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Merry Christmas

From the Publisher and Staff of
The Somerville Times

Bomb threats shake Tufts University during finals



Local authorities are actively investigating the recent bomb threats targeting Tufts University.

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

A busy finals season for students at Tufts was dramatically interrupted by a number of bomb threats in the last week sending students into panic and flipping finals on its head. Three bomb threats have been called in and emailed to the University over the previous seven days.

In an email from the Office of the President of Tufts University, President Tony Monaco addressed the threats and the suspected motives behind them. "Several of the threats have

Continued on page 4

247th annual flag-raising ceremony

The City of Somerville's 247th annual flag-raising ceremony will take place on New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1, 2023.

This celebration will begin at City Hall at 11:30 a.m. with a procession to the Prospect Hill Monument. At the monument, there will be a short program including colonial songs, light refreshments, and speeches, and featuring appearances by Mayor Ballantyne and a special guest speaker.

This 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.

Tri-Corner hats, colonial garb and masks are encouraged. For more information, including ideas for colonial period clothing, or for a free, commemorative program, contact Brandon Wilson, Coordinator of Historic Events and Education at bwilson@somervillema.gov or (617)776-3938.



The 247th annual flag-raising ceremony at Prospect Hill will be held on Saturday, January 1, 2023.

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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 one and all a very **Happy Holiday, Merry Christmas** and **Happy Hanukkah**, as well as a prosperous and healthy New Year in 2023.








The *Somerville Times* staff is taking a small holiday vacation from the print edition next week, the next issue coming out will be on **January 4, 2023**. 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. 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 **Illuminations Tour** is back. As in recent years, the **Somerville Arts Council** will provide an online map featuring the best and brightest holiday displays. To access the map or sign up to be featured on the tour or to carol, visit somervilleartscouncil.org.

Happy birthday for the next two weeks while we are on break: Happy birthday to **Zachary Atwell**, who is celebrating this week. We wish him a great year. Happy birthday to **Christopher Kenney**. We hope he has a great day. Happy birthday to great friend, **Monica Calvo**. We wish her a very happy birthday. Happy birthday also to **Jim Henry**, a well-known man in Somerville *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of December 21 – December 27 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>December 21</i>	Sunny	41°/27°	7%	5%	WNW 6 mph
 Thursday <i>December 22</i>	Cloudy	45°/43°	16%	12%	ENE 10 mph
 Friday <i>December 23</i>	Rain	56°/24°	95%	88%	SE 19 mph
 Saturday <i>December 24</i>	Partly Cloudy	30°/19°	2%	1%	W 23 mph
 Sunday <i>December 25</i>	Sunny	31°/20°	3%	2%	W 17 mph
 Monday <i>December 26</i>	Sunny	34°/24°	1%	1%	WSW 12 mph
 Tuesday <i>December 27</i>	Partly Cloudy	39°/22°	10%	9%	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: Traffic Board public hearing on jaywalking regulations, December 20

George Landers says:

Bicyclists, seems like the majority of them, who completely ignore traffic signals and stop signs are a greater danger to the people in this city. Jaywalkers are more interested in their phones than oncoming traffic. It will take another serious accident before they change their behavior.

“Roller Coaster” city is a bad place for drivers these days.

Enforcing bike safety should be the priority. How do you enforce that????

Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

Get out there, man! Bring your little Herschel Walker badge and start enforcing!

Response to: Lyrical Somerville – December 14

Susan Tepper says:

Chilling in the best possible way.

B. Lynne Zika says:

How to put words to an ache.

Response to: Another bomb threat on Tufts campus

Steve Keenan says:

The person or persons doing this are in need of professional help. I pray to God that you cease and desist these awful threats and receive the help you need

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138



@somervilletimes



www.facebook.com/thesomervilletimes

Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner

Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Molly Rains, Fernando Cervantes Jr.,
Ryan DiLellio, Kyle Dante

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

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Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

The Somerville Santa



At this time of year, there are many versions of the classic 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. I hope you enjoy this one. It's dedicated to all my loved ones no longer with us...

'Twas the Night Before Christmas, and all through the 'Ville;
All my presents were purchased, and man what a bill.
Thank heaven for credit cards, I have more than a few;
Though I'll pay through the nose when those buggers are due.
I just watered the tree because last year I forgot;
And three days before Christmas, it turned yellow with rot.
I was walking the dog up at Powder House Park;
On each tree he stopped to leave his special mark.
The TV was calling, so I tried to rush

home;
I unleashed the pup and gave him a milk bone.
I took a few Advils and gulped some Mylanta;
And sat back in my chair, and that's when I saw Santa!
There wasn't a sleigh, no reindeer I'm afraid;
This "Somerville Santa" drove a Red Escalade
He parked in my driveway and when I looked out;
I saw some familiar figures and I heard him shout:
Come on Bobby, and Dennis, and David, and Johnny;
Let's go Eddie, and Freddie, Jay, Kenny, and Ronnie!
I had seen these guys someplace but I couldn't say where;
From the High School, from little league, from Teele or Ball Square?
They came up to my living room and we had some eggnog;
Their faces were friendly, but my memo-



ry was fogged.
We laughed and we joked, and we had a few beers;
But my face – it was wet – I was shedding some tears.
I finally remembered who all these folks were;
Though it was very dreamlike and their faces were blurred.

It was all of my friends who had left us too soon;
My pals who I'd lost – were all here in one room!
We hugged and we laughed and we had lots of fun;
They all looked so healthy, they all looked so young.
Christine and Diane

Continued on page 13



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BE HEARD.
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TAKE THE SURVEY.

The Somerville Department of Racial and Social Justice is gathering critical feedback and perspectives from community members who live and work in Somerville in the Public Safety for All survey. You can make your voice heard and help shape Somerville's future by scanning the QR code and taking the survey.

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

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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Two drinks away from trouble

Last week, Somerville Police Dispatch received a call that a car was stopped in the middle of the street near the intersection of Temple and Ten Hills Road and had been idling for a few minutes. Police officers were subsequently dispatched to the area to investigate the matter.

While en route, the same reporting party called Somerville Police Dispatch again and stated that the driver was a female and appeared uneasy on her feet.

Upon arrival, the officers spoke to the suspect, later identified as Alexis Orchard, of Medford. The officers reported that they observed Orchard

sitting in the driver's seat of the vehicle, with the car running as they approached her.

When the officers arrived, the vehicle was stopped in the middle of the street, still running with the hazard lights on, partially blocking both the road and a driveway. The vehicle was also facing the wrong way up a one-way street, Temple Road.

Upon further inspection of the vehicle, the officers noticed that the front-right and rear-right tires were both flat and the right side of the car was slanted downward, resting on the rims.

Orchard reportedly offered to exit the vehicle and "prove it" that

she was not intoxicated. When Orchard exited the vehicle on her own accord, she immediately fell backwards, catching herself on the mid-section of her car.

Orchard then reportedly began behaving tumultuously by loudly slurring her words. It was during that behavior that the officers smelled the odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from her person. Once Orchard quieted down, the officers noticed that her eyes were bloodshot and glassy.

Orchard was then asked where she was coming from and she named a cocktail bar at Assembly Row and that she was a bartender there. As she answered questions,

she was continuously stumbling over herself and was having trouble standing up straight, according to reports.

When asked if she had consumed any alcoholic beverages while she was at the bar, cocktail bar reportedly told police, "Yes, two."

Orchard was then informed by the officers that due to the fact that they could smell the odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from her breath, her glassy and bloodshot eyes, slurred speech, and difficulty remaining upright, that they were going to put her through a standardized field sobriety Test,

to which she readily agreed.

According to police, Orchard did not perform well during the sobriety tests. Based on the facts that she was sitting in the driver's seat, with the car running, her continuous slurred speech, lack of balance, the odor of alcoholic beverage coming from her, the glassy and bloodshot eyes that she possessed, and the failed tests given to her, the officers decided to place her under arrest on a charge of operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, whereupon she was transported to Somerville Police Headquarters for booking.

Police investigate armed robbery

On Saturday December 17, at approximately 10:20 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a business located in East Somerville for a report of an armed robbery and indecent assault and battery.

Police met with a female store clerk who told police that she noticed the robbery suspect pacing back and forth while peering in the store window moments before entering the store where he displayed a handgun during the robbery. The suspect received an undisclosed amount of cash from the clerk and fled the area on foot.

The victim described her attacker as a Hispanic male with a large build and dark facial hair, wearing dark clothing. A photo, captured by a security camera, of the suspect is posted here.

According to Somerville Police Chief Charles Femino, "Police will be diligent in their investigative efforts to identify, apprehend, and prosecute whoever is responsible for this incident."

Somerville Police detectives are actively investigating this incident. If anyone has any information regarding this incident, please contact the Somerville Police Criminal Investigation Division at 617-625-1600, extension 7237. Anonymous tips can also be given via the Somerville Police Tip Line at TIP 411.



Bomb threats shake Tufts University during finals

CONT. FROM PG 1

included messages indicating that the emailer(s) are opposed to: our university values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ)," according to the email.

Starting last Wednesday, the warnings have included bomb threats on Wednesday, Thursday, and Monday with a vague, non-specific threat on Friday. These have all been focused on

areas on-campus in both Somerville and Medford.

The threatened areas have ranged from administrative buildings to freshman dorms on campus and other on-campus facilities. As of the writing of this article, four threats have been reported to University officials, but in spite of this President Monaco expressed a sense of preparedness

towards any future threats.

"We will continue to remain alert and vigilant about any threats against any part of any of our campuses. In the event of any future threats, please diligently follow alert messages and instructions from authorities," according to the statement.

According to the email, Tufts University is implementing a

plethora of measures to address past and future threats launched against the University.

From these, an increased police presence on campus has been implemented in the form of patrols and a partnership with relevant agencies to investigate these threats. In past threats, members of the Somerville Police Department and Medford

Police Department have responded accordingly.

The investigation of these threats is currently ongoing with university officials assuring members of the community that they are working to identify the perpetrators. More information on these and any future threats can be found at: <https://announcements.tufts.edu/>

Somerville seeks participants for cultural capacity planning

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council are inviting residents to participate in the city's cultural capacity planning process. The cultural planning process aims to explore ways to strengthen and improve access to Somerville's cultural assets. Community members can participate in a variety of ways, including joining a community conversation, self-nominating to serve as an ambassador to the city and representing your artistic or cultural community on the Advisory Committee, or attending a town hall and sharing feedback on draft recommendations.

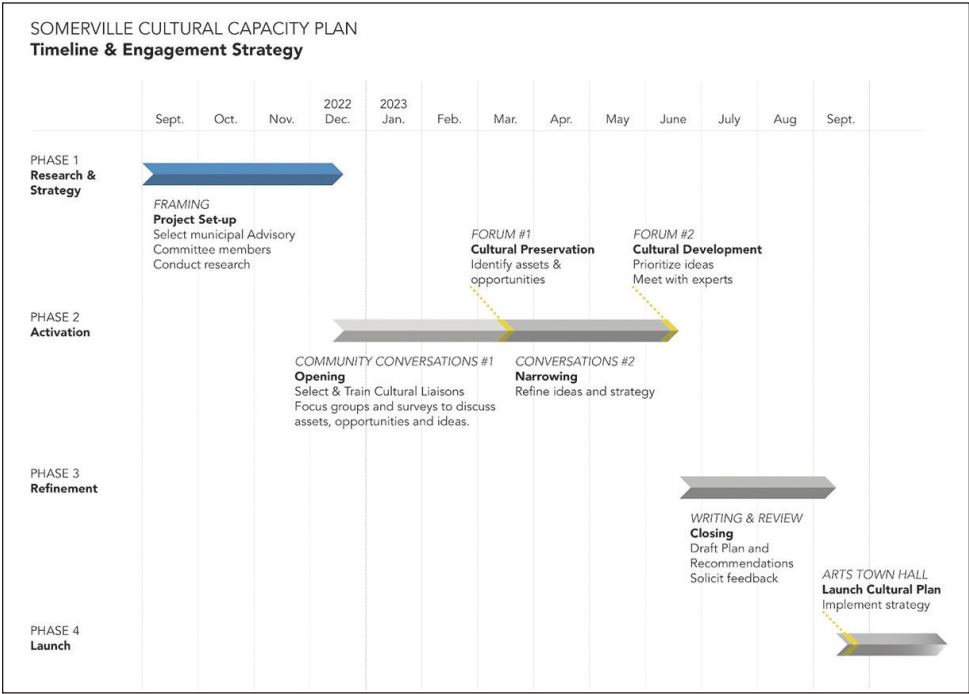
Residents are invited to participate in a brief survey to share how they'd like to engage with the cultural planning work: forms.gle/EYC6Z5q4ea5yUs36A

"This is a key moment," explains Director of Arts Council, Gregory Jenkins. "There is such a rich arts and culture community here in Somerville and we want to ensure that it thrives into the future. The Somerville Cultural Plan and the many ways residents, artists and cultural producers, and other stakeholders can get involved will ensure that we are building a plan that addresses the needs and hopes of

our community." Building on pre-planning work initiated in 2020, the Somerville Cultural Plan will provide the vision, policy framework, implementation strategies, organizational structures, and funding requirements needed to further develop Somerville's cultural community, and to better integrate arts and culture into other policy and practice areas. The City of Somerville has hired Forecast Public Art and Solomon Office to lead this effort. This process will continue through September 2023.

How to Participate:
Now - Take the survey to let us know how you want to participate: forms.gle/EYC6Z5q4ea5yUs36A

- Join a community conversation based on your cultural activities
- Nominate yourself or someone else for a paid leadership position by January 2
- Leaders will serve as Cultural Ambassadors to the city for a creative community (up to 6 hours/month)
- Artistic and creative communities with a Liaison include: visual artists, performing artists, musicians, makers/artisans, and designers/technologists



- Represent your creative community on the Advisory Committee
 - Attend a city-wide Forum
 - Comment on draft recommendations
- For further questions, please contact Gregory Jenkins at 617.625.6600 ext. 2985 or gjenkins@somervillema.gov.

Tufts University offering snow emergency parking

Tufts University will continue to offer covered off-street parking for certain Medford/Somerville campus neighbors during snowstorms. Medford residents from Wards 4 and 5 and Somerville residents from Wards 6 and 7 may park in the Dowling Garage for free during declared snow emergencies.



Before parking, vehicles must be registered with the Tufts Transportation Office by using the Snow Emergency Parking Form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfg2m39aRy-cmBeMWZkvI7wat8IMwg_USK0oLj-0esBHgGnKpG/viewform.

Unregistered vehicles without a valid permit will be subject to ticket and towing at the expense of the vehicle owner. Parking is first come first served and not guaranteed. Vehicles must exit the garage two hours after a snow emergency concludes. Parking beyond the two hours will result in parking charges.

Please note that all Tufts parking lots will continue to be permit parking only during winter break, even on holidays. If you wish to park in a Tufts lot, you need to pay at a kiosk or at tuftsmspark.com. If you have questions, please reach out to the Tufts Transportation Office at 617-627-3692 or by emailing Parking@tufts.edu.

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Milk Row Cemetery 1804

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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week. This week, *Beacon Hill Roll Call* begins a series on highlighting the bills that were approved by the Legislature in 2022 and signed into law by Gov. Charlie Baker.

LEGISLATURE OVERRIDES BAKER’S VETO OF BILL ALLOWING DRIVER’S LICENSE FOR UNDOCUMENTED/ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (H 4805)

House 119-36, Senate 32-8, gained the two-thirds vote necessary to override Gov. Charlie Baker’s veto of legislation that would allow, starting July 1, 2023, undocumented/illegal immigrants to apply for a Massachusetts standard driver’s license. The legislation requires an applicant “without legal presence” in the United States to provide the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) with a foreign passport and at least one of five other documents: a driver’s license from another state, a foreign driver’s license, a birth certificate, a foreign national identification card or a marriage certificate or divorce decree from any U.S. state.

Opponents of the bill gathered sufficient signatures to put the proposed law on the November ballot for voters to decide. Voters approved the law at the recent November election.

“This is a victory for all, making our roads safer and allowing the 185,000 immigrants without status the ability to earn a driver’s license,” said sponsor Sen. Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn). “No one should fear deportation over essential everyday tasks, such as getting to work, school, doctor’s appointment and grocery stores.”

“I cannot sign this legislation because it requires the Registry of Motor Vehicles to issue state credentials to people without the ability to verify their identity,” Baker had said in his veto message. “The Registry does not have the expertise or ability to verify the validity of many types of documents from other countries. The bill also fails to include any measures to distinguish standard Massachusetts driver’s licenses issued to persons who demonstrate lawful presence from those who don’t.”

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

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

FORBID DISCRIMINATION AGAINST A PERSON WITH A NATURAL HAIRSTYLE (H 4554)

House 155-0, Senate 40-0, approved and Gov. Baker signed into law a bill that would prohibit any person or

entity including educational institutions, workplaces and public spaces from implementing any policy that would explicitly target someone who wears their natural hairstyle. The measure defines natural hairstyle as “hair texture, hair type and protective hairstyles including braids, locks, twists and other formation.”

The bill also expands existing anti-bullying law in schools to include recognition for students who may be more vulnerable to bullying or harassment because of their natural hairstyle. Another provision requires the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination to investigate complaints filed against employers who have discriminated based on natural hairstyle.

“On the long march toward justice, and especially racial justice, the Senate’s unanimous passage of this legislation marks another step forward,” said Sen. Jason Lewis (D-Winchester). “We would not be at this point without the great courage and strength of Mya and Deanna Cook, who as 15-year-old students faced discrimination and abuse from their high school for their hairstyles, and bravely stood up for their rights and those of so many other Black women.”

“This is an historic moment for Massachusetts. I am beyond delighted that the [bill] passed unanimously in the House, and words cannot describe how great it is to see the years of hard work from advocates, staff, legislators and community members bear fruit,” said co-sponsor Rep. Steve Ultrino (D-Malden). The votes in our chamber sent a clear message: race-based discrimination has no place in our commonwealth. On this day, we ensured that a person’s racial and cultural identity will no longer be an obstacle to their education, professional career and path to success.”

There was a light moment during floor debate on the bill. “As you may have guessed, I have never experienced hair discrimination,” said Rep. Ultrino, who is bald.

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

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

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE (H 5090)

House 137-16, Senate 40-0, approved and Gov. Baker signed into law a bill designed to further protect reproductive health care and those who perform abortions in the Bay State. The measure specifically declares that both reproductive health care and gender-affirming care are rights secured by the constitution or laws of Massachusetts and would shield providers of reproductive and

gender-affirming care and their patients from out-of-state legal action. The measure would ensure that patients over 24 weeks of pregnancy are able to receive an abortion in Massachusetts because of a grave fetal diagnosis that indicates the fetus is incompatible with sustained life outside of the uterus without extraordinary medical interventions and requires that those decisions are made between the patient and their treating physician.

Other provisions include preventing the state’s cooperation with anti-abortion and anti-gender-affirming care laws in other states; mandating health insurance coverage for abortion and abortion-related care with no cost-sharing; ensuring access to emergency contraception; and providing confidentiality to providers of reproductive and gender-affirming care; clarifying that vending machines may dispense over-the-counter drugs, such as Plan B – the “morning after” pill; and ensuring access to medication abortion on all public college and university campuses.

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 12-16, the House met for a total of four hours and 49 minutes and the Senate met for a total of three hours and 59 minutes.

Mon. Dec. 12	House 11:05 a.m. to 2:38 p.m. Senate 12:37 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Tues. Dec. 13	No House session No Senate session
Wed. Dec. 14	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. Dec. 15	House 11:03 a.m. to 11:19 a.m. Senate 11:18 a.m. to 11:39 a.m.
Fri. Dec. 16	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

COMMENTARY

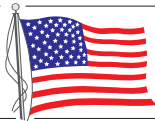
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Best holiday wishes from all of us here at The Times.

Our View Of The Times



As we wind down the year and head full on into the final days of the holiday season, it's good to reflect on what gifts we have received so far as well as what is yet to come.

The holidays can be a pain for a lot of people. When it comes to this time of year, though, that headache should really serve as a kick-in-the-butt reminder of the importance of why sometimes the daily routine should come to a grinding halt for a

greater spiritual good.

Many of us are rushing around trying to get everything done in time for Christmas. We all scramble day in and day out, though, with every deadline of our lives so seemingly critical. What this time of year should remind us of, however, is that sometimes it's OK, if not absolutely essential, to just put the routine on hold, take a step back and reassess what truly matters

in our lives.

Whether your family is made up of your blood relatives or the friends who are there to celebrate your achievements with you and comfort you in your defeats, this is the time to simply pause, if just for a moment, and be thankful for them. Not everyone has money for the latest iPhone, but almost all of us at least have one thing that matters more to us than being at work at

nine on the dot.

Whatever gifts you may receive this Christmas, and whatever gifts you may give, at least give yourself the gift of taking a second to take a breath and enjoy whatever it is in your life that brings you true happiness.

Carry these thoughts into the new year and we guarantee that the winter months will go by much more easily for you.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

and a great guy as well. Happy birthday to **Kristen Marie Butler** as well. We hope she has a great day. Happy birthday to **Maria Curtatone**, who is the **Register of Deeds for Middlesex County**. We hope she has a great day on her birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Debbie Hurley, Lori Courtney, Erica Voolich, Natalia Caliman, Caddy Villen, Chris McCarthy, Liz-Mary Jelinek, Caroline C. Carafotes, Brian M. Conley, Richard Murphy, Bob Cammarata, Bobby Martini, Thomas Ross, John Brady, Martha Rheume, Jimmy Deoliveira and Jon Curtis** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a

great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Contractors have begun underground utility improvements along Highland Ave. Here's what you need to know ahead of your commute: Westbound traffic will be detoured south on School St. and west on Summer St. before turning right on Lowell St. to return to Highland Ave. Eastbound traffic remains as usual. Temporary sidewalks will be installed to maintain safe crossings. MBTA buses 88 and 90 will be allowed to proceed along Highland in both directions during the

detour. All businesses will remain open and accessible during construction. For questions, please email

The City of Somerville's 247th annual flag-raising ceremony will take place on **New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1, 2023**. This celebration will begin at **City Hall** at 11:30 a.m. with a procession to the **Prospect Hill Monument**. Tri-Corner hats, colonial garb and masks are encouraged. For more information, including ideas for colonial period clothing, or for a free, commemorative program, contact **Brandon Wilson, Coordinator of Historic Events and Education** at [\[somervillema.gov\]\(http://somervillema.gov\) or \(617\)776-3938.

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Continued on page 12](mailto:bwilson@</p></div><div data-bbox=)

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's
Olio
#856

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. Who was the star of the movie *White Christmas*?

2. How many reindeer were in the story *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*?

3. Who spies on kids and reports back to Santa?

4. What food has a long shelf life but many people don't like it?

5. Who was the author of *A Christmas Carol*?

6. When did Coca-Cola start featuring Santa in their ads?

7. Who created
- Rudolph, the most popular reindeer of Santa Claus?

8. Who played George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life*?

9. Which was the last U.S. state to declare an official holiday for Christmas?

10. Which American president banned Christmas trees in the White House?

11. Which direction should you stir mince-meat for good luck?

12. What type of house is popular to make and eat for Christmas?

Answers on page 10

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Octopuses and squid have three hearts.
2. The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
VACATION DESTINATIONS

- ACROSS
1. Walt Whitman's dooryard plant

6. Bag, † Paris

9. Sound of astonishment

13. Smell of baking bread, e.g.

14. Self-importance

15. Ma Bell, e.g.

16. List of Catholic saints

17. Bobbsey twin

18. Donor's bequest

19. Country to see Stonehenge

21. Country to see Neuschwanstein Castle

23. Tokyo, in the olden days

24. Way off freeway

25. Gremlin or pixie

28. Assistant

30. Crunches alternative (2 words)

35. Mountain lake

37. Thailand, pre-1939

39. Parlor piece

40. Maldives continent

41. Plaudit and pomp

43. Unadulterated

44. Child-eating daemon, Greek mythology

46. Red carpet purse

47. Pelvic bones

48. Gives way under force

50. Like acne-prone skin

52. Pose a question

53. Letter opener

55. Morse code dash

57. Grand Canyon state

61. Broadway state

65. Loaded

66. Marbled bread

68. Bad car

69. South Pacific sailboats

70. "____ Milk?"

71. Related on mother's side

72. Unload on eBay

73. Gilligan's home

74. Tap, e.g.

- DOWN
1. Spike, as in punch

2. Iraq's neighbor

3. Like a maxi skirt

4. Soap plant

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
			23				24							
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
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65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				



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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

5. One of two countries to see Niagara Falls

6. Mail a package

7. Agha, alt. sp.

8. Gloria Estefan's hit

9. Disease-causing organism

10. One of algae

11. Diagnostic test

12. One-trick ungulate?

15. Sluggish

20. ____-canceling earbuds

22. Ambulance squad, acr.

24. RE/MAX agent, e.g.

25. Amalfi Coast country

26. Kenyan tribesman

27. Amazon "club"

29. Vegas cube

31. Cone-shaped quarters

32. Throat dangler

33. Mona Lisa city
34. Go stealthily

36. Nervous biting victim

38. Haleakal, island

42. Accent mark

45. Software plug-ins

49. Barack Obama, pre-pres.

51. Wailed

54. Frustration, in a comic book

56. Laughing African predator

57. Swiss or Italian skiing destination

58. Steak option

59. "White Wedding" Billy

60. Eagerness

61. Post-deductions amount

62. Yemen's neighbor

63. College cadet program

64. ACL location

67. Uncle Sam wanted this

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Somerville's Somernova holidayNOVA event

Hundreds gathered on Wednesday, December 7 at Somernova, Somerville's Innovation Hub, for a Somerville good time and to celebrate the season.

Rain did not stop this community as they danced the night away to beats by the 13-member Fluff Freaks band led by former Mayor Joe Curtatone, alongside Greentown's Stephen Moore, Tashia Pique and many others.

Somernova owner, Collin Yip, welcomed early stage climatech companies who have recently expanded their footprint at Somernova including Sublime Systems, Tender Foods and Eden Geopower as well as The Studio for Sculptural Arts, a collaboration between Rafi and two local artists.

Emceed by everyone's favorite music producer, Mega Majic, who also now serves as the Program Director for the dojo at Somernova. Crowds welcomed Mayor Ballantyne along with Boston Dynamics' Spot the robot dog.

Innovators, activists, members of the neighborhood council, landlords, investors and many more closed out the evening with a group sing-a-long to *We Are Family* - a diverse community of people dancing and singing (alongside a developer), certainly a first in Somerville.



Fluff Freaks entertain at holidayNOVA.



Studio for Sculptural Arts at Somernova.



Elise Naughton (Rafi), Joe Lynch (Somerville Media Center), and Jessica Eshelman (Union Square Main Streets).



Somerville resident, Katie Wallace, Mayor Ballantyne playing the air saxophone, and Yairamar Oropeza (SHS).



"What the Fluff?" history lesson with USMS board member.



Fiona and Eamon Casey, owners of Chez Vous of Somerville.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #269

A Christmas Carol

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

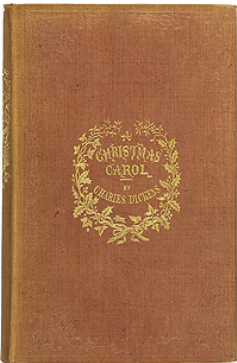
This article first appeared in the December 12, 2012 edition of The Somerville Times.

Everyone has his or her own favorite Christmas stories, memories and movies. They can range from the classic *It's A Wonderful Life*, a story about the difference one person's life can make in the world, to the recent *The Polar Express*, a story about a special Christmas train.



One day in the winter of 1842, the year of Somerville's birth, a train rolled through the city carrying a young man who, shortly after his visit to America, would change the holiday of Christmas forever.

Upon his arrival to Boston, Charles Dickens travelled from the Commonwealth's capital to the city of Lowell, taking copious notes on everything that he saw. That train – the first American train he ever boarded – rambled past the base of Prospect Hill where the first American flag was flown.




The locomotives' first stop was at the intersection of Washington Street and Tufts Streets, near the McGrath Highway, which, at that time, was near the site of the McLean Asylum. The station is now gone, but the rails remain.

The train brought the legendary author past the snow-filled pastures of what is

Continued on page 14

LEGAL NOTICES

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



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Removal of Public Shade Trees

City of Somerville

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 87, the City of Somerville will hold a **virtual public shade tree hearing on Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** using GotoWebinar software to consider the removal of the following public shade tree(s):

- **Clarendon Hill Traffic Circle (Intersection of Powder House Blvd. and Alewife Brook Parkway)** – Removal of eleven (11) trees in conflict with planned construction activities. Location will be replanted. Proposed removals include:
 - 34 North Street on Powder House Blvd:**
 - Two (2) Callery pear- 4.4” and 7.5” diameter
 - One (1) green ash- 12.8” diameter
 - One (1) flowering cherry- 2” diameter
 - Three (3) river birch- 2”, 2”, 2.5” diameter
 - Across from 275 Alewife Brook Pkwy (in Medians):**
 - One (1) common apple- 13.5” diameter (multi-stem)
 - One (1) white mulberry- 24” diameter (multi-stem)
 - One (1) amelanchier- 2.5” diameter
 - Across from 293 Alewife Brook Pkwy (in Median)**
 - One (1) amelanchier- 2” diameter
- **103 College Avenue**
 - One (1) Norway maple- 22” diameter. Tree was damaged by a car accident- City has opportunity to remove and replace with new trees using insurance payout.


The trees identified above have been posted for public inspection. In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 87, any objections to the removal of any of these trees must be submitted in writing to the Tree Warden prior to or at this public hearing. Documents may be sent via email to: trees@somervillema.gov, or mailed to: 1 Franey Rd., Somerville, MA. 02145.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this Public Shade Tree Hearing will be conducted via remote participation. A recording of this hearing will be available upon request to trees@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER
Registration URL: <https://tinyurl.com/52kksdwn>

TO CALL IN
United States: +1 (914) 614-3221
Access code: 213-522-360

12/21/22 The Somerville Times



City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

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

TO CALL IN

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

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

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

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

12/14/22, 12/21/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP# 23-27

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

Union Wage and Compensation Study

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville’s BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Thursday, December 15, 2022**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, January 11th, 2023**.

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

Please email jremy@somervillema.gov for more information.

Jordan Remy
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

12/21/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP# 23-28

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

Non-Union Wage and Compensation Study

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville’s BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Thursday, December 15, 2022**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **3:00 pm, Wednesday, January 11th, 2023**.

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

Please email jremy@somervillema.gov for more information.

Jordan Remy
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

12/21/22 The Somerville Times

Ms. Cam’s

From on page 8

Olio

Answers

1. Bing Crosby	8. James Stewart
2. 8 tiny ones	9. Oklahoma
3. Elf on the Shelf	10. Theodore Roosevelt
4. Fruitcake	11. Clockwise
5. Charles Dickens	12. Gingerbread house
6. 1931	
7. Robert L. May in 1939	

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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.

Composting in Somerville

By Jonathan Monderer

We live in a world where food is accessible as ever, where we can get fruits and vegetables and other groceries from all over the world. Not until volunteering at a farm a couple of years ago did I truly realize the disconnect we have from the food we eat and the amount of energy and resources it takes to grow something. I believe this disconnect has led many of us to not think twice about throwing food scraps away into the trash. Upon seeing firsthand how much energy it takes to grow food, I realized that we are wasting so much potential by throwing food out. To illustrate this point, in the US, only 4.1% of food waste is composted annually. That translates to 2.6 million

tons of food (EPA). The majority of waste food in the US is thrown away in landfills, which is a huge problem because organic material in these landfills decomposes and releases methane into the atmosphere. Methane is a greenhouse gas that's 72 times more potent than carbon dioxide – therefore, food waste is not only a huge waste of resources but also a major contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Wanting to make a difference and reduce my carbon footprint, a few months ago I signed my apartment up for the Garbage to Garden composting service at the Davis Square Farmers Market (which has been great so far). I put my scraps in a bin every week, and they come and

take it on the same day as I put out my trash. What's amazing is that they even take meat scraps, something that one cannot compost in home compost. I also know that Somerville has a big problem with rats and I'm sure people putting food scraps in their trash bin does not help with that problem. Having a compost bin has lessened my household's weekly waste stream, eliminated odors in the trash bin in the house, and made me feel better about making a positive impact in my day-to-day lifestyle. To illustrate the impact of household composting, if eight households in the US composted food scraps, it would offset an average household's electricity use annually. Apart from energy compensation, other composting



benefits include protecting watersheds and improving soil health by recycling nutrients back into the ground for added nutrients and water retention (WCEE). I encourage all residents to at least try out a month of curbside composting with Garbage to Garden considering how

easy it is to partake in and make a positive impact. I also hope/strongly encourage the city of Somerville to institute free composting for residents in the future to help alleviate problems with rats in the city and provide individuals with ways to make a quantifiable impact.

The Somerville Times
Best of Somerville 2022
Cast your vote!

You have until December 28 to vote for your favorite category. To cast your vote, email us at thebestofsomerville@yahoo.com. The winners will be announced Wednesday, January 4, 2023. If you don't see your favorite category here, simply add it to this list.

Foods & Restaurants

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

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

Best of Somerville Services

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

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

Best of Somerville Businesses

- Best Somerville Bank
- Best Real Estate Company
- Best Insurance Agency
- Best Creative Business in 2022
- Best Florist
- Best Laundromat
- Best Liquor Store
- Best Gas Station
- Best Auto Body Shop
- Best Tow Company
- Best Law Firm
- Best Pest Exterminator
- Best Convenient/Neighborhood Store
- Best Somerville Non Profit Agency
- Best Bar For Bands
- Best Newspaper

- Best Idea in 2022
- Worst Idea in 2022

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

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

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

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

Apply to become a **@somervillecity Climate Ambassador**. The goal of this program is to educate residents about climate change and increase community capacity to engage in climate action. Ambassadors receive a \$400 stipend. To apply, visit www.Somerville.gov/cfa

Local small business owners can now apply for **forgivable loans** of up to \$15,000 to assist with financial losses related to COVID-19 via **Somerville's Small Business Recovery Program**. To qualify, businesses must be located within the **City of Somerville**, have 20 or fewer full-time employees, and be able to demonstrate a decline in revenue

during the past two years. Home-based and brick-and-mortar businesses are welcome to apply. Learn more and apply www.somervillema.gov/bizrelief.

Arts, culture and community, and spaces like the **Center for Arts at the Armory** play a critical role in recovering from the pandemic by providing opportunities for healing and restoring the social fabric and ties that bind us. The **Board of Directors** have a year-end campaign goal of \$25,000. If you would like to consider making a gift to their 2022 year-end campaign visit <https://give.artsatthearmory.org/campaign/arts-culture-and-community-are-life/c449975>.

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

The **Somerville Arts Council** seeks three board members. The term is three years with a possibility of renewing for up to one more three-year term. Must be **Somerville resident**. Arts (broadly defined), community development, program development expertise or experience are preferred, but all Somerville resi-

dents are invited to apply. The deadline to apply is **December 27**. After application and interview, candidates are appointed by the mayor. For more information visit: somervilleartscouncil.org/board.

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

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

The **City of Somerville Department of Public Works** snow plow fleet received their names for the winter season. Each was created by **Somerville Public Schools** and partner center preschool and kindergarten students, who are already brainstorming names for the 2023-2024 season. Look out for **Overdrive, Khione - The Goddess of Snow, Snowsleeper, Snow Leopard, and Caterpillar** in your neighborhood.

Get your **flu shot and updated COVID-19 booster** at a **City of Somerville clinic** this fall. Visit www.somervillema.gov/vaccineclinics.


The flu vaccine and the updated COVID-19 booster dose are provided at no cost, regardless of health insurance or immigration status. Advance registration is required.

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

The **13th Annual Somerville Winter Farmers Market (SWFM)** is held **every Saturday through April 8, 2023**. The **Center for Arts at the Armory** is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143. To learn more and for a complete listing of vendors, weekly specials, and live entertainment, please visit www.somwintermarket.org. You can find the market on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SomervilleWinterFarmersMarket, and on Instagram @SomWinterMarket.

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.

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Which of Santa's friends is the most chill?
Jack Frost.

The "Original"
All Types Vent Cleaning
Restaurant Hood Cleaning
Dryer Vent/ HVAC Cleaning
Power Washing
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On This Day in History

December 21

0068 – Vespian, a gruff-spoken general of humble origins, enters Rome and is named emperor by the Senate.

1620 – The Pilgrims land at or near Plymouth Rock.

1790 – Samuel Slater opens the first cotton mill in the United States in Rhode Island.

1862 – The U.S. Congress authorizes the Medal of Honor to be awarded to Navy personnel who have distinguished themselves by their gallantry in action.

1945 – General George S. Patton dies at the age of 60 after being injured in a car accident.

1988 – Pan Am Flight 103 from London to New York explodes in midair over Lockerbie, Scotland, an hour after departure.

1995 – The city of Bethlehem passes from Israeli to Palestinian control.

2004 – A suicide bomber attacks the forward operating base next to the US military airfield at Mosul, Iraq, killing 22 people

Somerville Jingle Bell 5k Run 2022

Somerville's Jingle Bell 5k Run took place on Sunday, December 18. Starting in Davis Square, the 5K run/walk wound through streets and squares of Somerville, ending back in Davis Square. The run was followed by a post-race party in several local bars. Congrats to the finishers of the 2022 Jingle Bell 5K Run and Walk! Results can be found at <https://www.gsrs.com/results/4641>.

— Photos by Bobbie Toner



SHS Girls Varsity Basketball

The Somerville High School Girls Varsity Basketball vs Lynn Classical game took place on Tuesday, December 13. Somerville lost to Lynn Classical 52-17.

— Photos by Alex Fredette



The Somerville Santa CONT. FROM PG 3

— even Janet was there;
She was just seventeen, it just didn't seem fair.
When I said "oh my God" and yelled "Joey" real loud;
Three Joeys had answered, three was such a sweet crowd!
They were kids we grew up with, they were friends who had passed;
We were all reminiscing, we were having a blast.
Was it something I ate, was I dreaming it all?

Who cares, it was like Heaven, and we all had a ball!
But the next thing I knew, it was getting near dawn;
I suddenly glanced to find everyone was gone.
I looked out the window – the red Cad-dy was there;
Then quickly it rose up and sped through the air.
As I whispered goodbye and took one final peek;
There still was one tiny tear left on my

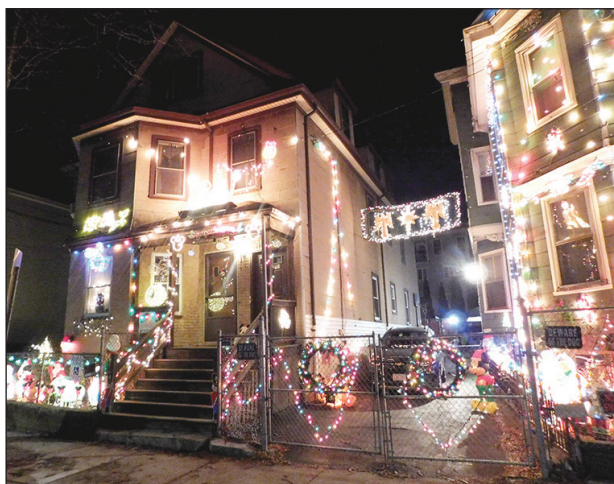
cheek.
I suddenly wanted to call all my loved ones;
I needed to talk to my buddies and chums.
I told them I loved them and how special they were;
Since I'd had such a gift from that jolly chauffeur.
So at Christmas it's all about people we love;
The ones still down here, and the ones up above.

As we open our presents – Chia Pets and the Clapper;
There is one gift that just doesn't come in a wrapper.
They are memories, mementos, they are photographs too;
Of the loved ones so special to me and to you.
I yelled "Thanks Somerville Santa" as they sped out of sight;
Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

Illuminations 2022

The Somerville Arts Council's Illuminations is back until January 2, 2023. Take a self-guided tour and enjoy the brightest holiday displays around Somerville. To access the map, visit somervilleartscouncil.org.

— Photos by Bobbie Toner



Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

now the base of Central Hill and Winter Hill. Dickens saw a land that under the Puritanical law of Governor Bellingham, the successor of John Winthrop, the first governor of MA and a Somerville 'Ten Hills' resident, banned the Christmas holiday altogether citing "superstitious festivals held to the dishonor of God." This ban was in place for 22 years from 1659-1681. At the time of Dickens' journey Christmas was not, by any means, celebrated with the

fervor that it is today.

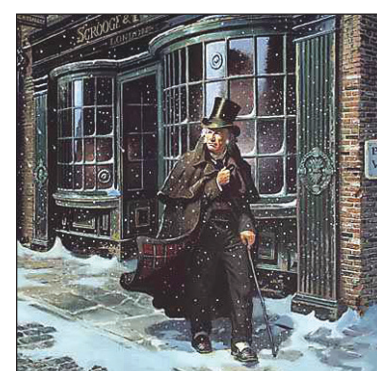
On his trip to Lowell, he passed a Somerville factory that manufactured doornails and railroad spikes. His observations from the train would one year later be published in his work, *American Notes*, in which he described how the passengers huddled around the potbelly stoves for heat. The smoke generated by the stoves created what he described as an eerie ghost-like image throughout the train car.

In Lowell, he saw the arduous plight of many mill workers. Dickens had no trouble relating to them because he had been forced to work in a London blacking mill from the ages of 9 to 11 to help free his parents from debtors' prison. While the mill conditions in Lowell were difficult, he found them to be better than their English counterparts.

Dickens' train travelled back through Somerville at the end of the day, and he declared the Bos-

ton area to be his favorite of all in America. In fact, he was quoted as declaring the day he spent going to Lowell MA as "the most pleasant I spent in the country."

In 1843, Dickens published *A Christmas Carol*, which was wildly successful and critically acclaimed. It incorporated the themes of winter, ghosts and the social injustices of industry. The novella created the phrase: "Merry Christmas" and no fewer than nine motion pictures



and countless other adaptations have been made based upon the treasured tale.

Merry Christmas...everyone.



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Bend in the Stair' by David P. Miller

Bend in the Stair
By David P. Miller,
Lily Poetry Review Books, 2021.
54 p. \$18.00

Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Lee Varon

Bend in the Stair is an exquisite collection from a gifted poet who looks keenly at the world and in doing so helps us see it afresh.

In his opening poem, the poet contrasts death (his father's ashes—"wordless gray grit") with birth, namely his own entry into the world ("pissing, screeching, astounded"). This contrast is woven throughout the book.

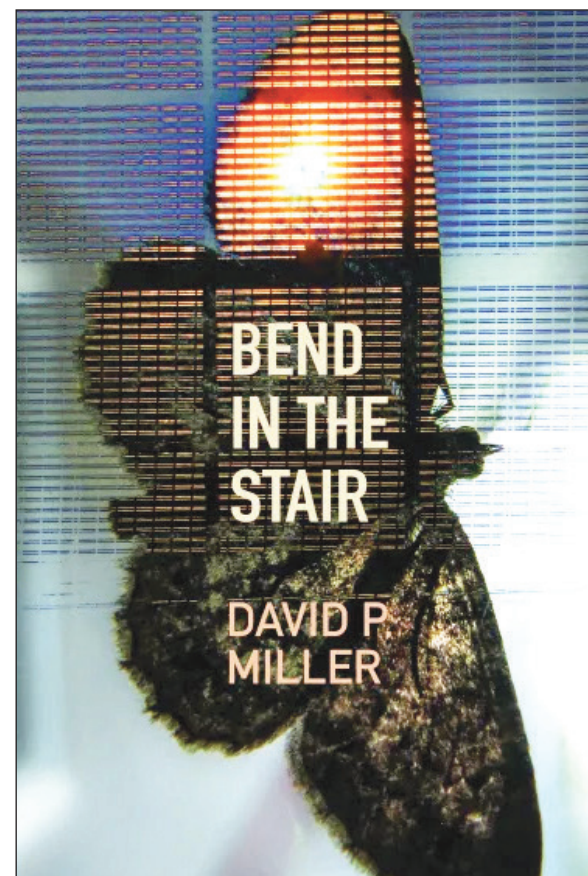
In *The Story So Far*, the poet reminisces on his own life while disposing of his departed parents' odds and ends. The poem ends with a touching note as he sees among his father's things: "mother's high school pictures/ with her love note in his sock drawer." It is poignant moments like this which illuminate this collection.

Intense memories of the departed are often crystallized in treasured objects. In *Dinosaur*, the poet recalls a small bronze pterodactyl from his grandfather's study. Addressing the small object, the poet asks: "what allowed me to carry you away/when my grandparents departed?" It is in this poem, the title of the collection appears. As the poet drives by his grandparents' house many years after they have departed, he writes: "Something inside must still know me." And he continues: "The bend in the stair, ascending to the study, / knows who I was. Remembers the extinct creatures."

These poems speak to how we hold dear the memories of our departed loved ones.

In *Sunrises with My Father*, the poet visits his father in a senior community in Florida. It has been twenty years since his father moved into the community when he had, "barely stepped across/ that definite senior discount line." Spry as he was, on his daily walks, his father was happy to help other seniors by carrying their newspapers up to their doorsteps. But now, the poet, wryly referring to himself as "The younger elder," is the only one who brings in a paper after his morning walk.

The juxtaposition between the living and the departed often figures in Miller's writing as in one of my favorites, *His Mouth*. In this gripping poem, the narrator stands with his brothers by his dying father's hospital bed. The stark contrast of a loved one who is dying in a hospital which plays the digital sound of Brahms's lullaby whenever a baby is born in their



maternity ward, is at once jarring but also strangely soothing. Even in the face of grief and imminent loss, there is the joy of new life.

As the book begins with the image of his father's ashes, it comes full circle at the penultimate poem *Add One Father to Earth* in which the narrator, and many other family members, consign his father's ashes to the earth: "Seventeen people stooped to the earth."

Like a treasured object these poems reverberate long after reading them. I found myself wishing the poet's father were able to read this moving tribute.

If there is anything lacking in this wonderful collection, it is that, having heard Miller read his more recent poems such as the powerful and troubling *All the People Were Singing*, I would have loved to have seen them here. I look forward to reading Miller's next book!

Lee Varon is a writer and social worker. She co-edited: *Spare Change News Poems: An Anthology by Homeless People and Those Touched by Homelessness* and recently published the first children's book about the opioid epidemic: *My Brother is Not a Monster: A Story of Addiction and Recovery*.

<https://lilypetryreview.blog/lily-poetry-review-press/lily-poetry-review-books-bend-in-the-stair-by-david-p-miller/>

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Our poet writes: "Hi! My name is Emma Campanale. I absolutely love to write and have been a poetry fan since I was little. I can't tell you the amount of notebooks I have at home filled with my poems. Other than writing, I love to play the guitar and clarinet, listen to music (my favorite's Bob Dylan), and teach younger kids, as I am an early childhood education major."



Heat Lightning

The moon falls over
Every other mid afternoon.

She tumbles off her stand,
And rolls down to hell,
Moving fast,
And with conviction.

Once she arrives,
She is greeted with deep red wine
That coats her indents,
Turning her shape into mars.

As it turns time to leave,
She rolls back up into the sky,
Appearing orange amongst the blue expanse.

People point cameras
And sit on their roofs
With half empty bottles of moonshine
And fire cigarettes that
Leave the taste of burnt popcorn
On the back of your tongue.

The moon would not miss a show like this,
So she returns on lonely nights
Dripping with spirits
To be called a bountiful harvest
And to bring company to those
That have never seen a drunken moon
In a beautiful sky
That colors the whites of their eyes
Amber.

— Emma Campanale

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