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# The Somerville Times

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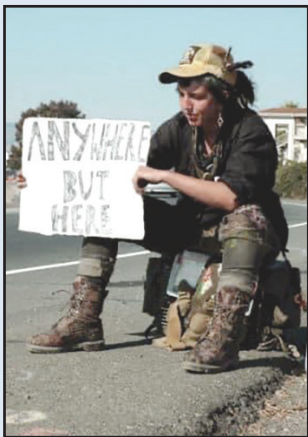


VOL. 9 NO. 4

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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## Decriminalization of entheogenic plants proposed by City Council



The City Council has taken steps calling on law enforcement authorities to put enforcement of prohibitions against possession and use of entheogenic plants on low priority, pending official decriminalization.

By Jim Clark

A resolution was put forward at the latest meeting of the Somerville City Council supporting the decriminalization of entheogenic plants.

Defined as plants and natural sources such as psilocybin mushrooms, cacti, iboga and combinations of plants similar to ayahuasca, their use as a psychedelic drug of choice for many since the 60's brought about criminalization as part of the larger "war on drugs" on a national scale.

Many religious traditions and practices throughout the world utilize the psychoactive properties of these substances, and are largely accepted by most modern societies.

A number of municipalities throughout the United States have recently moved towards decriminalization as further evidence of their beneficial effects in the treatment of opioid abuse, depression, and suicide have

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## Maintaining a sense of normalcy while routines stay disrupted

With the roll-out of the vaccine taking place slowly, it may be awhile longer before life returns completely to normal. However, if you have been working remotely, it may be a good idea to reincorporate some of the elements of your regular routine into your schedule now.

Not only will maintaining a sense of normalcy help you to feel more productive and more like yourself again, it could also help make the transition to the workplace smoother when it does occur. Here are a few ways to go about it:

- ♦ Rise and shine: Have you let your morning schedule slide into chaos during the pandemic? Now is the time to get back to your regular hours. Get to sleep each week night at your pre-pandemic bedtime and set your alarm for your regular wake hour. With no commute, you may find yourself with some extra time in the morning. Use it to get organized for the day, exercise or check items off your to-do list.

- ♦ Get dressed: Dress as though you are heading into the workplace. Wear

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The Somerville Museum presents *Voices from Somerville's Greek Community* on Wednesday, January 27, at 6:30 pm. Hear about connections between Somerville and Greece, with stories about the city's meat-packing plants in the early 1900's, the first Greek-American World War I Medal of Honor recipient, and the creation of a local Greek Orthodox congregation, as well as observations from an artist from Greece who documents the city today. Panelists include the granddaughter of a Greek diner owner, a former Director of the City's Council on Aging and an award-winning artist whose work explores both Somerville and Greece. Following the panel, listen to a historian from Somerville discuss connections between Greek and U.S. history. This event is part of a Somerville Museum Zoom series called *Voices from Somerville: Culture, Community and History*. Special thanks to Erline Tanice, Adda Maria Santos, Adriana Fernandes and Jhenny Saint-Surin for their help in producing this series. To register, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/voices-from-somervilles-greek-community-tickets-137281987119>.

\*\*\*\*\*

As of January 20, **phase I vaccine distribution** continues for COVID-facing healthcare workers, long-term care facilities, first responders (police, fire, emergency medical services), and congregate care settings including homeless shelters and correctional facilities. It's expected that starting February 1, vaccination will begin for the final two groups in phase I, which are home-based healthcare workers and non-COVID-facing healthcare workers. Persons eligible for phase I vaccination can find vaccination sites and more info on the State website. For information on where you fall in the state's vaccine rollout plan, check the timeline on the state's website: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccination-program>. This is rapidly evolving information that may be subject to change, and city staff will continue to keep you updated via emails, their website, and other outreach. Have more questions about the vaccine? The **Department of Public Health** *Continued on page 7*

# The Somerville Times

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## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of January 27 – February 3 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> January 27	Partly Cloudy	37°/26°	14%	6%	N 7 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> January 28	Cloudy	35°/18°	19%	10%	N 14 mph
 <b>Friday</b> January 29	Sunny	25°/13°	0%	1%	NW 18 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> January 31	Sunny	29°/16°	0%	3%	NW 11 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> February 1	Snow	34°/30°	36%	17%	SSE 10 mph
 <b>Monday</b> February 2	Snow	40°/29°	54%	21%	NE 11 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> February 3	Snow	36°/24°	40%	20%	NW 15 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: Denise Provost leaves State House after 15 years

JB says:

Thanks for the CSO notification bill!! and for all of your public service.

### Response to: Somerville educators demand clear thresholds for in-person return

Risk Averse Parent says:

As a parent who will be asked if I want my child to return to in-person learning, or remain remote, I also want thresholds. I feel I'm going to be asked if I want to give up the all-remote option \*no matter what\* happens in the community, which doesn't seem reasonable to me. If I go hybrid (which I desperately want) but then our hospitals are overrun? I'll have to pull my kid out of school entirely, right?

Let's have thresholds, and let's figure out what else we can close/restrict instead of schools to keep spread below those thresholds.

Aurelia says:

Parent – PR fluff. A handful of kids attend the middle school online learning center, which has had two positive student cases. The high school one records single digit participation, if any, each day. It is true that after school programs are using space at the Complex but again, they have had cases there. COA, same deal. They had multiple cases in a matter of a week, but it's definitely not school spread! /s Can't believe everything you read. Staff have little confidence in the superintendent.

Tom says:

JWE, I totally agree with almost everything you say. But I believe that in Somerville and other districts as well, the re-opening of school is being driven by the teacher unions, not individual teachers. Individual teachers are working extremely hard, under difficult circumstances, to continue to teach students. I'd like to know how many of those advocating for continued closure of the public schools happily shop at Target, stand in line at Starbucks, and buy groceries at Stop and Shop. Because there are lots of people in all of those places and none have had to close due to an outbreak.

JB says:

This hard line position could end up backfiring on the union. How will they respond when 10-15% of the school district population leaves and then there is a need for layoffs? The idea that families are going to remain in the district if this doesn't end soon is misplaced, especially if there is the real possibility of Sept 2021 not being a full return to normal.

The conspiracy theory in me thinks that this is a great way to shrink the school population to free up money for other things in the city budget.

Right now the virus is raging, but we could have had schools open in Sept-Oct and can probably have them open again in late March-April as the vaccines become available

Log onto [TheSomervilleTimes.com](https://www.thesomervilletimes.com) to leave your own comments



## Life in the by Jimmy Del Ponte

### Hitchin' a ride



Friendly disclaimer: hitch hiking is extremely dangerous and no one should ever do it!

On my walk last week I heard the song Hitchin' a Ride

by Vanity Fare. It came out in 1969, when I was 16. It got me reminiscing.

By the time I reached Somerville High School in 1969 something was happening to the youth of America. Our hair got longer, our music got groovy and our clothes were ... different. We wore bell bottom pants and the peace sign was getting popular. Some of our friends were sent to fight in Viet Nam and there were peace rallies everywhere.

The hippie movement started and my friends and I were right in the midst of it. Few of us had cars but that never stopped



us from getting someplace. We merely stuck out our thumbs.

Today kids use Uber and Lyft. When I was a kid, we either took a bus or train, walked, biked, skateboarded, or we hitch hiked. My parents would have freaked out if they knew I was thumbing all over the place.

I hitch hiked to U Mass Amherst almost every weekend to visit my girlfriend who was a student there. It was truly "Zoo Mass" back then! Route 2 all the way! A lot of my Somerville friends also hitch hiked as the following stories recall.

This lady says: "Back in the mid 70s myself and my friend Kathy would take the bus to Plymouth and hitch from Plymouth to White Horse Beach."

Then this female friend adds when asked if she ever hitched: "YES!!! First in High School with my friends. Then when I moved to the Cape to Braintree. And across country twice!"

My lifelong pal Phil, who was also ... hip, says: "I hitched up to Montreal, with Bob, across to Vancouver, down to LA and back, fresh out of (SHS) high school in 1972. I used to hitch hike everywhere." Cool!

Miss "M" admits: "My friend and I used to thumb to Nahant. One time we got picked up by motorcycles. What were we thinking?????"

The excitement, the adventure, the



— Photo courtesy of Wicked Boston

danger!!!!Exactly, and we never thought that anything would go wrong, unlike when I had my daughters and would have had a heart attack if they did that. Different times.

"(We hitched) everywhere for years. In the early days, people's moms would pick you up. I stopped when the only people who would stop were creeps."

"YES!!! First in high school with my friends. Then when I moved to the Cape to Braintree. And across country twice.

"We used to hitch to the beach all the time – never alone – at least two or three of us together. My mother is probably rolling over in her grave."

Another young lady confessed: "Yes, (we hitched) mostly to

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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

# Attempted road trip goes south

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to a Washington St. location last Wednesday on reports of an unarmed robbery.

Upon arrival, the officers were flagged down by the victim and his cousin, who told them that they had been in the victim's vehicle with a friend, identified as Alex Payne.

The victim said that while driving to Payne's residence at Beacon St., Payne accused him of having a sexual relationship with his cousin and demanded to be let out of the vehicle. The victim said that Payne exited the car at the Beacon St. location.

Payne reportedly continued to berate the victim and called him "disgusting" even as he denied the accusations. The victim then said that Payne demanded he repay him \$40 for gas he had put into his car, which the victim

agreed to do.

The victim said that he gave Payne the \$40 and when Payne saw that he had more money on him, he told him to "give me all your sh\*t" and to "run your pockets".

At this point the victim said that Payne attempted to reach into his pants pockets and take his money causing him and his cousin to flee from the area.

The victim further told police that Payne entered the victim's vehicle and drove away. Payne reportedly ended up stopping the vehicle on Line St.

The victim then called Somerville Police and left the area in fear for his and his cousin's safety. The victim told police that he had last seen Payne walking eastbound on Beacon St.

The victim's cousin told police that she was afraid of Payne due

to his violent and erratic behavior.

Officers were able to locate the vehicle parked on the sidewalk of Line Street. It appeared to have been rummaged through, with the center console open and various items thrown around the interior. The victim said that he was missing \$120, his driver's license, a medical marijuana card and a small black flashlight from the vehicle.

Officers went to the Beacon St. residence and spoke with Payne, who reportedly told them that he, the victim and his cousin had driven into Boston to buy marijuana and take a road trip to New York. He further stated that he gave the victim \$40 for gas and while at the gas station an unknown male whistled at the victim's cousin, causing him to become upset and yell at the man.

Payne said that he believed the

victim did that because he was sexually involved with his cousin and he did not think that was right. Payne reportedly said that he became angry and told them he was driving home and was no longer going to New York.

Upon arriving at his home, Payne said that he asked for the \$40 back from the victim, which he confirmed was given to him. Payne said that he then went into his apartment without incident.

Payne emptied his pants pockets and was reportedly in possession of victim's driver's license, and black flashlight. The officers asked Payne why he would have those items if they were not his and he replied that he must have grabbed them accidentally.

Police then asked Payne if he had taken the victim's car without permission and he said that he had moved it after the vic-

tim left the area because it was blocking the street.

The officers told Payne that the victim believed Payne had taken \$120 from his center console, which he denied.

After hearing this, Payne reportedly started to become increasingly angry and began clenching his fists and yelling that the victim was a "rapist" and a "f\*cking skinner" and that he had to deal with him.

Payne then began yelling at the victim, saying that he was going to "kill him" and he had better be arrested or he was going to kill him for being "skinner," a slang term for being a pedophile.

Payne was subsequently placed under arrest for unarmed robbery and threatening to commit a crime. He was transported to the station and booked in the usual manner.

# Decriminalization of entheogenic plants proposed by City Council

CONT. FROM PG 1

been demonstrated and promoted by the medical community and others.

Speaking in favor of the City Council resolution, Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan, the resolution's co-sponsor, said at the meeting, "I'm proud to bring forth this resolution this evening. As a city I think it's important that we take a stand to protect indigenous rituals and religious rights, as well as decreasing the harms caused in the name of this so-called war on drugs. The criminalization of any substances chosen by adults for responsible personal consumption should be done away with, and funding for education and treatment increased."

Clingan went on to say, "With specific focus on substances known as entheogenics, I say that by decriminalizing these plants we're expanding the harm reduction tools at our disposal. These plants are known to promote healing of depression, anxiety, addiction, and end-of-life trauma, as well as many other benefits as yet to be discovered. I just hope my colleagues will join me this evening in asking our law enforcement officers to make these plants the lowest priority possible."

In addition, Clingan sponsored Sarah Hinzmanand and Alex Karazik to speak at the virtual

meeting. Hinzmanand spoke of her experiences taking pain medicines and her improved health after switching to entheogenic plants. Karazik shared his experiences with psilocybin mushrooms and credited them with playing a big role in his mental health recovery.

Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott expressed pride that Somerville is leading the way on the decriminalization of these natural substances.

Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen pointed out that many of these substances are already legal and he believes that this resolution represents an exciting first step.

Councilor At-Large Wilfred N. Mbah commented that when these substances are controlled and regulated they can be beneficial.

An attachment submitted to the City Council by Somerville Members of Bay Staters & Decriminalize Nature Massachusetts stated, "We must take action to prevent opioid deaths. In the month of May alone, nearly 170 of our friends, family members, and neighbors in Massachusetts lost their lives to opioid overdoses as these deaths continue to spike nationwide. A 2017 study of 44,000 Americans by researchers at Johns Hopkins Medical School found

that psychedelic use is associated with a 40% reduced risk of opioid abuse. Ibogaine treatments, derived from a West African plant, helped people with opioid addiction substantially reduce 'withdrawal symptoms and drug use in subjects for whom other treatments had been unsuccessful' and achieve 'sustained reduced use in dependent individuals' over 12 months.

In addition, the attachment added, "Depression and suicide are also ravaging Massachusetts communities. Our state's millennials have the highest rates of depression for their age group in the nation, and nearly one in five residents suffer from depression. A 2020 meta-analysis of randomized clinical trials dating back two decades found that psychedelic-assisted therapy is highly effective in treating PTSD, depression, anxiety linked to terminal illness, and anxiety linked to autism. A November 2020 study in the Journal of the American Medical Association found one in two patients put major depression in remission after only two psilocybin therapy sessions – four times more effective than convention medication. Other studies show entheogen treatment can substantially reduce distress, suicidal planning, and suicidal ideation. For patients with a ter-

minal illness, double-blind trials show a single dose of psilocybin mushrooms can substantially reduce long-term anxiety and depression with a nearly 80% clinical response rate."

The resolution in full reads as follows:

WHEREAS: "Entheogenic plants," a term originally classified by anthropologists and ethnobotanists in 1979, are herein defined as the full spectrum of psychedelic plants, fungi, and natural materials containing indole amines, tryptamines, phenethylamines, including psilocybin mushrooms, ayahuasca, cacti, and iboga; and

WHEREAS: Substance abuse, addiction, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), chronic depression, end-of-life anxiety, grief, cluster headaches, tendencies toward recidivism, and other conditions are plaguing our community and the use of entheogenic plants has been shown to be beneficial for treating these ailments via scientific and clinical studies and within continuing traditional and religious practices that catalyze profound experiences of personal and spiritual growth; and

WHEREAS: The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a resurgence of heroin and opioid overdose deaths and severe depression in Massachusetts communities,

two ailments that entheogenic plants have been shown to have particularly strong utility in treating according to published, peer-reviewed medical research; and

WHEREAS: The so-called War on Drugs has led to the unnecessary penalization, arrest, and incarceration of vulnerable people, particularly people of color and people of limited financial means, rather than prioritizing harm-reduction policies to treat drug abuse as an issue of public health; and

WHEREAS: That American cities have long possessed an inferred constitutional right to regulate commerce and public safety within their jurisdictions, a principle acknowledged by the U.S. Department of Justice Cole Memorandum that permitted states and localities to deprioritize law enforcement of cannabis charges; and

WHEREAS: Many elected representatives of the Somerville City Council have previously maintained that city resources should not expended in any investigation, detention, arrest, or prosecution arising out of alleged violations of state and federal law regarding the use and personal possession of controlled substances; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

Continued on page 11



# Board of Health reports on city's COVID-19 measures

By Joe Creason

On Thursday January 21, the city’s Board of Health conducted a virtual meeting in accordance with Governor Baker’s executive orders, which adjusted certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law during the initial phase of the pandemic.

The City of Somerville’s Board of Health meeting was led by the Director of Health and Human Services, Doug Kress.

Kress gave a comprehensive presentation on Covid-19, reporting the current developments of the disease with global, national and local data. Kress also gave an update on how the City Health Department is making progress in the face of the pandemic crisis.

“Somerville was able to start the vaccination process on January 11. Police officers, court officers, ambulance drivers, hospital staff and Tufts staff received the vaccine,” Kress said, “vaccines were sent to the shelters to be administered to the staff and to those seeking refuge so that we protect the vulnerable and underprivileged members of our society and prevent the spread of disease”

Another round of doses will be given to healthcare aids, public works, restaurant workers, at risk community members and small healthcare providers once state guidelines have been met, says Kress. According to the health Director, Somerville is working on a new vaccine webpage so that people know when and where they can get vaccinated. The website will register those who get their first vaccine dose and ensure that they get their second dose by emailing



them a scheduled reminder.

The pandemic brings a set of obvious and particular challenges to the greater Boston area. Even though some may point to the influx of out-of-state students as a serious transmission risk and burden on an already strained health-care system, data from the State department of public health paints a different picture.

As of January 14, the percent positivity for all of Massachusetts was 6.7%. The percent positivity for Massachusetts excluding the population from higher education institutions, rises to 7.9%. The percent positivity for higher education on its own is only 0.5%.

Statistics in the state on positive cases have been trending upwards as the winter progresses.

The number of total confirmed cases in Massachusetts has jumped from 352,558 on December 30, to 433,299 as of

January 14. That is a near 23% increase of confirmed cases in just 15 days across the state.

While Somerville is faring better than some communities in the greater Boston area, Covid-19 is still a pervasive health crisis and there is much work left to be done. The city has a daily incidence rate averaging about 58 new cases per population of 100,000 over the last 14 days, compared with a daily incidence rate of about 33 in both Cambridge and Arlington.

Though there has been a sustained rate of confirmed cases and infection in Somerville, the city has put great efforts towards testing. From December 26 to January 9, 15,876 tests were conducted. By January 14, Somerville had conducted 276,210 tests.

As of January 19, Somerville has 3,957 positive confirmed cases and 55 fatalities.

## Hitchin' a ride

CONT. FROM PG 3

Nahant, but U Mass Amherst one time. It was so dangerous and we were sneaky about it. Luckily, nothing bad ever happened.”

Another friend, an adventurous Somerville lady, says: “In 1975 October I hitch hiked to Canada with my boyfriend. We got a ride straight in from Billerica over the U.S. customs into Canada and on the way home a sweet couple in their 50’s drove us straight to Cambridge. Plus every weekend hitch hike to Revere Beach and my mom was at Sammy’s Patio and took me and my two friends home. Oh, and once in 1974 me and my two friends hitched to Topsfield and got the same teenagers that got us there took us straight home.

It was different in the days. I would with them also thumb a ride to the Embassy (Lounge) and saw you Jimmy with your band. I believe it was The New Friendship Band. The good old days!!!” (thank you!)

Bob tells us: “We would take the bus to the Mystics in Medford and then we would hitch on the Parkway (Revere Beach ) to get to Sandy Beach.”

Fred adds: “Many of us would also thumb while waiting for the bus.”

I love this tale: “My husband also had a good one. He had no way home from way up in Maine, so he hitched and a pastor and family took him all the way to Hodgkins Park around the corner from his house.”

This one’s great too: “I hitched from Cape May New Jersey to Camp Lejeune North Carolina, and From Camp Lejeune North Carolina to Somerville.”

My mother would have had a cow if she ever knew half the stuff I did behind her back. Of course, she had only our safety in mind but in the 60’s and 70’s it was anything goes. A lot of Somerville kids thumbed back in the day when we were young and fearless.

I’d flip out if I found out my kids thumbed rides today unless it was a real emergency. You might say I would thumb my nose at hitch hiking today. It’s way too dangerous and it’s a different world. Stay safe!

# The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #222

## The Collector

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Julian deCordova and his wife traveled extensively collecting art and antiques from around the world during their 46-year marriage. They were globetrotters 16 times over and had the means to do it. For many decades, they indiscriminately gathered art work which fancied their personal varied interests.



Today, the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln honors their memory and their appreciation of all-encompassing artwork. If you find yourself driving along Route 128 just south of Route 2, it’s hard to miss the historic brown and white signs directing you to the 35-acre grounds. Its ever-changing exhibits surround the heart of the popular museum which is its European castle-shaped mansion.



DeCordova was proud of his over 200 craftsmen whose creations could be seen from coast to coast including the windows of Tiffany & Company. He exhibited his lands, castle and sculpture park collection to the public. One sparkling water exhibit was his diamond fountain where its flower and star-carpeted base was created out of glimmering Union Glass door knobs. On retirement, trustees are honored with a gift of one of these handsome relics.

Julian acquired most of his wealth as the last owner of the Union Glass Company of Somerville.

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COMMENTARY

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of The Somerville Times do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Somerville Times, its publishers or staff.

John Adams doesn't trust you



By Matthew McLaughlin  
City Council President

The second President of the United States and author of the Massachusetts Constitution, which in turn influenced the United States Constitution, was very skeptical of the public. While his support for a strong executive branch, and even a constitutional monarchy, was tempered on the national level, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts embraced Adam's strong-man form of government. This top heavy, archaic government is reflected in our cities and towns that are dominated by all powerful executive branches, be them mayors or city managers, who face little to no checks and balances from city councils and school committees. Many residents chide local governments for being ineffective "rubber stamps" but in reality our city charters limit our powers to near irrelevance compared to the omnipotence of the executive. It does not have to be this way. The Somerville City Council, the Mayor's office and the School Committee will begin a review of the city charter. As with many of our past accom-

plishments, I hope that Somerville will lead the way and encourage other cities to review their outdated charters. There are several changes I believe will create a stronger government with more accountability. **The right to an attorney** Imagine going to court and your attorney is not only representing your opponent, but your opponent is paying for both sides. This absurd premise is a reality for every city government in Massachusetts. The city solicitor's office represents both the legislative and executive branch in theory, but in practice they work at the pleasure of the executive branch. This conflict of interest impacts the City Council regularly. We can't pass laws, obtain basic information from the city or even reach agreement on the meaning of the word "shall" without going through the solicitor's office. Any future charter should allocate an independent solicitor who works directly for the City Council, much like the School Committee has for union negotiations. None of the other charter changes will matter if the legislative branch does not have their own lawyer to interpret the law. **More control over the budget** On the federal and state level the executive branch proposes a budget and the legislative branch proposes changes and approves. On the municipal level, however, the City Council can review the budget but can only propose cuts. We cannot increase the

budget or reallocate funds. Our only option to address budget concerns is to go nuclear and reject the entire budget or make draconian cuts, which will have a detrimental impact on the community. Even in the rare instance we do propose significant cuts the mayor can simply pull funds from any number of "revolving funds" the City Council has little to no oversight over. Other funds separate from the overall budget like PILOT agreements with non-profits and contracts with utility companies also have little oversight from the City Council. We're talking about millions of dollars that the City Council has virtually no power to oversee. It is truly maddening and frightening how many times I've witnessed the city magically "find" lost funds "on a ledger" or discover that a budget cut was completely ignored and funded by a separate, unaccountable fund. Any charter reform must address the inequality of the budget process. No dollar should be unaccountable. If the Council votes to make cuts that vote should be respected. If we decide by majority vote that funds should be spent differently that should also be respected. We need to go beyond pretending that our budget is fair and transparent and actually give the City Council the ability to do their job **The appointment process should matter** The City Council has approval authority over many mayoral

appointments. Our own solicitor, however, concluded that while the City Council may reject an appointment, the mayor has the ability through the city charter to retain said appointment indefinitely or unilaterally change what positions require an appointment at all. The City Council should have the ability to approve or reject appointments, otherwise the appointments committee is meaningless. There should be a window of time the mayor's office has to submit another appointment, 60 or 90 days for example, if an appointment is rejected. If they fail to meet that timeline the position should be vacated until an approved appointment is made. **School Committees control the schools** The recent dispute over when to open schools revealed yet another authoritarian bent to our charter. The mayor's office, with the supporting opinion of the city solicitor, determined that the executive branch controls all city buildings and therefore schools cannot reopen until the mayor says so. This decision makes the already weak powers of the School Committee utterly meaningless. The most essential function of a governing school body is completely stripped from the School Committee. The entire purpose of the School Committee is to strike a balance between public accountability while prioritizing education over politics. The School Committee hires a superinten-

dent to manage the schools. The super attendant, with consent from the School Committee, should be empowered to use their expertise to make the best decisions for our students. **Ten year review** Thomas Jefferson, the third president and philosophical antagonist to John Adams, famously said there should be a revolution every 20 years to preserve liberty. Fortunately we don't need a revolution because many cities in Mass. have a ten year review built into their charter. We should review our government's laws regularly and determine how relevant they are to the present day. These are just a few examples of charter changes that will encourage democracy and enhance transparency. I am proud of the City Council for using our very limited powers to reform zoning, make the appointment process something more than a rubber stamp and influence funding for affordable housing and other basic needs. We changed the way the government works in Somerville with no actual authority to do so. I want to make the City Council and School Committee relevant bodies of government, representative of the people and empowered to do so by our city charter. As John Adams once said "public business ... must be done by somebody." If the job must be done by somebody we should give them the ability to do it.

Parking removal plan on College Ave. and Holland St. disastrous to Davis Sq



By Jack Connolly  
Business/Property Owner on College Ave.  
Lifetime and Longtime Davis Sq. Resident  
Former Somerville Ward Six Alderman & Alderman at Large

It's no secret businesses in Davis Square, and throughout the

area, are suffering and CLOSING brought on by the chaos caused by the Covid 19 virus. Look at who are closed now in Davis sq.; Somerville Theatre, the Rosebud Diner, the Painted Burro, Dunkin' Donuts, Sligo Pub, Spoke, Au Bon Pain, and the Rite-Aid pharmacy is closed, complete with graffiti tags. Who's next? Despite the severe economic disaster caused by Covid, Somerville City Hall transportation folks are touting a program to remove dozens of PARKING Spaces on College Ave and Holland St Where? On College Ave from the T stop to Morrison Avenue, and on Holland Street

from the T stop all the way past Orleans to Irving Street. Why, you ask? City planners want to make way for a dedicated bike lane that would take people around Davis Square and eliminate short-term parking year-round. What a slap in the face to the hundreds of residents (myself included), businesses, City and state planners, all united as the Davis Sq. Task Force. These intrepid individuals all spent years trying to bring people and progress to Davis Square; And who also planned and monitored the construction of the Red Line T stop that opened in 1984, and then

re-developed the square block-by-block after the opening of the Red Line T stop. It defies the bounds of comprehension, what with already overburdened shops and businesses struggling to stay open, and trying to claw their way back to solvency post Covid, would anyone want to make it more difficult for clients, customers, diners, and shoppers to come back to Davis Square? Let's hit the pause button on this parking removal madness idea and let's take care of fixing the neglected problems of the patched and crumbling crosswalks, loose bricks, curbing and tree wells, so that all of us

will be safer, especially for elderly and anyone with disabilities, navigating in and around Davis Square. Time now for SOMERVILLE to declare a moratorium on this PARKING REMOVAL PROGRAM disguised as what the City calls a Transportation Mobility Improvement Project. Time also to bring back the Davis Square Task Force, where businesses, residents, AND city officials can meet together and plan how we can we can both come out of Covid, return Davis Sq. to a day and night destination for people coming to the Square, and NOT around it.



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville turns on.

Our View Of The Times



All kidding aside, the recent move by the Somerville City Council to promote decriminalization of entheogenic plants as an aid in treating various disorders seems like a sure step in the right direction. Use of these natural substances has been proven to help alleviate symptoms and effects of opioid abuse, depression, and suicidal tendencies. Studies have shown that patients who struggle with depression have reported tremendous relief from just a few treatments with these substances. These plants and their effects have been held in the highest regard by cultures throughout the world for centuries, in some cases being adopted as an integral part of their spiritual and religious practices. And yet, they have been relegated to the scrap heap of illicit drug designation by our own society and its laws. This could be considered to be due in part to the excesses of the drug culture that exploded in the 60's and proliferated further through the 70's and beyond. In its attempts to stem the tide of rampant abuse of some clearly harmful substances, the relatively benign nature of natural plant based psychedelics were swept up in the wake of the government's "war on drugs." As a result, the true benefits of entheogenic plant use were unfairly suppressed and restricted. Times have since changed, and a new awareness of the efficacy of these substances has emerged. Somerville, as a forward looking, open-minded community, is once again leading the way towards a more enlightened, better way of life.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

has a list of FAQs online and watch for a continually updated list of more FAQs at [somervillema.gov/covidvaccine](http://somervillema.gov/covidvaccine).  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Happy birthday to the following this week: Happy birthday to our own **Denise Cosby**, local real estate agent/author of *Murder at Harvard's Kirkland House*. We hope she has a great day. Happy birthday to **Jeff Cappello**, we wish him the best. Another local Winter Hill person who is celebrating this week is **Maria Nella Nunes**. We wish her the very best, and if you're on Harvard St. and Mystic stop in at **McCarthy's** and wish her a great birthday as well. Happy birthday to **Sheila Howe**. We wish her the very best on this her birthday. Happy Birthday to a great guy, **Michael Kennelly**. We hope he has a great day. We wish **Naomi Landers** a big time happy birthday this week. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Cathy Palumbo Demasi**, **Edward Hardy**, **Paula Eldeb**, **Geraldine Nevaras**, **Simon Shapiro** and **Karen Crane Brisbois** 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.  
\*\*\*\*\*

New **Winter Learn-To-Skate** classes for children, ages 4 to 18 at the local ice rink in Somerville. Classes at the **Founders Memorial Rink**, 581 Somerville Avenue in Somerville, start **February 14**, at 2:00pm for 5 weeks. Use figure, recreational or hockey skates. Beginner, intermediate and advanced classes taught. For information and to register, call **Bay State Skating School** at 781-890-8480 or visit online at [www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org](http://www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org). Bay State Skating School is compliant with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Covid-19 guidelines. The number of students allowed on the ice will be limited.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
The **City of Somerville's Prevention Services Division**, in partnership with **Cambridge Health Alliance**, will host a **virtual photovoice exhibition** facilitated by Somerville youth to raise awareness about underage problem gambling. Photovoice is a method of exploring social issues that empowers individuals to tell a story through photography. The event will be held on **Thursday, January 28**, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Visit [somervillema.gov/ProblemGambling](http://somervillema.gov/ProblemGambling) at that time for a link to attend.  
\*\*\*\*\*

As of January 19, a total of **3,957 Somerville residents** have tested positive for COVID-19 since March, another 252 are considered probable positive cases (some current, some in the past), and sadly there have been 55 deaths. See more Somerville case data at [somervillema.gov/covid19dashboard](http://somervillema.gov/covid19dashboard). New variants of COVID-19 have popped up around the globe. Scientists are still learning about them, but so far do not believe they cause more severe illness. There is evidence, however, that at least one new variant (B.1.1.7) is more contagious than the strain we've been dealing with and it is expected to take hold in the U.S. Because it spreads more easily, now is the time to double-down on COVID safety going forward – cover your nose and mouth when in public, don't gather with anyone you don't live with, don't touch your face, maintain at least six feet of distance between yourself and others in public, and make sure to frequently wash or sanitize your hands. Most important: don't share your air. Limit trips and the length of trips to indoor public places. It appears that it takes less time in a room or store with someone who has the new variant to catch it from them.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Groundwork Somerville (GWS)** is hiring an **Executive Director**. Are you passionate about youth jobs, urban agriculture, and environmental justice? This may be the job for you. If you are an experienced manager interested in working with an amazing group of staff and board, GWS might be the place for you. This is a 25-hour a week position for 2021, with the intention of moving to full time in 2022. Check it out today: <http://www.groundworksomerville.org/groundwork-somerville-seeks-a-new-executive-director/>.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**Attention dog owners:** You are required to **license your dog** each year, so it's time to start thinking about it if you haven't already. Registering for a dog license has never been easier, with online licensing through our website and mobile app. You also get access to an online pet community, with lost-pet alerts and significant savings for your pet supplies and services. Learn more and license your dog at [bit.ly/SomervilleDogs](http://bit.ly/SomervilleDogs).  
\*\*\*\*\*  
The **Somerville Public Library (SPL)** is launching a new **Pathways to Citizenship program** for English-language learners seeking U.S. *Continued on page 11*



FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#765

1. Who was the first athlete to rap at a Pro Bowl musical gala, in 1995?

2. What area holds the world record for most snow fall?

3. What is the Earth's lowest land point below sea level?

4. Artist Pablo Picaso used what method of attaching paper to canvas?

5. What is the smallest whale?

6. What is the best ranked country in hockey?

7. Who was the youngest tennis player to ever be ranked number 1 in the world?

8. What movie about a wannabe rapper features Eminem?

9. Which Pink Floyd album features a prism on the cover?

10. Which planet rotates in clockwise direction?

11. Which Beatle was barefoot on the cover of Abbey Road?

12. What is kelp?

Answers on page 11

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. A man named Charles Osborne had the hiccups for 69 years.

2. King Louis XIX ruled France for 15 minutes.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

VALENTINE'S DAY

ACROSS

1. "You're the \_\_\_\_!"
5. Horse color
8. Interesting person, acr.
11. Feeling of the heart
12. Nevada city
13. City in Belgium
15. Use a whisk
16. Greek H's
17. Popular Valentine's Day delivery, pl.
18. "Love means never having to say you're sorry" movie
20. Ballpark calls
21. Strong adhesive
22. Greek letter N, pl.
23. Lord's subordinate
26. Given to drinking
30. Ovine mom
31. Old storage medium
34. Fairy-tale beginning
35. Politician Pelosi
37. Tokyo, once
38. Bone hollows
39. Sky bear
40. Fitted with a name tag, e.g.
42. "Ever" to a poet
43. With more seeds
45. Attic
47. Summer sandwich?
48. Fraternity letter
50. Medieval headdress
52. Only day more popular than Valentine's for card giving
56. Like blue sky
57. Walk the Pacific Crest Trail, e.g.
58. Samoan money
59. Dionysus' pipe-playing companion
60. Affirm
61. Give off
62. Plays for pay
63. \*Color of Valentine's Day
64. Lovers' reunion

DOWN

1. Cry like a baby
2. Canyon sound

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7			8	9	10
11					12					13	14	
15					16					17		
18					19					20		
				21					22			
23	24	25					26				27	28
30				31		32	33			34		
35			36			37				38		
39					40				41		42	
43				44					45	46		
				47				48	49			
	50	51				52					53	54
56						57				58		
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

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3. Convict's weapon

4. Conical dwellings

5. Get on juice diet, e.g.

6. Opposite of binary

7. Like a gossipmonger

8. Exterminator's target

9. Change for a five

10. Part of T.G.I.F.

12. Like an abridged classic

13. Tiler's paste

14. "I Will Always Love You" singer

19. Stupefied

22. Us, in Mexico

23. Cupid's mother

24. In the know

25. Common thing?

26. Smoke plus fog

27. Lay to rest

28. Rocks at mountain base

29. Symbol of Valentine's Day
32. Infantry's last row

33. Roulette bet

36. Chocolatier, pioneer of the heart-shaped box

38. \_\_\_\_ apple

40. Risk something

41. Between eggy and eggier

44. Feeling worse than before

46. Gave away

48. Thin piece

49. Annoyed

50. Russia's alternative to caesar

51. Aries or Taurus, e.g.

52. Burn to a crisp

53. MADD member, colloquially

54. Climbed down, as from a carriage

55. Fill beyond full

56. Pharaoh's cobra

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

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

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

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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




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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
**JOSEPH A. CURTATONE**  
**MAYOR**

**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 16, 2021** 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 Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public meeting and hearings **will be conducted via remote participation.**

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Registration URL:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2323442204762921743>

Webinar ID: 686-865-555

**TO CALL IN**

Phone Number: 1 (213) 929-4212

Access Code: 126-680-405

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

**COURT REMAND**

**HPC 2013.085 – 9-11 Aldersey Street**  
Applicant: Gerard Meehan, Trustee for G&T Realty Trust  
Owner: same as applicant  
*Alter plan for "Building A" that was approved by the HPC on November 4, 2020. Applicant seeks HPC approval to eliminate from proposal the open porch on the left elevation ground story of "Building A".*

**DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)**

**HPC.DMO 2020.27 – 129 Boston Avenue**  
Applicant: Eamon Fee  
Owner: David Galvin  
*Demolish principal structure.*

**HPC.DMO 2021.01 – 13Allen Street**  
Applicant: K & K Development  
Owner: same as applicant  
*Demolish principal structure.*

**HPC.DMO 2021.02 – 21-23 Allen Street**  
Applicant: 19-27 Allen St., LLC  
Owner: Jean Martelli  
*Demolish all structures*

**HPC.DMO 2021.03 – 27 Allen Street**  
Applicant: 19-27 Allen St., LLC  
Owner: Jean Martelli  
*Demolish all structures*

**HPC.DMO 2021.04 – 373 Washington Street**  
Applicant: Thomas Lichoulas  
Owner: Washington TN, LLC  
*Demolish all structures*

**HPC.DMO 2021.05 – 377 Washington Street**  
Applicant: Thomas Lichoulas  
Owner: Washington TN, LLC  
*Demolish all structures*

*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*  
<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-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](mailto: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](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) with inquiries.*


1/27/21 The Somerville Times

**Community Outreach Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting for a proposed Marijuana Establishment is scheduled for **February 4, 2021 at 6:00pm** via ZOOM Meetings. You can join the meeting by going to <https://zoom.us/j/96772126971> or dial 301.715.8592 and enter Meeting ID: 967 7212 6971. The proposed Cannabis Retail Facility is anticipated to be located at **255 Elm St. Somerville, MA 02144**. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions. Questions may also be sent in advance to [info@theharvestclubs.com](mailto:info@theharvestclubs.com).

Applicant information can be obtained prior to the meeting by visiting:  
<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/adult-use-marijuana-establishments>

1/20/21, 1/27/21 The Somerville Times



**City of Somerville**  
**PLANNING BOARD**  
City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Somerville Planning Board (PB) will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 6:00pm**. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

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

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1310069616441257744>  
Webinar ID: 735-427-067

**TO CALL IN**

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8422  
Access code: 715-571-128


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

**337 Somerville Ave** Union Square Ventures LLC seeks modifications to the conditions of the previously issued special permits PB 2016-09 and PB 2016-09-R1-0317. Applicant will separately seek removal of the related condition imposed by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at  
<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

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

1/20/21, 1/27/21 The Somerville Times



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

Web: [www.sha-web.org](http://www.sha-web.org)

**ADVERTISEMENT**

Project Manager: Travis Panzini

The **Somerville Housing Authority** is requesting quotes from qualified Plumbing Contractors to perform plumbing work including installations and repairs on an as needed basis. Proposals should include an hourly rate for plumbing services.

Term: 6 – 12 months

Not to exceed \$49,000.00

Quotes are subject to M.G.L c.149 sec.44A (2)(A) and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

Scope of work: The Contractor shall provide all labor and tools to provide the necessary work as directed for the completion of the plumbing services at the SHA's various developments. The Contractor shall apply for and obtain permits and regulatory approvals as may be required. The SHA shall reimburse the contractor the amount paid. The cost shall be identified and included in the monthly invoice.

The Contractor shall be required on site within one week as scheduled by SHA.

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

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

Contractors who intend on bidding shall email Travis Panzini at [travisp@sha-web.org](mailto:travisp@sha-web.org) after **11:00AM on Thursday, February 4th, 2021** to request a bid package.


Proposals must be received by **2:00PM on Thursday, February 18th, 2021**. Proposals can be emailed to [travisp@sha-web.org](mailto:travisp@sha-web.org). Please contact Travis Panzini at [travisp@sha-web.org](mailto:travisp@sha-web.org) with any questions.

1/27/21 The Somerville Times

**Notice of Self Storage Sale**

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenant at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com) on **2/10/2021 at 12:00 PM**. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Tyler Motes unit #317B. 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.

1/20/21, 1/27/21 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 public hearing on **Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 6:00pm**. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

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

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4298439966155025680>  
Webinar ID: 422-138-899

**TO CALL IN**

Phone number: 1 (415) 930-5321  
Access code: 763-863-522


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

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

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at  
<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

Interested persons may provide comments to the 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](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

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

Web: [www.sha-web.org](http://www.sha-web.org)

**ADVERTISEMENT**

Project Manager: Travis Panzini

The **Somerville Housing Authority** is requesting quotes from qualified Electrical Contractors to perform electrical work including installations and repairs on an as needed basis. Proposals should include an hourly rate for electrical services.

Term: 6 – 12 months

Not to exceed \$49,000.00

Quotes are subject to M.G.L c.149 sec.44A (2)(A) and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

Scope of work: The Contractor shall provide all labor and tools to provide the necessary work as directed for the completion of the electrical services at the SHA's various developments. The Contractor shall apply for and obtain permits and regulatory approvals as may be required. The SHA shall reimburse the contractor the amount paid. The cost shall be identified and included in the monthly invoice.

The Contractor shall be required on site within one week as scheduled by SHA.

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

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Contractors who intend on bidding shall email Travis Panzini at [travisp@sha-web.org](mailto:travisp@sha-web.org) after **11:00AM on Thursday, February 4th, 2021** to request a bid package.

Proposals must be received by **2:00PM on Thursday, February 18th, 2021**. Proposals can be emailed to [travisp@sha-web.org](mailto:travisp@sha-web.org). Please contact Travis Panzini at [travisp@sha-web.org](mailto:travisp@sha-web.org) with any questions.

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT  
IFB 21-41

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

Conway Park Remediation and Renovation Project

Bid packages for may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing> or on [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com) on or after **Wednesday, January 27th, 2021.**

Sealed bids will be received until **Wednesday, February 24th, 2021** at 2:00pm. Late bids will not be considered. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all bids if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for **2PM EST, Wednesday February 10th, 2021** at Conway Park, 550 Somerville Ave, Somerville, MA 02143.

Please email [tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov](mailto:tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov) for information regarding the bid.

**Thupten Chukhatsang**  
Procurement Analyst

1/27/21 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY  
SECTION 8 PROJECT-BASED VOUCHER PROGRAM (PBV)

January 27, 2021

The Somerville Housing Authority is soliciting proposals from local developers planning to build newly constructed units to participate in the Section 8 Project Based Voucher program.

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the Request for Proposals (RFP) by contacting the following:

**Samantha Heggarty**  
Somerville Housing Authority  
30 Memorial Road  
Somerville MA 02145  
Office: 617-625-1152

Proposals are due February 17, 2021

Somerville Housing Authority  
Contact Person: Samantha Heggarty [Samanthah@sha-web.org](mailto:Samanthah@sha-web.org)

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Ms. Cam's  
**Olio**  
Answers

From on page 14

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Deion Sanders                                  | 6. Canada                |
| 2. Capracotta, Italy, 101 inches on March 5, 2015 | 7. Martina Hingis        |
| 3. Shoreline of the Dead Sea Depression           | 8. 8 Mile                |
| 4. Collage  | 9. Dark Side Of The Moon |
| 5. Dwarf sperm whale                              | 10. Venus                |
|   | 11. Paul McCartney       |
|   | 12. Seaweed              |

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**Bobbie Toner: 617-666-4010**

Decriminalization of entheogenic plants  
proposed by City Council

CONT. FROM PG 4

RESOLVED: That the City Council hereby maintains that no City of Somerville department, agency, board, commission, officer or employee of the city, including without limitation, Somerville Police Department personnel, should use any city funds or resources to assist in the enforcement of laws imposing criminal penalties for the use and possession of entheogenic plants by adults; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the City Council hereby maintains that the use and possession of all controlled substances should be understood first and primarily as an issue of public health by city departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and all employees of the city; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the City Council hereby maintains it should be the policy of the City of Somerville that the investigation and

arrest of adult persons for planting, cultivating, purchasing, transporting, distributing, engaging in practices with, and/or possessing entheogenic plants listed in Classes A-E of Chapter 94C § 31 of Massachusetts law or Schedules I-V of 21 U.S.C. § 812 of the Controlled Substances Act shall be amongst the lowest law enforcement priority for the City of Somerville; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the City Council hereby maintains that it should be the policy of the City of Somerville that the arrest of adult persons for using or possessing controlled substances shall be amongst the lowest law enforcement priority for the City of Somerville; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That this resolution does not authorize or enable any of the following activities: commercial sale of entheogenic plants and fungi, possessing or distributing these

materials near schools, driving while under the influence of these materials; or public disturbance; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the Somerville City Council calls upon the city's officials to work in support of decriminalizing entheogenic plants and approaching all controlled substances first and primarily through the lens of public health when representing the city in conversations with state and federal agencies as well as state and federal lawmakers; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the City Council calls upon the Middlesex County District Attorney to cease prosecution of persons involved in the use, possession, or distribution of entheogenic plants and the use or possession without the intent to distribute of any controlled substance.

Following additional Councilor comments, the item was laid on the table for approval.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

citizenship. With funding provided by the **Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners**, the two-year program will create a 14-week combined language and civics class, provide naturalization workshops, and expand related library materials offered at each of Somerville's three branches. The naturalization workshop series will begin in **February**, and the first cohort of up to 15 participants will begin English and civics classes in **March**. All workshops and classes will be held virtually on Zoom, led by instructors and volunteers from **St. Mark Community Education Program**. Registration is now open at [tinyurl.com/beginneresolclass](http://tinyurl.com/beginneresolclass).

Somerville's **Winter Farmer's Market** takes place **Saturdays**, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., through April 10, at 191 Highland Ave. Offering the best locally grown and produced agricultural items and more. Online pre-order market with a small outdoor "live" shopping market. They offer a diverse range of local and New England produce, as well as cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, pastries, chocolate, and wine. They feature rotating guest vendors each week, as well as live entertainment and activities. Check out the schedule and map here: <http://maps.managementymarket.com/1610>. They accept SNAP/EBT, CREDIT and DEBIT cards. \$10 SNAP match for EBT customers. For market information visit: <http://www.somwintermarket.org/>

Apply for **small business relief funds**. The **City of Somerville** has made \$5 million available to small businesses in its third round of the **Small Business COVID-19 Relief Fund**. Eligible businesses can apply for grants of up to \$25,000. Applications are now available and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Learn more about the funding, including eligibility requirements, or apply for funds online.

The **Pandemic – Electronic Transfer (P-EBT) Program** created spring 2020 to provide eligible families funds to purchase food while schools were closed during the COVID-19 pandemic has been extended through the end of the 2020-21 school year. Visit <https://www.map-ebt.org/home/#ihtab> for additional information.

The city is still accepting **home-made face masks** as part of their **10,000 Mask Drive**. They have passed the 5,000 mask milestone. Can you help get it to 10,000? If you're a crafty Somerville resident who has been sewing reusable face masks, please consider donating some to our 10,000 Mask Drive. After being laundered, masks are distributed to seniors and other vulnerable populations. If you would like to donate masks, put them in a sealed bag and bring them to the drop box at either the **Central Library**, 79 Highland Ave., or the East Branch Library, 115 Broadway.

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

**Hate incidents** impact victims as well as the community. In an effort to make reporting hate incidents easier for the residents of Somerville, you may now report them using an online form. Visit the **Somerville Police website** under the Home tab and submit your Hate Incident report: [www.somervillepd.com/home/](http://www.somervillepd.com/home/).

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

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



# Somerville’s 100 Homes program accepting applications for affordable housing waitlist

Somerville’s 100 Homes program is now accepting applications to be added to its affordable housing waitlist. Eligible applicants include people facing displacement, Section 8 voucher holders, and households earning between 80% and 100% of the area median income.



Priorities will be granted to households facing displacement, including those who are in the process of a no-fault eviction, have received a notice of lease nonrenewal, or must utilize a mobile housing voucher in Somerville or risk losing it, as well as homeless applicants with funding from a Continuum of Care organization.

Apartments are available to households on a rolling basis across various income brackets. Households will be contacted in the order in which applications are received.

The 100 Homes initiative, launched in 2014, is a joint venture between the City of Somerville and the Somerville Community Corporation (SCC) in conjunction with the Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation. The program aims to create and preserve permanently affordable rental housing by acquiring multi-family properties across the city.

Applications and eligibility information are available online at [somerillecdc.org/100-Homes-Application](http://somerillecdc.org/100-Homes-Application). Applications can also be picked up at the SCC office, 337 Somerville Avenue, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Questions may be directed to Alex Bob, SCC’s 100 Homes project manager, at [abob@somerillecdc.org](mailto:abob@somerillecdc.org) or (617) 410-9910.

## Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 5

Its first owner, Amory Houghton had moved his small company to a northern New York settlement. Now, 170 years later, this world-renowned business echoes the name of its village, Corning. Julian left a legacy to his taste in art, and today’s fascinating ground and rooftop Sculpture Parks at deCordova honor that legacy.

Somerville has its own Sculpture Parks across the city. One honors our veterans on Central Hill and two others honor our citizens at Davis Square. The notable towers of the Seven Hills Park are located behind the Somerville Theatre and give an historic flavor of the city to commuters, tourists and city dwellers alike.

The square’s other Statue Park was built with the 1980 arrival of the MBTA Red Line Extension and was originally located in the College-Holland Street Plaza. This was a group of ten, lifelike carvings based on everyday people who lived nearby. Because of vandalism in the late 1990’s, the statues were refitted with bronze masks ... sadly not unlike our uniform of 2020.

The ten individual statues still stand and are relocated near the subway entrances and a nearby park. Also, pieces of Julian’s collection are held at the Somerville Museum. Julian would most probably have liked that historical acknowledgement.



## Maintaining a sense of normalcy CONT. FROM PG 1

pants that don’t have an elastic waistband, do your hair and wear accessories. Regain your sense of style and feel good about how you look.

✦ Structure your day: When working remotely, it’s easy to feel like the workday has no clear beginning or end. For better work-

life balance, try to structure your day as you once did, setting regular business hours. Be sure to include breaks so you don’t experience burnout. And, if your weekdays once included time for socializing with colleagues, make time for it now. Set up a virtual coffee meeting, lunch or

happy hour.

✦ Use tech tools: Stay accountable to your new schedule as well as your fashion goals with wearable tech, such as the Casio Edifice Watch. With full-time Smartphone Link technology, this timepiece enables you to stay up-to-date and on time. When paired

to a compatible smartphone via Bluetooth, you can access the correct time in your current location and for up to 300 cities worldwide, as well as your calendar, receiving notifications for tasks, meetings and events. Featuring five alarms, a stopwatch, countdown timer and a two-year battery life, this

water-resistant timepiece can be a highly functional tool as you transition back to a regular schedule.

If working from home long-term has you feeling sluggish and unproductive, get back to your regular schedule. Maintaining a sense of normalcy can help get you out of the rut. (StatePoint)

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By Bobbygeorge Potaris

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*On This Day in History*  
**January 27**

1825 – Congress approves Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma), clearing the way for forced relocation of the Eastern Indians on the "Trail of Tears."

1862 – President Abraham Lincoln issues General War Order No. 1, setting in motion the Union armies.

1924 – Lenin's body is laid in a marble tomb on Red Square near the Kremlin.

1959 – NASA selects 110 candidates for the first U.S. space flight.

1967 – Three astronauts are killed in a flash fire that engulfed their Apollo 1 spacecraft.

1973 – A cease fire in Vietnam is called as the Paris peace accords are signed by the United States and North Vietnam.

1978 – The State Supreme Court rules that Nazis can display the Swastika in a march in Skokie, Illinois.



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OFF THE SHELF  
by Doug Holder

Rejane Musis: Somerville's  
Practitioner of Praticutuca

Somerville has a large population of Brazilian folks. Where I live in Union Square there is a large Brazilian Market and before the pandemic, a Brazilian butcher. There are still a number of Brazilian businesses peppered around the streets of our city, and this ethnic group makes big contributions to our collective culture. So I was lucky to speak to Rejane Musis about her program to educate kids about Portuguese and Brazilian culture.

**Doug Holder:** How has it been for you living in Somerville? With the large Brazilian population here, it must in some ways feel like home.

**Rejane Musis:** I arrived in Boston in 2011, now I live in Everett, but Somerville is a city I love. I work a lot with Somerville residents. And yes, I feel a little piece of Brazil in some of the streets of Somerville, and I love it!

**DH:** You are a practitioner of Praticutuca, an educational tool that uses Brazilian pop culture for learning and cultural identity. Can you give us some more details about the program, and has the Somerville schools been receptive to it?

**RM:** The Praticutuca is a project that teaches Portuguese heritage through language, music, and literacy. We have existed since 2005 in Brazil, and we found a home in Somerville. The Somerville schools are an awesome partner, sharing our videos and spreading the word about our group classes which are always free and now online.

**DH:** Tell us about your Portuguese TV show.

**RM:** We have a YouTube channel with music videos, storytelling and interviews. Everything is produced with kids from Brazilian families and everything is in Portuguese, [YouTube.com/praticutuca](https://www.youtube.com/praticutuca).



**DH:** Sometimes folks mistake Spanish for Portuguese. There is a big difference between the two languages, right?

**RM:** Sure! They are two totally different Romance languages. In my opinion the mistake is proof about how some people don't know about Latin America. I never saw that mistake between Portuguese and Italian or French, for example.

**DH:** Do you think, through this program – and in this racially charged climate – you can address racism?

**RM:** Of course! I just got approved the BIPOC grant by the Somerville Arts Council, and I will produce 10 videos for kids, in Portuguese, talking about racism here and in Brazil, and readings and singing by black authors/composers.

**DH:** How has your work been affected by the Pandemic?

**RM:** Deeply affected. We are a family of musicians, and don't have the possibility of playing gigs and teaching our group classes. This has affected us financially and mentally. I hope now, with the new president, we can turn this page, and I hope soon Brazil will have the same chance to as well.

Lyrical  
SOMERVILLE  
edited by Doug Holder

Poet Mike Steffen writes: "I recently watched the 1945 MGM movie with Judy Garland *Meet Me in Saint Louis*, which piqued my interest in the 1904 World Fair there, called "The Louisiana Purchase World Fair." I came across this colossal statue of the Roman god of the forge, Vulcan, while browsing the Internet for info on the Fair. At one point, the huge statue, the largest free-standing iron-cast statue in the world, lay in its cast sections in the Birmingham fairgrounds (after it had been returned from Saint Louis) and I came across the epigraph quote, "children would often play around the disassembled statue". As it stands on its towering pedestal today on Red Mountain in Birmingham, the backside of the statue, in the classical Italian style, reveals the naked deity's bare bottom, facing toward the suburb of Homewood, and there is apparently a song there sung as a joke, *Moon Over Homewood*."



**World Fair Vulcan**  
*children would often play around the disassembled statue*

We fall to pieces sometimes.  
Even the mighty forge god Vulcan.—  
Raggedy Anns in their aprons scampered  
over the sound perch of his aproned breast.

Brought home to iron-rich Birmingham  
from the Saint Louis Expo, for unpaid  
freight costs the statue had lost its spear.  
He huckstered an ice cream cone, Heinz pickles...

His classical arrogance could not suit  
the downtown ladies' Christian societies.  
Die-cast metal airplanes in children's hands  
zoomed over the small hills of his

yet again taken down bare ass.  
His new pedestal towers now on Red Mountain  
to moon over Homewood: a local joke  
to keep another world superlative's

feet on the ground. Half-inch marbles  
were once flicked across all 56 monumental feet  
of the smith, for the up and down  
in us all, to remind us where we've been.

— Mike Steffen

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

SAVEMASTages advocating for struggling  
local venues struck by Covid-19

SAVEMASTages is a collective of venue owners, music industry professionals, and diehard music fans working to ensure adequate funding reaches independent Massachusetts venues at risk of permanent closure due to the economic fallout from Covid-19.

These venues, which were the first businesses to close at the beginning of the pandemic and will be among the last to re-open, are pillars of their communities. Their cultural significance and local influence cannot be understated; live music promotes an environment of healing and emotional release for its listeners and ensures financial stability for performers.

On December 27, 2020, the Shuttered Venue Operators (SVO) Grant program, also known as the Save Our Stages Act, was signed into law. While SVO Grants will make about \$15 billion available to shuttered venues, there is still much work to be done.

Following in NIVA's (National Independent Venue Association) footsteps, this grassroots community organization is committed to uplifting and assisting Massachusetts venues during this unprecedented time.

Spread the word or visit [www.savemastages.org](https://www.savemastages.org) to get involved and receive up-to-date information on SVOG and NIVA emergency relief funding. We are #strongertogether.

SaveMAStages members include:

- The Jungle Music Club • ONCE Somerville • Zeiterion Performing Arts Center  
The Center for Arts in Natick • The Boch Center • Porter Productions  
Regent Theater in Arlington • Club Passim • CK Communications • Indian Ranch  
Adi Sun • Anngelle Wood • League Podcast • Jazz Boston • Wally's • The Chevalier Theater  
Lowell Summer Music Series • Huntington Theatre Company • Narrows Center for the Arts  
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