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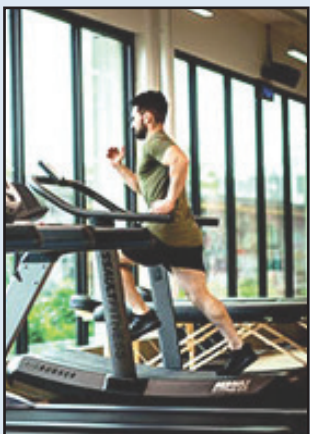
TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Urban Design Commission reviews plans for proposed construction, renovations



The Urban Design Commission is currently considering approval plans for a multi-unit building for 73 Summer Street, which is currently the location of a now closed service station. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

By Max Eidelman

The city's Urban Design Commission met on Tuesday, January 26, to approve new rules and regulations, as well as listen to presentations regarding proposed unit developments.

Among the new rules and regulations, which were unanimously approved, is a revision concerning the high-rise district that now allows for 7-story buildings in the affordable-housing overlay. This is intended to "maximize the build-out potential of those buildings to maximize the amount of affordable housing that they produce." Other revisions were addressed but the bulk of the meeting focused on proposed building developments.

The architect of the medical marijuana facility on 67 Broadway, Revolutionary Clinics, discussed proposed changes to the building. The building has functioned as a medical marijuana dispensary for three years, Continued on page 4

Artistic inspiration from Somerville for Argenziano students

Argenziano School art teacher Diana Taremi says, "We are spending a lot of time in our homes, walking on our own blocks and spending time in our communities right now because of the pandemic." Taremi draws on her decades of teaching experience to engage her students in exciting projects within the remote learning environment.

Last fall, Taremi directed students to a video about fine artist Romare Bearden. One of Bearden's most famous pieces is *The Block*, which celebrates his vibrant street in Harlem, NYC street in 1971 and its African American residents.

Taremi asked 7th and 8th graders to use *The Block* as style and content inspiration to portray their own neighborhoods. She told students to get out and take a look at familiar buildings on their blocks, such as store fronts, restaurants, garages, and residential buildings. She told them to think about the people living around them and to contemplate what Continued on page 14



Layla, from the Argenziano School, contributed this piece of artwork to the project directed by art teacher Diana Taremi.

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

Mayor Joe Curtatone announced that certain Phase 3 Step 1 businesses, including fitness clubs and gyms, may once again open in Somerville as of Monday, February 1, the same day that related rollbacks will end in Boston, and one week after early closing requirements were lifted statewide by Governor Baker. Businesses impacted by recent activity rollbacks and restrictions on operating hours may also revert to Somerville pre-rollback operating hours, which allow outdoor seating until 11:30 p.m.

It's always good to keep in mind how important it is for us to keep supporting the city's economy by shopping local, even during these difficult times. Although reopening is gradually unfolding at a measured pace, Somerville still has a lot to offer. So let's give back to those merchants who have stuck it out through all this by giving them our business whenever we can.








Vaccination information is changing quickly. The city is going to keep sending out weekly emails, which will include vaccine information, but if you want the latest news, here are two sites to check frequently: The state's COVID vaccine website is updated often with statewide information: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-data-and-updates. Visit somervillema.gov/covidvaccine for general vaccine updates, info sessions, FAQs, and more localized updates as they become available. To find out when and where you can get vaccinated, visit mass.gov/covidvaccine. Your primary care physician or health provider may also have guidance for you.

Happy birthday this week to the following: Happy birthday to John Arvantis, who is celebrating this week. Also, happy birthday to a good guy, Jason Ribeiro. We hope he has a great day this week. Happy birthday to our good friend and a great guy, Bob McWatters. We wish him the best and hope he has a great day. Also celebrating this week,

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of February 3 – February 9 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday February 3	Snow	35°/26°	32%	19%	NW 11 mph
 Thursday February 4	Sunny	36°/22°	5%	8%	WNW 13 mph
 Friday February 5	Rain	42°/32°	41%	23%	S 9 mph
 Saturday February 6	Rain	38°/25°	37%	21%	WSW 12 mph
 Sunday February 7	Snow	39°/29°	32%	19%	W 10 mph
 Monday February 8	Snow	33°/19°	48%	27%	WNW 13 mph
 Tuesday February 9	Partly Cloudy	30°/20°	16%	9%	W 15 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com
Comments of the Week

Response to: Parking removal plan on College Ave. and Holland St. disastrous to Davis Sq.

Resident says:

I travel to Davis several times a week to frequent small businesses there – by bus, and then on foot. The plan is to add both bus and bike lanes. There is actually evidence from other cities that improving the pedestrian experience and adding bike lanes has a positive effect on sales tax receipts. Why? Because if you can walk or bike easily in a pleasant environment, you're more likely to go more often. People speed crazily down Holland Avenue as it is – it is wide and has tons of parking. There are limited pedestrian crossings, and it is already tough to get around Davis on foot without the amount of car traffic. Making it a more pleasant place to walk around and travel to without having to find parking will help businesses, not hurt them.

Somerville Residence says:

By no means will improved bicycling facilities bring more business to Davis Sq. It will surly destroy the business , If you check statics i am sure that most people entering Davis sq. for dinner ,shopping or doctors appointments, the movies theater come by car. when was the last time anyone took there bike to the movie theater? Most people biking are just passing thru the square! In these tough time small business are going thru shouldn't we be encouraging business to the square and not hindering it Enough !

Jeff Byrnes says:

Seriously? Rather than increase safety, and the ability for folks to walk, bike, scooter, bus ride into Davis, you want to preserve parking? Cars do not buy things. Cars use valuable public space for private use. Cars are dangerous & polluting. We need to prioritize safety and sustainability, and plenty of data shows us that removing parking is the best thing to do not only for those goals, but for businesses, too!

Ted says:

Maybe those intrepid individuals who planned and monitored the construction of the Red Line T stop and the walkable blocks around it were on to something: transit riders, pedestrians, and cyclists are the lifeblood of the city. "People and progress" did not come to Davis because it's a great place to park a car. The city's plan builds on what makes Davis successful, and if anything could go further to make sure space is used economically productive way (mobility improvements to bring more people to the square) instead of a wasteful way (parking).

TheoNa says:

It's speculation on my part but I can't help wondering if the intent is to make the one to two story buildings financially unfeasible so that they're sold to developers and razed to make way for larger buildings.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Old wives tales?



I grew up in Somerville with second generation Italian parents. My friends were of many different ethnicities and most of our grandparents were, as they said, "Off the boat," a term I never liked.

We were pretty close to our grandparents both location wise and emotionally. My mother could speak Italian but my dad was fluent. Dad was the first one in the family to be born in America shortly after the family arrived. I heard a lot of strange stories about customs, traditions and superstitions.

Whenever I got a new car my Aunt Olga would put quarters under the floor mats. This is one of the traditions or old wives tales that have been passed down.

Some more Italian beliefs are never put shoes on a table, never throw away bread or olive oil, never give an odd amount



of roses, never put hats on the bed, and always put money in a purse if it's a gift. Whoever finds a baby's first tooth has to buy the first pair of walking shoes. And the Grand No-no of them all, hanging red peppers on your door to protect the home, from Malocchio, or the curse and of the evil eye.

I asked my Somerville friends with Italian families to share some old wives tales that they grew up with. Below is a blend of those memories.

Never put coats on a bed. Don't ever have birds as pets, and if a bird comes through your window it means death.

It's bad luck to change the calendar to the new month before the first day.

If a fork falls on the kitchen floor, a lady will come to visit. If a spoon falls it means a man will visit. Biting your hand shows disapproval, along with the usual universal hand signs, and if you spill salt, you have to toss some over your left shoulder.

Never put the bread on the table good side down. A friend's aunt would put an extra pair of comfortable shoes in the closet for them to change into in Heaven. Don't pass a baby over the table. Sprinkle salt on the doorway before entering a new home. Never pick up a new car on a Friday. Yes, can't have pictures of birds on playing cards or pictures, we call it red sauce, never gravy, and garlic everywhere!

To wrap it up, this is from a lady I grad-



uated High school with: "My nonno hung a horseshoe over the door and hung a string of garlic to keep away the evil eye. Thanks to my pisans for chiming in.

Auntie Olga put the quarters under the mats of our 2003 SUV when we bought it new. My kids, their friends, my aunts, and three different bands were all chauffeured around in that SUV for 16 years. We put almost 200,000 miles on it and thank God we were kept safe.

Since Auntie isn't around anymore, her daughter, my cousin Carol, will do the honors and place the quarters under the mats of my son's first car.

Do I believe in old wives tales? Some of them. One piece of folklore I don't mess with is the aforementioned Malocchio (mal-bad, occhio-eye), or the evil eye. It's the most serious of all Italian customs and curses that can cause physical pain and misfortune. I have a disturbing story about a real Italian curse that actually happened. If I get the guts, I'll share it another time. Meanwhile, I'm going to hang some fresh garlic on the front door because I used what was there for sauce last Sunday. Go Bucs!

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COVID-19 MOBILE TESTING

Thursday, February 4, 3:00 p.m.

The mobile testing unit will accept patients by appointment at roaming locations. You must call one of the phone numbers below to make an appointment during regular City Hall business hours (Monday-Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.).

Please leave a message if no one answers.

Administrative Record Available for the Conway Park Site Removal Action

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces that the Administrative Record for the removal action at the Conway Park Site, Somerville, MA, is available for review. EPA seeks to inform the public of the availability of the Administrative Record and to encourage the public to review and comment on it. The removal action includes (but is not limited to) a combination of excavation and disposal, and capping of soils contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and lead.

The Administrative Record is the collection of documents that formed the basis for the selection of a removal action at the site. Documents in the Administrative Record include the Site Investigation Closure Memorandum and the Action Memorandum.

The Administrative Record file is available for review at the:

- U.S. EPA Records Center, 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100, Boston, MA, 02109-3912, (617) 918-1440, by appointment; or on-line at <http://semspub.epa.gov>.
- Somerville Public Library, 79 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, (617) 623-5000, <https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org>.

Written comments on the Administrative Record file should be sent to: On-Scene Coordinator Gary Lipson, at lipson.gary@epa.gov; or at Mail Code 02-2, U.S. EPA Region I, 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100, Boston, MA, 02109-3912. Comments should be sent to the On-Scene Coordinator within 30 days of this announcement.

THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

The gift cards that keep on giving

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to the Walgreens Family Company–Pharmacy Store on McGrath Hwy, last week on reports of larceny. Police were informed that the suspect, Terrell Dorest, of Medford, who was an employee, was in the office with manager.

Upon arrival, the officers met with asset protection manager, the store manager, and Dorest. The asset protection manager informed them that she had been assigned to investigate a series of money shortages that have taken place at the store since the beginning of December 2020.

She further explained that when she looked into the matter, she observed several transactions where money was taken out of the cash register and loaded into gift cards, which caused money to be missing from the cash register at the end of the business day.

The asset protection manager also stated that she and the store manager met with Dorest and confronted him, at which time he reportedly confessed to taking the money.

The asset protection manager provided the officers with a voluntary statement form completed by Dorest, where he stated in part, "I have took \$8,450 from the store because i am struggling with rent, my girlfriend is pregnant and needs money for abortion." Dorest also wrote that "we needed to get an abortion which costs \$1,000."

This statement was signed by Dorest, with the asset protection manager and store manager also signing as witnesses.

The asset protection manager also provided the officers with a copy of an Agreement to Repay form.

The officers asked the asset protection manager how she was able to attach the suspect to cash shortage, and she stated that all store employees have a distinctive and unique store identification number. She provided the officers with a document that shows all the transactions performed by Dorest from December 2, 2020 to January 24, 2021. The document showed a shortage of cash totaling \$ 8,450.

The officers subsequently placed Dorest under arrest on a charge of larceny over \$1,200.

Per his request, the officers allowed Dorest to call his girlfriend. While on the phone, the suspect stated, in part, "I did something stupid. I'm really sorry. I have to deal with the consequences".

Dorest was then transported to Somerville Police Headquarter for booking.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

City of Somerville launches call-in lines for COVID-19 vaccine information

The City of Somerville has launched phone lines that residents can call to listen to recorded updates on COVID-19 vaccine information. Five lines, each with a different language, are available. Because vaccination information is changing rapidly, these lines will be updated frequently and will only provide the latest information. For additional vaccine information, sign up for City alerts and visit the websites listed below.

Vaccine Info Line numbers:

- English Vaccine Info Line: 617-591-3251
- Spanish Vaccine Info Line: 617-591-3252
- Portuguese Vaccine Info Line: 617-591-3253
- Haitian Creole Vaccine Info Line: 617-591-3254
- Nepali Vaccine Info Line: 617-591-3255

Useful Covid-19 Vaccine Websites:

The State’s www.mass.gov/covidvaccine website is updated often with statewide information. Visit it to find out when and where you can get vaccinated.

Visit www.somervillema.gov/covidvaccine for general vaccine updates, info sessions, FAQs, and more localized updates as they become available.

Sign up for vaccine and covid alerts:

You can sign up for COVID-19 and general City alerts via phone, text, and email at www.somervillema.gov/alerts; make sure to sign up for each method you can receive. If you would like to sign up for occasional vaccine updates by phone, visit www.somervillema.gov/covidvaccine.



Urban Design Commission reviews plans for proposed construction, renovations

CONT. FROM PG 1

but the new changes are intended to convert the garage in the back of the building, which is essentially unused at the moment, into an area for adult recreational use.

The goal is for Revolutionary Clinics to function as both a medical facility in the front, and a recreational facility in the back. The Commission supports the general direction of the plan but offered some recommendations, one of which is that the new revisions need to incorporate some screening in the back for discretion, considering that the building borders on a residential area.

As Revolutionary Clinics is one of the leading medical marijuana dispensaries in the state, it is an exciting prospect for the city that its Somerville location may soon start to incorporate a responsible recreational option for adults. The Commission and architect spoke about other revisions to the site plan, which are to be revisited at the next meeting.

Another presentation at the meeting showcased the proposed project for 73 Summer Street, which is currently host to an out-of-business gas station. While almost anything would be an improvement to the lot’s current condition, the proposed building should turn out to be quite an addition to the Spring Hill neighborhood.

The plan is to construct a 3-story residential building with a mixture of studio, 1-person, 2-person and 3-person units. As mentioned in the presentation, a work-from-home station is part of the design plan as well, which reflects the reality that we can expect to start seeing the manifestation of “new-normalcy.”

The design plan also incorporates plants and vegetation, a bike-station, and there is even potential for solar panels, all of which lends credence to the Commission’s remark that the proposed building “isn’t really like any other residential buildings in Somerville.” The Commission seemed quite excited about the prospects of this project, and another presentation with further developments is expected to be part of the next meeting.

Somerville City Council meeting update

By Joe Creason

On Thursday January 28, the Somerville City Council held a regular meeting via teleconference in accordance with Governor Baker’s executive order in regards to the Open Meeting Law. The City Council meeting began with a series of remembrances for recently deceased residents. After the memorializations, there were several infrastructure items on the agenda to determine the maintenance of roads, including the installation of conduit and manholes at Somerville Avenue, Prospect Street and Medford Street. The City Councilors then went

on to discuss complications around personnel appointments and hiring confirmations. In December 2019, the Somerville Police Department made a request to increase the number of vacancies on the Reserve Police Officer list from 10 to 16 in anticipation of projected SPD retirements as well as withdrawal of candidates from the reserve list. The expansion of the reserve list was approved and many interviews of the candidates have been conducted. According to Ward 2 Councilor Jefferson Thomas Scott, the City Council had previously asked that the reserve list be eliminated, noting that under

Civil Service, the city must state the number of vacancies to be filled but that requirement does not apply to a reserve list. He believes that using a discretionary number can lead to manipulation of the reserve list in order to get to particular individuals on that list. The Mayor’s Office made a request asking for the allocation of \$130,853 from the medical marijuana stabilization fund for the purpose of substance use prevention as well as parent/student education. The money would go towards a substance use prevention counselor for the youth, overdose prevention/narcotic training and community ed-

ucation on adult-use marijuana. A meeting order was brought forward to address the issue of fraudulent websites posing as the online menu for order out restaurants. The websites direct potential customers to a professional looking copy of the restaurants online menu. This fraudulent menu belongs to a third party who then takes a cut of the order and charges the restaurant a significant fee. The Council stated that they would get this issue to appropriate committee for finding solutions to the problem. Major expansions to the Rodent Control Assistance program will now be implemented

moving forward. The program was created to combat the growth in Somerville’s rampant rodent population. Non-owner occupied buildings are now being included as eligible for the program, leaving less places in the city for pests to hide. City Councilors felt it was essential that the Communications Department inform residents as part of a social media and PSA campaign. “The rodent and pest problem is at an incredible level, so I appreciate that this expansion is happening and I want to highlight for everyone at home that this is a matter of public health” Councilor Scott said.

SCES providing rides to vaccination sites for older adults

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is offering free transportation, via one of SCES’ transportation providers, for local older adults to nearby COVID-19 vaccination sites. SCES is encouraging those who are eligible to get vaccinated, and we do not want transportation to be an obstacle for the people we serve. If you are an older adult (age 60 and up) from Cambridge or Somerville, and you need a ride to your vaccination site, please give us a call! We ask that you call well ahead of the appointment, so that we can connect you with a transportation option, and you can plan the most convenient travel time for yourself. Masks will be required during transportation. Currently, individuals 75 and older are eligible. Those who are between 65 and 74 years of age, and those who have co-morbidities, will be eligible in the near future. Visit the State’s website at www.mass.gov/coronavirus for the latest information on eligibility and vaccine sites. All locations currently require appointments, and it may take several weeks to get one. A call center option for vaccine appointments will be launched soon. For more information about the SCES vaccination transportation program, or to register for a ride, call SCES at 617-628-2601 or email info@eldercare.org.

Dorothy’s Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Truffles

One of the most expensive delicacies in the world is the white truffle, at an approximate retail price of \$3,424/lb., that’s a whopping \$214 per oz. (https://truffle.farm/truffle_prices.html). The white truffle is smooth and has a slight yellow tinge and is found in the Piedmont region of Italy. (<https://untolditaly.com/truffles-in-italy/>) Overall, the majority of truffles are found in Italy and France. One of the most highly sought after truffles is the black truffle found in Villefranche-du-Perigord. These are the most popular, however, these small delights may be found in other places, including the United States. Check out the truffles of Sonoma, California (<https://www.kj.com/blog/kendall-jackson-truffle-harvest>). Truffles are expensive because they are hard to find and are seasonal. To “sniff” out these subterranean tubers, pigs were used in the past to dig them up. But the pigs would eat them before the hunters could get the truffles. Now, it is very common to use dogs to find them. There is an abundance of information out there regarding the different types of truffles, where they

grow, and the times of year they can be found. Check out these links for the history of the truffle. (<http://www.trufflespecialty.com/en/truffles.html>) and (<http://www.nerodicognaro.com/en/truffle-world/history-of-truffle/>) So, if you never had the pleasure of trying truffles because of price or the very short shelf life, there are some products out there that you can purchase for a fraction of the cost that do have a longer shelf life. Truffle butter is a great way to get that truffle flavor and the leftovers can be frozen for up to a year if stored properly. Then there’s truffle salt, one of my favorite flavorings for roasted potatoes. The salt will last long past the expiration date if stored in the refrigerator. I’m sure most people have heard about truffle oil. But when it comes to truffle oil, you may not be getting a real truffle infused flavor, but a flavor produced in a lab. Check out this article about what to look for when purchasing oil (https://www.eataly.com/us_en/magazine/culture/truth-truffle-oil-urbani/). And one last thing I would like to mention, the first time I had truffle balsamic vinegar I was in Florence, Italy. As I was meandering down the



side streets by the Piazza di Santa Croce, I came upon a little specialty oil and wine shop called Italian Loves. They had a sign out front offering free wine tastings. Of course, I just had to check it out. Not only did I get to try fantastic wines, but they also offered tastings of other specialty items including truffle balsamic vinegar. What a game changer! This was one of the best things I have tasted in a while. Needless to say, I filled a box of items and had it shipped back home. I used that truf-

fle balsamic vinegar on everything! Vanilla ice cream with strawberries, a caprese salad, and with a charcuterie platter, drizzled over some Pecorino. Definitely a tasty treat. And if you decide to purchase whole truffles, I highly recommend a truffle slicer. This allows for very thin slices over your risotto, or scrambled eggs. But if you have a mandolin, that will also work well. Visit Dorothy’s website at <http://ddimarzo2002.wix>.

Somerville’s reopening returned to limited Phase 3 Step 1 status

Mayor Joe Curtatone has announced that certain Phase 3 Step 1 businesses, including fitness clubs and gyms, may once again open in Somerville as of Monday, February 1, the same day that related rollbacks will end in Boston, and one week after early closing requirements were lifted statewide by Governor Baker. Businesses impacted by recent activity rollbacks and restrictions on operating hours may also revert to Somerville pre-rollback operating hours, which allow outdoor seating until 11:30 p.m.

“This statewide and local easing of restrictions is informed by declining case and hospitalization rates in the Commonwealth and region,” said Doug Kress, Director of Health and Human Services. “The COVID-19 threat however remains concerning. All community members are still urged to keep sticking with the safety measures. Always wear a face mask, made of two or more layers, when in public over both your nose and mouth. Stay at least 6 feet away from others. Don’t share your air: avoid crowded indoor spaces, and always wash or sanitize your hands often, don’t touch your face, and if you feel unwell, stay home and ask your healthcare provider if you should be tested for COVID-19.”

As noted in the order being issued by the Mayor and the Board of Health, all businesses seeking to open must have a city-compliant health and safety plan and meet stringent COVID-19 safety requirements. The requirements, which are designed to decrease the risk of virus transmission, include all requirements in the State’s COVID-19 Order #59 as well as measures that exceed those standards noted in an Appendix to the order. Weather permitting, the city continues to encourage and support outdoor alternatives as additional safer options for gyms and fitness centers.

The return to Somerville’s Limited Phase 3 Step 1 status will remain in effect until further notice.

Businesses eligible to reopen in Somerville on February 1 include:

- fitness facilities and health clubs including gyms, yoga studios, and other fitness centers;
- motion picture and television streaming productions;
- martial arts and dance facilities;
- non-athletic instructional classes (such as arts, music, language, etc., classes)

Indoor recreational facilities with city approved health and safety plans, which include business-specific occupancy thresholds and other restrictions, will be allowed to reopen under those plans. Movie theaters will remain closed until further notice.

Somerville safety requirements and enforcement that exceed State guidelines include:

To ensure capacity limits are not exceeded, businesses must require patrons to register in advance for specific classes or time slots, including for open gym time.

All businesses must submit a health and safety plan to the city, which must meet all minimum requirements for their business category. Plans must be approved by Inspectional Services, and must be available at all times to patrons and the public. Plan templates and requirements are available at somervillema.gov/phase3reopening. Due to the risk of aerosol transmission of the virus, all businesses must adhere to COVID-19 safety recommendations for air quality management issued by ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers. (See pages 9 and 10 of the linked ASHRAE report.)

Capacity must be limited to 10 or fewer people including staff at any given time for martial arts and dance facilities, non-athletic instructional classes, and motion picture and television streaming productions.

Inspectional Services will carry out spot checks and respond to complaints. city staff will support businesses in maintaining compliance, but in cases of willful disregard and endangerment of public safety, individual closures may be ordered.

Stricter local gathering limits remain in place: No more than 10 inside or outside

Somerville also continues to hold the limit on attendance at gatherings to stricter levels than the Commonwealth with no more than 10 persons allowed indoors or outdoors until further notice. Again, this applies to both indoor and outdoor gatherings of any kind unless otherwise specifically permitted in city activity-specific guidelines. Additional opening and restriction reminders

Phase 3 Health and Human Services categories opened in Somerville according to statewide plans on July 6. Capacity limits on all noted business sectors are reduced to 25% in Somerville, per Governor Baker’s Order #62, dated January 21, 2021. Regulations currently in place for Somerville youth and adult league sports remain the same. Businesses seeking COVID-19 related information and resources are encouraged to visit www.somervillema.gov/covidbizhelp.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

Dear Editor,

Jack Connolly’s letter last week highlights the conflict between the parking and the bike lobbies, both of which want to use the streets to their ends. The restaurants in Davis Square would like to have the outside dining extended – so would their customers. The “experiment” of last summer and fall worked. Traffic still moved and pedestrians were safer because the traffic was calmer. Taking parking spaces for outside dining has an impact, but

it serves customers. Taking parking for bike lanes and peak hour bus lanes makes cycling easier and safer and is helpful for bus commuters.

We need a trade-off, it should not be one or the other, why not both?

I recall some time back there was a thought of a multistory parking station in Davis on the Herbert/Day Sts. lot. We have city parking in the Grove St lot, in the (old) Rite-Aid/community path lot and Herbert / Day St. The ward 6 councilor ventured a while back that a

structure on the Herbert / Day Sts. lot for program use including the Farmer’s Market would be a good idea. Why not a 3 story parking lot that could have the farmer’s market at grade level once a week and parking the rest of the time? Then you could have both the bike lanes and the extended outdoor dining (with calmer traffic and better pedestrian safety) and stimulate business.

Davis serves more than just the local citizens. People come from all over to the Somerville Theatre and the special-

ty stores. Davis also is the biggest golden egg the city has as a tax revenue base, despite its run down condition from lack of maintenance. The zoning predicates more commercial (as apart from retail service) and this is where a parking station could reap benefits for the city. Daytime use to accommodate cars for commercial office expansion and evening and weekend use for restaurant / bar / theatre use.

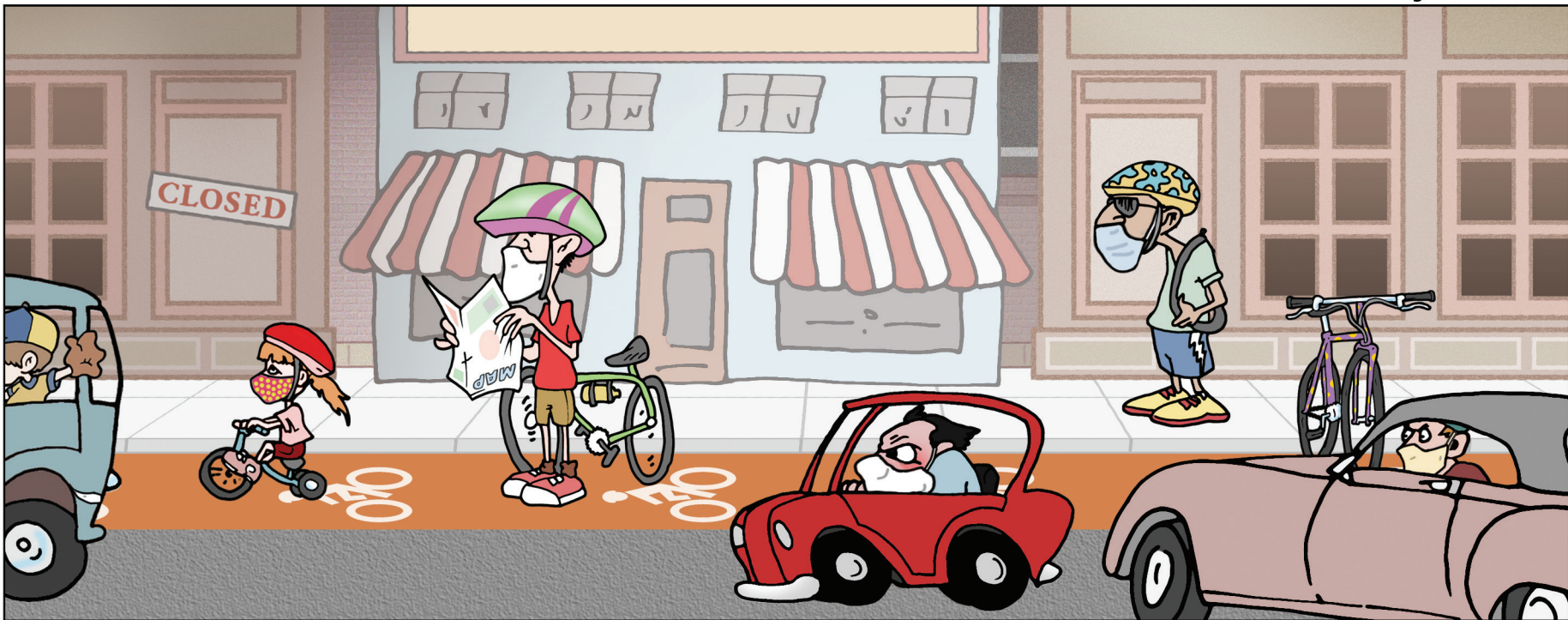
Alan Bingham
Somerville

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COMMENTARY

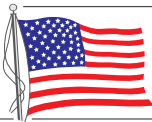
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



To park or not to park.

Our View Of The Times



Arguments both for and against eliminating a certain number of street parking spaces in the Davis Sq. area to make way for bike lanes have been heating up lately. Many of the points being made on each side make sense, and it is clear that some kind of a compromise would be ideal, if such a thing is possible.

On the one hand, those opposed to the plan cite the fact that businesses in the area already hard hit by restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 mitigation measures would take an even harder hit if the parking spaces in question were eliminated. They posit that the decrease in motorist accessibility and the increase in cycling traffic would impact their revenues negatively, that many of those biking through won't be stopping to buy.

On the other hand, proponents of the plan dispute this, saying that a customer arriving on a bicycle is still a customer, no matter what the means of conveyance. That in fact, a cyclist rolling through the square at a slower pace than a motorist might be even more motivated to stop off at a store or eatery because they are actively taking in the immediate environment a bit more attentively.

Many other arguments going both ways have been mentioned, but a final decision needs to be made, one that will be regarded as fair and beneficial to all concerned.

One of the better ideas put forward would be the installation of a multi-level parking facility near the square, along with going ahead with the new bike lanes. This seems reasonable, but will the city have the will and the funds to pursue it? Only time will tell.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Steve DeCarlo, who serves the city so well as its Director of **City Cable Operations**. Happy birthday to a young lady who grew up here and works at **Endicott College**, **Eleanor Pye**. We hope she has a great day as well. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Sarah Martino**, **Alan Carvalho**, **Carolyn Dacey Corbett**, **Amy Ferreira**, **Jill Koerber** and **Joan Marshall**, a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Our deepest condolences go out to the **Moccia family**. The matriarch of the family, **Rosa Moccia**, passed away on **Monday, February 1**. She was a wonderful person, always had a smile on her face and people would line up to enjoy her home cooked meals at **Victor's Deli**. She will be greatly missed by many.

There is a job opening for a **Culinary Coordinator** for the **Nibble Program**. The deadline to apply is **February 8**. This is an exciting career opportunity for somebody passionate about food, culture, and community. Nibble is a unique program highlighting Somerville's vibrant immigrant communities through food. The **Nibble Program** and **Nibble Kitchen** have been locally and nationally recognized. To apply go to the city's website: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/personnel>.

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone's midterm address, originally scheduled for **February 3**, has been postponed. A new date for when residents can tune in to see the speech will be announced soon.

With support from **Somerville Health Foundation**, **Mystic Learning Center**, **Somerville Education Fund** and **Somerville Media Center**, **YouthStream** will host a youth-led, peer-organized **Among Us Tournament** from **February 16 to 19**. This tournament is free to enter for young people ages 13-19 in the Greater Somerville area, and will offer cash prizes in several categories, including several that do not require skill or prior game experience in order to win. Participant Registration Form - Among Us Tournament Winter 2021: <https://forms.gle/YNavmTFpCLwKm9sZ7>. YouthStream is also recruiting youth Moderators who want to earn paid stipends for completing projects such as organizing virtual events and producing live streams. YouthStream Moderator Application Form - Peer Leader Program 2021: <https://forms.gle/BcX-juE9QEjj2aTve8>. Finally, if you have not already joined YouthStream's Discord Server, click this link to check out what's going on at the Villeside Digital Cultural Center and get connected for all future events: <https://discord.gg/AxUnJdU3Nt>.

There are still several opportunities to attend virtual open house events before enrolling your student in **Somerville Public Schools**. #ICYMI there are new materials from events held earlier and you can read through for more information about schools. Visit the **Open Houses webpage** to learn more: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/openhouses>.

New **Winter Learn-To-Skate classes** for children, ages 4 to 18 at the local ice rink in Somerville. Classes at the **Founders Memorial Rink**, 581 Somerville Avenue in Somerville, start **February 14**, at 2:00pm for 5 weeks. Use figure, recreational or hockey skates. Beginner, intermediate and advanced classes taught. For information and to register, call **Bay State Skating School** at 781-890-8480 or visit online at www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org. Bay State Skating School is compliant with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Covid-19 guidelines. The number of students allowed on the ice will be limited.

Somerville's Winter Farmer's Market takes place **Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., through April 10**, at 191 Highland Ave. Offering the best locally grown and produced agricultural items and more. Online pre-order market with a small outdoor "live" shopping market. They offer a diverse range of local and New England produce, as well as cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, pastries, chocolate, and wine. They feature rotating guest vendors each week, as well as live entertainment and activities. Check out the schedule and map here: <http://maps.managemymarket.com/1610>. They accept SNAP/EBT, CREDIT and DEBIT cards. \$10 SNAP match for EBT customers. For market information visit: <http://www.somwintermarket.org>.

Apply for **small business relief funds**. **The City of Somerville**

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#766

1. What was the highest-scoring Super Bowl?

2. What teams are tied for the most Super Bowl Championships?

3. What was the top ticket price for the first Super Bowl?

4. Who was the MVP of the first Super Bowl?

5. Who kicked the longest field goal in a Super Bowl?

6. Who has the most Super Bowl appearances as either a player or coach?

7. What is Canadian singer The Weeknd's real name?

8. Which city was formerly called New Amsterdam?

9. Where would you find an ISBN number?

10. Which one of Shakespeare's plays is the longest?

11. Which part of Berlin was enclosed by the wall?

12. In what year did the Titanic sink?

Answers on page 11

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. In Kentucky, it is illegal to carry ice-cream in your back pocket.

2. In the Arctic, the sun sometimes appears to be square.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

U.S. PRESIDENTS

ACROSS

1. Newton's first name

6. Part of smog

9. Hissy fit

13. Human trunk

14. Form of "to be"

15. Illegal booze

16. Editorial changes

17. Crematorium jar

18. #56 Down, alt. sp.

19. One of six Presidents named James

21. First President previously divorced

23. Civil War's Johnny

24. Manage without help

25. Military procedures

28. Cone-shaped quarters

30. MLB bench

35. Cowboy's necktie

37. A whole lot

39. Whig, e.g.

40. Resembling wings

41. Nightly necessity

43. Experience emotion

44. Large ray

46. Glacier's deposit

47. "Watch out!" on a golf course

48. Traditional sock pattern

50. Reduced Instruction Set Computer

52. Knight's title

53. Bypass

55. Foot digit

57. President Chester ____

60. He signed legislation to create Medicare

64. Fauna, Merryweather and ____, fairy godmothers

65. Expert

67. Convex molding

68. Bumpkins

69. Café alternative

70. Car ways

71. Trans-Siberian Railroad city

72. Piercing part

73. Slightly drunk

DOWN

1. Any thing

2. Trump had button on desk to order his favorite one

3. Desertlike

4. Up and about

5. Coddle

6. Half-man, half-goat

7. Legendary NHLer

8. Tragedy, or comedy, or satire

9. Cheap form of payment?

10. Before Scotia

11. Clickable picture

12. Olden day "your"

15. Be in charge, two words

20. Newspaper notices

22. What all of #70 Across do

24. Painting or poetry

25. He beat McCain and Romney

26. Kind of cap

27. Colloquialisms

29. First "dark horse"

31. Gamecock's spur

32. Dessert sandwiches

33. Wombs

34. #29 Down predecessor

36. Creative

38. 18-wheeler

42. Green pasta sauce

45. Big Island greetings

49. Australian flightless bird

51. Group of people, often in research

54. Extremely angry

56. Concluding stanza in poetry

57. G. W. Bush to Yale, e.g.

58. Schneider and Lowe, e.g.

59. Major bike maker

60. Audience's rejection

61. Sold in bars

62. Auto pioneer

63. Like a busybody

64. Back, to a pendulum

66. Latin dance three-step move, once

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
19					20			21	22				
			23				24						
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33
35			36		37			38		39			
40					41				42		43		
44				45		46					47		
48					49		50			51		52	
				53		54			55		56		
	57	58	59					60				61	62
64						65	66			67			
68						69				70			
71						72				73			

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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

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

GEORGE J. PROAKIS, AICP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, February 16, 2021** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public meeting and hearings **will be conducted via remote participation.**

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2323442204762921743>

Webinar ID: 686-865-555

TO CALL IN

Phone Number: 1 (213) 929-4212

Access Code: 126-680-405

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

COURT REMAND

HPC 2013.085 – 9-11 Aldersey Street
Applicant: Gerard Meehan, Trustee for G&T Realty Trust
Owner: same as applicant
Alter plan for "Building A" that was approved by the HPC on November 4, 2020. Applicant seeks HPC approval to eliminate from proposal the open porch on the left elevation ground story of "Building A".

DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HPC.DMO 2020.27 – 129 Boston Avenue
Applicant: Eamon Fee
Owner: David Galvin
Demolish principal structure.

HPC.DMO 2021.01 – 13Allen Street
Applicant: K & K Development
Owner: same as applicant
Demolish principal structure.

HPC.DMO 2021.02 – 21-23 Allen Street
Applicant: 19-27 Allen St., LLC
Owner: Jean Martelli
Demolish all structures


HPC.DMO 2021.03 – 27 Allen Street
Applicant: 19-27 Allen St., LLC
Owner: Jean Martelli
Demolish all structures

HPC.DMO 2021.04 – 373 Washington Street
Applicant: Thomas Lichoulas
Owner: Washington TN, LLC
Demolish all structures

HPC.DMO 2021.05 – 377 Washington Street
Applicant: Thomas Lichoulas
Owner: Washington TN, LLC
Demolish all structures

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

1/27/21, 2/3/21 The Somerville Times



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Fire Alarm Systems Inspection, Testing and Maintenance

The Somerville Housing Authority invites sealed bids for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Fire Alarm Systems and related equipment in various State and Federally Funded housing developments in Somerville, Massachusetts. SHA Job No. PFA-32021, in accordance with the specifications prepared by the SHA Purchasing Department.

The work consists of a Three year "full service" Inspections, preventative maintenance, repairing or replacing Fire Alarm Systems and Equipment. Contractor must be able to provide twenty four (24) hour service 7 days a week.

The work is estimated to cost \$190,000.00

Bids are subject to provisions of M.G.L. c.30B, and to the minimum wage rates required by M.G.L.c. 149§26 27H inclusive.


General Bids will be received until **11:00 A.M., February 18, 2021**, and publicly opened forthwith, at the Offices of the Somerville Housing Authority, Modernization Bldg., 30-Rear Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145. A "Go to meeting" will be arranged for bid opening. Viewing information will be posted on SHA website. www.sha-web.org, under our opportunities tab.

General Bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit or bid bond that is not less than 5% of the greatest possible bid amount (considering any alternates) and made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority in the form of a bid bond; cash; or a check certified by, or a treasurer's or cashier's check issued by, a responsible bank or trust company, payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Any bid bond shall be (a) in a form satisfactory to the Awarding Authority, (b) with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth and (c) conditioned upon the faithful performance by the principal of the agreements contained in the Bid.

Bid and Contract Documents will be available for download on Somerville Housing Authority web site www.sha-web.org, under our opportunities tab. There will be no charge for these documents. If downloaded, you must contact Anthony Crespo by email at Tonyc@sha-web.org and leave contact information including an email to receive changes, or updates. You will receive a reply that your email has been received. Bidders/Contractors are responsible for insuring that their email and bids are received.

A site visit is scheduled for **February 9, 2021 10:00 a.m.** You are not required to attend. Attendees must wear a PPE facemask, which covers the nose and mouth, and maintain social distancing, failure to do so may result in rejection of your bid. Attendees are required to provide notification that they will attend. Please notify Anthony Crespo by email at Tonyc@sha-web.org or at 617-625-1152 extension 336 if you are attending. All interested parties will meet at outdoors of Somerville Housing Authority, Modernization Building, 30R Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145.

2/3/21 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
30 Memorial Road
Somerville, Massachusetts 02145
Telephone (617) 625-1152

Web: www.sha-web.org

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Project Manager: Travis Panzini

The **Somerville Housing Authority** is requesting quotes from qualified Plumbing Contractors to perform plumbing work including installations and repairs on an as needed basis. Proposals should include an hourly rate for plumbing services.

Term: 6 – 12 months

Not to exceed \$49,000.00

Quotes are subject to M.G.L c.149 sec.44A (2)(A) and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive.

Scope of work: The Contractor shall provide all labor and tools to provide the necessary work as directed for the completion of the plumbing services at the SHA's various developments. The Contractor shall apply for and obtain permits and regulatory approvals as may be required. The SHA shall reimburse the contractor the amount paid. The cost shall be identified and included in the monthly invoice.

The Contractor shall be required on site within one week as scheduled by SHA.


Stock and Materials: The Contractor shall use SHA furnished fixtures and finishes unless otherwise authorized. Items purchased by the Contractor at the SHA's request shall be billed at no more than cost plus 15%. The Contractor will be required to present the original itemized invoice to the SHA. The cost shall be identified and included in the monthly invoice.

Payment Invoicing: Contractor's invoicing must be itemized to reflect contract pricing for each item.

Contractors who intend on bidding shall email Travis Panzini at travisp@sha-web.org after **11:00AM on Thursday, February 4th, 2021** to request a bid package.

Proposals must be received by **2:00PM on Thursday, February 18th, 2021**. Proposals can be emailed to travisp@sha-web.org. Please contact Travis Panzini at travisp@sha-web.org with any questions.

1/27/21, 2/3/21 The Somerville Times



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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 6:00pm**. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

The meeting will be held using GoToWebinar.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1932307436165055503>
Webinar ID: 545-752-003

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8422
Access code: 446-504-756


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

3 Hawkins Street	Hawkins St Union Square LLC proposes to construct a 5-story net zero ready apartment building and establish a Household Living principal use for fifty-nine (59) dwelling units in the MR5 zoning district. The proposal requires Site Plan Approval and a Special Permit.
152-158 Broadway	Broadway Investments Realty, LLC proposes to construct a 5-story net zero ready general building and establish a Household Living principle use for forty-five (45) dwelling units in the MR5 zoning district with no parking provided on site. This proposal requires Site Plan Approval and two Special Permits.

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

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

2/3/21 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
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Web: www.sha-web.org

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Project Manager: Travis Panzini

The **Somerville Housing Authority** is requesting quotes from qualified Electrical Contractors to perform electrical work including installations and repairs on an as needed basis. Proposals should include an hourly rate for electrical services.

Term: 6 – 12 months

Not to exceed \$49,000.00

Quotes are subject to M.G.L c.149 sec.44A (2)(A) and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive.

Scope of work: The Contractor shall provide all labor and tools to provide the necessary work as directed for the completion of the electrical services at the SHA's various developments. The Contractor shall apply for and obtain permits and regulatory approvals as may be required. The SHA shall reimburse the contractor the amount paid. The cost shall be identified and included in the monthly invoice.

The Contractor shall be required on site within one week as scheduled by SHA.

Stock and Materials: The Contractor shall use SHA furnished fixtures and finishes unless otherwise authorized. Items purchased by the Contractor at the SHA's request shall be billed at no more than cost plus 15%. The Contractor will be required to present the original itemized invoice to the SHA. The cost shall be identified and included in the monthly invoice.

Payment Invoicing: Contractor's invoicing must be itemized to reflect contract pricing for each item.

Contractors who intend on bidding shall email Travis Panzini at travisp@sha-web.org after **11:00AM on Thursday, February 4th, 2021** to request a bid package.

Proposals must be received by **2:00PM on Thursday, February 18th, 2021**. Proposals can be emailed to travisp@sha-web.org. Please contact Travis Panzini at travisp@sha-web.org with any questions.

1/27/21, 2/3/21 The Somerville Times

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SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
SECTION 8 PROJECT-BASED VOUCHER PROGRAM (PBV)

January 27, 2021

The Somerville Housing Authority is soliciting proposals from local developers planning to build newly constructed units to participate in the Section 8 Project Based Voucher program.

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the Request for Proposals (RFP) by contacting the following:

Samantha Heggarty
Somerville Housing Authority
30 Memorial Road
Somerville MA 02145
Office: 617-625-1152

Proposals are due February 17, 2021

Somerville Housing Authority
Contact Person: Samantha Heggarty Samanthah@sha-web.org

1/27/21, 2/3/21 The Somerville Times

OPIOID MISUSE AND ABUSE - FAMILY
AND FRIENDS SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday, February 9, 5:30 p.m. A Support Group for Individuals who love someone involved with opioids. The group is designed to provide not only an understanding of Opioid Misuse and Abuse, but also the impact of substance abuse/addiction on families as well as prevention strategies. This program is free.

Ms. Cam's
Olio
Answers

From on page 8

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Super Bowl XXIX in 1995, 49ers defeated San Diego Chargers 49-26 for a combined 75 points | 6. Bill Belichick, 12 |
| 2. he New England Patriots and the Pittsburgh Steelers, 6 wins each | 7. Abel Makkonen Tesfaye |
| 3. \$12 | 8. New York City |
| 4. Bart Starr, Green Bay Packers | 9. On a book |
| 5. Steve Christie, 54 yards in Super Bowl XXVIII | 10. Hamlet |
| | 11. The entire perimeter of West Berlin |
| | 12. 1912 |

Amazon to meet standards for wages, benefits and safety



Teamsters Local 25 applauds the Somerville City Council for unanimously passing a resolution aimed at the questionable safety record and unacceptable poor treatment of workers by shipping giant Amazon. The “Resolution for Fair and Full Employment Opportunities at Amazon” was introduced by City Council President and Ward 1 Councilor Matthew McLaughlin in response to public safety and economic concerns during the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic and approved by an 11-0 vote.

The non-binding resolution urges that prior to any expansion into Somerville, Amazon must conform to area standards for wages, benefits and safe working conditions, and to confer with the Somerville community, including the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 25, neighborhood groups and other interested parties.

“Somerville is a union town. It’s also a town that uses Amazon a lot,” said Somerville City Council President and Ward 1 Councilor Matthew McLaughlin. “We need to ensure that Amazon fits our community standards and appreciates our patronage not only with the products they deliver, but by ensuring the people who deliver those products are treated fairly.”

“Amazon is among the world’s richest corporations but refuses to meet the high standards we have for workers in Somerville,” said Teamsters Local 25 President Sean M. O’Brien. “Drivers are true heroes of the pandemic, putting themselves and their families at risk for all of us. Teamsters delivery drivers are highly-skilled, well-trained professionals who are paid well and have quality healthcare and retirement benefits. These proud drivers contribute to the fabric of this great city. Amazon prefers to pay low wages and provide no benefits to untrained independent contractors who are not subjected to proper criminal background checks. The Somerville City Council deserves the highest praise for making it clear to Amazon that any delivery work in this city is to be performed by safe, professional drivers who are full-time employees with benefits.”

The Somerville City Council resolution makes clear that any plans by Amazon to expand delivery operations, warehouses and fulfillment centers must be done in a manner beneficial to the City and its residents while guaranteeing sustainable growth and helping to ensure that fair and equitable employment standards are maintained for all ecommerce delivery networks. Councilors are also calling on Amazon to present sufficient evidence that its operations meet or exceed current Community Standards established by existing delivery networks, including that all delivery drivers will be direct employees of Amazon and not independent contractors. The Boston City Council approved a similar resolution late last year, supported by Teamsters Local 25, that urges Amazon to improve worker treatment and safety conditions.

Teamsters Local 25 is the largest Teamsters union in New England with 12,000 members. For more information, please visit www.teamsterslocal25.com.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

has made \$5 million available to small businesses in its third round of the **Small Business COVID-19 Relief Fund**. Eligible businesses can apply for grants of up to \$25,000. Applications are now available and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Learn more about the funding, including eligibility requirements, or apply for funds online.

The Pandemic – Electronic Transfer (P-EBT) Program created spring 2020 to provide eligible families funds to purchase food while schools were closed during the COVID-19 pandemic has been extended through the end of the

2020-21 school year. Visit <https://www.map-ebt.org/home/#ihdtab> for additional information.

The city is still accepting **homemade face masks** as part of their **10,000 Mask Drive**. They have passed the 5,000 mask milestone. Can you help get it to 10,000? If you’re a **crafty Somerville resident** who has been sewing reusable face masks, please consider donating some to our 10,000 Mask Drive. After being laundered, masks are distributed to seniors and other vulnerable populations. If you would like to donate masks, put them in a sealed bag and bring them

to the drop box at either the **Central Library**, 79 Highland Ave., or the East Branch Library, 115 Broadway.

If you need **assistance accessing food**, there are several resources available to you locally. Visit the COVID-19 Help page at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/covid-19-help-food-housing-and-financial-assistance> to learn more. There you will find a chart that includes local food pantry schedules, contact information, languages spoken at the food pantry, and whether or not you need to bring ID.

Hate incidents impact victims as well as the community. In an effort to make reporting hate incidents easier for the residents of Somerville, you may now report them using an online form. Visit the **Somerville Police website** under the Home tab and submit your Hate Incident report: www.somervillepd.com/home/.

Reminder: **city buildings** are still closed to the public. Although city buildings remain closed to the public, a number of city services are still available online or by calling 311. Check the “City Service Status” tab on the city’s COVID-19 page for more information.

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

EVENTS

Mental Health Awareness – Tuesday, February 9. 11:30 a.m. The Somerville Council on Aging, in partnership with Roberta Robinson from Cambridge Health Alliance, is continuing our Mental Health Awareness series. Every month Roberta discusses new and interesting topics in regards to mental health. To RSVP, call Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or e-mail her at NNaim@Somervillema.gov to obtain the Zoom link.

Music & Munch – Wednesday, February 10 and February 24 at noontime. Why not pair your lunch with a celebration of music? This 45-minute session via Zoom will treat you to a playlist of diverse musical offerings: a little jazz, some "oldies but goodies," a smidgen of classical, a dip into barbershop, a trip to Broadway. The music is taped but the experience is live. Your guide is Somerville Resident, Laura Zoll, trained as a medieval musicologist and with a life-long love of all things musical. Your preferences will help shape the session. Learn a little, sing-along, relax and enjoy some Music while you Munch. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins, Outreach Coordinator at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321. You will then receive your email invitation to join the program via ZOOM.

Senior Lunch Box Pick Up – Friday, February 12 beginning at 10:30 a.m. At the Ralph & Jenny Senior Center, 9 New Washington Street. While we aren't able to share lunch together we hope you can stop by for this fun treat! RSVP is a must. Masks required. To enjoy a box lunch, please call Connie at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319.

Virtual Bingo Day – Tuesday, February 16, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Join us online or via phone to play BINGO. If you would like to participate please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov. We will supply you with the bingo cards and instructions. Space is limited, RSVP a must.

Mask Pick Up – Wednesday, February 17, 10:30 a.m. to Noon. At the Holland Street Center, 167 Holland Street. The COA has masks available for Somerville residents who are 60 and over. If you are in need of a mask or may know of a friend or neighbor who may need a new mask, you can pick one up at our drive-thru location. If you have any questions, please call 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

Music & Movement – Thursday, February 18 at 10:30 a.m. Join Steve as he plays guitar, sings and leads gentle movements. Just tapping your toe or singing along can help move your body in new ways. Being physically active is not just good for our bodies, but it is also one of Mental Health

America's 10 tools to building resiliency; or the ability to overcome obstacles and manage through tough times. Physical activity can improve sleep, increase energy, decrease some kinds of pain, boost our immune systems and lower the risk for stroke and some cancers. It also helps to reduce our anxiety, depression, stress and tension. Join Steve as he shows us that exercise can come in all different forms and movements. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins, Outreach Coordinator at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321. You will then receive your email invitation to join the program via ZOOM. Zoom.

Jeopardy Game Night – Thursday, February 18, 5:00 p.m. Our Health and Wellness Coordinator Chris will be hosting an hour long Jeopardy game over Zoom with questions that will cover such topics as: Health and Wellness, TV Shows, History, Sports, Music and Movies. For more information or to RSVP please contact Chris at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email at CKowaleski@Somervillema.gov. Other dates include March 18 and April 15.

Caregiver Check-In – Tuesday, February 23, 11:30 a.m. Are you a caregiver for a loved one and want to connect with other caregivers? Would you like to discuss the joys and challenges of caregiving? The Somerville Council on Aging is hosting a monthly check-in via Zoom for caregivers. Please contact Natasha by either called 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or e-mail Natasha at NNaim@Somervillema.gov.

Zoom Book Club – Friday, February 29, 10:00 a.m. Do you love books and want to discuss your love of reading with others? Consider joining book club. Book club's next meeting is on Friday, February 19 from 10:00 to 11a.m. The book that will be discussed is In Praise of Difficult Woman by Karen Karbo. Please contact Natasha at either 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or e-mail her at NNaim@Somervillema.gov for the Zoom link or to ask any questions.

ONGOING EVENTS

Taxi Rides - Do you need a ride? The COA has a program just for you. Taxi Rides for Somerville Residents 60 and Over Rides can be used for Grocery Shopping in Somerville, Pharmacy Prescription pick up in Somerville, and Routine Medical Appointments in the follow areas: Somerville, Cambridge, Medford, Boston or the V.A. in Jamaica Plain or West Roxbury. Two Days Advanced Notice Required. For more information, please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

Friendly Caller Program - Looking for a way to practice social distancing but still remain connected to other people? Look no further than

the Somerville Council on Aging's Friendly Phone Caller program. We have many wonderful volunteers who are waiting to give you a call. Whether you are looking to make a new friend or would just like a friendly chat to look forward to every week, this program has you covered. Call Natasha at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 to learn more about the program and to sign up.

EXERCISE

Exercise Schedule

Mondays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Thursdays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Thursdays 6:30 p.m. = LBT Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise

Somerville City Cable

RCN = 13/Comcast = 22
The Fit-4-Life Exercise Show = Daily at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
Fit-4-Life YouTube
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video # 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hd26HjpwBI&t=68s>
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwHfyoEZaws&t=247s>
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fcl2eBSS024&t=158s>
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EDtaldYSz0>
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAnwfwGybTI>

Yoga YouTube

Yoga with Janine video #1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDGF_EEbqF0&t=130s
Yoga with Janine video #3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Zezcj9XXBU>
For questions or to register for a Fit-4-Life Zoom exercise class, please contact Chris at CKowaleski@somervillema.gov or call 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected via our Facebook page - often updated by Debby or Maureen. Informative, entertaining, lots of photos and updates. Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCOA/>

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive a virtual copy of our monthly newsletter and daily tips please contact Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at MBastardi@Somervillema.gov
If you would like to become part of our Google Group please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at DHiggins@Somervillema.gov.

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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B.

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On This Day in History
February 3

- 1238 – The Mongols take over Vladimir, Russia.
- 1690 – The first paper money in America is issued in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.
- 1783 – Spain recognizes United States' independence.
- 1904 – Colombian troops clash with U.S. Marines in Panama.
- 1927 – President Calvin Coolidge signs a bill creating the Federal Radio Commission to regulate the airwaves.
- 1945 – The Allies drop 3,000 tons of bombs on Berlin.
- 1962 – President John F. Kennedy bans all trade with Cuba.
- 1966 – Soviet Luna 9 achieves soft landing on the moon.
- 1971 – OPEC decides to set oil prices without consulting buyers.
- 1984 – The Environmental Protection Agency orders a ban on the pesticide EDB for grain products.

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Artistic inspiration from Somerville for Argenziano students CONT. FROM PG 1

makes their block unique. Students integrated the Elements of Art, creating a relationship between the use of Line, Shape, Colors, and Texture in their own works and in Mr. Bearden’s work.



By Piper.



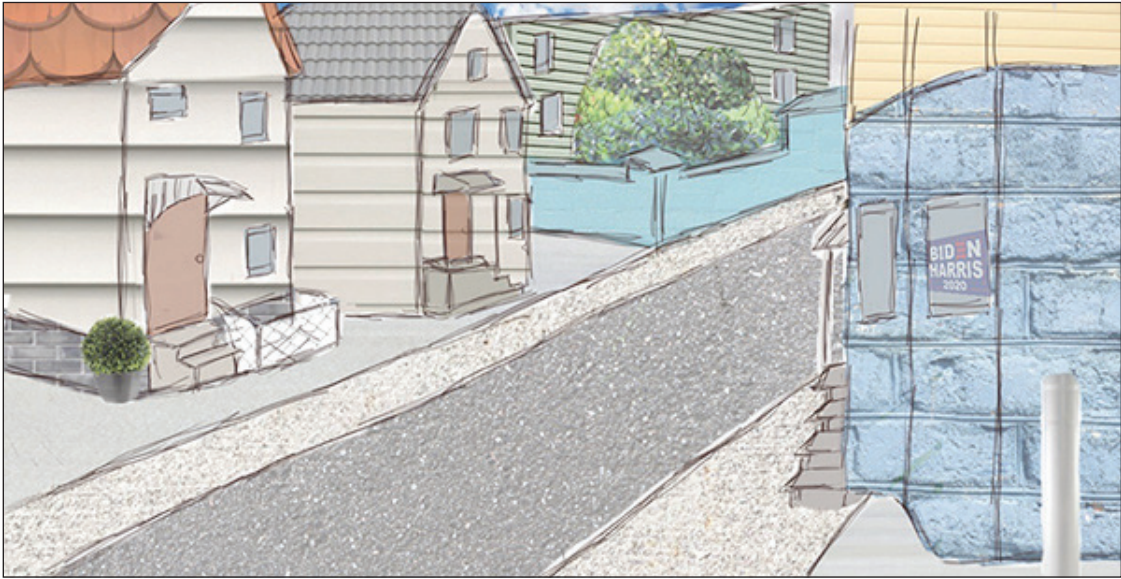
By Michael.



By Khoi.



By Delia.



By Sam.



Launch of Feed Kids Campaign in support of School Meals for All

Right now, 1 in 5 Massachusetts families with kids is hungry, and 27 percent of children experiencing food insecurity in Massachusetts are not eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. The need for bold solutions has never been more urgent. That is why the Feed Kids Coalition, led by Project Bread, and bill sponsors Senator Sal DiDomenico and Representative Andy Vargas have filed legislation this week to make School Meals for All, or universal school meals, a reality in Massachusetts.

With SD519/HD1161 School Meals for All, we have an opportunity to take a critical step toward ending childhood hunger in our state by ensuring that every student receives the nutrition they need while they are in school. This would allow every student who wants or needs a school breakfast or lunch to receive it—at no cost to their family and with no requirement to sign up or provide income or other information. Just as no student is required to pay fees at public schools when they enter the classroom, there will be no financial barrier in the school cafeteria.

Currently, as a result of flexibilities granted in response to the pandemic, every student in Massachusetts has access to free school meals. The barrier presented by cost and paperwork was temporarily removed at the federal level because this crisis put a spotlight on the need to ensure the right to the most basic of necessities—food—for all kids. As we work toward recovery from this crisis and beyond, we cannot let this barrier go back up.

Our diverse coalition is comprised of anti-hunger partners, health care advocates, school and municipal officials, food systems experts, faith communities, children’s advocates and more. You can learn more and join us at www.feedkidsma.org.



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

The Parma Chai 'Out of the Blue Gallery' has moved to Somerville

By Off the Shelf correspondent Parma Chai

My friend Parma Chai notified me that the famed "Out of the Blue Gallery" has moved to Somerville-housed in the Arts Armory. The Out of the Blue has a long history, and I have had a long history there as well, like many local artists in our community. Although I haven't attended an event for a while, I have rich memories of the poetry readings, barbecues, and all the poets and writers I met over the years there. Probably 15 years ago the gallery put out an anthology, *The Out of the Blue Writers Unite*, edited by Timothy Gager and Deborah Priestly, which I was proud to be part of. I am so glad they have found a new home — Doug Holder



as local art and its expression have always been an essential aspect of my life.

Without shows and in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Tom and I strained to keep the main Gallery location alive in Allston at the Firehouse. However, I was able to move much of the art into an Allston Village Main Streets exhibit. With the additional support of the Center for Arts at the Armory in Somerville, I was also able to curate 4 floors of art in a living work space. This allowed me to concentrate on promoting artists and maintain the works of the longest-term artists of the collective.

The current Parma Chai Out of the Blue Art Gallery at the Somerville Center for Arts at the Armory houses 30 artists, hosts virtual performances by musicians, and supports the arts community in other ways. It also features artists and their works at Allston Village Main Streets and indoor murals at the Chicken & Rice Guys warehouse in Everett. You can view a beautiful 3D virtual exhibit of the Gallery on our website.

Though we had to close the doors to our Firehouse location in July, we feel fortunate to help local art stay alive. We are extremely thankful to the Center for Arts at the Armory for helping to keep our mission alive and are very grateful as well for the businesses that operate here that enjoy the art and want to help sustain it! Like the Out of the Blue Art Gallery, the Arts at the Armory has faced unique challenges during the pandemic, but the Board and Executive Director are working to preserve art, music, and theatre in the Greater Boston Community. I am humbled to be a part of this incredible space and the many other nonprofits it serves.

We continue to sell art, have masked art interviews with the artists, and explore other innovative ways to promote the arts and artists. I would like Boston residents and beyond to know the Gallery as a vibrant place for both artists and academics. As a destination for folks to create magic in a space of comfort, beauty, and collaboration.

Because of the pandemic and a desire to build financial infrastructure for long-term sustenance, I am no longer taking in new artists to promote but I am, instead, working on booking small rehearsal and recording events at the Armory. Please contact me if you are seeking to rent space here for any of your small performance needs. Part of those funds will go to the Gallery and the other part will go to the Armory. I am always available to provide 2-3 person masked tours of the 4 floors of art free of charge. Please contact me with any requests to see the art in person at parama@outoftheblueartgallery.com.

The Gallery is incredibly thankful it could continue its mission to preserve local art through the pandemic. It would never have been possible without the generosity of our art-loving community, the artists and their works, and the foundational passion of its founder, Tom Tipton.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

This poem by Somerville Bagel Bard Wendell Smith is a response to Somerville poet Bert Stern's poetry collection, *What I got for a Dollar*.



Change for a Dollar

after Bert Stern

Following Bert's instruction
I notice the sunlight
leaking through the Maples
in my neighbor's yard,

and find I'm unprepared
it takes me three trips
from patio to the kitchen
for a beer and pencil

A few sips and a slug later
I forget what I was going to say
to hold onto the leak while
the afternoon oozes into relaxation.

It's so simple if you let it be
although hops are bitter in beer
they are refreshing.
The news is bitter too

that bitter news can wait
forever 'til tomorrow, right?
now I have a new leak that
needs all of my attention

What Bert got for a dollar
tells me not to be bashful
nor try to be cool but be joyful
and attend to my leak.

Embrace being hot
and call it all beautiful
let the breeze be cool
that's what the breeze is for.

— Wendell Smith

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

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