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The Somerville Times





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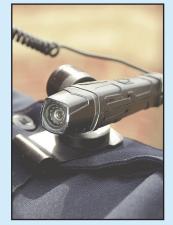
SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:



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Cameras on cops?

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MLK Day Celebration page 12

Board of Aldermen to scrutinize Condo Review Board



The City Solicitor's office is being urged to review the process whereby developers are granted permits for

By Josie Grove

The Housing and Community Development Committee of the Board of Aldermen will be taking on the issue of condominium conversions, after Ward 5 Alderman Mark Niedergang attended the December 11 meeting of the Condominium Review Board and found the proceedings troubling.

"It was chaotic and poorly run," Niedergang said at last Thursday's Board of Aldermen meeting. "It appeared to me to be a conveyer belt for granting developers condo conversion permits."

A Somerville resident tipped off the alderman to the problematic operation of the review board after struggling against eviction from his rented apartment so that it could be turned into condominiums.

"I'm the chair of the Housing and Community Development committee of the Board of Aldermen, so I had been meaning Continued on page 4

The Art of Mental Health night

By Amy Swain

Last Thursday, the Somerville Speaks initiative held a banquet at the Uniun. The event was the culmination of an art contest the group held including writing and visual art on the topic of mental health issues.

The event began at 6 p.m. By 6:15, the venue was nearly full. The notion that mental illness does not discriminate was represented in the crowd: different ages, ethnicities, and personalities came together.

Local band Afro D All Starz stimulated the atmosphere with their unique mix of hip-hop, jazz, and soul rock at the front of the room, while a free sandwich and snack station was set up at the back.

Several interactive stations were set up for activities like drawing, sketching, and block building. The walls were lined with drawings, paintings, collage and literature tackling subjects including depression, PTSD, anxiety, and other mental health issues.

The offerings were done by Continued on page 5



One of the award winning submissions for Somerville's Department of Health and Human Services and the Center for Teen Empowerment's Art Contest, by Nina Zou.

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Our apologies to visitors to our website last week. It was down for maintenance for a couple of days, following a series of spam-bot assaults on our database. Everything is in apple pie order now and we don't anticipate any problems in the future. We had to delete part of the corrupted database, which included past article comments by our users, but in the spirit of the new year and new beginnings, let's get busy refilling it with our ideas and suggestions concerning life in our great city. Be sure to visit us at www.thesomervilletimes. com and share your thoughts.

Happy birthdays this week to some of our friends here in the Ville and elsewhere who are fans of our paper: Big happy birthday to Bill Rogers, of the well known Rogers of Winter Hill. We hope he has a great day. Happy birthday to one good guy and a veteran who grew up here in Somerville, Phil Forsyth, who currently resides in Texas. We wish him the very best. A very happy birthday to another good friend, Ken Kotch, who is celebrating this week. Ken is a well-known photographer who has been hired nationwide for special assignments. He's a newbie to Somerville, but he loves it here. Happy birthday to attorney and popular guy Bob Daut, who is celebrating this week as well. And our own Somerville Rotary is celebrating its birthday as well. The club now meets at the Holiday Inn at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesdays. If you are interested in joining this worldwide organization that contributes a lot here in the city, contact them on their own website for further information.

If you haven't registered to vote yet you have until February 10 to do so to vote in the Presidential Primary coming up in March here in Massachusetts. You can go to the Election Department at City Hall and fill out the form, or better yet you can just go online at https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/. This year's presidential race is crucial to everyone. There is no excuse as registering to vote can't be any easier.

Our sincere condolences go out to the O'Donovan family here in Somerville for the recent loss of James O'Donovan, who was a long time resident and dad to, among

Continued on page 11

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Obituary: James A. O'Donovan

Elizabeth Mac says:

Very sad news. Condolences to friends and family.

JM says:

Thank you for your service during WW2 Mr. Donovan. God speed.

Response to: What's on Somerville Neighborhood News: SNN #57

Oliver Seppo says:

It's so refreshing to see three outstanding women speak out on these important issues! Kudos!

Response to: Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

Madeline Wright says:

Looking forward to the celebration. Always inspiring and informative.

Response to: Somerville Police Crime Log January 11 – 16

Genie Geronimo says:

I'm getting him a business card: Atem Agok, Asportationist

Rumpleforeskin says:

Atem Agok must either be the world's most inept shoplifter or else he's looking to get three hots and a cot through the winter season. So far it looks like he's not getting them.

Owen Deed says:

There's got to be a country song in there somewhere.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

TheSomervilleTimes.com poll of the week

In addition to breaking news, sports and opinion, TheSomervilleTimes.com also features a daily poll in which you, the reader, tell us where you come down on local issues. Last week's poll concerned your views on whether or not you are in favor of Somerville police officers being required to wear body cameras. If you don't agree with the results, simply log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com.

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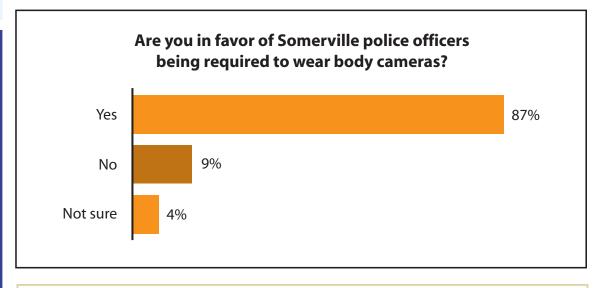
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Demolition of buildings driving rodents to nearby properties

By Haley ED Houseman

As construction projects move forward in expectation of the Green Line Extension project eventually coming to Somerville, neighbors in the Union Square neighborhood are purportedly engaged in a battle against rats.

Complaints of increased rodent activity have cropped up in the neighborhoods surrounding Union Square following the demolition of a series of buildings. The site of the former Boys and Girls Club on Washington Street, as well as long standing Cota Funeral Home, was demolished in order to make way for a planned mix of development as part of the plans for the Union Square area. The area will include affordable housing commercial spaces and market-rate condos.

Patty O'Leary, living nearby but not adjacent to the development, has been combatting the rodent issue. According to her, rats have become a regular feature of her formerly suburban community. She has reached out to the Health Department and the Mayor's Office since the demolition concluded last fall. She complains that there has not been a robust enough response, despite a city inspector's repeated visits to the area in the past year. She notes she has no knowledge of the inspector returning to follow-up after conducting inspections that included setting traps. O'Leary feels that rodent

activity has increased enormously in the past few weeks.

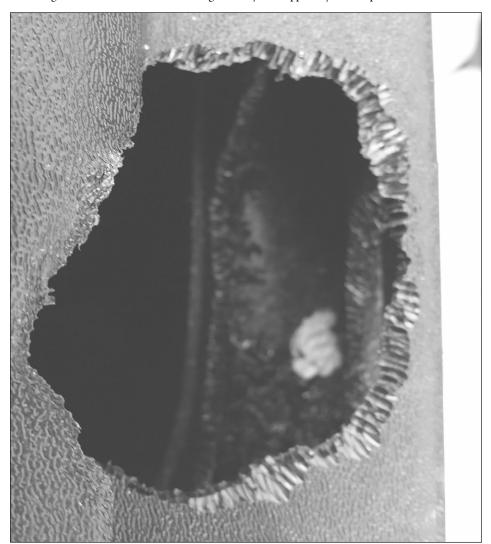
City inspector Chris Roche has been working on the sites in the area. Of the four reported incidents in the past two years associated with the development, all but one were minor issues that Roche noted were cleared up. Roche explains that there is a series of steps developers must follow, including submitting a plan for abatement to inspection services. While the city will set traps for rats, they also recommend using private exterminators for more chronic issues if the inspector is unable to resolve the rodent

Another local rat problem is in the hands of Dave Bryson, a neighbor to O'Leary, who explained the rodent damage to his newly planted lawn shortly after the final stages of demolition in the fall. His household had just landscaped on his property this past spring, only to have it destroyed in the fall. "The rats have dug tunnels under the lawn in about 6 or 7 locations throughout the lawn and garden. We spent several thousand dollars this spring having a landscaper re-sod the whole yard. Now it has holes all over it." He also pointed out that droppings have become a problem.

Despite repeatedly placing baited rattrap boxes and gas bombs on the property to remove the pests, he has been unable to remove them. Despite being in touch



According to some residents, rats are chewing their way into supposedly "rodent-proof" trash containers.



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with the Somerville Health Department and the placement of the city's bait boxes by an inspector, the rats continue to plague the neighborhood. According to Bryson, "The rats have taken over the garage, including boring through the cinder block walls for entry."

Bryson is skeptical of the abatement

process the city and developers claim to have implemented. "I know that contractors are required to do abatement on buildings before they are demolished," he said. "Someone from the city has to sign off that this work was done. I would be interested in knowing who signed off on the 197 Washington St. project."

By Jim Clark

A lousy place to catch a little nap

Police were called to Community Laundry on Bow St. last week on reports that a man was sleeping on the floor.

Upon arrival, officers located the man in question, later identified as Charles Cashman, lying face down on a blanket on the floor of the laundry.

Several customers of the laun-

dry were present as the officers confronted Cashman, according to reports.

One of the officers nudged Cashman's boot in order to wake him up. Cashman reportedly turned over, then stood up. Police said that he immediately became boisterous and began cursing at the officers, telling them that they had no right to awaken him.

Cashman reportedly told the officers that he did not have to leave the laundry and that they [the police] did not have anything better to do.

The officers made several requests to Cashman to quiet down and leave the premises,

but he reportedly continued shouting obscenities at the officers and refused to leave.

The officers then advised Cashman that he would be placed under arrest, but he reportedly struggled with them and resisted their attempts at placing him in handcuffs, continuing to shout obscenities at them as they re-

strained him.

Cashman was eventually handcuffed and formally placed under arrest by the officers, charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

A verbal do not trespass order was reportedly issued to Cashman by the proprietors of the laundry as he was led away.

SOMERVILLE POLICE GRIME LOC

Arrests:

John Medeiros, of 10 Clayton Ave., Medford, January 11, 12:58 p.m., arrested at Bay State Ave. on warrant charges of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license, marked lanes violation, and speeding.

Atem Agok, January 11, 3:54 p.m., arrested at McGrath Hwy. on charges of trespassing and shoplifting by asportation.

Charles Cashman, January 12, 10:55 a.m., arrested at Bow St. on charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Brigham Jaulin, of 31 Wilton St., January 13, 9:12 a.m., arrested at Bow St. on a warrant charge of assault with a dangerous weapon.

James Dogherty, of 80 Bow St., Medford, January 13, 3:44 p.m., arrested at Broadway on warrant charges of threat to commit a crime, assault and

battery, assault to murder, attempted murder, vandalizing a war or veterans memorial, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Milton Barahona, of 180 Cross St., Malden, January 14, 4:53 p.m., arrested at Grand Union Blvd. on charges of furnishing a false name or Social Security number and shoplifting by concealing merchandise, and on warrant charges of witness intimidation and assault

and battery.

Kenny Lok, of 312 Billings Rd., Quincy, January 15, 4:29 p.m., arrested at Mystic Ave. on a charge of shoplifting over \$100 by asportation.

Melissa Mercogliano, of 80 Edwards St., Medford, January 15, 6:33 p.m., arrested at McGrath Hwy. on a charge of shoplifting over \$100 by asportation.

John MacInnes, of 5 Sherborn Ct., Medford, January 15,

6:33 p.m., arrested at McGrath Hwy. on a charge of shoplifting over \$100 by asportation.

Christine Belcher, of 550 Ferry St., Everett, January 16, 4:20 a.m., arrested at River Rd. on warrant charges of refusal to provide sample for DNA database and assault and battery.

Francisco Patino, of 58 Ibbetson St., January 16, 12:16 p.m., arrested at Lowell St. on a charge of lewd, wanton and lacivious conduct.

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Board of Aldermen to scrutinize Condo Review Board

CONT. FROM PG 1

to go for a while," said Niedergang. "The meeting was very poorly run, and the issues that [the resident] and his lawyers raised, the board and the staff of the board was not able to respond to them in a thoughtful and understandable way."

Niedergang thinks that the Review board is not fulfilling its purpose. To protect tenants, Somerville passed a strong condominium conversion ordinance in 1980, and created the Condominium Review Board to enforce it. Among other provisions, the conversion ordinance asks that the condo review board consider the overall benefit to Somerville citizens, hardships of the tenants who will be removed, and the availability of rental units for low- and moderate-income people, the elderly, and handicapped people. Niedergang does not see this consideration from the condominium review board. At the December meeting, Niedergang saw, "The letters granting the permits were all already signed and sitting in a folder, and as

the developers made their cases, the board just handed them permits," said Niedergang.

Denise Taylor, the city of Somerville's Director of Communications, explained that the review process cannot stop a condo conversion, but only ensures that tenants receive the protections outlined in the condo conversion ordinance. "What to an outsider may look like simple rubber stamping of applications for condo conversions, because most go forward, is actually a detailed process that attempts to safeguard tenants by ensuring that when conversions do happen, tenants are at least given proper warning, an opportunity to purchase the units themselves, and moving cost support."

Developers have found a way to circumvent the waiting period and convert to condominiums more quickly. "Before selling to developers," explains Niedergang, "landlords are told to get the tenants out, so that the developer can have an emp-

ty building and an easier path to a condo. Two months later, they're in the condo review board, bang, they get their certificate, and it's done."

"I'm concerned that they might not be enforcing the law as strongly as possible because of interpretations that the law is not valid anymore," said Niedergang, referring to the 1995 state law that outlawed rent control in Massachusetts. "There's a lot of gray area about what the law actually says, and a lot of that has been invalidated by the state legislation."

"The rent control law basically struck down anything in condo conversions that could affect rent. That can be interpreted broadly or narrowly," explains Niedergang. "Our ordinance talked a lot about maintaining rental properties and maintaining the number of rental properties in the city, and that was deemed to be illegal. The law can now only be used to protect renters, not properties from being convert-



Ward 5 Alderman Mark Niedergang expressed his concern over what he felt was a "conveyor belt" process in granting condominium conversion permits.

ed." That is, the law cannot be applied to vacant properties.

Niedergang thinks that apparent contradictions between the city law and the state law have given rise to an overly permissive environment for condo conversions. "The board, and the chair especially, seemed to think that they should be granting these permits," says Niedergang, who would like to see a more critical review board.

Niedergang wants the law

to further protect tenants, which he sees as key to keeping Somerville diverse. "Low and moderate income people are being driven out of the city, and they're being replaced by wealthier, much wealthier people," he said. The condo conversion ordinance will be reviewed by the City Solicitor's office, and will be discussed in the Housing and Community Development committee of the Board of Aldermen.

Body Cameras: Coverage you can count on

By Jessica Kenney

The Board of Aldermen held a regular meeting on January 14, 2016. One of the topics discussed was in regard to police officers wearing body cameras. The order was that the Chief of Police should consider using body cameras on all police officers. There was a particular focus on the patrol division. The body cameras would be worn in the normal course of their duties, and would provide video from the officer's perspective of the situations or interactions taking place during a call for service.

There was no discussion on whether the cameras would run constantly or if there would be times designated for them to be turned on; or if officers would be able to review footage before drafting their reports.

At the end of last year, President Obama asked Congress for funding to buy 50,000 body cameras to record events between police officers and those they were responding to calls for. Many police departments across the country are requiring their officers to wear body cameras, and the evidence indicates that this change is positive for both the officers and the public.



The Board of Aldermen is asking the Chief of Police to look into having Somerville police officers wear body cameras while on duty.

A 2013 study found that in instances where police officers were wearing body cameras, both the officers and the respondents were less likely to use violence with one another. There was a drop in force by over 50%. Body cameras hold police officers and those they are dealing with responsible for their appropriate or inappropriate behavior. With video evidence, both parties will be held responsible for their conduct. Many places have adopted this idea, and sponsors in Somerville now wish to do the same.

In a radio interview from August 2015, Somerville Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone said he supported putting body cameras on his police officers. Mayor Curtatone also indicated that the Somerville Police Chief was on board and hoped within the next year, they would be close to implementing it.

As part of the Board meeting, it was further ordered that the Chief of Police in Somerville must prepare an implementation feasibility report within thirty days and present it to the Public Health and Safety Committee at a future meeting of that committee. These requests were approved at the meeting on January 14.

The Art of Mental Health night CONT. FROM PG 1

Massachusetts teens as part of a contest held by the Youth Mental Wellness Ambassador Program, a combined effort by Somerville's Department of Health and Human Services and the Center for Teen Empowerment.

The goal of the contest was to lessen the stigma surrounding mental illness by addressing it from different angles. Youth Mental Wellness Ambassador Estefany Ramos Parada said about these types of events, "It's important. We can't go knocking on people's doors and ask them if they'd like to talk about mental health, so we need to provide a place people can just get together and talk."

Andre Green of the Somerville School Committee agrees, "We must work to destigmatize mental illness. These are not visible issues people - not just teens - are going through. It really is a question of 'How could I not



support this?""

The event provided a fun way for people to discuss and learn about topics that aren't always so fun to bring up. A banner, reading at first only "Make Art" hung on one wall. By the end of the night the banner was full of doodles and sketches and messages of joy and confidence.

People from all around the greater Boston area attended, and many entered the contest. Literature and information on mental health was available to grab, trivia questions issues were asked and answered, and confirmed by professionals and ambassadors so as not to put anyone on the spot, and literature on mental health was provided.

To see more events, find out how to get involved, or get some answers yourself, visit www.tinyurl.com/somervillespeaks.

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



Eagle Feathers #95

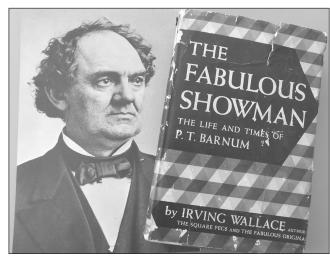
The Swedish Nightingale By Bob (Monty) Doherty

It began in 1829, with a nine-year old girl named Jenny from Stockholm. Often she would sit at her window seat looking out and petting her little cat while singing.



After time, passersby were soon enchanted by her astonishingly beautiful voice. Arrangements were soon made which led to her acceptance to the Royal Theatre School and later to the Swedish Royal Academy. After years of learning to express her natural gift, she eventually sang for the King and his court. This was followed by performances in France, Germany and Austria while continually fostering acting, dancing, and her singing.

By her early twenties, young Jenny Lind's angelic voice had electrified Europe. One of her suitors, Hans Christian Andersen, expressed his love for her in his poem The Emperor's Nightingale. Because of this, the English christened her, "The Swedish Nightingale."



Phineas Taylor "P.T." Barnum, the famous showman, and Edward Everett, the famous orator and resident of Winter Hill, were friends. The two wore many hats. Everett, who was Ambassador to England, procured an audience with Queen Victoria for Barnum. This was to introduce her to General Tom Thumb, the twenty-five inch tall, fifteen-pound child celebrity, and his guardian, Barnum. The two were the talk of London for over three months, until they were overshadowed by the arrival of Jenny Lind. On hearing of the English eruption of love Continued on page 15

OBITUARIES

James A. O'Donovan

Attorney James A. O'Donovan of West Yarmouth, Massachusetts, formerly of Somerville Massachusetts, entered into rest on January 15, 2016 surrounded by his adoring family and with his wife Pauline, the love of his life, at his side. He left this world a brighter, more beautiful place, and all who had the good luck to cross paths with him are better for knowing him.

Born in Kilrush, County Clare, Ireland, James Alexander Falcan O'Donovan was the son of Bridgetta Frances (McCarthy) O'Donovan and Timothy O'Donovan. Until the age of 8, he lived amid the rolling green hills and sandy beaches of Burgatia in Rosscarbery, County Cork. In 1931 he emigrated with his family to Uphams Corner, Dorchester, Massachusetts and in 1941 he graduated from Boston English High School.

It is impossible to describe everything that Jim meant to his family, his friends, his clients, and colleagues. He was the first to congratulate or offer a word of encouragement, and he was always ready with a kind word and wide smile. He was a loyal friend, confidante to his grand-

children, and mentor to young attorneys. He was adored by his five sons and their wives, and idolized by his ten grandchildren and two great-grand-children. Jim's greatest joy and inspiration in his life was his family. His sons and grandchildren were his pride and joy, and the love he shared with them illuminated the world around them.

From 1960 to 1966 he served the City of Somerville as its City Solicitor, and subsequently went into private practice at 6 Beacon Street in Boston with his dear friend Albert Hutton Jr. Until his death he practiced law with his son Sean. He was a renowned criminal defense attorney and litigator throughout his career. To those he encountered in the courtroom, he was a fearsome but charming adversary; always gallant, always courteous, but fiercely dedicated to the principles of equity and justice.

In addition to his wife Pauline, Jim is survived by five sons: James D. O'Donovan of Somerville; Kevin O'Donovan, his wife Alessandra and their children Alexander, Elizabeth and Katherine, of Somerville; Brian O'Donovan, his wife De-

nise and their children Seamus, Devin, Aidan and Addison; Michael O'Donovan, his wife Gina and their children Kaleigh and Daniel, of Medford; and Sean O'Donovan and his wife Peri, of Somerville. Jim is also survived by his grand-daughter Cari-Anne McCauley and her husband David, of Marshfield, and two great-grand-children, Hunter and Madison McCauley of Marshfield. He is also survived by numerous loving nieces, nephews, and cousins, and many devoted friends.

The family would like to especially mention the incredible staff at Mayflower Nursing Center in West Yarmouth, who guided us along this painful journey with love and compassion.

We will never be the same without him but we are blessed to have him part of us forever. Funeral procession from the George L. Doherty Funeral home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, Thursday morning at 9am, followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Clement Church, Somerville at 10:00. Relatives and friends invited. Calling hours Wednesday 4-8. Interment MA National



Cemetery, Bourne, MA at 1:00. The O'Donovan family is inviting family and friends to a lun-

cheon at the Yarmouth House Restaurant, 335-MA 28 West Yarmouth, MA.

Anthony A. Laurentano

Anthony A. Laurentano of Medford died on Friday, January 15, at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Born and raised Boston's North End, he was the son of the late Alfonso Lauretano and the late Jean "Gina" (Matarazzo) and her late husband Vito Maniscalco. Anthony lived for many

years in Somerville, where he was employed as a carpenter, before moving to Medford ten years ago.

Anthony was the beloved husband of the late AnnMarie (Testa) Laurentano, and the devoted father of Anthony Laurentano and his wife, Maribeth of Lynnfield, Joseph Laurentano and his wife Sandy of Florida, Elaina and Alan Laurentano, both of New Hampshire, and Christine Laurentano of Boston. He was the loving grandfather of Melissa, Julianna, Gianna, Jayden and Brandon, as well as two loving great grandchildren. Anthony was the cherished brother of

Josephine Maniscalco, Dolores D'Alfonso and her husband Tony, Albert and Rudy Maniscalco, and is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend visiting hours at the Dello Russo Funeral Home, 306

Main St., Medford on Saturday, January 23, from 9:30 through 11 AM followed by internment at St. Michael Cemetery, Boston. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Anthony's name may be sent to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701.

Assembly Row Somerville Police Substation opened and dedicated in memory of Russell Anthony Joyner

On Tuesday, January 12, dozens gathered from across Somerville to open and dedicate the brand new Assembly Row Somerville Police Substation in memory of Russell Anthony Joyner, former General Manager of Federal Realty's Assembly Row. Spearheaded and constructed by Federal Realty Investment Trust, the new substation thanks Russ Joyner's leadership and mission to ensure a safe and prosperous future for Somerville's newest neighborhood.

Don Briggs, president of Federal Realty Boston, began the dedication ceremony honoring Joyner in the presence of his family. Briggs recalled the countless relationships Russ Joyner made in his short time at Assembly Row and how he touched the lives of many throughout the Somerville community.

"He had a great way of putting to words what captured the moment or captured the idea. Whenever a problem sort of came up he said 'Let's get out in front of it and call it a parade. We're going to let everyone know we're going to embrace this problem and own this problem", said Don Briggs, President of Federal Realty. "Russ led his life at the front of the parade. It's the greatest testimony of who he is. He embraced who he was. He embraced his strengths and weaknesses, and he did what he loved."

Briggs introduced, Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone who addressed the crowd and recognizing those in the community that came together to remember Joyner. Present were Representative Capuano's chief of staff, State Representative Toomey, Somerville Aldermen Con-

nolly and Rossetti, the Federal Realty Boston team and many other community leaders and activist that were touched by Russ' commitment to the success of Assembly Row.

"Russ knew how to engage people, one of the greatest qualities a leader can have is to be a good listener, said Mayor Joseph Curtatone. "There is not a day I don't think about Russ because he was certainly a compassionate and sympathetic soul, which you need a lot more of these days and he believed in community."

Somerville Police Department's Deputy Chief Stephen Carrabino also shared his memories of Joyner, most notably the eight hours to and from New York to attend his funeral service in Joyner's hometown of the Bronx, New York. There, Deputy Carrabino presented the Joyner family with a Somerville Police Badge to honor and commemorate the effort Joyner showed to ensure Somerville's new neighborhood would be a safe and prosperous place for families, friends, residents, and workers to enjoy for decades to come.

"Every time I'm here I think of Russ. See this furniture here, we have it because of Russ. He took care of us, he made sure everything was all right;

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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 a name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

Letter to the Editor:

Recently the Somerville News Weekly has highly offended myself and other proud residents of Somerville for extremely offensive comments made by James A Norton. In his most recent Reality Bites column, Norton started off immediately by referring to the City of Somerville as "a village of idiots" and followed that up by calling the people of Somerville "dummies," "mental midgets," and "douchebags."

Now, granted this is a small local newspaper that few read (and after that article even fewer), but could you imagine reading an article in The Boston Globe where the columnist insulted the citizens of Boston and went on about how annoyed he is by them? Of course not, because that is not news; and you won't find any real news in James A Norton's column. The article was just an excuse for Norton to "bitch and moan" (as he himself stated in his column) over an avalanche of negative feedback from myself and many other Somerville residents over the paper's endorsement of Donald Trump. Norton attempted to make the article seem as if it was about a foolish PowerBall meme, but it clearly wasn't.

Somerville has been my home for nearly a decade now. Although I grew up in other surrounding cities I will always consider Somerville my hometown. I live here, work here, and my wife and I got married at City Hall before we had our wedding ceremony. Needless to say, because of my love for the 'Ville I was extremely offended by Norton's negative perspective on my city and it's residents. Where Norton sees "annoying nitwits" in the many squares of Somerville, I see a beautiful diverse culture of friendly faces. Norton sees the citizens of Somerville as "mental midgets," where I see a thriving young community of artists, intellectuals, and professionals. James A Norton is blind to all that is great about our city and that may be the reason he doesn't live here. Yes, that's right. James A Norton is NOT a resident of the city he writes for and insults. We're all the happier for it. We don't want people like James A Norton in an open-minded city like Somerville.

Somerville News Weekly and Norton believe that my anger is all about our differing political opinions and that "people are entitled to their own opinions." That's true. People are entitled to their own opinions. But newspapers and other news organizations are NOT. Under the Journalistic Code of Ethics journalists are supposed to give a completely unbiased take on events, politics, and culture. And you're definitely not supposed to insult the city you are representing and writing the news for. Maybe James A Norton should read up on it. Yes James, I do understand you weren't trying to insult "everyone" in Somerville, but you were insulting people in your hateful column nonetheless. A newspaper is not the place to be airing dirty laundry or personal gripes. Norton's columns are consistently filled with vulgar language and insults towards whatever/whoever "grinds his gears" that particular week. I'm personally disgusted and ashamed that a newspaper in my city prints that garbage and you should be too.

The reason why myself and many others were rubbed the wrong way by the newspaper's endorsement of Donald Trump is because Trump does NOT at all represent the values of most Somerville residents. Trump believes that Mexican immigrants

coming to this country are the worst the country has to offer and that they are mostly "drug dealers" and "rapists," which simply isn't true. Somerville has a large Hispanic population, many of which are Mexican. I've worked alongside many Mexican immigrants in my life and have gotten to know them. The majority are hardworking family orientated people who simply come here because they want a better life. Trump and Somerville News Weekly believe that he will get Mexico to pay for a "Great Wall" along our border. Are you kidding me? It's a completely unrealistic feat logistically. And for anyone who thinks Mexico would pay for a wall to be built to fence in it's own people ... well, I've got some magic beans I'd like to sell you.

Recently, Trump had a peaceful Muslim woman and Jewish man thrown out of one of his rallies for just standing there peacefully as his supporters screamed hateful things at them. Trump excludes. We here in Somerville do not share his mentality. We do not support bigotry, racism, or exclusion. We welcome people of all races, religions, sexual orientation, and cultures. It's part of what makes our city so

beautiful and great. I'm sure there are Trump supporters in the 'Ville, and as I stated before they are entitled to their opinion; but there was a reason why so many people felt the need to speak out negatively about the News Weekly endorsing Trump. Somerville is a very progressive city that is starting to have that hip side of Brooklyn type feel to it. There is a young, vibrant energy that thrives here and brings the beloved weirdos of the city together and unites us. The heart of my Somerville, the city that I love, is the opposite of everything Donald Trump stands for and I know many here agree with me.

So, James A Norton can keep publishing his vulgar insult laced rants, but if you would rather read about all the great things happening in this city check out my new column Villens United here at *The Somerville Times*. I promise to be the yin to James A Norton's yang and keep you informed about all the fun stuff happening right outside your door.

Later 'Villens. Stay Classy. (mic drop)

— Chris Haskell Somerville



Sally O'Brien's 335 Somerville Ave. 617-666-3589

Monday January 25

Shawn Carter's Cheapshots Comedy Jam 7 p.m. Marley Mondays with Duppy Conquerors 10 p.m.

Tuesday January 26

Spider John Koerner 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday January 27

Free Poker, lots of prizes! 8 p.m.

Thursday January 28

Ruby Fruit Jungle's Funk Fest with special guest Bryan Mac 8 p.m.

Friday January 29

Kevin Byrne and the Verticals 6 p.m. tavapa presents Dippin' Sauce, The Generous Pour, The Velvet Ants \$10 cover 9 p.m.

Saturday January 30

Johnny Come Latelies 6 p.m. HearNowLive presents Zagnutt, The BoxBerrys, Mokita \$10 cover 9 p.m.

Sunday January 31

Jan Marie & The Mean Reds 5 p.m.





Zoning Overhaul meeting date changes

The City of Somerville announced today several changes to the ongoing public meeting series surrounding the proposed Zoning Overhaul Process. An updated meeting schedule is included below, and important changes are:

The Mobility meeting has been changed from Mon., Feb. 8, to Mon., Feb. 22.

The Economic Development meeting has been moved from Mon., Feb. 22, to Mon., Feb. 8

A second Attainable Housing meeting has been added on Mon., Mar. 21, as a follow up to the

Jan. 11 meeting.

A meeting about Sustainability has been added on Mon., Apr. 11.

All meetings will be held at the Lowell St. VNA, 259 Lowell St., beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meetings will discuss the ideas within the city's new proposed zoning ordinance, respond to comments provided in the public review process, and propose changes to the ordinance based upon this feedback. The remaining meeting schedule is as follows:

Residential Neighborhoods:

Monday, January 25 – Conserving neighborhoods, building types, lot dimensions

Economic Development:

Monday, February 8 – Commercial development, job creation

Mobility:

Monday, February 22 – Parking, bike parking, mobility management program

Process

Monday, March 7 – Special permits, design review, neighborhood meetings, board process **Attainable Housing (Part 2):**

Monday, March 21 – Inclusionary zoning, linkage, development bonuses

Sustainability:

Monday, April 11 – Environment, building, technologies, urban development

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com

Our Legislators in the House and Senate for OPIOID ABUSE PREVENTION (H 3944) Somerville:



Rep. Christine Barber

DISTRICT REPRESENTED: Thirty-fourth Middlesex. - Consisting of all precincts in wards 4 and 5, precinct 1 of ward 7, and precinct 2 of ward 8, of the city of Medford, precincts 1 and 2 of ward 4, and all precincts of ward 7, of the city of Somerville, both in the county of Middlesex.



Rep. Denise Provost

DISTRICT REPRESENTED: Twenty-seventh Middlesex. - Consisting of precinct 3 of ward 2, all precincts of ward 3, precinct 3 of ward 4, and all precincts of wards 5 and 6, of the city of Somerville, in the county of Middlesex.



Rep. Timothy Toomey

DISTRICT REPRESENTED: Twenty-sixth Middlesex. - Consisting of all precincts of ward 1, precinct 1 of ward 2, precincts 1 and 2 of ward 3, and precinct 1 of ward 6, of the city of Cambridge, and all precincts of ward 1 and precincts 1 and 2 of ward 2, of the city of Somerville, both in the county of Middlesex.



Sen. Patricia Jehlen

DISTRICT REPRESENTED: Second Middlesex. - Consisting of the cities of Cambridge, wards 9 to 11, inclusive, Medford and Somerville, and the town of Winchester, precincts 4 to 7, inclusive, in the county of Middlesex.

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: Beacon Hill Roll Call records local representatives' votes on roll calls from the week of January 11-15. There were no roll calls in the Senate last week.

House 149-0, approved a bill aimed at reducing the opioid abuse crisis in the Bay State. The measure is designed to reduce the number of opioid pills in circulation by working with many parties involved in the process including schools, doctors, insurance companies and pharmacists.

Other provisions include requiring all public schools to have a policy regarding substance abuse prevention and educate their students about the dangers of substance abuse; requiring increased substance abuse training for health care professionals; limiting initial opioid prescriptions by doctors to a seven-day supply except for chronic pain management, cancer and palliative care; requiring doctors to check the state's prescription monitoring database each time they prescribe opiates; and ending the practice of sending women who are civilly committed for alcohol or substance-abuse disorders to MCI-Framingham.

Supporters said this landmark legislation is a balanced and practical approach that will improve schools' approach to teaching kids about drug prevention and increase access to treatment for those who are addicted. They argued it will save lives and spare the heartache of many families by helping to stem the rising tide of drug addiction and drug-related deaths across the state. They noted there were 1,256 accidental drug-related deaths last year.

(A"Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Denise Provost Didn't Vote Rep. Timothy Toomey

HOLD FOR THREE DAYS (H 3944)

House 34-116, rejected an amendment allowing a doctor to commit to a mental health facility for up to three days an alcohol or substance abuse patient who has overdosed if the doctor feels that there is a likelihood of the person harming himself or herself or others.

Amendment supporters said it could save lives if doctors, other health professionals and family members have more time to intervene. They argued that people are dying every day as a result of being sent home instead of held and evaluated.

Some amendment opponents said the bill already requires a written evaluation within the first 24 hours of admission to the facility. Others said there is a shortage of hospital staff and facilities to handle this 72-hour hold. Some argued the amendment is an unfunded mandate that will further burden community hospitals and cities and towns.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment. A "No" vote is against it.)

> Rep. Christine Barber No Rep. Denise Provost Didn't Vote Rep. Timothy Toomey No

DECREASE SUPPLY TO FIVE DAYS (H 3944)

House 33-115, rejected an amendment that would decrease from seven days to five days the maximum length of time that doctors are allowed to write initial opioid prescriptions for a patient.

Amendment supporters said the reduction to three days

would reduce the chances that patients will become addicted to opioid pain pills in the first place. They noted that some doctors prescribe up to a two-week supply when the patient is likely to have pain for only a few days.

Amendment opponents said patients often need more than a five-day dose and argued the seven-day maximum is more reasonable. They noted that patients must have a written hard copy of an opioid prescription, which means they must go back to the doctor's office if they're still in pain. That could create a problem as most offices are closed on weekends.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment. A "No" vote is against it.)

> Rep. Christine Barber No Rep. Denise Provost Didn't Vote Rep. Timothy Toomey No

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

BAN SEXUAL ORIENTATION CONVERSION THERAPY (H 97) - A bill that would prohibit psychiatrists and other mental health professionals from providing conversion therapy to lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender minors under 18, designed to change their sexual orientation or gender identity, took a step forward when it advanced from committee to the House calendar where it could be taken up any day.

Supporters of the ban say being gay, bisexual or transgender is not a disease and therefore does not need a cure. They argue this type of "junk therapy" is very destructive and argue there is no sound evidence that it ever works.

Opponents of the ban say the treatment has been successful for children whose sexuality was influenced by sexual abuse. They note that the conversion therapy should not be used on any patient who believes that he or she is simply born with a specific sexual preference.

ELIMINATE DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPEN-SION (S 2094) - The Senate approved a new version of legislation that would repeal a 1989 law which automatically suspends for up to five years the driver's license of anyone convicted of a drug offense even if the offense is unrelated to driving a vehicle. The proposal allows automatic license suspension for anyone convicted of trafficking in illegal drugs, except for marijuana. It also repeals the current law that requires offenders to pay a \$500 fee to get their license back.

Supporters said current law is counterproductive because it prevents many offenders from having the mobility to find and/or retain a job, drive their children to school, travel to a doctor and do many other things necessary to help them rebuild their lives.

The House has approved a different version of the bill. The Senate version now goes to the House for consideration.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING - The Judiciary Committee held a hearing on dozens of bills including:

LEGALIZE RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA (H 1561) - Legalizing, licensing, regulating and taxing marijuana and allowing adults over 21 to grow it for their personal use and the use by others over 21. The measure

Beacon Hill Roll Call

continued

is similar to a possible 2016 ballot question legalizing all marijuana use.

SOCIAL CARD GAMES (H 1152) - Legalizes "social card games." These games are small, private games in which the winnings of a player do not exceed \$50; players cannot invest more than \$10 in the game; and all winnings are distributed to the players at the end of the game. Games include poker, pinochle, bridge, rummy, canasta and hearts.

Supporters said the measure was filed in response to a group of seniors at the Cameron Senior Center in Westford who were told by the director that their small card games for a few dollars were technically illegal gambling. They said it is illogical and unfair that current law actually bars these harmless games.

HELP FAMILIES OF MURDER VICTIMS (S 951) - Creates the Murder Victims Families Assistance Fund to provide aid to immediate families of murder victims. It would be funded by voluntary contributions

from publishers, authors and movie or television studios that create books, movies or television shows based on murders committed in the Bay State.

"BILL OF RIGHTS" FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT (H 1278) - Establishes a bill of rights for sexual assault victims. The proposal creates a system to track and secure the safety of rape kits that are used to collect and store physical evidence in sexual assault cases. Other provisions give the victim access to the results from the rape kit and obligate authorities to inform victims of their rights including the right to be accompanied by a victim's advocate or sexual assault counselor during the administration of the rape kit.

Supporters said it is long past time to provide justice for survivors of sexual assault and noted cases where rape kits were lost and destroyed. They argued the current system does not provide a way to keep track of and secure a rape kit when it is sent by the hospital to a crime lab. They argued that this bill will help put a stop to the victim being victimized again by the system after the

FRIEND OR RELATIVE OFFICIATE AT WED-DING (H 3897) - Allows city and town clerks to issue special licenses that allow a couple to choose a friend or relative to perform their marriage ceremony. Under current law, these special licenses are handled by the governor and the secretary of state.

Supporters said this would bring the system to the local level and streamline the process for the couple.

QUOTABLE QUOTES – Special Gov. Charlie Baker Edition: Quotes from the governor's appearance on WGBH Radio (89.7 FM) with talk show hosts Jim Braude and Margery Eagan. The duo hosts Gov. Baker's "Ask the Governor" show once a month.

"Is that directed toward somebody who is over the age of 21 or somebody who is over the age of 12? That's my problem. We are headed right down the Joe Camel path here." — Baker upon being told that the name of one of the edible marijuana cookies in Colorado is "rookie cookie."

"Rather than dictating from on high, which they [legislators] hate, and telling them exactly what they should do, which they also hate, my view on this is I should let them work this stuff through and then deal with it when it gets to me, which is what I'm going to do." — Baker when asked if he will support a pending bill that would prohibit discrimination against transgender individuals in the state's public accommodations.

"It's still a bargain relative to virtually every other system in the country." — Baker on possible fare hikes at the MBTA.

"3 seconds, 11 seconds, 22 seconds, 57 seconds, 23 seconds ... they are all basically a minute or less." — Baker reading off the current waiting times listed online at various Registry of Motor Vehicles across the state.

"My staff is telling me ... those [waiting times] are in minutes, not seconds. Which just goes to show, I can't read my own phone." — Baker making a correction.

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 11-15, the House met for a total of eight hours and 26 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 39 minutes.

Mon. January 11	House 11:05 a.m. to 11:17 a.m. Senate 11:03 a.m. to 11:18 a.m.
Tues. January 12	No House session No Senate session
Wed. January 13	House 11:03 a.m. to 6:46 p.m. No Senate session
Thurs. January 14	House 11:04 a.m. to 11:35 a.m. Senate 11:09 a.m. to 11:33 a.m.
Fri. January 15	No House session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

No Senate session

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Recent Single Family Homes Sold in Somerville Over the Past 4 months:								
Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price				
58-60 Alston St	2 unit, 10 total room, 4 total bedroom 2 Family	8	\$495,000	\$462,500				
52 Sydney St	2 unit, 9 total room, 4 total bedroom 2 Family	26	\$529,900	\$540,000				
14 Fiske Ave	2 unit, 9 total room, 5 total bedroom 2 Family	44	\$579,000	\$609,000				
7 Cross St	3 unit, 12 total room, 6 total bedroom 3 Family	16	\$599,900	\$640,000				
51 Sydney St	2 unit, 9 total room, 4 total bedroom 2 Family	25	\$624,900	\$620,000				
84 Properzi Way	2 unit, 8 total room, 3 total bedroom 2 Family	72	\$625,000	\$620,000				
188-190 Cedar St.	2 unit, 11 total room, 4 total bedroom 2 Family	5	\$689,000	\$689,000				
20 Gilman St	2 unit, 12 total room, 6 total bedroom 2 Family	91	\$689,900	\$678,000				
44 Florence St	2 unit, 12 total room, 5 total bedroom 3 Family	105	\$699,000	\$678,000				
36R Otis St	3 unit, 13 total room, 6 total bedroom 3 Family	19	\$699,000	\$699,000				
10-12 Indiana Ave	2 unit, 11 total room, 5 total bedroom 2 Family	12	\$699,900	\$800,000				
15 Hall St	2 unit, 11 total room, 3 total bedroom 2 Family	6	\$735,000	\$775,000				
13 Morton Street	2 unit, 12 total room, 6 total bedroom 2 Family	144	\$749,000	\$710,000				
38 Illinois Ave	2 unit, 15 total room, 7 total bedroom 2 Family	85	\$749,900	\$750,000				
30 Line St	2 unit, 12 total room, 5 total bedroom 2 Family	52	\$750,000	\$803,000				
14 Norwood Ave	2 unit, 11 total room, 4 total bedroom 2 Family	32	\$795,000	\$775,000				
42 Florence St	3 unit, 12 total room, 6 total bedroom 3 Family	13	\$799,000	\$750,000				
11-15 Connecticut Ave	3 unit, 18 total room, 6 total bedroom 3 Family	29	\$799,900	\$833,000				
23 Wisconsin Ave	2 unit, 12 total room, 6 total bedroom 2 Family	36	\$800,000	\$750,000				
82 Yorktown St	2 unit, 11 total room, 5 total bedroom 2 Family	6	\$809,500	\$824,500				

COMMENTARY

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.

Here's an Idea: Let's Not Be Racist... and Other Things Martin Luther King Jr. Taught Us



By Joseph A. Curtatone

Clearly sanctuary cities like Somerville are a favored punching bag for some candidates during this presidential campaign season. During a debate last week, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie brought up sanctuary cities when promising to be tough on crime, apparently unaware that similar posturing got Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal an early exit from the race. It was a lazy, red meat line for his audience. We in Somerville know how wrong he is because we have three decades of experience as a sanctuary city with a consistently dropping crime rate. Yet what's really unfortunate is that leading up to Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend, Gov. Christie thought nothing of portraying entire ethnic segments as criminals.

At some point, we as a larger society need to embrace Dr.

King's values when it comes to our immigrant population, judging people not by the color of their skin or the nation of birth, but by the content of their character. That should be less of a dream and more of a reality in the year 2016. Unfortunately, we continue to see our would-be leaders belittle immigrant populations by talking about them as something to be feared. They aren't. They're human beings who mostly have come to this nation for safety, family and opportunity.

A few quick facts about undocumented immigrants: 76% are of Hispanic origin, 47% of their households consist of at least one child, 62% of them have lived in the U.S. for more than a decade. Undocumented residents also post lower crime rates than our native-born population. So when Gov. Christie blows that dog whistle, he's trying to invoke the specter of dangerous Hispanic thugs, ignoring the truth that we're mostly talking about hard-working people who have been in our nation for years, living peaceably and raising their families.

Does that mean every undocumented immigrant is a paragon of virtue? No, but why must entire minority populations be

defined by the actions of their individual criminal members? We saw that very scenario play out last summer after the horrific and senseless shooting of a young woman in San Francisco by an undocumented man with a lengthy criminal past. He clearly was a dangerous individual, a man of the lowest character irrespective of his ethnic background. However, his crime was used to argue that more than 11 million undocumented residents in the U.S. constitute an imminent public safety threat.

Meanwhile in 2015, we saw mass murders in Charleston, Colorado Springs, and Roseburg, Oregon committed by white men. Yet no one is acting as if every Caucasian male could be a homicidal maniac. It's a glaring double standard, which extends to race as well. The Black Lives Matter movement is trying to raise awareness that our African-American population is often treated with a presumption of guilt and gets handled with excessive and sometimes deadly force. It even extends to religion these days. We've heard Donald Trump's patently illegal call to ban all Muslims from entering the United States and many others are insisting we take in no Syrian refugees, who are fleeing the worst humanitarian crisis so far in the 21st century, simply because Syrians are predominantly Muslim.

The people from these groups are not getting the same benefit of a doubt and individual consideration that someone who looks like me receives. Dr. King's core message was that they should. Our nation was founded on the principle that we're all created equal. We have to stop treating people who don't look like they could have been in a "Leave it to Beaver" episode as dangerous or undesirable. People in the future surely will look back on us and wonder why we haven't moved past this sort of misguided behavior. We have the lessons from our own history of how wrong-headed these attitudes can be. Our ancestors were treated as the unsavory "other" in many cases. A century ago I might have needed to change my name to Joe Curtis to get a fair shake.

On top of that, our nation spawned Dr. King, who taught us that equality, tolerance and humanity must be the hallmarks of our society. We even set aside a holiday to commemorate his works and words, and to remind ourselves of the importance of his message. This past weekend was our annual reminder that we're supposed to treat each other as equals.

Ethnicity, race and religion should not be used as wedges to drive us apart or excuses to exclude and mistreat others. They certainly shouldn't be central issues in a Presidential campaign. I'm proud to come from a community where these are not commonly bones of contention, and where we come together to bridge our differences when issues arise. We're an excellent example of how energizing it can be when people from disparate backgrounds come together. I wish our national dialog would catch up to the inclusiveness that makes Somerville an All-America City.

This year when you hear a politician bad mouth a minority population, and sadly you will, remember that you live in a better place because we don't practice that sort of small-mindedness. We try to be the kind of community Dr. King would be proud to call home. Frankly, treating people with respect and dignity isn't all that hard to do. It seems a lot easier than inventing reasons to loathe thy neighbor.

We've already paid for the GLX



By William C. Shelton

Some high-profile advocates argue that the Green Line Extension should be built because it will stimulate economic and housing development. The mayor is telling regional media and policy makers that the GLX will lead to 30,000 new Somerville jobs and 10,000 new homes. Yes, 10,000!

Indeed, increased commercial-tax-revenue and jobs are essential reasons why we need it. But the Green Line should be extended through Somerville for a more compelling reason: justice.

For almost three generations,

no other city in the Commonwealth has borne more burdens to support regional transportation while reaping fewer benefits. We have already paid for the GLX—with a blockaded street grid, crumbling bridges, stunted economic development, lethal pollution, and shortened lives for our citizens.

In the early 1970s, I-93 ripped up East Somerville, demolishing homes, scattering families, and isolating Ten Hills and Assembly Square. But that was the least of its damage.

Public concern regarding air pollution reached its historical peak in 1970. That year the Commonwealth commissioned Bolt Beranek and Newman to quantify the pollution that the I-93 extension would produce, and the Clean Air Act was amended on December 31st.

BB&N published its study the following April. Even though it underestimated I-93/Route 38

traffic at what would be half it's actual levels, it pollution at five times the federal limits. Massachusetts buried the report and proceeded with construction, fully aware of the six regulated pollutants' and lead's health impacts.

But at the time, few knew that all the vehicles travelling to somewhere else along I-93, McGrath Highway, Route 38, and through Union Square were pumping out far deadlier pollutants.

One of my all-time favorite 'Villens was Joe Lapiana who, with his wife Dolores, raised a family on Pennsylvania Avenue in the shadow of I-93. They led Somerville Citizens for Adequate Transportation (SCAT), a grassroots group that fought to build the expressway below grade. When he was dying in 2005, there was some question as to whether his heart disease or his lung cancer would kill him

fire

Joe had spent much of his life inhaling air that contained up to 1.6 million ultrafine particles per cubic inch, produced by passing cars and trucks. Exhaustive scientific research has established that these particles are killers. Their impact is more lethal than pollutants regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency, and much more local.

That's why Somerville has such a high incidence of heart disease and lung cancer, even though we have no significant sources of industrial air pollution and below-average incidence of to-bacco smoking. The last time I checked, Somerville had the highest number of excess deaths per square mile from heart attacks and lung cancer among Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns

In response to SCAT protests and evidence of I-93's impacts, the Commonwealth in 1972 agreed to build an East Somerville community center, plant trees, and erect walls along the expressway to partially reduce noise and pollution. State officials ended up reneging on even these wholly inadequate "mitigations"

Today, over 200,000 vehicle miles per square mile are travelled through Somerville per day—the most in the Commonwealth. And people who live or are stopping in Somerville account for a microscopic fraction of that traffic.

That's not the only burden we bear so that other people can get where they want to go. Six diesel rail lines lacerate our neighborhoods, truncate our streets, and spew carcinogens, huge volumes of ultrafine particles, and twenty times the nitrogen oxides emitted by equivalent gasoline engines. That's 15,000 trips per Somerville square mile per year—again, Continued on page 16

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark LINCOLN **PARK**

Thanks for the grass, Somerville!

Our View Of The Times



On January 25, details for the revitalization of Lincoln Park will be formally presented to the public by the City of Somerville.

Parts of the plan have already been revealed, however, and one of the more popular decisions that the planners have made is the inclusion of a natural grass playing field.

Many groups and individuals have expressed strong opinions on both sides of the issue in the months leading up to the final planning stages.

Sound arguments for artificial turf were put forward, but in the end the scales tipped in favor of the organic option, much to the delight of those who strongly advocated for it.

The plans for the park call for many features that will make it one of the most sophisticated of its kind and include a 1.26 million gallon, underground storm water management system that will reduce runoff flooding; a new, expanded and enhanced multi-use school yard with outdoor classroom, upgraded play areas, vegetable gardens, rain gardens, multisport court, and more; a small off-leash area with dog run; and an upgraded softball diamond.

All in all, it will serve as a wonderful recreational area for local families and those who come to visit and play. And won't it be nice to feel those soft blades of grass as we stroll through the park in our bare feet? We can hardly wait.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

others, Sean and Kevin O'Donovan. James was a local attorney here with a successful law practice, raising his family in the Ball Square area. His wake is at Doherty's this Wednesday (today) 4:00-8:00 p.m. His full obituary is online at our website: www.thesomervilletimes.com.

Another long time resident also passed away this week, Anthony A. Laurentano. Our condolences are extended arrangements are at Dello Russo in Medford, hours this Saturday 9:30-11:00 a.m. with interment to follow immediately. His full obituary is also online at our website: www.thesomervilletimes.com.

There's a new website in town. Check it out at www.somervillema.com. The Somerville Times is on the site. Also check out www.medfordma.com.

Patricia Norton is home and resting after her surgery this past Friday at MGH. She and her husband want to thank the many people for their prayers and positive thoughts. She's doing great and is grateful to be back home so soon.

Another person we need to say prayers for his Dan O'Meara, who is also at MGH and will hopefully be recovering quickly and will be home soon.

Those who might be interested in obtaining certification for firearms should look up the Lawrence Rod & Gun Club. They offer an extensive program at the end of which you receive certification for Massachusetts/NRA Certified Firearm Safety Classes. They to his family and many friends. His run a class once a month, which is limited to 10 people and we hear that this is the place to go to learn safety when handling guns. Email gunclub@ earthlink.net for more information and or go to their website at www.lawrencerodandgunclub.org and read up about the course.

We got a lot of requests for us to resume our "Word of the Week" feature. People liked it and we thank them for their encouragement. We might be able to work up something soon on that.

Is there a shake up in the state delegation we have representing us? We

keep hearing that some people are seriously interested in running for both representative and senator. One figure from Medford is considering the run. As soon as we can give names we will ... but can it just be us that is hearing this?

Our low-snow winter might be coming to end this weekend, but there is still time for seniors and youth to sign up for the City of Somerville's shoveling program. Sign up with the Somerville Council on Aging (just call 311 and ask for the COA) to be matched with a local young person who can help you shovel for a reduced fee. Seniors need to complete a CORI check prior to joining the program, so sign up early. Please also have a backup plan ready in case shoveling is needed when school is in session. Teens 13 and up can also sign up to be part of the program to shovel seniors out and earn some extra money. For more information, or to apply, please contact the Office of Somerville Commissions at commissions@somervillema. gov. Teens 18 or older will need to complete a CORI check.

Your ideas are needed to shape the future of the neighborhood around the Healey School and the Mystic River. Come share your visions of the neighborhood's future at a Healey-Mystic Master Plan meeting on Jan. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the Mystic Learning Center, 530 Mystic Ave. Pizza will be served and children are welcome.

The youth from Somerville Positive Forces 100 (SPF100) who are part of Somerville Cares About Prevention will be presenting the results from the 2015 Middle School Student Health Survey. It will be held Thursday January 28th, 2016 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Presentation will be held at the Cafeteria at Winter Hill Community Innovation School, 115 Sycamore Street, Somerville. Be part of a fun and interactive experience learning about the results of the 2015 Student Health Survey taken by Somerville Middle School Students. Get to know the results first hand and be the first to give ideas on how to enhance the youth programming around prevention around the City of Somerville. Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact the City's ADA Coordinator, Betsy Allen, at 617-625-6600 x2323 or ballen@ somervillema.gov.

Annual Martin Luther King Jr. **Day Celebration**

The annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration event, entitled, "Power to Impact Positive Change in our Community," was held on Monday, Jan. 18, in observance of national Martin Luther King Jr Day.

The event featured performances by the Somerville High School World Percussion Ensemble, El Sistema Somerville Youth Orchestra, MLK Jr. Somerville Interfaith Choir, SheBoom, the Center for Arabic Culture Children's Choir, Somerville's Poet Laureate, Nicole Terez Dutton, Somerville youth poets, and Somerville Public School student MLK Jr Day essayists. The 2016 event was held at the East Somerville Community School auditorium.















Go to www.thesomervilletimes.com for more photos

Photos by Claudia Ferro



ESCS Winter Concert

East Somerville Community School performed its Winter Concert on January 15 at the ESCSAuditorium.

The concert featured performances by students at every grade, with students in K-6 performing as grade level groups.

The audience enjoyed selections from the 5th/6th Choir and Strings programs. The grades 7/8 Band, World Music Ensemble, and Chorus also performed.















Go to www.thesomervilletimes.com for more photos

Photos by Claudia Ferro



SPORTS

Somerville High School Girls Track prevails over Greater Lawrence Tech

By Louise Carpenter

The Somerville High Girls Track Team improved their record to 3-1 win a 62-22 victory over Greater Lawrence Tech on Thursday, January 14 in the SHS fieldhouse.

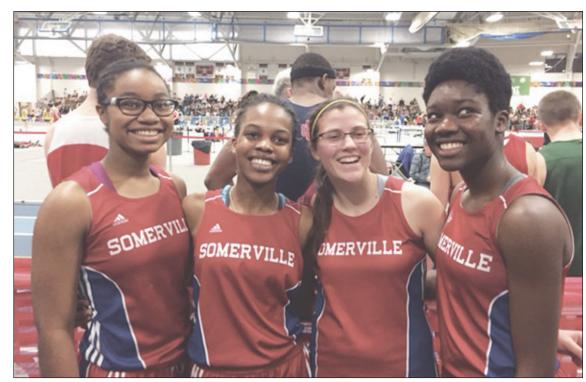
Senior Captain Melissa Sanon remains undefeated in the GBL with her first place in the hurdles and high jump. She leads the team scoring with a perfect 40 points in 4 meets.

Other winners were Captain Maureen McNabb in the 2-mile, Lourdes Jean-Louis in the dash, Youdine Felix in the 300, Alice Egar in the 600, Fiona Borondy-Jenkins in the 1000 and freshman Anne Donovan in the mile.

Second place finishers for the Highlanders were Jackie Eloi in the hurdles and high jump, Captain Leighann Nguyen in the 600, Isabella Ferrari in the mile, and Bianka Depaulo in the shot put.

Third place finishers for SHS were: Shayla Tran in the hurdles, Jocely Pierre-Louis in the 300, Laury Belizaire in the dash, Jennifer Bermudez in the 600, YuYing Chen in the 1000, Abigail OBrien in the mile and Joanne Simon in the shot put.

The Highlanders will face Medford High School on Thursday, January 21 at 3:30 p.m. at Medford.



SHS Girls Track standouts (L to R) Youdine Felix, Laury Belizaire, Katia Mathews, and Lourdes Jean-Louis.

Ms. Cam's Dlio Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

- 1. Which US state is named on the label of a Jack Daniels bottle?
- 2. A phlebotomist extracts what from the human body?
- 3. Granadilla is another name for which fruit?
- 4. Nariyal is the Indian term for which nut?
- 5. Who was president of Vietnam from 1945-54?
- 6. Who was the eldest of the Marx Brothers?

- 7. What type of creature is a dugite?
- 8. Who painted The Water Lily Pool?
- 9. Which vitamin is also known as pantothenic acid?
- 10. Who wrote the book Catch-22?
- 11. In the human body what is the hallux?
- 12. Who designed the Beatles' Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album cover?

Answers on page 16

Prospect Hill Academy remains undefeated

By Charles Lane

The Lady Wizards girls team at Prospect Hill Academy has reached the half-way point in the 2015-2016 high school basketball season and is still undefeated.

This past Wednesday's contest against the South Shore Charter Jaguars was a lopsided affair for the Lady Wizards who had a commanding 31-13 lead at halftime and finished with a final score of 55-20.

Leading the way for Prospect Hill were Freshman forward, Kaleesha Joseph, with 16 points and Junior point guard, Agar Felix, with 12 points.

However, the Lady Wizards are not untested. The day before the South Shore affair, to square off against the KIPP the game with a 37-30 victo- January 23.

Academy Lynn Collegiate Panthers.

KIPP had defeated Prospect Hill in the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization (MCSAO) Championship Game at the University of Massachusetts in Boston at the end of the last two high school basketball seasons, but had been bested by the Lady Wizards earlier this season in Somerville by a score of 40-24.

Prospect Hill, perhaps a little overconfident, opened the game on an 11-0 run. KIPP answered with a mid to late first half surge. The Panthers trailed by only four points – 20 to 16 – at halftime.

A bruised, but not broken, Wizards' team managed to hold things together throughry thanks to an 11 point second-half effort from Freshmen guard Ashley Cadet who led all scorers in the game with 15 points overall. KIPP was paced by sophomore guard Nayeli Germosen's 11 points.

Currently, Prospect Hill Academy sits on top of MCSAO's Division I in the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization with 7-0 league and 9-0 overall records.

This week, PHA will host Pioneer Charter School of Science from Everett at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday at the Healey School in Somerville.

The Lady Wizards then will play the Kearny High School Kardinals from New Jersey at the Jean Yawkey Center on the campus of Emmanuel College in PHA ventured north to Lynn, out the second half and finished Boston at 10 a.m. on Saturday,

www.somervillema.com www.medfordma.com

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

> and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ thesomervilletimes

PEP Talk - SPARK Workshops

In preparation for 2016, afterschool staff members who work with some of our youngest students attended a SPARK implementation support workshop on December 22, 2015, which was held at the Capuano Early Childhood Center. Participants learned all about "Shake Your Sillies Out!", "Fuzzy Hoops?" and "Walk like an Animal!" among other activities designed to keep kids active, engaged, and having fun.



Workshop attendees prepared and presented activities to each other early in the day. Later that day, they were able to observe their morning planning work in action when children in the Capuano afterschool program participated in activities with SPARK Coordinator, Kate Cremens-Basbas who modeled the process of leading activities with staff. The workshop was focused on increasing physical activity, planning and preparing activities, organization and management, and giving concise and effective instructions.

Free Boston Symphony Orchestra concerts for seniors

By Maureen Bastardi

Since September of 2014, older adults in Somerville have been able to attend various Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) events for free. This is made possible through a wonderful program the BSO sponsors called "Symphony for Our City."

This program strives to build deeper relationships with representatives from various organizations across the greater Boston area, bringing together individuals of various backgrounds, and informing the BSO's work through reciprocal relationships.

Each year, organizations can apply to become a part of this valuable community program. Each year, the BSO chooses up to ten community-based organizations to participate. These partners are then engaged deeply with the BSO throughout the season

In Somerville's case, the Council on

Aging was chosen to participate because of its already great collaboration with Teen Empowerment. As a result, older adults and teens have attended a total of seven BSO concerts together – including two all-day trips to Tanglewood – for little or no cost.

The next free BSO-sponsored event is a Chamber Concert on Valentine's Day, February 14 at 3:00 p.m. at Chevalier Theatre in Medford. Chamber Concerts like this one bring high-quality, relevant and engaging free concerts performed by BSO musicians in the Greater Boston area communities limited in access to the BSO by distance or economics.

As a Symphony for Our City partner, the Council on Aging has a limited number of tickets to this event. If you are interested, or would like more information about this and other Symphony for Our City programs at the Somerville Council on Aging, contact Janine Lotti at (617) 625-6600, ext. 2300.

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 5

for Jenny, Barnum, the famous "Shake-speare of advertising," felt compelled to introduce her to the United States.

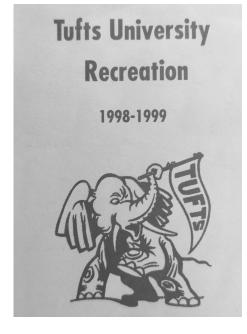
He did this in his best form. Lind agreed to a Barnum-sponsored, two-year tour. She was well known in Europe but barely known stateside. The showman outdid himself with advanced preparation. His Swedish Nightingale was to sail into the arms of America. Over forty thousand people greeted her at the New York docks on her arrival, despite never having heard her sing.

This type of excitement was not duplicated until the arrival of the Beatles, over 100 years later. Some would compare her to today's Lady Gaga. Jenny sold out almost ninety-five concerts. In 1850, Lind was the most-honored talent in Europe; and by 1852, the same was true in America.

Jenny loved her fans, had a heart of gold and donated much of her earnings to the poor. One of her Boston concerts was at the Fitchburg Railroad Station Hall, site of today's Boston Garden. She sang additionally from the top of its 70-foot, castle-like tower to accommodate the overflow of fans. The tower has been rebuilt in Truro on Cape Cod.

When in Boston, she was quietly married in Louisburg Square on Beacon Hill to one of her German musicians, Otto Goldschmidt. Barnum's friend, Edward Everett, was their witness.

How Jenny Lind affected America was



sensational. Hundreds of products were named after her. They spanned from clipper ships, to schools, to trains, to clothes and to a myriad of knick-knacks. Even a gold mine, a town, and an island, honored her name. Today, her memory lives on in the form of Jenny Lind style baby furniture.

In 1852, thanks to the successful "Swedish Nightingale Tour," some of Barnum's profits went to establishing Tufts University of which P.T. Barnum was a founding Trustee and benefactor.

Glenwood Road is located across Broadway from the former Edward Everett mansion, and for years this Winter Hill Street was known as Jenny Lind Avenue.



What's on Somerville Neighborhood News

In this segment of Somerville Neighborhood News we take a look at the opioid issue here in Somerville.

Somerville is not immune to the increase in opioid use and addiction around the country. In Massachusetts, Governor Baker has proposed legislation to support medical personnel, tighten prescribing regulations and increase community education.



Somerville Neighborhood News shares a three part series on Opioid abuse, addiction, and the city's response. Police Chief Dave Fallon and Patricia Contente of Community Outreach and Harm Reduction join us to discuss their collaboration and the steps the city is taking to treat addiction in the long term and stop addiction before it takes hold.

To watch this *Somerville Neighborhood News* story, visit SCATV's website at somervilleneighborhoodnews.org or on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on Ch.3.

Somerville Neighborhood News is a production of Somerville Community Access Television, made by professional journalists, volunteers and staff. The half-hour news show has as its mission to provide a lively, informative newscast focusing on the events, issues and information impacting Somerville residents.

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

MICHAEL F. GLAVIN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PLANNING DIVISION

LEGAL NOTICE

A public hearing for all interested parties will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chambers, 2nd Floor, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA.

231 Lowell St: (Case #ZBA 2013-79) 231 Lowell Street: Applicant & Owner, 231 Lowell Street, LLC, seeks a Special Permit with Site Plan Review to construct 3 buildings on the site with a total of 22 dwelling units, 2 commercial spaces, with 31 parking spaces (some with dimensional relief) and 26 bicycle spaces per SZO §5.2, §7.2, §7.3, §7.11.1.c, §9.13. and §13.5 for additional affordable housing units. The project includes a Special Permit to alter a nonconforming structure per §4.4.1. Variances are sought for the number of parking spaces per §9.5 and for dimensional requirements per §8.5, §7.4 & §8.3 related to the split zoned lot such as FAR, ground coverage, & lot area per dwelling unit. RC & RA zones. Ward 5.

56 Joy St: (Case #ZBA 2015-113) Applicant, Genene Terefe and Owner, Joy Street, LP are seeking a Special Permit to change uses from auto repair to used auto sales. Zone IA, Ward 2.

22 MacArthur St: (Case #ZBA 2015-114) Applicant & Owner, Mark Shiffer, is seeking a Special Permit to modify a nonconforming structure by adding rear decks. Zone RB, Ward 1.

893 Broadway: (Case #ZBA 2015-116) Applicant, Kwesi Acquaah and Owner, 893 Broadway, LLC are seeking a Special Permit to modify a nonconforming structure by adding livable area in the basement. Zone RA, Ward 6.

Copies of these applications are available for review in the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, located on the third floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, Mon-Wed, 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Thurs, 8:30 am-7:30 pm; and Fri, 8:30 am-12:30 pm; and at www.somervillema.gov/planningandzoning. As cases may be continued to later dates, please check the agenda on the City's website or call before attending. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to OSPCD, Planning Division, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; by fax to 617-625-0722; or by email to dpereira@somervillema.gov.

Attest: Dawn Pereira, Administrative Assistant

As published in The Somerville Times on 1/20/16 & 1/27/16.

1/20/16 The Somerville Times



Somerville



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Somerville Housing Authority

Notice for Short-Term Housing Lease

The Somerville Housing Authority is seeking proposals for the lease of eleven to fifteen furnished studio or one (1) bedroom units. The units will house elderly and disabled residents who are being temporarily relocated during a construction project at their permanent residence. The term is expected to be 60-days beginning in April 2016

The Lease is estimated to cost. \$70,000

Request for proposals can be obtained at The Somerville Housing Authority, Modernization Department at 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA. 02145, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM or electronically by emailing Gabriel Ciccariello at gabec@sha-web.org.

The Somerville Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if the best interest of the Somerville Housing Authority would be served by doing so.

Interested parties should submit sealed proposals at the above office no later than Friday, February 19th at 2:00 PM

Questions must be presented in writing to Gabe Ciccariello at gabec@ sha-web org

Joseph R. Macaluso Executive Director

1/20/16 The Somerville Times

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We've already paid for the GLX CONT. FROM PG 10

the most in the Commonwealth.

But none of them stop here.

While we receive no benefits, the Commonwealth and the MBTA seem indifferent to the burdens they impose. It took them 2,245 days to put the disintegrating Lowell Street Bridge back into service. And there are plenty more Somerville bridges that have required rebuilding or desperately need structural attention.

Many of those who drive and ride through Somerville are on their way to Boston or Cambridge, which both have 1.8 jobs per working resident. In Somerville we have 0.5 jobs per working resident, a majority of which are in low-wage and part-tine sectors with limited-benefits. Although we have

a skilled workforce, 80% of us who have jobs must leave the city each day to work.

That's because our city doesn't have office and R&D space that can accommodate job growth. Over the twenty years between 1990 and 2010, the total square footage of Somerville's commercial space increased by only 4%.

ville bridges that have required rebuilding or desperately need structural attention. Square because it is served by a new T stop. But these increases are swamped by citywide housing development, worsbridge, which both have 1.8 live/work balance.

Beyond Assembly Square, the neighborhoods with the greatest job- and property-tax-creation potential are Union Square/ Boynton Yards and Brickbottom/Inner Belt. Fully unleashing their potential requires extending both Green Line spurs.

The Court understood the burdens imposed upon Somerville when it approved a 1991 consent decree mandating transit investments—including the Green Line extension—to mitigate Big-Dig environmental impacts. But although state officials invested hundreds of millions in low-impact suburban projects, they did nothing on the Green Line until 2006 litigation forced their hand.

Finally, in 2010 MassDOT announced that the GLX would become operational in October 2015. But in August we learned that, after already spending \$750 million in unrecoverable expenses, the MBTA

was anticipating Green Line costs \$1 billion over budget.

Now state officials seem intent on extorting cash from the City of Somerville and developers like US2 to help pay for their mistakes. Astonishingly, some city officials appear ready to bargain.

But as Bill White observed in his inaugural address this month, "We [already] have more skin in the game than anyone else. Enough is enough... If we have to pay for the Green Line though property taxes, we could end up losing money in the deal." And if the state shakes down developers, it will expropriate the surpluses required to fund community benefits.

'Villens are in no way responsible for the gross incompetence that blew apart the Green Line budget. We have been paying to support regional transportation for a half century. What we owe today is exactly \$0.00.

Russell Anthony Joyner CONT. FROM PG 6

he made sure everything was alright for everybody," said Somerville's Deputy Police Chief David Carrabino.

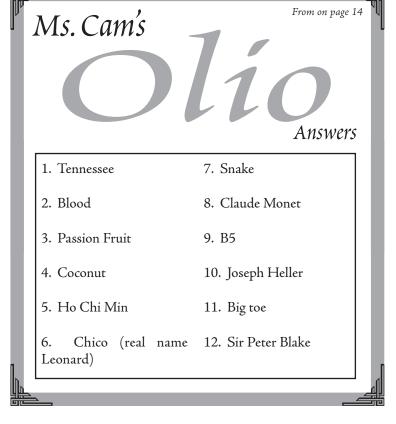
The ceremony concluded with the unveiling of a memorial plaque in Joyner's name and the thankful and reminiscent remarks from Brenda and Martina Joyner, his wife and daughter.

"I still get phone calls and mes-

sages from all over the country, all over the world, from people wanting to remember and giving some little quote that he said, and it sticks with us and will stick with us forever because he taught us all a lot about living, about giving back," said Brenda Joyner.

The Substation will serve as an onsite response center to ensure

the Somerville police will be able to respond quickly to incidents that threaten the safety and enjoyment of the new and ever-evolving neighborhood. Federal Realty paid for construction and build out of the space, and the furniture for the substation space. Officers from the Somerville Police Department will staff the station.



Creative people are made not born

By Sanjeev Selvarajah

Now here's something—pay an artist for their time—that's just what artist and entrepreneur Danielle Festa set out to teach with a barrage of Interdisciplinary courses during this month of January, at Washington Street Art Center, a popular source inspiring and here seating people in front of instructors who guide the Somerville art-scene about making a living with artistic expression.

Danielle Festa's supplementary continuing online network, Creative Living Works, and its course-load for the business glazed minds, young or old, will be taking their Web address to the Somerville address of 321 Washington Street for a few more Saturdays (12:00-4:00 p.m.). The Steve GutenBAND and The Breakfast Project will be performing live during the closing reception, January 30.

"I am running the event myself with a business I've established in May of 2015 called Creative Living Works. I founded it with the intention of connecting creative professionals from various backgrounds in one online community with skill-share courses, webinars, educational resources and shared opportunities for advancing creative careers. Crossing 21 disciplines, the website allows users to create a profile as a networking hub, share a portfolio and offer services for hire," says Danielle.

"I also wanted to encourage the local artists who I've recorded as instructors on the Creative Living Works website to teach workshops at the gallery. There will be two courses remaining to sign up for: Shibori Dyeing and Block Printing, taught by Sandhya Garg who is a former Project Runway contestant. People can sign up for both at Creative-LivingWorks.com/Interdisciplinary," informs Danielle.

Long time contributor to Washington St. Gallery, Gretchen Graham said this about the Festas: "The high level of professionalism and knowledge of instructor Mike Festa, the on-point and relaxed conversational style between him and Danielle... [and Danielle] whose organizational capabilities match her level of artistry. I've never seen anyone so dedicated to a good idea make it happen so well."

Oh yeah, and the opening reception captured live in VIR-TUAL REALITY, courtesy of Stream VR, is accessible from most Web setups, from cell to desktop/laptop—beat that! "I attended CLW's Virtual Reality workshop live, on my phone, and it was great! Coincidentally, I'd just finished production work as an editorial assistant on an O'Reilly Media book, "Learning Virtual Reality," and it was amazing to see some of the VR process, theory, and materials involved come to life!" finishes Gretchen.



Photos by Divine Beauty Photography















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The Somerville Times

CHILDREN AND YOUTH Wednesday January 20

East Branch Library Preschool: Storytime 11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|115 Broadway

Thursday January 21

Central Library

Preschool: Storytime for 3 to 5 year

10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.| 79 Highland

West Branch Library

Lego Club Annamarie Almeida-617-623-5000

3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.| 40 College

Central Library

The Beautiful Stuff Project Cathy Piantigini-617-623-5000,

4 p.m.- 5 p.m.| 79 Highland Avenue

Friday January 22

Central Library

Preschool: Storytime for 2 year olds 10:30 a.m.-11 a.m.| 79 Highland Avenue

East Branch Library Jeff Jam

Meghan Forsell-617-623-5000 x2970 11 a.m.-11:45 a.m.|115 Broadway

Saturday January 23

Central Library

Family Yoga with Erin Carter Cathy Piantigini-617-623-5000 x2950 11 a.m.-12 p.m.| 79 Highland Avenue

Sunday | January 24

Central Library DI lef Czekai

Cathy Piantigini -617-623-5000

3 p.m.-4:30 p.m.| 79 Highland

Tuesday|January 26

Central Library

Homeschool Reading Group for Ages Tammy McKanan-617-591-0216 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.| 79 Highland Avenue

West Branch Library

Preschool Storytime 11 a.m.-11:45 a.m.|40 College Avenue

East Branch Library

Read to Bead Winter Reading Club Meghan Forsell-617-623-5000 x2970 2 p.m.- 6 p.m.| 115 Broadway

Central Library Somerville High School Anime Club

Emmanuel Mukadi 2:45 p.m.-4:30 p.m.| 79 Highland

Wednesday January 27

East Branch Library Preschool: Storytime

11 a.m.-11:30 a.m. | 115 Broadway

MUSIC | ARTS Wednesday January 20

Iohnny D's

Glen David Andrews / New Orleans Suspects & Ben Knight 17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's Bar Free Poker, lots of prizes! 6 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-

The Burren Front Room

Exile on Elm Back Room

Back Room Series: Hankus Netsky & Eden MacAdam-Somer: Yiddish & Hassidic song & Klezmer Dance Tunes|7 p.m.

Comedy Night With Steve Macone 10 p.m.

247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

P.A.'s Lounge Katie Simko Rachel Rynick Adam Freedman Kerr Griffin Ava Suppelsa Mike Dunbar Caleb Gore

345 Somerville Ave On The Hill Tavern

499 Broadway|617-629-5302

Orleans Restaurant and Bar 65 Holland St|617-591-2100

The A-Beez – Funk & Soul 366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen

150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Samba Bar & Grille 608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

Joshua Tree Bar & Grill Pub Trivia

8:30 p.m.|256 Elm Street|(617) 623-9910

Thunder Road

Bearly Dead - Wednesday Night Grateful Dead Residency 8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Arts at the Armory Red Cross Blood Drive

2 p.m.|Café Songwriters in the Round 7 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Thursday January 21

Johnny D's

The Boston Blues Scene Says Goodbye to Johnny D's 17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's

Spring Hill Rounders grassy Thursdays|7:30 p.m. 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren Front Room

Acoustic/Bluegrass|9:30 p.m. Backroom Series: Take Your Show on the Road! With DIY artist Kristen Ford 7 p.m. L80's night with Scattershot|10 p.m.47 Elm Street|617-776-6896

P.A.'s Lounge

Kid Gulliver Positive Negative Man Life Before Insanity 345 Somerville Ave

On The Hill Tavern

Live DJ Music 499 Broadway|617-629-5302

Orleans Restaurant and Bar 65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Dub Down Reggae

366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Ioshua Tree

256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

Samba Bar & Grille 608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

Somerville Theatre Awkward Compliment's Thursday Night Comedy Night 8 p.m.|55 Davis Square

Thunder Road

Afropop Night feat. M'Bolo & DJ Afro Marc|8 p.m. 379 Somerville Ave

Arts at the Armory

Copyright & the Artist: A Modern 6:30 p.m. | Cafe|191 Highland Ave

Davis Square Theatre

Strange Behavior 8:30 p.m.|255 Elm Street

Friday January 22

Johnny D's

The Jon Butcher Axis with very special guests Hirsh Gardner & John Fannon of New England Goddamn Draculas (The Drax) + Red Sky Mary + Watts 17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's

Tom Hagerty Acoustic Band |6 p.m. HearNowLive presents presents Sidestep Complex presents Electroawesomesauce \$10 cover|9 p.m. 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

Backroom Series An Evening With Amy Fairchild, Todd Thibaud, Susan Cattaneo 7 p.m.

Red Square 10 p.m. 247 Elm Street 617-776-6896 P.A.'s Lounge Ed Driscoll

Eamon White Sean Joncas **Andrew Soucy** Coastal Flux

Trojaas 345 Somerville Ave Orleans Restaurant and Bar

10 p.m.|65 Holland St On The Hill Tavern 499 Broadway |617-629-5302

Orleans Restaurant and Bar DJ starting at 10 p.m. 65 Holland St|617-591-2100 Bull McCabe's

366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

• • • • VILLENS ON THE TOWN • • • •

Joshua Tree

DJ McRiddleton 256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

Samba Bar & Grille

Live music 9 p.m.|608 Somerville Ave|617-718-

Casey's

Entertainment every Friday 173 Broadway 617- 625-5195

Thunder Road Tallahassee|6 p.m. Federator No1|9 p.m. 379 Somerville Ave

Arts at the Armory

Smut Slam: where sexy and storytelling collide

7:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave **Davis Square Theatre**

Shit-Faced Shakespeare 7 p.m.|255 Elm Street

Saturday January 23

Johnny D's

Jazz Brunch leff Jam Dance Party Boston's Best Tribute Bands: LoVe-SeXy, Rock Bottom, Clock Strikes Ten, Sister Lovers, Melt + more!! 17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's

Patsy Hamel Band |6 p.m. HearNowLive presents presents Classic Vibe, Rhyging, Shotgun Waltz \$10 cover|9 p.m. 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

Front Room: Bluegrass Session|2 p.m. The BagBoys|5 p.m. Irish Session 9:30 p.m. Back Room

Backroom Series Ro Colegrove, Kara Kulpa and Jason Nichols 7 p.m. Scattershot 10 p.m. 247 Elm Street 617-776-6896

P.A.'s Lounge Ark Music Duo|3 p.m. Shelita Burke

TBA Thunder Bug The Boss 8 p.m. Dr. Fuzz Stop Calling Me Frank Cadillac Hearts

345 Somerville Ave **Orleans Restaurant and Bar**

Karaoke 65 Holland St

The Angel Martins

On the Hill Tavern Live DJ Music 499 Broadway|617-629-5302

Bull McCabe's

366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Joshua Tree

256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

Samba Bar & Grille

Live Band & DJ 608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

Entertainment every Saturday 173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

Thunder Road Big Mean Sound Machine

Arts at the Armory The Pretty One (and other things that 7:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Sunday | January 24

Johnny D's Jazz Brunch

17 Holland St.|617-776-2004 Sally O'Brien's Bar

Deborah McDonnell Band|6:30 p.m. 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren Front Room Beatles Brunch|11 a.m.-3 p.m. John Gannon & Friends Irish Session 3

Back Room

Alan Kaufman & Friends Old Timey|5 Burren Acoustic Music Series 8 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Bull McCabe's Pub Dub Apocalypse

366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Sunday Brunch Live Country & Bluegrass Sunday Night Live Music

150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Orleans Restaurant and Bar

Game Night 65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Samba Bar & Grille Live Band & DJ

608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

Thunder Road

The Rupert Selection 8 p.m. 379 Somerville Ave Arts at the Armory

Family Concert: Peter and the Wolf 4 p.m.|Café

7 p.m.|Café||191 Highland Ave

Monday January 25

Johnny D's Johnny D's Comedy Showcase Presents: One Microphone (Stand-Up) Stump! Pub Trivia

17 Holland St | 617-776-2004 Sally O'Brien's Bar

Shawn Carter's Cheapshots Comedy Marley Mondays with The Duppy Conquerors 10 p.m. 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren Front Room Bur-Run Helena Delaney, Johnny O'Leary & Friends Irish Session|9 p.m. Back Room: Solas Nua Theatre 8 p.m.

247 Elm Street 617-776-6896 P.A.'s Lounge

Americana Mondays 8 p.m.|345 Somerville Ave On The Hill Tavern

499 Broadway|617-629-5302

Bull McCabe's Pub Stump! Team Trivia

366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045 **Thunder Road** The Murdock Manor Stripped Sets

Monday Night Series 7:30 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave Tuesday January 26

SheBoom. Somerville's first Post-Menopausal Brazilian Percussion and Vocal Ensemble Hot Tamale Brass Band Free Show!

(New Orleans Jazz) 17 Holland St|617-776-2004 Sally O'Brien's Bar

Johnny D's

335 Somerville Ave 617-666-3589 The Burren Front Room Jason Anick and the Swingers Swing/

Spider John Koerner 7:30 p.m.

Jazz|8:30 p.m. **Back Room** Open Mic w/ Hugh McGowan|8

. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA's Lounge Open Mic Night

345 Somerville Ave On The Hill Tavern Stump Trivia (with prizes)

499 Broadway 617-629-5302

Bull McCabe's Pub The Ghetto People Band

366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045 First Tuesday of the Month|Spelling

hosted by Victor and Nicole of Egoart. The fun starts at 10:00p.m. 150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Samba Bar & Grille 608 Somerville Ave 617-718-9177 PJ Ryan's

Thunder Road

Lee Hawkins Band

Bee Night

Pub Ouiz 10 p.m.|239 Holland St.|617-625-

Boston Blues Society Showcase feat.

7 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Wednesday January 27 Johnny D's

Bar and Restaurant Closed 17 Holland St|617-776-2004 Sally O'Brien's Bar

Free Poker, lots of prizes! 6 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666The Burren

Front Room Exile on Elm

Back Room Comedy Night With Steve Macone|10 p.m.

247 Elm Street 617-776-6896

P.A.'s Lounge Hana Kahn Delmore Katie Solomon In this River Ashley Dawn

Durkin 345 Somerville Ave

On The Hill Tavern

499 Broadway|617-629-5302 **Orleans Restaurant and Bar** 65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Bull McCabe's Pub The A-Beez – Funk & Soul 366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen

150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131 Samba Bar & Grille

608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177 Joshua Tree Bar & Grill

Pub Trivia 8:30 p.m.|256 Elm Street|(617) 623-9910

Grateful Dead Residency 8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave **CLASSES AND GROUPS**

Bearly Dead - Wednesday Night

Wednesday January 20 **Central Library**

Thunder Road

Creative Writing with Amy Shea Marita Coombs-617-623-5000 10 a.m.-12 p.m.| 79 Highland Avenue

Central Library Book Discussion Group on Race and Ellen Jacobs-617-623-5000 x2914

Avenue West Branch Library Learn English at the Library!

(Session 1) 6 p.m.- 7 p.m.

7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.| 79 Highland

Thursday January 21

(Session 2) 7:15 p.m.-8:15 p.m. 40 College Avenue First Church Somerville Debtors Anonymous- a 12 Step program for people with problems

with money and debt. 7 p.m.-8:30

p.m.|89 College Ave (Upstairs Parlor).

For more info call: 781-762-6629

Family Yoga with Erin Carter

Saturday January 23 **Central Library**

Cathy Piantigini-617-623-5000 x2950 11 a.m.-12 p.m.| 79 Highland Avenue Arts at the Armory Somerville Winter Farmers' Market

9:30 a.m.|Performance Hall|191

Highland Ave

Holland St

Bagel Bards Somerville Writers and Poets meet weekly to discuss their work 9 a.m.-12 p.m.|Au Bon Pain| 18-48

Fourth Step to Freedom Al-Anon **Family Groups** 7:00 P.M. | 6 William Street

Sunday January 24

ment. Monday January 25

Unity Church of God

East Branch Library Learn English at the Library! (Session 1) 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. (Session 2) 7:15 p.m.- 8:15 p.m. 115 Broadway

Enter upstairs, meeting is in base-

Tuesday January 26

Learn English at the Library!

Wednesday January 27

6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Central Library

Central Library Creative Writing with Amy Shea Marita Coombs-617-623-5000 10 a.m.-12 p.m.| 79 Highland Avenue

Central Library Death Cafe

Glenn Ferdman-617-623-5000 x2910 7 p.m.-8 p.m.| 79 Highland Avenue

PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO!

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Welcome to our centers. Everyone 55+ is encouraged to join us for fitness, culture, films, lunch and Bingo. Our centers are open to everyone from Somerville and surrounding communities. Check out our calendar and give a call with any questions or to make a reservation. 617-625-6600 ext. 2300. Stay for lunch and receive free transportation.

All clubs and groups welcome new members.

Holland Street: 167 Holland Street Monday through Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

617-625-6600 Ext. 2300

Cross Street Center: 165 Broadway
Tuesday & Wednesday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(617) 625-6600 Ext. 2335

Ralph and Jenny Center: 9 New Washington Street, Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. (617) 666-5223.

Cross Street Center – 165 Broadway –There are programs and services for YOU at our Cross Street Center we have low-cost, healthy, hot lunch program, English Conversation Practice, Creative Arts Programming, Multicultural Programming and Fit-4-Life exercise. Our English Conversation Practice Group meets every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10:00 A.M. The Conversation continues through a healthy home-made lunch. For more information or to make a reservation for lunch please contact Janine Lottie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335. She will be happy to tell you about the group and other programs we have to offer at our Cross Street Center.

Volunteer Roundtable – Friday, January 22 – 10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. at our Holland Street Center – Join us and learn about "community participation." This social gathering is designed to bring current SCOA volunteers together as well as welcoming new community members. For more information or to register for this event please call Natasha at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Foundations of Knowledge Lecture Series – The Power of Poetry – Monday, January 25 at 10:00 A.M. at our Holland Street Center. Featuring local poet, national and international editor and publisher, Gloria Mindock. For details and information, place contact Janine Lotti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300. You can learn more about Gloria at http://www.cervenabarvapress.com

Holiday Inn Dance – Monday, January 25 – 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. – 30 Washington Street – A fee of \$17 will get you a terrific lunch, great music and wonderful friends. Please contact Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 for more information or to reserve your spot.

Luncheon at Highlander Café – in the High School Atrium. Tuesday, January 26 – \$10 includes chicken parmigiana or baked haddock lunch. Limited seating. Call Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 to reserve your spot. Doors open at 10:45 A.M.

Planning for the Future – Tuesday, January 26 – From 5 to 7 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Planning your life for the future is difficult. We will have a financial planner, an attorney as well as a funeral home professional present. Please call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 to register.

Berklee College of Music Series – 5 dates. This is a free event. Outings to see the country's next big vocal, instrumental and theatre stars! Pre-registration is required. Very limited seating. Please call 617-625-6600, Ext. 2300 to reserve your spot. Monday, February 1 at 7:30 P.M.: Songwriting Faculty Concert; Monday, February 22 at 7:00 P.M.: Harp Extravaganza; Thursday, February 25 at 7:30 P.M.: Bass Department Student Concert; Thursday, March 10th at 7:30 P.M.: Eighth Annual Guitar Night: R&B / Funk Showcase; Monday, March 21 at 7:30 P.M.: Maggie Scott: Vocal Jazz Series.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Friendly Caller Program - Do you know someone who could benefit from a friendly call? Maybe you are feeling isolated and want someone to talk to – or you just want someone to listen. Please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300 to sign up for our "Friendly Caller" Program. Please note that the Fit-4-Life Walking & Talking Group is on hiatus until Spring Time. We will keep you posted. The trip to Culinary Arts at SHS scheduled for Tuesday, January 26th is BOOKED.

St. Patrick's Day Super Bingo scheduled for Thursday, March 17th at our Ralph & Jenny Center is SOLD OUT.

The Pine Grove Dude Ranch trip scheduled for May 15th through May 20th is BOOKED SOLID. Call Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 to have your name put on the waiting list.

This trip, costing \$449 pp/dbl and \$499 pp/single includes round trip motor coach transportation, 5 nights deluxe accommodations, 3 great meals each day and a wide variety of entertainment and programs.

LGBT EVENTS:

LGBTQ Advisory Group –This group meets the 2nd Monday of every month excluding City Holidays and snow emergencies. We are looking for new members who would like to serve on the Advisory Group. Please call Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2316 or email at MBastardi@Somervillema.gov if you have any questions or if you should need additional information.

LBT Women Fit-4-Life - Classes are Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting at 6:00 P.M. \$10 a month fee - scholarships available & it just might be covered under your insurance. We have available slots and would love to have you. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Chris Kowaleski at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300.

The Moonlighters – Meets every Monday at 10:30 A.M. and runs September through June. Led by Somerville Youth Arts Coordinator, Jimmy DelPonte, the Moonlighters are an older version of the SunSetters. If you like to sing then this group is for you. Sometimes taking their skills on the road. Contact our main office at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300 if you should require additional information.

Brain Games – Meets the first Tuesday of each month starting at 10:00 A.M. This group is facilitated by our volunteers Eileen Jones & Jan Ciganelli. Engaging as a group in brain healthy activities. Proven that keeping the mind active can actually reverse the signs of aging and improve memory and cognitive functioning. Contact the main office at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300 to sign up!

English Conversations – Meets every Tuesday & Thursday from 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P. M. and 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday at our Cross Street Center located at 165 Broadway. Janine Lotti, Senior Projects Manager and Sandy Francis, Cross Street Center Volunteer work together to facilitate this group. No books, no tests, no stress – just a great group of older adults from all over the world who help each other to listen, speak and learn English.*Please see "Upcoming Schedule" for possible time change.

Current Events Group – Meets every Thursday from 10:00 to 11:00 A.M. Our Social Worker, Natasha Naim, facilitates this group. Join a group of your peers to discuss current events. Please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300 for info.

STAY ACTIVE:

Walking & Talking Group – Starting on Monday, May 4th at 8:30 A.M. – out of our Holland Street Center. We'll take a gentle 30 minute walk around the community every Monday – meeting in the downstairs lobby of the Holland Street Center. Become more active – make new friends – boost your brain power – feel healthier. For more information or to sign up please contact Chris Kowaleski our Health & Wellness Coordinator at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315.

The award winning Fit-4-Life Program is NOW at our Cross Street Center – 165 Broadway – And there are still some open spots. A unique combination of exercise and nutritional support opportunity under the direct supervision of a certified exercise trainer and participate in individual and group counseling with a nutritionist. The cost to you is \$10.- a month that gives you access to fitness & nutritional Fit-4-Life classes each week. Limited scholarships are available – Need more information? Please contact Chris Kowaleski our Health & Wellness Coordinator at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315 or email him at CKowaleski@somervillema.gov This is for older adults 55+ Space is limited so sign up early.

Weekly Exercise Class Schedule

Holland = (H) Ralph & Jenny = (RJ) Cross Street = (C)

Mondays:

8:30 Walking / Talking Group (H) 8:30 Fit-4-Life Group C (H) 12:00 Nutrition Counseling with Mimi (H) 1:00 Fit-4-Life (H)

Tuesdays:

9:15 Strengthening - \$3 per class (H) 10:30 Fit-4-Life Cross Street* (C) 1:00 Dalcroze Eurhythmics - \$2.00 (H) 6:00 LBT Fit 4 Life (H)

Wednesdays:

8:45 Fit 4 Life* Group A (H) 9:00 Fit 4 Life* Group B (H) 12:00 Fit 4 Life* Group C (H) 5:15 Zumba for All - \$3 per class (H)

Thursdays:

9:00 Yoga (H) 9:30 Strengthening - \$3 per class (RJ) 10:30 Fit 4 Life (C) 6:00 LBT Fit 4 Life*

Fridays:

8:45 Fit 4 Life* Group A
9:55 Fit 4 Life* Group B
11:00 Nutrition Counseling with Mim

11:00 Nutrition Counseling with Mimi

*All Fit 4 Life classes are \$10/month and require pre-registration**If you are interested in our Yoga classes, please call Chris Kowaleski, our Health & Wellness Coordinator at 617-625-6600, Ext. 2315.

Upcoming Schedule

Holland = (H) Ralph & Jenny = (RJ) Cross Street = (C)

Wednesday | January 20

10:00 English Conversation (C) 11:30 Lunch (RJ, C) 12:45 Bingo (RJ) 1:00 Bowling at Flatbreads 5:00 Supper & Bingo (H)

Thursday January 21

10:00 English Conversation (C)
10:00 Blood Pressure Screening (H)
10:00 Current Events (H)
10:00 Knitting for Babies (RJ)
10:00 Cards (RJ)
11:00 Computer tutorial with Barbara (H)
11:30 Lunch (H, RJ, C)
12:45 Bingo (H, RJ)

Friday|January 22

11:30 Lunch (H)

12:45 Bingo (H)

Monday|January 25 9:30 Veteran's Group (H) 10:00 Activity & Movie (RJ)

10:30 Moonlighters (H)

Tuesday January 26

10:00 Housing 101 (H)
10:00 English Conversation (C)
10:00 Knitting for Babies (RJ)
10:00 Cards (RJ)
11:30 Lunch (RJ, C)
12:00 Computer tutorial with Norbert (H)
12:45 Bingo (RJ)
5:00 Planning for the Future (H)
Culinary Arts

Wednesday|January 27

10:00 English Conversation (C) 11:30 Lunch (RJ, C) 12:45 Bingo (RJ) 1:00 Bowling at Flatbreads 1:00 Drop-in Creativity (C)

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We have a Facebook page. Check us out at www.facebook.com/somervilleCOA.

You can receive our monthly newsletter that is always filled with useful and important information. For a \$5.00 yearly fee you can receive it via the U.S. Postal service or a free version can be sent electronically. Please contact Connie at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300 to sign up.

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The Norton Group

John Pratti

Real Estate Consultant

699 Broadway

Somerville,MA 02144

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www.TheNortonGroupRE.com



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The Norton Group Cell: 781-367-7565 **Jeffrey Hughes** Office: 617-623-6600

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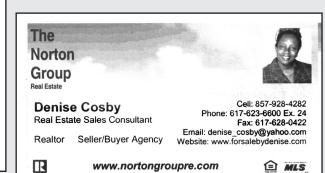
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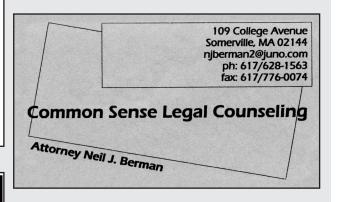
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Wednesday, January 20

Somerville Community Access TV Ch.3 Programming Guide

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Visual Radio	1:00pm	Color In Your Life	12:30pm	Color In Your Life	6:00pm	, January 20	Wednesday,
The Literati Scene	2:00pm	Henry Parker Presents	1:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	6:30pm	Life Matters	6:00am
Hollywood Makeover Show	2:30pm	SCATV Bulletin Board	1:30pm	Taking Back Your Health (Live call-in)	7:00pm	Exercise With Robyn	6:30am
Exercise With Robyn	3:00pm	Somerville Local First	2:00pm	Let's Talk About Real Estate	7:30pm	The Struggle	7:00am
MAPS	3:30pm	Telemagazine	3:00pm	Fouye Zo Nan Kalalou (Live call-in)	8:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	7:30am
Free Speech Television	4:00pm	Chef's Table Series	4:00pm	Music Mania Television	9:30pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00am
Telegalaxie	5:00pm	Tele Kreyol	5:00pm	Throwback Thursday!	10:00pm	Legacies	9:00am
Somerville Local First	6:00pm	Effort Pour Christ	6:00pm	Rare Groove Revolution	11:00pm	All Things Victorian	9:30am
Let's Talk About Somerville Real Estate	7:00pm	JuPrey Promotions	7:00pm	MAPS	11:30pm	Color In Your Life	10:00am
Music Mania Television	7:30pm	David Pakman (Free Speech TV)	8:00pm	iary 22	Friday, Jan	Rare Groove Revolution	10:30am
		Nossa Gente e Costumes	9:00pm	Fakkahar Speaks	6:00pm	Chef's Table Series	11:00am
The Somerville Line	8:00pm	Open Line News with Davey D	10:00pm	Healthy Hypnosis	6:30pm	Free Speech TV	12:00pm
Dedilhando au Saudade	9:00pm	Gay News USA (Free Speech TV)	11:00pm	Poet to Poet/Writer to Writer	7:00am	Physicians Focus	1:30pm
Bate Papo com Shirley	10:00pm	nuary 24	Sunday, Ja	Hollywood Makeover Show	7:30am	SCATV Bulletin Board	2:00pm
Talking About Somerville	11:00pm	Faith Show	6:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00am	Road To Recovery	2:30pm
SCATV Bulletin Board	11:30pm	SCATV Bulletin Board	6:30am	Walter Ness Presents	9:00am	The Literati Scene	3:00pm
nuary 26	Tuesday, Ja	Nossa Gente's e Costumes	7:00am	Somerville Pundits	10:00am	Health is Wealth	3:30pm
Art At Scat	6:00am	Effort Pour Christ	8:00am	SCATV Bulletin Board	10:30am	Free Speech Television	4:00pm
Esoteric Science	6:30am	Heritage Baptist Church	9:00am	Color In Your Life	11:00am	Esoteric Science	5:00pm
JuPrey Promotions	7:00am	Fakkahar Speaks	10:00am	All Things Victorian	11:30am	Fallon's Daily Toast	5:30pm
Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00am	International Church of God	10:30am	Free Speech TV	12:00pm	Haitian Poetry	6:00pm
, , ,	9:00am	Chef's Table Series	11:00am	Health Is Wealth	1:00pm	Meet The Merchants	7:00pm
Chefs Table Series		Sci-fi Journal	12:00pm	MAPS	1:30pm	MAPS On TV	7:30pm
Eat Well Be Happy	10:00am	Somerville Neighborhood News	1:00pm	Henry Parker Presents	2:00pm	Somerville Pundits	8:00pm
Cooking with Georgia and Dez	10:30am	Let's Talk Real Estate!	1:30pm	Taking Back Your Health	2:30pm	SCATV Bulletin Board	8:30pm
Hello Neighbor	11:00am	Legacies	2:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	3:00pm	Bay State Biking News	9:00pm
Hollywood Makeover Show	11:30am	Taking Back Your Health	2:30pm	Gay USA (Free Speech TV)	4:00pm	Walter Ness Presents:	10:00pm
The Thom Hartmann Show	12:00pm	JuPrey Promotions	3:00pm	Reeling Review	5:00pm	Visual Radio	11:00pm
Color In Your Life	1:00pm	Dedilhando a Saudade	4:00pm	SCATV Bulletin Board	5:30pm		
Somerville Pundits	1:30pm	Dead Air Live	5:00pm	Let's Talk Somerville Real Estate	6:00pm		Thursday, Ja
Exercise With Robyn	2:00pm	Abugida TV	6:00pm	Talking About Somerville	6:30pm	JuPrey Promotions	6:00am
Health Is Wealth	2:30pm	African Television Network	7:00pm	Cinema Somerville Presents	8:00pm	The Struggle	7:00am
Taking Back Your Health	3:00pm	Telemagazine	8:00pm	Dog House TV	10:00pm	SCATV Bulletin Board	7:30am
Physicians Focus	3:30pm	Cinema Somerville Presents	9:00pm	Fallon's Daily Toast	10:30pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00am
Ring of Fire (Free Speech TV)	4:00pm	SCATV Bulletin Board	11:00pm	Acronym TV (Free Speech TV)	11:00pm	Esoteric Science	9:00am
Poet to Poet/Writer to Writer	5:00pm	Rare Groove Revolution	11:30pm	SCATV Bulletin Board	11:30pm	Somerville Pundits	9:30am
The Literati Scene	5:30pm					Dead Air Live	10:00am
The Struggle!	6:00pm	-	Monday, Ja	•	Saturday, J	Hollywood Makeover Show	11:00am
Music Mania Television		Health Is Wealth	6:00am	Life Matters	6:00am	Person 2 Person	11:30am
	6:30pm	Fallon's Daily Toast	6:30am	Eat Well Be Happy	6:30am	The Thom Hartman Show	12:00pm
Somerville Neighborhood News	7:00pm	Healthy Hypnosis	7:00pm	Sci-Fi Journal	7:00am	SCATV Cooking Bloc	1pm-3pm
Greater Somerville	7:30pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00am	Physicians Focus	8:00am	Chef's Table Series	1:00pm
Dead Air Live	8:00pm	e Stephanie Miller Show (Free Speech TV)		Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	8:30am	Eat Well Be Happy	2:00pm
Henry Parker Presents	9:00pm	SCATV Bulletin Board	10:00am	Math With Matthew	9:00am	Cooking with Georgia and Dez	2:30pm
Maps	9:30pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	10:30am	Somerville Neighborhood News	9:30am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	3:00pm
SCATV Bulletin Board	10:00pm	All Things Victorian	11:00am	Tele Galaxie	10:00am	Free Speech Television	4:00pm
Reeling The Review Show	10:30pm	Art at SCATV	11:30am	Haitian Poetry	11:00am	Poet to Poet/Writer to Writer	5:00pm
The David Pakman Show	11:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show	12:00pm	All Things Victorian	12:00pm	All Things Victorian	5:30pm

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

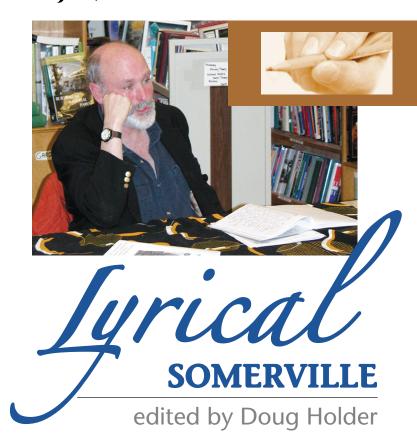
Wednesd	lay, January 20	8:00pm	Connecting Communities	9:00pm	Raising Families	12:00pm	Recreation Kickoff Fair 2016
8:00am	Fit-4-Life Home Exercise Program	8:30pm	Recreation Kickoff Fair 2016	9:30pm	Recreation Kickoff Fair 2016	1:00pm	Multicultural Union Sq
9:00am	Union Sq. Public Benefits Strategy Session	9:30pm	Somerville and the First Telephone	10:30pm	Talking Business	2:20pm	Symphony Park Ribbon Cutting
1:08pm	SomerViva em Português	10:17pm	Symphony Park Ribbon Cutting	Sunday, Ja	nuary 24	2:35pm	SomerViva nan Kreyol
1:37pm	Congressional Update	10:32pm	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2016	12:00am	2016 Inaugural Ceremonies	3:00pm	Raising Families
2:07pm	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2016	Friday, January 22		2:30am	Aldermen at Work	4:00pm	Upcoming Meeting Agenda
3:07pm	Somerville and the First Telephone	12:00am	Somerville and the First Telephone	3:00am	Somerville and the First Telephone	7:00pm	School Committee Meeting - LIVE
6:30pm	Somerville and the First Telephone	12:47am	Square Flair	8:30am	Sit & Be Fit Allamerican Workout	10:00pm	Raising Families
7:17pm	Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte	1:00am	2016 Inaugural Ceremonies	9:00am	Recreation Kickoff Fair 2016	Tuesday, J	anuary 26
7:42pm	Talking Business	9:00am	2016 Inaugural Ceremonies	12:00pm	Senior Circuit	12:00am	Navigating Addiction
8:18pm	Symphony Park Ribbon Cutting	12:00pm	Talking Business	12:30pm	2016 Inaugural Ceremonies	2:18am	2016 Inaugural Ceremonies
8:33pm	Connecting Communities	12:36pm	Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte	2:55pm	Voices of Somerville	8:00am	Fit-4-Life Home Exercise Program #3
9:03pm	SomerViva en Español	1:01pm	MLK Day Celebration 2016	3:23pm	Square Flair	8:30am	Sit & Be Fit Allamerican Workout
9:30pm	Voices of Somerville	2:00pm	Moonlighters Christmas at VNA	4:00pm	Fit-4-Life Home Exercise Program #3	9:00am	2016 Inaugural Ceremonies
	Multicultural Union Sq. Meeting - Português	4:00pm	Fit-4-Life Home Exercise Program	6:00pm	MLK Day Celebration 2016	12:00pm	Senior Circuit
	y, January 21	6:30pm	MLK Day Celebration 2016	7:00pm	Senior Circuit	12:30pm	Moonlighters Christmas at VNA
12:00am	ADA Presentation	7:30pm	Recreation Kickoff Fair 2016	7:30pm	George Dilboy	1:00pm	MLK Day Celebration 2016
2:21am	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2016	8:30pm	Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte	8:12pm	Raising Families	2:00pm	Connecting Communities
3:21am	3 3 1		Navigating Addiction: A Community Forum	8:39pm	Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte	2:33pm	Congressional Update
8:00am	Union Sq. Public Benefits Strategy Session Fit-4-Life Home Exercise Program	Saturday, January 23		9:04pm	Connecting Communities"	3:03pm	Ames Historic Project - Family Interview
9:00am	Talking Business	12:00am	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2016	9:34pm	Recreation Kickoff Fair 2016	6:00pm	Recreation Kickoff Fair 2016
10:00am	Square Flair	1:00am	Ames Historic Exhibit Opening Reception	10:33pm	SomerViva en Español	7:00pm	Senior Circuit
12:00pm	Senior Circuit	2:30am	Connecting Communities	Monday I	anuary 25	7:30pm	Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte
12:30pm	Voices of Somerville	3:00am	ADA Presentation	12:00am	Senior Circuit	7:55pm	Talking Business
1:00pm	Connecting Communities	7:30am	Union Sq. Public Benefits Strategy Session	12:30am	Chamber of Commerce Dinner 2015	8:30pm	School Committee Meeting
1:30pm	Recreation Kickoff Fair 2016	12:00pm	Recreation Kickoff Fair 2016	2:00am	MLK Day Celebration 2016	Wednesda	ny, January 27
	Aulticultural Union Sq. Meeting - Português	1:00pm	2016 Inaugural Ceremonies	3:00am	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2016	12:00am	Senior Circuit
6:30pm	Raising Families	6:00pm	2016 Inaugural Ceremonies	8:30am	Sit & Be Fit Allamerican Workout	12:30am	2016 Inaugural Ceremonies
7:00pm	MLK Day Celebration 2016	8:30pm	Connecting Communities	9:00am	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2016	3:00am	Metal, Cars, & Meat
7.00piii	WEN Day Celebration 2010	0.50piii	Connecting Confindinces	7.00am	This charg haising at 110spect fill 2010	J.00am	ivietai, Cais, & ivieat

Educational TV 15 Schedule

12:00pm:

All City Middle School Winter Concert

11:00am: SHS Football @ Boston Latin 12:00am: SHS Girls Basketball v NDA Hingham 9:00pm: SHS Boys Basketball v Medford 4:30pm: Our Sch	Winter Concert
11:00am: SHS Football @ Boston Latin 12:00am: SHS Girls Basketball v NDA Hingham 9:00pm: SHS Boys Basketball v Medford 4:30pm: Our Sch	Winter Concert Winter Concert Winter Concert
2:00pm: SHS Hockey v Everett 1:15am: SHS Girls Baskethall vs Malden 11:00pm: SHS Boys Basketball v Arlington 5:00pm: SHS N	Winter Concert Winter Concert
2.00pm. Ship hockey v Everett 1.15am. Ship dans basketball v3 Malden	Winter Concert
4:00pm: Our Schools 3:00am: Public Domain Theater Sunday, January 24 8:00pm: All City Middle School V	
5:00pm: SHS Boys Basketball vs Burke 5:00am: Chris Herren Speaks to SHS 12:00am: SHS Hockey v Everett 9:15pm: Brown School V	
7:00pm: SHS Boys Basketball v Arlington 9:00am: Our Schools, Our City 2:00am: Public Domain Theater 10:30pm: SHS Hocl	key v Methuen
10:00pm: SHS Boys Basketball v Arlington 10:00am: SHS Girls Basketball v Dracut 9:00am: SHS Hockey v Methuen Tuesday, January 26	
Thursday, January 21 12:00pm: SHS Building Project Community Meeting 9:30am: SHS Girls Basketball vs Malden 12:00am: SHS Boys Basketbal	ketball v Everett
	etball v Malden
	ty Festival 2015
4:00am: Public Domain Theater 5:00pm: SHS Boys Basketball v Arlington 3:00pm: SHS Boys Basketball v Arlington 9:00am: Kennedy School Grades 4-8 V	Winter Concert
	Winter Concert
	key v Methuen
Thiodain: Which which while concert saturday, january 25	ketball v Everett
12:00pm: SHS Hockey vs Matignon 12:00am: SHS Boys Basketball v Malden 8:30pm: SHS Girls Basketball vs Hampshire 3:00pm: SHS Girls Basket	
1:15pm: SHS Hockey v Everett 2:00am: SHS Boys Basketball v Arlington 10:00pm: SHS Boys Basketball v Malden 5:00pm: Kennedy School Grades 4-8 V	
5.00pm: Sns boys basketball v Arlington 4.00am: Public Domain Theater Worlday, January 25	Winter Concert
4.00pm: Refinedy school Willer Concert 9.00am: Shi Poolibail @ boston Latin 12.00am: Shi boys basketbail V Arington	key v Methuen
5.00pm: Wishes Viller Concert 11.50am: Our Schools, Our City 2.00am: Shi hockey v Wakeheld	ketball v Everett
6:00pm: WHCS Winter Concert 12:00pm: SHS Boys Basketball v Medford 5:00am: Public Domain Theater 11:00pm: SHS Girls Basket	
7:00pm: SHS Hockey vs Matignon 2:00pm: SHS Boys Basketball v Arlington 9:00am: SHS Winter Concert 1:00am: SHS Hockey	key v Methuen



Wayne-Daniel Berard teaches English and Humanities at Nichols College in Dudley, MA. An adoptee and former Franciscan seminarian, his birth-search led him to find and embrace his Jewishness. Wayne-Daniel is a Peace Chaplain, an interfaith clergy person, and a member of B'nai Or of Boston. He has published



widely in both poetry and prose, and is the co-founding editor of Soul-Lit, an online journal of spiritual poetry. He lives in Mansfield, MA with his wife, The Lovely Christine.

Finding Out You're Jewish

It's like being thrown down a very deep well only not by your brothers, as you don't have any anymore which doesn't

surprise you as you didn't have any in the first place, not really. You recognize it from the depths up; always you'd lived here, although you didn't know it and neither did anyone

> who found your vision too direct, too unsquirmingly real, too centered on the light circling at the top while everyone else felt buried alive. You didn't know why you didn't, or why you knew rain would come eventually and raise you up and out so you'd better not get too used to this narrowness, and even then that wasn't the end of it; that open valve of light you'd stared up at day after counted day, 1,3,6, suddenly became all there was of 7 and when they all said, "run, idiot, you're free," you didn't, didn't want to, just had to stop in the wholeness of that day's sky even until it darkened and something everything smelled of cinnamon, and a braid of shooting stars dipped into the deep and sizzled and you sang from the bottom of your well which you had been thrown down into once again but not by non-brothers, but by (you think maybe) un-Absence who insisted you be the same and learning you were this you rejoiced and once more lifted up your eyes.

> > — Wayne-Daniel Berard

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FF THE

by Doug Holder

The Chintz Age:

tales of love and loss for a new new york



The Chintz Age: tales of love and loss for a new new york. (Cervena Barva Press, Somerville, Mass. 2015

Review by Doud Holder

I was just having breakfast with an artist acquaintance at the Bloc 11 Cafe in Somerville, Mass, when the subject turned to where we would move to if we were forced out of our city. We thought of isolated burgs like North Adams, an old mill in Lawrence, far flung nowherevilles in the western part of the state. But of course none of these places are like our hometown of Somerville, where both of us have lived for many years. Across the country artists, low-income folks, and others are being forced out of their communities due to the hungry tendrils of gentrification.

In The Chintz Age... (published by Somerville's Cervena Barva Press), this short story collection gets deep into the heads of punks, beatniks, hipsters, junkies, derelicts, artists and others as they hold on to the threads of their community with its bodegas, bookstores and all night cafeterias that once heavily peppered the streets of New York City. The author, Ed Hamilton, knows of what he writes. Hamilton, the author of *Legends* of the Chelsea Hotel, is still a resident of the Chelsea, known by many as the last bastion for bohemians. It is now gutted and a shell of its former self – as it waits to be turned into a boutique hotel.

Hamilton doesn't abandon his characters and let them vanish into the ether. They reinvent themselves. They take their careworn carcasses and prop themselves up. Hamilton, in his title story The Chintz Age, writes about a middle-aged East Village photographer being forced from her long time apartment. She is long past the beauty and promise of her youth, but she is able to rekindle friendship and more with a figure from her past a minor league comic book artist now gone to seed. Here, with a tender yet brutal honesty, Hamilton describes their tryst:

"The battle-scarred warriors looked at each other for a long, silent moment. Then they drew themselves together - all the years dropping away as the barrier between them dissolved. They fumbled like two teenagers, kissing and struggling out of their clothes in a car because there was nowhere else, embarrassed by their middle-aged bodies, their lumps and cellulite, their wrinkles and scars and age spots and sagging skin. It had been a long time for both of them and neither was young any longer, though they felt reborn in those brief few minutes, the lingering sin of betrayed idealism washed away in the surge of quickening blood through their freshly supple limbs, and rapidly-firing brains ... When they grasped each other they reached through time to grasp, as well, the final shreds of their forgotten selves."

In his short piece Fat Hippie Books, a long-time East Village used bookstore owner, an unapologetic acolyte of all things Kerouac and the Beats, is being forced out from his hole-in-the-wall bookstore. He manages to find a smaller space and some peace of mind albeit with compromises:

"His life underground would represent a winnowing, a stripping down, a belt-tightening as he reduced his desires to match his straightened circumstances ... He would not need to make as much money ... He would lead a smaller, more compact life, subsisting on bare necessities and nourished by the strength of his soul, waiting for the cycle to come back around, enduring middle-age, old age, even death if need be - waiting to take his place in a better world that was ready at long last to listen to him when he emerged lean, and wiry, a Holy Barbarian, a wild-haired prophet of Beatitude, from the solitude of his urban grotto."

And Hamilton is a keen observer. A master of the telling detail. Here he puts a microscope to the archetypal New York City dive bar; a place where a long gone-to seed failed writer takes refuge in:

"Past the thin corridor that contained the bar, its row of stools, and not much else, the room opened up sufficiently to hold a pool table, a row of booths along the wall, and a scattering of wood tables and chairs. The back part of the space was dimly lit by a beer light over the pool table and by tiny red lamps on the wall above the booths. There used to be a steam table along the wall of this Ninth Avenue dive, but that was long gone. Instead, on a card table beside the bar sat three warming urns. Taking a plate from the stack, Theo lifted the three lids in turn: chicken wings in a reeking garlic sauce, disgusting-looking stuffed mushroom caps (shriveled, probably poisonous), and frozen pizza squares with crisp little pepperonis on top."

Hamilton has an uncanny ability to show how the inroads of time, age, etc., forces choices in our lives. His characters find some sort of redemption, and keep on keepin' on.

Highly recommended.



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