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Somerville's original independent newspaper

# The Somerville Times





VOL. 8 NO. 49

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

# Inside:



**Tending to the** family business page 3



**Christmas trees** by the non-profits



**Holiday traditions** in transition

page 12

# **Assembly Square Neighborhood** Plan takes center stage



The ongoing refinement process for the Assembly Square Neighborhood Plan took a leap forward during the recent Virtual Design Charrette Week meetings. — Photos courtesy of Somerville by Design

### By Emmanuel Vincent

The Assembly Square Neighborhood Plan Update Meeting took place this past Friday. Presented by Dover, Kohl & Partners, this virtual gathering focused on concepts in regards to mobility and street design ideas, as well as well as the infancy stage of a drafted economic development strategy.

This was the fifth meeting of Virtual Design Charrette Week, with the kick-off taking place on November 30. Members of the community were encouraged to be involved from the beginning, as their input is critical in the effort of shaping Assembly Square into a desirable and efficient neighborhood.

Early on in Friday's meeting, it was reported that up to that date, there had been over 240 studio visitors and meeting attendees, along with 5,000 website views. Continued on page 4

# Volunteering for food security

### By Max Eidelman

Despite the tumult of the past year, we still find ourselves in the season of giving right now. In fact, it is no exaggeration to say that it is more important now than it has been in recent history to give to those in need.

This year has been difficult everyone, and folks who have been hit especially hard are the food-insecure people who rely in part on food donations and volunteer efforts to feed themselves and their families.

In a recent interview, Lisa Brukilacchio, a member of the Cambridge Health Alliance and Director of the Somerville Community Health Agenda, spoke about the importance of volunteer efforts during the pandemic and how members of the community can help.

According to Brukilacchio, a comprehensive list of what to donate and how to help can be found on the Somerville Food Security Coalition's (SFSC) website, somervillefoodsecurity. org. One of the most important things people and organizations can give is Continued on page 4



Food-insecure communities are depending on several socially concerned nonprofit organizations to get them through the hard times they are contending with in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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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 rumor mill has it that Ward 5 City Councilor Mark Neidergang may not be running for reelection next term, and already someone has announced that they will be running for his seat. Nothing has been officially announced yet, but whatever the facts are we wish him the best for the future and thank him for his service to the city.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Two more restaurants have announced that they will be closed for the winter: Spoke Wine Bar in Davis Square and Daddy Jones in Magoun Square. We hope the proprietors and staff hang in there and enjoy the hiatus as best as they can. We look forward to their reopening in the near future.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Join local businesses through December 12 for The Holiday Stroll, a week-long celebration of Union Square sparkle, discovery, and holiday delight and enter to win cash prizes up to \$1000. Get Merry with a Mask and enter to win cash prizes up to \$1000 by helping to judge the Storefront Decoration Contest, conquering the Keep Small Strong Challenge when enjoying unique eats and rad retail, following the Festivus Trail, and taking Elfie Selfies. Dozens of locally-owned businesses await with all you need to stuff your stockings, deck your halls with local art, make your tastebuds celebrate, and more. For more info, visit: https://www.unionsquaremain. org/holiday-stroll.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to a great and good friend, Billy Murphy, who is celebrating this week. Happy birthday to Irene Bremis, the premier real estate broker in West Somerville. We wish her the very best. Happy birthday to Kevin McDevitt, a good guy at the DPW. We wish him a great day. Happy birthday to Ann Cassesso-Ercolini. We wish her the very best of birthdays as well. Happy birthday to Cheryl Callahan, who is a lifelong resident and a nice person. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Kristen Chiaraluce, Annmarie Costante, Continued on page 7

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# The Somerville Times

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Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc. Editor – Jim Clark Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

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### The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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# Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of December 9 – December 15 as provided by the National Weather Service

	DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
	Wednesday December 9	Partly Cloudy	40°/32°	6%	7%	WSW 9 mph
*	Thursday December 10	Sunny	49°/29°	5%	5%	WNW 12 mph
	Friday December 11	Partly Cloudy	43°/33°	6%	9%	W 7 mph
••	Saturday December 12	Rain	51°/46°	38%	39%	S 9 mph
•••	Sunday December 13	Rain	51°/35°	49%	41%	SW 11 mph
•••	Monday December 14	Rain	45°/30°	34%	29%	W 13 mph
	Tuesday December 15	Partly Cloudy	39°/31°	25%	21%	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: Assembly Square wish list

matt says:

all good ideas. I would also like to think about how we can better connect assembly to the rest of Somerville.. also what are some of the lessons learned that can be applied to a redevelopment of innerbelt and union sq.

Scooby Doo says:

Great idea. Such a shame Assembly Row itself was not fully pedestrianized, when the initial renderings suggested it would be.

# Response to: Lyrical Somerville – December 2

Antonia says:

amazing!

Jaylin says:

Great job Gina!!! Keep doing what you're doing girl!

# Response to: Mom's yearbook

Nicky Stiles says:

Jimmy: just a side note on your wonderful mother, she graduated with my father Stames Stiles. Small world (in Somerville). See you around the city.

Vera Gropper says:

Thanks, Jimmy, for another terrific article. Since I knew your parents, it was a treat to read. Vera

**Stef** says:

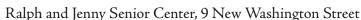
Just a great story.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

# Somerville Council on Aging Box Lunch Pick Up



Tuesday December 22, beginning at 10:30 a.m.





While we aren't able to share lunch together we hope you can stop by for this fun treat! RSVP is a must – spaces are limited

To enjoy a box lunch please call Connie at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319



# Life in the VILLE by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Family business



With the uncertainty of another pandemic relief package, I hope all my friends don't have any trouble paying their rents or mortgages.

I'm lucky to have a pretty savvy bunch of dyed in the wool Somerville friends. We may grumble a lot about some of the changes we've lived to see in our beloved city, but we're still loyal and will defend Somerville's name ... within reason! (I'll need some time to call some back up!)

The majority of my childhood friends moved out. They were looking for more bang for their bucks or they wanted to leave the three T's: traffic, taxes, and ... tariffs.

Other circumstances forced some to move, like ridiculously increasing rents and house prices that were out of reach. My friends who moved away love the



decision they made. They have beautiful homes, not in Somerville.

A pal of mine just sold his well-kept house on the bike trail near Y-NOT convenience store and split for greener pastures with his nice bulging bag of loot. It wasn't a family passed down house. This kid bought it, paid the mortgage for years and years, raised his children here, then cashed out. Best of luck to him. His old house will sell for a bundle on the condo market. Location, location, location.

Some of my friends are bitter because they couldn't afford to stay in Somerville and that's totally understandable, but truly sad. I hear it all the time. "I'll always love Somerville but it's too expensive to live there!" Yes, it's pretty expensive here. The rents are out of control and house and condo prices are steep.

A lucky few kept their Somerville home and live "up north" someplace. They rent out it their Somerville property. Those are the smart, the extra hard working, and the lucky. They probably hire a property manager so they're not driving to Somerville every time a toilet is clogged. That's a headache I couldn't deal with.

Several Somerville friends of mine run their family handed down house like a business, and like any business it can be very trying. You have to be on your toes and ready for anything if you're a landlord. You have to expect distress calls all



hours of the day and night.

A friend told me that the last tenant they had were two twenty something guys. One was friendly, the other was a complaining pain in the ass. "They broke the fridge, then they clogged the bathroom sink really bad, and finally they broke the stove." The place was no Taj Mahal, but it was conveniently located. The landlord fixed the broken appliances and called a plumber but one of the tenants became violent and threatened my friend, an elderly fellow. Although it was in need of a few updates, it came with off street parking. It was also within stumbling distance

of all the restaurants and gin mills in Davis Square, and the Red Line. File under D for disgruntled.

Today my childhood Somerville friends are peppered all over the place from Florida to New Hampshire and lots of places in between. Two close old friends own three family homes. They live in one apartment and rent the other two units. They are endlessly repairing, replacing, and updating. There's always a leak, a clog, a faulty smoke alarm, or a blown circuit breaker to deal with. Oh, and some of the places needed to be de-leaded. The comfort of owning Continued on page 12

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We ask you to bear with us while we follow established guidelines. The safety of our patrons and employees remain our number one priority as we continue to operate and maintain our small business during this difficult time.

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# **Union Square Main Streets 6th Annual Holiday Stroll**

Union Square Main Streets (USMS) announces details for its 6th Annual Holiday Stroll including rad retail, unique eats, a mile long inflatable trail, the Keep Small Strong Challenge and much more. This free and family friendly celebration began Friday, December 4 and continues throughout the square for eight days.

Over 40 Union Square businesses are participating in this year's Stroll. A few new and not to be missed experiences for adults, kids and canine companions include 'Boozy not boozy hot mulled cider' by CREATE Gallery & Cocktail Lounge, Free Temperament Tests for Pups at Elliot's House Pet Care, and send your letters to Santa this year at 4GoodVibes, response is guaranteed.

"The USMS Board felt strongly that creating opportunities for joy while showcasing Union Square's diverse local businesses by keeping this holiday tradition alive matters more than ever," said Jessica Eshleman, Executive Director, USMS." The Union Square community came together to ensure this year's Stroll not only provides a safe environment for holiday shopping, dining, and merriment with a mask, but keeps the uniqueness of this neighborhood vibing and thriving."



Stroll Union Square's mile long FESTIVUS Inflatable Trail, snap an Elfie-Selfie along the way, post and tag @unionsquarems on social media for a chance to win one of three prizes up to \$1000. For every tagged post, SOMERNOVA will donate \$25 to the Union Square SNAP match, supplementing the food budget of needy families. Thanks to Somernova, the chance to win cash while fighting food insecurity is just a selfie away.

"Although 2020 has been a difficult year, we hope that this year's Holiday Stroll can still bring laughter, warmth, and support for the local communities and local businesses in Somerville fashion," said Collin Yip, Managing Director, Rafi (owner of Somernova). "We especially applaud and appreciate Jessica Echelon and her team of Union Square Main Street for putting the event together and continuing the tradition."

Additional Holiday Stroll experiences include:

Keep Small Strong Challenge: Get merry with a mask and stay loyal to local Union Square businesses this holiday season by shopping, dining or visiting them online. SAVE three of your receipts from purchases at Union Square businesses then email the photo to Stroll@unionsquaremain.org and enter for a chance to win a cash prize of up to \$1,000. Shopping in person or online allowed. Multiple entries encouraged for repeat visits and purchases. Continued on page 6

### Assembly Square Neighborhood Plan takes center stage CONT. FROM PG 1

"These plans are only as good as the ideas and information that we get," insisted Jason King, principal of Dover, Kohl and Partners and Project Director for The Assembly Square Neighborhood Plan. The neighborhood will be a collective effort.

One of the topics discussed in meeting was the implementation of garden space in Assembly Square. Inspired by Italian and French gardens, this suggestion would give more of a vibrant, organic feel to the area. As opposed to a commercial space with security patrolling the premises, it would feel more like a community space. Evervone would be able to stroll and marvel at the topography. In addition, the space could be used for various events such as art exhibits, famer's markets, and children's field trips. The shared space could potentially strengthen the community, as residents would actively interact with one another.

The matter of parking was brought up in the presentation as well. For those within the community using vehicles as their main mode of transportation, finding a parking spot at any time of the day can be a tedious task. For those electing to cycle en route to their destination on a frequent basis, it can be overwhelming at times sharing the streets with automobiles.

What was a proposed was to reduce the need for parking. This can be done by enhancing the area's infrastructure. One method that was mentioned in particular was to charge for parking. "When you provide free or low-cost parking, there's no incentive for folks not to drive," stated Keri Byke, principal of Howard Stein Hudson. "But if you start to charge for parking, you can actually reduce automobile commuting between 10-30 percent."

The information that was pre-



sented at the meeting is in the draft stage and not yet finalized. The next meeting has not been scheduled as of yet. If you are interested in this project and would like to learn more, you can visit the city website. Friday evening's presentation can be viewed on Dover Kohl's You-Tube page.

### Volunteering for food security CONT. FROM PG 1

simply money. Some of the need for volunteers. funds and groups that can make the most of monetary donations include: the Somerville Cares Fund, the Welcome Project Immigrant Assistance Fund, Mutual Aid of Medford and Somerville ("MAMAS"), and Community Cooks, among other programs.

Local food pantries, such as Project Soup and Shepherds Kitchen, will also benefit from monetary donations. The SFSC website provides links to the websites of these organizations and others, with details for how to donate money.

Brukilacchio explained that one of the most effective means of helping vulnerable households during the pandemic has been delivery services. During the winter months, the need for delivery will inevitably increase, which of course will increase the

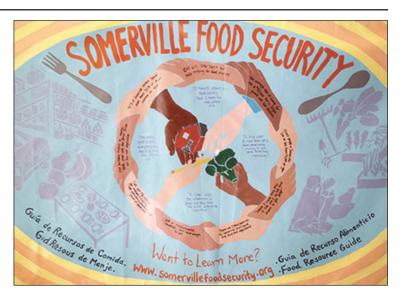
People can volunteer through Somerville's SomerServe Program, the details of which can be found on the city's website or by contacting the Community Services Manager, Jennifer Mancia, at jmancia@somervillema.gov. One can also volunteer through the MAMAS program, the details of which are available on the MAMAS' website. Again, the SFSC site provides links to these and other organization's websites.

Of course, food donations are of immense value to food-security efforts as well, but with Covid-19 safety protocols in place, it's imperative to follow the guidelines that individual pantries advise. If you would like to make a food donation, then please contact the local food pantry or pantries you'd like to donate to, such as Proj-

ect SOUP, Elizabeth Peabody House, Shepherd's Kitchen, and Food4All.

The contact information for these organizations can be found online and is available on the SFSC website as well. The SFSC website provides a list of non-food items that are in need right now, some of which are disinfecting wipes, sanitizer, toilet paper, diapers, toothpaste, and other such hygiene products. These items can be dropped off at Project Soup, located at 165 Broadway in Somerville. These items and groceries as well can be dropped off in a box at the City Hall annex, located at 50 Evergreen Avenue.

This time of the year should always be one of giving, to loved ones but to those in need as well. Covid-19 only increases the need to donate, and de-



spite optimism for a vaccine, those among the food-insecure population will still only face further challenges as the winter progresses.

One metric that Brukilacchio referred to which captures the need for donations is the fact that since 2018, Massachusetts has seen a 59% increase in food-insecurity, the highest in the country. You can do your part to help by donating items or volunteering your time. For further details about how to help, please visit somervillefoodsecurity.org, you can also find information about the work Brukilacchio and others have done for food-security efforts during the Covid-19 crisis.

# Fire at 35-37 Teele Avenue



Somerville Firefighters responded to a house fire on Thursday, December 3, at 35-37 Teele Avenue.

The fire was reported at 12:08 a.m. by a neighbor on Whitfield Road behind the burning home. If it was not for that neighbor, this fire could very well have resulted in serious injuries or fatalities.

The occupants of the home were unaware of the fire which was burning in the attic above the third floor bedroom ceilings. The fire appears to have been burning for some time unnoticed and resulted in heavy fire damage to the roof and attic.

The cause of the fire is believed to be electrical, originating above the bathroom on the third floor. Firefighters needed to pull down ceilings and cut holes in the roof to extinguish the flames. The building also suffered extensive smoke and water damage.

There were no injuries reported. A cat and a rabbit were safely evacuated in addition to nine adults who were all displaced from the two family dwelling.

— Photo courtesy of Somerville FD

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# The Somerville Times **Historical Fact of the Week**



Eagle feathers #219

### Pearl Harbor Week

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

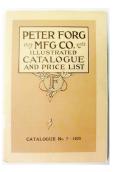
The riveting reality of the Japanese attack on our American fleet at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, horrified our nation.



While over 350 warplanes were striking Pearl Harbor, Japanese envoys were in Washington ostensibly engaging in peace talks. This crippling onslaught caused America's entrance into World War II. President Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed the event for evermore a "Day of Infamy." On December 8, the American Congress declared war on the Empire of Japan. On December 9, Congress also declared war on Germany.



Like every town and city across the country, Somerville's businesses and factories turned to war production overnight. Twenty-four days later, Somerville's Centennial, 1842 to 1942, began. The events of the attack ensured that a celebration of the city's one hundred years of existence would never take place. Plans for the festival were cast aside.



The war changed the entire demeanor of the city's workforce because the departure of so many workers left an immense vacuum. Much of the void left by those who had been deployed was filled by women who volunteered to become fire and police auxiliaries, air-raid wardens, and other needed jobs.

Both Somerville's meat packing establishments, the John P. Squire company and the North Packing and Provision Company, started shipping their products to the military. Union Square furniture companies Continued on page 11

# Letter from Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone: Shop and give local

Every year we put out a call for Somerville residents to shop local during the holiday season. It's a good practice that keeps your money circulating inside your community. Directing our spending money to local businesses is something each of us can do to make the world around us a better place. The local economy plays a big role in our quality of life.

Yet, in a year where we have been gripped by a pandemic, it is vital that we seek out ways to spend locally and to donate to local charities. For those of us who have some money in our pockets, keeping our spending local has never been more important. There are good, longtime, otherwise stable businesses in our city that have been laid low during this recession. There are local artists and craftspeople who have missed out on nearly a year's worth of markets and events where they can sell their work. The holiday season traditionally is when many of them make the money that helps sustain them through the rest of the year, and if we want to keep them around for the future they're going to need our support during this next month.

I know we have a reason to be hopeful with the recent news about vaccines, but it is still a way to go before those vaccines become available for the general population. Before we get there we may see a rollback of some of the state's reopening phases. Case numbers are spiking all over our region and hospitalizations are rising dramatically. We may not yet have seen the worst coronavirus can dish out, and that includes its adverse effect on local business.

If you can't get into a store, seek them out online. The decisions you make about where you spend your holiday money will have real-world implications in terms of what's open around where you live in 2021.

Also, the need for charitable giving has never been higher. This would be a fine year to direct more of your holiday spending to charity. We have people in our city who are struggling to feed their families and maintain their housing. The need is pressing. We have established the Somerville Cares Fund (www.somervillema.gov/somervillecares) to help address these pressing needs, but we're far from alone in providing help to the community. If you have a favorite local charity, give them extra. If you don't have a favorite local charity, there's never been a better time to pick one.

We are in a crisis and the way we pull through a crisis is by standing together. Our neighbors and our local businesses need us to donate generously and shop with intention. This year our holiday spirit needs to be filled with community spirit. We need a season of unity. — Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of The Somerville Times do not reflect the views and opinions of The Somerville Times, its publishers or staff. Readers are invited to send letters to the editor to The Somerville Times. Please email your letters to News@TheSomervilleTimes.com or mail them to 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. The Somerville Times Reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and length. All letters must include an name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

### Re: 3 simple steps to help protect the environment

What a wonderful article highlighting easy actions to protect our environment. This is a great resource given that the tips are very specific and achievable.

I am a firm believer that adapting our personal behaviors can have a ripple effect that spreads throughout society and lead to significant benefits for our environment. After more than 15 years of scrutinizing my habits to achieve minimal environment impact, I realized that many of my frustrations with our societal imbalance with nature could be broadly addressed with appropriate legislative action.

A federal-level fee on fossil fuels would act to minimize not only many of the fossil fuel-based products that are so difficult to manage post-consumer, but also would help us to transition to clean energy sources that would avoid pollution of our air and water. As a final step to this article, I recommend that readers write to their Congressperson in sup-

port of HR 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, which will address our environmental concerns from many angles.

Seema Khan Arlington

### Union Square Main Streets 6th Annual Holiday Stroll **CONT. FROM PG 4**

Storefront Decorating Contest: Your vote not only enters you to win a cash price, but your favorite business can also win a \$500 cash prize! Voting starts Wednesday and participating businesses can be found here.

Three Stroll participants who bundle up and come on down or snuggle up and shop from home will win cash prizes of \$250, \$500 or \$1000 to be announced on December 16.

The 6th Annual Holiday Stroll is presented by Union Square Main Streets, Inc. and made possible by generous support from Liberty Cannabis, Somernova, Boynton—Yards, a DLJ + Leggat McCall Project, USQ, East Boston Savings Bank, Kristin Chalmers Photography, Naveo Credit Union, and Thalia Tringo & Associates Real Estate

# The Somerville Times **Best of Somerville 2020** Cast your vote!

You have until December 28 to vote for your favorite category. To cast your vote, email us at thebestofsomerville@yahoo.com or mail in your ballot to The Somerville Times, 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. The winners will be announced Wednesday, January 6, 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 Eve 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 2020

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 2020 Worst Idea in 2020

# **COMMENTARY**

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES



# Our View Of The Times



As we get into the snowy months of winter it's good for all of us to make sure we understand what the odd-even rules are and where we stand this season.

Here is a reminder of what the city's snow parking rules and guidelines are for the 20/21 winter season:

During snow emergencies this winter, residents must park on the EVEN side of the road only, unless otherwise posted.

Once a snow emergency has been declared, residents have four hours to move vehicles to the correct side of the street, or into a designated municipal parking lot.

Vehicles not moved during this window of time may be ticketed (\$100 fine) and towed (\$100 fine assessed by the tow company for the tow).

Vehicles parked within 20 feet of any intersection may be ticketed and towed.

For a list of designated municipal parking lots available for snow emergency parking, visit www.somervillema.gov/snow. Residents are encouraged to sign up for phone, email, and text alerts by visiting www.somervillema.gov/alerts.

Also, parking is no longer allowed in school parking lots during snow emergencies. Four hours after a snow emergency is called, gates to school parking

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

lots will be closed and locked until the emergency is lifted.

More info can be found online at www. somervillema.gov/snow, or download the City's 311 app in iTunes or Google Play, by searching "311Somerville."

Be safe and be legal. If we all cooperate and keep these simple rules and guidelines in mind we can get through the season unscathed and happy.

## Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Sandy Piccolomini Ryle, Barbara Jewers, Barbara J Pinnelle Vivian and Kelly Rouillard Murphy 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.

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Ward 6

Councilor Lance Davis, and Ward 7 Councilor Katjana Ballantyne invite you to attend the third virtual community meeting about the Holland Street and College Avenue Mobility Improvements project on Wednesday, December 9, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will take place on the GoToMeeting webinar platform. Register to attend at bit.ly/HollandCollegeMeeting3. At the meeting, staff will review the community process to date and present the proposed final design for changes to improve roadway safety for all users and support sustainable, multimodal transportation. The proposed design includes new crosswalks, protected bike lanes, bus priority lanes, traffic-calming bump-outs, and other changes. Staff will take questions and additional input from community members. The proposed final design is available for review at somervoice.

somervillema.gov/hollandandcollege. For more information or to provide feedback, please contact the **Mobility Division** at transportation@somervillema.gov.

Please join the **GLX project team** for a general project update. This presentation will feature a visual tour of the project showing the latest progress on construction activities. The meeting will be held via a Zoom webinar on **December 9** at 6:30 p.m. Register in advance for this webinar: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_EOA6uxlbRzKU-YEVWoSHouQ. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. For more information on GLX visit www.mass.gov/glx

The Somerville Council on Aging has masks available for Somerville residents who are 60 and over. If you are still in need of a mask or may know of a friend or neighbor who may still need one, you can pick one up at their drive through location: Holland Street Senior Center, 167 Holland Street on Thursday, December 10, from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please

call 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

If you need assistance accessing food, there are several resources available to you locally. Visit the COVID-19 Help page at https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/covid-19-help-food-housing-and-financial-assistance to learn more. There you will find a chart that includes local food pantry schedules, contact information, languages spoken at the food pantry, and whether or not you need to bring ID.

Please join the Council on Aging in spreading a little cheer to Somerville's seniors this holiday season. Help them send cards, letters, or notes to brighten up a senior's day. The unsealed cards, letters or notes can be dropped off at the Holland Street Senior Center, 167 Holland St. A box will be inside the vestibule. The notes will be delivered to seniors throughout the month of December. For more information, please call Debby Higgins, Outreach Coordinator at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Join the Community Growing Center this December for their twice-weekly

Open Hours. All month long, volunteer hosts make sure the garden is open for visitors to enjoy every Tuesday, from 3:00 to 4:40 p.m., and Saturdays, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come by the Growing Center, stroll the paths, enjoy the plants in the garden, and take a moment to enjoy this little green oasis tucked right into Union Square. Remember to bundle up to stay warm, dry, and comfortable: dress in layers (base, insulating, and outer shell), bring a thermos of something warm to sip, and keep moving out there. Due to current public health conditions, a limited number of visitors are allowed in the site at any one time. But if you come by and they're full, please just swing by again soon. To learn more about the Community Growing Center, visit www. thegrowingcenter.org.

The City of Somerville invites teens ages 13 and older to consider being part of the Somerville Teen Snow Shoveling Crew and earn money while helping your Somerville neighbors this winter. Participants are paid for each house upon completion. Visit: https://forms.gle/JYC5y7uW2s7EyBSN7 to apply. Contact Jennifer

Continued on page 10

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# **FUN & GAMES**

# Ms. Cam's 1 Tio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

- 1. What is the capital of Brazil?
- 2. Who was the director of Black Panther?
- 3. Which class of animal kingdom do crab spiders belong to?
- 4. Who invented Nutella?
- 5. What cooking fuel is produced by heating wood without oxygen?
- 6. What is the strongest typhoon ever recorded?

FREE!

5

4

5

3

- 7. Classical conditioning was first applied on which animal?
- 8. Which singer was known as Little Miss Dynamite?
- 9. Charlie Chaplin died on what date?
- 10. What is the highest valued world currency?
- 11. Which car's logo has the bull zodiac sign?
- 12. Stewart Copeland was the drummer with which band? Answers on page 10

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3

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9

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6

3

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4

8

# The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- 1. There are presently over a million animal species upon planet earth.
  - 2. Lightning strikes the earth about 8 million times a day.

### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD HAPPY HOLIDAYS

# ACROSS

- 1. "Lord of the Flies" shell
- 6. New Year's Eve choice: Brut or Demi-
- 9. Get-out-of-jail money
- 13. Convex molding
- 14. "\_\_\_\_ I Want for Christmas..."
- 15. Sign of life
- 16. Redo, to a carpenter
- 17. Flying saucer acronym
- 18. Often-missed humor
- 19. Hanukkah toy \_\_\_ Santa, gift-giving tradition
- 23. Ides mo.
- 24. Part of a hammer
- 25. Cook's leaf
- 28. "Hey!"
- 30. Brain's \_\_\_\_ system
- 35. Revered one
- 37. "\_\_\_\_ Your Enthusiasm"
- 39. Capital of Egypt
- 40. Went by horse
- 41. "I do" spot
- 43. \_\_\_\_ Sandler's "Eight Crazy
- Nights"
- 44. Scary movie consequence 46. Dexterity
- 47. Boundary line
- 48. Modern self-portrait
- 50. Superman's last name
- 52. Actor's domain
- 53. Wild plum
- 55. Mama sheep
- 57. "I'll be home for Christmas, if only
- 60. African-American celebration
- 64. Town news announcer
- 65. Charged particle
- 67. Elephant poacher's ware
- 68. Give new guns
- 69. The night before Christmas
- 70. Present
- 71. Like a Christmas sweater, often
- 72. Uncooked
- 73. Adherents of Sikhism

### DOWN

- 1. Umbilical connection
- 2. \*"Grandma got run \_\_\_\_ by a rein- 29. Time for log

9

3

						NU	33	w c		,				
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8			9	10	11	12
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
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25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41				42		43			
44				45		46					47			
48					49		50			51		52		
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	57	58	59					60				61	62	63
64						65	66			67				
68						69				70				
71						72				73				

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4 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops

4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers

4 (3 oz.) Gourmet Jumbo Franks

4 (4 oz.) Caramel Apple Tartlets

Omaha Steaks Seasoning Packet

4 (2.8 oz.) Potatoes au Gratin

© StatePoint Media

- 3. Santa's "cheeks were like roses, his \_\_ like a cherry"
- 4. Request to Geico
- 5. Carriage on top of elephant
- 6. Pulitzer winner Bellow
- 7. Santa helper
- 8. Bring to an end
- 9. Jefferson's Vice President
- 10. Medicinal succulent
- 11. Negative contraction
- 12. Bovine hangout
- 15. Alfresco meal
- 20. Novelist Jong
- 22. Sushi restaurant choice
- 24. Have a piece of Christmas Goose
- 25. "Five golden rings, four calling
- 26. Dig intensely
- 27. Cry of the Alps
- 31. Address with apostrophe

- 32. Stays somewhere
- 33. About to explode
- 34. Vixen follower
- 36. Table extension 38. Diamond's corner
- 42. Sign up again
- 45. Divest one of a gun
- 49. "Slippery" tree
- 51. Mark and Shania
- 54. Twig of a willow tree
- 56. End of a poem 57. Fortune-teller's residue
- 58. Iranian coin
- 59. Suggestive of the supernatural 60. Was aware of
- 61. Fall asleep, with 'out'
- 62. Foot part
- 63. Pirates' affirmatives
- 64. French vineyard 66. Female gametes
- Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

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

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

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

												•		
S	Т	Α	G	S		Z	Α	В			Р	Α	R	Ε
С	0	Ν		O		Α	В	Α		D	Ш	С	0	R
Α	R	0	М	Α		Ը	כ	┙		Α	R	R	Α	ഗ
М	—	Ν	Ш	R	>	Α		┙	כ	М	_	Е	R	ш
			J	ш	_		כ	S	Р	S				
М	Α	Т		О	0	W	Z		S	Е	Ζ	S	Е	О
0	Z	J	S		┙	0	O	Ι		L	_	Z	G	0
Α	Z	Т	Е		Α	┙	┙	0	Т		O	Α	R	Ρ
Ν	Α	S	Α	┙		H	0	R	Ш		ш	Р	Е	ш
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				W	_	С	Κ		S	Α	ш			
G	כ	S	Т	ш	Α	J		Р	Ш	R	ם	ı	Т	Α
0	Ν	Α	_	R		F	В			Г	Ε	О	0	N
В	Ι	R	D	S		H	0	Е		Α	М	0	R	Т
S	Τ	Α	Υ			S	0	D		Р	Α	Ĺ	Е	S

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.

1

9

# Local non-profits decorate Christmas trees at Assembly Row

### By Hongyu Liu

Everyone is invited to check out six beautifully decorated Christmas trees while visiting Assembly Row this holiday season. Several local non-profit organizations have participated in the "Deck the Cause" event by decorating six twelve-foot Christmas trees.

The trees are on display all

along Assembly Row. The first tree is at the corner of the Great River Road and Assembly Row. The last tree is by the side of the Revolution Drive.

Next to each tree is a plate

with QR codes on them. Visitors can scan the code and vote for their favorite tree. The event's website – https://assemblyrow.com/deckthecause – indicates that the winning or-

ganization will receive a \$2,500 grand prize donation.

The trees will be on display throughout the month of December.

— Photos by Hongyu Liu





East Somerville Main Streets decorated and named their tree "This is East." They placed photos of community members on the tree.





Breakthrough Greater Boston, an organization that prepares low-income students for success in college, aims to celebrate students' success with their Christmas tree. Their Christmas trees have plastic balls with the names of the universities on them. They also made some decorative square academic caps and diplomas representing students graduating from these institutions.





Somerville Media Center's Christmas tree has beautiful wooden plates with attractive patterns on one side and the names of Somerville festivals, like the Fluff Festival, as well as public facilities such as Bailey Park, on the other side. The tree is a celebration of the City of Somerville.





RESPOND, New England's premiere domestic violence agency, named their Christmas tree "A Safe Home for the Holidays." Nicely carved houses and puppies are spread all across the tree.





The Somerville Homeless Coalition's tree comes with a classic Christmas vibe. It looks shiny with its traditional Christmas ornaments like gingerbread men and candy canes. The tree is named "Bright Lights in the City."





Teen Empowerment, a group that inspires urban youth to think deeply about the most difficult issues in their communities, covered their tree with "winter snow." The decorative balls and ribbon on the tree have shiny silver and blue color. Right on top the tree is the "Black Lives Matter" sign.

# **LEGAL NOTICES**

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



The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Electrical Contractors for the Highland Gardens Rooftop Exhaust Fan Replacement Project for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by NANGLE ENGINEERING INC.

The Project consists of: Replacement of five (5) rooftop exhaust fans

The work is estimated to cost \$23,000.00

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

General Bids will be received until 2:00pm, Thursday, December 17, 2020 and publicly opened, forthwith.

All bids shall be submitted electronically online at www.Projectdog. com no later than the date and time specified above. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. Tutorials, instructions and videos on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online as well as in the Instructions to Bidders. For assistance, call Projectdog, Inc at 978-499-9014 (M - F 8:30AM - 5PM)

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority.

Bid forms and contract documents will be available at www.Projectdog.com or for pick-up at: Projectdog, Inc, 18 Graf Road, Suite 8 Newburyport, MA 978-499-9014 (M - F 8:30AM - 5PM), on Wednesday, December 2, 2020.

Go to www.Projectdog.com and click Sign Up for free, or login with your existing account. Enter Project Code 841024 in the project locator box. Select "Acquire Documents" to download documents, review a hard copy at Projectdog's physical location, or request a free

There is a plan deposit of \$25.00 per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to Projectdog, Inc.

Refundable deposits must be a certified or cashier's check. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within ten (10) days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise the deposit shall be the property of Projectdog, Inc.

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for \$25.00 per set, payable to Projectdog, Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

Bidders must submit as part of their bid a completed form HUD-5369A, "Representations, Certifications, and Other Statements of Bidders".

The job site and/or existing building will be available for observation on the morning of Thursday, December 10, 2020. To limit the number of bidders present at any one time, multiple observation times may be held. Bidders must contact Nangle Engineering Inc. (gpnangle@ nangleengineering.com or (978)777-7650) prior to close of business on the Monday prior to schedule an appointment. Bidders attending will be limited to one person per firm. Attendees must bring and wear a face mask which covers the nose and mouth, and may wear gloves. To maintain social distancing, attendees may be asked to enter the work spaces one at a time. No access to dwelling units is required,

The Contract Documents may be seen, but not removed at: F.W. Dodge - McGraw Hill **Construction Market Data** 

75 Second Avenue - Suite 320 Needham, MA 02194

24 Hartwell Ave. Lexington, MA 02I74 (or closest regional F.W. Dodge Company)

The Somerville Housing Authority reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any and all bids, or to waive any informalities in the bidding. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after approval of the award by the Somerville Housing Authority without written consent of the Somerville Housing Authority.

> Joseph R. Macaluso, Executive Director Somerville Housing Authority December 2, 2020

12/2/20 12/9/20 The Somerville Time



1. Brasília

8. Brenda Lee

2. Ryan Coogler

9. December 25, 1977

3. Arthropod

5. Charcoal

10. Kuwaiti Dinar -

\$3.29

4. Pietro Ferrero

11. Lamborghini – Taurus is the brand founder's zodiac sign

6. Typhoon Tip, in 1979

12. The Police

7. Dogs

City of Somerville **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS** City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143 **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE** The Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 6:00pm. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number

### The meeting will be held using GoToWebinar. TO USE A COMPUTER

of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public hearing

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/regis-Link: ter/5301694847371520782

will be conducted via remote participation.

Webinar ID: 238-191-171

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (415) 655-0060 Access code: 355-856-496

The Zoning Board will consider the following pursuant to M.G.L. 40A

and the Somerville Zoning Ordinance:

337 Somerville Ave Union Square Ventures LLC seeks the removal of Condition #1 from the previously issued special permits ZBA 2016-116 and ZBA 2016-116-R1-0317. Applicant will separately seek removal of the related condition imposed by the Planning Board.

9-11 Aldersey St

Special Permits for an 11-unit development shall be issued as ordered by Judge Long of the Massachusetts Land Court (ZBA case 2003-25). Applicant: Gerard Meehan, Trustee, G&T Realty

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.

12/2/20, 12/9/20 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY 30 Memorial Road Somerville, Massachusetts 02145 Telephone (617) 625-1152

Web: www.sha-web.org

### **ADVERTISEMENT**

Project Manager: Travis Panzini

The Somerville Housing Authority is requesting quotes from qualified Electrical Contractors to perform electrical work including installations and repairs on as needed basis.

Term: 6 - 12 months

Not to exceed \$49,000.00

Quotes are subject to M.G.L c.149 sec.44A (2)(A) and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

Scope of work: The Contractor shall provide all labor and tools to provide the necessary work as directed for the completion of the electrical service for the SHA state elderly facility, Bryant Manor, in Somerville, MA. The Contractor shall apply for and obtain permits and regulatory approvals as may be required. The SHA shall reimburse the contractor the amount paid. The cost shall be identified and included in the monthly invoice.

uled by SHA.

Stock and Materials: The Contractor shall use SHA furbished fixtures and finishes unless otherwise authorized. Items purchased by the Contractor at the SHA's request shall be billed at no more than cost plus 15%. The Contractor will be required to present the original itemized invoice to the SHA. The cost shall be identified and included in the monthly invoice.

Payment Invoicing: Contractor's invoicing must be itemized to reflect contract pricing for each item.

Proposal information will be available on Thursday, December 3rd at 11:00AM and can be obtained by emailing Travis Panzini at travisp@ sha-web.org.

Proposals must be received by 2:00PM on Thursday, December 17th. Proposals can be emailed to <a href="mailto:travisp@sha-web.org">travisp@sha-web.org</a>. Please contact Travis Panzini at <a href="mailto:travisp@sha-web.org">travis Panzini at <a href="mailto:travisp@sha-web.org">travisp@sha-web.org</a> with any questions.

12/2//20, 12/9/20 The Somerville Times

## Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Mancia at jmancia@somervillema.gov or (781) 490-3878 if you have questions.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Groundwork Somerville is celebrating 20 years of **service** to the Somerville community. Join them in a series of free virtual events to celebrate their work and community. To learn more about upcoming events, visit http://www.groundworksomerville.org/helpus-celebrate-20-years-of-groundwork-somerville/. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Join East Somerville Main Streets this Sunday, December 13 with new and returning vendors for the last market of the year. Shop safely from 10:00 a.m. to noon this Sunday at **Deano's Parking lot**, 15 Garfield St. Pre-ordering in strongly encouraged. Select vendors will be offering on-site sales. Check out the market website for more information: https://www. eastsomervillemainstreets.org/market.

Reminder: city buildings are still closed to the public. Although city buildings remain closed to the public, a number of city services are still available online or by calling 311. Check the "City Service Status" tab on the city's COVID-19 page for more information.

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

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# **Revolutionary Clinics celebrates** three years in Somerville

have collectively volunteered several hours of time to local

causes. Most recently, Rev joined

East Somerville Main Streets

along with other local organi-

zations to beautify vacant land

Revolutionary Clinics, one of the state's leading providers of medical marijuana, is celebrating the three-year anniversary of its medical marijuana dispensary located at 67 Broadway, Somerville. Since opening on November 9, 2017 as the city's second dispensary, the location has served over 160,000 patient visits. To mark the momentous occasion, Rev made \$10,000 in contributions to be split among four local non-profits.

"Our location in Somerville has provided patients with a convenient option to access high-quality medical marijuana and to engage with Rev's knowledgeable staff to address any questions they might have," said Keith Cooper, CEO of Revolutionary Clinics. "It has also been a rewarding experience being part of the Somerville community. Through our Community Advisory Board, we have had the opportunity to work closely with our neighbors in the business and non-profit

communities to see where our support is most needed. We look forward to many more years of this great relationship with Somerville."

In addition to serving its patients, Revolutionary Clinics aims to be a force for good for the Somerville community, including supporting local businesses and non-profits. Rev's Community Advisory Board, which is comprised of neighbors, local business owners and Somerville non-profit directors was established to help direct resources towards causes in Somerville where they can have the greatest impact.

In three years, Rev has donated over \$30,000 to local business and community efforts, including the \$10,000 combined contribution they will donate to East Somerville Main Streets, The Welcome Project, Somerville Homeless Coalition - Project SOUP, and Somerville Community Corporation.

Employees from Rev Clinics



Revolutionary Clinics check presentation (L to R: Jen Atwood - Executive Director of East Somerville Main Streets; Tom Schneider - CMO of Rev Clinics, Mike Kerwin, GM of Rev Clinics Somerville, Gary Perry, Community Outreach Manager Rev Clinics, Michael Libby, Executive Director or Somerville Homeless Coalition).

at the intersection of Broadway

and Lombardi Street in East

Somerville where the city has

arranged to have a mural painted

making the community brighter

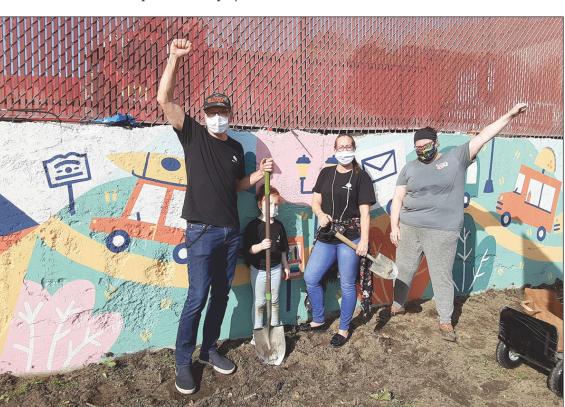
– Photos courtesy of Revolutionary Clinics

and more enjoyable for all. Revolutionary Clinics was recently named the second largest medical operator in Massachusetts by the Boston Business Journal. In addition to Somerville, Rev has two dispensary locations in Cambridge and operates a wholesale arm for adult use cannabis. Revolutionary Farms, the moniker of their cultivation facility, is one of the largest and most advanced cultivation operations in the state.

## **About Revolutionary Clinics**

Revolutionary Clinics is harnessing the positive power of the emerging cannabis industry to raise the standard for alternative care and generate economic opportunity across Massachusetts. At its three registered marijuana dispensaries

in Cambridge and Somerville, Revolutionary Clinics provides the highest quality medical marijuana products and the very best inpatient care, and was named best medical dispensary in the state by its peers in 2019. Its state-of-theart cultivation facility in Fitchburg, Mass. is the largest in the state and supplies over 25 retail establishments with sought-after products and flower. Revolutionary Clinics employs more than 170 colleagues across its manufacturing and retail operations and generated tens of thousands of dollars in tax revenue for Massachusetts' communities in 2019. Through its corporate social responsibility program, Cannabis with a Conscience, Revolutionary Clinics joins with a range of partners in supporting healthy lives and vulnerable populations, advancing community revitalization efforts through philanthropy and public-private partnerships, and promoting diversity within the cannabis industry. Learn more at RevolutionaryClinics.org.



Recent landscaping work performed by Rev at the intersection of Broadway and Lombardi Street.

### **Historical Fact** CONT. FROM PG 5

began airplane glider fabricating. The Peter Forg Manufacturing Company made army helmets. H.K. Porter, Inc. made military barbed-wire cutters, etc. The Ford Motor Company's plant in Assembly Square rolled out tanks and other vehicles which carried military personnel and equipment.

Our nation's greatest generation dug in to save America.

After ordering the all-out offensive against the United States, Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto professed, "I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve." He was right, but that All-American resolve was already here:

• Patrick Henry's rallying cry, "Give me Liberty or Give me Death"

- Teddy Roosevelt in his charge up San Juan Hill said, "Remember the Maine"
- Texas's cry of "Remember the Alamo"
- The sailors of World War I, "Remember the Lusitania"

Again, the resolve was already here in our country. What Yamamoto didn't realize was that he called forth to America the resolve ... Remember Pearl Harbor!



# Record donations for student-run **2020 Thanksgiving Food Drive**

Somerville High School students in the National Honors Society with staff members Cynthia Massillon and Veronica Rowlinson held a Thanksgiving Food Drive for non-perishable food items and monetary donations that smashed previous records.



Students were able to donate meal kits directly to families, donate food to a local pantry and give \$1300 to the Clarendon and Mystic Housing Authority Toy Drive, an initiative Dean Massillon described as "close to home for the students."

Read more in the district blog post: https://somerville.k12.ma.us/blog/students-support-each-other-through-thanksgiving-drive.

— Somerville Public Schools

# Somerville's holiday traditions adapt to COVID-19

Annual Christmas tree lighting and community candle lighting with Temple B'nai B'rith moved online; Arts Council map can help you plan your own Illuminations Tour

This year, the City of Somerville has rethought its annual holiday traditions so that we can still celebrate as a community while protecting against COVID-19.

"Holiday traditions help to bring the community together in celebration, and in such a difficult year, they are more important than ever," said Mayor Joe Curtatone. "But this year we all need to think about what each of us can do to stop the spread of the coronavirus. For the city, that meant finding new ways to enjoy some of our favorite traditions, and I encourage everyone to think about their holiday plans and how they can make them as safe as possible."

### Christmas tree lighting

Earlier this month, Santa made a special trip to Somerville to help Mayor Curtatone light up the Christmas tree in front of City Hall. Starting Wednesday, December 9, you can watch a video of their Christmas messages on City Cable (channel 13 on RCN and 22 on Comcast) or the city's YouTube page, www.youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV. The video also features Mayor Curtatone reading The Night Before Christmas and festive musical performances by the Somerville High School Chorus and the Somerville Community Chorus.



### Community candle lighting

The community is invited to join Temple B'nai Brith, Mayor Curtatone, and members of the City Council on the first night of Hanukkah for a virtual candle lighting. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 10, and will be hosted on the Zoom virtual meeting platform.

### Illuminations Tour

This year, instead of taking a trolley ride to see some of Somerville's spectacular lights displays, you can walk, bike, or drive around the city on a self-guided tour. Starting Saturday, December 12, the Somerville Arts Council will have a map on its website, www.somervilleartscouncil.org, showing homes and businesses that have been decked out for the holidays. If you plan to decorate your home or business and want to be included on the map, fill out the Arts Council's online form.

For more information and regular COVID-19 updates, visit www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus and sign up for city alerts at www.somervillema.gov/Alerts. We urge you to sign up for every alert method you are able to receive: phone call, text, email. Also follow FB.com/SomervilleCity and @SomervilleCity.

# Family business c

CONT. FROM PG 3

property sometimes gets overwhelmed with stuff that breaks and demanding tenants.

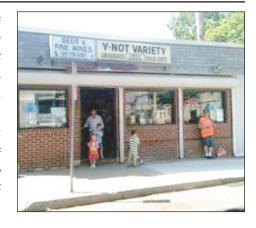
If you bought a home 20 or 30 years ago in Somerville, you can make a fortune if you sell and buy something cheaper and away from the hustle and bustle of the city. You can also condo your home, sell one unit and live in the other if you want to stay here.

I've watched friends lovingly care

for their elderly and sick parents, and when they were gone, they fixed the family home up and rented it out. It isn't easy. It's a full-time job. It's the family "business."

Soon there will be a T station within walking distance of just about every neighborhood in Somerville, kind of like Boston. I bet housing prices will go even more nuts. In the meantime, my Somerville friends who still live here love Somerville. We finally figured out where the best pizza is, and the best places to watch sports and have a cold one. (best corner store, Y-Not) We also know all the good driving short cuts and which places to avoid.

God bless us all during this pandemic. Many of my friends are in the health risk danger zone. Be vigilant, wear your masks, and let's pray that we all stay safe.



# Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



The first French fries weren't actually cooked in France.

They were cooked in Greece

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# On This Day in Kistory December 9

1861 – The U.S. Senate approves establishment of a committee that would become the Joint Committee on the Conduct of War.

1872 – P.B.S. Pinchback becomes the first African-American governor of Louisiana.

1941 - Franklin D. Roosevelt tells Americans to plan for a long war.

1949 – The United Nations takes trusteeship over Jerusalem.

1950 - President Harry Truman bans U.S. exports to Communist China.

1955 – Sugar Ray Robinson knocks out Carl Olson to regain the world middleweight boxing title.

1990 - Lech Walesa is elected president of Poland.

1992 – U.S. Marines land in Somalia to ensure food and medicine reaches the deprived areas of that country.

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# SCATV Channel 3 Schedule

SCATV is part of Somerville Media Center, home to Boston Free Radio, Somerville Neighborhood News and SMC Youth Media!

Join SMC	today to make your own TV or Radio Pr	oduction, lear	n skills like editing and field production	and sign up	for special media making workshops and	d classes for	youth and adults! somervillemedia.org
Wednesda	ay, December 9	3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	12:00am	Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party
	•	4:00pm	VOX POP: Somerville Connects	9:00am	SMC Youth Media	5:00am	Free Speech TV
12:00am	Free Speech TV	4:30pm	The Struggle	9:30am	Science 360	6:00am	NASA TV
6:00am	NASA TV	5:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	10:00am	Dead Air Live	7:00am	Somerville Storytellers
7:00am	Community Bulletin Board	6:00pm	#AFAD	11:00am	TeleGalaxie	7:30am	Going Postal
7:30am	DW In Good Shape	6:30pm	#AFAD	12:00pm	Somerville Storytellers	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) DW Global 3000	7:00pm	Community Lens: SHC 5K Race	1:00pm	Tele Magazine	9:00am	Science 360
9:00am		8:00pm	LIVE - Our View	2:00pm	Reeling Review	10:00am	Somerville Neighborhood News
9:30am	Both Sides of the Bars	9:00pm	PABFONE Closing Day Ceremony		A House of Representatives Formal Session	11:00am	Our View
10:00am	Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer	10:00pm	Community Bulletin Board	4:00pm	Tele Kreyol	12:00pm	The Thom Hartman Show
10:30am 11:00am	Somerville Neighborhood News	10:30pm	The World Fusion Show	5:00pm	Henry Parker Presents	1:00pm	SOM ARTS
	SNN Neighborhood Update	11:00pm	VOX POP Comedy Night	5:30pm	Henry Parker Presents	1:30pm	Somerville Storytellers
11:30am	From My Heart to Yours	Friday, Dec	, 3	6:00pm	Somerville Pundits	2:00pm	NASA TV
12:00pm	The Thom Hartman Show			6:30pm	The Somerville Labor Show		Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
1:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	12:00am	Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party	7:00pm	BLOWW Show a Go Go	3:00pm	
1:30pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	1:00am	SCATV Secret Stash	7:30pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	4:00pm	African Television Network
2:00pm	Colores Latinos	1:30am	SCATV Secret Stash	8:00pm	#AFAD	5:00pm	Community Lens: SHC 5K Race
3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	2:00am	Free Speech TV	9:00pm	Nossa Gente e Costumes	6:00pm	LIVE from VOX POP
4:00pm	DW Conflict Zone	6:00am	NASA TV	10:00pm	Heavy Leather Music Video Show	6:30pm	Fur, Fins and Feathers
	tumn Reads with Somerville Public Library	7:00am	The Bill Press Show (Free Speech TV)	11:00pm	SCATV Secret Stash	7:00pm	Tele Galaxie
5:00pm	Hello Neighbor	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	11:30pm	Queer Cats	8:00pm	LIVE -Somerville Overcoming Addiction
5:30pm	From My Heart to Yours	9:00am	DW Euromaxx		•	9:00pm	Dedilhando au Saudade
6:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	9:30am	Strata		Pecember 13	10:00pm	Colores Latinos
6:30pm	VOX POP: Somerville Connects	10:00am	NASA TV	12:00am	Flotilla	11:00pm	Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party
7:00pm	"The Cask of Amontillado" at VOX POP	11:00am	SOM ARTS	1:00am	NASA TV	Tuesday,	December 15
7:30pm	Sidewalks Entertainment	11:30am	Cambridge Calendar	1:30am	NASA TV	12:00am	Public Safety/Homeland Security Hearing
8:00pm	LIVE - Somerville Pundits	12:00pm	The Thom Hartman Show	2:00am	NASA TV	6:00am	NASA TV
8:30pm	DW Euromaxx	1:00pm	Community Benefits Agreement	3:00am	Free Speech TV	7:00am	NASA TV
9:00pm	Revolution Awakening at VOX POP	2:00pm	Somerville Pundits	6:00am	Bate Papo com Shirley	8:00am	Democracy Now!
10:00pm	LIVE - Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party		umn Reads with Somerville Public Library	7:00am	Nossa Gentes e Costumes	9:00am	The Chef's Table Series
11:00pm	Flotilla	3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00am	Effort Pour Christ	10:00am	Strata
Thursday,	December 10	4:00pm	Gay USA	9:00am	NASA TV	11:00am	Joanna Bremis HMS Clinicals
12:30am	SCATV Secret Stash	5:00pm	DW Global 3000	10:00am	Tele Kreyol	12:00am	The Thom Hartman Show
1:00am	Free Speech TV	5:30pm	What's New Massachusetts?	11:00am	House of Representatives Formal Session		Revolution Awakening at VOX POP
1:30am	Free Speech TV	6:00pm	Grandstanders	12:00pm	Sidewalks Entertainment	1:00pm 2:00pm	Somerville Overcoming Addiction
2:00am	Free Speech TV	7:00pm	Emergency Preparedness	1:00pm	SOM ARTS		
3:00am	Free Speech TV	7:30pm	The Somerville Labor Show	1:30pm	SNN Neighborhood Update	3:00pm	Democracy Now! SMC Youth Media
6:00am	Bate Papo com Shirley	8:00pm	LIVE - Greater Somerville	2:00pm	Chico and B-Man	4:00pm	
7:00am	DW Conflict Zone	8:30pm	Greater Somerville	3:00pm	African Television Network	4:30pm	Going Postal
7:30am	DW Euromaxx	9:00pm	Fur, Fins and Feathers	4:00pm	Dedilhando a Saudade	5:00pm	LIVE - Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	10:00pm	Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party	5:00pm	Gay USA	5:30pm	What's New Massachusetts?
9:00am	DW Tomorrow Today	11:00pm	Heavy Leather Music Video Show	6:00pm	VOX POP: Somerville Connects	6:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News
9:30am	Hello Neighbor	Saturday, I	December 12	6:30pm	DW Tomorrow Today	6:30pm	From My Heart to Yours
10:00am	The Chef's Table Series	12:00am	VOX POP Comedy Night	7:00pm	Emergency Preparedness	7:00pm	The Somerville Labor Show
10:30am	The Chef's Table Series	1:00am	Free Speech TV	8:00pm	Dead Air Live	7:30pm	LIVE - Greater Somerville
11:00am	Joanna Bremis HMS Clinicals	2:00am	Free Speech TV	9:00pm	Tele Magazine	8:00pm	LIVE - Dead Air Live
11:30am	Joanna Bremis HMS Clinicals	3:00am	Free Speech TV	10:00pm	Community Lens: Somerville 5K Detour	9:00pm	The World Fusion Show
12:00pm	The Thom Hartman Show	5:00am	Free Speech TV	11:00pm	TUTV	10:00pm	Totally Working Out
1:00pm	The Somerville Line	6:00am	DW Focus on Europe	11:30pm	SCATV Secret Stash	11:00pm	Box House Productions Presents

### (RCN) Schedule (Comcast)

Effort Pour Christ

### Wednesday, December 9

1:30pm

6:00am Schools Reopening Town Hall 10.29.20 8:30am In the Principal's Office - SHS Mayor Curtatone: COVID Update 8:50am City Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice One 9:00am 9:30am 10:05am 11:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice Two Fit 4 Life 2020 #4 Raising Families
Arts Community Town Hall 12.8.20 11:30am 12:00pm 2:00pm 2:07pm SPL Cooking 14 - Sesame Peanut Noodles SPL Cooking 13 2:13pm SPL Cooking 13 SPL Cooking 12 - Lemon Squares 2:18pm 2:30pm 3:00pm In the Principal's Office - SHS Como Enfrentar o Novo Coronavirus 4:00pm 5:00pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #5 **Connecting Communities** 5:30pm 8:00pm Arts Community Town Hall 12.8.20 City of Somerville Christmas 2020 8:30pm In the Principal's Office - SHS

The Somerville Line

Thursday, December 10 City Council Meeting 11.24.20 Middlesex Update w/Marian Ryan 12:00am 6:30am 7:00am 7:45am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice Three SPD Ride Along Connecting Communities
SPL Cooking 10 - Caprese Salad 06
SPL Cooking 06 8:00am 8:30am 8:33am 8:42am SPL Cooking 05 8:50am 9:00am Veterans' Day 2020 City of Somerville Christmas 2020 9:30am 10:00am City Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang School Committee Update: Emily Ackman 10:30am Fit 4 Life 2020 #5 11:00am l 1:30am City Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang 12:00pm Senior Circuit: Nutrition Letters of World War II at Council on Aging 12:31 pm

City of Somerville Christmas 2020 2:00pm 2:30pm **Raising Families** 3:00pm School Committee Update: Emily Ackman Fit 4 Life 2020 #4 4:00pm City Council Meeting - LIVE 7:00pm Friday, December 11

12:00am 12:31am 1:30am 2:00am 6:00am 6:40am

7:00am

7:00am 7:30am 8:00am 8:30am 9:00am 9:30am 10:00am 11:00am 12:00pm 3:00pm 3:30pm 3:37pm 3:44pm 3:50pm 4:00pm 4:30pm

SPL Cooking 13 SPL Cooking 05 Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 6:00pm Saturday, December 12 Como Enfrentar o Novo Coronavirus

12:00am 3:00am 6:30am 8:00am 8:30am 8:45am 9:00am 9:30am

Senior Circuit: Nutrition Serenading Seniors at Capen Court City of Somerville Christmas 2020 City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting ResiStat Meeting
In the Principal's Office - SHS
City Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang
City of Somerville Christmas 2020 School Committee Update: Andre Green School Committee Update: Emily Ackman SPL Gardening w/Green City Growers City of Somerville Christmas 2020 Como Enfrentar o Novo Coronavirus Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice Four School Committee Meeting 12.7.20 SPL Gardening w/Green City Growers SPL Cooking 12 SPL Cooking 14s

The Bilingual Brain: Benefits of Bilingualism Arts Community Town Hall 12.8.20 Arts Community Town Hall 12.8.20

City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting
City Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang City of Somerville Christmas 2020 SPD Ride Along School Committee Update: Emily Ackman ResiStat Meeting SPL Cooking 11

SPL Cooking 12s SPL Cooking 06 10:11am 10:18am City Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang Fit 4 Life 2020 #3 10:30am 11:00am Legislative Matters 12.3.20 In the Principal's Office - SHS 11:30am 2:05pm 2:24pm How Does COVID-19 Spread? 2:30pm Saude Mental e Cuidados Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice Three School Committee Meeting 12.7.20 4:00pm 5:00pm City of Somerville Christmas 2020 SPL Cooking 01 - Orange Cornmeal Cake 7:30pm 7:45pm 8:00pm 10:30pm Arts Community Town Hall 12.8.20 Music & Movement w/Steve Gintz

Sunday, December 13 12:01am

1.23am

1:30am

6:30am

7:00am

7:20am

9:00am

9:15am

10:00am

11:00am

11:45am 12:00pm

12:31pm

1:30pm

3:00pm

4:00pm

4:30pm

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6:00pm

7:30pm

7:35pm

8:00pm

2:00am

7:00am

8:00am

9:30am

7:30am

Monday, December 14

Town Hall on Race and Equity in Policing Veterans' Day 2020 School Committee Meeting 12.7.20 Raising Families In the Principal's Office - SHS Mayor Curtatone: COVID Update City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting City of Somerville Christmas 2020 In the Principal's Office - SHS Music & Movement w/Steve Gintz Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice Four City of Somerville Christmas 2020 Senior Circuit: Nutrition Serenading Seniors at Capen Court Letters of World War II at Council on Aging Como Enfrentar o Novo Coronavirus Fit 4 Life 2020 #5 Land Use Meeting 12.8.20 City of Somerville Christmas 2020 In the Principal's Office - SHS Senior Circuit: Nutrition

City Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang Monday, December 14 Senior Circuit: Nutrition 12:00am

12:31am 6:30am Land Use Meeting 12.8.20 Raising Families "Special Needs Education" 7:00am City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting 8:00am Music & Movement w/Steve Gintz 8:44am SPL Cooking 01 - Orange Cornmeal Cake Connecting Communities Return to Italy Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice Three 9:00am 9:30am 11:00am 12:00pm City Council Meeting 12.10.20 4:00pm Town Hall on Race and Equity in Policing 5:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm City Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang Arts Community Town Hall 12.8.20 9:00pm Legislative Matters 12.3.20

Tuesday, December 15

Connecting Communities Public Utilities & Public Works 12.1.20 12:00am 12:30am 6:30am Structural Racism Panel 6.23.20 School Committee Update: Emily Ackman 8:00am City Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang
City of Somerville Christmas 2020 8:30am 9:00am In the Principal's Office - SHS Saude Mental e Cuidados 9:15am 10:00am 11:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice Two 12:00pm 12:31pm Senior Circuit: Nutrition Return to Italy CDC Handwashing PSA 1:23pm 1:26pm CDC Handwashing en Espanol PSA 1:30pm 1:45pm City of Somerville Christmas 2020 City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting 4:00pm 5:00pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #5 Saude Mental e Cuidados 6:30pm 7:04pm 7:30pm ResiStat Meeting In the Principal's Office - SHS Doenças Crônicas e Cuidados 9:00pm 9:27pm 10:00pm Connecting Communities Veterans' Day 2020 Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice Three

SCATV Secret Stash

Fit 4 Life 2020 #5

# **Educational TV 15 Schedule**

SPL Cooking

### Wednesday, December 9

7:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice III SPL Cooking - Orange Cornmeal Cake SPL Cooking - White Bean Tuna Salad 8:00am 8:30am 9:00am Argenziano School Winter Concert 2018 10:00am Argenziano School Winter Concert 2019 11:00am SHS Girls' Basketball vs Lynn Classical El Sistema Winter Concert 1:00pm SPL Cooking - Fried Lemon Pasta Brown School Winter Concert 2017 3:00pm 4:00pm 6:00pm SHS Construction Tour II School Committee Meeting 12.7.20 SHS Construction Tour II SHS Girls' Basketball vs Lynn Classical 10:00pm Thursday, December 10 Argenziano School Winter Concert 2018

12:00am

1:00am

Argenziano School Winter Concert 2019 Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV 7:00am 8:00am SHS Construction Tour II School Committee Meeting 12.7.20 9:00am 12:00pm WHCIS Winter Concert SPL Cooking - Mocha Pudding Cake 1:30pm Kennedy School Gr 4-8 Winter Concert WSNS Winter Concert 2:00pm 3:00pm School Committee Update: Emily Ackman 4:00pm 4:30pm In The Principals Office - LaGambina Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV 5:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm 10:00pm SHS Construction Tour II School Committee Meeting 12.7.20 WHCIS Winter Concert 11:30pm

Friday, December 11 SHS Construction Tour II WSNS Winter Concert 12:00am 1:00am 2:00am Public Domain Theate 7:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I 8:00am WHCIS Winter Concert 9:30am SPL Cooking 06 WSNS Winter Concert SHS Winter Concert 10:00am 11:00am 1:00pm SHS Construction Tour II 2:00pm SHS Boys Basketball vs Malden 1.22.19 SHS Girls Basketball vs Salem 12.27.18 SHS Boys' Basketball vs KIPP 12.27.18 4:00pm 5:30pm 7:00pm WSNS Winter Concert 8:00pm SHS Winter Concert SHS Construction Tour II 11:00pm SHS Boys Basketball vs Malden 1.22.19 Saturday, December 12 SHS Girls Basketball vs Salem 12.27.18

1:00am 2:30am SHS Boys' Basketball vs KIPP 12.27.18 7:00am 8:00am 11:00am

2:30pm

3:00pm

4:00pm

6:00pm

SPL Cooking at Home School Committee Meeting 12.7.20 SHS Girls' Basketball vs Charlestown 12:30pm SHS Boys' Basketball vs MC 12.28.18 School Committee Update: Emily Ackman SHS Construction Tour II SHS Hockey vs Everett 1.20.18 In The Principals Office - LaGambina SPL Cooking at Home 7:00pm 10:00pm School Committee Meeting 12.7.20 SHS Girls' Basketball vs Charlestown 11:30pm SHS Boys' Basketball vs MC 12.28.18 Sunday, December 13

SHS Hockey vs Everett 1.20.18 1:15am

> Public Domain Theater SHS Construction Tour II SHS Hockey vamesbury 12.21.16 SPL Cooking SPL Cooking El Sistema Winter Concert 12.11.18 SHS Boys Basketball vs Cambridge SHS Girls' Basketball vs Revere 1.31.20 All-City Middle School Winter Concert ESCS Winter Concert 12.11.18 SHS Construction Tour II SHS Hockey vamesbury 12.21.16 SPL Cooking

SHS Construction Tour II

El Sistema Winter Concert 12.11.18 9:00pm SHS Boys Basketball vs Cambridge 1.19.10 11:00pm SHS Girls' Basketball vs Revere 1.31.20

Monday, December 14 12:30am

SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere 1.6.20 SHS Hockey vs Gloucester 1.12.19 Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice III Student of the Qtr. - Kennedy Schoo Student of the Qtr. - Healey Schoo Student of the Qtr. - Argenziano 11.18.19

Student of the Otr. - WHCS 11.13.19 10:00am 11:00am SHS Football vs Cambridge 2:00pm 4:05pmStudent of the Qtr. - Kennedy School 11.20.19 5:00pm 5:30pm 6:00pm 9:00pm 10:00pm School Committee Update: Emily Ackman 10:30pm

Tuesday, December 15 12:00am

1:30am

7:00am

1:30am

8:00am 9:00am 12:00pm 1:30pm 2:00pm 3:00pm 4:00pm 4:30pm 5:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm 10:00pm 11:30pm 12:00am

School Committee Meeting 12.7.20 SHS Football vs Cambridge 11.28.19 Student of the Qtr. - Healey School
Student of the Qtr. - Healey School
Student of the Qtr. - Argenziano 11.18.19
Student of the Qtr. - WHCS 11.13.19
School Committee Meeting 12,7.20 SHS Construction Tour II In The Principals Office - LaGambina

SHS Hockey vs Medford 2.12.20 SHS Hockey vs St. Joe's Prep 2.8.20 Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV SHS Construction Tour II School Committee Meeting 12.7.20 WHCIS Winter Concert SPL Cooking - Mocha Pudding Cake Kennedy School Gr 4-8 Winter Concert WSNS Winter Concert School Committee Update: Emily Ackman In The Principals Office - LaGambina Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV SHS Construction Tour II School Committee Meeting 12.7.20 WHCIS Winter Concert SPL Cooking - Mocha Pudding Cake SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere 1.6.20 SHS Boys Basketball vs Brighton 12.17.19

# yrıca **SOMERVILLE** edited by Doug Holder

Joshua Corwin, a Los Angeles native, is a neurodiverse, two Pushcart Prize, one Best of the Net nominated poet and Spillwords Press Publication of the Month winner. His collection Becoming Vulnerable (2020) details his experience with autism, addiction, sobriety and spirituality. Corwin has forthcoming collaborative poetry projects with Ellyn Maybe and David Dephy. He hosts



the poetry podcast Assiduous Dust, writes for Oddball Magazine and teaches poetry at The Miracle Project, an autism nonprofit. www.joshuacorwin.com.

### THIS IS WHY I NEED YOU

This is why I need you More than ever. This is why the wind Blows back my hair. This is why the sunset Forgets its name... They call me ocean Wanderer... shadows. But I remember your call From crystal peaks— And I remember when The wind sang Madrigals Under mistletoe-Moonlight.— I remember when Earth Stood still.

The sound of your voice, An angel's fall: I became a guardian Unbeknownst to me. I surrendered serenity, Awakening drama Dreams. I rose from my armchair Into solar streets.

— Joshua Corwin Copyright 2020

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

# OFF THE SHEL

by Doug Holder

# An appetite for the epic:

An interview with actor Rosie Jones, narrator of 'The Little Queen' audiobook

Interview with Meia Geddes.

Off the Shelf correspondent Meia Geddes, a former Somerville resident, is the author of The Little Queen, a whimsical and wise epic that received a starred Kirkus review and was included on their "Best Indie Books" list. Actor Rosie Jones recently narrated The Little Queen to create a beautiful audiobook, good company for these pandemic times. Below is an interview with narrator Rosie Jones on the craft of audio and acting.

Rosie Jones is a British actor and director who trained at Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. She has appeared in television shows like Downton Abbey, Bodyguard and Call the Midwife. She was commissioned by The Royal Shakespeare Company to create six original mini plays. Her short film The Christmas Bull, which was internationally successful on the film festival circuit, can be watched now on Amazon Prime.

Meia Geddes: How did you get into narrating audiobooks? Could you share a bit about your acting background and how this aligns with audiobook narration?

Rosie Jones: As an actor, my work has tended towards classical theatre and period drama - shows like Downton Abbey, The Collection and Call the Midwife. Doing these wonderful large-scale shows alongside Shakespearian theatre, gives you an appetite for the epic, and recording an audiobook feels like it matches that size of expression. When you record, you take on these huge narratives and get to tell the whole story.

I've always loved audiobooks. As a kid I used to listen to stories on tape before bed. Two of my favorites were James and the Giant Peach read by Jeremy Irons, and the BBC's The Selfish Giant. My Gran also used to borrow talking books from the library, so audio was always very present growing up. It felt right to combine my skills as an actor and my love of literature and start narrating books.

MG: For those who aren't familiar with the process of making an audiobook, could you give a brief overview of the process from audition to post-production proofing?

RJ: When you are asked to audition for an audiobook, it will usually involve recording a short 1-2 page extract from the book. This could be on your phone or in a home studio. Once you've got the job, there is a lot of preparation to do. I read the whole book and marked up my script. Then it's time to record. This might involve going into a studio where an engineer will record as you narrate, or recording yourself at home, where you have to do both at the same time. Once the book is recorded, it needs to be proofed. Someone will listen to the audio and make sure that there aren't any mistakes. Sometimes pick-ups or re-takes are required. Then it's time to edit it, remove distracting mouth clicks or extraneous sound, reducing the background noise (if there is any) and finally master the book, balancing out the volume levels and making the finished product.

MG: How do you choose what audiobooks to audition for?

RJ: On ACX the narrator can search for auditions according to set filters - voice type, accent, re-numeration. That reduces the number of books, and leaves only those that match the actor's requirements and suitability. Then, you read the blurb and send auditions for books you are interested in. The Little Queen is actually the first book I auditioned for and have recorded using the ACX platform.

MG: What drew you to audition for The Little Queen? **RJ:** I love fairytales – the combination of morality, fantasy, darkness and humor - so the blurb for this book interested me, along with its rhythm and language. Also, it was a short record at just 2 hours, so a good first trial!

MG: How do you mark up a book for narrating?



RJ: I choose a different cooler for each character and highlight their dialogue accordingly. This makes it easier for me to jump into different voices when they come up. I also make notes on intention, and have my own dictionary of squiggles that mean various things like "stress that word" or "whisper here."

MG: How else do you prepare for the act of narrating an audiobook? Do you have any regular practices when it comes to caring for your vocal cords? Breathing exercises?

RJ: I try to avoid dairy if I know I am going to record as that can clog up the chords! Before a long session, I will do some typical acting warm ups - sirening, scrunching my face, that sort of thing. One of the advantages of being behind the mic though is that you don't have to project the way you do with theatre.

MG: While narrating, do you stand and/or sit? Are other people present? Do you record by chapter?

RJ: I always sit when I narrate because usually the recording sessions are long – up to three hours at a time. I do make sure I sit with good, straight posture so as not to squash my diaphragm and to make sure that the voice remains energized. When recording in a studio, there will be an engineer opposite you on the other side of the glass. Sometimes publishers or authors like to pop in and listen.

MG: You have so many wonderful and different ways of creating subtle changes in your voice for each character in The Little Queen. Apart from my input, how did you determine what voices to give each character?

RJ: Well in The Little Queen, every character has a very clear role or job, so many of the voices just popped straight into my head from their descriptions. It was fun to decide whether to play into stereotypes, or play against. With the sleep soother for example, it was very clear that she needed to make the listener want to fall asleep when you hear her speak, so it seemed only right to give her a yawning quality - we all know how catching a vawn is!

MG: Of the character voices, do you have a favorite

RJ: I love the book sniffer. I love her as a character and her voice. It's fun for me to play deeper and slower vocally, as I tend to do a lot of young, high pitched voices.

MG: Do you have any advice for those interested in narrating audiobooks and acting?

RJ: Do it! With technology advancing so quickly and software becoming more user-friendly, it's much easier now for anyone to have a go. But get practicing - narrating books requires huge stamina and an ability to sightread to a high level.

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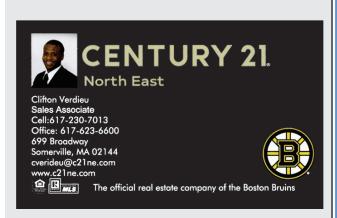
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