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Intersection redesign construction detour poses certain challenges



The redesign of the Powder House Boulevard and Alewife Brook Parkway intersection is expected to take place through the end of the summer.
—Photo by Bobbie Toner

By Ryan DiLello

The City of Somerville held a public meeting last Wednesday to review plans for the redesign of the Powder House Boulevard and Alewife Brook Parkway intersection. Among the 70 residents in attendance, many were concerned about safety during construction.

The new intersection will feature a signalized T-shaped design with a side road for residential and emergency use only. Plans also include improvements to mobility, 22 new trees (following 6 removed trees), and better storm and sewer drain systems.

Crews are to begin work in less than two weeks with an expected completion date set for summer 2024. Streetscapes Senior Project *Continued on page 4*

'Waterlines: Water Meditation' at the Somerville Museum

Join in for a water meditation led by artist Faith Johnson as part of the current Community Curator exhibition, *Waterlines: Stories of Ebb and Flow* curated by Arlinda Shtuni at the Somerville Museum on Saturday, February 11.

The meditation will begin promptly at 11:30 a.m. and will last about 20 minutes. Admission also includes exhibition admission. Other water meditations are scheduled for Saturday, February 11 and Wednesday, March 22 as part of the World Water Day event and closing reception.

All proceeds help support exhibitions, programs, and the operations of the Museum. The Somerville Museum is a private non-profit, mostly volunteer-run organization.

Admission: \$5/person; Somerville Museum active members free (with code *Continued on page 4*)



"Waterlines: Water Meditation" will take place on Saturday, February 11, at the Somerville Museum.

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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.








This past weekend we were hit with the **coldest temperatures** we have had this winter. All emergency responders, plumbers and other emergency services were working around the clock handling cold related problems. We thank the **city’s services, Somerville Homeless Coalition, first responders** and **everyone** who worked so hard helping those in need and especially the vulnerable unhoused members of Somerville stay safe this weekend. For future planning about cold-weather safety and local resources, go to somervillema.gov/coldweather.

There will be a **Comcast license renewal public hearing, Monday, February 13**, at 6:00 p.m. All interested persons are invited to a public hearing on the draft proposal for the license renewal of Comcast Cable. The proposal sets guidelines for operations, service provision, licensing fees, and in-kind and capital contributions to the city via a federally regulated process for municipal issuance of local cable franchise licenses. The hearing will be virtual and can be accessed online via Zoom or by phone. Visit somervillema.gov/2023licenser renewal for the meeting links and information. The draft proposal is available online on that link and for public inspection at the **Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 93 Highland Ave.**

Happy birthday this week to the following: Happy birthday to **Patricia Latham**. We wish Patty the best on her birthday. Happy birthday to **Cheryle Snow**. We wish Cheryle the *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of February 8 – February 14 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>February 8</i>	Sunny	50°/33°	4%	2%	WNW 12 mph
 Thursday <i>February 9</i>	Rain	51°/46°	39%	31%	SW 11 mph
 Friday <i>February 10</i>	Rain	49°/35°	51%	42%	WNW 14 mph
 Saturday <i>February 11</i>	Rain	40°/29°	55%	39%	N 15 mph
 Sunday <i>February 12</i>	Partly Cloudy	35°/28°	14%	11%	WNW 14 mph
 Monday <i>February 13</i>	Partly Cloudy	46°/37°	10%	7%	S W 11 mph
 Tuesday <i>February 14</i>	Rain	50°/39°	34%	21%	SSW 12 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: *The Big Squeeze*

Casey says:

I don’t really mind it personally. I try to walk when I can and that seems to be more than enough to get around Somerville, Cambridge, and Medford. If tighter roads means slower cars, I’m fine with it. The last thing I want is to lean out around parked cars and get blown away by some dude going 50 in a residential.

Response to: *Lyrical Somerville – February 1*

Lucia Owen says:

Scott – you do this kind of poetic ‘narrative’ so well. I like the way it moves in time and I really really like the last stanza!

Response to: *Somerville’s joint statement and resources in response to the death of Tyre Nichols*

Laura says:

I am shocked and saddened that there has been so little coverage of the killing of Somerville resident/Somerville High alum Arif Sayed Faisal. I have only found two brief mentions of him on this site. Arif was killed before Tyre was killed. The Cambridge Police Department still will not release the names of the killer cop(s), or the full police report. They say the results of their investigation will not be available until 2024. And yet I don’t see Mayor Katjana Ballantyne making comments on Arif. The wheels of justice are already turning for Tyre, but not so for Faisal.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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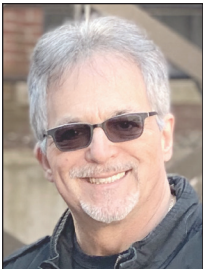
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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Danielle



Back in the ‘60’s It was a rotund all gentleman who used to push a great big knife sharpening cart throughout the streets of the city. He was a friend of my grandfather, is from the old country and my grandpa would let him keep the pushcart in his backyard.

I remember my father telling me if they found that pushcart it would be worth about \$1 million because of the history. I think I remember he had a bell that he

used to ring when he used to come up and down the streets.

I asked my readers for their memories about Mr. Danielle.

“Yes, I remember. My mother and grandmother had both knives and scissors sharpened by him.”

“And he would sing while pushing the cart around.”

My cousin recalls, “Danielle ... Jimmy, late 50’s – early 60’s, kept his cart in grandpa’s yard.”

“Remember the guy that sharpened knives and scissors, the rag man, the fruit and vegetable truck that came to the neigh-

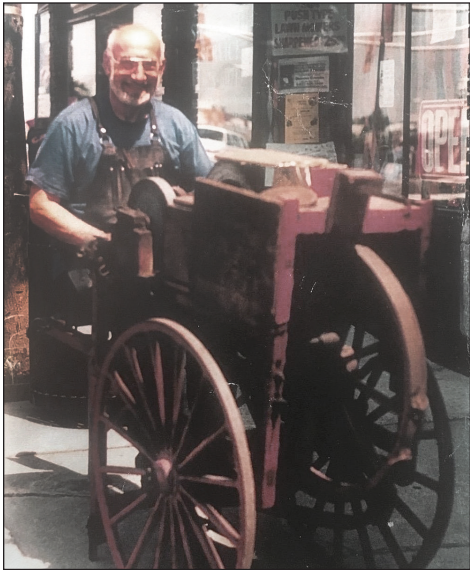
borhood and finally the pony boy cart selling ice cream, popsicles and such.”

“There used to be a guy in a big green go cart like a low Jeep. I think he was disabled. That was early sixties.”

“I think his name was ‘Angelina’ or something close? In the warm months he sold slush cones with various flavors, and he also sold candy apples. I heard that he became quite wealthy and enough to send his two sons through college? ‘Angelina’ might be another, but not the knife sharpener? I too remember the guy with the push cart and knives. I was born in 1941 at 52 Church St. We had all kinds of people that sold various things through the neighborhoods. Everything from books to ice men and clothing sales people!” (different guy)

“I do and often wish that Service was still available!”

After posting this subject on Somerville’s social network, I learned a lot. I remember a guy in a little Jeep that used to come around ringing his bell to sharpen knives and scissors.



If Danielle’s old wooden knife sharpening pushcart was around today, he’d probably have to fight off bikes as he maneuvers along the bike lane.

I wonder what ever happened to that old pushcart.

Siraco Sharpening is still in existence as a heritage Somerville business and the dad is a friend of mine.

Tapers wanted

Safety conscious taper needed for project in Somerville MA. Must have OSHA 10 hour minimum safety training and 1+ year of experience. Must be able to pass a drug test.

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31 TUFTS STREET APARTMENTS

Affordable Housing Lottery Opportunity

31 Tufts Street, Somerville MA 02145

31 Tufts Street is a new construction, 16-unit housing development.

# of Units Available	# of bedrooms	Rent	Maximum Income Limit (% AMI)	Minimum Income Requirement*
1	0 BR	40% of net income**	50%	N/A
2	0 BR	\$1,891	80%	\$45,384
5	0 BR	\$2,000	100%	\$48,000
1	1 BR	40% of net income**	50%	N/A
1	1 BR	\$2,010	80%	\$48,240
2	1 BR	\$2,150	100%	\$51,600
1	2 BR	40% of net income**	50%	N/A
1	2 BR	\$2,406	80%	\$57,744
1	2 BR	\$2,550	100%	\$61,200
1	3 BR	40% of net income**	50%	N/A

*Minimum Income Requirement does not apply to households receiving housing assistance such as Section 8 or MRVP.

**MRVP Tenants pay 40% of net income for rent if heat is included in rent.

Maximum Income per Household Size (2022 limits, provided by Boston-Cambridge- Quincy, HUD Metro Area)

HH size	50% AMI	80% AMI	100% AMI
1	\$49,100	\$78,300	\$98,200
2	\$56,100	\$89,500	\$112,200
3	\$63,100	\$100,700	\$126,200
4	\$70,100	\$111,850	\$140,200
5	\$75,750	N/A	N/A
6	\$81,350	N/A	NA

Applications available from March 6, 2023 until May 5, 2023 via:

o In Person: Wingate Management- 7 Memorial Rd, Somerville MA 02145

o In Person: Somerville Public Library East Branch- 115 Broadway, Somerville MA 02145

o Email Requests to 31tufts@wingatecompanies.com

o Call to request an application by mail 617.591.0577

The deadline for completed applications is 5 PM on May 5, 2023.

Applications may be delivered in person or mailed and postmarked by that day.

Applications may also be submitted via email or fax to the address or number on the application.

Reasonable accommodations will be made. LEP services available. Equal Housing Opportunity. Use and Occupancy Restrictions apply. SELECTION BY LOTTERY.

Public Online Information Session will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 6:00 PM Via ZOOM. Please email 31tufts@wingatecompanies.com for a link.

For more information or reasonable accommodations, call Wingate Management Company (617) 591-0577 TTY/TTD 711

THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:				
Christopher Johnson, of Attleboro, January 31, 7:07 p.m.,	arrested at Middlesex Ave. on warrant charges of assault and battery on a police officer, resist-	ing arrest, trespassing, disorderly conduct, and disturbing the peace.	Melanie Baxter, of Arlington, February 2, 4:44 p.m., arrested at Summer St. on warrant	charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and assault.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

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Intersection redesign construction detour poses certain challenges

CONT. FROM PG 1

Manager, Rebecca Wright, says some work is already underway, including tree removals and protections. "Next week, the team will be out to perform some test pits [and to set up] erosion control, followed by underground utility work," Wright said.

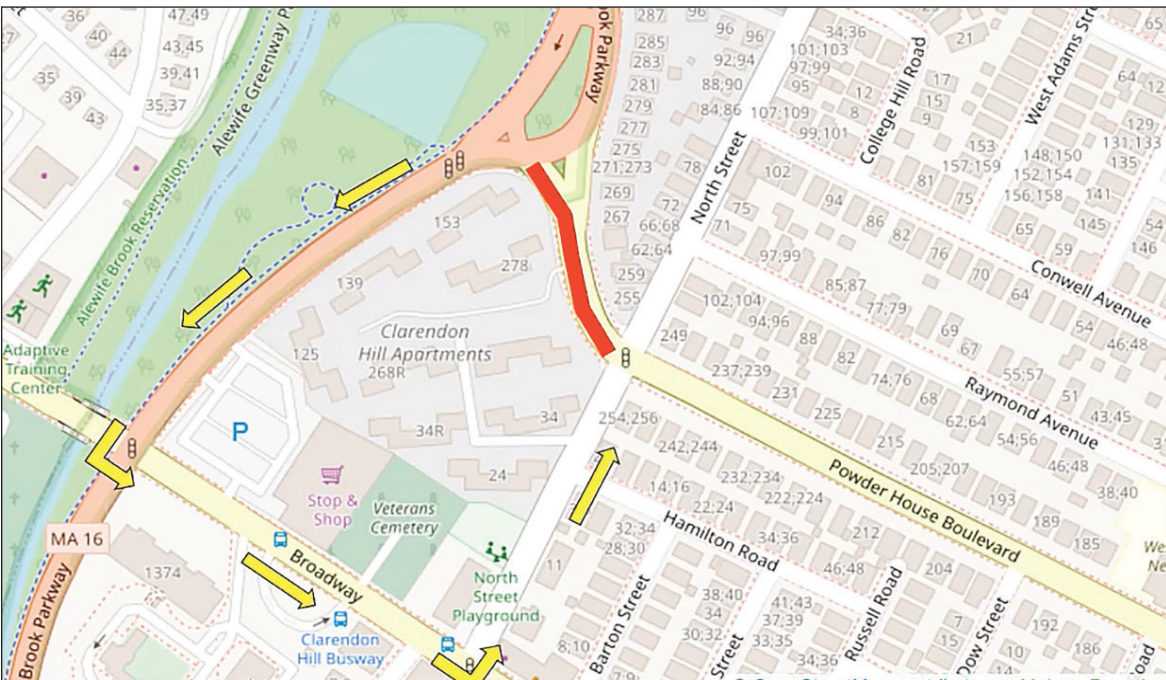
The project requires a 24/7 detour at the intersection of Alewife and Broadway, until the end of summer 2023. At one point, Powder House Boulevard will be completely closed in both directions. The city did not disclose a timeframe on the complete closure. Thoroughfares for bikers and walkers, however, will remain viable throughout the construction period.

Plans for the redesign come after city officials designated the

intersection a high crash location, with 48 crashes occurring at the site between 2014 and 2021. And while the reenvisioned intersection is safer, many Somerville residents were concerned about safety in the interim period.

The 24/7 detour diverts traffic from the closed portion of southbound Alewife onto Broadway. At an intersection mediated only by a stop light, multiple residents asked whether the city was planning to add any auxiliary signals. Residents questioned whether the simple stoplight at the detour could handle the increase in traffic, turning left across Alewife onto Broadway.

Following this community input, the city will look at improving safety at the Broadway-Alewife



The planned 24/7 Alewife Brook Pkwy. Southbound to Powder House Blvd. detour.

wife Brook intersection, said Jesse Moos, construction liaison. Moos concluded the meeting encouraging residents to contact him and attend future community meetings to provide feedback.

‘Waterlines: Water Meditation’ at the Somerville Museum

CONT. FROM PG 1

MEMBER); no charge for children under 12 years old. Admission to this event also includes exhibition admission. Tickets can be purchased online or at the door. Space is limited. The Museum is now ADA compliant with an elevator entrance on ground level on Westwood Road.

Somerville Museum, One Westwood Road, Somerville, MA 02143.

About Artist Faith Johnson:

Faith Johnson received an MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts through Tufts University, where she was awarded the Rose Hill Performance

Award and a Teaching Fellowship in performance art. Johnson’s work has shown in galleries and festivals throughout the United States and abroad, including the Open Festival in China, Navinki Festival in Belarus, and the Tactile Bosch Gallery in Wales, England. She has also been a visiting artist and lecturer at Lesley University, Oklahoma University, and the University of Northern Iowa. Johnson has completed residencies at the Homestead Artist Residency in Willow, Alaska and the Newton School of Theology where she researched spiritual forms and gestures. She has taught art making in schools, museums, afterschool programs, community centers, and through her community arts project Full Circle Arts where she facilitates well-being and connection through creative processes. To learn more, check out: <https://www.faithjohnson.net/about>.

Somerville launches Racial and Social Justice Community Engagement Ambassadors program

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) have announced the launch of the RSJ Community Engagement Ambassadors program. The newly onboarded Community Ambassadors will actively work with the city to expand engagement with the Public Safety for All Initiative and build new avenues for participation and empowering community voices.

The Community Ambassadors, who all live in Somerville,

will help create outreach plans, engage the Somerville community, and share information about and opportunities to inform the Public Safety for All initiative.

“Our community is our most important resource as we look to build a more equitable Somerville for all. And as we strive to engage everyone, especially people not always heard from, we need to be out in the community listening, building connections, and meeting people where they are,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “The RSJ Community Ambassadors will be an invaluable resource to help guide our efforts and engage the full community in the Public Safety for All initiative, and I’m so excited to have them on board.”

The Community Ambassadors will receive training and staff support from the Racial and Social Justice Department. They will attend monthly meetings and subcommittee meetings as needed. Ambassadors will serve one

12-month term.

“I couldn’t be more excited to welcome our Community Engagement Ambassadors,” said RSJ Director Denise Molina Capers. “The RSJ team believes in the power of community organizing. This program is exemplary of deep and intentional community engagement at large. It is at the heart of everything we do.”

“I know how hard change is,” said Monica Luke, RSJ Community Ambassadors. “It’s very frus-

trating to become more educated about issues of racial and social injustice and then not know what to do to try to make a difference. I really appreciate this opportunity to do something concrete.”

Please reach out to RSJ with any questions or for more information at rsj@somervillema.gov. You can take the Public Safety for All Survey online (available in seven languages). Learn more about RSJ and ways to get involved at somervillema.gov/RSJ.

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

Register now for spring classes!



Spring classes start throughout January

Visit: rcc.mass.edu/register
Call: 857-701-1200





Have a great idea on how to teach math? These teachers do!

By Erica Voolich

Many teachers have great ideas on how to make their classrooms a better place for their students to learn math. The teachers' ideas frequently outrun the budget schools have for supplies and their own ability to subsidize their classroom. The Somerville Mathematics Fund tries to fill this need through the generosity of their donors with grants up to \$500.

William Kuhlman, James Dean Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Donald McGoldrick each sponsored multiple grants. The East Cambridge Savings Bank, Jeremy Gale, Lali and Jay Haines, Jay and Jasper, William Kuhlman, Philip Parsons, Spring Hill Dental, Tufts University, Winter Hill Bank and Rebecca Wood-Spagnoli each sponsored a teacher's grant.

The rest of the grants were funded thanks to the combined generosity of everyone who contributed to the Math Fund's annual fundraiser. The following teachers won grants to encourage and support mathematics achievement in the classrooms of Somerville.

These Teacher Grants were funded by the many generous donors who together contributed enough in our annual fundraiser to support all of them. There is power in donations of many sizes coming together to support the larger whole. Thank you to our annual donors.

• Matthew Burch, Argenzia-

no School (Math Instructional Coach K-8), Math instructional materials.

• Amanda Oppman, Healey School (Community Schools Site Coordinator After-School), Math Plus After-School Club 3rd-6th.

• Paula O'Sullivan, Swetha Kalluri & Jenna DiNovis, District-wide Math Interventionists, (K-8), Math Manipulatives.

• Katie Starbuck, Healey School and East Somerville Community School (Math Coach), Materials to Support Math Classes.

The Math Fund wants to thank the James Dean Foundation for generously underwriting the following teacher grants:

• Nicole Alimena, Healey School (5th, SEI-1), Math Station Manipulatives.

• Sabrina Boy-Arruda, Healey School (5th Math), Create Math Stations.

• Andrea Carcamo, Healey School (Dual Language Pre-K), Math Manipulatives.

• Susanne Douglas, Healey School (K), Math Activity Centers.

• Julie Gallardo, Healey School (4th SEI-1), Math Workshop and Intervention Materials.

The Math Fund wants to thank each of the following for generously underwriting a teacher grant:

East Cambridge Savings Bank:

• Dolores Theolien, Healey

School (1st), Take Home Math Materials.

Jeremy Gale:

• Johanna Cooney, Brown School (1st), STEM bin materials.

Lali and Jay Haines:

• Michael Morgan, Somerville High School (AP Statistics), Numworks Calculators.

Jay and Jasper:

• Meredith Rothstein, Winter Hill Community Innovation School (3rd-5th, Autism), Math Manipulatives.

William Kuhlman:

• Jessica Anaya, East Somerville Community School (K), Math Manipulatives.

• Naina Sood Fox, East Somerville Community School (5th Math & Science), Fraction & Decimal Manipulatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald McGoldrick:

• Debra Dixon & Jacquelyn Berkowitz, Winter Hill Community Innovation School (Library and SMILE Pre-K), STEM Books.

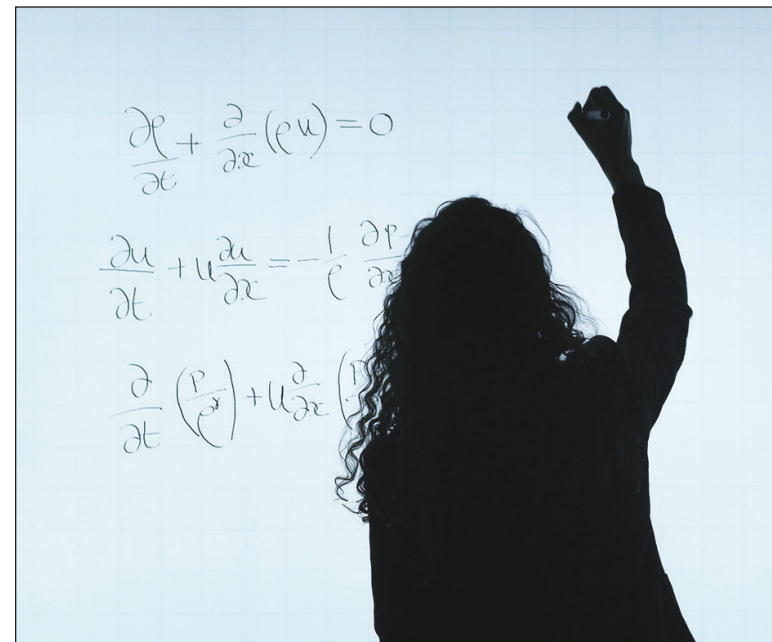
• Molly Harrington, Argenziano School (2nd SEI Inclusion), Math Enrichment and Intervention Materials.

Philip Parsons:

• Mary-Kate Pereira, Argenziano School (K, SEI-1), Math Manipulatives.

Spring Hill Dental:

• Roxane Scrima, Kennedy School (K), Math Games and Manipulatives.



Tufts University:

• Alyssa Mackey, West Somerville Neighborhood School (7th and 8th Math), Support for Differentiated Materials.

Winter Hill Bank:

• Andrea Palmer, Winter Hill Community Innovation School (K-8 Math Coach), Support Materials for K-8 Math and Multi-Lingual Teachers.

Rebecca Wood-Spagnoli:

• Julie Jones, Lauren McGlashan, Shayna Goggin, Molly Dickerson, Jessica DaSilva, and Malory Crane, Capuano School (K), Kindergarten Math Day.

The Somerville Mathematics Fund was chartered in 2000 to celebrate and encourage achievement in mathematics in the city of Somerville, Massachusetts. Over twenty-three years, the Somerville Math Fund has

awarded \$140,711 in teacher grants supporting three hundred seventy-two teachers' projects in the city of Somerville along with emergency grants to East Somerville teachers after the devastating school fire.

On April 7, the fund will be seeking applications from students who reside in Somerville for college mathematics scholarships. Over twenty-three years, the Somerville Math Fund has awarded a total of \$559,000 in four-year mathematics scholarships to one hundred eighteen students. Links to the scholarship application form is available at www.somervillemathematics-fund.org For more information, to volunteer or to make a tax-deductible contribution, please contact Erica Voolich (617-666-0666 or mathfund@gmail.com).

Two Somerville High School students recognized for national achievements

The Somerville Public Schools and Somerville High School administration are incredibly proud to honor two Somerville High School students who recently received academic recognition at the national level, in competition with top national and international high school peers. SHS Junior Ian Born, and SHS Senior Julian Bresler,

were both recently recognized for their respective outstanding academic achievements.

Ian Born (class of 2024) won a gold medal for his social science research paper as part of the Alpha Scholars program through Harvard International Review at Harvard University. The rigorous Alpha Scholars Social Science Research Program teaches

college-level research, writing, and presentation skills to high school students in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Students work one-on-one with Harvard University undergraduate mentors in advanced study and research, and their work culminates in a research paper and presentation. Ian's paper,

"Success Factors for Desalination: Qualitative Case Studies of Desalination Around the World," discusses the use of the desalination process as part of a multifaceted policy solution for water security by analyzing three successfully and three unsuccessfully implemented existing plants. His paper was published and is available on the Harvard International

Review website.

Michael Maloney, science teacher and Science League Team mentor, commended Ian for his work ethic and dedication. "Ian has a quick mind and does extremely well in class, working to fully understand the material. He is enthusiastic, open to working in any group, and puts great effort into all

Continued on page 14

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Love lives in Somerville.

Our View Of The Times



Valentine's Day is coming around once again, an occasion that many hold dear and cherish. For some, in fact, it is one of their favorite days of the year.

Sure, many people think it's a corny tradition. Just another gimmick to ramp up sales of candies, cards, wine and what-not. For others, it's a special time that provides an opportunity to express their deepest affections to the one – or many – who mean

so much to them.

Whatever one's personal view, it's difficult to disagree with the idea that we could all use a soft touch and a few gentle words in these times of contentious bickering and extreme divisiveness. It doesn't take a box of chocolates or a 32-stanza love poem to show a little appreciation for one's friends and family, or that one special someone.

Remember when we were kids, and part of the day was spent passing out those store-bought or handmade "Be My Valentine" cards at school? Some did so, while others didn't. Still, it was a nice ritual that brought us all a little closer and exposed us to some rudimentary social skills, so important for a developing child.

What would it be like as adults to swap such tokens of sentiment with our

co-workers, colleagues, etc.? Embarrassing? Endearing? Who can say? You'll never really know unless you try it.

If nothing else, take a moment or two on this day to smile at a stranger as you pass them by. Open a door for another. Find ways to show that you have love within you. This can be far more satisfying than giving or getting a mere box of chocolates.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

very best on her birthday. Happy birthday to **Bernard Gibbons**. We wish him the very best on his birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such **Amy Ferreira**, **Jill Koerber**, **Joan Marshall**, **Laurie Herra-Bullerwell**, **JoAnn Bocca-Rivieccio**, **Rhiannon Riley**, **Anne Belcher**, **Valerie Fitzpatrick** and **Michael Stone** 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.

Craft Night at the East Branch will be held **Thursday, February 9** at 6:30 p.m. 115 Broadway. Ages 9-99 are invited

to participate in an evening of crafting wooden heart garlands. Please register as materials are limited: <https://somerville-publiclibrary.assabetinteractive.com>

This year's **Black History Month** honors **Black Resistance** throughout history and today. Archivist, scholar, graphic novelist **Dr. Rebecca Hall** joins the **Somerville Public Library** virtually to discuss her groundbreaking graphic novel **Wake**. **Saturday, February 11** at 2:30 p.m. Visit the SPL website to register. www.somerville-publiclibrary.org.

The deadline for area nonprofits to ap-

ply for project funding has been extended from **February 3** to **Friday, February 17**. The funding will provide \$10M in project support for 501(c)3 nonprofits serving the Somerville community. Only applications supporting specific projects or programs, and requesting \$50,000 or more, will be accepted for funding consideration. Applications will be reviewed after the portal closes on **February 17**, and recipients are expected to receive notice of funding in spring 2023. Interested nonprofits can review the ARPA website for more information, including an ARPA application package to plan their projects: www.somervillema.gov/arpa.

Prospect St. will be closed to southbound traffic **between Somerville Ave. and Webster Ave. Monday-Friday, February 6–10**, to facilitate crane mobilization at the **US2 development**. Please note: Northbound traffic on Prospect Street will be allowed to proceed. Southbound access will be retained for emergency vehicles.

Are you interested in starting your own seedlings this spring? **Groundwork Somerville** has greenhouse space to share. This season, they'll provide up to six community members with

Continued on page 14

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's
Olio
#862

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. When is Black History Month observed in the U.S.?

2. Which U.S. presidents have won Grammy Awards?

3. When was the first live TV broadcast of the Grammys?

4. What band has a Grammy for the longest metal song?

5. Who was the first black woman to win a Grammy?

6. What was the Grammy Award originally called?
7. Which American author wrote *Salem's Lot*?

8. What does "Carne Asada" mean in Spanish?

9. Who created *The Addams Family*?

10. Who is the Morse code named after?

11. Kodiak island is in which U.S. state?

12. What is Dorothy's job on *The Golden Girls*?

Answers on page 10

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Your fingernails grow faster on your dominant hand.
2. Sloths can hold their breath for longer than dolphins.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
U.S. PRESIDENTS

- ACROSS
1. Biased perspective

6. Male sibs

10. Monday Night Football audience

14. Tapiridae representative

15. Rock opera version of "La Bohème"

16. Object of worship

17. Opposite of alpha

18. ____ Spumante

19. Novice

20. Unanimously elected President

22. Gusto

23. Eggy drink

24. Jig music, pl.

26. Stashed in a hold

30. Penniless

32. Wood turning device

33. Toll payment, e.g.

34. Not slouching

38. Like nay-sayers

39. Of many years

40. Malaria symptom

41. Instagram post

43. River, in Spanish

44. Bell-bottoms bottom

45. Dodge

47. Unexpected

48. The Cat in the Hat's headgear (2 words)

51. Campbell's container
52. International Civil Aviation Organization
53. President Hayes' first name
60. "Through" in a text?
61. Pelvic bones
62. Plural of #54 Down
63. Andrew Sean Greer's 2018 Pulitzer Prize winner
64. Reverse action
65. Mother-of-pearl
66. Lake off Ohio, the state known as "the Mother of Presidents"
67. Baseball's "The Say Hey Kid"
68. Navigate

- DOWN
1. Present tense of #26 Across

2. Tibetan priest

3. "Singes" in "La Planète des singes"

4. Nearly

CROSSWORD												
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11
14						15					16	
17						18					19	
20						21					22	
				23					24	25		
26	27	28	29				30	31				
32						33				34	35	36
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48	49	50						51				
52						53	54	55			56	57
60						61				62		
63						64				65		
66						67				68		

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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

5. Apprentice

6. Name on apple cider vinegar bottle

7. R in R&R

8. Cognizant of

9. "Sophie's Choice" protagonist

10. F in JFK

11. Bye, to Emmanuel Macron

12. Relating to Scandinavia

13. Casino bandits

21. Sign of assent

25. Civil Rights Act of 1957 signer

26. Dueler's blow

27. Hyperbolic tangent

28. Football great Graham

29. Executive Mansion, (2 words)

30. Misrepresent

31. Make over

33. One of four presidents to have never been elected
35. "Goodness gracious!"

36. "Kiss Me, Kiss Me, Kiss Me" band, The ____

37. High school student, usually

42. Spermatozoa counterparts

44. Not marathons, pl. (2 words)

46. Central court in domus

47. Certain frat house letters

48. Ownership document

49. Autumn color

50. Zoroaster follower

51. Pandemonium

54. Elbow-wrist connection

55. Not a slob

56. Like certain Stanley

57. A third of thrice

58. Steak choice

59. Whitetail, e.g.
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

DaSilva honored by city



Ed DaSilva retired from the city on February 3 after 33 years working in Information technology. Mayor Ballantyne presented DaSilva a citation congratulating him on his retirement and public service.

MAPS vaccinates more than 2,500 community members against COVID-19

The Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS) has vaccinated more than 2,500 community members at its weekly COVID-19 vaccination clinics. The health and social services organization has partnered with Health Innovations, Inc and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) since June of 2021 to bring COVID-19 vaccines and reliable resources and information to the community.

The weekly clinics promoted at MAPS offices and other key community locations such as churches, community centers, and social clubs, aim to promote health equity by reaching underserved community members facing barriers to accessing COVID-19 vaccination.

“We are proud of our team for having succeeded in bringing es-

sential COVID-19 vaccines to thousands of community members in areas where they are still not easily available”, said MAPS Chief Program Officer (CPO) Alirio Pereira, MA. “We are grateful for this partnership with the Massachusetts DPH which allows us to further our mission of building healthy communities.”

MAPS offers Moderna first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccines and the bivalent booster shots. The new booster protects against the original COVID-19 virus and the Omicron variants. Vaccination is available for community members 18 years old and older, and appointments are not required. \$75 gift cards are available for those receiving their shot at the MAPS vaccination clinics in February. From March on, community members



will receive \$25 gift cards.

The next MAPS COVID-19 vaccination clinic is taking place on Saturday, February 11, at the MAPS Framingham office (24 Union Ave, suites 8 and 10) from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. On Tuesday, February 21, the clinic will take place at the Portuguese American Club in Lowell (59 Charles St) from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. On Saturday, February 25, the clinic

Continued on page 14

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #272

Gentle Giants

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

It has been called a buffalo, a steer, a cow, a bison or a bull, but for the familiar, this gentle giant’s name is simply, the Ox. The first English livestock arrived in her American settlements in the 1630’s, most being brought to the sprouting Massachusetts Bay Colony in the north.



When you refer to an acre, it is the term that was created to describe the work that oxen did in one day. As a draught animal, the ox became a favorite in clearing thousands of acres of brush, trees and notably her New England rocks. After being plowed to the surface and hauled aside, these stones were used to assemble her historic walls. It is said that the length of New England’s many stone walls could equal the distance to the moon.



During the great migration west, the thousands of heavy wagons used to get there were primarily drawn by oxen. Although slower, they were cheaper to buy and feed and calmer and stronger than horses. Through the years, Somerville was witness to oxen treading up and down Milk Row hauling her wagons and helping build her commerce.

The word oxford means ox-crossing. Prince Charles once considered the name of Oxford for

Continued on page 11

LEGAL NOTICES

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


LEGAL NOTICE - Vehicle Sale 03/04/2023

Pro Tech Towing notice to owners. The following abandoned motor vehicles will be privately sold unless claimed:

Car information	VIN#	Last registered owner	Address
2008 Chevy Colorado	1GCDT13E288158245	Patrick Joseph Ward	97 Spring St. West Roxbury, MA 02132
2005 Chevy Cobalt	1G1AL52F257552018	Megan Elizabeth Fowle	4 Walk Hill St. #1 Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
2010 Kia Rio	KNADH5A38A6648679	Francisco Bento de Oliveira	244 Salem St. Malden, MA 02148
2004 Buick LeSabre	1G4HP52K944154792	Francis James Pratt	29 Central St. #2 Manchester BTS, MA 01944
2012 VW CC	WVWHP7AN6CE508143	Angel Savannah Casey	831 Main St. Woburn, MA 01801
2011 Chevy Malibu	1G1ZC5E11BF117561	Kimberly Ann Biggi	255 Russell St. Rear Everett, MA 02149
2004 Honda Accord	1HGCM56304A025157	Mark B. Rodrick	3 Armandale St. Worcester, MA 01603
2005 Toyota Corolla	2T1BR32E15C363462	Frances P. Roop	27 Middlesex Cir. #6 Waltham, MA 02452
2014 Jeep Cherokee	1C4PJMS0EW132713	Nicholas Ohm Prizant	39 School St. Ashburnham, MA 01430
		Kelsey A. Stevens	15 Briarwood Cir. Douglas, MA 01516

Date of Sale **03/04/2023**. A 5-day notice to the Waltham Police Department Chief will be provided before sale.
Location: Pro Tech Towing, 205 Willow St. Waltham, MA, Phone: 781-894-5058

2/1/23, 2/8/23 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
8 BONAIR STREET
SOMERVILLE, MA 02145
BID #S2023-09**

The School Committee of the City of Somerville invites sealed bids for:

A 2023 HINO Hybrid Refrigerated Box Truck for the Somerville School Department.

The IFB package may be obtained by emailing Leah Arredondo in the Finance Office, larredondo@k12.somerville.ma.us or can be picked up at the Somerville School Department, Finance Office, 8 Bonair Street, Somerville, MA 02145 on or after **February 7, 2023**.

Sealed bid responses will be received no later than **2 p.m., Monday, February 27, 2023** at the Finance Office Somerville School Department, 8 Bonair Street, Somerville, MA 02145 at which time and place they shall be publicly opened and read aloud.

The School Committee of the City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part or parts thereof, waive any minor informality in the Bid process and to award the Contract that is deemed to be in the best interest of the City of Somerville School Department.

Francis Gorski
Chief Financial Officer
Somerville Public Schools

2/8/23 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFQ 23-37 UPDATED**

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

Architectural, Engineering Design (Designer) Services for Somerville Fire Department Facilities Master Plan


An RFQ may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **2/08/23**. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **02/23/23 2:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Andrea Caruth at acaruth@somervillema.gov for more information.

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

2/8/23 The Somerville Times

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**SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Finance, **February 21, 2023, at 6:00 PM**, on the following item:

Requesting approval of the Urban Center Housing Tax Increment Financing (UCH-TIF) Zone, Plan, and Form of Agreement for Winter Hill.

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

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8259502089954538841>. You can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to cityclerk@somervillema.gov, send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or drop them into the secure drop box outside the back door on the School Street side of City Hall. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS, CITY CLERK
CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

2/8/23 The Somerville Times

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

1. Owner: Craig M. Bennett
Vehicle Model: 2008 Mercedes-Benz Light
Vehicle ID: #WDBUF90X58B275363
2. Owner: Leonard Desroisers
Vehicle Model: 2005 Mercedes-Benz S430V
Vehicle ID#: WDBNG83J45A460685

2/8/23 The Somerville Times

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www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Ms. Cam's

From on page 8

Olío

Answers

1. February	7. Stephen King
2. Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, Barack Obama	8. Grilled beef
3. The 13th award ceremony in 1971	9. American cartoonist Charles Addams
4. Tool (for 7empest)	10. Samuel Morse
5. Ella Fitzgerald	11. Alaska
6. Gramophone Awards	12. Substitute teacher

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Valentine’s Day Luncheon – Thursday, February 16 starting at 11:00 a.m. at the George Dilboy Post located at 351 Summer Street - \$10 per person – Join us for an afternoon of music and a special meal. Please RSVP to Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

Cultural Arts Series – Voices of a Continent – Wednesday, February 22 at 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Maura Mendoza will be singing in English, Spanish and Portuguese with a multicultural and classic repertoire from Latin America. \$5. Per person for lunch. Please call Debby Higgins to RSVP at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Boston Red Sox Valentine’s Day Luncheon and Dance – Tuesday, February 14 at noontime. The Red Sox have graciously provided us with a very limited number of seats. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321. RSVPs will be accepted only on Tuesday, February 7 and Wednesday, February 8. All RSVPs will be entered into a raffle which will be drawn on Thursday, February 9 at 9:30 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. Lucky winners will be notified by phone on February 9. This event is open to Somerville residents only. Transportation cost to Fenway Park will be provided by the Somerville Council on Aging.

St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon – Thursday, March 16 at 11:00 a.m. at the George Dilboy Post located at 351 Summer Street. Join us for an afternoon of

music and a special meal. \$10 per person. RSVP, please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

Arts & Crafts – Wednesday, February 8 at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Starting at 10:00 a.m. – Come and join Judy for a variety of Valentine’s Day craft projects including wooden treasure chest, heart mirrors and potpourri sachets. \$3 per person to cover supplies. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Bingo – Tuesday, February 14, 21 & 28 at Ralph & Jenny Center starting at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday, February 2, 9 & 23 at Holland Street starting at 10:00 a.m. Lunch available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Please note that the Council on Aging will be closed on Monday, February 20 in observance of President’s Day.

As a reminder, when the snow starts to fly, we want to keep everyone safe. Therefore, when the Somerville Public Schools are closed, the Somerville Council on Aging will also cancel all programming. Once school is back in session, we will be back to our regular schedule.

Somerville City Cable
RCN = 13/Comcast = 22
The Fit-4-Life Exercise Show = Daily at 11:00 a.m.

and 4:00 p.m.

SOCIAL MEDIA
Stay connected via our Facebook page - often updated by Debby Higgins or Maureen Bastardi. Informative, entertaining, lots of photos and updates. Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCOA/>
Follow the Somerville Council on Aging on Instagram! You can find us under the Instagram handle: somervillecouncilonaging If you have any questions or need help following us, contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email her at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

The Council on Aging’s Senior Transportation Program
The COA is offering free taxi rides to Somerville residents over the age of 60. Rides are available to go to the grocery store, farmer’s market, pharmacy in Somerville and routine medical appointments in the surrounding communities. To best accommodate the needs of everyone in the city and to maximize the use of our funding, we will be capping the number of rides per week. To ensure the health and welfare of every resident of Somerville, exemptions will be made for chemotherapy and radiation appointments. To find out more information or to schedule your ride, please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319. All rides must be booked two business days in advance. This program is funded through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding.

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

our city of Boston. He might have been thinking of his own Oxford, the site of the oldest English-speaking University in the world.

The first European settler of Boston was Reverend William Blackstone. He was considered a recluse or hermit by onlookers of the day. After selling his land, which became today’s Boston Common, he relocated to today’s Rhode Island, becoming that state’s first English settler. One of his eccentricities was that he traveled on the back of his trained ox. A steel statue in Pawtucket, Rhode Island honors him and his cherished ox.

It was a fifty-six-day, oxen-driven operation through forests, swamps, ice and deep snow in the dead of the winter of 1775-76. Revolutionary Colonel Henry Knox and his men retrieved 59 heavy canons captured from Fort Ticonderoga and delivered them to Cobble Hill and other

sites where they helped motivate the British Evacuation of Boston. His volunteers and oxen hauled 120,000 pounds of bulky ordnance three hundred miles for the American cause. It was one of the greatest logistical feats of the American Revolution.

The giant lumberjack folk hero Paul Bunyan and stories of his giant companion Babe the Blue Ox have circulated across America for over a century. Through the years, from Maine to California, logging and lumbering locales promoted their areas with images of larger-than-life statues of the two friends.

The Middlesex Canal was the super highway of its time. This 26-mile-long canal flowed through the length of Somerville. Beginning in 1803 and for over fifty years, it carried the historic waters of the Concord River. Much of this incredible work was done by oxen.

The Bunker Hill Monument commemorates the first major battle of the American Revolution and honors the patriots who gave their lives. It’s a 221-foot granite quarried obelisk with a 294-step winding staircase to the top. Most of its 7,000 tons were hauled 12 miles from Quincy to the site by oxen.

Somerville’s central library was designed by E.T., not the Extra Terrestrial, but by architect Edward Lippincott Tilton. He also developed part of the United States Immigration Station at Ellis Island. Somerville’s library architecturally mirrors part of that facility. Tilton incorporated



in the library a bold decorative band of Roman-style ox heads which surround the outside of the building.

A Western Massachusetts family has a huge following on social media of their twelve-year old 3,000-pound Gentle Giant Ox named Tommy who was named after the six-time Super Bowl champion, Tom Brady.

These gentle giants remained the main beast of burden in America until the late 19th century when horses, mules and steam engines replaced them.



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By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in History February 8

1587 – Mary, Queen of Scots is beheaded in Fotheringhay Castle for her alleged part in the conspiracy to usurp Elizabeth I.

1807 – At Eylau, Napoleon's Marshal Pierre Agureau attacks Russian forces in a heavy snowstorm.

1861 – Delegates from seceded states adopt a provisional Confederate Constitution.

1887 – Congress passes the Dawes Act, which gives citizenship to Indians living apart from their tribe.

1910 – The Boy Scouts of America is incorporated.

1924 – The gas chamber is used for the first time to execute a murderer.

1952 – Elizabeth becomes Queen of England after her father, King George VI, dies.

1962 – The U.S. Defense Department reports the creation of the Military Assistance Command in South Vietnam.

1990 – CBS television temporarily suspends Andy Rooney for his anti-gay and anti-black remarks in a magazine interview.

GBL Indoor Track and Field Championship



Marcia Narh-Butchway, GBL Girls Long Jump Champion.



Manal Zahid, GBL Girls 1000m Run Champion.



Atticus Kaye (right), GBL Boys 2-Mile Run Champion. Sam Buckley (left) finishes in second right behind him.

Team Results:

SHS Boys finished 2nd as a team with 87 points.
SHS Girls finished 2nd as a team with 73 points.

Individual Results (top 6 from each finals event received a ribbon):

Place - Name - Time/Mark

Somerville Girls Results:

55m Dash Prelims

- 2 - Marcia Narh-Butchway - 7.82 seconds (qualifying)
- 18 - Gabriella Rossi - 9.89 seconds

55m Dash Finals

- 2 - Marcia Narh-Butchway - 7.80 seconds

300m Dash Finals

- 1 - Cindy Luxama - 44.23 seconds (Greater Boston League Champion!)
- 10 - Lucie Tournat - 49.63 seconds

600m Run Finals

- 3 - Annika Bok - 1:52.3 seconds
- 5 - Adriana DeGooyer - 1:54.94 seconds
- 10 - Beatrix Calvert - 2:04.14 seconds

1000m Run Finals

- 1 - Manal Zahid - 3:26.62 seconds (GBL Champion!)
- 6 - Nora Melhus - 4:01.92 seconds
- 7 - Frances Leadholm - 4:02.51 seconds

1-Mile Run Finals

- 5 - Adwoa Ampene - 6:22.88 seconds
- 10 - Lily Thompson - 6:57.64 seconds
- 12 - Wendy Santos - 7:19.91 seconds

2-Mile Run

- 3 - Charlotte Johnson - 14:20.11 seconds

4x200m Relay

- 1 - Somerville - 1:54.33 seconds (GBL Champions!)

4x400m Relay

- 5 - Somerville - 5:04.42 seconds

4x800m Relay

- 4 - Somerville - 12:29.01 seconds

High Jump

- 5 - Cindy Luxama - 4'8"

Long Jump

- 1 - Marcia Narh-Butchway - 16'6" (GBL Champion!)
- 10 - Adriana DeGooyer - 10'9"
- 11 - Annika Bok - 10'7"

Shot Put

- 13 - Eleanor Bogosian - 23'2"
- 17 - Lucie Tournat - 21'10"
- 19 - Bridget Bourgoin - 20'5"

Somerville Boys Results:

55m Dash Prelims

- 5 - William Parkes - 6.97 seconds (qualifying)
- 11 - Jahvory Clergeau - 7.20 seconds
- 14 - Henry Parkes - 7.37 seconds

55m Dash Finals

- 4 - William Parkes - 6.89 seconds

300m Dash Finals

- 7 - Sam Turin - 38.51 seconds
- 16 - Max Barish - 43.78 seconds

600m Run Finals

- 5 - Jackson Love - 1:34.59 seconds
- 11 - Jose Portillo Valle - 1:37.71 seconds
- 19 - Henry Parkes - 1:52.91 seconds

1000m Run Finals

- 1 - Bryce Hopkins - 2:54.20 seconds (GBL Champion!)
- 8 - Diego Oliver - 3:07.60 seconds
- 9 - Erik Bok - 3:08.58 seconds

1-Mile Run Finals

- 1 - Sam Buckley - 4:53.70 seconds (GBL Champion!)
- 2 - Atticus Kaye - 4:54.88 seconds
- 5 - Henry Omura - 5:09.42 seconds

2-Mile Run

- 1 - Atticus Kaye - 11:43.73 seconds (GBL Champion!)
- 2 - Sam Buckley - 11:43.84 seconds

55m Hurdles Prelims

- 2 - Ford Christie - 8.53 seconds (qualifying)
- 4 - Kerby Luxama - 9.02 seconds (qualifying)
- 12 - Dashiell Pfromm - 11.00 seconds

55m Hurdles Finals

- 2 - Ford Christie - 8.53 seconds
- x - Kerby Luxama - unfortunately had to scratch from the finals due to injury

4x200m Relay

- 2 - Somerville - 1:38.03 seconds

4x400m Relay

- 3 - Somerville - 3:48.00 seconds

4x800m Relay

- 1 - Somerville - 9:12.83 seconds (GBL Champions!)
- High Jump
- 8 - Sam Turin - 5'2"
- 8 - Schuyler Johnson - 5'2"

Long Jump

- 6 - Donju Felix - 18'4"
- 9 - William Parkes - 16'7.75"
- 11 - Jose Portillo Valle - 14'

Shot Put

- 7 - Donju Felix - 33'10.25"
- 13 - Ford Christie - 32'11.5"

Two Somerville High School students recognized for national achievements

CONT. FROM PG 6

activities. He helps other students enjoy the work. He really enjoys science, and seeing the connections it has to math and other areas of life,” Maloney said.

Julian M. Bresler (class of 2023), was named a Commended Student in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. Each year, students are eligible to enter the National Merit Scholarship Program, a competition for recognition and awards conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Students become eligible by taking and doing well on the Preliminary SAT/Na-

tional Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) as high school juniors.

Of the top 50,000 students from the graduating class of 2023, 16,000 students were designated Semifinalists and will continue in the Merit Scholarship competition. Julian is one of 34,000 students nationwide to receive the Commended Student recognition from a pool of approximately 1.5 million entrants among the graduating class of 2023.

In a letter to Somerville High School administrators, Kimberly C. Greiner, Executive Director of

Scholarship Administration at the National Merit Scholarship Program, wrote, “Commended Students are being recognized for the exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the qualifying test used for program entry. We have great respect for the important part that you and your professional staff play in the development of academic excellence, and it is a genuine pleasure for NMSC to join you in honoring these talented students.” The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition

for recognition and college scholarships that began in 1955.

About his achievements and his excellence at SHS, Science Teacher Susan Schmidt said, “Julian is an extraordinary student and full of great questions. He likes to engage with learning and delve deep into topics. His mind is always leaping to the next logical conclusion, finding ways to connect what he is learning to what is to come. Above all, I appreciate his good humor and integrity and his approach to working in class.”

Somerville High School is a

comprehensive high school with over 1,300 students in a newly renovated and state-of-the art facility. More than 50 languages are spoken among the diverse student body. SHS has a robust College and Career Readiness program, which is part of the SHS Counseling Department. They guide students from all backgrounds through the college enrollment process and prepare students who choose to enter the workforce or military directly after high school. Somerville High School prides itself on meeting the needs of all of its students.

MAPS vaccinates more than 2,500 community members against COVID-19

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will return to the MAPS Framingham office (24 Union Ave, suites 8 and 10) from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. To access the full schedule of the MAPS vaccination clinics, please visit maps-inc.org/community-calendar.

In addition to vaccinating thousands in the community, MAPS also created a free COVID-19 Hotline (888-509-7788) where community members can call to schedule their vaccines and get information and resources re-

lated to the pandemic. For more information, please access maps-inc.org/coronavirus.

MAPS has served the Portuguese-speaking communities of Massachusetts and others since 1970. The organization of-

fers free health and social services through its six offices in Cambridge, Somerville, Brighton, Dorchester, Framingham, and Lowell. To learn more about MAPS, please visit maps-inc.org.

Newstalk

CONT. FROM PG 7

space in their greenhouse. In exchange, they ask that each work-share volunteers to host their **Spring Seedling Sale** and grows a portion of seedlings for this sale. Apply through the volunteer page on their website groundworksomerville.org.

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

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

married to a U.S. citizen. Visit <https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/ell-citizenship> to register.

The **Somerville Public Library** will be hosting **Beat the Librarians Trivia, Monday, February 13** at **Remnant Brewing**, 2 Bow Market Way. Think you're smarter than the average librarian? Celebrate **National Library Lovers' Day** and test your knowledge against a team of **SPL librarians**. Teams (typically up to six people) will be answering questions curated by Remnant Brewing's trivia host **Meredith**.

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

Throughout the month of **February**, the **MBTA** will be implementing service changes to the **Orange, Green, and Red Lines** as well as the **Haverhill Commuter Rail Line**. The service changes are necessary to accommodate the ongoing demolition of the **Government Center Garage**, as well as scheduled maintenance on each of the lines. For more information visit <https://www.mbta.com>.

The **City of Somerville Department of Public Works** has distributed **sand** city-wide for residential use. Sand increases traction on icy surfaces and, since it is less corrosive than salt-based ice melt, helps maintain the conditions of our sidewalks and other infrastructure. For our full Winter guide, visit somervillema.gov/snow.

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

Somerville Homeless Coalition's Spring Into Action Event will be returning to **The Somerville Theatre's Crystal Ballroom** on **Thursday, March 23**. #Feel-GoodFriday. For more information and to purchase tickets go to: <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/e/01Y6qw?vid=wre5o>

Kids 10-18 years old are invited to the **Half-Day Wednesday Video Game Hangout** at **Somerville Public Library (MA) Central Branch Teen Room** every **half day Wednesday**. Starts at 12:15 p.m. Hang out with peers, play multiplayer Nintendo Switch games on the big screen, try Super Smash Bros.,

Mario Kart, Rocket League or bring your own games.

The **Arts at the Armory's Performance Hall** is available to rent for weddings, parties, and private work functions. With a new stage, aesthetic improvements to the space, and a capacity of 395, the Performance Hall is a versatile, conveniently located venue in the heart of Somerville's Spring Hill neighborhood. Did we mention there is ample off-street parking? Learn more at artsatthearmory.org, and fill out the Event Contact Form to book the Performance Hall.

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

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



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Review of 'The Art of Burning'

A new play by Kate Snodgrass

By Andy Hoffman (Off the Shelf Correspondent)

The Huntington Theater has staged the world premiere of Kate Snodgrass' *The Art of Burning* at the Calderwood Theater at the Boston Center for the Arts. Directed by Melia Bensussen, the Artistic Director of the Hartford Stage, the play moves to Hartford at the end of its run in Boston, giving audiences all over southern New England plenty of opportunity to enjoy being among the first to embrace this great new drama.

The play runs a rapid-fire 90 minutes without intermission. It opens in a legal office with Patricia and her divorce mediator waiting for Jason, Patricia's estranged husband, so they can all sign the agreement ending the marriage. Beth, their 15-year-old daughter, has become the final sticking point in arriving at a settlement. Mark, the lawyer, has a long-standing friendship with Jason, as Patricia does with Mark's wife Charlene, relationships that reveal different approaches to the compromises that sustain – and sometimes break – a marriage.

Snodgrass opens *The Art of Burning* with Patricia recalling for Mark a play she'd seen the night before with Charlene, a production of *Medea*. Patricia defends Medea's murder of her own children as the only ways to protect them from a worse fate. Mark regards this as a sick choice. Given the vulnerability of Beth, on the cusp of adulthood in a world that seems uncertain about the rights of women, the play renders the monsters of *Medea* as extremely real to Patricia, asking what responsibility she bears to protect Beth.

Snodgrass and Bensussen have chosen to temporally jumble the narrative, revealing bits of the backstory – from how Patricia and Jason met to the ambiguous certainty between Mark and Charlene – at crucial moments of the negotiations. Rather than upsetting the narrative of *The Art of Burning*, the jumping back and forth in time holds the plays together with remarkable insights into the characters and their motivations. With the exception of Beth, the characters have no costume changes, and the minimal set changes keep the focus on the dramat-



ic resolution. Bensussen uses some remarkable strip lighting, built into the set, to enhance the emotional tug in key scenes.

The Art of Burning is also deeply funny. Every scene includes laughter, often stemming from the cluelessness of the characters. When Patricia tries to explain her concerns over Beth's emergence into the adult world, Mark asks, as though he's hip to contemporary social revolutions, "Are we talking about micro-aggressions?"

Adrianne Krstansky does a remarkable job with the role of Patricia, resolving what seems to begin as a portrayal of an unstable woman into that of a committed parent. The other performances delineate the characters with sympathy and precision. Clio Contogenis, in a relatively minor role, captures both the audience and the teenaged Beth with passion and depth.

An odd misstep in the program provided the only negative note. The fraction of an interview with Kate Snodgrass left a false impression of the play. I recommend either not reading it at all before seeing the play.

Kate Snodgrass served as the Artistic Director of Boston Playwrights' Theater for several decades and taught in Boston University MFA playwrighting program for just as long. Melia Bensussen has taught directing at Emerson College for many years. The cast includes professors and instructors from Brandeis, Suffolk and BU, so the atmosphere at the Calderwood Pavilion overspread a scent of homecoming. I hope that joyful feeling transfers to the Hartford Stage for its March 2 debut there. Riding on the strength of the *The Art of Burning* and its production, it should.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Michael Todd Steffen is the recipient of a Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship and an Ibbetson Street Press Poetry Award. His poems have appeared in journals including *The Boston Globe*, *E-Verse Radio*, *The Lyric*, *The Dark Horse*, and *Ibbetson Street*. Of his second book, *On Earth As It Is*, now available from Cervenabarva Press, Joan Houlihan has noted Steffen's intimate portraits, sense of history, surprising wit and the play of dark and light ... the striking combination of the everyday and the transcendent.



Anatomy of a Moose

The sagging ears have just heard so much.
At the déjà-vu startle again, we are powerless.

Its upper lip has drooped so far
nothing short of acceptance will restore it.

Nothing shy of surrender
has penciled the sadness into its weary brown eyes.

It is front-laden
with moral inventory.

The wind has blown powdery snow
over the personality of these further sets of tracks

much as its groan for a call and musk transmit
the dirty details to its nomadic kind.

The tailored elk: Do the moose ever
change out of their pajamas?

They gray rivers of Vermont would not deny
the principles of the message the moose carry.

— Michael Todd Steffen

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

Return of SMALL MART Market

On Sunday, February 12, SMALL MART Market returns to Somerville for a Valentine's Day market. Whether you're partnered up, single and looking to mingle or just wanting to show your friends and family you care for them with an extra special gift, our next SMALL MART is a Valentine's Theme to celebrate all types of love! The market will take place at Crystal Ballroom at the Somerville Theatre from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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