

Somerville's  
original  
independent  
newspaper

# The Somerville Times

www.thesomervilletimes.com



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SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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## Planning underway for new Gilman Square infrastructure and design



The Gilman Square Street Design project team met last week to provide updates on various issues related to the project's planning and progress.  
— Photo by Bobbie Toner

By Eileen Qiu

A virtual meeting took place on Monday, November 22, to discuss the Gilman Square Street Design.

City staff provided an update on present and future projects in Gilman Square, presented the feasibility study for an accessible path from Marshall St. to the Medford St. Bridge and Community Path, discussed options for protected bicycle lanes on Medford St. and Pearl St. from the School Street to the Skilton Ave. intersections, and gathered public feedback.

Funding and grants awarded to hire a consultant to test how feasible an accessible path from Medford St. to Medford Bridge would be, with no possible designs yet, Intersection Streetscape Improvements Project Manager Viola Augustin said.

The timeline said the design Continued on page 4

## Best local shopping in Somerville

By Ryan DiLello

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed innumerable challenges to our community, especially to those in the small business world. Local artisans and merchants play a central role in keeping Somerville vibrant; we need their creativity and expressiveness now more than ever.

By shopping locally this holiday season, you can show your appreciation for local artisans and give back to your community in a rewarding way. Listed below are some of our favorite gift shops run by local artisans and retailers.

Tell 'em *The Somerville Times* sent you!

**Lunch City Studio, 265 Washington Street – Buy a gift, plant a tree**

Pay Courtney and her pup, Lunchbox, a visit for some sustainable prints from Lunch City Studio, where a tree gets planted for every sale. Since 2018, the shop's commitment to climate- and community-conscious spending has provided funding for more than 3,000 tree plantings. An artist and architect, Courtney opened her art studio to the public a

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Among the many artisanal delights the city has to offer, Lunch City Studio combines a commitment to the environment with their dazzling array of print and other media offerings.

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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.

Join Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and special guests for two of Somerville’s annual holiday celebrations. The festivities will begin with the annual Christmas tree lighting on Thursday, December 2, at 5:00 p.m. on the City Hall concourse. After the tree lighting, Santa Claus will join in for a meet and greet next door at Somerville High School (don’t forget your camera if you’d like a photo). Santa will be escorted by the Somerville Fire and Police Departments, with a gift and cookies for each child in tow. Live entertainment will feature the Somerville High School Chorus, Somerville High School Orchestra, El Sistema Somerville, and the Somerville High School Jazz Band. Later in the week, the ceremonial menorah lighting will take place on Sunday, December 5, at 5:00 p.m. on the City Hall concourse with Rabbi Eliana Jacobowitz from Temple B’nai Brith. Light refreshments will be served. Both events are open to all members of the community. Social distancing will be enforced and masks will be required indoors.








As the holiday gift shopping season intensifies, it’s important to remember that our local merchants are depending on us all to do our best to shop local. With the challenges they have dealt with over the past year or so, many are struggling to stay in business. Let’s help them to get back to business and be here for us in days, months and years to come.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to Nancy Fucile. We wish Nancy the very best of birthdays and many more. Happy Birthday to Peter Forcellese, we wish him a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to Lisa Hastings, celebrating her birthday this week. Happy birthday to Peter Blaikie, who is also celebrating this week. We hope he enjoys his birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Linda Chaille Nixon, Lee Owen Grassia, Deb Feeley, Karen Fay, Rochelle Hight Jennings, Gordon Crook, Jason Castle and Steve Prescod a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have

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# Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of December 1 – December 7 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> <i>December 1</i>	Partly Cloudy	45°/32°	5%	2%	W 13 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> <i>December 2</i>	Rain	54°/40°	34%	19%	SSW 15 mph
 <b>Friday</b> <i>December 3</i>	Sunny	42°/27°	1%	1%	WNW 17 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> <i>December 4</i>	Partly Cloudy	40°/26°	12%	5%	W 9 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> <i>December 5</i>	Partly Cloudy	39°/29°	7%	3%	NW 10 mph
 <b>Monday</b> <i>December 6</i>	Rain	41°/28°	45%	31%	SSW 12 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> <i>December 7</i>	Partly Cloudy	39°/34°	4%	2%	W 11 mph

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

## TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

### Response to: Parking a concern for Highland Ave. redesign

Alex says:

I am a daily bike commuter, but I have neighbors who are dependent on cars. Parking on the side streets around the high school is already a nightmare because the promised school parking lot was not built. The idea of taking away more parking from high school area just seems punitive. We’ll have the new Green Line bike path running parallel literally less than a block away. The GLX bike path, which is completely protected from cars, intersections and cross traffic will be 1000x safer and more convenient for bikes. If the bike path was not being built I could maybe understand the case for robust protected bike lanes on Highland, but let’s please not further punish our car-dependent neighbors who live around the high school for bike lanes that will be at best redundant. (On the other hand, traffic calming, and more pedestrian infrastructure on Highland sounds great!)

JH says:

The only solution to too few parking spots is parking meters. Adding spots is a waste. If you price meters correctly, there can virtually always be spots open for those who need need most. Use the funds for transit to encourage less car use. I’m tired of spending hours looking for parking, and cyclists need space.

Ben says:

Headline and article are reflective of a very vocal pro parking minority. Most residents want to see pedestrian and bike safety improvements. I live right off highland ave and patronize the businesses on highland constantly. Some form of separated/protected bike facility on highland is badly needed. Pedestrian and bus improvements are also necessary in some areas. Giving up some parking to achieve these goals is a worth while sacrifice.

BMac says:

I lived in an apartment on Highland for 10 years. I could always find parking, but it was often 4-5 blocks away. that is a bit much with groceries or other heavy loads.

### Response to: Dilboy Stadium Field and Track ribbon cutting

Park much? says:

Does the city plan to renovate the parking area as well? There are gaps in the pavement there big enough to fall into and break a limb...

### Response to: Game Jam #2 winners and sponsors

Heather Heimarck says:

Congratulations to all the participants and thank you to Somerville Math Fund for being so creative!

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

## The Somerville Times

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# Life in the by Jimmy Del Ponte

## Family heirlooms



A lot of us have items that were passed down from generation to generation. I still have my father's desk that he did his high school homework

on back in the 30s. I also have my mother's jewelry box and a lot of my father's Masonic items.

One of my favorite items is a metal squirrel nutcracker that was a wedding gift to my parents. I thought it would be fun to ask people what they may still have in their homes that was passed on by a relative. Here are the things our friends shared:

- ♦ I am currently using my mom and dad's dresser they bought in 1942. I have their wedding bands. My dad's huge conch shell he brought from Newfoundland in the 1920s.

- ♦ May sound silly? I have my mom's colander. Must be at least over 50 years old now. Also have a porcelain poodle figurine. We always had poodles in our home, her favorite.

- ♦ My grandmother's recipes, recipe box, sewing machine, and my grandmother's ceramic doll she made. My mother's ceramic nativity set she made, statues. Just too many to list.

- ♦ I have many items and pictures from

my grandparents, great grandmother and other family members going back to the late 1800's and early 1900's. Nothing of any value except to me. I am the last of the family.

- ♦ Portraits of my grandmother and grandfather by my aunt in my dining room with my grandparent's grandfather clock.

- ♦ My grandmother's wedding dress that's about 70 years old. My grandmother's hope chest and my grandfather's navy bag from WWII.

- ♦ My whole home is an heirloom. Been in the family since the 40's!

- ♦ My father's 1936 Royal typewriter. I'm looking at it right now.

- ♦ My grandfather, affectionately known as Pa in the neighborhood, was a charter member of the Laborers Union. He actually worked on building portions of the subway system. I have several of his old hand tools.

- ♦ I have my great grandparents' old oil lamp, it has a pewter base and a red, glass hurricane lamp top. My grandfather made it into an electric lamp years ago. I remember it very well from my childhood and absolutely treasure it. I light it every night.

- ♦ I have my dad's rolltop desk that he had as a boy.

- ♦ Sadly, my cousin stole everything of value before anyone got to my grandpar-



ent's house when they died.

- ♦ I have my great uncle's brass book ends, and my great grand aunt's rocking chair.

- ♦ I have lived in my parents' house for the past 20 years and still have all their belongings

- ♦ I have a piece of furniture my dad made before I was born (I'm 83). It's a decorative piece with a glass door

- ♦ I am fortunate to have my maternal grandmother's Bible and engraved rosary beads, very sentimental. I recently found an Irish linen table cloth with needlepoint message, "A gift from Ireland, 1953."

- ♦ I have a few things that once belonged

to my grandparents. The most used is their old kitchen set. On Thursday, my great niece will be the sixth generation to sit at that table. Sadly, she will never get to sample my Nonnie's homemade ravioli or ricotta pie that was often prepared on that table. But it is still pretty cool that she will sit at the same table that her parents, grandparents, great grandparents, 2X great grandparents and 3X great grandmother sat at!

- ♦ OMG, don't even. When my mother died, I moved a ton of her stuff into my house to give it away since it was so difficult to do that from her home in Philadelphia. A lot of it is

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# Local firefighters honored

Members of Somerville Firefighters Local 76 were recognized last week at the 32nd Annual Firefighter of the Year Award ceremony in Worcester. They received a Citation for Meritorious Conduct, and LT Danielle O’Hearn was the recipient of the Medal of Valor for their lifesaving actions at a 3-alarm fire on Kensington Ave. in Somerville last December. Congratulations to all the deserving recipients!



# Planning underway for new Gilman Square infrastructure and design

CONT. FROM PG 1

should be complete by Spring 2023 with construction planned to start Fall or Winter of 2023.

The Medford Street Bridge will reopen once the Green Line Extension Project is complete. The vision so far is to close the bridge off to vehicular traffic, with allowances for emergency vehicles, and to create a lively outdoor space for pedestrians and cyclists. The city plans to work with the community regarding the design of the bridge, Augustin said.

The city is looking for input from residents and businesses right now, regarding feedback for streetscapes.

So far, plans include raised walkways and protected bicycle lanes Augustin said. They’re still debating between one-way bike lanes or two-way bike lanes on Medford Street. Plans for both lanes will have buffers that protect pedestrians and cyclists from traffic, though.

The one-way bike lanes on Medford St. could have trees as a buffer in between the sidewalk

and bicycle lane, or the sidewalk, bicycle lane and streets or parking spaces.

The two-way bike lanes would either use trees to provide more shade for the road, the sidewalk or the tree space could be used for Americans with Disabilities Act compliant parking spaces, she said.

The team aims to prioritize ADA spaces and hire a consultant to test the feasibility of ADA compliant and walkways Brian Postlewaite, Assistant Director of Engineering, said.

While ADA compliant parking spaces and walkways aren’t required by law, the team still needs to follow rules to label a space as ADA compliant, Postlewaite said.

The model for the top of the Medford Bridge will be ADA compliant, but the entrance area is not yet compliant, Augustin said. She emphasized all models are to test for feasibility, and designs aren’t concrete yet.

One participant asked why all of the construction was neces-

sary if the community path exists.

The community path is only about 10 ft. wide and quite a walk from School Street, Augustin said.

“The community path is great, but it won’t be alone only pedestrian friendly path through Somerville,” Augustin said.

Data for parking is still being collected and there aren’t a specific number of set parking spots included in the new design yet, Justin Schreiber, Transportation Planner said.

# Best local shopping in Somerville

CONT. FROM PG 1

few years ago.

The shop offers a variety of locally inspired prints and goodies such as tote bags, magnets, stickers, and soap – all made by women. I took a particular liking to Courtney’s series of “color palette” prints, which feature color samples meant to represent key attractions from iconic cities like Boston, New York, and Austin.

**4GoodVibes, 483 Somerville Avenue – Like a craft fair, year-round**

With over 10,000 hand-picked gifts from over 250 artists and crafters, it’s difficult to capture the inventory at 4GoodVibes in just a few short words. Owned and operated by sisters, Becka and Emily Pierce, 4GoodVibes carries a wide variety of customizable goods, kitchenware, home spa accessories, and apparel for everyone, (babies included).

“It’s like a craft fair that’s open all the time,” says Becka. If you prefer to shop online, 4GoodVibes hosts virtual shopping periods (and bingo games) twice a week on their Facebook page. For this holiday season, Becka

recommends trying hot cocoa bombs, getting warm with microwavable heat packs, or signing up for one of their artist workshops beginning in January.

**Davis Squared, 409 Highland Avenue – Rep the hometown**

Specializing in all things Somerville, rep your hometown with a gift from Davis Squared. Owners Melisa and Paul opened the shop in 2007 with a mission to help the Somerville community celebrate “major and minor” life “victories” with locally made crafts.

You can check out the shop’s new website for Somerville-themed coffee mugs, baby clothes, hoodies, baseball caps and more. The shop also offers a number of curated gift boxes for personal and corporate purposes.

**Adorn Me Africa, 1 Bow Mkt. Way – A bridge to African design**

With clothing, self-care products, and various accessories sustainably produced and sourced from over 14 different African countries, Adorn Me Africa offers a bridge into the

world of African design. Owner Elorm Praise Dela Seshie started Adorn me Africa as a subscription box service 4 years ago, and this year, the store moved into a brick and mortar location in Somerville’s famed Bow Market.

Dela Seshie says she was inspired to found the store after she befriended artists and designers on trips back home to Ghana. Dela Seshie says the store’s mission is to share culture and increase visibility for African designers. “Sometimes in the climate we live in, people are hesitant about cultural appropriation. We specifically work with designers that want to share culture.” Dela Seshie says. For this holiday season, she recommends checking out mud clothes from Mali, or skincare products, sweaters, and socks from Ghana.

**Tiny Turns Paperie, 1 Bow Mkt. Way – Say something!**

No gift is complete without a card. Visit Tiny Turns Paperie to browse an impressive collection of indie-made stationery and cards for all occasions. Jen Pala-



Holiday crochet items and a veritable plethora of creative gift ideas are available at 4GoodVibes on Somerville Ave.

cio found her passion for letterpress after joining an all-women crafts group. Jen is constantly experimenting with new ways to

print using a variety of technological methods and media from cards to posters. Stop by Tiny Turns to see what’s new.



## Somerville High School ribbon cutting



Please join Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Superintendent Mary Skipper, and local elected officials for a ribbon cutting to celebrate the renovated and reconstructed Somerville High School campus on Wednesday, December 8, at 6:00 p.m.

The new building opened to students in March 2021 to support the district’s return to in-person learning while final renovations continued on a 750-seat auditorium. Those renovations finished in early November, and all building construction is now complete.

On top of Central Hill between City Hall and the public library, the new campus will be a fixture of both academic and civic life in Somerville for decades to come. The six-story, 396,000-square-foot school was designed to support a wide range of teaching and learning methodologies, expanding educational opportunities for students and preparing them for future success in college and the workforce. The new building will also serve as a premier gathering space for all Somerville residents, offering several much-needed options for community meetings or events.

This ribbon cutting will be the first opportunity for the Somerville community to come together in the new building to mark this historic milestone, celebrate this incredible state-of-the-art campus and public amenity, and recognize the work of so many who brought this transformational project to life.

The ceremony will begin in the Somerville High School auditorium, 81 Highland Avenue. The auditorium entrance is between City Hall and the high school’s main entrance, facing Highland Avenue. Following speaking remarks, guests will be invited to enjoy music by student performers and take a guided tour of the school.

RSVP is not required. All attendees must wear a mask indoors. For more information about the new building, visit [shsproject.org](https://shsproject.org).  
— Photo courtesy of SMMA

## ‘Holiday Tree’ – a one act play

A pine tree is decorated for the holidays with ornaments but this is no ordinary tree. Each decoration holds an adventure story that will teach a lesson and bring true joy. Using puppets, objects, song, poetry, music and the classic art of storytelling enter the holiday spirit with Evie (portrayed by Charlotte A. Dore) as she shares stories from her life and her imagination that take her on an internal journey from loneliness to resilient joy. A beautifully poetic script with elements of improvisation will allow the show to be customized for each audience.



A family show for the child in all of us presented by Charlotte Anne Dore of Rosalita’s Puppets as part of the Chelsea Theatre Works Resident artist program.

Written by Charlotte Anne Dore, music by Sarah Infini Takagi  
Additional song by Justin Payne  
Presented at The Riseman Family Theatre Chelsea Theatre Works 189 Winnisimmet St., Chelsea, MA 02150  
Opening/Press Night Sunday, December 12 at 6.30 p.m.  
Evening shows Thursday, December 16, Friday, December 17 at 6.30 p.m.  
Morning matinees Tuesday, December 14 and Sat December 18 at 10.30 a.m.  
Tickets \$5 – 20

### About the performer

Charlotte Anne Dore has a degree in Creative Arts. She has run Rosalita’s Puppets since 1993 and writes, builds and designs all her shows. Her other jobs have included Audio book narration, singing, dinner theatre, improv and movie acting. She is a SAG/AFTRA and AEA member. Taking her career in her own hands she is self producing this show.

Contact email: [rosalitaspuppets@aol.com](mailto:rosalitaspuppets@aol.com)  
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## The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #243

### Row On Row

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

To an American, a row is a number of objects arranged in a typically straight line; and to an Englishman, a row is a noisy argument or fight.

♦ On September 1, 1774, British General Thomas Gage sent a row of thirteen boats carrying two hundred soldiers up the Mystic River. The force landed at Ten Hills Farm. They next marched to the Colonial Powder House and raided 240 half-barrels of gunpowder. They then brought it back to Castle William in Boston Harbor.



This provocation caused a great Minutemen assembly in arms the next day. It was eight months before the battle of Lexington and Concord when another row of Minutemen would stand their ground. In essence, the Powder House attack was the dress rehearsal of the coming revolution.

♦ The all-day conflict of April 19, 1775, was called Battle Row. It was fought from the Concord Bridge to Somerville at Charlestown Neck. Its path traced Elm Street, Somerville Avenue, Bow Street and Washington Street.



♦ Through the years, the reference of row has been common. Bow Street was once called Doctors Row. It was named because of the convergence of seven doctors residences located there. On this street, there is also a curved row house named Crescent Row.

♦ Over 150 years ago in West Somerville, the first president of Tufts University lived on Professors Row. This was followed by additional housing occupied by the university’s highest-ranking educators. Today, it also sports the name Fraternity Row. During the war years, Continued on page 11



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 representatives’ roll call attendance records for the 2021 session. No more roll calls are planned in the House until January 2022.

The House held 121 roll calls in 2021. Beacon Hill Roll Call tabulates the number of roll calls on which each representative 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.

The vast majority of the 159 representatives are not in the House chamber during a session because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sources tell Beacon Hill Roll Call that they have seen as few as 12 members in the chamber and as many as 40. The remainder are watching the session from their home or business and voting remotely.

Here’s how the remote voting system works: Eight appointed monitors are required to be present in the House chamber and are each given the task of recording the votes of approximately 20 members who are watching the session remotely from their homes or business offices. Each monitor has their 20 members on a conference call and fills out a form indicating how each member voted. The sheets are given to the court officers who then give them to the House Clerk who verifies that the correct totals have been recorded on the sheet and that the sheet is signed by the monitor. The assistant clerk records the yeas and nays in the roll call computer, which activates the green (voted YES) or red (voted NO) lights on the electronic roll call board.

Members participating remotely then have the opportunity to see on the broadcast how they are recorded so that they can verify that their vote is recorded accurately. The tally is then displayed on the roll call board and the presiding officer announces the totals and the result of the vote.

If a member wants to speak on an issue under consideration, they leave the conference call temporarily. Using a different telephone, they call into a line that patches them into the debate. Their voice is then heard in the House chamber and by those watching the broadcast online.

In the House, 86.7 percent (138 representatives out of 159) did not miss any roll calls and have 100 percent roll call attendance records while 13.3 percent (21 representatives out of 159) have missed one or more roll calls.

The representative who missed the most roll calls is Rep. Meghan Kilcoyne (D-Northborough) who missed 15, resulting in an 87.6 percent attendance record.

Rounding out the top six representatives who have missed the most roll calls are Reps. Patrick Kearney (D-Scituate) who missed eight roll calls (93.3 percent attendance record); David LeBoeuf (D-Worcester) who missed six roll calls (95.0 percent attendance record); Chynah Tyler (D-Roxbury) who missed four roll calls (96.6 percent roll call attendance record); and Reps. Ann-Margaret Ferrante (D-Gloucester) and Tami Gouveia (D-Acton) who both missed three roll calls (97.5 percent roll call attendance record)

*Beacon Hill Roll Call* contacted these six legislators and

asked each one for a comment on his or her attendance record. Only four responded: Reps. Kilcoyne, Kearney, Ferrante and Gouveia. Reps. Tyler and LeBoeuf did not respond to repeated requests for a comment.

“I was forced to miss one full formal session because I sat for the Massachusetts Bar Exam at the end of July,” said Kilcoyne. “My absence is recorded in the House Journal along with the explanation for the missed votes on that one day. The journal also reflects how I would have voted had I been present on that day. Other than the one day I was forced to miss, I have a perfect voting record.”

“As a lieutenant in the United States Navy Reserve, I report for active duty at least for two weeks a year, sometimes longer depending on the nation’s needs,” said Kearney.

“I have been undergoing treatment at Dana Farber,” said Ferrante.

“I take my role as a state representative very seriously, so when I experienced technical difficulties in dialing in during one of our formal sessions, I quickly alerted the clerk,” said Gouveia. “While my roll call vote for quorum was unable to be recorded, I did record two votes in favor of the two bills before the House that day.”

REPRESENTATIVES’ 2021 ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE RECORDS

The percentage listed next to the representative’s name is the percentage of roll call votes on which the representative voted. The number in parentheses represents the number of roll calls that he or she missed.

Rep. Christine Barber	100 percent (0)
Rep. Mike Connolly	100 percent (0)
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	99.1 percent (1)

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO TEACH ABOUT GENOCIDE (S 2557) –

The House and Senate, on a voice vote without a roll call, approved and sent to Gov. Charlie Baker a bill requiring public schools to educate middle and high school students on the history of genocide. The measure also establishes a Genocide Education Trust Fund to help fund the teaching. The funds would come from the Legislature, private and public gifts and grants and revenue from fines imposed for hate crimes.

Supporters cited a 2020 survey, commissioned by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, which gauged Holocaust knowledge and found that 63 percent of Millennials and the Generation Z population, did not know six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust. The survey also found that nearly half were unfamiliar with Nazi concentration camps like Auschwitz.

“While racial, ethnic, national and religious violence has existed throughout the past and continues in the present, recent events suggest our collective knowledge of some of history’s worst atrocities is waning,” said Rep. Alice Peisch (D-Wellesley), House Chair of the Committee on Education. “It is our responsibility to take steps to ensure we do not forget the past so that we can continue to build a better future, while still respecting the ability of individual school districts to shape the curricula of their students.”

“With this law, we can arm our students with the knowledge they will need to recognize the warning signs and feel empowered to prevent genocides in the future,” said Rep. Jeff Roy (D-Franklin), the sponsor of the measure. “Making genocide education a mandatory topic for teaching in our schools is a reaffirmation of the commitment of free people from all nations to never again permit the occurrence of another genocide and to deter indifference to crimes against humanity and human suffering wherever they occur.”

“It is very important that the history of genocide is taught in our schools,” said Rep. Kelly Pease (R-Westfield) one of the two representatives who opposes the bill. “However all the genocides that were discussed for the bill are already covered by Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) curriculum. If there are shortcomings in how it is taught then that should be addressed, but not by setting up a separate fund that includes money from public and private sources such as gifts, grants and donations. DESE has already established the curriculum, why is more public and private money needed?”

Rep. Peter Durant (R-Spencer), the only other representative to oppose the bill, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call to comment on his opposition.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARS DOZENS OF BILLS –

The Judiciary Committee was where a lot of the action took place on Beacon Hill last week. Here are some of the bills heard by the committee:

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?

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

During the week of November 22-26, the House met for a total of 26 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 57 minutes.

Mon. Nov. 22	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:05 a.m. Senate 11:15 a.m. to 11:41 a.m.
Tues. Nov. 23	No House session No Senate session
Wed. Nov. 24	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:23 a.m. Senate 11:06 a.m. to 11:37 a.m.
Thurs. Nov. 25	No House session No Senate session
Fri. Nov. 26	No House session No Senate session

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



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Holidays are special in the Ville.

Our View Of The Times



The shopping is well underway, and all the presents should be wrapped on time. And once the plans for the big day have been made, don't forget to slow down, relax and enjoy the holiday season 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. It's especially gratifying in a city as fun and heartwarming to be in as ours.

Whatever faith one may adhere to, we can all agree that the spirit of the season 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.

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

After all we've been through over the past couple of years, we yearn for the comforting balm of divine solace.

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Center for Arts at the Armory (CAA)** will host and manage the **12th Annual Somerville Winter Farmers Market (SWFM)** every **Saturday** beginning **December 4** through **April 16**. This weekly market offers the best locally grown and regionally produced agricultural items, including vegetable produce, cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, pastries, sweets, and hard cider. Each market will feature more than 35 weekly vendors and several rotating guest vendors. The Center for Arts at the Armory is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143. To learn more, and for a complete listing of vendors, weekly specials and live entertainment, please visit [www.somwintermarket.org](http://www.somwintermarket.org). You can find the market on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SomervilleWinterFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleWinterFarmersMarket), and on Instagram @SomWinterMarket.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **City of Somerville Traffic Board** will hold a **virtual public hearing** on **Wednesday, December 1**, regarding the Somerville Traffic Commission July 15, 2021, actions making regulatory changes for the College Avenue Mo-

bility Improvements Project. The public hearing will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will open with a brief presentation by city staff on the project history and objectives. Following the presentation, members of the public will be invited to speak. The typical two-minute time limit will be strictly enforced. The hearing will be hosted on Zoom. To join online, go to [bit.ly/TrafficBoardHearing](https://bit.ly/TrafficBoardHearing) and enter Passcode 154771. To join by phone, dial 646-558-8656 and enter Meeting ID 850 2470 2442. Written testimony will also be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 1. Written testimony can be emailed to [transportation@somervillema.gov](mailto:transportation@somervillema.gov) or mailed to: Mobility Division, ATTN: Hearing, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143. The public hearing will be recorded and rebroadcast on GovTV (channel 13 on RCN, channel 22 on Comcast) and on the City's YouTube channel, [youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV](https://youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV).

\*\*\*\*\*

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

your neighborhood so you know where you can park ahead of winter weather. You can also learn more about the city's snow policies at [somervillema.gov/snow](http://somervillema.gov/snow). Snow emergencies are announced in a variety of ways, including through phone, text, and email city alerts. Make sure you're signed up for alerts in every way you can receive them and at your current address so that you get neighborhood-specific alerts. Alerts are available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, and Nepali. You can update your information by visiting [somervillema.gov/alerts](http://somervillema.gov/alerts) or calling 311.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FabVille** provides all Somerville residents with free workspace and access to 3D printers, laser cutters, and computer numerical control (CNC) machines to inspire innovative design and prototyping. The lab is open **Monday through Thursday** from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. for SHS students and faculty and from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. for community members. Before visiting, all participants must sign up for a free membership at [FabVille.org](http://FabVille.org). Students participating in FabVille activities **must be fully vaccinated** against COVID-19. Community members will be required to fill out a

COVID-19 attestation form. All visitors must wear a mask. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian during community hours. FabVille is located in an **Engineering classroom** (Room B032) at **Somerville High School**, 81 Highland Avenue. When you arrive at the main entrance of the school, a door monitor will greet you and direct you downstairs to FabVille. For more information, visit [FabVille.org](http://FabVille.org) or [facebook.com/FabvilleFabLab](https://facebook.com/FabvilleFabLab).

\*\*\*\*\*

**COVID cases** in Massachusetts just reached a **nine-month high**. In order to not repeat the tragic fall and winter surge of last year, COVID precautions are urged for this holiday season. The CDC has a holiday safety guide. The main thing to keep in mind is responsible behavior leading up to the holidays will lead to safer celebrations. Making sure everyone at the gathering is vaccinated, getting a booster if you are eligible, and masking up in indoor public spaces will lessen the chances of people contracting the virus and spreading it to others during what should be a happy occasion. Having smaller holiday get-togethers and keeping it among people who regularly associate with

*Continued on page 11*



# FUN & GAMES

*Ms. Cam's*

*Olío*

**Olio** - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#805

1. What type of fuels are natural gas, coal and oil?
  2. What was Italo Marconi granted a patent for in 1903?
  3. In the TV series *Dallas*, what was the name of the ranch where the Ewings lived?
  4. What was the Bridge of San Luis Rey made of?
  5. What do the French call the English Channel?
  6. What is the Presidential Immunity that was ruled in 1982 by the Supreme Court?
  7. Who was the only actual Pirate known to hide his treasure?
  8. Who said "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration"?
  9. What are the names of the two tunnels that connect Manhattan to New Jersey?
  10. What similarity does the death of Al Jolson and Wild Bill Hitchcock have?
  11. What is the art of Japanese folding paper called?
  12. What happened in 1989 the opening day of the World Series?
- Answers on page 15*

Answers on page 15

## The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. The cheetah is the only cat that can't retract its claws.
2. A blind chameleon still changes colors to match his environment.

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

## ACROSS

1. Pilgrim's destination
6. Make a scene
9. Rubik's puzzle
13. Hawaii environs
14. Toothy fish
15. Cone-shaped dwelling
16. White Swan in "Swan Lake" ballerina
17. \_\_\_\_-Wan Kenobi
18. Decorate with wreaths and holly, e.g.
19. Either dessert or source of heat (2 words)
21. \_\_\_\_ Day, or second day of Christmastide
23. Land parcel
24. Strauss of denim fame
25. Broadband access overseer, acr.
28. Clarified butter
30. Acute one and obtuse one
35. Southeastern Asian country
37. Jousting's breastplate
39. Shrewdness
40. Caspian basin river
41. Pasadena's Tournament of \_\_\_\_
43. Tel \_\_\_\_, Israel
44. Native American emblem
46. "Why not?"
47. Hitchhiker's quest
48. Omits when speaking
50. Hard to find
52. Bear's winter quarters
53. Hoodwink
55. Scepter's partner
57. Number of days in Christmastide
60. "Ugly" holiday party garb?
64. Prepare a letter
65. "Bingo!"
67. Hunger for
68. Pass-the-baton race
69. Cranberry sauce sometimes comes from it
70. Same as tori
71. Raise the roof
72. German river
73. Stall sound

## DOWN

1. Whiny and miserable
2. Shade of beige

**Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:**

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

**Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:**

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

# SUDOKU

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

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**Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.**

*Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.*



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3. Finish a ceiling, to a plasterer
4. Marlboro alternative
5. Not digital
6. Bug-eyed
7. Not Uber
8. Social group
9. Ghana monetary unit
10. Second word of many fairytales
11. Cause of Titanic's demise
12. Poetic "even"
15. Burdensome
20. Not this or that
22. Lab eggs
24. Time off
25. Champagne holder
26. Wassailing composition
27. Raccoon's South American cousin
29. Feeling of superiority, pl.
31. \_\_\_\_ gum, food additive
32. Furiously angry

33. Exclude or omit
34. Number of candles in kinara, Kwanzaa
36. Troika vehicle
38. "Will be," according to Doris
42. Asian goat antelope
45. Potpourri
49. Chevy Suburban, e.g.
51. Builds
54. Popular holiday wish
56. Munchausen's title
57. Bedecked arbor
58. Shakespeare, to his friends?
59. And others, for short
60. Minus
61. Tropical edible root
62. Anon's partner
63. Take a load off
64. Like some humor
66. Traditional main holiday dish

*Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.*



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.

Prioritizing Housing Accessibility  
in our COVID-19 Recovery

The other housing crisis: Housing for people with disabilities



By State Representative  
Christine Barber

The COVID-19 crisis is not only a significant health threat, it also exposes inequalities that continue to grow in our communities. As we respond to and recover from the pandemic, the connection between housing stability and public health has never been stronger. Safe housing is necessary for our public health. Families and individuals, particularly in Somerville and Medford, are facing evictions and increases in the cost of housing at record levels. But COVID-19 has also illuminated another housing crisis: the need for homes for people with

disabilities. People with disabilities and older adults have disproportionately been susceptible to the novel coronavirus, with large numbers of infections having occurred in nursing homes and long-term living facilities like group homes. Since March 2020, estimates of over 9,000 people have died in long-term care facilities in Massachusetts, and over 35,000 long-term care facility residents have been infected with the coronavirus. These startling numbers do not account for all deaths in group homes and assisted living facilities, also hotspots in the pandemic. The Center for Independent Living reports that out of 56,000 people living in Massachusetts nursing homes, between 10,000 to 20,000 could be living in their own homes. Two main factors limit housing options for people with disabilities - affordability and accessibility. These challenges are exacerbated by persistent discrepancies between the

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Massachusetts's building code, which create significant barriers to housing access for people with disabilities. For example, current state building code does not require any building originally constructed before 1991 to include adaptable units to suit a wheelchair user's needs, even when the building is gut-rehabbed for new housing. As we continue to recover from the COVID-19 crisis, we need creative solutions to meet the pressing housing needs of people with disabilities. I have been working closely with disability, elder, and housing advocates to pass legislation that improves safety and access in housing options. I filed bills H.2420 An Act relative to expanding the availability of adaptable housing for consumers with disabilities, mobility impairments, and seniors and H.2419 An Act removing barriers to work that discriminate against persons with disabilities, mobility impairments, and seniors, to bridge the gaps

between the ADA and current state building code, ensuring that all people, including those with disabilities, have access to housing. Working with disability activists, I wrote these bills to create more accessible housing and employment opportunities for people with disabilities. These bills are also important for seniors, as the changes provide more opportunities to age in place, reducing health care and costs of moving to nursing homes. This legislative session, I also filed H.1370 An Act relative to accessory dwelling units. This bill allows for the creation of accessory apartments "by right" that could be added to a home for a person with a disability or senior. Accessory dwelling units allow people to stay in their communities with supports, and are often more affordable options. This bill also reduces the need for nursing homes and long-term living facilities and shortens the waitlist for accessible, independent housing. As we continue to reckon with

the pandemic, it is imperative that we address the growing needs in our communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has both highlighted and exacerbated existing crises of health and housing. Creating accessible and affordable housing for people with disabilities and seniors provides people the freedom to move out of nursing homes and care facilities, which have faced significant challenges throughout the pandemic, and into living situations that better suit their needs and the community. But we can't do this without affordable and accessible housing options. It is time for housing that meets the needs of all members of our community. Join us in working to make accessible options available all across Massachusetts. Christine Barber is a State Representative for the 34th Middlesex District, which includes neighborhoods of Somerville and Medford. You can contact Rep. Barber at christine.barber@mahouse.gov.

Assembly Square Neighborhood Plan update

Public comments on the draft Assembly Square Neighborhood Plan are sought; the deadline has been extended to January 21, 2022

The Assembly Square neighborhood planning process will be unique. Where in other areas the challenge faced by Planning Staff has been to preserve and enhance the most desirable characteristics and potential of an existing neighborhood, here we will focus on realizing Assembly's full promise as a Transformational Area. This neighborhood also requires that we assess and develop an infrastructure framework suited for the needs and pressures of what is becoming one of Somerville's major new Regional Centers, an effort that will rest heavily on assessing the status of current infrastructure to ensure it provides support for expected new growth. Visit Assembly's SomervilleByDesign page (<https://www.somervillebydesign.com/neighborhoods/assembly/>) to learn more about the planning history of this area.



Use the public comment tool at: <https://basic.konveio.com/assembly-square-neighborhood-plan>, or email your comments to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov). You can view the presentation from the October 13 meeting by going to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cLscRzHsgs>, and read the recent *Boston Globe* article on this initiative by going to: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/10/14/business/somerville-outlines-plan-expand-assembly-square/> They have completed the virtual meeting series that lasted from November 30 through December 4, they thank all who attended. If you missed it, you can catch up by viewing the videos below and the presentation slides at: [http://www.somervillebydesign.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Assembly\\_Square\\_WIP\\_12-4-20\\_AS\\_PRESENTED.pdf](http://www.somervillebydesign.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Assembly_Square_WIP_12-4-20_AS_PRESENTED.pdf). You can also still provide feedback through the surveys at the bottom of this page.

Work-in-progress presentations from the meetings:

- Introduction and Vision: [http://www.somervillebydesign.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Assembly\\_Square\\_WIP\\_12-4-20\\_AS\\_PRESENTED.pdf](http://www.somervillebydesign.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Assembly_Square_WIP_12-4-20_AS_PRESENTED.pdf)
- Mobility: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uo8Qhz86dy0>
- Infrastructure: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-Q0NFkxV5w>
- Economics and Closing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lb3TFizGile>


Informational videos created prior to the meetings:

- Process Introduction: <http://www.somervillebydesign.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Assembly-Square-Come-to-the-Charrette-Film1.mp4>
- What is a Neighborhood?: <http://www.somervillebydesign.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/What-is-a-Neighborhood-11-24-20-447PM.mp4>
- Example Scenarios: <http://www.somervillebydesign.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/SOMERVILLE-SCENARIO-FILM.mp4>
- Mobility Analysis: [http://www.somervillebydesign.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/asq-mobility-analysis\\_PvdLSTer.mp4](http://www.somervillebydesign.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/asq-mobility-analysis_PvdLSTer.mp4) and Vehicles Study: <http://www.somervillebydesign.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/ASQ-Vehicles-Video-2020-11-20.mp4>



LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE

MAYOR

GEORGE J. PROAKIS, AICP

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, December 14, 2021** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov).

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/980886836991422224>

Webinar ID:    183-390-427

TO CALL IN

Phone Number:    1 (213) 929-4212

Access Code:    347-705-326

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

Determinations of Historic Significance (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HPC.DMO 2021.31 – 82-86 Prospect Street

Applicant: 86 Prospect Street, LLC

Owner: Vivaldo Meneses Sr. & Maria Meneses, Trustees of V&M Realty Trust

Demolish all structures

HPC.DMO 2021.32 – 17 Allen Street

Applicant: 13-17 Allen Street, LLC

Owner: Saul A. Rivera

Demolish principal structure

Determinations of Preferably Preserved (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HPC.DMO 2021.23 – 256 Elm Street

Applicant: Welch Liles

Owner: AP Davis Square Plaza, LLC

Demolish principal structure

HPC.DMO 2021.20– 16 Woodbine Street

Applicant: Sal Querusio

Owner: Mark R. & Jill T. Ardelino

Demolish principal structure

HPC.DMO 2021.28 – 227 Holland Street


Applicant: 227 Holland, LLC

Owner: Maria Melo and Carmilla Turner, Trustees of the Gilda Santos 2019 Revocable Trust

Demolish principal structure

While City Hall continues to be closed in response to the COVID19 pandemic, case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) with inquiries.

11/24/21, 12/1/21 The Somerville Times



City of Somerville

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, December 15, 2021**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1492868929061362701>

Webinar ID:    904-536-011

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8422

Access code:    114-986-231

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

620 Broadway

620 Broadway, LLC seeks a variance from the minimum number of stories in the Commercial Core 5 district.

483 Broadway

Tavis Babbitt seeks variances for story height and from the minimum number of stories in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) district.

21 Eastman Road

SGL Development seeks a steep slope special permit and variances that include: primary front setback, more than one building on a lot, building type, parking in frontage area, driveway in frontage area, habitable space depth, number of stories, ground story elevation, building width, side setback, upper story fenestration, story height. Neighborhood Residence (NR) zone.

27 Houghton St


Cecilia Viggiano proposes modifications to a Row House in the Neighborhood Residence district, which requires a Special Permit.

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

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

12/1/21 The Somerville Times

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City of Somerville

PLANNING BOARD

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, December 16, 2021**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1651595527158756107>

Webinar ID:    553-776-859

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8422

Access code:    514-546-106

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

28 - 44 Broadway

Ben Rogan proposes a 6-story LEED Platinum General Building with a Household Living principal use in the Mid Rise 6 district, which requires Site Plan Approval and a Special Permit.

153 South Street

Boynton Yards LandCo LLC seeks approval of a major amendment to a previously approved Master Plan Special Permit (MPSP2020-002).

494 Medford Street

James Rissling seeks to establish a General Building in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) district which requires Site Plan Approval.

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

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

12/1/21 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE

CITY COUNCIL

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits on **Wednesday, December 8, 2021**, at 4:00 PM, on a petition for a new Garage License:

Toucan Auto Repair Inc seeks a Garage License at 224 Somerville Avenue, for autobody work, spray painting, and charging money to store vehicles; storing 15 vehicles inside and 4 outside, serving the public Monday through Friday 8AM-5PM, Saturday 8AM-1PM, and Sunday closed.

This meeting will be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar platform.

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. To attend and be heard, enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/949360539862991375>. You can also find this link on the City website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the City Clerk at the address below, or by email to [cityclerk@somervillema.gov](mailto:cityclerk@somervillema.gov). Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Committee.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS, CITY CLERK

CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

12/1/21 The Somerville Times

Be sure to visit us online at [www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)

Family heirlooms

CONT. FROM PG 3

still here.

• My dad's glasses and wallet.

• I have my Nana's watch that my grandfather gave her in the 1930's and I have my aunt's wedding handkerchief that my great




grandmother made for her.

• I have my parents' 25th Anniversary glasses and plates, candy dishes.

It's very comforting to have items around us that remind

us of our loved ones and the happy times we shared with them.

Thank you to all my social media friends who graciously contributed to this article.





The Somerville Times

Best of Somerville 2021

Cast your vote!

You have until December 28 to vote for your favorite category. To cast your vote, email us at thebestofsomerville@yahoo.com. The winners will be announced Wednesday, January 5, 2021. 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 2021
- 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 2021

Worst Idea in 2021

Two for Texas



Former Alderman Bob McWatters with his son Bobby McWatters enjoying Thanksgiving in Austin Texas.

Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 5

the university drilled and educated hundreds of men in the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). Some of the fraternity houses still have memorials honoring them.

- ✦ The most historical row in the city was Milk Row, formerly part of Battle Row, which is now Somerville Avenue. In its heyday, milk was a vital staple of the time. Many dairy companies established their businesses along Milk Row and built their homes nearby.
- ✦ In 1872, the year Somerville became a city, Boston was devastated by the worst fire in its history. It destroyed 776 buildings and burned over 60 acres. Because of this destruction, fire-retardant brick row houses were approved and used in its rebuilding. They also became popular in East Somerville, the Beacon Street area and Winter Hill.

- ✦ Assembly Row, the city's newest row, is rising like a phoenix out of the Mystic River's shore. It features shopping, living, and dining.
- ✦ Eighty years ago on December 7, 1941, America was launched into a two-front war with Japan and Germany that would change the country forever. Japanese planes crippled Pearl Harbor's Battleship Row, which was the eight-ship pride of the Navy's Pacific Fleet. This day is memorialized with the white-cross markers arranged row on row in military cemeteries across the world ... It is a day that will remain in infamy!



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

each other also can lessen the spread. Outdoor celebrations (sunny weather is currently forecast for Thanksgiving) are safer than indoor gatherings. Finally, get tested in the days leading up to the holiday if you think you might pose a risk. Go to [somervillema.gov/covid19testing](https://somervillema.gov/covid19testing) to find a testing location.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Get Elfie + Keep Small Strong for Union Square Main Streets 7th Annual Holiday Stroll.** Join in The Holiday Stroll, a three-day celebration of Union Square sparkle, discovery, and holiday delight on **December 9, 10, and 11**. Revel in this Union Square neighborhood tradition and enter to win cash prizes up to \$1000 by help-

ing to judge the **Storefront Decoration Contest**, conquering the **Keep Small Strong Challenge** when enjoying unique eats and rad retail, following the **Festivus Trail**, and taking **Elfie Selfies**. Dozens of locally-owned businesses await with all you need to stuff your stockings, deck your halls with local art, make your tastebuds celebrate, and more. Bundle up and come on down or snuggle up and shop from home to unwrap Union Square in all its wintry wonderment. For more info on how to enter to win \$1000 cash, visit: <https://www.unionsquaremain.org/holiday-stroll>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Join **East Somerville Main Streets**

for another **Pop-Up Holiday Market** at **Connexion** in Somerville. They'll have some new vendors, more food and more music. Support small, local businesses while you do your holiday shopping. **Saturday, December 11, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** at Connexion, 149 Broadway.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Arts Council's Illumination Community Lantern Project** returns. As the days get shorter and the nights get longer, they are looking for ways to brighten the darkness. Building off of the success from last year's Illuminations Community Lantern project, they are encouraging residents to create their own lantern displays in

their neighborhoods and squares as a part of this year's month-long festivities. If you are interested in leading the charge in your neighborhood, contact SAC and they will put you on the official **Illuminations Map**. The deadline to be included on the Illumination map is **December 1**. To light up your neighborhood and get involved, visit <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/illuminationstour>.

\*\*\*\*\*

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



# Welcome to Elfland

So, what is the big buzz lately that's got the whole city enthralled? The Omicron variant? That Beatles documentary? Maybe the very spirit of the holiday season that is finally upon us? All of the above perhaps, to a certain degree. But once you've been to "Elfland" you'll understand why the site has taken the region by storm. It all began when an 8-year-old resident of Somerville decided to help the elves he said he saw in a vacant lot at 73 Summer St. by constructing miniature "buildings" for them to inhabit and make use of. Gradually, and with the help of many others who have joined in on this diminutive urban development project, the tiny village has grown significantly in the number of features that are currently present. Elf-size houses, stores, a library, a hospital, etc., have all sprung up at this enchanted village. Solar-powered lights have even been installed. The parents of the child responsible for the founding of this mini-municipality prefer to keep their anonymity, to better preserve the magic of the moment. But they and their enterprising son are thrilled nonetheless to be a part of it all, no matter how long the magic lasts. — Photos by Bobbie Toner



## BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What did one snowman say to the other?  
Do you smell carrots?

## On This Day in History December 1

- 1861 – The U.S. gunboat Penguin seizes the Confederate blockade runner Albion carrying supplies worth almost \$100,000.
- 1881 – Virgil, Wyatt and Morgan Earp are exonerated in court for their action in the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Ariz.
- 1909 – President William Howard Taft severs official relations with Nicaragua's Zelaya government and declares support for the revolutionaries.
- 1918 – An American army of occupation enters Germany.
- 1941 – The first Civil Air Patrol is organized in the United States.
- 1955 – Rosa Parks refuses to sit in the back of a Montgomery, Alabama, bus, defying the South's segregationist laws.
- 1969 – America's first draft lottery since 1942 is held.
- 1981 – AIDS virus officially recognized.
- 1990 – Channel Tunnel sections from France and the UK meet beneath the English Channel.

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

<b>Wednesday, December 1</b>		7:35pm Senior Circuit 8:00pm City Council Meeting 11-23-21		12:30pm Winter Hill Walking Tour 2:00pm School Committee Meeting 11-15-21 3:30pm SPL Gardening - Summer's Bounty pt. 1 4:00pm Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7 4:30pm Climate Forward Presentations 6:30pm City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan 7:00pm Town Hall w/ Mayor Curtatone 8:04pm The Bilingual Brain Benefits of Bilingualism 9:20pm Mental Health Resources 9:30pm Somerville Chamber of Commerce Awards 11:10pm COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA		6:10am SPL Cooking - Simple Chocolate Cake 6:30am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV 7:15am Mental Health Resources 7:30am City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan 8:00am Winter Hill Walking Tour 9:15am City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 11:30am Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7 12:00pm City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 2:30pm Winter Hill Walking Tour 4:00pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 7:00pm School Committee Meeting - LIVE 11:00pm COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA
6:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV 7:00am The Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope 7:50am Mental Health Resources 8:00am HONKI! 2021 9:00am Transgender Day of Remembrance 2021 9:30am City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan 10:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II 11:00am Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7 11:30am City Council Meeting 11-23-21 3:30pm Raising Families- Vaping 3-7-19 4:00pm Fit-4-Life Video #4 4:30pm Celling Your Soul - Raising Kids in a Digital Age 6:30pm Somerville Chamber of Commerce Awards 8:10pm Transgender Day of Remembrance 2021 8:30pm City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan 9:00pm Winter Hill Walking Tour 10:15pm Mental Health Resources 10:30pm COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA 11:11pm Transgender Day of Remembrance 2021 11:30pm City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan		<b>Friday, December 3</b> 12:00am Mabel And Jerry - Senior Story 12:25am The Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope 2:00am COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA 6:00am Chair Yoga w Chris 6:30am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II 7:30am City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan 8:00am Town Hall w/ Mayor Curtatone 9:04am The Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope 10:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV 11:00am Fit 4 Life 2020 #3 11:30am Land Use Committee Meeting 11-8-21 3:10pm COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA 4:00pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #3 4:30pm Raising Families "Special Needs Education" 5:01pm SPL Gardening - Summer's Bounty pt. 1 6:00pm Somerville Chamber of Commerce Awards 7:45pm Veterans Day Remembrance 8:00pm COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA 8:45pm SPL Cooking - Simple Chocolate Cake 9:00pm Veterans' Day Ceremony 2021 9:30pm HONKI! 2021 10:30pm City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan 11:00pm West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting 11:31pm SPD Ride Along		<b>Sunday, December 5</b> 12:00am Somerville Chamber of Commerce Awards 1:45am School Committee Meeting 11-15-21 1:50pm Climate Webinar Climate Resilience & Health 7:30am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II 8:20pm Mental Health Resources 8:30pm Transgender Day of Remembrance 2021 8:45pm Mental Health Resources 9:00am Connecting Communities 9:30am City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 11:30am Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7 Senior Circuit: Benefits of Music & Movement 12:00pm Mabel And Jerry - Senior Story 12:25pm City Council Meeting 11-23-21 1:00pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #2 5:00pm Climate Forward Transportation Solutions 5:30pm Senior Circuit: Benefits of Music & Movement 7:00pm Connecting Communities 7:30pm City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 8:00pm Winter Hill Walking Tour 10:00pm Veterans Day Remembrance 11:15pm Raising Families- Vaping 3-7-19 11:30pm Senior Circuit City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan		
<b>Thursday, December 2</b> 12:00am Finance Committee Meeting 11-30-21 6:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV 7:00am Winter Hill Walking Tour 8:15am COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA 9:00am Somerville Chamber of Commerce Awards 10:41am SPL Cooking - Mujadara 11:00am Fit 4 Life 2020 #2 11:30am City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan 12:00pm Senior Circuit 12:30pm Finance Committee Meeting 11-30-21 4:00pm Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #6 4:30pm Transgender Day of Remembrance 2021 5:00pm Winter Hill Walking Tour 6:15pm SPD Ride Along 6:30pm Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone		<b>Saturday, December 4</b> 12:00am Finance Committee Meeting 11-30-21 6:30am HONKI! 2021 7:30am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I 8:05am Senior Circuit 8:30pm SPL Gardening - Summer's Bounty pt. 1 9:00am Somerville Chamber of Commerce Awards 11:00am Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 11:30am Three Paths to Italy		<b>Monday, December 6</b> 12:00am Senior Circuit 12:30am City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 3:00am City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan		

Educational TV 15 Schedule

<b>Wednesday, December 1</b>		9:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs Chelsea 10-8-21	4:00pm SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21	12:00pm SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21
8:00am Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21	11:00pm SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21		6:00pm SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21	2:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21
8:30am SHS Fall Sports Rally 11-24-21	<b>Friday, December 3</b>		8:00pm SHS Fall Sports Rally 11-24-21	3:30pm SHS Fall Sports Rally 11-24-21
9:00am SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21	1:00am SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage		8:30pm SHS Hockey vs Everett 3-25-21	4:30pm SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21
11:00am School Committee Meeting 11-15-21	8:00am SHS Fall Sports Rally 11-24-21		10:00pm SHS Hockey vs Medford 4-10-21	7:30pm Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21
12:29pm West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting	9:00am SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett 5-6-21		11:30pm SHS Boys Basketball JV Blue vs White 4-6-21	8:00pm SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage
1:00pm SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21	11:00am SHS Boys Basketball 2019-20		<b>Sunday, December 5</b>	9:00pm SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21
3:00pm SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage	12:30pm SHS Girls Basketball vs Revere 3-22-21		1:06am SHS Boys Basketball vs Reading 2-18-20	11:00pm Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21
4:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21	1:00pm SHS Girls Basketball 2019-20		2:10am SHS Girls' Basketball vs Malden 2-6-20	<b>Tuesday, December 7</b>
6:00pm Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21	2:30pm SHS Girls Basketball 2019-20		3:34am SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21	12:00am SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21
6:30pm SHS Fall Sports Rally 11-24-21	3:00pm SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21		8:00am SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage	2:00am SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere 1-6-20
7:00pm SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21	5:00pm SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage		9:00am SHS Boys Basketball vs Medford 3-31-21	8:00am Lets Talk About a Poem - L. Schwartz
9:00pm School Committee Meeting 11-15-21	6:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs Chelsea 10-8-21		10:30pm SHS Girls Basketball vs LE 3-19-21	10:00am Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21
10:29pm West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting	7:00pm SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett 5-6-21		12:00pm SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21	11:00am SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage
11:00pm SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21	9:00pm SHS Boys Basketball vs Everett 4-6-21		2:00pm SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21	12:00pm SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21
<b>Thursday, December 2</b>	10:30pm SHS Boys Basketball 2019-20		4:00pm SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical	2:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21
1:00am SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage	11:00pm SHS Girls Basketball vs Revere 3-22-21		5:30pm SHS Fall Sports Rally 11-24-21	3:30pm SHS Fall Sports Rally 11-24-21
2:00am SHS Girls Soccer vs N Attleboro 11-4-21	<b>Saturday, December 4</b>		6:00pm SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage	4:30pm SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21
8:00am School Committee Meeting 11-15-21	12:30am SHS Girls Basketball 2019-20		7:00pm SHS Boys Basketball vs Medford 3-31-21	7:30pm Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21
9:30am Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21	1:00am SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21		8:30pm SHS Girls Basketball vs LE 3-19-21	8:00pm SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage
10:00am SHS Girls Soccer vs Everett 10-21-21	3:00am SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage		10:00pm SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21	9:00pm SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21
12:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs Chelsea 10-8-21	8:00am SHS Fall Sports Rally 11-24-21			11:00pm Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21
2:00pm SHS Football vs Boston Latin 11-13-21	8:30am SHS Hockey vs Everett 3-25-21		<b>Monday, December 6</b>	12:00am SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage
4:00pm SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage	10:00am SHS Hockey vs Medford 4-10-21		12:00am SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21	1:00am SHS Fall Sports Rally 11-24-21
5:00pm School Committee Meeting 11-15-21	11:30am SHS Boys Basketball JV Blue vs White		2:00am SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical 12-20-19	1:26am SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21
6:30pm Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21	1:05pm SHS Boys Basketball vs Reading 2-18-20		8:00am Lets Talk About a Poem - L. Schwartz	
7:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs Everett 10-21-21	2:30pm SHS Girls' Basketball vs Malden 2-6-20		10:00am Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting 11-19-21	
			11:00am SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage	

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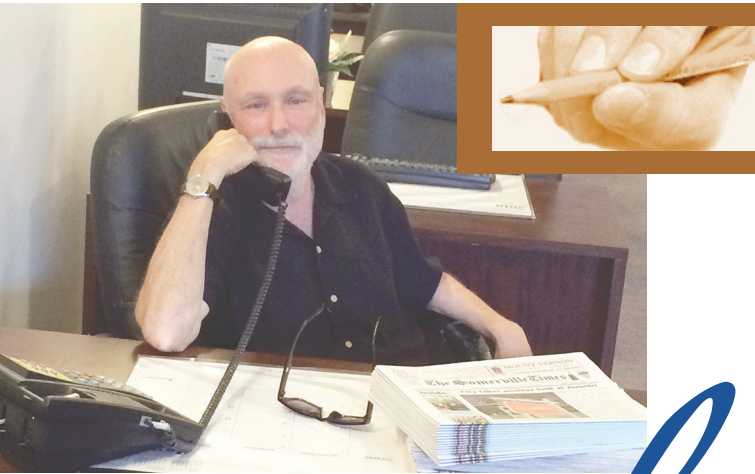
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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

# Toastmasters Around the World Zooming to Camberville

By Bil Lewis

On Saturday, December 4th, at 10:00 AM, Members of Toastmasters clubs from over a dozen countries will descend upon the “Humor and Drama” Toastmasters club, which meets in Cambridge and Somerville, for a warm, happy, welcoming meeting entitled

*Stories of the Solstice*

Members of clubs from Japan, Kenya, England, Aruba, Columbia, and France will Zoom in and talk about their “Stories of the Solstice,” in word and art and music. Along with these formal presentations, Toastmasters meetings always include a section where all of the attendees get the opportunity to speak in some fashion.

For this meeting, our “Table Topics” session is going to involve small breakout rooms where you will work with two of three other people and plan something-yet-to-be-determined and presented at the end of the meeting. We’ve done this before, and it is both fun and personal—you get to know people.

We would love to have you visit us and share in the fun.

And improve your public speaking skills!

From one of our members (and current president):

When I first joined Toastmasters, I joined because of work. I did not have many opportunities to present at work, because at that time my role did not require a lot of presenting. I sought out Toastmasters as a safe place to practice speaking. This way, when the time came to present, I would be prepared.

As the years went by, I gained confidence through speeches, and later, District Leadership opportunities. Subsequently, I pushed myself more in my career, taking on more demanding roles. Inevitably these involved speaking, presenting, and leading. And you know what? I was prepared for it all!

In a few years I went from being a technician to management. Toastmasters absolutely played a role in helping me develop these skills. To this day, I still speak at Toastmasters, and I always recommend it to anyone looking to develop and improve themselves.

Toastmasters International is an organization of some 16,000 clubs and 400,000 members, which helps people learn how to speak effectively in public meetings and teaches its members leadership skills, all by doing.

New members are shepherded through their first speeches, with the assistance and support of the other members. As they grow in experi-



ence and confidence, they move into leadership roles— first in their own clubs, then in wider and wider circles as they see fit. Each year, one person, who started out exactly like everyone else, is elected to be the World President of Toastmasters International.

As a High School Teacher in Peace Corps, Kenya, Bil Lewis felt himself confident in public speaking—right up until he was in front of an audience of his peers. I felt like an idiot at my first meeting. My mother had convinced me to come to her club, and as the Table Topics Master, she asked me to speak briefly on a simple topic. My mind went blank.

Now I am comfortable and confident in front of any audience. I speak professionally about Computer Science and I teach in costume as James Madison. I never would have been able to do this without Toastmasters.

In 2010, Bil Lewis was the District Governor for some 130 Toastmasters clubs in Eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. With a budget of \$50,000 and 50 direct reports, it forces one to lead. He was responsible for two major conferences, 20 officer trainings sessions, and some 200 speech contests. Along with starting new clubs.

That is leadership by doing.

One of the “new” clubs Bil helped charter was the “Somerville Toastmasters Club,” which meets every Tuesday from 7-8:30PM at the Unity Church in Davis Square both in person, and virtually via zoom. As with all clubs, it has members of all experience levels and puts a heavy emphasis on mentorship.

Somerville Toastmasters boasts a substantial international membership, with members from Ecuador, France, Germany, China, and Korea, and its hybrid model allows members from all around the country and the world to stay involved. Somerville Toastmasters shines in its fun and welcoming attitude towards all members, its high-level veteran members mentorship, and its strong club camaraderie.

Everyone is always welcome to visit any Toastmasters club. Somerville Toastmasters contact: dave-marz@gmail.com Humor and Drama Toastmasters contact: daniel.joseph.wallace@comcast.net

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Michael Todd Steffen curates the Hastings Room Reading Series in Cambridge. His poetry and articles have appeared in *The Boston Globe*, *Connecticut Review*, *Poem* (HLA), *ACM* (*Another Chicago Magazine*), *Ibbetson Street*, *Taos Journal* and in the window of the Grolier Poetry Bookshop. His first book, *Partner, Orchard, Day Moon*, was published in April of 2014 by Cervená Barva Press, edited by Gloria Mindock.



Be Careful What You Wish For

It might just come true  
with all the vengeance  
luck dimly expects  
in return for our presumption  
to meditate on having something other  
than what we already have.

The lover of dark desire  
with his teeth in your neck.  
The car on the commercial  
with its insurance rate.

Not to mention the pillow feeling  
in the gut when we get our way  
loading with influence the whispered wish,  
  
the penniless dreamer’s horse,  
  
the orphan’s first star.

— Michael Todd Steffen

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

Ms. Cam’s

From page 8

Olio

Answers

1. They are called fossil fuels

2. Ice Cream Cones

3. SOUTHFORK

4. It was made of rope

5. La Manche

6. A president cannot be sued for acts outside the scope of his Presidential duties

7. Capt. Kidd (pirates are known to bury their treasure)

8. Thomas Edison

9. The Holland and the Lincoln Tunnel

10. Both died while playing cards (Wild Bill held aces and eights, a dead man’s hand – Al Jolson was playing rummy and said “I’m going”

11. Origami

12. They had an earthquake that measured 7.1 on the Richter Scale

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