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# The Somerville Times



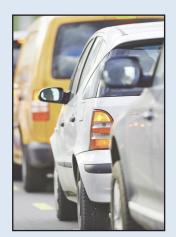


VOL. 7 NO. 2

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019

**TWENTY-FIVE CENTS** 

# **Inside:**



Working the traffic problem page 5



A City Council at last page 9



A Winter Farmers

Market visit

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# City government roars back into action for 2019 and beyond



Mayor Curtatone offered his views on the state of the city and how public policy should be shaped in the year to come at Monday night's organizational meeting.

## By Jim Clark

While the federal government remains deep in the throes of a (hopefully) temporary "shutdown," the same cannot be said for local municipalities such as ours. And so, the City of Somerville emerged from its deep winter holiday break this week to forge ahead with the business of the people and its environs.

Public officials gathered for an "organizational meeting" on Monday night in the city's Aldermanic Chambers to elect officers, adopt rules, and deliver addresses, all in the spirit of beginning the year anew.

The Board of Aldermen – soon to be known as the City Council – re-elected Ward 7 Alderman Katjana Ballantyne to her second consecutive term as Board President, an accomplishment never before achieved by a woman in the city's history.

Ward 1 Alderman Matthew Continued on page 4

# Welcoming the Co-Incidence Festival

# An experimental music gathering in Somerville

The Co-Incidence Festival is a gathering of experimental composer-performers for ten days hosted by Non-Event at Washington St. Gallery in Somerville.

The project is based on an expanded view of what constitutes art, music, and the traditional concert. Following the example of the revolutionary arts community Black Mountain College, it will bring together a group of radical artists operating in the boundary-zones of their practice to take part in a residency curated as "social sculpture."

Reflecting the values of experimental music, Co-Incidence will be allowed to grow organically, strongly influenced by the artists who attend: the directors simply provide a time, space, and loose framework.

This year, the festival will follow a set of maps that score the flow of concepts and events, by way of nomadic movement through the structure of the Residency. Only certain major meeting points (arrival, departure, Continued on page 14



The Co-Incidence Festival runs from January 11–19 at the Washington Street Art Center, 321 Washington St., Somerville.

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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.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to a well-known sort of historian and good guy, Matt Hoey. We wish him the very best on this his birthday week. Happy birthday to former East Somerville, now Magoun Sq., sign guy, **Dominick Silvestri Jr.** We wish him the very best. Happy birthday to Theresa Rodriques, who is celebrating this week. Happy birthday to one of nicest ladies, Bonnie Raboin Carriger, who is also celebrating this week. Happy birthday as well to a good guy, Ken Sprague. Finally, to one of Somerville's finest first responders and all around nice guy, Kevin O'Donovan, who is one of our best firemen. We wish him a great birthday. Happy birthday to everyone here and from the city who is celebrating this week. We wish every one of them a very happy birthday.

A third East Somerville Reunion is set for this year. Dan Rogovich has let us know he is once again planning for it. Lots of people who grew up in East Somerville have missed the last two but wanted to be there for the third. Dan, who is an East Somerville lover, managed to get the Somerville City Club booked on Saturday, June 15. He and his assistants worked hard on the previous two reunions and they will do the same this year to make this one a success. We here at *The Times* are from East Somerville and we will be there, and we have already reached out to others. A small group of "down backers" behind the Bucket who grew up there in the 60's will all be there. They meet every four or so months nowadays to talk about old times and the great times. Help make this a success. Go online to Facebook and check it out. Ask Dan what you can do to help. He is looking for the food, entertainment and just plain East Somerville fun. Charlestown line to McGrath Hwy. is considered East Somerville, which includes Glen Park, Florence St. park, Prescott School, Seven Son's Restaurant, Trina's on Washington, Steve's, Tip Top, S&S Subs on Cross St., Ave-

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nue's, Broadway show, lower Broadway, Tufts St.

What's this? According to the **Boston** 

Continued on page 11

# The Somerville Times

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# TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

# Response to: Countdown to yesteryear

Leo connerty says:

Forgot some of those places Jimmy...so I'd like to forget...or some a foggy memory!!! Great column ....keep them coming

### **Dolly** says:

Those were the days. Great piece of nostalgia for me. Thank you

### Jo-Ann says:

Thanks for the memories! I didn't go out on New Yera's Eve back then..I was home raising two young children. But I do remember the Sherlock Holmes Pub, my former husband used to go there all the time. i was just recently told that there was no such place! But now you made it public, so it was! My sister worked at The Embassy. So there were a lot of memories remembered. Thanks!

# **Response to: Somerville's Board of Aldermen to become City Council**

Noel Efturn says:

Congratulations to all the new Councilmen!

### Caitlin says:

They said they were going to make housing more affordable? My rent went up another \$100 in September!

# Response to: Somerville seeking Somervision 2040 committee members

### Highlander says:

Feels like we just finished the last one. Who asked for an update? Developers? The mayor's got some explaining to do. This feels like another snow job from City Hall planners.

# DatGruntled says:

The Aldermen are still dragging their feet on most of the last Somervision. How many more thousands of hours of hours of our time are going to be wasted?

# Somerville lifer says:

Since the village idiots voted to raise our taxes for "open space and affordable housing" has anyone seen any increase in Somerville. I have seen the enemy and it is us.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

# **Healey Schoolyard community meeting**

Please join the Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development and Ward 4 Alderman Jesse Clingan for a community meeting on Thursday, January 10 to discuss design plans for the Healey

The meeting is scheduled for 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Healey School cafeteria, 5 Meacham St. For more info or with any questions about the project, please contact Arn Franzen at AFranzen@somervillema.gov.





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# Life in the by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Heinekens and home fries



To quote The Tool's 1978 single Spark 'Em Up," When we party, we party hearty, and when we boogie, we boogie woogie." And when we're hungry, watch out!

Somerville was always a big party city, especially over the past few decades. Lots of bars, clubs and posts kept us very busy on the weekends. We put on our best clothes and hit the night spots. We drank, inhaled second hand smoke, and partied the night away.

After a few hours of loud music, cocktails and free styling on the dance floor, we heard that familiar sound ... last call! Then we would hear, "Drink 'em up! Let's go! Let's go, Let's go! Hotel, Motel time! You can't sleep here!"

The Buds, Millers, Bacardi's, and Sloe Gin Fizzes along with The Hustle, The Electric Slide and The Bump, made us very hungry. Ravenously hungry. Thankfully, most groups of bar hoppers had their designated drivers when It was time to hit the late night/early morning breakfast joints.

We took our smoke saturated, somewhat inebriated bodies on a serious quest for food. We became zombies. "We need coffee, we need eggs! Sausage! Home fries!"

Three places automatically come to mind. The Trifecta of late night noshing. The Bermuda Triangle of early morning munchies. They were Howard Johnsons' in Wellington Circle, The Golden Egg on Mystic Ave and Kay and Chips in Davis Square. They were the breakfast Meccas.

If you were there, you are smiling right now because you remember the craziness of those early morning escapades. Eggs go with just about everything but mix them with half soused rowdies and you have a true life reality show.

The cast of characters included the waitresses and staff, but featured the loud, boorish, half in the bag buffoons and their friends. He, she or they usually used offensive, vulgar language and ended up picking fights. Then for act two, the cops showed up and escorted the unruly patrons away.

Breakfast and a show! If you spent the evening at The Surrey Room or any of the other Davis Square night spots, you just had a small distance to go to reach the delicious doors of Kay and Chips. It was known as being "within stumbling distance." Kay and Chips, formerly at the corner of Highland and Cutter, was my favorite. My DD. My designated diner.

They squeezed a lot of inebriated late night action into a small space, and we

I saw my first flying metal napkin dispenser at The Golden Egg.

No matter where you went, Kay and Chips, HoJos' or The Egg, you were sure to find people you knew. Some were notorious. You'd usually find drama too. I was always amazed how fast the staff could

clean up broken glass, spilled syrup, and stained tablecloths. There always seemed to be a couple of tables of people that were drunker and louder than the rest. The Perfect Storm of a night of drinking, followed by serious hunger pangs fueled true life situation comedy. I'm glad that I experienced memorable breakfasts at all three of the aforementioned spots. Howard Johnsons in Medford was right across from The MDC Police Station, so when an altercation occurred the MDC showed up PDQ.

Today, there are around 30 or so restaurants in Davis Square and vicinity but none are packed at three in the morning like those breakfast spots of old.

The crazy weekend food fests seem to have been replaced with calmer brunches and conventional breakfasts. Our memorable late night/early morning romps were replaced by raising kids and giving our livers a well-deserved break.

And. just for the record, man buns are out and cinnamon buns are in.

# The Somerville Theatre Festival invites calls for short plays

Boston's own Performing Fusion Theatre invites submissions for the Somerville Theatre Festival. The Rockwell (formerly The

Davis Square Theatre) will host the Festival on April 18, 21, 26 and 27. They are looking for short plays, 10 minutes or less,



to showcase at the Festival for a four day run. Five finalists will be chosen and the winning playwrights will have their work cast, produced and staged by Performing Fusion Theatre at the Rockwell. The deadline for submissions is February 15.

# What they are looking for:

The theme for the 2019 Somerville Theatre Festival is "human rights" and we envision broad interpretations of these vital rights. This time of political turmoil and atrocity in U.S. history is not a question of democrat vs republican. Human Rights are rights inherent to all human beings.

Learn more about human rights here: http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/human-rights/

Submit a story about gender, racial, sex-

ual, religious, national, or even transnational human rights or lack thereof. Make it a comedy, a drama, a romance, or all of the above – just make it grab them. Make it unforgettable, let the dialogue pop off the page and send a message. They want work that pinches or tickles them. They want work that marks them and comes to mind when they are lying in bed at night because they can see and feel the narrative. They have a strong interest in multiculturalism and the fusion of other art forms. So take artistic leverage, take risks, they are not a company to shy away from displaying provocative and thought-provoking work. Plays should be no longer than 10 minutes and much shorter work is equally encouraged. Continued on page 9





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**CENTURY 21** NORTH EAST

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# By Jim Clark

# Unwelcome customer unwilling to be identified

Police officers were dispatched to the bfresh Market on Elm St. Sunday morning on reports of an unwanted person on the premises.

Upon arrival, the officers met with the reporting party, the manager of the market, who stated there was person who was sleeping while seated at a table on the Dunkin' Donuts side of the store, and that he was to be trespassed.

A previous manager had re-

portedly asked the man, later identified as Shawn Moore, of Dorchester, to leave multiple times, but he refused to do so.

The officer approached Moore and asked him to identify himself. He reportedly stated that he was leaving and therefore did not have to identify himself.

Moore was asked if he had any form of identification on his person, and he said that he did not. When asked for his name and date of birth and he supplied

false information, according to police. The officers reportedly provided multiple opportunities for Moore to give his real name and date of birth.

According to reports, customers began gathering and becoming spectators, as Moore's behavior became boisterous. He was subsequently informed by the officers that he was interfering with an investigation and that they needed to identify him in order to trespass him from

the property.

After once again refusing to identify himself, Moore was informed that he was being placed under arrest for interfering with a police investigation and disorderly conduct.

Upon conducting an inventory search of the outermost compartment of Moore's backpack, there was what seemed to be a pill bottle. When asked what the pill bottle contained, he reportedly stated that it was someone's

medication. He also stated that he had another bottle of pills.

Both these bottles were labeled as belonging to someone with a female name. Moore reportedly said it was his mother's name, that he does not have medical insurance, and that his mother gets the prescription for him.

The officers were reportedly unable to identify the pills.

Moore was placed under arrest and charged with disturbing the peace and witness intimidation.

# 

### **Arrests:**

Angelo Devito, of 9 Gilmore Rd., Framingham, January 2, 11:57 a.m., arrested at Paulina St. on a charge of receiving a stolen motor vehicle and on warrant charges of receiving a stolen motor vehicle, larceny by check over \$1200, forgery of check, and utter false check.

Glens Stocki, of 16 Webster Rd., Lexington, January 2, 11:57 a.m., arrested at Paulina St. on warrant charges of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license, motor vehicle lights violation, operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and marked lanes violation.

Delia Andrade, of 100 heard St., Chelsea, January 3, 5:44 p.m., arrested at Myrtle St. on a warrant charge of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Carlos Ramos, of 11 Congress Ave., Chelsea, January 4, 12:32 a.m., arrested at Blakely Ave. on warrant charges of speeding, operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license, reckless operation of a motor vehicle, failure to stop for police, and resisting arrest.

Tyrique Jean-Louis, of 26 Nelson St., Dorchester, January 5, 10:34 p.m., arrested at River Rd. on charges of disorderly conduct and violation of city ordinance possession of a dangerous weapon.

Shawn Moore, of 26 Nelson St., Dorchester, January 5, 10:34 p.m., arrested at River Rd. on charges of disturbing the peace and witness intimidation.

# City government roars back into action for 2019 and beyond CONT. FROM PG 1

McLaughlin was likewise reelected to serve as Vice-President of the Board.

For School Committee, both Chair Carrie Normand and Vice-Chair Emily Ackman were re-elected to their positions.

Following addresses by Ballantyne and Normand, Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone offered his thoughts on where the city and its leaders are headed as they face the challenges that lie ahead in the year to come.

The mayor led off by thanking the members of the Board and other officials for making 2018 a productive year for the city.

"2018 was a tumultuous year nationally, but a very productive one here locally. So I want to first thank the Board, our community leaders, our involved residents, our student leaders, and the city's incredibly hard-working staff for the extraordinary efforts and progress we made on city goals together," said the mayor. "I also want to thank you for the many ways we held to and stood up for our community values in the last year. The mid-term is a time when we take stock of the past year and look forward to everything we will do in the next. This year, I'm also going to focus on something just as important as what we do—I want to emphasize why we need to do the work we do."

The mayor went on to discuss his own recent personal health issues and relate them to a city government's responsibility to care for its constituents in their times of need.

"What I want to stress tonight is that city government is also an institution that needs to be there for people at their most vulnerable moments. As we strive to run our city, deliver services, and maintain our infrastructure, we ing, food, jobs and dependable ways to move around," Curta-

The mayor touched upon issues such as the need for more affordable housing and a meaningful zoning overhaul.

"Through zoning, we can choose right now to move away from the NIMBY model that constrains housing supply and drives up prices," the mayor said. "Through our proposed zoning, we can increase and incentivize a more diverse housing stock in our city. And through our zoning, we can provide our families, our seniors, our makers and artists, our younger households, and our most vulnerable all an authentic chance to remain here."

The mayor also reaffirmed his commitment to support education and immigration rights.

"At every level and in every school, we are striving for equity and building the necessary supports," said the mayor. "We are constantly refining what a true student-centered education means. Much of this focuses on early childhood development. Before- and after-school time is also key. We recognize that being truly ready to learn requires holistic view of each and ev ery child - and the community they live in."

The mayor also spoke of the need to focus on climate change and how best to counteract the damage that has been done thus far.

"Anyone who pays attention to the news knows we continue to receive dire reports about the vulnerability of our climate. We recently unveiled our community-driven Climate Forward plan, which commits us to stripping greenhouse gas emissions out of our city," said Curtatone. "We are pooling solar energy, setting up programs to convert heating and cooling systems in rental buildings,



Ward 7 Alderman Katjana Ballantyne was sworn in Monday for an unprecedented second term as Board president.

and looking to distribute electric vehicle charging stations throughout the city. And we are keeping in mind that climate change will affect everyone, but it will not affect everyone equally."

The mayor emphasized the need to improve the city's tree canopy and open spaces. "Together with the Board of Aldermen we are gearing up to grow and protect our tree canopy through every part of Somerville. Their approval of another urban forestry position means that in 2019 we will double our capacity to keep our tree canopy growing and our existing trees

healthy."

Mayor Curtatone also touched on the improvements being made in transportation and safety in the city.

"Great public transit connects workers to better jobs, and it also keeps the air cleaner for all of us. 35% of our city's carbon footprint comes from motor vehicles. The GLX will change that radically when it comes online, but we can do more," the mayor said.

To read a full transcript of the mayor's speech, go online to our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com or visit the city's website at www.somervillema.gov.

# Moving forward on calming and reducing traffic

# By Alderman-At-Large Stephanie Hirsch and Ward 5 Alderman Mark Niedergang

Residents reach out to us constantly about their frustrations and fear regarding traffic. Different people are aggravated by different aspects of traffic. Here's some of what we hear:

- I can't get out of my driveway and have started making doctors' appointments only for the middle of the day.... It took me 20 minutes to get through Union Square.... It took me a half-hour to drive from Porter to Sullivan.
- My kids can't get to a class nearby because I think it's too dangerous for them to walk through Union or Davis on their own.
- The traffic light signaling changes are supposed to make things better... but my impression is they make things worse.
- I'm afraid that people who drive are not paying attention... I'm afraid that people who bicycle are not paying attention... I'm afraid that pedestrians are not paying attention... When I'm driving, there are too many things to pay attention to on the streets.
- + The commuter traffic on my block backs up so far that the air gets hazy from exhaust.
- + I'd love to bicycle around, but I'm scared, it doesn't feel safe.

Traffic tops the list of quality-of-life concerns in Somerville (except, perhaps, for frustration with rats in some neighborhoods). Traffic problems appear to be overwhelming. But changes are happening that make us optimistic that a lot more progress will be made in the next five years than in the past five.

### What's causing our traffic problems?

One cause is the sheer volume of cars on our streets. A majority of cars being driven on our streets come from and go to somewhere outside of Somerville. That includes about 20,000 cut-through vehicles that pass through Union Square, 130,000 on I-93, and approximately 80 percent of all drivers at busy times and locations. The volume has increased along with the increase in traffic in greater Boston. More drivers are trying to find a way through Somerville around the traffic jams on I-93. Somerville Police Traffic Officers report that, at least anecdotally, the non-local commuters are more distracted and more likely to speed or skirt laws.

Another issue that's aggravating traffic is construction. This cause, we hope, will be temporary. Detours, road closures, dirt and gravel-covered streets ... they are driving all types of travelers crazy. But at least they come with an eventual reward. (Note: If you have a construction-related issue or travel question you can email: construction@somervillema.gov)

How can we make a dent in the traffic

We have been meeting monthly since



January 2018 with a group of residents who care deeply about making streets and sidewalks safer for all, and about relieving the traffic congestion that hurts our quality of life. We are so grateful for these residents who spend significant time working on traffic issues, including members of a group called Staying Put, who are trying to make sure that seniors and others with mobility issues can safely navigate our sidewalks and streets.

In addition to this effort, Mark chairs the Board of Aldermen (BOA) Traffic and Parking Committee. (Mark also represents the BOA on the City's Traffic Commission, a little-known five-member Board that makes many of the important decisions about specific traffic and parking details in Somerville.) Mark has tried to focus on not just the very long laundry list of traffic problems, but on the big picture challenges, like staffing and infrastructure investment, that affect how much progress we can make.

The Administration and the BOA made a significant investment in 2018, almost doubling the traffic planning staff, thanks in large part to the advocacy and support of members of the public. The Mayor has also given the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development transportation planning team both more resources and more responsibilities to tackle traffic planning issues. These extra resources have brought a much more flexible, creative, contemporary, and problem-solving approach to solving traffic issues.

We and the Administration share a focus on reducing traffic-related deaths, and the City's new Vision Zero initiative addresses this objective. In particular, the planning process looks to increase the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, who are most likely to experience traffic-related injuries and deaths in Somerville. However, we know that the entire system of streets and traffic requires study to improve life for people who travel by foot, bicycle, car, or bus/subway ... and in most cases a mix of these methods.

We are working with the Administration on the following approaches:

- + A staffed Pedestrian and Transit Committee: Our top request, along with the residents we've been working with, is to have a resident advisory committee that focuses on traffic and transit issues. It should be modeled after the hugely effective Somerville Bicycle Committee that has helped the Administration make enormous progress on bike infrastructure.
- · Real-time traffic engineering with experimentation: In response to input from residents, a fully-staffed Traffic and Infrastructure Division can collect data, test out different traffic-calming strategies, monitor how those experiments worked, and report back to the community. This will be, we hope, a virtuous cycle.
- More enforcement: In a recent East Somerville traffic enforcement effort, a Somerville Police Department traffic control officer said, "The officers reported that the area is literally 'out of control' with violations which occurred directly in front of them even though they were there with blue lights activated as a warning to motorists not to commit a violation." This feedback shows how much more we could do in the enforcement of traffic laws. Key violations to enforce include speeding and distracted driving, which cause many fatal or serious accidents nationwide. The Administration should add more Police resources for enforcement, including enforcement of bicycle laws, in particular when they impact pedestrians.
  - More investment: Continued on page 9

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# **Beacon Hill Roll Call**



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Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com

With today's edition, *The Somerville Times* begins coverage of the 2019-2020 Massachusetts legislative session with our weekly *Beacon Hill Roll Call* report. This feature is a clear and concise compilation of the voting records of local state representatives and senators.

Beacon Hill Roll Call provides an unbiased summary of bills and amendments, arguments from floor debate on both sides of the issue and each legislator's vote or lack of vote on the matter. This information gives readers an opportunity to monitor their elected officials' actions on Beacon Hill. Many bills are reported on in their early stages, giving readers the opportunity to contact their legislators and express an opinion prior to the measure being brought up for final action.

The feature "Also Up on Beacon Hill" informs readers of other important matters at the Statehouse.

Beacon Hill Roll Call is written and provided by Bob Katzen, a former Boston radio talk show host at WRKO, WITS and WMRE. Bob has been providing this feature to hundreds of newspapers across the Bay State for 43 years since 1975.

Bob invented the "Bagel Route" when he was 10 years old. It's like a paper route but Bob took pre-orders from neighbors and delivered bagels every Sunday morning.

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: Last week was full of activity on Beacon Hill. The Legislature approved and sent to Gov. Charlie Baker several bills passed on voice votes, without roll calls, prior to the end of the 2017-2018 session on Tuesday, January 1.

The Legislature convened the 2019-2020 session on Wednesday, January 2. Most of the day's activity was ceremonial with the exception of the election of a speaker of the House and Senate president.

Gov. Baker also delivered his annual State of the State address.

# HOUSE RE-ELECTS DELEO AS SPEAKER

House 120-31, re-elected Rep. Bob DeLeo (D-Winthrop) to a sixth term as speaker of the House. Rep. Bradley Jones (R-North Reading) received the votes of 31 of the 32 Republicans and was re-elected GOP minority leader. Rep. Shaunna O'Connell (R-Taunton) was absent.

DeLeo received the votes of 119 of the 128 Democrats. One Democratic representative was absent and eight opted not to cast a vote for speaker and voted "present." That list included returning Reps. Jonathan Hecht, Russell Holmes (D-Boston), John Rogers D-Norwood) and Angelo Scaccia (D-Boston); along with freshmen Reps. Tami Gouvieia (D-Acton), Nik Elugardo (D-Boston), Patrick Kearney (D-Scituate) and Maria Robinson (D-Framingham).

Earlier in the day at a Democratic caucus, Robinson proposed an amendment that the speaker be elected by secret ballot rather than the current system of a recorded roll call vote. Ironically, the proposal was defeated on an unredorded voice vote. Holmes, Hecht, Elugardo and Kearney of spoke in favor of Robinson's amendment.

Supporters of the secret ballot said members should be able to cast a vote without worrying about the next speaker knowing that he or she voted against the him or her. They noted that they were all elected by their local voters who voted in secret.

Robinson said she wanted to ensure that House law-makers would be independent. "And it is difficult to have independence when you do not have a private ballot for one of the most important roles," she said.

Opponents said an open ballot makes the House more transparent. They said voters deserve to hear where their elected representative voted on every matter, including the election of the most powerful man in the House.

To go to a secret ballot defies a republic," said Rep. Tackey Chan (D-Boston).

Beacon Hill Roll Call made repeated attempts to get a comment from all eight members who voted "present." Only Reps. Holmes, Elugardo, John Rogers, Gouvieia, Kearney and Hecht responded.

We did not get a response from Reps.Scaccia and Robinson

"My constituents, many of whom are people of color, have made it clear that I should not continue to prop up an institution that does not listen to it or show it the respect that our voting records deserve," said Rep. Holmes. "The House of Representatives is run by Democrats. However, the leadership and its goals does not have as its highest priority the desires of its most reliable voting constituency. We should be focused on eliminating the gaps between unemployment rates and income of people of color and whites, passing foundation budget and immigration reform, and pushing forward with eliminating violence in our community by solving unsolved murders. This is why I hear over and over again in my district that folks supported Gov. Baker at unexpected levels. He has been in the district many times and listens, values and respects our perspective as reforms are rolled out from his administration."

"I voted present because I believe we need a new direction in the House," said Rep. Hecht. "We need to make the House truly democratic by opening up the lawmaking process and giving an equal voice to all members and the communities they represent."

"I would only vote for a candidate who would make a public statement about their vision for reforming House culture and House Rules, and in the absence of such a statement by any candidate I would have to vote 'present,'" said Rep. Elugardo. "Any statement acknowledging the need to assess and address a culture of fear that is choking, for some reps, their ability to ask for roll calls and to call for reforms that increase transparency and robust debate would have sufficed. But to my knowledge at the time of voting none was presented to the members."

I voted "present" today to be consistent with my long held belief in term limits for the office of speaker of the House, said John Rogers. "Indeed, the gentleman from Winthrop [Speaker Bob DeLeo] and I years ago both ran for speaker advocating for term limits forsSpeaker. Although I support his right to change his mind, I remain resolute in the fundamental belief in this necessary limit on the powers of the office of speaker."

Here's how local representatives voted:

Rep. Christine Barber Voted for DeLeo Rep. Mike Connolly Voted for DeLeo Rep. Denise Provost Didn't Vote

# SENATE RE-ELECTS SPILKA AS SENATE PRESIDENT

Senate 34-6, re-elected Sen. Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) as Senate President. Spilka received the votes of 33 of the chamber's 34 Democrats. Sen. John Keenan (D-Quincy) was absent.

Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester) received the votes of all six Republicans and became the GOP Minority Leader.

Here's how local senators voted:

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Voted for Spilka

### ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

CREDIT REPORTS (H 4806) - The House and Senate approved and sent to Gov. Baker legislation that would prohibit consumer reporting agencies, like Equifax, Experian and TransUnion from charging fees for freezing and unfreezing a person's credit information. Under current law, companies can and have charged up to \$5 per freeze or unfreeze.

A freeze makes the report inaccessible until the consumer unfreezes it. Since banks and other lenders require access to the borrower's credit report before giving a loan, this greatly reduces identity thieves from getting a loan or credit in another individual's name.

The proposal gained momentum following the 2017 crisis when, from May to July, the personal information including names, social security numbers, addresses, driver's licenses, and credit card numbers of 145 million Americans was stolen from Equifax's systems. Equifax didn't reveal the breach until September and consumers lost valuable time to act.

Other provisions of the bill prohibit businesses from obtaining a consumer's credit report without obtaining written, verbal or electronic consent from the consumer; require credit monitoring services to be available for 3.5 years for some consumers affected by a breach; and improve notices and consumer information the companies are required to give.

"While these new tools will help consumers protect themselves from identity theft, it is clear that big businesses have to do a much better job at safeguarding consumers' personal information and must be held accountable for their failures," said Deirdre Cummings, legislative director for MASSPIRG. "Identity thieves stole more than \$17 billion dollars from American consumers last year — and that number is growing."

# BAN TOXIC FLAME RETARDANTS (H 5024)

- The House and Senate approved and sent to the governor legislation that would ban 11 toxic flame retardants from children's products, bedding, carpeting and residential upholstered furniture sold or manufactured in Massachusetts, except for inventory already manufactured prior to January 1, 2019. Another provision requires the Department of Environmental Protection to review, at least every three years, chemical flame retardants used in these products and include them on the list of prohibited chemical flame retardants that are documented to pose a health risk.

Vehicles, watercraft and aircraft are exempt from this law as are any previously-owned product that contains a retardant. Violators would be fined up to \$5,000 for a first offense and up to \$50,000 for subsequent offenses.

# **Beacon Hill Roll Call**

continued



Supporters explained that since 1975, manufacturers have added chemical flame retardants to a wide array of household items including products with polyurethane foam, such as sofas, car seats, strollers and nap mats. They are also incorporated into electronic products and building insulation.

They argued that the retardants, while well-intentioned, do more harm than good and have been linked to an increased risk of cancer, fertility problems, neurological disorders and other major health concerns.

"This law will protect the health of children and fire-fighters," said bill co-sponsor Rep. Marjorie Decker (D-Cambridge). "Working with Speaker DeLeo, my partners in the Senate, firefighters and so many advocates is exactly what democracy looks like--crafting laws that value people's lives and highlighting the connection to our well-being and how we choose to use chemicals that can lead to our deaths instead of protecting us. I am honored to have been the voice of many as the House sponsor."

"I am so proud that this important bill will reach the governor's desk, and we can make 2019 the year we stop allowing the sale of products with unnecessary and harmful flame-retardant chemicals," said Sen. Cynthia Creem (D-Newton). "Working with Clean Water Action, the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, and many other advocates helped increase public awareness and get the bill passed."

GAS SAFETY (H 5005) – The House and Senate approved and Gov. Baker signed into law a bill that would require that all-natural gas work that might pose a material risk to the public be reviewed and approved by a cer-

tified professional engineer to ensure the safe construction, operation and maintenance of gas infrastructure. The bill is based on a recommendation made by the National Transportation Safety Board after investigating the series of fires and explosions on September 13 that killed one person and damaged homes and businesses throughout Andover, North Andover and Lawrence.

PROTECTION FOR WORKERS (H 4988) - The House and Senate approved and Gov. Baker signed into law a bill requiring the state to set up a system to address the ongoing lockout of National Grid gas workers. The utility locked out more than 1,200 workers in June during a contract dispute and their unemployment benefits are scheduled to run out in January.

Under the program, locked out workers would receive the same weekly amount they are now receiving under the state's current unemployment system until the lockout is resolved. All costs of the program would be paid by the existing unemployment insurance system.

COUNTERFEIT AIRBAGS (H 4051) - The House and Senate approved and sent to Gov. Baker legislation that would impose a 2.5-year prison sentence and/or up to \$5,000 fine on anyone who imports or sells counterfeit airbags in Massachusetts. Over the past few years, thousands of counterfeit airbags have made their way into the Bay State through purchases and sales on the Internet.

"I filed this bill to protect Massachusetts drivers from being injured and killed when counterfeit airbags fail to deploy properly," said Rep. Jennifer Benson (D-Lunenburg).

JURY DUTY NOTICE (S 771) - The House and

Senate approved and Gov. Baker signed into law a bill that allows the Office of the Jury Commissioner to communicate with jurors through e-mail, texting, other electronic and telephonic ways and in-person exchanges. Current law requires the communication to be via the post office and was adopted many years ago when these other forms of communication did not exist.

"I was pleased to file this legislation at the suggestion of the Office of Jury Commissioner," said the bill's sponsor Sen. Will Brownsberger (D-Belmont). "This legislation will allow the Office of Jury Commissioner to embrace technological improvements, reduce costs and improve juror convenience."

THE AGE FOR PURCHASING TOBACCO PRODUCTS IS NOW 21 – A new law raising from 18 to 21 the age to legally purchase cigarettes and electronic cigarettes in the Bay State took effect last week. Other provisions ban e-cigarettes and other vape devices from the workplace and private and public school grounds and prohibit pharmacies and healthcare facilities from selling any tobacco or vape products. The new law does not make it a crime for minors to smoke but does impose penalties on retailers who sell tobacco to underage customers. It also exempts from the hike youths who turned 18 by Dec. 31, the day the law took effect.

Prior to the hike going into effect, some 50 percent of the state's cities and towns, including Boston, had already raised the legal age up from 18 to 21.

"Raising the minimum legal sales age for tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to 21 aims to reduce tobacco use and nicotine addiction by decreasing access and exposure to these products," said

Continued on page 17

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### Recent Single Family Homes Sold in Somerville Over the Past Month: MLS# **Address** Description **DOM List Price Sale Price** 14 room, 6 bed, 3f 2h bath Victorian 72393010 172 Summer Street 39 \$1,200,000 \$1,120,000 72380282 125 Heath Street 7 room, 3 bed, 3f 1h bath Gambrel /Dutch 178 \$1,225,000 \$1,183,500 72418163 \$1,449,900 \$1,478,000 91 Oxford St 10 room, 5 bed, 3f 1h bath Colonial 15 72289406 229 \$1,475,000 \$1,470,000 137 Sycamore 13 room, 5 bed, 3f 1h bath Colonial 72401977 48 Rogers Ave 9 room, 4 bed, 3f 1h bath Victorian 37 \$1,599,999 \$1,500,000

### Recent Condominiums Sold in Somerville Over the Past Month: **Address List Price** MLS# Description **DOM Sale Price** 72328890 19 Kent Court U:3 5 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath Detached 177 \$899,000 \$860,000 72421007 28 Newberne Street U:1 4 room, 2 bed, 2f 0h bath Other 21 \$979,000 \$1,110,000 \$1,049,000 \$1,025,000 72394239 39 Murdock St U:2 6 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath Low-Rise 15 72398689 18 Adams St U:2 6 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath Detached 13 \$1,050,000 \$1,050,000 72408500 29 Weston Ave U:29 6 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath Townhouse 16 \$1,100,000 \$1,200,000 72368633 52 Porter St U:1 7 room, 3 bed, 3f 2h bath 2/3 Family 103 \$1,325,000 \$1,310,000 7 room, 3 bed, 3f 1h bath Mid-Rise 72345672 163 \$1,425,000 \$1,460,000 25 Woodbine Street U:25 72414556 22 Linden Avenue U:2 8 room, 3 bed, 3f 1h bath Townhouse 24 \$1,495,000 \$1,560,000

Ш	Recent Multi-Family Homes Sold in Somerville Over the Past Month:									
Н	MLS#	Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price				
	72404517	13 Alston St	3 unit, 14 total room, 8 total bedroom 3 Family	28	\$924,500	\$920,000				
П	72431103	8 College Hill Road	2 unit, 11 total room, 2 total bedroom 2 Family	180	\$949,000	\$930,000				
	72403101	6 Nashua St	3 unit, 15 total room, 7 total bedroom 3 Family	29	\$1,099,000	\$985,000				
Н	72412242	29-31 Mason St	2 unit, 12 total room, 5 total bedroom 2 Family	10	\$1,100,000	\$1,155,000				
	72418369	30 Beacon Street	3 unit, 12 total room, 4 total bedroom 3 Family	9	\$1,100,000	\$1,059,000				
	72404386	371 Broadway	2 unit, 12 total room, 6 total bedroom 2 Family	28	\$1,150,000	\$1,115,000				
	72395384	21-23 Thorndike Street	6 unit, 28 total room, 16 total bedroom 5-9 Family	10	\$3,250,000	\$2,800,000				

# SCES Elder Protective Services adopts new assessment tool

# By Nathan Lamb

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is an early adopter of a new tool designed to help Elder Protective Services evaluate reports of elder abuse and neglect.

Massachusetts is the second state to adopt the Interview for Decisional Abilities. It's a structured discussion that helps Protective Services social workers assess an elder's ability to make decisions about safety concerns and possible interventions, explained SCES Protective Services Director Stephanie Becker.

"One of the challenges of Elder Protective Services is gauging how much insight an elder has into whatever risks they are running," said Becker. "This tool helps us get a better understanding of that, which in turn helps us respect their right to self-determination."

Elder Protective Services investigates reports of abuse and

neglect, and works with older adults to mitigate risk factors.

Self-determination is an important component of Adult Protective Services; older adults can refuse assistance, provided they demonstrate they understand the risks. Becker said the interview can be very helpful when dealing with scenarios of self-neglect, where the capacity of an elder to make reasoned decisions is key.

"If somebody is able to exhibit insight into the risk of a given behavior and articulate reasoning about whether or not to accept an intervention, that provides us with valuable information about their ability to make that choice," said Becker.

In practice, the interview focuses on three primary areas: general appreciation of an identified risk, appreciation of how the elder is personally at risk, and the ability to weigh pros and cons of a potential intervention.

The interview was originally developed through a partnership between the NYC Elder Abuse Center, the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging, and Weill Cornell Medicine, to assist the New York City Adult Protective Services program. The program was piloted in New York City, and Becker said both California and Vermont are looking at adopting it.

Becker is one of 10 master trainers statewide, who helped bring the program to the Boston area earlier this year. She's currently working to bring the program to other agencies across the region, with the goal of making it available statewide.

The Protective Services Program at SCES served 272 clients over the past year.

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is a non-profit agency that supports the independence and well-being of older people in Somerville and Cam-



SCES Adult Protective Services Director Stephanie Becker is a master trainer for a new protective services tool in Massachusetts.

bridge. For more information, visit eldercare.org, follow us on Facebook and Twitter, or contact

the SCES Aging Information Center at 617-628-2601 for free advice and guidance.

# 'Sharing Our Stories' support group

Sharing our Stories is a support group for families with young children who have special needs.

Join in on Thursday, January 10, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Cummings School building, 42 Prescott St., for the next gathering.

Raising a child who does not always fit in can be challenging. This free, open-ended group will offer adults the opportunity to share joys, concerns, frustrations, questions, and resources about their experiences.

Facilitated by Amy Bamforth, LICSW. Conversation in English; interpretation available upon request.



# Dorothy's Corner

# BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



# Pan Roasted Chicken Thighs

This is a time saver for a weeknight meal. The results, crispy skin and succulent meat. It's all ready in 45 minutes! Serve with mashed potatoes and roasted carrots or asparagus or any other vegetable you like.

6 Bone-in, Skin-on Chicken Thighs Salt

Pepper

1 Lemon, Juiced (optional, see below) 1 Tablespoon Honey (optional, see below)

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Season the skin side of the thighs with the salt and pepper and place them in a cold 12" oven safe sauté pan. It's much easier to place the thighs in a cold pan because they won't stick on contact. I highly recommend using a splatter screen to help keep your stove

top clean.

Once all the thighs are placed in the pan, season the other side. Place the pan over medium heat for 2 minutes, then turn up to high for approximately 8 minutes or until the skin has browned.

Once browned, turn over the thighs, skin side up and place in the oven for 35 minutes. Once done, place the thighs on a platter.

You can serve them as is, or you can add a little more flavor to the dish by removing all but 2 tablespoons of fat from the sauté pan. Place on the stove top and squeeze the juice of one lemon into the pan along with a tablespoon of honey and blend well. Cook down for a minute or two, reducing the lemon juice. Drizzle over the thighs and serve.

Serves 3 really hungry people.

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



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# Somerville's Board of Aldermen to become City Council

The City of Somerville's legislative body will officially become the Somerville City Council (formerly the Board of Alderman) on January 31, 2019. The name change was approved when Gov. Charlie Baker signed a home rule petition on January 1 requesting the switch to City Council.

"I am very happy not to be called an elder man anymore," said City Council President Katjana Ballantyne.

The process to switch from Board of Aldermen to City Council began in early 2018 when Councilor-at-Large Bill White submitted a request that the City get permission (through a home rule petition) from the state to change the name

"I am very happy not to be called an elder man anymore"

of the legislative body in the City charter. "I am glad that the state approved the home rule petition that I had introduced last year and that on February 1, I will be a City Councilor-at-Large," said White. "Our work certainly won't change, but I thought it was important that we adopt a modern and inclusive name for the legislative body of our city."



### Moving forward on calming and reducing traffic CONT. FROM PG 5

To make a big impact on this big problem will require more staff which will take more funding.

Neighborhood advocacy: You understand your own neighborhood best. We want to empower neighbors to work with City traffic planners to implement effective solutions to calm traffic and/or reduce traffic flow through small residential side streets.

+ Coordination with the MBTA: Our public transportation system could be much more effective, but it is controlled by the MBTA, a state agency. For example, there is virtually no North-South public transportation route in the City. With five new Green Line stations opening in 2021 in Somerville, there will need to be some changes in bus routes. The City needs both to advocate for more and better MBTA bus service and also to be a good partner for the MBTA, such as by piloting bus-only lanes.

+ Last, but certainly not least - parking: With a growing population of residents,

shrinking space on our streets, and outdated regulations, the Administration must begin a community discussion about major changes in our parking policies. Many parking regulations need to change to improve the parking experience for thousands of residents.

We look forward to working with the Administration and

with all of you on these important public health and quality-of-life traffic challenges in 2019. With the tools that are available, the expertise of our growing City staff, additional investment, and your relentless advocacy, we can chip away at the mountain of issues and begin to see some relief.

# The Somerville Theatre Festival invites calls for short plays CONT. FROM PG 3

Plays should be designed for minimal props and have no more than four characters (two to three is preferred).

# **Details for Submissions:**

Early submissions are encouraged. The reading fee is \$25 for a manuscript of one or two short plays and must be submitted via PayPal: https:// www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/

webscr?cmd= s-xclick&hosted\_button\_id=WZTZD3X-**BRMSHQ** 

Send your best work in a word or PDF file to: PerformingFusionTheatre@gmail.com. In the subject of your email put: Your Last Name\_PayPal Transaction Number (Thompson\_1RN29583PK075333F).

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration event, to be held on Monday, January 21.

social justice educator, facilitator and organizer.

Collaborative's Clothing Closet.

playwright's contact information, title(s) of the play(s), and a one sentence synopsis (for each play). The playwright's name should only appear on the cover page. All submission proceeds go to PFT's "Touching Myself: An Ode to Audre Lorde" 2019 South Africa Fund.

Questions or concerns should Include a cover page with the be addressed to Ayshia Stephenson, Executive Director, or Brian Moore-Ward, Artistic Director, at PerformingFusionTheatre@ gmail.com

Learn more here: https:// www.performingfusiontheatre.

https://www.facebook. com/PerformingFusionTheatre Twitter: @PfusionTheatre

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to satisfy every taste and budget!

The event is organized in cooperation with the City of Somerville's Health and Human Services Department, Somerville Public Schools, and the Somerville Human Rights Commission.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebrations

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, the Health and Human Services Department and the Somerville Public Schools announce the annual

The annual event will be held at the East Somerville Community School, 50 Cross St., beginning at 10:00 a.m. The celebration will

be emceed by Marcus Santos, and will feature musical performances by El Sistema Somerville and the Somerville High School World

Percussion Ensemble, as well as readings by the winners of the student essay contest. A keynote address will be given by Aba Taylor, a

This year the Somerville Human Rights Commission will hold a Winter Clothing Drive during the event. Attendees are invited to

bring gently used or new winter clothes for school aged children. Donations will be distributed to the Somerville Family Learning

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# Somerville's work on affordable housing won't be slowing down in 2019



### By Joseph A. Curtatone

During Mayor Joseph Curtatone's mid-term address on January 7, 2019, he discussed some of the successes and challenges Somerville has faced in battling the regional housing crisis. The excerpt below touches on some of the work done in 2018 and a look ahead at the work the City will be taking on. To read or watch the entirety of Mayor Curtatone's speech, which includes information about other upcoming and ongoing initiatives like open space acquisition, support for Somerville's youth, and improving transportation options, visit www. somervillema.gov/2019midterm.

In 2018 Somerville took significant strides toward addressing the affordable housing crisis we face along with the rest of the Greater Boston region. Yet we still have a lot more that remains to be done in 2019, and this could become a watershed year in terms of local action on the housing issue.

During my Inaugural Address last year I unveiled 10 strategic steps that would set Somerville far ahead of the rest of the region in dealing with housing equity. We already sit at the front of the pack in terms of the percentage of affordable housing we require as part of major projects and we are one of only a handful of communities in the state getting linkage fees for affordable housing from commercial development. Since 2012 we have added 387 new affordable housing units in our city.

Yet we recognized we needed something far more aggressive to get at the roots of the problem. That's where the 10 action steps come in, and we're already making progress. In fact, you can track that progress yourself at somervillema.gov/aha.

In the last 12 months we have created an Office of Housing Stability, re-launched our lead paint removal program, and reached the halfway mark on our 100 Homes goal. We're setting up free legal support for tenants facing eviction, and we are establishing a universal waitlist for affordable units that gives priority to those in greatest danger of displacement.

We are also in the process of establishing an Advisory Board for the Office of Housing Stability to guarantee strong community input into the Office's efforts to prevent displacement. In 2019, we will establish an anti-displacement brain trust. Smart, committed people making sure we've got each other's backs. I can't think of anything more Somerville.

Production alone will not solve the housing crisis, but we cannot solve it without producing substantially more housing as a region. That's why I'm proud to say that as the co-chair of the Metro Mayors Regional Housing Task Force, I took a leadership role in bringing together 15 Greater Boston communities to commit to 185,000 new units of housing over the next decade.

That is a mammoth step in terms of regional cooperation, and a testament to how much everyone is feeling the pain of this housing crisis. In every single city and town in the group we're hearing about how people are being crushed beneath the weight of runaway housing prices.

It's not just us, and we're no longer in this alone. But if we want to keep people in Somerville, we must increase housing locally.

Last year, we added 707 total new housing units, including 98 affordable housing units. We also approved two new large-scale projects in Assembly Square that will bring us more than 500 new units including more than 100 new affordable units thanks to our 20% inclusionary ordinance. In many other cities that would be a decade's worth of work. In Somerville, we will treat it simply as a start toward addressing a gargantuan problem.

That brings me to the legislative end of things. With the Board of Aldermen – soonto-be City Council - and the community, we spent many late hours working to develop a real estate transfer fee to fund affordable housing. Once approved by the state, the transfer fee will protect owner occupants and target people looking to make a business out of housing in Somerville.

I am confident that, working together, we can also deliver a modernized condo conversion ordinance in the first half of 2019 that both respects the needs of owners and the rights of tenants. Without a new ordinance, we'll see more landlords forcing out tenants. We must add protections, particularly for those most at risk, such as the elderly, people with disabilities and those with lower and moderate incomes.

Likewise, we must regulate short-term rentals, which drive up overall rental prices. The state just passed a law on this and we have already submitted a local ordinance to work in conjunction with it. I look forward to working with the Board to pass this in 2019.

That's three key steps within our grasp that can have immediate and sweeping impact. We also need to move forward with the Housing Land Trust, which would be able to buy property and designate it for permanent housing affordability. We have a working group that's spent the past year hammering out the nuts and bolts of how to establish and operate a community-based housing trust. I want to thank them. That report is due any day now, and we need to be ready to act on it.

Simply put, if we are to protect housing in Somerville, we need to see it not as a commodity but rather as a human right—and we need the rules and regulations that back that up. That

brings me to zoning. Passing the proposed zoning overhaul is the backbone of everything we're doing to impact housing.

Through zoning, we can choose right now to move away from the NIMBY model that constrains housing supply and drives up prices. Through our proposed zoning, we can increase and incentivize a more diverse housing stock in our city. And through our zoning we can provide our families, our seniors, our makers and artists, our younger households, and our most vulnerable all an authentic chance to remain here.

Our proposed zoning lays out ground rules for building a community for people, not cars, not sprawl. It is designed to enhance our quality of life, alleviate congestion, and promote healthy living. It reflects our values. This zoning achieves more than 100 of the nearly 600 goals set forth in SomerVision.

We can no longer afford to leave one of our best housing tools on the table. It is time to pass the zoning overhaul. Let's get it done in 2019. Let's commit that next year at this time, we'll be celebrating that we passed it.

There's no one magic solution to the housing crisis. Yet when you combine the Office of Housing Stability, the transfer fee, new zoning, an updated condo conversion ordinance, the brain trust and the housing land trust, we will be able to help some of the most vulnerable people in our community in ways no other city in Massachusetts can match.

# Decreasing skyrocketing residential taxes

# By Marshall Collins

Recently, the Board of Alderman shared their tax classification report for the upcoming fiscal year, and one thing is clear: we sorely need more commercial businesses in Somerville to help reduce the tax burden on residents.

Somerville resident property owners will pay 76 percent of the city's taxes, which is up from 75 percent this year. By comparison, businesses property taxes make up less than 17

percent of the total. Residential assessments increased across the board this past year, and in the case of triple-deckers, assessed value increased by more than 20 percent. In the words of City Assessor Francis Golden: "In all my years ... I haven't seen ... a jump [like this]."

Business properties pay a much higher rate of taxes than residents do, so why the difference? The problem in Somerville is a lack of businesses currently contributing. Just a block or two away, there is a vastly different dynamic. In Cambridge, businesses pay more than 60 percent of the total tax burden. Why? Because there are many more commercial properties in Cambridge.

City Hall has been working to encourage commercial development. The Green Line Extension will help spur development along the line, and overhauling zoning to include a commercial-only zoning district will also help facilitate development. But relief from these initiatives is

years down road.

Fortunately, there are options on the table that could jump-start the commercial market in Somerville. USQ, the revitalization planned for Union Square, includes a 175,000 square foot commercial building in its first phase. If the city moves forward with this project, a ground-breaking would take place next year and residents would feel the impact almost immediately, as payments for the land and permits would start pouring in. In

the long term, the first commercial building would start to shift the tax burden from Somerville residents almost exclusively, to something far more equitable.

As he stated at the Board of Aldermen's most recent hearing on property taxes, "The only way we can help our constituents, or the honorable board can help your constituents, is if the CIP% (commercial industrial and personal property) of the levy grows. It's the only way .... you can pass more value onto them."

# COMMENTARY

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES

# Illustrated by Jim Clark



# All hail the Somerville City Council!

# **Our View Of The Times**



Sometimes the wheels of bureaucracy grind along at an agonizingly unhurried pace, leaving much needed change far behind in its timeliness and degree of import. In one such case, the matter of renaming one of our city's primary governing bodies in a manner more fitting and acceptable to contemporary sensibilities, the update appears to have been

put off far too long – by a measure of 100 years or more.

The change from Board of Aldermen to City Council is long overdue and a welcome sign of progress in our perception of the relevance of both gender and age equity in our future civic discourse.

It is hardly necessary to point out how antiquated and inappropriate the current appellation has been, considering the fact that women have been members of the Board for decades. And let us not overlook the fact that "alder" (i.e., "elder") individuals are also no longer exclusively entitled to membership in that august body, with a wide range of ages having been represented for many years, right up to the present time.

Special thanks should be extended to Alderman (soon to be Councilor) At-Large William A. White Jr., who initiated the home rule petition that made this change possible. He deserves the credit.

It's a new day and age, in comparison to when that ... other name ... was adopted. So let's ring in the new in the spirit of renewal and progress. Just in time for 2019!

# Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Herald an Essex County Judge ruled that the mayor of Methuen may move ahead with his defamation law suit against a local newspaper. Apparently, according to the mayor a local paper was spreading lies about him in the paper, making "false and outrageous statements about him being a drug addict, a corrupt cop and a crooked politician." This could be interesting to stay ahead of. Who knows who might or might not do the same. Very sad that a paper can't just be there to tell a story instead of being the story. Yes, our paper has a rumor column and it is clearly stated that it is a rumor column. If we make up outlandish lies about someone then we should be taken to task. We will watch to see what happens down the road with Mayor James Jajuga and his lawsuit. For those that would like to check it out, Google and read about the suit and what the judge has to say. All we can say is good luck to many others who find themselves in a situation like this. DO IT!

# \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Already in the first week of the new year there are election rumors. It's that time again this year here in the city, and we are hearing of several opponents will be considering challenging incumbents on the School Committee. Two candidates, we hear, are seriously considering running for Alderman (Councilor) At-Large. We hear the mayor made a deal for one more term with the Councilor from Ward 7, who appears to be moving towards being a candidate for mayor in the future. We also hear that since Councilor Bill White didn't get the job in Stoneham (how unfortunate for Stoneham, they lost out big time) that he might think about running for mayor again, not this time but next. IF Mayor Joe leaves office there will be a handful trying to grab the ring. Let's see who throws their names in around the city this year for other offices. Oh yeah, we heard that the mayor and his people are working on someone in Assembly Square to run for councilor. So far, some say they will run and then when it comes to the actual doing, it might not be the same. Some of the races were called in to us or told to us in confidence.

# \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you to all those that sent best wishes to Donald Norton, who recently was diagnosed with lung and head cancer. Treatment is going well at MGH and he is doing well so far, but he can tell you the steroids are way out there. Also in the hospital again

was Charlie Chisholm, still having problem with his hip. We wish him a speedy recovery. Stan Koty, the DPW Commissioner, has been in and out of the hospital and we wish him well and hope things go better for him. He's been having heart problems

# \*\*\*\*\*\*

The merger of two real estate companies that are joining together, Century 21 North East and The Norton Group RE, to be called Century 21 North East - Norton Group RE is now official. Jimmy D'Amico of Century 21 North East, currently owns over 40 offices and has over 750 agents associated with him, with offices in MA, NH and ME, as well as down in the cape. The Nortons have been around since 1977 with Patricia and Donald Norton as brokers, as well as 15 agents. Same location at 699 Broadway in Ball Square. The Nortons are excited to join with James D'Amico, together to continue giving great service to our clients and customers, now for 41 years here. A major facelift and publicity campaign will begin shortly.

The Annual Meeting of the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation will be held at the East Somerville Community School in Room 165, at the Glen Street side of the building at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 14. We will elect Directors to three year terms. The meeting is for current officers, directors, and members. New members are welcome. For information, contact Noreen Santucci at 617-448-0145.

# \*\*\*\*\*\*

Don't forget to park on the EVEN side of the street once they call a snow emergency. And no, you can't park in the school yards anymore, they put gates on them. Let's hope the city doesn't call for snow emergencies unless it's a real emergency like a blizzard.

The Somerville City Club's manager, **Donny Johnson**, is looking all the time for new members to join the club. If you think you'd be interested give him a call 617-623-9340. It's a great local club for the residents of Somerville. It's been around now for over 40 years at their location on Innerbelt Road, across from the Holiday Inn. It has plenty of parking and has a very nice hall for rent. Some say the best deal in Somerville. Call the hall and ask for details: 617-623-9340. The Somerville City Club supports a lot of local charitable groups and organizations here in Somerville.

12 JANUARY 9, 2019

The Somerville Times

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# A day at the Somerville Winter Farmers Market

The weekly market, held at the Center for Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., from December to mid-April, offers the best locally grown and regionally produced agricultural items including vegetable produce, cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, pastries, chocolate, and wine. They feature rotating guest vendors each week, as well as live entertainment.

The Somerville Winter Farmers Market is managed by Groundwork Somerville in partnership with Arts at the Armory.

Go to https://www.somwintermarket.org for more information.





















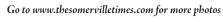












Photos by Bobbie To









### 14

# Somerville seeking Somervision 2040 committee members

'The Path Since 2010,' which tracks SomerVision progress to date, is also being released ahead of SomerVision 2040 kickoff

If you're interested in big issues like housing, development, job creation, and open space we need your help in planning for the future of Somerville. As part of the launch of SomerVision 2040, the City of Somerville is seeking members for a steering committee that will help shape the community process and immediate goals.

During the creation of Somer-Vision 2030, a community-driven 20-year comprehensive plan for the city, there was a 60-person steering committee that helped guide the process. This committee is being reconstituted as the Somer-Vision Committee

(SVC) for SomerVision 2040. Committee members will be a part of the SomerVision 2040 process in many ways, including getting the word out about the planning process, connecting groups or organizations they belong to to the SomerVision 2040 process, and helping staff select 5-year implementation priorities.

To get a wide range of perspectives and ideas, Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development invite individuals and community organizations to apply to be on the SVC. Applications can found at www. Somer Vision 2040.com/getinvolved and the deadline to apply is January 25. Those selected for the SVC will be notified shortly thereafter.



# SOMERVISION2040

Sustainability • Diversity • Opportunity • Connectivity • Community

In addition, city staff have prepared "The Path Since 2010," which summarizes the progress on SomerVision goals we've achieved together since 2010 including the Green Line Extension beginning construction, adding 7,000 new jobs in Somerville, the addition of 387 permanently affordable housing units, and 15 new acres of open space.

"The Path Since 2010" is available online www. Somer Vision 2040.com/the-pathsince 2010/, and an even more complete list of accomplishments is available at www. Somer Vision 2040.com.

There will be plenty of op-

portunities to participate in the SomerVision 2040 process beyond joining the SVC, including the official kickoff on Tuesday, January 15, at 6 p.m. at The Armory, 191 Highland Ave. All are also encouraged to attend this event to learn more about SomerVision 2030 and the process for creating SomerVision 2040, or to review the video recording, which will be posted at www.SomerVision2040.com. An RSVP is not required, but an RSVP at EventBrite is encouraged.

To view The Path Since 2010 and apply to the SVC visit www. SomerVision2040.com. The

best way to stay informed about additional SomerVision 2040 activities is to sign up for the newsletter on the website.

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact the City's ADA Coordinator, Nency Salamoun, at 617-625-6600 x2323 or NSalamoun@somervillema.gov.

— City of Somerville

# Ms. Cam's Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge #660

- 1. Who directed the movie Reservoir Dogs?
- 2. What plant is tequila made from?
- 3. Which Italian artist painted *The Birth of Venus?*
- 4. What nurse was known as the "The Lady with the Lamp"?
- 5. How old was Martin Luther King Jr. when he was assassinated?
- 6. What is the chemical formula of table salt?

- 7. What shade of hair dye is the rhubarb root used
- 8. How many table-spoons are in a cup?
- 9. In what year did the volcanic eruption of Mount St. Helen take place?
- 10. What disease is called the Christmas disease?
- 11. What is the main flavor of aioli?
- 12. In what country is Prague located?

Answers on page 16

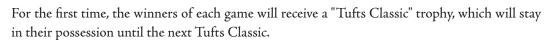
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www.somervillema.com www.medfordma.com

# Medford and Somerville H.S. basketball 2019 Tufts Classic

The Medford High School Mustangs and Somerville High School Highlanders girls and boys basketball teams will continue their rivalry at the 3rd Annual Tufts Classic on Sunday, January 20, at the Cousens Gymnasium on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus. The girls' game will tip off at 12:30 p.m., and the boys' game will tip off at 2:00 p.m.

This is the only time Medford and Somerville will meet all season.



Players from all four teams will receive specially-branded Tufts Classic t-shirts to commemorate their participation in the doubleheader.

Admission to the Tufts Classic doubleheader is free. Event staff will be accepting donations for food pantries in Medford and Somerville. Fans are asked to bring nonperishable food items to support those in need in both cities.

# Welcoming the Co-Incidence Festival

CONT. FROM PG 1

a couple pre-scheduled concerts) will be predetermined. the structure of the festival will be centered on daily conversations led by Sarah, and other impromptu events as they are determined collectively.

The "official" concerts this year, all at Washington Street Art Center, are scheduled as follows:

Welcome Concert: Friday, January 11, 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Featuring pieces by Sarah Pitan, Jennie Gottschalk, Chris Strunk, and Nilo Goldfarb. This one has 4 pieces happening concurrently in WSAC and outside around the Center. This will be a big event and, hopefully, a great

kick-off to the Festival.

(https://www.facebook.com/events/2249434621976221/)

Guest Artist Showcase #1: Saturday, January 12, 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Featuring 10-min pieces by 5 of the Co-Incidence Artists. A straight-up show that should be fun featuring John Eagle, Joachim Eckl, Jordan Dykstra, Clara Allison, and Tim Tsang.

(https://www.facebook.com/events/210640833219347/)

Guest Artist Showcase #2: Sunday, January 13, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Same deal, but the other 5 artists (of 10 total): Michael Pisa-

ro, Aaron Foster Breilyn, Derek Baron, Angeles Rojas, and Luke Martin.

(https://www.facebook.com/events/322452958599560/)

Final Concert: Saturday, January 19, 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

This one is in progress of "coming together." It will feature documentations from throughout the week and a collaborative piece cooked up by all of the artists throughout the week.

(https://www.facebook.com/events/386601742094981/)

For more information about the festival visit the website at http://www.coincidencefestival.com.

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ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

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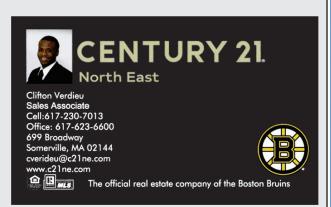
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P: 617.628.1563; F: 617.776.0074

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Attorney At Law

19 Beacon Street Boston, MA 02108 Phone: (617) 576-9884 Cell: (617) 529-7871 Fax: (617) 523-5226 E-mail: ddglaw@hotmail.com



# Attorneys at Law

424 Broadway Somerville MA 02145

Bankruptcy

**Family Law Immigration** 

**Personal Injury** 

**Business Law** 

**Estate Planning and Probate** 

**Real Estate** 

**Elder Law** 

**Civil Litigation** 

mdropkin@dropkinmatza.com

# **LEGAL NOTICES**

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



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

**GEORGE J. PROAKIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 

**PLANNING DIVISION** 

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING** 

A public hearing for all interested parties will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chambers, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA.

\*\*\* Cases are sometimes postponed to later dates. To sign up for emails to inform you of a change of hearing date for a project near you, please use the URL associated with your address of interest that appears at the end of this legal notification.\*\*\*

68 Dimick Street (ZBA 2018-151) (re-advertisement): Applicant/Owner, David Shepherd, seeks a special permit per SZO §4.4.1 to alter a nonconforming three-family structure by reconfiguring the layout of the three units. RB Zone. Ward 2.

17 Elmwood Street (ZBA 2018-125): Applicant and Owner, Elmwood Street, LLC, seeks a special permit under SZO §4.4.1 to alter a nonconforming structure and a special permit under SZO §9.13 for parking relief to demolish portions of the building, construct two additional stories, and change the use from a mix of uses that include two residential units and an office to three residential units. RB Zone. Ward 7.

1244 Broadway (ZBA 2018-135): Applicant, Patricia Birchem, and Owner, 1244 Broadway Real Estate Partners LLC, seeks a special permit under SZO §4.4.1 to alter a nonconforming structure and a special permit under SZO §9.13 for parking relief to demolish a portion of the building, construct two additional stories, and change the use from a laundromat/dry cleaning drop-off to a mix of uses including retail and three residential units. RC Zone. Ward 7.

52-54 Craigie Street (ZBA 2018-177): Applicants and Owners, Clare O'Brien and Nancy Walsh, seek a special permit under SZO §4.4.1 to alter a nonconforming structure and a special permit under SZO §9.13 for parking relief to increase the height of the roof ridge and construct dormers to create a master suite on the 3rd floor. RB Zone. Ward 3.

68 Dimick St: http://eepurl.com/dM5qnQ 17 Elmwood St: http://eepurl.com/gdqse1 1244 Broadway: http://eepurl.com/gdqsSb 52-54 Craigie St: http://eepurl.com/gdqtjn

Submittals may be viewed in-person in the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, located on the third floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, Mon-Wed, 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Thurs, 8:30 am-7:30pm www.somervillema.gov/planningandzoning.

As cases may be continued to later dates, please check the agenda on the City's website or call before attending a meeting. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to OSPCD, Planning Division, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; by fax to 617-625-0722; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

Attest: Sarah Lewis, Planning Director As published in The Somerville Times on 1/9/19 & 1/16/19

1/9/19 The Somerville Times

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Department** 208 Cambridge Street Cambridge, MA 02141

MIDDI ESEX Division

Docket No. MI 18W1731WD

**SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION** 

Elvia I. Ramirez Garcia, Plaintiff

Jorge H. Santos Marin, Defendant

To the above named Defendant:

A Complaint has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff, seeking Custody/Support/Parenting Time

You are required to serve upon Elvia L. Ramirez Garcia

-plantiff - whose address is <u>5 River Rd #502, Somerville, MA, 02145</u>

your answer on or before February 13, 2019. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the office of the Register of this Court at **Cambridge**.

Witness, Hon. Edward F Donnelly, Jr., Esquire, First Justice of said Court at Cambridge, this 2nd day of January, 2019

> Tara E. De Christofaro Register of Probate

1/9/19 The Somerville Times



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

**GEORGE PROAKIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 

**PLANNING DIVISION** 

### **LEGAL NOTICE** OF PUBLIC HEARING

A joint public hearing for all interested parties will be held by the Planning Board and the Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to receive public comments concerning the following:

A proposed amendment to the Somerville Zoning Ordinance regarding Useable Open Space in the ASMD and TOD districts.

Submittals may be viewed in-person in the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, located on the third floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, Mon-Wed, 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Thurs, 8:30 am-7:30 pm; and Fri, 8:30 am-12:30 pm

As items may be continued to later dates, please check the agenda on the City's website or call before attending. Continued items will not be re-advertised. Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board and the Land Use Committee at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to OSPCD, Planning Division, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; by fax to 617-625-0722; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

Attest: Michael A. Capuano, Chair, Somerville Planning Board Attest: Councilor Katjana Ballantyne, President, City Council To be published in the Somerville Times on 01/09/2019 and 01/16/2019

1/9/19 The Somerville Times



### CITY OF SOMERVILLE **PURCHASING DEPARTMENT** RFP 19-51

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

# **Real Estate Advisory Services**

A request for proposals (RFP) may be obtained online at http://www. somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing or from the Purchasing Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after January 9th, 2019. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: January 23rd, 2019 at 2:00pm ET. The Purchasing Director reserves the 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 Thupten Chukhatsang at tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov for more information.

> Angela M. Allen **Purchasing Director** 617-625-6600 x. 3400

1/9/19 The Somerville Times

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH **JOSEPH A. CURTATONE MAYOR** 

**DOUGLAS KRESS HEALTH & HUMAN** SERVICES DIRECTOR

### **LEGAL NOTICE** NOTICE OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF SOMERVILLE'S **BOARD OF HEALTH** "RESTRICTING THE SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS"

On Thursday, December 13, 2018, the Somerville Board of Health voted to amend the regulations entitled "Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products." The amendments included, but are not limited to, expanding the definition of a Characterizing Flavor to include menthol, mint and wintergreen; adding "Tobacco" as a Characterizing Flavor for any product that relies on vaporization or aerosolization; restricting the sale of e-cigarettes, as no person shall sell or distribute or cause to be sold or distributed any e-cigarette, except in Smoking Bars and Retail Tobacco Stores; and clarifying the definitions of Retail Store and Retail Tobacco Store.

For a copy of these regulations, please call (617) 625-6600, ext. 4300 or access online at www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/ six-city-tobacco-initiative.

The regulations will go into effect on Monday, April 1, 2019.

Attest: Kathy Henkle, Administrative Assistant As published in The Somerville Times on 01/09/19

1/9/19 The Somerville Times

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Department** 208 Cambridge Street Cambridge, MA 02141

**MIDDLESEX Division** 

Docket No. MI18D2316DR

**DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING** 

Silsa C Betancur vs. Edwin A Betancur

### To Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown of the Marriage 1B

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party .SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:

Gregory R. Barison, Esq. **Barison Law Boston** 100 Cambridge St **Suite 1400** Boston, MA 02114

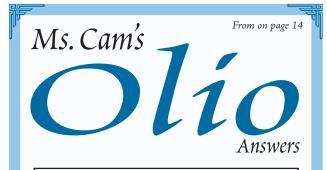
your answer, if any on or before 02/07/2019. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

Witness, Hon. Edward F Donnelly, Jr., First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 27, 2018.

Tara E. De Christofaro Register of Probate

1/9/19 The Somerville Times



1. Quentin Taranti-

7. Blonde

8. 16

2. Blue agave plant

9. 1980, May 18

3. Sandro Botticelli

10. Hemophilia B

4. Florence Nightingale

11. Garlic

5. 39

12. The Czech Republic

6. NaCl

# **Urban Gardening: A Talk with Lindsay Allen**

The Somerville Public Library, 79 Highland Ave., welcomes Lindsay Allen, the Rooftop Farmer at Boston Medical Center and Operations Director at Higher Ground Farm, for a discussion of urban gardening on Thursday, January 24, at 6:00 p.m. Attendees will learn about the history of urban gardening, food justice, and innovative ways to grow food at their homes.

This is the first event in the Food for Thought: Community Gardening and Cooking Initiative. The initiative will continue with the installation of a teaching garden at the Central Library in the spring of 2019.

Additional events will include hands-on educational workshops, as well as the addition of several gardening kits to the library's circulating collection. Participants of all ages will acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to create and maintain gardens in an urban environment and learn techniques for cooking and preserving fresh produce. All programs are free and open to the public.

Food for Thought is funded in large part by a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant.

Please contact Lilly Sundell-Thomas at (617) 623-5000 x2961 or lsundell-thomas@minlib.net for more information.



# **Beacon Hill Roll Call**

continued from page 7



Massachusetts Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel. "Nearly nine out of ten cigarette smokers started before they were 18 years old, and 98 percent first tried smoking by age 26."

Bharel continued, "Because the brain is not fully developed until the mid-20s, youth and young adults are uniquely at risk for long-term, long-lasting effects of exposure to nicotine. By delaying the age when young people may first begin using tobacco, we can reduce the risk that they will become lifelong tobacco users."

"As I have consistently said, if society entrusts an 18-year-old with something as important as the right to vote for their elected officials, or the ability to fight for their country in war, they should be allowed the responsibility to choose whether or not they want to use tobacco," said Sen. Don Humason (R-Westfield). "I become concerned when the Legislature tries to tell people who would otherwise be considered adults what they can and cannot do."

SALARY HIKE FOR CABINET MEMBERS AND OTHERS - The nine cabinet secretaries under the governor have received a 5.5 percent pay hike. The increase of \$8,883 will raise their pay from \$161,522 to 170,405. Executive agency heads and commissioners and employees of the governor's office will also receive the 5.5 percent hike.

This hike comes only days after a total of \$1.2 million in salary hikes per year was given last week to the governor, the other five constitutional statewide officers, 40 senators and 160 representatives. These hikes ranged from a low of \$3,709 to a high of \$80,000.

Supporters say that this raise is a fair and reasonable one for the people who hold these important positions. They note the governor's staff did not receive merit pay increases that executive branch managers have received over the past four years.

"Trickle-down economics' Bay State style," said Chip Ford, executive director of Citizens for Limited Taxation. "Legislators grabbed a 5.83 percent pay raise and another illicit hike in their 'expenses' of 8 percent. Then the governor and other constitutional officers got theirs. Like water flowing downhill, cabinet secretaries and the well-connected schooling downstream catch the scraps from the feeding frenzy," continued Ford. "Meanwhile, taxpayers got trickled on: A paltry .05 percent pay raise from the minuscule reduction of the long-past-due roll-back of the 3-decades old 'temporary' income tax hike. On Beacon Hill this passes for 'pay equity.' Marie-Antoinette called it 'Let them eat cake."

HONOR ROSA PARKS (S 2410) – The House and Senate approved and sent to Gov. Baker a bill requiring the MBTA, during the month of February, to have an LED display or decal on each bus to recognize the accomplishments of Rosa Parks to the Civil Rights Movement. By refusing in 1955 to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus, Parks eventually became known as "the first lady of civil rights" and "the mother of the freedom movement."

Parks was arrested and convicted of disorderly conduct. What followed was a 381-day boycott of the bus system by blacks that was organized by the then 26-year old Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. The incident led to a Supreme Court ruling that desegregated public transportation in Montgomery. This eventually led to the 1964 Civil Rights Act that desegregated all public accommodations nationwide.

"It was an honor and a privilege to both sponsor and advocate for this legislative bill which will honor an American heroine, said Sen James Timilty (D-Milton). "The sole purpose of this legislation is to commemorate the incredible courage and sacrifices exemplified by Ms. Rosa Parks. I am proud that this piece of legislation was enacted by both bodies of the Legislature."

**QUOTABLE QUOTES** – Unity Edition – Remarks from speeches as the 2019-2020 Legislature begins.

"This state is bursting with talent, humor and decency. Boldness and common sense. Our abiding sense of patriotism, belonging and community has made us strong and has carried us forward for almost 400 years. Let others engage in cheap shots and low blows. Let's make our brand of politics positive and optimistic, instead of cruel and dark. And instead of the bickering and name calling that dominates much of today's public debate, let's build on the work of those who came before us." — Republican Gov. Baker

"We've chosen partnership over partisanship and worked to find common ground ... We've focused on doing the work we were elected to do rather than getting bogged down in political gamesmanship ... We will resist the temptations to react to the headlines coming from Washington D.C. and won't regress to partisan bickering." — Republican Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito

"Amid the clamor and discontent of our national discourse, we have a lot to be grateful for in Massachusetts. Still, we have many challenges facing us. And the needs of our commonwealth are varied and complex. So now it's now time to get to work." — Democrat House Speaker Bob DeLeo

"As I contemplate how the Massachusetts State Senate will address the complex challenges before us, I am reminded of another Frederick Douglass quote: 'I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong.' As your Senate president, I am committed to making sure we invite all voices to the table, and if we find that the table just isn't big enough, we will build a bigger table." — Democrat Senate President Karen Spilka

"Our democracy is confrontational by design and it is all but certain that when considering legislation and crafting laws, diverse, strong-willed people of talent, experience and divergent beliefs will have differences, some of which are irreconcilable. We should always work towards achieving common ground even when that effort takes valuable time." — House Republican Minority Leader Brad Jones

# HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session.

During the week of December 31-January 4. the House met for a total of 19 hours and one minute while the Senate met for a total of 26 hours and 17 minutes.

Mon. December 31 House 11:02 a.m. to 9:50 p.m. Senate 11:20 a.m. to 10:17 p.m.

Tues. January 1 House 11:04 a.m. to 1:06 p.m. Senate 11:14 a.m. to 11:12 p.m.

Wed. January 2 House 11:08 a.m. to 2:25 p.m. Senate 11:09 a.m. to 2:07 p.m.

Thurs. January 3 House 11:00 a.m. to 1:54 p.m. Senate 11:27 a.m. to 11:51 a.m.

Fri. January 4 No House session
No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH Wednesday|January 9

East Branch Library
Preschool Story Time
11 a.m.-11:45 a.m.|115 Broadway

**Central Library** Somerville High School Anime

Club 2:45 p.m.-4:30 p.m.|79 Highland

# Thursday|January 10

Central Library
Preschool Storytime for 3 to
5-year-olds
10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
TELL (Teen Library Leaders)
Meeting
3:45 p.m.-5:45 p.m.|79 Highland

# Friday|January 11

**Central Library** 

Preschool Storytime for 2-yearolds 10:30 a.m.-11 a.m.|79 Highland

### Monday January 14

**Central Library** 

Sing Along with Fred & Friends! 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.-79 Highland Ave

East Branch Library
Pop Up Play Group!
10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|115
Broadway

### Tuesday January 15

Central Library Girls Who Code 6:15 p.m.-7:45 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

# Wednesday|January 16

East Branch Library
Preschool Storytime
11 a.m.-11:45 a.m.|115 Broadway

Central Library Somerville Positive Forces 1 p.m.-3 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

### MUSIC/ARTS Wednesday|January 9

Sally O'Brien's Bar Free Poker, lots of prizes! 8 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

Backroom Series with Brian O'Donovan (of "A Celtic Sojourn" on WGBH)|7:30 p.m. Comedy Night with Arty P.|10 p.m.

Elizabeth and Ben Anderson|7:30 p.m.

247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

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

Bull McCabe's Pub 366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Thunder Road Bearly Dead – Wednesday Night

Residency 7 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville 156 Highland Ave

**Highland Kitchen** 150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Aeronaut Brewing Co. Evan & Danny 8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory
Been Out Here Teen Open Mic

6 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Thursday|January 10

Sally O'Brien's Ways & Means Committee, Rusted Bucket Band 7:30 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

Jen Kearney|7 p.m. Scattershots|10 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

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

Bull McCabe's

Krush Faktory(Dub Down) 10 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

**Thunder Road** 

Crooked Coast with special guests The Quins, Over The Bridge, and Alright, Thanks

7 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville Helefest

MeetVoutside, Everything But Nothing, Tre Michaels, Mozado, The Sunset Kings, Clutch Cabin 8 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

**Aeronaut Brewing Co.** Le Prestige

8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory

Pub Sing

6 p.m.|191 Highland Ave

# Friday|January 11

Sally O'Brien's

David Johnston Band |6 p.m. HearNow Live presents The Othership \$10 cover|9:30 p.m. 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

Backroom Series with Tom Bianchi Insight Music & Prospect Paradigm Live Featuring Sawyer Thomas and Forte |7 p.m. Pop Disaster|10 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Once Somerville

Pop Punk Pizza Party 8 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

**Orleans Restaurant and Bar** DJ starting at 10 p.m.

65 Holland St|617-591-2100 Bull McCabe's

366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

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

Casey's

Entertainment every Friday 173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

Thunder Road

Brother Guy, blindspot, Lockette, Erika Hansen, Kate Girardi 7 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co. Second Line Brass Band|6:30

p.m. Yogibogeybox Brass Band|7:30

p.m. 14 Tyler Street

The Rockwell

B.U.M.P.|9:15 p.m. Dirty Disney|10:30 p.m. 255 Elm St

Saturday|January 12

Sally O'Brien's

Tom Hagerty Band |6 p.m. Speed Fossil, Ghost Truckers, Haymakers \$10 cover|9:30 p.m 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

Jeff Jam Family Dance Party!|4 p.m.

Seth Rosenbloom CD Release Show with Special Guests: Sonya Rae Taylor & Ryan Taylor|7 p.m. Brick Park |10 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

• • • • VILLENS ON THE TOWN • • • •

**Orleans Restaurant and Bar** Karaoke

65 Holland St

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

Casey's

Entertainment every Saturday 173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

**Thunder Road** 

Weird Phishes – Performing Radiohead's 'OK Computer' in its' entirety.

8 p.m. 379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville

Punk Rock Aerobics - A benefit for Girls Rock Campaign Boston! | 12 p.m.

Gene Dante And The Future Starlets 8 p.m. The Gala

Tiger Bomb, Smitt E. Smitty 156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co. Honey Talk 8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

The Rockwell KERPLUNK! 11 a.m.|255 Elm St

Arts at the Armory
Irish Session
2 p.m.|Café
Vira & Friends, 02143
5 p.m.|Café
Laughing Liberally
8 p.m.|Cafe | 191 Highland Ave

# Sunday|January 13

Sally O'Brien's Bar The Natural Wonders|4:30 p.m. African Night, SambaLolo hosts|10 p.m.

335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Beatles Brunch 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Backroom series with Tom Bian-

chi|7 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Bull McCabe's Pub

Dub Apocalypse 366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Ui alala a d Kitalaa

Highland Kitchen Sunday Brunch Live Country & Bluegrass

Sunday Night Live Music 150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

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

Thunder Road

Americana Sundays with the Greg Klyma Band featuring Andy Santospago 7 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville 156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co.
BYOP: Amy Kucharik & Friends
2 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory Adult Folktale Telling Series 6:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Monday|January 14

Sally O'Brien's Bar Shawn Carter's Cheapshots Comedy|7 p.m. Marley Monday with The Duppy Conquerors reggae|10 p.m.

The Burren Back Room:

Stump Trivia|8:30 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

335 Somerville Ave|617-666-

Bull McCabe's Pub 366A Somerville Ave|617-440**Thunder Road** 379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville 156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co. Board Game Bonanza 6:30 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory Queer Tango 6:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Tuesday|January 15

Sally O'Brien's Bar industry night featuring DJ Wall 9 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren Jason Anick& The Swingers Swing/Jazz 8:30 p.m.|247 Elm

Street|617-776-6896

Bull McCabe's Pub
Ghetto People Band
10 p.m.|366A Somerville
Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen
First Tuesday of the Month|Spelling Bee Night
hosted by Victor and Nicole of

The fun starts at 10:00p.m. 150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

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

Thunder Road
SnugHouse with special guests

Xander Nelson, Visiting Wine, and Strawberry Machine 7 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville
Future Teens
Barely Civil
The Sonder Bombs
Raavi & The Houseplants
7:30 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co Indie Trivia

8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory
First and Last Word Poetry
6 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

# Wednesday|January 16

Sally O'Brien's Bar Free Poker, lots of prizes! 8 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

Backroom Series with Brian
O'Donovan (of "A Celtic Sojourn"
on WGBH)|7:30 p.m.
Comedy Night with Arty P.|10

Amanda Anne Platt & The Honeycutters | 7 p.m. 247 Elm Street | 617-776-6896

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

Bull McCabe's Pub 366A Somerville Ave|617-440-

**Thunder Road** Bearly Dead – Wednesday Night

Residency 7 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave Once Somerville

Tiki Holiday Tsunami of Sound, DJ Easy Ed 7:30 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Highland Kitchen 150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131 Aeronaut Brewing Co.

Late Night Thoughts 8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street Arts at the Armory

Red Cross Blood Drive 2 p.m.|Performance Hall|191 Highland Ave

# CLASSES AND GROUPS Wednesday|January 9

Central Library

Drop-in Knitting/Needlecraft
12 p.m.-2 p.m.
Poetry Reading with Bert Stern,
Gloria Mindock, and David Blair
7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Sanctuary City Meeting
11 a.m.- 1 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

### Thursday|January 10

**Central Library** 

Yoga at the Library 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Ciampa Manor

Learn English with the Library! 6 p.m.-8 p.m.|27 College Avenue

East Branch Library

Death Cafe 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.|115 Broadway

First Church Somerville
Debtors Anonymous- a 12 Step
program for people with problems with money and debt. 7
p.m.-8:30 p.m.|89 College Ave

For more info call: 781-762-6629

Friday|January 11

(Upstairs Parlor).

East Branch Library Introduction to Zentangle 10:30 a.m.-12:30 a.m.|115 Broadway

Central Library
Creative Computing
4 p.m.-5 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Saturday|January 12

Central Library
Gallery @ SPL Reception: Dylan
Kaufman, The Boston and Maine

11 a.m.-1 p.m|79 Highland Ave Winters Farmers Market 9 a.m.-1 p.m.|Arts at the Ar-

mory|191 Highland Ave

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

# 48 Holland St

**Sunday | January 13 Central Library**Picture Book Author/Illustrators

Critique Group 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Boston New Music Initiative 3 p.m.-4 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

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

# Monday|January 14

Central Library

basement

Somerville Stands Together 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Somerville Commission for Women 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club 7 p.m.-8 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Learn English at the Library! 6 p.m.-8 p.m.|115 Broadway

**East Branch Library** 

Tuesday|January 15

Central Library Learn English at the Library 6 p.m.-7 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Company Books & Brews Book Club 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.|14 Tyler St

# Wednesday|January 16

**Central Library**Drop-in Knitting/Needlecraft

12 p.m.-2 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

# SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

### **CENTER LOCATIONS, TIMES & SCHEDULES**

Holland Street Senior Center: located at 167 Holland Street (between Davis Square and Teele Square)
Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Fridays: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
617-625-6600, Ext. 2300

**Cross Street Center:** located at 165 Broadway (East Somerville)

Mondays & Tuesdays - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Thursdays - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 617-625-6600, Ext. 2335 Fax: 617-625-1414

Ralph and Jenny Center: located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn)

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. 617- 666-5223

**Main Office:** located at 167 Holland Street (between Davis Square and Teele Square.)

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

617-625-6600, Ext. 2300 Fax: 617-625-0688

TTY: 866-808-4851

### **ONGOING PROGRAMS**

Free Smoke Alarm/Carbon Monoxide Detectors: Very limited amount available This program is a first come first serve basis. This is funded through the Senior Safe Program and services will be provided until the grant is exhausted. - If you have any questions or need an application please call Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Join the SCOA's email group: The email group is for Somerville Council on Aging Seniors and / or Caregivers who are interested in the latest information on resources, events, programming, etc...in and around the Somerville area. Use the link https://groups.google.com/group/somerville-council-on-aging - If you have any questions or need help joining please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Silver Alert Program: The Somerville Council on Aging with the Somerville Police Department have implemented a program to take a proactive approach towards protecting some of Somerville's most vulnerable citizens who suffer with serious cognitive impairments that put them at risk for wandering and getting lost. The Silver Alert Program is designed to collect specific information about a potential missing person, along with photo identification. This confidential information will be kept on file for immediate use in the event a loved one is reported missing. Please contact the SCOA at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 for additional information or to register.

Free Groceries Every Month?: You may be eligible for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program! CSFP is a once a month food distribution for individuals 60 years of age or older. You may be eligible to receive two free bags of food once a month containing healthy shelf stable products. Proof of identity and age are all that is required to apply. Must apply beforehand. Pick up at the Ralph & Jenny Center, 9 New Washington Street on the 4th Thursday of every month unless otherwise specified. For more information or to apply please call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 – applications are available at the front desk of our Holland Street Center.

Friendly Caller Program: Do you know someone who could benefit from a friendly call? Maybe you are feeling isolated and want someone to talk to – or you just want someone to listen. Please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 to sign up for our "Friendly Caller" Program.

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Country Western Line Dancing – The 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at our Holland Street Center. \$3 per class – no experience needed. For additional information, questions or to reserve your spot call Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Healthy Steps – Thursdays starting from 12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Healthy Steps is a therapeutic, gentle, movement class for anyone who needs to get moving, particularly anyone recovering from surgery, frail elders or those living with chronic fatigue or arthritis. Class is free. For additional information or questions to call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

**Blood Pressure Screening** – Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. January 10 at 10:30 am.

For info please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Dollar Days at the Movies – Tuesday, January 15 - doors open at 11:30 a.m. movie starts at noontime. \$1 per person – Chappaquiddick - For additional information, questions or to reserve your spot please call Josie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Diabetic Shoe Clinic – Thursday, January 17 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Did you know that you may be eligible for a new pair of diabetic shoes? Must have appointment. If you require additional info, have any questions or want to reserve your spot please contact Natasha at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

**Blood Pressure Screening** – Cross Street Center located at 165 Broadway. Upcoming Dates: January 17 at 10:30 am. If you require additional information please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Blood Pressure Screening** – Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Upcoming Dates: January 24 at 10:30 am. If you require additional information please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**St. Valentine's Day Celebration** – Thursday, February 14 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Dilboy Post located on Summer Street. Limited seating and transportation. This event is made possible through the Somerville Police and Fire Departments. If you require additional information, have any questions or want to reserve your spot please contact Josie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

### **LGBTQ EVENTS**

**LBT Women Fit-4-Life** - Fitness Class is Thursday evenings starting at 6:00 P.M. \$10 a month fee - scholarships available & it just might be covered under your insurance. We have available slots and would love to have you. If you have any questions or require additional info, please contact our Health & Wellness Coordinator, Chris Kowaleski at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2315.

# WEEKLY EXERCISE AND NUTRITION CLASS SCHEDULE (Please cut out and save)

# Monday:

Keep Moving Walking Club\*\* - 9:00 a.m. (H) Tai Chi – 11:30 a.m. (H) Fit-4-Life Group C - 1:00 p.m. (H)

# Tuesday:

Strengthening - 9:00 a.m. (H) \$3 per class (H) Fit-4-Life - 11:00 a.m. (C) Bike Club – 12:15 p.m. (H)

# Wednesdays:

Fit-4-Life Group A (exercise) - 9:00 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life Group B (nutrition) - 9 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life Group B (exercise) - 10:00 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life Group C (nutrition) - noon (H)
Fit-4-Life Group C (exercise) - 1:00 p.m. (H)
Zumba 4 All - 5:15 p.m. - \$3/class (H)

# Thursdays:

Yoga - 9:00 a.m. (H) Fit-4-Life - 11:15 a.m. (C) LBT Fit-4-Life, 6:00 p.m. (H)

# Fridays:

Fit-4-Life Group A - 9:00 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life Group B - 10:00 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life Group A (nutrition) 10:00 a.m. (H)

Adventure Group – Please call for details

\*All Fit-4-Life classes are \$10 per month and require pre-registration

# HOLLAND STREET GROUP INFORMATION

Book Club – Meets the third Friday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This group self-facilitates. Group members choose both fiction and non-fiction titles on a quarterly basis. Books are available on reserve at the Central Branch of the Somerville Library. If you are interested in joining, or require additional information please call 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300.

Caregiver Support Group – Meets the third Tuesday of each month from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Our Social Worker, Ashley Speliotis, facilitates this group. Are you caring for a parent, relative, spouse or close friend? Feeling isolated or overwhelmed? You are not alone! Come share your experience and practical support. Open to all and new members are always welcome.

If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Ashley at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2318.

Conversations of the Heart – Meets bi-monthly on Mondays from 1:00 to 2:00 P.M. at our Holland Street Center. Social Worker, Natasha Naim, facilitates this group. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2317.

Current Events Group – Meets every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Our Social Worker, Natasha Naim, facilitates this group. Join a group of your peers to discuss current events. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2317.

**De-cluttering support group** - If you have concerns around your clutter, this group may be for you. This closed group meets both in spring and fall for 6-8 weeks. This group is co-facilitated by Natasha Naim and Marina Colonas. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2317.

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

Memory Café – Meets the second Thursday of every month from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon. Our Social Worker, Ashley Speliotis, facilitates this group. A welcoming place for people with forgetfulness and their family and friends to share a meal and create new memories. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Ashley at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2318.

Mens Group – Meets the first Tuesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This group is facilitated by our volunteer, Norbert DeAmato. Are you recently retired? Looking to connect with other men in the community? Join our men's group where you can connect with old friends and make new ones. All men 55 and over are welcome. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300.

# **CROSS STREET GROUP INFORMATION**

Coffee & Conversation – Meets every Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Maureen Bastardi, Program Coordinator and Sandy Francis, Cross Street Center Volunteer, work together to facilitate this group. Come meet people from all over the world and join in the discussion of a different topic every day. Conversation is followed by the Fit-4-Life exercise program and then lunch. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335.

Arts & Crafts – Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month starting January 11th - from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Join us in a relaxing atmosphere as we learn about a wide range of arts & crafts from weaving to watercolor pencils. Maureen Bastardi, Program Coordinator facilitates this group. Must call a week in advance if you plan on attending. This is necessary to ensure we have enough material for everyone. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335.

Social Service Drop In – The third Thursday of every month Social Workers, Ashley Speliotis and Natasha Naim will be taking turns and having a Drop-in Social Service hour from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Cross Street Center. They will be available to address any of your Social Service needs. If you need additional info please call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335.

# RALPH & JENNY GROUP INFORMATION

Knitting Blankets – Every Tuesday & Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Join us as we knit blankets for babies. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Judy at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300

# 'Let's Talk About Race' symposium and panel discussion

# let's talk about about Tace healing the human family, one conversation at a time

# tinyurl.com/talkaboutraceSMC

Join the conversation!

Let's Talk About Race is a podcast and radio show hosted by Diane Wong which invites people from all backgrounds to engage in courageous conversations around issues related to race. Join host Diane Wong and Somerville Media Center by welcoming back a panel of the past years' guests who will share their experiences and expertise on Saturday, January 19, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Somerville Media Center, 90 Union Square. Afterwards, join in for a community meal and participate in racial dialogues facilitated by the panelists.

Motivation behind the event...

Wong shares that, "Our country has a long history of race oppression. Because of this largely unprocessed history, fear of discussing race permeates our national culture. Somerville is no different. We must engage with race in order to break the cycles of oppression that penetrate our lives." In celebration of Martin Luther King Day, come learn from a panel of educators, activists, young people, and community members who have engaged in these critical conversations over the past year as part of Wong's ongoing episodes to her Let's Talk About Race show.

The panel discussion participants include:

Pharaoh Saunders: Cambridge, MA, Political Science Student, UMass Boston& LTAR Co-Host.

Tina Cabral: Somerville, MA, Somerville Media Center

Nina Walcott-Wentzel: Cambridge MA, Medical Secretary, Harvard Vanguard Associates.

Raeshelle Cooke: Boston, MA, Filmmaker & Founder of RMC Pictures. Heather McCormack: Somerville, MA, SMC Youth Media Director.

For more information, please contact Heather McCormack at hmack@somervillemedia.org.

# Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



I'm not addicted to brake fluid. I can stop whenever I want.

# The "Original" All Types Vent Cleaning

Restaurant Hood Cleaning
Dryer Vent/ HVAC Cleaning

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We travel all over
Massachusetts

Call today to find out our weekly specials!

Call Jimmy 857-366-3761

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

# 'Understanding Google Suites & Apps'

# LUNCH AND LEARN

The Somerville Public Library and Somerville Media Center are excited to announce our 2019 workshops as part of our collaborative training program for improving people's digital and technology skills called, Lunch & Learn Digital Literacy Series.

The next Lunch & Learn workshop is Tuesday, January 15 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at Somerville Media Center, 90 Union Square.

During this two-hour workshop on Understanding Google Suites & Apps, instructors will go over using google drive, its most popular apps (google docs, google sheets, google slides) and answer any questions from the students.

**REGISTRATION:** Please submit the form online at https://www.somervillemedia.org/lunchandlearn/ to sign up for any of our upcoming workshops! If not comfortable submitting the form, no worries, just call us at 617-628-8826 or send us an email at ejones@somervillemedia.org.

OTHER UPCOMING DIGITAL LITERACY WORKSHOPS: Somerville Media Center is expanding their digital literacy workshops to the community beyond the Lunch & Learn Series with the Somerville Public Library. SMC is happy to be a recipient of the SkillUp Somerville, a grant funded program of the City of Somerville.

With these funds, SMC is offering even more digital literacy workshops geared toward audiences who want to improve their ability to navigate and participate in the digital media sphere and greater social economy. This SMC Digital Literacy program will address a wider spectrum of digital inclusion factors like taking full advantage of utilizing smartphones, researching the internet, learning media production, graphic design, building user friendly websites, becoming a community journalist, deepening media literacy knowledge and in general creating media savvy consumers.

Read more about these offerings at https://www.somervillemedia.org/2019digitalliteracy/.

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# SCATV Channel 3 Schedule

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

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Joni Sivi	e today to make your own iv or hadro in	oddetion, it	turn skins like earling and held production	ana sign ap	Tor special media making workshops and	a classes for	youth and address sometimemedia.org
Wednesd	ay, January 9	7:00pm	LIVE - The Boston Medium	1:00pm	Tele Magazine	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
12:00am	Free Speech TV	8:00pm	Startup TV Boston	2:00pm	The Beantown Beatdown	9:00am	The Stephanie Miller Show
6:00am	SCATV Community Bulletin Board	9:00pm	The Beantown Beatdown	3:00pm	Democracy Now!	10:00am	Both Sides of the Bars
7:00am	Esoteric Science	10:00pm	The Chatman Booth	4:00pm	New England Pride TV	10:30am	SOM Arts
		10:30pm	TUTV	4:30pm	What's New Massachusetts?	11:00am	Art Seen at SMC
7:30am	DW In Good Shape	11:00pm	DIWHY The show	5:00pm	Reeling Review	11:30am	DW Conflict Zone
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	Friday, la	nnuary 11	5:30pm	Both Sides of the Bars	12:00pm	The Thom Hartman Show (Free Speech TV)
9:00am	DW Global 3000	12:00am	Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party	6:00pm	The World Fusion Show	1:00pm	The Kamla Show
9:30am	Both Sides of the Bars	1:00am	SCATV Secret Stash	6:30pm	The Literati Scene	1:30pm	DW Global 3000
10:00am	Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer	1:30am	SCATV Secret Stash	7:00pm	Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer	2:00pm	NASA TV Silicon Valley Live
10:30am	Somerville Storytellers	2:00am	Free Speech TV	7:30pm	SOM ARTS	3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
11:00am	LIVE - Fallon's Daily Roast	6:00am	SCATV Community Bulletin Board	8:00pm	Special SCATV Programming	4:00pm	DW Euromaxx
	The Thom Hartman Show (Free Speech TV)	7:00am	The Bill Press Show (Free Speech TV)	8:30pm	Henry Parker Presents	4:30pm	Legacies
1:00pm	Health is Wealth	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	9:00pm	Nossa Gente e Costumes	5:00pm	TeleGalaxie
1:30pm	Art Seen at SMC		, , , ,	10:00pm	DIWHY The Show	6:00pm	Going Postal
2:00pm	Science 360	9:00am	Esoteric Science	11:00pm	SCATV Secret Stash	6:30pm	The Last Sip
3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	9:30am	Cambridge Calendar	11:30pm	TUTV	7:00pm	LIVE - The Yellow Jacket Lady
4:00pm	Speak Up! Somerville	10:00am	NASA TV			7:30pm	Henry Parker Presents
4:30pm	The Literati Scene	11:00am	SOM ARTS		anuary 13	8:00pm	LIVE - Somerville Overcoming Addiction
5:00pm	Hello Neighbor	11:30am	DW Tomorrow Today	12:00am	Flotilla		3
5:30pm	Women2Women Today	12:00pm		1:00am	SCATV Secret Stash	9:00pm	Dedillhando au Saudade
6:00pm	Speak Up! Somerville	1:00pm	The Yellow Jacket Lady	1:30am	SCATV Secret Stash	10:00pm	Duck Village Stage Sessions
6:30pm	Off the Shelf	1:30pm	Speak Up! Somerville	2:00am	Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party	11:00pm	Boston Come Through
7:00pm	Haitian Poetry in 3 Languages	2:00pm	The Kamla Show	3:00am	Free Speech TV	Tuesday,	January 15
8:00pm	LIVE - Somerville Pundits	2:30pm	SMC Youth Media	6:00am	Community Bulletin Board	12:00am	Free Speech TV
8:30pm	Speak Up! Somerville	3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	7:00am	Nossa Gentes e Costumes	6:00am	Community Bulletin Board
9:00pm	Boston Come Through	4:00pm	Gay USA	8:00am	Effort Pour Christ	7:00am	DW Euromaxx
10:00pm	LIVE - Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party	5:00pm	The Chatman Booth	9:00am	Tele Kreyol	7:30am	Esoteric Science
11:00pm	Flotilla	5:30pm	What's New Massachusetts?	10:00am	Evangelista Camillo Fodera	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
Thursday	, January 10	6:00pm	LIVE - Fallon's Daily Toast	11:00am	The Chef's Table Series	9:00am	The Chef's Table Series
12:00am	SCATV Secret Stash	7:00pm	SOM ARTS	12:00pm	Gentle Belly Dancing	10:00am	Road to Recovery
12:30am	SCATV Secret Stash	7:30pm	Art Seen at SMC	1:00pm	Off the Shelf	11:00am	Graphic Content
1:00am	Free Speech TV	8:00pm	The Grandstanders	1:30pm	DW Conflict Zone	11:30am	DW In Good Shape
6:00am	SCATV Community Bulletin Board	8:30pm	Greater Somerville	2:00pm	Startup TV Boston	12:00pm	The Thom Hartman Show
7:00am	Perils for Pedestrians	9:00pm	The Boston Medium	3:00pm	African Television Network	1:00pm	Words on Film with Dan Burke
7:30am	DW Focus on Europe	10:00pm	Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party	4:00pm	Dedilhando a Saudade		Somerville Overcoming Addiction
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	11:00pm	Totally Working Out	5:00pm	Gay USA	2:00pm	9
9:00am	DW Tomorrow Today		, ,	6:00pm	The Grandstanders	3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
9:30am	Hello Neighbor		, January 12	6:30pm	Teen Empowerment	4:00pm	SMC Youth Media
10:00am	3	12:00am	DIWHY The Show	7:00pm	Cinema Somerville	4:30pm	Henry Parker Presents
10:00am 10:30am	Legacies	1:00am	Boston Come Through	8:30pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	5:00pm	LIVE - Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer
	Somerville Pundits	2:00am	Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party	9:00pm	Tele Magazine	5:30pm	What's New Massachusetts?
11:00am	Teen Empowerment	3:00am	Free Speech TV	10:00pm	The Boston Medium	6:00pm	Community Lens
11:30am	Art & Ideas	5:00am	Effort Pour Christ	11:00pm	Box House Productions Presents	6:30pm	Art & Ideas
	The Thom Hartman Show (Free Speech TV)	6:00am	SCATV Community Bulletin Board	11:30pm	SCATV Secret Stash	7:00pm	Art Seen at SMC
1:00pm	The Somerville Line	7:00am	Road to Recovery			7:30pm	LIVE - Greater Somerville
3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)		January 14	8:00pm	LIVE - Dead Air Live
4:00pm	Hello Neighbor!	9:00am	SMC Youth Media	12:00am	Free Speech TV	9:00pm	The Somerville Line
4:30pm	The Struggle	9:30am	Somerville Storytellers	5:00am	Evangelista Camillo Fodera	10:00pm	TUTV
5:00pm	Words on Film with Dan Burke	10:00am	Dead Air Live	6:00am	Community Bulletin Board	10:30pm	Public Access Boyz
6:00pm	Community Lens	11:00am	Haitian Poetry in 3 Languages	7:00am	Perils for Pedestrians	11:00pm	Box House Productions Presents
6:30pm	Somerville Pundits	12:00pm	TeleGalaxie	7:30am	Going Postal	11:30pm	Ojo Rojo

### 22 (Comcast) **Schedule**

### Wednesday, January 9 8:30am Fit-4-Life #6 9:00am Foss Park Community Meeting - 12.12.18 11:30am Organizational Meeting for BOA & School Committee 12:30pm Mid-Term Ceremonies 2019 1:30pm Foss Park Community Meeting - 12.12.18 Talking Business "Sweet & Nutty 3:08pm Illuminations Tour - 2018 6:30pm 7:00pm SomerViva em Português - November 2018 Immigration Info Session - 12.9.18 7:30pm 8:41pm Talking Business "Sweet & Nutty Somerville Climate Forward Paul Revere Statue Unveiling 10:00pm Conway Park Contamination Info Session 10:07pm Thursday, January 10 12:00am Senior Circuit - 2018 Wrap Up Organizational Meeting for BOA 12:15am & School Committee 1:15am Mid-Term Ceremonies 2019 HeatSmart CoolSmart 2:15am 2:30am Illuminations Tour - 2018 8:30am SomerViva em Português - November 2018 Middlesex County Update w/Marian Ryan 9:00am Talking Business "Sweet & Nutty" 9:30am 10:00am Aldermen at Work - JT Scott 11:30am Raising Families "Immigration Law 12:00pm Senior Circuit - 2018 Wrap Up HeatSmart CoolSmartInstall 12:15pm The Firstamerican Flag: Revisiting the 1:30pm Grand Union at Prospect Hill

First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2019

Upcoming Meeting Agenda

2:46pm

4:00pm

7:00pm

8:00pm

10:00pm

Friday, January 11

7:00pm Board of Aldermen Meeting - LIVE Friday, January 11 12:00am First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2019 Transgender Day of Remembrance 1:13am 1:26am Even Side Season PSA - 2018 1:30am School Committee Meeting - 12.17.18 8:30am Fit-4-Life #2 SomerViva em Português - November 2018 9:00am 9:30am Aldermen at Work - JT Scott 11:00am Talking Business "Sweet & Nutty 11:30am Veterans' Day Remembrance Ceremony First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2019 12:30pm HeatSmart CoolSmart 1:43pm Parking Changes on Central Hill Meeting 2:00pm 3:30pm Immigration Info Session - 12.9.18 SomerViva em Português - November 2018 6:30pm 7:00pm Immigration Info Session - 12.9.18 Talking Business "Sweet & Nutty 8:11pm The Firstamerican Flag: Revisiting the 8:30pm Grand Union at Prospect Hill Organizational Meeting for BOA 9:30pm & School Committee Mid-Term Ceremonies 2019 10:30pm Saturday, January 12 Aldermen at Work - JT Scott 12:00am 12:30am The Firstamerican Flag: Revisiting the Grand Union at Prospect Hill Foss Park Community Meeting - 12.12.18 1:46am Raising Families "Special Needs Education" 8:30am 9:00am

Middlesex Update w/Marian Ryan Fit-4-Life #5 Aldermen at Work - IT Scott Conway Park Contamination Info Session

1:00pm City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 2:00pm 3:00pm Somerville Climate Forward Aldermen at Work - JT Scott 6:00pm Veterans' Day Remembrance Ceremony 6:44pm Push Ups for Veterans 7:00pm Conway Park Contamination Info Session 8:09pm Talking Business "Sweet & Nutty 8:30pm 9:00pm SomerViva em Português - November 2018 Transgender Day of Remembrance 9:13pm Paul Revere Statue Unveiling 9:20pm 9:30pm HeatSmart CoolSmart First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2019 10:43pm Push Ups for Veterans 11:00pm Raising Families "Special Needs Education' Sunday, January 13 Organizational Meeting for BOA & School Committee

12:00am 1:00am Mid-Term Ceremonies 2019 2:00am Aldermen at Work - JT Scott First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2019 2:30am Aldermen at Work - JT Scott 8:30am Senior Circuit - 2018 Wrap Up 9:00am Talking Business "Sweet & Nutty 9:15am 10:00am SomerViva em Portugues - January 2019 11:00am SomerViva em Português - November 2018 11:30am Aldermen at Work - IT Scott 12:00pm Senior Circuit - 2018 Wrap Up Transgender Day of Remembrance Somerville Climate Forward 12:30pm Even Side Season PSA - 2018 1:08pm HeatSmart CoolSmart Mid-Term Ceremonies 2019 1:30pm 2:30pm The Firstamerican Flag: Revisiting the

6:30pm SomerViva em Portuguese - January 2019 Senior Circuit - 2018 Wrap Up 7:00pm 7:15pm First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2019 8:30pm Board of Aldermen Meeting - 1.10.19 Monday, January 14

12:30am Senior Circuit - 2018 Wrap Up 1:00am Illuminations Tour - 2018 Conway Park Contamination Info Session 1:30am HeatSmart CoolSmart 3:00am 8:30am Conway Park Contamination Info Session 11:30am Aldermen at Work - IT Scott 12:00pm Board of Aldermen Meeting - 1.10.19 7:00pm School Committee Meeting - LIVE

Tuesday, January 15 12:00am SomerViva em Português - November 2018 12:30am Paul Revere Statue Unveiling Ward 7 ResiStat Meeting - 11.15.18 Talking Business "Sweet & Nutty" 1:00am 2:33am 8:30am Sit & Be Fit Fibromyalgia Workout 9:00am BOA - Land Use - Committee of the Whole The Firstamerican Flag: Revisiting the 1:30pm Grand Union at Prospect Hill 3:00pm SomerViva em Portugues - January 2019 First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2019 6:30pm SomerViva em Portugues - January 2019 8:00pm 8:30pm School Committee Meeting - 1.14.19 Wednesday, January 16

12:00am SomerViva em Portugues - January 2019 The Firstamerican Flag: Revisiting the 12:30am Grand Union at Prospect Hill 2:00am Mid-Term Ceremonies 2019 3:00am Organizational Meeting for BOA & School (

# **Educational TV 15 Schedule**

10:30pm

Friday, January 9						
8:00am	Argenziano School Winter Concert					
9:00am	Brown School Winter Concert					
10:00am	SHS Hockey vs Swampscott					
12:00pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Winthrop					
2:00pm	SHS Boys' Basketball vs Danvers					
4:00pm	Argenziano School Winter Concert					
5:00pm	Brown School Winter Concert					
6:00pm	SHS Hockey vs Swampscott					
8:00pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Winthrop					
10:00pm	SHS Boys' Basketball vs Danvers					
Thursday, January 10						
12:00am	SHS Hockey vs Swampscott					
1:30am	SHS Girls Basketball vs Winthrop					
8:00am	ESCS Winter Concert					
9:05am	El Sistema Winter Concert					
10:00am	All-City Middle School Winter Concert					
11:00am	SHS Boys Basketball v Lynn Classical					
1:00pm	SHS Boys' Basketball vs Danvers					
3:00pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Winthrop					
5:00pm	ESCS Winter Concert					
6:05pm	El Sistema Winter Concert					

All-City Middle School Winter Concert

SHS Boys Basketball v Lynn Classical

SHS Boys' Basketball vs Danvers

1:30am 8:00am 9:30am 11:00am 12:30pm 2:00pm 3:30pm 5:00pm 6:30pm 8:00pm 9:30pm 11:00pm Saturday, January 12

9:30am

11:00am

11:30am

12:30am 2:00am 3:30am 9:00am 10:30am 12:00pm 1:30pm 3:00pm 4:00pm 6:00pm 7:30pm

9:00pm

SHS Girls Basketball vs Winthrop SHS Boys' Basketball vs MC SHS Hockey vs Swampscott SHS Girls' Basketball vs Charlestown SHS Girls Basketball vs Salem SHS Girls Basketball vs Winthrop SHS Hockey vs Watertown Argenziano School Winter Concert SHS Hockey vs Swampscott SHS Girls' Basketball vs Charlestown SHS Girls Basketball vs Salem SHS Girls Basketball vs Winthrop SHS Hockey vs Watertown

SHS Bovs' Basketball vs Danvers SHS Girls Basketball vs Winthrop Public Domain Theate SHS Hockey vs Lynn English SHS Hockey vs Revere SHS Hockey vs Watertown SHS Bovs' Basketball vs KIPP Argenziano School Winter Concert SHS Girls' Basketball vs Charlestown SHS Hockey vs Lynn English SHS Hockey vs Revere SHS Hockey vs Watertown

Sunday, January 13 Argenziano School Winter Concert 12:00am 1:00am 2:30am 5:00am 8:00am 9:30am 11:00am 12:30pm 1:30pm 3:00pm 5:00pm

SHS Hockey vs Swampscott SHS Hockey vs Revere SHS Winter Concert All-City Middle School Winter Concert SHS Hockey vs Watertown SHS Girls Basketball vs Winthrop SHS Boys' Basketball vs MC 7:00pm SHS Hockey vs Swampscott 8:30pm SHS Hockey vs Revere SHS Winter Concert 10:00pm 11:30pm All-City Middle School Winter Concert Monday, January 14 12:30am

2:00am 4:00am 8:00am 10:00am 11:30am

SHS Hockey vs Watertown SHS Girls Basketball vs Winthrop SHS Boys' Basketball vs MC SHS Boys Basketball v Lynn Classical SHS Boys' Basketball vs KIPP SHS Boys' Basketball vs Danvers El Sistema Winter Concert Argenziano School Winter Concert

SHS Boys' Basketball vs KIPF

SHS Girls Basketball vs Winthrop

SHS Boys' Basketball vs Danvers

Public Domain Theater

SHS Girls Basketball vs Winthrop Kennedy School K-3 Winter Concert SHS Boys Basketball v Lynn Classical SHS Boys' Basketball vs KIPP SHS Boys' Basketball vs Danvers El Sistema Winter Concert Argenziano School Winter Concert

Tuesday, January 15 SHS Girls Basketball vs Winthrop SHS Hockey vs Watertown **ESCS Winter Concert** El Sistema Winter Concert All-City Middle School Winter Concert SHS Bovs Basketball v Lvnn Classical SHS Boys' Basketball vs Danvers SHS Girls Basketball vs Winthrop **ESCS Winter Concert** El Sistema Winter Concert All-City Middle School Winter Concert SHS Boys Basketball v Lynn Classical SHS Boys' Basketball vs Danvers

Wednesday, January 16

3:00pm

4:30pm

5:00pm

7:00pm

8:30pm

10:00pm

11:00pm

12:00am

1:30am

8:00am

9:05am

10:00am

11:00am

1:00pm

3:00pm

5:00pm

6:05pm

7:00pm

8:00pm

10:00pm

12:00am SHS Hockey vs Swampscott SHS Hockey vs Revere 1:30am

1:00pm

# yruca **SOMERVILLE** edited by Doug Holder

Meg Smith is a writer, journalist, dancer and events producer. Her poetry has recently appeared in Lyrical Somerville in The Somerville Times, The Cafe Review, Poetry Bay, The Horror Zine, Star\*Line, Good Fat Poetry Zine, and more. Her poetry books Dear Deepest Ghost and This Scarlet Dancing are available



on Amazon. She welcomes visits to megsmithwriter.net.

### Persistence of sea grass

Sing to me from the marshes in the flash of scarlet wings black feathers falling for a heart is not so undone by a song or the sinking of a dark meadow beneath the reeds

# The blood orphan

Standing in a sun little more than paper, white and white but not enough to banish the slivering bones. Who is this phantom-child, some rickets, some vial of cells joining cells. There is no way forward. She takes nothing but your name.

— Meg Smith

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

# FF THE

by Doug Holder

# Interview with professor, poet, director Anne Elezabeth Pluto

Anne Elezabeth Pluto is Professor of Literature and Theatre at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA where she is the artistic director and one of the founders of the Oxford Street Players, the university's Shakespeare troupe. She is an alumna of Shakespeare & Company, and has been a member of the Worcester Shakespeare Company since 2011.

She was a member of the Boston small press scene in the late 1980s and is one of the founders and editors at Nixes Mate Review. Her chapbook, The Frog Princess, was published by White Pine Press (1985), her ebook Lubbock Electric, by Argotist ebooks (2012), and her chapbook Benign Protection by Cervana Barva Press (2016).

Recent publications include The Buffalo Evening News, Unlikely Stories: Episode IV, Mat Hat Lit, Pirene's Fountain, The Enchanting Verses Literary Review, Mockingheart Review, Yellow Chair Review, Levure Litteraire - numero 12, The Naugatuck River Review, and Tuesday, An Art Project.

I had the pleasure to speak with Pluto on my Somerville Media Center TV show Poet to Poet/ Writer to Writer.

Doug Holder: In your collection Benign Protection you seem to be a master of absence. The absence of your late parents as defined by their "things."

Anne Pluto: This is sort of my homage to grief, with the death of my father and mother. I had all these things that came from their rent-controlled Brooklyn apartment. I was writing poetry about my father, and when my mother was dying I wrote poetry about her too. The "things" from the apartment represented them. When I would go back to Brooklyn - I always stayed with friends who were close by to my parents' apartment. So I would walk to their street, but I would never go down it. I didn't want to see the building. Too painful. So I evoked my grief and my parents' stories in my work.

**DH:** Tell me about your parents.

AP: Well my father had a fascinating life and it was referenced in one of the poems in the collection. My parents were Russian but they lived in Poland. My father was separated from my mother because he was in the Polish Army during World War II. He wound up as a prisoner in a Soviet camp. He also saw action in Egypt and Italy. Eventually he moved to Canada. And my mother was there. She had thought he was dead. Eventually they married in Toronto. After a waiting a year they came to America.

DH: I know that you are the director of the Oxford St. Players, that is connected to Lesley University. How does your role as a poet mix with that of the theater.

AP: They dovetail. Theater is very group orientated - you work with people. It is very interconnected. Obviously as a professor and director I am in charge of many things. With poetry you pullback. You are with yourself. I need that time too.

DH: You studied at the University at Buffalo in the 70s. I was up there at that time too. I also know Mike Baskinski, the former curator of the small press collection there. What was the lit scene like when you were there?

AP: It was very friendly. It wasn't competitive like New York. I would say people were more interested in helping each other out. I had a lot of mentors. My first collection was published by a Buffalo press, White Pine. I studied with Robert Creeley and Irving Feldman. Creeley was very straight forward. He would get very annoyed if students



didn't do their reading. I remember he would deliberately close this large literary tome and dismiss the whole class. I had the privilege to read with Creeley as well.

DH: You were also part of Shakespeare & Company directed by Tina Packer.

AP: Yes. I was always involved with theater. I did a lot of theater as a little girl in Brooklyn. There was a NYC Board of Education radio show at the time. I was in high school then. I would participate in these staged readings they would have. Working with Tina Packer was great, very challenging. I always wanted to be an actor but my parents wanted me to do something more practical.

DH: You were also involved in the small press scene in Allston, MA., a section of Boston.

AP: Yes. I had sent my work to a magazine called, Oak Square. Eventually I met the editor Philip Borenstein. I became involved with the lit mag. Eventually I became the Poetry Editor. Around this time Michael McInnis (a founder of the Nixes Mate Press) opened a bookstore in Allston. I lived right around the block from it. Allston had a lot of zines. It was a very do-it-yourself scene. It was married to the Punk Rock scene - that was very Allston-centric. Years later, Mike, Philip and I started Nixes Mate and the rest is history.

# Lubbock Electric

Indiscriminate and irretrievable the past splinter before us like broken glass there are times when I am afraid to move as if I will break and break again your hands bind min against all that we have lost lone – together – and found by chance by luck in the name of god at a time when all roads led to the middle west – we we each other without searching I treasure even the minute the clocks that do not work unwound – left fallow to gather up the splendid dust of hours spent alone - together - the sound of your heart against mine the lights of Lubbock electric all alight with midnight

# The winners of The Somerville Times Reader's Choice results for THE BEST OF SOMERVILL

Congratulations to the winners! Please support their businesses and let them know you saw them in The Somerville Times

# Readers choices for 2018

Best Idea in 2018:

**Bow Market** 

Worst Idea in 2018: Announcing the closure

of the Ball Sq. Bridge for a year **Best Somerville Food & Restaurants:** 

Best Breakfast: Kelly's Diner, 674 Broadway

Best Combination Breakfast & Lunch: Ball Sq. Cafe, 708 Broadway

Best Italian Food: Mortadella Head, 20 College Ave.

Best Italian Specialty Store: Pepe Bocca, 414 Highland Ave.

Best Portuguese Restaurant: Neighborhood Restaurant, 25 Bow St.

Best Brazilian Restaurant: Oliveira's Steak House, 120 Washington St.

Best Chinese Food: China Delight, 524 Somerville Ave.

Best Mexican Food: Tu y Yo Mexican Restaurant, 858 Broadway

Best Variety and All Around Restaurant: Mount Vernon Restaurant, 14 Broadway

Best Seafood Restaurant: Pescatore, 158 Boston Ave.

Best Local Deli: Victor's Deli, 710 Broadway

Best Irish Pub: Sally O'Brien's, 335 Somerville Ave.

Best Hamburger: Boston Burger Company, 37 Davis Sq.

Best Roast Beef Sandwich: Mount Vernon Restaurant, 14 Broadway

Best Pizza: MidiCi, 463 Assembly Row

Best Chocolate: Taza Chocolate, 561 Windsor St.

Best Donuts: Union Square Donuts, 20 Bow St.

Best Donuts Outside of Somerville: Demet's Donuts, 199 Mystic Ave. Medford

Best Bakery: Modelos Market Café, 501 Medford St.

Best Pies: Petsi Pies, 285 Beacon St.

Best Cheesecake: 7ATE9 Bakery, 199C Highland Ave.

Best Local Coffee Shop: Bloc Somerville, 11 Bow St.

Best Bar for Bands: Thunder Road, 379 Somerville Ave.

Best Bar/Entertainment: Lucky Strike, 325 Revolution Dr.

Best Brew: AERONAUT, 14 Tyler St.

Best Bar/Creative Drinks: The Painted Burro, 219 Elm St.

Best local Bar: Olde Magoun's Saloon, 518 Medford St.

**Best of Somerville Services:** 

Best Doctor: Dr. Luis Henkel, Primary Care, MGH, 440 Foley St.

Best Medical Services: Mass General Primary Care Assembly Row,

440 Foley St

Best Dentist: Dental Arts, Davis Sq.

Best Electrician: David Falcone

Best Plumber: Mario, T.J. Sillari, Inc., 99 Albion St.

Best Law Firm: Law Office of Sean O'Donovan, 741 Broadway

Best Attorney: Attorney Phil Privitera, 59 Union Sq.

Best Insurance Agency: Wedgewood-Crane & Connolly, 19 College Ave.

Best Bank: Winter Hill Bank, winterhillbank.com

Best Bank President: Sandra L. McGoldrick, Winter Hill Bank

Best Branch Manager: Lisa Ramos, Century Bank

Best Real Estate Company: The Norton Group, 699 Broadway

Best Real Estate Broker/Agent: Donald Norton, The Norton Group,

699 Broadway

Best Real Estate Rental Agent: Clifton Verdieu, The Norton Group,

699 Broadway

Best Florist: Wagner Floral Designs, 508 Somerville Ave.

Best Waiter/Waitress: Mount Vernon Waitstaff, 14 Broadway

Best Cook: Omar Djebbouri, Ball Sq Café, 708 Broadway

Best Convenient Store: 350 Market, 350 Broadway

Best Laundromat: Spin Cycle, 6 Main St.

Best Liquor Store: Winter Hill Liquor Mart, 313 Broadway

Best Barber: Paul McGlashing, Alibrandi's Barber Shop, 194 Holland St.

Best Hair Salon: Amal Niccoli, 731 Broadway

Best Gas Station: Good Gas, 345 Medford St.

Best Mechanic: Edwin Sola, Good Gas, 345 Medford St.

Best Auto Body: A Plus Autobody, 297 Medford St.

Best Handyman: Bill Faber, Main St.

Best Pest Exterminator: Best Pest Control Services, 63 Elm St.

Best Dry Cleaners: Mystic Cleaners and Tailors, 282 Broadway

# **Best of Somerville Municipal Services:**

Best Somerville Department: Water Dept., 17 Franey Rd.

Best Somerville Official: Alderman Bill White

Best Somerville DPW /Supervisor: Rick Willette, Director of Operations

Best City Employee DPW: Tom Barry, DPW-Highway

Best City Employee City Hall/Annex: John Long, City Clerk

Best City Elected Politician: Katjana Ballantyne, Alderman, Ward 7 and Board President

Best Teacher: Victoria Macrokanis,

West Somerville Neighborhood School

Best Nurse: Ann Moran, former Central Hospital nurse

Best Police Officer: Lieutenant James Polito, Somerville Police

Best Firefighter: Mike Avery, Somerville Fire

# **Best of Somerville Arts/Entertainment:**



Best Somerville Poet: Doug Holder

Best Photographer: Claudia Ferro

Best Commentary Writer: William C. Shelton

Best Somerville Historian: Bob "Monty" Doherty

Best Somerville Non-Profit Agency: Little Sisters of the Poor,

186 Highland Ave.

Best Somerville Charity: Somerville Homeless Coalition, 1 Davis Square

Best Creative idea in 2018: 🌄



The Norton Group Real Estate joining Century 21 North East