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# The Somerville Times

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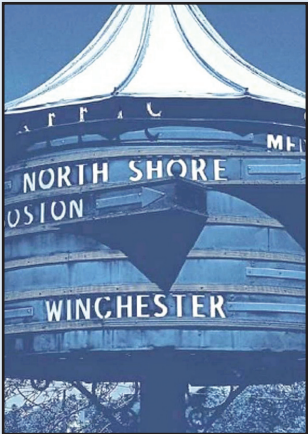


VOL. 10 NO. 6

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

## Inside:



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Hollywood comes to  
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## Somerville implements snow shoveling pilot program



The snow shoveling pilot program aims to help ensure safe passage through key areas in the city.

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

Last weekend, Winter Storm Kenan pummeled the northeast. From New York to Maine, snowstorms and whiteout conditions were common. Locally in Somerville, about two feet of snow were reported, with streets and sidewalks unpassable in some areas.

Back in November, the City of Somerville sent a memo to the City Council detailing its intention on implementing a Snow Shoveling Pilot program across the city. In the memo, the pilot was scheduled to begin during snow emergencies in 2022.

The first of these snow emergencies in 2022 was from Winter Storm Kenan. The areas where the pilot was implemented were on School Street and Broadway in the Winter Hill neighborhood of Somerville.

Meghann Ackerman, Deputy *Continued on page 4*

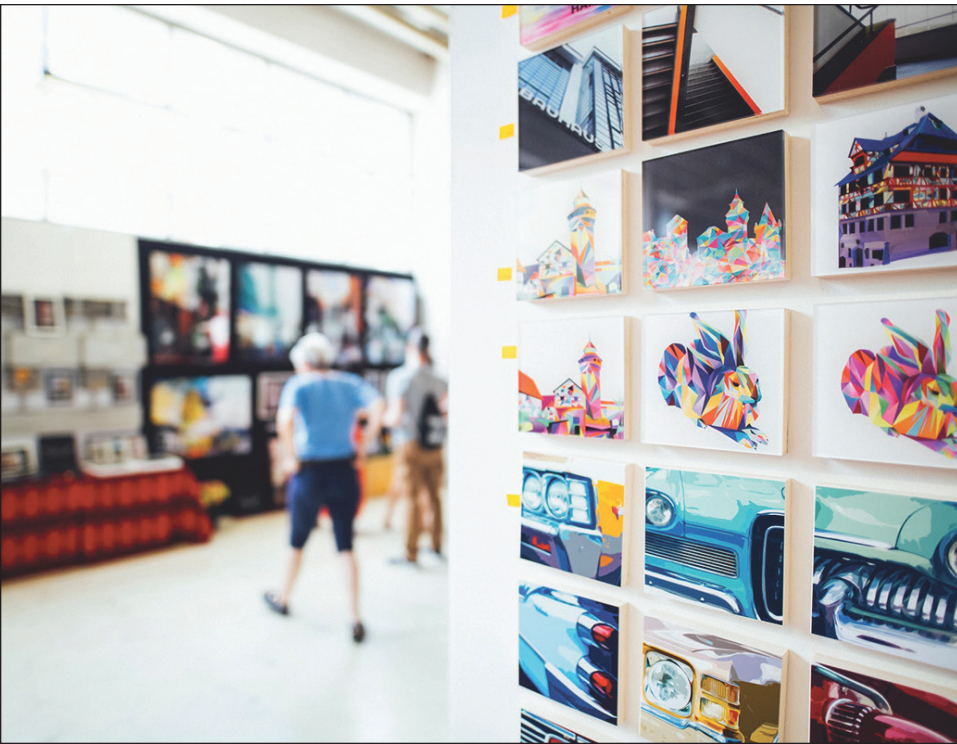
## Highlights from the Somerville Arts Space Risk Assessment meeting

By Ryan DiLello

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) released a recording of the first Somerville Arts Space Risk Assessment meeting, which was open to the public. MAPC's Claudia Zarazua hosted the Zoom meeting with help from Gregory Jenkins, Director of the Somerville Arts Council (SAC).

Jenkins began by thanking MAPC, the Somerville Cultural Space Task Force, the City of Somerville, and all the attendees, then introduced Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

"I know the arts are the core part of Somerville's identity," Mayor Ballantyne began. "It also fuels our local economy." In her first few days in office, the mayor attended meetings, initiating relevant data tracking, and consulted with city departments and other mayors to seek guidance for how to protect and support the city's arts communities. "I want to note that this is only the beginning," the mayor said. *Continued on page 4*



The first Somerville Arts Space Risk Assessment meeting covered issues of interest to local artists and interested residents of the city.

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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.

Happy **Valentine’s Day** to all our readers and fans. We hope everyone has a great day with their significant other or with close family and friends. Enjoy the day!








\*\*\*\*\*  
The **Somerville Arts Council** and **Nave Somerville** present **From the Inside Out Exhibition** at **Nave Gallery**, 155 Powder House Blvd. **through February 27**. Our world shrunk during COVID. Like others whose work or schooling moved to their living spaces, many artists turned their focus inward. Some, fearing possible contamination of shared studio spaces or public transportation, moved their creative practice into their homes as well. It was a time of reflection. Relationships between interior and exterior shifted. New perspectives affected artist’s work and lifestyle. For more information visit <https://somervilleartscouncil.org>.

\*\*\*\*\*  
A **walk-in COVID-19 vaccine clinic** for initial doses and boosters will be held **February 11** from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the **Argenziano School**, 290 Washington St. The Pfizer vaccine will be available for all people five years and up, and boosters will be available for all people 12 years and up. Walk-ins are accepted, or you can pre-register at [somervillema.gov/vaccine](https://somervillema.gov/vaccine) or call 311 (617-666-3311). The clinic is free, regardless of immigration status or health insurance. Identification is not required. All people 5 years and older are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.

\*\*\*\*\*  
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 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 **Jill Koerber, Joan Marshall, Laurie Herra-Bullerwell, JoAnn Bocca- Rivieccio, Anne Belcher, Michael Stone** and **Valerie Fitzpatrick** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the *Continued on page 7*

# Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of February 9 – February 15 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> <i>February 9</i>	Sunny	43°/30°	6%	3%	WSW 7 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> <i>February 10</i>	Partly Cloudy	47°/25°	9%	4%	WSW 8 mph
 <b>Friday</b> <i>February 11</i>	Partly Cloudy	43°/34°	7%	3%	WSW 12 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> <i>February 12</i>	Partly Cloudy	46°/25°	16%	7%	WSW 11 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> <i>February 13</i>	Partly Cloudy	31°/18°	23%	9%	WNW 9 mph
 <b>Monday</b> <i>February 14</i>	Partly Cloudy	29°/18°	9%	4%	W 10 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> <i>February 15</i>	Partly Cloudy	31°/22°	11%	5%	NW 13 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: Letter to the Editor – February 5

Chad Redstein says:

Debora, I thought the idea was to get ALL cars off the road and have walking/biking/public transportation as the only means available to people? Wait.... ok, I get it....us poor proles will have to take the a bus to Market Basket or drop off the kids at practice while the ruling elites will drive their EVs and get subsidized EV chargers everywhere. Makes sense now. Anyway, EVs are coming, but right now an Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicle is still much more affordable for the average person. The market (free market – NOT gov market) will drive where and when EV’s and EV chargers are easily available. Government subsidies retard the market.

I also would be cautious with investing in the current crop of EV charging stations as the industry is moving fast and specifically battery technology will change. There are going to be major advances in fire prevention, recycle, longevity, quick charge, etc.

But when the tech does stabilize (will it still be Lithium-Ion batteries?) it will change the economics of a home owner putting an EV charger on their property. Issues such as charge back to tenants, home insurance premiums, maintenance and the initial upfront cost (most will need a new circuit, trench dug, etc.) will be much better understood.

This is coming from a Tesla S owner. I only use my EV now for shorter trips and to virtual signal my friends at cocktail parties though. I use my Ford F-150 (ICE) for trips I need something dependable.

I am still wondering what acid the person(s) dropped who designed the Powder traffic pattern now? Whew. I thought the Mass/ Ave Cambridge traffic people were bad, but that....

Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

Now that the obligatory chiming in by the auto/oil industry has taken place, the adults can resume working the problem.

And by the way, what an AH.

### Response to: Obituary: John J. Howe

Nicky Stiles says:

Somerville guy, old school, his family and mine long time friends, lived his whole life in Somerville, we had a lot of laughs, my deepest condolences to the extended family. He will be missed. At this address.

Courtney O’Keefe says:

My most heartfelt condolences to the Howe family. John was a class act and a great friend to my parents. Please know you are all in my prayers during this difficult time.

Log onto [TheSomervilleTimes.com](https://TheSomervilleTimes.com) to leave your own comments

# The Somerville Times

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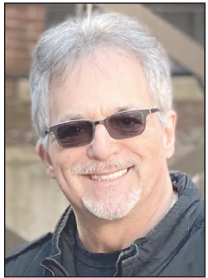
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## Life in the by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Six degrees of Somerville



In my travels, it always seems I bumped into somebody from Somerville. I'm sure we all see somebody we know in popular places like Old Orchard Beach, Nahant beach, and especially York Beach, Maine. Somerville people are everywhere! But when you run into somebody from Somerville in Aruba, we'll that's really something.

Back around 1992 I was on vacation in Aruba with a girlfriend and we went into a restaurant and bumped into my aunt and three cousins. We were all extremely surprised to see each other in such a far-away place.

Also, in the 90s I was in Disney World in Florida when I bumped into a former neighbor. He was with his new girlfriend and asked me not to tell his young sons that I saw him. Nice guy.

Back around 1986 I had moved to Florida and joined a band. The manager of the

band owned an exclusive catering company that had lots of high-end rock bands for clients. He used to hire the guys in the band to help out serving and preparing the meals for the rock stars.

On one occasion we went to Lakeland Florida to cater an Aerosmith concert and I met one of my best friends from my own street there. He was Aerosmith's drum technician and we were able to spend about an hour just chitchatting and catching up. And the funny thing is that neither of us knew the other one was going to be there. That's about my best Somerville connection story.

After living in a city for almost 68 years you're bound to see a familiar face in your travels. I can't tell you how many times I've seen a former classmate from the Weston Junior High School in line at CVS or a friend from high school at Dunkin' Donuts. My kids are always amazed when we ran into somebody I knew. They would say things like, "Daddy, you know everybody!"

Occasionally, it came in handy even run-



ning into police officers in the city that I went to school with.

In a city like Somerville, where we all grew up so close to our friends, it's nice

to expect to see a familiar face basically anywhere you go. Unfortunately, you may see a face you don't like too once in a while!

## Somerville Baseball registration

Somerville Baseball Registration is open for the Spring 2022 season! Somerville Baseball offers programming for youth ages 5 to 15. Registrations runs until March 1st. Visit [www.somervillelittleleague.org](http://www.somervillelittleleague.org) to learn more about Somerville Baseball, and click on the registration tab to register.

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## 'Bittersweet' programming continues through March 26

As associated extensions of the Somerville Museum's ongoing Bittersweet exhibition, the following events will be taking place throughout the area over the next few weeks:

**BITTERSWEET @ Bow Market:** Friday, February 11, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Part of the Chocolate Stories Salon series. Join in for an evening of chocolate, rum, history, and discussion. Admission: \$15/person; Museum members: \$10. Admission includes hot cocoa and rum. Space is limited Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/somerville-museums-bittersweet-bow-market-tickets-262802979787>.

**Curator Tour:** Saturday, February 12, 11:00 a.m. Join in for an in-depth look at the museum's Bittersweet exhibition, curated by two of Latin America's leading artists, José Falconi from Peru and Santiago Montoya from Colombia. Admission: \$10/person; Museum members free. Space is limited. Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/somerville-museum-bittersweet-curator-tour-tickets-262825657617>.

**Bittersweet Valentine's Day @ the Somerville Museum:** Monday, February 14, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Looking for an impromptu Valentine's/Galentine's Day date night option? Need a last-minute chocolate gift for your sweetheart? The museum is opening to the public on Monday, February 14, for a few hours in honor of this sweet holiday and their Bittersweet exhibition. They also have lots of merchandise items that will make great gifts. Admission can be purchased at the door.

**Sweet City: A History of Candy Manufacturing in Somerville, Cambridge, and Boston:** Thursday, February 17, 6:00 p.m., at the Somerville Museum. Join in for a virtual evening about the history of sweets by beloved confectioner Jeremy Spindler of Spindler Confections. This event is part of the Bittersweet exhibition's Chocolate Stories Salon series and is co-sponsored by the friends and partners at Historic Somerville. Admission is free but donations are welcome. Reserve your spot today: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sweet-city-a-history-of-candy-manufacturing-in-the-somerville-area-tickets-262830642527>.

**Kalliope Reed Quintet Community Concert:** Friday, March 25, 6:00 p.m., at the Somerville Museum. Join in for an evening of music and chocolate. Admission is \$10/person; members free. Ticket availability TBA.

**Closing Reception:** Saturday, March 26, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., at the Somerville Museum. Admission is \$5/person; members free.

More information about the exhibition is available at: <https://www.somerville-museum.org/bittersweet>.





# THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

## Imaginary 'friend' loans out car

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to an Alewife Brook Pkwy. location last week on reports of a suspicious person. Upon arrival, the officers located a man fitting the given description standing in front of a vehicle, attempting to open its hood with his belt.

The man, later identified as James Flynn, reportedly told the officers that the vehicle belonged to his friend's girlfriend, and he was given permission to use the vehicle.

According to reports, Flynn was only able to provide a first name for his friend, and later admitted to attempting to gain entry into the vehicle by using his credit card to unlock it.

While attempting to break into the vehicle, Flynn was observed by two witnesses, one of whom called 911.

Both witnesses reportedly told the officers that they saw Flynn trying to break into the vehicle, and recognized that the vehicle belonged to their friend. They also provided pictures and video footage of Flynn trying to break into the vehicle and causing multiple damages.

While questioning Flynn, the owner of the vehicle came out and stated that the vehicle belonged to her, that she did not know Flynn, and that he certainly did not have permission to touch her vehicle.

Flynn was placed under arrest on charges of malicious damage to a motor vehicle and attempt to commit a crime.

### SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

<b>Arrests:</b>				
<b>James Flynn</b> , January 31, 6:38 p.m., arrested at Alewife Brook Pkwy. on charges of malicious damage to a motor vehicle and attempt to commit a crime.	<b>Juan Rodriguez Rosado</b> , of Boston, February 1, 1:17 p.m., arrested at Memorial Rd. on warrant charges of witness intimidation and assault with a dangerous weapon.	<b>Abigail Mazza</b> , of Revere, February 4, 5:36 p.m., arrested at Artisan Way on a warrant charge of shoplifting by asportation.		

## Somerville implements snow shoveling pilot program

CONT. FROM PG 1

Director of Communications for the City of Somerville, said through email that this pilot was implemented to increase accessibility across the city. "The main goal is to explore new ways to increase the accessibility of our sidewalks following a winter storm," Ackerman said.

The winter storm set a new record for daily snowfall in Boston, with an estimated 23.6 inches of snow falling in one day. According to Ackerman, the pilot was implemented to ensure that sidewalks are clear and safe after a snowstorm.

"The pilot is helping to ensure that sidewalks are cleared in a timely manner on some of main pedestrian thoroughfares," Ackerman said, "It is also providing us with helpful data about the operational needs and financial impacts of the city taking on more snow clearing."

The way that the city is enforcing the pilot is through fines. According to the City of Somerville's website, people must clear snow from sidewalks on their property within six daylight hours of the end of snowfall.

Moreover, these paths need to be at least three feet wide and down to the pavement. Residents were also instructed to avoid shoveling snow into bike lanes.

Fines for people not clearing the snow were divided into two tiers. The first for single, two, or three family homes ranged from \$100 to \$300 dollars. For units with four or more families and commercial establishments fines ranged from \$150 to \$300 dollars.

According to Ackerman, during the first weekend of the program there were some fines issued in the pilot area. "Between January 30 and February 3, 23 tickets were issued on Broadway and two were issued on School Street," Ackerman said.

Ackerman also gave an analysis on the pilot's first snowstorm and future plans for the pilot moving forward. "We learned a lot during this first storm and will continue to analyze the data and review operations as the winter moves forward," Ackerman said, "To get a full picture of how the pilot is working we need to see how things go with different types of storms and if storms happen on a different day of the week or during a different time of day."

## Highlights from the Somerville Arts Space Risk Assessment meeting

CONT. FROM PG 1

"I look forward to continuing this conversation and to working with you."

Next, Marc Draisen, Executive Director of the MAPC, greeted the audience. "The needs of artists, the constraints on their space for both housing and studio work, has been an extreme issue that we've been focused on, and dealing with in greater Boston. Every great region in the world can only aspire to be a great region if arts and culture are strongly represented in their work. And often it is said that the primary reason for that is a strong economy – and that is true. But you also need it for a good life, and for people to have joy and opportunities for expression and appreciation... which is an extremely important thing in these difficult and challenging times."

Claudia Zarazua followed with a slide deck, outlining the key findings and recommendations of the report. For more information on the report, you can read the draft (executive summary inside) at: [https://somervilleartscouncil.org/sac-files/imce/editor/Somerville-Arts-Space-Risk-Assessment-Report\\_DRAFTJan2022.pdf](https://somervilleartscouncil.org/sac-files/imce/editor/Somerville-Arts-Space-Risk-Assessment-Report_DRAFTJan2022.pdf) or refer to *The Somerville Times'* preliminary summary at: <https://www.thesomerville-times.com/archives/114218>.

Following a brief overview of the report's findings and policy recommendations, the meeting shifted into a brief Q+A portion. Mike Gintz, a resident of Somerville, asked the first question: Did the research in the report recognize the different accommodations for space and resources that each artistic practice needs?

Gregory Jenkins explained that much of the work in the next few months would revolve around just that. "The point of this is to get ahead of [the development] and make matches based on the needs around the development," Jenkins clarified.

Somerville resident and community activist Wig Zamore was concerned that creative garage startups might get swept up in efforts to curb the innovation development in the city. "I'm concerned about garage startups, who may not be artists, but are creative and may be starting up on chump change. Somerville has had a huge number of those as well. I think of them as part and parcel of the small creative economy as well," he said.

"We want to support these startups," Jenkins said, noting the success of iRobot and Artisan's Asylum. "There's a need to call it what is," he said, explaining that there is more work left to be done in identifying space usage and clarifying the relation between planning, zoning, and community needs.

Julia Cseko, a Somerville artist, asked about the possibility of an artist representative to advocate for the community directly with developers. "Will [these negotiations] be through the Somerville Arts Council?" she asked.

"It will be through the city. So we need to determine how that's going to happen," Jenkins answered. Annis Sengupta added that the report included many internal recommendations to help guide the SAC to collaborate with the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD). Sengupta noted that the evening's meeting would focus more on big picture concerns for the community at large.

And on that note, the meeting shifted to allow attendees to discuss their concerns in small breakout rooms. Following group discussions, all attendees returned to debrief. Below, are a few of the key concerns brought up by the groups.

**Collectivize**

"The overarching idea from our team is that collective action is key. Whether that's forming a collective action committee, working with city planners or the City of Somerville to help enforce these new policies in districts. Or even looking at who can we put in the conversation – folks who are in the know about these upcoming developments. How many voices can we get in the room? How can we empower people to be advocates for our community?" said Greg Jukes, a founding member of The Fourth Wall arts ensemble. Rachel Strutt, a member of SAC, echoed Jukes' call for collectivization, demanding that artists receive sufficient notice before a building sells. Strutt explained that with time, some artists might be able to band together and buy the property. Local artist Emiliano Calvo suggested that attendees start or join Facebook pages to network with other artists and strengthen ties on a hyper-local level. "If we're not going to stand up for ourselves, no one else will," Calvo said.

**Racial Equity, Housing, and Affordability**

"Some people are concerned about making sure resources and engagement

Continued on page 11



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

By Erica Dakin 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.

This year and last have been unusual school years. The Somerville Public School buildings were closed in early March 2020. Schools finally reopened for most students in the last week of April 2021. The students have been back in school this year, with pandemic precautions in place—it is not a “normal school year” like “back in the old days” pre-COVID. The classroom teachers and students have had to adapt to new routines and expectations.

This year we have ten teacher winners. Each teacher's grant has a generous sponsor who is making their teacher's work easier. Our congratulations to each of the winners and our thanks to each of the sponsors for their generous support:

• Johanna Cooney, Brown School (1st), math games, and

organizational supplies, Sponsored by Rebecca Wood-Spagnoli.

• Julie Dabenigno, Missy Metteis, and Jenifer Leary for Kennedy School Pre-k - 1 group, Storybooks for Beautiful Stuff, Will Kuhlman.

• Roxane Scrima and Sharon Cuddy for Kennedy School Pre-k - 1 group, Storybooks for Beautiful Stuff, Sponsored by East Cambridge Savings Bank.

• Katelyn Dickson, Kennedy School (3-8 Upper Life Skills, Math and Science), Math Manipulatives, Sponsored by Lali & Jay Haines.

• Kelley Dickson, Winter Hill Community Innovation School (5 & 7 Resource Room), Math Manipulatives and Games, Sponsored by Jasper Lawson, PhD. & Associates.

• Alyssa Mackey, West Somerville Neighborhood School (7-8 Math), Math Classroom Materials, Sponsored by Tufts University.

• Andrea Palmer, Winter Hill Community Innovation School (K-8 Math Coach), Math Center Materials, Sponsored by Winter Hill Bank.

• Meredith Rothstein, Winter Hill Community Innovation School (3-5 Autism Classroom), Math Materials, Spon-



sored by Jasper Lawson, PhD. & Associates.

• Helen Schroeder, East Somerville Community School (K integrated SEI), Rekenrek, Math Materials, Sponsored by Philip Parsons.

• Meaghan Tubridy, Argenziano School (4th - 6th Special Education Resource Room), Math Intervention Materials, Sponsored by Mr and Mrs Donald F. McGoldrick.

The Somerville Mathematics Fund was chartered in 2000 to

celebrate and encourage achievement in mathematics in the city of Somerville, Massachusetts. Over twenty-two years, the Somerville Math Fund has awarded \$137,673 in teacher grants supporting three hundred fifty teachers' projects in the city of Somerville along with emergency grants to East Somerville teachers after the devastating school fire.

In early April, the fund will be seeking applications from students who reside in Somerville

for college mathematics scholarships. Over twenty-one years, the Somerville Math Fund has awarded a total of \$505,000 in four-year mathematics scholarships to one hundred nine students. Links to the scholarship application form is available at [www.somervillemathematics-fund.org](http://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](mailto:mathfund@gmail.com)).

## Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



### Littleburg Vegetable Kitchen

Located next to Backbar, this take-out counter is a great addition to the growing number of diverse food choices throughout Union Square. Since 2017, they have evolved from a pop-up all around the Boston area, appearing in cafés, breweries, fine dining restaurants and beyond. But once the pandemic hit, they pivoted their business model to include a meal delivery service. For more information about their meal delivery service or catering, please visit the above website. It's also best to follow them on Facebook or sign up for their email list for hours and menu offerings.

This past week I opted to try the meal delivery service. It's very easy to order from their website and gives detailed information of each menu item and its ingredients. The menu is typically posted on a Sunday for pre-ordering up until Thursday afternoon for the upcoming weekend. There is

a list of towns as to what towns will be delivered to on specific days along with a time window for deliveries. Delivery is free for Somerville and other surrounding towns. A full list is available on the website.

The items I ordered through their delivery service were the keftedes served over the broccoli rabe and tomato sauce mixed with the orzo. The keftedes were packed full of flavor and had great texture and were certainly enhanced by the sweet tomato sauce and bitter rabe. I also tried the carrot hummus with Baharat spice that was very creamy. That on its own was fantastic, but once the zhoug sauce, a green herb hot sauce, was drizzled over the top, it was elevated to being one of the best hummus flavor combinations I've ever tasted, especially scooping it up with the za'atar flatbread. The fresh, tangy flavor from the salted cucumbers and pickled celery, crunchy from the pistachio and sunflower za'atar crumble, and the creamy texture of the lemon tahini vinaigrette,



made the baby kale salad a great way to start off this meal.

The meal kits come all labeled and with easy instructions on reheating and serving each dish. I enjoyed it so much, that I placed another order!

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Union Square  
<https://www.littleburgveg.com>

Visit Dorothy's website at <http://ddimarzo2002.wix.com/thymethief>.



Beacon Hill Roll Call



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Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)

**THE HOUSE AND SENATE.** There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

*Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives’ votes on recent roll calls from January 27. All the roll calls are on proposed amendments to the bill making changes in the state’s election laws including making permanent the mail-in and early voting options used in Massachusetts in 2020.

The House and Senate have approved different versions of the legislation and a conference committee has been appointed to hammer out a compromise version that would then be sent to Gov. Charlie Baker for his signature.

**RAISE PENALTIES FOR VOTER FRAUD (H 4359)**

House 32-126, rejected an amendment to a current law that imposes up to a \$10,000 fine and/or up to a 5-year prison sentence on anyone who knowingly engages in any type of voting fraud including illegally registering to vote; illegally voting or attempting to vote; voting more than once; and aiding and abetting a person who is illegally voting. The amendment would raise the fine to up to \$20,000.

“Maintaining the integrity of our elections is of paramount importance and is not a partisan issue,” said House Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading), the sponsor of the amendment. “Expanding the existing financial penalties for those individuals who knowingly attempt to engage in voting fraud will provide a strong deterrent to help prevent this type of illegal activity.”

“We’re in agreement,” said Rep. Dan Ryan (D-Charlestown), the House chair of the Elections Laws Committee. “Of course we all want safe and secure elections. That’s why we are here ... there are safeguards already in place, in Massachusetts General Law, to prevent such fraud and abuse of our electoral system. And study after study has also shown that election fraud is not as prevalent as some might think it is, or as folks purport it to be. So therefore \$10,000 seems like an appropriate deterrent to election fraud. So I ask for a ‘No’ vote on the amendment, as what is in place is currently working.”

(A “Yes” vote is for raising the fine to up to \$20,000. A “No” vote is against raising it.)

Rep. Christine Barber No  
Rep. Mike Connolly No  
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven No

**MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF RESIDENCY (H 4359)**

House 28-130, rejected an amendment that would require that any polling place that requires a voter to prove he or she is vaccinated, by presenting his or her vaccination card, to also show suitable identification to demonstrate proof of residence to the local election officer.

“The amendment would require that if vaccination status was required to enter a polling location, then the poll officials would be required to verify the identity of the card holder,” said amendment sponsor Rep. Peter Durrant (R-Spencer). “The reasoning behind the amendment was to ensure that if the local officials required a vaccine, then they should verify that the person was indeed the one named on the card.”

“Thank you for the spirited debate,” said Election

Laws Committee House chair Dan Ryan. As I mentioned in previous response to [this] amendment, mandates requiring proof of vaccination have not been extended to voting sites. Therefore, I would ask for a ‘No’ vote on this amendment.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment requiring a voter to show suitable identification. A “No” vote is against requiring it.)

Rep. Christine Barber No  
Rep. Mike Connolly No  
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven No

**SECURE VOTING MACHINES (H 4359)**

House 29-128, rejected an amendment that would require that any voting software or voting machine that is used to process early, absentee or mail-in voting prior to Election Day must be secured at all times once the processing has begun.

At the end of each processing period, the machine, software and ballots must be secured by a police officer and an election official either in a secured vault at the city or town hall or at the police station in a private cell—and must remain under video surveillance.

Amendment sponsor Rep. Shawn Dooley (R-Norfolk) said that voters should feel confident in knowing that their ballots are always safe and secure. “As early voting continues to expand, we need to make sure that these ballots have the same security and chain of custody as do the ballots on Election Day,” said Dooley. Once the early ballots are processed—currently there is no 24/7 chain of custody protection—opening up the possibility for tampering or questioning the process.”

“As we’ve discussed earlier, the security of our ballot boxes and our ballots once they arrive are not an issue,” said Elections Laws House Chair Rep. Dan Ryan. “We currently have a Massachusetts General Law as we continue to examine election integrity and security. We have laws that requires the clerk of each city and town to provide a place for the safekeeping of the ballot boxes and voting machines used throughout the commonwealth. The care and custody of voting machines, ballots, boxes and apparatus are kept in good order and repair subject to the supervision and control of the secretary of state. So, therefore I request a ‘No’ vote on this amendment.”

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

Rep. Christine Barber No  
Rep. Mike Connolly No  
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven No

**ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL**

**\$101 MILLION FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE (H 4430)** - The House and Senate approved and sent to Gov. Baker a \$101 million COVID-19 response bill. Key provisions include increasing the number of COVID-19 testing sites and COVID-19 tests; the acquisition and distribution of high-quality personal protective masks, including N95s and KN95s, to be distributed to health care workers and children and faculty in elementary and secondary public-school districts; increasing vaccination rates among kids ages five to 11 whose vaccination rates remain low in comparison to older residents; and recapitalizing the COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Program. The

measure also mandates that the Baker administration pursue the highest allowable rate of federal reimbursement for the \$101 million package.

“Today, we are pleased to announce an agreement on a supplemental spending bill that directs \$101 million to address critical, time-sensitive needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Senate Ways and Means Chair Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport).

“With this agreement, we support our ongoing pandemic response efforts by including \$75 million for masks, rapid tests and vaccine equity efforts that support children, educators, front-line health care workers, small businesses, our most vulnerable populations and communities disproportionately impacted by this pandemic.”

**STUDY EXPANDING BICYCLE LANES (H 3506)** - The House gave initial approval to a proposal that would require every city and town that receives transportation funds from the state, to conduct a study to expand the number of bicycle routes on public roadways within the city or town. Reports from each city and town’s study would be due in six months.

Supporters say that additional bike lanes would help reduce car traffic congestion, make the environment cleaner and help people get more exercise.

Rep. Dan Hunt (D-Dorchester), the sponsor of the bill, did respond to repeated requests from Beacon Hill Roll Call to comment on his proposal.

**HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?**

*Beacon Hill Roll Call* tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session.

During the week of January 31-February 4, the House met for a total of three hours and 51 minutes and the Senate met for a total of three hours and 24 minutes.

Mon. Jan. 31	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:19 a.m. Senate 11:14 a.m. to 11:23 a.m.
Tues. Feb. 1	No House session No Senate session
Wed. Feb. 2	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. Feb. 3	House 11:02 a.m. to 2:34 p.m. Senate 11:18 a.m. to 2:33 p.m.
Fri. Feb. 4	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at [bob@beaconhillrollcall.com](mailto:bob@beaconhillrollcall.com)



COMMENTARY

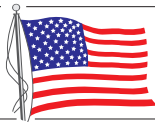
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Feel the love, 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

others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **CHA Somerville Vaccine Center** is now accepting walk-ins, as supply allows. The center is open to all, five days a week and some Saturdays. You can get booster shots for ages 12+ and initial vaccines for ages 5+. The vaccines are free, regardless of immigration or health insurance status, and you don't need to show ID. Full hours and details are here: [challiance.org/vaccine](https://challiance.org/vaccine). You can still make an appointment at [tinyurl.com/metronorthvaccine](https://tinyurl.com/metronorthvaccine). If you're a CHA patient you can also make an appointment through MyChart: [challiance.org/mychart](https://challiance.org/mychart). If you need assistance finding a COVID-19 vaccine or booster, you can call 3-1-1 (617-666-3311).

\*\*\*\*\*

Massachusetts has established a temporary program **requiring employers make paid leave time available for employees impacted by COVID** or who have side effects from vaccination. Learn more: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-temporary-emergency-paid-sick-leave-program>

\*\*\*\*\*

A big congratulations to retired Somerville **Fire Lieutenant Josu'e Velney** on his recent award in the *Top 100 magazine for Real Estate*. Visit The Top 100 Magazine to read the full article Josu'e Velney <https://www.thetop100magazine.com/josue-velney?fbclid=IwAR1dt3LULsAGwK8mV6dvaXPwfvj85m59YJs2w2PaaZ5dQdUS3fEKTsJZpmw>

\*\*\*\*\*

If your **child or teen** is struggling with **stress or anxiety**, you can help by reaching out, listening, understanding, offering support, and connecting the student with key staff at school. Learn more about the **#SomervilleTogether** campaign for youth mental health at <http://bit.ly/3s5uMfu>.

\*\*\*\*\*

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**. They 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **City of Somerville's Memorialization Committee**, which names public assets like buildings, streets, and parks, is accepting applications to fill **one resident position**. The committee meets on an as-needed basis. Appointees will serve a two-year term and must be confirmed by the **City Council**. If you are interested in applying, please send a statement of interest to [memorial@somervillema.gov](mailto:memorial@somervillema.gov) by **Friday, February 19**. For more information on the Memorialization Committee please visit [bit.ly/MemorializationCommittee](https://bit.ly/MemorializationCommittee).

\*\*\*\*\*

Rent a space at the **Arts at the Armory's unique spaces**. Are you looking for a unique and memorable venue for an event? Their historic and spacious **Performance Hall**, intimate and charming **Café**, and comfortable and functional B5 meeting/classroom/rehearsal space are all available to rent. Learn more about our spaces here. For more information, please contact [events@artsatthearmory.org](mailto:events@artsatthearmory.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

On **Tuesday, February 15**, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., an outdoor, in person sing will be held at the **Somerville Community Growing Center**, 22 Vinal Ave. (<https://www.facebook.com/somervillecommunitygrowingcenter>). It's a beautiful space. They'll have a propane fire pit and marshmallows to toast. Other snacks are welcome. Because singing is a relatively high-risk activity, they ask that only fully vaccinated and boosted people attend. It's getting colder, so long underwear and even a blanket would be handy. They have chairs and a porta-john, but not much else in the way of amenities. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good chorus (i.e. one that people can join in on) will be appreciated.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are experiencing **symptoms of COVID-19** or were exposed to **someone with COVID-19**, you should get tested. Find a testing site near you or where to get an at-home test kit at [somervillema.gov/covidtesting](https://somervillema.gov/covidtesting). If you test positive: The CDC advises to isolate for at least five days.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mayor Katjana Ballantyne** and **City of Somerville staff** invite you to attend the second community meeting to discuss **90 Washington Street**, a 4-acre site near the **East Somerville Green Line station** envisioned as

Continued on page 9



FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#813

1. Who came up with the name "Super Bowl" for the AFL–NFL Championship Game?

2. What team won the first two Super Bowls (AFL–NFL Championship Game)?

3. Who is Vince Lombardi Trophy named in honor of?

4. When was the Vince Lombardi Trophy first awarded?

5. What team has has the most Super Bowl wins?

6. What is the capital of Portugal?

7. Who is often portrayed as the son of the

love goddess Venus?

8. What is the global activist movement to end violence against women and girls?

9. Who is assumed to have been responsible for ordering the 1929 Saint Valentine's Day Massacre?

10. What did Al Capone's business card state his occupation was?

11. Which actress played Mary Poppins in the 1964 film Mary Poppins?

12. Which actor starred alongside Kim Basinger in the film 9½ Weeks?

Answers on page 11

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Gorillas often sleep for up to fourteen hours a day.

2. John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe died on July 4.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

Kings and Queens

ACROSS

1. Outback birds
5. Pilgrimage to Mecca
8. Well, to Sofia Loren
12. Impose a tax
13. No way!
14. Malicious burning
15. \_\_\_\_ over
16. Radiant light
17. Ran easily
18. "The King of Staten Island" star Pete
20. Goyim, alt. sp.
21. Mork from Ork, e.g.
22. Common furniture wood
23. "Der Ring des Nibelungen" composer
26. Petroleum product (2 words)
30. Shakespearean fuss
31. Loan shark
34. Village People hit
35. City in France
37. Street, in Paris
38. Show in progress (2 words)
39. Tiny purse
40. Was almost out of gas, e.g. (2 words)
42. First H in HRH
43. Type of bag
45. Unguarded
47. Brick and mortar carrier
48. Resize a dress, e.g.
50. "For \_\_\_\_ the Bell Tolls"
52. Netflix royal drama (2 words)
55. Bridal veil fabric
56. One who hoes
57. Not far
59. Orderly arrangement
60. Drunkard, slangily
61. Stare
62. Country club pegs
63. Drivers' licenses, e.g.
64. 2019 movie "Queen & \_\_\_\_"

DOWN

1. Not Moose or Shriner
2. Fitting reward
3. Iris holder
4. Forest spirit

CROSSWORD										
1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9
12					13				14	
15					16				17	
	18			19					20	
			21					22		
23	24	25					26			27
30				31		32	33		34	
35			36			37			38	
39				40				41		42
43				44				45	46	
			47				48	49		
	50	51				52				53
55						56			57	58
59						60			61	
62						63			64	

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

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

© StatePoint Media

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.

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.



OBITUARY

John J. Howe



**John J. Howe** of Somerville passed away peacefully surrounded by family, January 31, 2022. Beloved husband of Sheila (O’Brien) Howe. Loving father of John Howe and his wife Karin of Wakefield, Kristen Kennedy and her husband Michael of Melrose, Gregory Howe and

his wife Paige of CA and Erin (Howe) McGovern of Somerville. Brother of Marie Howe of Somerville, William Howe of FL and the late Desmond Howe. Cherished grandfather of Pierson, Harrison, Katherine, William, Barron, Jillian, Caitlin, Julia and Desmond.

Funeral procession from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, took place Tuesday morning, February 8 at 9am, followed by a Funeral Mass in Sts. Louis and Zelie Martin Parish (St. Catherine Church), Somerville at 10:00. Interment Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Arlington.

Visiting friends at Brickbottom Artists Association

I went with a friend to a reception for “Space <—> Color <—> Movement: From Lyrical Realism into Poetic Abstraction” at the Brickbottom Artists Association, Inc. Gallery, Somerville.



L to R: Rothschild: When My Parents Were Alive, Rozenman: Meeting Frida at the Mexican Border, Gerstein: Find Your Passion. — Photo by Doug Holder

And indeed, I saw the poetry in the paintings both in the abstract and in the realistic renderings. This show is curated by artist Philip Gerstein, and included works by Alexandra Rozenman, Jo Ann Rothschild, and Gerstein.

The show runs at the Brickbottom Gallery through February 26.

For more information visit: <https://brickbottom.org/exhibition/space-color-movement>. — Doug Holder

Boston Homeland Security Region update

By Kyle Dante

*The following information adds on to last week’s meeting with the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region. Information relating to the funding and its usage and purpose will be addressed in a future MBHSR meeting.*

On Monday, February 7, the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region Maritime Group met. Regional Planner Steven Craney conducted the meeting following up on the Urban Areas Security Initiative between 2018 to 2022.

As of this time, Somerville received \$44,416.08 from its award letter in 2019. For

2020, \$68,888.89 remains and \$37,500.00 for 2021 remains, with UASI. The former is the fulfilled allocation amount, with the 2021 amount still in stone. 2022 has an unstated budget as of this time.

It is imperative to note because 2022 has a new incoming process. The process is in regards to a request for Maritime-related grants. “If you feel the program needs Maritime, submit an abstract,” Quincy Lieutenant Bob Gillian said. However, Gillian explained that when submitting an abstract, the city must have an expected timeline for their funding usage. All projects conceived must be submitted

on a project-to-project basis. If no extra money is necessary, it can be passed on to work with what is currently provided.

All authorized funding goes through Training Directors Steve Maguire and Alicia Woodberry. Ideal approval is through Winthrop Detective Wayne Carter and Senior Type-1 Supervisor, Field Leader Cadre Nick Russo.

As with the legislative matters from the MBHSR, it is vital to clarify what projects Somerville funds. Additionally, MBHSRM is coordinating maritime training in all locations. As a result, help is provided to Somerville with its training and incoming projects.

Somerville launches preschool and child care financial assistance initiative

The City of Somerville is now accepting applications for full-day preschool and child care financial assistance through its new Child Care Access and Affordability Program. To qualify, children must be between 15 months and 4 years old by August 31, 2022, and families must meet income eligibility requirements outlined at [somervillema.gov/somerpromise](https://somervillema.gov/somerpromise).



Tuition assistance will be provided at child care programs that have partnered with the City of Somerville. Partners for the 2022-23 school year will be finalized in March.

The Child Care Access and Affordability Program is a new initiative launched as part of the City’s first major allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars announced in December. Somerville is dedicating an unprecedented \$7 million into direct child care through mid-2025. This program will support 35 toddlers and preschoolers in the first year and grow to serve more than 100 children from infancy through school-age over the course of three years.

Multilingual applications are available at [somervillema.gov/CCAAP](https://somervillema.gov/CCAAP). Printed applications can be provided upon request. Applications are due March 11. For questions or assistance applying, contact Lara Versari, SomerPromise Youth and Family Resource Navigator, at 617-625-6600 ext. 2346 or [lversari@somervillema.gov](mailto:lversari@somervillema.gov).

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

the future home of a new **Public Safety Building** and a range of civic, commercial, and residential spaces. The meeting will take place virtually on **Wednesday, February 16**, at 6:00 p.m. To learn more and register to attend, go to [somervillema.gov/90washington](https://somervillema.gov/90washington).

\*\*\*\*\*

Prepare for the **2021/2022 snow season** by reviewing parking rules and signing up for alerts. Because this winter begins in an **odd-numbered year**, snow emergency parking will be on the **odd side of the street all winter**, unless posted signage says differently. Check streets 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](https://somervillema.gov/snow).

\*\*\*\*\*

Somerville’s **Winter Farmers Market** takes place **Saturdays, 9:30 – 1:30 p.m., through April 16**, at Arts at the

**Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. Offering the best locally grown and produced agricultural items and more. 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 at [www.somwintermarket.org](https://www.somwintermarket.org). They accept SNAP/EBT & HIP, CREDIT and DEBIT cards. \$15 SNAP match for EBT customers.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Council on Aging** presents **Powers Music School, Thursday, February 10, 1:00 p.m.**, at the **Holland Street Center**. Enjoy an afternoon of live music. **Grab and Go Lunch** available after the performance. Please RSVP to **Debby Higgins** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or [DHiggins@Somervillema.gov](mailto:DHiggins@Somervillema.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

Somerville’s **requirement to wear a**

**face covering in public indoor spaces** remains in effect. Make sure your mask covers your nose and mouth at all times when in public spaces and that it fits snugly around the sides of your face.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are unable to access a **COVID-19 vaccine** due to **transportation challenges**, but otherwise are able to leave your home, please **call 3-1-1** to get connected to **transportation assistance**.

\*\*\*\*\*

Individuals who are homebound are encouraged to schedule an **in-home COVID-19 vaccine appointment** through the state’s **COVID-19 In-Home Vaccination Program**. The program is open to all individuals who are homebound, including 5- to 11-year-olds, and individuals seeking both initial or booster doses. To schedule an appointment, call the **In-Home Vaccination Central In-take Line** at (833) 983-0485. The Intake Line is open

**Monday through Friday** from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Representatives are available in both English and Spanish, and also have access to translators for over 100 languages. Due to high demand, the current estimated wait time for an in-home vaccination appointment is 4-6 weeks.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Council on Aging** hosts **Bingo, Tuesdays at Ralph & Jenny Center** and **Thursdays at Holland Street** starting at 10:00 a.m. **Grab and Go lunch** available following Bingo. RSVP to **Debby Higgins** by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email [Debby@DHiggins@Somervillema.gov](mailto:Debby@DHiggins@Somervillema.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

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.



LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by JEK Imperium, LLC, to TVC Funding I, LLC, dated November 04, 2019 and recorded with the Middlesex South County Registry of Deeds in Book 73605, Page 293, assigned to foreclosure mortgagee by assignment as follows: from TVC Funding 1, LLC to TVC Mortgage Trust 2020-RTL1, by U.S. Bank Trust National Association, Not in its Individual Capacity but Solely as Owner Trustee, dated July 14, 2020, recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deed in Book: 75256; Page: 491, of which mortgage **TVC Mortgage Trust 2020-RTL1, by U.S. Bank Trust National Association, Not in its Individual Capacity but Solely as Owner Trustee** is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 AM on March 02, 2022**, at **9-11 Upland Park, Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts**, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage:

To wit:  
**A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon in Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, numbered 9-11 Upland Park, in the present numbering, situated on the northwesterly side of the said Upland Park and being shown as Lot 3 on a “Subdivision Plan of Willian Lears Estate, Somerville, Mass.” drawn by L.G. Brackett & Company, Engineers, dated June 24, 1926 and recorded with Middlesex South District Deeds, Book of Plans 377, Plan 46, bounded:**  
  
**Northwesterly by boundary line between Cities of Medford and Somerville, 41.18 feet.**  
**Northeasterly by Lots 1 & 2 on said plan, 73.65 feet;**  
**Southerly by Upland Park, 41 feet; and**  
**Southwesterly by Lot 4 on said plan, 69.81 feet;**  
**Containing 2,941 square feet of land, more or less, according to said plan.**

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of **FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) DOLLARS** by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check **at Braucher & Amann, PLLC, 764 Chestnut St., Manchester, NH 03104**, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

**TVC Mortgage Trust 2020-RTL1, by U.S. Bank Trust National Association, Not in its Individual Capacity but Solely as Owner Trustee**  
Present holder of said mortgage  
By its attorneys,  
**Matthew Braucher, Esq.**  
**Braucher & Amann, PLLC**  
**764 Chestnut St.**  
**Manchester, NH 03104**

2/9/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
KATJANA BALLANTYNE  
MAYOR

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville City Council’s Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, February 17, 2022** at 6:30 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

REGISTER ONLINE

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1929682909962942987>

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comments concerning the following:

- **Broadway Somerville Apartments, LLC proposes a zoning map amendment to change the zoning district of 383 Broadway from UR to MR5.**
- **Michael E. Olson proposes a zoning map amendment to change the zoning district of 125 Lowell Street from NR to UR.**
- **Vivaldo Meneses Sr. proposes a zoning map amendment to change the zoning district of 86 Prospect Street from UR to MR5.**
- **Mayor Ballantyne proposes a zoning text amendment to Sections 3.1.14.a and 3.2.13.a Contextual Front Setbacks of the Neighborhood Residence and Urban Residence zoning districts.**

Zoning map amendments and Council Items may be viewed online by searching the Somerville City Council’s online meeting calendar for the address or item number. Other proposed amendments may be viewed online at [www.somervillezoning.com/amendments](http://www.somervillezoning.com/amendments).

Final language of the above amendments may be modified by the City Council during the legislative process. Persons unable to attend the hearing may provide comments by email to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

2/2/22, 2/9/22 The Somerville Times



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING  
Removal of Public Shade Trees  
City of Somerville

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 87, the City of Somerville will hold a **virtual public shade tree hearing on February 10th, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.** using GotoWebinar software to consider the removal of the following public shade trees:

1. **14 Avon Street** – 15-inch diameter Green Ash
2. **20 Avon Street** – 11-inch diameter Green Ash
3. **156 Highland Ave** on Central Street – 8-inch diameter Green Ash
4. **156 Highland Ave** on Central Street – 10-inch diameter Green Ash
5. **156 Highland Ave** on Gibbens Street – 12-inch diameter Green Ash
6. **22 Oxford Street** – 9-inch diameter Green Ash
7. **82 Oxford Street** – 13-inch diameter Green Ash
8. **98 Oxford Street** – 11-inch diameter Green Ash
9. **170 Summer Street on Harvard Street** – 10-inch diameter Green Ash
10. **172 Summer Street** – 12-inch diameter White Ash

The trees proposed for removal are all Ash trees in poor to fair condition. Ash trees in the City are under threat from the invasive pest Emerald Ash Borer. Due to the presence of this pest, the City of Somerville Urban Forest Management Plan recommends removing all Ash trees in poor condition, and Ash trees under 13 inches diameter in fair condition. The area will be replanted as part of the Spring Hill Sewer Separation project.

The trees identified above have been posted for public inspection. In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 87, any objections to the removal of any of these trees must be submitted in writing to the Tree Warden prior to or at this public hearing. Documents may be sent via email to: [trees@somervillema.gov](mailto:trees@somervillema.gov), or mailed to: 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA. 02143.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this Public Shade Tree Hearing will be conducted via remote participation. A video recording of this hearing will be available upon request to [trees@somervillema.gov](mailto:trees@somervillema.gov).

TO USE A COMPUTER

Webinar ID: 667-513-899

Registration URL: <https://bit.ly/COS-TR-01>

TO CALL IN

UNITED STATES: +1 (631) 992-3221

Access code: 506-128-774

2/2/22, 2/9/22 The Somerville Times



- PUBLIC NOTICE -

SOMERVILLE CABLE TELEVISION  
PUBLIC ASCERTAINMENT HEARING

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, as statutory Issuing Authority for the City of Somerville, has scheduled a cable television public ascertainment hearing to be held virtually via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/98903468823?pwd=dmMxbHczcGpaQmxpYmp1ank1ckoxUT09>

on **Wednesday, February 16, 2022** at 6:30 PM.

The purpose of the hearing will be to review the performance of the cable television operator, Comcast, during its current license term and to hear testimony on future cable-related needs and interests of the Somerville community. Interested parties are encouraged to attend remotely and offer testimony on any cable-related matters. Any applications and reports to be considered at the hearing are available for public inspection at the Somerville City Hall during regular business hours (advance appointments are required). For more information on the public hearing, please call the Mayor’s Office at (617) 625-6600, extension 2100

1/26/22, 2/2/22, 2/9/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
IFB #22-40

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

Inspection and Repair of Sewer Pump Station

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com), <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **02/10/2022**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **03/03/2022 3:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Andrea Caruth at [acaruth@somervillema.gov](mailto:acaruth@somervillema.gov) for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

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

2/9/22 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 virtual public hearing on **Thursday, February 17, 2022**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7848967529678015499>  
Webinar ID: 177-830-099

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8422

Access code: 550-288-541

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

**600 Windsor Place** US RLP 600 Windsor Owner LLC proposes a Master Plan in the Boynton Yards sub area of the Master Planned Development overlay district, which requires a Master Plan Special Permit.

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](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

2/2/22, 2/9/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP# 22-35

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites proposals for:

Dedicated Internet Access (DIA)

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville’s BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Tuesday, February 8th, 2022**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, February 23rd, 2022**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any minor informality in the RFP process, and accept the proposal(s) deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.

Please email [purchasing@somervillema.gov](mailto:purchasing@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Thupten Chukhatsang**  
Senior Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3400

2/9/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
IFB #22-37

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

Building Envelope Repair Project - Founders Rink

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com), <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **02/09/2022**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **03/10/2022 2:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Andrea Caruth at [acaruth@somervillema.gov](mailto:acaruth@somervillema.gov) for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

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

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# Somerville Police award Life Saving Medal to police and housing officers

On Wednesday, January 19, 2022 Officers Kevin Goulart and Justin Buswell were on routine patrol in the area of the Dilboy Pool located on Alewife Brook Parkway. At 1:47pm they heard a radio transmission from Somerville Housing Officer Billy Rymill, who was on a nearby detail. He was alerting dispatch of a rollover involving a trailer truck in the area of Capen Court.

Officers Goulart and Buswell, who were just minutes away, immediately proceeded to the crash scene. On their arrival, they observed the truck lying on its side in the southbound lane exiting the rotary. The driver's cab had struck a tree and landed near the curb resulting in extensive damage. Without hesitation, Officer Goulart exited his cruiser and ran towards the overturned truck. Officer Buswell positioned his cruiser to block oncoming traffic and decrease the possibility of further injury.

Officer Goulart, using a section of the tree that was split in half due to the impact, climbed up on top of the cabin in order to check on the operator. From this vantage point, he could see that the driver was trapped and bleeding from his head. Officer Goulart called out to his fellow officer to bring the trauma bag assigned to the cruisers. With bag in hand, Officer Goulart retrieved bandages and handed them to the driver instructing him to press the bandages against the wound in hopes of stopping the bleeding. Officer Goulart observing the amount of blood loss, and also hearing observers yelling that the truck was starting to smoke, believed time was of the essence. Officer Goulart then climbed down from the cab and using an emergency window puncher, broke the back window and extricated the operator from the damaged vehicle. The two officers now joined by Officer Rymill, relocated the driver away from the hazardous scene. Officer Buswell now focused on rendering medical aid, while Officer Goulart assisted in managing the chaotic traffic scene.

The decisive actions of the above referenced officers, not only contributed to this life saving event, but also exemplifies the long history of courage and professionalism within the Somerville Police Department. I take great pride in awarding each of these Officers with the Somerville Police Department's Life Saving Award.

Presented on the 25th day of January in the year 2022.



— Charles Femino, Chief of Police

# Highlights from the Somerville Arts Space Risk Assessment meeting

CONT. FROM PG 4

truly consider the needs of communities of color, and that those needs are truly identified by them,” Claudia Zarazua said, adding that the city must maintain transparency around this issue. Later on, Emiliano Calvo suggested that the city and local organizations should do a better job advertising arts funding opportunities to BI-POC artists. Many attendees noted the demand for affordable housing and told stories about fellow artists relocating outside of Somerville, occasionally outside of greater Boston as a whole. In light of this discussion, a few attendees emphasized the need for Live/Work spaces. “People need to stay in place to have that arts community thrive,” Emma Boast of the MAPC concluded.

**Sharpen Definitions in Planning and Zoning**

“What does art space mean? Can it be broken down more in terms of genre?” asked SAC member Rachel Strutt, who was concerned about meeting the various needs of each artist. Lauren, another resident (who did not provide a last name), shared Strutt’s sentiment and added that many current spaces do not have the amenities that people need, from lack of bathrooms to insufficient creative resources. Salvatore Mancini, a resident and artist, said that the city needs to be precise in classifying innovation develop-

ments. “While it’s important to not have so many Greentown Labs,” Mancini said, “you don’t want to exclude places like Artisans Asylum. It’s a low financial commitment, where people can get started, experiment, and learn a lot.”

**Maintain Current Space, Use Underused Space**

“Make sure that the city is committing to spaces that are already in place,” said Emily Beattie. Heather Balchunas, also a member of the SAC, added to Beattie’s point. “We need to look at strengthening the relationships with landlords of existing studios,” Balchunas said, suggesting tax incentives and Right of First Refusal for tenants as ways to keep both sides happy. Balchunas also said her group had discussed compiling a guide or package for restaurants endeavoring to host live music events. “There are a lot of successful restaurants doing great music series like Sally O’Brien’s,” Balchunas said. “Are there hurdles we don’t know about keeping other restaurants from doing that?” she asked. Many attendees emphasized the potential for the city to repurpose abandoned buildings. Local artist Emiliano Calvo suggested that the vacant Star Market building on Broadway would make an excellent performance space for musicians. Calvo also suggested more arts outreach programs, particularly for students in the new

Somerville high school. “Get them involved in local artwork,” he said.

**Don’t Simply Check the Box**

“Two or three studios to satisfy a requirement does not make a community,” one attendee stated. Peter Belford, a member of a local arts organization, agreed. “There should be other entities that really ensure this is a vital art space that continues to grow,” he said. Other attendees offered thoughts for how to extend the project beyond its policy recommendations on paper. Abby James, a former resident of Somerville, suggested that artists come together to form ideal plans for their communities. “You know, if the stars align, identifying what we need or want and bringing that to the developers,” James said, is better than “starting with a pool of money and seeing what can be made.” Many attendees agreed that while set-aside spaces and linkage funds might be promising in the short term, their success depends upon long term reinforcements.

**Data, Data, Data**

Many attendees echoed a call for strengthening the city’s database of existing arts spaces as well as vacant buildings, which might hold potential for ACE-usage. A comprehensive database could create a more refined geographic and need-based understanding of arts spaces across the city, allowing planners and developers

to move forward with an educated eye on equity and design.

SAC’s Gregory Jenkins gave closing remarks, thanking all attendees and the MAPC for hosting. “There’s definitely a lot of things that came up that were addressed by the task force and addressed in the report,” he said. “I would like us to try to reconvene after we go back to OSP-CD and the Mayor’s Office and start to explain a little bit more back to the community what we envision are going to be our next steps.” Jenkins encouraged attendees to reach out personally via email: “Let’s continue this

conversation. We’re not going anywhere, we’re going to keep pushing on this.”

Interested in learning more? Watch the recorded meeting at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8lxIWciiu>. Read the report at: [https://somervilleartscouncil.org/sac-files/imce/editor/Somerville-Arts-Space-Risk-Assessment-Report\\_DRAFTJan2022.pdf](https://somervilleartscouncil.org/sac-files/imce/editor/Somerville-Arts-Space-Risk-Assessment-Report_DRAFTJan2022.pdf). Read a transcript of the meeting chat log at: [https://www.mapc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Art-Spaces-Risk-Assessment-Public-Forum\\_Chat-Transcript.pdf](https://www.mapc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Art-Spaces-Risk-Assessment-Public-Forum_Chat-Transcript.pdf).

Ms. Cam’s

Olío

Answers

1. Lamar Hunt, owner of the Kansas City Chiefs in 1960

2. NFL’s Green Bay Packers

3. NFL coach Vince Lombardi

4. January 15, 1967

5. Pittsburgh Steelers (6), New England Patriots (6)

6. Lisbon

7. Cupid

8. V-Day

9. Al Capone

10. Used furniture dealer

11. Julie Andrews

12. Mickey Rourke



SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Bingo** – Tuesdays at Ralph & Jenny Center starting at 10:00 a.m. and Thursdays at Holland Street starting at 10:00 a.m. Grab and Go lunch available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at DHiggins@Somervillema.gov.

**Project Outlook, Low Vision Group returns** – 2nd Tuesday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. Project Outlook is a group of residents with low or no vision who enjoy getting together for camaraderie and socialization. Project Outlook has been active for over 30 years. Come join in the conversation, we look forward to meeting you. For more information please contact Claudia at 857-237-1801.

**Game Club** –Mondays from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn.) Please join us as we play a wide variety of board and card games. Please RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

**General Nutrition Classes** – In-person, Mondays at 12:30 p.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Virtual classes are offered Monday at 11am via Zoom. New and returning members are welcome! To RSVP please call Mary Marshall at 617-625-6600, ext. 2316 or email her at headtofitness10@yahoo.com. Masks are required.

**Walking Group** –Fridays at 9:30 a.m. The walking group will meet in front of the Holland Street Center and will enjoy walks through area neighborhoods. All classes and groups will be limited in participation and are weather permitting. Pre-registration is required. For additional information or to register for the program, contact Chris Kowaleski by email at ckowaleski@somervillema.gov or by phone at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315.

**Fit-4-Life Exercise Classes** – Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m and 11:00 a.m.—In-person, indoor at the Holland Street Center. Each class will focus on strength, balance and flexibility. Pre-registration is required as classes will be limited; masks are required. Please contact Chris Kowaleski at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315 or email ckowaleski@somervillema.gov with any questions

or for additional information.

**English Conversation** – Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – At the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Meet people from all over the world as we discuss a range of topics. No books – no test – just friendly conversation. This program is in person; pre-registration is required as space is limited. Please contact Maureen Bastardi at MBastardi@Somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 to RSVP.

**Men’s Group** – 2nd Tuesday of the month from 10:30 to 11:30. Our popular men’s group is held on the second Tuesday of every month at the Holland St. Center. New and returning members are welcome. Please RSVP to Norbert DeAmato at ndeamato@hotmail.com.

**Bowling is Back** – Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Flatbreads Company / Sacco Bowl Haven in Davis Square. For more information or to sign up please contact Debby at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Deb at Dhiggins@Somervillema.gov. Face coverings are required.

**Yoga** – In Person – Tuesday, 15 and 22 at 10:00 a.m. Easy-to-follow program lets you stretch and relax. Yoga provides modified, low-impact moves and easy-to-follow pacing for a healthy, active lifestyle. Please RSVP to Chris Kowaleski at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Chris at CKowaleski@Somervillema.gov.

**Music & Munch** – Wednesday, February 9 and Wednesday, February 23 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. Please RSVP to Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.

**Arts & Crafts** – Wednesday, February 9 at 10:00am at the Ralph & Jenny Center. Join us as we create a Valentine’s Day craft. Crafting materials will be provided; cost is \$3 per craft. Grab and Go Lunch available after the craft. Please RSVP to Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.

**Powers Music School** – Thursday, February 10 at 1:00 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. Enjoy an afternoon of live music. Grab and Go Lunch available after the performance. Please RSVP to Debby at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or DHiggins@Somervillema.gov

**February Boxed Lunch Pick Up** – Monday, February 14 starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn.) We hope you can stop by! Please reserve your lunch by calling Connie at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319.

**Music & Movement** – Thursday, February 17 at 4:00 p.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. This program is in person, pre-registration is required as space is limited. Please RSVP to Debby at Dhiggins@Somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.

EXERCISE

Virtual FIT-4-LIFE SCHEDULE

Mondays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise  
Wednesdays 1:00 p.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.

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



How did the phone propose to his girlfriend on Valentine's Day? He gave her a ring.

On This Day in History  
February 9

- 1799 – The USS Constellation captures the French frigate Insurgente off the West Indies.
- 1825 – The House of Representatives elects John Quincy Adams, sixth U.S. President.
- 1861 – Jefferson F. Davis is elected president of the Confederate States of America.
- 1916 – Conscription begins in Great Britain as the Military Service Act becomes effective.
- 1951 – Actress Greta Garbo gets U.S. citizenship.
- 1964 – The U.S. embassy in Moscow is stoned by Chinese and Vietnamese students.
- 1978 – Canada expels 11 Soviets in spying case.
- 1994 – Nelson Mandela becomes the first black president of South Africa.

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# Hollywood comes to Somerville

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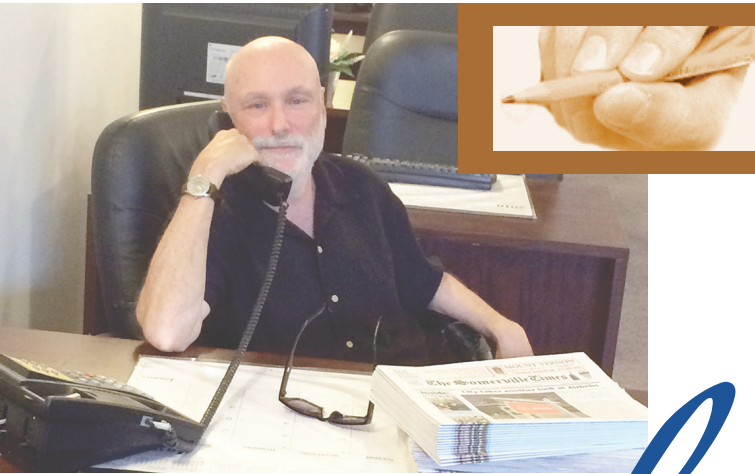
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Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Áine Griffin is a junior at Endicott College, where she is studying English and Secondary Education. Griffin is from South Boston, Massachusetts, but a piece of her heart will always be with her family in Connemara, Ireland. When she is not writing, she loves painting, rowing, having long conversations with friends, and getting perpetually distracted. She has previously been published in the Endicott Review and has received the Derby medal for an English poem.



Imago Dei

As I float between who I am and who I am becoming,  
sometimes I can't help but get so dizzy, so groundless,  
that I have to stop midday just to  
swim in my uncertainty.

Sitting with the world in my throat  
I close my eyes and go back to that familiar scene,  
the little bench in the garden of roses and rectitude  
where I can find my breath in the quiet pulse of creation.

When they open, I acknowledge I am not alone.  
By a tree in the garden stands the man.  
My heart jumps as I think of everything he is.  
The strong arm and the warm hand and the young grin,  
the tender piece of flesh above the groin,  
the bulging muscle of the thigh.

When he walks over to the bench  
my cheeks flush with swirls of heat  
and I feel like I did when I was a young girl,  
sitting on the edge of the schoolyard,  
wide eyes and butterflies  
watching the boy with the freckles and gapped teeth.

I've been waiting for you, I say, as he sits down on my right.  
He rests his head on my shoulder,  
and I think of everything I would give up  
just to hold him  
in my heart  
and in my home  
and in between my teeth,  
forever.

But then, more subtly, in walks the woman.  
She isn't as abrasive about it,  
glowing in my periphery, her body bathes in sinking  
hues of violet and blue,  
I call to her: mum, sister, friend,  
come join us in the shade!

But tasting my insincerity she just stands, wise and patient at the  
threshold.

Frightened, I try to cling to the man,  
but the violet of the woman bleeds into my vision  
and covers the edges of my throat;  
I can't breathe.

When I'm choking, gasping for air,  
I let myself see it.  
The soft meeting of her lips, the dip of her collar bone,

OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'My Brother Is Not a Monster'

by Lee Varon

*My Brother Is Not a Monster*  
By Lee Varon  
Illustration, Alisha Monnin  
(Rachlee Books, Boston MA)  
Available at Barnes and Noble, Amazon,  
or leesvaron.com

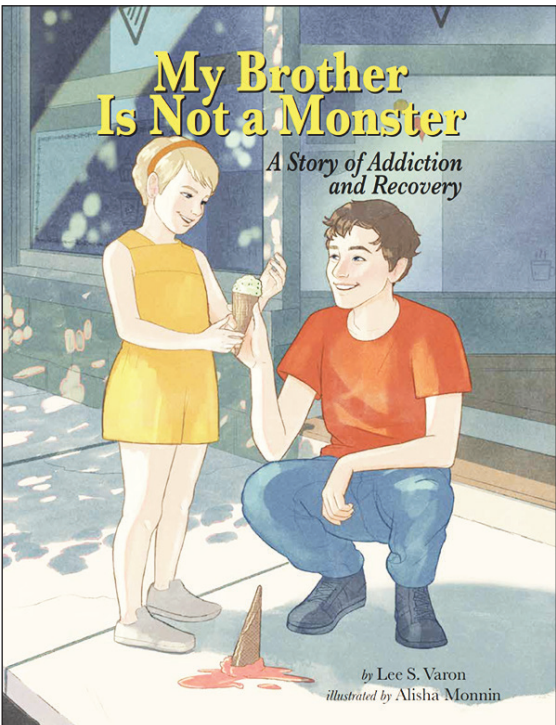
When I began my career as a clinician at a substance abuse program, my treatment team met with an agent from the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). I learned that the fastest rising group of drug users was 8th graders – this, in the early 1990's. 30 years later, the drug epidemic has killed thousands of Americans, including many young.

As a comparison, in 2020, 52 people aged 0-39 died from Covid-19. In 2020, there were over 2,000 overdoses, just from opioids, in Massachusetts alone; 554 were under age 35. As I read *My Brother Is Not a Monster: A Story of Addiction and Recovery*, I recalled many situations from my clinical days – parents dealing drugs hidden in their baby strollers, 4-year-olds babysitting their younger siblings when parents left to get high, empty refrigerators, kids finding their parents or siblings overdosed, or dead.

Lee Varon, Cambridge poet and author, has never been one to shy away from controversial and difficult subjects. Now she has authored *My Brother Is Not a Monster: A Story of Addiction and Recovery* (Rachlee Books, Boston, MA). This is one of a few (and sorely needed) books I am aware of on the subject of teen drug addiction. Addictions are commonly viewed as moral and/or individual weakness, so it's on the addict and those near and dear to ignore and/or hide it, or deal with it. But, the truth will out, in all its messiness. That is the premise of Varon's book.

This is the story of Sophia, her friend, Casey, both youngsters, and Sophia's older brother Joey. It's Halloween night, there's costumes, and trick or treating. Sophia's mom has to work the night shift, so leaves big brother Joey in charge. But Joey, dressed as a monster, meets his pal Harry during trick-or-treating, and up to no good, abandons his two charges.

When Sophia and Casey get back to Sophia's, things go swiftly downhill. They find Joey passed out in his room. Then it's fear, panic, and calling 911. EMTs arrive, give Joey Narcan and save his life. The artful illustrations by Alisha Monnin are realistic, and do not sugar-coat events. Joey's ashen face as he is wheeled away, and the worried look



on Sophia's as she talks with her mom, depict the gravity of the situation. Thankfully the story has a positive ending, with Joey heading to rehab and then recovery school. The story is compelling and realistic. If only all addicts were so lucky...

Varon has skillfully woven many facets of addiction into this tale, from common symptoms (Joey's stealing and skipping family events) to explanations (mom educating Sophia about addiction). Monnin's illustrations add to the mix, such as the "One Day At A Time" poster in the illustration of Joey's recovery school room).

The language is straight-forward and simple. Varon avoids a lot of technical terminology so the story will be understandable to youngsters. I'm not a professional educator, but this book seems appropriate for ages 10 (around 5th grade) and up.

I shared this with a "tween" I know, who deemed it "pretty intense" but could see it in a health education class, or read with a parent or caregiver. There's a glossary, worksheets and a resource list included, helpful for teachers and parents.

Personally, I think *My Brother Is Not a Monster* should be in every school and public library. And for those who think the topic isn't appropriate for kids, addiction is a topic everywhere – on TV, on-line and on social media, in movies, and in schoolyard chatter. And sadly, it's often in their own families. Our kids are probably more aware than we think.

Julia Carlson, MSW, worked as a clinical social worker in addictions for over 25 years.

the curving fat of her waist.  
There's a magic that dances around her  
and a fiery blaze behind her eyes  
that takes the wind from my lungs  
and shoots the pulse of new life through my veins.

She frightens me.  
For I can love the man as an outsider, I can love every inch  
of him for everything I am not,  
but I know the woman too deeply.

I know her pleasure and I know her plight  
I know her beauty in admiration  
and know it in envy—

But despite these fears, I also know  
when she sits on my other side  
I feel miraculously myself,  
a hand in Adam's and a hand in Eve's,  
I am powerful and alive.

Before I can run back in cowardice  
they lean in and kiss the tender flesh  
of my neck—  
while I stare, steadfast and unbreaking,  
into the eyes of God

and ask him if he likes his reflection.



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