

Somerville's
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independent
newspaper

The Somerville Times

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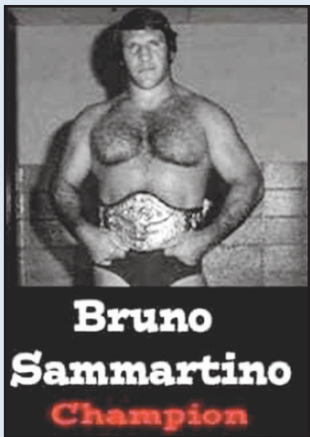


VOL. 10 NO. 11

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Opening of Union Sq. GLX station pivotal for USQ development



Aerial View of USQ, a \$2 billion 2.4 million square foot development centered around the MBTA's Union Square Station in Somerville, MA, Developed by US2. Rendering Credit: US2.

By Jim Clark

US2, the Designated Master Developer working in partnership with the community, the Somerville Redevelopment Authority and the City of Somerville to realize the shared vision for Union Square's Revitalization recently issued a statement concerning the upcoming opening of the Union Square MBTA Green Line Extension (GLX) station. The statement reads in parts as follows:

As the GLX prepares to open transit service at Union Square Station in Somerville next Monday, March 21, US2 underlines what this major milestone means for Union Square and its \$2 billion, 2.4 million square foot, mixed-use development, USQ, which lies adjacent to the new train station.

Union Square Station will serve as a new terminus for the D branch, as

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'Serendipity of the Stroke'

Works by Iku Oseki on display in Davis Square

By Ryan DiLello

Local artist and art teacher, Iku Oseki paints without diverting her eyes from the subject. The technique is called blind contour drawing and it entails sketching an object without looking at one's canvas.

"This technique was prominent in the 70s and 80s, around the time that a book about drawing on the right side of the brain came out," Oseki said.

Though Oseki attended art school, she informed me that she had not always been a painter. It was the blind contour technique that enabled her break into the practice while on sabbatical from her job as an art teacher. "It was really incredible. I did a few renditions 5-6 times. I really liked drawing faces more than anything," she said, mentioning her recurring interest in photos she found of Amazonian natives featured in *TIME Magazine*.

"When I do 'blind contour,'

Continued on page 5



Iku Oseki's artwork is currently on display at The Inside-Out Gallery, located in the CVS Window in Davis Square in Somerville.

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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.

Somerville's indoor mask mandate ended Saturday, March 5. The City of Somerville will lift its mask requirement for city buildings and events starting Monday, March 21. This means all city-issued mask mandates are now either lifted or set to lift. Some federal and state mask requirements remain in effect. The Somerville School Committee voted to make masks optional in Somerville Public Schools as of Monday, March 14. The decisions to lift the local mask mandates follow current guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). But businesses can still set their own mask policies, so make sure to check before heading in. More information, including where to find the latest health guidance can be found at somervillema.gov/maskmandateupdate.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all of our readers. No matter what one's ancestral heritage, we can all be a bit Irish on this day.

Liam Mannion and Bob McWatters invite the public to Sally O'Brien's, 335 Somerville Ave., on March 17 to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and Irish heritage. Corned beef and cabbage are on the menu as well as pints of Guinness and Irish music. All are welcome to stop by Sally's for a festive time.

Last Saturday, Joe Lynch stepped down as President of the Somerville Media Center Board of Directors. The by-laws set the term limit at six years. Joe served out his six years on the Board, first as Treasurer, then Vice President and finally three years as President. Joe will continue his Greater Somerville show and I am sure will continue to help SMC grow. We will be sitting down with Joe soon to talk in more detail about what is next for him.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to Ward 7 Councilor and newly elected Mayor of Somerville Katjana Ballantyne. We hope she had a great birthday for herself with her family. Happy birthday to former

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Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of March 16 – March 22 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday March 16	Partly Cloudy	59°/40°	7%	5%	NW 9 mph
Thursday March 17	Rain	58°/47°	38%	29%	SE 11 mph
Friday March 18	Partly Cloudy	69°/47°	8%	6%	W 8 mph
Saturday March 19	Rain	47°/40°	81%	42%	NE 13 mph
Sunday March 20	Partly Cloudy	51°/35°	25%	15%	WNW 12 mph
Monday March 21	Sunny	54°/38°	5%	1%	WNW 11 mph
Tuesday March 22	Partly Cloudy	60°/41°	8%	3%	W 10 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: Brown School Play Area public meeting, March 22

Tom says:

The City of Somerville at its best again, why would you invest one penny in play area when school needs to be knocked down. I wish I had money to waste like this City does.

Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

Uh...yeah. Let's just knock them all down. Right, Tom? Unreal.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Boynton Yards to co-host
networking event for local artists

By Ryan DiLello

The City of Somerville and Boynton Yards have announced plans to co-host a Maker Movement Huddle on Thursday, March 24, at The Hive in Boynton Yards. The organizers present the event as an opportunity for artists to network and learn more about recent projects going on within the city's Economic Development department. The deadline to register for the free event is Tuesday, March 22.

The Maker Movement Huddle comes as part of a city-wide effort to preserve and create artist spaces while plans for development ramp up. Earlier this month, the city held a meeting with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, the Arts Space Task Force, and local artists to discuss recent findings from the Arts Space Risk Assessment Report. During the Q+A portion of the meeting, many artists raised concerns about a lack of collectivization and the need for a centralized channel through which artists can communicate needs to the city.

Read more about the meeting here: https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/office-strategic-planning-and-community-development-ospcd/ospcd-economic-development



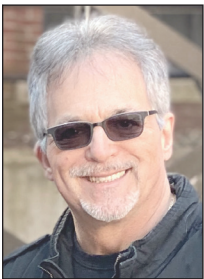
Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Wrestling at the Garden



Before John Cena and Hulk Hogan there was Bruno Sammartino and Gorilla Monsoon.

In the late '60's and '70's my friends and I went to the old Boston Garden to watch wrestling. Guys like BoBo Brazil, Professor Turo Tanaka and Andre the Giant thrilled us with their highly choreographed moves. We loved it and bought into the antics. We watched it on TV and we went to see the live matches. My pals and I actually used to wrestle down in one of the guy's cellars. We couldn't do a flying drop kick, but we did try to toss each other around in our makeshift "ring."

The tickets for a star-studded match were cheap. I think I remember paying about \$2.50 for an afternoon of grappling and body slamming.

I asked my fellow Somerville wrestling fans to share their memories of these dramatic and suspenseful matches. As usual my Somerville social media friends chimed in.

"I used to take my two sons to the Boston Garden. My two brothers would also go. My favorite was Chief Jay Strongbow, Bruno Sammartino, and George the Animal Steele. Those were the days, wrestling was fun to watch."

"Nov. 4, 1967, at Boston Garden. It was actually my bachelor party. I got married the very next day. I wish I could find the card for that event."

"My dad used to manage Hay Stack Calhoun and Killer Kawalski."

"I saw (Haystack) fight Killer Kowalski in a steel cage match at the Garden."

"We went every month and every Friday night at Jack Witchies in N. Attleboro. I got to know a lot of the guys well. Even wanted to go to Killer Kowlaskis school in Stoneham."

"The wrestlers used to come into the restaurant where I worked. They were the nicest bunch of guys. Very respectful to the staff. Gabe used to take me to the matches at the garden. He loved wrestling."

"Bruno was my favorite, followed by Chief Jay Strongbow!"

"Yup, went with my dad back in the 70's."

"My brother and I worked The Garden selling popcorn, ice cream, and Cokes, and the 1st Saturday of every month was always reserved for wrestling. Roughest crowd, bar none. Some little 80-year-old lady dressed in black from head to toe (must have been widowed) cussed me out, threw her Coke at me and threatened me with bodily harm, because I was blocking her view of Bruno. I learned some new curses that night!"

Continued on page 9

PRO WRESTLING

JULY 18, 1970

WWWF Heavyweight Championship

Bruno Sammartino Champion

VS

George "THE ANIMAL" Steele

Gorilla Monsoon

Victor Rivera

VS

The Mongols

Sky Low Low

Frenchy Lamont

VS

Irish Jackie

The Jamaica Ki

Chief Jay Strongbow

VS

Karl Kovacs

Crusher Verdu

VS

Mario Milano

Live From

BOSTON

GARDEN

Prof. Toro Tanaka

VS

John L. Sullivan

Manuka Akin

VS

Logo Rivera

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4 people \$101,150	
Asset Limit (excluding restricted accounts): \$75,000	

More information on amenities, floor plans & property, visit: <https://santanapropertisteam.com/>

INFORMATIONAL VIDEO: Visit somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing

IMPORTANT DATES: Applications will be available March 1st – March 31st
Online at: somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing
Hard copies and more information: Call (617) 625-6600 X 2566 or email us at inclusionary@somervillema.gov to request a hard copy

BY-APPOINTMENT CONDO SHOWINGS: March 12th 11- 1pm and March 16th 6- 8pm Space is limited, contact us at 617-625-6600 X 2566 or inclusionary@somervillema.gov, to request an appointment.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Thursday March 31, 2022 at 2:00 PM

LOTTERY: Tuesday April 12, 2022 at 2:00 PM.
Register to view the lottery here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7551965249891365899>

COMPLETE APPLICATIONS MUST BE:
Faxed to: 617-591-3235; Emailed to: inclusionary@somervillema.gov
Mailed/Dropped off to: City Hall Annex Attn: Inclusionary Housing Program
50 Evergreen Ave., Somerville, MA 02145;

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Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact the ADA Coordinator, Adrienne Pomeroy, at 617-625-6600 x2259 or apomeroy@somervillema.gov.

THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Arrest

On 3/6/22 at 9:33 p.m., Somerville Police arrested a man for armed robbery following an incident at a business in Davis Sq. The defendant attempted to steal numerous shaving items then forced his way around the counter and demanded cash in the register. The defendant kept his hands in his sweatshirt and gestured to having a weapon. After a brief struggle with employees, he fled the store and was apprehended by officers shortly after. No weapons were found on his person.

Assault

On 3/6/22 at 9:46 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Dana St for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was approached by a man that attempted to steal his jewelry. The victim attempted to leave and the man pepper sprayed him.

Assault

On 3/1/22 at approximately 5:22 PM, Somerville Police responded to a business at 14 McGrath Hwy for report of a man that pulled a knife on another man. Upon arrival, officers located two juvenile male suspects riding their bikes. Officers then spoke to the victim who stated he got into an argument with the two juveniles and one of them brandished a knife at him then threatened to kill him. Officers recovered the knife nearby.



— www.somervillepd.com/public-safety-news

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Help Keep Somerville Safe!

Opening of Union Sq. GLX station pivotal for USQ development

CONT. FROM PG 1

part of the Green Line Extension, making this neighborhood all the more accessible and attractive as it transports riders from Union Square to North Station in less than ten minutes. Beginning in 2015, US2 collaborated closely with the MBTA and the City of Somerville to help bring Union Square Station to fruition, connecting Somerville with the entirety of the MBTA system and greater Boston’s economy. These efforts not only helped to maximize Union Square’s accessibility and connectivity for all ages and abilities, but also to reduce congestion and pollution. The addition of Union Square Station is a central element to the USQ development, and to the transformation of Union Square into a vibrant, sustainable and mixed-use employment center, as envisioned by the City’s SomerVision plan. “The opening of Union Square Station on the Green Line Extension is a historical moment for the City of Somerville, a critical transit improvement, and an anchor to our USQ development. Between USQ and The Green Line Extension, there will be a profound ripple effect on life in Union Square, enabling new and existing residents to connect more readily with Greater Boston; allowing thousands of

workers to come to and from Union Square with ease, and making way for patrons to better explore stellar art, retail and dining destinations. We are thrilled to mark this milestone, knowing that it represents our collective efforts to usher in a new, bright future for Union Square as a mixed-use employment center, while immediately delivering on numerous public benefits. US2 was honored to play a role in this transformative project and is very grateful to the MBTA and City of Somerville for their partnership and commitment,” says Greg Karczewski, President of US2.

"The opening of Union Square Station on the Green Line Extension is a historical moment for the City of Somerville..."

USQ will become the newest destination within the Boston-Cambridge innovation economy as it expands on the neighborhood’s vibrant residential community. The 2.4 million square foot development is



10-50 Prospect Street within USQ; Developed by US2. Rendering Credit: US2.

central to Somerville’s growth plans, delivering on the community-led “SomerVision” plan by increasing jobs, housing, open space and mobility options. In total, USQ’s 2.4 million square feet is comprised of 1.2 million square feet of new lab, office, and innovation space; 1,000 residences, including 200 permanently affordable units; 3.6 acres of parks and open space; 11 new, multi-purpose civic open spaces, including 3 neighborhood parks; 140,000 square feet of retail; 74,000 square feet of arts and creative space; and 175 hotel rooms. In laying the foundation for USQ, US2 maintained a commitment to smart growth

principles and best practices in urban planning. The development is organized around forward-thinking approaches to mobility management, all of which promote walking, cycling and transit ridership over vehicle use. US2 collaborated closely with the MBTA and the City of Somerville, and committed to delivering improvements that directly support Union Square Station operations, including

- An elevator serving MBTA patrons to the south.
- An MBTA bicycle storage facility.
- An ADA accessible pathway (as planned, interim facilities are now open and permanent facil-

ities will deliver between now and 2023).

- MBTA employee facilities (as planned, interim facilities are now open and permanent facilities will deliver between now and 2023).
- USQ is also committed to new neighborhood mobility infrastructure that creates upgraded pedestrian routes, 1,750 bike parking spaces, new bike lanes, improved bus stops, and mobility management programs.
- Additionally, US2 committed more than \$6 million to offset the City of Somerville’s financial contribution to the GLX project and to support the city’s efforts to expand mobility options within the neighborhood.

Somerville Museum presents 'Voices from Somerville's Italian Community'



Join in virtually on Zoom as members of the local Italian community tell their stories and talk about their work in Somerville's neighborhoods and beyond.

The panelists, all Somerville High School graduates, include: a politician whose father was the first Italian-American elected to the Somerville Board of Aldermen; a musician who played in Somerville clubs on the streets for Somerfest during the 60's and 70's; a Somerville resident whose uncle was part of the local Cosmas and Damian Society, celebrating the patron saints of Gaeta, Italy; and an attorney who was the first woman to lead an AmLaw 100 firm in the United States and one of the youngest when appointed managing partner at age 42.

Before the panel, listen to a historian from Somerville discuss

connections between Italian and U.S. history.

Panelists:

- Michael Capuano – Former U.S. Representative (1999-2019), Mayor of Somerville (1990-1998), Somerville Alderman (1977-79, 1985-89)
- Bob DiGuardia – Musician and Adjunct Professor, Suffolk University
- Peter Galeno – Recipient, Somerville Historic Preservation Award, and Recipient, Somerville Garden Award for continuing an Italian garden started by his father
- Regina Pisa – Chairman Emeritus and Partner, Goodwin Procter LLP

Also featuring:

- Dan Breen – Historian, Brandeis University, and Somerville resident.

Admission: This is a virtual event via zoom. While admission is free donations are wel-

come and benefit the operations of the Somerville Museum.

This event is part of the popular series, Voices from Somerville: Culture, Community and History. Special thanks to the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) and Mass Humanities for their support of "Voices from Somerville." Much gratitude to Erline Tanice, Adda Maria Santos, Adriana Fernandes, and Jhenny Saint-Surin for their help in producing this series.

For more information and to register, go to the Somerville Museum's website at <https://www.somervillmuseum.org>.

This event will be recorded and by registering for this event you're giving the Somerville Museum permission broadcast and record the meeting, as well as publish the recording on its website and social media.

'Serendipity of the Stroke'

CONT. FROM PG 1

my eyes are on the object. My eyes are traveling the surface of whatever the thing is. When I'm looking intently at something and not worrying about how I'm drawing, I have much more sense of whatever I'm drawing. And then some imaginary stories pop up and I'm not worried about my hands. I'm just looking, looking, looking. And every once in a while I go off the page."

Oseki says her style enables her to depart from realism and imagine a narrative within her painted scenes. "I am always interested in human emotions,

activities and interactions, capturing a moment when people are intensely focused on an activity or a thing." Oseki told the Somerville Arts Council. "The process of painting allows me to discover all sorts of nuances of the scene, the emotions involved, and emerging stories."

Oseki's artwork is currently on display in the Inside-Out Gallery located in the CVS Window, Davis Square and features scenes from her travels to Croatia, Mexico, and New Orleans. Oseki says she is excited to contribute to the space within Davis Square in particular,



as people return to public areas and welcome the spring weather and colors.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #249

Don't Spill Your Coffee

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Tradition has told us that a ninth century Ethiopian shepherd once observed that some of his goats were behaving erratically. They were happier and livelier than others because they ate the magenta berries on a dark green shrub.



In nearby monastery, Brothers ground the goat herders' red seeds into a delicious strong, black drink which aided in their concentration. The secrets of the beverage and plant were later carried to Arabia and across the Mohammedan world beyond. Its commencement in Europe was in 1607, the same century that the magic beverage was introduced to the Americas. Monks were foremost in coffee cultivation in South America. It was believed that they brought good luck to the plants. The coffee industry, brewed and blessed by Monks, had been born.



Somerville's Ten Hills resident, Elias Hasket Derby, was a Revolutionary War patriot, America's first millionaire and the namesake of Winter Hill's Derby Street. He was a Salem ship owner whose dozens of vessels canvassed the globe. It was one of his ships that brought home the first word that the Revolutionary War had come to an end. You can find the image of his favorite ship, The Grand Turk, on some of today's Old Spice toiletry bottles. In 1801 another of his ships, the Recovery, brought the first shipment of coffee from the far-east to Salem, opening American coffee trade for the next fifteen years.

After the Boston Tea Party of 1773, a large number of Americans switched to coffee during the American Revolution because drinking tea appeared unpatriotic.

Joseph Barrell was a wealthy Boston ship owner, a fishery merchant and a member of the Sons of

Continued on page 9

Rising Step Irish step dance performance

Rising Step is a collaborative Irish step dance performance company based in Boston. Exuberant footwork, keen musicality, and original, playful choreography celebrate the joy and art of Irish dance.

Wednesday, March 16, 2022 - 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. at Holland Street Center, 167 Holland Street, Somerville. To join in RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov. Grab & Go Lunch will be available after the program.



Beacon Hill Roll Call

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

THE HOUSE AND SENATE. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives’ and senators’ votes on roll calls from the week of March 7-11.

\$1.6 BILLION SPENDING PACKAGE (H 4532)
House 156-0, approved and sent to the Senate a \$1.6 billion supplemental budget that contains \$700 million for COVID-19 related expenses including \$432 million for COVID testing, \$72 million for treatments, \$45 million for expanded vaccination access and \$25 million for personal protective equipment.

Other provisions include \$140 million for grants to special education schools to address the impacts of COVID-19 and subsequent variants; \$100 million for cities and towns for roads; \$100 million for rental assistance for needy families; and extending eviction protections for tenants who have active assistance applications.

The package also extends from April 1, 2022 to April 1, 2023 outdoor dining at restaurants and from May 1, 2022 to April 1, 2023 the law allowing restaurants to sell beer, wine and cocktails with takeout orders.

Supporters said the package is a fiscally responsible one that will fund important programs, benefit many residents and help Massachusetts prepare for the future. An amendment proposed by Rep. Peter Durant (R-Spencer) that would have suspended the state’s 24-cents-per-gallon gas tax until gas prices fall below \$3.70 per gallon was defeated on a voice vote without a roll call vote. Under House rules anyone can make the motion to require a roll call vote and a roll call must be held if at least 16 members support requiring a roll call. Durant himself did not ask for a roll call. “It was simply part of the negotiation process for future efforts that may still come up,” responded Durant when asked by Beacon Hill Roll Call why he didn’t request a roll call. Durant did not respond to several follow up e-mails by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to elaborate and explain what he meant by his statement and to reveal what the “negotiation process” involved.

“Constituents and suffering motorists will never know how their House lawmaker voted because no House member was willing to go on record to show who supports or opposes this temporary relief for the taxpayers,” said Paul Craney, a spokesman for the Mass Fiscal Alliance. “Despite record gasoline prices, the Massachusetts House of Representatives once again proved how selfish they are with our money,” continued Craney. “They had an opportunity to provide temporary gas tax relief and they voted it down and didn’t even have the courage to go on record with their vote. Once again, politicians are protected and the taxpayers lose at the Statehouse. It’s deeply disappointing that House lawmakers play games to protect themselves from hard votes while motorists are still left paying the highest recorded prices for a gallon of gasoline,” concluded Craney.

“With the skyrocketing price of gas, suspension of the gas tax is a small, simple step that the commonwealth can take to provide some relief to the residents of Massachusetts,” said Durant. “Tying this relief to the ongoing price of fuel is the most equitable way to make sure taxpayers continue to see this relief until the nation gets this situation under control.”

Opponents of the suspension said Massachusetts would jeopardize its bond ratings by suspending the tax and the state would face higher rates for borrowing. They said they could perhaps support other ways to provide relief at the pump but not this amendment which would do more

harm than good.

According to Gov. Baker’s proposed fiscal year 2023 budget, the gas tax is projected to generate \$743.7 million in fiscal 2023.

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$1.6 billion package).

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven	Yes

\$100 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL ROAD FUNDS (H 4532)

House 28-128, rejected an amendment that would provide an additional \$100 million to cities and towns in one-time funding for the maintenance and repair of local roads and bridges across the state. This would be in addition to the \$100 million already included in the spending package.

“Roads and schools are some of the biggest budget items for cities and towns and the primary cause of increases to property taxes on family homes, especially hurting our retired seniors,” said sponsor Rep. Kelly Pease (R-Westfield). “The Legislature and the governor passed the Student Opportunity Act that is providing more money for schools, but we need to spend more money on ... roads so cities and towns can get the repairs that are desperately needed. We should not be raising taxes but prioritizing our spending. I do not know how a representative can get re-elected when they vote against money that would improve our roads. Isn’t that what our taxes are supposed to pay for?”

Opponents noted that the package already contains \$100 million for roads and bridges. They said that the current formula, created decades ago, for distribution of the funds is considered unfair by many cities and towns. They argued the House should wait until an attempt is made to change the formula so that the additional \$100 million will be distributed in a fairer manner.

“Local officials across the state continue to advocate for an increase to the Chapter 90 program, which provides direct funding to cities and towns for maintaining and repairing 30,000 miles of municipal roadways in Massachusetts,” said Geoff Beckwith, the executive director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association. “The state has kept Chapter 90 funding flat at \$200 million for the past 10 years, while the cost of repairing roads has increased by more than 40 percent. Without a permanent increase in Chapter 90 aid, local roads will crumble at a faster rate and taxpayers will bear the burden of even more expensive repairs in the years ahead.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$100 million. A “No” vote is against the \$100 million).

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

VETERANS’ HOMES OVERSIGHT BILL (S 2739)

Senate 39-0, approved a bill that would make major changes to the oversight and governance structure of the state’s veterans’ homes in Holyoke and Chelsea. The proposal follows the deaths of 77 veteran residents in 2020 as a result of a COVID-19 outbreak at the Holyoke facility. The House has already approved its own version of the bill and a House-Senate conference committee will likely

hammer out a compromise version.

Key provisions establish a new, full-time ombudsperson to receive, investigate and assist in resolving complaints related to the health, wellbeing and rights of veterans home residents and staff; require the Department of Public Health with regularly inspecting the two homes and making all inspection reports publicly available; elevate the Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Services to a cabinet-level position; requires each home to have a full-time specialist in infection control and emergency preparedness and to adhere to medically-sound guidelines for trauma-informed care; and require state-operated veterans’ homes to accept Medicare and Medicaid payments to facilitate veterans’ access to health care.

“As the daughter of a veteran, I continue to be heartbroken for the families of those who lost their lives to COVID-19 at the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “The Senate will continue to lead in its efforts to support the brave men and women who have served our country.”

“The Soldiers’ Homes have long suffered from gaps in accountability and a confused chain of command, factors which left it unable to deal with a crisis like the one we saw with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Sen. Michael Rush (D-Boston), the sponsor of the bill. “The bill passed by the Senate today tightens these gaps, enhances the level of oversight by elevating the Secretary of Veterans’ Services to a cabinet level position and creates a stronger governing structure that supports our veterans and provides high quality care.”

“With the passage of this bill, the Senate recognizes the need to prioritize accountability and oversight, establish effective checks and balances and ensure clear chains of command at our state’s long-term care facilities for veterans in order to prevent the tragedy at Holyoke Soldiers’ Home from ever happening again,” said Senate Ways and Means chair Sen Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport).

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill).

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes
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REQUIRE SOLDIERS’ HOMES TO MEET STATE STANDARDS (S 2739)

Senate 38-1, approved an amendment that would require that both veterans’ homes be licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and be required to meet state standards that are currently required for nursing facilities. Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton), the sponsor of the amendment, said the amendment will ensure that the homes meet high state standards.

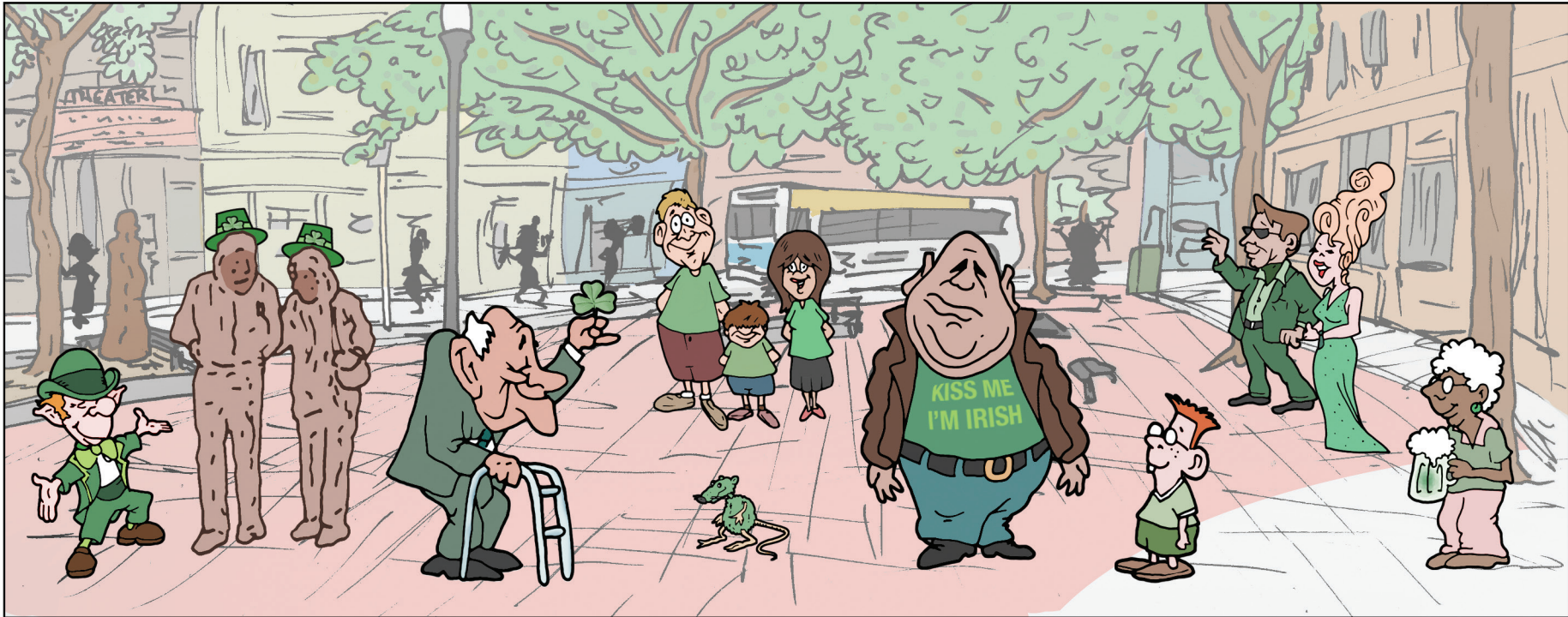
“I was proud to file an amendment to this bill to require that the Secretary of Veterans Services be notified of any violation identified during a DPH inspection of a Soldiers’ Home and to require Soldiers’ homes to comply with existing, strict DPH standards for skilled nursing facilities through a process of licensure,” said Comerford. “We should not rely solely on federal standards, which is why this amendment requires Soldiers’ homes comply with state standards—the same standards skilled nursing facilities are held to. The amendment will advance ... the state’s efforts to provide the highest quality care for the individuals who have served our nation.”

“Long before COVID-19, many facilities across Massachusetts failed to maintain proper infection control procedures and staffing levels,” said Sen. *Continued on page 11*

COMMENTARY

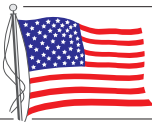
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Happy St. Patty's to one and all!

Our View Of The Times



It's a tradition that most of us have a lot of fun with. Whether one is of Irish lineage or not, St. Patrick's Day stands for a recognition of Irish and Irish American heritage, and in many ways its resulting fusion in the modern age.

The religious origins of the day have, for some, been obscured and often all but forgotten in favor of the prominent displays of the color green, eating and drink-

ing, and numerous parades. The day has been celebrated on the North American continent since before the American Revolution, and is actually an official holiday in neighboring Suffolk County. Ask any of our Boston brethren and they would – to a single soul – be aware of this fact.

And so in Somerville, too, there are plenty of willing celebrants of diverse heritage. While it's true that there are

a lot of Irish families in the city, and its history is full with contributions by them, just about everyone likes to join in on the "wearing of the green" and all that comes with it.

Of course, due to the lingering threat that COVID-19 and its many variants poses, everyone needs to bear in mind the importance of celebrating safely. Wear face coverings and practice some measure

of social distancing as circumstances dictate. Better safe than sorry.

As the old Irish proverb says, "May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, the foresight to know where you are going, and the insight to know when you have gone too far." So enjoy the corned beef and cabbage, the green beer, the fine Irish whiskey, and all the rest. But prudently, please.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

alderman and great guy, Jack Connolly of Wedgwood-Crane & Connolly Insurance in Davis Sq. We hope he has a great birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends such as Frances Accorto Gayron, Jim Halloran, Okie Oconnell, Patrick Fitzgerald, Kristin Gore, Sally Colman, Maria Parziale Pacheco, Neil Gillis Sr. and Alexander Levering Kern a very happy birthday. To all those that are also celebrating this week, we wish them a happy birthday.

Springfest at Bow is happening St. Patty's Day weekend March 19 and 20. Ring in spring with a 5K Fun Run, afterparty at the @remnantbrewing patio, retailer sidewalk sale, and food and drink specials from all of Bow Market, 1 Bow Market Way. The sidewalk sale is both Saturday and Sunday and will have the best deals on products from Bow retailers. Grab a ticket for Sunday's inaugural 5K Fun Run through Somerville and Cambridge, culminating in an afterparty on the Remnant Patio. Ticket includes a swag bag, beer, and more. Visit their Facebook page for more info.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Ward

6 City Councilor Lance Davis invite you to a virtual informational meeting where city staff will share updates about the play area at the Benjamin Brown School. The city is working to begin construction this summer on schoolyard improvements that will address safety concerns and expand play opportunities. This meeting will outline the plan and anticipated work schedule. The meeting will take place virtually on Tuesday, March 22, at 6:30 p.m. To learn more and register to attend, visit somervillema.gov/brownschoolrenovation.

The ArtBeat 2022 planning has begun. This year's Artbeat theme is "rise." Things are looking up, lifting, rising. At this year's ArtBeat Festival, artists of all kinds and community members are invited to interpret the "rise" theme in myriad ways. Literally, think about what's above us – the sky, stars, trees, cranes, birds, and buildings. And figuratively, how might "rise" resonate? What's beyond us, what's within reach? The online applications for both the community and craft vendors are now available. To apply, go to: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/resources/calls>.

A very special happy birthday to Marguerite Fisher who will be turning 100 years of age on March 16. Marguerite spent many of those years on Florence Terrace. We wish her the very best, that is quite an accomplish.

Somerville Youth Soccer needs volunteer coaches and assistant coaches for the spring season for teams of all ages, genders, and skill levels. Call 617-684-5737 or email executivedirector@somervillesoccer.org.

Please join Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the City of Somerville Office of Housing Stability (OHS), and the Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS) for a webinar about tenants' rights in Somerville, housing advocacy and rental assistance services, and community organizing to prevent eviction and displacement. Somerville's local eviction moratorium, established in March 2020, currently remains in effect until Saturday, April 30. The webinar is Wednesday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m. Learn more and register to attend at somervillema.gov/ohs. Spanish and Portuguese interpretation will

be provided, and other languages can be requested on the registration form. If you are facing eviction, need help paying your rent or mortgage, or need help accessing affordable housing, contact OHS at somervillema.gov/ohs or 617-625-6600 ext. 2581.

The Haymakers are happy to play the fool on Friday, April 1, at Union Tavern, 345 Somerville Ave. at 8:00 p.m. Opening up the night is Somerville's own UnCivil Servants.

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. You can still make an appointment at tinyurl.com/metronorthvaccine. If you're a CHA patient you can also make an appointment through MyChart: challiance.org/mychart. If you need assistance finding a COVID-19 vaccine or booster, you can call 3-1-1 (617-666-3311).

Continued on page 11

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#818

1. What month is Irish-American Heritage Month?

2. Where was the first St. Patrick's Day parade in North America?

3. When will the South Boston St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day Parade take place in 2022?

4. In what year did Senator John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Kennedy ride in the St Patrick's Day Parade?

5. In what year did the N.A.A.C.P. enter a float in South Boston's Saint Patrick's Day Parade?

6. What is a chanter?

7. What is a nickname for St. Patrick's Day?

8. What is the meaning of the phrase Éire go Brách?

9. When did St. Patrick die?

10. What year marked the 200th anniversary of Evacuation Day?

11. What NBA team wears shamrocks on their uniforms?

12. What color was originally the national color of Ireland?

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

WHO AM I?

ACROSS

1. Campus military org.

5. Pilgrimage to Mecca

8. 1968 hit "Harper Valley ____"

11. Turkish honorific

12. I captained the Millennium Falcon in "Star Wars"

13. Inlet in Greenland

15. Map out

16. Pharaoh's symbol

17. Austin Powers and Shrek to Mike Myers

18. I developed the theory of relativity

20. Sailor's hail

21. Lyric poem

22. Solar System center

23. Portable stairs

26. I am Sgt. George Baker's inept comic strip character

30. Mine deposit

31. Shape

34. Fairy tale cannibal

35. Feline sneakers

37. Lawyer group

38. I have a coiled shell and eyes on stalks

39. Very dark black

40. Free from obstruction

42. ____ Aviv

43. Most buffoonish

45. Rest or hydration for common cold, e.g.

47. Hot springs resort

48. "...he found a crooked sixpence upon a crooked ____"

50. Japanese stringed instrument

52. I am a runaway slave, an abolitionist, and a best-selling author

55. Email destination

56. Jasmine of "Aladdin," e.g.

57. Food fish

59. Silly

60. Self-cleaning appliance

61. Ad staple

62. O in IOU

63. P in m.p.g.

64. Affirmative, colloquially

5. Sharpened

6. Like Huck Finn's dad, e.g.

7. Some people call me the Rocket Man

8. I starred as Pam in the "Meet the Parents" movies

9. I used to host a sports show with Mike Golic

10. Commercials

12. Buddhist's enlightenment

13. Sham

14. I am a WWE Champion, an actor, and my nickname is geology-related

19. Vision correctors, colloquially

22. Greek letters on campus

23. My resume includes Fly Girl and "American Idol" judge

24. Cura ao neighbor

25. Evil one

26. Fence board

27. Popular gemstone

28. Shed tears

29. I am an American who became

Princess of Monaco

32. Harangue

33. Network with an eye

36. My TV role became synonymous with a hair style

38. Perform at the bee

40. Canada's neighbor

41. Beginning

44. Strong adhesive

46. Contemptibly small

48. Dry white Italian wine

49. Radio receiver

50. Dr. Seuss: "The more that you read, the more things you will ____"

51. Piercing woodwind

52. Water quantity

53. Loafer, e.g

54. Adventure story

55. United Nations labor agency

58. Homer's catchword

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

SUDOKU

GRAND ALASKAN CRUISE & TOUR

12 days, departs May - Sep 2022

VACATIONS

promo code N7017

1-855-208-9533

FROM \$1,949 \$1,699*

FREE ONBOARD CREDIT

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© 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.

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

9

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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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OBITUARY

Lillian “Lily” J. (Ivester) DiFraia



Lillian “Lily” J. (Ivester) DiFraia, a long-time Somerville resident, went home to be with the Lord on Friday, March 11, 2022. She was 86 years old.

Known affectionately as “Lily,” she was born one of five children in Cambridge to Ellen (Barrett) and Ernest Ivester. She met the love of her life, Ralph DiFraia, in 1955 and together they began their family, enjoying many happy years together. They were always a striking couple, impeccably dressed, loved dancing, travelling and spending time with family and friends.

In addition to being a devoted wife, mother and homemaker, Lily was employed for many years at the Beacon Street Star Market where she could be found behind the courtesy booth, assisting customers and neighbors, always with a friendly smile. As a devout Irish Catholic, she was a faithful parishioner of St. Catherine of Genoa in Somerville. Above all else, she was devoted to her family, she cherished time spent together, cooking Sunday dinners, gathering family together during Holidays, and who could forget her most cherished mem-

ories of Christmas Eves’ past, her favorite night of the year. She loved to cook, and mastered the art of a great Sunday sauce, or as she referred to it, “Gravy.” Lillian’s recipe was often attempted, but never duplicated because no one ever came close to what was affectionately known as “Lily’s Gravy.” Lillian will always be remembered by her family and friends as a strong, beautiful and faith-filled woman who lived simply and loved deeply.

Lillian was the loving wife of the late Ralph DiFraia. She is survived by her cherished children; Lillian DiFraia-Alves and her companion John Fraser; James DiFraia and his wife Patti of Somerville; Michael DiFraia and his wife Susan of Malden. She was the beloved nana of John, Julia and Elizabeth DiFraia; dear sister of Dorothy Shappe, Carol Margie and the late Maryellen Lawrence and James Ivester. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be held at George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Square) Somerville on Thursday, March 17th from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. followed by a funeral mass celebrated at St. Catherine of Genoa Church, Somerville, at 11:00 a.m.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend. Burial will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

In lieu of flowers, donations are welcome in Lillian’s name to the American Heart Association at www.heart.org

Somerville to end mask mandate for city buildings Monday, March 21

With COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations down, the City of Somerville will lift its mask requirement for city buildings and events starting Monday, March 21. This means all city-issued mask mandates are now either lifted or set to lift. Some federal and state mask requirements remain in effect.

Previously, the Board of Health ended the mask mandate for privately owned indoor public spaces such as restaurants and stores as of March 5. The Somerville School Committee voted to make masks optional in Somerville Public Schools starting Monday, March 14. The decisions to lift the local mask mandates follow current guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Federal and State requirements still apply for masking in certain settings such as mass transit, rideshares, medical settings, and adult daycare. Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms, a positive test, or known exposure to COVID-19 should also delay in-person activities. Wait until you are symptom-free and have completed quarantine as described at cdc.gov/coronavirus before heading out without a mask.

Individuals remain free to wear a mask, and private businesses are also allowed to establish their own mask requirements, to best serve their health and safety needs.

Persons who are immunocompromised or at higher risk of severe illness, and those who live with or spend time with them, may wish to continue masking in indoor settings. Persons at higher risk for severe illness include seniors, persons with underlying health conditions, pregnant or recently pregnant people, and people who are not vaccinated.

“Vaccination has played a significant role in driving down COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, and especially with the masks coming off, it remains more important than ever that we all stay up to date with the vaccines. Please be sure to get vaccinated and boosted when you are eligible so that you can continue to protect yourselves, your neighbors, and our incredibly dedicated healthcare workers,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

For more coronavirus and vaccine information, visit somervillema.gov/COVID19 or somervillema.gov/vaccine and sign up for City alerts at somervillema.gov/Alerts. We urge you to sign up for every alert method you are able to receive: phone call, text, email. Also follow [FB.com/SomervilleCity](https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCity) and [@SomervilleCity](https://twitter.com/SomervilleCity).

Wrestling at the Garden CONT. FROM PG 3

“My dad took us on Saturday’s. I like tag team Tony Garea, Dean Ho! Chief Jay Strongbow, Haystack Calhoun, bad guys Killer Kowaleski, etc.”

“My brother and I used to take my grandfather to see them at the Garden. He would always be so surprised when they pulled out a “foreign object” as if he was the only one that could see it. Great memories!”

“They were great times at the Garden. Saw Sammartino take a trophy that was given to Lou Albano for being the first to manage both champion Ivan Koloff and the Mongools and smash all of them with it and left them in a bloody mess.”

I recall taking the bus and train to The Garden with all my friends. We fell for wrestling lock, stock and ... drop-kick. I’ll never forget waiting at Lechmere for the trolley to take us to North Station. I even sent the JP my photo and bio into a wrestling magazine and got hundreds of letters from fellow fans from all over the wrestling world.”

One of my Facebook friends said that his uncle was Bruno Sammartino, who was from the same region in Italy my family comes from. He was my favorite and I wish I got to meet him before he recently passed.

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 5

Liberty. Ten years after the Revolution, he purchased Cobble Hill in Charlestown/Somerville and the 211 acres surrounding it for his remarkable Bullfinch-designed country home. Later, this mansion would become the original McLean Hospital. One of his ships, the Columbia Rediviva, was the first American vessel to circumnavigate the globe, leaving Boston on 9/30/1787 and returning on 8/9/1790.



Before accomplishing this feat, it claimed the Pacific West Coast for America, and its log stated that “228 pounds of coffee” were taken aboard. One would fathom, this helped keep the helmsman alert.


James Sanborn lived in a mansion on Winter Hill from 1872, the year Somerville became a city, until his death in 1903. He began his entrepreneurial pursuits at a young age selling garden seeds. He went into the coffee and spice business in 1868, where he met Caleb Chase. They eventually became partners in the founding of the Chase and Sanborn Company. They were the first to sell coffee in a sealed can to keep it fresher longer and the first to market it

from coast to coast.

Chase and Sanborn sponsored the successful radio program, The Chase and Sanborn Hour. Famous comedians such as W.C. Fields, Jimmy Durante, and many others got their start on the show. The host of entertainment was Edgar Bergen, a ventriloquist and popular performer at the time. His daughter Candice, is known for her work on the television programs Murphy Brown, Boston Legal, and many movies. She started her career as a child on the program. The star-studded show lasted 35 years from 1931 to 1966 with a total of 102 episodes. Its second to last episode was a tribute to Somerville-born comedian Fred Allen.



LEGAL NOTICES



City of Somerville, Massachusetts
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

Contact: Roberta Cameron, Community Preservation Act Manager
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 23, 2022

SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE TO HOLD A VIRTUAL COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PLAN HEARING
Plan establishes the annual funding allocations for Community Preservation Act funds


The Somerville Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is holding their annual Community Preservation Plan public hearing on **Wednesday, March 23** at 6:30 p.m. The Community Preservation Plan establishes the annual funding priorities and allocations for the three categories that Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds can support.

Please join the FY22 CPP hearing from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5651146040407283472>
You can also dial in using your phone. United States: (914) 614-3221
Access Code: 517-893-117

Interested persons may provide comments to the Community Preservation Committee at the hearing and by submitting written comments by Friday, April 1st by email to rcameron@somervillema.gov. You can also share your ideas by taking the Community Preservation Committee survey at www.somervillema.gov/cpa. For more information on the CPA and how to apply for CPA funds, visit the City's website at www.somervillema.gov/cpa.

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact the City's ADA Coordinator, Adrienne Pomeroy, at 617-625-6600 x2059 or ada@somervillema.gov.

3/9/22, 3/16/22 The Somerville Times



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

GEORGE J. PROAKIS, AICP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40C, the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) shall hold a public hearing on **MONDAY, March 28, 2022** at 6:45 p.m. regarding the proposal to create the First Universalist Church Local Historic District (LHD) at 125 Highland Avenue.

The purpose of this hearing is to allow for public comment regarding the creation of this district. Written comments should be submitted to historic@somervillema.gov prior to the hearing date.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this public hearing of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to historic@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2128400945584191244>

Webinar ID: 252-272-003

TO CALL IN

Phone Number: 1 (562) 247-8422

Access Code: 957-801-689

3/2/22, 3/9/22, 3/16/22 The Somerville Times

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

MIDDLESEX Division **Docket No. MI21P5006EA**

Estate of:

<u>Ursula</u>	<u>Eva Katherine</u>	<u>Follett</u>
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name

Also Known As: Ursula E. Follett, Ursula Follett

Date of Death: July 18, 2021

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of

Petitioner Thomas L. Follett of Somerville MA

First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

[x] a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

[x] Thomas L. Follett of Somerville MA

First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve [] with [x] **without surety** on the bond.

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

3/16/22 The Somerville Times

Public Notice

DISH Wireless L.L.C. is proposing to install new wireless telecommunications antennas on an existing building located at 15 Weston Ave. Somerville, Middlesex County, MA 02144. The new facility will consist of the collocation of equipment antennas at a top height of 92.2ft. AGL on the 83.10 tall building (measured to penthouse, 103.2ft. to highest appurtenance). Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 6122001932 - KMG EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or via telephone at (781)265-9221.

3/16/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #22-47

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

Improvement of Sidewalk Stairs and Ramp


An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **03/17/2022**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **04/07/2022 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 for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

Thupten Chukhatsang
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

3/16/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFP # 22-45

Laydown Area for Construction Contractors - Property Lease

The City of Somerville, acting through the Purchasing Department invites sealed proposals for an opportunity to operate, manage and maintain Founders Ice Arena.

A request for proposals (RFP) and specifications may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> and from the Procurement Department, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143 on or after **Thursday, March 17, 2022**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until **April 17, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.** at which time sealed proposals will be opened. The Purchasing Director 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.

The City is seeking a total of roughly 4.5 acres of space. The total leased space may be apportioned across multiple locations throughout the city of varying size through multiple leases. The minimum space consideration per property is at least 2500 square feet of contiguous storage space.

If the property owner is offering a lease, the lease term can be short-term with options to renew. All property leases held by the City of Somerville are subject to approval by the City Council. Refer to the RFP for details and contact the Procurement Department in writing with any questions by **March 31, 2022**.

3/16/22 The Somerville Times

Somerville Community Preservation Plan public hearing

The Somerville Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is holding its annual Community Preservation Plan public hearing on Wednesday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m.

The CPC holds a public hearing each year to identify community needs and priorities for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds. Testimony from the hearing informs the CPC's annual Community Preservation Plan update, which establishes how the year's CPA funds will be allocated across affordable housing, historic resources, and open space categories.

The hearing will be held virtually. Visitsomervillema.gov/CPAfor the meeting link, or join by dialing 914-614-3221, access code 517-893-117. Written comments may also be submitted by Friday, April 1, to rcameron@somervillema.gov or Roberta Cameron, CPA Manager, Somerville City Hall, 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143.

Residents can also share their ideas by taking the Community Preservation Committee survey at somervillema.gov/CPA. Paper surveys are available at City Hall, Council on Aging locations, libraries, and other public sites throughout the city.

About the CPA:

The CPA is a special city fund reserved for capital improvement projects related to open space/recreation and historic preservation, and for projects that help to create or support affordable housing. Since Somerville residents voted to adopt the CPA in 2012, CPA funds have supported improvements at 50 unique sites throughout the city. Recent projects include renovating the West Branch Library, Somerville Community Growing Center, Prospect Hill Park, and Lou Ann David Park; preserving the former church that houses the Somerville Hispanic Association in East Somerville; and installing an elevator at the Somerville Museum.

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From on page 8

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

1. March, first celebrated in 1991	melody
2. Boston	7. St. Paddy's Day
3. Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.	8. Ireland forever
4. 1958	9. March 17, 461 AD
5. 1964	10. 1976
6. The part of the bagpipe with which the player creates the	11. The Boston Celtics
	12. Blue

Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford), the only senator to vote against the amendment. “They were totally unprepared for a global pandemic and thousands of our loved ones perished, including those who valiantly served this country. Under current state law, a violation of the Department’s regulations is punishable by a paltry \$50 fine while violations of a federal standard ... can result in penalties of up to \$22,300. If we are going to deter cost-cutting measures that jeopardize safety, then we must absolutely implement a state fine structure that closely aligns with federal standards and that reflect the pain and suffering inflicted on these vulnerable individuals and their families. Otherwise, the law has no teeth, and more lives will be jeopardized.”

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen

Yes

SECRETARY OF VETERANS SERVICES MUST BE A VETERAN (S 2739)
Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would require the Secretary of Veterans’ Services to be a veteran.

“Less than one-half of one percent of our population serves in the military, and a lot of times it can be difficult to fully grasp what veterans have been through and the issues they face unless you have served yourself,” said Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield), the Senate chair of the Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. “The secretary is going to be the position in our state with the highest obligation of representing our service members and this amendment ensures whoever fills that position has had these experiences and understands what it truly means to serve.”

(A “Yes” vote is for requiring the secretary be a veteran.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen

Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

INSIGHTS ON THE LEGISLATURE’S UPCOMING AGENDA - Beacon Hill has a full plate: Offshore wind, solar and other climate change policies. Leftover American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and spending options. The fiscal year 2023 budget. Tax cuts. Mental health care access. Prescription drug costs. Education priorities. The MBTA. Sports betting.

For insight on the road ahead, join the State House News Service’s upcoming live virtual event with Senate President Karen Spilka, House Speaker Ron Mariano and the State House News Service’s Katie Lannan on Wednesday, March 23 at 11 a.m. The event is FREE, but advance registration is required. Sign up here: https://us06web.zoom.us/join/1016469226780?pwd=WN_V721eH_NQc6oq4mQ8-c4CA

BAN RECORDING AND BROADCASTING WHILE DRIVING (S 2733) – The Transportation Committee held a virtual hearing on legislation that would ban drivers from recording or broadcasting a video of themselves while driving. The measure does allow use of a mounted electronic device to broadcast in an emergency and to continuously record or broadcast video for the purpose of monitoring traffic outside or passengers within the motor vehicle.

Supporters noted that the bill honors Charlie Braun, a community leader who was tragically killed when he was struck by a car while riding a bike in Northampton. The driver’s attention was diverted by a FaceTime video chat while she was driving.

“Driving safely requires a person’s full attention,” said sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). “Massachusetts has a strong hands-free driving law, but the law is not explicit about recording videos while not actively handling a device while driving. Charlie Braun’s tragic death calls us to action to improve the existing law to keep us all safer.”

SEPTEMBER 11 REMEMBRANCE DAY (S 2718)
– The State Administration and Regulatory Committee held a virtual hearing on a proposal that would establish September 11 as a Day of Remembrance in recognition of the loss of life and service of first responders at the World Trade Center in New York City in 2001.

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 March 7-11, the House met for a total of four hours and 52 minutes and the Senate met for a total of three hours and 20 minutes.

Mon. March 7	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:14 a.m. Senate 11:14 a.m. to 11:21 a.m.
Tues. March 8	No House session No Senate session
Wed. March 9	House 11:01 a.m. to 3:31 p.m. No Senate session
Thurs. March 10	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. Senate 1:24 p.m. to 4:43 p.m.
Fri. March 11	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Newstalk

CONT. FROM PG 7

Calling all **6-8th graders** interested in **theater!** The **Middle Grades production of HONK!** needs crew and cast members. Fill out the Google form to join: <https://forms.gle/9dLG3phsFeN-7mLxZ6>. Email **Music Teacher Ms. Schorr** for more information: eschorr@k12.somerville.ma.us. The **All-City Theater of Somerville** was founded in 2018 with the mission of creating after school opportunities for middle school students across all eight **Somerville Public Middle Schools** to participate in extracurricular dramatic arts. Check out the website: <https://bit.ly/ACTSsps>.

The **Somerville Historic Preservation Division** invites you to take home a piece of **Somerville history**. Designed by local artists, this historic collection of **Somerville stickers and magnets** tell a unique story of Somerville’s history. Purchases help support local organizations and small business, and display the Somerville pride. Visit the **Somerville Historic Preservation Division website** to find out more about their historic events, education, and preservation efforts: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/historicpreservation>.

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.

Are you a **Somerville High student** with a passion for food, community, and justice? Join **Groundwork Somerville’s spring Green Team internship program**. You’ll earn school credit while making friends, working for social justice, and learning about sustainable farming. Apply here: <https://forms.gle/4e5bAyLZ1pVAToMi6>

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. For more

information, please contact events@art-satthearmory.org.

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. They accept SNAP/EBT & HIP, CREDIT and DEBIT cards. \$15 SNAP match for EBT customers.

After a long three-year hiatus, the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is very excited to announce that its **Spring into Action event** is returning the evening of **Thursday, March 24**. This year they are bringing the fun and energy to the **Somerville Theatre’s** newly refurbished **Crystal Ballroom**. Join them for an evening of cocktails, live jazz, passed apps, local bites and live music. All proceeds from this event will benefit Somerville Homeless Coalition cli-

ents facing homelessness, eviction and food insecurity. They look forward to sharing news about their work in the community and how you help them to continue advancing their mission of finding everyone a home. Single ticket price: \$125. Discounts are available for bulk ticket orders. For more information, visit their event page <https://igfn.us/e/TRWwTw>.

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**.

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.

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.

Celebrating 50 years of the national Senior Nutrition Program

By Meghan Ostrander

Somerville Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is joining the Administration for Community Living and senior nutrition service providers nationwide this March to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the national Senior Nutrition Program.

Since 1972, the Senior Nutrition Program has supported nutrition services for older adults. Funded by the Older Americans Act, local senior nutrition programs serve as hubs for older adults (60 and older) to access nutritious meals and other vital services that strengthen social connections and promote health and well-being.

Senior nutrition is now more important than ever. Each year in the U.S., up to half of adults 65 and older are at-risk for malnutrition, and more than 10 million face hunger. In communities throughout the U.S. – including our own – older adults sometimes lack access to the high-quality, nutritious food they need to remain healthy and independent.

On our recent SCES meal survey, 72% reported that Meals on Wheels provides their main meal of the day.

In a citation of recognition for the milestone, Governor Charlie Baker noted that Massachusetts Meals on Wheels programs provide healthy meals and wellness checks for more than 30,000 older adults across the state each day.

As part of the Senior Nutrition Program network, SCES helps older adults in our community by promoting healthy eating, decreasing social isolation, and improving health. SCES Meals-on-Wheels provides meals to more than 1000 older adults and adults with disabilities within Somerville and Cambridge. Our program also provides connections to home and community-based services that can support independence and overall well-being.

For 50 years, senior nutrition services have helped create healthy, strong communities where all members can flourish regardless of their age.

That's why we proudly recog-



The 50th Anniversary of Senior Nutrition Program was celebrated at the Cambridge Council on Aging Congregate Meal site on March 8 with a special desert. On hand for the occasion were (from left) Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) Dietitian Andrea Svartstrom, Margueta Lawrence, Cambridge Citywide Senior Center Director Alicia Johnson, Cheryl Roust, SCES Nutrition Director Meghan Ostrander, and Thelma Howard.

nize this milestone anniversary of the national Senior Nutrition Program and its tremendous impact on the health and well-being of older adults in our community. Join us in celebrating our seniors, our program, and our community. Together, we

look forward to another 50 years and beyond!

Meghan Ostrander is the Nutrition Director at Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services, a non-profit agency that supports the independence and well-being

of older adults in Somerville and Cambridge. For free advice and guidance on questions of aging, caregiving or disability, contact our Aging Information Center at 617-628-2601, email info@eldercare.org, or visit our website eldercare.org.

Union Square Plaza and Streetscape Redesign public meeting

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott, Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, and the Union Square Community Design Team invite you to a virtual public meeting for updates on the Union Square Plaza and Streetscape Redesign project.

This transformative public space and infrastructure project will reimagine the Union Square plaza and adjoining streetscapes to better serve the community. The Community Design Team has been leading a research and engagement process and has collected feedback from thousands of stakeholders to date.

At this meeting, staff will present two designs for Union Square's public spaces, which were informed by community input and the Union Square Neighborhood Plan. The presentation will also be posted on the project website after the meeting, along with additional opportunities to share feedback.

The meeting will take place virtually on Monday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m. To learn more and register to attend, visit somervillema.gov/UnionSqRedesign.

Interpretation into Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol, or Nepali may be available upon advance request by contacting the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs at somerviva@somervillema.gov or calling 311.

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why did St. Patrick drive all the snakes out of Ireland?
It was too far to walk.

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On This Day in History March 16

- 0037 – On a trip to the Italian mainland from his home on Capreae, the emperor Tiberius dies on the Bay of Naples.
- 1621–The first Native American appears to colonists in Plymouth, MA.
- 1833 – Susan Hayhurst becomes the first woman to graduate from a pharmacy college.
- 1917 – Russian Czar Nicholas II abdicates his throne.
- 1926 – Physicist Robert H. Goddard launches the first liquid-fuel rocket.
- 1935 – Adolf Hitler orders a German rearmament, violating the Versailles Treaty.
- 1964 – President Lyndon B. Johnson submits a \$1 billion war on poverty program to Congress.
- 1968 – U.S. troops in Vietnam destroy a village consisting mostly of women and children, the action is remembered as the My-Lai massacre.

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The Men's Division III New England Indoor Track and Field Championships were held at Middlebury (VT) College on February 26, and former class of 2019 Somerville High School standout Jackson Anderson, Williams College class of '24, captured first place the Heptathlon (7 events).

jump with a jump of 6.57m or 21'7". In the shotput, he finished with a throw of 9.35m/30'8". He also set a new personal record in the high jump with a jump of 1.81m or 5'10".

Last weekend, Phillips Magre (SHS class of '18) placed 4th in the High Jump (6'7") at the IC4A championship Meet held at Boston University. The IC4A championship meet is a super conference meet for Division 1 Colleges and Universities from New England and the Mid-Atlantic states and is one of the oldest meets in the USA. Phillips also ran a 47.98 split for 400m in his 1600m relay teams

Also recently, Worlf Malivert (SHS Class of 2019, now a sophomore at American International College) won the Triple Jump (14.64m/48'0") on his last of six attempts and placed third in the 60m dash final (6.94) at the New England ICAAA championship meet on February 5, held in Boston at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center.

Also, long sprinter Laura Clervil SHS class of 20 (Middlebury College class of 24) is showing she's both smart and tough, playing wing position on the Rugby Club.

A photograph of three male sprinters from Northeastern University competing in a race on a red track. The athlete on the left is wearing a black singlet with 'NORTHEASTERN' and Under Armour logos. The athlete in the center is also wearing a black singlet with 'NORTHEASTERN' and Under Armour logos. The athlete on the right is wearing a blue singlet with a large 'B' logo and Under Armour branding. All three are in full sprinting motion.

pionships for 7th and 8th graders will take place on Wednesday, March 16 at the Brune Fieldhouse Track, Somerville High School. Field events at 3:00 p.m., running events at 3:15 p.m.

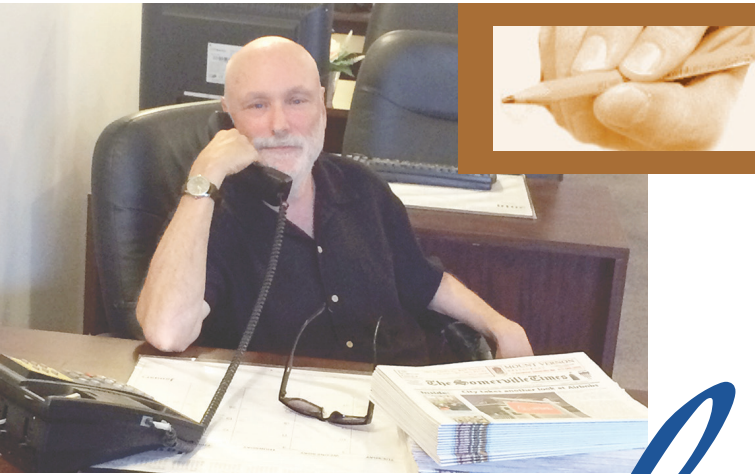
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The logo for Winter Hill Homes features the text "WINTER HILL" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font above the word "HOMES" in a larger, blue, serif font. Below the text is a stylized illustration of three houses of varying sizes, all in blue, situated on a curved line representing a hill.

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Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Poet Harris Gardner submitted a poem from his new collection, *No Time for Death*. The book was published by Somerville's Cervena Barva Press.



Stopwatch

Let's start by shredding all the odd years.
Then, take a match to all the evens.
Slice and dice all the minutes until they bleed white.
Pound in a block to slow the growling gears.
Mortar and pestle the grinding seconds. Blunt their bite.
Smash all the clocks, yes, the craven cuckoos, too.

Fast-forwarding the film frames few regrets, though
The mirror shows the sweep-hand rounding your face.
There is no crystal case to hold your works.
It's not time's business to offer you perks.
The crushing R.I.P. tide crinkles your crown.
Worn out, you may drown, still, in the shallows.

Your mind stores snapshots, both fuzzy and clear.
Photo albums freeze mortality's stare.
The lens is keen. It sees what it sees.
The present deep cleans an encrusted past;
Then polishes it to a pristine sheen.
Future scenes, left alone, develop on their own.

Pare away the wrinkled pages.
Strip bare temporal confusion.
Vanity's illusion brooms the dust.
Search the phases of your soul.
Find the last clock. Make it whole.
When the keeper sleeps, he loosens control.

— Harris Gardner

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

OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Raphael Matto:

New Somerville resident brings poetry, art, animation, and special effects to Somerville

I was pleased to catch up with Raphael Matto, an accomplished, multi-talented man, not to mention a new resident of the "Paris of New England."

Doug Holder: You are new to Somerville. What brought you here? What are your impressions of our city?

Raphael Matto: Yes, new in September. I lived in Brookline during the Big Dig and Brady's first win, so I thought I'd try this side of the Charles for round two. I have family north of Boston in Portsmouth, east of Boston on Nantucket, south of Boston in Hartford, and west of Boston near Great Barrington – so I've plonked myself down in the middle.

Also, an old friend who settled in Somerville invited me to visit some years ago; the cozy neighborhood vibe and off-kilter tree-lined streets stuck in my mind. I woke up one morning in San Diego and just thought out of the blue, "Boston, yeah, it has to be Boston."

So here I am – again – and I love it so far. Davis Sq. is the perfect size for a bite or a night out, and the Somerville Community Path puts Walden Pond and the MA countryside in striking distance. It seems an ideal nexus – the sleepy end of a subway line with quick access to a metropolis, and the start of a 20-mile bike ride to a glacial kettle pond and a refreshing swim—all without getting in a car.

DH: You have an MFA from Vermont College, and I noticed your education was heavily into creative writing. You have done extensive work in film production – working on such films as *Avatar*, and *30 Days of Night*, as well as being in high tech. How did you get there, from there?

RM: It's a straight line – I taught myself desktop publishing and graphic design as a kid in high school to publish my own and my friends' poems and short stories. I noticed how setting a poem on the page changed it, and became less interested in the spoken word and more interested in what computer software could do to enliven a poem for a reader.

I remember being inspired by the gritty animated title sequence in the 1995 Morgan Freeman/Brad Pitt film *Se7en* and created a series of video poems, mixing music, animated typography, photography, and video. I taught myself the 3D animation software Maya to accomplish more ambitious effects.

Those videos were noticed by older college classmates who'd started working for Blue Sky Studios, the studio responsible for the *Ice Age* kids' films. I landed a job as a Render Wrangler there – bottom of the barrel – but a dream for an English/Art major fresh out of college.

On my first day, my manager dropped a tome from five feet up. I still remember it slamming onto my desk: *O'Reilly Learning Perl*. She grinned and said, "Sink or swim," and left me there. Learning a programming language was the best thing that happened to me career-wise. It enabled me to take my interest in animation to the next level as an artist and eventually as an author of animation software.

Recently, I've become interested in taking what I've learned in VFX production and automating the animation of synthetic poems via AI/Machine

Learning. So maybe it's a full circle and not a straight line.

DH: Can you describe a bit of your roles as an animator, and special effects person?

RM: I usually explain CG film production like this: imagine someone is making a movie with puppets. First, someone has to design and draw the puppet on a piece of paper – that's the Art Department. Next, someone has to sculpt the puppet out of clay, based on the drawing – that's the Modeling Department. Next, someone has to cut up the puppet and add joints to its elbows, knees, fingers, etc., so it can move – that's the Rigging Department. The puppet needs to look real and so it ends up in the Materials Department.

A Materials Technical Director (that's what I was for most of my career) adds color to the clay puppet, but also determines the physical properties of each of its parts. Is a part shiny like an eye or ring? Transparent like a fingernail? Translucent like an eyelid? Bumpy? Anisotropic? Oily? Velvety? Now imagine all those steps – Art, Modeling, Rigging, Materials – are happening to a computer-generated puppet, not a real puppet. We repeat those steps for everything in a CG movie – buildings, forests, the ground, the sky, the sun – it requires keen observation.

I remember going on a field trip to a junkyard and hauling back all kinds of rusted metal scraps for reference, for the film *Robots*. For the film *Epic*, it was the New York Botanical Garden, taking hundreds of photos of sunlight shining through leaves. There's a lot of artistic guesswork based on visual reference, but it can get technical, too. For example, it's handy to know the index of refraction for common elements like gold, brass, plastic, glass, diamond, water – and vital to understand geometry and algebra.

DH: I noticed you published a poetry/prose book, *God and Other Monsters*. Can you tell us a bit about the content? Do you identify with a certain school of poetry?

RM: Most of my books feature what I call speculative poetry. Sort of a mash-up of magic realism/ surrealism/sci-fi. I like to mangle culturally embedded religious/scientific/political tropes to create alternative histories or realities. It's a form of fantasy, I suppose, a way to escape. But I hope it gives the reader some perspective on our shared reality, too.

Speculative poetry isn't a common genre, but it does exist. There are a few dozen little-known journals out there specializing in it. Speculative fiction is much better represented – Kelly Link, Etgar Keret would be good examples of popular authors. I will say that I don't write Confessional Poetry – a relatively new form of poetry that emerged in the 50s and 60s that is often mistaken as poetry itself these days. I encourage any poet or aspiring poet to research Confessional Poetry, realize it's not the only kind of poetry a person can write, and challenge them to write something that is not Confessional Poetry.





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