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# The Somerville Times

VOL. 10 NO. 4

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

# **Inside:**



From go-carts to golf carts page 3



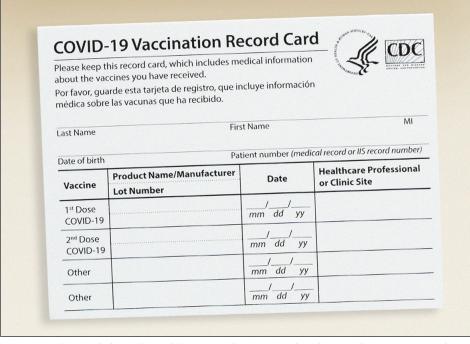
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page 9

# Vaccine mandate voted down by Board of Health



The Somerville Board of Health nixed the proposed vaccine mandate that would require patrons of various indoor venues to show proof of vaccination to gain entry and be served.

#### By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

On Thursday of last week, the Somerville Board of Health held a vote on a vaccine mandate for the city. The Board subsequently rejected this proposal in a 2-1 vote.

During the previous weeks' meeting, when the vote was originally slated to be held, it had to be abandoned and rescheduled due to a protest organized by Diana Ploss of Peabody.

According to Board of Health Chairman Brian Green, these vaccine mandates are less effective than having to mask and test regularly. "This policy is a really good idea for what we're facing with Delta, and I'm worried that it's less of a good policy for Omicron," Green said.

The proposed plan required patrons at restaurants, bars and other indoor venues to show proof of vaccination. This mandate is similar to ones in place in cities like New Continued on page 4

# Somerville Museum hosts 'Bittersweet' exhibition

Created by two of Latin America's leading artists – José Falconi from Peru and Santiago Montoya from Columbia – *Bittersweet* expands upon their original collaboration in Columbia, titled, *El Dorado Chocolaterie*.

This reference to the foundational myth of "El Dorado"— that elusive city where everything was covered in gold, derives from the earliest days of colonization in the 16th century when countless explorers mounted expeditions in search of it.

Over the years, the myth has served as an allegory for the ongoing search and exploitation of Columbia's immense natural wealth, a symbol for get-rich-quick schemers who traffic in its resources from gold to quinoa, from emeralds to cocaine

Sure to attract the attention of critics and art-lovers from Somerville and beyond, *Bittersweet* reimagines the elusive paradise of gilded beings long sought by South American explorers. Instead of gold, however, *Continued on page 11* 



The Somerville Museum, 1 Westwood Rd., Somerville, will be hosting the Bittersweet exhibition January 27 – March 26.

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Somerville saw 2,357 positive COVID-19 tests in December, more than double the previous monthly record of 1,138 in December 2020. This is part of a national surge in cases fueled mainly by the Omicron variant. While Omicron can result in milder infection, especially for those who are both vaccinated and boosted, please remember that this variant spreads so easily that it finds its way to the people it can hurt the most, such as the elderly, the immunocompromised, and the unvaccinated.

Massachusetts has established a temporary program requiring employers make paid leave time available for employees impacted by COVID or who have side effects from vaccination. Learn more.

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

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

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

Happy birthday this week to the following: Happy birthday to our own Denise Cosby, a local real estate agent here in the city. Denise published her book Murder at Harvard's Kirkland House-A Mother's Worst Nightmare, which tells the real story of the murder of her son Justin. She also has a new podcast https://www.facebook.com/justintime.initiative Just-in Time Initiative for Families who lost loved ones to murder. A big happy birthday to our own Dorothy DiMarzo, who gives us all those delicious recipes every other week in our paper. Dorothy is great! We wish her the very best of birthdays this week. Also celebrating this week is Pat Moran Quinlin. We wish her the very best of birthdays. Another local Continued on page 7

# The Somerville Times

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#### The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of January 26 – February 1 as provided by the National Weather Service

	DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
*	Wednesday January 26	Sunny	25°/4°	1%	0%	NW 15 mph
*	Thursday January 27	Sunny	26°/20°	2%	1%	WSW 9 mph
	Friday January 28	Cloudy	37°/21°	23%	12%	WSW 10 mph
··	Saturday January 29	Snow	25°/14°	39%	26%	NNW 19 mph
*	Sunday January 30	Sunny	34°/25°	6%	4%	WNW 13 mph
<b>Č</b>	Monday January 31	Partly Cloudy	33°/24°	12%	9%	WSW 9 mph
	Tuesday February 1	Cloudy	39°/22°	25%	17%	WNW 8 mph

NOTE: Conditions subject to change. Always check a daily forecast prior to activities that can be affected by the weather.

### TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

#### Response to: Rudy Revilla retires from Somerville Fire Dept.

Steve Keenan says:

Best wishes to Rudy on his retirement. He was a great firefighter and one of the nicest people you could ever meet.

Courtney O'Keefe says:

Congratulations, Rudy!

Anthony Manzelli says:

Rudy is one of the best people you will ever find. A great fire fighter and a credit to the department and the City of Somerville . Congratulations and God Bless you Rudy.

#### Response to: CHA Somerville Vaccine Center open to all **Massachusetts residents**

Tom says:

Covid is over

Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

Fascist right wing disinformation is over.

#### Response to: Appreciation event for outgoing Somerville **City Councilors**

TheoNa says:

I prefer to call this a good riddance event.

Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

You should hear what they say about you.

#### Response to: The Best of Somerville 2021

TheoNa says:

Appears that you missed one:

Best Butcher: M.F. Dulock, 201A Highland Ave.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

Want to write local Somerville stories? Call 857-488-5138 and speak to the Assignment Editor

# Life in the VILLE by Jimmy Del Ponte

# From go-carts to golf carts



This article was first published on Januray 1, 2015.

It seems like only yesterday me and my pal Charlie were pulling wheels off

of a shopping cart that we found in the alley of Stop 'N Shop in Davis Square to build a go-cart or, as we called it, a buggy. Now Charlie is in Florida tooling around in a golf cart and I'm still driving kids to school.

We were best friends then and still are. We both decided to leave St. Clements School after the 8th grade. We went to The Western Junior High for the 9th grade and then onto Somerville High School where we graduated with the class of 1971.

Charlie and I also started many bands together. The first one was The Mini-Squirts when we were around 12, and the last one was The Tools. His sister Kathy always said that we were very lucky because we had such fun filled and exciting childhoods, and we did.

Yes, it seems like yesterday that we were mischievous and adventurous 12-yearolds growing up in Somerville. Fast forward almost 50 years. Charlie just bought a house in Florida and retired. On the day before the moving truck was to arrive, I

went over to his house on North Street to say goodbye. Even though we knew we would see each other in the near future it was still a bittersweet farewell between two best buddies.

We reminisced about the old days. We really had a lot in common over the years, both happy and sad. We had both lost younger brothers at an early age and that just gave us another type of bond. We worked at a couple of the same jobs too, starting with The Dodge'em Cars at Revere Beach.

"Yes, it seems like yesterday that we were mischievous and adventurous 12-year-olds growing up in Somerville"

Then, later on, Charlie was the assistant parts manager at a foreign auto dealership in Watertown and got me the job as the parts delivery guy. I worked at it for about a year and Charlie even helped me buy a junk car and completely overhaul it to like new condition.

I was so grateful to him for getting me the job and helping me with the car that I called him up early one Monday morning in January with some news. I said, "I'm sorry Charlie but I have decided to quit

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and drive to Florida with my friend Jay." Needless to say he was a bit mad. I was quitting the job he got me, to take off to Florida in the car he helped me restore. Some best friend! But Charlie got over it and even did me the honor of becoming my oldest son's Godfather. We had many other good times since my Florida excursion back in 1979.

Charlie stayed single, bought a two family house and kept working and obviously saving money. He often spoke about retiring and moving to Florida some day and someday came last month. It's funny how two kids from Somerville who started out doing the same things at the same time ended up with such different lives.

I actually moved to Florida in 1986 and lived there for a year. Charlie came to visit me for a few days so I am someday hopefully going to visit him in Florida too, so he can return the favor!

But it may be a while because as Charlie is tooling around Florida on his Harley in the sunshine, I will be dropping my youngest son of at high school and shoveling snow. As he is teeing off on the golf course that his condo complex is on, I will be getting teed off as I open more college bills!

But the happy ending is that we are still both healthy and we will always have tons of great memories of growing up in the 60s and 70s in Somerville.



# By Jim Clark

# Violent neighbor goes too far

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to Perkins St. location last week on reports of an assault and weapons call.

Upon arrival, the officers were met by the victim, who said that he was assaulted by a man who lived on the first floor of the residence, a 3-family home being used as a rooming house with separate bedroom apartments being rented.

The officers noticed an open cut on the victim's left eye brow, for which he declined medical attention.

The victim stated that while he was stepping out of his apartment he was confronted by the suspect, later identified as Ricardo Montejo, who began arguing with him in the hallway. He said he tried to get away by going into his room, but Montejo followed him inside, where a female was present.

According to the witness, Montejo hit him in the head several times, and pushed him into the corner of the bedroom. He walked over to a window in the bedroom, but Montejo allegedly followed and struck him in the face with the grip portion of a firearm.

Montejo pointed the gun at the victim and the woman in the room several times while making threats that he would kill them.

The woman stated that Montejo pointed the gun at her and said, "I'll ice you." "You better not be calling the cops." He also reportedly said, "Take a nap, or else."

The victim described the firearm as a black gun which contained a "clip." Montejo reportedly pulled the slide back on this gun to release a round, and put it back in to make sure they knew it was loaded. Both victims said they were afraid they would be shot.

During one of Montejo's strikes to the victim's head, the firearm discharged a round.

This round is believed to have traveled through the window of the bedroom. There was a hole that went through the window curtain, as well as the window itself, which indicated the path of travel.

Montejo was identified by the victim and subsequently placed under arrest on charges of threat to commit a crime, discharge of a firearm within 500 ft. of a building, possession of ammunition without FID card, possession of a large capacity firearm, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, assault with a dangerous weapon, and home invasion.

Prior to Montejo's arrest, he

was found on the rear porch of the house where he was placed in custody. Due to the seriousness of the event, weather conditions, as well as information being sought by the victims, officers checked the area surrounding the back porch. A semi-automatic black polymer 80 ghost gun, along with three magazines, which appeared to be fully loaded by the back fence of the house. This area was in close proximity to where Montejo was located.

According to reports, police believed Montejo placed the firearm outside in an attempt to hide it. The firearm matches the description given by the victim.

**Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210** 

Leave a message on our tip hotline answering machine – All calls are confidential

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

# SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

Ricardo Montejo, January 17, 12:22 a.m., arrested at Perkins St. on charges of

threat to commit a crime, discharge of a firearm within 500 ft. of a building, possession of ammunition without

FID card, possession of a large capacity firearm, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, assault with a dan-

gerous weapon, and home invasion.

Marco Chaves, January 18, 9:32 p.m., arrested at Broad-

way on a warrant charge of threat to commit a crime assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

# Vaccine mandate voted down by Board of Health CONT. FROM PG 1



York and Boston.

After the vote from the Board of Health, Major Katjana Ballantyne gave a statement regarding the vote and future steps the current administration seeks to take to deal with the pandemic. "The important takeaway from last night's hearing is that the Board and the city are in agreement that vaccination is critical to getting this virus under control," Ballantyne said. "Naturally, we were hoping the Board would support the proposed requirement, but I respect their decision."

Although the vaccine mandate was not passed by the Board of Health, many businesses in the city already have a vaccine mandate and will not be affected.

Ian Judge, Creative Director for the

Somerville Theatre, spoke on the theater's current mandate. "We already have a proof of vaccination requirement in place," Judge said. "This is for two reasons: the first is that the majority of artists who are appearing at our theater require it and we must have a consistent policy, and the second is that it is clear that the majority of our customers feel better with the policy in place."

When asked if having a vaccine mandate at the theater would drive business away, Judge talked about how the Somerville Theatre's audience is mostly receptive to a mandate."On the contrary, we have found that our core audience is more cautious than most, so most of our customers have been very vocal about thanking us for it," Judge said.

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# The e-car charging station quandary

#### By Kyle Dante

On January 20, the Somerville City Council's Legislative Matters Committee raised budget concerns addressed at their previous meeting in December's meeting. According to the meeting's discussions, Somerville faces numerous issues going into the new year.

Another topic was ownership of electric cars and the impact of charging stations on rental properties. First brought up on May 27, 2021, the memo provided an overview with a home rule petition (HRP) requested by the Committee.

The HRP has two designated exceptions: a single-owner or family home of more than four renters has access. Between July 6 and November 4, they researched the situation for clarification on the stated terms. The outline included a starting date to be put into effect by September 1 of this year.

Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott indicated that any installations

would require an application. "More specifically, how an association would manage, here in Somerville," Scott explained.

The switch to electric mobility is a highly debated subject among vehicle owners not only in Somerville but across the U.S. An electric car operates less expensively overall and requires minimal maintenance. However, the travel distance, refueling, and initial cost make electric vehicles an uneasy investment.

"80% of people in my district rent," says Scott. Rental properties meter their electricity, so adding a charging station is problematic. Property landlords can also block the stations being added to apartments, legally speaking. If the installation is a part of property rent, people are trying to figure out how to move forward. It will reduce fossil fuel consumption, but setting up these systems may prove difficult.

Scott hopes the issues are resolvable. It is an initiative he feels the City Council should



The city is taking up the challenge of reconciling the recharging needs of e-car owners and the concerns of their landlords.

move on with respect to reducing emissions in the city. The Council is encouraged to update the Committee for contextual purposes in order to inform the community.

Focus groups will gather public input on the situation through the early months of 2022. The sooner these issues can be resolved, including financial considerations and global warming

mitigation, the better, according to e-car advocates. As a result, they believe, it will make rental properties more financially and environmentally accommodating to residents.

# Dorothy's Corner



Ropa Vieja, or old clothes as translated to English, is one of Cuba's national dishes. This dish is perfect for serving a group of people since it can be made ahead and is perfect for a buffet or served family style. Packed full of flavor the tender flank steak takes on the smoky flavor of the cumin and paprika and has a slight acidic flavor from the wine and tomato purée that make it a perfect marriage of flavors. Recipe courtesy of Fermin Rojas.

- 2 lbs flank steak
- 3 bay leaves
- 4 garlic cloves, finely minced, plus 3 crushed whole cloves
- 1 large onion, small diced
- 1/2 tsp black pepper, more to taste
- 1/2 tsp salt, more to taste
- 1 red bell pepper (cut into 1/2"
- 1 green bell pepper (cut into 1/2" strips)
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon cumin
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 tsp dried oregano

- 3 tablespoons olive oil, plus 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 cup dry white wine, such as vinho verde or riesling
- 1 cup tomato purée
- 1 1/2 cups reserved beef stock

There are two methods that can be used for cooking the flank steak until tender so it can be shredded. The first method is placing the flank steak in a pressure cooker and covering with water enough water to cover, then add bay leaves, garlic cloves or just use beef stock. You may need to cut the flank steak into a couple of pieces to fit into the pressure cooker or stock pot. Bring up to temperature and cook for 45 minutes.

Reserve the stock and put the steak aside until it cools enough to shred, about 20 minutes. For the second method, place the flank steak into a 6 quart pot, cover with water, add bay leaves, and garlic cloves, or just use beef stock. Bring to a boil, cover and simmer until tender, about 2 1/2 hours.

Reserve the stock and let the steak cool for about 20 minutes before shredding. Over medium heat, in a sauté pan, add 1 tablespoon olive oil, green and red peppers, a pinch of salt and the 1/4 teaspoon of garlic powder and cook until the peppers are soft and not mushy and has maintained their bright colors, about 10-15 minutes. Do not brown the peppers. Transfer to a serving plate and put aside. In the stockpot, add 3 tablespoons of olive oil and onion and cook until translucent, about 12 minutes.

Add the minced garlic, salt, pepper, cumin, paprika, and oregano and cook for about 2 minutes. Add the wine and tomato purée. Bring to a simmer and add the shredded flank steak. Bring back to a simmer and reduce the wine and tomato purée, this will take about 1/2 hour. Add the 1-1/2 cups reserved beef stock and reduce, this will take another 30-45 minutes. \*Stir often during the reduction process to assure nothing sticks to the bottom of the pot. Adjust heat as needed. There should always be a slight bubbling going on through this cooking process.

Make sure there's not too much liquid in the pot, it should not be a soupy consistency, but should be moist with





some liquid in the bottom of the pot. Taste and adjust seasoning if needed. Serve with the peppers either over the top or on the side. For a side, serve with Cuban style black beans and rice. http://www.thesomervilletimes. com/archives/63333 Serves 6-8.

Save the remaining beef stock to use for another dish. You can either keep it for up to 5 days in the refrigerator or freeze up to 3 months.

Visit Dorothy's website at http://ddimarzo2002.wix.com/thymethief.

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com On Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

# **Beacon Hill Roll Call**



tonomous vehicles on these roads.

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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. Beacon Hill Roll Call records local representatives' votes on roll calls from the week of January 17-21. There were no roll calls in the Senate last week.

#### \$55 MILLION FOR COVID-19 (H 4340)

The House 159-0, approved and sent to the Senate a \$55 million COVID-19 response bill. A key provision provides \$30 million to increase the number of COVID-19 testing sites and purchase COVID-19 tests-with \$5 million of that earmarked to expanding vaccination rates among kids ages 5 to 11 in communities disproportionately affected by the virus.

Another \$25 million would be used for the acquisition and distribution of high-quality personal protective masks, including N95s and KN95s, to be distributed by February 28, 2022 to children and faculty in elementary and secondary public school districts. The measure also mandates that the Baker administration pursue the highest allowable rate of federal reimbursement for the \$55 million package.

"In the last couple of years we have learned a lot about how to treat, prevent and reduce the risks associated with the virus," said Rep. Bill Driscoll (D-Milton), the House chair of the Committee on Covid-19 and Emergency Preparedness and Management. "We held additional oversight hearings in December and January because we wanted to understand the administration's current and evolving plans to address Omicron and what might be around the corner in the weeks and months ahead. The funding included in this legislation aims to close several gaps regarding accessibility to testing and high filtration masks, particularly in schools. By providing the funding resources and several other extensions, like remote participation in public meetings, the commonwealth can take stronger and focused measures toward driving infection rates down and hopefully keep them down in the months ahead."

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

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven Yes

#### CONSOLIDATED AMENDMENT TO COVID PACKAGE (H 4340)

House 158-1, approved a package of several amendments to the COVID-19 package. The amendments were based on 23 individual amendments filed by individual representatives.

Supporters said the amendments would enhance the bill and help in the fight against COVID-19.

Rep. Jeff Turco (D-Winthrop), the only representative to vote against the package of amendments, said he voted against them because they included substantive changes to the tort laws of the commonwealth. "Specifically, the amendment included language that granted hospitals and medical providers immunity from liability for acts of negligence related to care and treatment involving COVID-19. I do not support such a change without a full vetting and hearing process."

(A "Yes" vote is for the package of amendments. A "No" vote is against it.)

> Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes

Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven Yes

#### ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

#### DEFAULT ON STUDENT LOANS (H 4339) -

The House approved and sent to the Senate a bill that would repeal a current law, passed in 1990, which created professional licensure consequences for anyone who defaults on their student loan. Under existing law, the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority and the American Student Assistance can request that a borrower's state-issued professional or occupational certificate, registration or license be suspended, revoked or cancelled for default on educational loans made or administered by either group.

Supporters said that Massachusetts is one of only a handful of states in which a person can lose their professional license if he or she defaults on his or her student loans. They argued the law is unfair and counterproductive because it makes it harder for people to repay their loans by revoking their licenses and depriving them of the opportunity to earn income and make a living in their chosen field.

#### ALLOW CITIES AND TOWNS TO PROHIBIT FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE (S 1333) -

The Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee held a virtual hearing on a measure that would allow cities and towns to require all new buildings, building construction projects or major renovation projects to be all-electric. The bill bans on-site fossil fuel infrastructure but does allow for natural gas and propane service if they are integral to the building's function.

Sponsor Sen. Jamie Eldridge (D-Acton) said the bill will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. "This bill is in response to the attorney general's ruling that municipalities did not have the legal authority to prohibit new fossil fuel infrastructure," said Eldridge. "The gas and oil infrastructure that is installed today will keep us locked in for decades to come, so it's critical that we take action now. If we are to reach the net-zero emissions target set in The Next Generation Roadmap Act, we must pass forward-thinking legislation that empowers municipalities to combat climate change."

TRANSPORTATION BILLS - The Transportation Committee held a virtual hearing on several bills including:

CHARGING STATIONS IN CONDO BUILD-

INGS (H 3425) – Prohibits Condominium Associations, Historic District Commissions and Neighborhood Conservation Districts from banning or unreasonably restricting an owner from installing an electric vehicle charging station to charge their electric vehicle. While the bill preserves the right of these local

and private decision-making entities to regulate siting decisions, it does reduce their authority from being able to outright ban new installations of charging stations.

"As the commonwealth moves away from gas powered vehicles, we are going to need increased access to charging stations," said sponsor Michelle Ciccolo (D-Lexington). "With 40 percent of emissions coming out of transportation systems in the state, it is essential that we do everything we can to make owning and operating an electric vehicle as seamless as owning a gas vehicle. For that reason, we can't have local siting boards prioritize aesthetics over access to charging."

"We have a unique opportunity to ensure that the emerging technologies behind automated vehicles con-

ON BAY STATE ROADWAYS (H 3434) – Permits

electric-powered autonomous vehicles to be operated on

Bay State roadways. Current law does not allow any au-

tribute to our efforts to reduce carbon emissions," said sponsor Rep. Michael Day (D-Stoneham). "We know that personal cars, trucks and commercial vehicles are some of the biggest drivers of greenhouse gas emissions in Massachusetts, and this bill, if passed, would allow us ensure that these new vehicles help us, and don't hurt us, in our battle against climate change."

INCREASE FINES FOR HANDICAPPED PARKING VIOLATIONS (H 3393) – Allows cities and towns to increase the current fines of \$100 to \$300 for drivers who violate handicapped parking violations. The bill would allow communities to assess an additional separate fine of up to \$450 in addition to the \$100 to \$300 one. The up to \$450 fine would be placed in a separate city or town account that would be used solely for funding and implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act on public property and in public buildings within the city or town where the violation took place.

"In my district and across the state, cities and towns through commissions on disabilities have plans to make their communities more accessible," said Rep. Bruce Ayers (D-Quincy). "However, oftentimes a lack of funding prevents them from enacting their plans. This bill allows them to place some of the financial burden on the backs of those who violate the laws that exist to protect the rights of people with disabilities."

#### 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 17-21, the House met for a total of six hours and 50 minutes and the Senate met for a total of one hour and

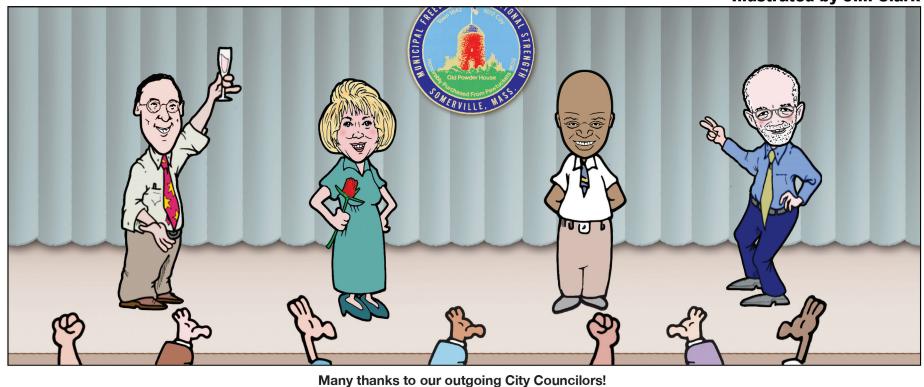
Mon. Jan. 17	No House session No Senate session
Tues. Jan. 18	House 11:03 a.m. to 1:12 p.m. Senate 11:14 a.m. to 11:17 a.m.
Wed. Jan. 19	House 11:19 a.m. to 3:54 p.m. No Senate sessiop
Thurs. Jan. 20	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:06 a.m. Senate 12:13 p.m. to 1:12 p.m.
Fri. Jan. 21	No House session No Senate session

ALLOW SOME AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

# **COMMENTARY**

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

**Illustrated by Jim Clark** 



# **Our View Of The Times**



In spite of the vastly divergent range of opinions held by all of us here in Somerville and in our neighboring communities, we can unite in the spirit of bipartisanship as we congratulate and honor those who have served us well as they take their final bows and step down from their respective roles as public servants.

On Wednesday, January 26, at 6:30 p.m., a virtual event saluting the tenures

of Somerville City Councilors Bill White (At-Large), Mary Jo Rossetti (At-Large), Will Mbah (At-Large), and Mark Niedergang (Ward 5) will take place on Zoom.

It's an opportunity for those who appreciate their contributions to express themselves in a way that will be conveyed to them directly.

These people wrestled with the day-today and long-term issues that impact our lives to greater or lesser degrees. We can question and kibitz and complain until we are blue in the face. At the end of the day, it is these public servants who have taken up the burden of leadership who have delivered on their promise to serve our best interests in the most efficient and productive ways possible.

When all is said and done, we will choose sides, argue our personal points

of view, and question authority appropriately. But let us now offer our sincere good wishes and gratitude for the positive things they have accomplished during their terms in office.

Those who wish to participate and offer their thanks and good wishes should RSVP at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/thank-you-somerville-city-councilors-tickets-235930122347.

#### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Winter Hill lady who is celebrating this week is Maria Nella Nunes. We wish her the very best. Happy birthday to **Sheila Howe**. We wish her the very best on this her birthday. And finally, we wish Naomi Landers a big-time happy birthday this week. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such James Casazza, Cathy Palumbo Demasi, Edward Hardy, Michael Kennelly, Maria Nella Nunes-Rollins, Edward W Hardy, Geraldine Nevaras and Simon Shapiro a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Need a COVID-19 booster? There are still lots of available appointments at the COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic on Friday, January 28, at the Healey School. Students and adults are welcome to sign up to get a booster or your first or second dose of vaccine. Anyone 5 years or older can attend (with a parent/guardian). Please find more information and the link to register here: www.somerville. k12.ma.us/vaccineclinic

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

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville Housing Division are

pleased to announce an income-restricted resale homeownership opportunity in Assembly Row. Unit 602 at 375 Canal Street is a one-bedroom condo available to households with a yearly gross income at or below 80% of Area Median Income (\$70,750 for a one-person household, or \$80,850 for a two-person household). To schedule a showing, contact Ben Wyner at 617-625-6600 ext. 2578 or bwyner@somervillema. gov. How to Apply: Multilingual applications and full eligibility requirements are now available at somervillema.gov/ inclusionaryhousing. Applications must be submitted by Tuesday, February 1, at 2:00 p.m. Completed applications can be emailed to inclusionary@somervillema. gov, mailed or hand-delivered to the Inclusionary Housing Program (Housing Division) at 50 Evergreen Avenue, Somerville, MA 02145 (must be received by this date, not postmarked), or faxed to the Inclusionary Housing Program at 617-591-3235. The lottery will take place virtually on Thursday, February 10, at 3 p.m. For more information, visit somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing, email inclusionary@somervillema.gov, or call 617-625-6600 ext. 2566.

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

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

If you are an artist (or team) who has completed murals or other public art installations, apply to this open call by January 28. Call for Expressions of Interest: Public Artwork for the TPSS Building, Gilman Square. Go to https://somervilleartscouncil.org/gilman

If you're experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or were exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should get tested. Find a testing site near you or where to get an at-home test kit at somervillema.gov/covidtesting. If you test positive: The CDC advises to isolate for at least five days.

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

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

On **January 26**, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m., join

Mystic River Watershed Association for a virtual public meeting to discuss a Mystic River Path connection to the Minuteman Bikeway. This first meeting will share existing conditions and solicit feedback that will inform initial design concepts. More info and meeting details visit their Facebook page or website https://mysticriver.org.

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

Prepare for the 2021/2022 snow season by reviewing parking rules and signing up for alerts. Because this winter begins in an odd-numbered year, snow emergency parking will be on the odd side of the street all winter, unless posted signage says differently. Check streets signs in your neighborhood so you know where you can park ahead of winter weather. You can also learn more about the city's snow policies at somervillema.gov/snow.

Somerville's **Winter Farmers Market** takes place **Saturdays**, 9:30 – 1:30 p.m., **through April 16**, at **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. Offering the best locally grown and produced agricultural items and more. They offer a diverse range of local and New England produce, as well as cheese, *Continued on page 14* 

CROSSWORD

# **FUN & GAMES**

# Ms. Cam's

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

- 1. Which newspaper's slogan is "All the news that's fit to print"?
- 2. In which Charles Dickens novel does the character Uriah Heep appear?
- 3. What does the acronym P.E.T.A. stand for?
- 4. In the opening lyrics to Queen's Killer Queen, what does she keep in her pretty cabinet?
- 5. In 2018, which racehorse became the 13th winner of the American Triple Crown?

**GRAND ALASKAN** 

12 days, departs May - Sep 2022

1-855-208-9533

3

2

9

8

6

promo code N7017

\* Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus \$299 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfare available. Onboard Credit Ocean View or Balcony Cabin. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 3/31/22. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.

5

6

4

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6

9

**CRUISE & TOUR** 

- Church of Scientology in 1954?
- 7. Name the most popular sport in India?
- 8. What is the capital of Austria?
- 9. What color is Luke Skywalker's Lightsaber?
- 10. When there are two full moons in the same month, what is the second called?
- 11. What letter is located between letters X and V on a standard keyboard?
- 12. What is the national fruit of the US?

6. Who founded the Answers on page 11

SUDOKU

#### The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- 1. A female oyster produces 100 million young in her lifetime.
  - 2. Every person has a unique eye and tongue print.

12

#### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

SUPER BOWL

#### **ACROSS**

- 1. Shout from a ship?
- 5. Shout from the bleachers
- 8. \_\_\_\_ and don'ts
- 11. Infamous Henry's number
- 12. One with COVID, e.g.
- 13. Fighter jet button
- 15. Resting stops
- 16. Not guilty, e.g.
- 17. One of Singapore's official languages
- 18. Home of last year's Super Bowl
- 20. Armor chest plate
- 21. \*Given name of 2011 Super Bowl
- 22. African grazer
- 23. Greek woodland deities
- 26. Ramones' hit "I Wanna Be \_\_\_\_\_"
- 30. Big fuss
- 31. Like certain Chili Peppers (2 words)
- 34. Cattle call goal
- 35. Scatterbrained
- 37. Bonehead
- 38. In a different direction
- 39. JetÈ in ballet
- 40. More so than eggy
- 42. Conducted
- 43. Christmas firewood (2 words)
- 45. Annotator and commentator
- 47. Soda-pop container
- 48. Unpleasant and offensive
- 50. SWAT attack, e.g.
- 52. Super Bowl I and II winning coach
- 55. Pertaining to a pope
- 56. Cain's unfortunate brother
- 57. Gives a hand
- 59. Anoint
- 60. BÈbÈ's mother
- 61. Season to be jolly
- 62. Most Super Bowl wins by one team
- 63. Snoop
- 64. Carhop's load

3

1

9

1

- 1. Roman number of this year's Super Bowl
- 2. "\_\_\_ Misbehavin"
- 3. Santa Maria's traveling partner
- 4. Despair in the face of obstacles

© StatePoint Media

69<sup>99</sup> MO.

63

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5. "The Hobbit" hobbit 6. "Caribbean Queen" singer

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2-YEAR

TV PRICE

**GUARANTEE** 

- 7. Colloquial approval
- 8. Cold cuts counter
- 9. South American tubers
- 10. Pig's digs
- 12. Not dense
- 13. Make corrections
- 14. Florida team with no Super Bowl
- appearances
- 19. Return punch
- 22. Come and \_\_\_\_ it
- 23. Lamentably
- 24. Bye, to Edith Piaf
- 25. Bottom line
- 26. 2022 Super Bowl stadium
- 27. Upholstery choice
- 28. Archie to Super Bowl MVPs Pey-
- ton and Eli
- 29. Exploits

32. Super Bowl Halftime show

**Blazing Fast** 

Internet!

Snoops's "last name"

Mo. 190 CHANNELS

Including Local Channels!

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- 33. Hardly a beauty
- 36. Like some teams
- 38. Oenophile's concern
- 40. Many, many moons
- 41. Empower
- 44. Big Dipper's visible shape 46. Oppressive ruler
- 48. On the wagon
- 49. Nail salon board
- 50. Feminine of raia
- 51. Mt. Everest to Earth
- 52. Aladdin's light 53. Christian of fashion
- 54. Result of a brainstorm
- 58. Stallone's nickname
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

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

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

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



 $\Im$ 

2

5

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

# Amidst burgeoning plans for development, city officials consider the artists

#### By Ryan DiLello

Somerville is undergoing a renaissance. Already one of the densest cities in New England, data forecasts from MassBuilds predict Somerville will see about 4,000 new housing units and 4.7 million more square feet of commercial space constructed or planned in the next nine years.

The extension of the Green Line will also serve as a significant draw for developers and commuting residents. The city is facing pressure to grow by virtue of its proximity to burgeoning areas in downtown Boston and Cambridge, and, as the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic subsides, developers are eager to move on plans.

Somerville is also an artistic city. In 2015, the city was home to the third largest share of architects and designers and the fourth largest aggregation of visual artists, musicians, and other performing artists in comparison to other Massachusetts cities and towns.

But now, with fewer entertainment venues available and a lack of affordable space, survey data shows one in ten artists living in Somerville in 2021 will seek art space outside of the city within the next year. A survey conducted by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) found that there was strong concern among artists about the impacts the real estate market might have on their creative practice.

Additionally, 80% of respondents saw a role for the City in protecting and incentivizing spaces and housing for artists to make and share art. Currently, about half of the city's artists rely upon the good will of landlords to provide affordable space, signing onto informal contracts with minimal security.

As developers benefit from years of policy groundwork aimed at strengthening the regional economy and transit access, the future of the City's arts is on shakier ground. But behind any renaissance there lies an artistic vision. Thus, over the past year, the City of Somerville has collaborated with numerous arts, culture, and planning organizations to ensure that future plans for development protect and benefit the artists who originally enabled the city's flourishment.

Last Wednesday, city officials and members of MAPC met with the SAC and the Somerville Cultural Space Task Force to discuss the most recent Arts Space Risk Assessment Report. The report contains background research, impact projections, and recommendations for how to protect art spaces amidst the city's rapid growth.

The meeting drew over 190 attendees with diverse backgrounds in architecture, cultural space management, community arts, dance, economic development, banking, real estate, and more. Director of the Arts Council, Gregory Jenkins, was inspired by the turn out. "People want some action. They want to push through this," Jenkins said.

The report found that a major disparity exists between the projected space allotted within development plans and the ability of the SAC to exercise Arts and Creative Enterprise (ACE)-use restrictions. In short, over three million square feet of the city's creative spaces are under significant redevelopment pressure and plans for future development only allow 275,000 square feet of ACE-use space.

The city does not currently have the option to buy out developers, nor any other mechanism to ensure arts spaces remain. Without avenues to pool resources or form a central advocacy group, artists are in a similarly challenging position. "There is no regional player to look at this holistically," Arts Council Director Gregory Jenkins said, who explained the disanalogy between a formal land trust or nonprofit group acting to conserve a space versus the city's diverse arts community fighting for one another across multiple spaces artists do not currently have a way to pool resources and streamline advocacy.

The issue of equity was also paramount in the report's findings. In conversations with local arts program organizers, the city found that spaces



predominantly serve white artists. The report resolved that current policies to preserve art spaces do not sufficiently address issues of equity.

On Monday, Mayor Ballantyne met with the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSP-CD) and the SAC to discuss immediate steps. The mayor says she has planned to hold these meetings on a biweekly basis. SAC Director Jenkins said the meeting went well, but that the community, artists especially, must hold officials accountable.

The mayor seems to be in agreement in involving the community. "In the coming months, we'll be asking artists - of all kinds - to share their space needs. Do they need more music rehearsal space? More studio and gallery space? More multicultural community spaces?"

The mayor said, explaining that with more data, the city can match cultural space needs with space that becomes available through the ACE set aside program. "I'd ask that artists stay tuned from this survey and respond to it," The mayor added.

Stay tuned for more updates on steps the city is taking to preserve and empower its arts community. In the next few days, The Somerville Times will release a report summary and minutes of the latest Arts Space Risk Assessment meeting.







# **BLOOD DRIVE**

## **MONDAY JANUARY 31, 2022**

11 AM TO 4 PM AT THE ARMORY 191 HIGHLAND AVE, SOMERVILLE



RapidPass®



Scan to schedule an appointment.

## **CHA Somerville Vaccine Center** open to all Massachusetts residents

The CHA Somerville Vaccine Center is now accepting walk-ins, as supply allows. The Center is open to all Massachusetts residents five days a week and some Saturdays. You can get booster shots for ages 12+ and initial vaccines for ages 5+. The vaccines are free, regardless of immigra-



tion or health insurance status, and you do not need to show ID. Full hours and details are here: challiance.org/vaccine.

You can still make an appointment at tinyurl.com/metronorthyaccine. If you are a CHA patient you can also make an appointment through MyChart: challiance. org/mychart.

If you need assistance finding a COVID-19 vaccine or booster, you can call 3-1-1 (617-666-3311). We can help with registration, transportation and language assistance.

SCAN AN ABOVE QR CODE OR CALL 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)OR VISIT: REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG AND

ENTER: "KSL" TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

### **LEGAL NOTICES**

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



#### City of Somerville PLANNING BOARD

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

#### **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Somerville Planning Board (PB) will hold a virtual public hearing on Thursday, February 03, 2022, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planning@somervillema.gov.

#### **TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/750580933566138892 Webinar ID: 999-252-291

#### **TO CALL IN**

Phone number: 1 (631) 992-3221 Access code: 866-566-925

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

Consulting, LLC.

Sub Bids are required.

bottom footer).

to BidDocsONLINE Inc.

mail handling costs.

617-625-1152 ext 331.

property of the Awarding Authority.

Additional sets may be purchased for \$50.00.

2022 and publicly opened, forthwith.

15 McGrath Hwy 15 McGrath Hwy Owner LLC proposes to construct a LEED Platinum Lab Building in the High-Rise district, which requires Site Plan

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at

Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

**ADVERTISEMENT** 

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites

sealed bids from Contractors for the 667-4 Bryant Manor Devel-

opment for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville Mas-

sachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by CBI

The Project consists of: Relocate the stairway adjacent to the loading

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as

For projects with an estimated construction cost of over \$100,000,

by DHCD contractual requirement, General Bidders must be certi-

fied by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance

(DCAMM), according to Article 2.1 in Section 00.21.00 Instructions to

Bidders, in the category of: General Building Construction. No Filed

General Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 10,

All Bids should be submitted electronically online at www.biddoc-

sonline.com and received no later than the date and time specified

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in

the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The

bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.biddocsonline.com

. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the "Tutorial" tab at the

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less

than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all

alternates), and made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up at:

After 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at www.biddocson-

line.com (may be viewed electronically and hardcopy requested) or

at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-

There is a plan deposit of \$ 50.00 per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable

Deposits may be electronically paid or must be a check. This deposit

will be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders and for one set

for sub-bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within thirty

days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise, the deposit shall be the

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall

include a separate check for \$40.00 per set for UPS Ground (or \$65.00

per set for UPS overnight), payable to BidDocs ONLINE, Inc., to cover

The job site and/or existing building will be available for inspection

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 10:00AM. Meet at the entrance of the

For questions please call Brian Langton, Director of Modernization,

Bryant Manor located at 75 Myrtle Street, Somerville, MA.

required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

dock and necessary concrete repairs to the existing loading dock.

1/19/22, 1/26/22 The Somerville Times



#### City of Somerville **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

#### **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a virtual public hearing on Wednesday, February 02, 2022, at 6:00pm through

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planning@somervillema.gov.

#### **TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2980371822998183694 Webinar ID: 201-581-115

#### **TO CALL IN**

Phone number: 1 (415) 655-0052 Access code: 604-455-612

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

636 Mystic Avenue Michael Patterson seeks to establish an Artisanal Production Use in the Neighborhood Residence District, which requires a Special

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at

Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

1/19/22, 1/26/22 The Somerville Times



#### - PUBLIC NOTICE -

#### SOMERVILLE CABLE TELEVISION

of Somerville, has scheduled a cable television public ascertainment hearing to be held virtually via Zoom:

https://zoom.us/j/98903468823?pwd=dmMxbHczcGpaQmxpYmp1ank1ckoxUT09

#### on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

625-6600, extension 2100

1/26/22 The Somerville Times



#### **PUBLIC ASCERTAINMENT HEARING**

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, as statutory Issuing Authority for the City

The purpose of the hearing will be to review the performance of the cable television operator, Comcast, during its current license term and to hear testimony on future cable-related needs and interests of the Somerville community. Interested parties are encouraged to attend remotely and offer testimony on any cable-related matters. Any applications and reports to be considered at the hearing are available for public inspection at the Somerville City Hall during regular business hours (advance appointments are required). For more information on the public hearing, please call the Mayor's Office at (617)



#### CITY OF SOMERVILLE **PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES** REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP# 22-30

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

#### **E-Rate Consultant Services**

The RFP package may be obtained online at

https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/procurement-and-contracting or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress landing page

https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/33100/home on or after: Wednesday, January 26th, 2022. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: 2:00 pm, Wednesday, Febru-

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

Please email <u>purchasing@somervillema.gov</u> for more information.

Thupten Chukhatsang **Senior Procurement Manager** 617-625-6600 x3400

1/26/22 The Somerville Times



**GEORGE J. PROAKIS, AICP** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)** 

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 - 7-28.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to historic@somervillema.gov.

#### **TO USE A COMPUTER**

Registration URL:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8462951315215075088

Webinar ID: 235-685-331

**TO CALL IN** 

Phone Number: 1 (213) 929-4212

Access Code: 591-884-939

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING

COMPONENT

**Determinations of Historic Significance (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION** REVIEW PROCESS)

HPC.DMO 2022.01 - 51 Broadway

Applicant: Ben Rogan Owner: CDA Realty, LLC Demolish principal structure

HPC.DMO 2022.02 - 53 Broadway

Applicant: Ben Rogan Owner: CDA Realty, LLC Demolish principal structure

HPC.DMO 2022.03 - 11 Benedict Avenue

Applicant: Ben Rogan Owner: Christopher & Loren Galvin

Demolish principal structure

**Determinations of Preferably Preserved (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION** 

HPC.DMO 2021.24 - 1252 Broadway

Applicant: Annette Thomas

Owner: 1252 Broadway Somerville, LLC Demolish principal structure

While City Hall continues to be closed in response to the COVID19 pandemic, case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <a href="https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/histor-">https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/histor-</a> ic-preservation/hpc-cases. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email historic@somervillema.gov to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. Note: Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov NO LATER THAN NOON one week prior to the meeting date. Email historic@somervillema.gov with inquiries.

1/26/22 The Somerville Times

#### Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on 2/9/2022 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Dennis Berry unit #1712; Hector Nunez unit #2393; Michael Moynihan unit #366MZ. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

1/19/22, 1/26/22 The Somerville Times

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BY 12 PM MONDAY

PHONE: 857-488-5138

1/26/22 The Somerville Times

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## The Somerville Times

#### **OBITUARY**

#### Dean Curtis Brunel

Dean Curtis Brunel, born November 21, 1940, died on December 21st, 2021 at the age of 81 after a formidable fight with cancer. He was a practicing attorney, loving father and grandfather and an extraordinarily gifted pianist and composer who loved playing tennis. He grew up surrounded by farmland in East Cazenovia and Nelson, New York, on Brunel Road. He told many stories of 7' snow drifts and changing huge tires on farm equipment.

Dean started playing the piano when he was 5. When he was a teenager, he led his own jazz band, the musical group the Deansmen. While at Hamilton College, he was a founding member of Hamilton's first interracial fraternity (the Emerson Literary Society) and honed his world view

with studies of philosophy and religion. He also jammed with jazz icon Lionel Hampton whom he invited to his fraternity.

love Suzanne Brunel (accomplished opera singer 1941-1998) and had two children Todd and Kyle whom they raised in Wayland, Massachusetts. In his later years, he th.brunel@gmail.com

developed as a composer with guidance from the School of Music at the College of Fine Arts at Boston University. He was also a baritone in the local Armenian Chorus for a number of years.

A graduate of Boston College Law School, Dean became a member of the Bar Association in 1969. After a short time with the law firm Nutter, McClennen and Fish, he practiced law as a sole practitioner for more than 40 years until his terminal illness became too much and he was forced to retire in October of this year. When Dean passed, he was surrounded by his loving children and his sister Alex in his home of 28 years in Somerville, MA.

Dean is survived by his children Todd and Kyle, his sister Alex and 4 grandchildren, Cobalt, Luca, Cypris and Mina. A memorial service in his honor will be held on February 12 at 11:00 am at the FRAMING-HAM FRIENDS MEET-ING HOUSE, RELIGIOUS In 1963, he married his SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, 841 Edmands Road, Framingham, Massachusetts 01701. There will also be a zoom link available upon request by contacting Todd Brunel at

### Thank you, Somerville City Councilors!'









A Zoom event to express gratitude to outgoing Somerville City Councilors Will Mbah, Mark Niedergang, Mary Jo Rossetti and Bill White on Wednesday, January 26 at 6:30 p.m.

All are invited to join in over Zoom to express appreciation to the outgoing Somerville City Councilors.

Come and thank them for their service to the City of Somerville and hear memories and congratulations from friends, neighbors and colleagues. More information and RSVP at Eventbrite. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/thank-you-somerville-city-councilors-tickets-235930122347

#### The honorees:

Will Mbah: At-Large City Councilor for four years.

Mark Niedergang: Ward 5 City Councilor for eight years and Ward 5 School Committee member for eight years.

Mary Jo Rossetti: At-Large City Councilor for eight years, Ward 7 School Committee Member for 14 years and 10 years on various Somerville school and PTA Boards.

Bill White: At-Large City Councilor for 24 years.

These City Council members brought hard work and dedication to their roles as public servants. Did one or more of them listen to your concerns? Support a policy you care about? Attend your community event? Conduct city business in a way you respect? Support your organization? Join us to share your appreciation.

If you would like to offer a personal thank you during the event, email charandev@gmail.com to have your name added to the list. And to ensure there's enough time for all, it is asked that you keep your remarks to under a minute.

This is a free event.

### Follow us on Twitter at @somervilletimes



#### Somerville Museum hosts 'Bittersweet' exhibition CONT. FROM PG 1

these explorers will enter into the subconscious world of sweets, turning the Museum into an enormous chocolate factory where with the exchange for a hot cup of cocoa will be the visitor's time.

#### Related Programming

Opening Reception: due to COVID restrictions this event will be private

Chocolate Stories Salon Series: Fridays throughout February and March | More information and dates to come.

Valentine's Day at Bow Market: Friday, February 11 | 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. | Join us for an evening of chocolate and discussion at the Bow Market fire pits. Admission is \$10/person; members free. Space will be limited, check back for ticket availability.

Sweet City: A History of Candy Manufacturing in Somerville, Cambridge, and Boston: Thursday, February 17 | 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Join us for a virtual evening about the history of sweets by beloved confectioner Jeremy Spindler of Spindler Confections. Admission is free but donations are welcome. Check back for ticket availability.

Kalliope Reed Quintet Community Concert: Friday, March 25 | 6:00 p.m. | Join in for an evening of music and chocolate. Admission is \$10/person; members free. Check back for ticket

**Chocolate Family Day Series:** Saturdays throughout February and March | More information and dates to come.

Curator + Artist Tour/Talk: Date TBD | \$10 admission fee; free to Museum members.

Closing Reception: Saturday, March 26 | 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. | Admission is \$5/person; members free.

#### Community Partners

The Somerville Museum along with Community Curators, José Falconi and Santiago Montoya, are pleased to be working with organizations and members of the community. While the list continues to grow we'd like to acknowledge these relationships:

Taza Chocolate Prophecy Chocolate Spindler Confections gâté comme des filles Mudflat Studio

Bow Market Aeronaut Brewing

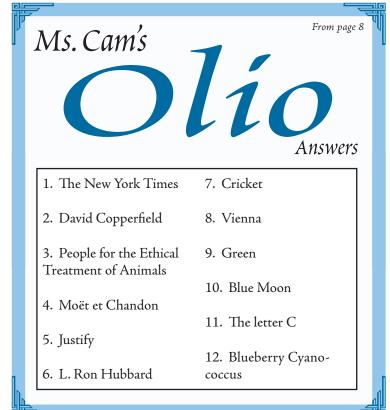
#### Santiago Montoya

Born in 1974 in Bogotá, Colombia, Santiago Montoya now lives and works in Miami, USA. Montoya's practice has been dedicated to the exploration of notions of value, nationalism, commodities and the universal consequences and nuances of the production and distribution of wealth. Initially a painter, an inspired progression was to incorporate the actual raw materials in his work - global currencies, gold, silver, copper and other precious materials - exposing the disconnect between official state ideologies and reality itself. Montoya captures the collective consciousness, questioning the systems of power and shining a light on the disparities, injustices, and the absurd. Montoya's works combine a wry humour and acute insight on a global subject that affects us all, and the inherent systems and structures that we live by.

Recent exhibitions include a solo presentation with Offshoot Arts at Context Art Mi-

ami; 'Elsewhere(s)' at Untitled Art Fair, curated by José Luis Falconi and Estrellita Brodsky, Miami; 'Seeds of Resistance' at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum in Michigan, USA and Art Museum of the Americas, Washington D.C. Montoya has upcoming solo exhibitions at the Somerville

Museum in Massachusetts, USA and DRCIAS at Harvard, Massachusetts, USA in 2022. Montoya's work is highly collected in both public and private collections, including MFA Boston, AMA Washington D.C, Jill & Peter Kraus, and Estrellita and Daniel Brodsky, amongst others.



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# Rudy Revilla retires from Somerville Fire Dept.

Congratulations to Engine 7's Senior Man Rudy Revilla retired after 26 years of service to the Citizens of Somerville. Rudy spent his entire career at the Highland Ave Station in groups 1 and 2. Rudy was also a long time Highland Ave Union Steward.

Look out for Rudy helping out at various Ball Square Business' and Vacationing in Florida and Maine.

Good Luck Rudy!

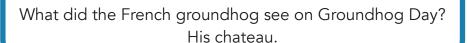
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# On This Day in Kistory January 26

1699 – The Treaty of Karlowitz ends the war between Austria and the Turks.

1788 – A fleet of ships carrying convicts from England lands at Sydney Cove in Australia. The day is since known as Australia's national day.

1861 - Louisiana secedes from the Union.

**1863** – President Lincoln names General Joseph Hooker to replace Burnside as commander of the Army of the Potomac.

1924 - Petrograd is renamed Leningrad.

1942 - American Expeditionary Force lands in Northern Ireland.

1964 – Eighty-four people are arrested in a segregation protest in Atlanta.

**1969** – California is declared a disaster area after two days of flooding and mud slides.

1943 – The first OSS (Office of Strategic Services) agent parachutes behind Japanese lines in Burma.

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## Somerville Launches Free COVID Testing Sites in East Somerville

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

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

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

"My first priority as Mayor is to fight this surge of COVID-19, and in order to do so effectively, we have to expand testing in a strategic, meaningful way," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "That means adding capacity

while removing barriers and centering resources on those most adversely impacted by the virus in our response. I'm grateful to our partners at LCG Boston and the Igreja Internacional da Graça de Deus for supporting this critical resource for our community."

For future hours, see below and please also see the weekly schedules at somervillema.gov/covidtesting or call 311 (617-666-3311). All are encouraged to dress warmly.

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

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

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

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

Thursday 1/27: 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., Senior+ Hour – 2:00 to 7:00 p.m., All

Friday 1/28: 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., Senior+ Hour - 2:00 to 7:00 p.m., All

Saturday 1/29: 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., Senior+ Hour – 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., All

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

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

#### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

eggs, meats, fish, breads, pastries, chocolate, and wine. They feature rotating guest vendors each week, as well as live entertainment and activities. Check out the schedule and map at www.somwintermarket.org. They accept SNAP/EBT & HIP, CREDIT and DEBIT cards. \$15 SNAP match for EBT customers.

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

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

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

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

Individuals who are homebound are encouraged to schedule an in-home COVID-19 vaccine appointment through the state's COVID-19 In-Home Vaccination Program. The program is open to all individuals who are homebound, including 5- to 11-year-olds, and individuals seeking both initial or booster doses. To schedule an appointment, call the In-Home Vaccination Central In-take Line at (833) 983-0485. The Intake Line is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Representatives are available in both English and Spanish, and also have access to translators for over 100 languages. Due to high demand, the current estimated wait time for an in-home vaccination appointment is 4-6 weeks.

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

The Somerville Economic Development Department in partnership with the Mayor's Summer Jobs Program is hiring production team interns. Somerville youth ages 14 years and up are encouraged to apply. 10 hours/week at \$15.46/hour. Responsibilities will include curating informational videos for small businesses, script development + script translation, video production and editing. Fluency in Haitian Creole, Nepali, Portuguese, or Spanish preferred. Deadline to apply is February 4. Questions? Contact Jennifer Mancia at jmancia@somervillema.gov.

Movie Matinee, Going in Style, Wednesday, January 26, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center, located at 9 New Washington Street

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

(behind the Holiday Inn). Join COA for a showing of *Going in Style* starring Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine and Alan Arkin. Three lifelong friends hatch a plot to rob a bank after they are cheated out of their pensions. But they have to stay one step ahead of the FBI. Please RSVP to **Debby** at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or DHiggins@Somervillema.gov

Brown Bag Supplemental Food Program pick up is Thursday, January 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn). For an application contact Natasha at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

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

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

# yruca **SOMERVILLE** edited by Doug Holder

Dan Sklar is a professor of Creative Writing at Endicott College.



#### **BLADE RUNNER**

In the dystopia it is foggy, dark, raining, and polluted air. Lights and smokestacks with fires, artificial owls, snakes, and robots, called replicants, who look and act exactly like humans, and do not know they are robots. There are pipes and tubes and flying cars, giant billboard screens, neon signs, monitors, televisions, cameras everywhere. Venetian blind shadows. "I'm going to ask you a few simple questions." Water dripping from faucets, drains, gutters, & pipes leaking. Flashing lights, smoke, echo sounds from other rooms, machines grinding, and it's raining. Old bicycles. It's cold anyway. Steam from under the streets, Identification numbers. Codes. They give the replicants memories. Everything about them is human emotions, desires, childhoods, pain, joy, and they don't know what they are. Utilitarian apartments in a world designed by dystopian designer set designers. "I don't work here anymore, remember?" "Talk about beauty and the beast, she's both." Sound of high heels in the night on the street. Pre-World War II buildings falling apart, dilapidated, ceilings and walls crumbling, wet. There's a woman in the photograph. People smoking in sleazy nightclubs. Snake dancers, alleys, fires in ashcans. Am I me or someone else, or no one at all? If that's the case either way. Women in forties style hats with nets over their eyes, old cars with fins. It's 1942 and 2049 at the same time. It's classified information. Maybe you are a replicant & all the memories & feelings & old photos & music lessons were programmed by a manufacturing corporation. You dream in music. Vast dark spaces, cluttered grey places. Replicants who misquote Blake. "Fiery the angels fell; deep thunder rolled around their shores; burning with the fires of Orc" There's no way out but to climb on

— Daniel Sklar

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

impossible broken cornices, wet steel girder.

Screens and monitors, digital beeps.

even though there is none.

Rotting ropes on a roof in steady, cold lines of rain.

origami left behind. You have to go north for safety

They will find you no matter what. Deep replicant sleeps,

# FF THE SHE

by Doug Holder

# 'Millrat' Poems by Michael Casey



Poems by Michael Casey 25th Anniversary Edition Loom Press Amesbury, Massachusetts www.loompress.com ISBN: 978-1-7351689-7-5

Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Dennis Daly

Once upon a time multileveled manufacturing plants with attached smokestacks, called mills or factories grew like mushrooms around waterfalls and river bends. They attracted the able-bodied, both men and women, who sought financial independence and dignity. What these seekers found instead in this soot-filled urban culture was a rite of passage for some, a technological trap for others, and a graveyard or graveyard road for the unlucky remainder.

Humor often got one through the interminable repetitions and the real dangers of modern machinery and toxic chemicals. Michael Casey knows this and nails the details of mill culture in his classic collection of poetic narratives entitled Millrat, which is being republished this year as a 25th Anniversary Edition by Loom Press.

Casey sets the mid-twentieth century atmosphere perfectly by opening with driving while under the influence, a poetic vignette on drunk driving, a common experience, regrettably, for many teenagers of that era. His first-person protagonist is a know-it-all snot-nosed kid, cruising with his friends in what is probably his first car. The car slams into a blinking yellow light, as cars do when driven by snot-nosed kids, who believe they have the grownup world figured out. Casey concludes the poem with just the right amount of irony and gritty dialect,

I get out and hide behind but by this time I can see the flashing lights and it was really something the police cruiser goes around the rotary takes the exit I took and comes right to me I was alone all my friends split and they get me for leaving the scene driving under the influence and being a minor in possession all kinds of stuff right? I asked the guy found me How'd you catch me? He said he followed the leaking radiator It leaked after the crash right? fifty million dumb cops in the world and this guy has to be a genius

Throughout the collection Casey positions poems based on company posters intended to boost employee morale and promote work ethics. They effectively deliver their pop psychologies with unintended wry humor. Some are just laugh-out-loud funny. The first of

...just some old fashioned ideas avoiding waste pride of craftsmen work as a team the worth of experience all these add to the unequalled quality at wholesale value that make our patrons love us so the new old fashioned textile business everyone in the mill the dye house anyway reading this stuff would think of only one word bullshit you can guess what wall these posters were on and without any effort at all you memorize them and with some creativity and even art you write crude phrases and drawings on them it was a lot like a team effort

Respect for authority did not jump out at one upon entering the mill culture, and veterans of this work force were even less likely to defer to the demands of a foreman or manager type, at least immediately. Everyone, except new hires, had figured out their place in this society and defined it by the time it took for them to comply with any despotic order conveyed from above. Casey explains this phenomenon in his poem foreman,

Walter walked over to Alfred and asked him to mix up the soap when he got the chance and Alfred said sure he'd do it when he got the chance but he never did it so Walter walked over to Ronald Ron why don't ya make the soap up when ya through what ya doin and Ronald said fuck you Walter of course Ronald went and mixed up the soap when he got a chance

Between the mill and the neighborhoods that surrounded the mill no clear demarcation existed. Both of these rough-and-tumble inner-city zones fed into each other. Some factories doing government work had hard security to separate the two, like the General Electric in Lynn. Others, like Casey's mill in Lowell allowed a freer interchange. The poet details a result of this overlap in his poem, the night the fight with Bill happened. The piece opens this way,

that same night after they beat up Bill they came back don't you know shithead was mad because Ray broke up the fight and so he brought back his gang a bunch of them clean out the mill that's what he said I'm gonna clean out the mill the second shift upstairs and the dye house hears all the noise ands runs down and runs up and those assholes left fast enough through the doors out the windows

Forklifts are not complicated to drive. In any case most company bigwigs assume that their employees have certhese the poet titles *Positivity Poster*. Here is the heart tain basic skills and need not be bothered by training. Of course, postulations like this are terribly wrong and monumental accidents follow. In his poem, forklift driver, Casey laments the havoc that one driver, who guns his vehicle into the elevator door, can do.

He says,

do you know how important that fuckin elevator is? Gus is up there yelling all over for yarn and this is holdin up the knitting room the napping room and the whole place gonna be backed up now they tell me Gus is pissin and moanin up there like he was pissin razor blades

Very few poets chronicle this essential part of our culture's history, which many of us, or our parents, or our grandparents participated in. Poets who choose mill/ factory life and that type of work experience as their subjects are very few indeed. Casey's wry verse compositions delving into this blue-collar bastion enlighten and exhilarate. His use of local language is spot on. What Casey does, he does very, very well.



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