



Inside:



Our best gifts
ever

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A holiday lighting
at City Hall

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Winter Farmers
Market

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Somerville celebrates opening of Green Line Extension to Medford



The Green Line Extension's Medford Branch officially opened on Monday, and Somerville was there for it.
— Photo by Bobbie Toner

By Jim Clark

Passenger service began on the completed Green Line Extension route on Monday as crowds gathered to be among the first riders and to participate in this historic event.

Nearly 50 years in the making, the newly expanded transportation system is expected to enhance the lives of the many who will benefit from the service, as well as help in making the local environment significantly cleaner and safer for all.

The Opening Day Celebration at Ball Square Station began at 4:45 a.m., when the First Ride passenger service began.

The rush hour celebration at Ball Square Station was attended by Mayor Ballantyne, former Mayor Joseph Curtatone, State *Continued on page 12*

Somerville's Illuminations 2022 and Citywide Caroling are here

The Somerville Arts Council's Illuminations 2022 and Citywide Caroling is here, so it's time to light things up in Somerville.

They're not doing trolley tours for several reasons, mainly the price of trolley rental has become very expensive. This year, instead of charging for trolley rides they feel the way to make this event as inclusive as possible is to have it be free.

To take the self-guided tour the Somerville Arts Council provides an online map featuring the best and brightest holiday displays. To access the map visit somervilleartscouncil.org.

Citywide Caroling will take place on Thursday, December 15; Citywide Caroling (rain date December 16th) and the Illuminations Bike Tour, Saturday, Dec 17 meet at Somerville City Hall at 5:45 p.m., depart at 6:00 p.m. (rain date Dec 18).



Enjoy the city's best and most festive displays throughout the month of December as Illuminations 2022 gets underway, along with the Citywide Caroling bringing holiday cheer to life.

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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.

After many delays, the **Green Line Extension to Medford** is completed and up and running. Many came out in the early hour morning on Monday to celebrate the opening. The main event is the **Saturday, December 17, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Go Green Line! Community Celebration** at **Somerville High School, 81 Highland Avenue**. Event attendees will be close enough to walk down and check out the new **Gilman Square T stop** behind the high school before or after the event.








Now that Somerville’s **Gilman Square station** is open the **School Street bridge** has reopened. The bridge has been closed since April 2020 to support GLX construction. Montrose Street will revert to one-way westbound traffic. Drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians should proceed with caution while navigating the new traffic pattern.

The **Illuminations Tour** and **Citywide Caroling** is back. As in recent years, the **Somerville Arts Council** will provide an online map featuring the best and brightest holiday displays. To access the map or sign up to be featured on the tour or to carol, visit somer-villeartscouncil.org. Citywide Caroling takes place **Thursday, December 15** (rain date December 16). **Illuminations Bike Tour, Saturday, December 17**: meet at **Somerville City Hall** at 5:45 pm, departing at 6:00 pm. (rain date December 18).

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of December 14 – December 20 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>December 14</i>	Sunny	39°/29°	2%	1%	NW 18 mph
 Thursday <i>December 15</i>	Cloudy	39°/40°	20%	17%	NNE 11 mph
 Friday <i>December 16</i>	Rain	47°/38°	95%	87%	E 20 mph
 Saturday <i>December 17</i>	Rain	40°/26°	49%	39%	W 16 mph
 Sunday <i>December 18</i>	Partly Cloudy	39°/31°	3%	2%	W 15 mph
 Monday <i>December 19</i>	Sunny	42°/29°	2%	1%	W 14 mph
 Tuesday <i>December 20</i>	Partly Cloudy	41°/27°	15%	12%	W 11 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Charter recommendations are off base and need to be rejected

TheoNa says:

Thank you Mr. Horton for a well-presented argument against the proposed charter changes. As many of the councilors only receive a few hundred votes when they are elected, they tend to represent a small minority of the overall population. While most of this is caused by voter apathy during off-year election cycle voting for councilors, there should be greater controls in place to prevent them from running amok. One recommended control would be to place all proposed charter changes on the ballot so that voters can have a greater voice on charter changes.

Joe Lynch says:

Any organization should undertake a “review” every now and then to evaluate its structure and how it operates in the current environment. There also will be recommendations made that some, not all, will like. Conversely, there will be recommendations made that some, not all, will not like. The periodic review of the Somerville City Charter is a good thing. Once the recommendations are made and commented on, it then goes onto the Massachusetts state Legislature for review and approval. But here’s the catch. If the city submits their proposed changes to the Legislature with the intent of a “all or nothing” vote from the Legislature, this is dead on arrival. There’s a lot to unpack in the proposed changes to the charter. Some I like, some I don’t. But for now, I want to thank the members of the Charter Review committee. A lot of time and talent has been expended to craft the recommended changes. Now it’s our turn to comment. I hope that as adults, we can comment in a constructive way and refrain from name calling.

Response to: Demolition for progress

Neil Gillis says:

I lived at 221 the house in the rear

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Best gift ever



I asked for a guitar for two Christmases and finally got it on Christmas Day 1966 and started taking lessons. Before that my favorite toy was an Erector Set and my Aurora Racecar set. This story is about our friends and neighbors’ best and most loved Christmas presents and gifts.

“I loved Spirograph. I played it for



hours!”
“Atari 2600. I was the envy of the neighborhood!”
“Barbie dolls. Favorite stocking stuffers were the old books of McDonald’s gift certificates and Christmas Life Saver story books.”
“Mrs. Beasley... still have her...!”
“My Brother Tony’s Drum Set. Christmas 1954.”
“My sister got a talking Chatty Cathy doll.”
“Speedway sled. I waxed those runners and would fly down the former church lot across from the Highland Ave. fire station!”
“Set of Tonka construction vehicles. I recently found them in my mom’s basement. Plan on sending them along to someone.”
“There was no favorite, every year mom and dad would come through with all the latest toys.”
“Thumberlina doll, doll baby carriage, etc. We got a lot. My parents worked hard to give us great Christmases.”

Continued on page 5



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Persons with disabilities can request accommodations to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville by contacting Adrienne Pomeroy at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or ADA@somervillema.gov in advance of the event.

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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG				
Arrests:	warrant charges of unregis-	traffic violation, speeding,	ber plate violation, attaching	Xuan Xin, December 9, 12:23
Stephen Bolton, of Stone-	tered motor vehicle, unin-	negligent operation of a mo-	wrong motor vehicle, marked	p.m., arrested at Alston St. on a
ham, December 7, 3:45 p.m.,	sured motor vehicle or trailer,	tor vehicle, failure to signal,	lanes violation, and failure to	warrant charge of larceny under
arrested at Mystic Ave. on	improper turn, state highway	failure to stop for police, num-	stop or yield.	\$250 by false pretenses.


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Somerville Public Schools educators, staff recognized by regional, state, and national organizations in 2022

Six members of the Somerville Public Schools (SPS) staff were recognized for outstanding work by regional, state, and national organizations in 2022. Awards went to teachers at Somerville High School, our Athletics staff, and to the Director of the SPS’ newly-formed Office of Basic Needs and Housing Support.

Interim Superintendent Dr. Jeff Curley celebrated the staff accomplishments, noting, “The fact that so many of our incredible staff and teachers were recognized this fall is a direct result of their dedication to their students and school community. Each of these award recipients innovated in their field and found ways to make sure every student feels supported. These staff members inspire and encourage our students to be the best versions of themselves and we are lucky to have them here in Somerville Public Schools.” The following SPS staff were recognized in 2022:

Somerville High School history teacher Adda Santos, named Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History 2022 Massachusetts History Teacher of the Year. Interim SHS co-principal and former social studies department chair Alicia Kersten describes Ms. Santos as “a remarkable teacher whose passion for history inspires and empowers her students.”

Somerville High School English teacher Veronica Rowlinson, named Massachusetts Department of Education Teacher of the Year Finalist. Ms. Rowlinson is an accomplished English teacher and works with the SHS National Honors Society chapter.

Somerville Public Schools Athletics Department’s Michelle Kelly, named Massachusetts Secondary School Athletics Director Athletic Trainer of the Year. This award reflects her exceptional service and unique contributions to the athletic training profession. SPS Athletic Director Stanley Vieira says, “she is a tireless worker and an amazing resource.”

Somerville High School math teacher and boys’ tennis coach Michael Morgan, named Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Tennis Coach of the Year. This award is given for excellence of character, impact upon students, and community coaching credentials. Mr. Morgan also runs the Summer Explore orientation program for incoming 9th graders to Somerville High School.

Somerville Public Schools Basic Needs and Housing Support Office Director Regina Bertholdo, recognized at The Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus 2022 Latino Excellence Awards. This award recognizes Director Bertholdo’s leadership and trailblazing to move the needle forward in cities and towns across the state. She was nominated by State Representative Mike Connolly.

Somerville High School history teacher Beatriz Thomas, named an AmplifyLatinx 2022 Latinx Amplifier. Ms. Thomas was selected from among 30 peers and dozens of applicants from around the state.

Kennedy School librarian Meghan Strapec was named 2023 Porter Square Books Writer in Residence for Young Readers. Ms. Strapec was chosen based on a writing sample, essay response, and her curriculum vitae.

In addition to their awards, Somerville High School teachers and staff, with district colleagues, celebrated SHS teachers Ms. Santos, Ms. Rowlinson, and Ms. Thomas at an event in the auditorium followed by coffee and desserts prepared by the SHS Culinary Arts Program.

Winter Hill development plan presented to City Council

By Emilia Wisniewski

The Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development provided updates on a renovation project in Winter Hill, including a time for public hearing and expected construction, at a nearly four-hour City Council meeting last Thursday.

The area, on the corner of Broadway and Temple Street, will be transformed into a green space, affordable housing, and mixed-use development after having an abandoned Star Market on the property for over a decade, according to a 2020 City of Somerville press release.

The first draft of the plan, called the Winter Hill Neighborhood Plan, was done in 2016. With some slight changes, such as an expanded green area, the Winter Hill Urban Renewal Plan was drafted in 2020 and approved by the City Council in the

spring of 2021, according to the presentation.

“Throughout the community process so far, we’ve been hearing a lot of excitement around making something happen after 14 years,” said Urban Planner and Designer Rachel Nadkarni.

In an environmental study, the area was found to contain traces of asbestos from an old theater in the 1940s — this made it unachievable to construct underground parking, as the plan had hoped to do. More affordable housing was substituted for parking, coming to a total of 132 affordable housing units out of the 288 units.

The proposed increase in housing raised the deficit significantly to over \$13 million that the city is unable to afford and has the team “very worried,” said OSPCD Executive Director Tom Galligani. But the presentation suggested an implementation of the Urban Center Housing Tax Increment



The Somerville City Council was updated on the currently proposed development plans for the Broadway and Temple Street area. — Photo by Bobbie Toner



The Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development submitted the site plan to the Zone Board of Appeals in 2022, outlining housing units and community green space.

Financing plan, also called UCH-TIF, to eliminate real estate tax from all or part of the improvement of the housing projects.

“The project already aligns really well with the program requirements,” said Alexis Turgeon, OSPCD Housing Development Manager. “It’s also a great financing tool that can help us close the gap in affordable projects that are struggling to get underway due to those rising interest rates and escalating construction costs, which this project is no stranger to.”

The presentation featured a

general outline of the project going forward, with public hearings beginning in February of 2023, and construction beginning in the winter of 2023 if the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Department of Housing and Community Development authorize the plans throughout next year.

City Council members asked extensive questions — relating to tax breaks and the UCH-TIF tool — and asked for clarifications on the project, but were ultimately in favor of what the presentation proposed.

“This was really helpful [and] really thought-provoking,” said Vice President Ben Ewen-Campen. “Big picture, I very much support using public resources to make affordable housing happen.”

Another significant discussion at the meeting involved several traffic and parking matters, such as the “very disruptive” traffic detour on Highland Avenue that began on December 12 and the implementation of speed bumps as a traffic calming measure.

The next City Council meeting will take place on January 3, 2023.

Best gift ever CONT. FROM PG 3

“Easy Bake Oven and Colorforms.”
“Barbie town house. It was missing parts or my dad messed up, but even though it wasn’t perfect I loved it! Lol.”
“My favorite gift all time is when my dad got me a Nintendo back in 88 or 89. Just knowing how difficult they were to get on

the holidays, he came up clutch.”
“Mrs. Beasley... still have her...”
Remember the Kenner Give a Show projector? We had it when we were young and I bought one recently off of eBay to add to my collection of relics, junk, and collectibles.

The year I got my first acoustic guitar was huge. The following Christmas I got my first electric guitar and my life changed. My dad paid \$28 dollars for it at Raymond’s department store. I remember getting gifts from The Bargain Center in Davis Square. Sometimes the

things were singed with soot because Bargain Center sold a lot of fire damaged stock. I can still remember the smell.
Remembering our past Christmases adds a special warmth to the holiday season.

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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week. This week, Beacon Hill Roll Call reviews five of the key votes from the 2021-2022 session dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic..

COVID-19 EMERGENCY SICK LEAVE AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CHANGES (H 3771)

House 157-0, Senate 40-0, approved a bill that would provide qualified workers with up to five days of paid leave for COVID-19-related emergencies including workers who are sick with the virus, under a quarantine order, recovering from receiving a vaccine or caring for a family member ill with the virus.

The measure is also designed to relieve employers from expensive unexpected unemployment system costs. Many businesses were shocked when they saw their first-quarter unemployment contribution bills and found the solvency assessment rate had jumped from 0.58 percent in 2020 to 9.23 percent in 2021, raising costs in many cases by hundreds or thousands of dollars.

Under the proposal, the state would shift all COVID-related unemployment claims from the solvency fund into a new COVID claims fund and the solvency fund would revert to its original function. Employers, who fund the state’s jobless aid system, will still be on the hook in the long term, and a COVID-related assessment on businesses will kick into effect for 2021 and 2022.

“In order for us to fully recover from the pandemic, all Massachusetts workers need access to emergency paid sick time if they are sick with COVID-19, quarantined or need to care for a sick family member,” said Deb Fastino, Executive Director of the Coalition for Social Justice. “Many essential frontline workers need paid sick time so they can recover from the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine.”

“Massachusetts workers and businesses share the same goal of restoring jobs lost during the COVID pandemic and getting back to work,” said Steve Tolman, president of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO. “By spreading this year’s solvency assessment over the next two decades using already authorized borrowing, the House took the necessary step at this time to enable that continued economic recovery. Moving forward, it is critical that we take a hard look at the way we fund our Unemployment Insurance System to ensure that costs are fairly spread out across businesses; that we build substantial reserves during good economic times in order to weather the bad without relying on costly borrowing; and that workers can continue to count on unemployment benefits as an economic lifeline to provide for their families and boost the Massachusetts economy.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Didn't Vote
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

EARLY RELEASE OF PRISONERS (H 4002)

House 132-27, Senate 37-3, overrode Gov. Baker’s veto of a section that authorizes the commissioner of corrections, if it can be done safely, to release, transition to home confinement or furlough prisoners with prioritization given to populations most vulnerable to serious medical outcomes from COVID-19. The section also maximizes the awarding of “good time” by eliminating mandates for participation in programming for those close to their release dates and awarding credits toward reduce sentences for time served during the pandemic.

Another provision authorizes the Disability Law Center to monitor the continuity of care for Bridgewater state hospital patients who are discharged to county correctional facilities or department of mental health facilities.

In his veto message, the governor said that he struck the section because it is not consistent with his original budget proposal.

Override supporters said the veto would eliminate important measures to ensure the state’s correctional facilities remain safe and healthy environments for all prisoners and staff.

(A “Yes” vote is for the section authorizing the release and furlough of prisoners and allowing the Disability Law Center to monitor the care of prisoners transferred from Bridgewater. A “No” vote is against the section.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

EXCLUDE MUNICIPAL WORKERS (H 3771)

House 0-158, Senate on a voice vote without a roll call, rejected Gov. Baker’s amendment that would exclude municipal employees from the emergency COVID-19 paid leave program.

The Baker administration has defended the exclusion of municipal workers arguing that they already have strong leave protections in place and that many municipalities can access federal funds to implement their own leave programs that could align with state and federal leave guarantees.

Rep. Josh Cutler, (D-Pembroke), House chair of the Committee on Labor and Workforce Development disagreed with Baker. “As the speaker has made clear, the House stands firm in supporting COVID emergency paid leave for all Massachusetts workers,” said Cutler. “That includes our municipal employees, the teachers, police officers, firefighters, health agents, janitors, veterans’ agents and many others who have been essential to our state’s COVID-19 response. Further, our actions today to address unemployment solvency account rates will help stem rising costs for employers and small businesses.”

House GOP Minority Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading) also disagreed with Baker, a fellow Republican. “Having access to emergency paid sick leave is essential to workers who are recovering from the coronavirus, caring for a family member or trying to schedule their vaccination,” Jones said. “Municipal employees – including essential frontline workers like police and firefighters – have also faced numerous challenges created by the COVID-19 global pandemic, and the House’s vote will ensure that they are also entitled to the same paid sick leave benefits as other non-municipal workers.”

(A “No” vote is against the amendment and favors including municipal employees.)

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

COVID-19 POLICY EXTENSIONS (S 2475)

House 150-10, (Senate on a voice vote without a roll call) approved legislation that would extend many of the measures instituted in Massachusetts during the COVID-19 state of emergency that expired when the original emergency declaration ended.

Provisions include allowing public bodies subject to the open meeting law to continue to hold remote meetings; allowing cities and towns to approve and extend permits for outdoor dining; allowing restaurants to offer alcoholic beverages, including mixed drinks, for off-site consumption with the purchase of food; and extending several protections that have been granted to tenants who have difficulty paying rent.

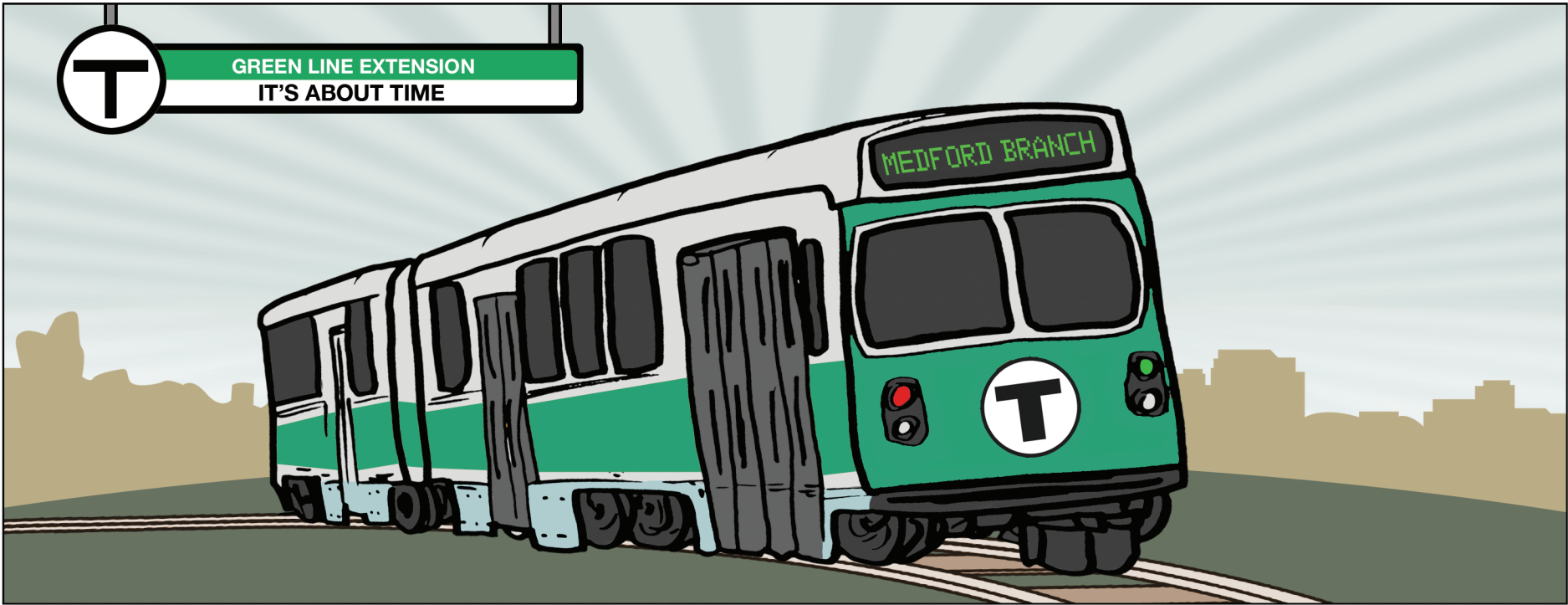
Other provisions include reinstating the remote option for representative town meetings and meetings of nonprofits and public corporations; notary services; reverse-mortgage loan counseling; and flexibility for assisted living residences.

Supporters said that these provisions have been helpful to businesses, municipalities, health care *Continued on page 23*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Here at last!

Our View Of The Times



After so many years of wishing and hoping, fighting for funding then finally ponying up the fare, the mighty behemoth known as the Green Line Extension project has finally come to completion and has begun rendering service to the residents of our city and its neighboring environs.

All the shiny new stations built to accommodate the line are rolling out their red – or should we say green – carpets as

grateful passengers file for their first rides and first taste of how those rides will be.

But the grand debut this week was a much-welcomed event. A payoff of sorts, since all of us have had a stake in it to the tune of paying our share in taxes and putting up with the inconveniences of its construction. We deserve a little hoopla and hoorah when the glorious green gremlin finally wends its way through the city.

All kidding aside, it's really nice seeing this thing finally coming to completion. Whether one is a supporter of the project or a detractor, it's still good to know we've finally taken it all the way down the line to its final destination.

The excitement and celebratory atmosphere of this week's grand opening was definitely an inspiring thing to behold. Crowds of eager riders showed up before

the break of dawn to either take a chance at finding a spot on the first ride or to just be a part of the whole extravaganza.

One gets the idea that the celebration will continue for a while. And why not? This is a big deal after all.

And we will be better off for it, in many different ways. It's been a long time coming, and it's high time we get on board and enjoy the ride, now that we finally can.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

On Sunday, December 18, a ceremonial Menorah Lighting event will take place on the City Hall Concourse beginning at 5:00 p.m. All members of the community are invited to join Mayor Ballantyne, Rabbi Eliana Jacobowitz, and city staff for a brief ceremony and photo on the City Hall Concourse. A short informal program of traditional songs and sing-alongs will be performed, special gifts will be available for children, and light refreshments will be served. The Menorah will be lit each night of Hanukkah.

Contractors have begun underground utility improvements along Highland

Ave. Here's what you need to know ahead of your commute: Westbound traffic will be detoured south on School St. and west on Summer St. before turning right on Lowell St. to return to Highland Ave. Eastbound traffic remains as usual. Temporary sidewalks will be installed to maintain safe crossings. MBTA buses 88 and 90 will be allowed to proceed along Highland in both directions during the detour. All businesses will remain open and accessible during construction. For questions, please email construction@somervillema.gov or call the Engineering Division at 617-625-6600 ext. 5400.

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

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to a great photographer and a great person, Iaritza Menjivar. Iaritza works for the Somerville Arts Council and is involved in many other projects of her own. We wish her a very special day! We wish all of our

Facebook friends, such as Heather Balchunas, Kimberly Pedersen, Erin Madden Capasso, Olivia Huang, Glenn DiMasse and Toni Guarinoa a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

This year, USQ - Union Square has organized its Second Annual Donation Drive in order to support the Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC) and their clients. 10 Union Square businesses and organizations are participating by hosting a donation bin through

Continued on page 18

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's
Olio
#855

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. Who was the first U.S. President president who officially recognized Hanukkah?

2. When was the first official White House Hanukkah Party held?

3. How many blessings are said on the first night of hanukkah?

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

5. What is Kwanzaa a celebration of?

6. When was Christmas declared a national holiday?
7. In the holiday season what is Viscum used for?

8. In the novel *A Christmas Carol* what is the name of scrooge's dead business partner?

9. What ocean would you find Christmas Island?

10. What were Frosty the Snowman's first words?

11. The Grinch has what in his smile?

12. What was the original title of *The Little Drummer Boy*?

Answers on page 19

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Cats can't taste sweet things because of a genetic defect.
2. A frigate bird can sleep while it flies.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
WINTER FUN

- ACROSS
1. Make change

6. Used in combination to denote the middle

9. Ammo material

13. Star _____

14. The "place with the helpful hardware folks"

15. Neutral shade

16. Orderly arrangement

17. Romanian monetary unit

18. Button on electrical outlet

19. Frosty's nose

21. Gingerbread Man, e.g.

23. Drench

24. What a willow did?

25. Famous song by The Jackson 5

28. Cone-shaped quarters

30. Snow mover

35. A bit of water

37. Pakistani language

39. Measured in knots

40. Tatted fabric

41. "A Visit from St. Nicholas" poet

43. Tropical edible root

44. Paintings in Orthodox church

46. Not swim or swum

47. Frozen puddle accident

48. Small skullcap

50. Dresden's river

52. Captain's turf

53. Drop of sorrow

55. "Slippery" tree

57. Frozen spike

60. Three-horse sleigh ride

63. Words to live by

64. Caviar alternative

66. On D'Artagnan's hat

68. Group of wives

69. Boiling emotion

70. Furnish with a fund

71. Travelers' stops

72. Poetic "even"

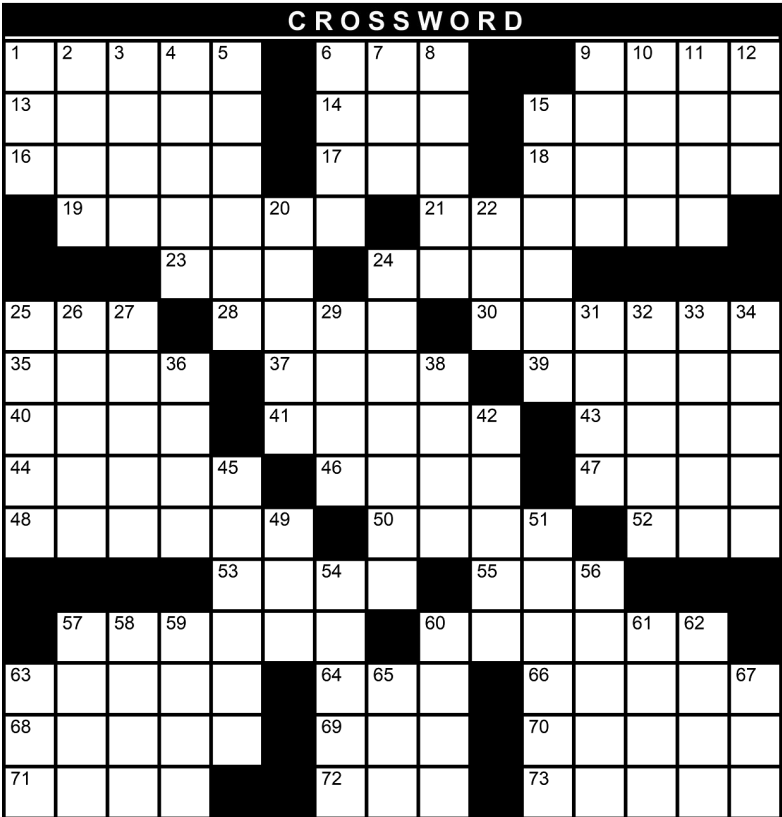
73. Buy second-hand

- DOWN
1. Agha, alt. sp.

2. Artist Chagall's first name

3. Poet Pound's first name

4. Draws close





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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

5. Fungus damage (2 words)

6. Shake's cousin?

7. _____ fishing

8. Two, in cards

9. Station finder button

10. Not final

11. Curved molding

12. Kind of nurse

15. Bouillons

20. Laudanum ingredient

22. Saturn's wife

24. As opposed to widow

25. Impromptu

26. Emergency pedal

27. Hot treat

29. Major-leaguers

31. Prefers

32. Butcher shop offering, pl.

33. Ghostlike

34. Parkinson's drug
36. Philadelphia's Ivy League member

38. Russian mountain chain

42. Fireplace glob

45. TV offering

49. Reef fish

51. Kind of bride

54. Eagle's home

56. Hundred Acre Wood creator

57. A Flock of Seagulls' 1982 hit (2 words)

58. European Council for Nuclear Research, acr.

59. Bad day for Caesar

60. Not quite an adult

61. Spiral-horned African antelope

62. Singer-songwriter Tori

63. Tai's partner

65. Miner's bounty

67. Female sheep

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Somerville publishes draft Bicycle Network Plan

After a year of community engagement, data analysis, and policy research, the City of Somerville has published a draft of Somerville's first Bicycle Network Plan. The Bicycle Network Plan is a visioning document intended to guide the next few decades of work to improve and expand Somerville's bicycle facilities.

The Plan proposes an 88-mile citywide network of connected streets and paths where people of all ages and abilities will be able to bike safely and comfortably. Compared to the fragmented 30-mile network that exists today, the Bicycle Network Plan envisions a future with vastly more biking infrastructure, safer facilities, and better connectivity.

Formalizing this shared vision is the first step toward expanding bike ridership in Somerville. Shifting travel away from single-occupancy vehicles and toward sustainable modes like biking is essential to meet the city's Vision Zero public safety goals, Somerville Climate Forward goals, and SomerVision comprehensive planning goals.

The draft plan is now available for review at somervillema.gov/bikenetwork. Information in Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Nepali, Traditional Chinese, and Simplified Chinese will be available in the coming weeks. A final version of the plan will be published in early 2023.

Public comments on the draft plan will be accepted through Monday, January 16. Comments or questions should be sent to the Mobility Division via email at transportation@somervillema.gov or by mail to 93 Highland Ave., c/o Mobility Division, Somerville, MA 02143.



Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Baccalà

The practice of salting and drying Cod has been around for hundreds of years. It was used to preserve large quantities of fish for long periods of time while out at sea. Many cultures use this technique for preservation, including those located in the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, the Caribbean, and Brazil just to name a few. Of course, with the celebration of Christmas upon us, that brings us to the Italian-American tradition of what is called the Feast of the Seven Fishes served on Christmas Eve.

This recipe was passed down from my grandmother's family who came to the United States from Calabria in the early 1900's. My Aunt Dot has preserved this recipe and has made this dish on Christmas Eve for many years. I hope you enjoy this hearty dish as my family does every year.

2 to 2-1/2 lbs. Baccalà (salted, dried cod)
4-5 Medium All Purpose Potatoes, peeled and cut into bite size pieces
3 Tablespoons Olive Oil
1/4-1/2 Teaspoon Peperoncino, Red Pepper Flakes

1 Medium Onion, small dice
3 Large Garlic Cloves, finely minced
3 Medium Bay Leaves
1-28oz. Can Crushed Tomatoes
Salt and Pepper to taste

This dish takes 2 days of preparation in advance. You need to soak the Baccalà prior to cooking and serving. Place the dried cod fish into a large bowl and cover with cold water. Cover and place in the refrigerator. Change out the water about every 4-6 hours. When approaching the 36-hour point of soaking, taste the water and check for saltiness. If the water is not salty, you're ready for the next steps.

Drain the water from the fish and pat dry with paper towels. Be careful not to break apart the fish. Cut into approximately 2"x3" pieces and set aside in the refrigerator.

Rinse and peel the potatoes and cut into bite size pieces. Place the potatoes into a pot large enough for all the potatoes to fit and add cold water covering the potatoes by about an inch of water. Bring to a simmer and cook for about 10 minutes.

In another pot, (6 quart), add the olive oil and red pepper flakes. Heat



for about a minute on medium heat, lower the heat to medium low and add the diced onion and sauté for 5-7 minutes just until translucent. Add the minced garlic and sauté for 30 seconds. Add the crushed tomatoes and bay leaves. You should add a pinch of salt and pepper at this time to season the tomatoes.

Gently add the pieces of fish into the sauce. Add the drained potatoes into the sauce. Make sure all the ingredients are covered by the tomato

sauce. Cover and simmer on low for 30-45 minutes checking on it periodically making sure it doesn't boil. You may gently move the potatoes and fish with a spoon, making sure nothing is sticking to the bottom of the pot. Taste and season with additional salt and pepper to taste. Ladle out into a bowl and serve with crusty bread.

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

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.

A long-awaited deserved celebration



By Mayor Emeritus
Eugene C. Brune

Finally. After more than 50 years of expectation, long-awaited and promised Green Line is now serving the city of Somerville. The promise of this public transportation expansion was made after a major battle was launched by those neighborhoods that felt the noise, the disruption, the displacement, and the ill health effects, when I 93 ripped through Somerville, the densest city in the state. In the process, several lawsuits were filed which demonstrated the cumulative environmental problems which the new highway brought to town. Public transportation was seen as a mitigation for the environmental problems caused by the highway.

History will also show that politics in Somerville were corrupt, as former Mayor Larry Bretta,

aligning with Governor Sergeant, help to push for the new roadway to be built, rather than to side with the impacted neighborhoods in East Somerville, in particular. There was strong resistance from many champions in East Somerville, but in the end the bulldozers came in, and by the early seventies, the neighborhood known as the "Nunnery Grounds" or the "Aves" was separated by the new highway, 93, from what is now Assembly Row, along with the population loss of nearly 20,000 residents.

Despite the heartbreak from that period, the citizens in Somerville can be incredibly pleased with our new rapid transportation system, which places the great majority of residents within about a 10-minute walk to a T stop. I want to recognize my former fellow mayors, former Congressman Michael Capuano, Dorothy Kelly Gay, and Joseph Curtatone, for their continuity in never letting go of the vision of an expanded Green Line as an achievable goal.

As a former Alderman in Ward 6, including Davis Square, I also helped in pushing to have the Red Line extended to Davis Square,

and as your former mayor was able to cut the ribbon on that new train system with Governor Dukakis and Ward 6 Alderman Jack Connolly in 1984. Also knowing that Governor Dukakis was strongly in favor of public transportation, I asked the Governor and Secretary of Transportation Fred Salvucci if they would consider a Green Line stop in Ball Square. I base my argument on the premise that having a stop in Ball Square would not only be serving a broad area of Somerville, but because Ball Square also abuts Medford, it would be in walking distance for several thousand Medford residence. My secondary argument was that a Ball Square stop would just be a short distance from Tufts University, allowing the students the ability to travel to other destinations in Boston and allowing workers to get to Tufts by public transit.

I also asked the assistance from two particularly good Somerville representatives, the late Senator Sal Albano, and the late State Representative Joseph Mackey. In 1988, we began to have several meetings with the MBTA regarding the extension of the Green Line north to Somerville. There was an appropri-

ation bill before the State Senate that would allow the MBTA to issue bonds for a proposed \$825 million reconstruction project. The funds would allow for the relocation of the Cambridge Lechmere T-Station from his present location to a new location east of the highway. That was the start of the Green Line extension project – and now, 34 years later, ribbons are being cut this week. Not only in the past, Union Square, but now also in Ball Square and Tufts University.

Getting more transit service in Somerville, not only meant an expansion of the Red Line and the Green Line, but also the Orange Line. I had asked Governor Dukakis and Secretary Salvucci to visit with me at Assembly Square, when in the 1980's we had opened the new Assembly Square Mall, which was the original Ford Plant Assembly Line. Also, at that time we had a developer that was going to break ground for the first of four office buildings and a hotel with all underground parking that was going to happen at the site that's now Home Depot. But, if you recall in 1988 all the banks had financial problems, some closing, and the federal government had



– Photo courtesy of Eugene C. Brune

to bail out many with loans. The developer called me with the sad news that they could not break ground and the bank stopped all loans for their development. Although, I did receive a commitment from the governor for the Orange Line.

Still, 30 years later, in a public/private partnership, with bonding help from the City of Somerville, Assembly Row finally did get its orange line stop. Again. When it comes to our public train system, we just need to keep on pushing through, the stops and the starts (no pun intended) and never give up on the dream of clean, convenient, and inexpensive transit for all our residents.

Online survey to help inform Superintendent selection

A new, online community survey as part of the Somerville Public Schools' Superintendent Search process is now live on the district's website. The survey is available in English, Portuguese, and Spanish. A survey in Haitian Creole will also be available soon. To access the surveys, residents can visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/superintendent-search.

The Somerville School Committee, with the help of consultants from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), is leading the search process for Somerville's new Superintendent. The online survey will be used along with feedback provided through a month-long series of public listening sessions to understand the community's values and hopes for a new Superintendent of Schools. All members of the Somerville Public Schools community, including students, families, staff, and administrators, are invited to take the survey. The survey will remain open through December 23, 2022.

Community members may also participate in the ongoing series of listening sessions throughout December. A full list of listening sessions is available at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/superintendent-search.

A new Superintendent is tentatively slated to begin their term in July 2023, pending the outcome of the search process.

Interested applicants for the Somerville Superintendent of Schools position are encouraged to view materials and access the application portal at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/superintendent-search. Members of the public can access this page for updated meeting minutes, materials, and important public meeting dates. Information will also be shared on the Somerville Public Schools Facebook page.

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.

Charter recommendations are off base and need to be rejected

By Howard E. Horton, Esq.

The recently convened Charter Review Committee conducted a thoughtful process but, which, regrettably, resulted in recommendations which will only set the City further adrift from its core values and which would hamstring the workings of municipal government. I make this assessment, in part, from the perspective of having chaired the immediate past Somerville Charter Review Committee which undertook, and completed, its review work in 2008.

In 2008, we examined, and we rejected, two of the main recommendations, now, coming forth from the current Charter group – that we elongate the mayoral term to 4 years; and, that the City create a position of a Chief Administrative Officer, to serve alongside the Mayor. The 2008 Charter Review Committee believed that retaining a two-year term for the Mayor was required to keep local government “effective, efficient and accountable” – and to have the voters, be able to change Mayors quickly, if it is not. We have had more than enough examples of where local government has gone astray and a two-year Mayoral term keeps leadership close to the people and is the best method to ensure accountability. Furthermore, having a Chief Administrative Officer is duplicative of the Mayoral role and would just set up a top-heavy, confusing and unnecessary bureaucracy.

The next set of recommendations from the current Charter Committee has to do with expanding powers and roles of the City Council. These recom-

mendations would serve to inject the City Council into municipal administration when, they are in essence (in keeping with separations of powers), a legislative body. The recommendations seek more executive powers for the Council with the ability to hire its own staff, to have its own law department, and to get more deeply involved in personnel appointments. Without examining the executive capacities of individual Council members, which is not the basis upon which most are ever elected, why would the City want to set up this type of “shadow” government that will only frustrate the executive function of the Mayor’s office?

The City Councilors play an important role in keeping neighborhood issues at the forefront and in making sure City departments are responsive to residents. But, they should not be, separately, opining on complex municipal legal matters which are, best, handled by the Solicitor’s Office; they do not need to have their own staff persons which are separate from City departments – we are too small a city for that boondoggle; and, the Councilors should stay in their lane on the confirmation of appointments and not be involved in active recruitment of department heads – something that a Mayor, absolutely, needs to control in the assemblage of a qualified and responsive executive team.

Similarly, the Charter Committee’s recommendations to make it easier to run for office; to publicly finance campaigns; and to further complicate the budget process are solutions in search of a problem. Running for office, today, requires simply

getting a small number of signatures, which is appropriate; there are already public hearings and Council hearings on the budget which afford appropriate input; and, Somerville, at 4.2 square miles, is a ripe political market for a door-to-door campaigning without the need for a massive campaign war chest. For example, in 2017, a first-time candidate for a councilor-at-large seat knocked on 10,000 doors and got elected first-time out, without exorbitant campaign expense. Past practice has shown that we don’t need to commit taxpayer money to municipal elections in order to get active candidate participation.

The only thing worse than the elective office recommenda-

I appreciate the hard work, good intentions and care in the public process of the Charter Review Committee...

tions from this Committee, is their recommendations pertaining to voters. Giving the vote to 16 year-olds sounds like a nice idea, but why stop there? Why not 14 year olds? At some point the right to vote needs to synch up with the right to make decisions about one’s own welfare and said right does not legally mature until age 18. Where is the harm that is being redressed here? Then the Charter group wants to diminish the impor-

tance of citizenship by not requiring that as a predicate to voting. Rather, than giving the vote to non-citizens, resources should be allocated into helping them to achieve citizenship. Somerville has always valued its immigrant populations, but those populations, historically, strove for citizenship, along with its concomitant attainment of an understanding of civics and government before participation through the vote.

Perhaps the most unsettling change recommended by the Charter Committee would be to move Somerville to ranked-choice voting – a methodology that research has shown can actually dampen participation, disable ballots that don’t make it through the first rounds of counting and, again, is not necessary – as one person/one vote seems to be working quite well in diversifying representation across the City into elective offices. There are times when candidates win with a majority, and then there are times when candidates win with a plurality (as was the case with Congressman Capuano in a Democratic primary.) Both methods, over the years, have played important roles in securing excellent representation for Somerville.

I appreciate the hard work, good intentions and care in the public process of the Charter Review Committee. We need this kind of volunteerism and activism in our body politic. But, the result of this committee’s work is a dismal set of recommendations when it comes to changing the structure, practice and creation of municipal government. The Charter situation

is probably best summed up by the old adage, “if it’s not broke, don’t fix it.”

We do have plenty of things that need fixing in the City, but they are not derivative from our current municipal charter. Affordable housing; traffic and parking; tenant and business displacement; open space creation; rat infestation; bettering our schools; services for our elderly and, most importantly, rebuilding this City as a family community are among the issues which need our full attention. We have been drifting toward a Somerville culture based on cosmetic “progressive” policy initiatives, such as these proffered by the Charter group. But, these are simply overlayed on a constant drumbeat of gentrification and development without the bedrock of common sense and true progressive values that have sustained and characterized the City for decades. I urge the City Council, Mayor, our state delegation and the Legislature to not move forward with the Charter Review Committee’s ill-conceived recommendations – and to, rather, focus our precious energies on the compendium of issues which need to be addressed to the improve quality of life for all our residents.

Howard E. Horton, Esq. served as Co-Chair of the Somervision 2040 Committee; Chaired the Ballot Committee for a new High School; served as Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals; and, was Co-Chair of the Mayor Joseph Curtatone Transition Committee. He also served as a department head, and aide, in the administration of Mayor Eugene C. Brune.

Somerville celebrates opening of Green Line Extension to Medford

CONT. FROM PG 1

Representatives, advocates, and city staff, who greeted T riders and all interested T fans to celebrate the opening of the full Green Line Extension with a band and free opening day memorabilia.

Prior to the official opening, Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne shared in a public statement, "We couldn't be more excited to celebrate the beginning of full Green Line service in Somerville. Expanding public transit access is vital to creating a more equitable future, more jobs, cleaner air, and greater sustainability. Our transit advocates, our elected officials, and City,

State, and MBTA staff all deserve immense gratitude for their tireless work to bring this historical public transit expansion to our area."

A community celebration hosted by the city will be held on Saturday, December 17, at Somerville High School, where an outside kid's train ride, live music, indoor children's activities, an oral history project, a food truck, a speaking program, and more will be enjoyed by those participating.

For more information on the Green Line, including a full-service map and daily schedules visit mbta.com/green.



— Photos by Bobbie Toner and courtesy of MBTA Green Line Extension

Holiday Lighting on the City Hall Concourse

On Thursday, December 8, Somerville kicked off the holiday celebrations with the Holiday Lighting on the City Hall Concourse. Santa Claus was escorted by the Somerville Fire and Police Departments making his grand entrance atop a shiny red fire truck. Santa met with children in the Somerville High School Cafeteria where all children who attend received a special gift from Santa and had the opportunity to take a photo with Old St. Nick.

— Photos by Bobbie Toner



— Photo by Lisa Gallagher-Noonan

13th Annual Somerville Winter Farmers Market

The Center for Arts at the Armory hosts and manages the 13th Annual Somerville Winter Farmers Market every Saturday through April 8. This weekly market offers the best locally grown and regionally produced agricultural items, including vegetable produce, cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, pastries, and sweets. Each market will feature more than 35 weekly vendors and several rotating guest vendors while welcoming an anticipated 1,000 visitors. To learn more and for a complete listing of vendors, weekly specials, and live entertainment, please visit www.somwintermarket.org.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



LEGAL NOTICES

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

**CAPEN COURT (667-1)
HVAC CONTROLS REPLACEMENT PROJECT
SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.biddocsonline.com. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online.

GENERAL BIDS

The Somerville Housing Authority invites **HVAC Contractors** to submit Bid Proposals for the **Chiller Replacement Project** at the **Capen Court (667-1) Senior Housing Development** in **Somerville, Massachusetts**. General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the **Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) category**. Bidders must include a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Update Statement.

The Project consists of: Removal and replacement of the existing air cooled chiller located on the roof with a new air cooled chiller in the same location. New piping, valves, accessories and piping insulation to be installed for the new chiller as shown on the drawings.

General Bids will be received until **2:00 PM**, (local legal time) Thursday **January 12, 2023** and publicly opened on-line, forthwith.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five percent (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount in the form of a bid bond, certified check, treasurer's check or cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority. The Bid Deposit shall be satisfactory to the Awarding Authority and conditioned upon the faithful performance by the principal of the agreements contained in the Bid.

CONSTRUCTION COSTS

Construction costs are estimated to be **\$244,950.00**.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE

A pre-bid walkthrough shall be held at the site located at 1 Capen Court, Somerville, MA 02144 on Thursday, **January 5, 2023 @ 10:00 AM**. Contractors shall meet at the site. Contractors shall meet all COVID-19 safety requirements.

BID DOCUMENTS AND DEPOSIT

All Bids shall be submitted electronically online at www.BidDocsOnline.com no later than the date & time specified above. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.BidDocsOnline.com. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the "Tutorial" tab at the bottom footer).

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

There is a plan deposit of **\$50** per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to **BidDocs Online, Inc.**

Deposits must be a certified or cashier's check, or money order. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within thirty (30) days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise, the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority.

Additional sets may be purchased for **\$50.00**

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

Bids and the Contract are subject to: M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive, Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Equal Opportunity provisions of Executive Order 11246, Non-Discrimination provision of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Labor Standards of the Davis-Bacon Act and related acts and Contract Work Hours Standard Act, and prevailing wage determinations as issued by the U.S. Secretary of Labor. The work performed under this contract is funded in part through the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and is subject to all provisions and regulations issued pursuant to this act.

This project is covered by Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968.

All Bids for the project are subject to the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws (Ter. Ed.), Chapter 149, Sections 44A to 44L inclusive as amended.

RIGHT OF THE AWARDING AUTHORITY TO REJECT BIDS

The right is reserved by the Somerville Housing Authority to reject any or all Bids, if it be in their interest to do so.

MINIMUM WAGE RATES

Bids are subject to the Federal Davis-Bacon wage rates and Related Acts.

12/7/22, 12/14/22 The Somerville Times



**City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, January 5, 2023**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available by using the registration link once the meeting has concluded.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5665737666184196951>
Webinar ID: 950-530-315

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (631) 992-3221
Access code: 341-544-778

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

200 McGrath Highway US McGrath Owner, LLC proposes a Master Plan in the Union Square East sub-area of the Master Plan Development overlay district, which requires a Master Plan Special Permit; the proposal is for an approx. 3 acre site and includes two buildings totaling approx. 980,000SF and three thoroughfares.

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

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>. Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

12/14/22 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB # 23-29**

The City of Somerville, through the Purchasing Department invites sealed bids for:

PRUNING AND REMOVAL OF CITY TREES

An invitation for bids (IFB) and specifications may be obtained at the Procurement & Contracting Services Department, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA. 02143 on or after: **Monday, December 12, 2022**. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **01/12/23 at 2:00PM EST** at which time sealed bids will be open. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

The contract term shall be for a period of 1 year from February 2023 through June 2023, with two one-year options to renew. The City reserves sole discretion to exercise renewal options.

A 5% bid deposit is required. Prevailing wage applies to this procurement.

For more information, please contact Donnette McManus:
procurement@somervillema.gov.

Donnette McManus
Construction Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x. 3400

12/14/22 The Somerville Times

Highland Ave. Westbound Detour

Contractors have begun underground utility improvements along Highland Ave. The work is scheduled to take 2.5 months to complete (weather permitting). Here's what you need to know ahead of your commute:

Westbound traffic will be detoured south on School St. and west on Summer St. before turning right on Lowell St. to return to Highland Ave. Eastbound traffic remains as usual.

Temporary sidewalks will be installed to maintain safe crossings.

MBTA buses 88 and 90 will be allowed to proceed along Highland in both directions during the detour.

All businesses will remain open and accessible during construction.

For questions, please email construction@somervillema.gov or call the Engineering Division at 617-625-6600 ext. 5400

Legal Notices can be downloaded
from our website:
www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

LEGAL NOTICES

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



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

Date of Publication: 12/14/2022
Responsible Entities **City of Somerville**
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community
Development
93 Highland Avenue, 3rd floor, Somerville, MA 02143
Tel: 617-625-6600, x. 2585

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

On or about **December 28, 2022** The Somerville Housing Authority will submit a request to the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Boston Office, for the release of Housing Choice Voucher Program funds under the Section 8 The Housing Act of 1937, as amended, for the purpose of potentially attaching thirty-eight project-based vouchers through the Somerville Housing Authority to be utilized in a project known as Clarendon Hill, Phase 1, located at 34 North Street, Somerville, Mass. Phase I consists of 168 units in one 10 story building 130 of which are replacement public housing and 38 are new middle-income affordable units. The building will be financed through 4% Federal LIHTC funding and utilize income averaging to serve households from 30% AMI to 80% AMI, with additional funding from DHCD via funding from the Program to Expand Housing Opportunities and commitments from Somerville Affordable Housing Trust and CPC. The project will continue to receive state public housing operating subsidy from DHCD, and 38 of the replacement public housing units will receive Project Based Vouchers (PBV). These PBV units include 5 1-bedroom, 31 2-bedroom, and 2 3-bedroom units. Funds for other Phases in the project are not included in this RROF.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at Housing Programs, 2nd floor, City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Avenue, Somerville, MA 02145 and may be examined and/or copied Monday-Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Thursday from 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.; and Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to The City at the address given above. All comments received by the end of the business day on Wednesday, December 28, 2022 will be considered by The City prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

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

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

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

Katjana Ballantyne, Mayor of the City of Somerville

12/14/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #23-30

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

Outdoor Pre-fabricated Standalone Toilets

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **12/15/2022**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **01/12/2023 2:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Andrea Caruth at acaruth@somervillema.gov for more information.

Thupten Chukhatsang
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

12/14/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP# 23-22

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites proposals for:

111F Case Management and Billing

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Monday, December 12, 2022**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **12:00 pm, Wednesday, January 11, 2023**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any minor informality in the RFP process, and accept the proposal(s) deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.

Please email jremy@somervillema.gov for more information.

Jordan Remy
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

12/14/22 The Somerville Times

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
The Trial Court
SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA. 02114

Docket No. SU18P2511GD

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION
OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON

In the Interests of: Kerry Sullivan

RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/Protected Person

OF: Chelsea, MA

To the named Respondent and all other interested person, a petition has been filed by

Virginia Haviland of Canton, MA

in the above captioned matter requesting that court:

Terminate the Guardian and or/Guardianship.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have a right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return day of **01/05/2023**. This day is **NOT** a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file a written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file an affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs of both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness: Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 21, 2022 **Felix D. Arroyo**
Register of Probate

ORDER OF NOTICE

It is ORDERED that a copy of this citation be:

Served with a copy of the petition, in hand to Kerry Sullivan By a disinterested person at least Fourteen (14) days prior to the return date; or if applicable to G. L. c. 190B, §5-405, by leaving a copy of the petition and citation at the respondent's last and usual place abode; and

Served on the Department of the Development Services and /or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, if interested, and served on all other interested persons at least Fourteen (14) days prior to the return date by delivering in hand or by mailing by certified, registered, or first-class mail as described in G. L. c. 190B, § 51-401, 5-304,5-405 as applicable; or by publishing a copy of the citation once in A Newspaper of General Circulation Somerville, MA, publication to be at least Seven (7) days prior to the return date.

See Standing Order 3-09 on Sufficiency of Proof of Notice

WITNESS, Hon. Joan P. Armstrong, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 21, 2022 **Felix D. Arroyo**
Register of Probate

12/14/22 The Somerville Times

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THE SOMERVILLE TIMES,
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PHONE: 857-488-5138

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.

Who will care for us



By State Senator Pat Jehlen

For many years, the work of caring for older people and young children has faced an increasing crisis as there are just not enough people willing to do the work for the low pay. The Boston Foundation's Boston Indicators and Skillworks released an extremely important report [1] on that workforce; last week, the Caucus of Women Legislators hosted a presentation on it.

The report shows the historical roots of this problem and emphasizes the injustice of undervaluing this work. It signals that the Boston Foundation, with its credibility and influence, sees the issue as an urgent one of racial and gender justice.

This is a shortish summary, along with ideas and information from my work as chair of the Elder Affairs Committee. I hope you will read the full report [2], and push for solutions to the problem of low wages and work shortage in these crucial - yes, essential - jobs.

Andre Green, Director of SkillWorks [3] and chair of the Somerville School Committee, introduced the report at the Women's Caucus briefing. He has said, "If we paid jobs according to their value to society, child care workers, home care workers and long-term care workers would be at the top of the scale. But too often, we determine our pay scales not by what the job is, but rather by who does it. COVID underscored the essential nature of care work - the question now is whether we are willing to ac-

knowledge and value that essential nature with higher pay and better working conditions."

Historical Roots of Undervaluing Caregiving

Until the Industrial Revolution, care of children and people with disabilities was mostly done by women at home. Wealthy white women were able to perform culturally valued roles like hostessing parties and directing servants, while laundry, cleaning, and other "dirty work" were off-loaded onto enslaved Black women and other lower-class women.

As white women moved into the labor force in retail and clerical jobs, women of color were "channeled into domestic labor." Labor reforms of the twentieth century excluded most care workers. Home care workers were only included in federal minimum wage and overtime protections in 2015; Massachusetts passed the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights just the year before.

Increased Need for Workers

People are living longer, and surviving longer with disabilities. US life expectancy rose from 47 years in 1900 to nearly 79 years in 2019 [4] - though it has actually fallen since, and was 76 in 2021, due largely to COVID and opioid overdoses.

Not surprisingly, the need for careworkers is expanding. These are now the fastest-growing jobs in the workforce.

But home care agencies, nursing homes, and child care centers can't find nearly enough workers to fill those jobs, which means many people aren't receiving services they need, and families can't get the care that would allow them to work.

The Effect of Worker Shortages

Right now, there are close to 5000 older people who qualify for public home care services [5], but who aren't receiving them because of a shortage of workers.

Right now, many hundreds of patients are in hospitals waiting to be discharged to nursing homes [6] that can't accept them because of staff shortages [7]. Nursing homes report [8] a shortage of 6700 nursing positions and 1700 non-nursing positions. As a result, more than half have limited their admissions.

19% of child care programs closed permanently during the pandemic. Most remaining ones are short staffed and almost a quarter of them lack enough staff to enroll the number of children they're licensed to serve, according to the Mass. Department of Early Education and Care [9]. This is particularly true in centers that serve low-income people and families of color, so those parents have a harder time working.

Who are the Caregivers?

Caregivers are overwhelmingly women, and disproportionately people of color.

The report notes that "The vast overrepresentation of Black workers in home care and long-term care facility work reflects the long history described earlier of racial and gender discrimination that has relegated Black women to the most physically taxing direct care."

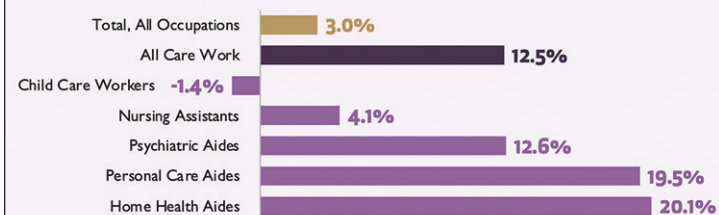
Low pay causes shortages

Direct care workers do crucial work, and were celebrated as essential workers during the early pandemic. But their wages are near the bottom of all occupations. The chart shows that they earn a little more than half the average hourly wage. The chart is for 2016-20; wages have gone up, especially due to the state minimum wage increase as well as ARPA funds dedicated to temporary Medicaid rate increases.

Wages in nursing homes are now closer to \$18 per hour. Personal Care Assistants (PCAs) in Massachusetts are unionized and recently bargained for a minimum wage of \$17.75. Pay

Care work jobs are expected to grow significantly by 2028.

Projected percent change in employment levels, by occupation. 2018 to 2028.



SOURCE: MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development Labor Market Information Long-Term Occupation Projections [view online]

increases have not kept up with inflation, especially in housing.

Due to the Grand Bargain of 2018, the MA minimum wage will increase to \$15/hour in January [10]. This is the last year of the phased increase to "Fight for Fifteen." Tipped employees' [11] minimum employer pay will be only \$6.75 and premium pay for Sundays and holidays will end. Farmworkers, fishermen, [12] and some other occupations are still not protected by overtime provisions. Plenty of legislative work needed, as I've learned as chair of Labor and Workforce Development.

Careworkers are also much less likely to receive employer-paid health insurance and far more likely to rely on MassHealth (Medicaid). They are more likely to qualify for SNAP (food stamp) benefits. This means that if they manage to work enough hours, they will hit the cliff effect and lose benefits.

They are also less likely to have pension plans: 35 percent of the total workforce has a pension or other retirement plan (we all need one, even with Social Security) compared to just 10.2% of child-care workers and 12.6% of home care workers. This means that the workers who are poor now because they care for older people will be even poorer when they themselves retire.

Poor job quality adds to shortage

These jobs are often very physically and emotionally stressful. Nursing assistants have one of

the highest injury rates of any job. Home care workers have erratic schedules, and may not be paid if their client is sick and cancels service. Having to care for several clients a day means they may have unpaid travel time [13] (despite the law) and are more likely to be exposed to COVID and other dangers.

Low pay and low job quality lead to high annual turnover rates of over 30 percent in child care and up to 128 percent in nursing home workers. Turnover, of course, means that workers have less training and experience, and are less able to provide excellent care for vulnerable people.

Reduced immigration adds to shortage

Caregivers are more likely to be immigrants, including almost half of nursing home workers. The report notes that "Immigrants, particularly immigrants of color, drove Greater Boston's population growth between 1990 and 2019, accounting for almost 90 percent of net population change during that period. Slowing immigration during the Trump administration combined with international travel restrictions during the pandemic have led to declining immigration rates in recent years."

Unpaid Caregivers Provide More Care

Family members provide many hours of unpaid care for both children and older people who need help. Mass. Caregivers Coalition [14]

Continued on page 17

Who will care for us CONT. FROM PG 16

estimates that pre-pandemic there were 844,000 unpaid family members caring for older relatives, of whom more than 600,000 were also employed. Some of these people are part of the sandwich generation, caring for parents and children at the same time.

As more people live longer and hope to age in place, these caregivers play an important role. Innovations such as "hospital at home" [15] offer many benefits but often require someone to be available to help. But the cost in lost income and stress can be significant. The report says that "affordable child care would lead to an increase of over \$100,000 in lifetime net income for Black mothers, the highest of any racial or ethnic group."

Solutions?

The report recommends policy changes to improve care workers' job quality:

- continue to raise the minimum wage

- ♦ license home care agencies
- ♦ strengthen career ladders
- ♦ expand the Earned Income Tax Credit to unpaid family caregivers
- ♦ improve care workers' ability to unionize

We can also provide free training and incentives to join this workforce. An important reform Mass. Home Care and others have sought for years would be to allow spouses to be paid as caregivers [16] by MassHealth. 15 other states allow this. This is one of many proposals for long term care we hope the legislative leadership will prioritize and the new Healey-Driscoll administration will embrace in the new year. I am encouraged by the formation of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, [17] which brings together groups and advocates to push for more focus on the needs of older adults.

In solving the crisis in caregiving, there is absolutely no substitute for more money, and

for higher pay. Since the state funds so much of the nursing home, home care, and (less so) early care industry, it will take a lot more of the state budget. It will mean, in my opinion, being willing to ask the people and companies who have seen great increases in their wealth to contribute more to build a more just economy and society. Everyone, rich and poor and middle class, will benefit when these essential workers are paid a fair wage, and there are enough of them to serve all of us.

- [1] <https://www.tbf.org/news-and-insights/press-releases/2022/september/care-work-report-released-20220901>
- [2] https://www.bostonindicators.org/-/media/indicators/boston-indicators-reports/report-files/care_report_083122.pdf
- [3] <https://www.tbf.org/what-we-do/special-initiatives/skill->

works

- [4] <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/why-life-expectancy-in-the-us-is-falling-202210202835>
- [5] <https://www.recordnet.com/-We-are-stuck--Franklin-County-residents-cope-with-long-wait-lists-for-home-health-aides-47274380>
- [6] <https://commonwealth-magazine.org/health-care/hospitals-report-over-1000-patients-awaiting-discharges-with-nowhere-to-go/>
- [7] <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/01/05/metro/nursing-homes-tipping-point-many-are-forced-freeze-admissions-stranding-patients-hospitals-weeks/>
- [8] <https://www.wbur.org/news/2022/11/03/massachusetts-senior-care-facilities-unfilled-jobs-survey>
- [9] <https://www.mass.gov/event/board-of-early-education->

and-care-strategic-planning-re-treat-wednesday-september-7-2022-2022-09-07t103000-0400-2022-09-07t150000-0400

[10] <https://www.mass.gov/doc/minimum-wage-update-august-2018/download>

[11] <https://onefairwage.site/massachusetts>

[12] <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXXI/Chapter151/Section1A>

[13] <https://www.phillipsgarcialaw.com/blog/massachusetts-home-health-aides-and-unpaid-travel-time-wages.cfm>

[14] <https://macaregiver-coalition.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/MassCaregiver-Coalition-5-2022.pdf>

[15] <https://www.ummhealth.org/hospital-at-home>

[16] <https://eldercare.org/new-spouse-as-caregiver-bill-gives-families-more-options/>

[17] <https://dignityalliancema.org/>

The Somerville Times
Best of Somerville 2022
Cast your vote!

You have until December 28 to vote for your favorite category. To cast your vote, email us at thebestofsomerville@yahoo.com. The winners will be announced Wednesday, January 4, 2023. 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 2022
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 2022
Worst Idea in 2022



A view of old North Somerville Station

With all the news of the new Green Line Station opening in Ball Sq., Wayne Daley, who grew up on Rogers Ave. in Somerville, shared this photo of North Somerville Station in that area. It was taken on October 21, 1957. The station sat beside the new station in Ball Sq. Bob Carol was the station manager for decades and Wayne worked there from 1953 to 1958. He remembers the train wreck on the Harvard St. bridge in November of 1957, and how active that area was with this station located there.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

December 16. You can help by visiting the **USQ offices** at 31 Union Square with a bag full of the items listed on the attached poster. Make a donation to SHC and add "Holiday Give - USQ" in the comments. Donate: <https://somerville-homelesscoalition.org>.

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

The **Somerville Museum** offers unique items with a Somerville connection that are perfect for holiday gifts, birthdays, or any occasion! Visit <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/shop>.

The **Best of Somerville 2022** will be announced in the **January 4, 2023**, edition of the paper. There's still time to cast your vote for the best. Email us at news@thesomervilletimes.com for who and what you think is the best. We're looking for the **Best Idea of 2022** here in the city. If you have one, you'd like to suggest, let us know.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne has announced **the city's annual support of local holiday gift and toy donation drives**. In the giving spirit of the season, Somerville is placing toy and gift donation boxes at city buildings through **Sunday, December 18**, to support two community toy drives for families in need of gifts for children and teens this holiday season. If you are able and wish to donate, please bring unwrapped toys and gifts for children of all ages and age-appropriate gifts for teens. All will be distributed to families by two local organizations: **Toys for Local Children** and the **MAMA's Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville**. More information on their gift drives can be found at mutualaidmamas.com and toysforlocalchildren.org.

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

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

A **holiday toy drive** to support **Elizabeth Peabody House** is coming up. Please bring a toy or gift card to support a toy drive for Elizabeth Peabody House, 275 Broadway in Somerville on **December 17**.

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

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

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

The **13th Annual Somerville Winter Farmers Market (SWFM)** is held **every Saturday through April 8, 2023**. The

Center for Arts at the Armory is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143. To learn more and for a complete listing of vendors, weekly specials, and live entertainment, please visit www.somwintermarket.org. You can find the market on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SomervilleWinterFarmersMarket, and on Instagram @SomWinterMarket.

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

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

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Answers

1. Jimmy Carter, 1979

2. December 10, 2001

3. Three

4. Shamash

5. African-American culture from December 26 to January 1

6. 1870

7. Mistletoe

8. Jacob Marley

9. Indian Ocean

10. Happy birthday

11. Termites

12. Carol of the Drum

Somerville Kiwanis Club host Toys For Tots luncheon

On Thursday, December 8, the Kiwanis Club of Somerville, along with their friends from the Somerville Lions Club and Somerville Rotary Club hosted their annual Toys For Tots luncheon at the Mount Vernon Restaurant. Gunnery Sergeant Curtis Dunham and Private Matthew Rankey of the United States Marine Corps, joined them as they collected toys donated by members of the three

clubs for the Toys For Tots campaign.

Twenty Somerville Kiwanis members as well as eighteen members and guests from Lions and Rotary Clubs attended the event.

Following a wonderful buffet lunch, there was a special surprise. Distinguished Past President James Lynch presented the Marines with a check for \$2000, a donation made by



Kiwanis President Haley Adams, Private Matthew Rankey Gunnery Sergeant Curtis Dunham, and Distinguished Past President James A. Lynch, present the check from Middlesex Federal Savings Bank to the Marine Corps Toys For Tots program.



the Middlesex Federal Savings Bank, who have been long time supporters of the Somerville Kiwanis Club and Toys For Tots program. Special thanks went to Past President Michael McWilliams and Member Adam Portney from Middlesex Federal for helping to make this donation possible. Kiwanis President Haley Adams thanked the members

of all the clubs for their support of the children being served by the Marine Corps program. After the meeting, the members loaded the toys in the Marine Corps van.

Next week, the Somerville Kiwanis Club will be donating wrapped toys to 187 children in Somerville and Cambridge who are part of the Head Strt

program and identified as most in need of help at Christmas. More about that event will be posted soon.

To learn more about the Kiwanis Club of Somerville, or to become a member, visit our web site, www.somervillekiwanis.org. You can also follow us on Facebook, Kiwanis Club of Somerville.

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

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By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in History

December 14

- 1799 – George Washington dies on his Mount Vernon estate.
- 1861 – Prince Albert of England, one of the Union's strongest advocates, dies.
- 1900 – Max Planck presents the quantum theory at the Physics Society in Berlin.
- 1906 – The first U1 submarine is brought into service in Germany.
- 1911 – Roald Amundsen and four others discover the South Pole.
- 1946 – The United Nations adopt a disarmament resolution prohibiting the A-Bomb.
- 1960 – A U.S. Boeing B-52 bomber sets a 10,000-mile non-stop record without refueling.
- 2008 – Iraqi broadcast journalist Muntadhar al-Zaidi throws his shoes at US President George W. Bush during a press conference in Baghdad.
- 2012 – At Sandy Hook Elementary School, Newtown, Conn., 20 children and six adults are shot to death by a 20-year-old gunman who then commits suicide.

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville writer Rachel Ranie Taube: A Fabulist and a Feminist

Recently, I was contacted by Rachel Ranie Taube about a project she is working on. She has created a website <https://somervillewrites.wixsite.com/place> that collects comments from Somerville writers about how they view Somerville as a 'place' to write. After she contributed her article about the project to Off the Shelf, I decided to interview her about her own writing life.

Doug Holder: What brought you to Somerville, and how has it been for you as a writer?

Rachel Ranie Taube: After roving around a bit in the pandemic, my husband and I moved to Somerville for work in summer 2021. I've lived in a lot of different places, from Manhattan to Wilmington, North Carolina, and I feel lucky to live in a city where there's both a wealth of cultural opportunities and space to be in nature. The wonderful Somerville Arts Council is always running some new program, whether a street fair or musical performance. I live a short walk to Alewife Brook Reservation and the bike path, and a quick drive to the Fells and Walden. When I'm stuck in my writing, a walk in the reservation or down new streets usually does the trick.

DH: You describe yourself as a fabulist writer, which is defined as a teller of fables, but it also has a negative connotation. According to the Oxford Dictionary it also can mean, "A liar, a person who invents elaborates, dishonest stories." How would you respond to this?

RRT: I think two things are simultaneously true: writing always bends and transforms its subject matter, and the goal of writing is to tell the truth.

When I say I'm a fabulist writer, what I mean is that I incorporate speculative or magical realist elements into my work – things happen in my stories that don't happen in the real world. For example, in one of my stories a girl transforms into a buffalo at night; in another, a woman shrinks over the course of a trip abroad with friends. Some of my favorite writers in the genre are Helen Oyeyemi, Samantha Hunt, Lauren van den Berg, and Carmen Maria Machado.

The reason I'm drawn to fabulist writing is actually because I find it more truthful; it makes intangible things literal. For example, the transformations in the stories I mentioned occur, in part, because of the characters' relationship dynamics. In another project I'm working on, women inherit and dream their mothers' memories – which has allowed me to write about the inherent strangeness of mother-daughter relationships. At its best, fabulism uses surreal or bizarre details to explore familiar situations in novel ways.



DH: You work at a feminist communications agency. What is your role and the mission statement of the company. Does this work inform your fiction and poetry?

RRT: I'm the Director of Media Relations at Grey Horse Communications, where we tell stories for mission-driven clients across media, arts, tech, non-profits, publishing, and more. I've gotten to work with some amazing organizations and individuals, from UNICEF and #FreeBritney to Melissa Mills, the first daughter of Jane Roe.

My job allows me to engage on topics like women's rights on a strategic level. How do I tell this story most clearly? What angle is most compelling, and how does it tie in to larger trends? How do we get journalists and readers to care? Those practical questions certainly help me with clarity and plotting in my fiction, just as my writing experience helps me to get to the heart of our clients' stories. I'm also of the perspective that all writing is political, so this work helps me to think of my writing as existing within larger dialogues about our world.

DH: I read a piece of flash fiction piece about a girl and an intrusive, and nefarious crow. You also write poetry. What subjects draw you in, and which genre is more appealing to you fiction, non-fiction or poetry.

RRT: I'm especially drawn to writing about the way that societal forces work on girls and women. So that story is about an intrusive, nefarious crow; it's also a fable that plays on the trope of a princess in a tower needing to be rescued. I also love writing about family dynamics, and investing stories with a strong sense of place.

Continued on page 15

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Lynne Viti's fourth poetry collection is *The Walk to Cefalù* (Cornerstone Press, 2022). A faculty emerita in the Writing Program at Wellesley College, she serves on the Board of the New England Poetry Club and facilitates a poets-in-the schools program in Westwood, Massachusetts.



Cooking for One, in Winter

Black asphalt lined with melting snow
two cars, hers in the garage
idle for months now—

a reliable machine, good on winter roads
a reminder of something
you'd rather not think about

closets need going through
crammed with scarves, handknit socks
sensible shoes, sweaters with small holes at the elbows
she refused to throw them away
said they still had some wear left.

Saturdays you tune the radio to her station
lean forward hoping for Leonard Cohen's rasp.
Evenings, Iggy Pop, Bowie sing
as you stir the risotto
tracing circles in the pot

— Lynne Viti

— Photo by Richard Howard

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

Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

providers, residents and communities during this extraordinary time.

Opponents said the measure limits homeowners’ rights to eject a nonpaying renter and puts many in a terrible financial bind as they still have to pay taxes, insurance, mortgage and upkeep of the building. They said they do not believe it is fair or constitutional that the government has the ability to seize private property—which is basically what is happening.

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

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

\$1.6 BILLION SPENDING PACKAGE (H 4532)
House 156-0, Senate on a voice vote without a roll call, approved a \$1.6 billion supplemental budget that contains \$700 million for COVID-19 related expenses including \$432 million for COVID-19 testing, \$72 million for treatments, \$45 million for expanded vaccination access and \$25 million for personal protective equipment.

Other provisions include \$140 million for grants to special education schools to address the impacts of COVID-19 and subsequent variants; \$100 million for cities and towns for roads; \$100 million for rental assistance for needy families; and extending eviction protections for tenants who have active assistance applications.

The package also extends from April 1, 2022 to April 1, 2023 outdoor dining at restaurants and from May 1, 2022 to April 1, 2023 the law allowing restaurants to sell beer, wine and cocktails with takeout orders.

Supporters said the package is a fiscally responsible one that will fund important programs, benefit many residents and help Massachusetts prepare for the future.

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$1.6 billion package).

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

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

GALVIN CERTIFIES CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT HIKING TAXES ON MILLIONAIRES - Secretary of State Bill Galvin signed the final certification of the new constitutional amendment, approved by voters as Question 1 in November. The amend-

ment would allow a graduated income tax in Massachusetts and impose an additional 4 percent income tax, in addition to the current flat 5 percent one, on taxpayers’ earnings of more than \$1 million annually. Language in the change requires that “subject to appropriation, the revenue will go to fund quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges and public transportation.”

GALVIN CERTIFIES LAW REGULATING DENTAL INSURANCE RATES – Galvin also certified Question 2 which voters handily approved on the November ballot. The new law regulates dental insurance rates, requiring companies to spend at least 83 percent of premiums on member dental expenses and quality improvements, instead of administrative expenses.

HONOR MERCY OTIS WARREN (H 4281) – The House gave initial approval to a bill that would call for renowned Cape Cod artist and sculptor David Lewis to construct, at no expense to the state, a memorial display in the likeness of Mercy Otis Warren, an important and underrepresented historical woman of the American Revolution from Barnstable. The bust would be displayed in the Massachusetts Statehouse.

“Mercy Otis Warren was a leading writer and patriot in colonial Massachusetts,” said co-sponsor Rep. Kip Diggs (D-Barnstable). “Yet, she remains a little-known figure to the public. I sponsored this legislation because what better way to educate the public about this Cape Cod woman and her remarkable influence on Massachusetts and American history than to place a memorial of her, created pro bono by an artist from her hometown, within the Statehouse for visitors to see and learn about? I am very glad to see the House agree by advancing this legislation to honor the contributions of Mercy Otis Warren.”

“I am very glad to see this legislation advance in the House,” said co-sponsor Sen. Julian Cyr (D -Truro). “Art is powerful, and people across the commonwealth should see art that reflects the impactful contributions that women have made to this state and the nation from its very beginning. Mercy Otis Warren is a notable historical figure hailing from West Barnstable who pushed social norms as a poet and playwright during the American Revolution. Installing a bust of the writer in the Statehouse celebrates the legacy she left us.”

HISTORIC FIRST SPORTS BETTING LICENSE GOES TO ENCORE BOSTON HARBOR — The Massachusetts Gaming Commission voted unanimously to award Everett’s casino, Encore Boston Harbor, the first sports wagering operator license in the state’s history.

“Next on the agenda is that the Everett casino now must obtain a certificate of operations and meet additional conditions before bets can actually be accepted.

“I think that this is great for the commonwealth,” said Gaming Commissioner Jordan Maynard. Earlier this week the commission deferred its vote on the applications from Plainridge Park Casino in Plainville and Springfield’s MGM.

Gov. Charlie Baker had signed the law after a four-year effort by proponents to legalize sports betting on professional and college sports for Massachusetts residents over 21 years old at the state’s casinos, slots parlors, simulcast centers and through mobile platforms. Betting on Massachusetts colleges and universities would not be allowed unless the school is playing in a tournament like March Madness.

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION? Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of December 5-9, the House met for a total of one hour and 14 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 32 minutes.

Mon. Dec. 5	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:31 a.m. Senate 11:22 a.m. to 11:34 a.m.
Tues. Dec. 6	No House session No Senate session
Wed. Dec. 8	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. Dec. 9	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Senate 11:15 a.m. to 11:34 a.m.
Fri. Dec. 2	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Off The Shelf

CONT. FROM PG 14

I spend most of my time writing fiction. Fiction gives me the most unexpected opportunities for invention, and it feels the most like wandering the wilderness. After many years of practice, I still have very little idea what I’m doing every time I enter a new project, which is thrilling.

I write some nonfiction too—book reviews, author interviews, the occasional craft essay—mostly because it’s such a good way to connect with the literary community.

DH: Why should we read your work?
RRT: The writer Kelly Link often talks about genre

as a promise of pleasure. My goal is that readers experience something thoroughly engaging and unexpected in my writing, whether that’s through fabulist inventions or carefully crafted language. I hope I leave readers feeling thoughtful; maybe a little unhinged.



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