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original
independent
newspaper

The Somerville Times

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SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Bell Run

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Merry Christmas

From the Publisher and Staff of
The Somerville Times

Mayor Curtatone delivers his farewell address to the city



Somerville Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone took time on Monday night to deliver his personal observations and well wishes to those gathered in person and online.
— Photos courtesy of Somerville GovTV

By Jim Clark

Somerville Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone gave a farewell address to the Somerville community in the brand-new Somerville High School auditorium on Monday evening.

Curtatone is wrapping up his ninth term as mayor this month, handing over the reins to his successor, Mayor-elect Katjana Ballantyne after the first of the year.

Additional speakers, included Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and City Council President Matthew McLaughlin.

The event was originally intended to be open to the public, but out of an abundance of caution in regards to recent

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Somerville Kiwanis Club delivers toys to 150 Head Start children

Over the past three days, members of the Kiwanis Club of Somerville have taken on the role as Santa's elves, delivering wrapped toys to 150 children in Somerville and Cambridge who are part of the CAAS Head Start Program.

The names, ages and gender of each child were sent to the Somerville Kiwanis Club where program chairman and head elf Jim Bowdring, and co-chair, Jillian Bowdring, divided the list amount amongst the member elves, who purchased and wrapped toys for the children. The toys were then brought to the Kiwanis Toy Shop, also known as Superior Promotions, where members divided the toys for delivery to the children in our community.

The Somerville Kiwanis Club has provided toys to Head Start children at Christmas for more than twenty years. Until the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic in 2020, the children were treated to a pizza party at the Holiday Inn and Santa Clause would arrive to personally distribute the toys. For the past two

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Some of the nearly two hundred toys that were distributed to CAAS Head Start children by Kiwanis members.

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

The publishers, staff and everyone associated with The Somerville Times wish everyone a very Happy Holiday, Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah, as well as a prosperous and healthy New Year in 2022. We welcome a healthier 2022!

The Somerville Times staff is taking a small holiday vacation beginning this week, with the next issue coming out on January 5, 2022. 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 City of Somerville's 246th annual flag-raising ceremony will take place on New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1, 2022. 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. 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. At the time, Prospect Hill was a key site in a string of fortifications created by Washington and the Continental Army in their siege of British troops in Boston during the first year of the American Revolution. For more information about this event, please contact Director of Historic Preservation Brandon Wilson at either bwilson@somervillema.gov or at (617) 776-3938.

Happy birthday for the next two weeks while we are on break: Happy birthday to a good guy, 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

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Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of December 22 – December 29 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday December 22	Rain	43°/27°	33%	27%	NW 9 mph
 Thursday December 23	Sunny	34°/22°	1%	0%	NW 10 mph
 Friday December 24	Partly Cloudy	40°/32°	11%	6%	WNW 6 mph
 Saturday December 25	Rain	44°/31°	50%	39%	SW 10 mph
 Sunday December 26	Partly Cloudy	36°/22°	15%	11%	WNW 13 mph
 Monday December 27	Sunny	33°/25°	7%	3%	WNW 11 mph
 Tuesday December 28	Partly Cloudy	40°/30°	20%	11%	WNW 9 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: Somerville sets out to combat road 'un-safety'

Alex M says:

As a daily cyclist and occasional driver in Somerville, I feel these new developments are, for the most part, a mistake. The separate bike lanes send bikes through the gutter, with debris, large puddles, poor pavement and ice, which are not present in the main travel lanes. When the lanes send cyclists onto the sidewalk, the pavement is also poor compared to the main road, and the cyclists now must run the gauntlet of oblivious pedestrians. I had too many close calls on these lanes, and now boycott them for my own safety. Bikes should be kept with cars, not pedestrians. Car traffic through the city has slowed to a crawl due to the lane reductions and extra pedestrian and right-turn phases being added to traffic lights.

While there are some good improvements, such as the back-in angled parking and pedestrian islands, I'd rather see things like awareness, signalling, eye contact, and on-road communication promoted, rather than completely trying to remove the human element in favor of ever-increasing regimentation.

Dan S says:

Thx for the article! I'm an avid walker, often with my kids. I drive too, for local trips across town. My biggest fears as a pedestrian are drivers running red lights, not stopping at crosswalks, and not fully stopping at stop signs. All of these are violations that can easily be enforced including through automated ticketing. Why doesn't the city implement such ticketing? For every hour of walking I can easily spot 8+ driving violations. Drivers need more enforcement and motivation to learn to respect the right of way of pedestrians. Driving is a privilege not a right!

Response to: Mayor-elect Katjana Ballantyne gathers advocates and professionals for Advisory Committee

NickyStiles says:

Where is the advocate/adviser for THE MOST pressing issue affecting all citizens WITHIN the city. RATS.

Yet another poster says:

These are my "thought leaders"? Good to know. I always wondered where all these platitudes originated.

TheoNa says:

Missing are advisors for homeowners, motorists and taxpayers.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

The night before Christmas



‘Twas the night before Christmas and all through the Ville
There’s houses decorated on all seven hills
The bike lanes keep growing the cyclists love it
While car and truck drivers were told they can shove it
Those speed humps will do your shocks in so go slow
No texting while driving this we all know
We have a new mayor she beat all the rest
Good luck Madam mayor we wish you the best!
I jacked up the furnace to warm up the chill
And I dreaded another great big water bill
The Smoke Shop in Davis alas is no more
Just like Highland Shoe that used to be next door
They’re building more housing and a hotel have you seen?
Across from where The Embassy Lounge used to be
Streets decorated with white plastic stakes
It looks kinda like a big birthday cake
At first all those changes seemed like a pain
But they just want us drivers to stay in our lane
The new high schools done we needed it but
The razing of the old one puts a pain in the gut
From Medford Street just passed where The Paddock used to be
The door of to the auditorium is a sad sight to see
For Christmas how great of a gift it would be
For Santa to bring us 1983
So, some of our family and friends who have passed
Could join us at Christmas for memories and laughs
If everyone came back to life for one night
That would be quite a gift, it would be out of sight
And our dear old friend Santa who never forgets
Would also bring back all our dear part-ed pets.
We’ve lost friends and family from Covid’s rath
So, get vaccinated and please wear a mask
The Green line extensions are almost here
I can’t wait to see the new Union and Ball Square



God bless our city! The future looks bright!
Merry Christmas to all and to all a goodnight.

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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Street sale stopped short

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to the Polo store at Assembly Row last week on reports of a larceny.

Upon arrival, the officers were told that a man entered the store at approximately 10:12 a.m. and stole two coats, totaling \$846.

When speaking to the store employees, they said that the individual took off in the direction of the MBTA station on Foley St. Police dispatch notified the Transit Police as well.

The officers spoke with the store manager, who said the suspect had stolen from the store recently in the past. She believed that he had been involved in multiple thefts in the past week, totaling over \$10,000 in stolen merchandise.

The manager informed the officers that she had video evidence of only one of the previous larcenies committed by the suspect.

Shortly thereafter, police dispatch updated the officers that the Transit Police had the suspect, later identified as Jasard Hardmond, held at Downtown Crossing in Boston, where Hardmond was allegedly attempting to sell the stolen items.

According to reports, Hardmond had pliers and the remnants of theft detection devices that had been apparently removed from the stolen merchandise on his person.

Hardmond had several other items from Adidas in his possession with no receipts and the tags still attached to them.

Hardmond was booked on charges of larceny under \$1200, removal of theft prevention device, and possession of a burglarious instrument.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:			
Jasard Hardmon, December 14, 10:22 a.m., arrested at Assembly Row on charges of larceny under \$1200, removal	of theft prevention device, and possession of a burglarious instrument.	p.m., arrested at Washington St. on warrant charges of assault and battery on ambulance personnel, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault	and battery, and threat to commit a crime.
Robert Morales, of Bridgewater, December 17, 3:28			George Pirpiris, December 18, 4:57 p.m., arrested at Washington St. on a charge of
			larceny under \$1200, and on warrant charges of shoplifting over \$250 by asportation and assault with a dangerous weapon.

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Mayor Curtatone delivers his farewell address to the city

CONT. FROM PG 1

upticks in the numbers of COVID-19 infections and the emergence of the Omicron variant throughout the region, it was changed to a virtual event broadcast online. A limited number of attendees were allowed to participate as members of the audience.

City Council President Matthew McLaughlin opened the event with remarks praising the outgoing mayor's record of accomplishments, while also sharing personal recollections of his past history with the mayor.

"We're here to bid not goodbye, but see you later to Mayor Joe, who will remain in this community and continue to contribute," McLaughlin began his remarks. "But it's a fond farewell for his 20-year tenure as mayor in this city."

"I'm happy to be here, because my relationship with Joe goes way back, more than 20 years to my time when I played football for the Somerville High football team," McLaughlin continued. "And I remember Joe very well back then and he says he remembers me very well, but I'm pretty sure he's thinking about my brother Danny."

McLaughlin went on to cite the many accomplishments of the mayor, including his efforts to revitalize Assembly Square and Davis Square, of his helping to make the Green Line Extension into the city a reality, and the construction of the new high school facilities.

The councilor emphasized how much he admired Curtatone's decisiveness and his ability to make the hard choices and stick with them, particularly when dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It was great to have somebody in a leadership position who was willing to make decisions," McLaughlin said. "And that's not something you find in all leaders. So that's definitely his defining characteristic."

McLaughlin cited other admirable policy decisions by Curtatone, and then introduced Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, who shared her thoughts about the mayor.

Pressley echoed McLaughlin's praise of the mayor. "Whenever I'm looking to offer an example of a North Star that we should be following, and to call out a pacesetter, whether it's on housing justice or racial justice and facial recognition technology, or disrupting the school of confinement pathway, climate justice," Pressley remarked. "You know, I have had colleagues ask me 'Do you represent any community other than Somerville?' because every example I have provided has been about the pace setting, a visionary example of Somerville."

Pressley credited Mayor Curtatone with the vision and stewardship that has made these and many other things possible.

The mayor took the stage and promptly stepped out from behind the podium to deliver his unscripted remarks more directly to the assembled audience.

"I said to my team 'I can't do a speech tonight,'" the mayor began. "I've given a lot of speeches this time of year for a long time. Whether as a member of the Board of Aldermen or as a mayor during inauguration. I wanted nothing between myself all of you and the community watching."

The mayor thanked the community for watching out for one another in these unprecedented times.

ing empathy. It's about accepting one's opposing view – they don't agree with your decisions about the pandemic, or perhaps they want us to do things more, to fight for affordable housing faster than we're doing it – with grace, as Dr. King would say."

The mayor wrapped up his talk by saying, "I wish you all safe, happy holidays, and pray that the new year brings a promise of a better future for everyone."

A video of the entire event is available on our website (www.thesomervilletimes.com) and on the city's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4vLyIM6dKM>.



City Council President Matthew McLaughlin (L) and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (R) shared their thoughts about Mayor Curtatone at the farewell event.

Building development on Elm St. and Porter St. explored

By Eileen Qiu

New retail spaces, restaurants and other commercial spaces are all on the table for a residential and commercial development on Elm St. and Porter St.

Earlier in October, the Urban Design Commission hosted a meeting and heard Mouhab Rizkallah lay out his plans for a development on Elm St. and Porter St.

No votes were cast at the meeting, but Rizkallah presented his updated plans at a neighborhood meeting hosted by Ward 5 Councilor Mark Niedergang on Tuesday, December 14.

Hosting a neighborhood meeting provides the applicant with an opportunity to engage with the public, Sarah White, Senior Planner from the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development said.

Rizkallah estimated the frame of the structure would take a couple of months to establish and he would have to scaffold the sidewalk for a couple of weeks. The noise from construction should die down once the frame is finished, he said.

The new designs would make three different buildings look like one cohesive structure with outdoor space and room for five commercial properties, Rizkallah said. The housing units would have large bedrooms with connecting bathrooms.

Not a lot of small retailers do well in the area since Porter Square is down the street, Rizkallah said. He wanted input from the neighborhood concerning what commercial retailers they would like to see.

Niedergang said restaurants might be nice, not during the pandemic, but when people can eat out without fear again.

Rizkallah said he would love to add more affordable housing spaces but was confronted by systemic hoops. If a developer puts in plans for affordable housing, the process for development is supposed to get expedited, he said. However, it took six months for him to get a reply about his plans. The building he is developing does not fit into the city's interpretation of what a three-unit building is.

Ultimately, the project would



— Photo courtesy of Google Street Maps

be pushed forward and the next steps would be for the Planning and Zoning boards to attach conditions, Niedergang said.

Something the Planning Board takes very seriously and something they will spend a lot of time considering are what conditions can be attached to the site, White said.

For instance, the Board cannot

impose conditions that are not rational or proportional to the design. It would not make sense to impose 3000 square feet of landscaping on Gilman Square, she said.

“I think everyone in this zoom room and everyone in the city would like to see more housing,” Rizkallah said. He found himself getting “tossed around” at

the Urban Design Commission meeting, and his projects are getting held up, he said.

The next step would be for Rizkallah to submit a final package for the Planning Board to review, White said. She said she understands staff might be on vacation, and gave a tentative time of next February to roll the project along.

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Panettone Bread Pudding

Leftover panettone from Christmas week? Here's a great recipe I came up with that can be used for part of your brunch menu on Christmas morning or New Year's Day.

You can even mix up everything the night before and allow it to soak overnight in the refrigerator and just place it in the oven first thing in the morning.

I like to serve this bread pudding with crème anglaise. You can make your own crème anglaise, but I found it much easier to purchase my favorite vanilla ice cream and let it melt down. That sure beats purchasing all the ingredients and having to cook down the cream, eggs, sugar and vanilla extract!

- 1-1/2 lbs. panettone
- 6 large eggs
- 3 cups milk
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract

- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp freshly ground nutmeg
- Pinch of salt

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Slice the panettone into about 1" slices and place on a baking sheet or two, making sure they are placed in a single layer. Place in the oven for a total of 15 minutes.

At the 10-minute mark, turn all the bread over and bake for an additional five minutes until the bread is lightly toasted. Butter a 9"x13" baking dish and set aside. In a medium bowl, beat the eggs, add the milk, sugar, vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt and blend well.

Once the bread is toasted, lay a row of bread into the baking dish, then pour some of the custard mixture over the toast, pressing down each layer, allowing for the bread to soak up the custard.

Alternate until all the bread and custard are in the dish. Place the baking dish onto a baking sheet. This will make it easier to place into the oven



and keep your oven clean in case some of the custard spills over. Cover the baking dish with foil and place in the oven for 30 minutes.

Remove foil and bake for an additional 15-20 minutes, until the custard is set. Check by pressing in the center of the dish, it should be

firm. Let cool for at least an hour. Serve in a small bowl and top with crème anglaise. Garnish with toasted sliced almonds. Yields approximately 12 servings.

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

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.

Some hopes and wishes for 2022 and beyond



By Ken Brociner

May the coming year (or two) be the last ones in which this damn pandemic hangs over the entire world like a never-ending plague. I hope that in the next few years, enough effective vaccines and boosters will be available to everyone, in every nation, on this small planet of ours.

I also hope that the gov'ts and the people of the United States, Russia, and China will wake up and bring a halt to the insane 3-way nuclear arms race that, unless it is stopped, will once again bring the world dangerously close to a cataclysmic end-game. What climate change can/will do over the course of the next several decades, a nuclear war can "achieve" in a single afternoon!

And speaking of climate change, I hope that somehow, some way, the industrialized nations of the world will finally get serious about reversing the environmental destruction of our planet. But since they don't seem to be willing or able to do what obviously needs to be done, it's up to all of us, in every country, to keep on pressuring the world's leading polluters to change their ways before it is too late.

I also hope that 2022 will bring greater progress towards the U.N. goal of ending what is called "extreme poverty" by 2030. After that goal is reached,

I hope that the U.N.'s more ambitious pledge "to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions" can be achieved in the not so distant future. Given the obscene amount of money that is controlled by a small number of people and corporations the world over, along with the equally obscene trillions of dollars spent on the weapons of war, ending all poverty in our world is not only a moral imperative, but it needs to be seen as a goal that really can be achieved if enough political pressure can be mobilized against the powers that be.

Another hope I have for 2022 is that a lot more Americans than is presently the case wake up and realize that our democracy is in serious danger of being ripped to shreds by the Trump dominated Republican Party. Republicans all over the country are now openly planning to make sure that Trump and his favored candidates will be declared the winners of elections to the presidency, congress, and many key state and local offices regardless of whether they actually receive more votes than their opponents. The fix is in and it's up to the American people to stand up and fight like hell to save our country and our democracy! We are in a Code Red emergency. If you believe in free elections and the other basic freedoms in our constitutional system of checks and balances, now is the time to get active, to rejoin "the resistance" and do what we can to stop Trump from pulling off the "legal" coup he and his col-

laborators are in the process of planning.

And then there is Somerville. We are only a tiny speck on the map of the United States, let alone on a map of the world. But 81,000 or so of us live here, each with our own hopes and dreams for the next year and beyond.

Here are some of mine: I hope and trust that our city will continue to thrive as it has for the last 18 years under the leadership of Mayor Joe Curtatone. As for "Mayor Joe" himself, I hope that he will enjoy a happy and healthy new year. I wish him all the best in his future ventures and hope that he will be able to enjoy more down time with his family and friends now that he won't be working around the clock, day in and day out. Joe Curtatone put his heart and soul into serving our community – especially during the ongoing pandemic, and he deserves a big "thank you" from all of us.

Naturally, I also wish the best for our incoming mayor, Katjana Ballantyne. As anyone who has had any contact with Katjana over the years will attest, our next mayor is a warm and caring human being as well as the kind of public servant who is totally dedicated to doing her best to improve the lives of the people in our community. A happy and health new year to you, Madame Mayor-elect.

I also want to wish a happy and healthy new year to the outgoing members of our City Council and School Committee. Mary Jo Rossetti, Bill White, and Mark Niedergang are all stepping down after serving many years on the City Council with honor and distinction. Mary Jo had

been a member of the School Committee for 14 years before serving 8 years on the City Council. Mark served 8 years on the School Committee and then 8 more years on the Council. And Bill White served 20 years on the City Council. Carrie Normand will be leaving the School Committee after 8 years of dedicated service to the community – especially to the all the kids in our schools. We all owe four of them a big debt of gratitude for all the time and energy they have sacrificed to make Somerville a better place to live work, play, and go to school. The same goes for all of the people who will be serving on the City Council and School Committee in 2022 and 23.

There are so many other lesser-known people in our community who I'd like to wish a happy and healthy new year to. All of them deserve our thanks for making Somerville a better, safer, and more convenient place to live.

In no particular order: our city's teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, nurses, security staff, custodians, and cafeteria workers; our police officers and firefighters, our crossing guards, all of the doctors and nurses who work at the Somerville Hospital and in the many other medical offices around town, all of the people who work in the mayor's office and related city offices, all of the 311 operators, and the staff at all three of our public libraries, the people who work at the polls at every election, everyone who works at the DPW or come around once a week to pick up the trash and empties the recycling bins, all of the people who work at Market

Basket, Stop and Shop, CVS, and all of the other stores – large and small, all of the people who work in restaurants, pizza and sub shops, cafes, coffee shops and convenience stores, all of the barbers and hair stylists, all of the people who work in Somerville's many non-profit organizations, all of the painters and the people who work on construction projects, all of the artists and musicians, all of the people who get up so early to deliver our newspapers, and the people who drive the UPS and Amazon trucks to deliver whatever it is that we ordered online, all of the people who work in the post office, at our gas stations and car washes, all of the people who volunteer their time to coach youth soccer, little league baseball, and other sports and the people who sponsor those teams so that they have fields to play on and uniforms to wear, and to everyone who has slipped my mind at the moment – my sincere apologies.

All of them and all of us make Somerville what it is today: a city with more than its share of problems, but more importantly, a community of 81,000 people who are doing their best to lead happy and productive lives while also doing what they can to make Somerville a better place for everyone who lives or works here.

Happy New Year, Somerville!

Ken Brociner has lived in Somerville since 1975. His essays, columns, and reviews have appeared in Dissent, In These Times, the Boston Phoenix, and the Somerville Journal, among other publications.

Another Somerville crash shows cost of state's inaction on traffic safety

On December 6, Livable Streets hosted Jamey Tesler, Secretary of Transportation and CEO of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to discuss MassDOT's efforts to make streets safer for people. "Tell us where to put the cone; one cone can make a huge difference to safety," Tesler said, referring to separating people from cars.

Tragically, as he spoke, a mo-

torist struck a pedestrian on Mystic Avenue in Somerville and fled the scene. Consistent with the rampant speeding here, the pedestrian was hospitalized with serious injuries.

Mystic Avenue is a state road under MassDOT's jurisdiction and, together with MassDOT-controlled McGrath Highway, comprises Somerville's "Corridor of Death." It was recently the site of three

pedestrian deaths in less than two years. Families and children live here, under the shadow, noise, pollution, and danger of I-93 and its deadly ramps. Over 700 crashes have occurred on Somerville's stretch of Mystic Ave since 2010, and a similar number on perpendicular McGrath Highway. A driver hits a vulnerable road user here roughly every two months. This latest crash occurred at the same inter-

section where a pedestrian died after a hit-and-run in 2019.

The people of Somerville feel the reverberations of incessant traffic violence. These crashes maim. They end lives. They are grim in their own right, but all the more so because they are preventable. After the last death in April, the Somerville Alliance for Safe Streets (SASS) held a Highway Justice rally and demanded MassDOT improve

protections for vulnerable road users. SASS and the broader Somerville community spoke up at MassDOT's Capital Investment Meeting and board meeting. SASS and elected officials met with MassDOT officials repeatedly. And in June, MassDOT agreed to several of our demands for traffic calming. Some changes they made immediately, such as installing a signaled

Continued on page 9

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



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

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

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

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

We may certainly face adversity from time to time, but we can carry that spirit of tolerance and magnanimity within ourselves as we deal with it. We are only human, and often fall short of it. But it is well worth the effort to try.

Also, everyone still needs to follow safe and responsible health practices, not only for ourselves but also for anyone who we may encounter at this time. This could be the greatest gift of all to share.

We wish the best for you and yours.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Henry, a well-known man in Somerville 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, Erica Voolich, Natalia Caliman, Fallon Leigh O'Brien, Caddy Villen, Bobby Martini, Thomas Ross, Joe Bear, John Brady, Martha Rheau-me, 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.

The COVID-19 Remembrance Ceremony scheduled for Saturday, December 18, was postponed because of the weather forecast. This event will be re-scheduled sometime in the spring when warmer weather will allow more residents to participate. An announcement will be made when a new date is selected. Create a memory to honor those we have lost. Participate by sending us a message, testaments, song, poem, or uplifting quotes to: imenjivar@somervillema.gov

The Somerville Arts Space Risk Assessment analyzes the impact of development pressure on arts organizations across the city and makes recommendations for how to protect art spaces and support the creative economy. Join them on January 19 at 6:30 p.m. to learn more about our Somerville Arts Space Risk Assessment work. Hear about policy recommendations to support Somerville arts spaces. Please spread the word and invite colleagues and fellow artists. Register now for this online meeting: <https://bit.ly/somerville-art-space> RSVP to our Facebook event page for updates and reminders. In this public meeting we will learn more about the Somerville Arts Council work this year concerning arts spaces, zoning and planning. As a community let's get ready for the New Year to roll out these policies and initiatives. There will be a Q and A and break out rooms to discuss topics and ask questions.

The City of Somerville invites Somerville residents, workers, and visitors to complete a survey to inform citywide parking policies. This survey will provide vital insights into existing travel patterns and public priorities for parking management and curbside space. It is one component of the Citywide Parking and Curb-Use Study, a multipronged effort to collect data and develop recommendations to make Somerville's parking system work more equitably, efficiently, and consistently for residents, businesses, and visitors. Responses will be accepted through January 14, 2022. The survey is available in multiple languages at somervillema.gov/parkingstudy.

Join LoVeSeXy for a very special intimate brunch show. On Sunday, January 9, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Premiere On Broadway, 517 Broadway Somerville. Advance tickets on sale now at: www.premiereonbroadway.com. LoVeSeXy is New England's premier tribute 2 the music of Prince.

The Best of Somerville 2021 will be in the January 5, 2022, 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 2021 here in the city. If you have one you'd like to suggest, let us know.

Elfland was started by a local 8-year-old boy and some elves. Organically grown in an empty lot at the corner of Summer and School Streets, it epitomizes the creativity of Somerville residents. Poised for possible future eviction, the Somerville Museum offered part of their front garden to house the tiny buildings and sites over the winter months. Stop by the Museum, One Westwood Road, Somerville to see the Elfland "archeological site" grow.

Violet Gates, a freshman at Somerville High School, will represent the Somerville High School Band at the Massachusetts Music Educators Eastern District Senior Band Festival as a second clarinetist, 6th chair. The festival will be held January 7 – 8, 2022. Because of her score, Violet is also invited to audition for the Massachusetts All-State Band this school year.

The fifth annual competition for Community Curators deadline is coming up. All applications are due by Thursday, December 30. The Somerville Museum welcomes proposals and encourages applicants to visit both

Continued on page 14

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#808

1. In the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*, why is George ineligible for service in World War II?

2. According to *The Guinness Book of World Records*, how big is the world's largest snowflake?

3. How old was Brenda Lee when she recorded *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*?

4. Where is the world's largest outdoor skating rink?

5. What country is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition?

6. Which President declared a national holi-

day for Christmas?

7. Eggnog was first introduced by which country?

8. Which Christmas song is based on a poem by Christina Rossetti?

9. The self-extending composition called *Longplayer* which began at midnight, January 1, 2000, is it planned to end when?

10. From what Roman god does the month of January get its name?

11. What is the irrational fear of snow called?

12. On what calendar is the Chinese New Year based?

Answers on page 12

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. A shark can detect one part of blood in 100 million parts of water.

2. There is no solid proof of who built the Taj Mahal.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

MOVIE QUOTES

- ACROSS
1. THESE

5. General Services Administration

8. Ex-Miami Heat player Dwyane

12. Pomegranate seed

13. Actor Chris O'____

14. Pacific Crest Trail walker

15. Country dance formation

16. Wished undone

17. Popeye's sweetie

18. "Sudden Impact": "Go ahead, _____"

20. Arm part

21. Gold unit

22. Parabola, e.g.

23. San Joaquin Valley city

26. Hangs out with

30. Unit of electrical resistance

31. "Star Wars": "Stay in _____ formation"

34. Mr. Jin's (of "Meet the Parents") cry

35. Clay and silt deposit

37. Camel debris

38. Japanese sword fighting

39. Was aware of

40. Come into sight

42. "Independence Day": "I belong in the _____"

43. "The Dark Knight": "Why so _____?"

45. Common allergen

47. Cup alternative

48. Bird-made fertilizer

50. Sketch

52. "On the Waterfront": "I coulda been a _____"

56. El Dorado-related

57. Tabernacle Choir's home state

58. Contributed

59. Star Wars attacker

60. Unidentified aircraft

61. Prep for publication

62. Ladder step

63. Tropical American cuckoo

64. Part to play

- DOWN
1. Precedes storm?

2. Soprano's song, e.g.

3. "Mean Girls": "On Wednesdays, we wear _____"

CROSSWORD

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dish ACTIVITIES

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4. Makes smooth, as in hair

5. Dutch cheese

6. "Darkest Hour": "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and _____"

7. _____ Walker, American Girl doll

8. "Field of Dreams": "If you build it, he _____"

9. Related

10. Deity, in Sanskrit

11. "... _____ he drove out of sight"

13. Fungus damage (2 words)

14. Meryl Streep's "The _____"

19. Supernatural life force, pl.

22. Query

23. "Who Framed Roger Rabbit": "That's all, _____!"

24. Cûtes du _____, wine region

25. Mideast V.I.P.

26. Soreness

27. Kidney-related

28. "Princess Bride": "You killed my fa-
- ther. Prepare _____"

29. Bound by oath

32. "Lights out" tune

33. Nile reptile

36. "Finding Nemo": "Just keep _____"

38. Danish money

40. Two before Oct

41. Lack of enthusiasm

44. 1/16th of a pound

46. Not two years but three, e.g.

48. Coped (2 words)

49. Freshwater eel, in Japan

50. Comics character Little _____

51. Fe

52. Caribbean island country

53. Carpenter's joint

54. Like a fairytale stepmother?

55. Network of nerves

56. Acronym, abbr.

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

SUDOKU

GRAND ALASKAN CRUISE & TOUR

12 days, departs May - Sep 2022

VAT vacations

promo code N7017

1-855-208-9533

FROM \$1,949

\$1,699*

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*Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus up to \$299 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfare available. Onboard Credit requires purchase of Ocean View or Balcony Cabin. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 9/30/21. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.

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© StatePoint Media

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.

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

Discussions for the next decades of safe mobility conducted

By Eileen Qiu

A comprehensive bicycle network plan with a goal to have 75 percent of work commutes happen without the use of cars in mind was discussed at a community meeting hosted by Director of Mobility Brad Rawson last Wednesday.

Surveys aimed at community engagement and cyclists were tasked with gathering data for reliable ways to get around and understand where the most practical areas for mobility are.

“We’re rolling up our sleeves together and strategically and transparently planning for the next couple of decades of safe and equitable mobility improvements across out city to make sure that all of our residents,

workers and visitors have safe and useful and reliable ways to get around,” Rawson said.

A roadway of protected bike lanes separated from pedestrians with a strip of cobblestone would be nice to see wherever practical, Senior Planner of Mobility Viola Augustin said. She said roads in some areas are not wide enough for the vision and densely populated high traffic areas would have fewer travel options. However, the current model is just one design possibility for the network, she said. Street and reconstruction projects should consider bicycle, pedestrian and transit facilities whenever possible, she said.

In addition, there was also the goal to prioritize walking, biking and transit access while reducing

miles travelled by cars, she said.

“The streets are for all of us. We have diverse ability needs, routines and preferences, and we have a responsibility to share these assets,” Rawson said.

The existing bike path in the city is about 13 miles long, with 5 miles of protected bike lanes, consultant Mike Lyndon said. In total, about 23 miles of non-vehicular paths exist in Somerville.

The most developed area is the southern part of the city where Union Square is, and the goal is to connect the less developed areas in the north, to the south, Lyndon said.

“There’s a very large opportunity for us to increase not just conductivity, but ridership overall,” Lyndon said.

Near crashes and heavy traf-



fic in densely populated areas are all forms of ridership suppression that the team plans to combat through focusing on safety and making the community comfortable.

In the future, the Board will continue to conduct surveys to gather data in the spring and summer of 2022. There will also be a series of workshops and presentations to offer additional opportunities for community input.

Mayor-elect Katjana Ballantyne gathers advocates and professionals for Advisory Committee

Mayor-elect Katjana Ballantyne has formed an Advisory Committee of some of the area’s top advocates and professionals to provide their perspectives on numerous issues including such priorities as COVID recovery, climate change, and affordable housing. Katie Brillantes, who earned an MA in Public Policy from Harvard University, is serving as the Advisory Committee Director.

“Somerville residents are one of greatest resources for our city and our government. We achieve our greatest successes when we are inclusive and work together,” noted Ballantyne. “These experienced community leaders, scholars, and activists represent a wide range of policy areas and expertise. While they may take different approaches, they are passionately committed to making Somerville a better place and a stronger community while providing me with the best information available as we tackle the challenges ahead.”

The Advisory Committee held three virtual meetings in early December. “During the course of those meetings, members discussed their opinions about short and medium/long term goals for Mayor-elect Ballantyne’s administration,” said Brillantes. “The intention of these meetings was to synthesize and convey priorities of these community thought leaders to the mayor-elect.”

The seventeen members of the Mayor’s Advisory Committee are:

Stephenson Aman, Activist - public housing, safety & equity; **Michael Brown**, Activist - public safety; **Bonnie Denis**, Chair - Disabilities Commission; **Howard Horton**, Executive Director Cambridge College Global; **Maggie Joseph**, Social services and housing advocate; **Tom Lamar**, Advocate - biking, pedestrian safety for all users; **Dr. Daniele Lantagne**, Civil & Environmental Engineering, CDC Public Health Engineer, Advisor COVID to World Health Organization, Tufts University; **Paula Magnelli**, Co-founder Los Padres Latinos Somerville, Equity & Education advocate; **Tony Pini**, Legislative & Political Director Mass. & Northern N.E. Laborers; **Gonzalo Puigbo**, CEO, Somerville Community Corporation; **Ellin Reiser**, Board Member Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership (STEP); **Professor Juliette Rooney-Varga**, Prof. of Environmental Science and Director Climate Change Initiative, UMass/Lowell; **Letissia Scott**, Education & housing advocate; **Bill Shelton**, Mystic View Task Force, Activist Economic Development; **Larry Yu**, Sustainability & Equity advocate; **Renee Scott**, Natural Open Space advocate

Ballantyne will be sworn in as Mayor at Inaugural Ceremonies on Monday, January 3, 2022.

Another Somerville crash shows cost of state's inaction on traffic safety

CONT. FROM PG 6

crosswalk at Blakeley Avenue where yet another pedestrian was killed. But every meeting, SASS reviewed MassDOT’s promises and asked, “Did MassDOT raise the crosswalks at Kensington? Have they intervened to prevent rampant speeding?” Did MassDOT finish the work that they agreed was necessary to implement this year to avoid more harm?

We should have asked: how long can MassDOT delay improvements without serious consequences for the next vulnerable road user? In the Corridor of Death, any delay risks

bloodshed. Every week we saw no progress, and then the crash occurred on December 6.

Following the crash, our state elected officials received a project update from MassDOT (link: https://www.repmikeconnolly.org/updates_from_massdot_on_rt_28_38_road_safety_improvements) indicating that the project was well underway but delayed. The plans demonstrate that MassDOT has done the research and understands the traffic calming needed on the Corridor of Death.

For our part, we understand that construction can get de-

layed, but is the best action to do nothing in the interim? Secretary Tesler knows the value of temporary street interventions. As he said, “One cone can make a huge difference.”

To MassDOT, thank you for starting the work, but delays have real costs and you have more options than just asking residents to accept another winter of predictable injuries or death. We ask you to consider immediate interventions. Place some cones right now to slow down drivers. Release speed meter data so we can see the efficacy of existing safety measures.

To legislators and readers, we’re asking you to do all you can to promote safe streets through supporting active bills for automated camera enforcement (H.2476 and S.1545). This problem exists throughout Massachusetts, and 24/7 human enforcement is inequitable and impractical. Rampant speeding and death is a matter of design, infrastructure, and policy. Automated enforcement is an important tool to prevent predictable harm.


Finally, MassDOT, talk to us and our neighbors. Our community was not informed

about the delay, nor could we propose any interim mitigating measures. Engage with our community proactively rather than solely when responding to another tragedy. Secretary Tesler described MassDOT as an agency that listens to communities, takes action quickly, and does not rest while there is more work to be done. That is what our community needs. Let’s work together to immediately slow down drivers and prevent more bloodshed on our streets.

— Somerville Safe Streets

LEGAL NOTICES

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



S.H.A. Bid No. FAS-012022

The **Somerville Housing Authority** (the Awarding Authority) invites sealed bids for Fire Alarm Sprinklers and associated Equipment Testing, Inspections, Certifications, & Maintenance bid number FAS-012022 for multiple locations located in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with documents prepared by the Somerville Housing Authority Purchasing Department.

This is a Three (3) year contract.

The work under this contract consists of performing annual testing & inspections, firepump maintenance, and routine preventative maintenance on fire protection sprinkler systems, connecting pipes, and associated wet/dry systems, to comply with latest NFPA 25 standards, CMR standards, and the requirements of the local authority having jurisdictions.

Bidders must be certified by the DCAM in the category of Fire Alarm Sprinklers.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 secs.44A-H and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

General Bids will be received until **11:00 a.m., January 10, 2022**, and publicly opened forthwith, at Somerville Housing Authority Modernization Bldg., located at 30-Rear Memorial Road, Somerville

General Bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit or bid bond that is not less than 5% of the greatest possible bid amount (considering any alternates) and made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority in the form of a bid bond; cash; or a check certified by, or a treasurer's or cashier's check issued by, a responsible bank or trust company, payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Any bid bond shall be (a) in a form satisfactory to the Awarding Authority, (b) with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth and (c) conditioned upon the faithful performance by the principal of the agreements contained in the Bid.

Bid and Contract Documents will be available for download on Somerville Housing Authority web site www.sha-web.org, under our opportunities tab. There will be no charge for these documents. If bidding, you must contact Anthony Crespo by email at Tonyc@sha-web.org and leave contact information including telephone number, Company name, Contact name, and email, if received you will receive a reply to your email. Bidders/Contractors are responsible for ensuring that their email and bids are received.

A site visit is scheduled for **December 28, 2021, 11:00 a.m.** You are not required to attend. Attendees must wear a PPE facemask, which covers the nose and mouth, and maintain social distancing, failure to comply may result in rejection of your bid. Attendees are required to provide notification that they will attend. Please notify Anthony Crespo by email at Tonyc@sha-web.org or at 617-625-1152 extension 336 if you are attending. All interested parties will meet at outdoors of Somerville Housing Authority, Modernization Building, 30R Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145.

Bids should be Hand Delivered or Mailed to Somerville Housing Authority, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145, Attn. Anthony Crespo, Purchasing Manager, and received no later than the date and time specified above. SHA not responsible for bids lost or not received on time.

12/22/21 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) #22-24
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER at RISK (CMR) SERVICES
POPLAR STREET PUMP STATION PROJECT


City of Somerville seeks an experienced construction management (CM) firm for a pump station project located on 2.1-acre City owned parcel. Construction includes stormwater pump station (50 MGD capacity), storage tank (4.0 MG capacity), community art center (5,000 SF) and public park including community garden. Site bound by 2 transportation projects: MBTA GLX and MassDOT McGrath Blvd. Development. Total project duration estimated at 40 months; estimated construction cost \$100M. Currently in SD Phase. Detailed SD estimate will be required of CMR upon contract execution. Refer to RFQ for more information about the project team.

Project subject to applicable state, local and federal laws, including but not limited to prevailing wage, certifications by DCAMM, and local ordinances. This RFQ will pre-qualify CM at Risk firms that will then be invited to submit proposals in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) to be issued pursuant to M.G.L. c. 149A, § 6. Refer to the RFQ for evaluation procedures and criteria. Successful firms will demonstrate ability and readiness to adhere to supplier diversity and workforce participation goals. Detailed Design Documents scheduled for Spring 2022. EBP estimated Summer 2022.

Project to be electronically bid via www.projectdog.com Projectdog Code/Project #84521. RFQ will be available on Projectdog and the City of Somerville's website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> on **Wednesday, December 22, 2021**. No site visit during CMR RFQ phase. CM firms shall submit Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) by **2PM on Friday, January 21, 2022**. Procurement laws prohibit unauthorized communication or contact with the City of Somerville's employees and elected officials about this project. Authorized project contact and Owner's Project Manager: Clark McCormick, email: cmccormick@pmaconsultants.com; Cell: 781-910-6571. Secondary contact is the City's Chief Procurement Officer Angela M. Allen.

Questions about this project must be submitted in writing no later than **Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 12:00 noon** to cmccormick@pmaconsultants.com.

12/22/21 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 6, 2022**, 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.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2271350649628773392>
Webinar ID: 699-414-259

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (415) 655-0052
Access code: 132-200-192

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

599 Somerville Ave Rafi Properties LLC proposes to develop a 3-story LEED Platinum commercial building in the Mid Rise 3 (MR3) zoning district which requires Site Plan Approval and one (1) 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 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.

12/15/21, 12/22/21 The Somerville Times

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PROJECT: Greater Cambridge Energy Program

LOCATION: Cambridge, Boston and Somerville, MA

PROPOSER: NSTAR Electric d/b/a Eversource Energy

The undersigned is submitting an Environmental Notification Form ("ENF") to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs on or before December 15, 2021 (date)

This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act ("MEPA", M.G.L. c. 30, s.s. 61-62I). Copies of the ENF may be obtained from:

Epsilon Associates, Inc. (Proponent's Agent)
Attn: Corinne Snowdon
3 Mill & Main Place, Suite 250
Maynard, MA 01754
978-897-7100

Electronic copies of the ENF are also being sent to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board of Cambridge, Boston and Somerville (Municipality).

The Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs will publish notice of the ENF in the Environmental Monitor, will receive public comments on the project for 20 days, and will then decide, within ten days, if an Environmental Impact Report is needed. A site visit and/or remote consultation session on the project may also be scheduled. All persons wishing to comment on the project, or to be notified of a site visit and/or remote consultation session, should email MEPA@mass.gov. Mail correspondence will continue to be accepted, though responses may be delayed. Mail correspondence should be direct to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, Attention: MEPA Office, referencing the above project.

By NSTAR Electric d/b/a Eversource Energy (Proponent)

12/22/21 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on **1/12/2022 at 12:00 PM**. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. David White unit #215A3; Rafael Kapose unit #291B. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

12/22/21 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #22-25

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

2021 Street Resurfacing Project- Pearl Street and Select Locations

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **12/22/2021**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **1/19/2022 2:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Mass. Highway Pre-Qualification is required.

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

5% Bid Deposit required.

Andrea Caruth
Deputy Chief Procurement Officer
617-625-6600 x. 3400

12/22/21 The Somerville Times

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

MIDDLESEX Division **Docket No. MI21P6237EA**

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Estate of: Linda Dold
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Also Known As: Maria A Vecchiarello

Date of Death: _____

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Stephen Melanson of Virginia Beach VA
First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

☒ Stephen Melanson of Virginia Beach VA
First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve [] with ☒ **without surety** on the bond.

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Somerville Kiwanis Club delivers toys to 150 Head Start children

CONT. FROM PG 1

years, the club has been unable to hold the party due to the pandemic. As a result, another plan was needed. “We could not disappoint these children, so Jim Bowdring came up with this plan to deliver the toys,” said Kiwanis President Mernaysa Rivera-Bujosa. This is one of the Somerville Kiwanis Clubs most important annual events.

To learn more about the Kiwanis Club of Somerville, become a member or support our programs, visit their web site, www.somervillekiwanis.org.

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
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- Best Mortgage Officer
- Best Somerville Artist
- Best Somerville Poet
- Best Somerville Writer
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Best of Somerville Businesses

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- Best Insurance Agency
- Best Creative Business in 2021
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- Best Laundromat
- Best Liquor Store
- Best Gas Station
- Best Auto Body Shop
- Best Tow Company
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Somerville commits \$9M in ARPA funds to childcare, rental assistance, and a universal basic income pilot project

Somerville’s outgoing and incoming mayors jointly announced the city’s first major allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars today, dedicating \$9 million in funding to childcare, rental assistance, and a Universal Basic Income pilot project. This joint commitment by Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and Mayor-elect Katjana Ballantyne comes after the city’s initial round of community engagement seeking to identify priorities for ARPA funding.

An unprecedented local infusion of \$7 million into direct childcare supports through mid-2025 makes up the majority of the allotment, which will initially fund affordable daycare and pre-K for children ages 1.5 through 4 years and eventually expand to children from infancy through school-aged. Rental assistance and the Universal Basic Income pilot project each will receive \$1 million. The city is also looking at an additional \$3 million for a free and reduced transit pass benefits program targeting retail workers, public school students and parents/guardians, and the municipal workforce.

In all, Somerville has \$77.5 million in ARPA funds to spend on items such as public health initiatives, assistance for vulnerable populations, and econom-

ic recovery. Additional ARPA funds have also been previously dedicated to pandemic emergency and recovery needs as well as an initial investment in staffing to develop the Digital Bridge Initiative to overcome inequities in digital/Internet access.

“I want to thank Mayor-elect Ballantyne not only for collaborating with us on these first priorities since her election, but in particular for championing basic income, housing, and childcare supports while on the Council. Our shared goal with these initial investments is to ensure these programs reflect our community values,” said Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone.

“People who were most affected during this pandemic deserve to be able to get into a more secure position in their lives,” continued Mayor Curtatone. “Before COVID, barriers to accessing quality childcare were already holding back our families, and the pandemic has only deepened the divide, keeping even more parents and guardians out of the workplace and cutting off access to education and advancement. And for many who do have childcare, paying for it leaves little left for anything else. We hope the federal government passes legislation to address these issues, but we do not want to wait for or count on federal action when

we have the money to make an immediate impact on families in our community.”

The childcare funds will be administered by the city’s SomerPromise office. Rental assistance will be distributed through the Community Action Agency of Somerville and the Somerville Homeless Coalition. Those funds will be in addition to the more than \$2.3 million in rental assistance the city and partner agencies have already distributed. The city will seek out an education institution or foundation partner to help administer and track the basic income pilot program. The administration of Mayor-elect Katjana Ballantyne will take over these projects when she assumes office in January, and both the current and incoming administrations are working together on these items during the city’s transition period.

“We want to make sure Somerville is a city that works for everyone, and these funds give us the opportunity to address many of the equity gaps we need to bridge,” Mayor-elect Ballantyne said. “This pandemic has not hit everyone equally. Some people have kept their jobs while working from home, or even got promotions and raises. Meanwhile, others have experienced major financial and health setbacks or had to

expose themselves to a greater risk of catching COVID-19 to earn the money they need to pay their bills. This isn’t free money to spend in a cavalier fashion. It’s money we need to direct to those in the most need.”

“My administration will continue to work with the community to identify the highest impact, highest value ARPA investments to support both our community’s recovery and progress on shared goals,” continued Mayor-elect Ballantyne. “That includes considering further investments in these initial areas as well.”

The city has established an internal staff to manage the distribution of ARPA funds and enlisted the Metropolitan Area Planning Council to help engage every sector of the commu-

nity as these decisions are made. To learn more about ARPA in Somerville, visit somervillema.gov/ARPA or watch this video of the ARPA presentation to the City Council.

Further decisions about the transit assistance program will entail setting eligibility standards and establishing how to distribute those funds. The process for dedicating the remaining ARPA funds is ongoing. The city will continue to seek community input and assess ARPA-eligible program proposals while triaging to invest in the most urgent needs first.

In March, President Biden signed ARPA into law. This \$1.9 trillion package is intended to combat the public health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Want to write local Somerville stories?
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and speak to the Assignment Editor

Ms. Cam’s

Olio

Answers

1. Deafness in one ear

2. 15 inches wide and 8 inches thick

3. 13 years old

4. Rideau Canal Skateway, Ottawa, Canada

5. Germany

6. President Ulysses S. Grant

7. The United Kigdom

8. *In the Bleak Midwinter*


9. If all goes as intended, it will continue without repetition until December 31, 2999

10. Janus

11. Chionophobia

12. The lunar calendar

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in History

December 22

1775 – Esek Hopkins takes command of the Continental Navy, a total of seven ships.

1807 – Congress passes the Embargo Act, which halts all trading completely.

1829 – The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad opens the first passenger railway line.

1918 – The last of the food restrictions, enforced because of the shortages during World War I, are lifted.

1944 – During the Battle of the Bulge, General Anthony McAuliffe responds to a German surrender request with a one word answer: "Nuts!"

1966 – The United States announces the allocation of 900,000 tons of grain to fight the famine in India.

1989 – The division of East and West Germany effectively ends when the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin reopens for the first time in nearly 30 years.

2001 – A passenger on American Airlines Flight 63 from Paris unsuccessfully attempts to destroy a plane in flight by igniting explosives hidden in his shoes.

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Bill Rodgers Somerville Jingle Bell Run & Walk

The annual Bill Rodgers Somerville Jingle Bell Run & Walk took place on Sunday, December 19, with festively dressed runners and walkers competing in the 5K race through the streets of Somerville. The top finisher in the male division was Louis Serafini, of Cambridge. The top finisher in the female division was Clare Franco, of Boston.

— Photos by Bobbie Toner



20 Top Finishers				
Place	Name	Age	Gender	City
1	Louis Serafini	30	Male	Cambridge
2	Brian Harvey	34	Male	Belmont
3	Fitch Henry	24	Male	Brookline
4	Benjamin Harris	32	Male	Boston
5	Matthew Hillard	32	Male	Boston
6	David Bedoya	44	Male	Somerville
7	Brian Lee	28	Male	Somerville
8	Ian Robertson	26	Male	Medfield
9	Scott Mindel	35	Male	Burlington
10	Alexander Trotsky	31	Male	Gloucester
11	Michael Schroeder	27	Male	Hopkinton
12	Dan Chruniak	38	Male	Beverly
13	Benjamin Spaulding	39	Male	Arlington
14	Clare Franco	31	Female	Boston
15	Ian Neill	37	Male	Somerville
16	Jason Goldschmidt	43	Male	Newton
17	Matthew Coble	38	Male	Medford
18	Eric Silva	41	Male	Somerville
19	John Nieskens	38	Male	Milford NH
20	Joseph Warren	29	Male	Medford



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

the Museum and its website to learn more about the Museum's wide-ranging exhibition history. Two finalists will be selected to install their proposed exhibits in the Museum's gallery spaces at One Westwood Road, Somerville, MA. The chosen applicants will also receive a seed grant of \$2,500 towards exhibition costs. The deadline is **Thursday, December 30**, by 11:00 p.m. All applications must be submitted digitally to info@somervillmuseum.org

Prepare for the **2021/2022 snow season** by reviewing parking rules and signing up for alerts. 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.

Residents are urged to **practice cau-**

tion, masking in all public spaces, and planning carefully around travel and gatherings in order to prevent a generalized outbreak like the city experienced last winter. Sadly, the number of known Covid deaths in Somerville now stands at 98. See the latest Somerville case data at somervillema.gov/covid19dashboard.

Somerville's Winter Farmers Market takes place **Saturdays, 9:30 – 1:30 p.m., December 4 through April 16**, at **Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave.** Offering the best locally grown and produced agricultural items and more. They offer a diverse range of local and New England produce, as well as cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, pastries, chocolate, and wine. They feature rotating guest vendors each week, as well as live entertainment and activities. Check out the schedule and map at www.somwintermarket.org. They accept SNAP/EBT & HIP, CREDIT and DEBIT cards. \$15 SNAP match for EBT customers.

Somerville's **requirement to wear a**

face covering in public indoor spaces remains in effect. Make sure your mask covers your nose and mouth at all times when in public spaces and that it fits snugly around the sides of your face. The CDC has recommendations on how to improve your mask effectiveness. In general, masks with more layers offer better protection and masks with nose wires help achieve a secure fit around your nose. We'll say it again though, be sure your mask covers your nose too and not just your mouth for effective protection.

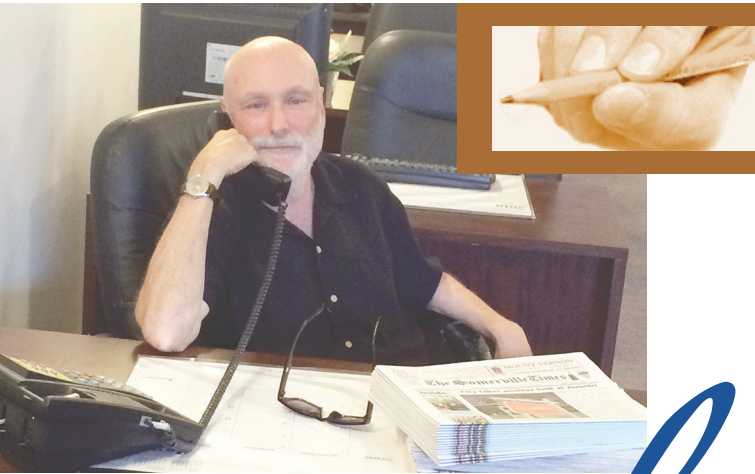
If you are unable to access a **COVID-19 vaccine** due to transportation challenges, but otherwise are able to leave your home, please call 3-1-1 to get connected to transportation assistance.

Individuals who are **homebound** are encouraged to schedule an **in-home COVID-19 vaccine appointment** through the state's **COVID-19 In-Home Vaccination Program**. The program is open to all individuals who are homebound, including 5- to 11-year-

olds, and individuals seeking both initial or booster doses. To schedule an appointment, call the **In-Home Vaccination Central Intake Line** at (833) 983-0485. The Intake Line is open **Monday through Friday** from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Representatives are available in both English and Spanish, and also have access to translators for over 100 languages. Due to high demand, the current estimated wait time for an in-home vaccination appointment is 4-6 weeks.

The **City of Somerville** is holding a **booster clinic** where **doses of Moderna** will be available. All clinics will be held at the **City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Ave.**, and require pre-registration. Clinics will be held on: **Wednesday, December 22**, noon to 2:00 p.m.

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.



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville's Charlotte Anne Dore

A singer, puppeteer, and actor who immerses herself in her work

I caught up with Somerville's Charlotte Anne Dore to talk about her life and work as a puppeteer, actor, and singer. It seems whatever this multi-talented person does – from belting out a few numbers in a cabaret – expertly manipulating puppets – to playing Mary Jo Kopechne in the major motion picture *Chappaquiddick*, she intensely immerses herself in her work.

Doug Holder: First off, how has it been for you, the artist, to be living in Somerville?

Charlotte Anne Dore: I have lived in Somerville since 1993 and have an art studio in Union square. What I love about Somerville is you can walk everywhere. There are so many beautiful buildings, although sadly over the last few years some have been knocked down. I saw a beautiful home on Lowell street with a big garden and thought that has a lot of land and then two weeks later the place was being torn down and they are currently building on it.

It breaks my heart to see beautiful homes get destroyed. When they are renovated, I love that. As an artist, to see the history and the crafts-person-ship (craftsmanship) of buildings is inspiring. In Somerville you are also close to Boston for work. During the pandemic, the Somerville Arts Council really supported artists like me who lost our income when we couldn't perform shows for so many months. I had the opportunity to do a live stream for the city and then had an emergency grant – very grateful.

DH: Talk about multi-talented artists. You are an accomplished puppeteer, actor, coach, and singer. How did you become so eclectic? What lured you into the world of puppets?

CAD: I've always loved visual art and always loved music and acting. I grew up watching Shirley Temple films on BBC. I was born and grew up in the UK. The films were already old at the time, but I loved the singing and dancing.

At a very young age I visited a doll museum and saw an amazing puppet show at Little Angel Marionette Theatre in London. Those two things have made me fascinated with dolls, toys and puppets. I was around five when I built my first puppet and ended up building puppets as part of my art exam (O levels) I took at age 16. This interest went through college and my first job was as a puppeteer at a shopping mall in the UK.

Even though I act professionally as much as I do puppetry, it's more unusual that people remember the puppetry part. For me, puppets are just an extension of acting dance, music, words. Your whole creative body is interlinked, and that's why these skills all fit together and complement one another.

Puppets combine all my visual art skills and my theatrical theatre/acting skills into one and ultimately that is where the doors have opened. Pre-pandemic, I would present over 100 puppet shows a year. It's been slow picking back up.

DH: You have been in any number of films. One film was *Chappaquiddick*. This film, released in 2018, dealt with the death of Mary Jo Kopechne, when she drowned in a car driven by Ted Kennedy. You play the mother of Mary Jo. How did you



get into the character? How did you envision the mother?

CAD: There is actually footage of Gwen Kopechne talking in an interview and I studied that and her expression in great detail, as well as having dialect coaching from the film company. I researched the role and immersed myself in the lines. When I approach roles, my goal is to "become." In acting, its sometimes termed "the art of becoming" and it is a process. It's hard to explain in a short article but basically you lose yourself in the role and their motives and situation. I had my hair cut for the role. It's now finally grown back. The cut looked great but I didn't feel myself.

DH: I love the "American Song Book." I read that you have now ventured in cabaret. Is it the relative intimacy of cabaret that you are attracted to? Or perhaps the sniff of decadence as portrayed in the movie *Cabaret*?

CAD: I love immersive theatre and have done that for years. My puppet shows are also extremely interactive. I have always loved the dynamic relationship between audience and performer so of course cabaret is a perfect vehicle because it's all about telling stories and connecting with the audience.

I also LOVE music and singing. I started going to Hump Night at Club Cafe a few years ago where the amazing Brian Patton plays shows tunes and people sing along then you get up and sing one song. I had so much great response there I ended up producing two solo shows that went really well. I don't have a solo show planned there just yet, but I have started to return and be part of Boston's cabaret scene again.

DH: Tell us about some recent and upcoming projects. Recently, you finished a project called *Holiday Tree*. Can you touch on that?

CAD: I wrote a solo show during 2020 and felt it was inspired and needed to be workshopped and developed as an adult/family, rather than a kids show per say. I applied for some grants and residencies and was delighted when I was accepted by Appolinaire Theatre at Chelsea Theatre Works for their Resident Artist program. I took them up on the opportunity and self-produced a show that we presented in person and also live streamed around the world thanks to Cambridge Community Center for the Arts who sponsored the livestream

DH: I read that you are available for hire at any number of venues. How should one contact you?

CAD: My websites have contact links and I can also be called 617-633-2832. Also, email rosali-taspuppets@aol.com. My websites also have contact info and contact forms www.rosalitaspuppets.com and www.charlottedore.com

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Celine Shanosky works in nonprofit consulting and currently lives in the local area. She has a BA in English and Public Health Studies from Johns Hopkins University and is from Baltimore, Maryland.

CANNOT VALIDATE

The parking ticket machine
is broken. I say this to the man
behind me but he tucks his arm
around my waist as he taps the key pad
and I walk away because I do not want to know
what happens next. I go back to
Place des Vosges where the
buildings rose like teeth
at the edge of a universe and a man
careened into the grass and splayed
himself to me like a dog or
a siren in her most seductive pose:
"Look girl: A rainbow."
The sky was so perfect in its
refutation of him that I had no choice
but belief, still he offered "Use my eyes:"
smudging everything with sepia and
expectation. When I gave them back
I placed them in his palm
and he looked at me horrified
that I had deigned to touch him.

I am sleeping
when the child finds me:
"Feet!"
he says,
his hands
on my feet.

— Celine Shanosky

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