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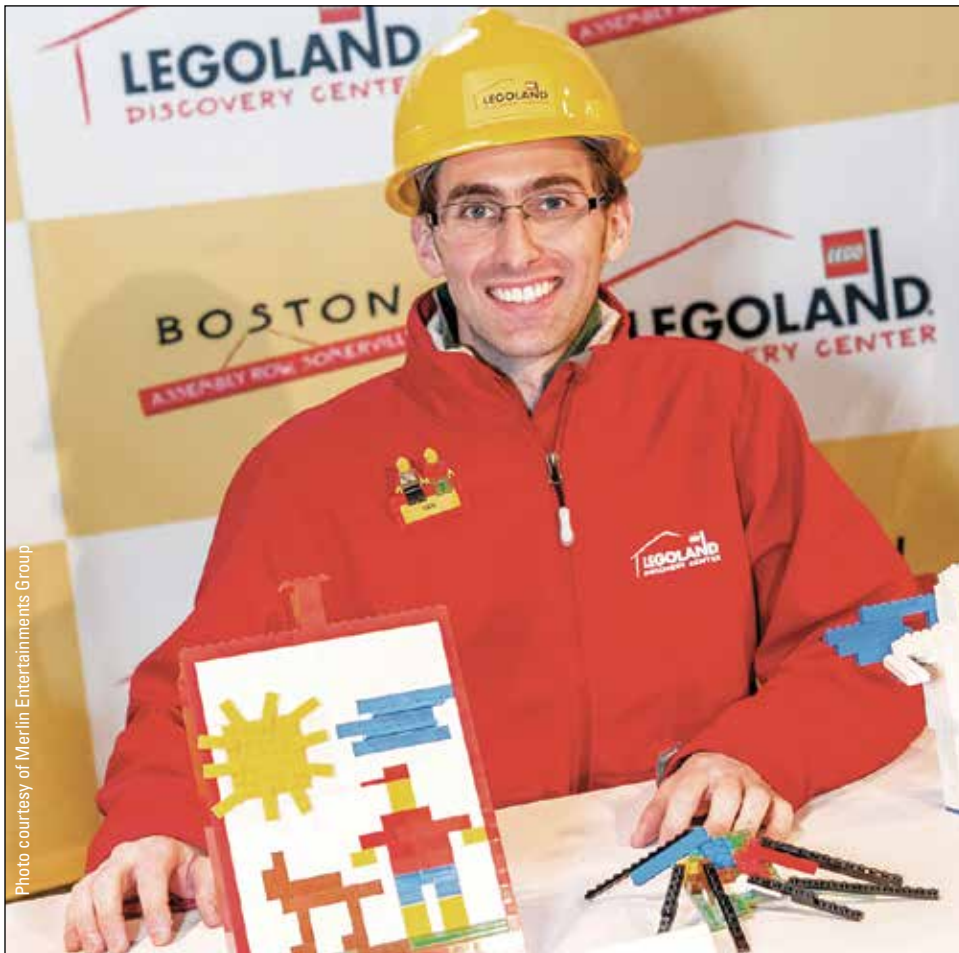
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Building a future at Legoland



Ilan Coffey has a very interesting new job. Turn to pages 12–13 to learn more.

Presentation explains assessment process

Addresses double-digit increases

By David R. Smith

The reports of 50-percent-plus tax increases have been greatly exaggerated, according to the city's chief assessor, Marc Levy.

And while that may be true, he did not dispute that property owners have experienced varying degrees of sticker shock following the recent state-mandated triennial revaluation of property in Somerville. What he offered to a small group of residents at the West Somerville Community School last week in the way of guidance was an explanation of the appeals process open to property owners and an overview of how the assessments were determined and how those current figures compare to recent history.

The meeting Jan. 23 (rescheduled from Jan. 21 due to last week's inclement weather) held by the assessing department, in conjunction with the Somerville Chamber of Commerce, was the first of two informational sessions to discuss the revaluation process and answer questions from residents. A second meeting was held this past Monday at the East Somerville Community School. The feelings expressed by residents, however, extended beyond the department's purview and capabilities,

Continued on page 17

Healing by helping

Bombing victim aiding 13-year-old in need of prosthesis

By Max Sullivan

After losing her leg and her best friend in the Boston Marathon bombing last April, Somerville resident Karen Rand has spent the last few months working to bring 13-year-old El Salvadorian Melissa Estefania Salinas to the United States for treatment of a similar affliction.

Salinas lost her right leg after a speeding car crashed into her on the street. So far, Rand and her boyfriend, Kevin McWatters, have helped raise as much as \$11,000 and have gotten Shriners Hospital in Boston to give the girl free treatment and a prosthetic leg.

There is a major obstacle, though: The El Salvadorian government has said it is willing to let Salinas and her mother leave their home country for the United States, but not Salinas' little sister. Only about 10 years old, the girl has nowhere to stay while the family is in the U.S., and Salinas cannot come to Boston without her mother.

Continued on page 3



Melissa Estefania Salinas and her family are looking forward to their forthcoming visit to the U.S., as soon as the red tape and logistics involved are resolved.

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If you haven't already heard (and if you have, don't forget), the Board of Aldermen Finance Committee headed by Tony Lafuente is holding a public hearing on the recent tax revaluation that has affected commercial property owners anywhere, in some cases, with increases ranging from 50 to 100 percent. The public is invited to City Hall from 6 to 9 p.m. this coming Tuesday, Feb. 6. This is your chance to be heard and to ask why such a huge increase all at once. Many commercial owners throughout the city got huge bills, and they rent to local businesses, so everyone on the way down the ladder will be affected by these increases.

Tonight (Wednesday, Jan. 29) from 6 to 8 is registration at the Mystic Learning Center on Mystic Avenue for SomerVillens Pop Warner and Cheer Registration. The early registration fee is \$20. All families are welcome to the first registration for the 2014 season. This is SPW's 51st season, and they are excited to get it underway.

Happy birthdays this week to some of our fans here in the Ville and elsewhere. A big "happy birthday" to some of Somerville's finest and classiest ladies this week (celebrating in the warm Florida sun this week), Lynne Lenoir and Dorothy DiMarzo, both of who have birthdays together this week. Watch out now, ladies, don't get a burn down there! Also this week, to a great guy now retired who has lived here all his life, Phil Ercolini, we wish him a happy birthday. Happy birthday also to Katie Harris of the famous Winter Hill Harris family; we hope she has a great day. We wish HB to Nancy Huber Coutoumas now of Winthrop, but (as she once told us) her heart is and always will be Somerville. To our very good friend (and although doesn't live here in the Ville, she's one of us, as her story told in last week's paper), we wish Denise Cosby the very best. She's a great lady (read her story; she's a remarkable women). One who is on Facebook and at work at the same time, we wish our good friend Maria Nella Nunes-Rollins a big HB. She's a funny lady and is always a barrel of laughs when you talk to her. And to our good friend and TV star of the "Beauty and the Geek" (actually, he won it), we wish David Olsen

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TheSomervilleTimes

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The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday



TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to *I was a teenage paperboy*

Rattso Rizzo says:
I remember Abe and Stella. Great article.

Joey Donuts says:
Wow! I haven't heard those names in years! good story.

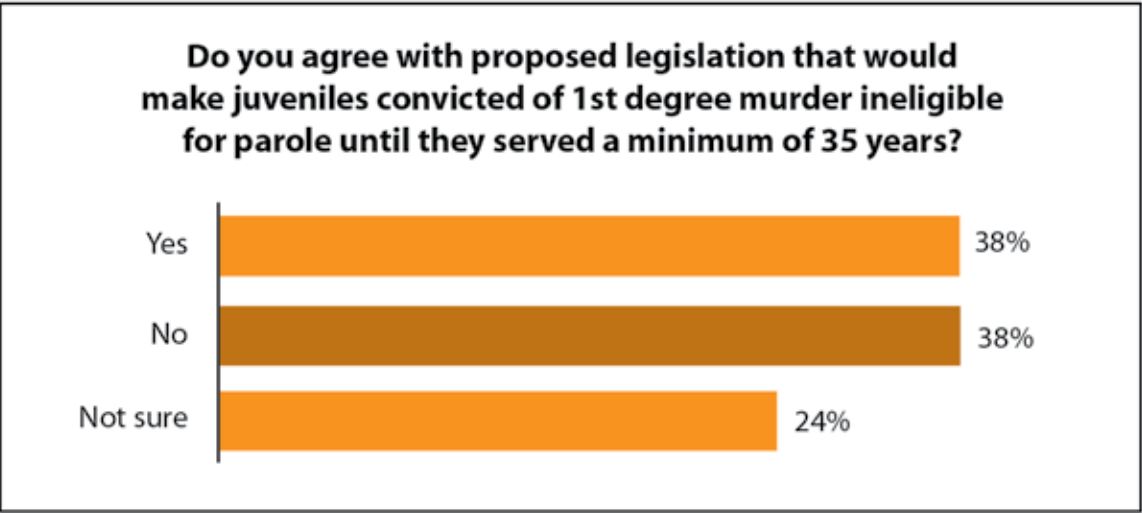
ritepride says:
Sorry Jimmy...I worked for the REAL WEST Somerville Newspaper, located in truly West Somerville...Teele Square. Burke's News, we had some large routes 75-100+ newspapers per route. Never paid for a screen door, our paper throws were based on throws from Pats, Sox, Celtics whereas Abe's crew were based on getting away from Mary... lol. Burke family treated us pretty well. Very few bad customers/tippers, if any they were from Tufts...lol. Started my day @ 4 a.m. helping Hood's milkman deliver to the Tufts part of his route, 5:30 a.m. he'd drop me off at Burkes to do my paper route. Those were the days when the squares really flourished, always vibrant and busy.

Rattso Rizzo says:
SORRY RIPtIDE....Abe's ruled ! No contest !

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

TheSomervilleTimes.com poll of the week

In addition to breaking news, sports and opinion, TheSomervilleTimes.com also features a daily poll in which you, the reader, tell us where you come down on local issues. Last week's poll concerned your views on whether or not you agree with proposed legislation that would make juveniles convicted of 1st degree murder ineligible for parole until they served a minimum of 35 years. If you don't agree with the results, simply log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com.



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Aldermen approve \$2.6 million for repairs to SHS

By Ariana Mackey

Aldermen unanimously approved the Finance Committee's request during the BOA's Jan. 23 meeting to appropriate \$2.6 million towards the repair of the Somerville High School auditorium, kitchen and cafeteria.

The bond amount includes paying for architectural and engineering services to repair the damage to the school from Superstorm Sandy in October 2012. The auditorium has not been fit for use since then, and the lunches for the students have been prepared at the Winter Hill Community School and then shipped to the high school out of necessity.

This bond proposed by the mayor will allow the high school to be completely functional again. After being proposed at the Dec. 12 BOA meeting, it was then referred to the Finance Committee following the board's Jan. 16 meeting.

Also approved was the grant of \$7, 086 for the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services' S.A.F.E. program. The grant will be used to teach elementary school students the hazards of fire and how to be as safe as possible at school and in their own homes.

Several motions were made during last Thursday's meeting.

A few of the motions proposed by the board were for the commissioner of public works to complete various tasks, such as repairing potholes in the area of Pearl Street and Wesley Avenue, as well as ones on Porter Street and Highland Avenue. It was also proposed the water fountain at the East Somerville Library should be repaired or replaced and low-hanging wires on Hawthorn Street and on the corner of Broadway and Wisconsin Avenue should be raised.

Discussed also in this part of the meeting was that the director of traffic and parking should increase enforcement of parking permits regarding the issue on Illinois Avenue as well as install a "SLOW - CHILDREN" sign.

Under reports of the committees this week, there were nine requests for the reappointment of Housing Authority employees as special police officers for 2014. They included Harold Curtis Jr., Shawn Brady, Sean Browne, Michael Cabral, Jose Colon, Michael DeBethencourt, Michael Eastman, Wayne Gabaree and James Lawson.

Communications of the mayor this week included a request for the dedication of Symphony Park for open space and recreational use in perpetuity. The park is currently undergoing a community design process using



Portions of Somerville High School that were damaged by Superstorm Sandy in 2012 will be getting much needed repairs following the BOA's unanimous decision to allocate \$2.6M for the renovations.

a \$400,000 grant.

A supplemental item discussed and approved was a request for the administration to work with the board in order to make revisions to the SomerVision plan. They wish to provide more detailed goals with regard to housing being more affordable and the creation of mixed-housing units, specifically in housing with more than two bedrooms.

A permit for the American Cancer Society to hold its annu-

al Relay For Life from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 5, at the Zero New Washington Street Dog Park was approved.

For late items of this meeting, it was unanimously approved that the board should amend its rules in order to establish a procedure for the joint sponsorship of items. One of these provisions is that no more than five aldermen can sponsor an order and only the original sponsor's name will be identified with the

order. Co-sponsors must be filed with the clerk of committees but will not be identified by name until the meeting of the order's announcement.

Also stated is that the communications department has arranged with the Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation to post the agreement with city cable-TV providers online. Residents of the city are now able to read the contracts with their city's cable.

Healing by helping

CONT. FROM PG 1

In addition, it became apparent a couple of weeks ago that Salinas may have more health problems than initially thought. After reviewing the reports on Salinas' progress in El Salvador, the doctors at Shriners were convinced that she likely has an infection in her leg.

In El Salvador, the doctors disagree; they say there is no infection.

If the American doctors are correct, then Salinas is not being treated for her infection, making time even tighter for all three members of Salinas' family to get their visas.

"She could be in mortal danger because of the infection," Rand said. "Because of the other leg, she could have to have the other leg amputated. The infection could get worse."

Rand is working with a lawyer in El Salvador to get Salinas past what McWatters referred to as the "red tape" and into the U.S. From what Rand understands after speaking with the lawyer, Salinas' younger sister will likely get through, though it could be a while. Even after conversations with their lawyer, Rand said the timing for Salinas' sister's visa is

"totally random."

"The doctors here at Shriners hospital, who are very good at working with getting visas from these countries, have prepared what they needed to prepare for documents, and so has Next Step [the company that is providing Salinas with her prosthetic leg when she gets to the U.S.]," Rand said. "They'll be able to come, but we think that it's not -obviously we already know it's not- happening overnight. We know that they're slow."

Salinas' story was first brought to the American public eye when Fox 25 did a story on Rand and what she went through at the 2013 Boston Marathon and how she has turned her sadness to inspiration to help others like Salinas. As Fox reported, Rand and McWatters met Mauricio Quiroga, an El Salvadorian who was friends with family friends of the Salinas. When Quiroga shared Salinas' story with Rand and McWatters, they were compelled to reach out. With the help of Quiroga, who relays messages to El Salvador for Rand and McWatters, they've helped raise money for Salinas

and have come just a 10-year-old's visa away from getting Salinas to this country.

Rand was recently contacted by Next Step Bionics and Prosthetics about appearing The Doctors, a Dr. Phil-produced TV show on CBS that is taped in Los Angeles. The show is looking to do an episode on victims of the marathon bombing. Rand said she is open to appearing on the show by satellite only, as it is still difficult for her to get on a plane and fly across country with the physical problems she's dealt with since the marathon. Unless they are willing to talk about Salinas, however, she is not interested.

"I asked (the Next Step communications director) that before he has them contact me, I would want to know exactly what it is they want to talk to me about," Rand said. "The only other thing I mentioned is that if I can't talk about Estafania, then really I don't really need to be on the TV show."

Now that it's been nine months since the marathon bombing took place, Rand is starting to feel like she can blend back into society for the first time



Karen Rand.

in a while. Last summer and fall, Rand was approached constantly about the bombing, even while walking on the street. Some questions she received from strangers were troubling.

"It's kind of nice to be fading back into people not really recognizing me," Rand said. "It's hard when people constantly want to come up to you and ask you questions and talk about things, and we learned that some of the things that people ask you are so rude, and so ignorant. It's impossible even to imagine that people could say things like, 'Oh, are you mentally disturbed now?' I've just gotten to the

point where I don't want anyone to talk to me half the time."

Rand said Salinas played a big part in her dealing with the trauma that came with experiencing the bombing.

"It is important to talk about Estefania," Rand said, "because, for me, that's what's helped me in the mental health aspect of the (bombing): having a distraction and having someone else to help and working with someone who doesn't have the opportunities that we have."

For more information on Salinas, visit the Facebook page titled, "Melissa Estefanía Salinas Prosthetic Fund."

THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Attempted break-in halted

Police were dispatched to an Endicott Ave. residence Friday evening on reports of a possible break-in in progress.

The female resident had reportedly been woken by a cracking sound coming from a window at the rear of her home. As she phoned and spoke with police, she reportedly continued hearing the cracking sound.

Officers arrived and began searching outside the residents. They reportedly heard a rustling sound as they neared the rear of the building.

The officers illuminated the area with their flashlights and spotted a man, later identified as Jose Velazquez, 38, of Dorchester, attempting to hop a fence. He was ordered down from the fence and eventually persuaded to cooperate with the officers.

Velazquez was immediately apprehended and taken to the front of the residence to be held as the scene was secured.

An examination of the window in question showed that the screen had been cut and pushed up. Wood shavings were also found inside, near the window, police said.

A screwdriver was reportedly found on the ground where Velazquez was apprehended.

Velazquez was placed under arrest and charged with possession of a burglarious instrument, felony nighttime breaking and entering, and resisting arrest.

Ladies room was no place to escape

While on patrol in the Davis Sq. area, a police officer caught sight of what he deemed to be suspicious behavior on the part of an individual whose vehicle was parked on Grove St.

The man, later identified as Alex Bilodeau, 26, of Revere, was reportedly observed standing outside of the driver's side door of a parked SUV. According the reports, Bilodeau was seen tossing a small safe in the air, then picking it up off the ground and throwing it into a nearby trash bin.

The officer reported that Bilodeau made eye contact with him, then reached into the vehicle and appeared to be manipulating something.

The officer radioed for backup, then pulled up to the vehicle, exited his cruiser and approached Bilodeau for questioning, at which time the officer reportedly saw a plastic bag containing what appeared to be marijuana fall out of Bilodeau's jacket, onto the ground.

When ordered by the officer to come to the back of the vehicle, Bilodeau reportedly fled on foot. The officer gave chase on foot, shouting several times for Bilodeau to stop, and followed him into Anna's Taqueria. The officer said that he then saw Bilodeau enter the ladies room in side the restaurant.

A short time later, Bilodeau reportedly exited the ladies room with his hands in the air. According to reports, Bilodeau said to the officer, "I didn't do anything."

Bilodeau reportedly refused several requests by the officer to get on the floor, but when a police backup unit arrived he was finally secured, after some efforts by the officers.

A search of the ladies room found one toilet overflowing at its tank. An examination of the tank turned up a plastic bad containing several other plastic bags filled with marijuana.

Bilodeau was placed under arrest and charged with distribution of a class D drug, resisting arrest, and assault and battery on a police officer.

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SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

Roque Pena, 47, of 17 Court St., Boston, January 20, 4:00 p.m., arrested at 180 Somerville Ave. on charges of conspiracy, possession of a burglarious instrument, and larceny over \$250.

Janice Sarno, 40, of 230 Main St., Reading, January 20, 4:00 p.m., arrested at 180 Somerville Ave. on charges of conspiracy and accessory after the fact.

Jamal Escobar, 19, of 3 Snow Terr., January 21, 5:46 a.m., arrested at home on warrant charges of accessory after the fact, accessory before the fact, and possession of a firearm without a FID card.

Raul Campos, 19, of 182 Washington St., January 21, 5:22 p.m., arrested at home on warrant charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and kidnapping.

Gustavo Cardoso, 34, of 170 Paris St., East Boston, January 21, 9:54 p.m., arrested at 30 Washington St. on a charge of operation of a motor vehicle

under the influence of liquor.

Jose Dasilva, 28, of 25 West St., January 22, 4:24 p.m., arrested at Broadway on warrant charges of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and speeding.

Nichole Harris, 25, of 1806 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA, January 22, 4:53 p.m., arrested at 23 Cummings St. on a charge of sexual conduct for a fee and on a warrant charge of sexual conduct for a fee.

Marquille Morrissey, 26, of 9 Oliver St., Everett, January 22, 8:17 p.m., arrested at 530 Somerville Ave. on a charge of armed robbery and on warrant charges of miscellaneous municipal ordinance violation, failure to stop or yield, and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Alex Bilodeau, 26, of 510 Revere Beach Blvd., Revere, January 23, 1:35 p.m., arrested at Davis Sq. on charges of distribution of a class D drug, resisting arrest, and assault and battery on a police officer.

Steven Nunziato, 55, of 42

Dana St., January 23, 2:11 p.m., arrested at home on a charge of assault and battery.

Charles Grant, 36, of 217 School St., January 24, 4:31 a.m., arrested at Broadway on charges of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, assault with a dangerous weapon, and harassment prevention order violation.

Jose Velazquez, 38, of 14 Marlon Rd., Dorchester, January 24, 9:42 p.m., arrested at 17R Endicott Ave. on charges of possession of a burglarious instrument, felony nighttime breaking and entering, and resisting arrest.

Elias Soares, 38, of 110 Gardner St., Arlington, January 25, 12:06 p.m., arrested at Broadway on a warrant charge of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Thomas Primus, 52, of 14 Anoka, Lynn, January 25, 1:56 p.m., arrested at 775 McGrath Hwy. on a warrant charge of operation of a motor vehicle with a revoked license.

Incidents:

Theft:

January 21, 2:13 p.m., police reported a theft at Washington St.

January 21, 6:00 p.m., police reported a theft at Cutter Ave.

January 21, 7:04 p.m., police reported a theft at Concord Ave.

January 23, 11:51 a.m., police reported a theft at Broadway.

January 23, 6:02 p.m., police reported a theft at 622 Somerville Ave.

January 23, 6:46 p.m., police reported a theft at Beacon St.

January 25, 10:54 a.m., police reported a theft at Temple St.

January 25, 1:56 p.m., police reported a theft at 775 McGrath Hwy.

Robbery:

January 22, 9:38 a.m., police reported a robbery at 622 Somerville Ave.

Breaking & Entering:

January 21, 12:55 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Broadway.

January 23, 9:16 p.m., police

reported a breaking & entering at Hanson St.

January 24, 8:18 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Broadway.

Vehicle Theft:

January 21, 11:04 a.m., police reported a vehicle theft at Hawkins St.

January 23, 10:53 a.m., police reported a vehicle theft at Mystic Valley Pkwy.

January 25, 11:30 a.m., police reported a vehicle theft at Minner St.

Assault:

January 20, 2:47 a.m., police reported an assault at Flint Ave.

January 21, 3:36 p.m., police reported an assault at 400 Somerville Ave.

January 22, 3:38 p.m., police reported an assault at Curtis St.

January 23, 12:02 a.m., police reported an assault at Mystic Ave.

January 23, 1:35 p.m., police reported an assault at Davis Sq.

January 23, 2:11 p.m., police reported an assault at Dana St.

Somerville man pleads guilty to luring teen online

Justin Koser, 31, of Somerville, pleaded guilty last week to charges of enticement of a child under 16 (two counts) and attempted rape of a child.

Middlesex Superior Court Judge Kathe Tuttmann sentenced Koser to two and half years in jail with five years probation to be served after his jail sentence with the conditions that he must register as a sex offender, submit to GPS monitoring, have no contact with the victim, have no unsupervised contact with children under 16, and allow searches of his computer by probation.

"The defendant lied about his age and identity online and knowingly approached a 15-year-old girl seeking to engage in sexual conduct," Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan said. "Thankfully, this victim told her parents, and police

were able to step in to protect the victim. The unfortunate reality is that anyone can hide their identity online, and predators are very good at deceiving their victims."

According to authorities, Koser began communicating online Sept. 12, 2012, with the victim through instant messaging. The victim identified herself as 15, while the defendant claimed to be a 17-year-old high school senior from Andover, and his instant messenger profile photo appeared to be that of a teenage boy. It was not a photo of Koser.

The conversation then moved onto telephone texts, and the defendant began to make sexual remarks and told the victim he was older than 17. Reading police were notified of the sexual nature of the communications Sept. 24, 2012, and the girl and

her parents allowed police to access her chat conversations. Police obtained records that the account and computer being used to communicate with the victim was assigned to Koser's Somerville home.

He continued to text the victim and suggested an in-person meeting, offering to either pick up the victim at her home or to meet her in a secluded location. He continued to discuss the sexual nature of his intentions with the victim through text messages.

He confirmed he would meet the victim in a wooded area after dark Oct. 6, 2012, and went to the location around 6:30 p.m. He was arrested at the scene by Reading police. Among the items seized from him were his iPhone, from which he had been texting.

Cigarette blamed for fire that left 10 homeless



Photo by Bobbie Toner

Somerville firefighters fought their second multiple alarm blaze within a week this past Sunday. A fire was reported at 68 Wheatland St. shortly before 10 a.m. Jan. 26. Arriving firefighters found heavy fire conditions on the third floor of a three-story home. A second alarm was sounded several minutes later. The fire fully engulfed a third-floor side porch, spreading into the ceiling of the third floor. Firefighters had to pull down several ceilings to extinguish fire spreading under the roof. Fire damage was confined to the third floor, but water damage resulted on the floors below.

The building contained three apartments housing 10 occupants, all of who have been displaced. Damage is estimated at approximately \$100,000. Three firefighters suffered minor injuries, two from slipping on ice resulted in a knee and a back injury, and a third firefighter suffered an injury to his hip. All Somerville fire companies responded to the fire, as well as assistance from Medford and Cambridge. The cause of the fire has been determined to have been improper disposal of a cigarette on the porch.

— Somerville Fire Department

Online safety tips for students

- Do not share personal information on social media sites, including your address, birthday or phone number
- Never share your passwords
- Do not post or send nude or semi-nude photos
- Never arrange to meet someone you met online
- Do not click on links or download files from someone you do not know

Online safety tips for parents:

- Talk to your children about their use of the Internet and social media to set guidelines and determine what is appropriate use
- Make Internet use a family activity by keeping computers and iPads in a central location in the home
- Keep cell phone and chargers out of child's bedroom at night to discourage late-night texting
- Remind your children that people they talk to online are strangers and may not be who they claim to be
- Let your child know it is OK to come to you if he or she is uncomfortable with something that took place on the Internet

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Ward 3 Alderman Bob McWatters hopes to continue predecessor's legacy

By Max Sullivan

Newly elected Ward 3 Alderman Bob McWatters said he sees property tax as an issue for Somerville residents. Though he said it's difficult to lower taxes while maintaining quality government services, he hopes he can help Somerville bring in more commercial property owners, removing some of the property tax burden from the residents' shoulders.

McWatters said he is aware Somerville has become an increasingly desirable place to live in the Boston area. According to Trulia.com, the average price per square foot in Somerville has increased by 16 percent from this same time last year.

What concerns McWatters is that working class and lower class people who grew up in Somerville are being forced to move out as it becomes more and more expensive to live here.

The solution, he said, can be found in the example set by neighboring Cambridge, which he pointed out is made up of roughly 75 percent commercially owned property. Somerville is only made up of about 15 percent commercial property, he said. Cambridge's commercial property owners, the city's majority, take much of the tax burden off of the town's residents.

"We don't have that luxury," McWatters said, referring to

the amount of businesses in Somerville.

McWatters admitted that Somerville is "nowhere near" where Cambridge is when it comes to how much business it is home to, calling Somerville "the poorer sister," but the new alderman expects the coming Union Square T stop and the recent growth of Assembly Square to bring in businesses from outside the city.

"If I can do half as good of a job as he did, I'll be successful"

McWatters, who has been working in public service for 30 years, including his current work as a probation officer, also hopes to encourage the police to become more proactive in working with the community.

Two issues have surfaced recently that McWatters said he believes are indirectly correlated: home break-ins and substance abuse. McWatters is aware of these through his work as a probation officer. He said many of the drug addicts and alcoholics living in Somerville sometimes resort to breaking into homes and robbing to sup-

port their habit.

"People who are suffering from some of these addictions... to support their habits, they're breaking into homes," he said. "That is something I want to sit down with the police department."

In order to address these issues, including getting local drug users off of their addictions, he hopes to put more police officers on bicycles, allowing for a more personal connection with residents. McWatters acknowledged that this form of policing is currently being implemented, but he hopes the police force can become even more proactive than they currently are through this method.

"I'm also a big proponent of community policing, which I think is really important not only for the entire city but in particular Ward 3," he said. "The residents would feel more comfortable with an officer on a bike, you know, being in the neighborhood. When an officer is driving around in his police car, yes, he can get out and walk for a while, but if you have an officer on a bike he gets to know the youth, he gets to know the residents, people in the ward and develops more of a relationship, more of an interpersonal relationship with these people."

McWatters initially had no particular aspirations for the position of alderman, but when his predecessor, Tom Taylor,



Ward 3 Alderman Bob McWatters has big plans for improving the quality of life for his constituents as he begins his tenure on the Board of Alderman.

announced he would not be running for re-election, McWatters decided to run. He said he's aware that he's filling big shoes. Taylor served for 26 years.

McWatters appreciated Taylor's hands-on approach to the position, as well as his ability to maintain his authenticity, never being one to give in easily to City Hall's will.

"He made a lot of tough decisions that weren't necessarily in the flow," McWatters said, "but he had the ward's interest

at heart, and I think sometimes the administrations, the mayors who were in power, often shook their heads, but they knew that he was representing the people who lived in Ward 3, not City Hall."

McWatters hopes to act in a similar way while in office.

"It's not going to be an easy task because I'm taking over for an alderman who was in the position 26 years. If I can do half as good of a job as he did, I'll be successful."

Multicultural artwork at Cross Street Center

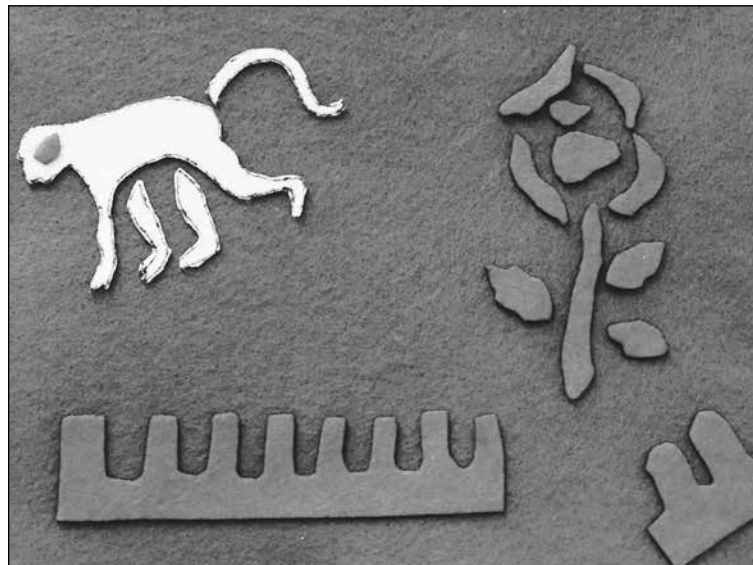
Come and check out the multicultural art hanging on the walls of the Council On Aging's Cross Street Center, 165 Broadway, Somerville. A group of older adults met with a local art instructor, Katherine Harvey, to

celebrate other cultures. They made wall hangings out of felt, in the style of South American Molas by the indigenous women of Panama and Peru. Many of the designs they used were inspired by the South Ameri-

can rainforest. Some were from ideas of group participants.

During the second week, the group learned more about Navaho Sand Painting, which is a very meaningful and significant art form for Harvey, who is originally from Phoenix, Arizona. Harvey enjoyed sharing her knowledge of the lore that gods taught Navaho medicine men to make pictures in the sand for healing purposes. The artwork hanging at Cross Street was made on sand paper, using glue and colored sand to form pictures and patterns. Some were actual Native American designs and, like the first art project, some were creative inventions.

If you have the time, come down and see the artwork, make some new friends, and stay for lunch. The Cross Street Center is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact Janine Lotti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.



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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators’ votes on two roll calls from the week of January 20-24. There were no roll calls in the House last week.

Our Legislators in the House and Senate for Somerville:



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



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



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



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

CLEAR TITLE TO PROPERTY (S 1987)
Senate 38-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that would provide relief to Massachusetts homeowners who currently lack clear title to their homes due to prior faulty foreclosures. The measure was filed in response to a Supreme Judicial Court decision that voided thousands of foreclosure sales. The court said that a foreclosure is void if the foreclosing lender could not produce a written assignment of its mortgage prior to the first publication of notice. The measure remedies this by allowing the affidavit that is recorded during the sale of the property to serve as conclusive evidence that the foreclosing lender is in compliance.

Supporters said this long overdue bill will help thousands of homeowners who unwittingly purchased an improperly foreclosed property and are currently without a clear title and consequently unable to sell or refinance their homes.

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Sal DiDomenico	Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

\$177 MILLION FOR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS (S 1988)
Senate 37-2, approved a bill that would provide \$177 million over the next five years to make improvements at and expand the state’s six military installations.

Supporters said this would ensure that Massachusetts provides funding for all its major federal military bases and may help persuade the federal government not to close the state’s military bases if and when another round of closings occurs. They argued these military installations contribute more than \$14.2 billion to the state’s economy and support more than 46,000 jobs.

Opponents said it is questionable whether state dollars should be used for a national purpose. They argued the money would be better spent on state problems like education, construction, health care and clean energy, all of which will also help create jobs.

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

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill. A “No” vote is against the bill.)

Sen. Sal DiDomenico	Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	No

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

\$36.374 BILLION FISCAL 2015 BUDGET - Gov. Deval Patrick fired the first shot in the likely six-month battle over the state budget. He filed a \$36.374 billion state budget for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2014 -- a 4.9 percent increase over last year. The House will hold hearings on the governor’s package and then draft its own version that will be debated and amended on the House floor. The Senate will follow suit with its own draft, and a House-Senate conference committee will eventually craft a plan that will be presented to the House and Senate for consideration and then sent to the governor.

DRIVER’S LICENSE FOR ILLEGAL IMMI-

GRANTS (H 3313) - Perhaps the most controversial legislation on the Transportation Committee’s February 3 hearing at 1 p.m. in Room A-2 of the Statehouse is a proposal that would allow the Registry of Motor Vehicles to issue driver’s licenses to immigrants who meet other criteria but do not have a social security number. The legislation will establish a special driver’s license for those who are unable to provide a social security number but who receive driver’s education, pass a driving test and carry insurance.

Supporters say this will ensure that these immigrants have driving skills which will make the roads safer. They noted that currently they are driving without any training or insurance because they are not allowed to get a license.

Opponents say that the immigrants are illegal and should not be allowed to get a driver’s license. They noted that some states approved a similar law but have since repealed it because these states were beginning to become a haven for noncitizens to obtain a license.

TICKET SCALPING - The Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee heard testimony on six proposals that would change the state’s laws for the resale of tickets to sporting and entertainment events including some that repeal the current law that prohibits the resale of tickets for more than \$2 over the face value.

Current state law dates back to 1924 and limits the resale price by individuals or companies to \$2 above face value plus costs incurred by the seller related to obtaining and selling the ticket, excluding the cost of the seller’s general business operation. Allowable charges include paying for messengers to stand in line to buy tickets, postage, long-distance telephone calls and credit card fees. The current law is rarely enforced. An estimated 130 ticket resellers are currently licensed by the state.

No one testified against the bill. Supporters said the current law is antiquated and unenforceable and argued it is time to allow the marketplace to determine the price of resold tickets.

TREATMENT OF CIRCUS ELEPHANTS (S 1626) - The Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development will hold a hearing on February 3 at 2 p.m. in Room A-1 on legislation that would ban the use of bullhooks and chains on circus elephants. Violators would be punished by up to a \$5,000 fine and/or a year in jail.

Supporters of the ban say circus elephants are abused and routinely beaten with bullhooks inserted into their skin. A bullhook is a weapon that resembles a fireplace poker, with a sharp steel hook at one end.

Opponents say bullhooks simply help guide and train elephants and argue that existing animal abuse laws already cover elephants.

SEAT BELT REPORT - The Bay State received a rating that put it in the second best category ranked by Advocates for Highway And Auto Safety, an advocacy group that graded all 50 states on adoption of 15 laws it thinks are necessary to improve highway safety. Massachusetts earned points for several laws including a ban on texting while driving, prohibiting drivers under 18 from using any type of cell phone or mobile electronic device while driving and a booster seat requirement.

Beacon Hill Roll Call continued



The state lost points for not having several laws including a primary enforcement seat belt law and a law requiring all convicted drunk drivers to have an ignition interlock device that prevents a vehicle from starting if it detects a blood alcohol concentration over a limit of .02.

ANOTHER EXIT - The number of state legislators resigning prior to the end of their current term rose to 12 last week. Rep. Steven Walsh (D-Lynn) announced he will soon resign from the Legislature to take a job beginning March 1 as executive director of the Massachusetts Council of Community Hospitals, a non-profit corporation that advocates for the Commonwealth's community hospitals. Walsh is currently the chairman of the House Committee on Health Care Financing.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"The Pirate Party believes that innovation is sorely needed in our political system, and this ruling is part of our effort to shake up politics in Massachusetts. We are proud to have helped candidates and political committees take advantage of the opportunities that cryptocurrencies offer." – Lucia Fiero, secretary of the Massachusetts Pirate Party, on a ruling by the Office of Campaign Finance that registered political committees can now accept donations in Bitcoin, a controversial peer-to-peer digital currency, as long as the same disclosures, source and limit restrictions required by state law are followed.

"I am struck by the fact that somehow this little boy didn't slip through the cracks at one level. (He) slipped

through the cracks on three separate levels." – House Committee on Post Audit and Oversight Chairman David Linsky (D-Natick), chairing a hearing about why the state lost track of 5-year-old Jeremiah Oliver of Fitchburg, who is still missing.

"I've been handicapped and handcuffed by the state. There are many risks that we take being a secondary seller. It's just very frustrating. I'd just urge all of you to realize that you have a law sitting on the books that's almost 100 years old with this \$2 cap on it, and it's just not realistic, and all it does is lead to a black market." – Ace Tickets owner Jim Holzman urging repeal of the current law that prohibits the resale of entertainment and sports tickets for more than \$2 over the face value.

"The budget released today by Gov. Patrick is not enough to sustain the fight against HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts. State funding for outreach, prevention, and testing of HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis has been slashed by nearly 40 percent since 2000. During that same period, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts has increased 44 percent." – Rebecca Haag, AIDS Action CEO, on Gov. Patrick's recommended funding of HIV/AIDS and Viral Hepatitis in the fiscal 2015 budget.

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 20-24, the House met for a total of eight hours and 32 minutes and the Senate met for a total of two hours and 48 minutes.

Mon. January 20	No House session No Senate session
Tues. January 21	House 11:06 a.m. to 3:52 p.m. Senate 11:02 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.
Wed. January 22	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. January 23	House 11:07 a.m. to 2:53 p.m. Senate 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Fri. January 24	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

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COMMENTARY

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Safe Driving Bill makes everyone safer



By Joseph A. Curtatone

Our city of Somerville, just like the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and this great country, has greatly benefited from the contributions of immigrants who have sought their dreams here—the same dreams that so many sought before them—while becoming valued members of our community. The famed entrepreneurial, innovative and determined spirit that charac-

terizes Somerville was and continues to be fueled by—to cite only a few nationalities—the Irish, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Salvadoran, Haitian, Nepalese, and Brazilian immigrants who chose this city as the place where their dreams could take root and grow. Today, one-third of Somerville residents are foreign born and more than 50 languages are spoken in our community. Somerville doesn't belong to any one culture, age group, class or ethnicity. The people of our city, our state and our country are united in aspiring for a better life for our children and ourselves.

Unfortunately, because of a broken federal immigration system and a deadlocked Congress, too many immigrants find them-

selves on the margins of society, in a state of legal limbo and economic uncertainty. We cannot wait for the federal government to act anymore. We need to act now. We need to make sure that our community members are not criminalized because of a broken system. These are our neighbors, our children's classmates, our relatives and friends. These immigrants are an integral part of our communities and deserve to live as equals, and not have their lives shackled by a system that everyone knows is broken and is crying out for reform.

The proposed Safe Driving Bill sponsored by our state Senator Patricia Jehlen and Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier of Pittsfield would fix one critical

part of this problem by removing immigration status as a barrier to getting a driver's license—and car insurance. If passed, this bill will allow undocumented immigrants to apply for a special driver's license that would carry all the safety and legal requirements of a standard license. This will benefit everyone. These members of our community who live and work here will be allowed and required to be properly trained, registered and licensed drivers safely sharing our roads as they get to work and live productive lives. Meanwhile the security and safety of all on the road will be better protected.

Like any other driver, those who want the driver's license made available by this bill must

take written and road exams and carry insurance. These are productive members of our community with jobs. This bill allows them to get to and from work safely and legally. It allows our neighbors to get their children to school and doctor's appointments, and to buy groceries and other daily necessities, all without the fear that anytime they get behind the wheel of the car, their family may be separated and broken up because of our country's broken immigration system.

Opponents of this legislation will bring up security concerns, but, in fact, this bill increases the security and safety of everyone. It will make sure that those driving are

Continued on page 19

Somerville's development challenges: Assembly Square



By William C. Shelton

Assembly Square's development remains Somerville's biggest and most timely opportunity to bring jobs and expand our commercial tax base.

It is on Greater Boston's most traveled highway and train line. The new T station will open this year. Assembly Row projects now under construction will

create amenities attractive to office and lab tenants. Partners Healthcare's 700,000-square-foot back-office project unequivocally establishes the Square as an office location.

With these hopeful circumstances, I offer stakeholders some unsolicited advice on how to maintain momentum while ensuring that Assembly Square's development serves the people who built Somerville.

Establish enduring links with leading industry clusters

To limit the range of industry clusters deemed suitable for Assembly Square would risk suffering Telecom City's fate. But

the list would include life sciences, information technologies, marine sciences, clean energy, online education, and the creative economy.

Federal Realty Investment Trust (FRIT) is using the tenant recruitment channels available to it, as evidenced by Partners' commitment. The mayor has delivered a presentation on Somerville's virtues as a business location to an avid and oversubscribed Boston Society of Architects gathering.

What we need now is a careful and coordinated effort among all stakeholders—city officials, FRIT, local business leaders. Perhaps most importantly, the

team should enlist enthusiastic Somerville residents who are already integrated into regional industry clusters—research universities, leading firms, trade associations, suppliers, and capital sources. These residents are not only able to open doors, but can also identify what is most important to emphasize when approaching cluster incumbents, that is, what about Assembly Square is most in their interest.

The aim should not be to win major coups so much as to maintain a sustainable stream of interest from industry incumbents and from cluster-related startups that are ready to improve and expand their workspaces.

Connect with research universities

Greater Boston's eight research universities are essential to its industry clusters. To a surprising degree, they affect firms' location decisions. There are several access points to these influencers: university presidents, university endowment managers who invest in real estate, academic departments related to land transformations, and those that throw off new businesses.

MIT's alumni, for example, have founded 26,000 companies. Its new president, Raphael Reif, is launching an initiative to integrate

Continued on page 20

Life in the by Jimmy Del Ponte

Slots in Somerville



There has been a lot of talk about slots coming to the Boston area, but did you know Somerville had slots years ago? I'm not talking about those illegal machines that were in the back rooms of some bars in the Ville back in the day. I'm talking about model slot car racing in the mid-to-late-1960s.

When the telephone company occupied the building where Rite Aid is now, there was a model slot-car racing place across the street that a lot of us remember. It was at the corner of Grove Street and Highland Avenue, where the Dental Arts

building is now. Since it was a long time ago, we are not sure of the name. Some think it was called The Raceway. I can tell you that the place was always jammed with kids. You could bring your own cars and throttles, which they also sold, and then it was off to the races! A section of the business had a counter called something like The Pit Stop, where you could buy cars and parts. There were two race-courses. One was long and straight and the other had banked tight curves.

"You had to be careful around the curves or you would wipe out." John Roderick recalls. "There were two large (I'd say 25 feet by 8 feet) figure eight over-under tracks that had eight or 10 lanes each. My

brother had a Ford 250GT. It was a clear plastic body that was painted from inside, so it had a nice, smooth exterior, sharp.

"There was a hobby shop on Highland Avenue in the store front that is now Three Figs. We'd usually stop in there to get parts, and look at cars, on the way down there. The slot cars were large, probably 1-25th scale similar to typical Revell or AMT models of the time. There was a counter with display case that sold whole cars, motors (12VDC), parts, etc. I can still see the guy's face that worked there: mid- or late-20s and looked like a Beach Boy to me." They would have occasional contests for fastest and best looking cars.

John also tells us: "I remember it well.



It was about 1965-'66. I was 5 or 6 years old, and my brother Mark was 13 or 14. He and his friends from the Hill, mainly the Morse School gang, used to go down there all the time (Carl Ottaviano, Joey Bono – Richie's older brother – Dave O'Brien – Billy's older brother – and others)."

They had races and

Continued on page 21

COMMENTARY

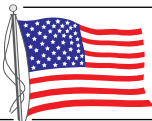
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Yep, it's officially winter now.

The View Of The Times



If you're a property owner in Somerville, make an hour to sit down and watch the video on YouTube of last week's first of two info sessions on how property taxes assessments were reached during the city's recent triennial revaluation (search "Somerville City TV").

The chatter has focused on the 50-plus percent increases to the assessed value of some properties around the city. Chief Assessor Marc Levy could have issued a terse press release noting

that, in truth, those increases applied to 110 of 16,000 properties assessed. Of course, that number may be small, but it is obviously no small matter to the owners of those 110 properties (although one wonders what amount of those property owners knew they were paying less than their property was worth), and it should also be noted that no figure was given for how many properties saw 10, 20, 30 or 40 percent increases.

That Levy, representing his department, opted instead to prepare a concise and easy-to-understand presentation of both the revaluation process and the context in which happened, deserves credit, as does the laying out of the appeals process and potential exemptions available to property owners.

One resident at the first info session was right to point out that the assessing department is "feeling the heat" for market forces and circumstances well

beyond its control. That Levy took to the microphone to explain the hows and whys, while not apologizing for his department doing its job and also expressing an understanding of the emotional impact emotionless math can have on residents, is a solid example of how city leaders need to act moving forward in offering straightforward information with a realistic view about what can be done given the facts at hand.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

a HB, as well. And to a former Villen (and a Medfa person before that and now way down on the South Shore), we wish old-time friend Louise Lounsberry a big HB. Other notable Villens celebrating this week are Josie Travers Avakian and Laurel Flynn.

Two very special fans of *The Times* recently celebrated their 85th birthdays. We wish Frances and Robert Vallone, who have lived in the Ville their whole lives, the very best. Their parents settled here nearly 100 years ago!

Don't forget to register or go online for the courses offered by Somerville High Adult Evening Courses. Call 617 625-6600, ext. 6478 and ask for Sophia Carafotes. Registration begins every Tuesday and Thursday evening at the high school main office on Highland Avenue. Sophia has worked very hard to get a lot of new classes, as well as some of the older popular ones, started. New classes in extreme couponing, free Zumba lessons and traditional classes in English as a first language and real-estate licensing course (for \$200-plus less than many other places

would charge) are being offered. You can't beat the prices and great courses offered. If you'd like to make a suggestion to add to the courses and you have a special skill, give her a call today. And, of course, if you're interested in the many or any of the courses offered, then register. The website is www.somerville.k12.ma.us/eveningschool. As she likes to say, and its true, "Shhh, we are Somerville best kept secret at bargain prices."

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Tom Taylor, who has been constantly in and out of the hospital. We certainly hope that Tom is home very soon for good and not suffering and can enjoy his retirement with his lovely wife, Celia, and their family.

Recently passing away was one of Somerville most pleasant and great guys, John Quigley of Winter Hill. John and his wife, Ronaine, were married for 62 years and proudly raised six daughters here in Somerville. We knew John here at *The Times*. He was a great guy, always smiling, always something good to say about everyone, and

when engaged in a conversation with him, you knew it wasn't going to be a short one –but it was always a great time. We send our condolences to Ronaine and his daughters and family.

Somerville artists: SOS registration closes Friday! Be a part of the best weekend of the year happening right here in Somerville on the first weekend in May. Register at www.somerville-openstudios.org.

Boston Free Radio is Boston's free speech, community access Internet radio station located in Union Square Somerville. If you have ever wanted to host your own radio show, learn how to use fancy audio equipment, and meet some great like-minded people on the way, then you are going to want to attend the station's orientation on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. Staff from BFR will be on hand to show you what they are all about and let you know what you can do to start making your own radio magic. Any Massachusetts resident is welcome to become a member at the station, where you can write and produce your own show, live or

pre-recorded. Go to SCATV studios at 90 Union Square on the 4th, and visit www.bostonfreeradio.com for more information.

The Eliot Pearson Children's School at Tufts University presents *The Dragon King* by the award-winning Tanglewood Marionettes on February 2, at 1:00 p.m. at Aidekman Arts Center, Cohen Auditorium, 40 Talbot Ave., Somerville, MA. Purchase tickets by phone (617) 627-3434 or on the Web at: ase.tufts.edu/epcs. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. All proceeds benefit the EPCS Scholarship Fund. A terrible drought has overtaken the land, and all the world has turned brown and lifeless. Dragon King is ruler of the waters, and the people are beginning to wonder why he has not brought the precious rains in such a very long time. An underwater fantasy based on Chinese folklore, Tanglewood Marionettes' latest production tells the tale of a wise Grandmother who journeys to the bottom of the sea to seek the Dragon King, and the answers to why he has forsaken the land above. With colorful sea creatures, an exciting adventure, and all

Continued on page 16

Legoland’s master model builder chosen following competition

By David R. Smith

Ian Coffey is on the road to having one of the more interesting re-sumes around.

Coffey, 26, currently serves as New York State Senate desk clerk. Beginning next month, though, he will begin his new job as “master model builder” for Legoland Discovery Center Boston following a two-day competition, during which he beat out more than 60 contestants over three rounds of construction challenges during “Brick Factor” at the Boston Public Library this past weekend.

“This is an opportunity of a lifetime to turn a passion into a full-time job,” Coffey, who lives in upstate New York, said.

As master model builder, Coffey will be responsible for constructing new features, exhibitions and models at Legoland Discovery Center Boston when it opens in May at Assembly Row. He will also teach workshops and interact with the children who visit the attraction.

“We are thrilled to welcome Ian into the integral role of master model builder,” Legoland Discovery Center Boston General Manager David Gilmore said. “We were impressed with his creativity, talent and enthusiasm at the Brick Factor competition and look forward to watching him share his skills with our young visitors.”

During this past weekend’s competition, contestants tackled timed building challenges along three themes: something from your favorite book; something from your favorite vacation spot; and something that represents you. Ten contestants advanced to Sunday’s final round of competition.

“The Brick Factor competition was intense, and the pressure was high, but I couldn’t be more thrilled with the outcome,” Coffey said. “What could be better than getting paid to build Lego models all day and teach children how to harness their imagination and creativity?”

Legoland Discovery Center Boston will be the first and only one in New England. The 44,000-square-foot indoor attraction, geared toward children aged 3 to 10 and their families, will feature millions of Lego bricks and will offer a fun, highly interactive and educational two- to three-hour indoor experience. The attraction will feature interactive Lego experiences, Lego rides, Lego Studios 4D Cinema, Lego Miniland featuring replicas of Boston landmarks made out of Lego bricks, Lego factory tour and birthday rooms.





Photos courtesy of Merlin Entertainments Group



SPORTS

Somerville High Athletics schedule: Jan 29–Feb 5

Wednesday, Jan 29

Indoor Track: Boys Varsity Meet Malden @ Salemwood School, Malden MA – 3:30 p.m.
Indoor Track: Girls Varsity Meet Malden @ Salemwood School, Malden MA – 3:30 p.m.
Swim: Varsity Meet (Rescheduled from 01-22-14) vs. East Boston @ Kennedy – 3:30 p.m.
Ice Hockey: Boys Junior Varsity GAME Cambridge @ Cambridge – 4 p.m.
Ice Hockey: Girls Varsity GAME Shawsheen Valley Tech @ Shawsheen Valley Tech – 7 p.m.
Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity GAME vs. Medford @ Veterans Memorial Rink – 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan 30

Ice Hockey: Boys Junior Varsity GAME Medford @ LaConte Rink – 4 p.m.
Friday, Jan 31
Swim: Varsity GBL Invitational Malden, Medford vs. Cambridge @ War Memorial Pool – 3:30 p.m.
Basketball: Boys Freshman GAME Medford @ High School – 3:45 p.m.
Basketball: Girls Freshman GAME vs. Medford @ Somerville High School – 3:45 p.m.
Basketball: Boys Junior Varsity GAME Medford @ High School – 5:30 p.m.
Basketball: Girls Junior Varsity GAME vs. Medford @ Somerville High School – 5:30 p.m.



Somerville High Junior Varsity played against O'Bryant at Somerville on Saturday, Jan 25. Somerville won 46 to 43 in a very close game. – Photos by Claudia Ferro

Ms. Cam's
Olio
#407

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. What U.S. president gave the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Mother Theresa and Frank Sinatra?

2. What company invented nylon in 1834?

3. What was the first commercial use of nylon?

4. What flower did the Wicked Witch of the West use the juice from to put Dorothy and her Oz friends to sleep?

5. What poem by William Wadsworth contains the line "I wandered lonely as a cloud" ?

6. What are sometimes called "alligator pears" and 95% of the American crops are grown in California?

7. What is the mathematical relationship between 12 and 144?

8. What is the 179,220 pounds of metal that give the Statue of Liberty her greenish tint?

9. Who coined the phrase "Man is a tool making animal"?

10. What U.S. president pardoned "Iva Toguri D'Aquino (Tokyo Rose) who was sentenced to 7 to 10 years in prison for treason during WWII?

11. What nine letter word, meaning "powerful one", could pertain to a tyrant, monarch, dictator, etc.?

12. What TV characters live at 742 Evergreen Terrace, in fictional Springfield?

Answers on page 17

Basketball: Boys Varsity GAME Medford @ High School – 7 p.m.
Basketball: Girls Varsity GAME vs. Medford @ Somerville High School – 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb 1
Ice Hockey: Girls Varsity GAME Peabody Veterans Memorial @ Peabody Veterans Memorial – TBD
Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity GAME Everett @ Veterans Memorial Rink – 1:20 p.m.
Indoor Track: Boys Varsity GBL Invitational vs. Cambridge, Everett, Malden, Medford @ Reggie Lewis Center – 3 p.m.
Indoor Track: Girls Varsity GBL Invitational vs. Cambridge, Everett, Malden, Medford @ Reggie Lewis Center – 3 p.m.
Sunday, Feb 2
Ice Hockey: Boys Junior Varsity GAME Northeast Metro. Reg. Voc. @ Northeast Metro. Reg. Voc. Malden Rink – 9 a.m.
Tuesday, Feb 4
Basketball: Girls Freshman GAME Cambridge @ Cambridge – 3:45 p.m.
Basketball: Boys Freshman GAME vs. Cambridge @ Somerville High School - Field House – 3:45 p.m.
Ice Hockey: Boys Junior Varsity GAME vs. Medford @ Veterans Memorial Rink – 4:30 p.m.
Basketball: Girls Junior Varsity GAME Cambridge @ Cambridge – 5:30 p.m.
Basketball: Boys Junior Varsity GAME vs. Cambridge @ Somerville High School - Field House – 5:30 p.m.
Basketball: Girls Varsity GAME Cambridge @ Cambridge – 7 p.m.
Basketball: Boys Varsity GAME vs. Cambridge @ Somerville High School - Field House – 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb 5
Ice Hockey: Girls Varsity GAME Beverly @ Beverly – TBD.
Indoor Track: Boys Varsity GBL Meet Everett, Malden, Medford vs. Cambridge @ High School.
GBL JV MEET for those not running – 3:30 p.m.
Indoor Track: Girls Varsity GBL Meet Everett, Malden, Medford vs. Cambridge @ High School.
GBL JV MEET for those not running -3:30 p.m.
Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity GAME St. Joseph's Prep @ Ryan Rink – 8 p.m.

For more details and scores go to:
<http://www.greaterbostonleague.org/g5-bin/client.cgi>.



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Ongoing Art Exhibit through February 21



View pastel portraits and micro-biographies of nine of Somerville's older adults done by local artist Nancy Hall Brooks at the Holland Street Center, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Photos by Claudia Ferro

REFLECTIONS:

Portraits of seniors in images and words

History is shaped not only by big actors on the stage, but also by everyday people. This project began with two workshops I held in November with a group of senior citizens who regularly attend activities at the Ralph and Jenny Center of the Council on Aging. The nine participants came together to share stories about what they have been “famous” for in their lives. The people portrayed in this exhibit are parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents. Some are from as far away as the Philippines, Guatemala or Italy, while others grew up in Somerville. They have worked as teachers, nannies, teletypers, stitchers, home health aides and clerks, among other professions, and have contributed to our community in ways large and small. In addition to talking and writing about their experiences, workshop members posed for photographs of themselves. The series of portraits and accompanying text on exhibit here grew out of this collaboration. I want to thank the staff at the Council on Aging, and Janine Lotti in particular, for enthusiastic support in organizing and publicizing the project. I am grateful, also, to Ben Brooks for his involvement and valuable editorial advice.

– Nancy Hall Brooks

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

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

Holland Street Center - 167 Holland Street

Ralph & Jenny Center - 9 New Washington Street

Cross Street Center - 165 Broadway

Some Council on Aging highlights in the coming weeks:

Trips and Events Corner:

Fiore Restaurant, Boston's North End, Tuesday, February 18.

Supper and Bingo at Hanscom Air Force Base, Wednesday, February 26 Foxwoods, Monday, March 10. Call Connie to register or for more information.

STAY ACTIVE:

Wii Bowling League - at Holland Mondays at noon. Free. If you haven't tried this -come as you will love it. No bowling ball but you still swing and hope for the best.

Zumba for All with Cheryl - at Holland - Wednesdays at 5:15 - 6:15 \$3 or \$15 for 6 classes. Come at the end of the day, after work. Open to all.

Strengthening Exercise with Geoff - Tuesdays at 9:15 a.m. Holland and 9:30 a.m. Thursdays at R&J. \$3.

Fit-4-Life LBT - Tuesday and Thursday Evenings.

Fit-4-Life General - Wednesday & Friday Mornings.

Bowling at Flatbreads - Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

LGBT Events (Open to all ages):

Holland Street Café – February 10 Local restaurant TBD. Vegetarian options always provided. RSVP a6 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Movies to Come Out To: February 12. Meal from Vinnie's Ristorante. Price \$6. RSVP by February 10. Movie TBA.

LBT Women Fit-4-Life Fitness and Nutrition Classes. Tuesday and Thursday evenings. \$10 a month with scholarships available.

Ralph & Jenny Center Events:

Ralph and Jenny Center will be open four days a week (Mon-Thurs) beginning Monday, February 3.

Cards and Games hour at Ralph & Jenny at 10:00 a.m. every day the center is open (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday). Come join your friends or make some new

ones. Cards, Scrabble and Cribbage.

Do you crochet or would you like to learn? Thursdays at 10:45 a.m. At Ralph & Jenny Center. Join a great group in learning to crochet or share your projects you are working on.

Strengthening Exercise with Geoff. 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday.

BINGO every day at 12:45.

Cross Street Center Events:

Center open every Tuesday and Wednesday.

English Conversation group meets every Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome. Enjoy conversation, and stay for lunch with new friends from all over the world.

Holland Street center:

Book club meets first Friday of each month at 10 a.m. The book for February is “The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society.”

January 29

Bowling at Flatbreads at 1:00 pm

Holland Street Center

Fit 4 Life A|8:45 a.m.

Fit 4 Life B|9 a.m.

Lunch|11:30 a.m.

Fit 4 Life C|1 p.m.

Zumba for All|5:15 p.m.

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Cross Street Center

English Conversation|10:30 a.m.

165 Broadway|617-625-6600 x 2335

Ralph & Jenny Center

Cards & Cribbage|10 a.m.

Bingo|12:45 p.m.

9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

January 30

Holland Street Center

Current Events|10 a.m.

Lunch|11:30 a.m.

BINGO|12:45 p.m.

LBT Fit-4-Life|6 p.m.

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Ralph & Jenny Center

Cards & Cribbage|10 a.m.

Strengthening Exercise|10 a.m.

Bingo|12:45 p.m.

9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

January 31

Holland Street Center

Lunch|11:30 a.m.

Bingo|12:45 p.m.

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

February 3

Holland Street Center

Moonlighters|10:30 a.m.

Lunch|11:30 a.m.

Fit-4-Life C|1 p.m.

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

February 4

Holland Street Center

Strengthening Exercise|9:15 a.m.

SHINE by appt.|10 a.m.

Lunch|11:30 a.m.

Fit 4 Life LBT|6 p.m.

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Ralph & Jenny Center

Cards & Cribbage|10 a.m.

Bingo|12:45 p.m.

9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

Cross Street Center

English Conversation|10:30 a.m.

165 Broadway|617-625-6600 x 2335

February 5

Holland Street Center

Fit 4 Life A|8:45 a.m.

Fit 4 Life B|9 a.m.

Lunch|11:30 a.m.

Fit 4 Life C|1 p.m.

Zumba for All|5:15 p.m.

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Cross Street Center

English Conversation|10:30 a.m.

165 Broadway|617-625-6600 x 2335

Ralph & Jenny Center

Cards & Cribbage|10 a.m.


Bingo|12:45 p.m.

9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

Check out our Facebook site for photos from our events and exercise and tips for everyday healthy living at www.facebook.com/somervilleCOA.

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Legal Notices can also be viewed on our Web site at www.thesomervilletimes.com



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The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from General Contractors for the Mystic Site Improvements Project for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by GCG Associates, Inc.

The Project consists of: The reclamation of an existing road, paving, and full-depth pavement construction, and other miscellaneous site work within the Mystic Development.

The work is estimated to cost \$ 58,000

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30 § 39M & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

General Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 13, 2014 and publicly opened, forthwith.

Bid should be mailed to or dropped of at: The Office of the Executive Director, Somerville Housing Authority, Main Office, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145 and received no later than 2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 13, 2014

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up at www.biddocsonline.com (may be viewed or electronically copied) or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

There is a plan deposit of \$25 per set payable to BidDocs ONLINE, Inc. Additional sets may be purchased for an additional \$25 each up to a maximum of 2 sets.


Deposits may be electronically paid or must be a certified or cashier's check. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within thirty days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise the deposit shall be the property of the Somerville Housing Authority.

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for \$ 40 per set for UPS Ground (or \$65 per set for UPS overnight), payable to BidDocs ONLINE, Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

The Contract Documents may be seen, but not removed at:

Project Dog 18 Graf Road Suite #8 Newburyport, MA 01950 (978) 499-9014	MHC/Joseph Merrit & Co 17 Everberg Road – Unit C Woburn, MA 01960 (781) 430-2008 (203) 426-0450	Reed Construction Data Document Processing Center 30 Technology Parkway South, Suite 500 Norcross, GA 30092-4578
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ADVERTISEMENT

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from General Contractors for the Mystic Site Lighting Improvement Project for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by GCG Associates, Inc.

The Project consists of: Furnishing and installing additional site lighting and buried electrical lines within the Mystic Development.

The work is estimated to cost \$ 20,000

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30 § 39M & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

General Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 13, 2014 and publicly opened, forthwith.

Bid should be mailed to or dropped of at: The Office of the Executive Director, Somerville Housing Authority, Main Office, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145 and received no later than 2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 13, 2014

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

There will be a Public Hearing before the Board of Aldermen's Committee on Finance on **Tuesday, February 4, 2014, at 6:00 PM**, in the Aldermanic Chambers, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, on the Order of Alderman Tony Lafuente, Chairman of the Committee, for public input on the increase in residential and commercial property valuations and real estate taxes.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

**JOHN J. LONG
CITY CLERK**

1/29/14 The Somerville Times

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The **Somerville Licensing Commission** is accepting applications for ONE available City Owned Alcohol License. The available License can be either All Forms of Alcohol or Wine and Malt License for a restaurant in Assembly Square District Area. Interested parties may obtain applications online at Somervillema.gov or at the City Clerks Office, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA Applications are being accepted until **February 11, 2014.**

For the Commission
Andrew Upton
Vito Vaccaro
John J. McKenna

**Attest: Jenneen Pagliaro
Executive Secretary**

1/29/14 The Somerville Times


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Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 11

the visual splendor that audiences have come to expect from a Tanglewood Marionettes production, *The Dragon King* is a heart-warming tale that will thrill young and old alike.

BeardFest 2014 takes place on Sunday, February 2, 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave. Join in for a fun creative hair contest. Contestants will vie for prizes in 5 categories: natural full beard, free-style full beard, free-style moustache, free-style partial beard, (which includes goatees, sideburns and any other creative combination of the above), and for follicle challenged,

best fake beard. Food and drink, scratchy music with DJ Pace, whimsical prizes for our contestants, a make-your-own beard table, and a room full of artistic facial hair – what better way to spend a Sunday afternoon. General public invited. \$5 for general entry and for registrants.



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

**MICHAEL F. GLAVIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

PLANNING DIVISION

**LEGAL NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING**

A **public hearing** for all interested parties will be held by the Planning Board on **Thursday, February 6, 2014** in the Aldermanic Chambers on the Second Floor of Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA.


182 Broadway: (Case #PB 2013-16) Applicant Yihe Group and Owner S&V Realty Trust seek a Special Permit with Site Review per SZO §5.2 to construct a mixed use building of approx 29,000 nsf under §6.1.22.D.1. The uses include small and medium retail of approx 3,300 sf, 19 residential units per SZO §7.13.B, §7.13.C, & §7.13.E. Article 13 Inclusionary Housing will apply. CCD55 zone. Ward 1.

230 Somerville Ave: (Case #PB 2013-23) Applicant, Paint Nite LLC, and Owner, TYR Realty Trust, seek a Special Permit under SZO §6.1.22, for new signage. CCD 55 zone. Ward 2.

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

Attest: Kevin Prior, Chairman
To be published in The Somerville Times on 1/22/14 & 1/29/14.

1/22/14, 1/29/14 The Somerville Times



THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION BY THE POWER VESTED IN IT THROUGH A SPECIAL ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE, CHAPTER 397 OF THE ACTS OF 1978, HEREBY AMENDS THE TRAFFIC ORDINANCES WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS:

2014-1 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the following additions: 45 Baystate Av (90 day trial)

2014-2 rescinds 2013-1 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" with the removal of the Handicapped Parking Space at 316 Highland Av

2014-3 Article V Section 5-10 "Parking Prohibited at Safety Zones" is amended with the following additions: Fire Lane - Kensington Av, west side, beginning 10ft south of the fire hydrant extending northerly to the intersection of Middlesex Ave; Park Place, south side, from Laurel St extending easterly for 25ft; Park Place, west side, extend the existing fire lane (at the left bend) 15ft north for a total fire lane length of 50ft; Park Place, east side (at the bend), reinstall signage to indicate the entire east side of Park Place from the bend to the north end of Park Place is a fire lane.

PROMULGATED: DECEMBER 19, 2013
ADVERTISED: JANUARY 22, 2014
JANUARY 29, 2014
FEBRUARY 5, 2013
EFFECTIVE: FEBRUARY 6, 2014

Suzanne Rinfret, Acting Director

1/22/14, 1/29/14 The Somerville Times

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Presentation explains assessment process

CONT. FROM PG 1

showing a deeper concern about whether Somerville can remain affordable to the people and families who have called it home for decades and, in many cases, generations.

Levy outlined the triennial revaluation process, saying it was scheduled for fiscal 2013 but was pushed back a year at the request of the state Department of Revenue (DOR), which had a large number of communities due for revaluations that year. He noted the communities that were moved to fiscal 2014, such as Somerville, were chosen because of the DOR's confidence that they were "doing a good job."

Even before the most revaluation began, Levy said his office had already noticed higher sale prices on properties and lower vacancies.

"In some regards, folks are feeling the effects of changes that could have begun if fiscal 2013," he said.

The revaluation process began last year and took nine months to complete. The information was submitted to the DOR in September and certified by the state in November.

Levy emphasized that his department follows both standard procedures, such as sale comparisons of like properties, and state-mandated procedures, rules and laws in assessing properties.

"The last thing we want to do is drive people out of the city," he said. "In essence, all we're doing is interpreting the market. It's buyers and sellers, tenants and landlords, who shape the market. We simply come along and interpret the numbers we see."

That being said, Levy said the process is not easy, both for the work involved and the potential impact on property owners.

"A revaluation is a long, difficult process that can be tough on assessors, and it can be tough on taxpayers," he said. "We understand that."

Part of the assessment process includes sending out income and expense forms to property owners. Levy noted that, on average, his office has a 28 to 30 percent return on those forms. Additional forms were sent during the most recent revaluation process in the hopes of getting a larger response. He said the return rate this time around was 40 percent.

"As good as that 40 percent number was, that still means

60 percent of landlords failed to respond," he said. "The message sent to us was, 'Go ahead and rely on the 40 percent who did.' Our values are only as good as the information we receive."

The last across-the-board increase came in fiscal 2007. Given the relative flatness of the market from the fiscal 2010 revaluation, Levy acknowledged certain areas and markets, such as Inner Belt, Davis Square and Assembly Square, as well as single-family homes, did see larger increases than other areas in the city.

Still, the scope of that increase, both in terms of dollars and property owners affected, is not quite as dire as talk about the subject has suggested.

Of the 16,000 properties assessed as part of the revaluation, Frye said 110 went up 50 percent or more.

"The last thing we want to do is drive people out of the city"

"That's a small number," he said, adding that during the fiscal 2007 revaluation, 78 of 14,300 properties saw a 50 percent or more increase.

"There's no systemic problem," he said. "The numbers are simply not there to suggest widespread dissatisfaction."

He went on to explain the appeals process, the filing deadline for which is Feb. 3.

He said the percentage of appeals over the last five years, as well as fiscal 2007, had a low point of 1.4 percent and a high point of 2.8.

"Those are extremely small numbers," he said. "Ninety-seven to 98 of taxpayers have not filed appeals and have been satisfied with our assessments."

He explained the reasons an appeal could succeed, and he also stressed that anyone filing an appeal needs to have submitted the income and expense form previously or provide one as part of the appeal and allow access to all areas of the property. Appeal decisions are rendered within three months.

Legitimate reasons for an appeal, he said, include looking at any structural defects or circum-

stances, such as a flood or recent fire or extended vacancies, assessors may have missed or not been aware of, as well as comparable sales showing the property being appealed is not as valuable as initially determined.

"What you want to do as best you can is convince us the assessed value in no way reflects a reasonable asking price you could get for that property," Levy said. He stated the revaluation simply being too expensive in a property owner's eyes is not sufficient grounds for an appeal.

Even if the assessors do not side with a property owner's appeal, Levy said the decision can be further appealed to the state Appellate Tax Board. Even if it goes to that level, he said the assessors are willing to work with property owners along the way.

"For those who legitimately feel their (property is) overvalued, they should pursue the appeal process," he said.

He also stressed that residents read their tax bills, especially if their taxes are packaged with other expenses, such as mortgages and insurance. He further noted that some relief, such as residential tax exemptions for property owners who live in their properties (Somerville is just one of 10 communities in the state to offer the exemption) and statutory exemptions for the elderly, widows/widowers and veterans are available and should be checked on to ensure a resident is receiving as much relief as possible.

"There are numerous programs within Mass General Laws you might qualify for," he said.

Chamber of Commerce President Steve Mackey, who said 90 percent of his organization's membership is comprised of small enterprises, expressed both his members' concerns and the hope that the informational sessions will continue.

"The small business community is part of what makes Somerville so special," he said, "and there really is a lot of concern."

He said members he has spoken with were concerned about the actual methodology used by the assessors to reach their final figures, and he added that forums such as the two being held were a good step in increasing transparency and demystifying the assessment process.

"We look forward to working with you with that," he said. "We



Chief assessor Marc Levy explained the city's process for assessing properties to attendees at a public informational session last Thursday.

look forward to an effective dialogue with the administration."

Residents in attendance aired their frustrations with the changing real estate market, with some acknowledging it was an issue beyond the department's control.

Teele Avenue resident Robert Lyons said his taxes have gone up \$1,800 since 2010. He noted that surrounding properties, many occupied by Tufts students, are owned by either investors or at least people who do not live in the houses and do very little in the way of upkeep. Because he lives in his home and has a direct interest in maintaining it, his property values have increased.

"The longtime people from Somerville, they're the ones who are getting hurt," he said. "I think that's the biggest problem right now."

Another resident shared a similar frustration in feeling there was little to be done about the rising taxes for the same reasons expressed by Lyons.

"We're not going get a rebate

because it is worth that much," the resident said.

Separate forums have been scheduled to address how affordable housing can be created and maintained, and Levy underscored the exemptions he previously mentioned that are available to property owners. He also noted that the city's recent passage of the Community Preservation Act includes funding for affordable-housing initiatives.

Judy Jacobs, though, expressed the fatalistic attitude aired by other residents regarding the future of property taxes in Somerville after saying she has been dealing with the assessors for years regarding her property on Claremon Street.

"I've seen what's going on in Boston and Cambridge," she said, "and the wave is coming here now."

To watch the video of the Jan. 23 session, visit YouTube and search "Somerville City TV." Information on the appeals process is available on the city's website, www.somervillema.gov.

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From on page 14

1. Ronald Reagan in 1985	7. 12 is the square root of 144
2. DuPont Co.	8. Copper
3. Nylon bristles for toothbrushes	9. Benjamin Franklin
4. Poppies	10. Gerald Ford
5. Daffodils	11. Potentate
6. Avocados	12. The Simpsons

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• • • • VILLENS ON THE TOWN • • • •



FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Wednesday|January 29
East Branch Library
Preschool: Storytime
11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|115 Broadway

Thursday|January 30
Central Library
Preschool: Storytime for 3 to 5 year olds
10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Friday|January 31
Central Library
Preschool: Storytime for 2 year olds
10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m|79 Highland Ave

Veteran’s Memorial Rink
Free public skating
12 p.m.-1:50 p.m.|570 Somerville Ave

Saturday|February 1
Central Library
Saturday Homework Help
Ron Castile|617-623-5000 x2969
1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Sunday|February 2
Veteran’s Memorial Rink
Free public skating
3:30 p.m.-4:50 p.m.|570 Somerville Ave

Monday|February 3
Central Library
Sing-Along with Jordan Voelker
Cathy x2954
11 p.m.- 12 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Central Library
Math & Science Homework Help For Teens
3 p.m.--5 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Arts at the Armory
Knucklebones
9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.|Performance Hall|191 Highland Ave

Tuesday|February 4
Central Library
Homeschool Reading Group for Ages 9-11
Tammy McKanan|617-591-0216
9:30 a.m.- 12 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

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

Central Library
StoryCorps Interviews

Maria Carpenter|617-623-5000 x2910
2:30 p.m.-5 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Wednesday|February 5
Middle School Writers’ Den
Alan Ball-617-636-9033
12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

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

MUSIC

Wednesday|January 29
Johnny D’s
TBA
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s Bar
Free Poker, lots of prizes!
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Front Room
Exile on Elm
Back Room
Comedy@10
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA’S Lounge
Full Scene Ahead“CD SWAP”
|Happy Little Clouds|Alrite|Flight of Fire|Happy Time Harry
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

On The Hill Tavern
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

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

Precinct Bar
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe’s Pub
The Nephrok All Stars
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

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

Radio Bar
379 Summer St

Thursday|January 30
Johnny D’s
Bill Blumenreich Presents : Ken Reid|8 p.m.
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s
Frank Drake’s Short Life Of Trouble grassy Thursdays
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

Front Room
Acoustic/Bluegrass|9:30 p.m.
Back Room
Scattershot |10 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA’S Lounge
“Campfire” hosted by Ben Bullock
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

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

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

Precinct Bar
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe’s
Dub Down Featuring The Scotch Bonnet Band
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Joshua Tree
256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

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

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

Radio Bar
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
Yani Batteau and the Styles
8 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

Friday|January 31
Johnny D’s
Jeffrey Gaines, Soul Rocker! Folk Rock n Roll Soul and Me and My Giants|8 p.m.
Free Friday featuring The Jauntie & Boombasnap|10 p.m.
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s
Tuna Rangers |6 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Front Room
Irish Session|9:30 p.m.
Back Room TBA
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
DJ
10 p.m.|65 Holland St

Precinct Bar
HearNowLive presents:The Ward Eights|Squid Parade
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

PA’S Lounge
Barren Oak|Nocuous|Ramius|W-eregild

345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

On The Hill Tavern
499 Broadway |617-629-5302

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

Bull McCabe’s
Danny’s Punk Rock Birthday Featuring Dave Wells & many more
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Joshua Tree
256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

Samba Bar & Grille
Live music
9 p.m.|608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

Casey’s
Entertainment every Friday
173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

Radio Bar
379 Summer St.

Saturday|February 1
Johnny D’s
Tommy Castro and the Painkillers, Blues, Rhythm & Blues, Soul, Rock
7:30 p.m.
ZAP plus Lyle Brewer Trio & Otis Grove|10 p.m.
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s
Wooden Leg|6 p.m
Hear Now Live presents Angry Flannel Reunion \$10 cover|9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Front Room
Irish Session|9:30 p.m.
Back Room
Scattershot
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Precinct Bar
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
Karaoke
65 Holland St

PA’S Lounge
Drama / Leah V Presents!
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

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

Bull McCabe’s
TBA
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Joshua Tree
256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

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

Casey’s
Entertainment every Saturday
173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

Radio Bar
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
Somerville Songwriter Sessions presents a concert with singer-songwriters Cozy Sheridan, Doug Karl
8 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

Sunday|February 2
Johnny D’s
Open Blues Jam! featuring Matthew Smart Band|4 p.m.
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s Bar
Peter Ward & Amarillo |5 p.m
Super Bowl on the big screens|6:30 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Front Room
Sunday Americana with Sean Staples, Eric Royer, Tim Gearan, Dave Westner and Dan Keller|7 p.m.
Back Room
Burren Acoustic Music Series
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA’S Lounge
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

Precinct Bar
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe’s Pub
Dub Apocalypse
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen
Sunday Brunch Live Country & Bluegrass
Sunday Night Live Music
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

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

Radio Bar
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
The Wilhelm Brothers with Special Guests Audrey Ryan and Junko Ogawa
6:30 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

Monday|February 3
Johnny D’s
Stump! Pub Trivia|8:30 p.m.
8:30 p.m.|17 Holland St | 617 776-2004

• • • • VILLENS ON THE TOWN • • • •

Sally O’Brien’s Bar
Shawn Cater’s Cheapshots Comedy Jam |7 p.m.
Marley Mondays with The Duppy Conquerors|10 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Front Room
Bur- Run|6:45 p.m.
Back Room
Science By The Pint
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

On The Hill Tavern
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

PA’S Lounge
Americana Night
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

Precinct Bar
70 Union Sq|617-623-921

Bull McCabe’s Pub
Stump! Team Trivia
8 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Radio Bar
Up: Greater Boston Story Slams Season V: “Tainted Love” 6p.m.
\$10
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
Cambridge Symphony Orchestra Rehearsal
6:30 p.m.|Performance Hall|191 Highland Ave

Tuesday|February 4
Johnny D’s
Bettye LaVette|8 p.m.
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s Bar
SambaLolo
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

Front Room
Jason Anick and the Swingers|8:30 p.m.
Back Room
Open Mic w/ Hugh McGowan
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

On The Hill Tavern
Stump Trivia (with prizes)
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

PA’S Lounge
Open Mic - Rock, Folk, R&B, Alt, Jazz & Originals etc. Hosted by Tony Amaral
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

Precinct Bar
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe’s Pub
The Ghetto People Band
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen
First Tuesday of the Month|Spelling Bee Night
hosted by Victor and Nicole of Egoart.
The fun starts at 10:00p.m.
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

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

PJ Ryan’s
Pub Quiz
10 p.m.|239 Holland St.|617-625-8200

Radio Bar
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
Teen Open Mic Night
6 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Wednesday|February 5
Johnny D’s
TBA
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O’Brien’s Bar

Free Poker, lots of prizes!
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Front Room
Exile on Elm
Back Room
Comedy@10
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA’S Lounge
Full Scene Ahead|“CD SWAP”|The Astrobastards|The Hideout|Happy Box
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

On The Hill Tavern
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

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

Precinct Bar
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe’s Pub
The Nephrok All Stars
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

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

Radio Bar
379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory
Wiretap Wednesday Open Stage
7 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

CLASSES AND GROUPS
Thursday|January 30
West Branch Library
Learn English at the Library!
(Session 1)6:00 PM - 7:00 p.m.
(Session 2)7:15 PM - 8:15 p.m.
40 College Avenue

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33 Union Sq.| www.libana.com

Friday|January 31
Arts at the Armory
Prenatal Yoga
2 p.m.|Mezzanine|191 Highland Ave

Saturday|February 1
Central Library
BUSY
9 a.m.-5 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Arts at the Armory
Winter Farmers’ Market
9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

Third Life Studio
Jazz Dance Brunch!
A Six Week Jazz Dance Class Series with Jen Farrell
January 25 through March 1
10:30am-12:00pm|33 Union Sq

Sunday|February 2
Unity Church of God
Fourth Step to Freedom Al-Anon Family Groups
7:00 P.M. | 6 William Street
Enter upstairs, meeting is in basement.

Third Life Studio
Discover Belly Dance with Nadira Jamal
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.|33 Union Sq|www.nadirajamal.com

Monday|February 3
East Branch Library
Learn English at the Library!
(Session 1) 6 p.m.-7 p.m,
(Session 2) 7:15 p.m.-8:15 p.m.
115 Broadway

Central Library
Math & Science Homework Help For Teens
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.,|79 Highland Avenue

Central Library
Chess Night
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.,|79 Highland Avenue

Third Life Studio
Discover Belly Dance with Nadira Jamal
6 p.m.|33 Union Sq|www.nadirajamal.com

Tuesday|February 4
Central Library
Learn English at the Library!
6 p.m.-7 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Arts at the Armory
Prenatal Yoga
7 p.m.|Mezzanine|191 Highland Ave

Third Life Studio
The Art of Group Singing For Women
with Susan Robbins, www.libana.com
7 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.|33 Union Sq

Wednesday|February 5
Central Library
Mystery Book Club
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Third Life Studio
Beyond beginning Belly Dance with Nadira Jamal
7:30 p.m.|Level 2|33 Union Sq|www.nadirajamal.com

PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO!

Safe Driving Bill makes everyone safer

CONT. FROM PG 10

properly trained and licensed, thereby reducing accidents and also helping our first responders identify those involved in accidents. It will increase public safety by freeing police to focus on top safety priorities, rather than becoming mired in time-consuming work currently needed to ascertain an unlicensed person’s identity. By allowing our police and the RMV access to records and legitimate identification for more drivers, it will make it easier for law enforcement officials to identify true public safety threats—those who hold fake licenses, or drive without a license despite a lawful path to obtain a valid

license. This is a common sense, pro-public safety approach. Our neighbors shouldn’t have to risk detention just to get to work or school, and our community shouldn’t have to waste resources and decrease safety just because Washington is too gridlocked to fix this.

There are other benefits, too. People who currently have valid Massachusetts driver’s licenses share a disproportionate share of insurance costs, and for those unlucky enough to be in an accident caused by an uninsured driver, that burden can become even more substantial Through this bill, all drivers would have to share in that responsibility,


reducing the unfair cost burden on licensed drivers. Massachusetts will also conserve court resources by addressing the black market for fake licenses and support our economy by improving customer access to businesses not easily accessible by foot or public transportation.

Opponents will argue that we are making it practical for undocumented immigrants to live in this country and this state. There is nothing practical about living as an undocumented immigrant, and this law will address only safety and public resource concerns, ensuring more drivers learn the rules of the road and that

our neighbors who take the jobs most citizens don’t want will not face detention—on the public dime—for simply commuting. This bill clearly states that these licenses cannot be used for food stamps, welfare benefits or other benefits of citizenship, and that these driver’s licenses provide for driving privileges only to individuals who cannot prove that they are authorized by the federal government to be in the country. These licenses will also be visually distinct from standard driver’s licenses and cannot be used for identification for travel, and must be renewed more often than stan-

dard driver’s licenses.

California, New Mexico, Utah, and Illinois are among the eleven states plus the District of Columbia that already have similar legislation on the books. This is about paving the way for others. This is about leading in a time when leadership is necessary here, because we don’t have enough will to lead in Congress. Until those in Washington decide to undertake the reform everyone agrees we need, we should take steps to increase our safety and security while protecting families and productive members our community. We can start by passing this Safe Driving Bill.



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Somerville’s development challenges: Assembly Square

CONT. FROM PG 10

innovation and entrepreneurship into almost every element of the university. His predecessor, Susan Hockfield, launched a \$359 million effort to accelerate clean energy development, which continues to generate new businesses.

Nourish Somerville startups

Our city has become a nursery for thinly financed startups. Since I last wrote about them, they have proliferated around Union Square as well as Davis Square. Inevitably, some of them will take off, becoming candidates for new Assembly Square space. That won't happen unless Somerville preserves and expands space that is affordable to these startups.

Recruit venture capital firms

Another essential cluster element is startup and expansion investors. To be closer to the action, some venture capital firms are migrating from Route 128 locations to the urban core. Recruiting one or more as tenants would increase Assembly

Square's cachet as a dynamic business district. And how about a Silicon Valley Bank branch?

Reach out to Somerville's independent retailers

Although FRIT's decision to focus on upscale outlet stores made me wince, it was a brilliant differentiation strategy in an increasingly bland regional market. But going forward, it won't be sufficient to support the kind of office and lab development that we need.

As commercial buildings increase in height, upper floor tenants become more important to the bottom line than ground floor tenants. A key ingredient in attracting upper-floor tenants is ground-floor retail and service enterprises that interest and attract tenants' employees. Smart developers sometime offer lower lease rates to get the right ground-floor mix.

Partners Healthcare's 4,500 employees will quickly tire of paying the prices and consuming the fare offered by the chain restaurants slated for Assem-

bly Row tenancy. Somerville offers plenty of entrepreneurs who are nimbler, more cost effective, and more responsive to customer preferences than are their chain competitors.

Integrate East Broadway

Similarly, Assembly Square stakeholders should view East Somerville's main street as an important asset. Its diverse eating and drinking establishments and funky shops can offer welcome authenticity and reasonable prices to office employees out for lunch or on an after-hours exploration.

Prepare and link Villens to Assembly Square jobs

So many people who grew up in Somerville can no longer afford to live here. The best affordable housing program is a job that can pay market-rate rents. Those industry clusters best suited for Assembly Square generate a wide range of jobs with advancement opportunities.

Many elements needed for an effective workforce devel-

opment system that prepares and links Villens to Somerville jobs already exist—the high school's career and tech division, SCALE, Bunker Hill Community College, and private programs. The challenge is to integrate and focus them. The city took the first step last month, announcing that it will retain an agency to provide training and "promote opportunities for residents to have first access to local jobs."

A funding source already exists. I seriously question the wisdom of a city that desperately needs commercial development imposing disincentives on commercial developers in the form of linkage fees. But if they exist, they should be dedicated to qualifying Villens for the jobs that development will bring. There are better ways to finance affordable housing development.

Ensure fire protection

For fifteen years, developers, city officials, and the Mystic

View Task Force have all held out a vision of an "urban village." A village needs fire protection.

Assembly Square's projected daytime population, along with the new T station, will generate hundreds of calls per year. Winter Hill, the closest station, is one the busiest engine companies in the city. It has a ladder and a rescue unit, but only one pumper. If the pumper is out on a call, the next closest station is Union Square. The circuitous route from Union to Assembly Squares will only become more challenging as traffic increases, particularly if Wynn builds a casino.

Defeat the Everett casino

A 400-foot-tall casino directly across the river from the Assembly Square Orange Line station, and the 22,000+ daily trips that it would generate are bad news. They would maim the Square's development potential and reduce its property values. Stakeholders should do everything possible to oppose the casino's development.

Somerville Theatre Festival explores identity, cannibalism and diversity

By Erica Scharn

In 10 minutes or less, each play at the *Somerville Theatre Festival* delved into issues ranging from gender roles and sexuality to race and relationships to the thoughts of dogs. The plays raised questions like: Who should take out the trash – the man or the woman? Is God a woman? What would a restaurant serving human meat look like?

Performing Fusion Theatre held its first annual *Somerville Theatre Festival* at The Somerville Center for Arts at the Armory Friday, Jan. 24, and Saturday, Jan. 25. The festival featured 10 short plays under the broad umbrella theme of equality and multicultural entertainment, including Curry College's M.O.T.I.O.N. Steppers. Performing Fusion Theatre, which aims to promote multiculturalism and encourage intercultural dialogue, chose the 10 plays out of more than 50 submissions to its contest in the fall.

"We had a great turnout, especially being a new theatre company on the scene," said Ayshia Stephenson, executive director of Performing Fusion Theatre. Stephenson co-founded Performing Fusion Theatre with Brian Moore-Ward in the summer of 2013. Moore-Ward said that they had to add extra rows of chairs Saturday as the number of attendees approached 160.

Live music played as the audience members settled into their seats or mingled and bought food and drinks at the bar. The Festival kicked off with a screening of the trailer for *The Stoop*, an independent full-length fea-

ture film starring Moore-Ward and Stephenson. Due out in late summer or early fall 2014, Ion Spire Pictures' film centers on an interracial relationship.

Jason York, producer of Ion Spire Pictures, was in the audience both nights of the show and noticed that the audience reaction differed. "Tonight, the audience was a little more in touch with the humor," York said. "Last night, they were more taken aback by *Caliban's* [a play about human meat] – some of the audience was shocked."

Stephenson and Moore-Ward said that they think their introduction to the festival for Saturday's show – which included a warning that some of the material would push boundaries – helped prepare the audience. The plays often dealt with serious issues, including bullying and suicide, the death of a loved one, and uncertainty about religion and what comes after death. But they also used slapstick and jokes to portray some of the serious issues.

"It's like a slice of life," said Joe Lemieux, who was in the audience Saturday night and produced *The Stoop*. "It shows how life today is...it's like a roller coaster ride."

Although the plays highlighted the particular challenges faced by people of different races, ethnicities, cultures and sexualities, Stephenson said that audience members she spoke to found the plays very easy to relate to. One attendee told her that the "plays had something for everyone," said Stephenson. "[They could] draw bridges between people." Stephenson and Moore-Ward said that



The Somerville Theatre Festival's first outing brought thought provoking theatre to local audiences this past weekend at the Art at the Armory in Somerville.

they were told by several audience members that they had never seen anything like the festival before, and both the audience members and the actors asked them about what will come next.

Performing Fusion Theatre's next show will be held in the summer of 2014, and the second annual *Somerville Theatre Festival* (which will have a different theme but the same process) is planned for the winter of 2015. Stephenson is currently writing a play titled *Boston Bedroom*, which is about a Bostonian's interracial love interest and research that turns dangerous. And Stephenson and Moore-Ward are in discussions with Barbara Lewis from the William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black History and Culture at University of Massachusetts Boston, who is working on

a piece about Trayvon Martin.

Stephenson said that they "tried to create an atmosphere of collaboration...and family," and that the actors became very close. Consistent with this, some of the festival's actors are carrying the themes of inclusion and community to their other proj-

ects: audience members only pay what they can afford at the upcoming performance of Artists' Theater of Boston.

To stay updated on what comes next, see Performing Fusion Theatre's Facebook page or email performingfusiontheatre@gmail.com.

Slots in Somerville

CONT. FROM PG 10

tournaments at the raceway that filled the place with excited and anxious kids. No one had iPods, cell phones or laptops, just a model racecar and a passion for racing. Cousin Eddie remembers this: "I spent most of my tips

from my paper route there every Saturday morning. I had a white Chaparral, a Munster Mobile and a Camaro SS. I won a few races, too; 55 cents for a half hour."

So there you go! Another slice of life from the old days of the

Ville. We had toys, not gadgets, and we talked to our friends in person, not on cell phones. Gadgets are fine, as long as we don't forget that the best kind of interaction is face to face, with your friends, doing something fun.

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Monday February 3

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

Tuesday February 4

SambaLolo 9 p.m.

Wednesday February 5

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

Thursday February 6

Spring Hill Rounders grassy Thursdays 7:30 p.m.

Friday February 7

Stan Martin Band 6 p.m.
Baltic Sun, Ghost Hammers, Ponyfish \$5 cover 9 p.m.

Saturday February 8

Tom Hagerty Band 6 p.m.
The Brooklyns, Lizzie Borden Band \$5 cover 9 p.m.

Sunday February 9

Jordan Renzi 3 p.m.
Frank Drake Sunday Showcase 5 p.m.
Amber Casares 8 p.m.



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Somerville Community Access TV Ch.3 Programming Guide

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Wednesday, January 29		5:30pm	The Folklorist		9:00am	Festival Kreyol	10:00pm	Farrakhan Speaks
7:30am	Life Matters	6:00pm	France 24 World News (Free Speech TV)	10:00am	Tele Galaxie	11:00pm	Porchfest	
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	6:30pm	Chatting with History	11:00am	Dead Air Live	Monday, February 3		
9:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	8:00pm	Fouye Zo Nan Kalalou	12:00pm	Reeling the Movie Review Show	7:30am	Eckankar	
10:00am	Somerville Neighborhood News	9:30pm	Water is Life	1:00pm	Play by Play	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	
10:30am	Art at SCATV	Friday, January 31		2:00pm	Henry Parker Presents	9:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	
11:00am	Abugida TV	7:30am	Shrink Rap	2:30pm	Culture Club	10:00am	Bay State Biking News	
12:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	3:00pm	Telemagazine	11:00am	Nossa gente e Costumes	
1:30pm	Henry Parker Presents	9:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	4:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	12:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	
2:00pm	Physician Focus	10:00am	High School Peer Pressure	4:30pm	Somerville Housing Authority	3:00pm	Exercise with Robyn and Max	
3:00pm	Medical Tutor	11:00am	Sound Off	5:00pm	Tele Kreyol	3:30pm	Esoteric Science	
3:30pm	Healthy Hypnosis	11:30am	Peace by Piece	6:00pm	Somerville Newspaper Reading	4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	
4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	12:00pm	Somerville Housing Authority	8:00pm	David Pakman (Free Speech TV)	5:00pm	Youth Violence in Society	
5:30pm	Peace by Piece	12:30pm	Somerville Arts Festival	9:00pm	Nossa Gente e Costumes	5:30pm	Youth Programming	
6:00pm	France 24 World News (Free Speech TV)	1:30pm	Seeds of Death	10:00pm	No Film Festival Series	6:00pm	France 24 World News (Free Speech TV)	
6:30pm	Bullying PSA	2:30pm	History of the West End	10:30pm	Johnboy (short fiction)	7:00pm	Nepali Producers Group	
7:00pm	Tufts University's Films for Social Change	3:00pm	Brunch with Sen. Bernie Sanders	11:00pm	Gay USA	8:00pm	Outside the Lines	
8:00pm	Somerville Pundits	4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	Sunday, February 2		9:00pm	Dedilhando au Saudade	
8:30pm	Perils for Pedestrians	5:00pm	Greater Somerville	6:00am	Program Celebrai	10:00pm	Bate Papo com Shirley	
9:00pm	Bay State Biking News	5:30pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	7:00am	Rompendo em Fe	Tuesday, February 4		
10:00pm	Creepy Castle	6:00pm	France 24 World News (Free Speech TV)	8:00am	Effort Pour Christ	7:00am	The Struggle	
Thursday, January 30		6:30pm	Reeling the Movie Review Show	9:00am	Heritage Baptist Church	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	
6:00am	Atheist Viewpoint	7:00pm	Real Estate Answers Show	10:00am	International Church of God	9:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	
7:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	7:30pm	Couch's Corner	11:00am	The Folklorist	10:00am	Contemporary Issues in Science	
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00pm	Visual Radio	11:30am	Basic Buddha	12:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	
9:00am	Somerville Newspaper Reading	9:00pm	The Folklorist	12:00pm	Play by Play	2:00pm	The Folklorist	
10:00am	Somerville Neighborhood News (re-run)	9:30pm	Copy Cat Festival	1:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	
10:30am	Talking about Somerville	10:00pm	Black History Special	1:30pm	Somerville Newspaper Reading	5:00pm	Poet to Poet/Writer to Writer	
11:00am	Critical Focus	11:00pm	Black History Mobile Museum	2:30pm	Life Matters	5:30pm	The Literati Scene	
12:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	11:30pm	The Art of Black Music and Dance	3:00pm	Rompendo em Fe	6:00pm	France 24 World News (Free Speech TV)	
1:00pm	African Television	Saturday, February 1		4:00pm	Dedilhando a Saudade	7:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	
2:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking w/ Candy	6:00am	Arabic Hour	5:00pm	Ethiopian Satellite TV	7:30pm	Greater Somerville	
2:30pm	Cooking with Georgia & Dez	7:00am	High School Peer Pressure	6:00pm	Abugida TV	8:00pm	Dead Air Live	
3:00pm	Chef's Table Series	8:00am	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	7:00pm	African Television Network	9:00pm	MEH Kyown's Television	
4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	8:30am	Everybody has an Accent, Why is Mine a Problem?	8:00pm	Tele Magazine	10:00pm	Penny's Dreadful Shilling Shockers	
5:00pm	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show			9:00pm	Effort Pour Christ			

City Cable TV Schedule for the Week

CITY TV 13/22		2:30pm:	2014 Property Assessment Info Session	10:00am:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. Malden	3:00pm:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. O'Bryant
Wednesday, January 29		6:30pm:	The Mayor's Report	12:00pm:	kid stuff - Kennedy Pool	5:00pm:	SHS Hockey vs. Medford
9:00am:	2014 Property Assessment Info Session	7:00pm:	SomerViva	12:30pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Everett	6:30pm:	kid stuff - Kennedy Pool
10:00am:	SomerViva	7:30pm:	2014 City Hall Inaugural Ceremonies	2:30pm:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. O'Bryant	7:00pm:	Our Schools, Our City
12:00pm:	School Committee Meeting – REPLAY OF 1.27.14	9:00pm:	2014 Property Assessment Info Session	5:00pm:	Our Schools, Our City	7:30pm:	Registering for Kindergarten 2014-15
3:00pm:	Aldermen at Work	10:00pm:	Talking Business	5:30pm:	Registering for Kindergarten 2014-15	8:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Medford
3:30pm:	Green Line Extension Meeting 1.15.14	Sunday, February 2		6:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Malden	9:30pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Malden
6:30pm:	2014 Property Assessment Info Session	12:00am:	SomerViva	8:00pm:	kid stuff - Kennedy Pool	Sunday, February 2	
7:30pm:	Voices of Somerville	12:30am:	2014 City Hall Inaugural Ceremonies	8:30pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Everett	12:00am:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. O'Bryant
8:00pm:	2014 City Hall Inaugural Ceremonies	2:00am:	2014 Property Assessment Info Session	10:30pm:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. O'Bryant	9:00am:	Registering for Kindergarten 2014-15
9:30pm:	Talking Business	3:00am:	Talking Business	Thursday, January 30		10:00am:	SHS Indoor Track vs. Everett
10:00pm:	Flag Raising at Prospect Hill	9:00am:	MLK Day Celebration	12:00am:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Everett	11:00am:	WHCIS Fashion Show
Thursday, January 30		12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	2:00am:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Winthrop	11:30am:	kid stuff - Kennedy Pool
12:00am:	Talking Business	12:30pm:	MLK Day Celebration	9:00am:	kid stuff - Kennedy Pool	12:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Winthrop
12:30am:	Voices of Somerville	2:00pm:	Aldermen at Work	9:30am:	Registering for Kindergarten 2014-15	1:30pm:	Our Schools, Our City
1:00am:	2014 City Hall Inaugural Ceremonies	2:30pm:	Voices of Somerville	10:00am:	Our Schools, Our City	2:00pm:	Registering for Kindergarten 2014-15
2:30am:	Flag Raising at Prospect Hill	7:00pm:	Senior Circuit	10:30am:	Registering for Kindergarten 2014-15	3:30pm:	WHCIS Fashion Show
9:00am:	Voices of Somerville	7:30pm:	Sit & Be Fit: Fibromyalgia Workout	11:00am:	SHS Indoor Track vs. Everett	4:00pm:	SHS Indoor Track vs. Everett
12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	8:00pm:	MLK Day Celebration	12:30pm:	WHCIS Fashion Show	5:00pm:	WHCIS Fashion Show
12:30pm:	Aldermen at Work	9:30pm:	Aldermen at Work	1:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Everett	5:30pm:	kid stuff - Kennedy Pool
1:00pm:Tale of Two Canals at the Somerville Museum		10:00pm:	2014 Property Assessment Info Session	3:00pm:	kid stuff - Kennedy Pool	6:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Winthrop
2:00pm:	2014 Organizational Meeting of Board of Aldermen	Monday, February 3		3:30pm:	Registering for Kindergarten 2014-15	7:30pm:	Our Schools, Our City
7:00pm:	MLK Day Celebration	12:00am:	Senior Circuit	4:00pm:	Our Schools, Our City	8:00pm:	Registering for Kindergarten 2014-15
8:30pm:	Aldermen at Work	12:30am:	Sit & Be Fit: Fibromyalgia Workout	4:30pm:	Registering for Kindergarten 2014-15	8:30pm:	SHS Winter Concert
9:00pm :	Voices of Somerville	1:00am:	MLK Day Celebration	5:00pm:	SHS Indoor Track vs. Everett	10:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Medford
9:30pm:	SomerViva	2:30pm:	Aldermen at Work	6:30pm:	WHCIS Fashion Show	Monday, February 3	
10:00pm:	2014 Organizational Meeting of Board of Aldermen	9:00am:	Flag Raising at Prospect Hill	7:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Everett	9:00am:	WSNS Winter Concert
Friday, January 31		12:00pm:	Green Line Extension Meeting 1.15.14	8:50pm:	Registering for Kindergarten 2014-15	10:00am:	SHS Hockey vs. Cambridge
12:00am:	MLK Day Celebration	1:30pm:	Voices of Somerville	9:30pm:	Our Schools, Our City	12:00pm:	Our Schools, Our City
1:30am:	Aldermen at Work	2:00pm:	Seriously Somerville w/ Jimmy Del Ponte	10:00pm:	SHS Hockey vs. Medford	1:00pm:	SHS Indoor Track vs. Everett
2:00am :	Voices of Somerville	2:30pm:	MLK Day Celebration	Friday, January 31		2:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Malden
2:30am:	SomerViva	7:00pm:	School Committee Meeting – LIVE	12:00am:	SHS Indoor Track vs. Everett	3:00pm:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. O'Bryant
3:00am:	2014 Organizational Meeting of Board of Aldermen	10:00pm:	Green Line Extension Meeting 1.15.14	1:30am:	SHS Hockey vs. Medford	5:00pm:	WSNS Winter Concert
9:00am:	Green Line Extension Meeting 1.15.14	Tuesday, February 4		3:00am:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. O'Bryant	6:00pm:	SHS Hockey vs. Cambridge
12:00pm:	2014 City Hall Inaugural Ceremonies	12:00am:	2014 City Hall Inaugural Ceremonies	9:00am:	SHS Indoor Track vs. Everett	8:00pm:	Our Schools, Our City
1:30pm:	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill	1:30am:	Voices of Somerville	10:30am:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Everett	9:00pm:	SHS Indoor Track vs. Everett
2:30pm:	Talking Business	9:00am:	The Mayor's Report	12:30pm:	WHCIS Fashion Show	10:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Malden
3:00pm:	Highlander Forum	12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	1:00pm:	Our Schools, Our City	11:00pm:	kid stuff - Kennedy Pool
6:30pm:	SomerViva	12:30pm:	Sit & Be Fit: Fibromyalgia Workout	1:30pm:	Registering for Kindergarten 2014-15	Tuesday, February 4	
7:00pm:	2014 City Hall Inaugural Ceremonies	2:00pm:	Talking Business	2:00pm:	kid stuff - Kennedy Pool	12:00am:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. O'Bryant
8:30pm:	The Mayor's Report	2:30pm:	POW Experience of Somerville: 1864-65	2:30pm:	Our Schools, Our City	1:30am:	WHCIS Fashion Show
9:00pm:	2014 Property Assessment Info Session	7:00pm:	Senior Circuit	3:30pm:	SHS Indoor Track vs. Everett	2:00am:	SHS Hockey vs. Lynn Classical
Saturday, February 1		7:30pm:	Sit & Be Fit: Fibromyalgia Workout	5:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Everett	9:00am:	kid stuff - Kennedy Pool
12:00pm:	2014 City Hall Inaugural Ceremonies	8:00pm:	Congressional Update	7:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Medford	9:30am:	Our Schools, Our City
1:30pm:	The Mayor's Report	8:30pm:	School Committee Meeting – REPLAY OF 2.3.14	10:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Medford	10:00am:	WHCIS Fashion Show
2:00pm:	SomerViva	EDUCATIONAL CHANNEL 15		12:00am:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Medford	10:20am:	Registering for Kindergarten 2014-15
9:00am:	The Mayor's Report	Wednesday, January 29		2:00am:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Everett	11:00am:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. Malden
12:00pm:	2014 City Hall Inaugural Ceremonies	9:00am:	Our Schools, Our City	4:00am:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. O'Bryant	2:00pm:	SHS Hockey vs. Lynn Classical
1:30pm:	The Mayor's Report	9:30am:	Registering for Kindergarten 2014-15	9:00am:	SHS Hockey vs. Medford	3:30pm:	SHS Hockey vs. Cambridge
2:00pm:	SomerViva			10:30am:	kid stuff - Kennedy Pool	5:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Cambridge
				11:00am:	Our Schools, Our City	7:00pm:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. Cambridge - LIVE
				11:30am:	Registering for Kindergarten 2014-15	10:00pm:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. Cambridge
				12:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Medford	12:00am:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. Cambridge
				1:30pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Malden		



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville Artist Matthew McCosco: Portrait of a Portrait Artist

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

We all have memories of our parents both good and bad. I can remember vividly my father having me on his knee and singing an old Vaudeville ditty: "Ladies and Gentlemen/take my advice/pull down your pants/and slide on the ice." Here poet Lyn Lifshin remembers a lovely respite with her mother in between domestic turmoil.



SOME AFTERNOONS WHEN NOBODY WAS FIGHTING

my mother took out
walnuts and chocolate
chips. My sister and
I plunged our fingers
in flour and butter
smoother than clay.
Pale dough oozing
between our fingers
while the house filled
with blond bars rising.
Mother in her pink dress
with black ballerinas
circling its bottom
turned on the Victrola,
tucked her dress up into
pink nylon bloomer pants,
kicked her legs up in the
air and my sister and I
pranced thru the living
room, a bracelet around
her. She was our Pied
Piper and we were
the children of Hamelin,
circling her as close as the
dancers on her hem.

— Lyn Lifshin



Matthew McCosco by his own description is a private person, and being interviewed is not his favorite pastime. However, he agreed to be my subject after I was introduced to his work by Gil Barbosa, owner of The Book Shop in Ball Square—right across from the office of *The Somerville Times*. In Barbosa's fine, independent bookstore I noticed the usual eclectic collection of books, but also accomplished pencil sketches (that McCosco recently framed) of such noted authors as Ernest Hemingway, Edgar Allen Poe, and Mark Twain.

Because of a hand injury some years back the artist perfected his pencil sketches because he was unable to do his usual watercolors. I asked McCosco about his method. He told me: "I like the preciseness of the pencil sketch. I am able to have much more control of a person's face. The shadowing of the face is very important. I apply graphite, and smudge it in the contours—I shade and smudge."

After viewing a number of his sketches, I was impressed how McCosco captured the eyes of his subject—the eyes being the windows of the soul, etc. McCosco told me he makes a very detailed study of a subject's face, usually relying on a photograph. This process – the measurement of the eyes – can take many hours. And to maintain a

clear head McCosco has to take periodic breaks during this arduous procedure. His portrait of Mark Twain was more difficult to undertake than, say, of Hemingway because there are a limited number of photos of Twain, and the quality of the photos are not as sharp as more contemporary images usually are.

McCosco grew up in Cambridge, Ma. and now lives in the Winter Hill section of the city. He said his style is hyper realistic – a style that requires photographic precision. He feels that many of the artists in Somerville are impressionistic—putting their personal view into the image. McCosco likes being around all the artistic fervor that Somerville has to offer, and it informs his own work.

McCosco studied at the Pratt Institute in New York City, and has done work for the Alvin Alley Dance Company, as well as creating tourist brochures for the city of Brookline. McCosco feels the best way to learn the craft is through the life and practice. He feels his formal education has taken second place to his practical one.

There will be a showing of his artwork at The Bookshop in Ball Square, Feb. 7, 6 to 9 p.m. If you want to commission a portrait from McCosco contact him at: cherato2000@yahoo.com and look at his website <http://fineartbymatthew.com>.

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