SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:

VOL. 3 NO. 8



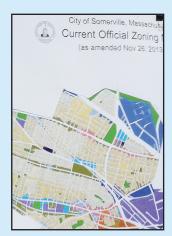
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Union Square's master developer presents redevelopment ideas



Infrastructure, brownfield and transportation were the main topics of discussion at last week's Somerville By Design: Union Square workshop. - Photo by Douglas Yu

By Douglas Yu

The third Somerville by Design workshop brought Union Square's master developer, US2 to discuss three key factors that affect the redevelopment of the neighborhood with the public: infrastructure, brownfield and transportation. The public workshop was held last week at the Old Post Office Building in Union Square.

US2, aka Union Square Station Associates, is a development team that comes up with strategic plans for the Union Square Redevelopment Project. Last June, Somerville Redevelopment Authority unanimously voted US2 to handle the one billion-dollar project.

US2 also hired a community transportation planning company, Nelson Nygaard, and a city infrastructure consulting firm, Stantec, to collaborate on the redevelopment of Union Square.

Greg Karczewski, president of US2, said, "The infrastructure and transportation are fundamental to our ability as a group to really create what's the vision for Union Square."

Frank Holmes, Principal of Stantec, presented the issues that are associated with storm water. He said that two thirds of

Continued on page 6

Joan Osborne to become 'one of us'

By Jim Clark

Joan Osborne's 1995 mega-hit single *One Of Us* made her an overnight sensation, and the widely popular song, from her *Relish* album, has stood as a classic standard of its time.

Her career has not rested on the laurels bestowed to her for that effort alone, and she has kept recording and playing for grateful fans throughout the ensuing years, serving up nine studio and two outstanding live albums along the way.

She will be making a stop along her current tour route for a show at Johnny D's on Friday, March 6.

Defining Osborne's sound is a challenging exercise. Her eclectic style borrows from many musical traditions and genres including folk, blues, soul, pop, R&B and country. Even though the success of *One Of Us* managed to get her pigeonholed into the alternative rock scene of the 90s – including her stint touring with Lilith Fair, sharing the stage with the likes of Sarah McLachlan, Sheryl Crow, Tracy Chapman, Jewel and other female

Continued on page 7



Continued on page 7 Joan Osborne will be gracing Johnny D's with her presence on March 6.

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Tonight, Wednesday the 25th, the Board of Alderman will be holding a Public Hearing on the city's snow ordinance before it is amended. This is your time to go to City Hall tonight at 7 p.m. and offer the Board your opinion, good or bad, on the snow ordinance. The ordinance calls for snow and ice removal no later than a few hours after a storm, with fines up to \$200 from the city. Just think if they had enforced this ordinance over these past few storms? One has to wonder if it's a "revenue" issue or...? Let your voice be heard!

This coming Monday night, March 2 at 6 to 8p.m., Alderman at Large Mary Jo Rossetti will be having her kickoff campaign party at the new "Tony C's" at Assembly Row. Alderman Rossetti has been extremely active in her first year as Alderman, and involved with a lot of community issues. In fact, she's become more popular than ever now that she's an Alderman. This is her campaign kickoff for her first re-election. With leaders like Mary Jo Rossetti on the Board of Alderman we are very lucky to have such great representation.

"Flashback Friday" is March 6th at the City Club, 7-11 p.m. Do you still have that poodle skirt? Maybe your bell-bottoms and platform shoes? What about those ripped jeans or hammer pants? Break them out! Take a journey back in time and dance the night away to songs from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s. (Costume dress optional) Tickets are \$15. There will be cash bar, raffle tickets and 50/50. Tickets are being sold now and at the door. All proceeds benefit The Somerville PTA Scholarship Dinner Dance. They award 5-6 high school students scholarships every year for the last 40 years. They want to start giving these students more. What better way than to have a dance. So come join us for a great evening.

Medford Street Bridge is closed as of this week until sometime (the city says) in September. Detour down Pearl Street.

The Homan Building on Medford St., which the city purchased back in the 90's under former Mayor Capuano, is now being watched very carefully. The

**Continued on page 11"

The Somerville Times

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The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday







TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: New zoning falls short on city's open space goals

Philb says:

Maybe some parks should be mandated in Boynton Yards, in exchange for upzoning as compensation to owners.

SomerBridge says:

Grew up my whole life in Union Sq (30+ years) and the City is going to ruin it with 5/7 story buildings. Thank you for writing this...

lifelongsomresident says:

I grew up in Union sq also, and I am NOT happy about a 5 story building going up across the street!! REALLY ?? its all 3 story houses all around, keep the 5\7 stories where others are PLEASE!!!!

Uncle Rocco says:

But..how can my friends get filthy rich off of parks for kids?

Freebie says:

I have an idea – for every triple decker in the city, stack the one next to it on top and make it a 6-decker. That will create tons of green space without giving up a single apartment!

Oliver Seppo says:

You'll get used to it, no big deal! We cannot squeeze in more people horizontally, so it'll have to be vertically! Unless we start colonizing the 4th dimension.:)

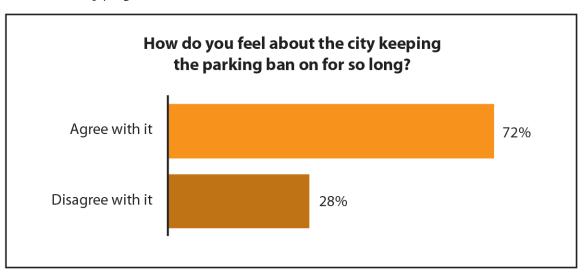
Matt C says:

Oliver, all that needs to happen is for the mortgage rates to go up a point or two and you'll see prices go down. Its kind of crazy how low the rates are right now. If you haven't refi'd, now is the time!

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 how you feel about the city keeping the parking ban on for so long. If you don't agree with the results, simply log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com.





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New proposals for Powder House School sought

By Tom Bannister

According to information provided by the City of Somerville, new proposals for the Powder House Community School site that meet previous objectives developed over two years by the neighborhood are actively being sought.

To that end, an extensive in-person and online community engagement process as one of the requirements for those seeking to design and ultimately redevelop the former K-8 school on Broadway between Teele Square and Davis Square has been initiated.

The Request for Proposals (RFP 15-63) released by the city is available on the City Purchasing Department's page. Proposals are due to the Purchasing Department, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143 no later than 11 a.m. on Monday, March 23, 2015.

As stated in the RFP, a pre-proposal site visit for those interested in responding to the RFP is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 23, at 1 p.m. starting at the building entrance, 1060 Broadway, followed by a question and answer session at 2:30 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chambers at City Hall.

An earlier RFP released by the city in 2013 sought proposals for the site that would meet a set of community objectives that were developed through a two-year community planning process. Those objectives include, as required by a vote of the Board of Aldermen, that at least 40 percent of the site is used as publicly accessible open space; that the pedestrian route from Broadway to Holland Street must be preserved, enhanced, and maintained; the long-term economic impact of the proposal; and the price offered for the property. The selected developer may propose to purchase or lease the site, and to either demolish, reconstruct or rehabilitate the existing school building.

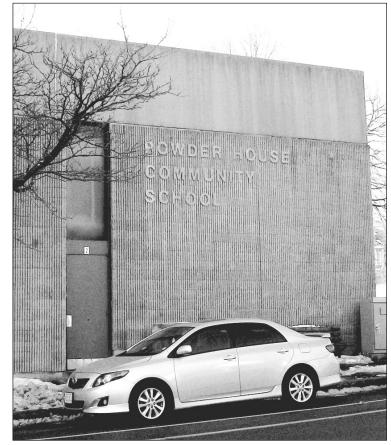
That first RFP also evaluated respondents based on the development team's experience in leading a community design process. According to the city, the new RFP requires that the selected development partner work with city staff to schedule a series of public neighborhood meetings to solicit and respond to community input, and will also be required to provide an interactive, online platform

that makes all information about the project available and allows for online community engagement to complement the in-person meetings.

Additionally, building upon the past multi-year community visioning focus group process that established a future vision for the site's development, this future community engagement process will inform both the project and any proposed rezoning of the nearly 81,000 square foot site.

On the matter, Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone has said, "This new RFP is the next step in finding a development partner that will work hand-in-hand with the community, as we've successfully done on projects across the city, and help us achieve the community's vision for this site. Community feedback has been the linchpin of our discussions around the future of the Powder House Community School since the beginning of this process, and will continue to serve as the foundation as evaluate how to best meet the needs of our community."

At first, Tufts University was ranked as the top recommendation by the Powder House Community School Technical



The long-dormant Powder House School property is badly in need of redevelopment and some TLC, according to the City of Somerville. - Photo by Bobbie Toner

Advisory Committee and ultimately selected by the Mayor after the initial RFP, but after the university clarified that it did not foresee developing the site for at least 15 years, the city ended those negotiations in March 2014.

Ultimately citing new information and concerns regarding the condition of the property

and a broader range of community-supported uses for the redevelopment of the Powder House Community School site, the city then rejected the five remaining proposals, canceled the initial existing RFP, and notified developers of the intent to re-evaluate the scope of the project and issue the new RFP that is now available.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Readers are invited to send letters to the editor to The Somerville Times. Please email your letters to News@ The Somerville Times.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.

Somerville Development Watch has proposed two zoning amendments, both of which discourage infill development in residential neighborhoods. One amendment limits the gross floor area increase during condo conversions to 15% instead of 25%. The other amendment attaches conditions to the granting of a special permit, for example requiring that the proposed use be appropriate for the site, without adversely affecting the character or value of abutting properties, or causing undue traffic, nuisance or hazard. Demonstrably factual objections from abutting owners, and the availability of adequate and appropriate city services for the proposed use would also be taken into account. A public hearing on these amendments will be held on Thursday March 5, at 6pm, at City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, 2nd floor, Aldermanic Chamber.

Like many cities, Somerville is fighting for its life against an overwhelming tide of development. While real estate prices continue to climb, long-

term residents will continue to sell out to luxury condo developers, further driving up prices in a self-perpetuating feedback loop. Eventually the stratospheric prices will deny the city to all but the most affluent, creating a gated citadel, organized around the needs of plutocracy.

The ongoing invasion of urban cores by the rich is a type of class warfare. The losers are exiled to abandoned suburbs and left to fend for themselves, often lacking the most basic services such as police and fire departments. Suburbs are the new ghettos, but without the population density that could potentially foster solidarity. Alienation and xenophobia are the predictable responses to desolate post-suburban landscapes of ruined malls and decrepit houses stripped of their copper.

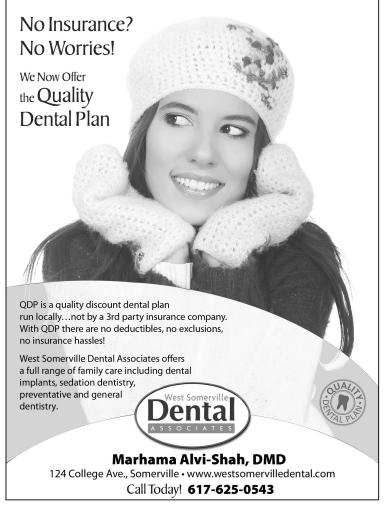
The only force capable of preventing gated citadels and the suburbanization of poverty is regulation. Governments can and must regulate the housing

market. The purpose of housing is to provide people with shelter, so that they can participate in society and live fulfilling, productive lives. As long as housing serves primarily as an investment, we're slouching towards neo-feudalism. The new lords and ladies will need a few serfs to pour their lattes, but rest of us had better learn to like zombie

Strong measures are urgently needed to limit real estate prices, such as a real estate transfer tax, a one-to-one affordable housing ratio, and rent control. A lasting solution will require redistribution and reinvestment on a vast scale, supported by increased progressive taxation, as in the post-war period when the top federal tax rate was over 90%. In the meantime, the proposed zoning amendments would be a modest start. Their texts are available at somervilledevelopmentwatch.org.

Chris Korda Somerville Development Watch





By Jim Clark

Baby formula bandit bagged

Police officers were dispatched to the Target store on Somerville Ave. Saturday evening on reports of a shoplifter being held by loss prevention personnel.

Upon arrival, the officers were met by members of the store's Loss Prevention Unit and briefed on what had transpired before their being called in.

The employees reportedly told the officers that a man, identified as Taurean Pearson, of Medford, had been caught in the act of placing baby formula into a backpack and leaving the store without paying for it. Additionally, the officers were told that Pearson had been observed via the store's security camera system doing the same thing on three prior occasions, according to reports.

The officers were reportedly told that Pearson would place several cans of the baby formula into a shopping cart and then place them into his backpack after moving to a different area of the store.

The baby formula was valued at \$15.99 per can, and on this occasion Pearson reportedly tried to get away with six cans before being intercepted by store security.

Upon questioning, Pearson reportedly admitted to the prior instances of shoplifting, saying that he could not afford to by the formula for his infant child.

He was subsequently placed under arrest and charged with shoplifting by asportation and larceny over \$250.

SOMERVILLE POLICE GRIME LOC

Arrests:

Josue Medrano, of 35 Carey St., Revere, February 18, 12:44 a.m., arrested at 133 Cross St. on warrant charges of number plate violation, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, failure to yield at an intersection, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and improper operation of a motor vehicle.

Eric Mallahan, of 686 Mass Ave., Boston, February 18, 2:31 p.m., arrested at 709 McGrath Hwy. on warrant charges of threat to commit a crime and shoplifting by asportation.

Derek Ladderbush, of 84 Marshall St., February 19, 10:19 a.m., arrested at home on warrant charges of speeding, possession of a class B drug, and operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor.

Jonas Roessel, of 44 Wisconsin Ave., February 19, 1:17 p.m., arrested at 220 Washington St. on a warrant charge of assault and battery.

Taurean Pearson, of 126 Monument St., Medford, February 21, 5:31 p.m., arrested at 180 Somerville Ave. on charges of shoplifting by asportation and larceny over \$250.

Italo Barbosa, of 16 Rose St., February 22, 2:29 a.m., arrested at Shore Dr. on a charge of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Kristen Barnett, of 238 Broadway, February 22, 6:16 p.m., arrested at 211 Pearl St. on a warrant charge of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Erik Canenguez, of 43 Derby St., February 22, 9:27 p.m., arrested at 2 Century St. on a warrant charge of operation of

a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Tania Silva, of 16 Indiana Ave., February 22, 10:46 p.m., arrested at home on multiple warrant charges of abuse prevention order violation.

Incidents:

Theft:

February 19, 11:46 a.m., police reported a theft at 561 Assembly Row.

February 20, 9:00 a.m., police reported a theft at Rush St.

February 20, 4:56 p.m., police reported a theft at Broadway.

February 21, 2:27 p.m., police reported a theft at Hathorn St. February 21, 5:31 p.m., police reported a theft at 180 Somerville Ave.

Robbery:

February 21, 6:58 p.m., police reported a robbery at 153 Highland Ave.

Breaking & Entering:

February 17, 10:25 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Washington St.

February 19, 12:23 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Elm St.

February 22, 7:00 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Elm St.

Vehicle Theft:

February 20, 2:05 a.m., police reported a vehicle theft at 395 Artisan Way.

Assault:

February 18, 12:41 a.m., police reported an assault at Everett St.

February 18, 4:04 a.m., police reported an assault at Chester Ave.

February 19, 6:00 p.m., police reported an assault at Morrison Ave.

February 21, 11:00 a.m.,

police reported an assault at Highland Ave.

February 22, 1:51 a.m., police reported an assault at Banks St.

February 22, 7:08 p.m., police reported an assault at 331 Great River Rd.

February 22, 8:09 p.m., police reported an assault at Porter St.

Destruction of Property:

February 17, 8:09 a.m., police reported a destruction of property at Walnut St.

February 18, 7:09 p.m., police reported a destruction of property at Everett Ave.

February 19, 9:10 a.m., police reported a destruction of property at Dana St.

February 20, 9:01 a.m., police reported a destruction of property at Rush St.

February 21, 11:13 a.m., police reported a destruction of property at Lewis St.

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The Norton Group | APARTMENT RENTALS

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Somerville – 1 Bedroom – 1 Bath

Winter Hill third floor walk up, in residential area, off Broadway. Wood floors, older cabinet kitchen, tiled bath, house is multi and has a bike rack in the basement for tenants use, nice older building owned by the same family for generations. **Available Now! \$1,650**

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Hardwood floors. Living Room, Dining Room. Kitchen and Bath. Front and back porch. 2nd floor. Gas heat, Gas stove. East Somerville, Close to Orange line and Bus routes. **Available Now! \$1,600**

Somerville - 2 Bedroom - 1 Bath

Recently renovated unit, wood floors, updated kitchen and bath, high ceilings, freshly painted, great residential neighborhood, easy access to Green line and Orange line. **Available Feb.1! \$1,700**

Medford – 2 Bedrooms – 2 Baths

Condo on the Somerville line. In unit washer/dryer. Electric Heat. 2 Car parking. Hardwood floors. Carpet. Walk score of 68. Very Walkable. No Pets, No Smoking. Little patio and shared space in backyard. *Available Now!* \$1,750

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Temple St. fire



A heavy blaze brought firefighters to 87-89 Temple St. on Friday evening. — Photos by Bobbie Toner

Somerville firefighters responded to a house fire at 87-89 Temple Street at 10:13 p.m. on Friday, February 20.

Upon arrival, firefighters encountered heavy fire conditions in the rear of the third floor apartment and rear porch. Fire spread above the ceiling and into the roof area requiring two alarms to be sounded.

The Somerville Fire Department was assisted by Medford and Cambridge fire companies.

The third floor apartment and roof suffered extensive fire, smoke and water damage. The first and second floor apartments suffered heavy water damage.

The home contained three apartments and all eight occupants were displaced. The damage is estimated at \$300,000. A home at 73 Derby St. also suffered exterior damage due to heat.

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation. Two firefighters were transported to the hospital, one for a wrist injury after slipping on ice and another for a cat bite suffered while attempting to remove a pet cat from the building.

- Deputy Chief Charlie Breen, Somerville F.D.



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A delectable spread at Bite: Food as art

By Haley Houseman

The warmth and whimsy at the Bite: Food as Art exhibit belied the blizzard that delayed its opening. With good cheer, the opening reception and food drive at the Nave Gallery in Teele Square was well attended this weekend, despite more snow. Curated by Tori Costa and Sandy MacDonald, the exhibit features more than thirty artists and media that varies from consumable to traditional. Running Feb 21 through March 21, the gallery will also host a series of events in conjunction with the exhibit. On Sunday March 1, there will be a Coffee Mandala Making Workshop from 1:00 to 3:00 pm as well as an Artist Talk from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

The work in Bite invites the viewer to look at food a different way. The gallery is filled with tongue-in-cheek works that explore the creative relationship of humans and what they consume. A large-scale mosaic of pho-



Not just art with good taste, but art that tastes good - at Nave Gallery's latest exhibition, Bite: Food as Art.

tographic lunchmeat acquires a new beauty hung on the wall neatly framed, while quilting hoops delicately adorned with

frosting evoke the snowy world outside. Our food is revealed as more delicate, more complicated Continued on page 12

Animal tracking snow walk



Friends of Alewife Reservation participated in a mammal tracking venture Saturday at Alewife with professional tracker, Dave Brown. An estimated 200 opossum and rabbit tracks were spotted. Alewife is a Department of Conservation and Recreation reservation existing for Somerville use as well as Belmont, Arlington and Cambridge.

Greek American Social Construction Club Inc

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> Everybody is welcome and we hope to see you soon!



Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Ward 2 & 3 meeting on zoning code overhaul

By Donald Norton

The residents of Ward 2 & 3 were given a pre-view of the new ordinance being proposed by the city on Monday evening, Feb. 23 at the former Union Square Post Office on Washington St.

A small but vocal crowd of about 50 joined the meeting, along with Alderman Maryann Houston from Ward 2 and Ward 3 Alderman Bob McWatters, as well as Alderman at Large Mary Jo Rossetti.

After a brief presentation, the meeting was opened up for discussion on the various changes being proposed and some voiced concerned about what the new ordinance would do to the area.

Current Official Zoning M

A couple of residents complained of the impact of residential units over commercial and business zoned properties. It was mentioned that an additional 9,000 residential units would be added. Some residents were clearly not in favor of that many residential units coming into our small city.

After hearing some of the attendees' concerns, the planning staff manned small issue tables around the room to address more specific questions.

Meetings concerning other wards have been scheduled accordingly:

- Ward 1: Wednesday, March 4 in the East Somerville Community School cafeteria, 50 Cross St.
- Ward 4: Tuesday, March 17 at the Healey School, 5 Meacham St.
- Ward 5: Monday, March 16



Residents and city representatives gathered on Monday to review the proposed zoning changes that would affect Wards 2 and 3. — Photos by Donald Norton

at the Lowell Street VNA, 259 Lowell St.

• Wards 6 and 7: Monday, March 2, at the Tufts Administration Building (TAB), 169 Holland St.

Each meeting will start at 6:30 p.m.

In addition to these wardbased meetings, the Land Use Committee of the Board of Aldermen and the Planning Board will hold a rescheduled joint public hearing on the proposal on Thursday, March 5 in the Aldermanic Chambers at 6 p.m. at City Hall. Public feedback is also accepted through the zoning website at www.somervillema.gov/zoning through March 27. For more information, email zoning@somervillema.gov.

Closed for defrosting



Due to the amount of snow on the roof and a parapet wall on the building that can be pushed by snow, the city is taking precautions by blocking off the sidewalk and part of Medford Street next to the Homan's building. Vehicular traffic is not affected and remains open in both directions.



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



Monday March 2

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

Tuesday March 3

Honkytonk Masquerade 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday March 4Free Poker, lots of prizes! 8 p.m.

Thursday March 5

BYOBluegrass Jam grassy Thursdays 7:30 p.m.

Friday March 6

Dave Foley Band 6 p.m.

Fiendish Thingies, The Condescendants \$5 cover 9 p.m.

Saturday March 7

Fiendish Thingies, The Condescendants \$5 cover 6 p.m. Baltic Sun, Graham Moseley Brown, Ghost Hammers \$5 cover 9:30 p.m.

Sunday March 8

Johnny Come Latelies 8 p.m.



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Dorothy's Corner



Meju Korean Restaurant

243 Elm Street Hours: Sun-Wed 5-10:30 p.m. & Thurs-Sat 5-11:30 p.m.

Price Ranges: Small Plates \$9-13 Soups-Stews \$16-19 Entrees \$17-28 Desserts \$5-8 Korean Spirits \$16-23

While heading out to dinner last week, mind you, in the coldest February on record, I just couldn't wait to get out of the cold. While walking down Elm Street, I saw that Meju was finally open and I have been looking forward to trying it since I heard very good things about the sister restaurant Bibim in Allston.

Upon entering the restaurant, the staff was welcoming and friendly. The space has a rustic, yet sophisticated feel. The exposed brick wall and dark wood along with the lighting helps in keeping this large space a little more intimate.

The wait staff showed excitement about the menu and was able to suggest signature dishes. Throughout the meal, numerous staff came by and checked to see if all was to our liking.

The night started off with a drink called Meju Mule (\$10) made with soju, the most popular liquor of Korea (a distilled beverage traditionally made from rice, wheat or barley), with a heavy ginger flavor. It was refreshing and crisp and a perfect pairing with spicy food. The steamed buns come in two varieties, beef or spicy pork (\$10 for 2). The beef was tender and had some fresh pickled vegetables in the bun that



added great texture. The spicy pork was so well balanced with spice, sweetness and crunch that it had me craving more. The entrees are served with a relish dish that consisted of spicy kimchi, a sweet kimchi, pickled cucumber and pickled potato that was a nice accompaniment to the meal. If you want a side of rice, white or purple, it's an extra \$1. The Beef Bulgogi (\$22) is a signature dish of Korea and this version consisted of marinated ribeye, onions, scallions, daikon and mushrooms. The ribeye was extremely tender and full of a perfectly balanced salt and sweet flavor. The other traditional dish of Korea is Bibimbap (\$17, +\$2.00 if served in a ceramic or clay pot), a bowl of mixed, fresh, crisp vegetables topped off with an egg cascading over the vegetables, served with a side of bean sprout soup with a spicy pepper paste and a choice of beef or tofu. Mixed all together made for a hot bowl of comfort and a mixture of textures and flavors.

If you're looking for a place to sit back, and unwind with a unique cocktail, great service, and good food, I recommend giving it a try. Meju is a nice addition to the already diverse dining scene in Davis Square.

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.

Zoning and inequality



By Philip Parsons

Income and wealth inequalities have become so stark that even Republican presidential candidates now feel obligated to take notice. But many Somervillians limit these concerns to rising housing costs.

Somerville Neighborhood News has focused in-depth coverage on housing advocacy and market conditions. Mayoral appointees to the Civic Advisory Committee have identified maintaining socio-economic diversity as a primary concern for Union Square's redevelopment.

Union United is a coalition organized by the Somerville Community Corporation to support the creation of a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) with Union Square developers. It too focuses on the accelerating displacement of lower income residents and small businesses especially minority-owned enterprises resulting from rental cost escalation.

While our declining affordable housing stock is worthy of attention, I would argue that inequality in Somerville is about more than rent and housing prices. And I would argue that our small city can use planning and zoning to ameliorate inequality's local causes and consequences.

City planners have drafted the most complete rewrite of our Zoning Ordinance since the Board of Aldermen voted it into existence in December 1925. They are simultaneously planning a massive Union Square redevelopment in anticipation of the Green Line's arrival. Together, those efforts will bring the greatest change that Somerville has seen in living memory, and they could reinforce trends toward inequality, or reduce them.

We can ensure that these changes bend toward the justice that Martin Luther King Jr. found in "the arc of the moral universe." Doing so will require reconciling naturally competing motives: Developers are accountable to their investors; residents are accountable to their community. Achieving the best outcomes for these two stakeholder groups will require hard work and creativity from all stakeholders.

We tend to think of inequality in terms of income disparity. That's a matter upon which we in Somerville can have real but limited impact. Our skimpy commercial tax base is overly invested in retail, restaurant and services uses, which tend to create low-wage jobs with limited upward mobility.

We can zone for office & R&D uses that bring jobs with a broad range of skill requirements, entry points and career paths. And bringing jobs closer to home reduces transportation and child-

We can also work to keep housing affordable, especially for elders and families. That's essential, and the Mayor has embarked on a serious multi-pronged

But a city can do a lot more to ensure that all its residents enjoy a decent quality of life, regardless of their income level. So much of how well we live is not just about housing, but created in the "public realm," and available to people of all income levels: a strong sense of community, a wide range of local jobs, proximity between home and work, parks and open spaces, schools and community centers, pleasant walkable streets, safe and attractive bike routes, good public transportation, better air quality, and reduced congestion.

SomerVision, the city's community-generated comprehensive plan, captures these values in its objectives. Community groups like Union Square Neighbors reinforce them.

These are the objectives upon which zoning and planning can have major impacts. Achieving them requires vision, and net municipal income sufficient to implement that vision.

Boosting city tax dollars can only come from a strong and rapidly expanding commercial property tax base, which will bring jobs and workspace with it. It cannot come from building more housing, because housing does little (and sometimes nothing) to increase net city tax revenue. Nor is there any clear reason why building more housing will stabilize rental and sale prices, since Somerville is a small part of a large regional housing market.

The city's new draft zoning essentially leaves it to developers to decide whether to build housing or commercial space in Union Square and certain other zoning districts. Inevitably they will prefer to build high-end housing for the increasingly lucrative "millennial" market.

Requiring 20% of these units to be "affordable" will not address inequality in this broader interpretation. It may in fact make things worse. Large blocks of mostly expensive housing will create isolated enclaves.

And the draft zoning does little to strengthen the public realm. It provides no reliable mechanism to implement SomerVision's goal of expanding open space by 125 acres in the city with the least open space per resident in the Commonwealth.

There are similarly few incentives and requirements for bike and bus lanes, and for adapting to or improving conditions for walking, biking, and bus transit. Overall, the new zoning favors private development over public investment.

City officials have set a goal of reestab-

CONT. FROM PG 1

lishing a redeveloped Union Square as Somerville's downtown. They contemplate drafting "special district" zoning for the Square, pending completion of a Neighborhood Plan. A team of consultants selected by the city and financed by the developers leads the planning process.

Union Square's zoning should reflect the community's aspirations and not merely facilitate the developers' needs. At a minimum, this will require increasing public open space, including green space, and ensuring a balanced mix of uses that favors office and R&D space over resi-

and civic needs.

We need to pay attention.

Philip Parsons is a long-time Union Square resident and a member of its Civic Advisory Committee. He served as Harvard's Dean for Planning and was a Principal with Sasaki Associates, a leading urban planning and design firm. He currently operates his own consultancy and is conducting a study of Somerville for the Audi Urban Future Initiative that anticipates impacts of changing

dential development. Good zoning simultaneously encourages private investment, generates value, and improves the public realm. It creates a natural synergy between development

mobility practices on city planning.

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Joan Osborne to become 'one of us'

superstars of the time - the breadth of her work has helped her to maintain a vibrant presence on the music scene right up to the present time.

Her latest album, Love and Hate, was released last year to the delight of her many fans and much critical acclaim.

Osborne hails from Anchorage, Kentucky, an affluent suburb of Louisville. She moved to New York City in the late 1980s, where she formed her own record label, Womanly Hips, and released a few independent recordings.

In 1991 she signed with Mercury Records, and released her first full-length album, Soul Show: Live at Delta 88. Her second album, Relish (1995), became a hit on the strength of the single One of Us.

Osborne appeared on Austin City Limits in 2001. In a brief interview segment at the end of the show, she reflected on her gladness to have gotten out of the limelight of her mid-90's stardom.

She was featured in the 2002 documentary film, Standing in the Shadows of Motown, and toured with Motown sidemen the Funk Brothers. In the summer of 2003 she joined veteran San Francisco jam-rockers The Dead as a vocalist, and released her fourth album, titled How Sweet It Is, a collection of classic rock and soul covers. She covered Dolly Parton's Do I Ever Cross Your Mind on the 2003 tribute album Just Because I'm a Woman: Songs of Dolly Parton.

Osborne is also currently a member of the band Trigger Hippy.

A powerhouse vocalist who we should all welcome to become "one of us" here in Somerville, be sure to catch her performance at Johnny D's on Friday, March 6 at 7 p.m.



The Somerville Times

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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Our Legislators in the House and Senate for LEGISLATORS' TESTIMONY (H 2015) Somerville:



Rep. Christine Barber

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. 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. 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.

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: Beacon Hill Roll Call records local representatives' votes on roll calls from prior sessions on the debate on House operating rules for 2015-2016. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

House 34-120, voted strictly along party lines and rejected a proposed Republican rule taking away some of the preferential treatment that legislators receive at public committee hearings. The rule would designate a 30-minute period during which legislators are allowed to testify on legislation. Legislators who want to testify before or after that period would be treated by the committee chair the same way that other people who testify are treated.

Supporters said that currently legislators are often allowed to testify shortly after they arrive at a hearing -ahead of citizens who may have taken the day off from work to testify and have been waiting for hours.

Opponents said the rule creates more bureaucracy and argued that committee chairs should have the power to adapt to individual circumstances and not have their hands tied. They noted that legislators are often going from hearing to hearing to testify on several bills and cannot wait for hours at each hearing.

(A "Yes" vote is for the rule designating a 30-minute period. A "No" vote is against the rule.)

> Rep. Christine Barber No Rep. Denise Provost No Rep. Timothy Toomey No

FIVE DAYS TO FILE BUDGET AMENDMENTS (H 2015)

House 34-121, voted strictly along party lines and rejected a GOP-sponsored rule increasing from three to five the number of days representatives have to file amendments to the state budget once it is released.

Supporters said it is not unreasonable to give members five days to read the hundreds of pages in a budget that is in excess of \$36 billion and then to draft amendments.

Opponents said the 3-day period has worked well over the years and is sufficient.

(A "Yes" vote is for the increase to five days. A "No" vote is against it.)

> Rep. Christine Barber No Rep. Denise Provost No Rep. Timothy Toomey No

CONFLICTS BETWEEN HOUSE SESSIONS AND COMMITTEE HEARINGS (H 2015)

House 34-121, voted strictly along party lines and rejected a proposed GOP rule to reduce the scheduling conflicts between formal House sessions and committee hearings. Formal sessions are ones at which important legislation is often considered by the full House and sometimes includes roll call votes.

Current rules prohibit committee hearings "insofar as practical" from being scheduled at the same time as formal sessions of the House. The proposed rule would prohibit committee hearings from being scheduled at the same time as formal sessions unless there is an emergency and the chair of the committee submits to the House a written description of the emergency.

Supporters said the current rule is weak and vague. They argued that legislators should not have to choose between attending an important committee hearing and a key meeting of the full House.

Opponents said committee hearings are scheduled well in advance in order to give citizens adequate notice to arrange their schedules to be there. They noted that if this proposed rule is implemented, the House will inconvenience the public when it reschedules a committee hearing to another day. They argued that current rules already allow some flexibility and have been working well.

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

Rep. Christine Barber No Rep. Denise Provost No Rep. Timothy Toomey No

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

BAKER SIGNS ORDER TO INCREASE DIVER-

SITY - Gov. Charlie Baker signed an executive order elevating the Office of Access and Opportunity (OAO) from the Executive Office of Administration and Finance directly to the governor's office. The order also creates a position of Deputy Chief of Staff for Access and Opportunity to lead the office.

While this all sounds very technical, it is designed to reinforce the Baker Administration's commitment to coordinate and increase diversity and inclusion within state government. The goal is to foster non-discrimination and equal opportunity regardless of race, color, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, ancestry, national origin, disability, veteran's status or socioeconomic background.

2024 OLYMPICS HEARINGS - Boston 2024, the group spearheading the effort to bring the Olympics to Boston in 2024, will hold a series of 20 statewide community meetings over 20 weeks to give the public an opportunity to have input. The first six communities to hold hearings will be Boston, Springfield, Lowell, Cambridge, Malden and a city to be designated along the South Coast. More details and the location of other hearings will be posted as they become available at www.2024boston.org

IRANIAN STUDENTS AT UMASS - The University of Massachusetts on February 12 announced that it was obligated to follow federal law and as a result would prohibit Iranian students from participating in graduate science and engineering programs at the school. UMass officials cited the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 that requires the U.S. Department of State to deny visas to Iranian college students wishing to take courses in fields of study related to the energy sector, nuclear science, nuclear engineering or a related field. The Act is an expansion of U.S. sanctions against Iran and Syria.

After backlash from students, UMass officials last week consulted with the State Department and reached a new decision. The university reversed its decision and said it will comply with the law by developing individualized study plans in these fields based on a student's projected coursework and research. "We have always believed that excluding students from admission conflicts with our institutional values and principles," said Michael Malone, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement. "It is now clear, after further consultation and deliberation, that we can adopt a less restrictive policy."

STATEWIDE CANDIDATES SPENT \$33.1 MIL-LION ON 2014 ELECTION - The Massachusetts

Beacon Hill Roll Call continued



No Senate session

Office of Campaign and Political Finance revealed that statewide candidates spent \$33.1 million on the 2014 election. This is an increase of nine percent from the 2010 election. The candidates for governor topped the list by spending \$20.2 million. Gov. Baker led all gubernatorial candidates with \$5.6 million --\$1.1 million more than he spent on his unsuccessful 2010 campaign for governor. Baker was followed by Martha Coakley with \$3.9 million. The complete list can be found at http://files.ocpf.us/pdf/releases/ statewide2014.pdf

QUOTABLE QUOTES - Special MBTA Snow Edition

"For years I have been calling on the MBTA to fund necessary maintenance over costly expansion. The consequences of their decisions and fiscal mismanagement have been on full display. It is time for a new direction." — Assistant Minority Leader Sen. Robert Hedlund (R-Weymouth) on a package of reforms proposed by Senate Republicans.

"I can't give you the final answer on that." — MBTA General Manager Beverly Scott, who has resigned effective April 11, on whether MBTA commuters would receive any kind of refund because of the problems caused by the snowstorms.

"The thing I find so disappointing about this is every-

body just says, 'We should raise taxes' ... This notion that we should just automatically push that button first before we've done any of the analysis on how we got here, or why we're here, or how we get out, just strikes me as odd." — Gov. Baker

"48 percent and 48 percent." — According to a MassINC poll, it's a tie: the percentage of voters inside the 128 belt who support and oppose raising taxes to fix the MBTA.

"The MBTA doesn't need more cowbell or theatrical press conferences from their outgoing general manager. Rather, the MBTA needs to focus on gaining the public's trust and performing basic services like ensuring the trains run on time ... A clear path toward these remedies would be through receivership." - Paul Craney, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, endorsing the Pioneer Institute's call for placing the MBTA in receivership.

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 imdoes 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 16-20, the House met for a total of one hour and 36 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 15 minutes.

Mon. February 16 No House session No Senate session

Tues. February 17 House 11:03 a.m. to 11:19 a.m. Senate 11:03 a.m. to 11:12 a.m.

Wed. February 18 No House session

Thurs. February 19 House 11:05 a.m. to 12:25 p.m. Senate 11:04 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.

No House session Fri. February 20 No Senate session

portant to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Union Square's master developer presents redevelopment ideas

CONT. FROM PG 1

the storm water in Somerville was drained through Union Square, and the draining process largely relied on limited pipes and pumping systems with finite capacity.

Holmes explained that the city is planning to expand the capacity of the pumping system in Somerville, so the storm water can be stored underground instead of being let go onto the streets.

Other possible solutions include planting on rooftops to absorb certain amounts of storm water to reduce the chance of flooding, according to the meeting.

Elias A. Rashmawi touched upon the brownfield-related issues of Union Square. A brownfield is a property for which the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant, according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"It [researching on brownfield] clearly identifies commercial and industrial activities, as well as residential to optimize the redevelopment," Rashmawi said.

In order to come up with a

plan regarding how to properly use the property, Stantec will first draft a profile of a certain property. The profile includes how much clean up that has been done in the past and how much pollutant that is left to be cleaned. After a thorough assessment of the property through its profile, Stantec needs to make sure the reuse of the property benefits the public health and environment.

When it comes to community transportation planning, Ralph J. De Nisco, Principal of Nelson Nygaard, said, "Transportation is changing nationally. There is a whole new series of sharing economy. That's just the way people think of access to mobility. Somerville is changing as well," Nisco said.

Parking and traffic numbers will drastically change after the Green Line Extension project is complete. Nisco mentioned they were still in the process of obtaining more information about parking.

"Twenty-five percent of the Union Square residents take transits to get to their jobs today before the Green Line comes in. Compare that to people, who



Those attending the Somerville By Design: Union Square workshop were brought up-to-date on the latest plans and proposals for development of the area. — Photo by Douglas Yu

work in Union Square, people who come from somewhere else to work here, is a lot higher," Nisco said.

Nisco also compared ADT (average daily traffic) numbers on different roads of Union Square, traffic numbers based on various timetables. He said,

"We did a parking inventory of Union Square. We went out, and counted all the spaces, on street and off-street, public and private, that exist today."

Future transportation redevelopment plan to Union Square will be made based on the updated data of parking and traffic numbers, according to the meeting.

The participants were handed out with maps at each table to provide more public advice on the Union Square redevelopment after the presentations. In the mean time, the city is still looking for public input through social media.

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thesomervilletimes and follow us on Twitter at @somervilletimes

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.

A broken T is a broken economy



By Joseph A. Curtatone

Not that it necessarily needs to be repeated, but our region is in the middle of extraordinary circumstances with more than seven feet of snow falling in less than four weeks. It's already the second snowiest winter on record for the region, and the record 30-day snowfall that fell over the past month would be the third snowiest season all on its own. So we're aware of the tremendous impact the weather is having on the region, and not just on MBTA service. That said, the problems on the MBTA are not the result of this winter's storms. The choreography of these consequences began long ago. We have chronically underfunded this transportation system for two generations. The MBTA's problems should be a wake-up call to all of us that our future prosperity, for the Commonwealth and every city and town, depends on the reliability of the T—and its expansion goals.

We shouldn't look to the past to lay blame, because we all own the T's problems. Every elected official from the local level to the state Legislature and the Governor's Office bears some of the responsibility. There's no one person to blame, and certainly not MBTA General Manager Beverly Scott, who did as great a job as possible with the resources she was given. But we do have to look to the past to understand how we got to where we are today.

Fifteen years ago, the state shifted \$3.3 billion in debt from its own books to the MBTA, and the Legislature created the 'forward funding' plan that gives one penny out of every 5 cents in sales tax revenue to the MBTA. At the time this might have looked like a good idea—the sales tax grew an average of 6.5 percent per year in the prior decade, so counting on an average 3 percent sales tax increase going forward would seem reasonable. But with the sales tax growth instead averaging only 1 percent per year over the following decade, on top of the rapid increases in costs for healthcare and fuel, we simultaneously saddled the MBTA with tremendous debt and created a structural deficit. There was no way the sales tax alone could have kept up with the T's operating costs,

and yet the sales tax remains the largest piece of the MBTA's annual revenue—every year since 2000, it brings in more revenue to the T than fares and all other operating revenue combined.

Meanwhile, a 2007 state commission report estimated that Massachusetts needs \$1 billion simply to maintain current transportation systems. We knew we weren't funding the T enough to maintain it. Gov. Patrick stood up and put forth a bold proposal to address this problem in his "Way Forward" plan, which would have raised \$1.2 billion in transportation funding. Unfortunately, despite the recommendations in the state's own report and what we could see on in the books, the Legislature ultimately passed a compromise bill two years ago that only provided \$800 million. We sold our transportation systems short again because we weren't willing to make the hard choice.

Our voters repealed tying the gas tax to the Consumer Price Index, costing us more funding for our transportation systems. I can understand why people may have voted to repeal. They may want to see more reforms in the MBTA and greater efficiency, and reform should never be off the table. But reform alone will not solve the math on the MB-

TA's budget books. We must invest in the MBTA if the greater equation of public transit plus a skilled workforce is to give us the result of a thriving economy. The MBTA doesn't just shuttle workers to jobs, it creates an environment that draws the best jobs to the region and makes it possible for the 101 cities and towns that make up the Boston Metro region to produce fourfifths of all the revenue coming into the Commonwealth's coffers. We will only continue to realize this benefit to our quality of life and to our economic prosperity if we properly fund maintenance and expansion of the MBTA and our transportation systems.

We need to plan to that future. We need to plan for a future where three-quarters of the world's population lives in cities, as projected will happen by 2050. We have to understand the strengths that have led our region out of the Great Recession faster than any region in the country—the talent and innovation we have in Greater Boston, from tech companies to the maker movement, and how those industries are based in regions well-connected through public transportation.

That's what we're doing in Assembly Square. We planned for

that future and leveraged \$133 million of city, state and federal tax dollars and the creation of a new T station into, just initially, \$1.5 billion of private investment, creating more than 20,000 net new jobs and pumping billions of dollars into the Massachusetts economy. The Green Line Extension, funded by nearly \$1 billion in federal grant funds that are earmarked specifically for new and expansion public transit projects, will leverage even more in private investment, create more jobs and further strengthen our region's economy. And with a strong economy, guess what? We will have more tax revenues to put back into transit. Quality public transportation—both maintaining what we have, and expanding our reach—won't just get us to our jobs today, it can drive our future.

The time for finger pointing is over. We can continue to rehash the failures of the past—and there's a lot of them—or we can understand that we all own this problem and commit to strengthening the backbone of our economy. If we envision that, plan for it and build, our prosperity will grow—throughout the region and the Commonwealth. If we don't, we won't just face a broken T—we'll face a broken economy.

Life in the wife by Jimmy Del Ponte

Stop and smell the popcorn!



This past Saturday, I had to retrieve one of my favorite scarves that I left at Burton's Grill in Burlington. I decided since I was

right there, I'd do a little shopping at the Market Basket in the same complex. (Thanks Burton's for taking care of my scarf!)

As soon as I walked in the door of MB, the smell of newly popped popcorn hit me right in the face. I think many of us would agree that freshly popped popcorn is one of our favorite aromas. For me it reminded me of the old department stores that used to offer the warm, yummy treat. Zayre and JM Fields in Medford immediately came to mind. (I remembered how to spell Zayre because I recalled the commercial where they spelled it out in song!) There was a store in Fresh Pond also. You would get that tall paper bag, or sleeve as some called it, full of popcorn and boy was it tasty! My mother would buy a bag when we first went in the store

and my brother and sister and I would share it as we followed her around. Of course, after about 15 minutes the butter would stain the bottom of the bag, but by that time all that was left were a few unpopped kernels. Sometimes when I get an idea for a story, I "pop" it onto Facebook to get other people's thoughts on the subject. I can't believe how many folks shared their memories about popcorn.

Back in the day almost all of the Zayre, Fields, Bradlees and Kresges type stores had a big old popcorn machine. In Davis Square we had both a Woolworths and Grants store.

When I was 16, I was hired as a stock boy at Woolworths and worked my way up to the lunch counter. I didn't make popcorn but I made grilled cheese sandwiches and hot dogs and ice cream dishes. One of my jobs on the counter was to put the different price tags inside the balloons that you would pop to see what you paid. I think they were for banana splits and/or sundaes. But it was that popcorn smell that really stood out, until of course you

walked down the pet aisle. My friend Lou F remembers when you could buy 6 baby chicks for 99 cents at Woolworths. (The same Lou F that was the drummer for the band The Wildcats!)

Many stores now offer fresh popcorn the way Market Basket does. Tags Hardware in Porter Square has it (I think it's free) and also Home Depot in Somerville.

It's funny how a smell can jump start your memory. I took my boys to the movies on Sunday and we got the ginormous size of popcorn. The same thing happens whenever I walk into The Somerville Theatre. I look around the lobby, grab a whiff of popcorn, and I start thinking back to all the Saturdays we spent at the movies when we were kids.

You could also get warm peanuts, cashews, and even chestnuts at some of those stores years ago. If you lived near the Davis Square area, you may recall Louds Candy store at Powder House Park. That place had a potpourri of delightful and mouthwatering smells because they made the candy right there.



The guy who ran it wore an apron and round wire rim glasses and could have been in a Norman Rockwell painting called Old Fashioned Candy Store.

We all have a memento of some sort around our house from the old days. I still have a Kiwi Shoe Polish can that has a Bradlees price tag on it. I also have a coat check tag from The Jumbo Lounge, formerly in Teele Square. These items from the past help us recall days gone by, but isn't it cool the way the smell of something as simple as popcorn can also get the mind thinking of happy times?

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

AVAILABLE SUGGESTIONS WELCOME WELCOME

The View Of The Times

Ideas, anyone?



What is it with certain properties in our fair city? Why do some of them seem to be so problematic in terms of finding their proper niche in our warp and woof?

We've watched in wonder over the years as the old Star Market site gradually transforms into a cobweb farm, and lately a similar fate seems to be in the cards for the Powder House Communi-

ty School site, judging from all the failure to launch episodes that have played out in recent times.

Like a homely sister at the school sock hop, we just can't seem to cajole anyone into asking the pitiful creature to get up and dance. Even our oldest and closest pals shrink at the prospect.

And yet, something must be done about

her. She has worth. She has her dignity, after all.

And so, we have no choice but to keep trying to pawn the poor thing off on whoever may be willing to pony up the price of a makeover and the gumption to be seen with her in public.

Sure, the right one will come along eventually. They always do, don't they?

In the meantime, we can whisper or shout, conspire or ignore. We all play our parts in this desperate little dance.

Let's just not let desperation hold sway over our better judgment when it comes to settling on a final suitor.

There are plenty of fish in the sea. Even for the least attractive among us, our day will come. This old girl is more than ready.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

city is afraid that it might suffer severe damage from all the snow. The front of the building is being blocked off. The good news is that one of the city's most popular gas stations with an always friendly touch, Good Gas, directly across from Homan's, is open for business. Drop by and say "Hi" to all the guys there, including our good friend Vinnie who is still working on cars 2-3 days a week.

We want to wish the following Villens here and from here a very Happy Birthday: First of all, to Celia Taylor, who is married to Tom. She's a very special kind of person, and everyone that knows her says the same. We wish Celia the very best of birthdays this year. A popular guy around the city, Roy Kreimeyer, is celebrating with his lovely wife Nancy this week in FLA. We wish him the very best as well. Another popular guy who is very involved with the PTA and various other organizations is Sean Fitzgerald, who is also running for Alderman At Large. We wish him a special birthday as well. We wish our good friend Eamon Fee the very best in celebrating his birthday this week. And finally, to a wonderful, always kind and considerate lady, Nancy Trane (you know, Bob's wife), we wish a very special birthday.

Rumblings and rumors are flying regarding who might be running for office and who won't. But since there are going to be three open seats on the School Board, we expect a race in every ward of at least two candidates. Wards 3 and 4 are being vacated by the present incumbents and we heard that in Ward 6 the present School Committee member has been handpicked to run for Alderman Rebekah Gewirtz's seat, for which she is not seeking re-election. We hear that maybe some are mentioning two names to run in Ward 1 against the present incumbent, Matt McLaughlin. We also heard someone might be running in Wards 5 and 7 against the present incumbents. We know Sean Fitzgerald is the first one to let it be known he's seeking office and we also hear that Courtney O'Keefe is letting it be known she wants back on the Board of Alderman. Call the Election Department at 617 625-6600 and ask for details on what you need to do to run for office. We heard that even Mayor Joe might have an opponent, but we'll see on that one. What do you think? Make your comments on our online blog at www.thesomervilletimes.com.

It's great to see that Jason and Nancy

Fucile are back to work at Victors in Ball Square. Look for some new additions on the menu. We wish them the very best, but by the looks of it the Deli is even more popular with its wide variety of items on the menu.

Be a writer...write now! Are you an aspiring writer? A beginner's journalism course is being taught by popular Somerville Times columnist, Jimmy Del Ponte. Enrollees will have their stories published in The Somerville Times in a new segment that will be named by the students (their first writing assignment). The course will be held after school in room 239 at Somerville High School, Wednesdays from March 11 through May 6. Limited to 10 Students. Contact JDelponte@somervillema.gov, or 617-625-6600 x 2616 for more info. Sponsored by the City of Somerville **Executive Office of Communications.**

The City of Somerville is sponsoring the 2015 Urban Agriculture Ambassador Program (UAAP). Taught by Green City Growers, a Somerville-based urban agriculture company, the program is now seeking applicants for the 2015 class. TheUAAP, which started as a pilot in 2013, will train 20 residents in urban growing techniques in exchange for

30 hours of volunteer service in garden projects across the city. Four intensive workshops will take place on Saturdays in April and May (April 25, May 2, 9, and 16), covering topics including building raised beds, planting and harvesting, troubleshooting pests, and an introduction to bee- and chicken-keeping. In exchange for the free training, the residents will be asked to volunteer for at least 30 hours at a community based gardening project in Somerville. The program is open to all Somerville residents and the deadline is March 13. Applications can be picked up at a Somerville public library, City Hall or can be downloaded at the City's website at http://www.somervillema.gov/urbanag or by emailing urbanagambassadors@gmail.com. More information on the City's urban ag initiatives can also can also be found on the City's Urban Agriculture Blog: http:// somervilleurbanag.tumblr.com.

Veterans and Founders Memorial Ice Skating Rinks are offering advertising opportunities. The Somerville Rinks are a great advertising tool, and it benefits the youth! Advertising revenue helps support the Recreation Dept. To learn more about this great opportunity contact Joan Liddell 1-857-523-9125, jmliddell@somervillema.gov.

A delectable spread at Bite: Food as art

CONT. FROM PG 5

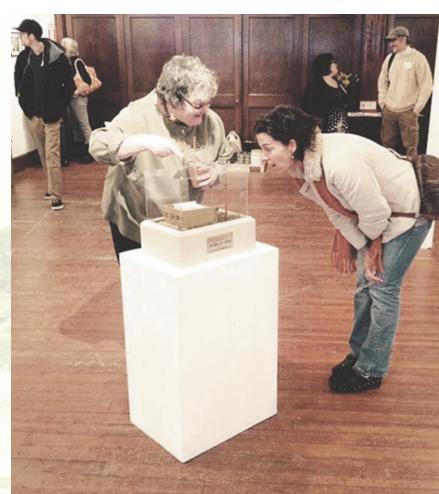
glance at the dinner table. Two sets of standout pieces seemed to captivate the attendees. Alice Abrams' pair of ceramic sculptures, Club Sandwich and I'll Just Have a Salad poked fun at our collective eating habits while capturing the texture of the food with startling precision. The series featuring Oreo frosting cameos by Judith Klausner combined nostalgia with historical craft to create pieces that looked disarmingly like ancient Roman coins.

Alongside its artistic intentions, the gallery is collecting food and toiletries donations throughout the show to support the Somerville Homeless Coalition's Project Soup. The gallery will host a small reception and a final food drive on the final day of the show, March 14, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. before the exhibit closes.

Nave Gallery in Teele Square, 155 Powder House Blvd, Somerville. NaveGallery.org.

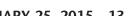




















Photos courtesy of Nave Gallery





SPORTS

St. Clement basketball teams in action





Friday the 7th and 8th grade boys unfortunately ended their season with a loss to Immaculate Conception in the first round of the playoffs. The Anchors move on to the playoffs, the girls will play Wednesday, 7 p.m. at Malden Catholic vs. Rockport. The boys play Friday 7 p.m. at Malden Catholic vs. The winner of the Snowdon/Rockport game.

Ms. Cam's

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

- 7. Where did Bunyan
- 8. In 1982 what famous actress was sent to jail for tax evasion?

write Pilgrim's Progress?

- 9. In 1950 eleven thieves stole more than \$2 million from what?
- 10. Carbonnade is a dish that must contain what?
- 11. In the movie *The Gold Rush*, Charlie Chaplin ate a boot what was it made of?
- 12. According to a survey, what is the top family food in the U.S.?

Answers on page 23

1. What is the most often ordered seafood item in restaurants?

- 2. What is the oldest soft drink in the U.S.?
- 3. In which state did Woolworths originate?
- 4. What chief of the Iroquois Indians had the same name of what car?
- 5. Who did president Reagan nominate as U.S. Secretary of Transportation?
- 6. Who shot Marvin Gaye?

2015 Somerville Summer Camps and Activities Fair

By Tom Bannister

Families with children and teens of all ages in Somerville are invited to the 2015 Somerville Summer Camps and Activities Fair, which will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 from 5:30 to 7:00pm at the Arthur D. Healey School. Summer camps and activities providers, as well as other local community agencies that serve families with children and young adults will participate in this annual event which offers summer activity and program information to families. The Fair is free and open to the public.

"This event demonstrates the strength and diversity of Somerville and is a great way for families and young adults in Somerville to learn about a variety of summer program options available to them, and get a little bit of a head start on their summer planning," stated SFLC Director Nomi Davidson. "It's an ideal opportunity to gather a lot of information in one central location, and find the best fit for your children this summer."



— Photo by Claudia Ferro

Nearly 40 programs from Somerville, Arlington, Boston, Everett, Cambridge and Medford have signed up to participate in this year's event. Attendees can learn about a wide range of summer camp and program options including programs in the arts (general, music, pottery, circus arts, etc.), sports (softball, little league, Pop Warner, swimming, boating, rock climbing, gymnastics, parkour, etc.), technology, recreation, overnight

camps, youth job opportunities, and more!

The Somerville Summer Camps and Activities Fair is sponsored by the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC)/Somerville Public Schools and SomerPromise. Questions regarding the Somerville Summer Camps and Activities Fair should be directed to: summercampfair2015@gmail.com or (617) 625-6600 x6966.

APARTMENT RENTALS

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1258 Broadway, Somerville

Somerville, Arlington, Cambridge -All Areas-

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colony.re@rcn.com



The Loop returns to the Armory

By Haley Houseman

Making a monthly home at the Arts at the Armory Cafe space, The Loop is a monthly performance by a collective of local singers, songwriters, and musician. Hosted the fourth Thursday of every month, the upcoming show will be on Feb. 26, hosted by musician Prateek Poddar. The show is free, open to all ages and runs from 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. There will be coffee, wine and beer available at the cafe.

The Loop is a collective of singers, songwriters, and musicians who come from different backgrounds and musical styles. The group has been the catalyst for collaborative work and discussions of songwriting craft over the course of the year. They perform with their members playing short sets of around twenty minutes over the course of the evening. The group puts a heavy emphasis on developing creative outlets and enjoyable practice.

The Armory itself is home to many different creative groups, from an in-



strument repair shop to a small literary press. The space seeks to showcase a wide range of arts, including dance, theater and musical performances. The Armory has been beautifully restored and many of the buildings historic elements have been preserved, making for a dynamic arts center.

THE LOOP

Thu. Feb. 26, 2015 7:00 pm - 10:30 pm

Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., Somerville.

Winners Announced: 2015 Poster Project

By Rebecca Danvers

Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan and Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc., are pleased to announce that Tristan Khim at Nashoba Valley Technical High School has been named the winner of the third annual 2015 Poster Project and Honorable Mention Awards will be given to Nick Rioux at Keefe Technical High School in Framingham, Chormrern Chan at Greater Lowell Technical High School in Tyngsborough, and Alexi Delcid at Somerville High School.

More than 190 posters from middle and high school students in Middlesex County were submitted for the 2015 Poster Project. The winners were selected by a panel of judges which included art teachers, police officers, school administrators, and staff of the Middlesex District Attorney's Office and Middlesex Partnerships for Youth. This year's poster contest theme was, "I'm Worth More." This theme explores self-confidence, personal strength, and healthy relationships through mutual respect, acceptance, and appreciation of strengths, weaknesses, and the differences among us.

Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc. (MPY) is a non-profit organization which provides prevention and intervention resources and training to Middlesex school districts and communities. District Attorney Ryan is the Chair of the MPY Board of Directors.



The entry from Alexi Delcid of Somerville High School.

What's on Somerville Neighborhood News

Learn how the snow is effecting the city's businesses, get the latest on the school roofs, check out the Somerville High School Drama Club and the Somerville Boxing Club, attend the police-youth basketball game and catch up with the Union Square meetings.



These stories and more on Somerville Neighborhood News #34 on February 24 at 7 p.m. on Channel 3 if you have cable TV, or online at http://www.somervilleneighborhoodnews.org.



ATTENTION HOME BUYERS

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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 joint public hearing for all interested parties will be held by the Planning Board and the Board of Aldermen Land Use Committee on Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chambers on the Second Floor of Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive public comments concerning the following:

ADOPTION OF A NEW SOMERVILLE ZONING ORDINANCE TO SUPERSEDE THE CURRENT ZONING ORDINANCE AS ORIGINALLY ADOPTED ON MARCH 23, 1990.

Please refer to the full draft ordinance and maps, which may be reviewed through the Zoning Overhaul Website at: www.somervillema.gov/zoning

Copies of the ordinance and maps are also 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.

Interested persons may provide comments at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to OSPCD, Planning Division, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; by fax to 617-625-0722; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

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.

Attest: Kevin Prior, Chairman, Planning Board / Alderman Dennis Sullivan, Chairman, Board of Alderman Land Use Committee

Key changes in this overhaul include, but are not limited to:

- · Allows homeowners to add common enhancements such as dormers, bay windows, open front porches, and small rear additions to their
- Implements new regulatory techniques and terminology to increase clarity and transparency.
- Includes graphics illustrating the code that make the ordinance easier to read and understand.
- Simplifies the list of permitted uses.

Housing

- Increases inclusionary zoning requirements.
- Orients the production of affordable housing to transit accessibility.
- Promotes a range of building types permitted in each district.

- Establishes building types for infill development to fit into the form, scale, and pattern of existing neighborhoods and squares.
- Simplifies review for small, local businesses.
- Permits formula businesses and larger stores only by special permit.

- Calls attention to the thriving arts & creative economy of Somerville and permits these activities to thrive across the city.
- Requires new buildings in certain districts to set aside floor area as leasable arts and creative use spaces.
- Creates a new districts zoned specifically for artisan production, exhibition, sales, service, education, shared workspaces, and similar uses by the arts and creative economy.

Transformational Redevelopment

- Harnesses the demand for residential housing to redevelop underutilized areas of the city as new neighborhoods.
- Implements standards for new, developer-built infrastructure in transformational areas.

· Coordinates zoning with the community-driven neighborhood planning of Somerville by Design.

Requires a commercial/residential development mix in certain special districts as called for by the SomerVision Comprehensive Plan.



Somerville

2009





2/18/15, 2/25/15 The Somerville Times



· Establishes transit-oriented parking standards across the entire city.

ADVERTISEMENT

The Somerville Housing Authority (the Awarding Authority) invites sealed bids for Fire Alarm Sprinklers and associated Equipment Testing, Inspections, Certifications, & Maintenance bid number FAS-042015 for multiple locations located in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with documents prepared by the Somerville Housing thority Purchasing Department

This is a Three (3) year contract. The work under this contract consists of performing annual testing & inspections, 5 year stand pipe and fire pump testing, and routine preventative maintenance on fire protection sprinkler systems, connecting pipes, and associated wet/ dry systems, to comply with latest NFPA 25 standards, CMR standards, and the requirements of the local authority having jurisdictions.

Bidders must be certified by the DCAM in the category of Fire Alarm Sprinklers.

Bids are subject to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

General Bids will be received until 10:00 PM, March 18, 2015, and publicly opened forthwith, at the Somerville Housing Authority, Administration Bldg., 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 01245. Bid documents available March 2, 2015 at our Administrative Building listed

All bid proposals must be secured by an accompanying deposit of 5% of the total bid amount in the form of a bid bond, in cash or certified or treasurer's or cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A walk through of the properties will be held for this project at 9:30 a.m., March 9, 2015. Bidders are requested to meet at 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA. Bidders are encouraged to contact the SHA's Purchasing Manager, Anthony Crespo 617-625-1152, extension 336 or email TonyC@sha-web.org to make arrangements to attend.

2/25/15 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE OFFICE OF CITY CLERK **BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

There will be a Public Hearing before the Board of Aldermen's Committee on Licenses and Permits on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, at 7:00 PM, in the Committee Room on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, on the Petition for a Mobile Food Vendor License for Pennypackers Fine Food Inc. dba Pennypackers, which seeks to operate at Aeronaut Brewery, 14 Tyler Street, at various times.

There will be a Public Hearing before the Board of Aldermen's Committee on Licenses and Permits on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, at 7:00 PM, in the Committee Room on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, on the Petition for a Mobile Food Vendor License for Rhythm 'N Wraps LLC dba Rhythm 'N Wraps, which seeks to operate at Aeronaut Brewery, 14 Tyler Street, at various times.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

JOHN J. LONG

2/18/15, 2/25/15 The Somerville Times

Nellie's Wild Flowers

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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 joint public hearing for all interested parties will be held by the Planning Board and the Board of Aldermen Land Use Committee on Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chambers on the Second Floor of Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive public comments concerning the following:

A PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT, SUBMITTED BY 13 REGISTERED VOTERS, TO REQUIRE CERTAIN FINDING BY THE PLANNING BOARD AND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS BEFORE **GRANTING SPECIAL PERMITS.**

A PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT, SUBMITTED BY 13 REGISTERED VOTERS, TO LIMIT THE GROSS FLOOR AREA IN-CREASE TO 15% FOR ONE AND TWO FAMILY DWELLING CONVER-SIONS REQUIRING A SPECIAL PERMIT

Copies of the ordinance 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.

Interested persons may provide comments at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to OSPCD, Planning Division, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; by fax to 617-625-0722; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

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.

Attest: Kevin Prior, Chairman, Planning Board / Alderman Dennis Sullivan, Chairman, Board of Alderman Land Use Committee

To be published in the Somerville Times on February 18, 2015 and February 25, 2015

2/18/15, 2/25/15 The Somerville Times



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

MICHAEL F. GLAVIN **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (SHPC) shall hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 6:40 p.m. in the Third Floor Community Room, at the Visiting Nurses Association (259 Lowell Street) regarding proposals by: 1) Douglas Beaudet to demolish a c.1852 workers cottage at 18 Kent Court; 2) Shangzhe Xuyu to demolish a c.1874 workers cottage at 14 Kent Court; and 3) Kevin Slattery to demolish a c.1874 workers cottage at 35 Moreland Street.

The subject of the hearing will be a review of the initial determination by the SHPC that under the City of Somerville Zoning Ordinance Section 7-28b(2), the structure is considered "Significant." Public testimony followed by discussion and a vote by the Commission will be taken regarding if the building should be "Preferably Preserved." For turther information, please contact (617) 625-6600 x 2500 or <u>historic@</u> <u>somervillema.gov</u>.

2/25/15 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE **OFFICE OF CITY CLERK BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

There will be a Public Hearing before the Board of Aldermen's Committee on Licenses and Permits on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, at 7:00 **PM**, in the Committee Room on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, on the petition of Paulo Almeida dba Top Car Auto Repair, 497 Columbia Street, for a Garage License, for mechanical repairs and storing registered vehicles, all for up to 8 vehicles inside and 2 vehicles outside, operating Mon-Fri 8AM-6PM, Sat 8AM-2PM, Sun

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

JOHN J. LONG

2/25/15 The Somerville Times

LEGAL NOTICES

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Middlesex Probate and Family Court 208 Cambridge Street Cambridge, MA. 02141 (617) 768- 5800

MIDDLESEX Division

Docket No. MI 15P0345EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of:

Antonia C. Diogo

Date of Death: 03/28/2014

To all interested persons:

A Petition has been filed by:

Paul Diago of Comoni

Paul Diogo of Somerville M

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

And also requesting that:

Paul Diogo of

Somerville MA

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to **serve** Without Surety on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00a.m. on 03/03/2015

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

This estate is being administered under formal 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 recipients 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.

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

Date: February 03, 2015

Tara E. De Cristofaro Register of Probate

2/11/15, 2/25/15 The Somerville Times

A hearing to all persons interested will be given by the Somerville Licensing Commission on **Monday March 9, 2015** at the Senior Center, Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at **6:00PM** on the application of DemApples LLC, Inc. d/b/a Two Three Zero for an Entertainment License consisting of Entertainment by Performers and Devices at 230 Somerville Ave., Somerville, MA

For the Commission Andrew Upton Vito Vaccaro John J. McKenna

Attest: Lori Jean Batzek
Administrative Assistant

2/25/15 The Somerville Times

TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISMENTS IN
THE SOMERVILLE TIMES, CONTACT
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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 Zoning Board of Appeals on **Wednesday**, **March 4**, **2015** at 6:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chambers, 2nd Floor, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA.

9 Montgomery Ave: (Case #ZBA 2014-119) Applicant and Owner, The Montgomery Avenue Trust, seeks a Special Permit to construct a dormer/cross gable. RB Zone. Ward 1.

29 Warwick St: (Case #ZBA 015-05) Applicant and Owner, April Dovholuk, seeks a Special Permit to change a cottage into a 2 ½ story structure with dormers/cross gables. RB Zone. Ward 1.

10 Landers St: (Case #ZBA 2015-08) Applicant and Owner, Elaine and Chris Kakambouras, seek a Special Permit to alter a nonconforming structure to enclose a portion of a rear porch. RB zone/Ward 2.

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 Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to OSPCD, Planning Division, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; by fax to 617-625-0722; or by email to dpereira@somervillema.gov.

Attest: Dawn Pereira, Administrative Assistant

As published in The Somerville Times on 2/18/15 & 2/25/15.

2/18/15, 2/25/15 The Somerville Times

A hearing to all persons interested will be given by the Somerville Licensing Commission on **Monday March 9, 2015** at the Senior Center, Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at **6:00PM** on the application of Bantam Cider Company for an Entertainment License consisting of Entertainment by Performers at 230 Somerville Ave., Somerville, MA

For the Commission Andrew Upton Vito Vaccaro John J. McKenna

Attest: Lori Jean Batzek
Administrative Assistant

2/25/15 The Somerville Times

A hearing to all persons interested will be given by the Somerville Licensing Commission on **Monday March 9, 2015** at the Senior Center, Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at **6:00PM** on the application of River Bar, LLC d/b/a River Bar, for a Transfer of Stock at 661 Assembly Row, Somerville, MA

For the Commission Andrew Upton Vito Vaccaro John J. McKenna

Attest: Lori Jean Batzek
Administrative Assistant

2/25/15 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE OFFICE OF CITY CLERK BOARD OF ALDERMEN

There will be a Public Hearing before the Board of Aldermen's Committee on Licenses and Permits on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, at 7:00 PM, in the Committee Room on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, on the petition of GE & M Auto Services Inc. dba Alewife Automotive for a Used Car Dealer's License Class II at 395 Alewife Brook Parkway for no vehicles stored inside, and 18 vehicles stored outside, to be open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 6 PM, Saturday from 8 AM to 2 PM, and Sunday closed.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

JOHN J. LONG CITY CLERK

2/25/15 The Somerville Times

A hearing to all persons interested will be given by the Somerville Licensing Commission on **Monday March 9, 2015** at the Senior Center, Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at **6:00PM** on the application of Rockwell Restaurant Group, LLC d/b/a Foundry on Elm, for a Transfer of Stock at 255 Elm St., Somerville, MA

For the Commission Andrew Upton Vito Vaccaro John J. McKenna

Attest: Lori Jean Batzek
Administrative Assistant

2/25/15 The Somerville Times

A hearing to all persons interested will be given by the Somerville Licensing Commission on Monday March 9, 2015 at the Senior Center, Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at 6:00PM on the application of Prospect Hill Properties, Inc. d/b/a The Independent, for an Alteration of Premises, Transfer of Stock and New Stockholder at 75 Union Sq., Somerville, MA

For the Commission Andrew Upton Vito Vaccaro John J. McKenna

Attest: Lori Jean Batzek
Administrative Assistant

2/25/15 The Somerville Times

A hearing to all persons interested will be given by the Somerville Licensing Commission on Monday March 9, 2015 at the Senior Center, Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at 6:00PM on the application of Union Square Group, Inc. d/b/a Brass Union, for an Alteration of Premises, Transfer of Stock and New Stockholder at 70 Union Sq., Somerville, MA

For the Commission Andrew Upton Vito Vaccaro John J. McKenna

Attest: Lori Jean Batzek
Administrative Assistant

2/25/15 The Somerville Times

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

Senators tour comes to Somerville

By Rebecca Danvers

The sixth of eight Commonwealth Conversations tours crossing the state comes to the area on March 4. Senators Pat Jehlen, Will Brownsberger, Sonia Chang-Díaz, Sal DiDomenico, Linda Dorcena Forry, and Anthony Petruccelli will tour schools, local businesses, redevelopment sites, Massport, and a union apprenticeship program.

The day will culminate with a public town hall event at Roxbury Community College to listen to the concerns of residents throughout the senators' districts. Joining the tour will be Senate President Stan Rosen-

berg and Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr, and other senators from across the state.

The tour begins at Brighton High School with a panel on education, transportation, and economic development. The public is invited to attend this forum from 9:00 to10:15 a.m. The tour continues with a drive through Beacon Park Yards, the site of the Allston I-90 Interchange Improvement Project.

Senators will then visit the energy tech incubator Greentown Labs in Somerville; hear from the Somerville Community Corporation Community Organizers Team on workforce development; view development sites

in Union and Assembly Squares; have lunch at the student-run Crimson Café at Everett High School and tour the school; view development sites along lower Broadway; receive a briefing at Massport in East Boston; visit The New England Regional Council of Carpenters apprenticeship program in Dorchester; take a dinner stop at a local restaurant; and end the day with the two-hour public town hall forum at Roxbury Community College's Media Arts Center beginning at 6:30 p.m.

"The Commonwealth Conversations Tours are exciting opportunities for Senators to visit other districts and see some of the outstanding projects going on throughout the Commonwealth," said Senator Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville). "It's also a wonderful chance to engage with the public about issues that matter to Massachusetts residents."

The Commonwealth Conversations Tour is a statewide tour of Senate districts led by the local senators to reach out to local residents, businesses, and interest groups to listen directly to their needs and concerns with the hope that it will foster more civic engagement while helping each senator learn more about issues outside of their own districts.

"With our statewide Commonwealth Conversations Tour we hope to hear directly from the people of the Commonwealth about how we can help improve their lives through our work in the Senate," said President Stan Rosenberg. "We hope these conversations will help us craft our agenda and engage the public in the good work that we hope to accomplish this legislative session."

All members of the public are encouraged to participate. Written testimony can be submitted at a public forum or through the tour website at the Talk to the Tour tab. To learn more about the tours visit the website at https://malegislature.gov/cc and follow on Twitter at @MA_Senate and #MaConvos.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH Wednesday February 25

East Branch Library Preschool: Storytime 11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|115 Broadway

Central Library Middle School Writers' Den Alan Ball-617-636-9033 6 p.m.-7:15 p.m.|79 Highland

Thursday | February 26

Central Library

Preschool: Storytime for 3 to 5 year

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

Friday February 27

Central Library

Preschool: Storytime for 2 year olds 10:30 a.m.-11 a.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Monday | March 2

Central Library

Sing-along with Fred Griffeth 11 a.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Tuesday | March 3

Central Library

Homeschool Reading Group for Ages

Tammy McKanan 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.|79 Highland

West Branch Library

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

Central Library

Somerville High School Anime Club Meeting Emmanuel-8572583920

3 p.m.-4:30 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Wednesday | March 4

East Branch Library Preschool: Storytime

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

MUSIC | ARTS

Wednesday February 25

Johnny D's

Steve Riley & The Mamou Playboys PLUS The Green Mountain Playboys 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

On The Hill Tavern 499 Broadway|617-629-5302

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

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

Joshua Tree Bar & Grill

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

Arts at the Armory

Youth Arts Arise: Visual Language of

3:30 p.m.|Mezzanine|191 Highland

Thursday | February 26

Johnny D's

The Laura Grill Band Bill Blumenreich Presents: Wyatt

17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's

Fully Celebrated Orchestra 7:30 p.m. 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

Front Room

Acoustic/Bluegrass|9:30 p.m. Back Room

Scattershot

247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

On The Hill Tavern

Live DJ Music

499 Broadway|617-629-5302

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

Bull McCabe's

Dub Down Reggae 366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

Samba Bar & Grille

608 Somerville Ave 617-718-9177

Somerville Theatre

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

Arts at the Armory

7 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Friday | February 27

Iohnny D's

Boston Comedy Festival presents Ted Alexandro Free Friday featuring Grassroot plus

Jo Henley 17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's

Tom Hagerty Acoustic Band | 6 p.m. Joe Sambo & The Goonz, Monkeybread, Shotgun Waltz \$10 cover|9

335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589 The Burren

Front Room

Irish Session|9:30 p.m. Back Room

247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Orleans Restaurant and Bar

10 p.m.|65 Holland St

On The Hill Tavern

499 Broadway |617-629-5302

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

65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Bull McCabe's Dave Wells 10 p.m.

366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Joshua Tree

DI McRiddleton

256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

Samba Bar & Grille

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

Casey's

Entertainment every Friday 173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

Arts at the Armory **Blood Drive**

12 p.m.-7 p.m.|Performance Hall **Bluegrass Fridays** 7:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Davis Square Theatre

Ian Ethan 9 p.m. Choose To Find 10 p.m. Parachuter|11 p.m. 255 Elm Street

Saturday|February 28

Johnny D's lazz Brunch

JEFF JAM DANCE PARTY Roy Sludge + Jesse Dee COMBO SHOW plus Julie Rhodes, DJ Easy Ed 17 Holland St|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's

Patsy Hamel Band |6 p.m. Liz Frame & The Kickers, The Barn Burners, Red Tail Hawk \$5 cover 9

• • • • VILLENS ON THE TOWN • • • •

335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren Back Room

Red Square

247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Orleans Restaurant and Bar

Karaoke 65 Holland St

On the Hill Tavern

Live DI Music 499 Broadway|617-629-5302

Bull McCabe's

Michael Gapriel & The PPL|10 p.m. 366A Somerville Ave|617-440 6045

Joshua Tree DJ El Sid!

256 Elm St. |617-623-9910 Samba Bar & Grille

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

Entertainment every Saturday 173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

Arts at the Armory The Two Ricks

10:30 a.m.|Café Jeremy Lyons

1 p.m.|Café

land Ave

David Tanklefsky & Friends 7 p.m.|Café

Sound Off A Capella 8 p.m.|Performance Hall|191 High-

Davis Square Theatre Comedysportz Boston|7 p.m. Old School Game Show's "Hot & Sweaty Lovin", Let's put a bun in that oven.makeout party

9 p.m.|255 Elm Street Sunday|March 1

Johnny D's

Jazz Brunch

Open Blues Jam! featuring Dr Grant & The Medical Marijuana Band 17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's Bar

Twenty-Eight Strings, Natalie Flanagan & the F-Bombs, Trusty Sid Amber

Casares |1 p.m. 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren

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

Bull McCabe's Pub

Dub Apocalypse

366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045 Highland Kitchen Sunday Brunch Live Country &

Sunday Night Live Music 150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131 **Orleans Restaurant and Bar**

Game Night 65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Samba Bar & Grille

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

Arts at the Armory Boston Balboa presents Jen Barnett: Traffic-Stopping Bal! 12 p.m.|Performance Hall

Non, je ne regrette rien: Les Chan-

sons de Edith Piaf avec Christine Zufferey (Mary Zoo) & Catherine Capozzi (Axemunkee)

4 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Monday | March 2 Johnny D's

Stump! Pub Trivial8:30 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 Helena Delaney, Johnny O'Leary & Friends Irish Session|9 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

On The Hill Tavern

499 Broadway|617-629-5302 Bull McCabe's Pub

Stump! Team Trivia 366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Arts at the Armory Make Out!

6:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave Tuesday | March 3

Johnny D's

17 Holland Stl617-776-2004

Sally O'Brien's Bar

Honkytonk Masquerade 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

Front Room

The Burren

Back Room Open Mic w/ Hugh McGowan 247 Elm Street 617-776-6896

On The Hill Tavern Stump Trivia (with prizes)

Bull McCabe's Pub The Ghetto People Band 366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen

hosted by Victor and Nicole of Egoart.

150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131 Samba Bar & Grille

PI Rvan's Pub Quiz

Arts at the Armory

Youth Arts Arise: Visual Language of

17 Holland St|617-776-2004 Sally O'Brien's Bar

335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

Comedy@10

On The Hill Tavern

65 Holland Stl617-591-2100 **Bull McCabe's Pub**

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

Highland Kitchen

608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177 Joshua Tree Bar & Grill

9910

Arts at the Armory

Youth Arts Arise: Primary Portraits 3:30 p.m.|Mezzanine Wiretap Wednesday Open Stage

7 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave **CLASSES AND GROUPS**

Wednesday February 25

Central Library

Ibbetson Street #36 Reading Harris Gardner

6 p.m.-8:45 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

Third Life Studio Belly Dance performance preparation with Nadira Jamal 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.|Level 3|33 Union

Sq|www.nadirajamal.com Thursday February 26

West Branch Library Learn English at the Library!

(Session 1)6 .m.-7 p.m. (Session 2)7:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

40 College 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 Saturday February 28

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

Hall|191 Highland Ave

Bagel Bards Somerville Writers and Poets meet weekly to discuss their work

9 a.m.-12 p.m.|Au Bon Pain| 18-48

Holland St Sunday | March 1

Unity Church of God Fourth Step to Freedom Al-Anon Family Groups

7:00 P.M. | 6 William Street

Enter upstairs, meeting is in base-

Third Life Studio Discover Belly Dance with Nadira

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.|33 Union

Sq|www.nadirajamal.com Monday | March 2

Central Library Chess Night 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.| 79 Highland

Learn English at the Library!

(Session 1)6 .m.-7 p.m. (Session 2)7:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. 115 Broadway

East Branch Library

Tuesday | March 3

Central Library Learn English at the Library! 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.| 79 Highland Avenue

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

Third Life Studio

Central Library

Arts at the Armory

The Art of Group Singing For Women with Susan Robbins, www.libana.com 7 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.|33 Union Sq

Wednesday | March 4

Nan Levinson, author of War Is Not a Game Nan Levinson

7p.m.-8:30 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue **Third Life Studio**

Belly Dance performance preparation with Nadira Jamal 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.|Level 3|33 Union

Sq|www.nadirajamal.com

Jason Anick and the Swingers 8:30 p.m. Arts at the Armory

499 Broadway|617-629-5302

First Tuesday of the Month|Spelling Bee Night

The fun starts at 10:00p.m.

608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

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

3:30 p.m.|Mezzanine||191 Highland

Wednesday | March 4

Johnny D's

Free Poker, lots of prizes!

The Burren Front Room Exile on Elm

Back Room

247 Elm Street|617-776-6896 499 Broadway 617-629-5302

Orleans Restaurant and Bar

150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131 Samba Bar & Grille

Pub Trivia

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

PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO!

HAPPENINGS: CENTER SENIO

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.

All clubs and groups welcome new members.

Holland Street: 167 Holland Street Monday through Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

617-625-6600 Ext. 2300

Cross Street Center: 165 Broadway Tuesday & Wednesday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(617) 625-6600 Ext. 2335

Ralph and Jenny Center: 9 New Washington Street, Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. (617) 666-5223

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: IF THE CITY CALLS A SNOW EMERGENCY AND THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED THE SCOA WILL ALSO BE CLOSED AND ALL PROGRAMS, GROUPS, **EXERCISE CLASSES & EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR THAT** DAY WILL BE CANCELLED.

The award winning Fit-4-Life Program is coming to our Cross Street Center – 165 Broadway – Starting in March – A unique combination of exercise and nutritional support opportunity under the direct supervision of a certified exercise trainer and participate in individual and group counseling with a nutritionist. The cost to you is \$10.- a month that gives you access to fitness & nutritional Fit-4-Life classes each week. Limited scholarships are available - Need more information? Please contact Chris Kowaleski our Health & Wellness Coordinator at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email him at CKowaleski@somervillema.gov This is for older adults 55+ Space is limited so sign up early!

Fiore's Restaurant – Wednesday, March 4th – check in time is 10:45 A.M. at our Holland Street Center and 11:00 A.M. at our Ralph & Jenny Center with an approximate return time of 3:00 P.M. Join us for a delicious lunch – choice of Chicken Parmesan, Salmon or Eggplant Parmesan - \$25.- fee, this will sell out fast so please contact Connie at 617-625-6600, Ext. 2300 to reserve your spot. Previously scheduled for Wednesday the 11th.

Stepping Stones – To Guide Your Way – Monday, March 9th – 10:30 A.M. to Noon – Nancy Duffy, from Beacon Hospice will guide you through the discovery process about end of life planning. Important discussion covering various considerations as we grow older, important documents, end of life care, how to spark conversation with a loved one and how to obtain & complete the document "Five Wishes." Please RSVP by calling 617-625-6600, Ext. 2300.

Boston Flower & Garden Show – Thursday, March 12th – Departing our Holland Street Center at 9:30 A.M. with an approximate return time of 3:00 P.M. A fee of \$26.- includes tickets and round trip SCM transportation. Lunch at a waterfront area restaurant is an additional cost. This year's theme is "Season of Enchantment." Gardening, cooking, floral design demos, lectures and so much more. To reserve your spot or if you have any questions please contact Janine Lotti at 617-625-6600, Ext. 2300.

The SCOA is NO LONGER excepting applications for free smoke alarms / carbon monoxide detectors. It is the hope of both the Somerville Fire Department and the Somerville Council on Aging that we will receive the grant again in the future. If you would like your name put on a waiting list should this grant be received again, please contact Maureen Bastardi at the Somerville Council on Aging at 617-625-6600, extension 2316.

The luncheon scheduled on Tuesday, March 10 at the Highlander Café at SHS has been CANCELLED.

March Madness Super Bingo scheduled for Tuesday, March 17th at the Ralph & Jenny Center is SOLD OUT.

The trip scheduled to Wildwood, NJ on May 11th -15th is SOLD OUT. But we have added a second bus and it is filling up fast. Only 13 seats left! Please call Connie at 617-625-6600, Ext. 2300 to reserve your seat.

The Wednesday, March 11th trip to see "That Hopey Changey Thing" at Stoneham Theatre is SOLD OUT

Back by popular demand are the Holiday Inn Dances. Lunch and dance to music provided by Hank our resident DJ. All dances are on Mondays and from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. February 24, March 23, April 13, May 18, June 29. A \$15.00 fee is required along with a RSVP so please contact Connie at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300 to make your reservation or if you have any questions.

LGBT EVENTS

LGBT Monthly Lunch – There will be no LGBT Lunch scheduled for February. The next lunch will be scheduled for Monday, March 9th - more details to follow. This event happens the 2nd Monday of every month excluding City Holidays and snow emergencies.

LGBT Advisory Group – Our next Advisory Group meeting will be on Monday, March 9th at 4:30 P.M. We are looking for new members and would love to have you as part of our group. This group meets the 2nd Monday of every month excluding City Holidays and snow emergencies.

LGBT Dinner & Movie - There is no LGBT Dinner & Movie night in February because the 3rd Monday falls on a City Holiday – President's Day. This event happens the 3rd Monday of every month excluding City Holidays and snow emergencies. The next scheduled Dinner & Movie night is Monday, March 16th – stay tuned for more details.

*If you require additional information or have any questions regarding the LGBT Lunch, Dinner & Movie or the Advisory Group please contact Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2316 or email her at MBastardi@ Somervillema.gov

LBT Women Fit-4-Life - Fitness and Nutrition Classes. Classes are Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting at 6:00 P.M. \$10 a month fee - scholarships available & it just might be covered under your insurance. We have available slots and would love to have you. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our Health & Wellness Coordinator, Chris Kowaleski at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300.

IMPORTANT NEWS:

Our Holland Street Center will be serving lunch on Monday, Thursday & Fridays only until further notice.

The Ralph & Jenny Center will remain closed on Mondays and will resume Mondays after the first of the New Year.

Please note in the "Upcoming Schedule" section several changes in the times that our Cross Street Center and our Ralph & Jenny Center are open over the next couple of weeks.

STAY ACTIVE:

Weekly Exercise Class Schedule

Holland = (H) Ralph & Jenny = (RJ) Cross Street = (C)

Mondays:

Wii Bowling, noon, Free. (H) Fit 4 Life* Group C, 1:00 P.M. (H)

Tuesdays:

Strengthening, 9:15 A.M., \$3 per class (H) Dalcroze Eurhythmics, \$2.00, 1:00 P.M., (H) LBT Fit 4 Life*, 6:00 P.M., (H)

Wednesdays:

Fit 4 Life* Group A, 8:45 A.M (H)

Fit 4 Life* Group B, 9:00 A.M. (H)

Fit 4 Life* Group C, Noon (H)

Bowling @ Flatbreads, 1:00 P.M., \$10/week for shoes and dues

Zumba for All, 5:15 P.M., \$3 per class (H)

Thursdays:

Strengthening, 9:30 A.M., \$3 per class (RJ) LBT Fit 4 Life*, 6:00 P.M.

Fridays:

Fit 4 Life* Group A, 8:45 A.M.

Fit 4 Life* Group B, 9:00 A.M.

Fit 4 Life* Group C 12:00 P.M.

*Fit 4 Life classes \$10/month, pre-registration required.

Upcoming Schedule

Holland = (H) Ralph & Jenny = (RJ) Cross Street = (C)

Wednesday February 25

10:00 English Conversation (C)

10:00 Cards (RJ)

11:30 Lunch (RJ, C, H)

12:45 Bingo (RI)

1:00 Bowling at Flatbreads Hanscom Air Force Base

Thursday|February 26

9:00 Yoga (H)

10:00 Current Events Group (H)

10:00 Cards (RJ)

10:00 Knitting Scarves for Soldiers (RJ)

11:00 Computer tutorial with Barbara (H)

11:30 Lunch (H, RJ)

12:45 Bingo (H, RJ)

Valentine's Celebration at WHYC (Previously scheduled for the 9th)

Friday | February 27

11:30 Lunch (H)

12:45 Bingo (H)

Monday|March 2

9:30 Veterans Group (H) 10:30 Moonlighters (H)

11:30 Lunch (H)

Tuesday | March 3

10:00 English Conversation (C)

10:00 Scarves for Soldiers (RJ)

10:00 Cards (RJ)

11:30 Lunch (RJ, C)

12:00 Computer tutorial with Norbert (H)

12:45 Bingo (RI)

6:00 Caregivers Support Group (H)

Wednesday | March 4

10:00 English Conversation (C)

10:00 Cards (RI)

11:30 Lunch (RJ, C, H)

12:45 Bingo (RJ)

1:00 Bowling at Flatbreads

DID YOU KNOW?

We have a Facebook page. Check us out at www.facebook.com/somervilleCOA.

You can receive our monthly newsletter that is always filled with useful and important information. For a \$5.00 yearly fee you can receive it via the U.S. Postal service or a free version can be sent electronically. Please contact Connie at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300 to sign up.







Somerville, MA 02143 Tel: 617-492-8377 Fax: 617-492-8534

Somerville welcomes its first Poet Laureate

By Tom Bannister

Nicole Terez Dutton, a Somerville resident with an impressive literary background, has officially been named as the city's first-ever Poet Laureate.

Dutton is a teacher at the Solstice MFA Program at Pine Manor College, and her work has been featured in Callaloo, Ploughshares, 32 Poems, Indiana Review, and Salt Hill Journal. She has been awarded fellowships at the Fine Arts Work Center, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Cave Canem and the Virginia Center for the Cre-

"Somerville has so much creative energy and power, and we are well known for our vibrant arts scene. Similarly, we have a talented, well-educated, and thoughtful writer's community that needs a voice. In Nicole Terez Dutton, Somerville gains a tremendous advocate and partner for the writing arts, and I am proud to welcome her as our City's first Poet Laureate," said Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone.

"Nicole's work is poised and insightful, and I think it will really resonate with the Somerville community," said Greg JenArts Council. "She conveyed a thoughtful perspective on her approach to this new position, and has a passion for promoting poetry through collaboration with youth, elders, and community groups. We've gained an impressive ambassador in Nicole Terez Dutton."

The city announced in late 2014 that it was seeking candidates to enhance the profile of poets and poetry in Somerville and surrounding communities. The Poet Laureate is expected to bring poetry to segments of the community that currently have

kins, Director of the Somerville less access or exposure to poetry: senior citizens, youth, and schools. The Poet Laureate will serve a two-year term, appointed by the Mayor, and will be provided an honorarium of \$2,000

> The Poet Laureate was chosen based on a series of criteria, including excellence in craftsmanship, professional achievement, and creating a vision for the position.

> "I am thrilled to have been chosen as Somerville's Poet Laureate and am excited to collaborate with the very talented and passionate members of



our community to make poetry more accessible," said Terez Dutton. "It is an amazing opportunity to share what I love, to connect with writers and readers, and to bring poetry into wider conversation."

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Patsy's Pastry Shop, Somerville is seeking a part time Baker. Must be experienced. Please call 617-625-5466

LOST AND FOUND

Found men's gold wedding band at Prospect Hill on January 1 but looks like it might have been there longer. The ring is engraved inside. For more information call 617-388-9742 or email potarisconstruction@ yahoo.com.

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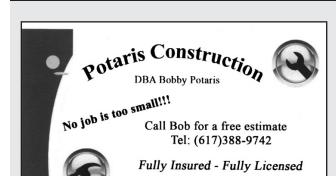
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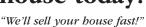
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Somerville Community Access TV Ch.3 Programming Guide

Celebrating 30 years of making grassroots community media for Somerville

Eckar	7:30am	Honk Festival	12:00pm	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	Wednesday, February 25 5:00pm eff am Sing Song Sh					
Democracy Now! (Free Speech	8:00am	Taking Back Your Health	12:30pm	Eat Well Be Happy Cooking Show	5:30pm	•				
The Stephanie Miller Show (Free Speech	9:00am	Evangelico	1:00pm	Tails of the City	6:00pm	Road to Recovery Somerville Film Group	5:30am 7:00am			
Bay State Biking N	10:00am	MAPS Health Connector	1:30pm	Health is Wealth	6:30pm	•				
Pearls of Irregular Sh	11:00am	Henry Parker Presents	2:00pm	Taking Back your Health (Live call-in)	7:00pm	Life Matters	:30am			
The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech	12:00pm	Telemagazine	3:00pm	Active Aging	7:30pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) SCATV Presents Potluck and Lecture Series	:00am			
Somerville Film Gro	1:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	4:00pm	Fouye Zo Nan Kalalou (Live call-in)	8:00pm		:00am			
Exercise with Robyn and N	2:00pm	Culture Club	4:30pm	The Steve Katsos Show	9:30pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	0:00am			
Esoteric Scie	2:30pm	Tele Kreyol	5:00pm	Somerville Film Group: Ways to Live Forever	10:00pm	Art at SCATV	0:30am			
Free Speech Televis	4:00pm	Pearls of Irregular Shape	6:00pm	Pearls of Irregular Shape	11:00pm	Abugida TV	1:00am			
Henry Parker Prese	5:00pm	Somerville Film Group	7:00pm			The Big Picture with Thom Hartmann Show	2:00pm			
Literati Sc	5:30pm	Fluff Festival	7:30pm	ebruary 27	-	Henry Parker Presents	:30pm			
Ville Pir.	6:00pm	David Pakman (Free Speech TV)	8:00pm	Somerville Film Group	6:00pm	Physician Focus	2:00pm			
Youth Program	6:30pm	Nossa Gente e Costumes	9:00pm	Shrink Rap	7:30am	Race, Community, and Police Relations	2:30pm			
The Somerville		Open Line News with Davey D	10:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00am	What the Fluff Festival	:30pm			
	7:00pm	Gay News USA (Free Speech TV)	11:00pm	SCATV Presents Potluck and Lecture Series	9:00am	Free Speech Television	l:00pm			
Abugida	8:00pm		•	Pearls of Irregular Shape	10:00am	Energy Theater	:00pm			
Dedilhando au Saud	9:00pm		Sunday, N	Henry Parker Presents:	11:00am	Trance: A Romantic Journey	:00pm			
Bate Papo com Shi	10:00pm	Program Celebrai	6:00am	Brunch with Sen. Bernie Sanders	12:00pm	Somerville Housing Authority	:30pm			
The Entertainer's Sh	11:00pm	Rompendo em Fe	7:00am	Race, Community, and Police Relations	1:00pm	Mystic Youth Chorus	:00pm			
March 3	Tuesday	Effort Pour Christ	8:00am	SCATV Presents Honk Festival	2:00pm	Crossroads: a Search for An American Dream	:30pm			
The Strug	7:00am	Heritage Baptist Church	9:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	3:00pm	Somerville Pundits	:00pm			
Democracy Now! (Free Speech	8:00am	Evangelico	10:00am	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	4:00pm	The Steve Katsos Show	3:30pm			
The Strug	9:00am	Active Aging	10:30am	Somerville Jazz Festival 2014	5:00pm	Bay State Biking News	:00pm			
Shrink W	10:00am	Poet to Poet/Writer to Writer	11:00am	Mystic Learning Center: Variety Hour	5:30pm	Art at SCATV	0:00pm			
Wicked Sc	11:00am	Taking Back Your Health	11:30am	Somerville Housing Authority	6:00pm	SCATV Presents Honk Festival	0:30pm			
Ablevi	11:30am	Inside Talk	12:00pm	Art at SCATV	6:30pm	Visual Radio	1:00pm			
The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech	12:00pm	Somerville Film Group	12:30pm	Somerville Film Group	7:00pm	y, February 26	hursday			
What the Fluff Festi	1:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	1:00pm	Pearls of Irregular Shape	8:00pm	Atheist Viewpoint	6:00am			
Art at SC	2:00pm	Somerville Times & Journal Reading	1:30pm	Energy Theater	9:00pm	Creating Cooperative Kids	7:00am			
Jeff Jam Sing Song Sh	2:30pm	Life Matters	2:30pm	The Steve Katsos Show	9:30pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	:00am			
Tele Ga	3:00pm	Rompendo em Fe	3:00pm	The Somerville Line	10:00pm	Cancer Explained!	:00am			
Ring of Fire (Free Speech	4:00pm	Dedilhando a Saudade	4:00pm	Acronym TV (Free Speech TV)	11:00pm	Girls Talk	:30am			
Poet to Poet/Writer to Writer	5:00pm	Race, Community, and Police Relations	5:00pm	Wikiest link	11:30pm	Dead Air Live	0:00am			
The Literati Sc	5:30pm	Abugida TV	6:00pm	February 28	Saturday	Greater Somerville	1:00am			
Tails of the	6:00pm	African Television Network	7:00pm	Arabic Hour	6:00am	Ablevision	1:30am			
Culture C	6:30pm	Tele Magazine	8:00pm	The Somerville Line	7:00am	The Thom Hartman Show (Free Speech TV)	2:00pm			
Somerville Neighborhood N	7:00pm	Effort Pour Christ	9:00pm	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	8:00am	Chef's Table Series	:00pm			
9		Farrakhan Speaks	10:00pm	leff lam Sing Song Show	8:30am	Neighborhood Cooking w/Candy				
Greater Somer	7:30pm	·	Monday N	, , , ,	9:00am	Cooking with Georgia & Dez	:00pm			
Dead Air	8:00pm	Ablevision	6:00am	Festival Kreyol Tele Galaxie	9:00am 10:00am	3 3	:30pm			
Energy The	9:00pm					Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	3:00pm			
The David Pakman Show (Free Speech	11:00pm	Creating Cooperative Kids	6:30am	Dead Air Live	11:00am	Free Speech Television	1:00pm			

7:30pm:

8:00pm:

8:30pm:

12:00am:

12:30am:

1:00am:

2:00am:

9:00am:

11:00am:

12:00pm:

EDUCATIONAL CHANNEL 15

Wednesday, February 25

CITY TV 13/22						
Wednesd	ay, February 25					
9:00am:	Connecting Communities - Housing					
9:30am:	SomerViva em Portugues					
12:00pm:	School Committee Meeting – REPLAY					
3:30pm:	Somerville By Design:					
	Union Sq. Visioning - ESPANOL					
6:30pm:	Aldermen at Work – Bob McWatters					
7:00pm	Somerville By Design:					
	Union Sq. Visioning – ESPANOL					
9:00pm:	Voices of Somerville - GLASS					
9:00pm:	Agenda for 2.26.15 BOA Meeting					
Thursday	, February 26					
12:00am:	Zoning Reform Workshop					
1:00am:	Aldermen at Work – Bob McWatters					
1:30am:	MLK Day Celebration					
3:30am:	Congressional Update					
9:00am:	MLK Day Celebration					
12:00pm:	Senior Circuit					
12:30pm:	Keep Moving: Exercises for Older Adults					
1:00pm:	Voices of Somerville					
1:30pm:	Somerville By Design: Union Sq. Visioning					
3:30pm:	SomerViva em Portugues					
7:00pm:	Board of Aldermen Meeting – LIVE					
Friday, February 27						
12:00am:	Somerville By Design – 2.11.15					
2:00am:	Connecting Communities - Housing					
2:30am:	Highlander Forum					
3:00am:	SomerViva en Espanol					
9:00am:	Somerville By Design – 2.11.15					
12:00pm:	Somerville By Design: Union Sq. Visioning					
1:15pm:	Somerville By Design:					
	Union Sq. – an KREYOL AYISYEN					
1:30pm:	Voices of Somerville - GLASS					

2:00pm:

3:30pm:

6:30pm:

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12:00am:

1:30am:

2:30am:

3:30am:

9:00am:

12:00pm:

12:30pm:

1:00pm:

Saturday, February 28

Zoning Reform Workshop

Development Opportunities

Voices of Somerville - GLASS

Connecting Communities - Housing

Union Sq. Visioning - PORTUGUESE

Voices of Somerville - GLASS

Union Sq. Visioning - ESPANOL

Voices of Somerville - GLASS

Aldermen at Work – Mary Jo Rossetti

Connecting Communities - Housing

Zoning Reform Workshop

MLK Day Celebration

Somerville By Design:

MLK Day Celebration

Somerville By Design:

MLK DAY Celebration

Somerville By Design:

9:00am:

12:00pm:

12:30pm:

2:15pm:

2:30pm:

3:00pm:

7:00pm:

6:30pm:	Somerville By Design – 2.11.15
8:00pm:	Aldermen at Work – Mary Jo Rossetti
8:30pm:	Voices of Somerville - GLASS
9:00pm:	Connecting Communities - Housing
9:30pm:	Somerville By Design:
	Development Opportunities
Sunday, N	March 1
12:00am:	Somerville By Design – 2.11.15
1:30am:	Voices of Somerville - GLASS
2:00am:	Connecting Communities - Housing
2:30am:	Somerville By Design:
	Union Sq. Visioning - PORTUGUESE
9:00am:	Aldermen at Work – Mary Jo Rossetti
12:00pm:	Senior Circuit
12:30pm:	Keep Moving: Exercises for Older Adults
1:00pm:	MLK Day Celebration
3:00pm:	Aldermen at Work – Mary Jo Rossetti
3:30pm:	Green Line Extension Agreement
6:30pm:	Voices of Somerville - GLASS
7:00pm:	Senior Circuit
7:30pm:	Connecting Communities - Housing
8:00pm:	Aldermen at Work – Mary Jo Rossetti
8:30pm:	Board of Aldermen Meeting – REPLAY
Monday,	March 2
12:00am:	Senior Circuit
12:30am:	Keep Moving: Exercises for Older Adults
1:00am:	Board of Aldermen Meeting – REPLAY
4:00pm:	Highlander Forum
9:00am:	Somerville By Design:
	Development Opportunities
12:00pm:	Board of Aldermen Meeting – REPLAY
3:30pm:	Somerville By Design:
	Development Opportunities
7:00pm:	School Committee Meeting - LIVE
Tuesday,	March 3
12:00am:	2015 State of the City/Mid Term Addresses
1:15am:	SomerViva an Kreyol Ayisyen
1:30am:	Somerville By Design:
	Development Opportunities
3:00am:	Green Line Extension Funding Agreement

Voices of Somerville

SomerViva en Espanol

Keep Moving: Exercises for Older Adults

Connecting Communities - Housing

SomerViva an Kreyol Ayisyen

1:00pm: Somerville By Design – Union Sq. Visioning

Senior Circuit

Senior Circuit

3:30am:

9:00am:

10:30am:

Somerville By Design: Union Sq. Visioning

State of the City/Mid Term Addresses

Union Sq. – an KREYOL AYISYEN

Somerville By Design:

1:30pm:

2:45pm:

4:00pm:

2:00pm:	SHS Boys Basketball v Medford				
3:30pm:	Student of the QtrESCS				
4:00pm:	SHS Boys Basketball v Everett - 1/23				
5:30 pm:	Teen-Police Basketball Game				
6:35pm:	Playoff Basketball: SHS Boys v Andover				
8:30pm:	Student of the QtrESCS				
10:00pm:	Playoff Hockey: SHS v Marblehead				
Thursday,	February 26				
12:00am:	Playoff Hockey: SHS v Marblehead				
1:30am:	Playoff Basketball: SHS Boys v Andover				
9:00am:	WSNS Winter Concert				
10:00am:	Connecting Communities -Housing				
11:00am:	SHS Girls Basketball v NDA				
1:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball v Wachusett - 2/13				
2:00am:	Capuano Kindergarten Winter Concert				
3:00pm:	Playoff Basketball: SHS Boys v Andover				
3:30pm:	Student of the QtrArgenziano				
5:00pm:	Playoff Hockey: SHS v Marblehead				
7:00pm:	WSNS Winter Concert				
8:30pm:	Student of the QtrESCS				
9:00pm:	Playoff Basketball: SHS Boys v Andover				
Friday, February 27					
12:00am:	SHS Girls Basketball v NDA				
1:30am:	SHS Girls Basketball v Wachusett - 2/13				
2:30am:	SHS Girls Baketball v Malden - 1/30				
9:00am:	Playoff Basketball: SHS Boys v Andover				
11:00am:	SHS Boys Basketball v Malden				
12:30pm:	SHS Boys Basketball v Medford				
2:00pm:	SHS Boys Basketball v Peabody				

Voices of Somerville - GLASS

Senior Circuit

Aldermen at Work - Mary Jo Rossetti

School Committee Meeting - REPLAY

Green Line Funding Announcement

Teen-Police Basketball Game

SHS Boys Basketball v Malden

School Committee Meeting – REPLAY

Capuano Kindergarten Winter Concert

Keep Moving: Exercises for Older Adults

9:00pm:	Playoff Basketball: SHS Boys v Andover				
Friday, February 27					
12:00am:	SHS Girls Basketball v NDA				
1:30am:	SHS Girls Basketball v Wachusett - 2/13				
2:30am:	SHS Girls Baketball v Malden - 1/30				
9:00am:	Playoff Basketball: SHS Boys v Andover				
11:00am:	SHS Boys Basketball v Malden				
12:30pm:	SHS Boys Basketball v Medford				
2:00pm:	SHS Boys Basketball v Peabody				
3:30pm:	SHS Basketball v Belmont @ TD Garden				
6:00pm:	Playoff Basketball: SHS Boys v Andover				
8:00pm:	SHS Boys Basketball v Malden				
9:30pm:	SHS Boys Basketball v Medford				
11:00pm:	Connecting Communities -Housing				
Saturday, February 28					
12:00am:	Playoff Hockey: SHS v Marblehead				
2:00am:	SHS Basketball v Belmont @ TD Garden				

Playoff Basketball: SHS Boys v Andover

Playoff Hockey: SHS v Marblehead

SHS Hockey v Salem

12:30pm: Playoff Basketball: SHS Boys v Andover 3:00pm: SHS Boys Basketball v Malden SHS Girls Basketball v NDA 4:30pm: 6:00pm: Playoff Hockey: SHS v Marblehead 7:30pm: SHS Hockey v Salem Playoff Basketball: SHS Boys v Andover 9:30pm: Sunday, March 1 12:00am: SHS Boys Basketball v Malden

1:30am: Playoff Hockey: SHS v Marblehead 3:00am: SHS Hockey v Salem 9:00am: SHS Basketball v Belmont @ TD Garden 11:00am: Highlander Forum - College Readiness 12:00pm: SHS Boys Basketball v Peabody 1:30pm: SHS Hockey v Salem 3:04pm: SHS Hockey v Latin Academy - 1/24 SHS Girls Baskethall v Norwood 4:30pm: 6:00pm: SHS Basketball v Belmont @ TD Garden Highlander Forum - College Readiness 8:00pm: SHS Boys Basketball v Peabody 9:00pm: 10:30pm: SHS Hockey v Salem

Monday, March 2 12:04am: SHS Hockey v Latin Academy - 1/24 SHS Girls Basketball v Norwood 1:30am: 3:00am: SHS Girls Hoopfest v Fontbonne 9:00am: Argenziano School MLK Concert 10:00am: All City Beginners Concert 10:42am: Our Schools, Our City - Performing Arts 11:11am: Teen-Police Basketball Game 12:17am: Connecting Communities - Recreation 1:00pm: SHS Hockey v Methuen 3:00pm: SHS Boys Basketball v Peabody 5:00pm: SHS Girls Basketball v Saugus 7:00pm: Playoff Basketball: SHS Boys v Andover SHS Girls Basketball v Saugus 9:00pm: 11:00pm: Argenziano School MLK Concert

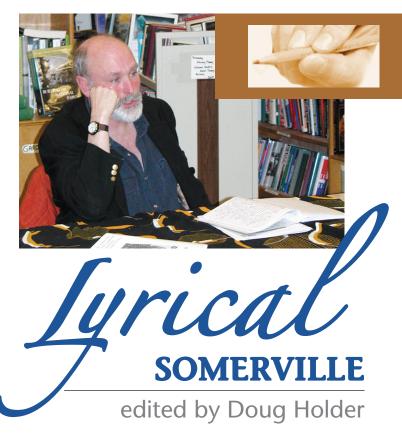
Tuesday, March 3 SHS Hockey v Salem 12:00am: 1:30am: SHS Girls Basketball v Wachusett - 2/13 9:00am: Teen-Police Basketball Game Capuano Kindergarten Winter Concert 11:00am: SHS Boys Basketball v Malden 12:00pm: 2:00pm: SHS Boys Basketball v Medford Student of the Qtr. - WSNS 3:30pm: SHS Boys Basketball v Everett - 1/23 4:00pm: 5:30pm: Teen-Police Basketball Game 6:35pm: Playoff Basketball: SHS Boys v Andover 8:30pm: Student of the Otr. - WSNS 10:00pm: Playoff Hockey: SHS v Marblehead 12:00am: SHS Boys Basketball v Medford

SHS Hockey v Salem

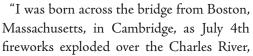
SHS Boys Basketball v Malden

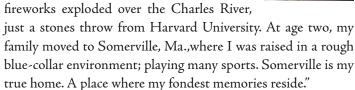
1:30am:

3:00am:



Bruce Foley is a Somerville Poet now residing in Las Vegas. This Somerville High School graduate has never forgotten his roots. He writes The Somerville Times:





True Wealth

Open a bookclose a door, ten years have come and gone, Zen, is a lazy cat, winking, a sparrow out of reach, just one of many desires, everything is mind, you wear the hand-me-down burden of your Western fathers, keeping busy, never keeping still, ambition kills a life of quiet; true wealth, is a pocketful of time.

— Bruce Foley

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

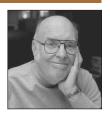
Ms. Cam's From on page 14 Olio 1. Shrimp 7. Bedford Jail 2. Dr. Pepper 8. Sophia Loren 9. The Brinks Armored 3. Lancaster, Pennsylvania Car Co. headquarters in 4. Chief Pontiac 5. Elizabeth Dole 10. Beer 6. His father, the day be-11. Licorice

12. Spaghetti

fore his 45th birthday

by Doug Holder

Interview with X.J and **Dorothy Kennedy**



Introduction from X.J. Kennedy's website:

X. J. Kennedy was born in Dover, N. J., on August 21, 1929, shortly before the crash of the stock market. Irked by the hardship of having the name of Joseph Kennedy, he stuck the X on and has been stuck with it ever since.

Kennedy grew up in Dover, went to Seton Hall (B.Sc. '50) and Columbia (M.A., '51), then spent four years in the Navy as an enlisted journalist, serving aboard destroyers. He studied at the Sorbonne in 1955-56, then devoted the next six years to failing to complete a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. But he did meet Dorothy, his wife, and a noted children's literature author there.

He has taught English at Michigan, at the Woman's College of the U. of North Carolina (now UNC Greensboro), and from 1963 through 1978 at Tufts, with visiting sojourns at Wellesley, U. of California Irvine, and the U. of Leeds. In 1978, he became a free-lance writer.

Recognitions include the Lamont Award of the Academy of American Poets (for his first book, Nude Descending a Staircase in 1961), the Los Angeles Book Award for poetry (for Cross Ties: Selected Poems, 1985), the Aiken-Taylor Award for Modern American Poetry (given by the University of the South and The Sewanee Review), Guggenheim and National Arts Council fellowships. In spring 2009 the Poetry Society of America gave him the Robert Frost Medal for lifetime service to poetry.

I had the pleasure to speak to X.J. and Dorothy Kennedy on my Somerville Community Access TV show Poet to Poet: Writer to Writer.

Doug Holder: X.J., you asked if you could introduce your wife—please do.

X.J. Kennedy: Both Dorothy and I dropped out of PhD programs at Michigan, but she got further along than I did. She has been a writer in her own right and a collaborator with me for many years. She has written a number of children's' books including Thought I'd Take My Rat to School. This was the first anthology of poems about school for children. She created a whole genre of imitators. (laugh). We have both worked on a book of children's poems titled Knock on a Star. This has been in print for 32 years. We revised it around the turn of the new century. Dorothy has written text books—she is partly responsible for the Bedford Reader, that has been read by more than 2 million students.

DH: Dorothy, tell me about your work together on Knock on a Star.

DK: Both Joe and I had the idea that children might want to know how poems are put together. So we illustrated the book, and we mentioned ways that forms can be recognized and used in the conception of a poem.

DH: X.J., you were born right after the crash of 1929. Do you think this influenced your work in any way?

XJ: I would be pressed to figure out how.

DH: Why did you drop out of the PhD program at the University of Michigan?

XJ: I had a tough job getting a topic approved for a dissertation. I wanted to write about Emily Dickinson. By this time I had a book of poems out. I looked at all the poets who were making it through without a PhD, teaching college as a writer. I decided I would try this.

DH: How do you view the academic life?

XJ: I have nothing against it. It has fed me and the family. People talk about academic poetry. Well, I never have been sure there is such a thing. These days, with all these MFA programs, there is a danger of a certain sameness. There is still enough variety that I don't see a problem. Nobody agrees what poetry is. Free verse predominates, of course. I have always been an old grouch, with my rhyming, etc. I have tried to write free verse but I got scared, and I wanted my security blanket of rhyme

DH: Would you advise a young poet to get his or her

XJ: It won't get you a job. It might help you eventually teach Creative Writing, if you have written something that anyone notices. The workshops that these programs provide gives a young writer an audience. The writers are put in with people who are reading his or her work with more patience and sympathy than is usually

DH: You are known for your light verse. But as you know comedy and tragedy are closely aligned. But your poems aren't just for yucks. When you write a poem do you have in mind darker themes?

X.J.: When I am writing a poem I don't have a theme in mind. I am just trying to get some words down. Some poems shape up to nothing but a yuck. But others go deeper. I like that kind.

DH: You exhibit a ribald sense of humor in your work. Has anyone influenced you, your family, other

XJ: Well, I guess it was my father. He was sort of the family poet. Families had poet laureates back then. They were expected to produce poems for anniversaries, weddings, etc. He did not have much schooling, but he did memorize poems he read in school. He could recite pages of Whittier's Snow Bound and many others. I guess all of this made a dent on me.

DH: We all have had a love affair with the Grolier Poetry Book Shop in Harvard Square. They are now publishing your book Fits of Concision: Collected Poems of Six or Fewer Lines.

XJ: Ifeanyi Menkiti, the owner of the Grolier started the poetry press. I am one of the authors in their "Established Poets Series." I have been writing for over 60 years, so I guess I am established. Tino Villanueva is another poet in the series; he authored So Spoke Penelope. I am happy to see the Grolier branching out to publishing. I am happy to find a publisher for such an odd book as this.

DH: Certainly a poet with your reputation wouldn't have a hard time finding a publisher?

XJ: Many publishers would look at epigrams as vile bugs. But I have always liked the form. The book has Haiku, short lyrics, epitaphs. It is a challenge to write a poem tersely. I love the challenge.

DH: You have a novel coming out, right?

XJ: The book is titled A Hoarse Half-Human Cheer. It was based on a catholic college I went to that became under control of the mafia. The college was being used as a front for a war surplus operation. I have only written novels for children, so this is a first.

DH: I noticed a poem you wrote dedicated to Allen Ginsberg. Were you two friends? Did you know him

XJ: I can't say I knew him well. We exchanged postcards, and I saw him at some social gatherings. I always felt a kinship to him though. We both grew up in industrial New Jersey, and we both had fathers who were poets. Ginsberg's father, Louis, was a mediocre poet most of the time. He sent out a lot of poems, and he was very persistent. Out of every 100 poems or so he would have a good one. When I was an editor at the Paris Review we published a poem of his.

But Allen Ginsberg and I both had Lionell Trilling as teacher, and we both loved William Blake's Songs of Innocence and Experience. We had some things in com-

DH: Well. since you are a strong proponent of meter and rhyme, do you agree with Robert Frost's statement that writing free verse is like playing tennis without a

XJ: Well, that is a nasty remark, but there is some truth to it. But I do admire people who can write in free verse. There is a small reactionary movement that is now radical who still adheres to rhyme, and I am part of it.

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