VOI 2 NO 7

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2014

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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The sun came out for 'Annie'



The Somerville Theatre in Davis Square played host to the Somerville High School Drama Club's production of Annie last week. More information and pictures on pages 12–13.

A chance to vent

Over 100 residents turn out for tax bill hearing

By David R. Smith

"I thought it was big mistake when I got my bill," Edna Murphy told the Board of Aldermen Finance Committee, and she was not alone.

The dozens of speakers, representing just a portion of the approximately 100 people who came to City Hall last Tuesday evening, shared the 55-year resident's sentiments about the spike in property tax bills following the city's recent triennial revaluation of Somerville's 16,000 properties as required by the state Department of Revenue (DOR).

"I'd like to stay in Somerville, but common sense tells you you're going to drive out the people if you keep this up," she said.

The meeting in the Alderman's Chambers was held Tuesday, Feb. 4, a day after the deadline to file an appeal for an abatement with the assessing department.

And while little could be done at that point to assist anyone who didn't seek an abatement, the Finance Committee's public hearing gave residents a chance to vent their Continued on page 15

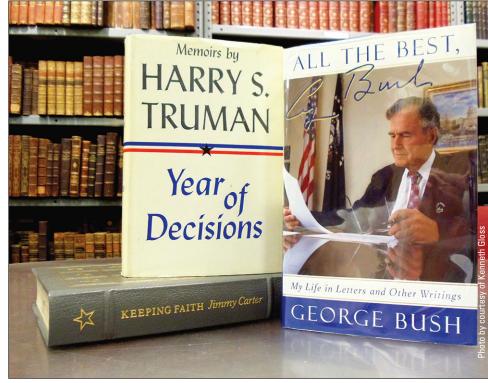
Touching history through presidential letters and biographies

By Kenneth Gloss

People collect presidential letters to all different degrees, for a variety of reasons. Unlike other areas of collecting, presidential letters and biographies are a defined group, set by the list of which individuals served as president. Having a limited set to choose from can be an advantage in the collecting world because it allows collectors to target their searches and buys.

There is a great deal of material available on presidents as a group and, if you look hard enough, many signed pieces, especially letters, can be found. This is not to say that collecting presidential items is simple or cheap. Indeed, prices can vary tremendously based upon the rarity and content of the material. With letters, it's the contents and the signature that determine the price. A lengthy letter from President Kennedy talking about the Cuban Missile Crisis or one from George Washington talking about the Revolutionary War is a

Continued on page 21



Worthwhile presidential collectibles can include biographical books, signed letters, autographs, and campaign materials.





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Tonight (Wednesday the 12th) at the Arts at the Armory is the Medford-Somerville Relay for Life kickoff party. Join in for a fun night! There will be speakers, food, and you will have a chance to learn about relay. Activities for all ages. Come learn about the Relay For Life event and how to signup your team. Don't miss out on a chance to win some awesome prizes.

The Somerville Democratic Candidates' Forum takes place tonight (Wednesday, Feb. 12), at the VNA on Lowell Street beginning at 6:30 p.m. Join SDCC for a general meeting and hear from three of the candidates for governor: Juliette Kayem, Don Berwick and Steve Grossman. They will speak and answer questions.

It's time for the 2014 Valentine's Day Royal Arch Ball, and all Masons, their wives, significant others and friends are welcome! Please join us on Valentine's Day for a special black-tie event! Only \$50 per person! Buffet dinner and two complimentary drinks included! Cash bar also available! Music by The Russ Wilcox Jazz Group. There will be swing dance lessons from 6 to 7 p.m. Dress is tuxedo or dark suit with black tie. Stay tuned for more updates. This will be a great night! RSVP to cambridge.capitular.ball@gmail.com. ******

Happy birthdays this week to some of our fans here in the Ville and elsewhere. Happy birthday to Lou Ferrara, a wellknown Villen here in the city. We've known him many years, and he is a gentleman and good guy. We wish him well. Anelise Paduch Tubinis works here in the city and is the proud mother of two daughters and married to a great husband. We hope she enjoys her day. Joe Hart of the Ville's famous old Hart family and originally from Winter Hill is celebrating this week. Happy birthday! This one we can't pass up on: Happy birthday to Crazyhorse Psyko-leaf who is celebrating this week. We wish him a great day, and you'd have to be nuts not to wish this guy a HB with a name like this (we think it's a nickname).

Don't forget to register or go online for the courses offered by Somerville High Adult Evening Continued on page 11

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to Property tax misconceptions and realities

E says:

"... easing the tax burden on everyone, including small businesses. We need more people paying in so everyone's share of the tax levy can go down while we still maintain services." ... It would help if Tufts paid their fair share or at least the taxes on properties they have transferred to tax exempt status over the years...instead the rest of us must make up for the lost tax money while Tufts is sitting on a \$1.2 billion endowment...Time to develop a "Pilot Program" for non-profits similar to Boston.

too late says:

I am physically ill at the new numbers on my tax bill. I just can no longer do it. Yes, I'll do well selling, but I do not want to do that, and by the time the family splits things, I will not have enough to stay here. Another one bites the dust, and who cares? This is making me sick. and when you talk about affordable housing, you're not talking about me. I don't qualify for anything. It's the middle-class dilemma, and I really didn't think it would happen here.

A.Moore says:

This is a problem to a lot of us too late. I have been close to stop paying my taxes and deffering them or whatever it is called. Not sure how much longer I can hang on myself. Never thought I was going to have to leave this city until this mayor got in.

Jack Porter says:

I would have not been worried about this just a couple of years ago. But now that I got seriously sick and cannot work, even though I'm only in my 50s (my wife is also sick), I'm not sure how much longer I will be able to stay in Somerville. The house was reassessed at 670K, so the tax bill is pretty high. Between maintenance costs and taxes, we may be forced to sell and move somewhere else....

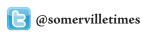
Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

TheSomervilleTimes.com poll of the week

In addition to breaking news, sports and opinion, TheSomervilleTimes.com also features a daily poll in which you, the reader, tell us where you come down on local issues. Last week's poll concerned your views on whether or not the area can handle two proposals in East Somerville that would add more than 100 units of housing. If you don't agree with the results, simply log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com.

The Somerville Times

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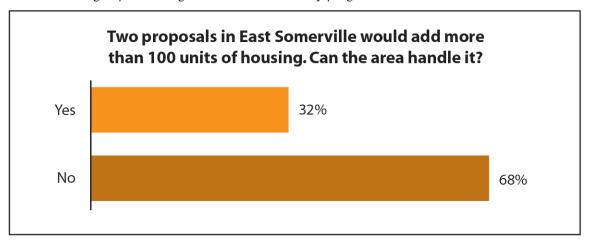
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City receives 10 responses to master developer request for Union Square and Boynton Yards

By Somerville Times Staff

The city of Somerville received 10 responses to the Somerville Redevelopment Authority's request for qualifications (RFQ) for a Union Square and Boynton Yards master developer partner, with several respondents displaying previous experience of working within existing urban neighborhoods to create new mixed-use, transit-oriented developments.

The Somerville Redevelopment Authority released the RFQ in December. The master developer partner will be required to work closely with current property owners to explore opportunities for the joint development of parcels designated in the plan and for the establishment of a mutually agreed upon fair market value for any acquired parcel.

"I'm encouraged that we received responses from renowned developers with impressive credentials and a proven track record in building exactly what the community seeks in Union Square—true mixed-use developments that create office, retail and community space and residences centered around public transportation, while blending with an existing urban neighborhood," Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone said.

The master developer partner will work with the city, the Redevelopment Authority, current property owners and community members to design and implement the first phase of the Union Square Revitalization Plan including the redevelopment of seven key parcels identified in the plan. The master developer partner will be selected by the criteria listed in the RFQ with the aim of achieving the community's goals set forth in SomerVision and preserving Union Square's history and unique character.

"Ultimately we need to determine which of the developers and proposals, if any, have the greatest potential to realize Union Square's future while carefully protecting its history and its truly vibrant current character," Union Square Civic Advisory Committee Chairman Wig Zamore said. "Whoever takes on this task must serve that balance.

Criteria used to evaluate the respondents include the financial capacity to complete the project, experience with large-scale projects that incorporate commer-

cial, residential and institutional uses in a complex and dense urban setting, demonstrable success in the highest standards of sustainability and environmental sensitivity, and working with contaminated sites.

Respondents will also be evaluated on proven ability to create a sense of community and place, embracing the existing eclectic elements that define an area, experience conducting public charrette (brainstorming) design processes and past success in using large-scale, mixed-use development projects as a means of formulating a community benefits and mitigation package, especially in providing new employment opportunities for local residents.

"This is an important first step, attracting developers with the expertise and resources to turn the community's vision for the future of Union Square into brick and mortar," Ward 2 Alderman Maryann Heuston said. "As we strive to create more jobs in our neighborhood, more and diverse homes that ease the housing crunch and more commercial space that eases the tax burden on all property owners, it's critical we hold true to our community's vision for Union Square."

The selection process for the master developer will be conducted jointly by the Somerville Redevelopment Authority, the Union Square Civic Advisory Committee (composed of area residents, advocates and business owners), and City staff. The process will begin with an evaluation by the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development of each respondent's qualifications and subsequent identification of a short list of qualified candidates. Those finalists will be interviewed by the Redevelopment Authority, Civic Advisory Committee and City staff and then invited to submit proposals for the project for the final evaluation.

"The opportunities we have in Union Square to make a significant, positive impact on our city's future don't come along very often, so it's important we get this right, and that means carefully scrutinizing each respondent to the RFQ and collaboratively shaping the neighborhood's future," Ward 3 Alderman Bob McWatters added. "I anticipate a diligent process that equally weighs all the factors—not just the economic opportunities, but in building a true transit-oriented Somerville neighborhood."



The 81-page request for qualifications includes several artist renderings of potential renovations to Union Square.

The respondents to the RFQ:

The Abbey Group: Developer of the Landmark Center and 1282 Boylston St., both in the Fenway neighborhood.

The Community Builders: Developer of Tent City and Langham Court, both in Boston's South End.

The Fallon Company: Master developer of Fan Pier in the Fort Point neighborhood of South Boston and developer of nearby Park Lane Seaport and Vertex Pharmaceuticals building.

Gerding Edlin: Master developer of The Brewery Blocks and South Waterfront Central District, both in Portland, Ore.

The HYM Investment Group: Master developer of North Point on the Somerville-Cambridge line and the Government Center Garage in Boston.

KSS Realty Partners and RedGate Real Estate: Co-developers of Maxwell's Green in Somerville. KSS is developing the Lead Mills site in Marblehead and RedGate is developing Boardwalk Residences at Marina Bay in Quincy.

Magellan Development Group: Master developer of Lakeshore East and developer of the Chicago Youth Program Center at Washington Park, both in Chicago.

National Development and Federal Realty Investment Trust: National Development has been developer of Longwood Center in Boston is developing the Ink Block in Boston's South End. Federal Realty Investment Trust is the master developer of Assembly Row in Somerville and Santana Row in San Jose, Calif.

Samuels and Associates: Developer of several blocks along Boylston Street and Brookline Avenue in the Fenway neighborhood and of Barry's Corner in North Allston.

Trinity Financial: Master developer of Hamilton Canal District in Lowell and, in Boston's Bulfinch Triangle, developer of the adjacent Avenir and One Canal St.

Want to write local Somerville stories? Call 617-666-4010

and speak to the Assignment Editor

The Norton Group Buying or Selling? 617-623-6600

By Jim Clark

Abusive spectator removed from hockey game

A Somerville Police officer on paid detail at a Somerville High School Varsity Hockey game Saturday evening took notice of a man who was being verbally abusive to the Somerville High coach.

The man, later identified as Anthony Silvestri, 60, was apparently upset because the coach had changed goal tenders toward the end of the game and the opposing team had scored.

Silvestri reportedly continued yelling at the coach, using profanity, and continued to blame him for "blowing the game."

The officer approached Silvestri and advised him that he could not talk that way in the presence of family with children, as well as the team members who are high school students.

Silvestri then turned his vit-

riol towards the police officer, according to reports, and began cursing and behaving in a belligerent manner.

The officer then decided that he would have to physically escort Silvestri off the premises. When he approached Silvestri he reportedly pulled back and told the officer not to touch him, while continuing to curse loudly.

The officer managed to usher Silvestri out to the lobby but he reportedly broke free and assumed a fighting stance. With that, the officer administered a burst of pepper spray to Silvestri's face and ordered him to place his hands behind his back, which he refused to do, police said.

A struggle ensued, as Silvestri reportedly continued to curse

and resist being placed under arrest. The officer and Silvestri both slammed into a wall and ended up on the ground. The incident came to a close after the officer managed to handcuff Silvestri and remove him from premises.

Silvestri was placed under arrest and charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, and threat to commit a crime.

Second job doesn't pay too well

Police were called to Citizens Bank on Broadway last week on reports of a woman attempting to pass a bad check.

Upon arrival, officers were directed by the bank teller to the woman in question, Vallerie Thompkins, 20, of Boston, who was standing at the teller's window.

Thompkins was asked by officers to step into one of the bank offices for questioning. When asked if she knew why she was being questioned she reportedly replied that she did not.

When asked if she was trying to cash a check, Thompkins said that she was and that it was a check she earned at her job, according to reports.

Upon further questioning, Thompkins reportedly could not furnish a name for her employer, but stated that it was clearly printed on the check.

Bank officials informed the officers that the check she attempted to cash had been flagged as fraudulent in their computer

system, police said.

The officers were also informed that Thompkins was currently under investigation for similar recent incidents.

She was then placed under arrest for utter false check and, after being advised of her rights, reportedly admitted to police that she had been used by others in a scheme to try to cash the fraudulent checks.

She told officers that she met a man at her regular job who convinced her to try to pass the checks, according to reports.

Although Thompkins said that she did not know the man's full name, she had his phone number.

SOMERVILLE

Arrests:

Willgen Sanchez, 21, of 103 Newman Rd., Malden, February 3, 4:59 p.m., arrested at 20 Rush St. on multiple charges of assault and battery.

Charles Michaels, 48, February 4, 2:58 p.m., arrested at 177 Middlesex Ave. on warrant charges of lewd, wanton and lacivious conduct and open and gross lewdness.

Gabriel Santana, 48, of 8 Millbend Rd., Levittown, PA, February 4, 6:53 p.m., arrested at 30 Washington St. on a charge of sexual conduct for a

Vallerie Thompkins, 20, of 1280 Columbia Rd., Boston, February 6, 11:41 a.m., arrested at 299 Broadway on a charge of utter false check.

Cheerlean Edwards, 47, of 63 Beech St., West Roxbury, February 6, 9:00 p.m., arrested at 138 Highland Ave. on a warrant charge of larceny over \$250.

Maryann Huff, 29, Febru-

ary 7, 2:10 p.m., arrested at

532 Medford St. on warrant charges of assault and abuse prevention order violation.

Anthony Silvestri, 60, of 252 Medford St., February 8, 9:57 p.m., arrested at 570 Somerville Ave. on charges of disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, and threat to commit a crime.

Peter Schilling, 52, of 47 Irving St., February 9, 9:33 p.m., arrested at home on a charge of harassment prevention order violation.

Incidents:

Theft:

February 3, 2:20 p.m., police reported a theft at Prospect St. February 6, 4:30 p.m., police reported a theft at Davis Sq. February 7, 2:50 p.m., police re-

February 7, 2:50 p.m., police reported a theft at Mt. Vernon St.

Breaking & Entering:

February 4, 6:06 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering at George St.

February 4, 6:35 a.m., police reported a breaking & entering

at Assembly Row.

February 5, 6:00 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Pennsylvania Ave.

Assault:

February 3, 4:59 p.m., police reported an assault at Rush St.

Disorderly Conduct:

February 3, 3:43 p.m., police reported a disorderly conduct at Broadway.

February 8, 9:57 p.m., police reported a disorderly conduct at 570 Somerville Ave.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Readers are invited to send letters to the editor to The Somerville Times. Please email your letters to News@TheSomervilleTimes.com or mail them to 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. The Somerville Times reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and length. All letters must include an name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

SJC's ruling is devastating to our family

My beloved aunt, Janet Downing, was murdered by juvenile Edward O'Brien in 1995 [in Somerville].

Her defensive wounds were plentiful. He was 6 foot 4 and

260 pounds. My aunt was 5 foot 3 and 114 pounds. She never had a chance, but she fought so hard to keep her life.

I try to block the noise from the hearings and trial from my mind because the emotions evoked are completely unbearable. I return to my safe place when these thoughts occur — he's behind bars for life without exception. No one else will suffer from his brutality. I never thought these facts would change. I was wrong.

The recent ruling by the Supreme Judicial Court allows my aunt's murderer the chance for parole. My family will be forced to sit in a room with him, and the full realization of the fact that he could leave prison will hit. If the parole board decides he stays in jail, we'll have to attend parole board hearings every few years and feel all of this, every time.

Did the SJC even consider this? It seems their concerns

were 100 percent focused on the murderers and their rights. I struggle to make sense of this. Given there are 60-plus other juvenile murderers in state now eligible for parole, maybe your family member was a victim too. Jennifer Burke

Burlington

Somerville is experiencing huge changes because of the property market's response to massive new development in Somerville. The widespread shock over the property tax increases show that Somerville residents can be taken by surprise by changes going

on around them. That is why it is so important to have a variety of independent local news sources, so that issues can be addressed from a variety of points of view. Press releases from City Hall are one source, but an independent press is also essential. Somerville Neighborhood News is SCATV's effort to provide an independent, trustworthy source of information about current events, trends, and people in the city. The show furthers SCATV's mission to provide a forum for all points of view in

this diverse city and we are inviting residents to get involved by providing story ideas or becoming reporters. It is a new initiative for Somerville's 30-year-old public access TV station and it is getting good reviews from people who watch, but more

viewers are needed to justify the allocation of SCATV's resources. People can see the show on SCATV Channel 3 on Tuesdays at 7:00pm and anytime at www. SCATV somerville.org/SNN. Wendy Blom

SCATV Executive Director

The Somerville Times -

City undertakes scaleddown jobs initiative

By Claire Felter

The city of Somerville is scaling down its plans for an initiative to reduce unemployment among low-income youth after winning a significantly smaller grant than it applied for through a statewide competition.

The \$1.8 million Working Cities Challenge, which was put on by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston but funded by other partners, asked cities to write proposals that utilized collaboration across sectors and set out to help low-income populations. The competition targeted smaller cities in Massachusetts with populations greater than 35,000, median family incomes below the state median level of approximately \$63,000 and poverty rates above the state median level of 10.7 percent.

The 20 eligible cities ranged from New Bedford to the south and Pittsfield near the western border to Lynn just north of Boston. All 20 cities considered eligible applied, but the six to win grants were Lawrence, Fitchburg, Holyoke, Chelsea, Salem and Somerville.

Somerville received the smallest grant amount - \$100,000 - although the city requested \$700,000, the highest amount possible. The seed award will span one year as compared to the three-year grants the four other winners received.

The initiative, named "The Pocket Change: Creating a Somerville that Works for All," will combine soft-skill training sessions with micro-job opportunities. The training sessions will show local youth successful methods for landing a full-time job while the micro-jobs will provide participants with some income while they prepare for a more permanent position.

The "Pocket Change" initiative is reminiscent of the now-nationwide jobs program "Year Up," which began in 2000 and provides job training and corporate internships for young adults from disadvantaged communities.

Economic Development Specialist Amanda Maher at the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development is heading the smaller program in Somerville. Maher said research into this issue started long before the application process for the Working Cities grant.

"This all builds out of a process that has been going on for the

last few years," she said. "The mayor, back in 2011, put together the Jobs Advisory Council, and it was actually a very similar process to what the Boston Fed wanted us to do, with bringing together public sector, private sector."

This forethought into tackling this portion of unemployment became an asset when sending in the application for the grant. Tamar Kotelchuck, the Boston Fed's program manager for the Working Cities Challenge, said one of the goals of the competition was to support efforts that were already underway.

"We wanted to support cities in projects that they had already identified as priorities," she said. "We wanted to know if it was something that they had truly been thinking about for awhile."

Maher and her colleagues were also working off a 2013 study by the Commonwealth Corporation and Drexel University concerning teen employment in Massachusetts, which found that businesses wanted to hire locally but found that many applicants lacked the skills necessary for the job.

Now that Somerville has been awarded the grant, Maher said she will look to private sector employers to pinpoint the abilities applicants need the most help in improving. Then the city can bring in its nonprofit partners to carry out training or help participants enroll in certificate programs.

Pocket Change will be smaller than initially expected, though. Maher said the estimated number of 75 people who could partake in the initiative has been scaled back to 20 or 25 young adults due to the smaller award amount. They also originally planned to target four or five industries such as "green jobs" and retail, but Maher is now looking to make it a pilot program involving just one or two, one of which will include the healthcare sector.

Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA), a local network of hospitals and health centers, has already partnered with Maher for this initiative, offering to provide some of the necessary services like training for interviews and résumé critiquing. Kurby Gress, manager of temporary services at CHA, said they could begin offering training as soon as within the next 30 days, and that ideally he would be able to place people into temporary positions through the program.

"They can get some job experience, a resume builder, get exposure to the workplace, get some confidence," Gress said. "That's probably one of the biggest hurdles."

Although Somerville received the grant, other cities in Massachusetts are plagued with high rates of youth unemployment,

According to the 2012 American Community Survey by the United States Census Bureau, Somerville's unemployment rate was 8.4 percent for 20-to-24-year-olds. For those with a high school degree, the rate was 9.2 percent, and for those with some college experience or an associate degree, 12.2 percent. Statewide, however, the rate of unemployment for the same age range was 12.6 percent.

Maher said that while she is working to improve those rates in Somerville, she recognizes that the problem is not just a

"This isn't a Somerville issue; it's a Massachusetts issue. It's a United States issue," she said.

The unemployment rate across the country for 20-to-24-yearolds was nearly 16 percent in 2012, according to the same American Community Survey. A report released by The Opportunity Nation coalition in October of last year shows that almost 15 percent of American youth ages 16 to 24 were neither working nor in school at the time of the study. According to United Nations data, the rates for both males and females are up significantly from where they were in 2006.

Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone addressed the numbers in a January press release published by the city.

"Somerville's unemployment rate remains below the state and national average," he said. "But for the individuals in our community who are struggling to find employment- including some of our younger workers all that matters is whether they can get the one job they need."

Maher echoed the mayor's statement, saying that the focus of the program will be on the individual - or the 20 individuals.

"If, at the end of our pilot program, we have 10 kids in the process of completing a certificate program and 10 kids who have been placed into employment," she said, "to us that's a major success."

Valentine's Day treats



On Thursday, February 13, 6:30-8:00 p.m., at Kitchen Inc., 201 Somerville Ave., in Somerville, Elizabete Delfino, a native of Minas Gerais, Brazil, will be teaching how to make delicious sweet treats, just in time for Valentine's Day. First she will whip up Brazilian chocolate bonbons called Brigadeiro, using Taza Chocolate and rolled in a variety of tasty toppings. Next up, she will concoct Beijinho de Coco (little coconut kisses) using unsweetened coconut and condensed milk. Half the fun of creating both these bite-sized candies is dressing them up in coatings and festive wrappers. At the end of class everyone will sit down and eat Torta de Pão, a classic Brazilian casserole featuring chicken, which Elizabete will make prior to class. Each student will go home with a dozen treats, the perfect Valentine's Day gift. Sponsored in part by the Somerville Arts Council. For information visit http://www.somervilleartscouncil.

Come to the 'Love Shack'



Sex and love and romance. Red roses, chocolates and ballads. Monogamy, trust and broken hearts. Love Shack, opening at the Nave Gallery Annex on Friday, February 14, 6-8 p.m., features artists exploring themes related specifically to Valentine's Day and/or more broadly to this thing we call love.

Artists include Anne Alexander, Christoff Colon, Melissa Eder, Dante Guthrie, Natsuko Hattori, Julianne Martin, Shannon McDonald, Elisa Sweig, Bill Tarlin, Martha Wakefield, Mia Weiner, your mother's a feminist. Nave Gallery Annex (Davis Square), 53 Chester St., Somerville, MA.



Sally O'Brien's 335 Somerville Ave. 617-666-3589



Monday February 17

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

Tuesday February 18

Mike Gent & The Rapid Shave 9 p.m.

Wednesday February 19 Free Poker, lots of prizes! 8 p.m.

Thursday February 20

Open jam @ Rizzuti's BYOBluegrass Party grassy Thursdays 7:30 p.m.

Friday February 21

Larry Flint & The Road Scholars 6 p.m. Tsunami of Sound \$5 cover 9 p.m.

Saturday February 22

Patsy Hamel Band 6 p.m. Answerman, Little Blood, Trick Wallace Trio \$5 cover 9 p.m.

Sunday February 23

Frank Drake Sunday Showcase 5 p.m. Natalie Flanagan & Friends 8 p.m.



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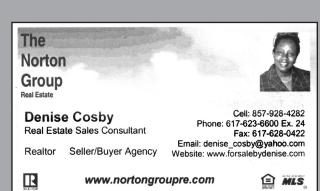


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Who cares about climate change?

By State Representative **Denise Provost**

Science first

First of all, what is climate change, does it even exist? Often linked with - or hidden behind the expression "global warming," "climate change" refers to a set of measurable, related phenomena that greatly increases the likelihood of unusual and even violent weather. The main driver is generally accepted to be increasing amounts of certain gases, particularly carbon dioxide, in the earth's atmosphere.

The amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) in the earth's atmosphere has risen from 290 parts per million (ppm) before the Industrial Revolution (around the time of the American Revolution), to 394 ppm in 2012 - a 41 percent increase. These increasing amounts of CO2 along with methane and certain other gases - trap increasing amounts of the sun's heat in our atmosphere, with a predictable overall effect. Here's what the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) says about the effects of these increasing levels of "greenhouse gases" in earth's atmosphere:

"The global average temperature increased by more than 1.4°F over the last century. In fact, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the decade from 2000 to 2010 was the warmest on record, and 2010 was tied with 2005 as the warmest year on record. Rising global temperatures have also been accompanied by other changes in weather and climate. Many places have experienced changes in rainfall resulting in more intense rain, as well as more frequent and severe heat waves. The planet's oceans and glaciers have also experienced changes: oceans are warming and becoming more acidic, ice caps are melting, and sea levels are rising. All of these changes are evidence that our world is getting warmer."

There's widespread consensus on the science, based on worldwide data, from multiple sources. A substantial number of the governments in the world take the consensus science as a giv-

en; debate mostly focuses on the about its predicament. appropriate response. Looking at the governments most actively engaged in tackling climate change tells us who really cares

Caring about climate change, combating climate change

A great number of governments in the world understand the science of climate change; many are experiencing, to some extent, its real-world effects. For one poignant example, look at the 2009 report of the New York City Panel on Climate Change and think about its implications in light of the subsequent damage inflicted there by Hurricane Sandy. Many governments, however, have been slow and cautious in their legislative reaction to climate change, and there has been little progress in the realm of international agreement.

Many individual governments, however, have taken leadership in slowing the rate of carbon emissions, which drive climate change. Massachusetts, for instance, in 2008 enacted the comprehensive Global Warming Solutions Act, with overwhelming and bipartisan support. Our bill followed on the heels of the groundbreaking 2008 Climate Change Act adopted by Great Britain months earlier.

Britain's groundbreaking legislation requires that the nation's carbon emissions be reduced by stated percentages below 1990 levels. First filed in 2005 by a member of Parliament from the Conservative Party, the Climate Change Act was adopted with wide support across political party lines. When it was brought to a vote in the House of Commons, only five members voted against the bill.

Why does Great Britain Care about climate change?

Great Britain's 65 million people live in four countries, on two large islands in the North Atlantic. There are smaller islands, in the South Pacific, which are simply disappearing as sea levels rise. While Britain is being buffeted by changing weather patterns, it at least has the expertise and economic and political will to do something

What is that predicament? In early January 2014, most of Great Britain was either under flood warning or flood alert, and significant parts of it were flooded. In some places, people were being evacuated by boat. In others, supplies were being brought in by boat to villages that had become islands. Exceptionally violent winter gales washed away parts of the coast of Wales and the southern coast of England. The Thames Barrier had to be closed for 11 successive tides (as of this Jan. 8) to keep London from flooding.

Faced with destructive changes in its weather patterns, and aware of the underlying science, Britain has gone beyond enacting its own strong law; it has been a climate-change policy driver for the European Union, with its 28 member states and combined population of over half a billion. It has participated in the ongoing meetings aimed at negotiating an international climate change agreement. Earlier this year, Britain's government also brought state legislators from the USA to talk about climate change.

The global, the national and the local

This past January, I joined legislators from Maine, Michigan, Washington and Oregon for a week's worth of meetings and briefings in Britain. We met with officials from Britain's cabinet-level Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), to learn about Britain's programs and policies, as well as with officials from the Climate Change and Energy Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the host agency of the trip. We met with officials from the cabinet-level department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and executives from businesses, both global and local, and from business organizations, including Confederation of British Industry (CBI), the nation's largest organization representing businesses large and small.

Both the national government and the private business sector in Britain see the transition to a low-carbon economy as an



State Representative Denise Provost is back from her climate change fact-finding

engine of tremendous economic growth, as well as a change essential to maintaining the nation's security and quality of life. This message was repeated time and again. Nor is it merely the top-down policy of the national government; it is also being embraced by local governments, organizations and industry through their own initiatives.

Our U.S. delegation traveled by train to Bristol, a port city with a population about the size of Boston. As it turned out, our journey took us through shockingly flooded parts of the county of Somerset. While not part of our planned agenda, the flooding provided us with some indelible visuals. Bristol was recently voted by the E.U. to be its next European Green Capitol, and it showcased the many ways that local government can save money and become more attractive to its residents and to business through a variety of "green" initiatives.

It's worth noting that Britain's climate-change laws are more than well-intentioned aspirations. It has an aggressive energy efficiency program that is creating savings on energy bills and is projected, by 2020, to have saved enough energy to equal the output of 22 power stations. It has the world's sixth largest wind energy production sector (number one for offshore wind), which has created over 32,000 jobs in 150 supply-chain manufacturing companies. Britain has managed to cut its own carbon emissions by more than 25 percent over 1990 levels and generates about one third of its electricity from low-carbon sources.

Legislative responsibility: a call to action

Back in London, the U.S. delegation met with representatives from another sector of government - fellow legislators. Parliamentarians from both houses and across parties generously spent hours speaking with us about their efforts, domestically and internationally, to combat climate change. This group of parliamentarians included founders and members of an organization called Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment, or GLOBE International.

One of GLOBE's initiatives is to make an annual worldwide inventory of national and state-level climate change legislation. Even as international negotiations have stalled, this arena is one where real progress is taking place. It may not be making the news in the U.S., but governments all over the world are taking legislation action in the face of climate change.

Mexico, in 2012, enacted comprehensive climate-change legislation. Columbia has adopted a low-carbon development strategy (Why? The cool areas conducive to coffee production are moving further up their mountains, and Continued on page 9





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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. Beacon Hill Roll Call records the votes of local representatives on two roll calls and local senators on four from the week of February 3-7.

Our Legislators in the House and Senate for Somerville:



Rep. Denise Provost

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



Rep. Carl Sciortino

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



Rep. Timothy Toomey

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



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

Beacon Hill Roll Call recently reported on a bill (S 1987) that supporters say would provide relief to Massachusetts homeowners who currently lack clear title to their homes due to prior faulty foreclosures. The bill was approved by the Senate on a unanimous 38-0 roll call vote and sent to the House.

Supporters say the measure was filed in response to a Supreme Judicial Court decision that voided thousands of foreclosure sales. They note the court said that a foreclosure is void if the foreclosing lender could not produce a written assignment of its mortgage prior to the first publication of notice.

Supporters go on to say the bill remedies this problem by allowing the affidavit that is recorded during the sale of the property to serve as conclusive evidence that the foreclosing lender is in compliance. They argue this will help thousands of homeowners who unwittingly purchased an improperly foreclosed property and are currently without a clear title and consequently unable to sell or refinance their homes.

Subsequently we heard from The Massachusetts Alliance Against Predatory Lending (MAAPL), which opposes the measure and says the bill will dramatically curtail illegally foreclosed homeowners' right to regain title to their homes. Its spokesperson, Grace Ross, says that the bill is a "travesty" that strips foreclosed homeowners of their fundamental right to protect their property. She argues that senators apparently had no accurate information on which to base their vote.

In a prepared statement, Ross said, "From now on, instead of giving homeowners the 20 years to reverse the wrongs of banks' illegal foreclosures, this bill limits Massachusetts residents to three years." She continued, "Do not run roughshod over 400 years of Massachusetts citizens' property rights. Slow down and listen to the voices of the voters who have lost the homes, far too often illegally, in which they raised their children and poured their hopes for the future."

EXPEL REP. HENRIQUEZ (H 3894)

House 146-5, voted to expel Rep. Carlos Henriquez (D-Dorchester) from the Massachusetts House. The move was in response to Henriquez's January 15 conviction on two assault and battery charges stemming from a July 7, 2012 incident involving his former girlfriend. He is currently serving a six-month jail sentence.

Supporters said Henriquez has clearly violated the House Code of Ethics. They argued that he can not adequately represent his constituents while serving time in prison. They noted that the Ethics Committee conducted an exhaustive independent investigation, including reviewing 11 police reports, 78 exhibits and some1000 pages of trial testimony,

Henriquez was brought to the House from his prison cell by sheriff's deputies and made an impassioned speech on the House floor. He returned to prison before the vote was taken. Dressed in a suit and tie and not handcuffed, he denied the assault and battery charges and maintained his innocence. His supporters noted he is appealing the conviction and urged the House to wait until the appeal process is complete before taking action. (A "Yes" vote is for expelling Henriquez. A "No" vote is against expulsion.)

> Rep. Denise Provost No Rep. Carl Sciortino No Rep. Timothy Toomey

CENSURE REP. HENRIQUEZ (H 3894)

House 10-143 rejected a motion to reduce the punishment and censure Henriquez rather than expel him. A censure is a rebuke or reprimand of a legislator and does not result in him or her losing their elected position.

Censure supporters said they agree he should be punished but feel that expulsion goes too far.

Censure opponents said a censure is merely a slap on the wrist and again argued for expulsion.

(A "Yes" vote is for censuring Henriquez. A "No" vote is against censure.)

> Rep. Denise Provost Yes Rep. Carl Sciortino Yes Rep. Timothy Toomey No

CHANGES IN UNEMPLOYMENT INSUR-ANCE SYSTEM (S 2001)

Senate 33-4, approved and sent to the House a bill making changes in the state's unemployment insurance system including freezing the 2014 unemployment insurance tax rate paid by employers at the 2013 level instead of allowing an automatic scheduled increase to take effect. It also establishes rates for 2015, 2016 and 2017. The payments go into a fund that provides benefits to laid-off workers. Another change requires businesses that lay off the most workers to pay more than they currently do, while allowing the more stable employers to pay less than they currently do. Under the new rates, the most stable employers would pay \$153 per employee per year, while the worst-rated companies would pay \$2,337 per employee annually.

Other provisions provide "whistleblower" protection for employees who testify about their employers defrauding the system; require the state to tell applicants within 30 days if they qualify for unemployment benefits; and prohibit crewmembers on commercial fishing vessels from being denied unemployment benefits if unemployment is the result of federal fisheries management restrictions. Supporters said the measure benefits both workers and businesses by continuing to provide reasonable eligibility standards and benefits for employees while providing businesses with stability and predictable and fair rates for future years.

Opponents said the bill does not go far enough and would not lead to net savings for businesses. Some noted the measure's provision requiring frequent users of the unemployment system to pay more will unfairly hurt companies in the construction and landscaping business that go through regular layoffs.

(A"Yes" vote is for the bill. A"No" vote is against it.)

Sen. Sal DiDomenico Yes Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ELIGIBILITY FOR COLLECTING UNEMPLOY-**MENT (S 2001)**

Senate 4-34, rejected an amendment changing the formula for determining how much a worker must earn over a certain period of time in order to be eligible for unemployment compensation.

Amendment supporters said the amendment would essentially increase the minimum weekly work requirement to qualify for unemployment from 15 weeks to 20 weeks. They argued this increase would bring Massachusetts in line with the national standard and save Bay State employers an estimated \$30 million annually.

Amendment opponents said the current formula is fair and has worked well. They argued that any attempt to ultimately make it harder for workers, laid off through no fault of their own, to collect unemployment is unwarranted and will just cause more pain to working families. (A "Yes" vote is for the amendment. A "No" vote is against it.)

Beacon Hill Roll Call

continued

Sen. Sal DiDomenico Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

REQUIRE INTERNSHIP TO COLLECT ADDI-TIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT (S 2001)

Senate 4-34, rejected an amendment to the current law that allows unemployment recipients to collect for 30 weeks, instead of the usual 26 weeks, if the unemployment rate is above 5.1 percent. While the amendment also allows recipients to collect for 30 weeks if the unemployment rate is above 5.1 percent, it also requires him or her to participate in an approved internship program in weeks 27-30 to collect during these weeks. The amendment also allows the recipient to collect for 30 weeks without an internship, if the unemployment rate is above 7 percent.

Amendment supporters said Massachusetts is the only state that provides as much as 30 weeks while 48 states provide only 26 weeks. They noted the federal government pays for benefits after 26 weeks during times of high unemployment. They argued that mandating these internships will help build recipients' skills and experience and increase the chances they will find employment. Amendment opponents said high unemployment is a poor economy is the exact wrong time in which to make collecting benefits more difficult. They noted the federal government cannot be trusted to pay after 26 weeks and noted it has refused so far to extend unemployment benefits despite President Obama's urging.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment. A "No" vote is against it.)

> Sen. Sal DiDomenico No Sen. Patricia Jehlen

REQUIRE DECISION IN 30 DAYS (S 2001)

Senate 38-0, approved an amendment requiring the state to determine within 30 days if a person is eligible for unemployment benefits. Current law only requires the state to "make every reasonable effort to give notice of such determination within 30 days.

Amendment supporters said it is time to speed up the decision so that unemployed workers know quickly if they are eligible and can plan accordingly. (A"Yes" vote is for the amendment.)

> Sen. Sal DiDomenico Yes Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

VACCINES (S 1971) - The House and Senate gave final approval to and sent to Gov. Deval Patrick a bill that would create the Vaccine Purchase Trust Fund to fund the purchase, storage and distribution of routine childhood immunizations. The measure also requires the Public Health Commissioner to annually assess health insurers and self-insured entities for the amount needed for the fund. Another key provision mandates that insurers provide benefits for immunizations on all health care plans and exempts these immunizations from copayments, coinsurance and deductibles.

HOMELESS BILL OF RIGHTS (H 3595) - The

Housing Committee held a hearing on a bill that would establish a bill of rights for homeless persons. The measure prohibits denial of any person's rights, privileges or access to public services solely because he or she is homeless. Specifics include guaranteeing a homeless person's right to use and move freely in public spaces, including sidewalks, parks and public transportation buildings; equal treatment by all state and municipal agencies; emergency medical care; the right to vote; and a reasonable expectation of privacy of his or her personal property to the same extent as if he or she were in a permanent residence.

CHECK REGISTRATION STATUS ONLINE -

Secretary of State William Galvin announced that Massachusetts voters can now check their voter registration status online. Prior to this, voters could only find out that information by contacting the city or town clerk. Voters simply enter their name, date of birth and zip code in order to check on their voter registration status and party enrollment. The link to the site is: http:// www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx

CREATE OFFICE OF HEALTH EQUITY (H

3888) - The House gave initial approval to a bill creating a new Office of Health Equity. The office would coordinate all activities to eliminate racial and ethnic health and health care disparities in Massachusetts and prepare an annual plan to eliminate them. "Health care disparities" refers to gaps in general health and the quality of health care and its availability across racial and ethnic groups.

Supporters said that while some disparities have been reduced in the past few years, many disparities still remain.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"The committee ... found that a representative could not serve as a member while incarcerated in jail after being convicted of two charges of a serious nature. With that vote completed, the House will now move forward to address the budget, gun safety, domestic violence and other important legislative matters." -Speaker Robert DeLeo on the vote to expel Rep. Henriquez from the House.

"What Rep. Carlos Henriquez did is reprehensible ... I voted today to censure (him), which I believe is the strictest punishment the House has the authority to impose on a duly elected member. I do not believe (he) should be serving in the House, but I also do not believe we have the constitutional authority to permanently expel a sitting member with a simple majority vote." - Rep. Carl Sciortino (D-Somerville).

"The Committee's recommendations are all thoughtful and reasonable and only the most extreme supporters of the NRA and gun manufacturers would oppose these common-sense reforms." – Rep. David Linsky (D-Natick) on a task force's recommendation of 44 ways to lessen gun violence in Massachusetts.

"GOAL (Gun Owner's Action League) was all but left out of the process of the creation of this report. If the Commission refuses to hear from the very people that actually know the gun laws and provide the most comprehensive gun safety training in the Commonwealth, (the report) is not worth the paper it's printed on." – Jim Wallace, GOAL's Executive Director.

"Selling tobacco products always seemed inconsistent for a leading health care provider that has pioneered Minute Clinics and taken other steps to support prevention and wellness ... I want to commend CVS on their decision to end the unhealthy alliance with 'Big Tobacco." - Sen. Richard Moore (D-Uxbridge) on CVS' announcement that it will stop selling cigarettes and other tobacco products at its more than 7,600 stores across the U.S. by October 1, 2014.

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 February 3-7, the House met for a total of 17 hours and 21 minutes and the Senate met for a total of nine hours and nine minutes.

House 11:03 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mon. February 3 Senate 11:05 a.m. to 4:20 p.m. House 11:02 a.m. to 8:40 p.m. Tues. February 4 No Senate session Wed. February 5 No House session No Senate session Thurs. February 6 House 1:17 p.m. to 3:03 p.m. Senate 1:00 p.m. to 4:54 p.m. Fri. February 7 No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Who cares about climate change? **CONT. FROM PG 7**

farmers who can no longer grow coffee will plant coca.)

South Korea has adopted its Framework Act on Low Carbon Green Growth (Why? For every degree of increase in average temperature, rice yield drops by 5 percent). Although the national government of China has remained noncommittal about international climate-change agreements, it has put carbon-reduction goals in its latest Five-Year Plan, and some of its provinces are taking their own action on climate change.

Where do state legislators fit in? It's well known abroad that some U.S. states - Massachusetts notable among them - have much more advanced climate change laws than the U.S. as a nation. Nations concerned about climate change view this kind of state-level leadership as a global asset. Positive action by enough states in a nation can go far to counteract inaction or vacillation at the national level.

"After all, some U.S. states have larger populations and gross domestic products than many of the nations of the E.U.," remarked the Right Honorable John Gummer, the Conservative peer who is President of GLOBE International. "It makes sense," he said, to engage legislators from the U.S. states in international efforts to combat climate change. "After all, we represent the will of the people," he concluded, speaking generally of all legislators elected by constituencies everywhere.

My own constituents, like most folks in Massachusetts, are interested in having a healthy economy – and the innovations required to adapt to climate change offer great economic benefits, especially for early adopters. My constituents would like to have their part of the world continue to be habitable -not

underwater or rendered intolerable through extremes of temperature or storms. To do justice to my constituents, I'm going to continue taking action against climate change - locally, at the state level and internationally.

State Rep. Denise Provost, who has represented Somerville in the Legislature since 2006, is a member of the Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

COMMENTARY

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

Limiting campaign contributions reassures public of open, honest government



By Joseph A. Curtatone

In my inaugural address, I called upon the Board of Aldermen to pass the most restrictive campaign finance legislation in Massachusetts. Seven aldermen co-sponsored a proposal I submitted to the Board last May, while the remaining members of

the board co-sponsored a similar bill put forth by Board President Bill White. These two proposals, taken up by the Board this week, show that I and the Board of Aldermen are united in our purpose to deliver a government that is open, honest and transparent. Our taxpayers deserve the reassurance that our government is accountable to one value and one value only: What's best for the people of our city.

Sixteen years ago, when I was an alderman myself, Mayor Mike Capuano put forth an ethics and financial disclosure ordinance that the Board passed, and it set a standard for not only our community but for Massachusetts. Just as we worked together on that proposal, mayors and aldermen past and present have worked together to push back against our city's previous reputation of inside politics that were infiltrated by outside forces. We fought against that reputation and changed it through increased transparency, more community involvement and creating a shared vision for our

Today, we have a different reputation. We've won awards from Common Cause for the information we make readily available to the public. In October, we earned the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting for our comprehensive annual financial report, which demonstrated a spirit of full disclosure. Through SomerStat and our ResiStat meetings, we share data about the city that increases both our transparency and our efficiency in delivering the services that residents rely on. We've taken our planning out to the public, with our Somerville by Design meetings carrying on the legacy that began with

Somer Vision.

The proposed campaign finance legislation before the Board of Aldermen would allow for more accountability, remove any erroneous perception of a "pay-to-play" environment and further reassure our community that our decisions are made fully in the public interest and driven by our community's values. This ordinance would set limits for campaign contributions made to any candidate or incumbent for public office in the City of Somerville by developers, contractors, lobbyists or individuals Continued on page 14

Somerville's development challenges: Gentrification



By William C. Shelton

Last week I went to a Board of Aldermen hearing. It concerned breathtaking increases in many taxpayers' property assessments. One after another, 'Villens on fixed incomes and independent small business owners expressed realistic fears that they would be unable to remain in their city.

That morning I had read a New York Times business-section story headlined, "The Middle Class is Steadily Eroding. Just Ask the Business World." While rightwing propagandists dispute America's growing economic inequality, "in corporate America there really is no debate at all. The post-recession reality is that the customer base for businesses that appeal to the middle class is shrinking as the top tier pulls even further away."

Preparing this column, I found these prophetic lines, written 14 years ago by author and journalist Rebecca Solnit: "Gentrification is just the fin above the

water. Below is the rest of the shark: a new American economy in which most of us will be poorer, a few will be far richer, and everything will be faster, more homogenous and more controlled or controllable."

The hollowing out of the American middle class that I documented in a series on inequality is well apace in Somerville. As the people who made our city so attractive to outsiders are priced out of their homes, the fabric of community

As the Cub Scout den mother, neighborhood peacemaker, church deacon, little league coach, community-focused artist, school volunteer, and local merchant who gave credit to trusted neighbors are displaced, we are all diminished. And yes, these are all real, specific 'Villens. As we are increasingly surrounded by strangers, we are lonelier and less secure.

The Centers for Disease Control reports that populations affected by displacement "are at increased risk for the negative consequences of gentrification. Studies indicate that vulnerable populations typically have shorter life expectancy; higher cancer rates; more birth defects; greater infant mortality; and higher incidence of asthma, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease."

Mindy Fullilove, M.D., describes this in her book Root Shock. "Root shock, at the level of the local community, ruptures bonds, dispersing people to all directions of the compass. ... The elegance of the neighborhood—each person in his social and geographical slot is destroyed, and even if the neighborhood is rebuilt exactly as it was, it won't work. The restored geography is not enough to repair the many injuries..."

In a narrow sense, Somerville is still an immigrant city. Two or more newly Continued on page 17

Life in the Will by Jimmy Del Ponte

Memory Lane

We often take a trip down memory lane in this column, but this time it's the real Memory Lane. We are taking a look back

at the restaurant/bar/meeting spot that used to be where The 99 is now on Middlesex Avenue in Somerville.

The tables were big, and so were the Bloody Marys. As a matter of fact, all the drinks were big. They always had a delicious special, and many people remember the Lane for its awesome prime ribs. "My uncle and aunt lived for that place! They worked at First National Warehouse (very close), so that was their stomping ground! When my cousin and I were old enough, we would join them for a cocktail or two. We loved the place!"

Do you remember the old photos that hung on the walls? Me neither! But some do. Here's a memory: " When the bell rings, it's time for wings! I remember they gave out free chicken wings all night, every night. They would ring a bell when the wings were hot in the chaffing dish." The French onion soup was nothing short of fabulous, too.

Some of my friends were waitresses and some of my friends' parents bartended there also. When I worked at Kiss 108 in the '80s, the sales staff would give us free food vouchers for Memory Lane because they advertised on the station. I heard that one of the former bartenders at Memory Lane now owns his own bar in Somerville. It was a good place for the

after-wedding rehearsal party and the after-work gathering. It was a favorite meeting spot for Somerville teachers on a Friday afternoon. A few waitresses from Dapper Dan's used to head over to Memory Lane after their shifts.

If you worked at Somerville Lumber back in the day, a liquid lunch may have been enjoyed at Memory Lane. No wonder the sales people were always so cheerful! Those piled-high skinny onion rings went great with a nice cold beer. My friend (with a very good memory) took his wife there on their first date 27 years ago. So from that we can assume that Memory Lane was around until at least 1987 or so (some say it was closed by 1993). By the way, the marriage is still going strong.

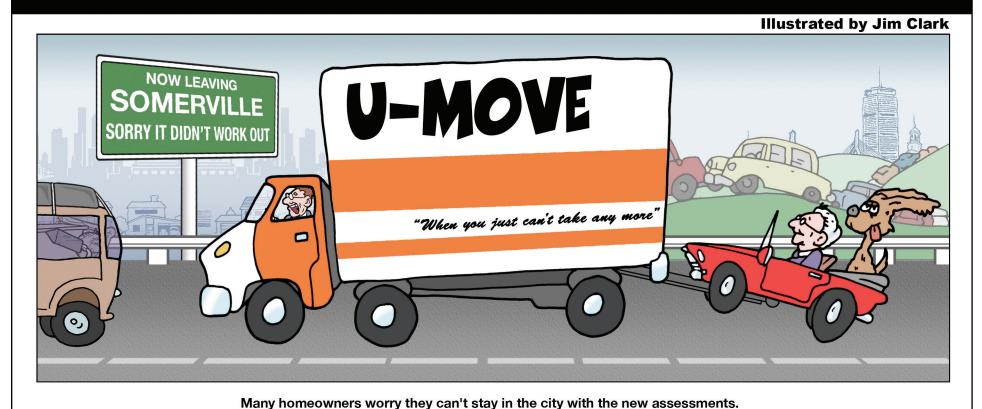
Others recall watching boxing match-



es in the back room and having a few cocktails before and after the movies at Assembly Square. A friend tells me that the first time he ever had nachos was at ML. An anonymous contributor says, "I wound up under a table at Memory Lane once, but the funny thing was that I started out at Club 3!" We understand that there was a fire there Continued on page 21

COMMENTARY

TALES OF SOMERVILLE



The View Of The Times



The timing of the Finance Committee's public hearing last week on the recent property revaluations that resulted in significantly higher tax bills for some property owners was curious, to say the least, as it came the day after the deadline to file an abatement had come and gone the day before.

Still, while the hearing may have initially seemed like a chance for people to just vent their anger, the ideas discussed, as well as letting some qualifying residents know they may have more options available to them than they may have thought, could lead to actual and positive change.

Will the residential exemption be increased? If so, who will feel the burden from the shift? Can budget cuts be made so the city does not need to collect as much from property owners? Well, there is now more of an incentive for residents to see what is being spent where.

The public is being asked to take part in community budgeting forums. They will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24 (snow date March 6), at the Capuano Early Childhood Center, 150 Glen St.; Thursday, Feb. 27, at the West Somerville Neighborhood School, 177 Powderhouse Blvd.; and 11 a.m. Saturday, March 1 (snow date March 8) at City Hall, 93 Highland Ave.

As the city moves towards trying to make the assessment process more visible to avoid future sticker shock, this is the time for residents to take advantage of the offer to get involved before the budget is passed so they do not have to come out to a packed meeting in the future and after the fact.

Sure, we elect people to handle these issues, but it doesn't hurt - as last week's meeting showed – to let them know that some of us want to understand (and even have a hand in) the process and not just react to the results.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Courses. Call 617 625-6600, ext. 6478, and ask for Sophia Carafotes. Registration begins every Tuesday and Thursday evening at the high school main office on Highland Avenue. Sophia has worked very hard to get a lot of new classes as well as some of the older popular ones started. New classes in Extreme Couponing, free Zumba lessons and some older classes such as The word is just in that our very own English as a first language are offered. If you'd like to make a suggestion to add to the courses and you have a special skill, give her a call today, and, of course, if you're interested in any of the courses offered, then register. The website is www.somerville.k12.ma.us/ eveningshool.

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

Comedy Nite at Giggles Comedy Club (Route 1 in Saugus) to benefit the Ma-

sonic Building at 125 Highland Ave. will be held Wednesday, April 2. There will be a silent auction and full show of local comedians. The cost is \$25 per person. For more information, contact Steve at Steve and Sons at 617-628-6251 or email steve_sons@msn.com for tickets.

Doug Holder got notice from the Board of Contributing editors of the Pushcart Fellowship (http://pushcartprize.com) that he has been nominated by the board for a Pushcart Prize, to be announced in Nov. of 2014. This is for published pieces he wrote in 2013. Members of the board include: Billy Collins, Bob Hicock, Martha Collins, Don Lee, Wally Lamb, Gerald Stern and many others.

There will be a Fan the Fire sporting event on February 14, Valentine's Day, for the Tufts Men's and Women's Basketball games. The Women's basketball game, which starts at 6 p.m. at Cousen's Gym, will be supporting the cause Coach's Against Cancer.

The Men's basketball game, starting at 7 p.m., also at Cousen's Gym, will be supporting the American Heart Association. This event is extremely important to Tufts as there is a player on the team affected by a heart condition. Signed Celtics gear and a Nike Fit Band will be raffled off at each game's halftime.

Mayor Curtatone and Ward 1 Alderman Matt McLaughlin invite all interested residents to a community meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Capuano Early Childhood Center, 150 Glen St., to discuss new lighting plans for the Capuano School / James McCarthy Field. The City is proposing to install new lighting at the Michael E. Capuano Early Childhood Center Turf Soccer Field in the fall of 2014, but is seeking community input prior to finalizing design plans. For more information, contact Arn Franzen in the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development at 617-625-6600 ext. 2545 or AFranzen@ somervillema.gov.

Did you know that there is free homework help available at the Somerville Public Library? There are options for students of different grade levels, help around specific subjects, and even Saturday study sessions. To check out the options available to students (and learn about all the other fun things happening at the library) visit the library's web site http://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org.

****** Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone invites Somerville residents to participate in a Community Budgeting process focused on four key investment areas identified by the community in the SomerVision plan: Recreation, Public Health, Arts and Culture, and Civic Engagement including Immigrant Outreach. Community Budgeting Meetings will be held on: Monday, Feb. 24 (snow date Thursday, March 6), 6:30 p.m., at the Capuano Early Childhood Center, 150 Glen St.; Thursday, Feb. 27, 6:30 p.m., at the West Somerville Neighborhood School, 177 Powderhouse Blvd.; and Saturday, March 1(snow date Saturday, March 8), 11 a.m., City Hall, 93 Highland Ave.

'Annie' shines at the Somerville **Theatre**

The Somerville High School Drama Club performed the musical Annie this past Thursday and Friday at the Somerville Theatre in Davis Square.

Along with two-dozen high school students onstage and just as many more working behind the scenes, the musical featured more than 30 local third-, fourth- and fifth-graders representing every one of Somerville's public elementary schools who performed as Annie's fellow orphans.

Annie's score is chock-full of some of the more recognizable musical numbers from the contemporary Broadway songbook, including Hard-Knock Life, N.Y.C., You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile, Easy Street, Maybe and, of course, Tomorrow. The SHS production featured some contemporary twists in the staging and choreography.

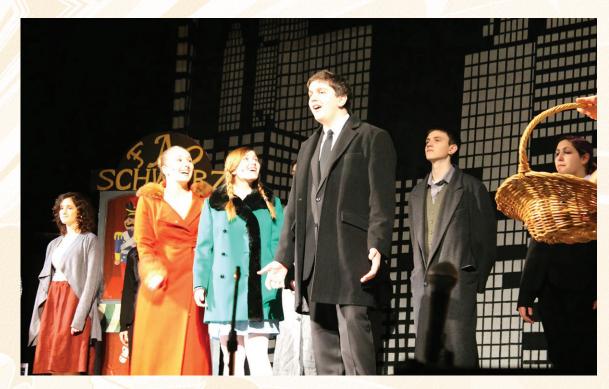






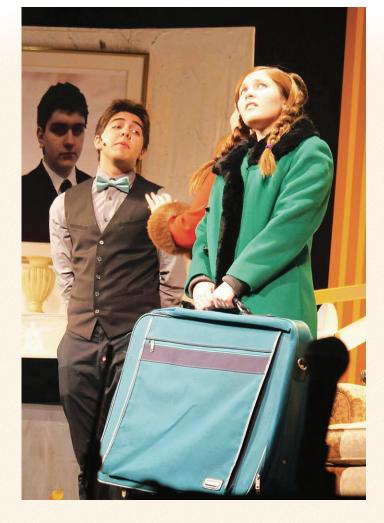








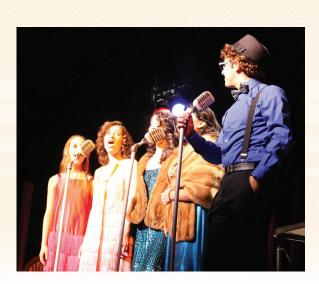














Photos By Max Freitas

SPORTS

Somerville High Athletics schedule for Feb. 12 –19

Wednesday, Feb. 12

Ice Hockey: Girls Varsity Game vs. Marblehead at Simoni Rink – 4 p.m.

Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. Revere at Veterans Memorial Rink – 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb 13

Basketball: Boys Freshman Game vs. Malden Catholic at Field House – 3:45 p.m.

Ice Hockey: Boys Junior Varsity Game (Rescheduled from 12–17–13) vs. Everett at Veterans Memorial Rink – 4:30 p.m. Basketball: Boys Junior Varsity Game vs. Malden Catholic at Field House – 5 p.m.

Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. Malden Catholic at Field House -7 p.m.

Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Game (Rescheduled from 02-05-14) St. Joseph's Prep at Ryan Rink Watertown Rink -8:20 p.m.

Friday, Feb 14

Basketball: Girls Freshman Game (Date Changed) 01-24-14 vs. Notre Dame at Field House – 3:45 p.m.

Indoor Track: Girls Varsity MIAA TBA at Reggie Lewis Center – 4 p.m.

Indoor Track: Boys Varsity MIAA TBA at Reggie Lewis Center – 4 p.m.

Basketball: Girls Junior Varsity Game vs. Notre Dame at Field House – 5:30 p.m.

Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Notre Dame at Field House – 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 15

Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. Latin Academy at Veterans Memorial Rink Senior Night – 5 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 16

Basketball: Boys Varsity Tournament - Acton-Boxborough Regional at High School -TBD.



Basketball: Girls Varsity Tournament - Woburn at High School - 3:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb 17

Basketball: Boys Varsity Tournament - Acton-Boxborough Regional at Acton-Boxborough Regional – TBD.

Basketball: Girls Varsity Tournament - Woburn at High School - TBD.

Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Mulloy Tournament - Everett at Veterans Memorial Rink -TBD.

Wednesday, Feb 19

Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Mulloy Tournament - Everett at Veterans Memorial Rink -

Ice Hockey: Girls Varsity Game - Algonquin Regional at Algonquin Regional -12 p.m.

Ms. Cam's lio Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous

1. What is the world's warmest sea?

mixture, hodgepodge

- 2. What letter is the least used in the alphabet?
- 3. What is the past tense for the English word "dare"?
- 4. What was the first city in the world to reach a population of one million?
- 5. What do the first letters of the months from July to November spell
- 6. What are the two words in the English language that have three consecutive double letters?
- 7. Who were the only

- three women in 20th century to have their own film production compa-
- 8. Where in the U.S. were the Winter Olympics held in the year 2002?
- 9. What is the shortest complete sentence?
- 10. What year was the modern pencil invented and by whom?
- 11. What process was used to invent the modern pencil?
- 12. What is the only English word that ends in mt?

Answers on page 21

Limiting campaign contributions **CONT. FROM PG 10**

and organizations seeking to do business with the city. That includes city contracts not awarded to the lowest bidder and anyone seeking financial assistance from the city, such as grants, loans or tax incentives.

Applicants who made contributions to an elected official or candidate in excess of \$250 in the calendar year of an application or year prior, under my proposal, would be ineligible for any such contract or financial assistance unless contributions were refunded in full. Any applicant, anyone attributed to the applicant—including family members and business partners—and any subcontractor used on any contract, with the exception of the lowest bidder contracts, would be restricted from making any contribution in excess of \$250 per year, for the following four calendar years or for the duration of the term of any contract, whichever is longer. Also, lobbyists and municipal agents would be required to file annual disclosure statements and give notice as to any matter pending before the city. President White's similar proposed ordinance would cap contributions at \$300.

Passing this legislation would reaffirm to the public that there are no backroom deals or side deals in Somerville, and that we conduct an open, effective and honest government on their behalf. The city holds a firm commitment to transparency through the way we manage and through the public processes that we've expanded exponentially over the years. We open our spending, our public meetings, our planning and more to public scrutiny. We welcome and

encourage that scrutiny. Campaign finances and contributions—especially those related to those doing business with the city—should be subject to that same public scrutiny.

Passing this ordinance is just one step I want us to take this year. As I announced in my inaugural address, I will also propose an expansion of our city's ethics ordinance so that Somerville has the toughest ethics laws in Massachusetts that will apply to every elected official, ensuring accountability and equal access to city government. Everyone should have the same opportunities, not based on who they know, but on the merits. We are already a model for the Commonwealth in myriad areas. We should be a model for Massachusetts in openness and transparency, too.

FOR SALE: Beautifully cared for in great condition a Cherry Wood dinning room set, with two leaf table, six chairs, large wall china cabinet and large corner glass cabinet, also custom pads, asking \$500. A must see. Email donnortonera@yahoo.com for appointment. Must be able to make arrangments to move it out.



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A chance to vent

CONT. FROM PG 1

anger, ask questions and understand what options may be available to them moving forward. The committee members also had a chance to question Chief Assessor Marc Levye and brainstorm possible ways to reduce future property tax bills, or at least give residents more warning when such increases are coming.

Hathorn Street resident Edmund Robbins, who described himself as a third-generation Somerville resident, called the hike in valuations a "back-door tax," skirting the constraints of Proposition 2 ½ that limits cities and towns from raising the tax rate by more than 2.5 percent from one year to the next. He questioned whether more could be done to cut the city's budget in order to reduce the amount needed to be raised from property taxes.

"I haven't had a raise in three years," he said, "so why does the city get a raise? You're making it so people can't afford to live here."

Even those who did receive an abatement, such as Belmont Place resident John O'Brien, felt the amount was still too small. He said the abatement meant his bill went from going up by 45 percent to a little over 40. He also noted the increased valuations worked as a disincentive to improving properties one doesn't plan to sell. He told the committee the increases are more than just emotionless calculations.

"It's not a spreadsheet," he said. "It's individual people trying to contend with these increases."

The property tax is obviously not the only way the city collects from residents, as resident Lou Morales noted. Water bills, the meals tax and the Community Preservation Act surcharge, which many residents in attendance felt was written in a de-

liberately confusing way when presented to voters at the polls, were a few of the examples he offered

"You just can't keep pulling it out of people's pockets when they're empty," he said.

Levye did note, though, that CPA exemptions are available based on age and income guidelines.

Many residents, including Belmont Street resident Edward Fay, used the forum as a chance to express his frustration over feeling that the increase in the bills isn't leading to an increased quality of life in the city.

"My (bill) went up over 40 percent over the last year," he said. "Where's the additional 40 percent in city services I'll be getting for that increase?"

When all the residents who had signed up to comment had their say, and after a few more who didn't but still wanted to speak had stepped up to the microphone, the assessing department's Levye offered an explanation of why the valuations took place, why they were required and how the assessments were reached. He had offered the same explanation in two previous public forums last month.

"It's buyers and sellers; that's what makes the market," he said, adding that it's his department's job to then interpret that data in valuing properties. He explained that his department, by state law, cannot assess a property for less than 90 percent of its actual sale history. As an example, he noted a house that recently sold for \$400,000 could not be assessed by his department for any less than \$360,000.

He also noted the percentage of property owners who appeal their assessment is often less than 3 percent, and that his department received 419 appeals for fiscal 2014, represent-

ing 2.6 percent of the 16,000 properties assessed. He further noted his department actually received more appeals -458- for fiscal 2010.

In response to criticism that the assessments came without warning, Levye countered that all legal notification requirements had been followed, adding that his department cannot release the figures until the state concludes its preliminary certification of the assessment, which did not happen until this past November.

"You just can't keep pulling it out of people's pockets when they're empty"

A new communication plan was mentioned but not discussed in any detail. Still, Levye said his department would do what it could to bring residential and commercial property owners into the loop to provide as much transparency as possible.

"Clearly, if there's an opportunity to do more to get the word out, we'll do it," he said.

He also noted that some confusion comes from issuing quarterly tax bills, saying the first two quarters are based on the previous year's figures, while the third and fourth reflect the balance due under the current fiscal year's figures.

Despite his pledge to notify residents as early as possible, some aldermen were still not satisfied.

"To have it happen after the fact is what I find so troubling," Ward 6 Aldermen Rebeka Gewitz said. "All people want here is some predictability in the way this happens."

"We can do better, and we will," Levve said.

He went on to note that some of the "hot spots," in places such as Inner Belt, Davis Square and Assembly Square, did not have across-the-board doubling of assessed values. He said 35 of the 16,000 properties saw an increase of 100 percent or more. Of those, 21 were on properties that had pulled building permits.

Mayor Joseph Curtatone defended the department.

"This is not an assessing problem," he said.

Curtatone also defended the charge the city was spending too much, noting that 82 percent of the city's budget is fixed costs and saying the city spends less per capita than two-thirds of other cities and towns in the state. He also noted the long-standing drop in state aid and the fact that the city has never sought a Prop 2 ½ override.

Finance Committee member and Board of Aldermen President Bill White, in response to many comments by residents, suggested the BOA look into increasing the residential exemption, which less than a dozen cities and towns in the state offer. The move would require a home rule petition with approval by the state Legislature. The idea was also floated of creating a similar exemption for resident-owned businesses in town.

That increase couldn't come enough for 73-year-old resident David Benson, who said rising property tax bills "just about ate up the residential exemption long ago."

Increasing the exemption and/ or creating a new one would require the city to shift the tax burden elsewhere, and how that would happen and who would be hit remains unanswered.

"The pie is only so big," Alder-

man at Large Dennis Sullivan said.

Ward 2 Alderman Maryann Heuston suggested the city consider entering into PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreements with tax-exempt properties. She also asked Levye to provide information on the number of such properties in the city. Cities and towns enter into PILOT agreements to help cover the cost of municipal services rendered to tax-exempt properties and their tenants.

And while the attendees and speakers represented a range of ages and life situations, much of the concern was for seniors, particularly as large jumps in assessments could potentially disqualify some seniors for the state's Circuit Breaker tax credit, which, among other eligibility criteria, applies to homes assessed at under \$700,000.

Levye did note, however, that while the deadline for filing for an abatement and the residential exemption may have passed, the deadline to apply for statutory exemptions for seniors, veterans and widows/widowers, among others, is not until April 1.

Finance Committee Chairman and Ward 4 Alderman Tony Lafuente said he felt properties that were similar to each other in size, condition and use were being assessed differently, and sometimes those properties were in the same neighborhood. Levye, however, said he could not discuss any specific properties, as their owners may or may not have filed an appeal.

The meeting wound down with far fewer people in attendance at the outset and with city officials stating they would pursue many of the ideas discussed that evening.

"Whatever makes sense, we'll take it," Curtatone said.

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

MICHAEL F. GLAVIN **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PLANNING DIVISION**

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing for all interested parties will be held by the Planning Board on Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chambers on the Second Floor of Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA.

181 & 197 Washington St: (Case PB #2014-01) Applicant CPI-SCC, LLC and Owners The Somerville Community Corporation, Inc and A&M Realty Trust seek a Special Permit with Site Review (SZO §5.2) to construct two mixed use buildings of approx 46,305 nsf and approx 38,040 nsf under \$6.1.22.D.1 and \$6.1.22.D.2. The uses include small and medium retail of approx 6,000 sf, 65 residential units per SZO \$7.13.B, \$7.13.C, & \$7.13.E. The applicant seeks a Special Permit under SZO \$5.1 to reduce the number of parking spaces SZO 9.13.F and 9.17.2.A, to share a driveway and access and shared parking per SZO §9.17.2.B. Article 13 Inclusionary Housing will apply. CCD55 Zone. Ward 3.

205 Washington St: (Case PB #2014-02) Applicant, CPI-SCC, LLC and Owners A&M Realty Trust & The Union Terrace Condominiums seek a Site Plan Approval for a subdivision under SZO \$5.4 to take 1,403 sf of a 24,063 sf lot at 197 Washington St. and transfer it to the 4,104 sf lot at 205 Washington St. CCD55 Zone. Ward 3.

182 Broadway: (Case PB #2013-16) Applicant Yihe Group and Owner S&V Realty Trust seek a Special Permit with Site Review per SZO §5.2 to construct a mixed use building of approx 29,000 nsf under \$6.1.22.D.1. The uses include small and medium retail of approx 3,300 sf, 19 residential units per SZO §7.13.B, §7.13.C, & §7.13.E. The applicant seeks a Special Permit under SZO §5.1 to increase the number of compact parking spaces per SZO §9.13.b and modify the bicycle parking requirement per SZO §9.15.4. Article 13 Inclusionary Housing will apply. CCD55 zone. Ward 1.

337-341 Broadway: (Case PB #2014-03) Applicant, Winter Hill Bank, FSB, and Owner, KLT Corp., seek a Special Permit under SZO §6.1.22, for new signage. CCD 45 zone. Ward 4.

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

Attest: Kevin Prior, Chairman

To be published in The Somerville Times on 2/5/14 & 2/12/14.

2/5/14, 2/12/14 The Somerville Times







The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from General Contractors for the Common & Stairhall Flooring Replacement for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Davis Square

The Project consists of: New Resilient Flooring and Stair Treads in Stairwells at Clarendon Hill 200-1 Family Housing.

The work is estimated to cost \$160,740.00

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §\$26 to 27H inclusive.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) in the category of Floor Covering and must submit a current DCAM Certificate of Eligibility and a signed Update Statement (CQ3).

General Bids will be received until 2:00pm, Wednesday, March 5, 2014 and publicly opened, forthwith.

All Bids should be mailed or delivered to: The Office of the Executive Director, Somerville Housing Authority, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA **02145** and received no later than the date & time specified above.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority. Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up at www.biddocsonline.com (may be viewed or electronically copied) or at Nasho-

ba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

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

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

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

General bidders must agree to contract with minority and women business enterprises as certified by the Supplier Diversity Office (SD0), formerly combined participation goal reserved for such entern ing accepted alternates. See Contract Documents - Article 3 of the Instructions to Bidders.

The Site will be available for inspection between 10 A.M. and 2 P.M. on Wednesday, February 19, 2014.

For an appointment call Gabe Ciccariello at (617) 625-1152 x330

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

Nashoba Blue Inc. 433 Main Street Hudson, MA 01749 (978) 568-1167

Project Dog 18 Graf Road Suite #8 Newburyport, MA 01950 (978) 499-9014

MHC/Joseph Merrit & Co 17 Everberg Road - Unit C Woburn, MA 01801 (781) 569-6722

Reed Construction Data Document Processing Center 30 Technology Parkway South, Suite 500 Norcross, GA 30092-4578 (203) 426-0450

2/12/14 The Somerville Times

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE **PURCHASING DEPARTMENT** IFB #14-65

The City of Somerville Council on Aging, through the Purchasing Department, invites bids for:

Various Excursions for Council on Aging's Constituents

The Council on Aging is looking to provide area seniors with various trips and excursions located around New England and other regions, including day trips and overnight trips. Invitation for Bid packages for may be obtained online at http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing/bids or may be picked up at the Purchasing Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, First Floor, Somerville, MA 02143 beginning on Wednesday, February 12, 2014.

Sealed bids must be submitted no later than 11:30 A.M. Thursday, February 27, 2014.

Please contact Michael Richards, Procurement Analyst and Contract Manager, 617-625-6600 x 3403, or email mrichards@somervillema.gov for information and the bid package.

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

2/12/14 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE PURCHASING DEPARTMENT IFB # 14-67

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

Street Sweeping

An invitation for bids (IFB) and specifications may be obtained online at http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing/ bids or by contacting the Purchasing Department, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143 on or after: Wednesday, February 12, 2014. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: Wednesday, February 26 at 11:30 a.m. at which time sealed bids will be publicly opened. 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.

The contract term shall be for twelve months commencing on April 1, 2014, with two one-year options to renew.

Prevailing wage rates apply. A 5% Bid Deposit is required.

Please contact Angela M. Allen amallen@somervillema.gov for further information.

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

2/12/14 The Somerville Times

A hearing to all persons interested will be given by the Somerville Licensing Commission on Wednesday February 19, 2014 at the Senior Center, Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at 6:30PM on the application of FFDJ, LLC d/b/a The Wine Bar, 89 Holland St. for an alterations to premises to include an outdoor patio for service of alcohol.

> For the Commission Andrew Upton Vito Vaccaro John J. McKenna

Attest: Jenneen Pagliaro Executive Secretary

2/5/14, 2/12/14 The Somerville Times

A hearing to all persons interested will be given by the Somerville Licensing Commission on Wednesday February 19, 2014 at the Senior Center, Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at 6:30PM on the application of Young M. Kim d/b/a Bibim, 243 Elm St., Somerville, MA for a New All Forms of Alcoholic Beverages 7 Day Restaurant License.

> For the Commission Andrew Upton Vito Vaccaro John J. McKenna

Attest: Jenneen Pagliaro Executive Secretary

2/5/14, 2/12/14 The Somerville Times

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

Please note that due to construction the Cross Street Center and its events have been CANCELLED for the next two weeks.

All clubs and groups welcome new members.

Holland Street Center - 167 Holland Street

Ralph & Jenny Center - 9 New Washington Street

Cross Street Center - 165 Broadway

Trips and Events Corner:

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

Supper and Bingo at Hanscom Air Force Base, Wednesday, February 26. Call Connie to register or for more information at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300

STAY ACTIVE:

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

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

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

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

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

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

LGBT Events (Open to all ages):

Holland Street Café – Next lunch will be Monday, March 10. RSVP a6 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Movies to Come Out To: February 12 - Chinese Food -Price \$6. RSVP by February 10th. February's movie will be Notes on a Scandal starring Cate Blanchett & Judi

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

LBGT Advisory Group – We meet the fourth Monday of each month. Our next meeting is Monday, February 24th at 4:30 p.m.

Ralph & Jenny Center Events:

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

Please note that the Ralph & Jenny Center will be closed Tuesday, February 11 for the Valentine's Day Luncheon at the Winter Hill Yacht Club.

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

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

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

BINGO every day at 12:45.

Cross Street Center Events:

Center open every Tuesday and Wednesday.

Please note that due to construction the Cross Street Center and its events have been CANCELLED for the next two weeks.

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

Holland Street center:

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

February 12

Bowling at Flatbreads at 1:00 p.m.

Holland Street Center

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

Fit 4 Life B|9 a.m.

Lunch|11:30 a.m.

Fit 4 Life C|1 p.m.

Zumba for All|5:15 p.m. 167 Holland Street 617-625-6600 x 2300

Cross Street Center

English Conversation 10:30 a.m. 165 Broadway|617-625-6600 x 2335

Ralph & Jenny Center

Cards & Cribbage 10 a.m.

Bingo|12:45 p.m.

9 New Washington Street 617-666-5223

February 13

Holland Street Center

Current Events 10 a.m. Lunch|11:30 a.m. BINGO|12:45 p.m.

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

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Ralph & Jenny Center

Cards & Cribbage 10 a.m. Strengthening Exercise 10 a.m. Bingo|12:45 p.m.

9 New Washington Street 617-666-5223

February 14

Holland Street Center

Lunch|11:30 a.m. Bingo|12:45 p.m.

167 Holland Street 617-625-6600 x 2300

February 17

Holland Street Center

Moonlighters 10:30 a.m.

Lunch|11:30 a.m.

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

167 Holland Street 617-625-6600 x 2300

February 18

Holland Street Center

Strengthening Exercise 9:15 a.m.

SHINE by appt. 10 a.m.

Lunch|11:30 a.m.

Fit 4 Life LBT|6 p.m.

167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

Ralph & Jenny Center

Cards & Cribbage 10 a.m.

Bingo|12:45 p.m.

9 New Washington Street 617-666-5223

Cross Street Center

English Conversation 10:30 a.m.

165 Broadway 617-625-6600 x 2335

February 19

Holland Street Center

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

Fit 4 Life B|9 a.m.

Lunch|11:30 a.m.

Fit 4 Life C|1 p.m.

Zumba for All|5:15 p.m.

167 Holland Street 617-625-6600 x 2300

Cross Street Center

English Conversation 10:30 a.m.

165 Broadway 617-625-6600 x 2335

Ralph & Jenny Center

Cards & Cribbage 10 a.m.

Bingo|12:45 p.m.

9 New Washington Street 617-666-5223

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

Somerville's Development Challenges: Gentrification **CONT. FROM PG 10**

arrived families share a two-bedroom apartment while they work multiple jobs. But to rent their own apartment, they go to Everett, Revere, or Malden, just as immigrants who have been here for decades increasingly must, thereby diminishing Somerville's vaunted diversity.

As with other gentrifying communities, Somerville's average income and housing costs are increasing, while its average family size is decreasing. The Census reports that between 2000 and 2010 the number of school-aged children living in Somerville dropped by 30%. In 2010, only 76% of the city's residents had lived in their housing unit for more than one year, while only 30% had lived in theirs for more than ten years.

The number of kids in the city is now beginning to creep back up as more parents put down roots. Their participation in community life is welcome. But too many newcomers dismiss

concerns about gentrification's hidden injuries, as if market transactions are inviolate, while enduring human relationships are expendable.

It's getting late, but we need to decide what we want to be as a community. If we allow current trends to continue, the authenticity, diversity and cultural wealth that makes Somerville so special will disappear, leaving a homogenous, transient bedroom suburb and playground for

When I consider some of city government's actions, I have to wonder whether gentrification is a policy, either conscious or de facto. Whenever the mayor and his staff have the opportunity, they chant "Somerville is a great place to live, work, and raise a family." But that begs the question, "For whom?"

Bill de Blasio, New York's populist new mayor, used those exact words in his inauguration speech, but the context was dif-

ferent. He was pledging a series of initiatives to support working families "so that New Yorkers see our city not as the exclusive domain of the One Percent, but a place where everyday people can afford to live, work, play, and raise a family."

When I hear Somerville officials use that phrase, I wonder, to whom are they marketing the city? If building permits, condo conversions, and out-of-reach housing costs are any indication, they are selling Somerville to childless, affluent newcomers.

At some of the many festivals and street events that the city sponsors, I recognize no one from old Somerville. I wonder about those events' intended purpose.

In the solicitation that the city issued to attract a Union Square master developer partner, I find these words: "Somerville has the second highest proportion of residents between the ages of 25 and 34 in the United States." I have to wonder if that's complaining...or bragging. If that is the sales pitch, what is the product being sold? And to whom?

My doubts aren't merely rhetorical. I sincerely don't know whether gentrification is a conscious objective, or the unintended consequence of well meaning but flawed policies.

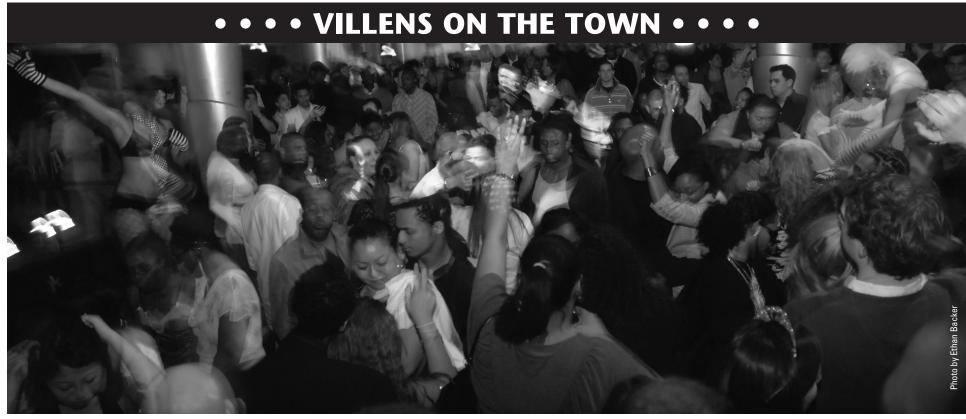
Twenty years ago, then alderman Helen Corrigan told me she was concerned that "02144 is becoming too much like 02138." In terms of affordability and demographics, the transformation is now complete. But important differences remain. Cambridge's residential property rate is only two-thirds that of Somerville's. And there are two jobs for every Cambridge worker, but two Somerville workers for every job.

The latter suggests half of what we need to slow down gentrification. Working-class families must have sufficiently high income, or sufficiently moderate housing expenses, if they are to remain here.

If nonretail commercial development continues as hoped for in Assembly and Union Squares, it will bring jobs with a variety of entry points and opportunities for career development. The city recently announced a welcome initiative to link'Villens with those new jobs.

We need to go well beyond this modest program, ensuring that Somerville workers of all ages can obtain the training and retraining needed to qualify for emerging industry jobs. While linkage and training programs will cost some money, I can suggest a number of unnecessary budget items whose elimination would free up the cash.

The expenses half of the equation is housing affordability. If we want to get serious about it, we will need to permanently remove some portion of Somerville's housing stock from the inflationary cycle without recreating public housing failures. How we do this is the subject of the next column in this series.



FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Wednesday | February 12

East Branch Library

Preschool: Storvtime 11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|115 Broadway

Central Library

Mothers Out Front and SHS Students Patricia Wild|617 628 3717 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Central Library

Book Group for Kids Ages 9-12 Cathy Piantigini|617-623-5000

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Thursday | February 13

Central Library

Preschool: Storytime for 3 to 5

10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.|79 Highland Avenue

East Branch Library

Good CRAFTernoon! Meghan Forsell | 617-623-5000

3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.|115 Broad-

Friday | February 14

Central Library

Preschool: Storytime for 2 year

10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m|79 Highland Ave

Central Library

Record Your Valentine's Story! Maria Carpenter 617-623-5000

9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Central Library

Teen Anime & Manga Meet-up: Valentine's Day Cynthia or Ron| 617-623-5000-

3 p.m.-5:30 p.m.|79 Highland

Veteran's Memorial Rink

Free public skating 12 p.m.-1:50 p.m.|570 Somerville Ave

Saturday | February 15

Central Library

GBPFLAG Speaker Training lan Witherby|781-891-5966 9:15 AM - 4:45 PM|79 Highland Avenue

Central Library

Record Your Valentine's Story! Maria Carpenter 617-623-5000 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM|79 Highland

Central Library

Avenue

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

Sunday February 16

Veteran's Memorial Rink

Free public skating 3:30 p.m.-4:50 p.m.|570 Somer-

Monday February 17

Presidents Day - Libraries Closed

Arts at the Armory

Knucklebones 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.|Performance Hall|191 Highland Ave

Tuesday|February 18

Central Library

Homeschool Reading Group for Ages 9-11

Tammy McKanan|617-591-0216 9:30 a.m.- 12 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

West Branch Library

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

Central Library

StoryCorps Interviews Maria Carpenter|617-623-5000 x2910

2:30 p.m.-5 p.m.|79 Highland

Wednesday February 19

East Branch Library

Storyteller Diane Edgecomb presents Once Upon a Wintertime Meghan Forsell| 617-623-5000 x2970

11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|115 Broadway

Central Library

Library Maker Faire with Melissa Cathy Piantigini | 617-623-5000

x2950 2 p.m.-4 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

MUSIC

Wednesday | February 12

Johnny D's

Dawn Landes plus Michael Robert Todd 8:15 p.m. 17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's Bar

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

The Burren

Front Room Exile on Elm **Back Room** Comedy@10

247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA'S Lounge

Full Scene Ahead|"CD Swap 345 Somerville Ave 617-776-1557

On The Hill Tavern

499 Broadway 617-629-5302

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

Precinct Bar

Closed for renovations 70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe's Pub

The Nephrok All Stars 366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen

150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Samba Bar & Grille

608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

Radio Bar

379 Summer St

Joshua Tree Bar & Grill

Pub Trivia

8:30 p.m.|256 Elm Street|(617) 623-9910

Thursday|February 13

Johnny D's

Bernie Worrell Orchestra 8:15 p.m.|17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's

Flatt Rabbit grassy Thursdays 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

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

PA'S Lounge

"Campfire" hosted by Ben

Bullock

345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

On The Hill Tavern

Live DJ Music 499 Broadway|617-629-5302

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

Precinct Bar Closed for renovations

70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

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

Joshua Tree

6045

256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

Samba Bar & Grille

608 Somerville Ave|617-718-

Somerville Theatre

Awkward Compliment's Thursday Night Comedy Night 8 p.m.|55 Davis Square

Radio Bar

379 Summer St

Friday February 14

Johnny D's

Booty Vortex : Valentine's Day with Booty Love Songs 17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's

The Kevins with Bucky & Jimmy 6 p.m. Super Ska | 9 p.m. 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-

The Burren

3589

Front Room Irish Session|9:30 p.m. Back Room Jimmy's Down 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Orleans Restaurant and Bar

10 p.m. 65 Holland St

Precinct Bar Closed for renovations 70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

PA'S Lounge

Boston League of Women Wrestlers (BLOWW) Annual Vajayjay Day Show|Viva Gina|BLOWW|Solo Sexx|Atomic Savants 345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

On The Hill Tavern

499 Broadway |617-629-5302

Orleans Restaurant and Bar DI starting at 10 p.m.

65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Bull McCabe's The Silks

366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

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

Samba Bar & Grille Live music

Joshua Tree

9 p.m.|608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

Casey's

Entertainment every Friday 173 Broadway|617-625-5195

Radio Bar 379 Summer St.

Saturday February 15 Johnny D's

Rick Derringer, This event has been postponed, please check back for more information "Six Dollar Saturday" with New York Funk Exchange. 17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's

Les Sampou Trio |6 p.m One Thin Dime |9 p.m. 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

Front Room Irish Session|9:30 p.m. **Back Room** Spike the Punch 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Precinct Bar

Closed for renovations 70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Orleans Restaurant and Bar

Karaoke 65 Holland St

PA'S Lounge

345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557 On the Hill Tavern

Live DJ Music 499 Broadway 617-629-5302

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

Joshua Tree

DJ El Sid!

256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

• • • • VILLENS ON THE TOWN • • • •

Samba Bar & Grille

Live Band & DJ 608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

Casey's

Entertainment every Saturday 173 Broadway 617- 625-5195

Radio Bar

379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory

7 p.m.|Cafe Who's Sorry Now?: Songs of Love, Regret and Revenge 7:30 p.m.|Performance Hall|191

David Tanklefsky and Friends

Sunday February 16

Johnny D's

Highland Ave

Open Blues Jam! featuring Matthew Smart Band|4 p.m. The Amazing Sensations|8:30 p.m.

17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's Bar

Frank Drake Sunday Showcase |5 p.m

Fiendish Thingies |8 p.m. 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

Front Room

Sunday Americana with Sean Staples, Eric Royer, Tim Gearan, Dave Westner and Dan Keller|7 p.m.

Back Room

Burren Acoustic Music Series 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA'S Lounge

345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

Precinct Bar

Closed for renovations 70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe's Pub

Dub Apocalypse

366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen

Sunday Brunch Live Country & Bluegrass

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

Orleans Restaurant and Bar

Game Night 65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Radio Bar

379 Summer St

Samba Bar & Grille Live Band & DJ 608 Somerville Ave|617-718-

Arts at the Armory

February Parkour Workshop 11 a.m.|Performance Hall|191 Highland Ave

Monday|February 17

Johnny D's

Johnny D's Comedy Showcase Presents: One Microphone|7 p.m. Stump! Pub Trivia|8:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m.|17 Holland St | 617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's Bar

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

335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

Front Room

Bur- Run|6:45 p.m.

Back Room
Irish Step Dancing

247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

On The Hill Tavern

499 Broadway|617-629-5302

PA'S Lounge

Americana Night 345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

Precinct Bar

Closed for renovations 70 Union Sq|617-623-921

Bull McCabe's Pub

Stump! Team Trivia

8 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Radio Bar 379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory

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

Tuesday|February 18

Johnny D's

17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's Bar

Mike Gent & The Rapid Shave |9 p.m.

335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

Front Room Jason Anick

Jason Anick and the Swingers|8:30 p.m. Back Room Open Mic w/Hugh McGowan 247 Elm Streetl617-776-6896

On The Hill Tavern

Stump Trivia (with prizes) 499 Broadway|617-629-5302

PA'S Lounge

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

Precinct Bar

Closed for renovations 70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe's Pub

The Ghetto People Band 366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen

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

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

Samba Bar & Grille

608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

PJ Ryan's

Egoart.

Pub Quiz

10 p.m.|239 Holland St.|617-625-8200

Radio Bar

379 Summer St

Arts at the Armory

First and Last Word Poetry Series 7 p.m.|Performance Hall|191 Highland Ave

Wednesday|February 19

Johnny D's

17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's Bar Free Poker, lots of prizes!

335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

Front Room Exile on Elm

Back Room

Comedy@10 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA'S Lounge

Full Scene Ahead|"CD Swap 345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557

On The Hill Tavern

499 Broadway|617-629-5302

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

Precinct Bar

Closed for renovations 70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

Bull McCabe's Pub

The Nephrok All Stars 366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen

150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Samba Bar & Grille

608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

Radio Bar

379 Summer St

Joshua Tree Bar & Grill Pub Trivia

8:30 p.m.|256 Elm Street|(617) 623-9910

CLASSES AND GROUPS Wednesday | February 12

Central Library

Mothers Out Front and SHS Students

Patricia Wild|617 628 3717 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Central Library

Mystery Book Club 7 p.m.-9p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Third Life Studio

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

Thursday | February 13

West Branch Library

Learn English at the Library! (Session 1)6:00 PM - 7:00 p.m. (Session 2)7:15 PM - 8:15 p.m. 40 College Avenue

Central Library

Drop-In Meditation Maria Carpenter 617-623-5000 x2910

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.|79 Highland

Avenue 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 (Upstairs Parlor).

For more info call: 781-762-6629

33 Unions Sq. | www.libana.com

Friday | February 14

Third Life Studio Roots and Rhythm

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

Saturday| February 15

Winter Farmers' Market 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Bagel Bards

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

Third Life Studio

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

Sunday|February 16

Unity Church of God

Fourth Step to Freedom Al-Anon Family Groups

7:00 P.M. | 6 William Street Enter upstairs, meeting is in basement.

Third Life Studio

Discover Belly Dance with Nadira Jamal 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.|33 Union

Sq|www.nadirajamal.com Monday|February 17

Presidents Day - Libraries Closed

Third Life Studio

Discover Belly Dance with Nadira Jamal 6 p.m.|33 Union Sq|www.nadira-

Tuesday | February 18

Central Library

jamal.com

Learn English at the Library!
6 p.m.-7 p.m.|79 Highland
Avenue
Arts at the Armory

Prenatal Yoga 7 p.m.|Mezzanine|191 Highland

Ave

Third Life StudioThe Art of Group Singing For

Women with Susan Robbins, www.libana.

7 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.|33 Union Sq

Wednesday | February 19

Third Life Studio

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



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71622018 \$513.900 Two family. 13 rooms, 6 bedrooms, 4 baths. Well maintained, Good size yard with shed, off street parking for 6-8 cars

Somerville

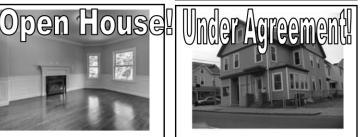


71578023 \$989,000 Condo. 7 rooms, 3 bedrooms, 4 baths. Davis Square, large Luxury condominium. Open living/ dining area w/ fireplace.



71587711 \$769,000. Sunday, Feb. 16 1pm. to 3p.m. 5 Hall Avenue unit #1 **Davis Square - Large** 2 Bedroom Luxury Condo

Hyde Park



71602755 \$371,000. Two family. 11 rooms, 6 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Hardwood/tile floors. Very unique home. Lots of possibilities!





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The Somerville Times

Touching history through presidential letters and biographies CONT. FROM PG 1

whole different world from a quick apology note saying the president is unable to attend a social function. If the content is important, letters from Washington and Lincoln can run into the hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars.

If you had to make a guess as to which presidential letters are the most rare, few people would say those of William Henry Harrison. He got sick with pneumonia at his inauguration and died a month later. Needless to say, he wrote very few letters in that brief amount of time.

If you are watching your collecting expenses, you can find letters written by presidents before or after their term as president, or other objects besides letters that are signed by them. A lot of presidential letters can be picked up relatively reasonably, for a few hundred dollars. Be careful, however. Latter-day presidents don't always sign their own letters. From Kennedy onward, presidents began relying on secretaries, signing machines, rubber stamps and the like. Scrutinize them closely and if needed, call in an outsider to verify the signature. In our electronic age, one thing that has stopped is handwriting of virtually everything, particularly correspondence.

One of the great things to study with the old presidential letters and manuscripts is the drafts that preceded the final version. You can get a good idea of the thought processes that went into the composition, and the personality of the writer, in different versions of a letter. Nowadays, you only see the final copy because most letters are composed on a computer. In addition, the bulk of the letter is machine printed, with only the signature and maybe a postscript being handwritten by the president.

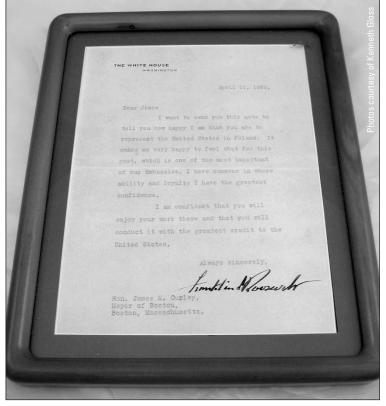
Autographs and signed materials are very popular with collectors, particularly those who have a passion for their subject, because they seem to bring you closer to the person who signed it. I've held letters written by Washington, Roosevelt, and Kennedy. When you touch that document, running your finger over the place where the president's pen rested, it's amazing to realize that person actually touched the same piece of paper and held their pen to it. It is part of the allure of collecting signed pieces. You are attached, tactically and vicariously, to

whom ever wrote it.

A lot of people who collect presidential autographs and other presidential memorabilia are very interested in American history and the history of the presidency. One of the best ways to study a presidential term is through both autobiographies and biographies, because each lends its own perspective. Some of these books may be signed, a practice you will find more common with modern presidents. The classic presidential biography is George Washington's. Parson Mason Locke Weems was a traveling book salesman who wrote four editions of Washington's life story when he realized sales had started to slow down. For the fifth edition, he made up the story about the cherry tree and it sold like crazy, with that story sticking to this day. Weem's The Life of Washington is one of the most rare books to look for.

Some collectors focus on one president. Some people collect only campaign biographies that tend to be much, much different from later historical biographies, the latter offering a more honest and well-rounded view. One of the best-written biographies is the story of Franklin Pierce. Written by Nathaniel Hawthorne, it earned the author a job as a customs official afterwards.

While not impossible, it can be quite difficult to collect every one of the presidential biographies. For some presidents, there aren't many versions still in existence. The most expensive biographies, however, are relatively cheap compared to collecting presidential signatures. This is a great way of collecting presidential material without having to



Letter signed by FDR.

spend a lot of money.

In addition to signatures and books there are also many ephemeral things, like campaign buttons, which you can collect to complete your presidential collection. Overall, material on presidents abounds and offers a great place for a beginning collector to start amassing a group of interesting items.

Ken Gloss is the owner of the Brat-

tle Book Shop in Boston, the oldest antiquarian bookstore in the United States. The Gloss family has owned the Brattle Book Shop for 58 years. Ken has been seen on PBS' "Antiques Road Show." Further information about the show, Ken's free and open talks and getting books appraised can be found at www.brattlebookshop. com or by call 1-800-447-9595 or visiting the shop at 9 West Street in downtown Boston.

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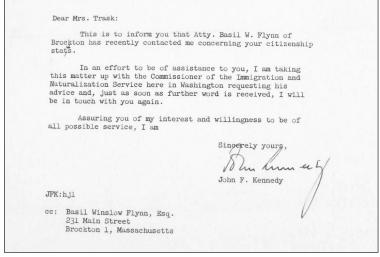
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Letter signed by JFK.

Memory Lane CONT. FROM PG 10

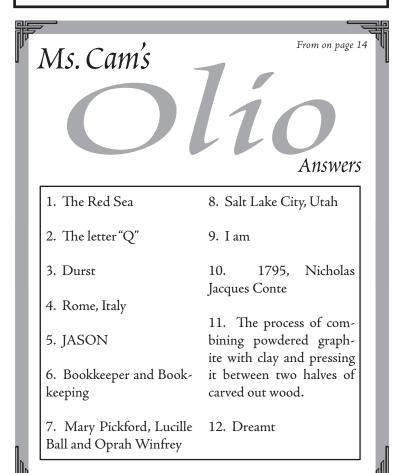
on March 12, 1992.

old stomping grounds that we had so much fun at in the old days. Lots of the memories associated with Memory Lane

include large-sized margaritas, We all have memories of those stingers, Bloody Marys and mudslides, which may have actually dulled the memory. Nevertheless, I thank those who contributed to this story. It's our recollections of the past that keep us in touch with our younger selves, but it's our continued good health and wisdom that allows us to keep creating more memories.



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Somerville Community Access TV Ch.3 Programming Guide

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Farrakhan Speal	10:00pm	Why is Mine a Problem?	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	5:00pm	Wednesday, February 12		
Porchfe	11:00pm	Festival Kreyol	The Folkorist	5:30pm	Life Matters	7:30am	
ebruary 17	Monday, I	Tele Galaxie	France 24 World News (Free Speech TV)	6:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00am	
Eckanka	7:30am	Dead Air Live	Somerville Neighborhood News (re-run)	6:30pm	Somerville Newspaper Reading	9:00am	
Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV	8:00am	Reeling the Movie Review Show	Chatting with History	7:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	10:00am	
Somerville Newspaper Readin	9:00am	Play by Play	Fouye Zo Nan Kalalou	8:00pm	Art at SCATV	10:30am	
Bay State Biking New	10:00am	Henry Parker Presents	Water is Life	9:30pm	Abugida TV	11:00am	
Nossa gente e Costume	11:00am	Culture Club	bruary 14	Friday, Fe	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	12:00pm	
Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV	12:00pm	Telemagazine	Shrink Rap	7:30am	Henry Parker Presents	1:30pm	
Exercise with Robyn and Ma	3:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00am	Physician Focus	2:00pm	
Esoteric Science	3:30pm	Somerville Housing Authority	Somerville Newspaper Reading	9:00am	Medical Tutor	3:00pm	
ne Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech T		Tele Kreyol	High School Peer Pressure	10:00am	Healthy Hypnosis	3:30pm	
Youth Violence in Societ	5:00pm	Somerville Newspaper Reading	Sound Off	11:00am	he Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	4:00pm Tl	
Youth Programmin	5:30pm	David Pakman (Free Speech TV)	Peace by Piece	11:30am	Peace by Piece	5:30pm	
France 24 World News (Free Speech TV	6:00pm	Nossa Gente e Costumes	Somerville Housing Authority	12:00pm	France 24 World News (Free Speech TV)	6:00pm	
Nepali Producers Grou	7:00pm	Black History Mobile Museum	Somerville Arts Festival	12:30pm	Bullying PSA	6:30pm	
Outside the Line	8:00pm	Gay USA	Seeds of Death	1:30pm	Tufts University's Films for Social Change	7:00pm	
Dedilhando au Saudad	9:00pm	ebruary 16	History of the West End	2:30pm	Somerville Pundits	8:00pm	
Bate Papo com Shirle	10:00pm	Program Celebrai	Brunch with Sen. Bernie Sanders	3:00pm	Perils for Pedestrians	8:30pm	
· ·		Rompendo em Fe	ne Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	4:00pm Tl	Bay State Biking News	9:00pm	
ebruary 18	•	Effort Pour Christ	Greater Somerville	5:00pm	Creepy Castle	10:00pm	
The Strugg	7:00am	Heritage Baptist Church	Somerville Neighborhood News	5:30pm	, February 13	Thursday	
Democracy Now! (Free Speech T\	8:00am	International Church of God	France 24 World News (Free Speech TV)	6:00pm	Atheist Viewpoint	6:00am	
Somerville Newspaper Readin	9:00am	The Folklorist	Reeling the Movie Review Show	6:30pm	Creating Cooperative Kids	7:00am	
Contemporary Issues in Science	10:00am	Basic Buddha	Real Estate Answers Show	7:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00am	
Democracy Now! (Free Speech T\	12:00pm	Play by Play	Couch's Corner	7:30pm	Somerville Neighborhood News (re-run)	9:00am	
The Folklori	2:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	Visual Radio	8:00pm	Somerville Newspaper Reading	9:30am	
ne Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech T\		Somerville Newspaper Reading	The Folklorist	9:00pm	Talking about Somerville	10:30am	
Poet to Poet/Writer to Write	5:00pm	Life Matters	Copy Cat Festival	9:30pm	Critical Focus	11:00am	
The Literati Scen	5:30pm	Rompendo em Fe	Untold Black Stories	10:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	12:00pm	
France 24 World News (Free Speech TV	6:00pm	Dedilhando a Saudade	Saturday, February 15		African Television	1:00pm	
Somerville Neighborhood New	7:00pm	Ethiopian Satellite TV	Arabic Hour	6:00am	Neighborhood Cooking w/ Candy	2:00pm	
Greater Somervil	7:30pm	Abugida TV	High School Peer Pressure	7:00am	Cooking with Georgia & Dez	2:30pm	
Dead Air Liv	8:00pm	African Television Network	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	8:00am	Chef's Table Series	3:00pm	
MEH Kyown's Televisio	9:00pm	Tele Magazine	Everybody has an Accent,	8:30am	he Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	'	
Penny's Dreadful Shilling Shocke	10:00pm	Effort Pour Christ	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		(

City Cable TV Schedule for the Week

12:00pm:

1:30pm:

3:00pm: 4:30pm: 5:30pm: 7:00pm:

10:00pm:

Saturday,

12:00am:

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2:00pm:

4:00pm:

5:00pm:

5:30pm:

ſ	CITY TV 1	13/22	Sunday, I	ebruary 16
1	Wednesd	ay, February 12	12:00am:	SomerViva
1	9:00am:	SomerViva	12:30am:	2014 Property Assessment Info Session
1	9:30am:	MLK Day Celebration	1:30am:	BOA Public Hearing - Property Assessment
1	12:00pm:	Voices of Somerville	9:00am:	Sit & Be Fit: Fibromyalgia Workout
-	12:30pm:	Aldermen at Work	12:00pm:	Senior Circuit
1	1:00pm:	A Discussion on Housing in Somerville	12:30pm:	Sit & Be Fit: Fibromyalgia Workout
-	2:00pm:	BOA Public Hearing - Property Assessment	1:00pm:	Voices of Somerville
-	6:30pm:	Voices of Somerville	1:30pm:	Green Line Extension Meeting 1.15.14
-	7:00pm:	BOA Public Hearing - Property Assessment	2:30pm:	MLK Day Celebration
-	10:00pm:	BOA Agenda for 2.13.14 Meeting	7:00pm:	Senior Circuit
-			7:30pm:	Sit & Be Fit: Diabetes Workout
-	•	, February 13	8:00pm:	Voices of Somerville
-	12:00am:	Voices of Somerville	8:30pm:	Board of Aldermen Meeting –
-	12:30am:	A Discussion on Housing in Somerville		REPLAY OF 2.13.14
-	1:30am:	Green Line Extension Meeting 1.15.14	Monday.	February 17
-	9:00am:	BOA Public Hearing – Property Assessment	12:00am:	Senior Circuit
-	12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	12:30am:	Sit & Be Fit: Diabetes Workout
-	12:30pm:	Sit & Be Fit: Diabetes Workout	1:00am:	Board of Aldermen Meeting –
-	1:00pm:	2014 City Hall Inaugural Ceremonies		REPLAY OF 2.13.14
-	2:45pm:	Aldermen at Work	9:00am:	2014 City Hall Inaugural Ceremonies
-		apuano School Playground Ribbon Cutting	12:00pm:	Board of Aldermen Meeting –
-	7:00pm:	Board of Aldermen Meeting - LIVE		REPLAY OF 2.13.14
-		ebruary 14	3:30pm:	SomerViva
-	12:00am:	Aldermen at Work	7:00pm:	BOA Public Hearing - Property Assessment
-	12:30am:	A Discussion on Housing in Somerville	10:00pm:	Voices of Somerville
-	1:30am:	Voices of Somerville	10:30pm:	Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte
-	2:00am:	SomerViva	•	February 18
-	9:00am:	Voices of Somerville	12:00am:	A Discussion on Housing in Somerville
-	12:00pm:	The Spirit of Somerville:	1:00am:	Somerville By Design: Davis Square Plan
-		Eugene Brune Lecture		ne Spirit of Somerville: Eugene Brune Lecture
-	12:30pm:	SomerViva	2:30am:	Aldermen at Work
-	1:00pm:	A Discussion on Housing in Somerville	9:00am:	Voices of Somerville
-	2:00pm:	MLK Day Celebration	12:00pm:	Senior Circuit
-	6:30pm:	2014 City Hall Inaugural Ceremonies	12:30pm:	Sit & Be Fit Diabetes Workout
-		apuano School Playground Ribbon Cutting	1:00pm:	SomerViva
-	8:30pm:	A Discussion on Housing in Somerville	1:30pm:	MLK Day Celebration
-	9:30pm:11	ne Spirit of Somerville: Eugene Brune Lecture	3:00pm:	Seriously Somerville w/ Jimmy Del Ponte
-	Saturday	, February 15	7:00pm:	Senior Circuit
-	12:00am:	SomerViva	7:30pm:	Sit & Be Fit: Diabetes Workout
-	12:30am:	2014 City Hall Inaugural Ceremonies	8:00pm:	SomerViva
	2:15am: C	apuano School Playground Ribbon Cutting	8:30pm:	Green Line Extension Meeting 1.15.14
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A Discussion on Housing in Somerville

A Discussion on Housing in Somerville

2014 City Hall Inaugural Ceremonies

2014 Property Assessment Info Session

8:00pm: BOA Public Hearing - Property Assessment

SomerViva

SomerViva

Wednesday, February 12

Kennedy School Winter Concert

The Spirit of Somerville:

Eugene Brune Lecture

Voices of Somerville

2:30am:

9:00am:

12:00pm:

12:30pm:

1:30pm:

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7:00pm:

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:00am:	Sit & Be Fit: Fibromyalgia Workout
2:00pm:	Senior Circuit
2:30pm:	Sit & Be Fit: Fibromyalgia Workout
:00pm:	Voices of Somerville
:30pm:	Green Line Extension Meeting 1.15.14
2:30pm:	MLK Day Celebration
':00pm:	Senior Circuit
':30pm:	Sit & Be Fit: Diabetes Workout
3:00pm:	Voices of Somerville
3:30pm:	Board of Aldermen Meeting –
	REPLAY OF 2.13.14
Monday,	February 17
2:00am:	Senior Circuit
2:30am:	Sit & Be Fit: Diabetes Workout
:00am:	Board of Aldermen Meeting –
	REPLAY OF 2.13.14
:00am:	2014 City Hall Inaugural Ceremonies
2:00pm:	Board of Aldermen Meeting –
•	REPLAY OF 2.13.14
:30pm:	SomerViva
':00pm:	BOA Public Hearing - Property Assessment
0:00pm:	Voices of Somerville
0:30pm:	Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte
uesday,	February 18
2:00am:	A Discussion on Housing in Somerville
:00am:	Somerville By Design: Davis Square Plan
:30am:Th	ne Spirit of Somerville: Eugene Brune Lecture
2:30am:	Aldermen at Work
:00am:	Voices of Somerville
2:00pm:	Senior Circuit
2:30pm:	Sit & Be Fit Diabetes Workout
:00pm:	SomerViva
:30pm:	MLK Day Celebration
:00pm:	Seriously Somerville w/ Jimmy Del Ponte
':00pm:	Senior Circuit
':30pm:	Sit & Be Fit: Diabetes Workout
3:00pm:	SomerViva
3:30pm:	Green Line Extension Meeting 1.15.14
:30pm:	A Discussion on Housing in Somerville
2:00am:	Senior Circuit
2:30am:	Sit & Be Fit: Diabetes Workout
:00am:	SomerViva
:30pm:	A Discussion on Housing in Somerville
2:30pm:	Green Line Extension Meeting 1.15.14
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10.00	Lid stoff Konned Deal				
10:00am:	kid stuff - Kennedy Pool WHCIS Fashion Show				
11:00am:					
12:00pm:	SHS Hockey vs. Medford				
1:30pm:	kid stuff - Kennedy Pool				
2:00pm:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. Cambridge				
4:00pm:	SHS Indoor Track vs. Everett				
5:00pm:	Kennedy School Winter Concert				
6:00pm:	WHCIS Fashion Show				
6:30pm:	SHS Hockey vs. Medford				
8:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Medford				
10:00pm:	SHS Hockey vs. Revere				
Thursday, February 13					
12:00am:	SHS Hockey vs. Revere				
2:00am:	Kennedy School Winter Concert				
3:00am:	kid stuff - Kennedy Pool				
3:30am:	WHCIS Fashion Show				
4:00am:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. Burke HS				
9:00am:	Our Schools, Our City -				
	Learning In a Digital Age				
9:30am:	Registering for Kindergarten 2014-15				
10:00am:	Argenziano School's MLK Concert				
11:00am:	Kennedy School Winter Concert				
12:00pm:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. O'Bryant				
2:00pm:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. Burke HS				
3:30pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Malden				
5:00pm:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. Everett				
7:00pm:	SHS Boys vs. Malden Catholic - LIVE				
10:00pm:	SHS Boys vs. Malden Catholic				
Friday, February 14					
12:00am:	SHS Boys vs. Malden Catholic				
2:00am:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. Everett				
4:00am:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Medford				
9:00am:	kid stuff -Groundwork Somerville				
10:00am:	Argenziano School's MLK Concert				
11:00am:	Kennedy School Winter Concert				

SHS Girls Basketball vs. NDA - LIVE
SHS Girls Basketball vs. NDA
February 15
SHS Girls Basketball vs. NDA
SHS Boys Basketball vs. Cambridge
kid stuff -Groundwork Somerville
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SHS Girls Basketball vs. NDA
SHS Boys vs. Malden Catholic
SHS Hockey vs. Revere
kid stuff -Groundwork Somerville
WHCIS Fashion Show

SHS Indoor Track vs. Everett 7:00pm: SHS Girls Basketball vs. NDA 10:00pm: SHS Boys vs. Malden Catholic

Sunday, February 16 12:00am: SHS Girls Basketball vs. NDA 2:00am: SHS Hockey vs. Revere 7:30am: SHS Hockey vs. Everett 9:00am: kid stuff -Groundwork Somerville 10:00am: Argenziano School's MLK Concert Kennedy School Winter Concert 11:00am: 12:00pm: SHS Girls Basketball vs. NDA 2:00pm: SHS Girls Basketball vs. Medford SHS Boys Basketball vs. Cambridge 3:30pm: kid stuff -Groundwork Somerville 5:00pm: 5:30pm: Argenziano School's MLK Concert

7:00pm: SHS Girls Basketball vs. NDA 9:00pm: Kennedy School Winter Concert 10:00pm: SHS Boys vs. Malden Catholic Monday, February 17

12:00am:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. Cambridge
9:00am:	Our Schools, Our City -
	Learning In a Digital Age
9:30am:	SCAP Community Gameshow
10:15am:	Legoland Visits WHCIS
11:00am:	SHS Boys Basketball vs Reading
12:30pm:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. Arlington
2:00pm:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. Malden
5:00pm:	Our Schools, Our City -
	Learning In a Digital Age
5:30pm:	SCAP Community Gameshow
6:15pm:	Legoland Visits WHCIS
7:00pm:	SHS Boys Basketball vs Reading
8:30pm:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. Arlington
10:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Winthrop
Tuesday, Febru	ary 18
	9:00am: 9:30am: 10:15am: 11:00am: 12:30pm: 2:00pm: 5:00pm: 5:30pm: 6:15pm: 7:00pm: 8:30pm:

10:00pm:	SHS Giris Basketball vs. Winthrop			
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12:00am:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. Arlington			
1:30am:	SHS Boys Basketball vs. Malden			
9:00am:	SHS Indoor Track vs. Everett			
10:00am:	WHCIS Fashion Show			
10:30am:	kid stuff -Groundwork Somerville			
11:00am:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. NDA			
1:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Medford			
2:30pm:	SHS Hockey vs. Revere			
4:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Medford			
5:30pm:	SHS Indoor Track vs. Everett			
6:30pm:	kid stuff -Groundwork Somerville			
7:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. NDA			
9:00pm:	SHS Hockey vs. Latin Academy			
10:30pm:	SHS Hockey vs. Revere			
12:00am:	SHS Hockey vs. Latin Academy			
1:30am:	SHS Hockey vs. Revere			

SOMERVILLE edited by Doug Holder

For as long as I have known Cambridge Poet Populist Lo Galluccio, she has always provided a unique take on things. I asked her for a poem, and here is her unique take on fan worship. I would of asked a Somerville Poet Laureate to contribute a poem - but alas there is none. You would think in this highly



touted artistic community the powers-that-be would come up with something!?

Why I love Mickey Rourke

Because he barely batted an eye while one of the sexiest actresses in Hollywood did a strip tease for him in 9 1/2 weeks.

Because he ate 7 meals a day and put on 80 pounds to play a wrestler without even knowing he'd be paid.

Because he recovered because of his chi hua hua.

Because he played a beat poet in a film with Faye Dunaway.

Because he lost his acting career for 14 years for having an attitude problem.

Because he's Catholic.

Because if he met me we'd have a great time in bed cause I'm his type the other way around.

Because he's considered by some to be one of Hollywood's dumbest celebrities.

Because his plastic surgery finally turned out great.

Because he can text Sean Penn.

Because he's as cold as ice.

Because he adored his brother.

Because he's the worst lover in the world for you.

Because Mira Sorvino can upstage him on film doing a lap dance.

Because he lost gracefully to Sean Penn who beat him in the Oscars by playing a gay Mayor of San Francisco.

Because he lost all his money.

Because he knows the 12 steps.

Because he knows how to come back.

- Lo Galluccio

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

by Doug Holder

Poets in the Asylum:

The Poets of McLean Hospital

I am glad that my proposal to the Mass. Poetry Festival has been accepted. Here is the description of the panel blow. Hope you, dear readers, will be able to attend the Mass. Poetry Festival in Salem, Mass. this May.

This panel will present during the Mass. Poetry Festival May May 2 to 4, 2014.

This panel will discuss three noted McLean Hospital associated poets: Robert Lowell, Anne Sexton, and Sylvia Plath. All three of these Confessional poets were psychiatric patients at one time at McLean. Lowell wrote his canonical poem Waking in the Blue about his experiences at Mc-Lean on Bowditch Hall. Sexton led poetry groups there and was once hospitalized briefly at McLean; Plath was hospitalized at the hospital and her novel The Bell Jar was based on her experiences during her tenure there.

McLean Hospital, a psychiatric hospital in Belmont, Mass. has been declared a national literary landmark, because of the many creative geniuses afflicted by mental illness that have been treated on its wards. The panel will discuss each of these poets, (Lowell, Plath and Sexton) their experiences as patients, how their experience is reflected in their work, and how and what they managed to create with such a heavy burden of psychiatric illness.

Panel members will include Lois Ames author of the biographical note to The Bell Jar and Anne Sexton: A Self-Portrait in Letters, Kathleen Spivack author of With Robert Lowell and His Circle, and Bob Clawson, confidante to Sexton and manager of her folk/rock band Anne Sexton and Her Kind.

The moderator will be Doug Holder, a poet, counselor and, author of the poetry collection Poems of Boston and Just Beyond: From the Back Bay to the Back Ward and poetry group leader at McLean Hospital since 1982.

Full information on the festival is available at http://masspoetry.org.



Robert Lowell.



Sylivia Plath.



Anne Sexton.

'Muskat Studios: The First 20'

Muskat Studios, a professional lithography studio and gallery under the ownership of Master Printer Carolyn Muskat, is celebrating 20 years of collaboration and artistic creation with a special exhibition at Brickbottom Gallery showing now through March 8.

Begun in 1993, Muskat Studios provides the environment gional and national artists to produce exceptional prints and works on paper.

In the main gallery space is a survey of the collaborative prints, editions, and artists' books created at Muskat Studios over the past 20 years. In the small room is a selection of Muskat's own artwork. Master Printers

and technical expertise for re- are often considered primarily technicians. This is not the case with Carolyn Muskat, who is an accomplished artist working in various printmaking techniques to create 2D and 3D work, as well as installations.

> Brickbottom Gallery, 1 Fitchburg Street, Somerville, MA 02143. Phone: 617-776-3410. brickbottomartist@rcn.com.



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mdropkin@dropkinmatza.com