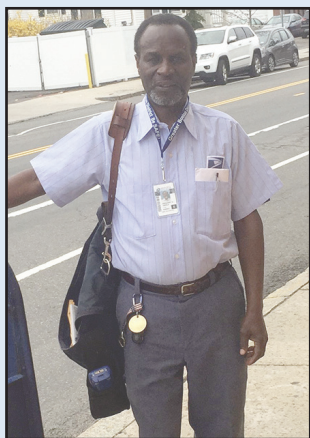




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**Farewell to
Fernando**

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Christmas tradition**
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**The lighting of
the menorah**

page 14

Conway Park update, questions, and answers at public info session



Weston & Sampson consultant George Naslas explained the complexities of the Conway Park contamination cleanup project to those attending last week's information session.

By Jim Clark

A public information session concerning contamination at Conway Park was held on Wednesday, December 5, at the Public Safety Building.

Weston & Sampson, the licensed site professionals in charge of soil testing, and city staff were on hand to discuss the testing results and the next steps in the recovery process and to answer questions from those in attendance.

Representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), who have oversight over the testing and mitigation process, were also present to answer questions.

In preparation for the proposed renovation of Conway field in March of this year, soil testing conducted revealed contamination in the soil requiring its closure. Samples

Continued on page 4

Axe throwing bar debuts in Somerville

By Jared Kimler

Urban Axes opened its Somerville venue Friday, December 7. The axe throwing bar at 2 Union Square is the first of its kind in the Boston area. It invites all people over the age of 21 to sign a waiver, grab a refreshment and throw an axe.

The company has locations in several other cities including Austin, Baltimore, Durham and Philadelphia. Two of its four founders previously lived in Boston and thought that Somerville would be a welcome location. Urban Axe spokesperson Courtney Osgood said the concept spoke to Somerville's "community-centric" and "eclectic" flavor. "It really fit the Urban Axes vibe," said Osgood.

The opening weekend was well attended with plenty of walk-ins. It wasn't just flannel clad urban lumberjacks in attendance. "Some women came in with four-inch heels and they were killing it!" Osgood said. After a little coaching and supervision, anyone can get a handle on axe throwing.

A night of axe throwing

Continued on page 20



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

The Illuminations Tour 2018 takes place on **Saturday, December 15**, 4:30 to 9:15 p.m. Tickets on sale now at **Blue Cloud Gallery** in Ball Square, 713 Broadway. Celebrate the folk artistry of residents who transform their houses and yards with lights, illuminated ornaments, and shrines of devotion and fantasy. 45-minute Trolley Tours leave from (and return to) **Somerville High School Field House**, 81 Highland Ave. This is a new location this year, between the Central Library and the High School. Coffee, hot chocolate and cookies will be served. In addition, there will be craft activities for children and the **Somerville Community Chorus** will perform. Each year the tour changes, so do not expect the 2018 tour to be like the 2017 tour. This is a fundraiser for the **Arts Council**. For more info, visit www.somervilleartscouncil.org

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Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to a great and good old time friend, **Billy Murphy**, who celebrating this week. Big happy birthday to our own **Bobbie Toner** here at *The Times*. We wish her a special day. Happy birthday to **Stacy Hersey Buckley**. We're wishing her a great birthday as well. Happy birthday to **Irene Bremis**, the premier real estate broker in West Somerville. We wish her the very best. Happy birthday to **Kevin McDevitt**, a good guy at DPW and friend to many here both in Medford and Somerville. Happy birthday to **Ann Cassesso-Ercolini**. We wish her the very best of birthdays as well. Our special longtime friend and a great guy, **Doug Carriger** celebrates this week. We him the very best always. Happy birthday to a guy who grew *Continued on page 11*

The SomervilleTimes

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The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Pedestrian crossing flags under consideration for Somerville

Pedestrian says:

Expecting people to carry flags so they can cross without getting killed only increases the sense that being on foot is somehow weird or embarrassing.
Alderman Ewen-Campen's tests with slowing traffic via flex posts are far more interesting and relevant – speed and road design are the problem here. An orange flag isn't going to do a thing against the large fraction of inattentive drivers on our roads.

LindaS says:

It might work, but why don't they simply consider putting up those gates like they do at railroad track crossings? That way someone can just push a button, the levers go down until they cross, and then go back up again. That way cars (and hopefully bikes) would have to stop to allow people to cross the street.
Second choice would be speed bumps near crosswalks to force cars and bikes to slow down. Of course, I'm sure flags are a lot cheaper. But the city shouldn't put a price on public safety.

Jason F says:

This won't help. Drivers are in a hurry and too busy texting. I almost got wrecked in a crosswalk in Union Square one day and I was wearing an orange shirt. Naturally the driver blamed me.

yet another poster says:

Sounds goofy to me. I walk all over town & while people not stopping for me in a crosswalk pisses me off and happens more than I like (leading me to yell or use my middle finger) it's realistically just not such an inconvenience that I'm going to reach for a flag and wave it around like a lunatic the whole time I'm crossing a street...I'm just going to wait for the next car to stop, or the next. Side comment (and likely to piss a few people off): most of those 48% of pedestrians happened because there was both a careless driver and an idiot pedestrian. You never ever ever ever step in front of a moving or turning car unless you see it stopped or stopping, or you're nimble & have a really good exit strategy. If you see a new car approaching after starting out, you stop & wait for things to play out before continuing. It's just walking 101, and I see a lot of pedestrians who don't seem to have taken that class these days. Being in the right is cold comfort when you're dead. The only people I wouldn't include in my generalization are the elderly / disabled / anyone else who has to cross really slowly.

Old Taxpayer says:

Problem is the aggressive driving here which has gotten much worse. And will increase as more and more construction makes people have to detour more which results in them cutting around driving even faster. Never mind how busy they are on the phone. My street is a cut through and they speed right through the stop signs trying to get around the traffic. And pedestrians waiting to cross are totally ignored a good portion of the time. I actually hate to stop to let someone cross the street as so many times the driver behind me cuts around me almost killing the pedestrian. The flags? Who knows.

Sal says:

How about the old saying "look both ways before you cross the street"? My mother taught me that at 5 and that's all I need to know. I see kids (and adults) walking to school with their heads buried deep in their phones w/earbuds and they just step onto crossing walks just assuming all cars will stop. If people looked up once in a while, I can bet that 48% would drop without having to install flags.

#throughthelookingglass says:

How many people are being paid by our tax dollars to come up with these nonsensical ideas?

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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John Connolly

Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Best Christmas ever



One of the best Christmases for me was the one when I got my first folk guitar. I thought I was getting it the Christmas before but it didn't happen.

I remember the months leading up to Christmas Day 1964. After The Beatles song, I Want To Hold Your Hand started saturating U.S. airwaves in December 1963, my transistor radio remained glued to my ear. At night it was under my pillow. That song and others by The Four Seasons, The Beach Boys, and The Dave Clark Five literally changed my life. I wanted to be a musician!

I asked my parents for a guitar for Christmas. Then, on February 4, 1964,

The Beatles performed on The Ed Sullivan Show and from that moment I became absolutely obsessed. How could I be the next Paul McCartney without a guitar? I drove my parents crazy asking, and I finally got that guitar for Christmas 1964. They bought it from Butler Music Store in Davis Square for 22 bucks. Best gift ever.

"When I was a kid, we had real toys," said many an older person, like me.

Remember when our parents asked us what we wanted Santa to bring us for Christmas? We made a list, but we were hoping to get that one special toy. Mine was that little folk guitar.

The best Christmas gifts ever for some of my friends still hold a warm place in their hearts.

Under the tree was a Toodles Doll and baby carriage, Rock 'em Sock 'em Robots and Betsie Wetsie doll.

There were race car sets, cassette tape recorders and phonographs. Kids got the Playmobile toy car dashboard, Kenner Erector Sets, and Easy Bake Ovens. A mini-bike? (Dave Stef was one lucky kid!) Who wouldn't love a toy cannon, ice skates, a Flexible Flyer sled and a walking, robot called Mr Machine ? The big dude with jolly laugh brought hockey gear, microscopes, a Hot Wheels set with a loop de loop track, GI Joes and glittery, lace-up roller skates.

We delighted at Barbie Campers, Tonka Trucks that were built better than some of today's cars, and a really cool Polaroid Swinger instant camera. I remember blackmailing family members with unflattering photos! Some lucky kids got new bicycles! Cool! How about a hand-made Pinocchio marionette and a ventriloquist dummy?

After visions of sugar plums danced in

our heads, Baby Boomer kids and younger received Chatty Cathy dolls that talked (with the same few phrases over and over). There were Partridge Family and other Rock'n Roll LPs, drum sets, and earplugs for mom and dad!

Before man buns and condos, before cell phones and iPads, and before video games and Netflix, there were toys. They came from Lechmere Sales, Sears Roebuck, Child World, and if it was slightly scorched or smelled like a campfire, it came from The Bargain Center in Davis Square.

Some of these special gifts still exist today in our cellars and attics. We may not all keep them on a shelf in their bedroom (like me), but we know where they are. And even if they broke or disappeared long ago, the memories of our special gifts from those magical Christmases past will forever make us smile.

Annual Illuminations Tour/Bike Tour

On Saturday, December 15 (snow date: Sunday, December 16), residents and visitors are invited to the Somerville Arts Council's annual Illuminations Tour. Tour guides will lead trolleys past some of the city's most spectacular displays of holiday lights, sharing stories about the families that decorate and providing local historic trivia en route. Due to construction on the City Hall Concourse, tours will depart from the Somerville High School field house (use the atrium/public library driveway entrance) every 45 minutes beginning at 4:30 p.m. Refreshments, choral music and craft activities will be available inside the SHS atrium. Trolley Tour tickets will be available at the Blue Cloud Gallery, 713 Broadway, beginning Sunday, December 2. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and for children ages 12 and under. Please note: tickets may only be purchased using cash or check. For more information, visit <http://www.somervilleartscouncil.org/illuminationstour>.

The Illuminations Bike Tour, hosted by the Somerville Bicycle Committee, also takes place on Saturday, December 15 (snow date: Sunday, December 16). Riders will meet at 5:45 p.m. at the City Hall Main Entrance. The 90-minute ride is one-way to Davis Square, going past some of the best holiday lights Somerville has to offer.



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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

One tough customer

Police officers were dispatched to the Kmart on Middlesex Ave. last Thursday evening on reports of a shoplifter who was being uncooperative with store Loss Prevention personnel.

Upon arrival, the officers were approached in the parking lot by the suspect, Lesley Smith, of Boston.

Smith reportedly told the officers that she had been caught

shoplifting, and it was explained to her that she had to follow Loss Prevention back to their office so they could process her information.

After a few seconds of arguing with Smith, who initially refused to reenter the store, she eventually complied and followed Loss Prevention back to their office.

While in the office, Smith was reportedly uncooperative. After

speaking with the Loss Prevention staff, the officers learned that additional items Smith had stolen were in her vehicle that was parked the parking lot.

The officers and a Loss Prevention staffer escorted Smith to her vehicle, where she opened her trunk to retrieve the stolen merchandise.

Smith had several Kmart shopping bags in her trunk con-

taining various items, some stolen and some with receipts.

As one of the officers was verifying the items in Smith's bag, with his arms inside the trunk, Smith said "Excuse me," which was the only warning given before she slammed the trunk shut. The lip of the trunk door struck the knuckle of the officer's left ring finger as he tried to pull his hands out.

Smith was subsequently handcuffed and taken to the station for booking on a charge of assault and battery on a police officer and on a warrant charge of shoplifting by concealing merchandise.

The injured officer filed a criminal complaint against Smith for the assault. Kmart Loss Prevention did not wish to pursue criminal charges for the shoplifting.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

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SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

Shukry Juma, of 41 Corey St., Charlestown, December 3, 6:49 p.m., arrested at 1 Davis Sq. on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Thomas Perrotta, December 3, 8:22 p.m., arrested at Revolution Dr. on warrant charges of shoplifting by asportation, shoplifting by concealing merchandise, shoplifting over \$250 by asportation, and larceny by check over \$1200.

Jason Fontaine, December 4, 12:30 a.m., arrested at Waterhouse St. on a charge of felony

nighttime breaking and entering of a vehicle or boat.

Jacqueline Murphy, of 760 Cummings Hwy., Mattapan, December 4, 8:32 p.m., arrested at Middlesex Ave. on warrant charges of receiving a stolen motor vehicle and possession of a class B drug.

Richard Malloy, of 167 Ferry St., Everett, December 4, 10:03 p.m., arrested at Alewife Brook Pkwy. on warrant charges of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license and operation of a motor vehicle

under the influence of liquor third offense.

Joshua Krisko, of 412 McGrath Hwy., December 6, 8:31 a.m., arrested at Medford St. on warrant charges of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license and unregistered motor vehicle.

Lesley Smith, of 107 B St., Boston, December 6, 7:39 p.m., arrested at Middlesex Ave. on a charge of assault and battery on a police officer and on a warrant charge of shoplifting by concealing merchandise.

Edson Dasilva, of 191 Brockton Ave., Abington, December 7, 11:00 a.m., arrested at Broadway on warrant charges of miscellaneous equipment violation and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Hassan Bahia, of 30 Lambert St., Medford, December 7, 2:03 p.m., arrested at Artisan Way on charges of possession/use of false RMV document, possession of a counterfeit credit card, and witness intimidation.

Shea Morton, of 314 Broadway, Cambridge, December 7,

6:40 p.m., arrested at McGrath Hwy. on a charge of receiving stolen property under \$1200 and on warrant charges of larceny from a person and larceny under \$1200.

Hinmer Rodriguez, of 27 Lakehill Ave., Arlington, December 8, 5:55 p.m., arrested at Alewife Brook Pkwy. on charges of operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor third offense, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Conway Park update, questions, and answers at public info session

CONT. FROM PG 1

taken at various locations and depths identified contamination including lead and PCBs, some of which exceeded regulatory limits.

In accordance with state and federal guidelines and at the recommendation of the city's consultant, additional testing would have to be conducted. Once testing results were determined, the city worked with the consultants as well as the MA Department of Environmental Protection and EPA to determine what remediation is required, as the field remained closed until that remediation is complete.

The site is now managed under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan and is also regulated under both the MCP and EPA's Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

At last week's information session, Weston & Sampson provided a comprehensive overview including site history, the assessment process, regulatory overview, findings and draft data presentation, next steps, and then took questions from those in attendance.

Director of Parks and Open Spaces and Manager for the Conway Park Project Arn Franzen led off the session by introducing Weston & Sampson consultant George Naslas, who emphasized that the main purpose of the information session was to provide an update on the data collected since March.

Naslas then explained some of the background and history of the site and the discovery of the soil contaminants.

According to Naslas, the discovery of soil contaminants

occurred while preparing to repair a retaining wall in the southeast corner of the park. The soil was tested at that time in order to determine what type of contaminants might be encountered during the renovation process.

Elevated level of lead and PCBs were subsequently discovered at relatively high concentrations across the park. At that point, it was determined that the park should be shut down and access restricted while testing was conducted to find out how severe the contamination was.

Naslas explained that the site had a history of industrial usage, which included a bleachery and dye works in the 1800's, up to the early 1930's. The site was first converted to a playing field sometime in the 1950's and was renovated once in 1976 and

again in 2001.

Naslas explained that the site is regulated by both Mass DEP and the EPA, making the cleanup process a highly regulated operation.

Naslas went through a typical cleanup timeline, explaining that the first year's activities consist of preliminary response actions and initial assessments. Following tier classification, the cleanup process can often take as long as five years for the cleanup to be completed.

The presentation included detailed charts which graphically represent the various levels of contaminant concentrations throughout the park. Ultimately, it appeared to the consultancy experts that some areas of the site appeared to be more of a risk than others.

Naslas said that at this time

the exact procedures involved in the cleanup have not yet been fully determined and that this is part of the ongoing effort that is underway currently.

During the question and answer portion of the session, members of the public were primarily concerned with knowing how much exposure to contaminants has been possible in past years, as well as how deep the cleanup process must go in order to assure public safety.

Naslas again reiterated that the exact details of these issues are yet to be precisely determined. He also emphasized the importance of getting the analysis and assessment phase of the operation right in the initial phase of the cleanup planning.

A video of the full session is available for viewing via the city's website.

Somerville Heroes by Stephanie Hirsch

Carrier of mail, connections, and good will – Fernando Varela



In a new monthly column, I will highlight Somerville's local heroes who, in so many different ways, make our community better. They extend kindness, sit with a stranger, shovel out a neighbor's car, or solve an extra challenging problem. They show up, do the work that needs doing, and stay until the job is done. They can be any age or any background, and they don't need any special skillset.

Here are a few people I'd like to recognize for this month:

Carrier of Mail, Connections, and Good Will - Fernando Varela: A Spring Hill resident, Donene Williams, recently shared the news that her long-serving and beloved mail carrier retired. When Fernando Varela retired, he mailed a letter to each customer that read: "For most of my friends, April 27th was my last day delivering mail to your house. It was my retirement day. So, for a while, I have not seen my good friends. I really miss you all. Not seeing you on a daily basis

is one of the changes in my life. I am just wondering how many of you are saying, 'Fernando forgot all about us.' Believe me, for many reasons, I cannot forget any of you. I cannot forget that through the years that I delivered mail to you, when I was thirsty, always someone got me a cold drink. When I was exhausted or maybe upset with some aspect of my job, someone encouraged me with a friendly conversation or said thank you for your service. It is my honor to say some of you made me feel exceptional by giving special greetings. My friends, you are always in my heart. Thank you for your kindness."

"He was a community builder just by being kind and working hard"

Fernando said that he delivered mail for 16 years in the Spring Hill neighborhood – including Porter, Linden, and Cedar – and was happy to serve a neighborhood he cared about. Donene said that one of the best gifts that Fernando brought their neighborhood was helping neighbors connect with one another. All of the neighbors had their own connection with



Retired Somerville mail carrier Fernando Varela.

Fernando in common, and that made it easier for them to connect with one another. "He was a community builder just by being kind and working hard," Donene said. Fernando immigrated to the United States from Cape Verde many years ago, and he recently traveled to Portugal to celebrate his retirement. We wish you much joy and many blessings in your retirement, Fernando, and deep gratitude for your service!

When one person heard this story about Fernando, she had this reflection: "As I read Fernando's message, I first thought, 'I would like to live in that Somerville neighborhood!' Then, I realized that each of us can make our neighborhood like Fernando's, by treating our neighbors and the people who are a part of our daily lives with the caring and kindness we share with one another." Very true –we can be the bridge-builders and problem solvers ourselves, and we can also celebrate others who contribute.

New Post-Halloween Tradition: We just passed the Thanksgiving holiday,

but I'm going to look back again to earlier this month. A few days after Halloween, a group of kids I know started a new tradition. They had visited all their neighbors on Halloween to collect to candy. Then a few days later, they decided to crush the candy and mix it into to chocolate-chip-plus-candy cookies. They delivered the Halloween cookies to those same neighbors. I hope this new tradition of giving catches on.

Check back next month for more community heroes and champions of all different types and gifts ... maybe even someone on your block! Do you have someone you think should be featured? Contact me at stephanie@stephanieforsomerville.org (And you can sign up for my monthly newsletter here: <https://tinyurl.com/StephanieHirschBOAUpdates>).

And in the meantime, let's let the spirit of community draw us closer together, and make us slower to aggravate and ready for a cup of coffee with a friend or stranger.

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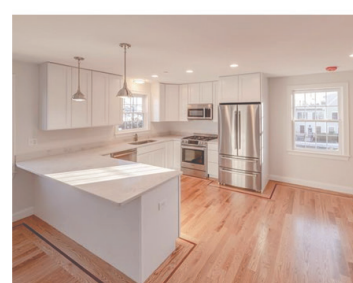
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THE HOUSE AND SENATE: There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

ALLOW THE SALE OF LOTTERY TICKETS ONLINE – Front and center up on Beacon Hill last week: Treasurer Deb Goldberg continued her campaign to allow the state’s Lottery to sell tickets online. She told a budget panel that Lottery sales have begun to drop, citing the record \$1.035 billion it generated in 2017 and the drop to \$997 million in fiscal 2018.

Of the 44 states with lotteries, 11 of them now offer online purchases. New Hampshire started selling on-line in September and in just 12 weeks, the state posted over \$1.3 million in net gaming revenue from online sales alone. “The landscape has shifted and technology has transformed every aspect of our lives,” said Goldberg. I am confident that our Lottery will continue to maximize its performance, maintain current revenues, and meet the need for unrestricted local aid – but all of us as partners must take the next steps together.”

Goldberg said the next step is to allow the Lottery to go online to cater to the new and younger market which is used to doing everything online. “We need to provide the Lottery with the tools and resources necessary to win new customers, utilizing digital marketing and providing frictionless transactions through cashless purchasing options.”

Goldberg, a former retailer, said she wants to make sure the state protects the retail stores that sell tickets — particularly convenience store operators, gas stations and quick-marts. “Done right, an online Lottery will help them – directing new customers through their doors,” said the treasurer.

“If we want to uphold our commitment to supplying reliable local aid to our cities and towns, we have no choice but to respond proactively to these challenges,” said Goldberg.

The opposition is determined to keep the ban on online sales. “It’s ridiculous and disgraceful and will undoubtedly be a waste of money for people that don’t have the money to waste,” said Sen. Kathleen O’Connor Ives (D-Newburyport). “I’d hope that Massachusetts had ways of raising revenue that didn’t exacerbate addictive activities like gambling, but I guess that would require the thoughtful, difficult work of tax reform.”

“We believe good state public policy should incentivize our consumers to spend in our economy with our local small businesses,” said opponent Jon Hurst, President of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts. “Consumers represent 70 percent of the economy and the commonwealth should recognize the importance of impulse buys when spending locally with a brick and mortar employer. To take the traffic away from small businesses will mean lower sales on a variety of consumer products.”

In 2016, the Senate approved an amendment that allowed online Lottery sales. However, the measure was never taken up by the House and it died.

2016 SENATE VOTE ON ALLOWING ONLINE LOTTERY SALES

Here is how local senators voted on the 2016 amendment that would authorize online Lottery sales.

(A “Yes” vote is for allowing online sales. A “No” vote is against allowing it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No
ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

PROTECTION FOR WORKERS (H 4988) - The House approved and sent to the Senate a bill requiring the state to set up an employer-funded benefit plan for employees locked out in a labor dispute. The bill was approved as more than 1,200 National Grid employees are still locked out of their jobs and whose unemployment benefits are scheduled to run out in January. Under the program, locked out workers would receive the same weekly amount they are now receiving under the state’s current unemployment system until the lockout is resolved. All costs of the program would be paid by the employer who would be prohibited from passing that cost along to ratepayers.

“I’m glad that the House advanced a bill ... to create a program to extend the benefits for these workers,” said House Speaker Robert DeLeo (D-Winthrop). “In addition to providing relief and security to these workers and their families, we built in protections for taxpayers and ratepayers — assuring that the cost of these benefits falls solely on the employer responsible for the lockout.”

National Grid President Marcy Reed did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* for a comment.

MILLENNIALS’ PLAN FOR 100 PERCENT RENEWABLE FUTURE - Many of the state’s leaders from the millennial generation gathered at Boston University’s BUild Lab for discussions on how to transition Massachusetts to a 100 percent renewable energy supply for electricity, heating and transportation.

“As millennials, the way our society produces and consumes energy will affect our lives for decades to come,” said Ben Hellerstein, State Director of the Environment Massachusetts Research and Policy Center. “The good news is that we have the power to do something about it. Millennials are showing that a future powered entirely by renewable energy is attainable.”

“This is the most critical issue of our time, especially for millennials, since we are the ones who will have to breathe the air and drink the water in 30, 40, 50 years,” said Sen. Eric Lesser (D-Longmeadow). “The window of time when we can actually do something to prevent the disastrous effects of fossil fuels is closing rapidly, so this is an all-hands-on-deck situation. Summits like these that bring together policymakers, energy experts and advocates are important for finding solutions and building the momentum we need to make change.”

BILLS SENT TO STUDY – Many legislative committees shipped off several bills to a study committee in the 2017-2018 session. Most measures that are sent to a study committee are never actually studied and are essentially defeated. Here are some of the bills that were sent to a study committee and will likely be refiled by their sponsors in 2019:

DEDUCT COLLEGE TUITION (H 1582) - Allows taxpayers to annually deduct an amount equal to 50 percent of the cost of tuition and fee payments made to a college or university in which the taxpayer or a dependent is enrolled.

TAX INCENTIVE FOR EMPLOYERS TO HELP EMPLOYEES WITH STUDENT LOANS (S 1516) - Gives employers an annual tax deduction of

up to \$2,000 for helping an employee pay off his or her student loan.

FREE COLLEGE TUITION (H 3000) – Gives all public college students free tuition for one year, other than the first year. The scholarships would be available to Bay State residents in need of financial assistance whose family income is less than twice the state’s median family income. The state’s current estimated family income is \$75,000 which would mean that students with family incomes of \$150,000 or more would be ineligible.

TASERS (H 1249) - Allows people who have a firearms license to also possess and use a Taser, also known as a stun gun, for self-defense. The person must be 18 years of age or older and have completed a 4-hour training session in the use of a Taser. The training session would include an explanation of self-defense, a review of the mechanics of a Taser and the effects of the weapons on individuals with pre-existing medical conditions.

In March 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a Massachusetts law that prohibits citizens from possessing and using a Taser violates the Second Amendment.

Supporters of the bill say it would put the Bay State in compliance with the Second Amendment. They note that it is essential that individuals have the right of self-defense. They argue that the device is designed to incapacitate, not kill, an attacker at short range and relieves the shooter from the possibility of harming an attacker or another person by mistake.

Opponents say Tasers do not belong in the hands of non-law enforcement people. They note that Tasers have killed and seriously injured many victims.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“The truth is, whenever anyone, anywhere, is suffering from substance use disorder from the opioid epidemic, it’s not just their problem. We all pay the price.” — *U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams addressing law enforcement and health care leaders in Boston.*

“You know what? I don’t have any advice. Just take it a day at a time.” — *Outgoing House Ways and Means Committee Chair Rep. Jeff Sanchez (D-Boston) when asked what advice he would give the next chair of the committee. Sanchez lost the September primary to Democrat Nika Elu-gardo and will be leaving the House in January.*

“Yes. It’s systemic with the organization. The Bureau of Prisons does not provide the health care needed, not just for me, but for anybody.” — *Former House Speaker Sal DiMasi on his new role as an advocate for the better treatment of prisoners. He served five years of an 8-year sentence for public corruption and after a long fight for his freedom was released from prison because of his declining health.*

“We don’t know if that trend will continue at that pace once more stores open. We’ll continue to track that.” — *Revenue Commissioner Christopher Harding on the announcement that in the first 12 days of business, the only two retail marijuana shops generated an astounding \$4.8 million in gross sales.*

“The evidence is clear our roads are becoming more dangerous and deadly. At a time when hands-free technology is widely available and affordable, there is no reason why we should refrain from requiring hands-free usage to save lives and help police enforce the law.” — *Sen.*

Beacon Hill Roll Call

continued

Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford) on pushing for House passage of his Senate-approved bill prohibiting all drivers from using a hand-held cell phone but allowing them to use a hands-free one. The bill is stuck in the House Ways and Means Committee.

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 im-

portant 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 December 3-7, the House met for a total of 21 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 56 minutes.

Mon. December 3 House 11:00 a.m. to 11:09 a.m.

Senate 11:04 a.m. to 11:48 a.m.

Tues. December 4 No House session
No Senate session

Wed. December 5 No House session
No Senate session

Thurs. December 6 House 11:04 a.m. to 11:16 a.m.
Senate 11:10 a.m. to 11:22 a.m.

Fri. December 7 No House session
No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Allen Street Playground community meeting

Please join the Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, Ward 2 Alderman JT Scott, and Alderman at Large Stephanie Hirsch for the third in a series of community meetings, on Tuesday, December 18, to review renovation plans and the proposed construction schedule for the new Allen Street Playground.

The meeting is scheduled for 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Academy Room at the Public Safety Building at 220 Washington St.

For more information or with any questions about the project, please contact Arn Franzen at AFranzen@somervillema.gov.

Lincoln Park design review community meeting

Please join the Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, Ward 2 Alderman JT Scott, and Alderman at Large Stephanie Hirsch for a community meeting on Monday, December 17, for an update on remaining work to be completed at Lincoln Park in the Spring of 2019.

The meeting is scheduled for 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Argenziano School cafeteria, 290 Washington St.

For more information or with any questions about the project, please contact Arn Franzen at AFranzen@somervillema.gov.

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Recent Single Family Homes Sold in Somerville Over the Past Month:

MLS#	Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price
72359299	67 Albion St	8 room, 4 bed, 2f 0h bath Colonial	51	\$750,000	\$700,000
72395569	14 Bonner Ave	9 room, 6 bed, 1f 0h bath Antique	17	\$819,900	\$800,000
72405148	38 Putnam Street	7 room, 4 bed, 2f 0h bath Victorian	6	\$824,900	\$905,000
72326886	47 Madison St	9 room, 4 bed, 1f 0h bath Colonial	111	\$825,000	\$750,000
72394153	88 Properzi Way	8 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath Antique	7	\$1,050,000	\$1,600,000

Recent Condominiums Sold in Somerville Over the Past Month:

MLS#	Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price
72389189	221 Beacon Street U:1	6 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath Townhouse	14	\$1,035,000	\$1,050,000
72383607	132 Perkins St U:1	6 room, 3 bed, 3f 1h bath Townhouse	19	\$1,049,900	\$1,050,000
72394810	6 Beacon St U:3	6 room, 2 bed, 2f 1h bath Townhouse	6	\$1,100,000	\$1,180,000
72387625	50 Howard St U:5	3 room, 1 bed, 1f 0h bath Loft	39	\$1,299,000	\$1,225,000
72389196	41 Claremon St U:41	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath Townhouse	6	\$1,375,000	\$1,380,000
72401521	9-11 Sherman Ct U:11	7 room, 4 bed, 3f 1h bath Townhouse	25	\$1,419,000	\$1,419,000
72343098	27 Woodbine Street U:27	8 room, 3 bed, 3f 1h bath Mid-Rise	4	\$1,475,000	\$1,472,705
72368634	52 Porter St U:2	8 room, 3 bed, 3f 1h bath 2/3 Family	48	\$1,475,000	\$1,460,000

Recent Multi-Family Homes Sold in Somerville Over the Past Month:

MLS#	Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price
72398966	24-26 Chandler	2 unit, 15 total room, 10 total bedroom Duplex	7	\$1,450,000	\$1,450,000
72398088	52 Clarendon Ave	3 unit, 15 total room, 6 total bedroom 3 Family	19	\$1,475,000	\$1,475,000
72323050	36 Munroe St	4 unit, 19 total room, 8 total bedroom 4 Family	15	\$1,488,000	\$1,671,100
72391519	70 Line St	3 unit, 18 total room, 12 total bedroom 3 Family	76	\$1,775,000	\$1,862,000
72375189	111 Summer Street	4 unit, 13 total room, 4 total bedroom 4 Family	29	\$1,799,999	\$1,500,000
72295311	40 Laurel St	2 unit, 11 total room, 6 total bedroom 2 Family	189	\$2,199,999	\$2,000,000
72344245	160-166 Broadway	12 unit, 44 total room, 24 total bedroom 5-9 Family	82	\$3,650,000	\$3,200,000

OBITUARY

Arnold ‘Bud’ Knox Jr.



Arnold “Bud” Knox Jr. of Lexington, formerly of Reading, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 4, 2018, surrounded by his loving family. Beloved husband of 70 years to Evelyn M. (Taintor) Knox. Devoted father of Jeffrey A. Knox and his wife Carolyn of Milford; Barry J. Knox and his wife Marie of Dover, NH; and Wendy E. (Knox) Costello and her husband Joseph of Lexington. Loving Poppa to Rachel and her husband Tom, Katie and her husband Christian, Christopher and his wife Caitlyn, Julie and her husband Michael, Brendan, Joey, Catherine, Jenna, Jackie and her husband Joseph, Alison, and Jeffrey. Proud great-grandfather to Maggie, Sydney, and Ethan.

Bud was the steadfast second-generation President of Knox Dodge on Broadway in Somerville, a landmark Dodge dealership in Ball Square for over 60 years. Bud’s accomplishments in the community were vast, and he was widely admired.

A civic-minded man of service who served the city he loved, Bud was on the Board of Directors of: the Somerville Family Services (Treasurer), Somerville Kiwanis Club (President & Treasurer), Somerville Chamber of Commerce (President & Executive Secretary), Somerville Home for the Aged (President), Somerville

YMCA (President & Treasurer), Somerville Savings Bank, Somerset Savings Bank, and the Somerville Public Safety Commission. Bud’s community service extended to his hometown of Reading where he volunteered for Boy Scouts of America (Scout Master), Little League Baseball (President), and the Reading Art Association (BOD & Treasurer).

A member of the “Greatest Generation,” Bud was a Lexington High School graduate and was drafted into the U.S. Navy where he served his country in WWII meeting his future bride of 70 years. Upon return, he earned a business degree in accounting from Bentley College as a member of the academic fraternity Kappa Pi Alpha. Throughout his lifetime, Bud and Evelyn enjoyed traveling together, the arts, and attending all sporting events of their children and grandchildren.

To honor Bud, please make donations to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital (www.st-jude.org) or Wounded Warrior Project (www.woundedwarriorproject.org).

Publishers note:
Arnold J. (Bud) Knox passed away last week and he is remembered here at The Somerville Times as one of the most respected persons who spent his life in Somerville. Buddy and his wife Evelyn (Evy) were ever-present in the affairs of this city. Bud’s father, Arnold Sr., and uncle, Stanley J., started Knox Brothers Dodge in Somerville in 1936 at 643 Broadway, which is now the Dialysis Center and Medical building. Bud was a direct descendant of General Alexander Knox, who fought with General George Washington in the American Revolution.

Bud had a life of dedicated service to those who were less fortunate, as you see in the obituary above. He was a quiet man who always lent a hand to any worthwhile project that would benefit Somerville. Beyond all that, he was a dear friend to many and will be sorely missed.

— Ross E. Blouin, *The Somerville Times*

Shopping for poetry?



Somerville poet and artist Kirk Etherton has this poetry display up in the Market Basket, my supermarket of choice. You can pick up a free poem, along with your frozen vegetables.

— Doug Holder

The Somerville Times
Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #168

The Raiders

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Two hundred forty-five years ago this week, the spark that ignited American freedom took place at Griffin’s Wharf in Boston Harbor. It began in 1767 when England imposed upon the colonists the Townshend Acts that taxed glass, lead, paint, paper, and tea.



In 1770, after a three-year boycott by the Americans that caused large losses on English imports, the taxes were lifted on everything except tea. Then, in 1773, England granted a monopoly on tea to its East India Tea Company on its colonies. To Massachusetts, this was considered taxation without representation, and they acted.

On the night of December 16, 1773, over 150 American colonists, many dressed as Native Americans, raided three British ships. They dumped over 90,000 pounds or 45 tons of the East India Tea into the harbor. It later became known as “The Boston Tea Party.” In today’s money, it would have been valued at over a million dollars.



Eight months later, the British conducted its own raid by attacking the Powder House in Charlestown, today’s Somerville, and confiscated much of the American gunpowder stores. Because they didn’t get all the gunpowder, the following spring the British raided again at Concord and Lexington. The

Americans then countered at the battle of Bunker Hill, the siege of Boston, and the Revolutionary War that lasted eight-years and won our independence.

Charlestown Patriot Benjamin Edes was a leading voice pushing for colonial independence. He was considered the father of the Boston Tea Party and the keeper of its secrets. The Tea Party’s plan was hatched in his

Continued on page 20

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Let’s talk about programs that provide the best care at home

By Angela Clary

Adult Family Care (AFC) is dedicated to helping people receive the best care at home, and I am excited to help spread the word about this great program.

My name is Angela Clary. As a licensed clinical social worker, who has studied and worked with older adults and their caregivers over the past five years, I have seen so many caregivers in need of support. AFC is a regional program at Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) that helps fill that need.

Funded through MassHealth, AFC provides caregivers with a monthly stipend, ongoing training, and paid time off. I have seen how this program can help family caregivers succeed, and this is why I am excited to be the new AFC Outreach Specialist.

My goal in this position is to create awareness of the AFC

program, by connecting with other professionals who work with MassHealth-eligible people who need daily assistance and cannot live alone. My primary role is to act as a central point of contact between other agencies and AFC, and I am ready to get started!

While AFC is my primary focus, I am also spreading the word about our Community Living Options (CLO) program. CLO is a private pay program, which is dedicated to providing everything our clients need for aging well. Home safety assessments, care management, hospital-to-home planning, and long-term care planning are just a few of the many services CLO provides.

As for my background, I am originally from a small town in Western New York, just outside of Rochester. I received my Bachelor’s in Social Work from SUNY Brockport, where I

worked with low-income, HIV/AIDS populations and the developmentally disabled. I moved to Boston to attend Boston College, where I received my Master’s degree in Social Work, with a concentration in older adults. I also interned with two Visiting Nurse Associations and worked with hospice patients. Two years ago, I joined SCES as an Elder Care Advisor and the Ombudsman Program Director. I am also an avid reader who enjoys playing volleyball and spending time with my dog, Milo.

If you wish to learn more about AFC or CLO, please feel free to contact me by calling 617-628-2601 or email aclary@eldercare.org.

Angela Clary is a licensed clinical social worker and the Outreach Specialist for Adult Family Care (AFC) and Community Living Options (AFC). AFC

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services Outreach Specialist Angela Clary.

and CLO are regional programs of Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services, a non-profit dedicated to supporting the health and well-being of older adults and people with disabilities.

Follow us on Twitter at

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Sally O’Brien’s

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Monday December 17

Shawn Carter’s Cheapshots Comedy 7 p.m.

Marley Monday with The Duppy Conquerors reggae 10 p.m.

Tuesday December 18

SYM Jam All-Stars 8 p.m.

Wednesday December 19

See you next week for poker

Thursday December 20

Spring Hill Rounders grassy Thursdays 7:30 p.m.

Neil Lawrence album release party, Nowhere Lights 10 p.m.

Friday December 21

Larry Flint & The Road Scholars 6 p.m.

Field Day, John Powhida International Airport \$10 cover 9 p.m.

Saturday December 22

The Family Jewels 6 p.m.

Jingle Punk holiday special Lily Black, The Knock Ups, Happy Little Clouds \$10 cover 9 p.m.

Sunday December 23

The Natural Wonders 4:30 p.m.



www.sallyobriensbar.com



Annual Boston Christmas Cavalcade for the homeless at Once Somerville



Let the rejoicing commence! The Annual Boston Christmas Cavalcade for the Homeless will take place at the ONCE Ballroom at 156 Highland Ave., Somerville on Wednesday, December 19. All performer proceeds go to benefit the Somerville Homeless Coalition.

This event, along with a version on Cape Cod, has, over the past decade and a half, become a great seasonal live music tradition, and kind of a homecoming for many of the area’s finest musicians.

“We love doing a show featuring great and unexpected Christmas music, and it sure warms my cockles to see how eager musicians are to give their time and talent to support the Somerville Homeless Coalition,” says organizer Chandler Travis, puffing on a corn-cob pipe.

Suggested donation is \$20 in advance, and \$25 at the door. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., and music begins shortly after. <https://www.oncesomerville.com/event/1794866-14th-or-15th-annual-boston-somerville/>

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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.

Wishing everyone health and hope this holiday season, and always



By Joseph A. Curtatone

They say if you don't have your health, you don't have anything, and I got a firsthand lesson in that two weeks ago when a bout of the shingles laid me low. It got into my eye and my ear, froze up the right side of my face, and put me in the hospital for the better part of a week. Now I'm wearing an eyepatch and doing occupational therapy to get my facial muscles back in working order. Yet the thing that became crystal clear when I was going through the worst of it was how lucky I am. It's a time of year where we're supposed to count our blessings, and I've been counting mine like never before. First off, I've got family and friends there for me. You know how some people say so-and-so is my rock? I've got an entire mountain. To have

that when you need it most is a wonderful thing. I also received top notch care at Cambridge Hospital. I've got a great health plan and it gave me access to nurses, doctors and staff who helped put me back on my feet. I cannot say enough good things about the care they gave me, but a lot of people do not have the good fortune to be in my position. Many people have plans that would leave them on the hook for a hefty bill for that kind of care, and the stress, missed care, and costs that pile up for those without coverage are enormous. It pains me to think of what happens to someone who has fallen on desperate times or is homeless when they get hit with a severe case of the shingles or any serious illness. There is nothing more fundamental to quality of life than your health. It's something we realized when we made community wellness a priority in the 2000s and when we put together the comprehensive "Wellbeing of Somerville Report" in 2017. In fact, that report leads off with an Arabic proverb: "One who has health has hope and one who has hope, has everything."

In this holiday season, we should recognize the role we can play as a community in delivering the greater hope than comes with better health. We do a lot, but it is always a work in progress. Top among health efforts, we're fighting the opioid epidemic via City, School, and Police initiatives. Other City programs like Somerville Cares About Prevention attempt to steer our youth away from the cycle of addiction before it begins. Our police and first responders work the front lines, attempting to get those battling addiction to the support and treatment they need. We attempt to chip away at this devastating societal problem, but it's a fight that rages on. Also, according to our Well-being Report, the rate of health insurance in Somerville is 95.5%. While that's better than the national average of 91.2%, it's still chilling to consider what that means for the 4.5% of people who lack coverage. Many are people weighing their chances of getting ill against the cost of insurance. Yet I can testify how you can be in perfect health until one day you are not. That is an awful gamble. I support the federal govern-

ment pursuing Medicare-for-All and the state government instituting a single-payer system in the absence of federal action, but we need to recognize the gaps in healthcare access at the local level and close them as best we can while we're waiting for a better system to emerge. Recent tragedy at Somerville Hospital has turned our attention to that institution and to emergency communications, and it is essential that the issues raised by that heartbreaking loss of life are addressed. We also need to address other gaps in care/treatment. Who is most at risk and how do we do right by them? We know from the data that the poverty rate among our senior population increased slightly in the earlier part of this decade, and we need to anticipate the health issues that might arise from that. From the same data, we also know far too many children (23%) and particularly children in households with a single female parent (43%) fall below the poverty line. We have steadily increased the social outreach inside our school system to help address these systemic issues, attempting to make sure children get the basic

healthcare and nutrition they need to thrive. Sadly, the reality is too many children in our city do not get three solid meals per day. We have a backpack food program for the weekends and offer free breakfast and lunch through the summer at many of our recreational facilities to make sure children in Somerville don't go hungry when school is out of session. These are just some of the major health issues on our agenda. But in short, sometimes life is hard, and the goal of government of, by and for the people should be to make it easier when it gets hard. It is work that must be done, that is constantly undertaken and that never truly is finished. So, count the blessings you have, and if you see a way for us to help, no matter how small, bring it to our attention. Most of all, if you need help, do not hesitate to reach out to city government. We can't fix everything, but our mission is to help as many as we can as best as we can. And here's to wishing everyone health and hope not just in the holiday season, but in every season.

The Somerville Times Best of Somerville 2018 Cast your vote!

You have until December 14 to vote for your favorite category. To cast your vote, email us at thebestofsomerville@yahoo.com or mail in your ballot to The Somerville Times, 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. The winners will be announced Wednesday, December 19, 2018. If you don't see your favorite category here, simply add it to this list.

Foods & Restaurants

- Best Breakfast
- Best Combination Breakfast & Lunch
- Best Italian Food
- Best Chinese Food
- Best Mexican Food
- Best Portuguese Food
- Best Local Deli
- Best Variety and all around Restaurant
- Best Seafood
- Best Irish Pub
- Best Local Bar
- Best Thai Food
- Best Hamburger
- Best Mac & Cheese
- Best Hot-Dog
- Best Roast Beef Sandwich
- Best Pizza
- Best Bakery
- Best Sub Shop

- Best Coffee Shop Franchise
- Best Coffee Shop local
- Best Bar Food

Best of Somerville Services

- Best Electrician
- Best Plumber
- Best Attorney
- Best Teacher
- Best Politician
- Best City Worker
- Best Receptionist
- Best Real Estate Agent/Realtor
- Best Real Estate Rental Agent
- Best Bank Teller
- Best Bank Employee
- Best Waitstaff
- Best Bartender
- Best Cook
- Best Caterer

- Best Barber
- Best Hair Salon
- Best Doctor
- Best Nurse
- Best Coach
- Best Police Officer
- Best Fire Fighter
- Best Photographer
- Best Somerville Historian
- Best Eye Doctor
- Best Orthodontist
- Best Mortgage Officer
- Best Somerville Artist
- Best Somerville Poet
- Best Somerville Writer
- Best Somerville Celebrity
- Best City Elected Politician
- Best City Employee DPW
- Best City Employee City Hall/Annex

Best of Somerville Businesses

- Best Somerville Bank
- Best Real Estate Company
- Best Insurance Agency
- Best Creative Business in 2016
- Best Florist
- Best Laundromat
- Best Liquor Store
- Best Gas Station
- Best Auto Body Shop
- Best Tow Company
- Best Law Firm
- Best Pest Exterminator
- Best Convenient/Neighborhood Store
- Best Somerville Non Profit Agency
- Best Bar For Bands
- Best Newspaper

Best Idea in 2018 Worst Idea in 2018

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville's parks are well worth the upkeep.

Our View Of The Times



A lot of Somerville's public parks and recreational areas have been or will be undergoing significant renovations and improvements over the course of time. This is, of course, a good thing and something that is necessary on an ongoing basis as routine maintenance. There have been instances, however, when a certain amount of controversy has been generated, for example, over budgeting, best use of spaces, hours of operation, natural versus artificial turf, etc.

These are all important issues that city planners – in tandem with public opinion – must deal with in a thorough and efficient manner. Thus, the various public hearings and open meetings scheduled for each renovation project prove to be a vital part of these planning processes.

Be a part of this important process by attending and sharing your views at any or all of the upcoming meetings:
Foss Park Community Meeting, Wednesday, December 12, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at East Somerville Community School.
Lincoln Park Design Review Commu-

nity Meeting, Monday, December 17, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at Argenziano School.
Allen Street Playground Community Meeting, Tuesday, December 18, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Building, 220 Washington St.
Your participation and input are welcome and needed. Please consider joining in, for the betterment of all.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

up in East Somerville, **David Bassett**, who celebrates this week. Happy birthday to **Anthony Angiulo**, another East Somerville guy who works here in the city. A nice guy, we wish him the very best. Happy birthday to **Cheryl Callahan**, who is a lifelong resident and a nice person. We wish her the very best as well. Happy birthday to everyone here and from the city who is celebrating this week. We wish every one of them a very happy birthday.

One of our readers came in to see us this past week and told us an interesting story regarding "handicap" placards that hang in windows. Remember, you have to get a doctor sign for one, then you take it to the RMV, and then they issue you the placard. Isn't a handicap placard supposed to help those in need to be able to have an advantage in parking because of their particular situation? Can Somerville overrule what Massachusetts says is law? Our reader reported to us that he was on a side street in a house, and when he came out he saw that he was getting parking ticket, the T&P person said they needed to have a residential sticker or visitor pass to park. Our reader explained that he had a "handicap" placard, but the T&P person told

him Somerville doesn't care and then left the ticket. He told us that he went to T&P office to complain and they told him that Somerville has different rules regarding handicap placards. In the end they reportedly told him, "you can pay now or later." Now, we weren't there but we don't he made the story up either. It's disturbing that the city squeezes every penny out of everyone with all sorts of rules and ordinances, but we think charging a handicapped person for the ticket is outrageous. Has anyone else had this problem?

Just the other day the **Boston Globe** did an article on the **Union Square development**, and instead of speaking to those that are affected by the development they talked to **two city activists**. Some feel the article was slanted against those who are really affected. Some see these two individuals as resisters to development in the square, maybe in the guise of having union workers involved in the project, we don't know. Some of the real stakeholders feel that the project is being held up because **the mayor**, who has the final say, is now bowing down to the activists because of the last city election. The formation of the **Neighborhood Council** was, by some accounts, a bag job against the

real people who are affected by the development. Under our city charter the mayor has final approval over any project in the city. So why doesn't he step up? We've been hearing rumors that the **Hon. Ward 7 Alderman Katjana Balantyne** is looking more and more like a potential candidate for mayor, either next year or the term after. Either way, we think she's capable and could pose a strong candidacy at any time.

We also heard that a **former alderman** is also considering running for mayor or himself. He's been quietly looking around and gathering some key support here in the city. We hear that there will be a major announcement of two real estate companies merging. **The Norton Group**, which has been around for many years and is locally owned and operated, is going to merge with **Century 21 North East** in January to become **C21 North East – Norton Group**. **The D'Amicos** and **the Nortons** are merging and will make a major announcement and offer up some surprises in January. Speaking of **The Norton Group**, every

year they celebrate with their staff and agents, as well as with the **Somerville Times** staff and writers. This year it was held this past Monday night at the **Mt. Vernon Restaurant**. A great turnout and fantastic time as usual was had by all, and the food was fantastic. What a great place to have a company party or to have them cater it. You can't go wrong. Every year now since **Mayor Joe** has been mayor the taxes have gone up. This year is no exception. One bad thing is that the commercial development in **Union Square** has ground to a halt over a piece of land that the city won't let the **Redevelopment Authority** take in order for the commercial development package approved a few years to proceed. We hear that the taxes, in particular in **Prospect Hill**, will go up at least 20% this year because of the aldermen's and city's actions. What a shame that the commercial development that was meant to ease the burden on homeowners will not happen. To all you new residents of Prospect Hill which will see a major increase in taxes, remember that next year is city elections. Just saying! Anticipation mounts as to who the **Town of Stoneham**

Annual Christmas Tree lighting

The annual Christmas Tree lighting kicked off the holiday festivities on Thursday, December 6, followed by a meet and greet with Santa Claus in the Somerville High School Culinary Arts Bistro.

Santa Claus was escorted by the Somerville Fire and Police Departments for the ceremony and was available for photos following the tree lighting. All children attending the ceremony also received a gift from Santa.

Live entertainment for the event featured the Somerville High School Band and Chorus, the Somerville Community Chorus, and El Sistema Somerville. Following the tree lighting, refreshments were served in the SHS atrium, where children were able to meet and take a complimentary photo with Santa.



Go to www.thesomervilletimes.com for more photos

Photos by Claudia Ferro

2018 Menorah Lighting ceremony



On Sunday, December 9, a ceremonial Menorah Lighting took place on the City Hall Concourse with Rabbi Eliana from Temple B'nai Brith. All members of the community were invited to join Mayor Curtatone, city officials and staff for a brief ceremony and photo on the City Hall Concourse. The Menorah will be lit each night of Hanukkah.

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#657

1. What chant is traditionally sung during the lighting of the Menorah?

2. How many blessings are said on the first night of Hanukkah?

3. What is the extra light called that is used to light the candles of a Menorah?

4. What is the name of the spinning top kids use to play during Hanukkah?

5. During the holiday season, what is Viscum used for?

6. In the novel *A Christmas Carol*, what is the name of Scrooge's dead business partner?

7. In what ocean would you find Christmas Island?

8. Where and when did the tradition of making decorated gingerbread houses come from?

9. When was the first Christmas card sent?

10. Who wrote *The Cultivation of Christmas Trees*?

11. What are Christmas crackers?

12. What song has the line "Bearing gifts we traverse afar"?

Answers on page 16



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LEGAL NOTICE

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

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 87, the City of Somerville will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.** at the Somerville High School Library, 81 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA. to consider the removal of the following public shade tree(s):

1. Canal Street – Removal of 3 Princeton elm trees (6.7 inch, 6.4 inch, and 6.3 inch diameter) across from 300 Canal Street at the corner of Grand Union Boulevard for Assembly Square Block 5B development. This location will be replanted with 4 (four) 5-inch diameter Hornbeam trees.
2. 30 Ivaloo Street – Removal of 1 (one) Norway maple tree (18.6 inches in diameter) that is severely restricting sidewalk accessibility.

The trees identified above have been posted for public inspection. In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 87, any objections to the removal of any of these trees must be submitted in writing to the City Urban Forester prior to or at the public hearing. The mailing address for the Urban Forester is City of Somerville, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA. 02143; email: trees@somervillema.gov; phone 617-625-6600.
12/5/18, 12/12/18 The Somerville Times

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Ms. Cam's

From on page 14

Olio

Answers

1. Hanerot Halalu	9. In 1611, sent by Michael Maier to James I of England and his son Henry Frederick, Prince of Wales
2. Three	
3. Shamash	
4. Dreidel	10. T. S. Eliot
5. Mistletoe	11. A segmented cardboard tube wrapped in a brightly decorated twist of paper with a prize in the central chamber
6. Jacob Marley	
7. The Indian Ocean	
8. Germany, in the early 1800s	12. We Three Kings of Orient Are

Somerville launching Somervision 2040
Comprehensive Plan update process

Mayor Joseph A Curtatone is pleased to announce the launch of a new community process to update SomerVision: Somerville's Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030 and create SomerVision 2040.



Nearly ten years ago in 2009, the Somerville community came together over the course of more than 50 meetings, visioning sessions, and workshops to hammer out a guiding document for the city. The resulting SomerVision plan includes more than 584 values-driven goals, policies, and actions ranging from housing, job, and open space creation to neighborhood preservation, transformational development, and transportation advances, and more.

Since then, SomerVision and its metrics, goals, and priorities have served as the cornerstone of city policy and planning and city efforts to make Somerville an exceptional place to live, work, play, and raise a family. The city is now calling the community together again to revisit SomerVision 2030 and build in goals for 2040. The process will start with a SomerVision 2040 Kick-Off Meeting on Tuesday, January 15th, from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Center for Arts at the Armory at 191 Highland Ave.

"Of course we still have more to do, but the critical progress that our city has made toward our housing, work-force, mobility, and other goals traces straight back to the clear and consistent vision for our future anchored in SomerVision – along with that Somerville tendency to never give up (think Green Line Extension)," said Mayor Curtatone. "A lot has changed since SomerVision was first written. In some areas, such as our Somerville Climate Forward Plan for becoming carbon-neutral by 2050, we are already looking further into the future than 2030. So to keep SomerVision a living document that is responsive to new opportunities and evolving needs, we are reconvening this process and asking to hear from the community once again. I hope everyone interested takes part."

The city's goal is broad participation. Opportunities to take part, including multilingual discussions, will be designed for both busy residents who want to quickly weigh in on key issues and for those who want to engage more deeply through debates about specific policies and strategies. Options include everything from serving on the Steering Committee or attending meetings to taking a survey or hosting a SomerSupper with your neighbors. More information on all aspects is coming soon.

All are also encouraged to learn more about SomerVision 2030 and the process for creating SomerVision 2040, by attending the SomerVision 2040 Kickoff on Tuesday, January 15, at 6:00 p.m. at The Armory. For anyone who can't attend, the meeting will be videotaped and posted at www.SomerVision2040.com for later viewing. An RSVP is not required, but an RSVP at EventBrite is encouraged.

All community members are also invited to participate in the SomerVision Challenge by taking photos in Somerville of 1) something you love, 2) something you'd love to change, and 3) a SomerVision 2040 related question you have. Then share them on social media with #SomerVision2040, or email your submissions to planning@somervillema.gov, or hand deliver paper submissions to the Welcome Desk at City Hall. The City may share your contributions through future SomerVision events and documents to help spark and inform discussion (if you post on social media, be sure to make your post and profile public so we can share your vision).

To stay informed about future SomerVision 2040 announcements, visit the website and join our email list at www.SomerVision2040.com.

CORE SOMERVISION 2030 GOALS:

- ♦ **30,000 new jobs** as part of a responsible plan to create opportunity for all Somerville workers and entrepreneurs
- ♦ **125 New Acres of Publicly-Accessible Open Space** as part of our realistic plan to provide high-quality and well-programmed community spaces
- ♦ **6,000 New Housing Units** including 1,200 Permanently Affordable units as part of a sensitive plan to attract and retain Somerville's best asset: its people
- ♦ **50% of New Trips via Transit, Bike, or Walking** as part of an equitable plan for access and circulation to and through the City
- ♦ **85% of New Development in Transformative Areas** as part of a predictable land use plan that protects neighborhood character To view the full SomerVision 2030 plan and the progress reports visit www.somer-vision2040.com.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 11

picks for **Town Manager**. One of three candidates is **one of our alderman** and we wish him luck. Interestingly enough, if he gets the job he might resign as Alderman At-Large. That would mean, under the new rules, that **Jack Connolly** can once again (for the third time) sit on **the Board**. Wouldn't that be interesting? Back to Stoneham, a lot of Stoneham is filled with former Somerville residents these days. We

think it looks good. Well, we know he wants the job and we're crossing our fingers for him.

So **some bloggers** tried to say that bicycles pay taxes through other forms of taxes like property taxes. We would like to remind them that everyone pays property taxes, either directly or indirectly. But those that own automobiles pay an additional tax called the **excise**

tax, which is for street and road improvements. Bicycles owners should pay a tax as well, just to be fair about it. After all, it costs money to paint those lanes and to shorten the streets.

The Somerville City Club's manager, **Donny Johnson**, is looking all the time for new members to join the club. If you think you'd be interested give him a call 617-623-9340. It's a great local

club for the residents of Somerville. It's been around now for over 40 years at their location on Innerbelt Road, across from the **Holiday Inn**. It has plenty of parking and has a very nice hall for rent. Some say the best deal in Somerville. Call the hall and ask for details: 617-623-9340. The Somerville City Club supports a lot of local charitable groups and organizations here in Somerville.

'The Monster Mash Up' project and 'Monster Meet and Greet'

The Somerville Public School Art Department had a busy couple of weeks as 2nd graders from the John F. Kennedy School and Studio Art and Cartooning students from Somerville High School participated in the first iteration of *The Monster Mash-Up*, a collaborative art project organized by teachers Lindsey Richard and Jennifer DeAngelis.

Kennedy 2nd graders, under the instruction of DeAngelis, created paintings of monsters loosely inspired by Maurice Sendak's *Where The Wild Things Are*. When the monsters were completed, Studio Art and Cartooning students at Somerville High School, under the instruction of teachers Richard and Wood, adopted these monsters.

The students' goals were to recognize the power of the imaginations of the 2nd graders and elevate their renderings as a

means to encourage younger artists to continue to pursue their creative potential.

The culmination of the project was a *Monster Mash-Up Meet and Greet* which took place at the Kennedy School this past Wednesday. High school students traveled by foot to the John F. Kennedy School where they were greeted by a standing ovation from 2nd graders. The high school artists one by one presented their "monster-pieces" to the 2nd grade artists.

All artist participants had the unique opportunity to meet one another, share their creative process and celebrate their hard work. When asked about the project, 9th grade Somerville High School student Helen Gillespie said, "My favorite part was definitely the *Meet and Greet* because my second grader reminded me of myself and we had a lot in common!"



2nd grader Daphne Matsakis and 9th grade student Helen Gillespie discuss the student artwork.
— Photos by Ross Blouin and The Somerville Public School Art Department



VILLENS ON THE TOWN

CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Wednesday|December 12

East Branch Library
Preschool Storytime
11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|115 Broadway

Central Library
Somerville Positive Forces
1 p.m.-3 p.m.
Bus Timings Community Event
3:30 p.m.-5 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Thursday|December 13

Central Library
Preschool Storytime for 3 to 5-year-olds
10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
TELL (Teen Library Leaders) Meeting
3:45 p.m.-5:45 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Friday|December 14

Central Library
Preschool Storytime for 2-year-olds
10:30 a.m.-11 a.m.|79 Highland Ave

Monday|December 17

Central Library
Sing Along
10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Teen Movie Night
5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Tuesday|December 18

Someville Community Baptist Church
Preschool Storytime
11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|31 College Ave

Wednesday|December 19

East Branch Library
Preschool Storytime
11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|115 Broadway

Central Library
Somerville High School Anime Club
2:45 p.m.-4:30 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

East Branch Library
Sing Along with Matt Heaton!
3:30 p.m.-4:15 p.m.|115 Broadway

MUSIC/ARTS

Wednesday|December 12

Sally O’Brien’s Bar
Free Poker, lots of prizes!
8 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Backroom Series with Brian O’Donovan (of "A Celtic Sojourn" on WGBH)|7:30 p.m.
Comedy Night with Arty P.|10 p.m.
NEIHO - New England Irish Harp Orchestra|7:30 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Bull McCabe’s Pub
The A-Beez
10 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Thunder Road
Bearly Dead – Wednesday Night
Grateful Dead Residency
7 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville
The Moth: Roads
8 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Highland Kitchen
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Aeronaut Brewing Co.
The Ways and Means Committee
8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory
Been Out Here Teen Open Mic
6 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

The Rockwell
Screening of 'A Very Murray Christmas'
8 p.m.|255 Elm St

Thursday|December 13

Sally O’Brien’s
Sloth Machine
7:30 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Eric Salt "In Leisure Car" Album
Release with Special Guest - Old Jack
|7 p.m.

Scattershots|10 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Bull McCabe’s
Krush Faktory(Dub Down)
10 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Thunder Road
Closed For A Private Party
379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville
156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co.
Van Dam 4
8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory
Pub Sing
7 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

The Rockwell
Sh!t-Faced Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet
7 p.m.|255 Elm St

Somerville Theatre
The Slutcracker
8 p.m.|55 Davis Sq

Friday|December 14

Sally O’Brien’s
Bucky Bear & The Bearly Seen |6 p.m.
HearNowLive presents PCR, The Othership \$10 cover |9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Backroom Series with Tom Bianchi
Will Dailey - w/ Special Guest Cliff Notez & Girl Blue|7 p.m.
Cover Up|10 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Once Somerville
156 Highland Ave

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
DJ starting at 10 p.m.
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Bull McCabe’s
Mythical Beasts
10 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Joshua Tree
DJ McRiddleton
256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

Casey’s
Entertainment every Friday
173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

Thunder Road
Chance to Dance: A Night of Grooving Soul Hits, Modern Top 40, & More with Soul City
8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co.
Ghost Town Brass Band|6:30 p.m.
Band Land Brass Band|8:30 p.m.
Women & Non-binary Megaband Convergence|9:30 p.m.
14 Tyler Street

The Rockwell
Sh!t-Faced Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet|7 p.m.
B. U. M. P.|9:15 p.m.
Dirty Disney|10:30 p.m.
255 Elm St

Arts at the Armory
Friday Afternoon American Roots jam
1 p.m.|Cafe
Ayn Trio Concert
6:30 p.m.|Café
Spark! in the dark - BIDA
7:15 p.m.|Performance Hall|191 Highland Ave

Somerville Theatre
The Slutcracker
8 p.m.|55 Davis Sq

Saturday|December 15

Sally O’Brien’s
One Thin Dime |6 p.m.
Harry & The Hot Flashes, Nickel & Dime Band, The Only Thing \$10 cover |9 p.m
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Real School of Music Showcase|12 p.m.
Will Dailey w/ Special Guest Cliff Notez|7 p.m.

Closing Time |10 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
Karaoke
65 Holland St

Bull McCabe’s
Walk Talk
10 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Casey’s
Entertainment every Saturday
173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

Thunder Road
Skull & Roses – A Tribute To the Grateful Dead
8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville
Emperor Norton's Stationary Marching Band
Eddie Japan
Farnakht
8 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co.
Aeronaut Album Night (Holiday Edition!)
8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

The Rockwell
Kerplunk!|11 a.m.
Sh!t-faced Shakespeare: The Taming of the Shrew|7 p.m.
Dreamland Silent Disco|9:30 p.m.
255 Elm St

Arts at the Armory
Whole Tone Music Academy Fall Recital
2 p.m.|Cafe
Banboche 2018
6:30 p.m.|Performance Hall |191 Highland Ave

Somerville Theatre
The Slutcracker
8 p.m.|55 Davis Sq

Sunday|December 16

Sally O’Brien’s Bar
The Natural Wonders
4:30 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Beatles Brunch 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Backroom series with Tom Bianchi|7 p.m.
"All the Way to Somerville" Danielle Miraglia, Jenee Halstead & Lisa Bastoni
7:30 p.m.|247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Bull McCabe’s Pub
Dub Apocalypse
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen
Sunday Brunch Live Country & Bluegrass
Sunday Night Live Music
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
Game Night
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Thunder Road
Americana Sundays Season Finale with Greg Klyma and Chris Hersch & The MoonRaiders
7 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville
Holiday Buzz Market|11 a.m.
Country Christmas w/ Slim Jim & The Mad Cows, Magen Tracy & The Missed Connections and Lonely Leesa & The Lost Cowboys|7 p.m.
156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co.
BYOP: Tupelo Junction with Sarah Donner + Kevin Kline
2 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory
The Somerville Flea
10 a.m.-5 p.m|Performance Hall
Mass Appeal Boston
4 p.m.|Cafe
House of Glass Concert
7:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Somerville Theatre
The Slutcracker
2 p.m./8 p.m.|55 Davis Sq

Monday|December 17

Sally O’Brien’s Bar
Shawn Carter's Cheapshots Comedy|7 p.m.
Marley Monday with The Duppy Conquerors reggae|10 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Back Room:
Stump Trivia|8:30 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Bull McCabe’s Pub
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Thunder Road
379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville
156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co.
Board Game Bonanza
6:30 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory
Queer Tango
6:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Somerville Theatre
The Slutcracker
8 p.m.|55 Davis Sq

Tuesday|December 18

Sally O’Brien’s Bar
SYM Jam All-Stars
8 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Front Room
Jason Anick and the Swingers Swing/Jazz|8:30 p.m.
Open Mic Night with Aaron Yang|10 p.m.
New England Science Writers|7 p.m.
Open mic night|9 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Bull McCabe’s Pub
Ghetto People Band
10 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen
First Tuesday of the Month|Spelling Bee Night
hosted by Victor and Nicole of Egoart.
The fun starts at 10:00p.m.
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

PJ Ryan’s
Pub Quiz
10 p.m.|239 Holland St.|617-625-8200

Thunder Road
Lonely Path, Still, Moonwatch, Rick West & The Hay
7 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville
Bloom
Cold Collective, The Insides, We Should Talk
8 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co
Indie Trivia
8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Wednesday|December 19

Sally O’Brien’s Bar
see you next week for poker
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Backroom Series with Brian O’Donovan (of "A Celtic Sojourn" on WGBH)|7:30 p.m.
Comedy Night with Arty P.|10 p.m.
A Very Fuzzy Christmas -a benefit for Girls Rock Campaign Boston|7 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Bull McCabe’s Pub
The A-Beez
10 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Thunder Road
Bearly Dead – Thunder Road Holiday Party
7 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville
The 14th or 15th Annual Boston Christmas Cavalcade For the Homeless!
The Chandler Travis Philharmonic, Erin Harpe's Country Blues Trio, Ken

Field, Rick Berlin, Carla Ryder, The Boston Typewriter Orchestra, Kami Lyle, The Philharmonic Trombone Shout Band, Shaun Wolf Wortis, The Athol Thingerth
7:30 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Highland Kitchen
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Aeronaut Brewing Co.
Grant Bloom
8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory
SAC Artist of the Month Celebration
7 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Somerville Theatre
The Slutcracker
8 p.m.|55 Davis Sq

CLASSES AND GROUPS

Wednesday|December 12

Central Library
Drop-in Knitting/Needlecraft
12 p.m.-2 p.m.
Central Hill Parking Public Meeting
6 p.m.-8 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Thursday|December 13

East Branch Library
Drop In Craft Night
6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.|115 Broadway

Central Library
Yoga at the Library
6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Hypnosis for Stress Reduction and Weight Loss
6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

East Branch Library
Making a Mystery
7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.|115 Broadway

First Church Somerville
Debtors Anonymous- a 12 Step program for people with problems with money and debt. 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.|89 College Ave (Upstairs Parlor).
For more info call: 781-762-6629

Saturday|December 15

Central Library
Free Yoga for Beginners
12 p.m.-3:30 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Winters Farmers Market
9 a.m.-1 p.m.|Arts at the Armory|191 Highland Ave

Bagel Bards
Somerville Writers and Poets meet weekly to discuss their work
9 a.m.-12 p.m Au Bon Pain| 18-48 Holland St

Sunday|December 16

Central Library
Critique Group
2 p.m.-4 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Fourth Step to Freedom Al-Anon Family Groups
7:00 P.M. | 6 William Street
Unity Church of God
Enter upstairs, meeting is in basement

Monday|December 17

Central Library
Creative Drama Workshop with Laurie!
4 p.m.-5 p.m.
Somerville Stands Together Coalition Meeting
4 p.m.-6 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Tuesday|December 18

Central Library
Learn English at the Library
6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Company
Books & Brews Book Club
6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.

Wednesday|December 19

Central Library
Drop-in Knitting/Needlecraft
12 p.m.-2 p.m.
Record a Holiday Greeting with the Somerville Media Center!
5 p.m.-6 p.m.
A Very Merry Movie Night
6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Mystery Book Group
6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO!

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

CENTER LOCATIONS, TIMES & SCHEDULES

Holland Street Senior Center: located at 167 Holland Street (between Davis Square and Teele Square) Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fridays: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 617-625-6600, Ext. 2300

Cross Street Center: located at 165 Broadway (East Somerville) Mondays & Tuesdays - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Thursdays - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 617-625-6600, Ext. 2335 Fax: 617-625-1414

Ralph and Jenny Center: located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn) Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. 617- 666-5223

Main Office: located at 167 Holland Street (between Davis Square and Teele Square.) Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 617-625-6600, Ext. 2300 Fax: 617-625-0688 TTY: 866-808-4851

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Free Smoke Alarm/Carbon Monoxide Detectors: Very limited amount available This program is a first come first serve basis. This is funded through the Senior Safe Program and services will be provided until the grant is exhausted. - If you have any questions or need an application please call Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Join the SCOA's email group: The email group is for Somerville Council on Aging Seniors and / or Care-givers who are interested in the latest information on resources, events, programming, etc...in and around the Somerville area. Use the link <https://groups.google.com/group/somerville-council-on-aging> - If you have any questions or need help joining please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Silver Alert Program: The Somerville Council on Aging with the Somerville Police Department have implemented a program to take a proactive approach towards protecting some of Somerville’s most vulnerable citizens who suffer with serious cognitive impairments that put them at risk for wandering and getting lost. The Silver Alert Program is designed to collect specific information about a potential missing person, along with photo identification. This confidential information will be kept on file for immediate use in the event a loved one is reported missing. Please contact the SCOA at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 for additional information or to register.

Free Groceries Every Month?: You may be eligible for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program! CSFP is a once a month food distribution for individuals 60 years of age or older. You may be eligible to receive two free bags of food once a month containing healthy shelf stable products. Proof of identity and age are all that is required to apply. Must apply beforehand. Pick up at the Ralph & Jenny Center, 9 New Washington Street on the 4th Thursday of every month unless otherwise specified. For more information or to apply please call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 – applications are available at the front desk of our Holland Street Center.

Friendly Caller Program: Do you know someone who could benefit from a friendly call? Maybe you are feeling isolated and want someone to talk to – or you just want someone to listen. Please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 to sign up for our “Friendly Caller” Program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Country Western Line Dancing – The 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at our Holland Street Center. \$3 per class – no experience needed. For additional information, questions or to reserve your spot call Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Healthy Steps – Thursdays starting January 3 from 12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Healthy Steps is a therapeutic, gentle, movement class for anyone who needs to get moving, particularly anyone recovering from surgery, frail elders or those living with chronic fatigue or arthritis. Class is free. For additional information or questions to call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Illumination of Lights Tour – Saturday, December 15, \$8. Hop on the trolley and be amazed at the Holiday

Lights in Somerville. Limited seating – check in is 4:15 p.m. at the High School Concourse. For additional information, questions or to reserve your spot please contact Connie by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Christmas Crafts – Wednesday, December 19 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Lunch and Bingo to follow. For additional information, questions or to reserve your spot please call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Blood Pressure Screening – Cross Street Center located at 165 Broadway. Scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of each month: December 13. If you require additional information please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Blood Pressure Screening – Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Scheduled for the 1st Thursday of each month: December 6. If you require additional info please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Blood Pressure Screening – Ralph & Jenny Center located at 1 New Washington Street. Scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of each month: December 20. If you require additional information please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

LGBTQ EVENTS

LBT Women Fit-4-Life - Fitness Class is Thursday evenings starting at 6:00 P.M. \$10 a month fee - scholarships available & it just might be covered under your insurance. We have available slots and would love to have you. If you have any questions or require additional info, please contact our Health & Wellness Coordinator, Chris Kowaleski at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2315.

LGBTQ Lunch – Come, relax, enjoy lunch and talk with your peers. Last lunch date for 2018 is December 12.

WEEKLY EXERCISE AND NUTRITION CLASS SCHEDULE (Please cut out and save)

Monday:

Keep Moving Walking Club** - 9:00 a.m. (H)
Tai Chi – 11:30 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life Group C - 1:00 p.m. (H)

Tuesday:

Strengthening - 9:00 a.m. (H)
\$3 per class (H)
Fit-4-Life - 11:00 a.m. (C)
Bike Club – 12:15 p.m. (H)

Wednesdays:

Fit-4-Life Group A (exercise) - 9:00 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life Group B (nutrition) - 9 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life Group B (exercise) - 10:00 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life Group C (nutrition) - noon (H)
Fit-4-Life Group C (exercise) - 1:00 p.m. (H)
Zumba 4 All - 5:15 p.m. - \$3/class (H)

Thursdays:

Yoga - 9:00 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life - 11:15 a.m. (C)
LBT Fit-4-Life, 6:00 p.m. (H)

Fridays:

Fit-4-Life Group A - 9:00 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life Group B - 10:00 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life Group A (nutrition) 10:00 a.m. (H)

Adventure Group – Please call for details

**All Fit-4-Life classes are \$10 per month and require pre-registration*

HOLLAND STREET GROUP INFORMATION

Book Club – Meets the third Friday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This group self-facilitates. Group members choose both fiction and non-fiction titles on a quarterly basis. Books are available on reserve at the Central Branch of the Somerville Library. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300.

Caregiver Support Group – Meets the third Tuesday of each month from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Our Social Worker, Ashley Speliotis, facilitates this group. Are you caring for a parent, relative, spouse or close friend? Feeling isolated or overwhelmed? You are not alone! Come share your experience and practical support. Open to all and new members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Ashley at

617-625-6600 Ext. 2318.

Conversations of the Heart – Meets bi-monthly on Mondays from 1:00 to 2:00 P.M. at our Holland Street Center. Social Worker, Natasha Naim, facilitates this group. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2317.

Current Events Group – Meets every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Our Social Worker, Natasha Naim, facilitates this group. Join a group of your peers to discuss current events. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2317.

De-cluttering support group - If you have concerns around your clutter, this group may be for you. This closed group meets both in spring and fall for 6-8 weeks. This group is co-facilitated by Natasha Naim and Marina Colonas. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2317.

Low Vision Support Group – Meets the second Tuesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Our Social Worker, Ashley Speliotis, facilitates this group. Do you know someone who has trouble seeing? Do you have low vision? Join our Low Vision Support Group for educational and informative information and peer support in a confidential environment. Lunch and transportation may be available on request. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Ashley at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2318.

Memory Café – Meets the 2nd Thursday of every month from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon. Our Social Worker, Ashley Speliotis, facilitates this group. A welcoming place for people with forgetfulness and their family and friends to share a meal and create new memories. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Ashley at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2318.

CROSS STREET GROUP INFORMATION

Coffee & Conversation – Meets every Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Maureen Bastardi, Program Coordinator and Sandy Francis, Cross Street Center Volunteer, work together to facilitate this group. Come meet people from all over the world and join in the discussion of a different topic every day. Conversation is followed by the Fit-4-Life exercise program and then lunch. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335.

Arts & Crafts – Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month starting January 11th - from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Join us in a relaxing atmosphere as we learn about a wide range of arts & crafts from weaving to watercolor pencils. Maureen Bastardi, Program Coordinator facilitates this group. Must call a week in advance if you plan on attending. This is necessary to ensure we have enough material for everyone. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335.

Social Service Drop In – The 3rd Thursday of every month Social Workers, Ashley Speliotis and Natasha Naim will be taking turns and having a Drop-in Social Service hour from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Cross Street Center. They will be available to address any of your Social Service needs. If you need additional info please call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335.

Game Hour – Every Tuesday from noon to 1:00 p.m. at our Cross Street Center. Join us for lunch and activities. Immediately following lunch we will have a “Game Hour.” Yahtzee, Sorry, Jenga, Cards, Scrabble, Checkers, Clue, Qwirkle, Dominoes, Uno & Connect 4 are available to play. Community Cooks provides us with a family style lunch on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays and Food Services provides us with lunch on the off days. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335.

RALPH & JENNY GROUP INFORMATION

Knitting Blankets – Every Tuesday & Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Join us as we knit blankets for babies. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Judy at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300

Axe throwing bar debuts in Somerville

CONT. FROM PG 1

requires closed toed shoes, a valid 21+ ID and a waiver. After that an Urban Axes coach teaches patrons about safety and technique. The coach supervises patrons for the duration of their visit. This ensures a safe experience for visitors and staff.

Currently, the liquor license at Urban Axes is still pending. Osgood says the process should be complete in the next couple weeks. Then the bar will offer canned and bottled beer, wine and cocktails as well as cheeses, charcuterie and spreads. In the meantime, patrons will have to do without vittles in between throws.

Urban Axes offers reservations for groups of 6-12 or 13-24 at \$45 per person for a two-and-a-half-hour session. Walk-ins are also welcome for groups of 2-5 at \$25 a person for a one-hour session. If someone really wants to hone their axe throwing skills, they can pay \$140 to join an eight-week league. The



league follows the regulations of the National Axe Throwing Federation.

More information about Urban Axes at <https://urbanaxes.com/>.

Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 8

Boston newspaper office, the Boston Gazette. For the rest of his life, he kept secret the list of the participants in that raid on those three India Tea ships.

The British ships that were raided flew the Union Flag, which represented the East India Tea Company's interests in the thirteen colonies. On the other hand, beginning on Somerville's Prospect Hill and during the early years of the Revolutionary War, the Patriots viewed the thirteen-striped, Grand Union Flag as America's break from England. They protested taxation without representation ... and won!



Patriot Benjamin Edes



The Destruction of Tea at Boston Harbor



BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



2 satellites decided to get married. The wedding was nice but the reception was incredible.

Seeking guests for 'Let's Talk about Race'



Charlottesville, Ferguson, the White House. Talking about race has never been so fraught, painful, and critical.

In November 2017, Somerville resident Diane Wong began producing a live radio broadcast at Somerville Media Center called *Let's Talk about Race*, inviting folks from a variety of demographics to engage in challenging conversations about race and ethnicity in the age of Trump. Through the art of intentional dialogue, LTAR has facilitated discussion on colorism, interracial relations, police brutality, and more – providing new perspectives in a time where talking about race is more important than ever.

In preparation for an upcoming symposium and podcast series focused on race right here in Somerville, we'd like to invite Somerville residents who are willing to step up and engage in this topic – whether you are a student, a teacher, a recent transplant, a long time Villen, or anyone else – to come in and have courageous conversations about race on our weekly show, which airs live on Boston Free Radio on Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. There are no right or wrong answers, just a willingness to think deeply and talk about race from your own perspective – and we want to hear from you!

We are currently booking Thursday nights for December and January. In the meantime, check out *Let's Talk About Race* at <https://www.mixcloud.com/diane-wong> or by listening live on bostonfreeradio.com.

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SCATV Channel 3 Schedule

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Wednesday, December 12 12:00am Free Speech TV 6:00am SCATV Community Bulletin Board 7:00am Esoteric Science 7:30am DW In Good Shape 8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 9:00am DW Global 3000 9:30am Both Sides of the Bars 10:00am Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer 10:30am Somerville Storytellers 11:00am LIVE - Fallon's Daily Roast 12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show (Free Speech TV) 1:00pm Health is Wealth 1:30pm Art Seen at SMC 2:00pm Science 360 3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 4:00pm Speak Up! Somerville 4:30pm The Literati Scene 5:00pm Hello Neighbor 5:30pm Women2Women Today 6:00pm Speak Up! Somerville 6:30pm Off the Shelf 7:00pm Haitian Poetry in 3 Languages 8:00pm LIVE - Somerville Pundits 8:30pm Speak Up! Somerville 9:00pm Boston Come Through 10:00pm LIVE - Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party 11:00pm Flotilla Thursday, December 13 12:00am SCATV Secret Stash 12:30am SCATV Secret Stash 1:00am Free Speech TV 6:00am SCATV Community Bulletin Board 7:00am Perils for Pedestrians 7:30am DW Focus on Europe 8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 9:00am DW Tomorrow Today 9:30am Hello Neighbor 10:00am Legacies 10:30am Somerville Pundits 11:00am Teen Empowerment 11:30am Art & Ideas 12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show (Free Speech TV) 1:00pm The Somerville Line 3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 4:00pm Hello Neighbor! 4:30pm The Struggle 5:00pm Words on Film with Dan Burke 6:00pm Community Lens 6:30pm Somerville Pundits Friday, December 14 7:00pm LIVE - The Boston Medium 8:00pm Startup TV Boston 9:00pm The Beantown Beatdown 10:00pm The Chatman Booth 10:30pm TUTV 11:00pm DIWHY The show Friday, December 14 12:00am Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party 1:00am SCATV Secret Stash 1:30am SCATV Secret Stash 2:00am Free Speech TV 6:00am SCATV Community Bulletin Board 7:00am The Bill Press Show (Free Speech TV) 8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 9:00am Esoteric Science 9:30am Cambridge Calendar 10:00am NASA TV 11:00am SOM ARTS 11:30am DW Tomorrow Today 12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show (Free Speech TV) 1:00pm The Yellow Jacket Lady 1:30pm Speak Up! Somerville 2:00pm The Kamla Show 2:30pm SMC Youth Media 3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 4:00pm Gay USA 5:00pm The Chatman Booth 5:30pm What's New Massachusetts? 6:00pm LIVE - Fallon's Daily Toast 7:00pm SOM ARTS 7:30pm Art Seen at SMC 8:00pm The Grandstanders 8:30pm Greater Somerville 9:00pm The Boston Medium 10:00pm Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party 11:00pm Totally Working Out Saturday, December 15 12:00am DIWHY The Show 1:00pm Boston Come Through 2:00am Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party 3:00am Free Speech TV 5:00am Effort Pour Christ 6:00am SCATV Community Bulletin Board 7:00am Road to Recovery 8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 9:00am SMC Youth Media 9:30am Somerville Storytellers 10:00am Dead Air Live 11:00am Haitian Poetry in 3 Languages 12:00pm TeleGalaxie Sunday, December 16 12:00am Flotilla 1:00am SCATV Secret Stash 1:30am SCATV Secret Stash 2:00am Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party 3:00am Free Speech TV 6:00am Community Bulletin Board 7:00am Nossa Gentes e Costumes 8:00am Effort Pour Christ 9:00am Tele Kreyol 10:00am Evangelista Camillo Fodera 11:00am The Chef's Table Series 12:00pm Gentle Belly Dancing 1:00pm Off the Shelf 1:30pm DW Conflict Zone 2:00pm Startup TV Boston 3:00pm African Television Network 4:00pm Dedilhando a Saudade 5:00pm Gay USA 6:00pm The Grandstanders 6:30pm Teen Empowerment 7:00pm Cinema Somerville 8:30pm Somerville Neighborhood News 9:00pm Tele Magazine 10:00pm The Boston Medium 11:00pm Box House Productions Presents 11:30pm SCATV Secret Stash Monday, December 17 12:00am Free Speech TV 5:00am Evangelista Camillo Fodera 6:00am Community Bulletin Board 7:00am Perils for Pedestrians 7:30am Going Postal 8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 9:00am The Stephanie Miller Show 10:00am Both Sides of the Bars 10:30am SOM Arts 11:00am Art Seen at SMC 11:30am DW Conflict Zone 12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show (Free Speech TV) 1:00pm The Kamla Show 1:30pm DW Global 3000 2:00pm NASA TV Silicon Valley Live 3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 4:00pm DW Euromaxx 4:30pm Legacies 5:00pm TeleGalaxie 6:00pm Going Postal 6:30pm The Last Sip 7:00pm LIVE - The Yellow Jacket Lady 7:30pm Henry Parker Presents 8:00pm LIVE - Somerville Overcoming Addiction 9:00pm Dedilhando au Saudade 10:00pm Duck Village Stage Sessions 11:00pm Boston Come Through Tuesday, December 18 12:00am Free Speech TV 6:00am Community Bulletin Board 7:00am DW Euromaxx 7:30am Esoteric Science 8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 9:00am The Chef's Table Series 10:00am Road to Recovery 11:00am Graphic Content 11:30am DW In Good Shape 12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show 1:00pm Words on Film with Dan Burke 2:00pm Somerville Overcoming Addiction 3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 4:00pm SMC Youth Media 4:30pm Henry Parker Presents 5:00pm LIVE - Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer 5:30pm What's New Massachusetts? 6:00pm Community Lens 6:30pm Art & Ideas 7:00pm Art Seen at SMC 7:30pm LIVE - Greater Somerville 8:00pm LIVE - Dead Air Live 9:00pm The Somerville Line 10:00pm TUTV 10:30pm Public Access Boyz 11:00pm Box House Productions Presents 11:30pm Ojo Rojo	
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CITY TV 22 (Comcast) | 13 (RCN) Schedule

Wednesday, December 12 8:30am Middlesex County Update 9:00am Aldermen at Work - JT Scott 9:30am Somerville Climate Forward 10:08am Even Side Season PSA - 2018 11:30am SomerViva em Português - November 2018 12:00pm Conway Park Info Session - 12.5.18 1:00pm BOA - Special Meeting - 11.29.18 2:46pm Milk Row Cemetery Veterans Day Ceremony 6:30pm Paul Revere Statue Unveiling 6:37pm Talking Business "Sweet & Nutty" 6:54pm Even Side Season PSA - 2018 7:00pm BOA-Finance Committee Thursday, December 13 12:00am School Committee Meeting - 12.3.18 1:51am Annual Chamber of Commerce Awards 8:30am Fit-4-Life #3 2017 9:00am City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 10:00am Somerville Climate Forward 11:30am BOA - Land Use Committee 4:00pm Upcoming Meeting Agenda 7:00pm Board of Aldermen Meeting - LIVE Friday, December 14 12:00am Raising Families "Special Needs Education" 12:28am Even Side Season PSA - 2018 12:30am Somerville Veterans' Memorial Parade 1:30am Somerville Climate Forward 2:08am Talking Business "Sweet & Nutty" 2:30am Immigration Health Fair 8:30am Conway Park Info Session - 12.5.18 9:30am Somerville Climate Forward 10:30am SomerViva em Português - November 2018 11:30am BOA-Finance Committee 3:30pm Annual Chamber of Commerce Awards 6:30pm Somerville Veterans' Memorial Parade 7:30pm Conway Park Info Session - 12.5.18 8:30pm The Yankee Division in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive at The Somerville Museum 9:25pm Even Side Season PSA - 2018 9:30pm City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 11:00pm Somerville Climate Forward Saturday, December 15 12:00am City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 1:00am Somerville Veterans' Memorial Parade 2:00am Annual Chamber of Commerce Awards 8:30am Union Gulf: 1947-2017 Photo Exhibit 8:39am Talking Business "Sweet & Nutty" 9:00am Parking Changes on Central Hill Meeting 11:30am Somerville Menorah Lighting - 2018 11:45am Immigration Info Session - 12.9.18 1:30pm BOA-Finance Committee 6:30pm Somerville Menorah Lighting - 2018 6:45pm Immigration Info Session - 12.9.18 8:30pm SomerViva em Português - November 2018 9:00pm City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 10:00pm Conway Park Info Session - 12.5.18 11:00pm Somerville Climate Forward Sunday, December 16 12:00am Somerville Menorah Lighting - 2018 12:15am School Committee Meeting - 12.3.18 2:06am Raising Families "Special Needs Education" 2:34am Talking Business "Sweet & Nutty" 8:30am Sit & Be Fit Fibromyalgia Workout 8:57am Even Side Season PSA - 2018 9:00am Annual Chamber of Commerce Awards 11:30am Parking Changes on Central Hill Meeting 1:00pm City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 2:00pm Immigration Info Session - 12.9.18 3:30pm BOA - Special Meeting - 11.29.18 6:30pm Somerville Menorah Lighting - 2018 6:45pm Transgender Day of Remembrance 7:00pm City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 8:00pm SomerViva em Português - November 2018 8:30pm Board of Aldermen Meeting - 12.13.18 Monday, December 17 12:00am Immigration Info Session - 12.9.18 2:00am City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 2:55am Paul Revere Statue Unveiling 8:30am Middlesex Update w/Marian Ryan 8:57am Even Side Season PSA - 2018 9:00am Annual Chamber of Commerce Awards 11:30am SomerViva em Português - November 2018 12:00pm Board of Aldermen Meeting - 12.13.18 7:00pm School Committee Meeting - LIVE Tuesday, December 18 12:00am Union Gulf: 1947-2017 Photo Exhibit 12:09am Talking Business "Sweet & Nutty" 12:27am Even Side Season PSA - 2018 12:30am Somerville Climate Forward 1:08am City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 2:08am BOA - Special Meeting - 11.29.18 8:30am Fit-4-Life #4 2017 9:00am Somerville Climate Forward 10:00am Paul Revere Statue Unveiling 11:30am Immigration Info Session - 12.9.18 1:00pm BOA-Finance Committee 8:30pm School Committee Meeting - 12.17.18 Wednesday, December 19 12:00am Conway Park Info Session - 12.5.18 1:00am BOA-Legislative Matters Committee	
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Educational TV 15 Schedule

Wednesday, December 12 9:00am Our Schools, Our City - Early Education 10:00am SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen 12:00pm Student of the Qtr. - WSNS 12:30pm Student of the Qtr. - Argenziano School 1:00pm Student of the Qtr. - Brown School 1:30pm Student of the Qtr. - ESCS 2:00pm SHS Football vs CRLS 5:00pm Our Schools, Our City - Early Education 6:00pm SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen 8:00pm Student of the Qtr. - WSNS 8:30pm Student of the Qtr. - Argenziano School 9:00pm Student of the Qtr. - Brown School 9:30pm Student of the Qtr. - ESCS 10:00pm SHS Football vs CRLS Thursday, December 13 12:30am SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen 9:00am 2018 SHS Fall Sports Rally 10:00am SHS Football vs CRLS 12:30pm SHS Football vs N. Reading 3:00pm SHS Football vs Beverly 5:05pm SHS Girls Basketball vs Beverly 6:30pm Our Schools, Our City - Early Education 7:00pm 2018 SHS Fall Sports Rally 8:00pm SHS Football vs CRLS 10:30pm SHS Football vs N. Reading Friday, December 14 9:00am Our Schools, Our City - Early Education 10:00am SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen 12:00pm Student of the Qtr. - Healey School 12:30pm Student of the Qtr. - WHCS 1:00pm Student of the Qtr. - ESCS 1:30pm Student of the Qtr. - Brown School 2:00pm Student of the Qtr. - Argenziano School 2:30pm Student of the Qtr. - WSNS 3:00pm Our Schools, Our City - Early Education 4:00pm SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen 7:00pm SHS Boys Basketball v Lynn Classical 10:00pm SHS Boys Basketball v Lynn Classical Saturday, December 15 12:00am SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen 2:00am SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen 9:00am SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen 11:00am ESCS Winter Concert 12:00pm SHS Boys Basketball v Lynn Classical 2:00pm Our Schools, Our City - Early Education 3:00pm 2018 SHS Fall Sports Rally 4:00pm SHS Football vs CRLS 7:00pm SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen 9:00pm ESCS Winter Concert 10:00pm SHS Boys Basketball v Lynn Classical Sunday, December 16 12:00am Our Schools, Our City - Early Education 1:00am 2018 SHS Fall Sports Rally 2:00am SHS Football vs CRLS 9:00am Our Schools, Our City - Early Education 9:30am Student of the Qtr. - Brown School 10:00am Student of the Qtr. - Healey School 10:30am Student of the Qtr. - WHCS 11:00am Student of the Qtr. - ESCS 11:30am Student of the Qtr. - Argenziano School 12:00pm ESCS Winter Concert 1:00pm SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen 3:00pm SHS Boys Basketball v Lynn Classical 5:00pm Our Schools, Our City - Early Education 5:30pm Student of the Qtr. - Brown School 6:00pm Student of the Qtr. - Healey School 6:30pm Student of the Qtr. - WHCS 7:00pm Student of the Qtr. - ESCS 7:30pm Student of the Qtr. - Argenziano School 8:00pm ESCS Winter Concert 9:00pm SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen 11:00pm SHS Boys Basketball v Lynn Classical Monday, December 17 12:00am SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen 2:00am SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen 9:00am SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen 11:00am ESCS Winter Concert 12:00pm SHS Boys Basketball v Lynn Classical 2:00pm Our Schools, Our City - Early Education 3:00pm ESCS Winter Concert 4:00pm SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen 5:00pm SHS Boys Basketball v Lynn Classical 6:00pm SHS Girls Basketball v Lynn English 6:00pm Our Schools, Our City - Early Education 8:00pm Our Schools, Our City - Early Education 9:00pm SHS Hockey vs Lynn English 12:00am SHS Girls Basketball v Lynn English Tuesday, December 18 9:00am ESCS Winter Concert 10:00am SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen 11:00am SHS Boys Basketball v Lynn Classical 12:00pm SHS Girls Basketball v Lynn English 2:00pm Our Schools, Our City - Early Education 3:00pm ESCS Winter Concert 4:00pm SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen 5:00pm SHS Boys Basketball v Lynn Classical 6:00pm SHS Girls Basketball v Lynn English 8:00pm Our Schools, Our City - Early Education 9:00pm SHS Hockey vs Lynn English 12:00am SHS Girls Basketball v Lynn English	
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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Quit This Job And Become A Poet (Out of Spite)'

By Georgia Park

Quit This Job And Become A Poet (Out of Spite)
By Georgia Park
October 2018
Free Verse Revolution Publishing

Review by Timothy Gager

There's something wrong with you if these poems don't speak to you. If they don't speak to you it means you are not vulnerable. It means you are uncomfortable when someone is completely honest with you. It means someone sitting next to you on an airplane who is about to tell you the most incredible story you've heard in your life and is silenced because you are too busy to listen.

Truth is, you are not too busy, but you don't want to listen to the person next to you in the airplane because you are too busy pretending to read the in-flight magazine. You're an unlucky sap who flips pages about the Taquerias in Atlanta, that you will never eat or speak about. It's too bad because you have passed on some real life.

Georgia Park's poems will speak to you admire people who take social risks. If you think the world's normal is your normal, and you know that your normal isn't at all what society says is normal ... but basically you don't give a hoot. If you are that kind of creative, sensitive person, you will love *Quit This Job And Become A Poet (Out of Spite)*.

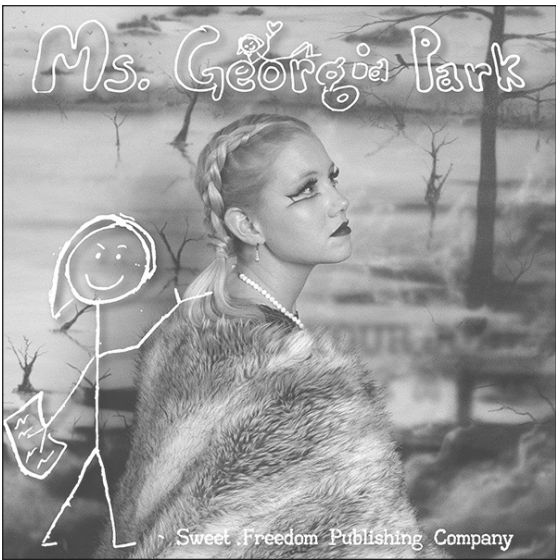
In this book, the poet, Georgia Park, does a remarkable thing. Her poems expose the inner-editor she has in her head regarding the risks in life, yet seems to shut down the inner-editor having to do with the poetry. In other words, the work all hangs out. This is a gift that Park has which allows amazing lines or phrases to appear like magic out of nowhere.

I want someone as close as
family
to kiss my eyelids while I'm
sleeping
and make a cross on my chest
even if it's just my little dog
slobbering
who still smells vaguely of
kimchi

(from the poem *Helicopter Tail*)

This talent also allows her to stick the closings of her poems like a gymnast ending an outstanding routine. Many of these poems close strongly.

In *Quit This Job And Become A Poet (Out of Spite)*, Park writes her truth about being a poet, going to events, making a life of it. While doing this, she is naked within her work, with the attitude of "so what if I'm naked," which is a necessary attitude and swagger of a poet announcing themselves into the tricky world of poetry and or poetry groups. Again and again, we are treated to these unblinking words, as if, we are forced into a staring contest and we, the reader, will be the one who end up blinking. Yet it is the poet who has blinked a few hundred times, but it's too late, you have already lost the contest, the poet is braver that you are – but as a reader of poetry you are the winner. It is something to admire. In the poem *Talk Show Host* the reality of no longer working is reflected upon, with humor and desperation.



I am sleeping
far too often
I won't go out
because I can't
pay for me
and I can't feign interest
any longer
unless you're a
talk show host
or a future
employer
don't bother

Certainly if Park quit her job to become a poet you certainly understand it, and understand how it can be out of spite. The working world can be such bullshit, but so can the poetry world, which offers other various challenges. The poem *Molotov Cocktail* rings true in this regard:

Molotov Cocktail

I haven't heard back
from the guy who said
he'd make me famous
except to ask for a blowjob
of epic proportions
which I won't give
and the texts
keep rolling in
I start to think
it's not such a bad thing
if no one ever knows
who I am
I'm going to bury
my manuscript
in a garden
and see if I can grow
my own little
Molotov cocktails

it's better than ending up
in the garbage
with the scrap metal
and home furnishings
of this life
I thought I could live

This book of poetry is a good read, one I enjoyed, and would recommend to poets, readers, and even those who might be stuck working out in the world as dogs being eaten by other dogs.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Lawrence Kessenich won the 2010 Stokestown International Poetry Prize. His poetry has been widely published, including in the *Sewanee Review*, and *Poetry Ireland*. His chapbook was published by Pudding House Publications in 2008. In 2012, his poem *Underground Jesus* was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Kessenich has also published essays, one of which was featured on NPR's *This I Believe* in 2010 and appears in the anthology *This I Believe: On Love*. A number of his plays have been produced. He is the author of the novel *Cinnamon Girl*. He is a Somerville Bagel Bard.



Portrait of a Woman with Red Hair

For Bridget

She was the first dead person
I had ever seen. I was a little girl,
holding my brother's hand on the way
to school. And suddenly there she was,
lying on gray pavement, startling red hair
spread out like a magnificent cape. At first
I thought she was asleep, the people around
trying to wake her. Later I asked my brother,
"Was she dead?" And he said, "Yes."

I am a painter now and it's her hair
I can't forget, red hair flowing
from her head, a bloody halo around
a dead white face. You'd think I'd paint her,
but composing a portrait requires
objectivity, and her image
still unnerves me. She was young.
She was beautiful. She was the first
dead person I had ever seen.

Painting her would be like resurrecting
a nightmare, without my brother's hand
to lead me past it, his voice to reassure me
that the dead can't harm us. Now, I have seen
so many people dead, am not so far
from death, myself. Now, I know death
waits around a corner for me, as it waited
for her. On bad nights I see my hennaed hair
splayed like blood on the street.

— Lawrence Kessenich

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

A new era of lending in the community

A photograph of three people—two men and one woman—standing together and looking at a large, unfolded map. The man on the left is wearing a dark jacket over a light shirt. The woman in the middle is wearing a green sweater over a light shirt. The man on the right is wearing a blue button-down shirt and dark trousers. They are in a room with a white wall and a doorway in the background. A large, stylized letter 'R' is visible on the right side of the image.

A man and a woman are standing in front of a house. The man is holding a document and pointing at it. The woman is looking at the document. There is a sign in the foreground that says "HOUSE FOR SALE". The sign is white with a black border and the words "HOUSE", "FOR", and "SALE" are written in black capital letters on separate lines. The house in the background has a white exterior and a dark roof. There are green bushes in front of the house. The sky is blue with some clouds. The overall scene suggests a real estate transaction.

A photograph of a two-story brick building. The upper level features a large blue sign with white text that reads "LOAN CENTER" with a red swoosh graphic. To the left, a smaller blue sign for "WINTER HILL BANK" is visible. The ground floor has large glass windows reflecting the street scene, including a white van and trees. A metal ramp with railings is in the foreground on the left.

Or apply online at winterhillbank.com

