La Ronga Bakery and Delicatessen property sold to Rafi Properties

Laronga Realty Partnership announced on Monday the sale of 599 Somerville Avenue, to 599 Somerville Ventures, LLC, managed by Rafi Properties, LLC (Rafi) which occurred on Thursday, January 23.

The approximately 21,908 sq. ft. mixed-use site was home to La Ronga Bakery and Delicatessen, a family-owned and operated Somerville business for over 50 years. Known for high quality breads and turn-key manufacturing, La Ronga distributed products daily to local colleges and universities throughout the region as well as popular retail grocers such as Trader Joes.

A small deli shop served as the anchor for the bakery, providing pizza, subs, and fresh cold cuts to the people of Union Square, Davis Square, and the Winter Hill neighborhood for decades.

"The entrepreneurial spirit and family values have been a part of the bakery and property for over 50 years. We met a great deal of potential buyers throughout the site where La Ronga Bakery and Delicatessen conducted business for many years has been sold to 599 Somerville Ventures, LLC."

— Photo by Bobbie Toner

Continued on page 17

By Jim Clark

The GLX Project released an updated bridge reopening schedule this Monday, indicating that all three bridges that are currently closed will remain so for an extended period of time.

According to the information provided, the Broadway bridge in Ball Square is now expected to open in July 2020, about four months later than anticipated. The Washington Street bridge is now expected to reopen in May 2020, and the Medford Street bridge in October 2020.

The School Street Bridge has not yet been closed, and the new schedule now shows that both it and the Medford St. bridge around the corner are scheduled to be closed concurrently for approximately four months in the summer and fall of 2020. GLX officials still expect the project in full to be completed on time, by the end of 2021.

In his remarks before the changes in scheduling for bridge closures and reopenings have been announced by GLX Project managers.

Continued on page 4
Well, the big news around the city this week is the announced delays in construction and reopening of the bridges that have been closed due to the Green Line Extension Project's activities. We are certainly disappointed by the delays. We have been contending with the traffic snarls and rerouting for quite some time already, and now we’re being asked to put up with it a bit longer. It is important for all of us to get out and support the local businesses that are have been feeling the effect of the bridge closures already. We sure hope that it will all ultimately be considered worth the trouble and expense.

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Be sure to check out the new features debuting this week in The Times. A weather forecast for the week to come, based on the latest data provided by the National Weather Service, can be found on page 2. While on page 14 you will find our new "Fun & Games" features, including crossword and sudoku puzzles, our Useless Facts of the Week feature, and the ever popular Ms. Cam's Olio. We are constantly engaged in adding informative and entertaining content, and you can be sure there is much more to come. Let us know if you have something in mind that we should add to the paper.

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Happy birthday to our own Denise Conby, a local real estate agent here in the city. Denise published her book Murder at Harvard’s Kirkland House: A Mother’s Worst Nightmare, which tells the real story of the murder of her son Justin. Listen to her interview on February 5 at 12:00 p.m. on Wake Up & Stay Woke with Dr. E. Faye Williams, WPFW Pacifica Radio 89.3 FM www.wpfw.org WPFW. Another great person celebrating this week is Pat Moran Quinlin. We wish her the very best of birthdays. Another local Winter Hill lady who is celebrating this week is Maria Nella Nunes. We wish her the very best. Happy birthday to Sheila Howe. We wish her the very best on this her birthday. And finally, we wish Naomi Sanders a big time happy birthday this week. Happy birthday to everyone.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11
Life in the Ville by Jimmy Del Ponte

The Somerville Twinkie connection

(Growing up and living in Somerville has been a blast. There was always something to do and always someplace fun to go close to home. We could walk or ride our bikes to a number of exciting destinations.

Last week I wrote about The Bingham School that used to be on Lowell Street. Well, this week we revisit Lowell Street to reminisce about The Hostess Bakery that was located at number 259. You read it correctly! They actually used to make Twinkies, Sno-Balls, cupcakes and Wonder Bread in Somerville! Now tell me growing up in Somerville wasn’t the best! We could walk to what they called the thrift store, attached to the factory, and buy all the snacks we could carry. Until the 1970’s The Hostess Bakery Company occupied the 51,500 square foot building at 259 Lowell Street. I have chronicled statements from people who were there, including me.

My first hand memory of this magical factory being in our area was that my friend’s father worked there. I remember the trunk of his car occasionally containing a variety of Hostess treats. Sort of like junk (food) in the trunk. The Twinkie as we know it may be gone (for now) but these delicious memories will last forever.

“My parents drove there every other Saturday (from Burlington) to stock up,” says a friend of mine. A Somerville kid recalls, “Some of the workers would give us damaged packages from the loading dock while friends that had money were inside buying day old stuff...Sometimes it tasted week old.” (Twinkies didn’t fall into that category because Twinkies were forever!)

Another seasoned Villen shares this: “My mother would give me a quarter...yes, a whole 25 cents...and I could practically fill up my bike basket with Hostess Cupcakes, Twinkies, and Snowballs from the day-old store that was out in front of the factory on Lowell Street. I also toured the factory with my Girl Scout troop and saw how everything was made. My favorite memory was seeing how they put that white frosting squiggle on top of the chocolate cupcakes. Must’ve been early 1960’s.”

KC says, “Ah, the memories. Such a glorious factory right smack dab in the middle of our neighborhood. I’ll never forget its delicious ways, and the creamy filling – LOL.”

CV remembers buying a package of Sno-Balls for a nickel! “My grandmother lived on Alpine Street and we’d walk up the street to Lowell St. and get a treat! If you walked in the other direction to Cedar, you could get a treat at Dairy Queen!” How great was that for a kid? Twinkies one-way and ice cream the other.

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JBF tells us that, “The workers would sometimes throw us packages of cupcakes from the window.”

Cuz tells us, “The workers used to leave racks of Sno-Balls near the dock to cool.” And I know this is hard for some of you to believe, but some kids actually would “borrow” the Sno-Balls off the cooling rack. We would have Sno-Ball fights in July.”

What a great time to be growing up in Somerville. The Somerville Visiting Nurses facility now stands on the site of the old Hostess bakery. We had The Apollo Cake Bakery in East Somerville (see The Somerville News, On The Silly Side, November 9, 2011) and The Hostess Bakery in West Somerville.

You thought that Somerville was cool with trendy bars that boasts of 250 different ales and brews, and fancy shmancy cupcake stores, and burrito joints? Well, nothing comes close to having the Twinkie factory in your own back yard!

ATTN: LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS

IF YOU ARE READING THIS NOW THEN SO ARE MANY OF YOUR POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Print and other traditional advertising mediums are certainly not relics of marketing’s past. Advertising in magazines and newspapers is as relevant as ever, and a great addition to your next marketing plan.

While running online ads may seem cheap, in the long-term you’re often going to spend more because you have to change your messaging and artwork more frequently on that platform. With print, there is more permanence in what you say, how you look and what action you want your audience to take.

Digital ads are adequate for delivering quick results with lots of data. But if you want to penetrate your market, print ads should probably be part of your strategy. By physically placing your brand in people’s hands, you create lasting impressions that engage your audience in meaningful ways. The positive results are undeniable.

Contact us and let us show you the many ways we can help you achieve your marketing goals.

The Somerville Times
Better than ever
When you have to go, you have to go

At approximately 1:30 a.m. last Friday, a Somerville Police officer on patrol observed a vehicle take a right off of Somerville Ave. onto Medford St. The officer turned his cruiser around and could not see the vehicle's taillights. He continued down Medford St. and in the parking lot of 61 Medford St., he noticed the headlights of the vehicle he had been pursuing. The officer pulled into the parking lot, activated his emergency lights, and radioed dispatch to request additional backup units. The officer reportedly observed the driver of the vehicle, later identified as Michael Altieri, of Watertown, standing outside the vehicle urinating with the driver side door open and vehicle running, headlights on and parked at an angle disregarding the designated parking lines.

The officer asked Altieri what he was doing and he reportedly confirmed that he was urinating. When asked why he was speeding, Altieri reportedly said that he did not think he was going that fast, but he had to urinate. According to reports, the officer detected the odor of alcohol emanating from Altieri’s breath. He asked Altieri how much he had to drink, and he reportedly stated he had a couple of beers. Altieri later said that he had four drinks, according to the officer’s account. Altieri agreed to perform some basic roadside coordination assessments, and indicated that he understood each of the assessments. Based on the results of the field tests, the officer placed Altieri under arrest and he was transported to the police station in the prisoner transport and booked on charges of operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor and speeding. At the station, he refused to take a blood alcohol test. The test was attempted three separate times. Altieri’s license was seized based upon his blood alcohol test refusal.

MBTA’s Fiscal Management and Control Board this on Monday, Mayor Curtatone acknowledged that the City of Somerville understands that construction projects of this scope are likely to encounter delays, but he stressed that these extended and overlapping bridge closures will have real impacts on the people and businesses of Somerville and that additional assistance to address those impacts will be needed. In response to the delays, the city is now working closely with the MBTA and MassDOT on strategies and resources to mitigate construction impacts, including advocating for assistance with public safety and traffic management, support for local businesses affected by construction, and other measures to address the effects of construction on the community. More information about traffic detours and mitigation efforts will be provided when available. Constituents are encouraged to contact the 24/7 GLX hotline at (855) 459-4636 or info@glxinfo.com with questions or comments.

New GLX Bridge Closure Schedule

Washington St.: Expected to reopen in May 2020

Broadway: Expected to reopen in July 2020

School St.: Expected to close after Washington St. bridge is reopened in May 2020 and reopen in June 2021 (the School St. bridge will not close until the Washington St. bridge is reopened.)

Medford St.: Expected to reopen in October 2020

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

Robert Messina, of 820 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, January 20, 2:49 p.m., arrested at McGrath Hwy. on a warrant charge of larceny from a person.

Tamela Kelly, of 10 Webster, January 20, 2:49 p.m., arrested at McGrath Hwy. on warrant charges of larceny from a person, person number plate violation, uninsured motor vehicle or trailer, juror failure to appear, and larceny over $1200.

Valdecy Gregorio, of 12 Cutter St., January 22, 6:16 p.m., arrested at Broadway on warrant charges of marked lanes violation and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Jeremy Frost, January 23, 2:14 a.m., arrested at Linwood St. on warrant charges of forgery of document, utter false check, carrying a dangerous weapon, possession of a class B drug, operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license, operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended registration, and uninsured motor vehicle or trailer.

Davis Jean-Louis, of 20 Rita Dr., Medford, January 23, 11:50 a.m., arrested at Greenville St. on charges of failure to stop or yield, motor vehicle operator giving false name or address to a police officer, and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Kristin Lucas, of 75 Josephine Ave., Apts. 1, January 23, 11:53 a.m., arrested at Willow Ave. on warrant charges of assault and battery and shoplifting by asportation.

James Laguerre, of 130 Meditteranean St., Weymouth, January 23, 6:34 p.m., arrested at Broadway on a warrant charge of larceny under $1200.

Michael Altieri, of 15 Whites Ave., Watertown, January 24, 1:30 a.m., arrested at Medford St. on charges of operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor and speeding.

Ronald Kebebe, of 125 Aleppo Brook Pkwy., January 25, 9:57 p.m., arrested at home on charges of assault and battery on a person over 60 or disabled and larceny under $1200.

Davidson deOliveira, of 128 Park St., Beverly, January 25, 3:04 a.m., arrested at Holland St. on charges of operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor and failure to stop or yield, and on a warrant charge of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Timothy D. White, of 125 Alewife Brook Pkwy., January 25, 9:57 p.m., arrested at home on charges of assault and battery on a person over 60 or disabled and larceny under $1200.

Text-A-Tip

Text a Tip to the SPD from anywhere!

Text a Tip to the SPD from anywhere!

Simply text the phone number ‘TIP411’ (847411) and put ‘617spd’ at the beginning of your text message. If your message requires an emergency response PLEASE DO NOT TEXT and instead call 9-1-1.

100% completely anonymous • Easy and secure

Text messages can be sent from anywhere at any time

• 100% completely anonymous • Easy and secure

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New dates announced by GLX Project for reopening bridges

CONT. FROM PG 1

MBTA’s Fiscal Management and Control Board this on Monday, Mayor Curtatone acknowledged that the City of Somerville understands that construction projects of this scope are likely to encounter delays, but he stressed that these extended and overlapping bridge closures will have real impacts on the people and businesses of Somerville and that additional assistance to address those impacts will be needed. In response to the delays, the city is now working closely with the MBTA and MassDOT on strategies and resources to mitigate construction impacts, including advocating for assistance with public safety and traffic management, support for local businesses affected by construction, and other measures to address the effects of construction on the community. More information about traffic detours and mitigation efforts will be provided when available. Constituents are encouraged to contact the 24/7 GLX hotline at (855) 459-4636 or info@glxinfo.com with questions or comments.

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Medford St.: Expected to reopen in October 2020
Proposals for childcare and senior tax exemption approved by City Council

By Anna Schaeffer

The Somerville City Council gathered on Thursday night, January 23, for its usual meeting to discuss matters of legislative and public concern.

The meeting began with a moment of silence in remembrance of Catherine B. Canaan who passed away on January 18. A math teacher who was deeply involved in the Somerville community, Canaan used her retirement to actively pursue the Somerville Math Fund and manage state education assessment examinations.

Requests to confirm two individuals to the position of firefighter were both approved and the two were sworn in shortly thereafter. Randy Oliver will be bringing tech repair skills to the Somerville Fire Department. He has worked as a service repair technician at Toyota since 2005, is a graduate of Minuteman Regional High School in Lexington, and is a father of two. He will be following the path of his uncle, who was a Cambridge firefighter. He will begin his duties effective February third.

The other candidate approved for the position of firefighter was Daniel Roach, who has an associate’s degree in criminal justice and is an active volunteer in the Somerville community. Roach was inspired by his high school coach who was also a firefighter and followed in his footsteps by pursuing his career with the fire department.

In other business, the Council approved a grant of location submitted by EverSource Energy to install ten feet of conduit on Ivaloo Street. Concerns about the unstable state of the utility pole raised by Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott were acknowledged by Stephanie Hirsch, who affirmed that the leaning pole would be replaced and overhanging branches will be trimmed appropriately.

“$60,000 threshold of assets that a senior must have to qualify for tax exemption is basically a medical bill away from being broke”

In response to concerns about public participation, Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis proposed that childcare services be provided for members of the Somerville community who wish to attend meetings. Meetings of the City Council normally take place in the evenings, which makes attendance difficult for people with children. The item was approved in hopes of stimulating public engagement with the city council and municipal government.

In Somerville, seniors who wish to qualify for tax exemption must meet the $60,000 threshold of assets to be approved. Ward 1 Councilor and Council President Matthew McLaughlin proposed that the limit on assets for seniors be raised. Citing a conversation he had with a community member, McLaughlin argued that “The $60,000 threshold of assets that a senior must have to qualify for tax exemption is basically a medical bill away from being broke.” The proposal was approved.

The Council also approved a measure stating that January 31, 2020, shall be proclaimed Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Earned Income Tax Credit Day. Also approved was a request to add “Not a thru street” signage on Chester Avenue while construction takes place.

The Tenant Notification Act, which was approved earlier this year, requires landlords to provide information about legal rights to their tenants. However, the efficacy of this was questioned and a request to send a citywide mailer about the act to Somerville residents was made by Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen. This request was approved.

Other proposals regarding pedestrian safety infrastructure, public space enrichment, and worker-owned co-ops were also approved.

Somerville Parks & Recreation

Check out the Somerville Parks and Recreation Department website (www.somervillerec.com) for information about their February Vacation Floor Hockey program, and other programs and events available this winter. A full list of activities, as well as cost for each is available at http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/default.aspx?type=activities.

City of Somerville Announcing New Enhanced Online Bill Pay Services

The City of Somerville’s Online Bill Pay Services will look a little different the next time you use the “Pay a Bill” link at SomervilleMa.gov. The new system offers added enhancements and new features that will make paying and viewing your tax and utility bills online with City of Somerville more convenient and helpful.

Online features include e-billing, single shopping cart for multiple bill types, as well as giving our customers the ability to view and print original bill copies for this current or past fiscal year. Customers may register to receive an email notification of their bill, and it would take effect with their next billing cycle.

This initiative is part of City of Somerville’s vision to make Somerville a 21st century city by utilizing state-of-the-art software solutions that are secure, efficient and cost-effective.

The new vendor is City Hall Systems, and taxpayers will have access to their top-notch customer service team should they have any online payment questions or wish to make a payment by phone.

City Hall Systems customer service can be reach by phone at 508-381-5455, by email at ePay@CityHallSystems.com or by multilingual online chat.
THE HOUSE AND SENATE. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

This week Beacon Hill Roll Call reports on some of the bills that were approved by the Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Charlie Baker in the 2019 session.

Of the more than 6,000 bills that have been filed for consideration, only 148 have been approved and signed by the governor. And only 25 of those were bills that affected the entire state while the vast majority were either sick leave banks, local land taking measures or other local-related measures applying to just one city or town.

Sick leave banks allow public employees to voluntarily donate sick, personal or vacation days to a sick leave bank for use by a fellow worker so he or she can get paid while on medical leave. Land takings are local land measures that usually only affect one city or town.

Here are five of the 25 important, statewide-related bills signed into law:

$200 MILLION IN CHAPTER 90 FUNDING FOR LOCAL ROADS (H 169)

House 152-0, Senate 40-0, approved and on June 6th the governor signed into law a bill authorizing $200 million in one-time funding for the maintenance and repair of local roads and bridges in cities and towns across the state. The package is a bond bill under which the funding would be borrowed by the state through the sale of bonds.

Other provisions include $200 million for rail improvements and $1.5 billion in bonding to allow for federal interstate repairs to advance. According to officials, 80 percent of the $1.5 billion would be reimbursed by the federal government.

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barbier Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly Yes
Rep. Denise Provost Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

BAN HAND-HELD CELL PHONES (S 2216)

House 154-1, Senate 38-1, approved and on March 3rd the governor signed into law a bill making changes in the state’s campus finance laws. Current law exempts legislative candidates and some candidates for mayor from the requirement that they use a depository reporting system which currently must be followed by statewide, county and many other municipal candidates. The bill requires legislative candidates and some candidates for mayor to adhere to the same strict requirements.

The depository reporting system requires candidates to file a monthly report that discloses all campaign finance activity. Legislative reports are under the current non-depository system and are filed only two or three times a year.

Another provision directs the Office of Campaign and Political Finance to write regulations regarding the appropriate use of websites and social media for campaign purposes. The measure also creates a special legislative commission to examine the feasibility of allowing candidates for state, county or municipal elected office to use campaign funds to pay for family care and childcare services for the candidate.

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barbier Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly Yes
Rep. Denise Provost Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

CHILDREN’S HEALTH (S 2368)

House 155-0, Senate 40-0, approved and on November 26th the governor signed into law legislation designed to make it easier for children and their families to navigate the state’s complicated and often difficult to understand health care system. A key provision requires health insurance companies to perform monthly updates of their provider databases that tell patients which doctors and other medical resources are available to them. Parents complain that many physicians are listed as local and taking new patients despite having retired, moved or stopped accepting new patients.

The measure also allows foster children to remain covered by MassHealth until they turn 26, the same option that children covered by their parent’s private insurance currently have; examines the barriers to mental and behavioral health supports for children; establishes a commission to study mandated reporting laws; and provides for increased education around child sex abuse and exploitation.

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barbier Yes

$1.5 BILLION FOR EDUCATION (H 4157)

House 156-0, Senate 39-0, approved and on November 26th the governor signed into law the Student Opportunity Act that invests $1.5 billion, mostly in the form of Chapter 70 Aid for local school districts, in the state’s public education system over seven years.

The measure implements the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission which found the state was underfunding schools by more than $1 billion annually.

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barbier Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly Yes
Rep. Denise Provost Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

BAKER PROPOSES $44.6 BILLION FISCAL 2021 STATE BUDGET – Gov. Baker fired the first shot in the long battle over the state budget for fiscal year 2021 that begins on July 1. He proposed a $44.6 billion package that increases overall state spending by 2.3 percent above the current fiscal year, according to the administration. The House in April will draft its own version of the budget followed by the Senate which in May will propose yet another version. A House-Senate conference committee will eventually craft a plan that will be presented to the House and Senate for consideration and sent to the governor.

AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY – As of January 1st, Massachusetts citizens who are not registered to vote will be automatically be registered when they apply for or renew their driver’s license or state identification cards at the Registry of Motor Vehicles, apply for MassHealth or sign up for health insurance through the Commonwealth Health Connector. Citizens will have the ability to opt out of registering to vote when they are completing their applications.

Anyone who wants to vote in the presidential primaries on March 3rd must be registered to vote by February 12th. People who will not be applying for a driver’s license or health insurance before the registration deadline can register to vote at www.RegisterToVoteMA.com.

Voters can confirm their registration status, address, and political party online at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele

ALLOW 16- AND 17-YEAR-OLD YOUTHS TO VOTE IN LOCAL ELECTIONS (H 720 and S 389) - The Elections Laws Committee held a hearing on two pieces of legislation that would allow cities and towns to permit people aged 16- and 17-year-old to vote in their local city and town elections. Current law requires that voters be 18.

“We filed this bill because we believe in local control,” said Rep. Andy Vargas (D-Haverhill), a House co-sponsor of the proposal. “At least nine cities and towns have asked for the authority to lower the voting age for their municipal elections, but the state has essentially ignored these requests. If cities and towns want youth voices to
be heard at the ballot box, the state shouldn’t stand in the way of their local intent. In the same fashion, no city or town will be required to lower its voting age under this bill. Cities and towns that are content with their current voting age can simply carry on.”

“It is time to give municipalities the option to empower their own young people,” said Sen. Harriette Chandler (D-Worcester), the sponsor of the Senate bill. “The EMPOWER Act creates a local option that allows young people to vote in local elections, for municipalities who want to participate. Cities and towns have asked for this option for years, and I believe that young people deserve a voice in their local government.”

REQUIRE DECAL FOR DRIVERS WITH A LEARNER’S PERMIT (H 3081) – The Transportation Committee’s agenda included a bill that would require a highly-reflective “L Plate” decal to be clearly visible to law enforcement officers on the front and back of any vehicle being operated by a driver with a learner’s permit. The size, fee and other details would be determined by the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Supporters said this would warn other motorists that the driver is inexperienced and encourage them to take extra caution. They say the requirement would likely reduce the frustration of other motorists, reduce unnecessary honking, prevent injuries and may be even save lives.

Opponents say the bill is a solution in search of a problem that doesn’t exist. They note that families with more than one car would have to get two decals for each car and note that if a permanent decal is used, experienced drivers would often be driving the car with the decal and be mistaken for a novice behind the wheel. They argue that some motorists might pass student drivers illegally on a double yellow line to avoid being stuck behind someone learning to drive.

MEDAL OF LIBERTY (H 4279) – A bill heard by the Veterans Affairs Committee would expand the current law that requires the Medal of Liberty to be awarded to the next of kin of Bay State service men and women killed in action or who died in service while in a designated combat area in the line of duty or who died as a result of wounds received in action.

The bill would expand the number of eligible veterans and require a medal to be awarded to the families of service members who died in service while in the line of duty or who died as a result of wounds received in service while in the line of duty. This eliminates the rule that the death had to be in combat, a war zone or as a result of action of an enemy.

“So often we see our service members suffer tragic circumstances during training exercises, accidents and other unforeseen events,” said the bill’s co-sponsors Reps. Brian Murray (D-Milford) and Michael Soter (R-Bellingham) in a joint statement. “While these situations are not necessarily combat-related, the dedication of our service men and women, as well as the loss their families suffer, are no less than if they were. As such, we should have a means of recognizing their sacrifice in an appropriate and respectful manner.”

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 36 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 24 minutes.

Mon. January 20 No House session
Tues. January 21 House 11:00 a.m. to 11:16 a.m. Senate 11:07 a.m. to 11:11 a.m.
Wed. January 22 No House session
Thurs. January 23 House 11:01 a.m. to 11:21 a.m. Senate 11:15 a.m. to 11:35 a.m.
Fri. January 24 No House session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com
Early voting and absentee ballots for Somerville voters

Somerville voters can cast their ballots ahead of the March 3 primary election during early voting hours from Monday, February 24 through Friday, February 28. All early voting sessions will take place at City Hall, 93 Highland Ave.

Early voting hours are:
- Monday, February 24, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 25, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 26, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, February 27, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, February 28, 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The deadline to register to vote or change your political party affiliation for early voting and the March 3 primary is Wednesday, February 12, by 8:00 p.m. You can register to vote in person at the Elections Department at City Hall, online at www.registerstovotema.com, by downloading a voter registration form from www.somervillema.gov/elections, or by calling the Elections Department at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200 and requesting a form be mailed to you.

Absentee ballots are now available for the Tuesday, March 3, presidential primary election. Massachusetts voters may use an absentee ballot if they will be out of the city on election day, have a disability that prevents them from voting at a polling place, religious reasons, or if they are confined in a correctional facility. Voters can request an absentee ballot by downloading and returning the absentee ballot form available on www.somervillema.gov/elections.

Voters can also request an absentee ballot by sending a signed letter to Election Commissioner, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02143 or elections@somervillema.gov. Absentee ballots can be requested up until noon on Monday, March 2, and must be returned to the Elections Department by 8:00 p.m. on March 3.

More information about absentee voting can be found at www.somervillema.gov/elections, or by calling the Elections Department at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200.

Armory Café

Located just inside the Armory building on Highland Ave., the café is a great meeting spot to grab specialty coffee, like lattes, cappuccinos and beyond, a great selection of teas, freshly baked muffins and an assortment of other baked goods, as well as fresh breakfast sandwiches like bacon, egg and cheese, or an egg sandwich on a bagel or on regular bread if preferred, bagels with cream cheese, oatmeal and smoothies.

I opted for a bacon, egg and cheddar on a croissant with a cappuccino, my usual! If you’re looking for soups, salads or sandwiches, they have that covered too. They even offer a soup and half sandwich as an option if you’re wanting to try both!

On this particular day they had lentil soup, apple butternut squash or a turkey sausage with kale. They also serve salads, such as a Chef salad, Caesar salad, along with vegetarian options. Sandwiches like the classic BLT, chicken salad, tuna, or a variety of other sandwiches including turkey or roast beef with cheese, arugula, lettuce, tomatoes and avocado.

For a full menu and a list of special events, like the rotating art exhibits, film nights and live entertainment, check out artsatthearmory.org. Looking to rent out the space for a special event? You can do that too!

It's a great spot that offers plenty of off street parking. And currently on Saturday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Winter Farmers Market will be running through April 11.

A Kennedy in Union Square

Congressman Joseph Kennedy III made an impromptu visit to Union Square on Sunday, January 26. While in Union Square he visited Bow Market and stopped in at Sally O’Brien’s. Kennedy is challenging fellow Democrat Ed Markey for the Senate seat in Massachusetts. Pictured (top L to R) Bob McWatters, Congress- man Joe Kennedy III and Sally O’Brien’s owner, Liam Mannion; (below L to R) Matthew Mannion and Congressman Kennedy.

Dorothy’s Corner

Armory Café

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The Center for Arts at the Armory

Armory Café

191 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143
Mon-Sat 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
(617)718-2192
$3.25 – $4.90 Breakfast items
$4.95 – $9.90 Lunch items

Visit Dorothy’s website at http://ddimarzo2002.wix.com
Union members at the Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS) overwhelmingly approved their new contract on Thursday, January 23 in a secret ballot ratification vote. Through the process of collective bargaining that involved CAAS management and agency staff, a new labor contract maintains a comprehensive health insurance plan at a low cost to employees while also improving wages.

Forty-seven CAAS staff are united in SEIU Local 888. Agency staff work as Head Start teachers and family advocates, housing advocates and community organizers to help low income residents in Cambridge and Somerville. Anticipating increased health insurance costs, management and staff worked together to find ways to keep health insurance affordable for agency staff. Union members are covered by a union administered plan where employees only contribute 11 percent of the cost of insurance premiums.

"Our negotiating committee stayed strong and united," said Michelle DaSilva, a 20-year CAAS employee and union leader. "Having the expertise of Local 888 staff gave us the support we needed to maintain our excellent health care benefits and we will continue to pay only 11 percent of the costs toward our health insurance."

"Having a union contract is good for our entire agency," said CAAS Director David Gibbs. "Our wages and benefits allow us to have one of the very best staff retention rates. Given the strong commitment and high-quality services our staff provide, they are still seriously underpaid. Unfortunately, we can’t fix that without more state and federal funding for programs like Head Start." Members will receive a 1.7 percent cost of living increase in the first year, with a scheduled "wage re-opener" to consider increases in future years.

"The union contract gives our staff a grievance procedure and provides for periodic labor-management meetings where all of us can work together to resolve any issues," Gibbs added.

In addition to CAAS staff, SEIU Local 888 unites school crossing guards, housing authority maintenance workers, and police dispatchers in Somerville. For more info, visit: www.seiu888.org.

Two new firefighters were sworn in at latest City Council meeting last Thursday evening. Randy Oliver and Daniel Roche will begin training with the Fire Department on February 3. Pictured L to R: Assistant Chief Christopher Major, Daniel Roche, Randy Oliver and Chief Charles Breen Jr.

― Photo courtesy of Somerville Fire Department

Follow us on Twitter at @somervilletimes
Local businesses need you in the face of GLX bridge delays

By Joseph A. Curtatone

Although frustrating, it’s understandable that large construction projects often face delays. They’re complex, involve complicated logistics, and sometimes more work needs to be done than originally planned. But that didn’t soften the blow when, earlier this week, we found out that the three bridges currently closed for Green Line Extension construction would be delayed in reopening. GLX officials still expect the project in full to be completed on time, by the end of 2021.

The GLX team has now told us that the Broadway bridge will open in July, four months behind schedule; the Medford Street bridge will now open in October, a five-month delay; and the Washington Street bridge will now open in May, a one-month delay. The School Street bridge (which has not yet closed) will now close in May, once the Washington Street bridge reopens. In the context of the full GLX project, a few months may not seem like much, but for the residents and businesses that have been living with the daily reality of being in a construction zone these delays will be anything but significant. That’s why I’m calling on the State/GLX Team, and the community, to help lessen the impacts. Since the beginning of this project, the entire GLX team, the MBTA, and MassDOT have been committed to being good partners and have provided support in managing traffic and public safety. Over the next few weeks, we’ll be working with the MBTA and MassDOT on ways to mitigate construction impacts. We’ll be asking for assistance with public safety and traffic management, support for local businesses in the construction areas, and other measures to address the ongoing effects of construction on our neighborhoods.

But along with the assistance we’re requesting from the GLX team, I want to ask also for your help to continue to support Somerville’s small business community – especially those near construction zones. Construction has been hard on our local businesses and now they’re facing extended closures that will be much harder to overcome.

When the Green Line Extension is complete, it will benefit so many in our region as well as our planet. But the greatest burdens during construction are being born by just some of us – especially our local businesses. So if you support sustainable transportation, clean air, reduced road congestion, environmental justice, or just Somerville in general, please show that you’re supporting the businesses most impacted in and near our construction zones: that’s Ball Square, Magoun Square, InnerBelt to Union Square, and Gilman Square, as well as Broadway between Ball and Magoun Squares.

Whether you stop for a meal, get a haircut, buy a gift, pick out house paint, or take a class, you’ll be helping to support a small, locally owned business. If you need a coffee, a cupcake, a book, or a shampoo for your dog, wandering these areas you’ll find plenty of awesome and useful services, eateries, and locales that need your business. We’ve lived here, we’ve raised our kids here. Local small businesses are the beating heart of our business districts – they offer the goods and services that residents need, they add life to our squares and neighborhoods, they’re a part of our tax base, and they create jobs. When you spend money at a local business, more of it stays in the community than if you shopped at a large chain. Small businesses contribute so much more, and they’re also more vulnerable to disruption. During construction it might require a little extra effort to shop and dine locally, but that small sacrifice means a lot to those businesses and will help make sure they’re still here to reap the benefits of the GLX.

And speaking of benefits, it’s important to remember that when the GLX is up and running 85% of residents will be within a half mile of a train station and it will take thousands of cars off the roads. It will be good for the environment, the economy, and Somerville overall. That’s why we fought so hard for so many years to make sure this project happens.

It’s easy to focus on the short-term impacts after this latest announcement, but it’s important to remember that when the GLX is up and running we’ll get out of the GLX in the long run. And, in the meantime, we’ll do everything we can to ease the burden on residents and businesses. If we work collaboratively, support our local businesses, and have just a little more patience, we’ll make it through together.

Bike Lanes and Identity Politics

By Matthew McLaughlin

When people use the phrase “identity politics” transportation policy does not come to mind. Yet if you examine the debate over bike lanes, there are undercurrents of a cultural divide that mirror national politics. Bike lanes straddle the line between basic infrastructure improvements and cultural lightning rod. They are seen as an attack on the American way of life to some, and treated as a progressive litmus test to others.

As with many issues of identity politics I often find myself caught between two worlds. I’m a working class man who is also a self identified progressive and avid cyclist. Bikes were a practical choice for a poor kid who couldn’t even afford train fare. Cycling was never a cultural identifier to me; it was just a way to get around. Being from two worlds gives me insights into the cultural divide over bike lanes. When people I know criticize cyclists they say “you’re not like them,” when the only difference is how my identity is perceived. Anger towards cyclists is just a symptom of a greater loss of identity. It is another symbol of changes people have no control over and aren’t meant to help them.

These cultural divides are reflected in the national political scene, and recently trickled down into local politics. I recently received hundreds of emails from bike activists when they learned renovation of Washington Street would not include bike lanes. This is partly because many federal funding programs are set up for car-centric infrastructure. National political differences almost prevented us from attaining local Vision Zero goals. Fortunately we were able to resolve this issue.

Conservative lawmakers view any attempt to increase bike lanes as an attack on American identity. The best example of this is the Agenda 21 conspiracy theory that claims the United Nations is trying to take our cars away and make everyone ride bikes. In this instance bike lanes are treated as an attack on identity much like gun control, immigration and the Green New Deal.

Bike lanes need to be treated as practical infrastructure improvements and not an identity war

A local example of identity politics trumping reality is the City Council’s recent decision to prohibit on street parking permits for new development. We did this in response to countless decries from local residents that stokes resentment. As to say the last funeral home in our district, they’re a vocal social media presence that strokes resentment. Nothing exemplifies this more than the controversy over proposed bike lanes near the Dorchester Fire House. Some opponents argued the need for funeral parking and went so far as to say the last funeral home in the city should move and “grandma can get dropped off at the door.” They are surely unaware of the significance of this landmark to many residents. I’ve attended countless wake services there for friends who were victims to the opioid epidemic. When people treated the funeral home like an afterthought many locals felt like they were being personally attacked.

Bike lanes need to be treated as practical infrastructure improvements and not an identity war. bike lanes.

Activists will never win over everyone. Activists must remember that to broaden the conversation so change feels like a win for everyone. We need to expand bike lanes, especially in underserved areas, make cities more pedestrian friendly, and move away from the car as a lifestyle choice. But we must do this as one community and not two.
There seems to have been a bit of a dust-up created since the City Council’s Legislative Matters Committee lent serious consideration to the idea of banning gas powered and very loud leaf blowers in the city. Some are vociferously in favor of such a measure, while others bemoan the perceived notion that the city – once again – is overstepping its authority by micro-managing issues that should otherwise be left to the general public to work out on their own.

In this case, however, there are specific and palpable concerns for the health, happiness and well-being of the general citizenry. Namely, concerns over the noise factor and the polluting potential of these gardening accessories. A lot of us have felt annoyed with a neighbor or contracted groundskeeper running one of these contraptions either at inappropriate times – such as weekend mornings when one hopes to sleep in a little longer in the morning – or upwind of us as we hope to breathe some fresh air while we enjoy the outdoors whenever we wish to.

Let's face it, these things are loud and the environmental impact of the fumes they release can't be ignored. Would the electrically powered models be an improvement? Possibly, but one could wonder about the impact of all that energy consumption on the environment as well.

Perhaps it’s time to step back and embrace a more primitive method of gathering our leaves together. A simple garden rake can work wonders, and provide us with a little much needed exercise to boot.

Progressive organizer Erika Uyterhoeven has declared her candidacy for State Representative for the 27th Middlesex District. Uyterhoeven is a cofounder of Act on Mass, a nonprofit dedicated to activating grassroots organizers and voters to hold the Massachusetts state legislature accountable on progressive issues.

The next time you visit the City of Somerville website to pay your tax or water bills, the online system will look a little different. In December 2019, the city’s Treasury Department changed to "City Hall Systems," a new bill payment vendor that will make paying and viewing bills online more convenient and user-friendly. The new system allows customers to manage all of their bills from one account, offers a shopping cart checkout process, provides historical payment and bill information, and assists with taxpayer questions through its call center (including taking payments over the phone), email, and online multilingual chat features. To continue receiving the benefits of an online account, you will need to re-enroll with City Hall Systems. Update your information on the new vendor site by visiting the city's website (www.somervillema.gov) and selecting the “Pay Bills & More” Quick Link option on the menu. The City Hall Systems page includes tutorials on the payment process and setting up an online account.

Hopeful Hearts & Local Arts, host-ed by Connexion, takes place Saturday, February 8, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m., at Connexion, 149 Broadway. A market featuring a curated collection of makers, artists, designers, and small business owners. All are welcome to attend. There will also be food, music and a raffle. Raffle tickets funds and any donations will be to help Connexion continue to be a staple in the Somerville community through its many works. Support our community and shop local. For more info, visit https://connexionumc.org.

The Somerville Arts Council is looking for musicians to perform at their annual jazz and blues festival. Get involved so you don’t miss out. The application deadline is March 9. Joe’s Jazz and Blues Festival is back this year with an all-day free concert at Powderhouse Park on June 20 (rain date June 21) and is looking for talent to perform. This is an exciting opportunity to showcase your unique jazz and blues sounds. Past performances have included everything from swampy Cajun to Ethiopian Jazz. Preference will be given to bands with a Somerville connection. Please note, they are only considering applicants who haven’t played at this event in the last two years. Bring a friend, blanket, and a picnic for a great afternoon under the trees in one of the nicest parks in Somerville. If you are interested in performing, please fill out our call to musicians here: https://forms.gle/oXwjiK3p7YU4P7m7.

The SomerVision Comprehensive Plan is currently available online and open to public comments. To learn more please visit somervision2040.com, and submit your comments to planning@somervillema.gov before January 31 at 12:00 p.m.

The City of Somerville’s Health and Human Services Department (HHS) and Somerville Media Center (SMC) are excited to announce the 2020 Screening Series of From My Heart to Yours. This short educational film provides an intimate look at how the availability and use of opioids have impacted the lives of many individuals, especially here locally and around the state. It also addresses various pathways to recovery and resources that exist to help the transition back into society. HHS and SMC partnered with local organizations to host free screenings of the short documentary (about 25 minutes) throughout the city with a Q&A with representatives from individuals who were part of production. Screening events are scheduled as follows: February 6, 5:00 p.m., at Council on Aging.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2
WSNS Winter Concert

Mr. Darrell and the West Somerville Neighborhood School music program put on a winter concert on Friday, January 24, for families and friends of the students. Lots of great talented students sang and played instruments for the appreciative audience that was in attendance.
Ms. Cam’s Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. What two groups have the most songs in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?
2. When did Steve Jobs announce the first iPhone?
3. What was the world’s first official lawn tennis tournament?
4. What is the Ford Mustang named after?
5. Which hockey team did Wayne Gretzky play for in the ‘80s?
6. In what country did the hot dog originate?
7. What is another name for corn?
8. What was Twitter’s original project code name?
9. What is the smallest unit of measurement used for measuring data?
10. What was the name of the family in the TV series 7th Heaven?
11. What was the group behind Gary Puckett?
12. In which James Bond film did Sheryl Crow sing the title track?

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

Animalia
1. The Sea Horse is the slowest fish, drifting at approximately 0.016 km/h.
2. The Tasmanian Devil, only found in the wild in Tasmania, Australia, is the largest carnivorous marsupial in the world.
3. Dogs have four toes on their hind feet, and five on their front feet.
4. If NASA sent birds into space they would soon die; they need gravity to swallow.
5. Humans are the only primates that don’t have pigment in the palms of their hands.
6. Cats use their whiskers to check whether a space is too small for them to fit through or not.
7. Rats breed so quickly that in just 18 months, 2 rats could have created over 1 million relatives.
8. Armadillos are the only animal besides humans that can get leprosy.
9. A pregnant goldfish is called a twit.
10. If all the females in a group of clownfish die a male will change its gender in order to keep its group alive.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: THE OSCARS

ACROSS
1. Cracked open
5. Protrude
8. “Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood” supporting nominee
12. Eggnog time, traditionally
13. Pol request
14. Capital of Senegal
15. Jo Van Fleet won for her role in “East of ....
16. Augmented
17. Shoemaker without shoes, e.g.
18. Ones full of desire
20. VSCO girl’s shoes
21. New Zealand native
22. “The Nutcracker” step
23. Boiled bread product, pl.
26. Guarapo de jagua fruit
30. Edith Wharton’s “The ____ of Innocence”
31. “____’er ____!”
34. 1935 Best Picture nominee “A ____ of Two Cities”
35. Plant a.k.a. golden buttons
38. Dustin Hoffman was nominated for role in “____ the Dog”
39. Narrative poem
40. Brunch drink
42. Gumshoe
43. 10-sided polygon
45. Qatar native
47. Greek R
48. “Friends” favorite spot?
50. Fodder holder
52. Oscar winner for “The Revenant” and 2020 nominee
55. Uses a paring knife
56. Twelfth month of Jewish civil year
57. Whirlpool

DOWN
1. Reply to a captain
2. Renée Zellweger’s role
3. Away from wind
4. Dub again
5. Movie with most 2020 Oscar nominations
6. Four candles
7. Oscar winners Giro, Fonda and Cameron did this talk, pl.
8. First cradles
9. Oscar-winners Gore, Fonda and Cameron did this talk, pl.
10. Soaks in rays
11. The old college one
13. With numerous veins
14. Backless sofa
15. Campaign trail gathering
17. Sunburn aid
18. Negative contraction
19. Relating to a gene
20. Garbage in, garbage out
21. Primo, on Italian menu
23. Diminished
24. Open-mouthed
25. Round openings
26. Cul de sac, pl.
27. Mortage, e.g.
28. Not in action
29. Skunk’s defense
31. Meryl Streep won for “____ Lady”
32. Oscar-winning writer Julius Epstein to Oscar-winning writer Philip Epstein
33. Ewe’s mate
36. She’s nominated in 2020... twice
38. Civil rights org.
40. Jersey call
41. Sudden increase in wind
44. Whoopi Goldberg scored an Oscar for this movie
46. “Phantom ____,” 2018 nominee
49. Round openings

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

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Richard G. Di Girolamo
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Bankruptcy
Family Law
Immigration
Personal Injury
Business Law
Estate Planning and Probate
Real Estate
Elder Law
Civil Litigation
mdropkin@dropkinmatza.com
**BID ADVERTISEMENT**

The Somerville Housing Authority, Modernization Department, invites sealed bids from General Contractors for the SHA Job No. 1915, Multi Year Service Contract for Shower Surround Installations at Various Developments for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by The Somerville Housing Authority. The project consists of: Complete installation of new one piece heavy duty acrylic shower wall systems with free standing shower bases, plumbing and all associated work upon unit turnovers or upon a Reasonable Accommodation Request. The service contract is estimated to cost $575,000.00. Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149, § 44A & 4-J minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c. 149, § 43. 30 to 27H inclusive, and the Davis-Bacon Wage Rate, whichever hourly rate pays more. The project is subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 and the Somerville Housing Authority’s Employment Opportunity Plan. General Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at the Somerville Housing Authority’s Modernization Department, 3 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145 and publicly opened forthwith. General Bids will be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the bid amount, and made payable to the SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

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

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE PURCHASING DEPARTMENT**

City Hall Boiler Renovation

An invitation for bids (IFB) and specifications may be obtained at the Purchasing Department, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143 or on or after Wednesday, January 22, 2020. DCAMM certification is required for General Contractors and for Sub- contractors of HVAC, Electrical, and Plumbing. Sealed bid sub contracts will be required at the above address until Wednesday, February 25, 2020 at 2:00 P.M., at which time sealed bids will be opened. Standard general contractor bids will be received at the above address until Sunday, February 22, 2020 at 2:00 P.M., at which time sealed bids will be opened. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any of all bids, in his sole judgment, the best interests of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing. The bid package may be obtained by downloading the Contract exclusively at: https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/purchasing.

Prevailing wage rates apply to this contract. A 5% Bid Deposit will be required. Please contact Angela M. Allen, Purchasing Director, ext 3400, or email gaallen@somervillema.gov for information.

1/22/20 1/29/20 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 398 Bedford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored at the self storage tenant at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storetogoauctions.com on 2/20/2020 at 6:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise, the auction is conducted on the normal business hours. All goods are household goods and furnishings. Woody Guarnieri/Bacall Corp will attend the sale in order to show and sell the contents. For more information, contact Woody Guarnieri/Bacall Corp. 1/22/20 1/29/20 The Somerville Times

**BID ADVERTISEMENT**

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from General Contractors for the SHA Job No. 1917, Multi-Year Service Contract for Shower Surround Installations at Weston Manor for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by The Somerville Housing Authority. The project consists of: Complete installation of new one piece heavy duty acrylic shower wall systems with free standing shower bases, plumbing and all associated work upon unit turnovers or upon a Reasonable Accommodation Request. The service contract is estimated to cost $757,000.00. Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149, § 44A & 4-J minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c. 149, § 43. 26 to 27H inclusive, and the Davis-Bacon Wage Rate, whichever hourly rate pays more. The project is subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 and the Somerville Housing Authority’s Employment Opportunity Plan. General Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at the Somerville Housing Authority’s Modernization Department, 3 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145 and publicly opened forthwith. General Bids will be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the bid amount, and made payable to the SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

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**LEGAL NOTICES**

LEGAL NOTICES can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com
Savvy Caregiver dementia training returns in April

By Nathan Lamb

Registration is now open for Savvy Caregiver, a free training program that offered by Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services, in partnership with Mont Alverno Care, RAI Program emphasizes practical training that helps family caregivers navigate challenges of dementia.

The curriculum includes an overview of dementia and its various stages, along with how its progression can impact daily life. The training includes a lecture component, but it also highly interactive, with a focus on developing practical tools and strategies that fit the participant's needs.

The six-session class will meet on Fridays from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., starting April 10. The classes are held at Mont Alverno Healthcare – Waltham, 355 Waverley Oaks Road in Waltham.

Meet the Savvy Caregiver Instructors: Liz Aguiar (left) is a clinical social worker and Executive Director of Poinciana Senior Services. Nathaniel Meyer (right) is a licensed Social Worker with the SCS’s Adult Family Care program.

Savvy Caregiver is open to a limited number of participants, allowing the caregivers to work closely with the facilitators. Subsidized respite options are available to some caregivers. The class is open to residents of Cambridge, Somerville, Waltham and the surrounding communities.

For more information about Savvy Caregiver or to register call 617-628-2601 extension 3123 or email nmyer@eldercare.org.

La Ronga Bakery and Delicatessen property sold to Rafi Properties

CONT. FROM PG 1

this process but there was something sincere and genuine about Collin Yip’s approach,” said Michael Rong, President of La Ron- ga Bakery. “From the beginning, our values and goals were aligned. Collin quickly demonstrated his understanding and respect for the important qualities beyond just the numbers. My family and I are confident that this property’s future is in good hands.”

Rafi is a Boston-based private eq- uity firm with a focus on venture capital and real estate. Rafi Capital and its affiliates owns, develops and manages mixed-use commercial and residential properties in Greater Boston and Hong Kong. The firm focuses on value-add opportunities in trans- port-oriented, urban locations. Rafi is the current owner and operator of Somomova, Somervilles Inovation Hub (formerly known as The Ames Business Park).

“I’ve been inspired by Mike’s work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit over 50 years in business. We wish Mike, Maria, Deb, and the entire Ronga family all the best,” said Collin Yip, Managing Director of Rafi Proper- ties. “We will work with the commu- nity to continue the entrepreneurial endeavor on this property in an ef- fort to preserve and expand the soul of this unique place.”

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Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 11

167 Holland St; March 6, 6:30 p.m., at Connexion, 149 Broad- way; and April 15, 5:30 p.m., at the Somerville Library, 79 Highland Ave.

Urban Gardening Talk with Lindsay Allen takes place Febru- ary 5 at Renmunt Brewing, 2 Bow Marker Way. Work starts from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., hosted by the Somerville Public Library.

This talk will focus on the history of urban agriculture and how that has shaped our cities’ current food systems. Attendees will learn about the history of urban gardening, food justice, rooftop farming and innovative ways to grow food at your home, including tips for your home garden.


Are you or someone you know operating a business in the Somer- ville area? If so, you need to check out the wide range of marketing advantages that advertising in print – particularly in Thesomervil- le Times – offers to budding or well-established business owners. Contrary to popular belief, print advertising has been proven to be considerably more effective than most online platforms. Get in touch with our Advertising Director, Bobbie Toner, at bobbie@thesomervilletimes.com to learn more. You’ll be very glad you did!
**Villens on the town**

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

**Wednesday January 29**

East Branch Library: Preschool Storytime 11 a.m. 30 min @ 115 Broadway

Central Library: Somerville High School Anime Club 2:45 p.m.-4:30 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Thursday January 30**

Central Library: Preschool Storytime for 3- to 5-year-olds 10 a.m. 30 min @ 115 Broadway

*Comic Book Drawing Workshop 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Friday January 31**

Central Library: Preschool Storytime for 2-year-olds 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Teen Empowerment Library Leaders meeting 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Monday February 3**

Central Library: Sing Along with Eckehold! 10 a.m. 11:30 a.m. @ 31 College Ave

**Wednesday February 5**

Central Library: Homeschool Reading Group 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Teen Game Day 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**East Branch Library**

Preschool Storytime 11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. @ 115 Broadway

West at TB: Read to a Dog with Josie 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. @ 167 Holland St, 2nd floor

**MUSIC/ARTS**

**Wednesday January 29**

Sally O’Brien’s Bar Free poker, lots of prizies 8 p.m. @ 335 Somerville Ave @ 676-3589

The Burren: Pub Session with: Grain Thief @ 9 p.m.

*Back Room: Andrew McGill and Dave Carney @ 3 p.m.

*Comedy Night with Janet Mc Curley @ 7:30 p.m.

*Game Night @ 8 p.m.

**Thursday January 30**

Sally O’Brien’s Bar Free poker, lots of prizies 8 p.m. @ 335 Somerville Ave @ 676-3589

The Burren: Front Room: Irish Session (9:30 p.m. @ 2 Bow Market Way)

*Comedy Night with Janet Mc Curley @ 7:30 p.m.

*Game Night @ 8 p.m.

**Friday January 31**

Sally O’Brien’s Bar Live music 9 p.m. @ 335 Somerville Ave @ 676-3589

**Saturday February 1**

**Aeronaut Brewing Co.**

*Front Room: African Night, Samba Lolo and Brazilian Night Series | 7 p.m.

**Sunday February 2**

**Central Library**

Creative Drama Workshop with Laurie! 4 p.m.-5 p.m.

**Monday February 3**

**Central Library**

Creative Drama Workshop with Laurie! 4 p.m.-5 p.m.

**Tuesday February 4**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Wednesday February 5**

**Aeronaut Brewing Co.**

*Front Room: “Let’s Do Lunch” with Rachel Marie, Mary Casiello, Jocelyn Lemmer | @ 12 p.m.

*Back Room: Stamp Trivia @ 7 p.m.

*Comedy Night with Janet Mc Curley @ 8 p.m.

**Thursday February 6**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Friday February 7**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Saturday February 8**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Sunday February 9**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Monday February 10**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Tuesday February 11**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Wednesday February 12**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Thursday February 13**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Friday February 14**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Saturday February 15**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Sunday February 16**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Monday February 17**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Tuesday February 18**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Wednesday February 19**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Thursday February 20**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Friday February 21**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Saturday February 22**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Sunday February 23**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Monday February 24**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Tuesday February 25**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Wednesday February 26**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Thursday February 27**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Friday February 28**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Saturday February 29**

**Central Library**

Get Your Art On! 7 p.m.-9 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Sunday March 1**

**Central Library**

Teen Empowerment Library Leaders meeting 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Monday March 2**

**Central Library**

Teen Empowerment Library Leaders meeting 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Tuesday March 3**

**Central Library**

Teen Empowerment Library Leaders meeting 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Wednesday March 4**

**Central Library**

Teen Empowerment Library Leaders meeting 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Thursday March 5**

**Central Library**

Teen Empowerment Library Leaders meeting 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave

**Friday March 6**

**Central Library**

Teen Empowerment Library Leaders meeting 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. @ 79 Highland Ave
February Heart Health Month

Valid ID and proof of income. For questions or additional applications. No appointment necessary, please bring a

Monday through Wednesday, February 5 at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. $3 per person due at
time of reservation for crafting. Seatings for crafts is limited.
Bingo and lunch to follow. Please reserve your spot by calling Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300. Valentine’s Day Super Bingo – Thursday, February 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at our Cross Street Center located at 165 Broadway. $14 includes lunch, coffee, dessert, cards and prizes. Come and have a fun filled
day. Limited seating and transportation. For more information please Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300. 

Caregivers Series For Those Who Live Independent - each Thursday in February from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Please call Ashley at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 for additional information.

St. Valentine's Day Celebration – Monday, February 10 at Dibby Post from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Limited seating and transportation. This event is made possible through the Somerville Police and Somerville Fire Departments. For more information please call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Powers Music School – Tuesday, February 11 starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Featuring the Andromeda Quintet. Lunch and bingo to follow. To RSVP call Joe at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Movie & Pizza Day – Tuesday, February 18 starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. This month’s movie is Driving Miss Daisy. Pizza to follow movie. $3 per person due at time of reservation. For more information or to reserve your spot please call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

LGBTQ EVENTS

– Thursday in February from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Please call Ashley at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 for additional information.

– Tuesday, February 18 starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. This month’s movie is Driving Miss Daisy. Pizza to follow movie. $3 per person due at time of reservation. For more information or to reserve your spot please call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

LGBT Women Fit-4-Life – at Holland Street Center 167 Holland Street - Fitness class is Thursday evenings starting at 6:00 P.M. $10 a month fee - scholarships available. It just might be covered under your insurance.

– Meets the second Thursday of every month from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Cross Street Center. Our Social Worker, Ashley Speliotis, facilitates this group. A welcoming place for people with forgetfulness and their family and friends to share a meal and create new memories. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Ashley at 617-625-6600 ext. 2318.

Low Vision Support Group – Meets the second Tuesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Our Social Worker, Ashley Speliotis, facilitates this group. If you know someone who has trouble seeing? Do you have low vision? Join our Low Vision Support Group for educational and informative information and peer support in a confidential environment. Lunch and transportation may be available on request. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Ashley at 617-625-6600 ext. 2318.

Memory Café – Meets the second Thursday of every month from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Our Social Worker, Ashley Speliotis, facilitates this group. A welcoming place for people with forgetfulness and their family and friends to share a meal and create new memories. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Ashley at 617-625-6600 ext. 2318.

Men’s Group – Meets the first Tuesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This group is facilitated by our volunteer, Norbert Delamato. Are you recently
divorced? Looking for people with similar values in the community? Join our men’s group where you can connect with old friends and make new ones. All men $5 and over are welcome. Come chat about what is on your mind! If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

Veterans Group – Meets the third Monday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Our volunteer, Norbert Delamato, facilitates this group. Are you a vet
ern who is looking for a perfect opportunity to socialize, have solidarity, to reminiscence and to meet other veterans. For info please call 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

CROSS STREET CENTER INFORMATION

Cross Street Center is Closed the Week of November 22. Lunch is served every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday please. Maureen Bastardi, Program Coordinator facilitates this group. Come meet people from all over the world and join in the discussion of a different topic every day. Conversa-
tion is followed by the Fit-4-Life exercise program and then lunch. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Mauren at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335.

Game Time – Every Tuesday from noon to 1:00 p.m. at our Cross Street Center. Join us for lunch and activities. Immediately following lunch we will have a “Game Hour.” Yatzee, Sorry, Jenga, Cards, Scrabble, Check-

omedy Night – Meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at our Cross Street Center. There is a different topic each month ranging from
ted in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

de-cluttering support group – if you have concerns around your clutter and would like to begin the process. This closed group will be meeting in the fall for 6-8 weeks. This group is co-facilitated by Natasha Naim and Mar-

rina Colona. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317.

Gardening Club – Meets the second Monday of each month starting at 9:00 a.m. Vilma Sullivan facilitates this group. There is a different topic each month ranging from gardening tips and secrets to inexpensive green

houses. Group runs approximately an hour and a half. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require addi-
tional information please call 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

Low Vision Support Group – Meets the second Tues-
day of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Our Social Worker, Ashley Speliotis, facilitates this group. Do you

know someone who has trouble seeing? Do you have low vision? Join our Low Vision Support Group for educational and informative information and peer sup-
port in a confidential environment. Lunch and transportation may be available on request. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional

information please call Ashley at 617-625-6600 ext. 2318.

UPCOMING EVENTS/TRIPS

Volunteers needed for the Engage for Brain Health Study - Are you starting to have problems with your memory or have trouble climbing stairs? Engage 8 might be
to you! Join us for 24 week study for people 60 to 89 years of age. Call Chris at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email him at skovaleski@somerville.gov for questions and additional information.

Fit-4-Life Nutrition Class – Thursday afternoons from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with Nutritionist Caitlin McAfee. Learn about our new and upcoming nutrition programs including, Cooking with Caitlin, Fit-4-Life Nutrition Class, Meal in a Mug and more. Next Class Dates: For more information call Caitlin at 617-625-6600, ext. 2316.

Healthy Steps – Thursdays, Holland Street from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Healthy Steps is a therapeutic, gentle, movement class for anyone who needs to get moving, particularly anyone recovering from surgery, frail elders or those living with chronic fatigue or arthritis. Upcom-
ing date: December 5. Class is $3. For additional information or questions call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Line Dancing – The first and third Thursday of each month– Holland Street Center. Class is free. No expe-
rience needed. For additional info or questions call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Bowling – Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. atSac’s Bowl Haven at Flatbread Pizza located in Davis
Square. There is a $3 weekly fee which covers shoes and two games candlepin bowling for a bowling banquet. For more information and to sign up, please contact Debby Higgins, Outreach Coordinator at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Music & Movement with Steve Gintz – at our Holland Street Center from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Come create
gigantic magical movements through music. Please call Ashley at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 for more information. Upcom-
ing dates: January 27 and February 24.

Chinese New Year “Year of the Rat” Bingo – Wednes-
day, January 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. $12 price includes lunch, coffee,
dessert and bingo. Limited seating and transportation. For more information please call Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Food Stamp Application Walk-In– Mondays, February 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at our Hol-

Land Street Center. The Department of Transitional Assis-
tance has placed a food stamp application Kiosk at the Holland Street Center which takes the place of going to

the DMV. If you have questions or need to enroll in benefits. The SCOA’s Social Workers will be hosting walk-in-hours to help facilitate applications. No appointment necessary, please bring a

valid ID and proof of income. For questions or additional

February Heart Health Month – February 3 at our
Medford-Malden Elks makes generous donation to district third graders

The Benjamin G. Brown School hosted a special assembly on Friday, January 17. Thanks to the generosity of the Medford-Malden Elks organization, every third grade student at the Brown School received a dictionary on behalf of the more than 350 third grade students in the district. Brown School Principal Shaw Maguire hosted the gathering in the school library where several Medford-Malden Elks Lodge members distributed the reference books to students.

The Elks have been a steadfast partner in supporting student literacy, having donated a dictionary to every third grade student in the district for many years. The dictionaries are intended for students to keep and use at school and at home. Other elementary schools across the district will receive their copies of the dictionaries early next week. — Somerville Public Schools

Somerville Media Center Education

Podcasting for Beginners: How to Create & Market your own Podcast

When: February 3 and 10, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. (Session 1)  
March 2 and 9, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. (Session 2)  
Location: Somerville Media Center  
Cost: $75 for current SMC members / $125 for non-members

Audio-based programming known as podcasting has exploded in recent years as a way of communicating stories. Learn how you can create podcasts in this introductory course taught by Boston Free Radio Station Manager and podcaster Heather McCormack.

The first session will review the difference between podcasting and broadcasting and learn about why podcasting is the fastest growing new media field. You will explore different types of content, structure, formats for podcasts and discuss how to create an interesting and engaging podcast plan including tackling strategic ways for marketing and distribution. Basic use of Podcast Studio setup will be demonstrated.

Following the successful completion of Session 1, SMC members in good standing will become certified and can reserve the Podcast Studio for approved projects.

The second session is an opportunity for those who already have a solid podcast plan or who have already begun to record to take the next step in putting their podcast out there—hosting, distributing, marketing and even monetizing.

Learn the secrets to building a strong and engaged audience, figure out which hosting site is right for you, and learn about how to develop a web and social media presence to get your podcast out in the world. We will discuss ideas around monetizing your podcast through advertisements, joining podcast networks, and more.

Road to the Future Transition Fair

Families of middle and high school age students with disabilities are invited to come and learn about agencies and services that may be helpful to your college or workforce bound child; educational, employment, and independent living options and opportunities; and networking and family support possibilities.

The Road to the Future Transition Fair will take place on Thursday, February 6, in the main cafeteria of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge.

This event is hosted by Cambridge Public Schools OSS Transition Services in collaboration with Somerville Public Schools. RSVP to Brittaney Courier, bcourier@k12.somerville.ma.us (617-625-6600 x6201) or Sandra Copman, scopman@k12.somerville.ma.us (617-625-6600 x6655).

'From My Heart to Yours' Screening Series

The City of Somerville’s Health and Human Services Department (HHS) and Somerville Media Center (SMC) are excited to announce the 2020 Screening Series of ‘From My Heart to Yours.

This short educational film provides an intimate look at how the availability and use of opioids have impacted the lives of many individuals, especially here locally and around the state. It also addresses various pathways to recovery and resources that exist to help the transition back into society. HHS and SMC partnered with local organizations to host free screenings of the short documentary (about 25 minutes) throughout the city with a Q&A with representatives from individuals who were part of production.

Screening events are scheduled as follows:
February 6, 5:00 p.m., at Council on Aging, 167 Holland St.  
March 6, 6:30 p.m., at Connexion, 149 Broadway  
April 15, 6:00 p.m., Somerville Library, 79 Highland Ave.

To advertise in The Somerville Times call Bobbie Toner 617-666-4010

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Call Jimmy 857-366-3761

Bobby’s Dad Jokes Corner

What did the 0 say to the 8? Nice belt.  
Courtesy of Daniel

Bobbygeorge Potaris

From My Heart to Yours

FROM MY HEART TO YOURS

The Somerville Times
FAA approved! FREE info deliveries. Only 2.8 pounds! Today! Call 1-800-217-0504 to qualify for the perfect brace.

KNEE OR BACK PAIN? If you have knee or back pain, call us.eligibility verification. We are here to help you find the perfect brace. Call 1-800-217-0504 to qualify for the perfect brace.

Today! Call 1-800-217-0504 to qualify for the perfect brace.

We are here to help you find the perfect brace. Call 1-800-217-0504 to qualify for the perfect brace.

100 Generics of $9.99 (30) (12 month supply) for only $39.95. Free shipping with a minimum order of $50. Order now for your new year's resolution to live healthier.

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DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Co. may be just a discount plan, REAL coverage for $350! Call today 800-534-4099 (24/7).

Recently diagnosed with LUNG CANCER and 60+ years old? Call now! You may qualify for FREE health care entitled to a SIGNIFICANT CASH AWARD. Call 877-648-6799 today. Free Consultation. No Risk.


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SCATV is part of Somerville Media Center, home to Boston Free Radio, Somerville Neighborhood News and SMC Youth Media!
Almost hidden – half-moon bites
the morning down; the sky toasts.

tongues in hot milk we sip
Wilting in the shimmer-sheen of a small Italian town hot

AFTERNOON
BREAKFAST IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE

 Tufts University Department of Music presents Family
and Children’s Concert Series – Tufts Youth Philharmonic
in the Durlacher Performance Hall at 1:00 p.m.
TYP performs a concert for children and families with music
from Beethoven to John Williams’ Star Wars under the direc-
tions of John Page.

Ms. Cam’s
Olio
Answers

1. The Beatles and The
Rolling Stones, each with
eight
2. 2007 at the Macworld
convention
3. 1877 Wimbledon
Championship
4. P-51 Mustang fighter
plane
5. Edmonton Oilers
6. Germany
7. Maize
8. wtrw
9. A bit
10. Camden family
11. The Union Gap
12. Tomorrow Never Dies

OFF THE SHELF
by Doug Holder

Miriam Levine on her new collection ‘Saving Daylight’

“Miriam Levine is a poet, memoirist, and fiction writer. Her five collections of poetry include The
Dark Opens, winner of the Autumn House Po-
etry Prize, and Saving Daylight (2019). She is the
author of Devotion, a memoir, and In Patience, a
novel. Levine has won grants from the National
Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts
Artists Foundation. Her work has appeared in
American Poetry Review, Kenyon Review, The Par-
is Review, Ploughshares, The Southern Review, and
Virginia Quarterly Review. She is professor emerita
at Framingham State University in Massachusetts
and lives in New Hampshire and Florida.

In Saving Daylight, her fifth poetry collection,
Miriam Levine connects intimately with people
and places. Levine’s poems express beauty insepa-
aráble from peril. They chart a world in which an
infant turns his “head toward light,” while a mother
fights “sleep to keep” him alive; where the tender
sky is “baby blue,” while sea levels dangerously rise.
Levine’s poems are set in the American landscape –
northeast, southeast – in Russia, the Greek Is-
lands, and in the poet’s mind when sleepless she
remembers a friend’s last words, an important
teacher, and the ravishing sight of a lover. Even as
she mourns the loss of the near and dear they come
alive in Saving Daylight along with flowers throw-
ing off “streaks of light.” Worldly and innocent,
Levine prays to “banish each disgrace” of her life,”
as she invites self-forgetfulness and compassion.”

— From Levine’s Website

Doug Holder: Miriam this collection – your
sixth – marks your 80th birthday. Yet, as you have
said, there is a mixture of the “worldly and inno-
cent.” I think to still maintain one’s innocence is
essential for the poet. Your thoughts?

Miriam Levine: It’s not “essential” for a poet to
keep innocence alive. There are marvelous po-
ets who have little to do with innocence; Baudel-
laire, for instance. The loss of innocence is one of
literature’s great themes, and the shock of such a
loss. I think of innocence – my own – as freshness
akin to faith, openness, willingness to live through
seemingly empty moments. And certainly not na-
ive, though there’s plenty I do not know.

DH: There is so much vivid color included in
your poems, of nature, people, the world, etc. I
wonder, do you have any background as a painter?

ML: Call me an unambitious amateur painter.
Right now, watercolor is my medium. The names of
various shades are rich and musical – opera rose,
burnt sienna, azure. And “lilac” is delightful. Color
has always attracted me, especially out of doors.
When my temperature is normal. The neurolo-
gist Oacks defines some visions as hallucina-
tions, common experiences, some of them occur-
ing during waking or falling asleep. These states
of mind happen when I’m out walking or gazing
into space at home. The ancient poets heard the
voice of a muse. Sacks would call that voice an au-
natural vision. I hear the sound of the waves.

South Beach inspires me.

DH: Pain and beauty are in close proximity in
your work. Do you think one informs the other?

ML: Yes. Insistent dualism is a trap, I believe, so
the “proximity” of pain and beauty is an accurate
description. I agree: pain and beauty “inform” each
other. I’m fed up with oppositions: pain versus
beauty; beauty versus pain, yet I won’t abandon the
opposition between good and evil, though at this
point in my life I can’t write poems from a dualistic
point of view.

DH: You have written a memoir, Devotion, and
other works of non-fiction. Since I teach memoir
to undergraduates, I encourage students to have a
sense of lyricism in the book. So is the poetic tool
necessary for this type of writing?

ML: No. There are many ways to write a memoir.

DH: What is your opinion on the idea of
“lyrical” prose – a one-page assign-
ment who writes lyrical prose – a one-page assign-
ment – or ask them to write a memory poem like

DH Lawrence’s Puts, which begins... “Softly, in
the dumb, a woman is singing to me...”

DH: Tell us why someone should read Saving
Daylight.

ML: Saving Daylight offers pleasure, consola-
tion, and engagement with life.
ATTN: LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS

10 REASONS WHY ADVERTISING IN PRINT IS BETTER:

#1 Targeted Markets
Print publications tend to serve specific geographic areas or specific consumer groups, and sometimes they serve both. This makes a newspaper an ideal advertising medium for a business that provides services. The customers most likely to use the business’s services probably live within the circulation area of the paper.

#2 Reader Engagement
When watching television or surfing the web, people often multitask, meaning they divide their attention. In the case of television, watchers often leave the room during advertisements. Readers of newspapers actively and intentionally engage with the material on the page, including the advertisements.

#3 More Control
Print advertising gives the ad buyer considerable control. Ad buyers choose the size and, within editorial guidelines, dictate the content of the advertisement. Many publications also allow buyers control over the placement of the advertisement. This helps the buyer ensure that the ad reaches the readers most likely to act on it.

#4 Instant Credibility
People trust print ads more than digital ads. Newspapers often command a genuine or at least perceived credibility. The readership trusts the information the publication offers, and the advertisements in the publication reap the benefits of that trust. Readers lend the advertising in the publication more credibility by virtue of appearing in the publication.

#5 Visual Appeal
A well-designed advertisement creates a visual appeal that draws attention. Readers may pause to look at the ad or even return to look at the ad a second time. The longer, or more times, the reader looks at the ad, the higher the chances of the reader remembering the product or service in the advertisement.

#6 Better Recall
People recall print ads better than digital ads. The Internet is noisy. Any given page may have dozens of links, ads, calls to action, and choices competing for your attention. In a newspaper, readers still have distractions, but there are generally fewer of them, and you physically move through ads as you interact with the content.

#7 Interactive Engagement
Print naturally creates engagement because you physically have to hold a newspaper, turn the pages, clip coupons, etc. It also encourages conversation. Think about times you’ve discussed an article with a family member or friend. Was that interaction more memorable and meaningful than if you would have shared via a text or email?

#8 Ad Longevity
This might be an obvious one, but print magazines, newspapers, newsletters, brochures, etc., tend to stick around a lot longer on coffee tables and in waiting rooms than any blog, digital ad or Instagram post ever will. As a weekly publication, The Somerville Times is always sought after by its loyal readers, who tend to keep their back issues.

#9 Cost Effectiveness
While running online ads may seem cheap, in the long-term you’re often going to spend more because you have to change your messaging and artwork more frequently on that platform. With print, there is more permanence in what you say, how you look and what action you want your audience to take.

#10 Tangible Results
Digital ads are adequate for delivering quick results with lots of data. But if you want to penetrate your market, print ads should probably be part of your strategy. By physically placing your brand in people’s hands, you create lasting impressions that engage your audience in meaningful ways. The positive results are undeniable.

Contact us and let us show you the many ways we can help you achieve your marketing goals.

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