food security.

Rep. Jim Arciero (D-Westford), the House chair of the

Committee on Housing, said that investment in housing is critical to the creation of new affordable housing opportunities and the preservation of our existing affordable housing. "This funding will be used to modernize and revitalize our state-aided public housing, create pathways to permanent housing for those who have experienced chronic homelessness and empower first time-homebuyers to secure a home in an increasingly competitive market," said Arciero. "Most importantly, these strategic investments will prioritize those communities across our commonwealth that have been most impacted by this pandemic."

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

FIRST RESPONDERS MUST CARRY NALOXONE FOR OPIOID OVERDOSE (H 2125)

The Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery Committee held a virtual hearing on legislation that would require all first responders, including police, firefighters and EMTs, to carry Naloxone, or another overdose-reversal medication with them when on duty. It also requires them to undergo training in administering it.

"An individual in my district died of an overdose in the presence of a first responder while waiting for Naloxone to arrive," said sponsor Rep. Smitty Pignatelli (D-Lenox). "In Berkshire County, nearly 60 percent of first responders do not carry Naloxone. When first-responders arrive on the scene—whether it's an EMT, police officer or fire fighter—it should be a guarantee that they can administer life-saving treatments."

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 October 25-29, the House met for a total of 20 hours and 56 minutes while the Senate met for a total of nine hours and 41 minutes.

Mon. Oct. 25	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:08 a.m. Senate 11:02 a.m. to 1:59 p.m.
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Tues. Oct. 26	No House session No Senate session
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Wed. Oct. 27	No House session Senate 1:15 p.m. to 4:49 p.m.
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Thurs. Oct. 28	House 11:03 a.m. to 11:19 p.m. Senate 11:15 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.
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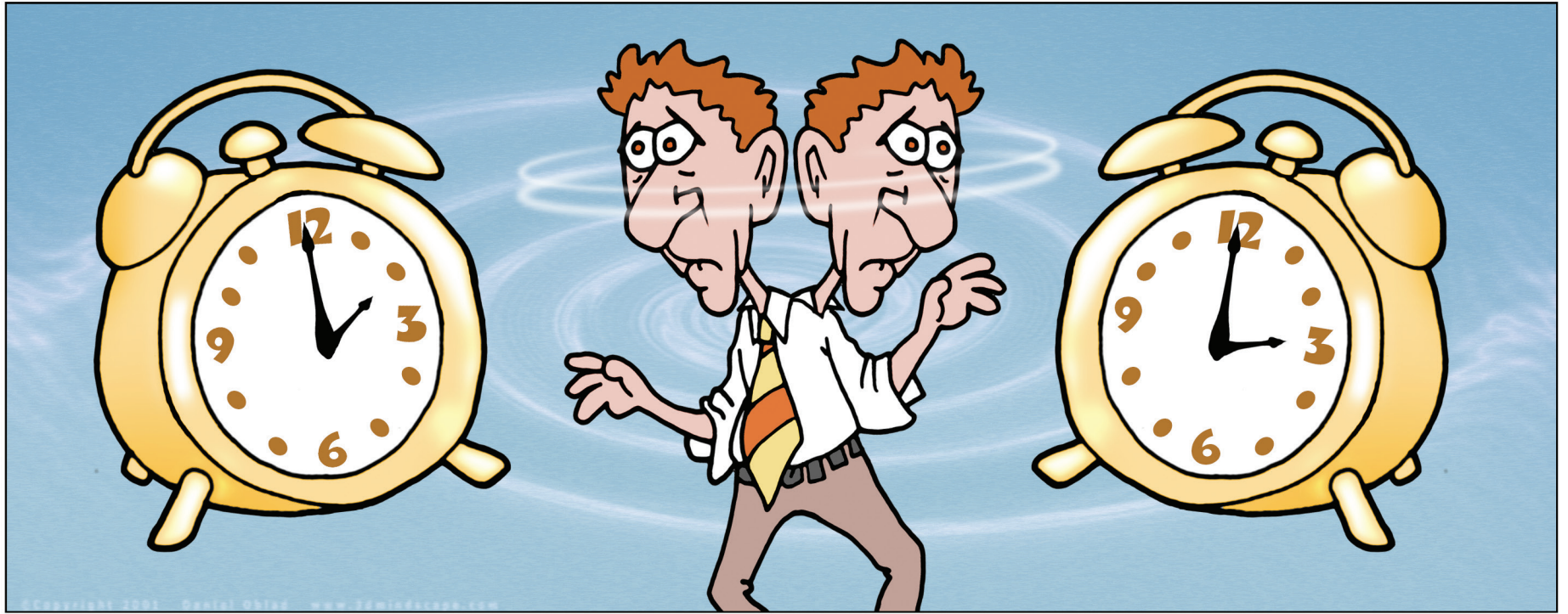
Fri. Oct. 29	House 12:03 p.m. to 8:37 p.m. No Senate session
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Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Is it now or then?

Our View Of The Times

Here we are again, setting our clocks and watches back an hour this coming Sunday. The days are growing shorter, and this will only shorten them further.

So, who thought this thing up anyway? Spring forward, fall back. Or is that fall forward, spring back? The only way we can ever be sure is if we're early or late for church Sunday morning, or whatever it is you do on Sunday morning.

To be fair, there's usually someone around smart enough to know the difference, if it isn't you yourself.

But back to the main question at hand, who did think this up?

Popular belief has it that it's all about farming and the agrarian lifestyle that dominated western societies for the past few hundred years. Digging a little deeper, it turns out that the whole thing was

invented by a gentleman from New Zealand named George Vernon Hudson, an entomologist (bug lover) who highly valued his daylight time and detested those who slept away those precious sun filled hours of summer. Long story short, he got the ball rolling, and some hundred or so years later we're still locked into that bug-loving cycle of spring forward (or backward) and back again. Year after year.

There is a lot to be said for getting that extra hour of sunshine going when spring finally ... springs. But how much fun is it when the reverse is the case and we suddenly end up plunged into darkness by late afternoon?

It's all above the average person's pay grade to know just what to make of it, and why we keep at it year after year.

It's just what we do, isn't it?

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

friends, such as Diane Sylvester Ames, Katie Marsh, Edward Robaczewski, Herc Kalos, Mike Campbell, Betsy Almeida Pesce, Ivy Powers, Peggy Foley Arbeene and Mary Bean Fitzgerald, a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

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

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

Last year, the Healey School received a grant from the Somerville Arts Council for a collaborative art project. Working with Healey art teacher Mikkel Della-Camera and parent artists Ben DiSarcina and Ben Kauffman, students painted canvasses inspired by Chris Uphues and Takashi Murakami. The canvasses were put together on wood panels and readied for permanent display on the school's newly renovated Healey Community Play Area.

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Somerville has risen from 32 in June to 147 in July to 328 in August to 400 in September. Currently 75% of all Somerville residents are fully vaccinated. See the latest Somerville

case data at somervillema.gov/covid-19dashboard. Need a COVID test?: Go to somervillema.gov/covid19testing to find a testing location.

The CHA vaccination site at 176 Somerville Ave. (next to Target in Union Square) and many local pharmacies offer walk-in vaccinations. To find out more about these three clinics and where else you can get vaccinated, visit somervillema.gov/vaccine. Remember, vaccines are free, regardless of immigration status or health insurance. If you're not vaccinated, make a plan today to get your shot. At-home vaccinations available: Massachusetts offers in-home vaccinations for anyone who can't travel to a vaccination location. To learn more and sign up for an in-home vaccination, call (833) 983-0485.

Women in Music Gathering #WIMG return to The Burren (Backroom Series) in Somerville on Sunday, November 7 for a music showcase to benefit Wigs for Kids. Performing are #WIMG musicians/songwriters CiCi Eberle, Jan Luby, Janna Marie Fröhlich, Diane Battistello, Linda Marks, Mara Bettencourt, Marcia J. Macres,

and Robert Lamb. Women In Music Gathering is an artist-alliance group of women musicians/songwriters who gather to network, encourage and listen to their sisters in song. Sometimes members champion causes or share their talents, in variety concert, as WIMG. 12:00 p.m. at the Burren Backroom, 247 Elm Street (Davis Square), Somerville. Tickets \$15 in advance / \$20 at the door (all ages show). Doors open at 11:30 a.m. On sale now at <https://24hourconcerts.showare.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=765>. Use Coupon Code 24HOUR for the best ticket price.

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

Continued on page 9

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#801

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What is the November Witch? | Club, what is the first rule of fight club? |
| 2. What is the fastest dog breed? | 8. What are the three main degrees of freemasonry? |
| 3. Which country singer wrote Patsy Cline's hit <i>Crazy</i> ? | 9. <i>Walk Like an Egyptian</i> was the first number one song for which band? |
| 4. What four months have a length of 30 days? | 10. How many track events are there in a decathlon? |
| 5. In what month does the annual Breeders' Cup World Championships take place? | 11. Who was the first American to go into space? |
| 6. Who was the first American woman in space? | 12. Howard Wolowitz is a character from which popular U.S. TV show? |
| 7. In the movie <i>Fight</i> | |

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Astronaut Neil Armstrong first stepped on the moon with his left foot.
2. Coconut water can be used in an emergency as a substitute for blood plasma.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

BASKETBALL

ACROSS

1. Repeating word on South Pacific map
5. Bro's sibling
8. Dashboard abbr.
11. Fusses
12. *Basketball slam
13. Go "Boo!"
15. Boisterous play
16. Upper hand
17. Part of mortise joint
18. Unopposed attempt to score (2 words)
20. "The Famous Five" children's writer Blyton
21. Basketball player Bojan Bogdanovic or Drazen Petrovic
22. "Mares eat ____" or "does eat ____" sing.
23. One who covers in silver, e.g.
26. Figure
30. Be ill
31. Part of "panther"
34. Capital of Latvia
35. Like helium
37. Quilting party
38. Analyze
39. Dehydrated
40. Litter of piglets
42. Down Under bird
43. a.k.a. aardvark
45. Provincial governor in ancient Persia
47. Argo propeller
48. Subway in Paris
50. Conclusion starter
52. Made basket (2 words)
56. Not a soul
57. Like animal near extinction
58. Greek sandwich
59. Bandages
60. Arabian bigwig
61. Answer to "Shall we?"
62. Bar offering
63. It sends a basketball game to overtime
64. Highland tongue

DOWN

1. Vomit

CROSSWORD												
1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
11					12				13	14		
15					16				17			
18				19					20			
				21				22				
23	24	25					26			27	28	29
30				31		32	33			34		
35			36			37			38			
39				40				41		42		
43				44				45		46		
				47			48	49				
	50	51				52				53	54	55
56						57				58		
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

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- | | |
|---|--|
| 2. Sensory input | 29. Fast-break ____ |
| 3. It wasn't built in a day | 32. Skier's aid |
| 4. Characteristic to consider | 33. Part of H.M.S. |
| 5. Traditional scarf/headress | 36. Reward after missed shot |
| 6. Brick of precious metal | 38. Larry O'Brien NBA Championship Trophy, e.g. |
| 7. Place at an angle | 40. Away's partner |
| 8. Indian princess | 41. Stable worker |
| 9. Circus trainer's poker | 44. Relieves |
| 10. '80s band "____ At Work" | 46. On/off type of switch |
| 12. Remove antlers | 48. ____ Hurricanes |
| 13. Titanic propeller | 49. Creepy |
| 14. Shaquille O'Neal and Wilt Chamberlain, e.g. | 50. Work very hard |
| 19. Halloween option | 51. Use a whetstone |
| 22. Not their | 52. Worry without necessity |
| 23. 1/100th of a rupee | 53. Deed hearing |
| 24. Wrinkle-prone natural fabric | 54. A in A&E Network |
| 25. Warning | 55. The Phoenix Suns did it in the 2021 NBA Finals |
| 26. ____-do-well | 56. Professional basketball league |
| 27. Part of a stair | |
| 28. Old World lizard | |

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Solution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Solution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

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

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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.

Mayor Curtatone's town hall farewell

By Joe Creason

It is the end of a long and popular run for Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone. Since announcing that he would not be running for tenth term back March 1, the community has had time to think about what a new city administration is going to look like. In order to answer some of these questions and reflect on the legacy of Curtatone's 18-year career as mayor, a town hall was held at the East Somerville Community School last Thursday, moderated by Emmy Award-winning broadcast journalist Bryon Barnett.

"Best job I ever had, what a privilege and honor it has been," Curtatone said, "You don't leave when you want to leave, that means you stayed too long and you don't want to be happy when you leave so I'm sad for the right reasons."

Mayor Curtatone's ninth term came during a time of global crisis in the form of the Covid-19. When he was asked about his response to the pandemic, the mayor had much to say. "We had one goal, keep everyone safe. At a time of crisis, you need bold leadership, you cannot have uncertainty," Curtatone said.

Though Somerville tragically suffered 96 confirmed fatalities from Covid-19, the city was her-

alded for its aggressive response to the crisis. This includes the early approach to shutting down business operations and economic activity.

"I sleep well at night knowing that's what we did. It wasn't about being conservative, we were just following the science and the data," Curtatone said.

The mayor also spoke on the economic development his administration was able to achieve, community wealth and the new main street. "We want to make sure that we give the space for residents to develop their ideas, implement those ideas and be a part of that dream of being on a new main street," Curtatone said.

According to the mayor, the vibrant DNA of the city is what attracts the employers and the economic dynamism which makes Somerville such a great place to grow a business. It is no surprise that Greentown Labs, the largest incubator of climate change solutions, is stationed in Somerville, according to the mayor.

"This development is the product of many hands, as it is with anything we do. When I climb a ladder for Somerville, I never have to look over my shoulder because I know there are 80,000 people below me," Curtatone said.



Outgoing Somerville Mayor Curtatone took some time look back on his challenges and accomplishments in office last week at Thursday's town hall meeting.

The mayor highlighted how Somerville was voted by peer cities, some of which are among the largest cities in America, as one of top 15 forward looking municipalities.

"We want to be that civil society that embodies the progressive ideals which make Somerville the standard bearer. A small city that had constantly gotten in its own way and has been the brunt of jokes for generations, can actually show that leading with progressive values, with a social conscience

and sound public administration and long-term planning, they're not mutually exclusive, they're inextricably linked," Curtatone said.

When asked about how he encourages his staff to be abnormal, Curtatone noted that if the municipal government wants to evolve as an organization, it has to take risks and that means being abnormal.

In these times of social change and shifting conversations around race, Curtatone noted some technical steps his ad-

ministration took to contribute to the larger conversation such as the office of racial and social justice, among other policies. He added that this is not enough.

"What we've done is to become better listeners. Not to co-opt the narrative of those whose perspective is closest to the pain of racial injustice which we can never understand. We must re-establish our commitment to the work," Curtatone said.

Curtatone's final term as mayor of Somerville ends on January 1, 2022.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

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

Somerville Parks and Recreation will be holding free tryouts for interested students in grades 4-8 for **Girls' Pride Basketball** and **Boys' Tradition Basketball Travel Teams**. Players should arrive 15 minutes prior to their tryout time wearing shorts and sneakers. Tryouts are free and only players are allowed in the gym due to COVID-19 restrictions. Participants are encouraged to attend all tryouts for their age group. Program fee for those who make the teams is \$125; scholarship opportunities are available for qualified applicants. No player will be turned away due to lack of funds. Questions? Contact rtimminsuse@gmail.com or mantonelli@k12.somerville.ma.us.

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

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

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

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

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and city

staff invite you to attend a virtual **community meeting** about the **Public Safety Building Project**, which will provide new facilities for the **Somerville Police** and **Somerville Fire Department Headquarters** and the **Somerville Fire Department's Engine 3** at 90 Washington St., near the **East Somerville Green Line station**. The project will also include a community meeting space, a new park, and a realignment of New Washington Street to meet Franklin Street. Construction is expected to begin in earnest in the summer of 2022. At this meeting, staff will share design progress of the new building, present plans for the realigned New Washington St., and outline site preparation work planned for this winter, which includes tree removal. Attendees will be able to provide input on the public space related to the project. The meeting will take place **Wednesday, November 10**, at 6:00 p.m. To learn more and register to attend, go to somerillema.gov/publicsafetybuilding.

The **Somerville Board of Health (BOH)** approved a **face-covering mandate** for all indoor public places. The mandate applies to anyone two or older, and face coverings can be removed when people are

Continued on page 11

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com
**Section 00.11.00
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID**

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the **667-2 Interior Apartment Rear Door Replacements, #274146** in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **Reverse Architecture**.

The Project consists of: The removal and replacement of interior unit rear entry doors and frames and asbestos remediation. The existing doors and the joint compound in the walls contain asbestos. The new assembly will be fire-rated with steel frames and wood doors with new hardware. The units will remain occupied; new doors must be installed immediately after old doors are removed.

The work is estimated to cost **\$259,000**.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

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

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, **General Building Construction**, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until **3:00 PM on Friday, 12 November 2021** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

Filed Sub-bids for the trades listed below will be received until on and publicly opened online, forthwith.

SUBTRADES

NONE

All Bids should be submitted online at www.biddocsonline.com and received no later than the date and time specified above.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the **Somerville Housing Authority**.

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

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

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

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for **\$40.00** per set for UPS Ground (or \$65.00 per set for UPS overnight), nonrefundable, payable to the BidDocs ONLINE Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

General bidders must agree to contract with minority and women business enterprises as certified by the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO), formerly known as SOMWBA. The combined participation benchmark reserved for such enterprises shall not be less than 10.4% of the final contract price including accepted alternates. **Request for waivers must be sent to DHCD (David.McClave@mass.gov) 5 calendar days prior to the General Bid date if the work is estimated to cost less than \$500,000 OR 10 calendar days prior to the General Bid date if the work is estimated to cost \$500,000 or more – NO WAIVERS WILL BE GRANTED AFTER THE BID DATE. See Contract Documents - Article 3 of the Instructions to Bidders.**

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT:

Date and Time: Wednesday, 3 November 2021 at 12:00 PM
Address: 125 Jaques Street, Somerville
Instructions: Meet at Front Entrance adjacent to Community Room.

SITE VISIT BY APPOINTMENT:

For an appointment call Travis Panzini at (617) 625-1152.

The Contract Documents may be seen, but not removed at:

Somerville Housing Authority	Nashoba Blue Inc.
30 Memorial Road	433 Main Street
Somerville, MA 02145	Hudson, MA 01749
617-625-1152	978-568-1167

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

CITIZEN SELF SERVICE Is a New Online Look-up for Real Estate, Water, and Personal Property Now Available on the Somerville Treasury Website

The City of Somerville treasury department has launched a new feature on its website page called **Citizen Self-Service (CSS)** providing web-based look-up access to bill information directly from official City records. View real estate tax bills, water (utility) bills, and personal property tax bills online, in real time, 24/7. CSS enables access to official City records without the need to contact the treasury department. There is even a payoff date calculation option if you change the date to a future one. Because it is in real time and live, when a payment posts in the office it shows on CSS immediately. **Citizen Self Service is the same database the treasury staff members use to answer your questions.** Note that payments made on City Hall Systems (city's online payment vendor) will appear on CSS the next business day after the payment file is loaded. CSS also links to City Hall Systems, enabling easy payment access that is safe, secure and free of charge if a checking account is used as the payment method.

Go to www.somervillema.gov/treasury for 24/7 CSS access.

10/20/21, 10/27/21, 11/3/21 The Somerville Times


**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, November 16, 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/4763862144852174859>

Webinar 169-740-939

TO CALL IN

Phone Number: 1 (213) 929-4212

Access Code: 168-922-100

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT**Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties****HPC.ALT 2021.54 – 49-55 DAVIS SQUARE**

Applicant: Somerville Theatre
Owner: B.F. Somerville Properties, LLC
Installation of a sign; Retroactive Commission approval for window installation

Determinations of Historic Significance (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)**HPC.DMO 2021.26 – 38 Laurel Street**

Applicant: Shang Yang
Owner: Same as Applicant
Demolish principal structure

HPC.DMO 2021.28 – 227 Holland Avenue

Applicant: 227 Holland, LLC
Owner: Maria Melo and Carmilla Turner, Trustees of the Gilda Santos 2019 Revocable Trust
Demolish principal structure

HPC.DMO 2021.29 – 722 Broadway

Applicant: Di Camillo Associates, LLC
Owner: Same as Applicant
Demolish principal structure

HPC.DMO 2021.30 – 274 Willow Ave/720 Broadway

Applicant: Di Camillo Associates, LLC
Owner: Same as Applicant
Demolish principal structure

Determinations of Preferably Preserved (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)**HPC.DMO 2021.22 – 9 Hanson Avenue**

Applicant: Brendon Boot
Owner: Same as Applicant
Demolish principal structure

HPC.DMO 2021.23 – 256 ELM STREET

Applicant: Welch Liles
Owner: AP Davis Square Plaza, LLC
Demolish principal structure

HPC.DMO 2021.25 – 2 QUINCY STREET

Applicant: Mystic Realty Trust
Owner: Joseph S. & Sheila B. Savini
Demolish all structures

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.

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

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www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

**ADVERTISEMENT**

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Electrical Contractors for the Various Electrical and Systems Replacements project at various developments for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Nangle Engineering Inc.

The Project consists of: Smoke alarm, loadcenter and video intercom system replacements at four sites, fire alarm control panel repair at Brady Tower and switchgear replacement at Weston Manor.

The work is estimated to cost **\$729,713.00 (including all alternates)**

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the category of Electrical.

General Bids will be received until **2:00 p.m., Thursday, November 11, 2021** and posted online, forthwith.

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be submitted online at www.Projectdog.com. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. E-Bid tutorials and instructions are available within the specifications and online at www.Projectdog.com. For assistance, call Projectdog, Inc at (978)499-9014, M-F 8:30AM-5PM.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority.

Bid forms and contract documents will be available on **Wednesday October 20, 2021** at www.Projectdog.com or for pick-up at: Projectdog, Inc, 18 Graf Road, Suite 8 Newburyport, MA 978-499-9014 (M - F 8:30AM - 5PM).

Go to www.Projectdog.com and login with an existing account or click **Sign Up** to register for free. Enter Project Code **846100** in the project locator box. Select "Acquire Documents" to download documents, review a hard copy at Projectdog's physical location, or request a free project CD.

Bidders may obtain one full paper bid set from Projectdog for a refundable deposit of **\$75.00** made payable to Projectdog in the form of certified check or money order. The full amount of the deposit will be refunded to all responsive bidders returning the Contract Documents in good condition within ten (10) days after date of general bid opening. Otherwise, the deposit will become the property of the Awarding Authority. Bidders requesting their refundable paper set to be mailed must supply a non-refundable shipping and handling fee of **\$35.00** payable to Projectdog.

The job site and/or existing building will be available for observation starting at **10:30 am Thursday, October 28, 2021**, starting at Weston Manor, 15 Weston Avenue, Somerville, MA 02145. To limit the number of bidders present at any one time, multiple observation times may be held. Bidders must contact Nangle Engineering Inc. (gnangle@nangleengineering.com or (978)777-7650) prior to close of business on the Monday prior to schedule an appointment. Bidders attending may be limited to one person per firm. Attendees are advised to bring, and may be required to wear, a face mask which covers the nose and mouth, and may wear gloves. To maintain social distancing, attendees may be asked to enter the work spaces one at a time.

The inspection is an opportunity to visit and observe the site only. Any oral interpretations offered at the site inspection are non-binding. Any questions must be submitted in writing to the Designer, at the e-mail address on the Project Manual cover, no later than 4:00 PM on the Friday prior to the date stated above for the receipt of quotes. Questions after that time may not be responded to, at the sole discretion of the designer.

The Somerville Housing Authority reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any and all bids, or to waive any informalities in the bidding. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after approval of the award by the Somerville Housing Authority without written consent of the Somerville Housing Authority.

Joseph Macaluso, Executive Director
Somerville Housing Authority
October 20, 2021

10/20/21, 10/27/21, 11/3/21 The Somerville Times

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Monday, November 15, 2021 at 6:00PM**, to be held by remote participation, on the Application for the Transfer of a 7 Day All Forms Alcohol License from Cuisine En Locale, Inc. d/b/a Cuisine en Locale at 156 Highland Ave. to Lord Hobo Somerville LLC d/b/a Lord Hobo at 156 Highland Ave. and a Common Victualler License and an Entertainment by Devices License Indoors, for Somerville, MA. For instructions on testifying this public hearing go to the calendar at www.somervillema.gov or contact the City Clerk's Office.

For the Commission
Christopher Allen
Joseph P. Lynch Jr.
Attest: Lori Batzek
Administrative Assistant

11/3/21 The Somerville Times

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CONTACT US BY 12 PM MONDAY
PHONE: 857-488-5138**

LEGAL NOTICES

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



**City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, November 18, 2021**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Planning Board 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/968098416781993232>
Webinar ID: 687-112-763

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (415) 930-5321
Access code: 302-483-850

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

- 44 Medford Street** KapSam LLC seeks to establish a Fitness Services Use on a Pedestrian Street, which requires a Special Permit.
- 690-694 Broadway** Advesa MA, Inc proposes to establish a Cannabis Retail Sales use in the Mid Rise 4 district which requires a Special Permit.
- 74 Middlesex Ave** 74M Property Owner, LLC proposes to develop a 16-story LEED Platinum lab building in the Assembly Square Mixed Use District (ASMD), which requires Site Plan Approval.
- 0 Kensington Ave** 74M Property Owner, LLC proposes to develop a Neighborhood Park in the Assembly Square Mixed Use District (ASMD), which requires Site Plan Approval.

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

11/3/21 The Somerville Times



**City of Somerville
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/861765746771397648>
Webinar ID: 921-829-339

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8422
Access code: 482-479-809

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

- 27 Cutter St / 32 Glen St** North American Development LLC seeks a revision to a previously issued special permit (SP) and special with site plan review (SPSR) issued July 28, 2018 (ZBA 2018-64).
- 59 Albion Street** Marilyn Moedinger proposes to establish a Backyard Cottage in the Neighborhood Residence district which requires Site Plan Approval.
- 483 Broadway** Tavis Babbitt seeks a variance from the minimum number of stories in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) district.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

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

11/3/21 The Somerville Times



LEGAL NOTICE

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to 24 CFR 91.105(e) (1), the City of Somerville will hold a public hearing to present the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the City's 2020-2021 programs funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and to obtain public input on the City's performance regarding its current grants funded by HUD, including the Community Development Block Grant Program, the Emergency Solutions Grant Program and the HOME Program.

The Public Hearing will be held virtually at 6:30 p.m. on **Thursday, November 18, 2021** and will be accessible via the following link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1775468705481758478>

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville should contact Nancy Bacci, at NBacci@somervillema.gov. Accommodations for non-English speaking persons are available by contacting (OSPCD) at ospcd@somervillema.gov. All requests for accommodations should be made by the close of business on **Tuesday November 16th, 2021**. General questions about the hearing should be directed to the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) at ospcd@somervillema.gov. Written comments will be accepted until **Thursday December 2, 2021 @ 7:30 p.m.** and should be sent to the attention of Alan Inacio at the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD), 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143 or via email to ospcd@somervillema.gov.

Joseph A. Curtatone
Mayor

11/3/21 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB#22-15**

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

Marginal Combined Sewers Rehabilitation Project

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing/bids, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after 11/03/2021. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **11/23/2021 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 Andrea Caruth at acaruth@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

Andrea Caruth
Deputy Chief Procurement Officer
617-625-6600 x. 3400

11/3/21 The Somerville Times



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

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States (Toll Free): 1 877 309 2073
United States: +1 (571) 317-3129
Access Code: 818-122-117

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

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



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA. 02141**

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

MIDDLESEX Division Docket No. MI21P4919EA

Estate of: **Margaret M. Welch**
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Also Known As: _____
Date of Death: **April 19, 2021**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of

Petitioner **Robert J. Welch of Somerville MA**
First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)
[x] **Robert J. Welch of Somerville MA**
First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve [] with [x] without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

11/3/21 The Somerville Times

NOTICE OF TIER CLASSIFICATION

**FORMER SOMERVILLE GAS AND SERVICE FACILITY
16 MEDFORD STREET
SOMERVILLE
MASSACHUSETTS 02147
RTN 3-36581**

A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has occurred at this location, which is a disposal site as defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, § 2 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. To evaluate the release, a Phase I Initial Site Investigation was performed pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0480. The site has been classified as Tier II pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0500. On or about **October 28, 2021**, Mr. Charles J. Uglietto filed a Tier II Classification Submittal with the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). To obtain more information on this disposal site, please contact Brian D. Moore, LSP, Carriage-House Consulting, Inc., 8 Pleasant Street, South Natick, MA 01760, (508) 315-3146.

The Tier Classification Submittal and the disposal site files can be viewed on the MassDEP website using Release Tracking Number (RTN) 3-36581 at <https://eaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#/search/wastesite>, or at MassDEP, Northeast Regional Office, 205B Lowell Street, Wilmington, MA 01887, (978) 694-3200. Additional public involvement opportunities are available under 310 CMR 40.1403(9) and 310 CMR 40.1404.

11/3/21 The Somerville Times

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com
Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1
and follow us on Twitter at [@somervilletimes](https://twitter.com/somervilletimes)

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 9

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.

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 Seventh Element: Kidney's Signal and Key Ingredient for Life



By Dr. Ian Halim

Yeast gives us a way to start understanding nitrogen's role in living things. But I'll need to start by explaining why yeast is so important. Not only does it make bread rise and ferment sugar into alcohol, but it also offers a powerful way to begin investigating many key questions in biology.

Before the systematic observation of modern science, a lot of evidence seemed to support the idea that living things could arise from non-living things. Maggots, for instance, seemed to burst forth from rotting meat. People didn't notice the tiny fly eggs. And since yeast floats in the air and dust – settling by chance on grape skin or bread dough – it wasn't always clear that it was really something separate from the grape juice that it ferments into wine, or the barley mash that it turns into beer. The Dutch scientist and microscope-maker, Antonie van Leeuwenhoek (1632-1723), was the first to see yeast globules under a microscope, but mistakenly thought they must be a component of crushed cereal grains.

In the fourth century BCE, Aristotle expressed the theory of spontaneous generation, that living things could arise from inanimate matter. And for more than two thousand years, many believed it.

The French scientist Louis Pasteur wasn't the first one to disprove spontaneous generation, but he was the most persuasive – undertaking multiple experiments, with different variations, showing that dust introduced tiny living things into previously sterile material. He found that if he extracted grape juice from a grape using a sterile syringe, that juice would not ferment. In doing so, he showed that yeast is separate from the grape. Without yeast, there is no wine. And yeast doesn't just wink into being. Much as humans only arise from other humans, yeast only arises from yeast.

Pasteur also found that yeast would only grow in the presence of certain nutrients – sugar, minerals, and a source of nitrogen. The sugars provide an energy source for the yeast – getting split into carbon dioxide gas and alcohol. But why should this little organism need nitrogen to grow and reproduce?

Yeasts, actually, are not special in this respect. No living thing can survive without nitrogen. All protein and all DNA contains it.

For plants, nitrogen tends to be scarce. Without enough, a plant may stop growing, or wither and die. Nitrogen scarcity even

helps drive fall color change. In the autumn, most deciduous trees break down the biological machinery that has been harnessing sunlight all spring and summer. Part of the reason why they bother doing this is in order to recapture nitrogen. Since the light-capturing chlorophyll pigments are green, this nutrient recycling drains the summer color out of the leaves, unmasking the bright pigments that give us the familiar orange and yellow brushstrokes of autumn. Understanding nitrogen scarcity helps us see fall color change in a new way – from the tree's point of view.

Almost 80% of the air is nitrogen, so you might wonder why it's so scarce for plants. The nitrogen gas in the air, it turns out, is in a form that's very stable, called dinitrogen, with nitrogen atoms paired up and bonded together in twos (hence *di-*). Like pairs of happy dancers reluctant to change partners, it's very hard – and takes a great deal of energy – to yank a nitrogen atom free from its doubled state. But it's only once dinitrogen has been cleaved that nitrogen may be used by living things, as a building block for making the new biomolecules that make up our flesh, blood, bone – or twigs, fruits, and stalks.

How, then, do living things harness atmospheric dinitrogen? While humans breathe dinitrogen gas in and out unchanged, special bacteria in the root nod-

ules of some plants can cleave it – a process called nitrogen fixation. This is the basis for millennia-old crop rotation systems. One season, a farmer would plant a crop that hosts nitrogen-fixing bacteria its roots – often a legume, such as peanuts, chickpeas, or soybeans. The next season, the farmer would plant a different crop that would feast upon the nitrogen-enriched soil left behind.

This is the main way that nature introduces nitrogen into living systems, through specialized bacteria that cleave dinitrogen gas. Herbivores eat plants and access their nitrogen. And humans, as omnivores, get nitrogen from both plants and animals. In fact, our diet is so rich in nitrogen that we end up with excess – a fact about us that reflects our position in the food chain, and which turns out to explain why blood nitrogen levels can be used to measure kidney function.

One of the jobs of the kidney is to eliminate excess nitrogen as waste, packaged in a molecule called urea. When our kidneys fail, they stop moving urea into the urine, and the level of urea in our blood rises. Blood urea nitrogen (BUN) thereby serves as an easy way to see if the kidneys are working – a little like a "check engine" light.

Very high levels of blood urea are known as uremia – named for the molecule urea and the Greek word *haima* for blood. Uremia makes us sick, but the

urea itself doesn't seem to be the culprit. When the kidneys fail and urea accumulates in our blood, so do other waste products – making us confused, nauseous, increasing blood pressure, and sometimes irritating the membrane around the heart. Urea serves as a proxy for these toxins, allowing us to estimate how much other stuff the kidneys are failing to remove from our blood – and giving us an invaluable way to monitor kidney disease.

To many doctors and nurses, this is the sole meaning of blood urea nitrogen (BUN) – a standard laboratory test that acts as a marker of kidney function. But our overabundance of nitrogen is a direct result of our position in the system of life. All living things need nitrogen, and we only have it in such abundance because we get it from other living things that have painstakingly acquired it – a biochemical stamp of our position in the system of life, dissolved in our very blood.

Somerville Bagel Bards member and physician-humanist, Ian Halim, writes about how medicine relates to everything from ethics to botany—aiming to make science accessible to the widest possible audience. Ian earned his PhD in Greek & Latin literature and his MD at Columbia University in New York City and is now training at a hospital in Boston.

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in History November 3

1493 – Christopher Columbus arrives at the Caribbee Isles (Dominica) during his second expedition.

1507 – Leonardo da Vinci is commissioned to paint Lisa Gherardini ("Mona Lisa").

1883 – The U.S. Supreme Court declares American Indians to be "dependent aliens."

1921 – Milk drivers on strike dump thousands of gallons of milk onto New York City's streets to protest the drink's varying prices on the market.

1957 – The Soviet Union launches Sputnik II with the dog Laika, the first animal in space, aboard.

1964 – Robert F. Kennedy, brother of the slain president John F. Kennedy, is elected as a senator from New York.

1973 – NASA launches Mariner 10, the first probe to reach Mercury.

1992 – Arkansas Governor Bill (William Jefferson) Clinton is elected 42nd president of the United States.

A smashing 'Monster Mash-Up' in Somerville

The last SomerStreets festival of the year, the spooky and fun "Monster Mash-up" took place last Sunday on Somerville Avenue between Hawkins Street and Laurel Street. Activities will included live music on two stages, "Ghosts of Milk Row Cemetery" tours, a Roller-Skating Disco Party with DJ Brother Cleve, a Halloween costume parade led by the School of Honk!, Face Painting by Flor Delgadillo, Dia de los Muertos Celebration Activities with Andrea and Angelica Menchaca and food with Nibble Kitchen's Estela Calzada, Handstands, juggling, acrobatics, and comedy for all ages with Cate the Great, Magic with Just Felice, Parkour and Pumpkin carving with Somerville Recreation.

— Photos by Bobbie Toner



The Class of '71

CONT. FROM PG 3

yesterday. But it wasn't yesterday. It was fifty years ago.

They may have torn down a big part of our beloved high school but our memories were intact.

Thank you to Rosalie DeLucia for all her hard work in organizing our awesome reunion. We all got on board the

Love Train and had a blast dancing like it was 1971.

The Musical Dynamo featuring Larry Falk provided the wonderful music of the 60's and 70's and more. He brought a limbo stick and hula hoops. He can be reached at 617-965-4534. Themusicaldynamo@comcast.net



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Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 5

held a seat on the Somerville Board of Selectmen for four years. He was a founding member of the Somerville Hospital and a Vice President of the Somerville Savings Bank. During that time, he was also engaged in real estate transactions in Somerville and Cambridge.

In 1867 Somerville honored Silas by naming Holland Street after him. The road ran from Broadway at Holland's Farm to Elm Street at Davis's Garden. In 1883, Somerville honored Person

Davis by naming the land, gardens and orchards surrounding his house, Davis Square.

Somerville has its own Holland, a street named after a man who raised fruits, plants, vegetables, and flowers. One might imagine that Holland Street and its Dutch flavor would be a perfect place for a spring flower festival. It could feature Holland tulips and have one of New England's oldest windmills, the Powder House, as its background just one mile away.

Treasury Department Launches Online Self-Service Tool

The City of Somerville's Treasury Department launched Citizen Self-Service (CSS), an online tool that allows residents to look up and access bill information. Residents can now view real estate tax bills, water and sewer bills, and personal property tax bills online, in real time, 24/7. CSS also allows residents to see official City records and check their payment history directly, and it links to City Hall Systems, the City's online payment vendor, enabling easy payment access that is safe, secure, and free of charge if a checking account is used as the payment method.

To use CSS, visit somervillema.gov/treasury.

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Bobbie Toner: 857-488-5138

Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olio

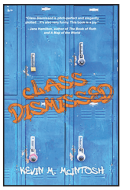
Answers

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Strong winds that frequently blow across the Great Lakes in autumn | 7. You do not talk about Fight Club |
| 2. Greyhound | 8. Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason |
| 3. Willie Nelson | 9. The Bangles |
| 4. April, June, September, November | 10. Four |
| 5. November | 11. Alan Shepard in 1961 |
| 6. Sally Ride | 12. <i>The Big Bang Theory</i> |



OFF THE SHELF
by Doug Holder

'Class Dismissed'
by Kevin M. McIntosh



Lyrical
SOMERVILLE
edited by Doug Holder

Johnna Marcus is a Clinical Social Worker in Boston, MA and resident of Somerville, MA. Her professional interest areas include substance use disorders, chronic pain and adult mental health. Her hobbies include running, weightlifting and writing articles about Social Work and addictions. She is fairly new to the art of poetry but has felt it helps her express herself in new and fulfilling ways.



Wearing your wounds like a crown

Like a song lyric recited over and over, there is comfort in the sadness
A new desperation within you
An idea that says, "you cannot slow down, or you might stop"
Like a marathon of sorts?
Your heart pumping, blood flowing like electric currents
You can hardly remember what stillness feels like
Walking around the city aimlessly
You have no direction, certain things catch your eye
A storefront, people who seem interesting, a park bench to sit on
You embrace being lost, but you never get anywhere and
It leaves you unsatisfied
You have tried to find peace, but it feels like complacency
A pill there, a drink here
And where does it all go in the end?
There is supposed to be meaning, leading you to finality- the truth of sorts
It brings you in with obsessional gravity
There is nothing to distract you from your focus now
You are missing things, but they are not important to you- someone's laughter, their outreach of friendship, plans being made through text messages
It means nothing if it doesn't move you toward what you are destined to do
Clenched fists and an upset stomach, you run forward
You are hungry, tired and hot but that doesn't matter now
You are too far in to stop
You look around for the signs but there is nothing
Staring at white walls
"Just keep going" it tells you
There has to be an end somewhere
So you go, step by step until the balls of your feet cannot bear the weight

Better to die searching than be killed in surrender

— Johnna Marcus

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

Class Dismissed
By Kevin M. McIntosh
Regal House Publishing
2021 218 pages, \$16.95

Review by *Off the Shelf* correspondent Denise Provost

I've just finished one of the most intelligent, funny, and beautifully written novels I've read in a long time. It leaves another novel I've recently read – a former Booker Prize winner, which shall go unnamed – in the dust. On the chance that this novel may not receive the same attention as some of the trendier material out there, I'll tell you why *Class Dismissed* is worth seeking out.

Class Dismissed is a tale as unpretentious as its protagonist, Patrick Lynch, who pursues a vocation as an English teacher in under-resourced public school. "Marcus Garvey High School" in New York City serves mostly black, Latinx, and immigrant students, and Lynch learns soon enough that teaching these students is a low-status occupation. Most women Lynch's age, on the prowl for investment bankers or attorneys as potential partners, keep their distance.

Yet Lynch pushes on, determined to connect with and educate his students. He finds his opportunities to do so by striving to understand of them and their world, which he absorbs with such clear-eyed perception that observant readers, too, may begin to parse and diagram social situations in a similar way. For instance, Lynch has the discernment to know that when his student, Abdul, "chairman of the too-cool-for-school crew," finally turns in his late homework, he could do so "without damaging his rep, for the act of handing in an assignment was understood by his cronies as the highest form of satire."

McIntosh's book, for all its wit, is not satire, but is undeniably a novel of manners; specifically of the subgenre New York City fin-de-20th century novel of manners. Like Tom Wolfe's *Bonfire of the Vanities*, it skewers that city's self-regard, political posing, and virtue-signaling. But unlike Wolf, who seems to hate all his characters (except the beleaguered judge in the final courtroom scenes,) McIntosh displays a generous spirit towards his characters, making his book as humane as it is laceratingly funny.

Class Dismissed is also a coming-of-age novel, chronicling Patrick Lynch's growing up as a school superintendent's son in a small Minnesota town. We meet his family, his brilliant and disreputable best friend, his first crush. We see for ourselves Lynch's pattern of conformities and rebellions in his early years.

In his New York City days, page by page, Lynch aptly pegs his students, colleagues, school administrators, the few parents who cross his path, and members of his various social circles. Through Lynch's unsparing eye – and usually through the grace of McIntosh's devastating humor – we see what's wrong with the System in which teacher Lynch is undertaking to administer the sacrament of education.

Grading an exam after school hours, reads that of "Carmelita Fuentes.... The voice of this girl was so vivid, he could see her....[She] dismissed the Emancipation Proclamation with a finger snap and head roll. Everybody say Lincoln free all the slaves. But NO! he only free slaves in the South. And that's the onnest truth if you want to know. Even tho he's Lincoln he's still a politishun. Just like them all..."

"Patrick checked the rubric. Level 5: Does the writer display a thorough of the role of tone and audience

in persuasive writing? No. Level 4: Does the writer demonstrate command of paragraph and sentence structure, the use of evidence in supporting a single clear thesis? No, no. Level 3: Does the writer have fundamental control of grammar, spelling, and punctuation? No, no, and no...

"He slapped Abe Lincoln down on the stack of un-evaluated tests. Why did they always ask the wrong questions? Why did the rubric capture none of this girl's aptitude or enthusiasm? Why not:

Does the writer display passion for the subject? Yes.
Does the writer appreciate the connection between history and her life? Yes.

Does the writer show evidence of having paid attention in a history class of thirty-five students, taught by an apathetic man with a degree in Phys Ed, seated next to a big girl with a sharp nail file who promised to mess her up after school? Yes."

Standardized testing in a nutshell, stamped with the indelible voice of a girl almost no one will ever care much about – rather brilliant. Similarly, a teacher later stuck in administrative limbo with Lynch sees him carrying a volume of Proust, and asks him, "Is that the Moncrieff translation or the Enright revision?" The question, and Lynch's reply, speak volumes. So does Lynch's assessment, also while under suspension from his classroom, of the mission of those "agents of the Department of Education whose full-time job it was to find enough dirt on [him] to deny him the opportunity to explain to Julio what an infinitive was..."

McIntosh's Lynch is also a cultural anthropologist of the various flavors of religion typically lumped together as "Christianity." Lynch attends a funeral in an Evangelical Lutheran church, where the "organist ponded the opening chords to "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." Decidedly not a hymn on St. Immaculata's playlist, but plenty familiar to Patrick...

"And then the Lutherans began to sing. Nothing like this had been heard in the history of St. Immaculata's, perhaps not of the entire Holy Roman Apostolic Church. The somber, aged assembly broke into the lushest four-part harmony. On-pitch, God-fearing four-part harmony."

Lynch also wrangles with the social and theological puzzles underlying these religious differentiations: "[f]eeling guilty and pleading guilty were very different. One Catholic, the other criminal." He asks himself such questions as "[C]ould there be confession without actual sin?"

As its title suggests, the whole of this story of repeated failure, growth, and redemption is laced through with a finely tuned appreciation of the many – and typically dismissed - stratifications of class in America. These observations are displayed in the streetwise wisdom of Lynch's students. These include the professors' son, who wears his white boy's hair in deadlocks, and plays rap, to the hierarchy of teachers and administrators, in the school, and the city's education bureaucracy.

Lynch's social spectrum takes in ethnic enclaves, as well as the remote world of the upper middle classes in their distant suburbs. These are mainly represented, in his world, by Patrick's girlfriend and her family in Connecticut. He sees them – with their immersion in privilege - as "a people who viewed problems in practical terms, as soluble."

I've carefully avoided revealing spoilers about the actual plot of this well-crafted story. That's for you to find out. Read this book.



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