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newspaper

# The Somerville Times

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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

## Inside:



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## Merry Christmas

From the Publisher and Staff of  
The Somerville Times

### City proposes parking permit restrictions near transit stations



New restrictions aimed at reducing parking problems posed by new residents occupying new developments have been proposed by the Somerville Traffic Commission.

By Jim Clark

The City of Somerville Traffic Commission approved a proposal to restrict the issuance of parking permits to future residents of new development located within walking distance to a rapid transit station of the MBTA's Red, Orange, or Green Line services at its latest meeting on Thursday, December 12.

According to the Commission, the purpose of this policy is to preclude future residents of new development from creating additional traffic and parking problems, such as traffic congestion and on-street parking shortages, while helping to reduce air pollution and improve both pedestrian safety and emergency

Continued on page 4

### 'Whose Somerville?' photo exhibit sheds light on gentrification

By Shira Laucharoen

Through the image of a chain link fence, we see a scene of congested traffic, lanes of cars crowded on McGrath highway, in the city of Somerville. The photograph captures "only a glimpse of Somerville's chaotic rat race," the statement for the picture reads. Taken by student Cassian Ortiz, the representation of a neighborhood scene is part of a photo essay called *Legoland*, a critique of what the city has become, as a result of gentrification. Another image offers a look at the giant Lego giraffe at Assembly Row.

"Although gentrification is causing rents to skyrocket and forcing people to move out, at least we have *Legoland* to distract us in the meantime," Ortiz's essay reads.

Ten photo essays were displayed at the *Whose Somerville?* exhibit that opened at City Hall on December 12. Students from Full Circle Alternative High School

Continued on page 12



Peter Lancaster's "The Old and the New" illustrated Somerville's older culture and how it has been changing, due to gentrification. — Photo by Peter Lancaster

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

The publishers, staff and everyone associated with *The Somerville Times* wish everyone a very **Happy Holiday, Merry Christmas** and **Happy Hanukkah**, as well as a prosperous and healthy **New Year** in 2020.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*The Somerville Times* staff is taking a small holiday vacation beginning this week, with the next issue coming out on **January 1, 2020**. Anything that comes in and is Somerville related through that period will be posted online to our website. We want to thank all our readers and fans for your support this past year. We are very proud of our paper. We try to keep it a real local paper, local stories that are about Somerville. Thank you for sticking with us! Don't forget, you can go online to our website and register online for a free subscription of the entire paper.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**The Best of Somerville 2019** will be in the **January 1, 2020**, edition of the paper. There's still time to cast your vote for the best. Email, call in or just drop off at the office your vote for who and what you think is the best. We're looking for the Best Idea of 2019 here in the city. If you have anyone or anything you'd like to suggest, let us know.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Happy birthday for the next two weeks while we are on break: Happy birthday to a good friend a **Zachary Atwell**, who is celebrating this week. Happy birthday also to **Jim Henry**, a well-known man in Somerville. A great guy as well. Happy birthday to former East Somerville guy **Jack Basset**. We wish him a great day as well. Happy birthday to another East Somerville guy who grew up here, **Paul Peddle**. Happy birthday to **Kristen Marie Butler** as well. We hope she has a great day. Big time happy birthday to **Maria Curtatone**, who is the **Register of Deeds for Middlesex County**. We hope she has a great day on her birthday. Happy birthday to everyone here and from the city who is celebrating this week. We wish every one of them a very happy birthday.

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# TheSomervilleTimes

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## TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

### Response to: *Our View of the Times – December 11*

Equality says:

The issue is that the two modes of travel are not treated fairly. When I get into my car, partly for my own safety, I must have a seat belt, an inspection sticker certifying that my vehicle can be used safely on public streets, a registration sticker/license plate certifying that my car has been registered with the state, a state-issued license, I must pay a yearly excise tax and gas taxes when I purchase gas, and I must pay tolls on certain roads. If I am transporting a baby or young child I must have a car seat that meets federal safety requirements, and replace it at least twice as the child ages. All of these requirements are very expensive, and none of these are required for bicyclists. And yet the bicycle advocates have been given a seat at the table, make demands for what they need/want, and the city placates them every time. We need to require bicyclists wear helmets, take a certification course to learn the rules of the road and safety regulations, and receive a state-issued license plate for identification. We also need to make the little boxes attached to bikes for transporting babies and young children illegal. They are unsafe, specifically putting the child at great risk as they are so low to the road that they are not visible, and the child is at the level of the fumes that people rail about from cars. Taking these steps would be a huge step forward to equalizing the treatment of bikers and drivers.

You're Right! says:

You're right! They AREN'T treated fairly. One gets a minimum of about 25 square feet per person of road space, and the other gets about 6. One has free (or cheap) parking across the city, blocking lines of sight and reducing available road space for either type of transportation. The other has to hunt for someplace to lock up, and if there IS a shared parking area in the roadway, it fits about 15 people's worth of transport in the same space usually committed to a single vehicle. One weighs thousands of pounds and damages the roadways, creating and exacerbating potholes. The other doesn't weight enough to do any damage. And to me, the most important difference, is one type of vehicle is used primarily by Somerville residents and residents of abutting communities and the other is used by commuters from everywhere, leaving only a sliver of roadway for actual Somerville residents. If you equalize all of these, I will happily go take a course at the RMV, register my bike (it's already registered with the SPD), and have a license plate. I will not, however, give up my cargo bike just because you think it's a "little box attached to a bike". I bike very safely and conservatively (the way you want me to!). My children are strapped in with a 3-point harness and are wearing helmets. I don't understand the visibility issue... are you implying that drivers would be less toxically aggressive if they noticed a child on board? Because that's just horrible. And I hate to tell you this, but sitting in the compartment of a car does not protect you against breathing in exhaust. Around town, I can make a trip in half the time of driving, which means my child and I are exposed to less fumes. The downside is all on me because the body absorbs more when exerting itself.

A Moore says:

The problem is that one needs to have more knowledge of what is going on here. I am on both sides here. There are many good reasons we have cars on the road, it is essential for many of us, not for pleasure. As with biking we have problems on both sides. I have to agree carrying a child in the back would be illegal. You are probably careful, I get that, but a number of people driving are not. It is not worth the risk for my child safety. It's not you, it's the other person. There are many reasons, speeding, aggressive driving distracted driving, anyway my child's life is not worth that. Also the same applies to bikers. I have been hit by more bikers than cars. But yet I go out each day being careful. Since I have biked for over 50 years until mother nature took that away from me I am understanding. I am prescribed a number of pain killers which I refuse to take as I have to be ready in an emergency to get on the road and go. Like most drivers I care. I can't say everything as there is just so much to say on this and everyone would have to be opened minded about the information I have put together. And just for information purposes we are adding on about 800 more cars per year here. There must be a reason.

### Response to: *Somerville City Council, Administration pass city's first zoning overhaul in 30 years*

BMac says:

Finally.

Marta Goldsmith says:

Congratulations to the City of Somerville, SPCD Director, George Proakis, and Senior Planner, Dan Bartman for a job well-done! You have adopted a model form-based code that can serve as an example for other communities across Massachusetts and throughout the country. Marta Goldsmith  
Executive Director  
Form-Based Codes Institute at Smart Growth America

Log onto *TheSomervilleTimes.com* to leave your own comments



Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

# The best Christmas gifts



Before all the electronics and video games that the kids today enjoy, toys were pretty simple. Today a child's Christmas list looks very different than back in the day. My sister loved her Chatty Cathy doll and her Easy Bake Oven. One year I got a Mr. Potato Head that you actually used real potatoes or other vegetables with.

Us boys enjoyed getting a table hockey set or some plastic soldiers, cannons and tanks. One of my brother's and my best gift one Christmas was the Aurora race car set we received. We were so excited to set it up we broke part of it in our haste.

We got our first color TV one Christmas from Lechmere Sales. One year I got a cool toy called Mr. Machine. It was a wind up robot with visible gears that walked.

Our Christmas stockings were always filled with small toys like an egg of Silly Putty, a yo-yo, or maybe a Slinky. The Slinky would last about a week before it got tangled up and didn't work anymore.

Getting a new sled or one of those flying saucers was pretty sweet. I wasn't keen

on board games. Mainly because once you lost pieces they were basically useless. One year I got a gizmo called Vac-U-Form. It was a small machine that you plugged in and it got heated up. Then you would place a thin sheet of plastic over a mold to make a small toy. I can still smell that hot melting plastic odor. Yuck.

In the 50's and 60's Hopalong Cassidy put his brand on everything imaginable. There were toy gun sets, lunch boxes, pajamas, badges, jackknives, toys, watches and cowboy hats and other clothes. It was pretty much the same deal with Roy Rogers.

One of my favorite toys was the Kenner Give-A-Show projector. It was a small plastic camera with a light bulb. You'd put a strip of slides in and project the images on a sheet or a wall. The most popular for me were Superman, Bozo and Hanna-Barbera cartoon characters. We had grand illusions of charging our friends to watch the movies. I actually purchased another one on eBay a few years ago.

Another gift that was a stocking stuffer were Pick-up sticks. What a dumb toy. After I stuck my brother with one my mother thankfully took them away from us. The worse things to get in your stock-



ing were socks or underwear.

Any clothes at all were bad presents except for the year I got my black turtle neck sweater. I loved that thing and wore it until it didn't fit. I also loved my black turtleneck "dickie" too. Maybe they were purchased at Anderson Little.

I believe it was 1967 that I received two great Beatles albums. They were Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band and Magical Mystery Tour. The music of my life.

Being within walking distance to Davis Square, my parents got most of our gifts from the stores that were there. My first guitar came from Butler's Music. Other good stores to get Christmas gifts were places like Woolworths, Grants, Mickey Finn and of course, the infamous Bar-

gain Center. You knew when something came from "Bargies" if it was singed, scorched or smelled like smoke. Where else could you buy a toy fire truck with an authentic aroma of smoke? I wonder if that's why that smoky smell always reminds me of Christmas?

We will never forget the thrill of waking up early on Christmas morning and seeing all the stuff Santa brought. Today, it's all about the kids and grandkids. These days, I'm happy to get some handkerchiefs, socks, or photos of the grandkids.

I couldn't resist ordering myself a throw-back set of army soldiers and tanks from Amazon. I can't wait to clear the kitchen table off and set them up! Happy shopping! Be careful out there.

## Annual Grand Union Flag Raising on Prospect Hill, January 1, 2020

In its annual tradition, the City of Somerville will kick off the New Year on Wednesday, January 1, 2020, with a reenactment ceremony for the anniversary of the "Grand Union" flag-raising ceremony at Prospect Hill Park.

Important note: the park is currently closed for renovations, so the event will be held along Munroe St. adjacent to the park. The road will be closed during the morning events.

A procession led by a re-enactor portraying General George Washington on horseback will leave from the City Hall Concourse at 11:30 a.m., followed by a ceremony at Prospect Hill Park. As always, members of the public are invited to participate, and are encouraged to wear traditional colonial clothing.

The annual ceremony commemorates the raising of the nation's first official flag, featuring thirteen red and white horizontal stripes, atop Prospect Hill on New Year's Day, 1776. At the time, Prospect Hill was a key site in a string of fortifications created by Washington and the Continental Army in their siege of British troops in Boston during the first year of the American Revolution.

The afternoon's program will include songs, and remarks by participants from the Charlestown and Rhode Island Militia, and the Ancient and Honorable Company (first chartered in 1638). His Majesty's 10th Regiment of Foot, representing the British Army, will bring a message from King George III, and the American Legion Post 19 Honor Guard will lead a military salute as a commemorative flag is raised atop the Prospect Hill Tower.

Light refreshments will be served, and miniature replicas of the Grand Union Flag, both as a flag and a lapel pin, as well as colonial-era tri corner hats and a few items highlighting the city's historic assets will be available for purchase. The Tower will also be open to the public following the ceremony.



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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

# Never take your heroin to a shoplifting

Somerville police officers were dispatched to the Home Depot store on Mystic Ave. last Saturday afternoon on reports of a shoplifting.

Upon arrival, officers spoke to a loss prevention detective who stated that prior to their arrival, a man, later identified as Wagner Sozi, and a woman, identified as Siera Shelzi, both of Malden, concealed several items in a trash bin.

The detective told police that Sozi and Shelzi were first observed in aisle 15, the tools department, where they were trying to switch price tags. He stated that this is what drew his attention towards them and he maintained constant floor surveillance.

The detective stated that he observed both suspects select a large amount of merchandise and walk to aisle 2, where they concealed the items in a trash bin. He then stated that they walked to the self-checkout area and only scanned and paid for three items.

Sozi and Shelzi then reportedly walked out of the store, passed all points of sale, failing to pay for the merchandise.

Sozi and Shelzi were escorted to the loss prevention office by the detective and police officers. Once inside the office, an officer conducted a pat frisk on Sozi and discovered a brown powdery substance in a clear glassine bag that was believed to be heroin.

The heroin was reportedly discovered in Sozi's jacket pocket. Police also discovered three driver's licenses and a Brazilian passport. On the MA driver's license, it showed Sozi's picture with a different name and date of birth. A query from the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) application showed a different picture with the same name and date of birth. Sozi stated that his true name was on the passport.

The store detective provided a list of the stolen merchandise that totaled \$1,659.84.

Sozi was then placed under arrest on charges of larceny over \$1200, possession of a class A drug, and conspiracy. Shelzi was placed under arrest on charges of larceny over \$1200 and conspiracy. Sozi and Shelzi were then transported to the station by unit and booked in the usual manner on the above stated charges.

The heroin, driver's licenses, and a list of the stolen merchandise was tagged and logged into evidence.

## SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

- John Gogos**, of 51 Fairmont, Malden, December 10, 8:32 a.m., arrested at Broadway on warrant charges of operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor second offense, carrying a dangerous weapon, and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.
- James McKenna**, of 31 Cheverus Rd., Dorchester, December 11, 10:03 p.m., arrested at Broadway on a warrant charge of assault and battery.
- James McNeil**, of 35 Windsor St., December 13, 2:09 a.m., arrested at Windsor Rd. on warrant charges of possession of a class A drug, larceny by check over \$1200, attempt to commit a crime, utter counterfeit note, larceny under \$1200, possession of a class B drug, and possession of a counterfeit note.
- Joekeem Nelson**, of 10 May St., Apt. 5, Cambridge, December 13, 4:45 p.m., arrested at Assembly Row on charges of possession of a counterfeit credit card, non-cardholder signing credit card, and forge or utter forged credit card.
- Jordende Pierre**, of 218 Elm St., Cambridge, December 13, 10:39 p.m., arrested at Canal Ln. on a warrant charge of leaving the scene of property damage.
- Wagner Sozi**, of 30 Daniels St., Malden, December 14, 2:06 p.m., arrested at Mystic Ave. on charges of larceny over \$1200, possession of a class A drug, and conspiracy.
- Siera Shelzi**, of 30 Daniels St., Malden, December 14, 2:06 p.m., arrested at Mystic Ave. on charges of larceny over \$1200 and conspiracy.

# City proposes parking permit restrictions near transit stations

CONT. FROM PG 1

service response time.

Additionally, the policy is intended to help implement multiple objectives of the city's Comprehensive Plan, SomerVision.

The new policy only applies to the future residents of new development located within walking distance to a rapid transit station as identified on the proposed map. Walking distance is considered to be a ten-minute walk and the area of a city within that distance is referred to as a "Transit Area."

All properties located in the Neighborhood Residence district are excluded from the proposed restriction and all properties outside of walking distance to a rapid transit station are excluded. The Neighborhood Residence district in the proposed new zoning ordinance includes almost all of the single, 2-, and 3-family properties in Somerville, which will still be able to receive resident parking permits.

Existing resident parking permits remain valid and residents of all existing residential addresses, whether they already have a resident parking permit or not, remain eligible for on-street parking permits in the future.

New development includes the construction of entirely new buildings and the gut rehabilitation of existing structures that add new dwelling units in Transit Areas.

The Inspectional Services Department (ISD) will provide a list of addresses to the Parking Department as Certificates of Occupancy are issued for new development.

Restricted units will not receive guest permits as the new policy proposes to restrict access to all permits, including guest permits.

The new policy exempts future residents that may be "choice limited," including persons with disabilities, occupants of affordable dwelling units, and residents with extenuating circumstances.

The proposed policy does not apply to residents of existing housing in Somerville. Like all real estate decisions, households that do not yet live in Somerville will have to make a choice about whether to purchase or rent a home or apartment that is subject to this restriction based on their own personal needs.

The Parking Department will maintain a list of addresses subject to the restriction.

The new zoning ordinance requires developers to market new housing in a Transit Areas as ineligible for residential parking permits and to inform potential new residents of the restriction through mandated zoning permit conditions.

Because the proposed policy does not apply to residents of existing housing in Somerville, local businesses should expect no loss of customer base from what they have today due to the restriction and are likely to gain many additional customers that walk, bike, or take transit to their locations as a result of new development.

The new policy will become effective on January 15, 2020.

Ward 5 City Councilor and Traffic Commission Chair Mark Niedergang reported on the proposed policy at the regular meeting of the Somerville City Council on the same day as the Traffic Commission saying, "I am extremely pleased to report that the Traffic Commission voted tonight to adopt the policy that Mr. Bartman drew up, with comments from the Traffic and Parking Committee, to restrict residential parking permits for new developments and transit-oriented districts."

"It was a unanimous vote," Niedergang continued. "Councilor McLaughlin attended and made some excellent remarks about why this is important and about the broad public support that we have experienced for this at Zoning Board meetings, community meetings, public hearings around the zoning overhaul. So I'm really pleased about this."

Niedergang commended Dan Barton from the Planning Department and Andy Connor from the Mayor's Office for their work and for bringing many other departments into the process.

Regarding the policy, Niedergang emphasized, "It will only restrict newcomers to the city, people who are living in newly constructed housing units in large buildings."

FAQs and further information on the proposed parking policy can be found on the city's website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/traffic-commission>.



Ward 5 Councilor Mark Niedergang updated the City Council on the proposed parking restrictions at its most recent meeting.



## Somerville Heroes by Stephanie Hirsch

# First time candidates share reflections on experience

Election season is a stressful time in the city, most especially for the people at the center of the storm. This month, I want to give a huge shout-out to the brave and committed people who ran for office the first time. That group included 10 people, and nine of them were women. They shared some reflections on their experiences with me.

### The best part of campaigning

Everyone who ran agreed – hearing from so many different Somerville residents made the experience meaningful. Mayoral Candidate **Marianne Walles** said: “One of my favorite parts was sitting and talking to people. A lot of people feel like they aren’t being heard by anyone.” (Marianne is pictured here on a day when she was out door knocking.)



At-Large Council Candidate **Kevin Jura** said he enjoyed “learning more about the city and the residents and getting a chance to see different parts of the city, both by door-knocking and by making a

point to visit every part of the city.”

Ward 6 School Committee Candidate **Ellenor Barish** shared a similar view: “One thing that made a big impression on me was how people shared their struggles and trusted me with their stories. I was honored and also felt the weight of this responsibility.”

At-Large Council Candidate **Kristen Strezo** said: “Campaigning is a full-throttle experience. I am forever changed for the better because of my first campaign. I feel like I’ve made over 5,000 new Somerville friends.”

Ward 3 School Committee Candidate **Mary Marshall** echoed that point: “Listening to neighbors and parents around ward 3 was interesting and an education on what they want from our schools.”

Ward 3 School Committee Candidate **Michele Lippens** said she “was constantly surprised at how willing people were to open their doors and engage in conversations about our public schools, education, and politics.” Michele shared one memorable evening: “During a particular exhausting afternoon door-knocking, I was invited in for dinner by a gracious family who said, ‘Did you have dinner yet? Why don’t you join us and we can talk more about school committee?’ We had a great conversation discussing all things education. Their son even weighed in on the conversation. I particularly love hearing

from our kids. (I hope they read this and remember me!)” (Michele is pictured here with another awesome Ward 3 candidate Mary Marshall and other sign holders).



### Some challenges

There were some harder parts of campaigning. Marianne found that public speaking was more challenging than talking to people one-on-one. Campaign activity requires off-the-cuff, unstructured public speaking. However, Marianne found that she got better at it the more she had to practice it.

Also, for Marianne, hearing about people’s challenges worried her, but as a long-time social worker in the area of child welfare, she relied on her experience to know what to do. “When I heard about people’s struggles, I ended up using my social worker skills. I was the social worker at the door.” In her career, Marianne has gained a great deal of experience in working with very dif-

ficult situations, finding the good where it’s possible, and accepting what can’t change, and that ability is key in campaign and elected life as well.

Mary said that sometimes she found it both challenging and interesting to connect with people who don’t have students in the schools and to figure out how they can get involved in thinking about school issues.

Michele mentioned that running for office taught her about “how much work (and money) it takes to run for public office, even at the local level.” It’s especially tricky for public employees because campaign finance laws limit what candidates can do. The volume of the work also meant less time with family and friends for candidates. And the job itself, especially with low pay, can be challenging for many people who don’t have another significant source of income, making both campaigning and working as an elected official out of reach for many.

### What they heard on the trail

As the candidates talked to residents, here are some themes they heard. “We need to do more around subsidies and help for low-income residents,” Marianne said. For example, “There are seniors who live in housing, but the housing may be falling apart and the residents do not feel respected by the building management.”

*Continued on page 16*

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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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**THE HOUSE AND SENATE:** There were no roll call votes in the House or Senate last week. This week, *Beacon Hill Roll Call* reports local senators’ final roll call attendance records for the entire 2019 session.

The Senate held 153 roll call votes in 2019. Beacon Hill Roll Call tabulates the number of roll calls on which each senator was present and voting and then calculates that number as a percentage of the total roll call votes held. That percentage is the number referred to as the roll call attendance record.

In the 40-member Senate, 28 senators (70 percent) have 100 percent roll call records.

Beacon Hill Roll Call contacted the four senators who missed the most roll calls and asked them for a statement.

The senator who missed the most roll calls is Sen. Joe Boncore (D-Winthrop) who missed 10 roll calls (93.4 percent attendance record).

“Since taking office, I have remained steadfast to the principle that participation in every part of the legislative process is essential to best serve my district and constituents,” said Boncore. “In the four years prior to this, I had never missed a roll call vote, and would never unless it were a matter of absolute importance. All of these abstentions are reflected on October 3, 2019, when I was dealing with a pressing family matter.”

The next three senators who missed the most roll calls are Sen. Adam Hinds who missed seven roll calls (95.4 percent attendance record); and Sens. Barry Finegold (D-Andover) and Mike Barrett (D-Lexington), who each missed four roll calls (97.3 percent attendance record.)

Sen. Hinds office sent *Beacon Hill Roll Call* a statement that was entered by the senator in the Senate journal which keeps a history of Senate sessions. “I was absent from the chamber as I was scheduled to be out-of-state for official business,” said Hinds. “Earlier this year Senate President Karen Spilka appointed me to represent the Massachusetts Senate at the NCSL Budget and Tax Academy in Washington D.C., and, as such, I was out of town. I regret this scheduling conflict prevented me from ... recording my position on a number of roll call votes taken that day.”

“Those missing roll call votes should all be from the same night where the senator had to catch a flight to spend time with his wife for her birthday,” responded Sen. Finegold’s chief of staff MaryRose Mazzola. “He had booked the trip way in advance and notified the Senate president as soon as we thought the evening might go late.”

Sen. Barrett did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* for a statement on his absences.

2019 SENATORS’ FINAL ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE RECORD

The percentage listed next to the senator’s name is the percentage of roll call votes for which the senator was present and voting. The number in parentheses represents the number of roll calls that he or she missed.

Sen. Patricia Jehlen 100 percent (0)

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**\$541 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET (H 4246)** – The House and Senate approved and sent to Gov. Charlie Baker a \$541 million fiscal 2020 supplemental budget to cover expenses and to fund various state programs and agencies that are running out of money. The package also deposits \$428 million into the state’s Rainy Day Fund, now estimated to be \$3.3 billion.

Provisions include \$32 million for repairs on the MBTA; \$1 million in grants to help cities and towns with the 2020 census; \$2.1 million to cover the costs of allowing early voting in the 2020 presidential primaries including \$1.5 million earmarked to increase public awareness of the option to vote early; \$3 million to provide relief for communities which experienced financial impact from the July 23, 2019 tornado on Cape Cod; \$2.5 million to support the state’s agricultural and commercial fishing and cranberry growing industries; and \$5 million for public universities to enhance the safety and security of students, faculty and staff.

Supporters said the budget represented a fiscally responsible way to distribute the state’s more than \$1 billion surplus.

No one spoke against the budget.

**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE HEARING** – The Public Health Committee held a hearing on several bills including:

**DONATE FOOD (H 1969)** -Allows restaurants and other food establishments to donate their edible leftover cooked food and non-perishable food to local food pantries and assistance shelters. The donor would receive a tax credit or deduction. The bill also relieves the restaurant of any liability if a person is harmed by eating the donated food.

**FIREARM SCREENING BY DOCTORS (H 2005)** - Requires doctors to screen all patients by asking them if they have a firearm in their home. The details of how often the screening would be and guidelines for safety counseling for individuals that screen positive for the presence of firearms in the home will be established by the Department of Public Health if the bill is ever signed into law.

“Our priority is to encourage further conversations about gun safety, identify red flags for suicide and domestic violence and child access to guns,” Boston Health and Human Services Chief Marty Martinez testified before the committee. “We know that gun safety is a public health issue. As such, doctors are uniquely positioned to help prevent gun-related injury and death.”

Rep. Jon Santiago (D-Boston), the sponsor of the legislation did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call for a statement.

“Mandating that people are screened for gun ownership as if we have a communicable disease is outrageous,” said Jim Wallace, Executive Director of the Gun Owners Action League (GOAL) of Massachusetts. “The bill also mandates that we receive some sort of counseling if we are “screened positive” for firearms. Simply put, not only the bill, but the terminology used shows the disdain for simply exercising our civil rights in the commonwealth.”

MANDATORY DIAPER-CHANGING AREA

**(H 19123)** - Requires restaurants that serve families with children to have at least one designated diaper-changing area or facility on the premises that is open to all customers.

“As a father of two young children, I know firsthand that too many family establishments across the state lack diaper-changing stations, especially in men’s restrooms,” said Sen. Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn), the bill’s sponsor. “Parents should be able to go out with their children without having to worry about finding a safe and clean place to change their baby’s diaper. It’s time for Massachusetts to join other states like California and New York and pass this common-sense legislation.”

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 9-13, the House met for a total of 16 hours and 14 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 17 hours and 40 minutes.

Mon. December 9	House 11:02 a.m. to 2:16 p.m. Senate 11:05 a.m. to 3:38 p.m.
Tues. December 10	No House session Senate 11:08 a.m. to 11:17 a.m.
Wed. December 11	House 11:01 a.m. to 12:01 a.m. Senate 11:05 a.m. to 12:03 a.m.)
Thurs. December 12	No House session No Senate session
Fri. December 13	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at [bob@beaconhillrollcall.com](mailto:bob@beaconhillrollcall.com)

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# Plans for West Somerville Neighborhood Schoolyard explored

By Adam Parise

Last Wednesday, December 11, residents and city planners gathered in the cafeteria of the West Somerville Neighborhood School to discuss the layout and design options for the new schoolyard.

The first main topic discussed at the meeting was the design schedule regarding this project. The first phase of this design schedule includes a second community meeting, which will discuss the present schematic design alternatives based on this meeting's community input and a community review and discussion, with the goal of developing a final preferred design plan. This meeting will be held sometime next month.

The second phase of this design schedule consists of a third community meeting to discuss the present definitive design for the schoolyard construction,

which includes feature and site furnishings based on the community discussion at the second community meeting. The input sought from the community at this meeting will involve the project budget, bidding process, suggested alternates and a prioritized strategy to maximize the budget. This meeting will be held in either February or March of next year.

The third item regarding this project is the release of the construction documents by CBA that finalize the definitive design and suggested alternates. The documents will be released in the Spring of 2020. The construction start is still to be determined and will be set according to the funding availability.

Another topic discussed at this meeting was the existing conditions and site analysis of the schoolyard. The first part of the discussion was an overview of the current surface material, which in-

cludes the lawn, concrete, asphalt, mulch, wood fiber and bricks.

The second thing discussed was the circulation and vehicle access of the park. One of the main concerns by parents and personnel of the schoolyard was the actual lack of parking spaces and the location of the lot.

Also discussed were ideas from the previous two meetings regarding this project. The first set of ideas was for the play structure, including making it more suitable and appropriate for kids in grades Pre-K through 1st grade. As the older kids are currently relegated to the blacktop, a new large climbing structure with a slide, like the one at the North Street Playground, to include swings, several slides climbers and upper body/fitness equipment, strong faculty support for runner as safety surfacing and a physical separation of structures for the different age groups was proposed.

The second set of ideas is for the sports/recreation courts to include keeping a full half court for basketball, to consider parkour/exercise equipment, to shrink the turf area, to

eliminate all the foursquare courts for the exception of one and to be able to accommodate practices for youth sports and other organizations.

Also discussed was the multifunctional space including



A meeting was held at the West Somerville Neighborhood School to discuss improvement plans for its schoolyard. — Photos by Adam Parise

incorporation of an outdoor classroom space, space to eat outside, a place for students to sit for protection from flying balls, protect/screening the kindergarten classroom windows since the other classes at recess are distracting them, and a new mindful walking path.

Ideas concerning the Green Space included adding trees for shade and increasing permeable surfaces and to include natural materials and areas. Ideas for the Big Wall included stadium seating, a climbing wall, stepped levels for additional room and other play features.

Also considered was the addition of shade trees to the parking lot, to remove vestiges of the old parking lot from the play area, to move the dumpster away from the play area and to make parking confined to the parking lot and keeping it separate from the play area.

Various possibilities for play equipment that the new school-

yard should get were also explored. These included a brand new play structure, additional slides and additional swings for the play equipment, a brand new outdoor classroom including a garden right next to it, a brand new hard basketball court space, a gathering space right next to the play structure for families to gather at when picking up or dropping off their child at the school, blacktop graphics near the foursquare court, a brand new water fountain, fencing and shade structures, contemporary lighting, a sensory play wall, a bicycle track and an outdoor chalkboard. More information regarding these elements will be discussed at the next two upcoming meetings.

For more information regarding this project, residents can contact the Director of Parks and Open Space, Arn Franzen, by phone at (617) 625-6600 or by email at [AFranzen@somervillema.gov](mailto:AFranzen@somervillema.gov).



## The Somerville Times Best of Somerville 2019 Cast your vote!

You have until December 20 to vote for your favorite category. To cast your vote, email us at [thebestofsomerville@yahoo.com](mailto:thebestofsomerville@yahoo.com) or mail in your ballot to The Somerville Times, 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. The winners will be announced Wednesday, January 1, 2020. If you don't see your favorite category here, simply add it to this list.

### Foods & Restaurants

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

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

### Best of Somerville Services

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

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

### Best of Somerville Businesses

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

- Best Idea in 2019
- Worst Idea in 2019



# Jewish spiritual leader honored by city, temple

By Penny Schwartz

Some 200 people filled the sanctuary at Temple B'nai Brith, coming together on Saturday evening, December 14, to pay tribute to Phillip Weiss, the Jewish congregation's revered and beloved spiritual leader who first wandered up the stairs of the synagogue forty years ago looking for a place to worship for Yom Kippur.

Four decades later, in his Yom Kippur sermon earlier this fall, Weiss said that in Jewish teachings, the number 40 carries great meaning, representing the length of time required to complete a task.

He announced that he is assuming a new role as religious leader emeritus, with the title of darshan emeritus.

Weiss has served as the synagogue's religious leader while working full time as a philosophy professor at Wheelock College, until his recent retirement. He and his wife, Nomi Davidson, raised two now grown sons, Isaiah and Sam, in Somerville.

His dedicated service was recognized by Mayor Joe Curtatone and the City Council in a citation presented to Weiss by Councilor Mark Niedergang, a long time active member of TBB.

"He has sustained the congregation, providing a welcoming, inclusive, and diverse home for this city's Jewish community, in addition to building bridges with those of other faiths and cultures," the November 26 citation states.

City Councilors William White and Katjana Ballantyne and School Committee member Andre Green joined congregants, friends and family at the tribute.

Speakers highlighted Weiss's role in guiding the congregation through a decades-long transition that transformed the Jewish house of worship that, in the late 1970s, faced the prospect of shutting its doors.



Nomi Davidson, at the tribute at Temple B'nai Brith to honor her husband, Phillip Weiss, with her son, Sam Weiss (left) and other members of the extended Weiss-Davidson family.

Weiss, skilled in religious practice, was pressed into service by the congregation's elderly members to read the weekly Torah portion and eventually he accepted the role of TBB's spiritual leader.

At the time, Weiss believed he was leading the congregation through its final years.

Against all odds, TBB was rejuvenated by newcomers under Weiss's leadership and is once again thriving, with a full time clergy, Rabbi Eliana Jacobowitz, regular religious services and a children's school.

Weiss has encouraged people to comfortably engage with Judaism, Rabbi Jacobowitz observed.

"The sweetness with which you greet any person. Your way of truly listening and knowing the right questions to ask, is a model of welcoming," she said Saturday evening.

"Phil has led us through many transitions," said Seth Weiss, a long time TBB lay leader, noting his older brother's pivotal role in guiding and officiating at what is now generations of Jewish family lifecycle events.

At Saturday evening's program, Weiss reflected on the off-the-beaten-path journey that brought him to this place and time. He credited the late Morris and Ada Kleiman, long time leaders of TBB, with "changing the course of my life," and expressed gratitude for the rare opportunity to be part of other people's Jewish journeys.

"Nowhere else could I have been privileged to serve as I have been here at Temple B'nai Brith," Weiss said.



Phillip Weiss, now Temple B'nai Brith's religious leader emeritus, spoke Saturday evening, December 14, at a tribute that recognized his 40 years of service to the city's historic Jewish congregation.

Past presidents praised Weiss as a wise and warm leader, capable of creatively incorporating German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, the subject of Weiss's dissertation, into his sermons.

Four decades ago, when the Somerville transplant from Long Island, NY, wandered into the Central St. synagogue, he found mostly elderly congregants whose simple, heartfelt prayer style struck a chord. Their warm embrace kept him coming - and also attracted a small handful of other 20s and 30s new to the area.

At that time, after the retirement of Rabbi Leo Shubow, the membership of the once thriving Jewish institution founded in 1904 by Jewish immigrants to the city had dwindled to a handful.

— Photos courtesy of Sharona Jacobs

## The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #194

### Athenaeum

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Since 1814, Central Hill has been the location of the City Hall, three churches, four schools, a firehouse, the city's first public park, and four libraries. From early on, many residents agreed that the public library was the focal point of the intellect of the community. Through the years, Somerville has created two main public libraries and over a half dozen satellites that catered to the needs and wishes of her citizens. This is true even in today's computerized, super-speed networking world.

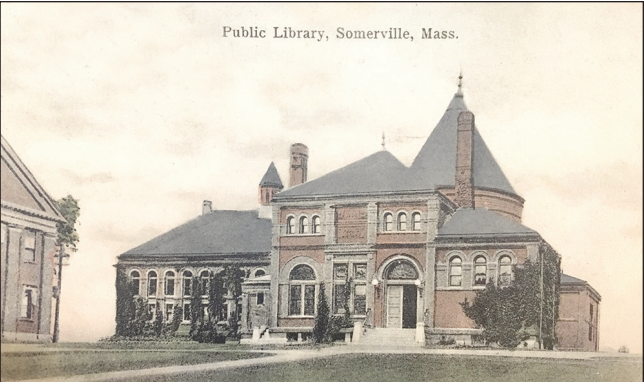


A who's who of residents, friends and originators of libraries has touched Somerville.

♦ In 1638, Harvard University started its first library, the oldest in the nation. It began with a four hundred-book collection that was given by its namesake, John Harvard. At the same time, Governor John Winthrop of Ten Hills also donated a forty-volume collection of select books.

♦ In Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin established the nation's first lending library. He was the only non-congressional signer of our Constitution, the country's most cherished document. Born in Boston, Franklin invented the lightning rod. One adorns the top of our Powder House. He was General Washington's Flag Committee leader who designed and delivered the first American Grand Union Flag to fly on Prospect Hill on January 1, 1776.

♦ Winter Hill's statesman, Edward Everett, helped establish the Boston Public Library in 1848 and was the first Chairman of its Board of Trustees. To help start its collection, he gathered, bound and gifted, at his own expense, the complete records of the Congress and Senate.



♦ In 1871, Russell Conwell, the first Editor of the Somerville Journal and the founder of Temple University was on Somerville's Free Library Establishment Committee. Conwell Avenue, Conwell Street, and the former Conwell School were named after him and his son Leon, a former Mayor of Somerville.

♦ Sam Walter Foss, a nationally known poet, was Somerville's librarian from 1898 to 1911. During that time, he built a book circulation, which was second in New England, only to the Boston Public Library. Foss Park was named after his son, Saxton, a writer for the Boston Globe who was killed in World War I.

Continued on page 20



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# Somerville City Council, Administration pass city's first zoning overhaul in 30 years

After over seven years of research and analysis, hundreds of community meetings, multiple public hearings and extensive review by the former Board of Aldermen and current City Council, Somerville officially has a new zoning ordinance.

On December 12, the City Council voted to approve the administration's proposed new zoning ordinance, making this the first major overhaul of zoning in Somerville since 1990, and an update of some regulatory elements that have existed since zoning was first adopted in 1924.

"For years we have steadfastly worked, as a community, to ensure that we have the best possible zoning ordinance that meets the goals and expectations of our residents and businesses, that enables us to expand affordable housing, jobs, development, and so much more to move our community forward while ensuring residents of all backgrounds can afford to stay, and build their homes and businesses here," said Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone. "I

want to thank the Council for taking a very long, hard look at our proposal and making carefully considered revisions to meet the community's requests and needs. And I want to thank current SPCD Director George Proakis, his predecessor Michael Glavin, our entire Planning staff, and particularly Senior Planner and principal author Dan Bartman who has been the driving force of this zoning overhaul since its inception in 2012. This has been a labor of love, and I am thrilled to finally say we have an ordinance that is progressive, that makes sense, and that keeps Somerville on the move."

Somerville is the first and largest municipality in the Boston metropolitan region to adopt a citywide form-based code (FBC) that also incorporates best practices from performance-based and use-based zoning to achieve more than 180 objectives of SomerVision 2030, the city's comprehensive Master Plan first adopted in 2012.

"This effort was one of the most significant undertakings by

the City Council in decades and we are grateful for the collaboration from the administration and the invaluable input from the community throughout. I am extremely proud of the work that my colleagues and I have put in to create an ordinance designed to harness the powerful forces of change in our city in a way that ensures that our shared values are considered first," said Ward 6 City Councilor Lance Davis, who serves as Chair of the Council's Land Use Committee. "We've all been eager to see this zoning passed but over the last several years we've worked hard to make sure that we got it right. This ordinance is not an end point but rather a new framework that will allow us to continue to fight for those values."

Among the vast array of language, regulatory, and procedural improvements, the new 552-page ordinance:

- Uses clear, simple language to make zoning understandable to a broad audience.
- Includes illustrations, graphics, and photos to help users visualize the standards.
- Regulates development through standards for 23 different building types.
- Permits common home improvements such as dormers, bay windows, rear additions, porches, and other 'building components' by-right.
- Permits backyard cottages, including tiny houses.
- Provides graduated density bonuses for larger lots, net zero ready buildings, and 100% affordable housing buildings.
- Requires the majority of new development to provide 20% of new units as affordable dwelling units.
- Establishes building sustainability standards to reach Somerville's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2050.
- Regulates land use through 62 simplified use categories compared to the over 250 individual uses of the former ordinance.
- Requires a special permit for all 'formula businesses.'



- Establishes a 'Fabrication District' and an 'Arts & Creative Enterprise' use category to support the creative economy, from individual artists to technology start-ups.

- Establishes New England's first environmental sustainability performance standard for urban landscapes: The Somerville Green Score.

- Requires outdoor lighting to be dark sky compliant.
- Repeals minimum parking requirements for the majority of the city.

- Establishes parking maximums in all areas within walking distance to the MBTA's Red, Orange, and Green Line rapid transit stations.

- Requires new development to widen sidewalks and prohibits curb cuts on designated 'pedestrian streets.'

- Requires parking in higher density districts to be commercial parking facilities.

- Requires accessory parking to be 'unbundled' from the cost of housing and commercial space.

- Establishes robust minimum bicycle parking requirements.

- Requires higher density buildings and larger businesses to submit Mobility Management Plans and implement transportation demand management programs & services.

- Entitles mixed-use, transit-oriented, high density transformational development akin to Assembly Square through a number of Overlay Districts and a Master Plan Special Permit approval process.

- Establishes a new Urban Design Commission to review how the proposed design of new development impacts Somerville's public realm.

The new Somerville Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Atlas go into effect immediately. More information is available at [www.somervillezoning.com](http://www.somervillezoning.com).



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### MONDAY December 23

Comedy Night! The Up n Coming Open Mic 7 p.m.  
Marley Monday with The Duppy Conquerors 10 p.m.

### TUESDAY December 24

Merry Christmas Eve!

### WEDNESDAY December 25

Merry Christmas!

### THURSDAY December 26

TBA

### FRIDAY December 27

Tom Hagerty Acoustic Band 6 p.m.  
Hear Now Live / Tiny Oak present - \$10 cover 9 p.m.

### SATURDAY December 28

Patsy Hamel Band 6 p.m.

### SUNDAY December 29

Sarah Levecque Band 5 p.m.  
African Night, SambaLolo and guests 10 p.m.

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COMMENTARY

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of The Somerville Times do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Somerville Times, its publishers or staff.

Data Download with Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone



By Joseph A. Curtatone  
Taking a closer look at notable city data – and interesting numbers.

**Almost 30 years:** Last week the City Council voted to adopt a new zoning ordinance, which is the first major overhaul of the zoning rules since 1990 and it replaced some regulations that had been in place since 1924 when the City first adopted zoning. A lot has changed over the past 30 years, and the zoning code was amended over the years to reflect that. Over the years those one-off changes made for a zoning code that was overly complicated and often made it difficult to do even simple home upgrades. Although the new code comes

in at 552 pages, it's simplified the rules and will make it easier to understand what can and cannot be built in Somerville. It also updates the rules for Somerville's future. For example, the new code created a Fabrication District for arts and creative enterprises, which will make it easier for artists and makers to open studios and shops.

**7 years, 9 months, 29 days, 13 hours, and 4 minutes:** From his first day on the job until the zoning overhaul was voted on, the City's Senior Planner Dan Bartman set a timer and then spent nearly eight years working on the new regulations. It was finally adopted 7 years, 9 months, 29 days, 13 hours, and 4 minutes after he started on it. While Dan was the driving force behind the zoning overhaul since he was hired in 2012, he is one of many City staff members and residents who contributed to it. The new zoning code went through a rigorous revision process that incorporated community feed-

back and best practices. We wanted to make sure we ended up with rules that will carry us far into the future and help us reach our community-created SomerVision goals.

**21 building types:** Somerville's new zoning is a "form-based code," which means it's organized by the types of buildings, not their uses. There are 21 building types in the new rules, which are based on criteria like the building's dimensions. Types of buildings in the code include cottages, triple deckers, lab buildings, and fabrication buildings. Along with building types, the code also includes 15 building components – things like awnings, decks, and dormers – that might be part of a building or a later addition. A form-based code gives property owners predictability when it comes to constructing a new building or renovating an existing one – find your zone and building type, review one chapter to see what's possible.

**4 kinds of urban agriculture:** Over the past few years, more and more residents have shown an interest in urban agriculture, so in 2012 we wrote guidelines that would allow for it. Now our new zoning includes rules for four types of urban agriculture – apiculture (beekeeping), aviculture (raising birds), commercial farming, and residential gardening. This is an example of why it was important to update our zoning code – back in 1990 there wasn't as much interest from residents in growing their own food or raising birds and bees.

**12 feet:** In the future you'll be seeing wider sidewalks in Somerville. One of our new zoning rules sets the requirement that any new sidewalks must be at least 12 feet wide on main streets and in squares. On existing streets, when a building is torn down the new building will have to be set far enough back to widen the sidewalk to 12 feet. Along with being a set of rules, the zoning code is also reflective

of our values as a community. Wider sidewalks will provide greater accessibility to residents using mobility aides and generally make it easier and safer to be a pedestrian in the city.

**Hundreds of graphics:** The zoning code that was replaced had fewer than 20 illustrations. It tried to explain building dimensions by narrative, but even for experienced planners it was difficult to understand. The new code has hundreds of graphics to try and make it the most reader-friendly zoning code.

*Data-based decision making is at the core of how the City of Somerville develops policy and sets priorities. Every day we check the latest 311 stats, and throughout the week we meet for in-depth review of departmental data and city trends. The Data Download column shares some of the data we've been reviewing recently, as well as interesting updates. To see more Somerville Data, visit the online Somerville Data Farm at [www.somervillema.gov/datafarm](http://www.somervillema.gov/datafarm).*

2019 In Review: Advocating together for local accomplishments



By State Representative Christine P. Barber

As I look back on 2019, I would like to take a moment to say thank you. Thanks to the partnership and action of people in Somerville and Medford, we have accomplished so much together for our community. We succeeded in moving forward several local projects and made important investments to benefit all residents. In the face of cruelty and division coming out of Washington, I am proud to represent a community of people who work collaboratively and inclusively to make changes in their neighborhood and to advocate for important policies to benefit our entire state. As State Representative, the best part of my job is working with my constituents to address

the needs in our communities. Below is just a sample of what we have worked on together this year. **Investing in Education – Student Opportunity Act**

With input and guidance from our local school districts, parents, teachers and many others in Somerville and Medford, we passed comprehensive education funding reform this fall. This once-in-a-generation piece of legislation will positively impact every student and school in the Commonwealth, especially for low-income students, students in Special Education, and English language learners. There is also increased funding for mental health services and health care costs, and charter tuition reimbursements will be fully funded. This bill will better prepare our students and provide adequate resources for teachers. Thank you to everyone who participated in the process. It was absolutely critical to have community partnerships to bring investments into our community.

**Traffic Study & Improvements – Mystic Valley Parkway**

In the FY20 state budget, we secured funding to commission

a master plan of part of Route 16, running through Cambridge, Somerville and Medford. As I hear so often from community members, this major parkway has safety challenges for all users. This plan will help the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) create shovel-ready projects to improve safety and traffic flow. I am continuing to work closely with Sen. Jehlen, city staff and people in the neighborhood--and I look forward to continuing to collaborate as the plan gets underway.

**Streetscape Improvements and Affordable Housing – Clarendon Hill Redevelopment**

After years of work by many residents, we secured a \$4.4 million state grant to build a new street at the North Street/Clarendon Hill housing and reorganize the Alewife Brook Parkway/Powderhouse Boulevard rotary into a simple four-way intersection. This infrastructure project will improve the safety of these streets for all users, and will help to rebuild Clarendon Hill and add many units of affordable housing. It is thanks to Clarendon Residents United,

Somerville Community Corporation (SCC), Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH), the City Council, the City of Somerville, and the state that this project is moving forward. **Safety Improvements – Mystic Ave.**

Everyone who lives on or near Mystic Ave. knows that it is dangerous for pedestrians, particularly along I-93. I have been working hard to improve this area, but we faced challenges from the state's pace to take action. Our community experienced two fatal tragedies this year along Mystic Ave., tragedies which brought an opportunity to improve conditions. I stood with the community to demand safety improvements and we were finally able to get some positive changes. Thanks to neighborhood partners, especially people from the Mystic housing development and Ten Hills, we secured new, more visible crosswalks and improved pedestrian walk signal timing at the Shore Drive and Temple Street intersection. Just outside of my district, signage and pavement markings at the Kensing-

ton crossing have been added as well. More improvements are on the way, and I look forward to continuing to work together.

As we look ahead to next year, I am committed to continuing to engage with residents. What are your priorities? What do you want to see us accomplish in this next year? What do you see in our district that needs funding? What bills are you passionate about?

In addition to these projects, I'm working on policies to support immigrants and women's rights, accelerate our action on climate change, and make new investments in transportation and affordable housing. Whether you are interested in a local project or a statewide bill, I would like to partner with you, and I encourage you to reach out and contact my office. In our current political landscape, it's easy to feel despair. In Massachusetts, we have so much more work to do, more progress to make, and more barriers to break. Because of your advocacy, and our partnership, I know we'll get there. I hope you will reach out with your ideas and comments to help push us forward.



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Merry Christmas from all of us here at The Times.

Our View Of The Times



The shopping is done, the presents are (hopefully) wrapped, and the plans for the big day have been made. Now is the time to slow down, relax and enjoy the holiday and all the finer things that come with it.

Being with family, friends and loved ones and sharing warmth of the occasion is unquestionably at or near the top of the list of things we like most at this time of year.

Whatever faith one may adhere to, we can all agree that the spirit of the moment can be meaningful to one and all. Kindness, charity and camaraderie are ideals that we particularly embrace at this time, and wish to uphold throughout the year. If we can be firm enough in our convictions to see that through, then our world will be a better place for us all to share.

We try our best, and that is all that can be asked of us.

Let us enjoy this holiday season to the fullest. Exchange our gifts, hug our loved ones, catch up on our big dramatic doings in life, and all the rest. But let us also give a little thought to extending that warmth and sense of solidarity into the year to come, no matter how contentious and troubling the times may be.

We may certainly face adversity from time to time, but we can hold that spirit of tolerance and magnanimity in ourselves as we deal with it.

We are only human, and often fall short of it. But it is well worth the effort to try.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

This Thursday, December 19, is the **Somerville High School Winter Concert**, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.at the **Somerville High School Auditorium**, 81 Highland Ave. Student group performances from the World Percussion Ensemble, Highlander Drumline, Highlander Band, Chorus, Guitar Ensemble, Jazz Band and Orchestra.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Last Call to Shop Small! Wrap It Up! Winter Market** takes place on **Sunday, December 22**, at **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. Hosted by **Shop Small MA** and **Arts at the Armory**, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. One more holiday market this season so you can wrap up all your holiday shopping needs while supporting our local makers, artists and small businesses.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Center for Arts at the Armory** will once again be hosting and managing the **2019-2020 Somerville Winter Farmers Market (SWFM)**. The market will run **every Saturday until April 11**, with the **exception of December 28** when there will be no market. Not only will this be a local foodie paradise, there will be door prizes, live music, coloring activities for the kids, Christmas trees to pre-order from local farms and wreaths on sale by **The Somerville Community Growing Center**. SNAP/ HIP are accepted. The Center for Arts at the Armory is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville. To learn more, and for a complete listing of vendors, weekly specials and live entertainment, please visit [www.somwintermarket.org](http://www.somwintermarket.org). You can find the market on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SomervilleWinterFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleWinterFarmersMarket), and on Twitter and Instagram @SomWinterMarket.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Historic Somerville Merchandise** is on sale for the holiday season. Just in time to complete your holiday shopping, the **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission** has **“Preserving Somerville”** merchandise available for sale. All merchandise can be viewed on the Commission’s website at [www.somervillema.gov/historicshop](http://www.somervillema.gov/historicshop). All items are available for purchase online by credit card and pick-up is at **City Hall**, 93 Highland Ave. Checks should be made payable to “City of Somerville- Historic Celebration Fund.” Arrangements may also be made for mailing or delivery of items within Somerville, by contacting in advance **Brandon Wilson** at [BWilson@somervillema.gov](mailto:BWilson@somervillema.gov), or 617-625-6600 ext. 2500.

\*\*\*\*\*

Are you a **Somerville teen** 13 years or older? If so, the **City of Somerville** invites you to consider being part of the **Teen Snow Shoveling Program**. The program is a paid program for youth to provide seniors in the community with snow shoveling assistance after a snow storm. Teens and seniors are paired for the season, and after each storm, the senior contacts their assigned teen to request shoveling services. Visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/teen-snow-shoveling-program> for more information including details on how to apply. Questions? Contact **Jennifer Mancia** at (617) 625-6600, x2406.

\*\*\*\*\*

On **Sunday, December 22**, a ceremonial **Menorah Lighting** will take place on the **City Hall Concourse** beginning at 5:00 p.m. All members of the community are invited to join **Mayor Curtatone** and **city staff** for a brief ceremony and photos. The Menorah will be lit each night of **Hanukkah**. Light refreshments will be served. For more information on the city’s holiday events, please call 311 (617-666-3311 from outside the city).

\*\*\*\*\*

In its annual tradition, the **City of Somerville** will kick off the **New Year** on **Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020**, with a reenactment ceremony for the anniversary of the **“Grand Union” flag-raising ceremony** at **Prospect Hill Park**. Important note: the park is currently closed for renovations, so the event will be held along Munroe St. adjacent to the park. The road will be closed during the morning events. A processional led by a re-enactor portraying **General George Washington** on horseback will leave from the **City Hall Concourse** at 11:30 a.m., followed by a ceremony at **Prospect Hill Park**. As always, members of the public are invited to participate, and are encouraged to wear traditional colonial clothing. Light refreshments will be served, and miniature replicas of the Grand Union Flag, both as a flag and a lapel pin, as well as colonial-era tri corner hats and a few items highlighting the city’s historic assets will be available for purchase. **The tower** will also be open to the public following the ceremony.

\*\*\*\*\*

Is there someone in the **Somerville Public Schools** that you would like to celebrate? **The Duhamel Education Initiative (DEI)** invites you to recognize them with a **Duhamel Star**. The Duhamel Star is a certificate of

Continued on page 16



# ‘Whose Somerville?’ photo exhibit sheds light on gentrification

CONT. FROM PG 1

participated in an activism course led by English teacher Sarah Blanchard and Social Studies teacher Tim Dempsey.

The unit focused on the subject of gentrification and how it has changed Somerville, while guest photographers were invited to the school to teach students techniques. Students were taught to make a complex argument and support it with evidence, through the form of photos, in order to present a point of view and demonstrate how art can influence social change.

“We live in a world full of negativity and problems which feel insurmountable,” said Blanchard. “It would be great for students to feel they can be agents of change and have control over their future.”

Through their essays, students remarked on how the face of Somerville has been changing. Nick Milonopoulos, in his essay *Barriers*, photographed new shops that have arisen in the city, capturing a Puma shoe store and an upscale Anne Taylor Loft at Assembly Row. While these additions may appear to be beneficial, he questioned who is benefitting from their installation, writing that, “Most of the poor can’t afford living here, so they can’t enjoy the benefits of that stuff.” Milonopoulos also wrote about his family’s experience of being kicked out of their house, for financial reasons.

Peter Lancaster, who created the photo essay *The Old and the New*, explained that old houses are being torn down and turned into condos. “People who have the money to afford them don’t see how

people are struggling,” Lancaster said.

Dempsey said that the exhibit did not express a single point of view but ten different ones, as the students’ individuality shined through.

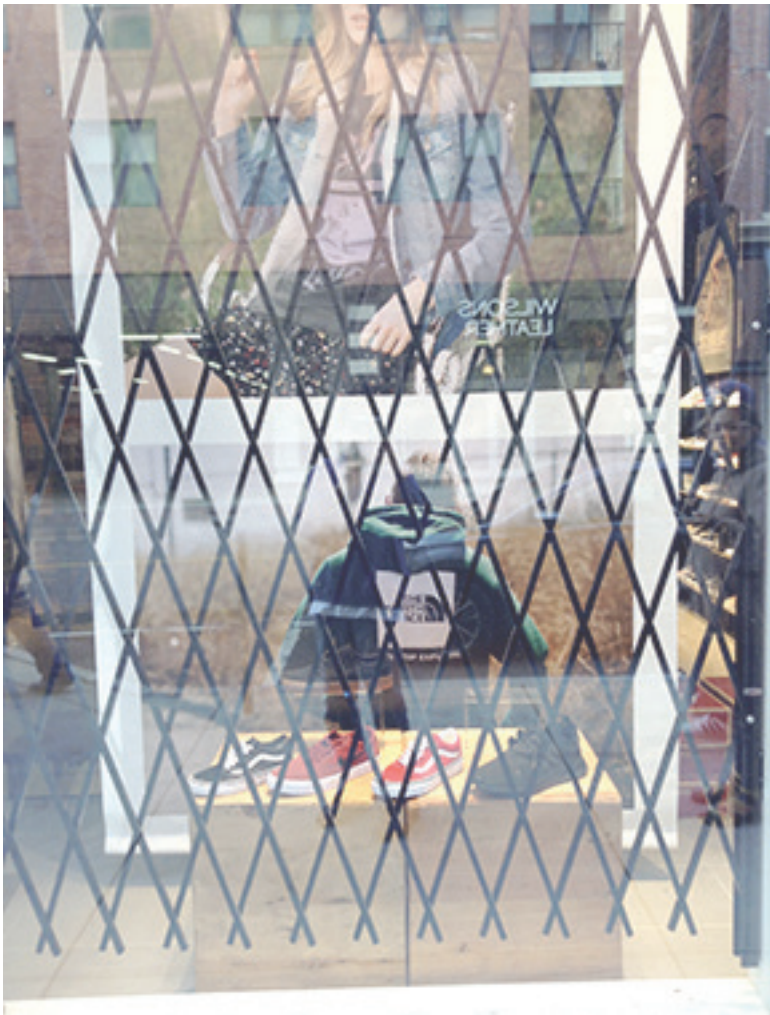
Rene Pires Canales, through his essay *The Somerville Life*, strived to show how while Somerville may be changing, its old character and life still remain. One image depicted an old cement chair that was left behind when the East Somerville High School was rebuilt. While a futuristic playground was built around it, the chair remained standing.

Karinny Oliveira stated that, “Change is good, because nothing lasts forever,” developing an essay called *Phantasmagoria* that represented the positive aspects of gentrification.

Full Circle Alternative High School is a school for students who have experienced academic setbacks, using a more personalized approach to learning. Students in grades 6-12 attend the tight knit school, which has smaller classes of ten or fewer students.

Full Circle has a therapeutic community and uses a competency based learning system. This particular unit was part of the school’s project based learning curriculum, which encourages students to engage in solving authentic, real world problems. Dempsey said that it is important for young adults to learn about activism and feel that they can be a part of social change.

“We’re raising citizens,” Dempsey said. “That’s what you need to live in the world.”



Nick Milonopoulos’ photo essay *Barriers* will be on display in the student exhibit *Whose Somerville?* at City Hall through mid-January.

— Photo by Nick Milonopoulos



Karinny Oliveira’s *Phantasmagoria* was featured in the exhibit.

— Photo by Karinny Oliveira



Rene Pires Canales’ *The Somerville Life* represented both positive and negative sides of change in the city.

— Photo by Rene Pires Canales



Additional photos by Peter Lancaster





# Income tax and long-term capital gains tax reduced

By Bob Katzen

The Baker administration announced that sufficient economic growth in 2019 under the terms of a 2002 law will result in tax cuts for millions of Bay State taxpayers in 2020. The cuts would come from a reduction in the Part B individual income tax rate and long-term capital gains tax rate from the current 5.05 percent to 5 percent effective January 1, 2020. The administration said the cuts are estimated to result in an \$88 million tax reduction in partial fiscal year 2020 and \$185 million in full

fiscal year 2021. Estimates are that the average taxpayer would save from \$20 to \$50 per year. High income earners would save hundreds of dollars.

Part B income includes wages, salary and many other forms of income, including self-employment income; business, professional and farm income; S corporation distributions; and rental income from personal property. The rate associated with Part B income is also applied to several other income categories, including interest and dividends and most long-term capital gains.

Under the same 2002 law,

the state charitable deduction was indefinitely suspended and now will be reinstated on January 1, 2021. The estimated loss of revenue from the charitable deduction is \$64 million in partial fiscal year 2021 and approximately \$300 million in full fiscal year 2022.

All these reductions were originally supposed to take place in 2003 under the terms of voter-approved ballot questions in 2000. Citizens for Limited Taxation spearheaded the ballot question rolling back the state's then-5.85 percent income tax rate to 5 percent over the course of three years. It was approved 59 percent to 41 percent. Voters also approved a separate question creating the charitable deduction by a 72 percent to 28 percent margin. But it has taken 20 years for the rates to go down to 5 percent and for the charitable deduction to be revived.

These tax cuts do not need the approval of the Legislature. They are part of a system devised by the Legislature when it approved a \$1 billion-plus tax hike package in 2002. The package took away the charitable deduction completely, set the long-term capital gains tax at 5.3 percent and froze the income tax rate at 5.3 percent instead of allowing them to drop to 5 percent in January 2003 — a reduction that was approved by voters on the 2000 state ballot. The 2002 law also includes an automatic trigger that reduces both taxes by one-half of 1 percent each year, until they reach 5 percent, if certain goals are met, including if revenue from the prior fiscal year grew at least 2.5 percent faster than the rate of inflation. This upcoming tax reduction to 5 percent represents the conclusion of the process laid out in the 2002 state law.

"Starting in January, the income tax rate will be the lowest it has been in decades, allowing Massachusetts taxpayers to be able to keep more of their hard-earned money," said Gov. Charlie Baker. "Our administration is working to keep the commonwealth's economy strong while maintaining fiscal discipline and now we are finally making happen what voters called for almost 20 years ago."

"Consistent increases in state revenue are triggering this final income tax rate reduction,"



said Administration and Finance Secretary Michael Hefernan. "This is excellent news for Massachusetts taxpayers, and it was incorporated into our assumptions for fiscal year 2021 so there is no change in our revenue outlook."

"It's a shame that Barbara Anderson isn't around to celebrate, after all the labor she too put into keeping the promise and rolling back the 'temporary' income tax, including two statewide petition drives and the 2000 ballot campaign," said Chip Ford, executive director of CLT which put the rollback question on the 2000 ballot. "She died three years ago, and Chip Faulkner, CLT's associate director who coordinated the petition drives, passed away this year. But considering that almost two generations have passed since that false 'promise' was made and remained broken, there are many former-taxpaying souls who are no longer with us to celebrate as well. There are a multitude of taxpayers today — almost two generations of them — for whom this will be the first time they'll ever have paid a 5 percent income tax in their lifetime."

"It's a day that should be celebrated that even in Massachusetts, occasionally the taxpayer can keep more of their hard-earned income before state leaders can any deeper into our checking accounts," said Paul Diego Craney, spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. "It's long overdue but it goes to show you how hard it is to advocate for the taxpayer at the Statehouse. I don't our state leaders even know how to spell 'tax cut.'"

Not everyone is celebrating. "The income tax is one of the few revenue sources that asks high-income people to pay in-

line with their larger bank rolls," said Phineas Baxandall, Senior Analyst at the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center. "Repeated cuts to the income tax rate are a big reason that Massachusetts' tax system is upside-down. Those with higher incomes end up paying a smaller share of their income, on average, than moderate- and low-income taxpayers pay."

"Our past failure to invest in transportation and public education forces many working families in Massachusetts to struggle with lengthy commutes, high transportation costs and a lack of economic opportunity," said Andrew Farnitano, spokesman for Raise Up Massachusetts, the group that is sponsoring the possible 2022 ballot question that would impose an additional 4 percent income tax on taxpayers' earnings of more than \$1 million. "This income tax rate cut will give low-and-middle-income people just \$10 or \$20 each year, but that's a drop in the bucket compared to the cost of recent MBTA fare increases, or to the high tuition bills at our public colleges. The vast majority of this tax cut will go to those at the top, with the highest-income 1 percent receiving almost 25 percent of the total tax cut."

"Massachusetts needs major new investments in transportation and public education in every part of the state, and that will require significant new revenue," continued Farnitano. "It's time for millionaires and large corporations, who have been the only big winners in our economy, to finally pay their fair share to make those investments. That's why Raise Up Massachusetts is fighting for the Fair Share Amendment tax on million-dollar incomes, and for closing corporate tax loopholes."

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#710

1. What was the name of the animated Christmas movie featuring Tom Hanks?

2. What is Father Christmas called in France?

3. What American rock band released the song Candy Cane Children in 2002?

4. Which popular Christmas song was composed by James Pierpont?

5. Why does Novia Scotia donate a Christmas tree to the city of Boston each year?

6. Who composed the songs for the film *White Christmas*?

7. Which U.S. singer sang *All I Want For Christmas Is You* in 1994?

8. In the Northern Hemisphere what is the shortest day of the year called?

9. When is Little Christmas celebrated?

10. Who was 13 years old when he recorded recorded the song *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus*?

11. What book tells a Christmas-themed story that explains how Santa Claus knows who is naughty and nice?

12. Where is the United States' National Christmas Tree located?

Answers on page 17

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# Historic Somerville merchandise on sale for holiday season

Just in time to complete your holiday shopping, the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission has “Preserving Somerville” merchandise available for sale. All merchandise can be viewed on the Commission’s website at [www.somervillema.gov/historicshop](http://www.somervillema.gov/historicshop), and a list of available items is below.

All items are available for purchase online by credit card and pick-up at City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue. Checks should be made payable to “City of Somerville- Historic Celebration Fund.” Arrangements may also be made for mailing or delivery of items within Somerville, by contacting in advance Brandon Wilson at [BWilson@somervillema.gov](mailto:BWilson@somervillema.gov), or 617-625-6600 ext. 2500.

For more information, contact Brandon Wilson at [BWilson@somervillema.gov](mailto:BWilson@somervillema.gov), 617-625-6600 ext. 2500.



### Items for Sale:

“First American Flag” Bundle: \$25

The First American Flag: Revisiting the Grand Union at Prospect Hill book by Byron DeLear

Grand Union Flag lapel pin on a card with historic text

Mini Grand Union Flag

“Preserving Somerville” T-Shirt Bundle

Tote bag and a short-sleeve t-shirt: \$25

Tote bag and a long-sleeve short: \$30

### Books:

The First American Flag: Revisiting the Grand Union at Prospect Hill by Byron DeLear: \$19.99

Brief History of Somerville, by Dee Morris and Dora St. Martin: \$20.99

### Miscellaneous:

Prospect Hill Tower Pin with text, handmade by local artist: \$20

Mini Grand Union Flags: \$5

First Flag Lapel Pins with text: \$5

Totes (red or natural): \$15

### Shirts:

“Preserving Somerville” shirts

Short-sleeve T-Shirt (multiple colors, men and women’s sizes): \$15

Long-sleeve Shirt (multiple colors, men and women’s sizes): \$20

“Historic Images of Somerville” afghan: \$65 (afghan is fully washable)

# East Somerville Main Streets receives Boston Foundation grant

East Somerville Main Streets has announced that it has received a \$10,000 grant from the Boston Foundation to support its small business technical assistance program, through the Foundation’s Open Door Grants program.

“This grant will allow us to reach more businesses with our small business support program to help ensure our small businesses stay in East Somerville, Director Jen Atwood said today. “Additionally East Somerville Main Streets plans to grow and improve upon its public programming for the community by increasing the number and quality of free public events for the community to provide more opportunities for people to come together and celebrate our unique cultural identity as a neighborhood.”

East Somerville Main Streets was founded in 2009 and today serves the community of East Somerville with small business support, public events and creative placemaking activities.

“East Somerville Main Streets works to demonstrate something at the core of the Boston Foundation’s ethos – the power of community,” said Orlando Watkins, Vice President for Programs at the Boston Foundation. “By giving business owners a forum for connecting and a network for self-advocacy, it plays a crucial role in building vibrancy and pride in a diverse community. We are pleased to give them support.”

Open Door Grants are competitive, one-year grants designed for organizations whose proposal is focused on Greater Boston and whose values align with those of the Boston Foundation. Grants are awarded biannually, and are selected by staff through an inclusive evaluation process. Funds for this grant come from the Boston Foundation’s Permanent Fund for Boston, Greater Boston’s only endowed fund focusing on the pressing needs of Greater Boston. The Permanent Fund has been made possible by more than a century of gifts from those who seek to support innovative solutions to the region’s most pressing problems since 1915.



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Ms. Cam’s

From on page 14

# Olio

Answers

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. The Polar Express  | 6. Irving Berlin                  |
| 2. Père Noël  | 7. Mariah Carey                   |
| 3. The White Stripes  | 8. December solstice              |
| 4. Jingle Bells   | 9. January 6                      |
| 5. In thanks and remembrance for the help Boston provided immediately after the Halifax Explosion of 1917 | 10. Jimmy Boyd                    |
|   | 11. Elf on the Shelf              |
|   | 12. South Lawn of the White House |



• • • • VILLENS ON THE TOWN • • • •

CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
Wednesday|December 18

East Branch Library  
Rockabye Beats!  
11 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.|115 Broad-  
way

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

Thursday|December 19  
Central Library  
Preschool Storytime for 3 to  
5-year-olds  
10:30 a.m.- 11:15 a.m.  
Lego Club  
3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

East Branch Library  
Night Owls Storytime  
6:15 p.m.-7:30 p.m.|115 Broad-  
way

Friday|December 20  
Central Library  
Preschool Storytime for 2-year-  
olds  
10:30 a.m.-11 a.m.  
Teen Holiday Party!  
2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Teen Empowerment Library Lead-  
ers meeting  
3:30 p.m.-6 p.m.|79 Highland  
Ave

Monday|December 23  
Central Library  
Sing Along  
10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.  
2:45 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.|79 High-  
land Ave

MUSIC|ARTS  
Wednesday|December 18

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

The Burren  
Front Room:Americana Session  
with: Grain Thief|9 p.m.  
Backroom: Carissa Johnson,  
Acoustic Record Release with  
Special Guest Dutch Boy Blues|7  
p.m.  
Comedy Night with Janet Mc-  
Namara|10 p.m.  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

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

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

Thunder Road  
Bearly Dead – A Tribute To The  
Grateful Dead  
8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville  
Molly McGill’s Big 5-0 Birthday  
Bash with The Handymen  
8 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Highland Kitchen  
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Aeronaut Brewing Co.  
Dean Harlem  
8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Thursday|December 19  
Sally O’Brien’s

Good Trees River Band, Fiesta  
Melon - \$10 cover  
8 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-  
666-3589

The Burren  
WUMB Presents Peter Parcek|7  
p.m.  
Scattershot|10 p.m.  
247 Elm St

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

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

Thunder Road  
A Band of Killers live in Union  
Square, Somerville!  
8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville  
The Bralettes  
Acid Carousel, Divine Sweater,  
Plumes, Barril  
8 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co.  
Tucker Antell Quartet  
8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory  
Teatro Brasileiro de Boston: O  
Natal Encantado Da Fábrica de  
Sonhos  
7 p.m.|Performance Hall|191  
Highland Ave

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

Friday|December 20  
Sally O’Brien’s  
Larry Flint & The Road Scholars  
|6 p.m.  
Boston Emissions & Anngelle  
Wood present |9 p.m.  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-  
3589

The Burren  
Front Room: Irish Session|9:30  
p.m.  
Backroom|Jason Anick Acoustic  
Trio |7 p.m.  
Jimmy’s Down|10 p.m.  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Once Somerville  
One Night Christmakwanzakah  
Extravaganza  
8 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

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

Bull McCabe’s  
Kevin Connolly Mule Var.|7 p.m.  
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-  
6045

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

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

Thunder Road  
Winter Funkstice: Moose & The  
Mops + Soulation with special  
guests CHACO the band  
8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co.  
Visiting Wine  
8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory  
Richard Cambridge’s Poets’

Theatre  
7:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

The Rockwell  
Good Luck Fest 2 Turbo  
7:30 p.m.&10 p.m.|255 Elm St

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

Saturday|December 21  
Sally O’Brien’s  
One Thin Dime |6 p.m.  
Lily Black, Set Fire, Baabes, The  
Spins |9 p.m.  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-  
3589

The Burren  
Front Room:Bluegrass Session|2  
p.m.  
Hunter Americana|5 p.m.|Irish  
Session|2 p.m.  
Back Room: An Evening With Bill  
Janovitz and Friends |7 p.m.  
Scattershots|10 p.m.  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Orleans Restaurant and Bar  
Karaoke  
65 Holland St

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

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

Thunder Road  
Zach Innis & The Honeybees: A  
Tribute To Tom Petty  
8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville  
Darkest Night Dance Party  
8 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co.  
Ill Doots  
8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory  
Rick and Friends  
10 a.m.|Café|Performance  
Hall|191 Highland Ave

The Rockwell  
Good Luck Fest 2 Turbo  
7:30 p.m.&10 p.m.|255 Elm St

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

Sunday|December 22  
Sally O’Brien’s Bar  
Bob Bradshaw Band |5 p.m.  
African Night, SambaLolo and  
guests|10 p.m.  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-  
3589

The Burren  
Front Room: John Gannon &  
Friends|2 p.m., Alan Kaufman  
& Friends|6 p.m., Los Goutos|9  
p.m.  
Matt Heaton’s Holiday Hootenan-  
ny |3:30 p.m.  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

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

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

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

Thunder Road  
379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville  
Holiday Buzz Market  
11 a.m.|156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co.  
Old Fox  
2 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory  
Cafe Raqs  
7 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

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

Monday|December 23  
Sally O’Brien’s Bar  
Comedy Night! The Up n Com-  
ing Open Mic|7 p.m.  
Marley Monday with The Duppy  
Conquerors reggae|10 p.m.  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-  
3589

The Burren  
Front Room: Bur-Run|6:45  
p.m., Run, Helena Delaney &  
Friends|9:30 p.m.  
Back Room:Stump Trivia|8:30  
p.m.  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Bull McCabe’s Pub  
Jimmy James Trivia|8:30 p.m.  
Catch A Dinosaur|10 p.m.  
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-  
6045

Thunder Road  
379 Somerville Ave.

Once Somerville  
156 Highland Ave

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

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

Tuesday|December 24  
Sally O’Brien’s Bar  
Merry Christmas Eve!  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-  
3589

The Burren  
Front Room: Jason Anick & The  
Swingers|8:30 p.m.  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

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

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

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

Thunder Road  
379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville  
156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co  
14 Tyler Street

Somerville Theatre  
The Slutcracker  
6 p.m.|55 Davis Square

Wednesday|December 25  
Sally O’Brien’s Bar  
Merry Christmas!  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-  
3589

The Burren  
Happy Christmas!  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

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

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

Thunder Road  
Bearly Dead – A Tribute To The  
Grateful Dead  
8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville  
156 Highland Ave

Highland Kitchen  
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Aeronaut Brewing Co.  
Closed for Christmas Day  
14 Tyler Street

CLASSES AND GROUPS  
Wednesday|December 18

Central Library  
Drop in Knitting and Needlecraft  
12 p.m.-2 p.m.  
Mystery Book Group  
7 p.m.- 8:45 p.m.|79 Highland  
Ave

Thursday|December 19  
Central Library  
A Very Merry Movie Night!  
Showing: A Christmas Story  
7 p.m.-8:45 p.m.|79 Highland  
Ave

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

Saturday|November 21  
Arts at the Armory  
Somerville Winter Farmers Market  
9:30 p.m.- 2 p.m.|Performance  
Hall|191 Highland Ave

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

Sunday|December 22  
Fourth Step to Freedom Al-  
Anon Family Groups  
7:00 P.M. | 6 William Street  
Unity Church of God  
Enter upstairs, meeting is in  
basement

Monday|December 23  
Remnant Brewing  
Holiday Cookie Swap  
7 p.m.-9 p.m.| 2 Bow Market  
Way

Wednesday|December 25  
Library Closed



# SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

## CENTER LOCATIONS, TIMES & SCHEDULES

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

**Holland Street Senior Center:** 167 Holland Street  
(Between Davis Square and Teele Square)  
Monday through Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Fridays: 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
617-625-6600, ext. 2300

**Cross Street Center:** 165 Broadway  
(East Somerville)  
Mondays & Tuesdays – 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Thursdays – 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Fridays – 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
617-625-6600, ext. 2335  
Fax: 617-625-1414

**Ralph and Jenny Center:** 9 New Washington Street,  
(Behind the Holiday Inn)  
Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
617- 666-5223

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Volunteers needed for the Engage for Brain Health Study** - Are you starting to have problems with your memory or have trouble climbing stairs? Engage B might be right for you! 24 week study for people 60 to 89 years of age. Call Chris at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email him at ckowaleski@Somervillema.gov for questions and additional information.

**Fit-4-Life Nutrition Class** – Thursday afternoons from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with our Nutritionist Caitlin McAfee. Learn about our new and upcoming nutrition programs including, Cooking with Caitlin, Fit-4-Life Nutrition Class, Meal in a Mug and more. Next Class December 5 For more information call Caitlin at 617-625-6600, ext. 2316.

**Healthy Steps** – Thursdays, Holland Street from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Healthy Steps is a therapeutic, gentle, movement class for anyone who needs to get moving, particularly anyone recovering from surgery, frail elders or those living with chronic fatigue or arthritis. Upcoming date: December 5. Class is \$3. For additional information or questions call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

**Line Dancing** – The first and third Thursday of each month- Holland Street Center . Class is free. No experience needed. For additional information or questions call at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300. Upcoming dates: December 5.

**Bowling** – Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Sacco’s Bowl Haven at Flatbread Pizza located in Davis Square. There is a \$3 weekly fee which covers shoe rental, three strings candlepin bowling and dues for a bowling banquet. For more information and to sign up please contact Debby Higgins, Outreach Coordinator at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

**Music & Movement with Steve Gintz** – at our Holland Street Center from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Come create magical movements through music. Please call Ashley at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 for more information. Upcoming dates: January 27 and February 24.

**Wellness in Aging** – Managing Stress, Pain & Medica-

tion. Wednesday, December 18 at our Holland Street Center starting at 10:00 a.m. To sign up please call Ashley at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318.

**Resorts Casino Hotel Atlantic City, NJ** – Sunday, February 23 to Tuesday, February 25. \$219 per person double and \$299 per person single – trip includes: motorcoach transportation, 2 nights lodging, \$50 slot dollars, \$50 meal credits and two casino shows. Check in at Ralph and Jenny at 6:30 a.m. on Sunday with an approximate return time of 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday. For more information please call Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

## LGBTQ EVENTS

**LBT Women Fit-4-Life** – at Holland Street Center 167 Holland Street - Fitness class is Thursday evenings starting at 6:00 p.m. \$10 a month fee - scholarships available and it just might be covered under your insurance. We have available slots and would love to have you. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our Health and Wellness Coordinator, Chris Kowaleski at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2315.

## WEEKLY EXERCISE AND NUTRITION CLASS SCHEDULE

(PLEASE CUT OUT AND SAVE)

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

**Tuesday:**  
Strengthening - 9:00 a.m. - \$3 per class (H)  
Fit-4-Life - 11:00 a.m. (C)

**Wednesdays:**  
Fit-4-Life Group A – 8:45 a.m. (H)  
Fit-4-Life Group B - 10:00 a.m. (H)  
Fit-4-Life Group C - 1:00 p.m. (H)

**Thursdays:**  
Yoga - 9:00 a.m. (H)  
Fit-4-Life - 11:00 a.m. (C)  
Nutrition Class – 3:00 p.m. (H)  
LBT Fit-4-Life–6:00 p.m. (H)

**Fridays:**  
Fit-4-Life Group A – 8:45 a.m. (H)  
Fit-4-Life Group B - 10:00 a.m. (H)

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

## HOLLAND STREET GROUP INFORMATION

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

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

**Gardening Club** – Meets the second Monday of each month starting at 9:00 a.m. Vilma Sullivan facilitates this group. There is a different topic each month

ranging from gardening tips and secrets to inexpensive greenhouses. Group runs for approximately an hour. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

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

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

**Men’s Group** – Meets the first Tuesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This group is facilitated by our volunteer, Norbert DeAmato. Are you recently retired? Looking to connect with other men in the community? Join our men’s group where you can connect with old friends and make new ones. All men 55 and over are welcome. Come chat about what is on your mind! If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

**Veterans Group** – Meets the third Monday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Our volunteer, Norbert DeAmato, facilitates this group. Are you a veteran? The Veterans Group is the perfect opportunity to socialize, have solidarity, to reminisce and to meet other veterans. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

## CROSS STREET GROUP INFORMATION

Cross Street Center is Closed the Week of November 22.

**Lunch is served** every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday please call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 for sign up.

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

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

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Argenziano School first graders visit Lowell Street Fire Station



First graders from the Albert F. Argenziano School at Lincoln Park visited the Truck 1/ Engine 1 fire station on Somerville Avenue to celebrate Fire Prevention Month in October where they learned about putting out fires. Almost 100 youngsters in four classes walked to the firehouse with their teachers Jayne Campos, Olivia Marks, Jane Gardner and Alyssa Baumgarten.

At the firehouse, Capt. Tom Gorman and his crew; John Mucci and Troy Saulnier talked about the importance of Exit Drills in the Home, when to change smoke detector batteries and to never put water on a grease fire. Lt. Paul French and his crews; Capt. Steve Mauras Danny Donega and Jimmy Pinwiski donned their Bunker gear to demonstrate what a working firefighter looks like; telling the youngsters that even if they look kind of scary, the firefighter is a friend.

The youngsters also learned how much water the pumper holds: 500 gallons; what a Halligan tool does: pry open doors, walls and windows; and what it feels like to sit behind the wheel of a ladder truck: Great!

Somerville High School 'Topping Off' Ceremony

Join in on Thursday, December 19, for the final Somerville High School building project “Topping Off” Ceremony. The event will take place by the eastern wing of the project site, next to the Somerville Public Library.

The celebration begins at 2:30 p.m. and the ceremony begins at 3:00 p.m. Guests are encouraged to dress warmly and should wear boots, sneakers, or other rugged footwear. Refreshments will be served in the SHS Cafeteria immediately following the ceremony.

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What did the gingerbread man put on his bed to keep warm at night? A cookie sheet.

This week in Somerville Neighborhood News



Broadway's new bus-only lanes: Better commuting but some concerns

By Diego Marcano

The new bus lanes enable more and speedier bus trips but have also resulted in fewer parking spaces.

If you didn't make it to the recent City Hall hearing, you can learn more about it and hear from your neighbors. Check out the Somerville Neighborhood News video and read the story online at [somervillemedia.org/snn](http://somervillemedia.org/snn).

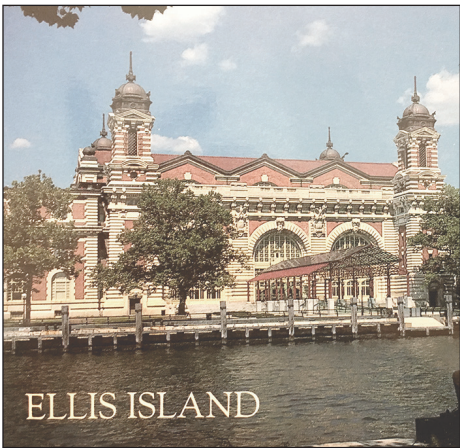


— Photos by Diego Marcano

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 8

• Somerville's Central Library was designed by "E.T.," not the extraterrestrial, but architect Edward Lippincott Tilton. This Somerville design is a mirror image of the two buildings flanking the Ellis Island Federal Immigrant Station in New York City. Tilton also contributed to the design of the Boston Public Library.

• Somerville's Central Library and the West Library were funded by Andrew Carnegie and are listed on the National Register Historic Places.



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SCATV Channel 3 Schedule

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Wednesday, December 18

12:00amFree Speech TV

6:00amNASA TV

7:00amCommunity Bulletin Board

7:30amDW In Good Shape

8:00amDemocracy Now! (Free Speech TV)

9:00amDW Global 3000

9:30amBoth Sides of the Bars

10:00amPoet to Poet, Writer to Writer

10:30amSomerville Neighborhood News

11:00amSNN Neighborhood Update

11:30amFrom My Heart to Yours

12:00pmThe Thom Hartman Show

1:00pmSomerville Neighborhood News

1:30pmSomerville Neighborhood News

2:00pmColores Latinos

3:00pmDemocracy Now! (Free Speech TV)

4:00pmDW Conflict Zone

4:30pmAutumn Reads with Somerville Public Library

5:00pmHello Neighbor

5:30pmFrom My Heart to Yours

6:00pmSomerville Neighborhood News

6:30pmVOX POP: Somerville Connects

7:00pm"The Cask of Amontillado" at VOX POP

7:30pmSidewalks Entertainment

8:00pmSomerville Pundits

8:30pmDW Euromaxx

9:00pmRevolution Awakening at VOX POP

10:00pmLIVE - Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party

11:00pmFlotilla

Thursday, December 19

12:00amSCATV Secret Stash

12:30amSCATV Secret Stash

1:00amFree Speech TV

1:30amFree Speech TV

2:00amFree Speech TV

3:00amFree Speech TV

6:00amBate Papo com Shirley

7:00amDW Conflict Zone

7:30amDW Euromaxx

8:00amDemocracy Now! (Free Speech TV)

9:00amDW Tomorrow Today

9:30amHello Neighbor

10:00amThe Chef's Table Series

10:30amThe Chef's Table Series

11:00amJoanna Bremis HMS Clinicals

11:30amJoanna Bremis HMS Clinicals

12:00pmThe Thom Hartman Show

1:00pmThe Somerville Line

1:30pmThe Somerville Line

3:00pmDemocracy Now! (Free Speech TV)

4:00pmVOX POP: Somerville Connects

4:30pmThe Struggle

5:00pmSomerville Neighborhood News

6:00pm#AFAD

6:30pm#AFAD

7:00pmCommunity Lens: SHC 5K Race

8:00pmLIVE - Our View

9:00pmPABFONE Closing Day Ceremony

10:00pmCommunity Bulletin Board

10:30pmThe World Fusion Show

11:00pmVOX POP Comedy Night

Friday, December 20

12:00amHeavy Leather Topless Dance Party

1:00amSCATV Secret Stash

1:30amSCATV Secret Stash

2:00amFree Speech TV

6:00amNASA TV

7:00amThe Bill Press Show (Free Speech TV)

8:00amDemocracy Now! (Free Speech TV)

9:00amDW Euromaxx

9:30amStrata

10:00amNASA TV

11:00amSOM ARTS

11:30amCambridge Calendar

12:00pmThe Thom Hartman Show

1:00pmCommunity Benefits Agreement

2:00pmSomerville Pundits

2:30pmAutumn Reads with Somerville Public Library

3:00pmDemocracy Now! (Free Speech TV)

4:00pmGay USA

5:00pmDW Global 3000

5:30pmWhat's New Massachusetts?

6:00pmGrandstanders

7:00pmEmergency Preparedness

7:30pmThe Somerville Labor Show

8:00pmLIVE - Greater Somerville

8:30pmGreater Somerville

9:00pmFur, Fins and Feathers

10:00pmHeavy Leather Topless Dance Party

11:00pmHeavy Leather Music Video Show

Saturday, December 21

12:00amVOX POP Comedy Night

1:00amFree Speech TV

2:00amFree Speech TV

3:00amFree Speech TV

5:00amFree Speech TV

6:00amDW Focus on Europe

7:00amEffort Pour Christ

8:00amDemocracy Now! (Free Speech TV)

9:00amSMC Youth Media

9:30amScience 360

10:00amDead Air Live

11:00amTeleGalaxie

12:00pmSomerville Storytellers

1:00pmTele Magazine

2:00pmReeling Review

3:00pmMA House of Representatives Formal Session

4:00pmTele Kreyol

5:00pmHenry Parker Presents

5:30pmHenry Parker Presents

6:00pmSomerville Pundits

6:30pmThe Somerville Labor Show

7:00pmBLOWW Show a Go Go

7:30pmSomerville Neighborhood News

8:00pm#AFAD

9:00pmNossa Gente e Costumes

10:00pmHeavy Leather Music Video Show

11:00pmSCATV Secret Stash

11:30pmQueer Cats

Sunday, December 22

12:00amFlotilla

1:00amNASA TV

1:30amNASA TV

2:00amNASA TV

3:00amFree Speech TV

6:00amBate Papo com Shirley

7:00amNossa Gentes e Costumes

8:00amEffort Pour Christ

9:00amNASA TV

10:00amTele Kreyol

11:00pmMA House of Representatives Formal Session

12:00pmSidewalks Entertainment

1:00pmSOM ARTS

1:30pmSNN Neighborhood Update

2:00pmChico and B-Man

3:00pmAfrican Television Network

4:00pmDedilhando a Saudade

5:00pmGay USA

6:00pmVOX POP: Somerville Connects

6:30pmDW Tomorrow Today

7:00pmEmergency Preparedness

8:00pmDead Air Live

9:00pmTele Magazine

10:00pmCommunity Lens: Somerville 5K Detour

11:00pmTUTV

11:30pmSCATV Secret Stash

Monday, December 23

12:00amHeavy Leather Topless Dance Party

5:00amFree Speech TV

6:00amNASA TV

7:00amSomerville Storytellers

7:30amGoing Postal

8:00amDemocracy Now! (Free Speech TV)

9:00amScience 360

10:00amSomerville Neighborhood News

11:00amOur View

12:00pmThe Thom Hartman Show

1:00pmSOM ARTS

1:30pmSomerville Storytellers

2:00pmNASA TV

3:00pmDemocracy Now! (Free Speech TV)

4:00pmAfrican Television Network

5:00pmCommunity Lens: SHC 5K Race

6:00pmLIVE from VOX POP

6:30pmFur, Fins and Feathers

7:00pmTele Galaxie

8:00pmLIVE -Somerville Overcoming Addiction

9:00pmDedilhando au Saudade

10:00pmColores Latinos

11:00pmHeavy Leather Topless Dance Party

Tuesday, December 24

12:00amPublic Safety and Homeland Security Hearing

6:00amNASA TV

7:00amNASA TV

8:00amDemocracy Now!

9:00amThe Chef's Table Series

10:00amStrata

11:00amJoanna Bremis HMS Clinicals

12:00pmThe Thom Hartman Show

1:00pmRevolution Awakening at VOX POP

2:00pmSomerville Overcoming Addiction

3:00pmDemocracy Now!

4:00pmSMC Youth Media

4:30pmGoing Postal

5:00pmLIVE - Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer

5:30pmWhat's New Massachusetts?

6:00pmSomerville Neighborhood News

6:30pmFrom My Heart to Yours

7:00pmThe Somerville Labor Show

7:30pmLIVE - Greater Somerville

8:00pmLIVE - Dead Air Live

9:00pmThe World Fusion Show

10:00pmTotally Working Out

11:00pmBox House Productions Presents

11:30pmSCATV Secret Stash

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

Wednesday, December 18

7:30amCity Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa Visit

8:52amFlood & Stormwater PSA

9:00amTalking Business

9:20amFlood & Stormwater PSA en Espanol

9:23amFlood & Stormwater PSA an Kreyòl Ayisyen

9:30amFaith In a City: Talking About Religion

10:04amMassWorks Infrastructure Grant

11:00amSomerViva en Español

11:18amSomerViva an Kreyòl Ayisyen - Miral Atis

11:30amMunicipal Aggregation Announcement

12:00pmSchool Committee Meeting - 12.16.19

3:00pmMassWorks Infrastructure Grant

4:00pmMiddlesex Update w/Marian Ryan

6:00pmRaising Families "Youth Vaping & Smoking"

6:30pmSomerViva em Portugues - Dec. 2019

7:00pmIlluminations Tour 2019

7:39pmSPD Ride Along

8:00pmFaith In a City: Talking About Religion

8:34pmTalking Business

9:00pmCity Hall Christmas Tree Lighting

10:30pmSomerville Heroes' Salute 2019

Thursday, December 19

12:00amChamber of Commerce Awards Dinner

1:11amTalking Business

1:30amMunicipal Aggregation Announcement

2:00amTraffic & Parking Committee

7:00amMiddlesex County Update w/Marian Ryan

7:30amMassWorks Infrastructure Grant

8:04amTalking Business

8:30amTransgender Day of Remembrance

8:44amSPD Ride Along

9:00amFaith In a City: Talking About Religion

10:00amSomerViva en Español

10:30amSomerville Heroes' Salute 2019

12:00pmSenior Circuit - November 2019

12:30pmHenry Hansen and the Battle of Iwo Jima

1:30pmChamber of Commerce Awards Dinner

3:00pmCity Hall Christmas Tree Lighting

6:00pmMiddlesex Update w/Marian Ryan

6:30pmLetters of World War II at Council on Aging

7:43pmSPD Ride Along

8:00pmCity Hall Christmas Tree Lighting

9:30pmConway Park Community Meeting

11:30pmTalking Business

Friday, December 20

12:00amSenior Circuit - November 2019

12:30amIlluminations Tour 2019

1:00amCity Hall Christmas Tree Lighting

2:30amBall Sq. Walking Tour

7:30amReturn to Italy

8:30amFit-4-Life #4

9:00amMassWorks Infrastructure Grant

10:00amFaith In a City: Talking About Religion

11:00amMunicipal Aggregation Announcement

11:30amIlluminations Tour 2019

12:00pmCity Hall Christmas Tree Lighting

1:30pmCity Council Meeting - 12.12.19

6:30pmSomerville Heroes' Salute 2019

8:00pmCity Hall Christmas Tree Lighting

9:30pmIlluminations Tour 2019

10:00pmSomerville Heroes' Salute 2019

11:30pmTransgender Day of Remembrance

Saturday, December 21

12:00amSomerville Heroes' Salute 2019

1:30amLand Use Joint Meeting w/Planning Board

7:30amTalking Business

8:00amHonk! Parade 2019

8:25amFlood & Stormwater PSA

8:30amIlluminations Tour 2019

9:00amConway Park Community Meeting

11:00amTraffic & Parking Committee

3:00pmIlluminations Tour 2019

6:00pmRaising Families "Youth Vaping & Smoking"

6:30pmMiddlesex Update w/Marian Ryan

7:00pmFaith In a City: Talking About Religion

7:34pmTalking Business

8:00pmHenry Hansen and the Battle of Iwo Jima

9:00pmDance for Dignity

10:00pmWhite Nationalism Community Response

Sunday, December 22

12:00amConservation Preservation Meeting

1:38amSPD Ride Along

2:00amCity Council Meeting - 12.12.19

7:30amFoss Park Community Meeting - 11.13.19

9:00amHealey Schoolyard Community Meeting

11:00amSomerViva en Español

11:30amSomerViva an Kreyòl Ayisyen - Miral Atis

11:41amFlood & Stormwater PSA an Kreyòl Ayisyen

12:00pmSenior Circuit - December 2019

12:30pmCity Hall Christmas Tree Lighting

2:00pmIlluminations Tour 2019

2:30pmSomerViva em Português

2:45pmSPD Ride Along

3:00pmRaising Families "Youth Vaping & Smoking"

6:00pmMassWorks Infrastructure Grant

6:34pmTalking Business

6:51pmFlood & Stormwater PSA

7:00pmSenior Circuit - December 2019

7:30pmSchool Committee Meeting - 12.16.19

10:00pmRaising Families "Special Needs Education"

10:30pmIlluminations Tour 2019

11:00pmHenry Hansen and the Battle of Iwo Jima

Monday, December 23

12:00amSenior Circuit - December 2019

12:30amFaith In a City: Talking About Religion

1:04amMassWorks Infrastructure Grant

2:00amTransgender Day of Remembrance

2:14amSPD Ride Along

2:30amChamber of Commerce Awards Dinner

7:30amFit-4-Life #1

8:00amDance for Dignity

8:55amFlood & Stormwater PSA en Espanol

9:00amWhite Nationalism Community Response

11:30amIlluminations Tour 2019

12:00pmCity Council Meeting - 12.12.19

6:00pmSomerViva en Español

6:30pmConway Park Community Meeting

8:30pmIlluminations Tour 2019

9:00pmFaith In a City: Talking About Religion

10:00pmFaith In a City: Talking About Religion

10:34pmTalking Business

11:00pmSomerViva an Kreyòl Ayisyen - Oct. 2019

11:18pmSomerViva an Kreyòl Ayisyen - Miral Atis

11:30pmSomerViva en Español

Tuesday, December 24

12:00amCity Hall Christmas Tree Lighting

1:30amConway Park Community Meeting

7:00amSomerville Heroes' Salute 2019

8:30amIlluminations Tour 2019

9:00amCity Hall Christmas Tree Lighting

11:00amTalking Business

11:30amIlluminations Tour 2019

12:00pmSenior Circuit - December 2019

12:30pmMassWorks Infrastructure Grant

1:04pmMunicipal Aggregation Announcement

1:30pmIlluminations Tour 2019

2:00pmCity Hall Christmas Tree Lighting

3:30pmSenior Circuit - December 2019

4:00pmCity Hall Christmas Tree Lighting

6:00pmRaising Families "Youth Vaping & Smoking"

6:30pmIlluminations Tour 2019

7:00pmSenior Circuit - December 2019

7:30pmCity Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa Visit

9:00pmIlluminations Tour 2019

9:30pmCity Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa Visit

11:00pmTransgender Day of Remembrance

11:14pmSPD Ride Along

11:30pmIlluminations Tour 2019

Wednesday, December 25

12:00amCity Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa Visit

1:22amFlood & Stormwater PSA

Educational TV 15 Schedule

Wednesday, December 18

9:00amAll City Middle School Winter Concert

10:00amWHCIS Winter Concert

11:30amOur Schools, Our City - Music Education

12:00pmKennedy School Gr 4-8 Winter Concert

1:00pmEl Sistema Winter Bash

1:30pmChristmas Tree Lighting and Visit by Santa

3:00pmKennedy School Gr. K-3 Winter Concert

3:55pmSHS Football vs Cambridge

6:00pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Brighton

8:00pmAll City Middle School Winter Concert

9:00pmEl Sistema Winter Bash

9:30pmOur Schools, Our City - Music Education

10:00pmKennedy School Gr 4-8 Winter Concert

11:00pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Brighton

Thursday, December 19

1:00amKennedy School Gr. K-3 Winter Concert

1:35amEl Sistema Winter Bash

9:00amAll City Middle School Winter Concert

10:00amWHCIS Winter Concert

11:30amKennedy School Gr. K-3 Winter Concert

12:05pmKennedy School Gr 4-8 Winter Concert

1:00pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Brighton

3:00pmEl Sistema Winter Bash

3:30pmOur Schools, Our City - Music Education

4:00pmChristmas Tree Lighting and Visit by Santa

6:00pmAll City Middle School Winter Concert

7:00pmWHCIS Winter Concert

8:30pmKennedy School Gr. K-3 Winter Concert

9:05pmKennedy School Gr 4-8 Winter Concert

10:00pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Brighton

Friday, December 20

12:00amEl Sistema Winter Bash

12:30amOur Schools, Our City - Music Education

1:00amChristmas Tree Lighting and Visit by Santa

9:00amBrown School Winter Concert

10:00amAll City Middle School Winter Concert

11:00amSHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical

1:00pmSHS Hockey vs Mal./Rev. Co-op

2:30pmOur Schools, Our City - Music Education

3:00pmEl Sistema Winter Bash

3:30pmChristmas Tree Lighting and Visit by Santa

5:00pmBrown School Winter Concert

6:00pmAll City Middle School Winter Concert

7:00pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical

9:00pmSHS Hockey vs Mal./Rev. Co-op

10:30pmOur Schools, Our City - Music Education

11:00pmEl Sistema Winter Bash

11:30pmChristmas Tree Lighting and Visit by Santa

Saturday, December 21

1:00amSHS Hockey vs Mal./Rev. Co-op

9:00amSHS Hockey vs Mal./Rev. Co-op

10:30amChristmas Tree Lighting and Visit by Santa

12:00pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Brighton

2:00pmAll City Middle School Winter Concert

3:00pmKennedy School Gr. K-3 Winter Concert

3:35pmKennedy School Gr 4-8 Winter Concert

4:30pmWHCIS Winter Concert

6:00pmSHS Hockey vs Mal./Rev. Co-op

7:30pmChristmas Tree Lighting and Visit by Santa

9:00pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Brighton

11:00pmAll City Middle School Winter Concert

Sunday, December 22

12:00amKennedy School Gr. K-3 Winter Concert

12:35amKennedy School Gr 4-8 Winter Concert

1:30amWHCIS Winter Concert

9:00amOur Schools, Our City - Music Education

9:30amKennedy School Gr. K-3 Winter Concert

10:05amAll City Middle School Winter Concert

11:00amSHS Boys Basketball vs Brighton

1:00pmSHS Hockey vs Mal./Rev. Co-op

2:30pmEl Sistema Winter Bash

3:00pmWHCIS Winter Concert

5:00pmOur Schools, Our City - Music Education

5:30pmKennedy School Gr. K-3 Winter Concert

6:05pmAll City Middle School Winter Concert

7:00pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Brighton

9:00pmSHS Hockey vs Mal./Rev. Co-op

10:30pmEl Sistema Winter Bash

11:00pmWHCIS Winter Concert

Monday, December 23

12:30amSHS Boys Basketball vs Brighton

9:00amESCS Winter Concert

10:30amSHS Hockey vs Mal./Rev. Co-op

12:00pmBrown School Winter Concert

1:00pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Brighton

3:00pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical

5:00pmESCS Winter Concert

6:30pmSHS Hockey vs Mal./Rev. Co-op

8:00pmBrown School Winter Concert

9:00pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical

11:00pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical

Tuesday, December 24

12:30amESCS Winter Concert

9:00amSHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical

11:00amSHS Boys Basketball vs Brighton

1:00pmSHS Hockey vs Mal./Rev. Co-op

2:30pmBrown School Winter Concert

3:30pmAll City Middle School Winter Concert

4:30pmChristmas Tree Lighting and Visit by Santa

6:00pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical

8:00pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Brighton

10:00pmSHS Hockey vs Mal./Rev. Co-op

11:30pmBrown School Winter Concert

Wednesday, December 25

12:30amAll City Middle School Winter Concert

1:30amChristmas Tree Lighting and Visit by Santa

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

# Robin Stratton brings a lot to the table with Big Table Publishing

Robin Stratton is a dynamo in small press publishing. But this founder of Big Table Publishing extends beyond publishing quality books of fiction and poetry. Now based in San Francisco, she remains a big presence in the Somerville area literary community. I caught up with Stratton recently to talk about her release of two volumes of *The Very Best of Big Table Publishing*.

Stratton is the author of four novels, including one which was a National Indie Excellence Book Award finalist (*On Air*, Mustang Press, 2011), two collections of poetry and short fiction, and a writing guide. A four-time Pushcart Prize nominee, she has been published in *Word Riot*, *63 Channels*, *Antithesis Common*, *Poor Richard's Almanac(k)*, *Blink-Ink*, *Pig in a Poke*, *Chick Flicks*, *Up the Staircase*, *Shoots and Vines*, and many others. Since 2004 she has been Acquisitions Editor for Big Table Publishing Company, Senior Editor of *Boston Literary Magazine* since 2009, and she was Director of the Newton Writing and Publishing Center until she moved from Boston to San Francisco in 2018. Now she leads the popular "Six Feet of Poetry" and "Fiction by the Foot" series.

**Doug Holder:** You just released the two volumes of *The Very Best of Big Table Publishing*. There are a lot of wonderful poets and writers included. Was it hard to narrow it down?

**Robin Stratton:** It was, yes. In many case, it was easy to select chapter one of a book, or the intro. But for the poets, especially, I had to keep choosing which of their poems was not just a favorite, but captured a sense of the poet him or herself, since the hope is that people will read the anthology, fall in love with some of the writing, and then buy a book from that author or poet. Some poets, especially those we worked with on more than one book, had a lot of poems that would be perfect, so I had to go through, say ten ... then whittle it down to five ... and then down to one or two. Sometimes that was painful, but I obviously had to make room for everyone.

**DH:** What constitutes for you a "Best Of" piece of writing?

**RS:** Over the years, many of the poems, short stories, prologues, or intro chapters have stayed with me, either on an emotional level, because I could totally relate to the theme or character, or because I so admired the literary skill. Sometimes I read a poem or micro fiction piece that is a million times better than anything I could ever write, and I find myself wondering if I could ever even come close. When we did *Every Day There is Something About Elephants* with Timothy Gager, I loved so many of the pieces that I felt like never writing again! At the launch I asked him if he would allow me to read one of them (*Jack* appears in Volume Two) because I was so head over heels in love with (and jealous of) it. So those pieces were where I began, and as I went through all our titles, so many of them made me think, oh yeah, I forgot how brilliant this is! And I'd grab those, too. And before I knew it, I had two full volumes that represented almost all of our authors. Almost no one got left out, and only one author didn't want her piece to be included.

**DH:** It has been noted that you like writers who are not ashamed to show their vulnerabilities. Do you think there is a lack of that in contemporary writing?

**RS:** I try not to judge "contemporary writing" because I understand how society shapes literature and art, and it's just part of human nature, so if there is a lack of vulnerability out there, I don't think I would particularly notice. On the other hand, yes, if it's there, I am drawn to it. Our hottest seller of all time is *Fat Girl, Skinny*, by Amye Archer, a blazingly raw account of how her self-esteem issues and food addiction led to really bad life choices. She didn't hold back at all, and I found myself admiring her so much for having reached a point in her life where she could just say Here's what I did, but here's why I did it, and now that I understand that, I'm not going to do it as much. It's not as if she now has a talk show where she teaches other people how to live in

a constant state of bliss – she still struggles. But in addition to being a fabulous writer, she is a very sweet human who wins you over. She inspired me to start writing poems that exposed my own vulnerabilities, my own serious, crippling self-esteem issues. She made me see that putting that stuff out there doesn't make it go away – but it empowers you because you found the guts to put it out there. She is my hero. The prologue to *Fat Girl, Skinny* kicks off *Volume Two*.

I also loved the book we did with you, *Portrait of an Artist as a Young Poseur*, because the whole thing was brilliant, amazing you now making fun of dreamy, idealistic you then. I loved how you told us that when your apartment was excavated because of a fire, you "ran down the stairs in my blue corduroy sports jacket—a slightly irregular affair—from the depths of Filene's Basement ... padded shoulders to bolster my narrow ones and a frail ego—a waxed mustache—with a red scarf around my skinny neck—like a poor man's ascot" and heard the reporter Kirby Perkins say to someone, "Look at this fuckin' character." Your 271 *Newbury Street* was the first piece I chose for the anthology, and it appears in *Volume Two*.

**DH:** I feel you have achieved a real community of writers at Big Table Publishing. How was that brought about?

**RS:** Thank you for saying that, it's one of the accomplishments I'm most proud of. When I see on Facebook how many of our Big Table authors have become friends with other Big Table authors, it just makes me feel so good! I think all literary communities naturally come together when they discover that there are others out there who feel the same way about the importance of writing and creating, and have a place to gather. You and I both know how many literary events are not about selling books, but are about sharing our own writing and encouraging others. I feel so fortunate to be part of that, because that is a HUGE thing to be part of. Now more than ever.

**DH:** There is real sense of eclecticism in the works presented. It can range from the high holy, the rarefied, and the down and dirty. So you don't favor any school of writing?

**RS:** Thank you for noticing! Yes, one thing about Big Table is that we'll consider just about any genre, and I think writers appreciate that. *Volume One* includes the four prologues to *Still Here Thinking About You*, which was our hottest seller before *Fat Girl, Skinny*. This book is a compilation of four incredibly talented women writing about their troubling relationships with their mothers, and is told in a loving, tender, powerful way. I always say, "If there is a better Mother's Day gift than this book, I don't know about it." *Volume One* also includes some macabre from Phil Temples (from *Helltown Chronicles*) and Michael Keith (a real favorite of mine, *The Smoking Olympics*), a chapter from *The Flaws that Bind*, Rebecca Leo's fictionalized autobiography of spousal abuse, and closes with one of my favorites from Richard Fox, the sweetly-sentimental *To Katrina, Wherever You Are xoxo*.

**DH:** What's in the works?

**RS:** So glad you asked! We are bringing back *Boston Literary Magazine* in January, 2020 – in a new format. Instead of making you wait three months for each new issue, we'll be posting a monthly issue on line, and at the end of each year, our favorites will be compiled into a print volume. Check out our submission guidelines at [www.bigtablepublishing.com](http://www.bigtablepublishing.com)! We are so excited to be back!



L to R: David Daniel, Doug Holder

Poet David Daniel grew up in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Daniel has taught at Emerson College in Boston, where he served as editor of *Ploughshares*. He is the director of undergraduate creative writing at Farleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey.

## Meltaway

We made this out of rain because we had rain to work with  
Because this is a kind of forgetful remembrance—  
A commemoration of rain's wearing away,  
Its rumble and roar, its sizzle on streets, its splat  
On the down of a young boy's arm, the far-falling  
In far fields: they whisper as they drink down  
What drives up the green growing to our mouths:  
  
We say, *Everything turns into everything else*. We stand in the far fields,  
We look up at the glass sky and say, *Terrarium*. We say, *I see the sketch*  
*You fingered on the glass, a constellation of war*. It falls like fire  
From a sparkler we waved once. Then we dig down to find  
What we've left behind, what feeds us, and there's a note we wrote:  
*I was here, in the rain, and so were you. We were lovers and said,*  
*Rain is only rain when it's falling: this is our falling time*. Beside the note:  
Hair tangled with root, a candy wrapper, a muscle car idling, filled  
With limestone, slick with seep, its lovers filled with sleep: these things  
We left so your soul has someplace to go when we go in the rain.  
  
We made this out of rain because we had rain to work with,  
Because it's not a choice: *Who are we?*, we said once. *I am America*,  
*This is my house—it is voice-activated. It is electric eye.*  
*It is American Dream. Feel the current running through my wrist...*  
Then rain came, and the meltaway, and the past rose from the fields  
As the fields gave way to rain: our heads first, then shoulders, rose—  
The mud-clothed, lanky soldiers of us, the jack pine cones  
That need fire to crack open and seed, the ambered dragonfly  
And the ambered fern. *Who are we?*, we said then.

— David Daniel

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



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Recent Single Family Homes Sold in Somerville Over the Past Month:					
MLS#	Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price
72518462	16 Homer Sq	7 room, 4 bed, 2f bath	42	\$809,500	\$770,000
72548749	20 Avon St	6 room, 4 bed, 1f 1h bath	6	\$995,000	\$1,200,000
72540878	10 Harrison Rd	10 room, 5 bed, 2f 1h bath	62	\$999,000	\$930,000
72427391	16 Kingston Street	8 room, 5 bed, 2f 1h bath	56	\$1,150,000	\$1,595,000
72529802	27 Columbus Ave	9 room, 5 bed, 1f 1h bath	34	\$1,595,000	\$1,450,000
Single Family Listings: 5 Avg. Liv. Area SqFt: 2099.8 Avg. List \$: \$1,109,700 Avg. List \$/SqFt: \$525 Avg. DOM: 40 Avg. DTO: 32 Avg. Sale \$: \$1,189,000 Avg. Sale \$/SqFt: \$560					

Recent Condominiums Sold in Somerville Over the Past Month:					
MLS#	Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price
72536808	480 Medford St U:1	3 room, 1 bed, 1f bath	27	\$325,000	\$325,000
72533272	480 Medford St U:3	3 room, 1 bed, 1f bath	22	\$395,000	\$386,000
72528905	22 Laurel St U:24	3 room, 1 bed, 1f bath	49	\$425,000	\$415,000
72558853	26 Montrose St U:3	3 room, 1 bed, 1f bath	21	\$489,000	\$497,500
72554858	241 School St U:5	3 room, 1 bed, 1f bath	4	\$499,000	\$550,000
72550501	241 School St U:6	3 room, 1 bed, 1f bath	23	\$499,000	\$495,000
72542884	351 Lowell St U:1	4 room, 2 bed, 1f bath	20	\$500,000	\$510,000
72517462	23 Elm St U:309	3 room, 1 bed, 1f bath	7	\$525,000	\$583,000
72552629	80 Webster Ave U:2C	3 room, 1 bed, 1f bath	7	\$599,000	\$630,000
72549727	12 Houghton Street U:2	5 room, 2 bed, 1f bath	6	\$599,900	\$650,000
72539404	5 Granite St U:2L	4 room, 2 bed, 2f bath	23	\$639,000	\$635,000
72491760	21 Dell street U:2	5 room, 2 bed, 2f bath	32	\$749,000	\$740,000
72518530	15 Illinois Ave U:15	6 room, 2 bed, 2f bath	95	\$749,900	\$749,900
72538942	148 Lowell St U:1	6 room, 2 bed, 2f 1h bath	20	\$775,000	\$875,000
72547273	36 PowderHouse Blvd.U:1	7 room, 3 bed, 1f bath	33	\$789,999	\$760,000
72531145	331 Beacon St U:1	5 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath	8	\$798,000	\$798,000
72546026	429 Norfolk St U:13	6 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath	14	\$829,000	\$855,000
72550489	241 School St U:1	6 room, 3 bed, 3f bath	33	\$849,000	\$840,000
72552120	241 School St U:2	6 room, 3 bed, 3f bath	15	\$865,000	\$865,000
72557659	45 Endicott Avenue U:8	5 room, 2 bed, 2f bath	21	\$875,000	\$877,000
72502453	17 Illinois Ave U:17	7 room, 3 bed, 2f bath	90	\$899,900	\$867,500
72448500	117 Highland Ave U:B	6 room, 3 bed, 3f 1h bath	231	\$999,900	\$975,000
72568731	9 Medford Street U:608	5 room, 2 bed, 2f bath	6	\$1,014,000	\$1,014,000
72508004	90 Line St U:90	5 room, 2 bed, 2f 1h bath	17	\$1,099,000	\$1,170,000
72509762	21 Hall Ave U:21	6 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath	58	\$1,199,000	\$1,250,000
72538355	50 Bow St U:11	8 room, 3 bed, 3f bath	14	\$1,199,000	\$1,215,000
72420017	260 Beacon Street U:201	6 room, 2 bed, 2f 1h bath	199	\$1,225,000	\$1,180,000
72519375	271 Summer Street U:1	12 room, 4 bed, 3f bath	102	\$1,395,000	\$1,377,000
Condominium Listings: 28 Avg. Liv. Area SqFt: 1335.5 Avg. List \$: \$778,771 Avg. List \$/SqFt: \$615 Avg. DOM: 42.75 Avg. DTO: 34.11 Avg. Sale \$: \$788,746 Avg. Sale \$/SqFt: \$625					

Recent Multi-Family Homes Sold in Somerville Over the Past Month:					
MLS#	Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price
72532388	97 Woods Ave	2 unit, 11 total rooms, 4 total bedrooms	60	\$829,000	\$795,000
72546743	10 Ashland Street	2 unit, 8 total rooms, 4 total bedrooms	16	\$935,000	\$875,000
72501642	11 Partridge Ave	3 unit, 15 total rooms, 6 total bedrooms	49	\$1,250,000	\$1,155,000
72523087	186 Morrison Ave	2 unit, 13 total rooms, 5 total bedrooms	57	\$1,339,999	\$1,270,000
72529149	141 Orchard St	2 unit, 10 total rooms, 4 total bedrooms	2	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000
72561532	10 Hancock St	2 unit, 12 total rooms, 8 total bedrooms	15	\$1,395,000	\$1,370,000
72467664	32 Murdock Street	2 unit, 14 total rooms, 7 total bedrooms	20	\$1,400,000	\$1,250,000
72446504	5 Smith Ave	5 unit, 9 total bedrooms	44	\$1,750,000	\$1,588,000
72522240	755 Somerville Ave	3 unit, 14 total rooms, 8 total bedrooms	40	\$1,899,000	\$1,800,000
72474228	6 Rush Street	6 unit, 25 total rooms, 9 total bedrooms	84	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000
Multi Family Listings: 10 Avg. Liv. Area SqFt: 3246.8 Avg. List \$: \$1,474,800 Avg. List \$/SqFt: \$469 Avg. DOM: 38.7 Avg. DTO: 32.9 Avg. Sale \$:\$1,405,300 Avg. Sale \$/SqFt: \$447					

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