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independent
newspaper

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SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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City resumes pursuit of police oversight agencies



The Somerville City Council is once again looking into establishing review and accountability agencies for the city's Police Department.

By Jim Clark

At the newly seated Somerville City Council's first regular meeting of the year, a resolution first put forward by Ward 6 City Councilor Lance L. Davis last year calling for the creation of a police commission and a community police review agency was taken up again for consideration.

The proposal has been under consideration and debate for nearly two years, with the Council's Legislative Matters Committee taking up the issue over the course of several meetings in 2021.

Committee members met with the City Council's Policy Analyst, Community Outreach Coordinator and the Director of Racial and Social Justice to begin discussions on how to move the matter forward in May of last year.

The full text of the proposed *Continued on page 4*

'Space Color Movement: Lyrical Realism into Poetic Abstraction'

From January 27 to February 26, Brickbottom Gallery will be presenting Space Color Movement: Lyrical Realism into Poetic Abstraction, featuring the work of three painters – Alexandra Rozenman, Jo Ann Rothschild, and Philip Gerstein, friends and allies in real life.

The artists come together in this show, delighting in the seeming contradiction of their styles. The intention is to present both realist and abstract paintings together, grouped in trios.

This unusual arrangement will allow to contrast and compare each artist's different, equally engaging approach to forming a composition, unifying the painterly field of action, and utilizing color in emotional, constructive and psychologically complex ways.

As painters, and especially color-based painters, we now live in particularly exciting times. We can choose to situate ourselves on the shoulders of so many giants, aided by the universal availability of art historical images in full color over the web.

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Alexandra Rozenman's "Diving into Modernism" will be among the works on display at Brickbottom Gallery January 27 – February 26.

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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.

COVID-19 vaccine booster clinics will be held January 19, and 26 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Ave. The Moderna booster will be offered. Registration is required. Please register at tinyurl.com/SomervilleVax or call 311. The clinic is free, and open to all people 18 years or older, regardless of immigration status or health insurance. Identification is not required. Please bring your vaccine card with you to your appointment, and arrive at the time of your appointment to avoid overcrowding in the building.








Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Ward 1 Councilor Matthew McLaughlin invite you to a virtual community meeting to discuss roadway upgrades and traffic safety improvements on the eastern portion of Pearl Street, from McGrath Highway to Mount Vernon Street. As part of the Pearl Street Reconstruction and Traffic Safety Improvements project, sidewalks will be rebuilt, the road will be repaved, and traffic safety upgrades will be installed. Construction is expected to begin this spring. At this meeting, city staff will present a proposed design for Pearl Street and gather input from attendees. After the meeting, the proposed design will be posted to the project website along with a survey for additional feedback. The meeting will take place virtually on Wednesday, January 19, at 6:00 p.m. Spanish interpretation will be provided. Learn more and register to attend at somervillema.gov/pearlstreet.

Happy birthday this week to the following: A big happy birthday to our own Dorothy DiMarzo, who gives us all those delicious recipes every other week in our paper. Dorothy is great! We wish her the very best of birthdays this week. Check out her recipes in our print edition and online. Happy birthday to Katie Lathasha Harris, who is also celebrating this week. We wish her the very best of birthdays as well. To Nancy Huber Coutoumas, who is celebrating this week as well, we wish her the very best. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Rachel Tonello, Rosemary Ardagna, Joseph William

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of January 19 – January 25 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday January 19	Cloudy	46°/32°	5%	3%	SSW 15 mph
 Thursday January 20	Partly Cloudy	32°/9°	17%	12%	WNW 11 mph
 Friday January 21	Sunny	22°/12°	1%	0%	NNW 10 mph
 Saturday January 22	Snow	25°/19°	40%	31%	N 13 mph
 Sunday January 23	Partly Cloudy	31°/16°	22%	17%	W 8 mph
 Monday January 24	Partly Cloudy	29°/9°	23%	15%	WNW 11 mph
 Tuesday January 25	Partly Cloudy	28°/14°	25%	11%	W 8 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: Mayor Ballantyne announces 100-Day ‘Somerville Progress for All’ agenda

Kyle says:

Already getting the feeling that Katjana will be a do-nothing mayor. Nearly all of these proposals are “research” or “study” or “investigate” with no concrete plans for action. Much of this proposed research has already been completed countless times and the risks and benefits are well understood! Stop wasting time and take action!

Carbon neutral by 2050? That gets us nowhere! Katjana has often claimed to be concerned about global warming, yet setting goals to be neutral in 30 years is a complete denial of climate science. And what does “Progress for All” even mean? At this point we all know the word “progressive” is a useless descriptor (look at the “progressive caucus” in the statehouse that doesn’t even fight republican Charlie Baker’s vetoes), so Katjana is just further lowering the bar.

To say I’m disappointed would be a lie, as I never had high expectations for Katjana’s leadership after being a constituent of hers during the last few years that she was city councilor. I am a renter, and she showed me time and time again that she only cared about the concerns of homeowners in Ward 7. I would wait weeks to get a response from her about issues around our neighborhood, and she never offered solutions. According to my homeowner neighbors she was always very responsive to them. She even once claimed my email was spam filtered, and I know for a fact that it was a bald-faced lie. Here’s to hoping that we only have to deal with two years of this administration.

Tom says:

It actually is carbon negative by 2050. I agree, carbon neutral would not be worth mentioning, but carbon negative is exciting!

Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

“Here’s to hoping that we only have to deal with two years of this administration.”
Hilarious. With the chances of one of your radical right pals getting elected being sub-zero you’d do well to learn to work with those who do get elected.

Response to: Somerville observes MLK Day with reflection

Steve Keenan says:

Doctor King was a great man; a man of peace, perseverance, and decency. We must never forget him and what he stood for, nor forget the evil forces that took his life. Doctor King is not here physically, but he will always live in the hearts and minds of all good people.

Response to: Somerville observes MLK Day with reflection

Sanjit Tewari says:

As someone who has practiced liver directed therapies I found this to be a wonderful characterization of the “blood and gut” organ. I think you could go a step further and likened this function to the blood brain barrier with some interesting similarities.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Growing up with grandma



When I was growing up a lot of my friends lived in the same house as their grandparents. I always thought how cool it was to have your grandparents living in the same house. My cousin Carol lived with my grandparents and her memories of growing up with their old-style child rearing and idiosyncrasies made for some wonderful stories.

I was so impressed that my cousin Carol could speak Italian to my grandmother and grandfather and grandfather. As a

matter of fact, she became our official interpreter. We would ask Carol the question we wanted to ask grandma and Carol would use her grandma voice and ask the question in Italian.

And this is how we went back-and-forth with grandma. You had to use your outside voice because grandma was pretty deaf. I do a good imitation of one of those grandma sessions. Grandma and grandpa's house was DelPonte central. After all, it was right in the heart of DelPonte Square! (see photo)

The house is smack dab in between Davis Square and Teele Square. You can see the Western Junior High School from in



front of my grandpa's house. Carol's commute was easy as pie for those years that she was at the school.

My grandfather controlled the television set. He would get the TV guide at the beginning of the week and he would go through each page and check every show that he intended to watch. They were mostly westerns like *Rawhide*, *Gunsmoke* and *Bonanza*. But while my cousin Carol was at school, grandma watched soap operas like *One Life to Live* and *General Hospital*. Even though she was half deaf and didn't understand English, she

watched the shows and then explained what happened to Carol when she got home from school.

Today, Carol has tons of memories of growing up with our grandparents. Their home was the happy place we would visit as kids. Even though we lost grandpa in 1964 and grandma in 1975 it was just enough time to grow to love them and cherish the times we shared. Carol broke down the language barrier for us. We also grew up learning that hugs are hugs in any language. We were blessed to get to know our grandparents.

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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Auto accident triggers disorderly conduct

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to a Union Square location last Wednesday on reports of a motor vehicle accident. Upon arrival, the officers took notice of one of the involved vehicle operators, later identified as Melih Ciftci, becoming irate and beginning to yell. The officers advised Ciftci to stop yelling and step to the side while they spoke with the second operator, who stated that she was in a right turn only lane. When the light turned green, she began making the right turn. A van that was to her left, in the lane to go straight, cut her off, causing a collision. While she was explaining what happened, Ciftci was reportedly yelling over her. The officers told him to stop yelling and that they would speak to him later. Ciftci then went into his vehicle and retrieved a small camera and began filming the scene. While filming, he continued yelling at the other operator and her husband. Multiple members of the public walking by were apparently alarmed by Ciftci's yelling and stopped to see what was going on. The officers grabbed the camera and escorted Ciftci back towards his vehicle where they were able to speak to him and calm him down. He was advised once again to stop yelling. The officers reported that the driver of the other vehicle had two young children in the car, and that they could hear and see the tirade that Ciftci was engaged in, hearing every statement that he made to their mother. A short time later Ciftci reportedly began recording and yelling, again using foul language directed toward the officers. As he was yelling profanity, several members of the public stopped to see what was going on. According to police, Ciftci's actions caused the public inconvenience, and he was placed under arrest on a charge of disorderly conduct.

City resumes pursuit of police oversight agencies

CONT. FROM PG 1

resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Police violence against Black and Brown Americans is a product of systemic racism including structural failings in the way law enforcement agencies are organized; and

WHEREAS, Even before the recent killings of George Floyd, Tony McDade, and Breonna Taylor by police officers, two-thirds of Americans believed that Black people are treated less fairly by the police than white people; and

WHEREAS, Only 23% of Americans believe that police “provide fair and accurate information to the public all or most of the time” and only 37% believe police “do a good job protecting people from crime all or most of the time”; and

WHEREAS, Whether people are satisfied with policing depends heavily on whether they’re satisfied with police oversight; and

WHEREAS, Chief David Fallon has stated, “having reports of police misconduct investigated by a fellow union member can create the appearance of a conflict of interest. Even when investigations are conducted correctly and without bias, it’s understandable that the public might not trust the process;” and

WHEREAS, Mayor Curtatone has stated, “we need to bring new voices and perspectives into the oversight and rank and file of the police department;” and

WHEREAS, Barbara Attard, former President of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement has stated, “as oversight of law enforcement becomes an integral part of government in the United States, the benefits of oversight are being acknowledged. Those in policing are recognizing that allowing independent oversight and community access to this information leads to increased confidence in the process and the law enforcement”; and

WHEREAS, Captain Pamela Seyfert of the Sacramento, California Police Department has stated, “although civilian review can be controversial, there are enough positives presented by the successful models that show it to be an essential tool for the future;” and

WHEREAS, Two of the four recommendations of Representative Ayanna Pressley’s recent resolution in the House concern oversight:

- “Efforts to improve oversight and independent investigations to hold individual law enforcement officers and police departments accountable,
- “Supporting efforts to establishing all-civilian review boards with the authority to investigate incidents of police misconduct to ensure community-level oversight, accountability, and disciplinary action of police officers;” and

WHEREAS, Representative Pressley’s resolution calls for the adoption of sound and unbiased law enforcement policies at all levels of government that reduce the disparate impact of police brutality and use of force on Black and Brown people and other historically marginalized communities, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, That this City Council immediately begin preparing legislation that creates both a Police Commission and a Community Police Review Agency by ordinance in Somerville, and that the City Solicitor’s Office assist in the drafting of language needed to effect the intentions expressed herein; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That the Police Commission so established shall have the charge of recommending changes to the Somerville Police Department’s (“SPD’s”) policies and procedures, and that any changes of same sought by any source would be subject to the Commission’s approval, and that the Police Commission be invested with subpoena authority, and that review of Police Chief selection such that the Mayor would be required to appoint any new Chief from a list of candidates identified by the Commission, and further that the Commission be empowered to remove a Chief from office for cause; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That the members of the Police Commission would serve 3 year terms, with a two-term limit, and must be Somerville residents, and that no member of either body may be a current police officer, current City employee, former Somerville police officer, or current or former official, employee or representative of a union that represents police officers, and that the Police Commission so established shall have no more than 30% of its standing members be appointed by the Mayor and further that it shall at all times be constituted to contain not less than one Black or Brown person serving as a full Commissioner; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That the Community Police Review Agency so established shall have the charge of independently receiving and reviewing complaints of police misconduct, and that it would be required to investigate complaints involving use of force, in-custody deaths, profiling, incidents and public assemblies, and may engage in other investigations as directed by the Police Commission into other police misconduct, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That upon completing its investigation of a complaint, the Community Police Review Agency would be required to submit its findings and proposed discipline to the Police Commission and the Chief of Police, at which point the Chief would accept the recommendation or be required to submit separate findings and

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Traffic Commission meets to discuss parking issues



The intersection of School St. and Avon St. in Somerville. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

On Thursday, Somerville’s Traffic Commission Meeting held its monthly commission meeting. The meeting, held virtually, was attended by both members of the public and the commission. For this month there were a few items on the agenda, most importantly requests for handicapped parking and moving parking spaces in various locations. After initial remarks by Commission members, the minutes from the December 2021 meeting were put up for a vote. In this last meeting, a request for handicapped parking and an open meeting law complaint were among the items discussed. The commission accepted the minutes in a unanimous 3-0 vote. Afterwards, the commission moved on to two requests for

handicapped parking. The locations of these sites are at 78 Moreland Street near the Winter Hill neighborhood and 29 Warren Avenue, near Prospect Hill Park in South Somerville. Adrienne Pomeroy, ADA Coordinator for the City of Somerville, recommended these two sites as being suitable to receive new handicapped spots. “I have reviewed both of these applications and gone to both sites and I am recommending that both 78 Moreland St. and 29 Warren Ave. be given a handicapped parking space,” Pomeroy said. This measure was put up for a vote and was also passed unanimously. The second and final measure discussed in the meeting regarded both parking spaces and MBTA buses. The MBTA route involved was Route 85, the stop in question is #2520, Avon St. at School St. in the Prospect Hill

area of Somerville. Bus stop #2520 and two parking spaces are slated to be eliminated. Three parking spaces will be added in their place. According to Justin Schreiber, Transportation Planner for Somerville, the bus does not have to run on the sidewalk, and this change is also a matter of safety for pedestrians. “It’s very, very tough for them to make that right turn with the vehicles being parked on the far side of School St. They literally have to go over the sidewalk to make that happen,” Schreiber said. This proposal was put up for a vote for the commission and was also passed unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled to be held in February. More information about the Traffic Commission and future meetings can be found at: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/traffic-commission>.

City resumes pursuit of police oversight agencies

CONT. FROM PG 4

discipline to the Commission. Final decision on the discipline would in that case be made by a committee of Commission members, and any officer so disciplined would have an opportunity to appeal by filing a grievance in addition to any other remedies allowed by law, AND BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED, That the Review Agency and Police Commission so established be allocated

enough money and resources so that they can perform their required functions and duties, including at minimum an Agency Director and at least one Agency Investigator for every 80 Somerville Police Department employees. Further, that the City would also be required to allocate enough money for outside counsel to provide independent legal advice to both the Commission and Agency. No current City of

Somerville employee could serve simultaneously as staff to the Commission and Agency while serving in any other capacity in the city’s employ, nor could any current or former official, employee or representative of a union that represents police officers serve as staff for the Commission or Agency. The resolution was once again held in Committee for further review.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week

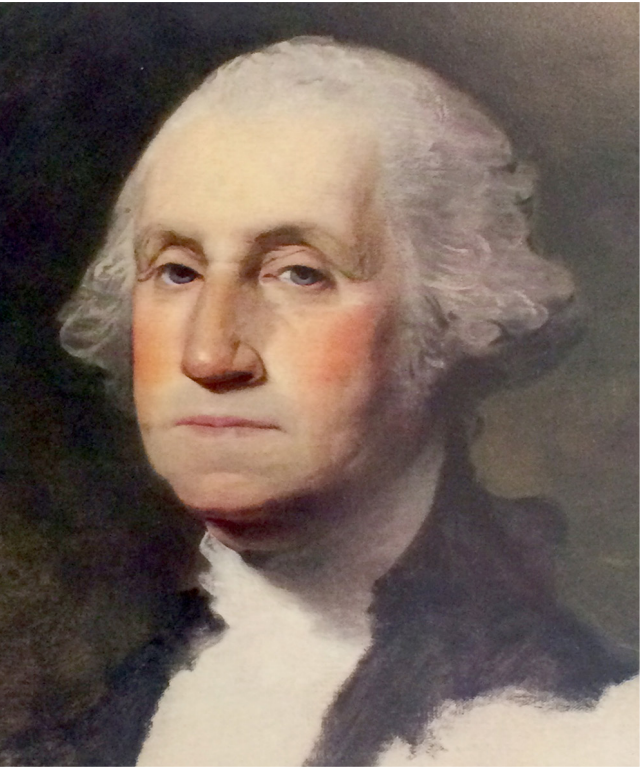


Eagle feathers #246

Washington’s Offering

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

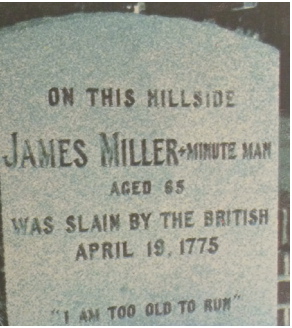
It was originally called The Badge of Military Merit. It was a decoration consisting of a purple, heart-shaped piece of cloth edged with a narrow binding of silk or lace. The word “merit” was stitched across its face. These badges were created in 1782 near the end of the Revolutionary War by General George Washington. They were to identify singularly meritorious action in his army by the lower ranks of Sergeant and below.



This was unknown in other countries. He felt that proof of courageous daring was essential. The emblem was fastened above the left breast of the recipient’s uniform and allowed the possessor to pass sentries and guards unchallenged as an officer would be. Only three were awarded during the Revolution and all to Sergeants. This to Washington was democracy in action. As time went by and despite attempts of revival, the practice was not prevalent again for 150 years. On February 22, 1932, George Washington’s 200th birthday, General Douglas MacArthur’s renewed undertaking helped create the Order of the Purple Heart, the oldest American decoration for military merit.



The medal has been continuously presented to members of the United States Armed Forces who were killed or wounded in action against the enemy after our entrance into World War I. As of today, over one million eight hundred thousand Purple Hearts have been awarded since 1932. The first Purple Heart medal was awarded to General MacArthur for injuries sustained during World War I and for his revival of the Order of the Purple Heart.



After 150 years in 1932, a new design was warranted. Miss Elizabeth Will, an Army heraldic specialist in the Quartermaster General’s Office, was chosen to redraft the recently revived medal. It then became known as the Purple

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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators’ votes on roll calls from the week of January 10-14. There were no roll calls in the House last week.

MAKE ADOPTION BY FAMILY MEMBERS EASIER (S 2616)

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that would repeal a current law which prohibits adoption of children by family members including older siblings, aunts and uncles. The proposal would allow these family members, with the permission of the county probate courts, to legally adopt their family members. Current law only allows these family members to apply to become a guardian.

Sponsor Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem) said that this archaic law was put in place at the beginning of the last century to prevent the potential for inheritance abuse, but the commonwealth has since adopted legal protections, such as conservatorships, to prevent this from occurring.

“Our families are often our largest sources of support and what a family looks like can mean different things to different people,” said Lovely. “I filed [the bill] to better reflect the realities of the lives of Massachusetts residents who love and care for one another ... our most vulnerable youth deserve to be cared for by the people who know and love them, and who can best assess their needs.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill).

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes
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MAKE OBTAINING ID CARDS EASIER FOR HOMELESS PERSONS (S 2612)

Senate 39-0 approved and sent to the House legislation that would make it easier for homeless youth and adults to secure free state ID cards. The measure would allow homeless service providers or other state agencies to provide the individual with documentation to prove residency.

Supporters said that currently, a person experiencing homelessness faces prohibitive fees and documentation requirements when trying to obtain an ID card.

They noted that ID cards are necessary for applying for jobs, enrolling in school, interacting with law enforcement, accessing government buildings, opening financial accounts and many other basic services that many take for granted.

“As the state begins to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn, the Legislature must ensure that individuals experiencing homelessness have the same fundamental opportunities to live happily,” said the measure’s sponsor Sen. Harriette Chandler (D-Worcester). “One fundamental key to accessing basic services are state-issued IDs. Currently, people experiencing homelessness face significant financial and bureaucratic barriers when they attempt to obtain an ID. Now is the time to break down bureaucratic barriers that fuel the cycle of poverty and to ensure equality for all the commonwealth’s residents as we look towards a post-pandemic world.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill).

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes
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ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

EXPAND THE BOTTLE BILL (S 2149) – The Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy approved and sent to the Senate Ways and Means Committee legislation that would expand the state’s existing bottle bill law that requires a 5-cent refundable deposit on glass, plastic, metal, aluminum and bi-metal containers holding beer and other malt beverages, carbonated soft drinks and mineral waters. The measure would require a deposit on bottles of most other carbonated and non-carbonated beverages including tea, energy drinks, water, wine and hard liquor. It would cover containers in sizes as small as nips all the way up to 3-liter containers and would exempt milk, certain juice products, infant formula and nutritive meal replacement liquids. The proposal also raises the deposit from 5 cents to 10 cents.

“When the Legislature passed the Bottle Bill in 1982, beverages like bottled water, sports drinks and ice teas were not widely marketed, so they were not included in the deposit program,” said Senate Majority Leader Cynthia Creem (D-Newton). “As a result, those products—which are now immensely popular—are much less likely to be recycled. By expanding the deposit system to include nearly all beverage containers and increasing the deposit from five to 10 cents, the Better Bottle Bill would increase recycling rates and reduce litter on our streets and in our parks.”

“In a move that brings good new year tidings, today, we move Massachusetts closer to reducing waste, increasing recycling and decreasing litter,” said MASSPIRG Executive Director Janet Domenitz. “The Bigger Better Bottle Bill will address the single-use plastic waste that has grown worse over time.”

\$41 MILLION IN STUDENT LOANS FORGIVEN – An estimated 1,523 Massachusetts residents who still owe a total of \$41 million in student loans received good news last week. Their loans have been forgiven as a result of a successful lawsuit by Attorney General Maura Healey and 38 other state attorneys general against Navient, one of the nation’s biggest students loan servicers. Healey’s office said this settlement resolves claims that Navient steered financially stressed federal student loan borrowers into “costly long-term forbearances instead of counseling them about the benefits of more affordable income-driven repayment plans.” The settlement will require court approval.

“Navient promised to help struggling borrowers find the repayment options that worked best for them, but instead steered borrowers into situations that pushed them deeper into debt,” said Healey. “Today’s settlement requires Navient to fix their mistakes, provides relief for families in Massachusetts and is an important step toward addressing our broken student loan repayment system.”

HOW SHOULD THE STATE SPEND THE REMAINING \$2.3 BILLIONS IN FEDERAL FUNDS? – Some of the \$4 billion of the federal funds allocated to Massachusetts from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) have been spoken for. But the discussion between Gov. Charlie Baker and the Legislature over how to spend the remaining \$2.3 billion in ARPA funds is very much alive. How are key lawmakers making spending decisions as a recently passed \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill directs even more federal aid to Massachusetts?

SUSPENSION OF DRIVER’S LICENSE (H 3535)

– The Transportation Committee held a virtual hearing on a measure that would amend a current law which prohibits drivers with suspended licenses from getting their license reinstated, after the suspension is over, until they pay off the entire associated fine for the underlying offense. The measure would allow the driver to have his license reinstated as long as he or she makes partial payments of at least \$25 per month toward the outstanding balance of the fine.

Sponsor Rep. Joseph McGonagle (D-Everett) said that many people owe fees of thousands of dollars which can be difficult to pay off in one sum. “This bill eases that burden,” said McGonagle. “Prior to my time as a representative, I had several employees whose lives were hindered by this law and I saw how detrimental it could be. I’m extremely proud of our partnership and commitment to fixing this issue, one that affects many across the commonwealth. Unless you know someone in this situation, you probably don’t realize what a serious problem it can be.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“This commission brings together a diverse, experienced and thoughtful group of experts and stakeholders to help our administration develop the policies and strategies we will need to meet the challenges associated with decarbonizing the buildings sector in Massachusetts. The membership of the commission on Clean Heat represents a variety of important perspectives that will be critical in the development of balanced, forward-thinking approaches to decarbonization that prioritize innovation, affordability, and equity as we make this transition.” — Gov. Charlie Baker announcing the swearing in of the members of Massachusetts’ Commission on Clean Heat, created to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the buildings sector.

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of January 10-14, the House met for a total of 39 minutes and the Senate met for a total of three hours and nine minutes..

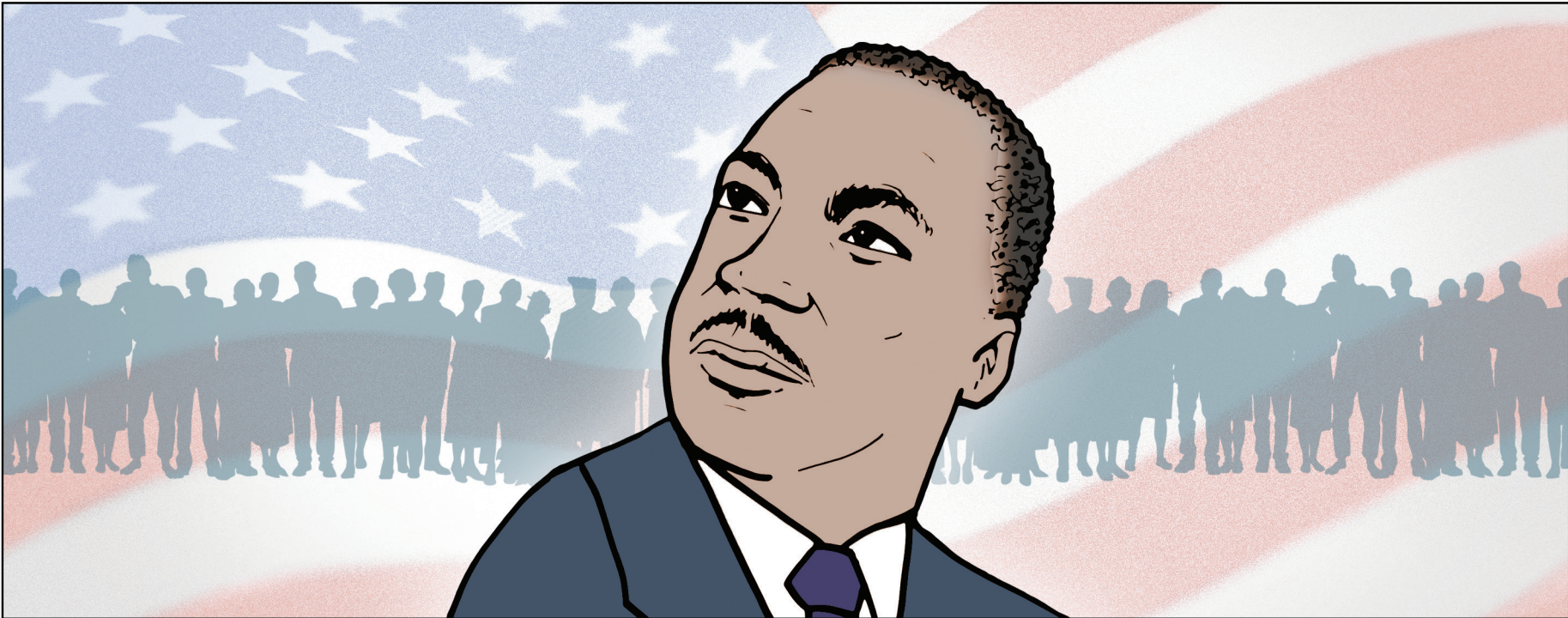
Mon. Jan. 10	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:13 a.m. Senate 11:16 a.m. to 11:26 a.m.
Tues. Jan. 11	No House session No Senate session
Wed. Jan. 12	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. Jan. 13	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:28 a.m. Senate 11:21 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.
Fri. Jan. 14	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville honors the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Our View Of The Times



The annual celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day reminds us of the importance of tolerance and embracing diversity in this modern age, just as it was in the days when Dr. King walked among us.

The civil rights movement of the 60s may seem like a distant and detached part of American history for some, perhaps as remote as the civil war itself in the minds of the young who did not live in that time. And yet, there was never a time in our history when the principles involved in that struggle were more relevant and meaningful than today, and even more so as we step forward into the future.

The great melting pot that is at the heart of the American dream is constantly tasked with the challenge of people of mixed racial, ethnic, and national identity blending and working together as equal partners with a common goal: to live freely and prosper in a land still stands as the best possible hope for so many.

As we all strive to surmount the wearisome onus of turning back the economic downturn that has kept many down over the past few years, and at the same time celebrate all that is good and count our blessings each day, the great equalizer remains in effect. We recognize and embrace the common humanity in all of us.

The tireless efforts of those like Dr. King helped to teach us the importance of knowing these things. As we acknowledge and celebrate the man this week, let us take time to consider what has taken place in this country since he was taken from us. We are a better society now, and that should never be taken for granted.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Schenkenfelder, Bob Crowley LeBlanc, Roy Moulton, Linda LoPresti Rosemary Ardagna, Eddie Hardy and James Casazza 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.

For families with children who have sensory needs or accommodation needs, there is a vaccine clinic specifically for you. Please visit the **VaxAbilities** website to sign up for the next local clinic of this type on **Friday, January 21**, at the **Museum of Science**. or other local vaccination events. <https://vaxabilities.com>.

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 their 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.

Mayor **Katjana Ballantyne** and the **City of Somerville Housing Division** are pleased to announce an income-restricted resale homeownership opportunity in Assembly Row. Unit 602 at 375 Canal Street is a one-bedroom condo available to households with a yearly gross income at or below 80% of Area Median Income (\$70,750 for a one-person household, or \$80,850 for a two-person household). To schedule a showing, contact **Ben Wyner** at 617-625-6600 ext. 2578 or bwyner@somervillema.gov. **How to Apply:** Multilingual applications and full eligibility requirements are now available at somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing. Applications must be submitted by **Tuesday, February 1**, at 2:00 p.m. Completed applications can be emailed to inclusionary@somervillema.gov, mailed

or hand-delivered to the **Inclusionary Housing Program (Housing Division)** at 50 Evergreen Avenue, Somerville, MA 02145 (must be received by this date, not postmarked), or faxed to the Inclusionary Housing Program at 617-591-3235. The lottery will take place virtually on **Thursday, February 10**, at 3 p.m. For more information, visit somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing, email inclusionary@somervillema.gov, or call 617-625-6600 ext. 2566.

Rent a space at the **Arts at the Armory's unique spaces**. Are you looking for a unique and memorable venue for an event? Their historic and spacious **Performance Hall**, intimate and charming **Café**, and comfortable and functional **B5** meeting/classroom/rehearsal space are all available to rent. Learn more about our spaces here. For more information, please contact events@artsatthearmory.org.

On **January 26**, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m., join **Mystic River Watershed Association** for a virtual public meeting to discuss a **Mystic River Path connection to the Minuteman Bikeway**. This first meeting will share existing conditions and solicit

feedback that will inform initial design concepts. More info and meeting details visit their Facebook page or website <https://mysticriver.org/>

The **Greater Boston League** has temporarily halted all athletic events for the remainder of the week, due to COVID-19 concerns. **Somerville High School** plays in the Greater Boston League.

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.

Somerville's **Winter Farmers Market** takes place **Saturdays**, 9:30 – 1:30 p.m., **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 *Continued on page 10*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#810

1. What age was Martin Luther King when he went to college?

2. In 1964, what did MLK win the Nobel Peace Prize for?

3. What famous boycott did Martin Luther King Jr. help orchestrate?

4. How long did the "I Have a Dream" speech last?

5. Who was the first African-American to win an Olympic Gold Medal?

6. What substance is the werewolf most afraid of?

7. Which cartoon dog first appeared in the 1930 Mickey Mouse film *The Chain Gang*?

8. Which detective/ lawyer TV show starred Andy Griffith?

9. What kind of animal is a Komodo dragon?

10. In what year was Broadway established?

11. What kind of creature is a Portuguese man o' war?

12. From which animal is mohair obtained?

Answers on page 15

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Lizards can self-amputate their tails for protection.

2. Dartboards are made out of horse hairs.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

WINTER OLYMPICS

ACROSS

1. Sleeps in a tent

6. Horror movie franchise

9. Varieties

13. Mozart's "Die Zauberflote"

14. Road crew supply

15. Moron

16. Workman's cotton, once

17. Exclamation of surprise

18. Monte Cristo's title, in French

19. Olympic Athletes from _____, 2018 hockey winners

21. Figure skating jump (2 words)

23. Capone's ilk, e.g.

24. Attention-getting sound

25. Eminem's genre

28. Cashier's call

30. Hit-or-miss

35. It will

37. Triple one in figure skating

39. Hustle and bustle

40. German Mrs.

41. A mile racer

43. a.k.a. horse mackerel

44. Jargon

46. Workbench holding device

47. Health club offering

48. Diner, e.g.

50. Latin for "and others"

52. _____ Aviv

53. Ill-mannered one

55. Curiosity's victim?

57. 2022 Winter Olympics location

61. Torch Relay starting point

64. "_____ the Family" TV series

65. Refrigerator sound

67. Poppy seed derivative

69. Bitterly regretting

70. Egyptian cobra

71. Part of a stair

72. Seedy source of Omega-3s

73. More, in Madrid

74. Changes to a manuscript

DOWN

1. Cape _____, MA

2. Copycat

3. Carte du jour

4. Spectrum maker

5. Delilah's lover

6. Roofed colonnade

7. Expression of satisfaction

8. Angry

9. Revered one

10. Fancy ride

11. Japanese zither

12. Pas in ballet

15. "Freezing" Marvel character

20. Letter-shaped girder

22. "_____ the land of the free..."

24. Designer's studio

25. Biathlon gear

26. Skylit lobbies

27. Manufacturing site

29. 2022 Winter Olympics number

31. Like Curious George

32. Monocot's alternative

33. "Killers of the Flower Moon" Oklahoma location

CROSSWORD

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

TRACTOR

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GRACE

IMBUE

DAB

EIGHT

PEACHES

BENNETT

KEA

WILEY

ABAB

ERNEST

FRAMED

ROMP

LODE

ALAMO

ERIE

SALAD

GMAN

NONET

HOSE

AMID

ANORAK

CEPS

ALA

SILK

TEN

BATISTE

SHEERAN

INANE

OHM

SWALE

KNOLL

NEO

ALTOS

EASY

ERG

WYATT

Mayor Ballantyne announces 100-Day ‘Somerville Progress for All’ agenda

In her inaugural address on Monday, January 3, newly elected Mayor Katjana Ballantyne laid out her vision for an administration that is inclusive and transparent, examines every issue through an equity lens, and strives to ensure progress made in the city positively affects all residents and businesses. She also promised to announce her 100-day work plan, and today she delivers on that promise with the release of the 100 Day Somerville ‘Progress for All’ Agenda.

The agenda can be viewed at somervillema.gov/100days or <http://www.thesomerville-times.com/archives/113957>. **Mayor Ballantyne’s comprehensive 100-day policy agenda is designed to**

- take on the most pressing issues facing the City of Somerville starting first and foremost with COVID response and recovery,
- deliver on community priorities,
- strengthen basic services that impact daily quality of life, and
- establish the practice of applying an equity lens to all City actions.

“My vision for Somerville is an inclusive, equitable city where we can all thrive together, and I know that’s the vision this community shares. This 100-day agenda is my commitment to our city to get to work on that mission from

day one,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “We face many challenges and our community has many needs and that starts with our intensive focus on COVID response and recovery. But right now, we also have so much opportunity for broader progress. This agenda is how we get our running start. This is how we seize opportunities and move forward our efforts to address the current crisis while also seeking longer-term progress for all.”

While many priorities such as climate change, housing, and racial and social justice will require long-term work, Mayor Ballantyne’s 100 Day Progress for All Agenda is designed to make quick, meaningful, and actionable progress on our greatest challenges and our community members’ most urgent needs.

Comprehensive work in numerous other areas will also be assessed and advanced during this period. The 100 Day Progress for All Agenda represents focused efforts among this broader work. The agenda was developed with a citizen Advisory Committee made up of residents, advocates, and community leaders prior to Mayor Ballantyne’s swearing in, and then workshopped with City staff in her first week in office.

Mayor Ballantyne will move her 100 Day Progress for All Agenda focused on seven key

areas:

- Urgent COVID response and ongoing recovery
- Equity, inclusion, and social justice
- Affordability for all Environmental sustainability and climate change
- Access, transparency, and accountability
- Quality of life
- Strengthening and supporting the city’s workforce

A sampling of specific priority items outlined for quick action includes:

- Undertake swift action to increase access to COVID testing and vaccines
- Launch efforts to shore up the City’s health structures to support the COVID response and long-term public health and wellness goals
- Create a Somerville Families Task Force
- Advance racial and social justice work including pressing forward on a path to reimagine policing
- Invest \$2 million in ARPA funds for initiatives to help close the wealth gap for women, specifically for women of color
- Kick off research into rent-to-own homeownership initiatives
- Explore options for a municipal voucher program to fund long-term housing subsidies for vulnerable families
- Raise City carbon-reduction goalposts to target a Net-Zero



Carbon-Negative Somerville by 2050

- Establish Mayor Ballantyne’s Climate Justice Summer Youth Jobs Program
- Set a goal to create the most ecologically restorative City landscape in the region
- Move to create an Office of Accountability, Transparency, and Access
- Pursue effective rodent control solutions, including the launch of the SMART system

pilot

- Invest in flood control and expand community engagement on solutions
- Move forward actions to create Safer Streets in Somerville
- Launch a Work Better Task Force to develop insights into how to best meet the needs of our residents and those who serve them
- Conduct a Voice of Somerville Survey to hear from residents about their priorities

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 5

Heart. Her creation was the present day golden bust and profile of General Washington on an enameled purple heart, surmounted with his coat of arms.

Through the years, many notables earned the Purple Heart:

- Rod Serling – Screenwriter, playwright, television producer best known for the television series *The Twilight Zone*
- James Garner – American actor and producer
- Charles Bronson – American actor known for his portrayal of tough guys
- James Arness – American actor known for the television series *Gunslinger*
- Audie Murphy – One of the most decorated soldiers of WWII and actor
- Ted Williams – Boston Red

Sox’s player and one of the greatest hitters in baseball history. The Purple Heart recipient interrupted his famous baseball career twice to serve as a Marine Corps pilot during World War II and Korea. One of Boston’s major traffic tunnels is named after him.

Out of the many Somerville-related Purple Heart receivers, some notables are:

- Private George Dilboy – Medal of Honor winner
- Lieutenant James A. Logan – Distinguished Flying Cross
- Sergeant Henry O. Hansen – Iwo Jima Flag Raiser
- James Miller – Prospect Hill’s sixty-five-year-old heroic Revolutionary Minuteman who said, “I’m too old to run!” Since the Purple Heart goes back to

the very beginning of the Revolutionary War, Miller would be eligible for the honor.

- Captain Nathan Hale – Winter Hill’s Ranger who said, “I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.” He would also be eligible for the honor.
- Lieutenant John F. Kennedy – America’s 35th President and Somerville Congressman. He was the only President to receive the Purple Heart.

Today, all fifty of our states, Guam and Puerto Rico remember these Purple Heart veterans through walking trails, highways, and parks. They are dedicated to these heroes throughout the United States who were honored by Washington’s offering.



The winners of The Somerville Times Reader's Choice results for

THE BEST OF SOMERVILLE 2021

Congratulations to the winners! Please support their businesses and let them know you saw them in The Somerville Times

Readers choices for 2021

Best Idea in 2021:

Extending the city's residential eviction moratorium

Worst Idea in 2021:

Powderhouse Circle new traffic route

Best Somerville Food & Restaurants:

Somerville's most unique vegan take-out and delivery service:

Litterburg, 5 Sanborn Court

Best Breakfast:

Ball Sq. Cafe, 708 Broadway

Best Breakfast Sandwiches:

Thurston Spa, 393 Medford St.

Best Combination Breakfast & Lunch:

Café Rustica, 356 Beacon St.

Best Italian Take Out Food:

Vinny's at Night, 76 Broadway

Best Italian Specialty Store:

Capone Foods, 14 Bow St.

Best Portuguese Restaurant:

Neighborhood Restaurant, 25 Bow St.

Best Brazilian Restaurant:

Gauchao Brazilian Cuisine, 102 Broadway

Best Chinese Food:

China Delight, 524 Somerville Ave.

Best Mexican Food:

Don Julio Restaurant,514 A Medford St.

Best Variety and All Around Restaurant:

Mount Vernon Restaurant, 14 Broadway

Best Seafood Restaurant:

Out of the Blue, 215 Elm St.

Best Irish Pub:

The Burren, 247 Elm St.

Best Hamburger:

Boston Burger Company, 37 Davis Sq.

Best Roast Beef Sandwich:

Mortadella Head,20 College Ave.

Best Vegan Tacos:

Taco Party, 711 Broadway

Best Bar Food:

Sally O'Brien's, 335 Somerville Ave.

Best Vegetarian Pizza:

Veggie Crust, 445 Somerville Ave.

Best Pizza:

Mamma Lisa's Pizzeria, 312 Broadway

Best Gourmet Pizza:

Posto, 187 Elm St.

Best Pan Pizza:

Leone's, 292 Broadway

Best Detroit Style Pizza:

Avenue Kitchen and Bar, 158 Boston Ave.

Best BBQ:

Redbones, 55 Chester St.

Best Fried Chicken:

Trina's Starlite Lounge, 3 Beacon St.

Best Sub Shop:

Angelina's, 230 Holland St.

Best Sandwiches:

Dave's Fresh Pasta, 81 Holland St.

Best Chocolate:

Taza Chocolate, 561 Windsor St.

Best Donuts:

Union Square Donuts, 20 Bow St.

Best Muffins:

Magnificent Muffin & Bagel Shoppe, 1118 Broadway

Best Cakes:

Lyndell's Bakery, 720 Broadway

Best Cannoli:

Mike's Pastry, 445 Revolution Dr.

Best Half Moons:

Lyndell's Bakery, 720 Broadway

Best Pies:

Petsi Pies, 285 Beacon St.

Best Cheesecake:

7ATE9 Bakery, 199C Highland Ave.

Best Local Coffee Shop:

3 Little Figs,278 Highland Ave.

Best Bar for Bands:

The Jungle, 6 Sanborn Ct.

Best Restaurant/Entertainment:

Premiere on Broadway, 517 Broadway

Best Brewery:

AERONAUT, 14 Tyler St.

Best Diner:

Kelly's Diner, 674 Broadway

Best Local Bar:

The Pub, 682 Broadway

Best Bowling:

Flatbread Company, 45 Day St.

Best of Somerville Services:

Best Optometrists:

Eye Associates of Somerville, 174 Broadway

Best Medical Services:

Somerville Family Practice, 1020 Broadway

Best Wellness Clinic:

KenkoDo, 735 Broadway

Best Dentist Office:

West Somerville Dental Associates 124 College Ave.

Best Electricians:

Bent Electrical Contractors, 59A Inner Belt Rd.

Best Plumbers:

T.J. Sillari, Inc., 99 Albion St.

Best Law Firm:

Rumery & Smith, 403 Highland Ave.

Best Paralegal:

Paula LeBlanc, O'Donovan Law Office, 741 Broadway

Best Insurance Agency:

Wedgewood-Crane & Connolly, 19 College Ave.

Best Bank:

Winter Hill Bank, winterhillbank.com

Best Bank President:

Sandra L. McGoldrick, Winter Hill Bank

Best Branch Manager:

Lisa Ramos, Century Bank

Best Teller:

Britanny Kluber, Century/ Eastern Bank

Best Real Estate Rental Agent:

Bill Murphy, Colony Real Estate 1242 Broadway

Best Florist:

Hallie's Garden, 11 Miller St.

Best Waiter/Waitress:

Mount Vernon Waitstaff, 14 Broadway

Best Cook:

Omar Djebbouri, Ball Sq Café, 708 Broadway

Best Laundromat:

Spin Cycle, 6 Main St.

Best Liquor Store:

Sullivan Square liquors, 88 Broadway

Best Barbershop:

Alibrandi's Barber Shop, 194 Holland St.

Best Hair Salon:

Salon Cu, 698 Broadway

Best Hair Stylist:

Lori Pino, Amal Niccoli, 731 Broadway

Best Mechanic:

Pat Lydon, Auto Plus, 229A Lowell St.

Best Auto Body:

A Plus Autobody,297 Medford St.

Best Handyman:

Bill Faber, Main St.

Best Contractor:

Bobby Potaris, Potaris Construction

Best Pest Exterminator:

Best Pest Control Services, 63 Elm St.

Best Dry Cleaners:

Family Dry Cleaners, 5 Main St.

Best Teacher:

Tim Dumphy, Full Circle

Best Nurse:

Mary Hart, Cambridge Health Alliance

Best Police Officer:

Officer Tom Lambert

Best Firefighter:

Lt. Danielle O'Hearn

Best of Somerville Arts/Entertainment:

Best Somerville Poet:

Doug Holder

Best Photographer:

Claudia Ferro

Best Food Columnist:

Dorothy DiMarzo, Dorothy's Corner

Best Somerville Stories:

Jimmy Del Ponte

Best Somerville Historian:

Bob "Monty" Doherty

Best Somerville Non-Profit Agency:

Somerville Homeless Coalition 1 Davis Sq.

Best Somerville Charity:

Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville mutualaidmamas.com

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Somerville Launches Free COVID Testing Sites in East Somerville

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne today announced new COVID-19 testing sites in East Somerville to expand access to free tests for Somerville residents and workers.

In partnership with local healthcare company LCG Boston, the City is opening a walk-through testing site at the Igreja Internacional da Graça de Deus (International Church of the Grace of God) at 85 Washington Street in East Somerville. This location will be able to administer and process 500 PCR tests each day it's open, vastly expanding upon the City's current testing capacity of 200 tests per week. The site will open Saturday, January 15, and provide three days of testing weekly for approximately four weeks as demand warrants.

At the start of each day, one hour of Senior+ Access will be reserved for seniors age 65 and older, persons with disabilities, and vulnerable persons facing barriers to access.

"My first priority as Mayor is to fight this surge of COVID-19, and in order to do so effectively, we have to expand testing in a strategic, meaningful way," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "That means adding capacity while removing barriers and centering resources on those most adversely impacted by the virus in our response. I'm grateful to our partners at LCG Boston and the Igreja Internacional da Graça de Deus for supporting this critical resource for our community."

On Saturday, January 15, hours will be 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the general public. Senior+ Hour will run from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. For future hours, see below and please also see the weekly schedules at somervillema.gov/covidtesting or call 311 (617-666-3311). All are encouraged to dress warmly.

Testing at this location is open to Somerville residents and workers of all ages who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or who are a confirmed close contact of someone with COVID-19. Testing is free, regardless of health insurance or immigration status. Appointments are not required. Limited on-street parking is available on Washington Street, and MBTA bus routes 86, 91, and CT2 stop nearby. The church is located at 85 Washington Street, and the testing area is outdoors in the rear parking behind the building.

Persons seeking tests for travel should check mass.gov/GetTested for other options. Persons who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 should not PCR test for 90 days and should therefore not use this site. PCR tests can show positive results for several months after symptoms have subsided. Rapid antigen self-tests are more appropriate for checking for return to work or to normal activities.

"There is tremendous demand for testing right now, and we are fortunate that we were able to secure these resources and that so many in our community are willing to seek testing to help control the spread of COVID-19. But that also means we need to ask for everyone's patience. Holding walk-in testing helps ensure the broadest and most equitable access, but there may be lines. Please come prepared with something to occupy you, warm clothes, and your patience in tow," said Somerville Director of Emergency Management Justin Kates.

Hours for Walk-In Covid Testing at 85 Washington Street (use the rear entrance via parking lot behind the building)

- Saturday 1/15: 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., Senior+ Hour – 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., All
- Friday 1/21: 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., Senior+ Hour – 2:00 to 7:00 p.m., All
- Saturday 1/22: 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., Senior+ Hour – 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.: All
- Thursday 1/27: 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., Senior+ Hour – 2:00 to 7:00 p.m., All
- Friday 1/28: 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., Senior+ Hour – 2:00 to 7:00 p.m., All
- Saturday 1/29: 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., Senior+ Hour – 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., All

Hours after 1/29 will be posted to somervillema.gov/covidtesting or available via 311.

For information on additional testing options in the region, visit somervillema.gov/covidtesting or call 311 (617-666-3311).



Lyndell's bakery to remain in operation during development

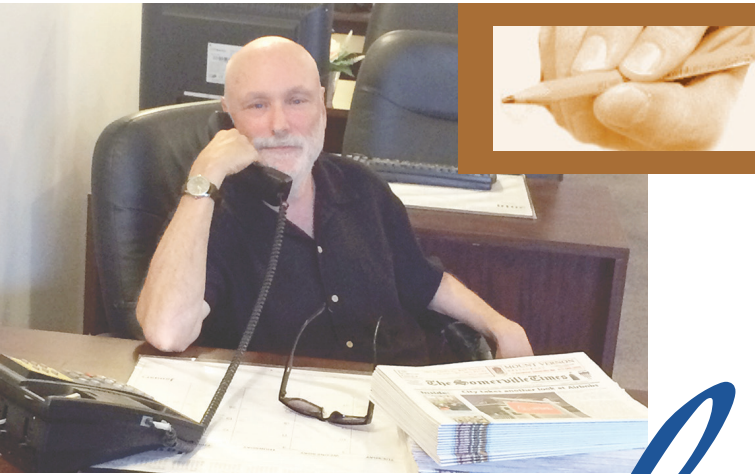
The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will be holding a public meeting and hearing on Tuesday, January 25, concerning the requested demolition of two structures on Broadway, the building where Lyndell's Bakery is located (274 Willow Ave. / 720 Broadway) and the house next to it at 722 Broadway. This is the first of two steps in the Demolition Review Process.

Bill Galatis, the owner of Lyndell's, recently sent an email about the future of Lyndell's to the Ball Square District Association:

"Joe Fodera, our landlord did mention to me over a year ago that he and his family were considering (subject to all the necessary neighborhood and city approvals) re-developing the corner of Willow and Broadway into a mixed retail and residential project. Joe committed to me that if this project goes forward then Lyndell's Bakery would occupy the major retail space. We would work collaboratively in deciding the size and design of the bakery. Lyndell's Bakery is not for sale, is not closing and I expect to continue to be the 100% owner for a very long time. If the project goes forward, it gives us a chance to upgrade our classic look, invest in new equipment and potentially have some more indoor seating. Please disregard any comments that are on social media. These people simply don't know the facts. We view this as positive for Lyndell's and Ball Square. We will have to relocate somewhere in Ball Square until the new space is turned over to us."

All the many fans of Lyndell's are greatly pleased to get this news.





OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville Poet Laureate Lloyd Schwartz put into a fortune cookie

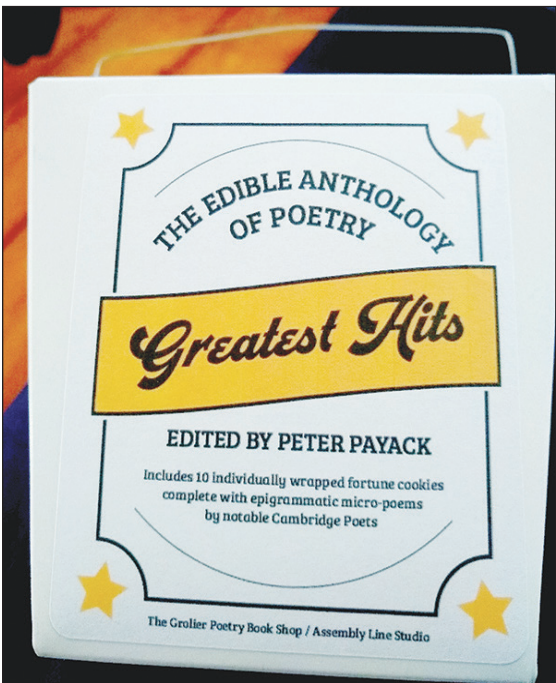
Somerville Poet Laureate Lloyd Schwartz and *The Somerville Times* Arts Editor Doug Holder are some of the many poets included in Peter Payack's *The Edible Anthology of Poetry*.

This whimsical project founded by Payack puts micro-poems from area poets into real fortune cookies and groups them into Chinese takeout boxes. These collector items can be purchased at the Grolier Poetry Book Shop in Harvard Square.

Payack wrote me, "This is the 7th edition of *The Edible Anthology of Poetry*. The first was in 1980. At that time *The Boston Globe* wrote, 'Peter Payack is the kid who crossed *Popular Mechanics* with the *New Criticism* and made the (fortune) cookie crumble into poems.'"

Payack continued, "I had some people over last week and handed out six cookies to six people and was surprised to see how each person not only read the poem out loud but had an interpretation and they then started a discussion. The room unexpectedly turned into a literary salon! I then told them who the poets were and why I picked that particular poem."

Some of the notable poets included are Martha



Collins, Joyce Peseroff, Sam Cornish, DeWitt Henry, Ifeanyi Menkiti, Kathleen Spivack, Tracy K. Smith, Mark Pawlak, and many others.

After devouring some of the poems from your takeout box, watch out, you may hunger for more an hour later.



Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Nina Rubinstein Alonso is a member of the Somerville Bagel Bards, and has been published in such places as *Ploughshares*, and *The New Yorker*. She is editor of the Cambridge based journal *Constellations*.



Dry Garden — Madrid

Dry garden empty of wonders masses of sad
petunias wilted falling over on San Antonio Street
bunches of gardenias collapsing en masse though
gardeners keep watering as it's that hot a desert

I hear a woman speaking French disparaging
Madrid's botanical garden dismissive unsympathetic
says they're leaving and probably we are too though keep
visiting El Prado pulled by the paintings the paintings

treasure house with almost too many gifts we found
Ingres and Gredos hanging in a barren utilitarian area as if
forgotten in someone's back hall and stand enchanted
can't even walk by a cafe if Fernando fancies bocadillos

have to stop though being here's much like a dream
keep thinking I'll look out the window and see
Walden Street or Harvard Square not towers in curious
quasi-Italianate style as if the architect couldn't decide

what to do with those roofs and cornices though we've
had more than enough foul atmosphere eyes burning
air so deeply parched that yesterday I stepped through a
gush of water washing the street and was instantly dry.

— Nina Rubinstein Alonso

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

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

1. 15

2. Combating racial inequality through nonviolent resistance

3. The Montgomery bus boycott

4. 17 minutes

5. John Baxter Taylor

6. Silver

7. Pluto

8. *Matlock*

9. A lizard

10. 1750

11. A jellyfish

12. The angora goat

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