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newspaper

The Somerville Times

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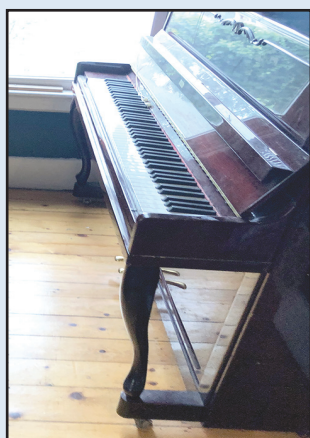


VOL. 10 NO. 1

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2022

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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2021: The year in review



By The Times Staff

It was a year that saw many of the previous one's issues and challenges repeated, and in some cases amplified. In spite of the worldwide accessibility of COVID-19 vaccines, the incidences of infections continued to fluctuate, frustrating business' – both small and large – efforts to recoup and recover.

The continuing pandemic of course took a human toll in death and serious illness. Locally, residents of Somerville and its immediate environs were hardly shielded from these issues, and were forced to deal with them as thoughtfully and resolutely as any other community. The city responded dynamically by regulating face coverings and other measures throughout the year.

Here are some of the other stories that were covered in *The Times* in 2021:

The year began much like any other. The City of Somerville held its annual tradition of raising the Grand Union flag at Prospect Hill Tower for the twenty-first time on

Continued on page 4

City of Somerville's 246th annual flag-raising ceremony

The City of Somerville's 246th annual flag-raising ceremony took place on New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1, 2022.

The celebration began at City Hall with a procession to the Prospect Hill Monument led by General George Washington on horseback followed by local dignitaries and the public, along with other processional participants.

At the monument, a short program including Colonial songs, light refreshments, and speeches took place. Attendees learned about the important role our community played in the American Revolution. This annual ceremony commemorates the raising of the nation's first official flag, featuring thirteen red and white horizontal stripes, atop Prospect Hill on New Year's Day, 1776.

At the time, Prospect Hill was a key site in a string of fortifications created by Washington and the Continental Army in their siege of British troops in Boston during the first year of the American Revolution.



Somerville residents met at Prospect Hill Tower to learn about the important role our community played in the American Revolution. More photos on page 11.

— Photos by Bobbie Toner

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The views and opinions expressed in Newstalk do not necessarily reflect those of The Somerville Times, its publisher or staff. The column has many contributors.

Congratulations to all our local public servants who were sworn in for new or additional terms this week. We especially congratulate our new mayor, **Katjana Ballantyne**. She will have her hands full, but we are confident that she will do an exceptionally fine job. Let's wish all of them the best and hope that they serve all of our interests as fairly and effectively as possible.








The cases numbers in Somerville have risen to 822 for the month of December, making it already the third-highest monthly total since the beginning of the pandemic and creating the potential to surpass last December and January in terms of local transmission of the virus. See the latest Somerville case data at somervillema.gov/covid19dashboard.

COVID-19 vaccine booster clinics will be held January 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Ave. The Moderna booster will be offered. Registration is required. Please register at tinyurl.com/SomervilleVax or call 311. The clinic is free, and open to all people 18 years or older, regardless of immigration status or health insurance. Identification is not required. Please bring your vaccine card with you to your appointment, and arrive at the time of your appointment to avoid overcrowding in the building.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to a great local guy, **Matt Hoey**. We wish him the very best on this his birthday week. Happy birthday to **Dominick Silvestri Jr.** We wish him the very best. Happy birthday to **Theresa Rodriques**, who is also celebrating this week. Happy birthday to **Bonnie Raboin Carriger**, who also celebrates this week. We hope she enjoyed her day. Happy Birthday to **Kevin O'Donovan**. We wish him a great birthday. Happy birthday to everyone here and from the city who is celebrating this week. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Marie Miele**, **Matthew Martino**, **Gale Mahan**, **Steven Anthony**, **Sophia Carafotes**, **George Allen**, **Linda M. Alves**, and **Simon** Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of January 5 – January 11 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday January 5	Rain	49°/37°	63%	51%	SSW 11 mph
 Thursday January 6	Partly Cloudy	42°/32°	6%	4%	W 10 mph
 Friday January 7	Snow	35°/18°	51%	43%	NW 14 mph
 Saturday January 8	Sunny	33°/26°	1%	1%	WNW 9 mph
 Sunday January 9	Rain	43°/33°	31%	22%	SW 11 mph
 Monday January 10	Partly Cloudy	31°/10°	20%	14%	WNW 10 mph
 Tuesday January 11	Sunny	20°/15°	5%	3%	WNW 8 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Discussions for the next decades of safe mobility conducted

Lezgue Brandon says:

Stop. Just stop. These people just need to stop. As it is now less than 3% of people commute via bicycle and that is higher than the actual % it is in winter months. We do not have a dependable transit system (the T is horrible), so the only safe and dependable method left is walking. I'm a walker and even I am not willing to walk in the winter any further than 1.5 miles to a job – longer than that and it is not worth the effort. That leaves cars. We need car lanes and we need to stop this nonsense of pandering to select groups like the bike mafia.

Andrew says:

Did you know that work commute trips are just 2 out of the 4 to 7 trips each working person makes? There are also so many trips that people who don't work make. I see many people cycling for reasons other than going to or from work.

Anonymous says:

Just to be clear, and sorry for the heavy dose of reality, adding separated bike lanes is going to result in just about zero drivers choosing to bike instead of drive. 75% is about as absurd as planning out cities on mars. The decision to bike vs drive was made well beforehand, based on much more pressing criteria like distance, availability of parking at work, and general lifestyle (health / kids / type of job / etc). In all the years I've biked around Somerville / Cambridge / Boston I never once chose to bike / not bike because of the quality of the ride. That just influenced the route I take. I'd wager most new bikers are folks who would have walked or taken the T otherwise.

Response to: Mayor Curtatone delivers his farewell address to the city

Villinous says:

Best mayor ever. People thought we were crazy when we moved to Somerville right when he was taking office. Been amazing to watch the city flourish. Squares that people barely went to are hopping these days. Impossible act to follow.

Yet another poster says:

If you didn't move here until after he took office then you wouldn't know the hipster ball was rolling well before him – certainly during DKG's relatively brief reign. Under him it just reached a tipping point of going from an undercurrent to the status quo. Overall I'm happy with Joe and think he did a good job, though there were a few things he did along the way that pissed me off & caused me to vote against him, symbolically, once or twice. I wouldn't credit him so much for making Somerville the way it is now as I would for not standing in the way as it moved itself that way.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Life in the by Jimmy Del Ponte

The piano



One of my former bosses gave me the nickname “Gimme DelPonte” because whenever he started the sentence, “Does anybody want this?” I’d say

“yes” before he even finished the question. I didn’t even care what it was as long as it was free.

Well, about 60 years ago the nuns at St. Clement were getting a new piano and they were going to give the old one to one of the families, first come first served. My father was an usher at the church because he got free breakfast in the rectory. He heard about the piano and immediately said, “I’ll take it!”

My brother Joe and I both learned to

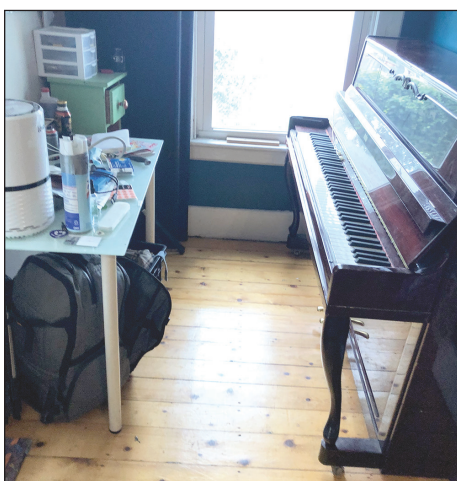
play on the piano. We took lessons from Lillian LeCouffe on Simpson Ave. I used to take two or three of my friends with me for the lessons because I hated going. I had already taught myself how to play pretty well anyway.

We kept that piano until 2001 when we bought a new one. And on that piano my two sons learned to play. Last Thursday we finally had that piano removed because it wouldn’t hold a tuning anymore, plus we have a couple of pretty nice electric/digital pianos that are easily connected to our recording devices. Plus, we needed the extra room.

It cost me \$200 to have the piano removed and I’ll tell you it was a little emotional saying goodbye to the piano that my sons learned to play on. Hopefully, a new family will restore it.

My youngest son Jimmy wrote a song on it when he was about five years old. He didn’t have a title for the song but every time he sat at the piano he’d play that particular one. So his brother Joe and I referred to the song as *Boint D Boint*, mimicking the rhythm of the tune. We still call it that to this day.

When the boys were at the West Somerville Neighborhood School, I think it was 2004, we had a talent show and Jimmy played the electric piano while Joey played the bass guitar and I played the drums. It was their debut



performance, which would be the first of many to follow.

We called the band Electric Smile. We wrote a song called *Boy’s Night*, and we have it on video. It went over really well. They were so small and it was so long ago. The boys went on to form the band Stainless, then The Poison Girls Club and finally their current band, Mallcops.

My mother used to come home for brunch when she was working close by. Mom never failed to ask me to play the song *Angel of the Morning* for her.

She got a lot of joy out of having me play for her friends. Probably around the same amount of enjoyment I get seeing my sons play music that all started on

the old piano.

My sons’ band, Mallcops, have won two Boston Music Awards and a New England Music Award.

We had the St. Clement piano from 1964 through 2000. We bought a new one for the boys. That one lasted from 2002 through this year. Both sons started their music careers on the family piano. We sure got our money’s worth out of both instruments.

When it’s repaired, I hope the old piano can bring some music and joy to another family. If you have young children, a piano could change their lives. If someone offers you a free piano, say yes, and call Mt. Auburn Piano Movers!

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Somerville COVID-19 vaccine clinic January 7 at Healey School

A COVID-19 vaccine clinic for initial doses and boosters will be held January 7 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Healey School at 5 Meacham St. Vaccines will be available for all people 5 years and up, and boosters will be available for all people 16 years and up. Please register at tinyurl.com/vaccine1-7 or call 311.

The clinic is free, regardless of immigration status or health insurance. Identification is not required. Please note that appointments may fill up quickly. Local vaccine appointments are also available at the CHA Somerville Vaccine Center at 176 Somerville Ave: home.color.com/vaccine/register/metro-northmobile.

2021: The year in review CONT. FROM PG 1



January 1, and the spirit of the New Year blew a fresh breeze of optimism throughout the city. In spite of this, in 2021 there were some 100 COVID-19 deaths, while mask mandates and indoor gathering restrictions came and went throughout the year.



In February, the Somerville School Committee tackled the difficult problem of scheduling the much-desired reopening of schools. A tentative agreement between public schools to allow groups 1 and 2 – special needs and ELO students – back into in-person classes beginning in March was agreed to. The return of all students largely depended on maintenance work, specifically ventilation in the classrooms. By April, a hybrid approach to returning students to classrooms was phased in. While several previously restricted places of businesses were allowed to eventually reopen, a number of clubs and restaurants were forced to close their doors

permanently. Customers went from restaurants being closed to outdoor seating, back to indoor, then back to the mask mandate for all indoor places in Somerville, which is still in place. Governor Baker's order at the end of May brought live music back to Massachusetts. Somer-

ville residents returned in huge numbers to local venues such as The Burren and The Jungle to hear live music once again. The year was not easy for many local venues. Each one had its individual struggles and handled their hardships in different ways. The one similarity between them is that they did their best to bring music back to Somerville in full force by summer. The Somerville Theatre reopened in September after being closed for 18 months. Certain outdoor events and festivals made a return in 2021. Familiar favorites such as the popular SomerStreets events Carnaval, Strike up the Bands, and Monster Mash-Up, along with Riverfest, Porchfest, and

the Ignite! Global Food and Fire Festival helped to instill a sense of a return to normalcy in the community. Aside from the struggles experienced in the schools and local businesses, progress was made in other areas of the community. Several parks and playgrounds were renovated and reopened to the public. The massive renovation and rebuilding project for Somerville High School reached its conclusion as the new building opened to students in March to support the district's return to in-person learning while final renovations continued on a 750-seat auditorium. Those renovations finished in early November, and all building construction is now complete. Following a comprehensive search process, Somerville Public Schools (SPS) Superintendent Mary Skipper announced that Matthew Buchanan, currently Principal at Hope High School in the Providence Public Schools in Rhode Island, would be joining the district's school leadership team as the next Principal of Somerville High School. Sadly, an inordinate number of shootings and stabbings took place in the city throughout the year, and traffic fatalities made the headlines as well. At the end of May, Somerville residents and elected officials gathered to show their outrage after there

the site later in the year. The city added more bike and bus lanes and traffic routes at rotaries like Powerhouse Circle. The improvements to Powder House Circle were officially underway by mid-August as the city made a series of safety upgrades to benefit all road users. The city converted the high-speed, chaotic rotary into a modern roundabout intersection using low-cost "quick-build" materials including pavement markings, signage, and flex posts. Other events of note include Governor Charlie Baker signing An Act Ensuring Safe Patient Access to Emergency Care (S.2931) as a direct response to the death of Laura Beth Levis, who suffered an asthma attack on September 16, 2016. After driving herself to the hospital at about 4:00 a.m., she found the door to the emergency room locked. Unable to reach the other entrance, she called 911 and stated her whereabouts. The EMTs found Levis right in front of the hospital about ten minutes after the call. Unfortunately, she died several days later. Thanks to the efforts of Levis' husband Peter DeMarco and state legislators Pat Jehlen and Christine Barber, "Laura's Law" requiring "hospital emergency departments in the state to have entrances that are properly monitored by security, clearly marked, and easily accessible, particularly to patients in



represents Somerville patrol officers, reached an agreement to implement body-worn cameras. The agreement represents a collaborative breakthrough for policing transparency in Somerville and establishes the city as an early regional adopter of this important technology. A new public safety building was set to be built on 90 Washington Street to replace the original building that has become obsolete and outdated, with a plethora of structural issues that would cost more to fix than to build a new building. The new facility will house both the Police and Fire Departments as well as community-decided development that has yet to be determined. On the political scene, Denise Provost, State Representative for 27th Middlesex district for 15 years, resigned her seat and swore in her new successor, Erika Uytterhoven, on January 6. In March, during his mid-term address, Mayor Joe Curtatone announced that he will not be running for re-election in November. Curtatone served Somerville in that office for nine terms, making him the city's longest serving mayor. In September it was announced that he was going to become the new president of the Northeast Clean Energy Council and NECEC Institute.

A number of candidates for the mayor's seat emerged, along with several challenges to City Council positions. City Councilors Katjana Ballantyne and Will Mbah were among those who vied for the Mayor's Office. While both became the front runners following the September preliminary election, it was Ballantyne who prevailed and became the mayor-elect after the November General Election, becoming the first new mayor in 18 years. With all its triumphs and challenges, the year ended with a feeling of refreshing change in the air. May 2022 be generous in its possibilities for a safe and secure future for us all.



had been a spike in pedestrian fatalities and injuries. The rally was held to demand that MassDOT prioritize the safety of people over the speed of cars. Marshall Mac, a 72-year-old Vietnam veteran who was severely injured in a hit-and-run crash died on April 29 after failing to recover from injuries sustained in the incident. Mac was struck by a vehicle on McGrath Highway in Somerville on April 12. The vehicle did not stop after striking Mac and fled the scene. The driver subsequently surrendered to police, and a proper pedestrian crossing was installed at

distress" came into effect. The City Council's Legislative Matters Committee undertook to establish a Surveillance Technology Use Policy. Impact reports, drafted for the use of each type of surveillance technology, were examined by the Committee. The ordinance language was reviewed to ensure that effective oversight could be carried out in every instance of surveillance technology use by a city department. After several years of negotiations, the city and the Somerville Police Employees Association (SPEA) union, which



City of Somerville’s 2022 Virtual Inauguration



The City of Somerville’s 2022 Virtual Inauguration included the swearing in of Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and remarks from City Council President Matt McLaughlin, School Committee Chair Andre Green and U.S. Senator Ed Markey. Community activist and Padres Latinas co-leader Paula Magnelli introduced Mayor Ballantyne. Also included were SHS junior Zia Halawa, who performed *Times Are Hard For Dreamers* from *Amélie*, while Britney Flores, SHS Class of ’22, closed the program with her performance of *The Star-Spangled Banner*. The entire inauguration ceremony video can be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com or on the city’s YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddOZGIsgI4k&t=108s>.



Newly sworn Mayor Katjana Ballantyne delivers her inaugural address.



City Council President Matt McLaughlin.



U.S. Senator Ed Markey.



School Committee Chair Andre Green.



Padres Latinas co-leader Paula Magnelli.



SHS junior Zia Halawa.



Britney Flores, SHS Class of ’22.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week

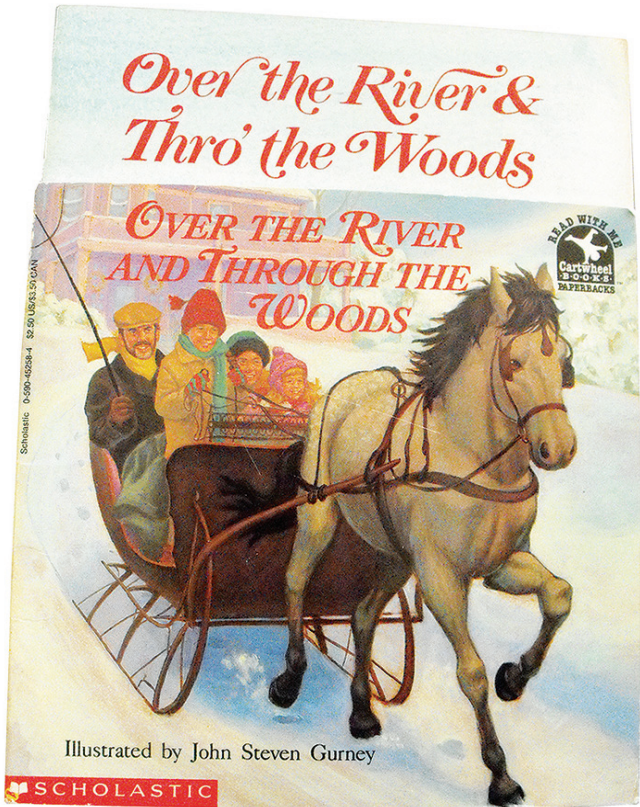


Eagle feathers #245

The Forgotten

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

It wasn’t long ago that a stately animal worked as a lifeline to our civilization transforming communication, farming, construction and power. He has been with us for over 4,000 years working alongside man sharing his strength and stamina.



He’s the beloved horse. His one-horsepower eclipsed the might of ten men. Once tamed and harnessed, he became man’s worker, entertainer and friend. As a worker, his cultivating devices went from plows to wagons to machinery. As an entertainer, he became a saddle horse or racer. As a friend, he was himself.

♦ Colonial horses arrived in New England between 1629, the year Charlestown was founded, and beyond. Rhode Island’s Narragansett Bay Pacer was the first American-bred horse. It was the breed which patriot Paul Revere rode to Lexington. Sadly, the breed is now extinct.



♦ The building at 90 Union Square, Barristers’ Hall, boasts an impressive mural of a mounted General George Washington. He sits astride his favorite horse, Nelson, encouraging his troops at the first American flag raising. This event took place 226 years ago on January 1, 1776 on Prospect Hill.

♦ During the early 1800’s, Colonel Samuel Jacques owned the biggest farm in Somerville. It was the 600-acre Ten Hills Farm. He once owned some of the best trotting horses in the country. For sport, his game was fox hunting. This is where his horsemanship shined. He

Continued on page 11

Mayor Ballantyne announces executive staff

Last week, after conducting a thorough vetting process, Mayor-elect Katjana Ballantyne announced two key executive staff selections, new administrative support, and a team of three Senior Transition Advisors.

Nikki Spencer, M.S.W., M.P.H., a Somerville resident, has been named the incoming Chief of Staff. Spencer brings more than 10 years of experience in operational management, public health, and community engagement. Her project leadership and strategic planning experience span nonprofit, governmental, and academic settings where she has consistently championed equity initiatives. As a public health social worker, she has spent the last 18 months combating COVID-19 and supporting those most impacted across the state, including in Somerville. Most recently, she served as the Tactics and Operations Manager for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Vaccine Equity Initiative. She holds both a Master of Social Work and a Master of Public Health from Washington University in St. Louis.

Aneesh Sahni will oversee the policy agenda for the Ballantyne administration as the Director of Intergovernmental Relations. Sahni most recently served as the Legislative Director for State Senator Brendan Crighton, 3rd Essex District,

where, among other initiatives, he worked on the eviction and foreclosure moratorium, public transit access improvements, and educational equity. A former public school teacher, Sahni has also worked for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and served as a Policy Fellow in the U.S. House of Representatives. He is active in efforts to support leaders of color and improve racial equity in government and holds a B.A. from Princeton University in Public and International Affairs.

Finally, Luz Lopez is joining the Mayor's Office as an Executive Administrative Assistant. Lopez comes to the office having spent the last three years as a Senior Clerk at the East Somerville Community School. She is fluent in Spanish and enjoys working to meet the needs of constituents from around Somerville.

Mayor-elect Ballantyne established a rigorous hiring process with the support of veteran recruiters Elaine Varelas (Managing Partner, Keystone Partners) and Cynthia Maltbie (retired former Chief of Human Resources, Partners In Health & Fidelity Investments) to identify new hires, while a systematic assessment of internal capacity was conducted with the support of seasoned policy advisor and recent Boston cabinet member

Marty Martinez (former Chief of Health and Human Services, City of Boston) and Katie Brilliantes, a Somerville resident and policy advisor who is the Director of the Mayor-elect's Citizen Advisory Committee.

"My goal is to get to work on day one, to address the primary concerns of the people of Somerville: affordability, the environment, transportation, mobility, equity, education, health, COVID-19 safety and recovery, and so much more," said Mayor Ballantyne. "The list of critical issues is long, and I intend to address them with the most qualified staff, the most effective structures, and always an ear to the ground to hear the many voices in our community so we can deliver the progress and quality services that Somerville demands."

To aid a smooth transition, three current staff have also been tapped to serve as Senior Transition Advisors in addition to performing their usual roles. They include Austin Faison, the current Somerville ARPA Director and most recently the Town Manager of Winthrop; Tim Snyder, the current COVID-19 Deputy Incident Commander and Senior COVID Policy Advisor, and a former Director of Intergovernmental Relations for Mayor Curtatone; and Denise Taylor, the current Director of



Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

Communications and Community Engagement also serving as the Public Information Officer for the pandemic emergency response. Faison and Snyder, both supporting the emergency response and recovery in time-limited positions, will advise the transition with Taylor for approximately six months. Taylor will then stay on with the administration in her current role while also assuming

the ongoing role of Senior Policy Advisor to Mayor-elect Ballantyne.

Together, the Ballantyne administration's new executive staff combine extensive policy skills with operational experience and bring a substantial commitment to and proven successes in advancing equity. The new staff speaks four languages fluently including English, Spanish, Hindi, and German.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of *The Somerville Times* do not reflect the views and opinions of *The Somerville Times*, its publishers or staff. Readers are invited to send letters to the editor to *The Somerville Times*. Please email your letters to News@TheSomervilleTimes.com or mail them to 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. *The Somerville Times* Reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and length. All letters must include an name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

To the Editor:

Every day, incarcerated people and their loved ones shoulder exorbitant costs to call each other because for-profit companies charge about four times the actual cost of phone service. As a result, one in three families with a loved one in prison will go into debt to maintain regular contact with incarcerated relatives. The financial burden of these calls is particularly onerous for low-income people. With in-person visits suspended at

many prisons due to COVID-19, telephone and video calls have become a lifeline for incarcerated people. For incarcerated people, financial barriers to communicating with loved ones are punitive – not rehabilitative – as many studies show that sustained outside contact promotes successful reentry and helps prevent recidivism. We must move away from a carceral system that disproportionately punishes marginalized communities. Right now, we are at a critical juncture for meaningful reform.

Currently, legislators and a coalition of advocacy organizations are fighting to make phone calls free for incarcerated people in Massachusetts. Senator Cynthia Creem and Representative Chynah Tyler have introduced bills S. 1559 and H. 1900, which would provide telephone calls at no cost to incarcerated people in all state prisons, county jails, and houses of correction. Already, cities and states, including Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and Connecticut, have passed similar laws, and now it is time for us to

do the same in Massachusetts. You can help Massachusetts families stay connected by contacting your local representative and voicing your support. Please contact our Somerville representative, Christine P. Barber, at (617) 722-2220 or Christine.Barber@mahouse.gov. Contacting her is a simple gift that could help so many incarcerated people and their loved ones. Aaron Steinberg
Somerville

City to distribute free at-home rapid COVID-19 testing kits

The City of Somerville received 16,650 free at-home rapid COVID-19 test kits from the state that are being distributed via various channels to Somerville residents who have limited access to testing, limited means to purchase at-home tests, and are at high risk of exposure. The City has completed distribution of the kits to the Somerville Public Schools, Prospect Hill Academy, community non-profits, the Somerville Housing Authority and additional subsidized housing, and City departments that serve residents with barriers to access including income, language, mobility, internet access, and others. A limited number of tests were also made available via the Somerville Public Libraries to qualifying residents and those supplies are now depleted. The Biden administration has promised to begin distribution of more at-home test kits as early as January. Individuals facing the above-mentioned barriers to accessing a COVID-19 at-home test should contact 311 (617-666-3311) to learn how to receive a test kit from a community provider or social service/direct service staff. Please note that supplies are limited and may be depleted quickly. Multilingual support is available. State and City testing sites are still operational. Visit mass.gov/GetTested or somervillema.gov/COVIDTesting for more information about getting tested for COVID-19 at home or at a local testing site.

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Congratulations to our newly inaugurated city officials!

Our View Of The Times



In spite of the vastly divergent range of opinions held by all of us here in Somerville and in our neighboring communities, we can unite in the spirit of hope and bipartisanship as we congratulate and honor those who took their respective oaths of office this week.

It is so easy to sit back and play “armchair quarterback” as our city officials wrestle with the day-to-day and long-term issues

that impact our lives to greater or lesser degrees. We can question and kibitz and complain until we are blue in the face. At the end of the day, it is those men and women who have taken up the burden of leadership who must deliver on their promise to serve our best interests in the most efficient and productive ways possible.

It is an unenviable task that is always harder to achieve than is clearly imag-

inable by the average citizen. Before voicing any severe criticisms for policies advanced and propagated by these public servants, we would be well advised to give long and deliberate consideration to the actual challenges confronting them as they do their jobs.

We wish all the best to Katjana Balantyne, our first new mayor in some 18 years. We hope that she and the other

city officials will be able to work together productively.

When all is said and done, we will choose sides, argue our personal points of view, and question authority appropriately. But let us now offer our sincere good wishes for positive results in the term to come for those who have chosen to serve as best they can. After all, where would we be without them?

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Shapiro a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Somerville's King Solomon's Lodge is holding a **community blood drive**, **Monday, January 31**, at the **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. The event will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit REDCROSS-BLOOD.ORG and enter “KSL” to schedule an appointment.

The **fifth annual competition for Community Curators** has been extended. All applications are now due by **Friday, January 14, 11:00 p.m.** The **Somerville Museum** welcomes proposals and encourages applicants to visit both the Museum and its website to learn more about the Museum's wide-ranging exhibition history. Two finalists will be selected to install their proposed exhibits in the Museum's gallery spaces at One Westwood Road, Somerville, MA. The chosen applicants will also receive a seed grant of \$2,500 towards exhibition costs. All applications must be submitted digitally to info@somervillemuseum.org.

The **Somerville Arts Space Risk Assessment** analyzes the impact of development pressure on arts organizations across the city and makes recommendations for how to protect art spaces and support the creative economy. Join them on **January 19** at 6:30 p.m. to learn more about our Somerville Arts Space Risk Assessment work. Hear about policy recommendations to support Somerville arts spaces. Please spread the word and invite colleagues and fellow artists. Register now for this online meeting: <https://bit.ly/somerville-art-space> RSVP to their Facebook event page for updates and reminders. In this public meeting we will learn more about the **Somerville Arts Council** work this year concerning arts spaces, zoning and planning. As a community let's get ready for the New Year to roll out these policies and initiatives. There will be a Q and A and break out rooms to discuss topics and ask questions.

The **Greater Boston League** has temporarily halted all athletic events for the remainder of the week, due to COVID-19 concerns. **Somerville High School** plays in the Greater Boston League.

Brickbottom Gallery, 1 Fitchburg St., Somerville, presents: **Somerville as Muse: 12 Artists Influenced by the City** through **January 15**. This exhibition, curated and organized by **Debra Olin**, highlights 12 artists, including painters, photographers, collage artist, illustrators and printmakers whose work is heavily influenced by their Somerville surroundings. It features lost landmarks of the city's past, shows the Somerville of today – including the overwhelming scenes of construction – and offers a glimpse of possible futures. **Somerville as Muse** is made possible by a grant from the **Massachusetts Cultural Council** and the **Somerville Arts Council**, and support from the **Somerville Museum**.

The **City of Somerville** invites Somerville residents, workers, and visitors to complete a survey to inform **citywide parking policies**. This survey will provide vital insights into existing travel patterns and public priorities for parking management and curbside space. It is one component of the **Citywide Parking and Curb-Use Study**, a multipronged effort to collect data and develop recommendations to make Somerville's

parking system work more equitably, efficiently, and consistently for residents, businesses, and visitors. Responses will be accepted **through January 14**. The survey is available in multiple languages at somervillema.gov/parkingstudy.

Join **LoVeSeXy** for a very special intimate brunch show. On **Sunday, January 9, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.** at **Premiere On Broadway**, 517 Broadway Somerville. Advance tickets on sale now at: www.premiereonbroadway.com. LoVeSeXy is New England's premier tribute to the music of **Prince**.

The **Best of Somerville 2021** results will be published in the **January 12** edition of the paper. There's still time to cast your vote for the best. Email us at news@thesomervilletimes.com for who and what you think is the best. We're looking for the **Best Idea of 2021** here in the city. If you have one you'd like to suggest, let us know.

Elfland was started by a local 8-year-old boy and some elves. Organically grown in an empty lot at the corner of **Summer and School Streets**, it epitomizes the creativity of

Continued on page 9

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#808

1. Which country presents Britain with a gift of a Christmas tree each year?

2. Bradley international airport is in which US state?

3. With which device are earthquakes recorded?

4. What was the name of the Italian cruise ship hijacked by Palestinian terrorists in October 1985?

5. Who is known as the Godfather of Soul?

6. What is the name of Moe's pet cat in the cartoon show *The Simpsons*?

7. Clean, jerk, and snatch are terms used in which activity?

8. What is the name given to the process of signaling with two flags?

9. What is the currency of Switzerland?

10. Which country with a name beginning with a "T" has a shoreline on the Andaman Sea? Thailand?

11. Freddie Mercury died in which year?

12. Which Beatle's first girlfriend was Thelma Pickles?

Answers on page 10

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. A shark can detect one part of blood in 100 million parts of water.

2. Bob Dylan's real name is Robert Zimmerman.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
AMERICAN AUTHORS

- ACROSS
1. Cause for a duel

5. Nelson Mandela's org.

8. "_____ in the shade"

12. Andean people's chew

13. "White Wedding" singer

14. Like a haunted mansion

15. South American tuber, pl.

16. Type of cotton fiber

17. Desired forecast?

18. "The Underground Railroad" author

20. Like West Wing office

21. Not silently

22. "When We Were Kings" subject

23. Hand over (2 words)

26. Barbecued

30. The Jackson 5 1970 hit

31. Repressed

34. "Alice Doesn't _____ Here Anymore"

35. State of dishonor

37. Three, to Caesar

38. Brightest star in Cygnus

39. Performer's time to shine

40. "No.1 Ladies Detective _____" book

42. African migrator

43. "The Night Watchman" author

45. "Little Women" author

47. Poor man's caviar

48. Analyze

50. Canter or gallop

52. "A Farewell to Arms" author

56. Latin dance

57. Club on the links

58. Kind or courteous

59. Los _____, CA

60. Round feed storage

61. Not odd

62. Colonial times laborer

63. Band performance

64. Theodores, to friends

- DOWN
1. Flat-bottomed boat

2. Scottish lake

3. Antioxidants-rich berry

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19					20			
			21					22				
23	24	25					26			27	28	29
30				31		32	33			34		
35			36			37			38			
39				40				41		42		
43				44				45	46			
			47				48	49				
	50	51				52				53	54	55
56						57				58		
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

dish

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dish

- © StatePoint Media
4. Popular primo dish in Italian restaurant, pl.

5. Bye, to Edith Piaf

6. Wanderer

7. Garbed

8. "Moby Dick" author

9. Length times width

10. Call someone, in the olden days

11. Poetic "ever"

13. Apple invention

14. Food contaminant

19. Run off to wed

22. Jean of Dadaism

23. Out of style

24. Find repugnant

25. Burn with coffee, e.g.

26. Ursula K. Le _____

27. Jargon

28. It happens at a certain time and place

29. First novel, e.g.

32. Near in space or time

33. Not a win nor a loss

36. "Song of Solomon" author

38. "Chronicles" author and songwriter

40. NY Times bestselling author Atkins or playing card

41. Gambling venue

44. Smidgins

46. Young swan

48. Eagle's nest

49. Young salmon

50. "Miss Lulu Bett" author

51. Highest adult male singing voice

52. Snake's warning

53. Take as a wife

54. Got A+

55. Desires or cravings

56. Sticky substance

SUDOKU

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

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

The Boston Strangler

A once in a lifetime experience

By Gene Brune

I recently learned that *The Boston Strangler* is being filmed once more in the surrounding Boston communities, bringing back memories of my minor, but exciting, association with the Boston Strangler.

During the 1960's to 1979, I was working as a structural steel miscellaneous iron draftsman. I actually started out right here in Somerville in the engineering department of Groisser and Schlager Iron Works, which I am sure few Somerville residents still remember. It was located on Washington Street where Coble Hill Elderly Housing has been located since the 1980's.

Later, when they closed their doors, I continued my career in the engineering department of E.T. Iron Works. Eventually, I became their project manager and my duties were to attend all job meetings, visit the construction sites, and I would troubleshoot for our Iron workers. A position that I held until I was sworn in as Mayor of the City of Somerville.

E. T Ryan were also fabricators of jail cells, locking devices and other steel products that may be needed from time to time, especially if a riot took place, making it necessary for me to visit our state prisons when work was to be performed by our company.

One prison that I frequent was Walpole State Prison, also known as Cedar Junction.

My Boston Strangler story took place in the early part on

1973 when I was asked by the prison officials to attend a meeting with them, as they were having some security concerns.

Whenever I was at Walpole there was always one prison guard that I would make it a point to meet up with. We both had developed a friendship and he was a fun guy to talk with. But, on the other hand, he would sometimes like to horse around with me and attempt to get the prisoners upset with me, as he would make it look like I was talking about them and I would end up getting dirty looks.

This one particular day while I was speaking with him there was a prisoner walking our way and the guard said to me, "Now listen, I'm going to let you meet this guy and I want you to give him a hard time." I asked who is he and he said you will see, but play along with me.

The guard said to him, "Tell my friend here who you are?" The inmate looked at me and said, "Screw you, why should I tell you?"

The guard said to him, "Ok don't tell him. Let him read your name on the back of your jacket." He turned his back to me and his jacket read DeSalvo. Now, me being a little cocky I said, "So you're the Boston Strangler?" He answered, "Yes, I am." I, in turn, said to him, "Your full of crap. You didn't kill all those girls. You just want the attention." He said, "Well I did, I did." I said, "I don't believe it. You just want

to sell your books."

At that point the guard said, "Hey, give Gene here your autograph." So now he said to me, "Do you want my autograph?" Not wanting to seem too anxious, I replied, "Well, I don't know what I would do with it, but you might as well give it to me." With a big grin on his face Albert DeSalvo looked straight at me and said, "Screw you, buy my book."

At other times that I would be at the prison and I would see him he would say, "So, do you finally believe me?" I would reply the jury is still out. But I made it a point not to approach him if I wasn't with my prison guard friend.

The three of us did have a few other conversations which I guess I was pleased to do. Not often do you have the chance to do that type of thing. I learned right away that it was oblivious he had an ego that was as big as the many murders that he committed. He actually said to us he was the most famous prisoner in Walpole and that he was a celebrity. He also said that everyone wants his autograph, and wants to interview him. That he should be charging them all.

I tried to get him to tell me something, anything about the 13 murders, but he would clam up. I believe that he was never charged with the 13 murders that started in 1962, and ended in 1967. He was given a life sentence in 1967 for all the assaults on women. I believe that later in years his DNA proved



Somerville Mayor Emeritus Gene Brune.

he was the killer.

Several months later, I happened to be scheduled for a meeting at the prison. When I got there, I saw every television and radio station parked in front. When I got inside, I saw my friend and I asked him what was going on. He told me that DeSalvo was stabbed and murdered last night in the prison hospital.

"Go take a look in the gift shop." DeSalvo made jewelry and sold it in the gift shop. It was marked Jewelry by DeSalvo. Every bit of it was sold before I even got there. I did get satisfaction knowing that he got just

what he deserved.

It may have been somewhat exciting to speak with DeSalvo but I need to say that at all times I just couldn't stand looking at him and thinking about all those beautiful women that he brutally raped and murder. Having two daughters of my own I just couldn't imagine the pain and suffering the families were going through. It wasn't a pleasant experience meeting him. I'm glad he is gone, but sadly not forgotten.

I guess the saying does have some merit, "What goes around, comes around." I can't wait to see the movie.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Somerville residents. Poised for possible future eviction, the **Somerville Museum** offered part of their front garden to house the tiny buildings and sites over the winter months. Stop by the Museum, One Westwood Road, Somerville to see the Elfland "archeological site" grow.

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

It's time to turn a new leaf and celebrate with a **New Year, New Plant Market**. An indoor space for plant enthusiasts,

20+ local artists and small businesses to gather, support local and chat with others who share the same passion. Free event and open to the public Location: **Arts at the Armory** in Somerville, 191 Highland Ave. **Sunday, January 9**, from 10:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.

Somerville's **Winter Farmers Market** takes place **Saturdays**, 9:30 – 1:30 p.m., **December 4 through April 16**, at **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. Offering the best locally grown and produced agricultural items and more. They offer a diverse range of local and New England produce, as well as cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, pastries, chocolate, and wine. They feature rotating guest vendors each week, as well as live entertainment and activities. Check out the schedule and map at www.somwintermarket.org. They accept SNAP/EBT & HIP, CREDIT and DEBIT cards. \$15 SNAP match for EBT customers.

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

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


Individuals who are homebound are encouraged to schedule an **in-home**

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

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

GEORGE J. PROAKIS, AICP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, January 25, 2022** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2369243468848480012>

Webinar ID: 999-417-811

TO CALL IN

Phone Number: 1 (415) 655-0060
Access Code: 629-607-077

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

HPC.DMO 2021.32 – 6 Aldersey Street
Applicant: Mario Sousa
Owner: Teresa McCusken
Alteration to an existing deck

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

HPC.DMO 2021.29 – 722 Broadway
Applicant: Di Camillo Associates, LLC
Owner: Same as Applicant
Demolish principal structure


HPC.DMO 2021.30 – 274 Willow Ave/720 Broadway
Applicant: Di Camillo Associates, LLC
Owner: Same as Applicant
Demolish principal structure

Determinations of Preferably Preserved (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HPC.DMO 2021.32 – 17 Allen Street
Applicant: 13-17 Allen Street, LLC
Owner: Saul A. Rivera
Demolish principal structure

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

1/5/22 The Somerville Times



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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, January 20, 2022**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5912628596565907980>
Webinar ID: 579-724-275

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (213) 929-4212
Access code: 751-831-198

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

495 Columbia Street Boynton Gateway LLC proposes to develop a 9-story LEED Platinum lab building in the High Rise (HR) zoning district which requires Site Plan Approval and two (2) Special Permits.

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

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

1/5/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFQ #22-26

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, invites sealed bids for:


Somerville Junction Park Landscape Design

The Request for Qualification may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **12/28/2021**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **01/19/2022 1:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Andrea Caruth at acaruth@somervillema.gov for more information.

Andrea Caruth
Deputy Chief Procurement Officer
617-625-6600 x3400

12/29/21, 1/5/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #22-25

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, invites sealed bids for:

2021 Street Resurfacing Project - Pearl Street and Select Locations

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **12/22/2021**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **1/19/2022 2:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.


MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as, Highway Construction, for the project with an estimated value of \$4,200,000 will be required.

Please contact Andrea Caruth at acaruth@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

Andrea Caruth
Deputy Chief Procurement Officer
617-625-6600 x3400

1/5/22 The Somerville Times



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF WINTER HILL BANK, FSB

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Members of the Winter Hill Bank, FSB will be held as a telephonic meeting on the **19th day of January, 2022** at the hour of 2:00 P.M. of said day. Members of Winter Hill Bank interested in taking part in the annual meeting should contact the Corporate Secretary at Winter Hill Bank, FSB to reserve placement. The business to be taken up at said Annual Meeting shall be;

- (1) Considering and voting upon approval of the minutes of the last members' meeting;
- (2) Considering and voting upon reports of Officers and Committees of the Bank;
- (3) Considering and acting upon ratifications of the acts of the Directors and Officers of the Bank; and
- (4) Election of Directors to fill the offices of the terms of which are then expiring.

Dated this **4th day of January, 2022** at Somerville, Massachusetts.

Per Order of the Board of Directors

Marie A. Danieli
Corporate Secretary

1/5/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES
IFB# 22-33

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, invites sealed bids for:

Emergency Repairs, Service & Parts for Fleet Vehicles

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidsExpress>, <https://www.somervillema.gov/Procurement> or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **12/29/2021**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **01/12/2022 1:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Alexander Berdick at aberdick@somervillema.gov for further information. Please also include purchasing@Somervillema.gov.

Alexander Berdick
Construction Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

12/29/21, 1/5/22 The Somerville Times

TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE SOMERVILLE TIMES, CONTACT US BY 12 PM MONDAY PHONE: 857-488-5138

Ms. Cam's

From on page 8

Olio

Answers

1. Norway	7. Weight lifting
2. Connecticut	8. Semaphore
3. Seismograph	9. Swiss Franc
4. Achille Lauro	10. Thailand
5. James Brown	11. 1991
6. Mr. Snookums	12. John Lennon

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Monday, January 10, 2022** at **6:00PM**, to be held by remote participation, on the Application for HK Food Group 515, LLC d/b/a Josephine for an Enhancement Area All Forms 7 Day Alcohol License, a Common Victualler License, an Entertainment by Devices License Indoors, a Sunday Hours License, and an Outdoor Patio on Private Property at 515 Somerville Ave., Somerville, MA. For instructions on testifying this public hearing go to the calendar at www.somervillema.gov or contact the City Clerk's Office.

For the Commission
Christopher Allen
Joseph P. Lynch Jr.

Attest: Lori Batzek
Administrative Assistant

12/29/21, 1/5/22 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on **1/12/2022 at 12:00 PM**. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. David White unit #215A3; Rafael Kapose unit #291B. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

12/22/21, 1/5/22 The Somerville Times

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www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

City of Somerville’s 246th annual flag-raising ceremony

CONT. FROM PG 1



Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 5

loved the sport of kings. In the morning, he treasured the sound of horses, hounds and horns. Tally-Ho!

✦ On the Mystic’s shore in 1850, James Pierpont wrote the famous Christmas song, Jingle Bells. He jotted it down at the Simpson Tavern while observing horse-drawn sleigh races out of Medford Square.

✦ The Civil War brought Camp Cameron in West Somerville (Davis Square to beyond Teele Square) into existence. Troops were trained there for the Union Army, and cavalry horses were trained in the Powder House area.

✦ The war brought change to the Fire Service as well. Before the war, lightweight fire apparatus was mostly hand drawn.

Heavy steam engines then became the norm and with them came the powerful horses that would pull them. They came into the spotlight and became the pride of their cities and towns. The best horses available were purchased. Training was rigid and their feed, grooming and exercise was superior. This most romantic era of firefighting spanned over fifty years.

✦ Until the advent of the railroad, part of our horses’ local history was their relationship with the Middlesex Canal as it flowed through this town. For eleven years, horses helped dig the 27-mile, man-made river which linked Boston to Lowell and the Merrimack River to the Charles River. After its completion in 1804 and for an-

other half century, they towed canal boats filled to the brim with supplies.

Today, you would be hard pressed to see a horse in Somerville. Mounted reenactors on Patriots and New Year’s Day still draw curiosity, but that’s it. Today, many people have never seen a live horse, and the residents who remember Davis and Union Square equine traffic jams have dwindled. The horses are gone and almost forgotten.

The Forgotten ... who are they? They built our roads and avenues. They helped build our houses, parks, buildings and bridges. They delivered our goods, plowed our hills and fields and provided pleasure and entertainment. Growth



and progress have overcome the horse in Somerville and elsewhere. Time has brought Somerville from a quaint one-horse town to a stampeding city. Through their names and adornments, several restaurants in the city have kept the memory of man’s second-best friend alive ... the horse!

COMMENTARY

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

The amazing regenerating liver



By Dr. Ian Halim

There is a myth that the mighty titan Prometheus betrayed Zeus by stealing fire and giving it to humans. In the ancient tale, the gift of fire allows humans to begin learning different crafts. To humankind, Prometheus came to represent a kind of tutor, the divine patron of the arts and sciences. But Zeus saw things differently and punished the great titan for his theft, ordering him chained to a rock, and commanding an eagle to tear out his liver again and again. Each time Zeus's eagle ripped out Prometheus's liver, the organ would regenerate, only to be pecked out again.

The myth is the subject of well-known works of art, including an eight-ton gilded Prometheus in New York City's Rockefeller Center, depicting the titan carrying fire to humankind. But the myth also contains a kernel of scientific truth, giving it an unexpected significance, and making it well-known to many doctors who specialize in liver disease. You see, it's not clear whether the Greeks knew this, but it's true that the human liver can regenerate. Half of the liver

can be cut out, and the remaining part will grow back. So the myth is a kind of hazy, dreamlike mirror image of the liver's actual powers of regeneration. And Prometheus is my way of introducing you, dear reader, to the liver. If you know about Zeus's eagle, you can always remember that the liver can regenerate.

This special power isn't just a titillating bit of trivia either, to be tossed aimlessly into floundering cocktail chatter. Because the liver can regrow, it's possible for a generous soul to donate half of their liver to someone else, usually quite safely. This is called "live liver donation" because the organ donor is alive. In this double-surgery, a surgeon cuts out half of the donor's healthy liver, and then transplants it into the abdomen of someone else whose liver has failed. Both halves of the donor organ then regenerate into full-sized livers. If everything goes okay, both people live happily ever after with fully functional livers.

Since the liver is necessary for human life, live liver donation is a life-saving surgery. The liver performs hundreds of different vital functions, in fact, breaking down old red blood cells, for instance, and synthesizing hormones, storing vitamins and minerals, and regulating energy storage and release. The liver also makes many of the substances in our blood that trigger blood clots, helping to stop a small bleed from becoming a runaway hemorrhage. And it's not just

tiny things invisible to the naked eye that the liver makes and stores. The liver and its rounded appendage, the gallbladder, also squirt bile into the gut, helping dissolve fats and fat-soluble vitamins so that they may be better absorbed across the wall of the gut and into the blood.

A common theme in many of

"...Prometheus is my way of introducing you, dear reader, to the liver"

these functions is the liver's close relation to the blood and the gut. We might even call the liver the blood-and-gut organ. Perhaps its best-known job is to break down the alcohol consumed in alcoholic beverages. And this detoxification is not limited to alcohol. What we swallow descends into our stomach and our tube-like gut, where much of it is absorbed into a special set of veins called the portal system. This portal blood, enriched by the contents of the gut that it's absorbed, must pass through the liver where it can be detoxified.

So, before orally-absorbed drugs are allowed to mix with the rest of the blood, they must make their way through the liver. The liver might as well be snarling, "First you'll have to deal with me!" It's called "first

pass metabolism" when the liver modifies a drug before it mixes and circulates with the rest of the blood. After this, as the blood circulates over and over, some fraction of it continues to be detoxified by the liver on each pass through the body. But only orally-absorbed drugs must pass through the liver all at once.

When some drugs are taken by mouth, they are so thoroughly modified by the liver that they have almost no effect. Take, for instance, the life-saving drug naloxone that can quickly reverse an opioid painkiller overdose. It's usually given as an injection into the muscle, or as a nasal spray that's absorbed directly into the blood from the nasal membranes. But if it's swallowed, it's almost entirely inactivated by the liver and rendered useless. When drugs are injected into the veins or absorbed directly into the peripheral blood, they bypass the liver's role of gatekeeper in first pass metabolism, and only have to contend with being metabolized more slowly by the liver, a fraction at a time on each go around through the circulatory system.

This dual connection of the liver to our blood and our gut is a theme, not only in the liver's detoxification of portal blood, but in many of its functions. These dual linkages are particularly evident in the liver's processing of old red blood cells. One of the liver's key blood-preserving functions is to capture aging red blood cells, retire them once

they've reached the end of their 120-day lifespan, and to break down the hemoglobin metal protein that stuffs most of their volume. It's hemoglobin that makes our blood red and allows it to transport oxygen. Once an aged red blood cell is ready for the dust heap, the body converts this life-giving iron-containing metal protein into a semi-rainbow of waste products – greenish biliverdin, yellow bilirubin, the urobilin that makes our urine yellow, and the stercobilin that gives stool its rich brown color. The liver is responsible for eliminating bilirubin by draining bilirubin-containing bile into the gut. Liver disease can interfere with this process, allowing bilirubin to accumulate in the blood and the tissues – yellowing the whites of our eyes, the undersides of our tongues, and our skin. This hue is known as jaundice. Jaundice is not always a sign of irreversible liver failure, but it can be. Sometimes, it may even be a sign that a liver transplant is necessary. Thankfully, Prometheus is not the only one with the gift of liver regeneration.

Somerville Bagel Bards member and physician-humanist, Ian Halim, writes about how medicine relates to everything from ethics to botany—aiming to make science accessible to the widest possible audience. Ian earned his PhD in Greek & Latin literature and his MD at Columbia University in New York City and is now training at a hospital in Boston.

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris

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On This Day in History

January 5

1477 – Swiss troops defeat the forces under Charles the Bold of Burgundy at the Battle of Nancy.

1815 – Federalists from all over New England, angered over the War of 1812, demanded several important changes in the U.S. Constitution.

1861 – The merchant vessel Star of the West sets sail from New York to Fort Sumter, in response to rebel attack, carrying supplies and 250 troops.

1914 – Henry Ford announces that he will pay a minimum wage of \$5 a day and will share with employees \$10 million in the previous year's profits.

1923 – The U.S. Senate debates the benefits of Peyote for the American Indian.

1947 – Great Britain nationalizes its coal mines.

1952 – Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrives in Washington to confer with President Harry S. Truman.

1982 – A Federal judge voids a state law requiring balanced classroom treatment of evolution and creationism.

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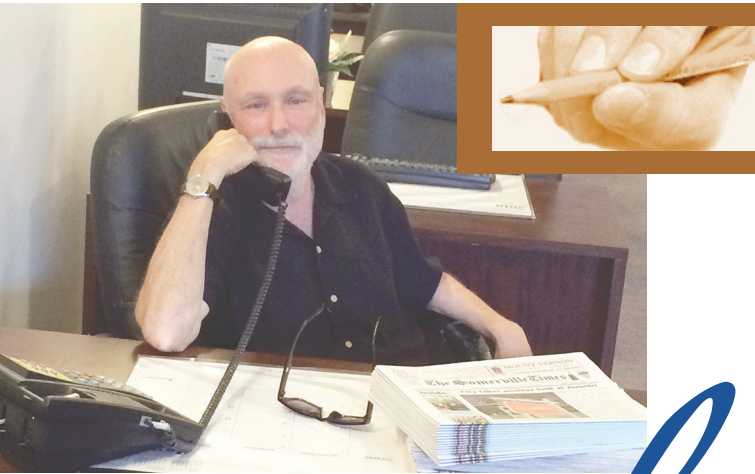
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SCATV is part of Somerville Media Center, home to Boston Free Radio, Somerville Neighborhood News and SMC Youth Media!

Wednesday, January 5	3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	12:00am Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party
12:00am Free Speech TV	4:00pm VOX POP: Somerville Connects	9:00am SMC Youth Media	5:00am Free Speech TV
6:00am NASA TV	4:30pm The Struggle	9:30am Science 360	6:00am NASA TV
7:00am Community Bulletin Board	5:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News	10:00am Dead Air Live	7:00am Somerville Storytellers
7:30am DW In Good Shape	6:00pm #AFAD	11:00am TeleGalaxie	7:30am Going Postal
8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	6:30pm #AFAD	12:00pm Somerville Storytellers	8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
9:00am DW Global 3000	7:00pm Community Lens: SHC SK Race	1:00pm Tele Magazine	9:00am Science 360
9:30am Both Sides of the Bars	8:00pm LIVE - Our View	2:00pm Reeling Review	10:00am Somerville Neighborhood News
10:00am Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer	9:00pm PABFONE Closing Day Ceremony	3:00pm MA House of Representatives Formal Session	11:00am Our View
10:30am Somerville Neighborhood News	10:00pm Community Bulletin Board	4:00pm Tele Keyrol	12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show
11:00am SNN Neighborhood Update	10:30pm The World Fusion Show	5:00pm Henry Parker Presents	1:00pm SOM ARTS
11:30am From My Heart to Yours	11:00pm VOX POP Comedy Night	5:30pm Henry Parker Presents	1:30pm Somerville Storytellers
12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show		6:00pm Somerville Pundits	2:00pm NASA TV
1:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News	Friday, January 7	6:30pm The Somerville Labor Show	3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
1:30pm Somerville Neighborhood News	12:00am Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party	7:00pm BLOWW Show a Go Go	4:00pm African Television Network
2:00pm Colores Latinos	1:00am SCATV Secret Stash	7:30pm SCATV Secret Stash	5:00pm Community Lens: SHC SK Race
3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	1:30am SCATV Secret Stash	8:00pm Free Speech TV	6:00pm LIVE from VOX POP
4:00pm DW Conflict Zone	2:00am Free Speech TV	9:00pm #AFAD	6:30pm Fur, Fins and Feathers
4:30pm Autumn Reads with Somerville Public Library	3:00pm NASA TV	9:00pm Nossa Gente e Costumes	7:00pm Tele Galaxie
5:00pm Hello Neighbor	7:00am The Bill Press Show (Free Speech TV)	10:00pm Heavy Leather Music Video Show	8:00pm LIVE -Somerville Overcoming Addiction
5:30pm From My Heart to Yours	8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	11:00pm SCATV Secret Stash	9:00pm Dedilhando au Saudade
6:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News	9:00am DW Euromaxx	11:30pm Queer Cats	10:00pm Colores Latinos
6:30pm VOX POP: Somerville Connects	9:30am Strata		11:00pm Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party
7:00pm "The Cask of Amontillado" at VOX POP	10:00am NASA TV		
7:30pm Sidewalks Entertainment	11:00am SOM ARTS		Tuesday, January 11
8:00pm LIVE - Somerville Pundits	11:30am Cambridge Calendar		12:00am Public Safety/Homeland Security Hearing
8:30pm DW Euromaxx	12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show		6:00am NASA TV
9:00pm Revolution Awakening at VOX POP	1:00pm Community Benefits Agreement		7:00am NASA TV
10:00pm LIVE - Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party	2:00pm Somerville Pundits		8:00am Democracy Now!
11:00pm Flotilla	2:30pm Autumn Reads with Somerville Public Library		9:00am The Chef's Table Serie
	3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)		
		Sunday, January 9	
		12:00am Flotilla	
		1:00am NASA TV	
		1:30am NASA TV	
		2:00am NASA TV	
		3:00am Free Speech TV	
		6:00am Bate Papo com Shirley	
		7:00am Nossa Gentes e Costumes	
		8:00am Effort Pour Christ	

Wednesday, January 5		2:00pm	City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan	2:00pm	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2022	1:00am	West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting
6:00am	Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV	3:30pm	Friday, January 7	3:30pm	Conway Park Ribbon Cutting 12-9-21	1:30am	School Committee Meeting 12-20-21
7:00am	Somerville Chamber of Commerce Awards	4:00pm	22:00am	4:00pm	Chair Yoga w Chris	6:00am	2022 Mayoral Inauguration
9:00am	2022 Mayoral Inauguration	4:30pm	12:00am	4:30pm	COVID-19 Response Team 12-28-21	7:15am	Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
10:30am	City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan	5:30pm	2:20am	5:30pm	Somerville Chamber of Commerce Awards	8:00am	Conway Park Ribbon Cutting 12-9-21
11:00am	Fit 4 Life 2020 #3	7:10pm	6:00am	7:10pm	Veterans Day Remembrance at Milk Row	8:30am	City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan
11:30am	2022 Organizational Meeting	7:30pm	7:00am	7:30pm	Mayor's Farewell Address	9:00am	The Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope
1:30pm	Let's Talk About a Poem - Herbert "Flowers"	8:15pm	7:35am	8:15pm	SPD Ride Along	10:00am	2022 Organizational Meeting
3:00pm	The Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope	8:30pm	8:00am	8:30pm	2022 Organizational Meeting	11:00am	Fit 4 Life 2020 #1
4:00pm	Fit-4-Life Video #4	9:30pm	8:42am	9:30pm	The Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope	11:30am	2022 Mayoral Inauguration
4:30pm	COVID-19 Response Team 12-28-21	10:30pm	9:00am	10:30pm	West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting	1:00pm	School Committee Meeting 12-20-21
5:30pm	The Bilingual Brain Benefits of Bilingualism	11:00pm	10:00am	11:00pm	COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA	4:00pm	Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #6
7:00pm	2022 Mayoral Inauguration	11:45pm	11:00am	11:45pm	Mental Health Resources	4:30pm	Veterans' Day Ceremony 2021
8:30pm	2022 Organizational Meeting	Sunday, January 9	11:30am			5:00pm	COVID-19 Response Team 12-28-21
10:00pm	Mayor's Farewell Address	12:00am	12:30pm	12:00am	City Council Meeting 12-9-21	7:00pm	School Committee Meeting - LIVE
11:00pm	The Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope	6:30am	4:00pm	6:30am	Raising Families- Vaping	10:30pm	2022 Mayoral Inauguration
Thursday, January 6		7:00am	4:30pm	7:00am	Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV	Tuesday, January 11	
12:00am	City Council Meeting 12-9-21	8:00am	7:00pm	8:00am	Mayor's Farewell Address	12:00am	Let's Talk About a Poem - Herbert "Flowers"
6:30am	Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV	8:45am	7:00pm	8:45am	SPL Cooking - Simple Chocolate Cake	1:30am	COVID Vaccine Portuguese Dr Kris CHA
7:30am	2022 Organizational Meeting	9:00am	7:00pm	9:00am	2022 Mayoral Inauguration	2:30am	City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan
9:00am	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2022	10:15am	9:01pm	10:15am	Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV	6:00am	COVID-19 Response Team 12-28-21
11:00am	Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7	11:00am	10:30pm	11:00am	Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7	7:00am	Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
11:30am	Let's Talk About a Poem - Herbert "Flowers"	11:30am	11:00pm	11:30am	2022 Organizational Meeting	8:00am	2022 Organizational Meeting
1:00pm	West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting	12:30pm	11:45pm	12:30pm	City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan	9:00am	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2022
1:30pm	COVID-19 Response Team 12-28-21	1:00pm	Saturday, January 8	1:00pm	School Committee Meeting 12-20-21	11:00am	Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7
2:30pm	Mayor's Farewell Address	4:00pm	12:00am	4:00pm	Fit 4 Life Home Workout #7	11:30am	City Council Meeting 12-9-21
4:00pm	Fit 4 Life 2020 #3	4:30pm	12:30am	4:30pm	Climate Webinar Climate Resilience & Health	5:00pm	Fit 4 Life 2020 #2
4:30pm	Traffic Board Public Hearing 12-1-21	5:30pm	1:11am	5:30pm	The Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope	5:30pm	West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting
6:31pm	Veterans' Day Ceremony 2021	6:30pm	2:30am	6:30pm	The Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope	6:00pm	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2022
7:00pm	The Roundhouse and the Architecture of Hope	6:55pm	6:30am	6:55pm	2022 Organizational Meeting	7:30pm	COVID-19 Response Team 12-28-21
7:50pm	Mental Health Resources	7:30pm	7:30am	7:30pm	City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan	8:30pm	City Council Spotlight - Jesse Clingan
8:00pm	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2022	8:00pm	8:30am	8:00pm	2022 Organizational Meeting	9:00pm	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2022
9:30pm	Somerville Chamber of Commerce Awards	9:00pm	9:00am	9:00pm	2022 Mayoral Inauguration	10:30pm	2022 Organizational Meeting
11:10pm	Veterans Day Remembrance at Milk Row	10:30pm	10:30am	10:30pm	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2022	11:30pm	West Branch Library Ribbon Cutting
		11:30am	11:00am	Monday, January 10			
		11:30am	11:30am				

Wednesday, January 5		Sunday, January 9	
8:00am	School Committee Meeting 12-20-21	12:00am	SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical
10:30am	Healey School 7th & 8th Percussion Concert	7:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea 12-21-21
11:00am	SHS Winter Concert '21	8:30pm	WHCS Winter Concerts 2021
12:05pm	el Sistema Winter Concert	9:00pm	SHS Winter Concert '21
12:30pm	All-City Middle School Concert 12-9-21	10:05pm	All-City Middle School Concert 12-9-21
1:00pm	SHS Hockey vs Lynn 12-22-21	10:30pm	el Sistema Winter Concert
2:30pm	WHCS Winter Concerts 2021	Sunday, January 9	
3:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea 12-21-21	12:00am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea 12-21-21
4:25pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Greater Lowell Tech	1:30am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Reverse 12-16-21
6:00pm	School Committee Meeting 12-20-21	3:00am	SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical
8:30pm	Healey School 7th & 8th Percussion Concert	8:00am	SHS Hockey vs Medford 4-10-21
9:00pm	SHS Winter Concert '21	9:30am	All-City Middle School Concert 12-9-21
10:05pm	el Sistema Winter Concert	10:00am	Healey School 7th & 8th Percussion Concert
10:30pm	SHS Hockey vs Lynn 12-22-21	10:30am	Conway Park Ribbon Cutting 12-9-21
Thursday, January 6		11:00am	SHS Winter Concert '21
12:00am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Greater Lowell Tech	12:05pm	el Sistema Winter Concert
1:30am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Reverse 12-16-21	12:30pm	All-City Middle School Concert 12-9-21
3:00am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea 12-21-21	1:00pm	SHS Hockey vs Lynn 12-22-21
8:00am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea 12-21-21	2:30pm	WHCS Winter Concerts 2021
9:30am	All-City Middle School Concert 12-9-21	3:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea 12-21-21
10:00am	SHS Hockey vs Lynn 12-22-21	3:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea 12-21-21
11:30am	WHCS Winter Concerts 2021	4:27pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Greater Lowell Tech
12:00pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical	6:00pm	School Committee Meeting 12-20-21
1:30pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Reverse 12-16-21	8:30pm	Healey School 7th & 8th Percussion Concert
3:00pm	SHS Winter Concert '21	9:00pm	SHS Winter Concert '21
4:30pm	All-City Middle School Concert 12-9-21	10:05pm	el Sistema Winter Concert
5:00pm	Argenziano School Winter Concert	10:30pm	All-City Middle School Concert 12-9-21
6:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea 12-21-21	11:00pm	SHS Hockey vs Lynn 12-22-21
7:30pm	All-City Middle School Concert 12-9-21	Monday, January 10	
8:00pm	SHS Hockey vs Lynn 12-22-21	12:30am	SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21
9:30pm	WHCS Winter Concerts 2021	2:30am	Highlander Football 2019
10:00pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical	8:00am	Argenziano School Winter Concert
11:30pm	el Sistema Winter Concert	9:00am	SHS Ribbon Cutting
Friday, January 7		10:30am	SHS Winter Concert '21
2:00am	SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical	12:00pm	All-City Middle School Concert 12-9-21
1:30am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Reverse 12-16-21	12:30pm	Healey School 7th & 8th Percussion Concert
3:00am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea 12-21-21	Tuesday, January 11	
8:00am	Let's Talk About a Poem - Herbert "Flowers"	12:30am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea 12-21-21
9:30am	Healey School 7th & 8th Percussion Concert	2:00am	SHS Hockey vs Lynn 12-22-21
10:00am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Reverse 12-16-21	3:30am	WHCS Winter Concerts 2021
11:30am	WHCS Winter Concerts 2021	8:00am	Let's Talk About a Poem - Herbert "Flowers"
12:00pm	SHS Winter Concert '21	9:30am	SHS Hockey vs Lynn 12-22-21
1:05pm	All-City Middle School Concert 12-9-21	11:00am	WHCS Winter Concerts 2021
1:30pm	el Sistema Winter Concert	11:30am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea 12-21-21
2:00pm	Argenziano School Winter Concert	1:00pm	SHS Winter Concert '21
3:05pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical	2:05pm	Argenziano School Winter Concert
4:30pm	SHS Hockey vs Lynn 12-22-21	3:30pm	el Sistema Winter Concert
6:00pm	Let's Talk About a Poem - Herbert "Flowers"	4:00pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical
7:30pm	Healey School 7th & 8th Percussion Concert	5:30pm	Healey School 7th & 8th Percussion Concert
8:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Reverse 12-16-21	6:00pm	Let's Talk About a Poem - Herbert "Flowers"
9:30pm	WHCS Winter Concerts 2021	7:30pm	SHS Hockey vs Lynn 12-22-21
10:00pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical	9:00pm	WHCS Winter Concerts 2021
11:30pm	el Sistema Winter Concert	9:30pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea 12-21-21
Saturday, January 8		11:00pm	SHS Winter Concert '21
12:00am	SHS Hockey vs Lynn 12-22-21	Wednesday, January 12	
1:30am	Highlander Boys Basketball 2013-14	12:05am	Argenziano School Winter Concert
2:00am	SHS Boys Basketball JV Blue vs White 4-6-21	1:30am	el Sistema Winter Concert
7:00am	Let's Talk About a Poem - Herbert "Flowers"	2:00am	SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical
8:30am	Healey School 7th & 8th Percussion Concert	3:30am	Healey School 7th & 8th Percussion Concert
9:00am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Reverse 12-16-21	Thursday, January 13	
10:30am	WHCS Winter Concerts 2021	12:00am	SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical
11:00am	SHS Winter Concert '21	1:30am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Reverse 12-16-21
12:05pm	All-City Middle School Concert 12-9-21	3:00am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea 12-21-21
12:30pm	el Sistema Winter Concert	8:00am	Let's Talk About a Poem - Herbert "Flowers"
1:00pm	Argenziano School Winter Concert	9:30am	Healey School 7th & 8th Percussion Concert
2:05pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical	10:00am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Reverse 12-16-21
3:30pm	SHS Hockey vs Lynn 12-22-21	11:30am	WHCS Winter Concerts 2021
5:00pm	Let's Talk About a Poem - Herbert "Fl		

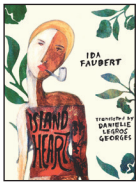


OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Island Heart'

poems by Ida Faubert



Island Heart, poems by Ida Faubert
Translated by Danielle Legros Georges
Subpress Books, 2021 108 pages \$16.00
Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Denise Provost

Translating poetry, perhaps even more than writing poetry, is a labor of love. It is also a prickly intellectual and linguistic task, posing unanswerable questions at every turn. Not just each line of poetry, but every word presents a judgement call; each poem a series of seemingly impossible choices.

The English-speaking world is fortunate that esteemed poet Danielle Legros Georges took on the work of selecting and translating this collection of poems by Ida Faubert. Familiarity with Faubert's poetry might otherwise have remained confined to readers in France and in Haiti, the countries where Faubert lived and wrote. We would be the poorer for it, unaware of this remarkable poet, writing in a literary milieu dominated by men.

Legros Georges, in her Translator's Notes and Biography sections, provides background on this "complex literary figure. Bicultural, bi racial, and privileged, she neither easily fit socially prescribed categories for women of color in France or Haiti nor conformed to them." Faubert's first collection of poems, *Coeur des îles* (*Island Heart*) was published in 1939, when Faubert was 57, and received a prestigious award.

Though the Modernist and Symbolist movements in French poetry were already underway in the 19th century, and Surrealist poetry launched in the early 20th, Faubert charted her own chosen poetic course. She did not partake of the fashions of the best-known French male poets of her day. As Legros Georges points out, "Faubert wrote in a literary style that was not contemporaneous to her time, borrowing heavily from a 19th century Romantic aesthetic."

Faubert's subject matter comes from the playbook of the Romantic movement. She portrays the lush natural world as filled with activity: palm trees and flowers dream, plants and bees shiver, sunlight gives kisses, the sun itself goes up in flames. In this charged milieu, Faubert describes emotion at its extremes: delight, desire, love, pleasure, fear, grief, suffering, despair.

Rendering rhymed forms from other languages into English is a full challenge by itself. Legros Georges herself confesses that she is at times "frustrated" by Faubert's artistic sensibilities. Yet she is deeply respectful of the content of Faubert's work, and clearly hesitant to offer us translations which would go over the top for modern tastes; her ultimate choice is to render Faubert's "poems in as natural a free-verse and 21st century U.S. English as possible."

What Legros Georges achieves with her translations is a dignified restraint. Through it, the pure essence of Faubert's language and sentiment is allowed to shine. Consider this middle quatrain from *Soir Tropical/Tropical Night*:

Les jasmins ont mêlé leurs branches étoilées
Aux lianes en fleur. L'haleine de l'été
Caresse les fruits lourds. La grave volupté
Laisse trainer son voile au détour des allées.

All four lines of this stanza end with the same rhyming sound. The first and last lines have an internal rhyme of the same sound folded in, the two middle lines have a different internal rhyme. This kind of verbal virtuosity would give any translator pause.

Legros Georges, up to the task, gives us this sensitive rendering:

The jasmine have mixed their star-studded branches
With lianas in bloom. Summer's breath
Caresses the heavy fruit. The dense sensuality
Lets its long veil linger along the sinuous paths.

The insistence of Faubert's frequent repetition of sounds is abandoned. What we get instead the whispering slant rhyme of branches and paths at the ends of the first and last lines, the soft rhyming of bloom and fruit internally in the two middle lines. Audible to a bilingual reader will be the detail that, although Legros Georges doesn't make the same words rhyme internally in these middle lines, she recreates these rhymes in almost the same place where they occur in the original – homage indeed.

There are those who consider that tightly constructed verse forms are the best containers for strong emotions. Faubert clearly thought so, and employed sonnets, rondels, chansons, and other highly controlled models of expression in her writing. Legros Georges takes the risk entailed in deconstructing Faubert's forms; what she achieves is a tenderness, a delicate rendering of emotional states that could otherwise come across as overwrought, even bombastic.

For instance, *Mon Amour, Attendez/Wait, My Love* is a poem of five quatrains, with three stanzas of ABBA rhyme schemes packed between first and last stanzas in which each line ends with the same sound. Legros Georges digs into this tour de force of form, and uncovers the emotional heart of the poem. The first two stanzas express well the tone and direction that she takes:

When you forget that you held me
Captive in your arms, like a thing that was yours
When you grow tired of my sweet love
Wait until night falls to tell me.
Then you won't see my undone face
My sorry eyes, my trembling mouth.
The dark will veil my crushing sorrow.
Wait until night falls completely....

Legros Georges recreates this poem with great fidelity to Faubert's original, employing just occasional mild end rhymes, yet this poem's disarming simplicity retains its deep feeling. Each of these poems rings true, whether playful, joyful, filled with sadness and loss, or coming from an unanticipated angle, as in Faubert's *A Ma Muse/to My Muse*.

This direct address to Faubert's muse is poised between teasing her ("If you want me to follow you still/Lose your distress call to the distance...") and an effort to cheer her up with such blandishments as

lilacs for her hair, and pink almond blossoms. Ultimately, it is an impassioned exhortation to her muse – and so to herself:
With amazed eyes look closely at Life!
Speak all desire, and all precious hopes.
Speak all wishes of unsatisfied souls
Sing of abandon in the splendor of nights.

We are fortunate to have Legros Georges as Faubert's muse of translation for *Island Heart*. that Faubert's soul is undoubtedly satisfied with the way this translation speaks and sings her powerfully yearning songs to us. Though we live in another land, in another age, these poems strike the notes of our hearts with perfect pitch.

In 2021, the New England Poetry Club (NEPC) gave its Golden Rose Award to bilingual poet Rhina Espaillet, born in the Dominican Republic, on the other side of the island of Hispaniola from Haiti. Because the award ceremony was held on Zoom, Espaillet and poet Lloyd Schwartz were able to conduct a dialogue about translation, which they consider not just an art, but a moral imperative – and an undertaking which is "impossible." The multi-lingual and multi-talented Legros Georges would probably agree with both propositions – but by melding her own island heart with Faubert's, she has achieved in this book an inspired equivalence.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

After retiring from Brandeis faculty, Karen Klein returned to studying modern dance and began writing contemporary lyric poetry. She performed for eight seasons with Across the Ages Dance and 15 seasons with Prometheus Dance Elders Ensemble. Her poems have been published online and in print, read on radio and television, and choreographed for dancers. The first use of her poems as structure for dance performance appeared in Prometheus Dance Company's full-length, evening production *Desiderare* in 2011 and 2012. In 2016 she founded teXtmoVes, a collaborative of poets, dancers, and musicians; teXtmoVes has performed steadily since then, most recently at Starlight Square, Cambridge. Klein continues to study dance, to perform, and to write poems. She is a member of Steeple Street Poets and the Bards.



My Orion

I watched and I waited for you
waited and watched
as August slid into September
domino days fall onto each other
woke at 4:30am
hunting for you the Hunter
you never came

Futon under the loft window
I stare directly up at only sky
pre-dawn of the Equinox
there you were
right on time
startling central aggressive

Your four stars separate the clouds
your diagonal belt
an arrow's thrust
the cosmos your hunting grounds

On our axial planet eaten by ravenous fires
floods gulp rooftops
earth burps lava
virus and pollution spoil the air

With Nature's old calendar outdated
it cheers me to know
from your appearance
Orion
the order of the universe still holds.

— Karen Klein

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