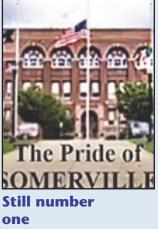


VOL. 11 NO. 8

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:



page 3



A COA Valentine's Day party page 13



SHS Girls Basketball page 13

City considers relationship status non-discrimination legislation



The city's Legislative Matters Committee is considering changes to the Code of Ordinances to ensure the rights of alternative family structures.

By Jim Clark

On February 14, the Somerville City Council's Legislative Matters Committee convened for their regularly scheduled meeting. Committee Chairperson Ward 6 Councilor Lance L. Davis, Vice Chair Councilor At-Large Charlotte Kelly, Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott, Ward 1 Councilor Matthew Mc-Laughlin and At-Large Councilor Willie Burnley Jr. were all present virtually for the meeting.

At the top of the agenda, four Code of Ordinances amendments concerning "Relationship Status" were discussed:

1) An order that the City Solicitor work with the Council to amend the Code of Ordinances to include non-discrimination provisions based on relationship status.

'Expansion of the Garden' at Arts at the Armory

The Somerville Arts Council and Michael Talbot present *Expansion of the Garden, A Journey Into Mindfulness* exhibit at Arts at the Armory, beginning on Saturday, February 25, with an opening reception on Friday, February 24.

Expansion Of The Garden showcases works by Michael Talbot initially displayed at Urbanica Gallery in Roxbury under the title *Warriors In The Garden*, as well as new additions by collaborating artist Phoebe Warner as a means of expanding upon the original theme and concept.

The body of work on display serves as an exploration and appreciation for individuals within our respective communities who often go unnoticed or underappreciated, while highlighting and focusing on the importance of practicing awareness of self and others. For the opening, Sean *Continued on page 4*



The works of Michael Talbot, Phoebe Warner and Sean Webster will be featured at Arts at the Armory beginning this weekend.





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

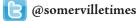
The City of Somerville's Inclusionary Housing Program and Winter Hill Bank invite the Somerville community to join a First-Time Home Buyer Seminar on Wednesday, February 22, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Register online at winterhillbank.com/ lending/homebuyer-seminar to attend. Depending on interest, the seminar will be held at either the Winter Hill Loan Center Conference Room (345 Broadway) or The Somerville Public Library auditorium (79 Highland Avenue). Registered attendees will receive a location confirmation via email prior to the event. While space is limited, everyone who pre-registers is welcome. Translation services are available upon request. For more information on the Inclusionary Housing Program, please visit somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing.

This week is **school vacation**. Find resources for free food over February break at https://somervillefoodsecurity.org/free-foodto-cook-at-home.

Happy birthday this week to the following: Happy birthday to Sean Fitzgerald, who is celebrating this week. We wish Sean a great day. Happy birthday to City Councilor Kristen Strezo. We wish her a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to Christine Resmini. We hope she has a great day as well. Happy birthday to great guy, Eamon Fee, who celebrates this week. We hope he has a great year. Happy birthday to another good guy, *Continued on page 7*

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com www.thesomervilletimes.com Phone: 857-488-5138



www.facebook.com/ thesomervilletimes

Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc. Editor – Jim Clark Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Molly Rains, Fernando Cervantes Jr., Ryan DiLellio, Kyle Dante

Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte, Dorothy Dimarzo, Joe Creason, Bob Doherty, Ross Blouin Photographer: Claudia Ferro

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

A proud member of the following newspaper organizations:



© 2022 The Somerville Times except where noted. All rights reserved.

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of February 22 – February 28 as provided by the National Weather Service

	DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Č	Wednesday February 22	Partly Cloudy	45°/31°	3%	1%	WNW 12 mph
÷	Thursday February 23	Rain	39°/28°	95%	87%	ENE 14 mph
Č	Friday February 24	Partly Cloudy	33°/9°	19%	13%	W 17 mph
	Saturday February 25	Cloudy	25°/21°	15%	11%	NW 7 mph
Č	Sunday February 26	Partly Cloudy	44°/29°	24%	16%	WSW 11 mph
÷	Monday February 27	Snow	39°/23°	32%	29%	NW 13 mph
÷	Tuesday February 28	Snow	38°/26°	42%	34%	NW 15 mph

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

Emergency donations sought for fire victims in Somerville

On February 13, more than 50 people, including 16 children, were displaced by an apartment block fire on Highland Avenue. Fortunately, everyone got out safely, but significant challenges remain for our neighbors and students who cannot return to their homes. More than 13 city departments and a half-dozen partner agencies mobilized to set up temporary shelter, food, and other supports, but your help is needed for what comes next.

These residents have been uprooted and their lives turned upside down. If you are willing and able, please donate to the Somerville Homeless Coalition's emergency fund. Donations of any size will help rebuild our community, one family



at a time. The fund is designed to provide immediate relief to the affected residents and will help other neighbors in need as they face future emergencies.

Special thanks to Somerville Firefighters Local 76 for quickly knocking down the fire and saving lives that day.

You can donate and select "Emergency Fund" to support these families, students, and residents here: https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/wOoaCM8xK3Hq12RqCwXZNN

Follow us on Twitter at @somervilletimes





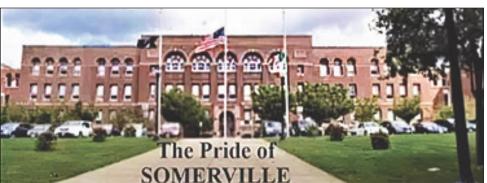
It's easy to complain about all the changes Somerville is going through but we have to keep one thing in mind and that is our pride for our city shines

through. I've always been proud to be from Somerville as most of my friends are also. Folks my age go to grow up in the best city anywhere. We experienced the "old" Somerville and got to see all the exciting changes.

We have a brand-new high school to boast about. We have a very friendly and efficient police force and a heroic fire department. Somerville is surely a place to be proud of. It's so easy to criticize new traffic patterns and disappearing parking meters along with increasing rents but our basic pride still shines through. We've won the All-America City award three times, and we can't forget those great sports tournaments back in the day. We can't forget the grade teachers third of school that's in the 60s 70s and 80s. A lot of those teachers became friends. Plus, we now have the Green Line!

We always had the best musical instructors in the city who passed their passion on to students many of whom enjoyed careers in music.

This is from a longtime resident. "For those of us who grew up there in the 50s, there was an old-time family feel, a neigh-



borhood of friends where everyone knew each other and there were block parties. All the old neighborhood stores that were everywhere, the parades, the social gatherings, the school and church outings. Three channels on the TV and rock and roll on the radio ... yup it was a blast back then." As the city grows there will be growing pains but one thing still rings true. Somerville still leads the way. There are Somerville natives all over New England and all over the world. They all have that coolness about them from growing up here. "Wave high ye gilded banners."

The photo is from the Pride Of Somerg ville Facebook page. Check it out.

Somerville's Parks Tree Health Program gets underway this spring

The City of Somerville's annual Parks Tree Health Program is set to begin this month to promote healthy tree growth and help preserve Somerville's urban forest. Now in its fourth year, the Parks Tree Health Program is designed to go beyond routine maintenance. Led by the Public Space and Urban Forestry Division, the program involves a comprehensive health assessment of parks trees by a certified arborist, proactive maintenance work, and development of long-term maintenance recommendations. This spring, 232 trees throughout seven parks will be assessed and maintained through the program.

Parks will close to the public on days when tree maintenance is taking place. This year's schedule is as follows:

Parks Tree Health Program Work Schedule – Park Closures Required

- + Glen Park / Capuano Field: February 21, 22, 23 and April 18 (school vacation weeks)
- Grimmons Park: February 24 and April 19
- Kenney Park: March 6, 7
- Morse-Kelly Playground: March 8
- Dickerman Playground: March 9 and April 17
- Stone Place Park: March 13
- City Hall Concourse / 1895 Building: April 17, 18, 19 (school vacation week)

For more information on the program, including a description of what assessment/maintenance activities are included and previous years' reports, visit somervillema.gov/treehealth.



Somerville community invited to help guide Police Chief recruitment

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne invites the community to join two public listening sessions for the Somerville Police Chief recruitment led by GovHR, the national executive staffing firm the city has selected to conduct the search.

The listening sessions are an early opportunity for community members to voice their goals, concerns, and expectations of both the search process and prospective candidates. Community feedback will serve as an invaluable tool as GovHR begins their extensive recruitment process.

The session schedule is as follows:

• Tuesday, February 28, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

- + This session will be hosted in English with live ASL interpretation and transcription services.
- Thursday, March 9, 5:30 6:30 p.m.

This session will be hosted in English with live interpretation in ASL, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole, Nepali, Cantonese, and Mandarin. Live transcription services will also be provided.

Somerville community members can register for the session on Tuesday, February 28, here: bit.ly/SPDListeningSession or by calling 311 (dial 311 or 617-666-3311). Registration information for the session on Thursday, March 9, will be shared closer to the date.

In advance of attending the sessions, community members are encouraged to consider what experience and priorities they believe the next Somerville Police Chief should possess to help ensure the GovHR search identifies candidates with the requisite qualifications and principles to lead the Somerville Police Department.

City considers relationship status non-discrimination legislation

CONT. FROM PG 1

2) An ordinance amending Section 1-4 of the Code of Ordinances to add definitions for relationship status and intimate personal relationship.

3) An ordinance amending Section 2-326 of the Code of Ordinances, related to the Personnel program.

4) An ordinance amending Sections 7-41, 7-43, 7-44, and 7-47 of the Code of Ordinances, related to Fair Housing.

Each of the agenda items were sponsored by Councilors Burnley Jr. and Scott.

After pointing out the irony of these items being taken up on Valentine's Day, Councilor Burnley Jr. spoke in favor of them saying, "These items are in a lot of ways follow-ups to the work previous councils have done as it pertains to multi-partner relationships. In 2020, the Council passed a domestic partnership ordinance that allows for multiple – in this case more than two – partners to enter into a domestic partnership.

"That was in my view fantastic, amazing," Burnley Jr. continued. "It filled a gap that needed to be filled, but then subsequently in some way created another, or enlarged another, because while we allowed individuals to be in domestic partnerships with more than one person, we did not codify in any way non-discrimination ordinances to ensure that those relationships were protected in the same way that monogamous relationships are protected.

Speaking further on the item, Burnley Jr. added, "So, the items

that we have before us, they very much hinge upon having a definition, which is the second item, amending Section 1-4, to create a definition for relationship status. I will say, there has been a little bit of changing of the terminology of relationship status. I'm hoping to perhaps substitute it for a different term, which is family and relationship structure, just because it's a little bit more encompassing of the wide berth of various relationships, and structures of relationships that people have in our community."

"What we're basically looking at here is a broad definition of family and relationship structures that includes households that have multiple parents beyond two" Burnley Jr. added. "Maybe a married couple, one of

them has a girlfriend, non-monogamy, and other family structures that are seen as non-typical are marginalized. And ensuring that there is no governmental discrimination for anyone who, for example, acts upon the law that we passed in 2020 to have a domestic partnership with more than one other person. In particular, these items go into ensuring that there's non-discrimination in our personnel programs, the city's hiring, fair housing for the city, biased policing, making sure that our controlled enforcement mechanisms do not discriminate against individuals based on their relationship status, or the structure of their family, as well as quite frankly our city's ethics policies."

ing, "I find that one quite humorous because the change in adding this definition to the ethics code would effectively make it so that an individual who has five boyfriends can't just put all those boyfriends on a board then rule over – I don't know - the Somerville Bicycle Advisory Council. And that's also important. So, this is really just filling in the gaps to make sure that we're not thinking on the marginalized communities that exist in our community, and that we advance rights for folks so we make sure that they can act upon them without judgement from the state."

After hearing further sponsored comments, the Committee referred the items for additional consideration at a future meeting.

Burnley Jr. concluded by say-

'Expansion of the Garden' at Arts at the Armory CONT. FROM PG 1

Webster (Copper Collective) will be hosting an introductory mindfulness session/demonstration that will incorporate healing through art, connection, and various other mindfulness practices such as breath work, movement, and meditation. Designed to help individuals connect with themselves and others, set intentions, chakra alignment, and experience healing in a collective way.

Growing up in Jamaica, Michael had always had a strong desire to inspire and speak to others through art. In 2012 he left his home country to live in the United States and began pursuing his artistic dreams doing illustration, graphic design, and animation, and has since been working as a Boston-based freelance artist on a wide range of projects, murals, exhibitions, and showcases. www. talbotsart.com, www.instagram. com/talbotsart.

Phoebe Warner (Pheebz) is a Boston-based interdisciplinary and community-engaged artist focused on the word "cultivate." They believe art is meant to feed the communities we live in- to stimulate our minds, to tell our stories, to send messages, to celebrate, and to commemorate. Pheebz shares a collaborative space at Humphreys Street Studios, and they are also co-founder of Crazypants Art LLC, Haus of Hussle, and a contributor to many Boston-based organizations and non-profits. www.instagram. com/pheebzcpa.

Sean Webster is a cultural or-

ganizer and urban sustainability advocate dedicated to building a more equitable world. He recognizes the vital role of artists in promoting social and environmental justice and strives to create spaces that amplify and connect Boston's creative communities. As the founder of Copper Collective, Sean promotes spatial justice through collaborative, meaningful projects that empower artists and visionaries to shape a more united and sustainable future. At the core of his vision is the recognition that collective healing is essential to social and environmental justice, and he strives to curate spaces that promote well-being, connection, and transformation. www.instagram.com/coppercollective.us/

Expansion of the Garden, A Journey Into Mindfulness at Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave, Suite 2A, Somerville, MA, opening reception on Friday, February 24, 6:00 p.m.



'They're our constituents too'

Land Use Committee amends neighborhood meeting legislation

By Ryan DiLello

The Somerville Land Use Committee voted unanimously to enable Councilors At-Large, or abutting councilors, to fill in at neighborhood meetings in the event that the ward's official councilor is unable to attend.

The proposal comes from the planning board as a way to address previous instances in which ward councilors were unable to hold neighborhood meetings. "This is a really well thought out procedure and it's kind of an issue we didn't foresee but does arise sometimes and we should have a standardized process for dealing with it," said Council President Ben Ewen-Campen.

The rest of the Committee echoed Councilor Ewen-Campen's sentiment and voted to affirm the recommendation.

In concluding remarks, Ward 1 Councilor Matthew McLaughlin asked for clarification on what constitutes a valid effort from the ward councilor to hold the neighborhood meeting. Further, he asked, "What happens if the ward councilor was not informed?" To which he suggested that hopefully the Council President will be looking out for fellow ward councilors.



Somerville School Committee to relaunch Superintendent search process

In a series of deliberations this week, the Somerville School Committee voted to immediately reopen the application process for a new Superintendent of Schools. The School Committee hopes to select a new Superintendent by July 2023, in advance of the new school year. In November 2022 the School Committee selected the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) to help lead the search process. MASC will be retained for the reopened search process.

In late January the School Committee announced three finalist candidates who were selected from a pool of 27 applicants. After one finalist removed themselves from consideration, at their regular meeting on February 13 the School Committee declined to offer the Superintendent position to either of the two remaining candidates. A new, expedited search process will kick off this week.

"I'm incredibly proud of the hard work that so many people put into our initial search process and thankful for the many candidates who expressed infied candidates, however we are committed to finding a candidate who has the right qualifications and skills and who meets the needs of our district as a whole. This School Committee is committed to doing the necessary, hard work to find the best possible candidate for the Somerville Public Schools. In this case, we have determined that this means reopening the search process while continuing to use the candidate profile we built based on the feedback from more than 450 SPS stakeholders. We will continue to invite public participation and feedback throughout this process," said Andre Green, Chair of the Somerville School Committee.

terest. We had some very quali-

"MASC is ready and eager to continue to continue with the reopening of the search for a new Superintendent of Schools. Reopening the search process solidifies the Somerville Public Schools' commitment to finding the best candidate who meets the needs of its district. Qualifications matter, certainly, but the community should be proud that its school committee is true to its core values and wants to select a candidate who will best meet the needs of their stakeholders. In my experience, reopening a search process turn out to be a very valuable to that end," said Glenn Koocher, Executive Director of MASC.

"We had some very qualified candidates..."

The application window for potential Superintendent candidates opened on February 16 and will remain open through March 9. Applicants from the previous search process will have the option to re-apply.

Applicants Sought for New Screening and Interview Team

The School Committee is also seeking volunteers to serve on a new Screening and Interview Team. The Screening and Interview Team will be tasked with the confidential review of applicant resumes, conducting the first round of candidate in-



terviews, and submitting a small pool of finalists to the full School Committee if they identify candidates they choose to advance to a second round. The Screening and Interview Team will be made up of representatives from the School Committee, SPS central administration, school administrators, educators, and community members. Anyone interested in serving on the Screening and Interview Team should fill out the form at the following link by Wednesday, March 1: Superintendent of Schools - Screening & Interview Team Interest Form: https://docs.google. com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScc B x - T p s g 9 z E b T B T gL25-973ftuIkKPRRkAM-WJRXJTZEK3iQ/viewform

Members of the former Screening Committee are welcome to express interest again. The Team members will be announced on Monday, March 6.

The search for a new Superintendent of Schools in SPS was launched in summer 2022, following former Superintendent Mary Skipper's selection as the Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools.



Volume 48 – Report No. 7 • February 13-17, 2023 • Copyright © 2022 Beacon Hill Roll Call. All Rights Reserved. By Bob Katzen

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

THE HOUSE AND SENATE. Beacon Hill Roll Call records local senators' votes on roll calls from recent February sessions. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

ALLOW 30 MINUTES BEFORE CONSIDERING NEW ITEMS (S 17)

Senate 5-33, rejected a Senate rules amendment that would require a 30-minute recess before considering new items on the Senate agenda calendar. Current rules require a recess but do not specify the minimum length of the recess

"This amendment would have ensured at least 30 minutes of time for the consideration of new matters pending before the Senate," said Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham), one of only two Democrats to vote for the amendment. "Especially considering the magnitude of some of the legislation that comes to the floor, 30 minutes seemed like a reasonable amount of time to review the content."

"I respect the intent of the ... amendment to ensure sufficient time to contemplate these issues coming before us," said Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem). "But [I] would suggest that we don't need a full 30 minutes to do so in every case."

(A "Yes" vote is for the 30-minute recess. A "No" vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

ELIMINATE REMOTE VOTING (S 17)

Senate 3-35, rejected a Senate rules amendment that would strike the rule that allows a senator to participate remotely, from their home, office or other location. In a Senate session. The rule was first instituted during the pandemic.

Amendment supporters said it is time to abolish remote voting and require senators to show up in person for Senate sessions. They argued that the remote voting system was reasonable and useful during the COVID epidemic but noted that remote voting ends up in senators not being able to talk and communicte with each other during the Senate sessions. Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Suttin), the sponsor of the amenmdent, did not respond to repeated attempts by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking him why he filed and supported the amendment.

Amendment opponents said that remote voting is a good second option for senators who cannot be in the chamber because of illness, family matters and more. They noted remote voting increases opportunities for senators to vote instead of not being recorded on a roll call because they are not in the chamber.

(A "Yes" vote is for striking the rule allowing remote vot-

ing and is therefore against remote voting. "A "No" vote is against eliminating the rule and therefore in favor of remote voting.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

ALLOW MINORITY REPORTS (S 18)

Senate 3-36, rejected a joint rules amendment that would allow opponents of a bill to issue a minority report on why they oppose a bill being reported out of a committee. Current rules allow senators to indicate that they oppose the bill but only the senators who support the bill are allowed to submit their reasons for supporting it. "Those in the minority of a committee decision should be allowed to offer a published record of why they dissented from the majority," said Sen. Patrick O'Connor (R-Weymouth). "The Supreme Court allows the dissenting justices of a decision to offer a recorded opinion and I believe this avenue has helped shape future public policy for the better."

"As we know, members are free to cast their votes in favor or in opposition to a chair's recommendation and such vote is recorded under the ... joint rules," said Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem). "The addition of a minority report could actually create some confusion for the public on trying to discern the intentions of the committee. I therefore ask my colleagues to vote no."

(A "Yes" vote is for allowing a minority report. A "No" vote is against allowing it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

GENDER-NEUTRAL BATHROOMS (SD 316) – Would change the state building code to allow gender-neutral bathrooms in new construction and renovations of buildings.

Supporters say that sex-segregated restroom facilities fail to accommodate the needs of every person, posing special difficulty to transgender and gender nonconforming students. They note that research shows that nearly twothirds of transgender students avoid school bathrooms because they feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

"Massachusetts strives to be welcoming to all," said sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). "We were the first state to vote to uphold rights against discrimination for all people. This bill would strengthen those protections in a small but very important way, by reducing daily stress for transgender and gender non-conforming people."

"Access to new, clean diapers is necessary to preserve our babies' health," says sponsor Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem).

"No parent should have to resort to reusing soiled diapers due to an inability to pay or have to undergo further economic hardships to acquire diapers. This legislation puts the well-being of our infants and families where it should be, at the forefront."

PROHIBIT USE OF NATIVE AMERICAN MAS-COTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS (SD 857) – Would prohibit public schools from using an athletic team name, logo or mascot which names or is associated with Native Americans, or which denigrates any racial, ethnic, gender or religious group.

"Passage of this bill is an obligation of justice, a recognition of the common humanity of all and a repair of historic wrong," says sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). "It also addresses the deep psychological harm caused by perpetuating harmful, racist stereotypes harm caused to both people who are of Native American heritage and those who are not. This bill says that the time has come to say loud and clear to Native

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 13-17, the House met for a total of nine minutes while the Senate met for a total of 15 minutes.

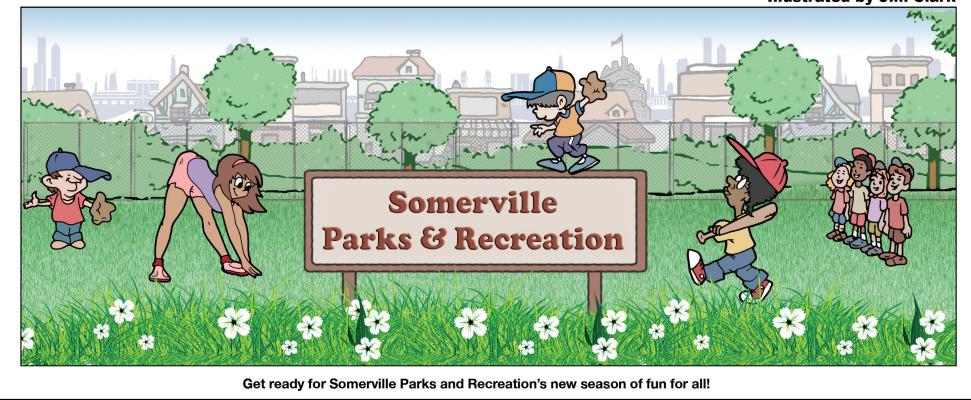
Mon. Feb. 13	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:06 a.m. Senate 11:06 a.m. to 11:18 a.m.
Tues. Feb. 14	No House session No Senate session
Wed. Feb. 15	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. Feb. 16	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:06 a.m. Senate 11:17 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.
Fri. Feb. 17	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Our View Of The Times



If there is one invaluable resource that all city residents can appreciate and be proud of, it is the Somerville Parks and Recreation Department.

They operate year-round programs throughout the city's public facilities, playgrounds, schoolyards, and various other locations to promote positive and healthy activities for all members of the Somerville Community, in our particular our kids.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Rod Kreimeyer. We hope Rod has a great day. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Sammy Alves**, **Elio LoRussoCelia Taylor**, **David Tiger Williams**, **Lauren Daddio**, Las Carolinas, Wayne **A. Fournier**, **Ann Bourque**, **Sarah Marcone**, and **Lu Alves** a very happy birthday. To all those that are also celebrating this week, we wish a happy birthday.

Our sincere condolences to Mayor Ballantyne and her family on the passing of her father, James Ballantyne. Mr. Ballantyne was five days shy of turning 92 years old. Reading about her memories, he sounded like a remarkable man and will

A veritable plethora of programs and activities are made available throughout the year, but the spring and summer months are especially active as the weather brings us all out for exercise and play.

Whether it's the classes and activities, sports clinics, special events, group memberships, preschool programs, youth sports, adult league sports, or adult classes and activities, and a myriad of other exiting and educational activities, the department is there to offer the community the best it can offer in recreational activities.

And don't forget the great job they do in helping to maintain and manage the city's many wonderful parks and playgrounds.

Upcoming events like the Shamrock and Roll Family Dance on March 11 are also regularly featured highlights that provide fun and friendly opportunities to bring members of the community together

The department brings the public invaluable opportunities for enhancing the wellbeing of all residents who are interested in maintaining their health and learning new skills.

Stay up-to-date with all the department's events and programs by checking out their website at https://somervillema. myrec.com/info/default.aspx.

be missed by many family members and friends. You can read more about Jim on Katjana Ballantyne Facebook page. www. facebook.com/katjana.ballantyne.org.

Stop by the Somerville Writers & Readers Winter Market, March 11, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., 79 Highland Avenue, Somerville. Free and open to the public. Fully accessible. Featuring Dave Ortega, Denise Provost, Somerville Poet Laureate Lloyd Schwartz, Lesley Bannatyne, and Kevin M.McIntosh.

All Somerville residents should be on the lookout for the **2023 annual City**

of Somerville census in their mailbox. Upon receipt, please complete the brief form and return it to the city via mail, email, fax, or in person. High census participation provides an accurate population count, which helps the city plan municipal services and adapt as the population changes. The Elections Department also uses the census to help keep voting rolls up to date. Completed census forms can be returned via the postage-paid return envelope included in the mailing, by scanning the form and emailing it to census@somervillema.gov, by dropping it off in a census box at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.), or by faxing it to 617-625-5643. Contact 311 at 617-666-3311 with any questions.

The Somerville Arts Council and the Inside-Out Gallery present *Kinetic Explorations of Color*, works by Michael Robbins. Find out more about his work by visiting: https://somervilleartscouncil. org/insideout/robbins. Michael Robbins is an artist, psychotherapist, poet, and Qi Gong/Taoist meditation teacher who lives and works out of the Vernon Street Studios in Somerville. As a native of NYC, he was fueled by vast accessibility of art and culture and by growing-up in a creative household. His *Continued on page 15* Ms. Cam's

mixture, hodgepodge

1. What is the birth-

stone for February?

2. Who served as Vice

President of the Unit-

ed States from 1993

3. Who was U.S.

President from 1977-

4. What NHL team

plays in an arena

to 2001?

1981?

hockey?

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous

The Somerville Times

FUN & GAMES

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

Honey is the only food that does not spoil.
Barbie and Ken broke up in 2004, reconciled in 2011.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

BOARD GAMES

ACROSS

1. G in mg

5. Medicinal amt.

8. Say no

11. Popular Scotch mixer

12. Country dance formation

13. List of candidates

15. Certain battery component

16. Exclamation of sorrow

17. "The Game of Unspeakable Fun"18. "Fascinating two-handed strategy

game"

20. Dutch cheese

21. Not quite right

22. "I thee _____

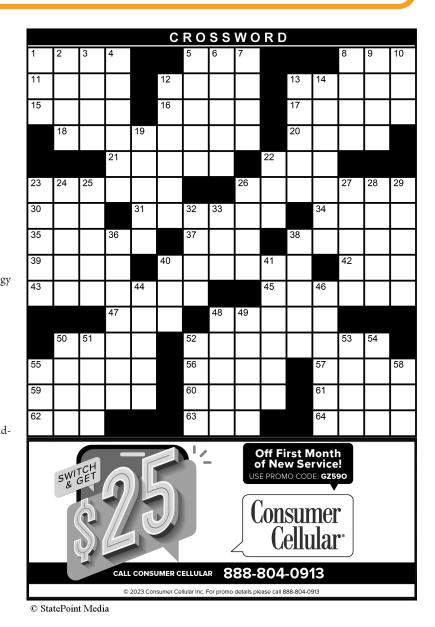
23. Créme de _

26. Where Japan is

- 30. Part of circumference
- 31. Threatened Asian or African odd-
- toed ungulate
- 34. Ready for picking
- 35. Reasons to sue
- 37. Romanian money38. English county
- 39. Popular Arabic name
- 40. Lemon. in Paris
- 42. Latissimus dorsi, for short
- 43. Angola's southern neighbor
- 45. Dairy farm glands
- 47. Relax. or out
- 48. Brooke or John Jacob, of New York
- 50. USPS delivery52. Cards against what?
- 55. Medicinal plant with purple berries
- 56. Bug-eyed
- 57. Tiny bottle
- 59. a.k.a. jumping bone
- 60. Plucked string instrument
- 61. Makes a mistake
- 62. "____ Day," desirable square in The
- Game of Life
- 63. Bard's before
- 64. Rip apart

DOWN

- 1. Govt. property org.
- 2. Fabled fliers
- 3. Mine passage
- 4. India's Chennai, pre-1996



5. Flooring choice, pl. 6. Hose woes 7.100 centavos in Mexico 8. Rum cake 9. Particle in A-bomb 10. What's-old-is-new-again prefix 12. Somewhat late 13. Be at the helm 14. Not chutes 19. #39 Across, pl. 22. Is no longer 23. Trade, build, settle this island 24. Oenophile's concern 25. Curtain fabric 26. Connect how many? 27. Theater passage 28. Asparagus unit 29. Written works

32. Hipbones

33. Butterfly catcher 36. Like pursuit of no vital importance 38."___ _ a high note" 40. A Camel, for short 41. Result of equipment failure 44. The beauty of the ball? 46. Morgan Freeman in "Driving Miss Daisy," e.g. 48. Sign of bad news 49. Inflict a blow 50. Supernatural life force 51. Drunkard, slangily 52. Exhibiting good health 53. Swing seat, sometimes 54. Knitter's supply 55. Tree fluid 58. Dropped drug, acr.

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

called The Pond? was the first in the world to introduce a 5. Who switched to driving test? number 77 so Phil Esposito's number 7 11. What is considcould be retired in ered to be the world's Boston Garden? fastest growing plant? 12. What is Barbie's 6. How many 20 boyfriend Ken's last minute sessions are there in a game of ice name?

lio

#864

7. What was the name

of the chimney sweep

in Mary Poppins?

8. Who wrote The

Beggar's Opera in

9. Cass Gilbert was

the major developer

10. Which country

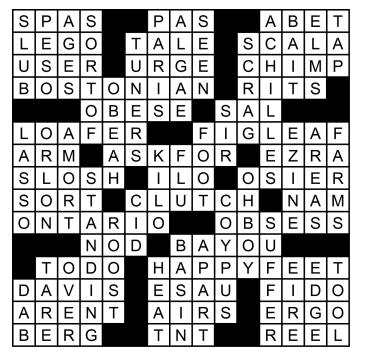
of what type of build-

1728?

ing?

Answers on page 17

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:



OBITUARY

Jean Antoinetta (Reppucci) DeAmato August 6, 1957 – February 2, 2023



Jean Antoinetta (Reppucci) DeAmato, a former resident of Somerville and Medford, MA passed away at her home, February 2, 2023 in York, ME.

Jean was predeceased by her beloved husband Michael, her high school sweetheart, and is survived by her sisters Theresa Vignolo of Derry, NH and Diane Hysler of Eastport, ME; and her brothers Louis Reppucci of Derry, NH and John Repucci of York, ME; many loving family members, and too many dear friends to count.

Jean could walk into any room full of strangers and emerge with ten new lifelong friends. Jean and Michael were avid members of the Mystic Wellington Yacht Club, spending their happiest days on the water. Jean worked for many years in Somerville public schools, loving each child as if they were her own. In 2021

she officially "retired" from her job at McKinnon's Meat Market to live with her beloved nephew Harlan in York, ME, where she was delighted to once more have a household to nourish with her love and her famous red sauce.

Visiting hours for Jean will be held, in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, Friday morning from 9:00-10:30, followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Clement Church, Somerville at 11:00. Relatives and friends invited.

Interment Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford.

Public hearing on allocating federal funds to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability

The City of Somerville Housing Division is holding a public hearing to obtain public input on its draft Allocation Plan for more than \$1.6 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The city has been awarded funds through HUD's HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan Program (HOME-ARP). The HOME-ARP program provides funding to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability across the country. Based on community input received to date, the city plans to allocate HOME-ARP funds to programs that provide services to people experiencing homelessness, people at risk of homelessness, and people fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, among others. Review the draft allocation plan at somervillema.gov/home-arp-plan. To request a hard copy of the plan, contact Lisa Davidson at ldavidson@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2585.

Members of the public can provide input at the public hearing or via written comment. The hearing will take place virtually on Thursday, February 23, at 6:30 p.m. Attendees can join online via Zoom or by phone.

How to Attend the Hearing

Join online: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89015580025

Join by phone: Dial 1-646-931-3860 and enter Webinar ID: 890 1558 0025

How to Comment

Attend the hearing: Public comment is invited at the hearing. Please see the instructions for joining above.

Submit written comment: If you cannot attend the hearing, written comments will be accepted beginning Friday, February 24, until Thursday, March 17, at 7:30 p.m. You may submit written comment one of three ways:

via email to ldavidson@somervillema.gov,

via drop-off to the Welcome Desk in the entrance of City Hall (please address to Attn. Lisa Davidson, OSPCD/Housing Division), or

via mail to Attn. Lisa Davidson, OSPCD/Housing Division, City of Somerville, 50 Evergreen Ave., Somerville, MA 02145.

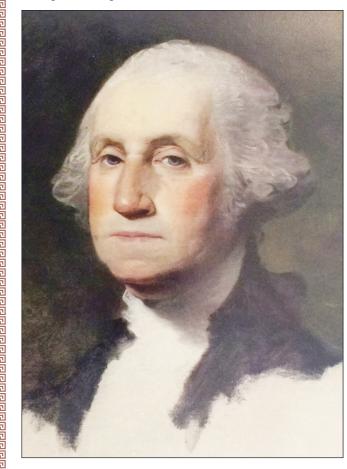
Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should please contact Adrienne Pomeroy in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or apomeroy@ somervillema.gov.

The City of Somerville can provide you with an interpreter for free. To request an interpreter in your language, please contact the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs at somervillema.gov/Contact-Somerviva or call 311 (617-666-3311). All requests for accommodations should be made by the close of business on Tuesday, February 21.

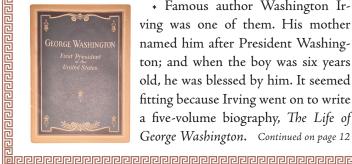


Father of Our Country By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Two hundred and forty-six years is a long time to honor any person's memory, and yet Americans of all generations have done so. We have lauded this man for the heroic deeds he achieved in a time when no other person could have accomplished them. This remarkable person was General George Washington.



As a General, he raised the first American flag on Prospect Hill on January 1, 1776, which was the same day the American Continental Army was formed under him. He led this army through eight long years of war, from Prospect Hill to Yorktown, followed by eight years of leadership as our first American President. Since then, his name has been noted through a myriad of ways. Hundreds of towns, cities, boroughs, villages and streets have taken his name and celebrate his distinction as "The Father of our Country." Thousands of Americans through the years have taken or received his name in emulation.



+ Famous author Washington Irving was one of them. His mother named him after President Washington; and when the boy was six years old, he was blessed by him. It seemed fitting because Irving went on to write a five-volume biography, The Life of George Washington. Continued on page 12

LEGAL NOTICES

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



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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR. INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on <u>Tuesday, March 7, 2023</u> at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to historic@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8369511527070570336

Webinar ID: 984-778-003

TO CALL IN

Phone Number: 1 (631) 992-3221

Access Code: 916-635-293

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties HPC.ALT 2022.77 – 56 Bow Street

Applicant: Ashley Blum & Mike Bittarelli Owner: Same as Applicant The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a window well.

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

<u>HPC.DMO 2022.49 – 80 Professor's Row</u> Applicant: Kappa Chapter of Zeta Psi Corporation

Owner: Same as Applicant The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

HPC.DM0 2023.01 – 53 Chester Street

Applicant: G2 Par Somerville, LLC Owner: Same as Applicant The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

2/15/23, 2/22/23 The Somerville Times

<u>Notice is Hereby Given that</u> <u>Mercedes-Benz of Boston is Seeking Ownership</u> of the Following Two (2) Vehicles Abandoned at 259 McGrath Hwy, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143:

1. Owner: Craig M. Bennett Vehicle Model: 2008 Mercedes-Benz Light Vehicle ID: #WDBUF90X58B275363

2. Owner: Leonard Desroisers Vehicle Model: 2005 Mercedes-Benz S430V Vehicle ID#: WDBNG83J45A460685

2/8/23, 2/15/23, 2/22/23 The Somerville Times



ADVERTISEMEN

The **Somerville Housing Authority**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Panelboard, Transformer and Intercom Replacement project at the Bryant Manor Development for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Nangle Engineering Incorporated.

The Project consists of: Replacement of FPE panelboards and transformers and replacement of intercom system with a video intercom system. The work is estimated to cost \$ 661,117.00

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 and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the category of Electrical.

General Bids will be received until 2:00pm, Thursday, March 16, 2023 and publicly posted online, forthwith.

Filed sub-bids for the trades listed below will be received until 2:00pm, Thursday, March 9, 2023 and opened forthwith.

Filed sub-bidders must be DCAMM certified for the trades listed below and bidders must include a current DCAMM Sub-Bidder Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Sub-Bidder's Update Statement.

SUBTRADES: Section 23.00.00 HVAC

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be prepared and submitted online at <u>www.Projectdog.com</u> and received no later than the date & time specified above. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. For E- Bid Tutorial and Instructions, download the Supplemental Instructions To Bidders for Electronic Bid Projects from <u>www.Projectdog.com</u>. For assistance, contact Projectdog, Inc. at 978.499.9014 General bids and sub-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 online and for purchase at <u>www.Projectdog.com</u>, project code 853363 on <u>Wednesday, February</u> 22, 2023.

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for \$35.00 per set, payable to Projectdog, 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 (SDO), formerly known as SOMWBA. The combined participation benchmark reserved for such enterprises shall not be less than 10.4% of the final contract price including accepted alternates. Request for waivers must be sent to DHCD (david.mcclave@mass.gov) 5 calendar days prior to the General Bid date if the work is estimated to cost less than \$500,000 or more – NO WAIVERS WILL BE GRANTED AFTER THE BID DATE. See Contract Documents - Article 3 of the Instructions to Bidders.

The job site and/or existing building will be available for observation on the morning of **Thursday, March 2, 2023** at 75 Myrtle Street, Somerville. Bidders must contact Nangle Engineering Inc. (gpnangle@nangleengineering.com or (978)777-7650) prior to close of business on the Monday prior to schedule an appointment. Bidders attending will be limited to one person per firm. Attendees may bring and wear a face mask which covers the nose and mouth, and may wear gloves.

The inspection is an opportunity to visit and observe the site only. Any oral interpretations offered at the site inspection are non-binding. Any questions must be submitted in writing to the Designer, at the e-mail address on the Project Manual cover, no later than 4:00 PM on the Friday prior to the date stated above for the receipt of bids. Questions after that time may not be responded to, at the sole discretion of the designer.

The Somerville Housing Authority reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any and all bids, or to waive any informalities in the bidding. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after approval of the award by the Somerville Housing Authority without written consent of the Somerville Housing Authority.

Joseph R. Macaluso Executive Director February 22, 2023

2/15/23, 2/22/23 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT IFB #23-45

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

Central Broadway Water Main Project

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at <u>www.bidexpress.com</u>, <u>https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement</u>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after <u>02/22/2023</u>. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: <u>03/15/2023</u> <u>3:00PM EST</u>. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Andrea Caruth at <u>acaruth@somervillema.gov</u> for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

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

2/22/23 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT IFB #23-42

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

2023 Street Resurfacing Project-Western Washington and Select Locations

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at <u>www.bidexpress.com</u>, <u>https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement</u>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after <u>02/22/2023</u>. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: <u>03/23/2023</u> <u>2:00PM EST</u>. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as, Highway Construction, for the project with an estimated value of \$7,323,000 will be required.

Please contact Andrea Caruth at <u>acaruth@somervillema.gov</u> for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

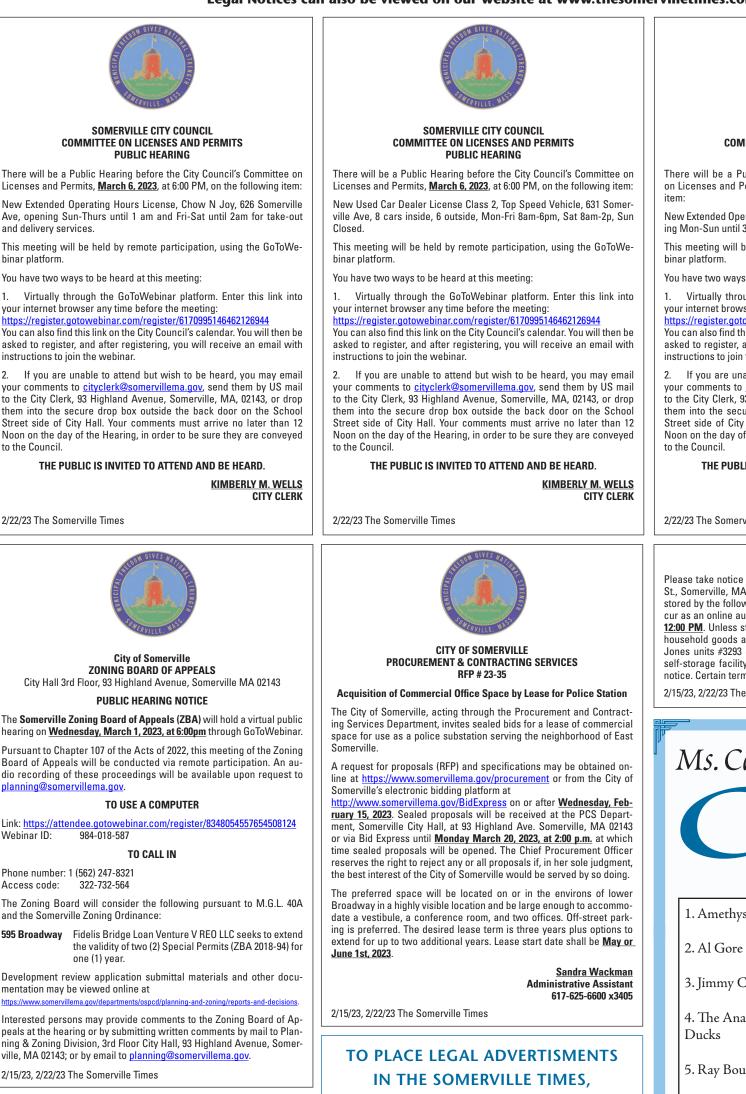
<u>Andrea Caruth</u> Deputy Chief Procurement Officer 617-625-6600 x3400

Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website: www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

2/22/23 The Somerville Times

LEGAL NOTICES

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



SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL **COMMITTEE ON LICENSES AND PERMITS** PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits, March 6, 2023, at 6:00 PM, on the following

New Extended Operating Hours License, Falafel Place, 1 Main St. opening Mon-Sun until 3 am for in-store, take-out, and delivery services.

This meeting will be held by remote participation, using the GoToWe-

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting:

https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6170995146462126944 You can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to <u>cityclerk@somervillema.gov</u>, send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or drop them into the secure drop box outside the back door on the School Street side of City Hall. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

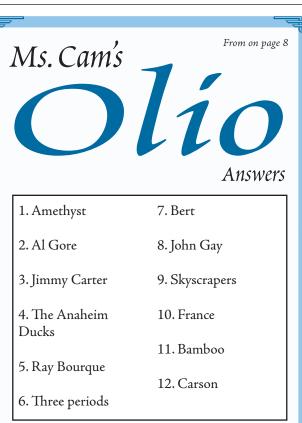
KIMBERLY M. WELLS **CITY CLERK**

2/22/23 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via <u>www.storagetreasures.com</u> on <u>3/8/2023 at</u> <u>12:00 PM</u>. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Ngin Workplace unit #321B; Iona D Jones units #3293 & #3313. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

2/15/23, 2/22/23 The Somerville Times



Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website:

www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

COMMITTEE ON LICENSES AND PERMITS

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits, March 6, 2023, at 6:00 PM, on the following item:

New Extended Operating Hours License, Chow N Joy, 626 Somerville Ave, opening Sun-Thurs until 1 am and Fri-Sat until 2am for take-out and delivery services.

This meeting will be held by remote participation, using the GoToWebinar platform

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. your internet browser any time before the meeting: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6170995146462126944 You can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be

asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

your comments to <u>cityclerk@somervillema.gov</u>, send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or drop them into the secure drop box outside the back door on the School Street side of City Hall. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

2/22/23 The Somerville Times

The Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a virtual public hearing on <u>Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 6:00pm</u> through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planning@somervillema.gov

Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8348054557654508124 Webinar ID:

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8321 Access code:

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

595 Broadway Fidelis Bridge Loan Venture V REO LLC seeks to extend

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at

Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Plan-

2/15/23, 2/22/23 The Somerville Times

CONTACT US BY 12 PM MONDAY PHONE: 857-488-5138

LEGAL NOTICES

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

Th	alth of Massach ne Trial Court e and Family Cou			
MIDDLESEX Division	Docket No. MI23P0797EA			
INFORMAL PROE	BATE PUBLICATI	ON NOTICE		
Estate of: <u>Hao-Ming</u> First Name N	Shen Aiddle Name Last Name			
Also Known As: <u>Hao-Mi</u>				
Date of Death: <u>December</u>	4, 2022			
To all persons interested in the	e above captione	d estate, by Pe	etition of	
Petitioner <u>Qinghui</u> First Name M.I.	Shen of Last Name	Newton (City/Town)	MA (State)	
[x] a Will has been admitted to	informal probat	е.		
[x] <u>Qinghui</u> First Name M.I. L				
has been informally appointed estate to serve [] with [x] w			tive of the	

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

2/22/23 The Somerville Times

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

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

• General Nathanael Greene, second in command under General Washington, idolized him. The Washingtons had no children and were deeply moved when the Greene's named their first son George Washington Greene and their daughter Martha Washington Greene.

• Washington, D.C., our nation's capital, honors him.

• His was the first carved face and most prominent on Mount Rushmore in South Dakota.

• Washington, our 42nd state, is named after him.

• The George Washington Bridge in New York City bears his name.

• His image is on many of our postage stamps.

• New Hampshire's Mount Washington honors him.

• His face is on our national currency of quarters and one-dollar bills.

January 1, 1776 is a date etched in stone in Somerville's history. Washington Street was first called the Road to Newtowne, the original name of the city of Cambridge and the home America's first college, Harvard.

Later, the road became a much-traveled thoroughfare that was laid out through today's Union Square honoring the President. The Square features a mural image of the General presenting the first American flag to his soldiers and watching it wave over Prospect Hill.

This Grand Union Flag was an ensign of thirteen alternating red and white stripes with the British flag in its upper left-hand contour. The ensign was the original American standard and flew above our troops and over our ships until June 14, 1777. On that day, Congress replaced the foreign section of our flag with thirteen radiant stars on a patriotic blue field. Somerville/Charlestown was the first location in America to celebrate our flag before its constellation of stars began to grow.

At the end of the victorious eightyear American Revolutionary War, some of Washington's officers wanted to crown him, King. They had grown to love and respect their commander and wanted him to continue to lead the country that they had fought for. General Washington, the object of their honor and devotion, resolutely turned them down. He reminded them that they had just fought and won a war for freedom, not for a monarchy.

Reflecting back to the war's beginning, his original directive had been to organize the first American Army which was made up primarily of ragtag farmers and frontiersmen. He then rescued Boston, which was occupied by the British Army. From his headquarters in Cambridge and his fortress at Prospect Hill, he planned and executed what was to be his first famous victory, the bloodless evacuation of Boston.

Phillis Wheatley, a well-educated Boston slave, was America's first black poet to publish a book. One of her most acclaimed poems was titled, To his Excellency General Washington. The General sent her a letter of appreciation and an invitation to thank her in person at his Cambridge headquarters. The last four lines of this 42-line poem read:

"Proceed, Great chief, with virtue on thy side,

Thy ev'ry action let the Goddess guide.

A crown, a mansion, and a throne that shine,

With gold unfading, WASHING-TON! Be thine."

Most American's agree with Washington's friend, Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee. He stated in Washington's eulogy ... "First in war, First in peace, and First in the hearts of our countrymen!"



BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER By Bobbygeorge Potaris

If prisoners could take their own mug shots... They'd be called cellfies.

The "Original" **All Types Vent Cleaning** Restaurant Hood Cleaning Dryer Vent/ HVAC Cleaning Power Washing Licensed and Insured in Massachusetts We travel all over Massachusetts Call today to find out

our weekly specials! Call Jimmy 857-366-3761 To advertise in The Somerville Times call Bobbie Toner 857-488-5138 On This Day in History

February 22

1613 - Mikhail Romanov is elected czar of Russia.

1819 – Spain signs a treaty with the United States ceding eastern Florida.

1825 – Russia and Britain establish the Alaska/Canada boundary.

1879 – Frank Winfield Woolworth's "nothing over five cents" shop opens at Utica, New York – it is the first chain store.

1920 – The American Relief Administration appeals to the public to pressure Congress to aid starving European cities.

1932 – Adolf Hitler is the Nazi Party candidate for the presidential elections in Germany.

1942 – President Franklin Roosevelt orders Gen. Douglas MacArthur to leave the Philippines.

1963 - Moscow warns the U.S. that an attack on Cuba would mean war.

1984 – Britain and the U.S. send warships to the Persian Gulf following an Iranian offensive against Iraq.

COA Valentine's Day Luncheon

The Somerville Council on Aging held their Valentine's Day Luncheon on Thursday, February 16 at the George Dilboy Post. It was an afternoon of music, dancing, a special meal, along with a visit from Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and City Councilor At-Large Kristen Strezo. — Photos by Claudia Ferro



SHS Girls Varsity Basketball Senior Night

On Tuesday, February 14, Somerville High Girls Varsity lost to Cambridge Rindge and Latin School 26–67. Emma Benevento (3), Liana Orantes (5), Helena Easton (23), Alana LaGreca (25), and Dania Ramadan (33) were all 5 senior girls honored for their dedication to the SHS girls basketball program before the game. — Photos by Alex Fredette. For more photos of the game visit alexfredette.smugmug.com



OFF THE by Doug Holder

yrica **SOMERVILLE** edited by Doug Holder

Thomas DeFreitas was born in 1969 in Boston. He was educated at the Boston Latin School, and attended the University of Massachusetts (Boston and Amherst) for two years. His poems have appeared in Dappled Things, Ibbetson Street, Pensive, Plainsongs, and elsewhere. Thomas's first chapbook, Winter in Hal-



ifax, was published in 2021 by Kelsay Books. A resident of Arlington for the last twelve years, Thomas is a member of the Academy of American Poets, the New England Poetry Club, and Arlington's Bee Hive Poets.

Dreaming of Somerville

I dream of shining fish, slow and sleek, swimming the murk of the Mystic.

I dream of murals in Brickbottom, graffiti at Walnut and Pearl.

I dream of slender mysterious poems kept in Nana's pantry on the second floor of the house on Laurel Terrace.

I dream of the face of God on the Number 80 bus, the feet of God in dollar-store flip-flops, the arms of God lugging groceries up Spring Hill.

I dream of cool September nights, of festivals in August, of akathists and litanies, the bells of the Dormition.

I dream of College Avenue, alive with a thousand undergraduates and bright with banners of Pride.

Burn Out poems by Stephen Honig

Review by Off the Shelf correspondent Karen Klein

Reading Stephen Honig's fifth book of poems, Burn-Out, this reader is struck by the author's voice. He is conversational, addressing the reader directly, telling us if we seek certainty, don't read his poems in Section 1 About Myself which he admits is "much confused." He is an astute observer of self and the ordinary dilemmas of being an aging human, caught in our historic period and this United States. Sometimes laconic, dismissive, wry, he always questions without getting or giving answers, but sometimes good advice. One such is "be careful when you choose to clean your closets basements/attics back rooms ... you are asking for a dialogue with time."

This advice is taken from the first poem in Section 1 Memory of Objects - because "my objects/ have memories" which the poet needs "to tell me who I was/before I am myself." We can wonder what he means about "myself;" aren't we always ourselves, no matter how old? Perhaps he means his changing self as in Process of Erosion when he became conscious of his "new self" and "opted to be the real me - /but could not find him anymore." Here's mystery: who is this "real me?" Perhaps only the objects that have memories can tell him, but as he asserts at Summer Beach's end "There is no danger as perilous as memory."

The dangers he alludes to are succinctly expressed in the brutal Thoughts on Vacation: "Vacation is rebellion against what it is we do/when we do the things we do ... a revel of freedom/...fear of returning home/a crushing sense of what awaits-/home never takes a vacation." What crushes is his sense of "personal malaise" expressed in The Dirges: "thinking of church tomorrow/ when God will explain/why when I cried no one came" and from *Careful Woman*: "I do not want to tell you more,/it just brings out my pain/of nights alone, sitting at home/with time to fail again." These last two poems are from Section 2 About My Women, a chronicle of leavings and losses, disappointments and sorrows. But Summer Beach also contains close observation of the physical surround and bodies loving: "smells of cocoa butter and

I dream of Tony's Spa, long gone. I dream of the Burren, the Sligo. I dream of Renée's Café.

I dream of summer-limber dancers lindy hopping in Davis Square



HEN M. HON peanut butter,""we lay so close your sweat/ran down my arms and legs./...your breath exhaled clams and garlic/into my nostrils./...feeling sand between our hips as/we were together in the dune."

There is so much pain in the first two sections, I expected Section 3 About Pain to be a continuation. But the poet surprises and moves to history. He tells us that pain is "a fundamental component of life." He refers us to his late father who "was wont to say when unhappy about something: 'I'm not complaining, I'm only reporting." He reports "icicles drip into the hearts of men," tells of "kid's blood in the alley, ... the old lady full of virus dead in her room with no one to care/"and realizes "to look at the truth, well/who gives a shit/I ask you."

Honig's Section 4 About Death moves to the theme that has shadowed the earlier sections. He chronicles writing condolence letters, lists the "common wisdom about life and death," including 'Life sucks and then you die" a quote from Voltaire," Continued on page 23

on a golden and dance worthy Saturday.

I dream of the Little Sisters of the Poor. I dream of the Lost Bookstore. I dream of the Armory.

— Thomas DeFreitas

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

father, a sculptor, was one of the founders of the **Expressive Therapy movement** and his mother directs one of the oldest children's theatres in NYC. The richness and excitement of this environment made a profound impression, influencing Michael's career and various artistic pursuits.

As part of the ongoing Armory Master Plan process, the city and Somerville Arts Council seek 20 individuals to participate in a 75-minute online focus group discussion which will guide the Armory's future as a vibrant arts center for years to come. Those interested in participating in the focus group should complete a brief preliminary questionnaire by **Thursday, February 23**. Selected participants will be contacted directly. Learn more at: https://voice. somervillema.gov/armory-master-plan.

The Somerville Department of Racial and Social Justice and its Accessibility Services division have launched a community survey to better understand the Somerville community's needs and priorities as well as the public's experiences with accessibility in Somerville. Take the survey online at: https://form.jotform. com/230194761561153.

East Somerville Main Streets is looking for artists for the 2023 Carnaval poster. They would love to hire an artist for Carnaval 2023. More details and application process in this Google form. https:// forms.gle/Gsz5RuAoN2BRgSC9A.

Visit the Waterlines exhibit Thursday from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m., Friday 2:00 to 5:00 pm, and Saturday 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. On view through March 22. A+J Art+Design is a multidisciplinary collaboration between artists Ann Hirsch and Jeremy Angier. They share a commitment to site-specificity, interactivity, and community engagement. They do extensive research and intensively collaborate in serving the community and the site's history, current identity, and future aspirations. You Are Here, currently on view as part of the Waterlines: Stories of Ebb and Flow exhibit explores interactions between land and water, substance and light, and physical object and digital image. A six-minute multimedia odyssey transforms your sense of place with a sequence of fourteen varied waterscapes projected across the topography of the Somerville area. Follow A+J Art+Design: @anj_artndesign,@sosswimmers. ****

Calling all artists! USQ is asking for your help in building on USQ's desire to celebrate and expand the role of public art in the Union Square Neighborhood. They have planned a 450-square-foot public-facing mural opportunity and are looking for your expertise and vision to bring it to life. All the details are available here: https://bit.ly/usqmural.

The Somerville Public Library in partnership with the St. Mark Community Education Program is offering a free, 10-week U.S. Citizenship Preparation class. The class will prepare students for the citizenship interview including the 100 civics questions, the reading and writing sections, and interview questions based on the N-400 application. The class will be held in-person at the **Central Library** (79 Highland Avenue) on 10 Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. from March 4 to May 6. Requirements: Basic level of English and 5 years as a U.S. permanent resident (green card holder) or 3 years, if married to a U.S. citizen. Visit https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/ell-citizenship to register.

Get your flu shot and updated COVID-19 booster at a City of Somerville clinic this winter. Visit www.somervillema.gov/vaccineclinics. The flu vaccine and the updated COVID-19 booster dose are provided at no cost, regardless of health insurance or immigration status. Advance registration is required.

The Fuel Assistance Program, also known as the Home Energy Assistance Program, helps low-income households pay their winter heating bills between November 1 and April 30. Renters and homeowners in Somerville are eligible to apply if they meet federal income guidelines. Learn more and apply online at somervillema.gov/fuelassistance.

The 13th Annual Somerville Winter Farmers Market (SWFM) is held every Saturday through April 8. The Center for Arts at the Armory is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143. To learn more and for a complete listing of vendors, weekly specials, and live entertainment, please visit www.somwintermarket.org. You can find the market on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ SomervilleWinterFarmersMarket, and on Instagram @SomWinterMarket.

The search is on for **crossing guards** to help keep students safe on their walks to and from school. Apply: somervillema. gov/apply. More info: careers@somervillema.gov. 617-625-6600 extension 3300.

East Somerville Main Streets is hosting a meet and greet session for the community to get to know our small business owners and shop their specialties. Saturday, March 4, at 11:00 a.m. at Connexion, 149 Broadway.

Because this winter begins in an **even-numbered year**, snow emergency parking will be on the **even side of the street all winter**, unless posted signage says differently. Check street signs in your neighborhood so you know where you can park ahead of winter weather. You can also learn more about the city's snow policies at somervillema.gov/snow.

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

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

We never live; we are always in the expectation of living," and the oft-expressed truth: "it is always too soon." He addresses the Jewish philosopher, Spinoza with *Apologies* as he tries to sort out belief, questions about looking for god, does god exist, does the poet's life or death matter, does it relate to god, what use is "the silence of gods." There is no answer, just the knowledge that he, like all of us, will at some point die. This fifth book was published when he was 80. Increasingly aware of his aging, with a sly smile he promises us he when he has something more to say about his age, he will put it in his next book.

Section 5 contains poems that Honig feels do not fall into the categorizations that have structured the first 4 sections, but many of these poems carry the feelings and themes of the previous ones: a dream that leaves him with "only a melancholy I cannot understand." – "the disease of being American." – "to assert understanding robs you a vision/of the reasons you always fail." In this section he dialogues with another heavy hitter, Soren Kierkegaard and the unanswered questions are the most provocative raised in the book. The poet's tone is playful, serio-comic, he teases Kierkegaard by riffing on his famous title *Fear and Trembling*: "Is it what you feel when God tests you,...

Or is it how you feel today, /or every day?""Is your fear a test – and of what?/ Who was there, to ask Isaac?/ Well, God but he's not telling."

I found two poems that spoke from the core of this poet in his combination of humor, sometimes flippant, but deadly serious. From different sections, they both refer to death, to the maybe afterlife. The first, *Red Bicycle* is a narrative that will resonate with persons of a certain age who have been kids when the most desired gift was a Schwinn bike. It is a narrative about his getting a Schwinn Black Panther which was stolen when he was a boy in Brooklyn riding up Dead Man's Hill and attached by a gang. The poem begins with his wish to be buried with his Schwinn as he describes the many ways his corpse might be disposed of. He doesn't care if his dead body is buried in a casket, cremated, or thrown to the sea, from the heart of his loving memory, he wants the bike to be back with him "working horn in its compartment./ Please make sure that the horn batteries are fresh –/you might never know when you might want to signal."

The second, *The Jewish Joke*, interestingly enough, is from Section 1 *About Myself*. It took me a while to get it, to hold its full power, its bitterness, its suffering, its truth about "centuries that can only be explained by a shrug of the shoulders."

- "The joke:
- Two dead Jews arrive at heaven's gates
- and await their entrance interview.
- At one point they break out in laughter.
- God unused to such things, made inquiry:

"Wherefore dost thou jest over some event from life?" "Oh," one dead man replied as if chatting with a friend over Passover wine, "– you wouldn't understand – you had to be there."

To advertise in our Business Directory, call 857-488-5138. Let your customers find you in Somerville's most widely read newspaper!

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

