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The Somerville Times

VOL. 10 NO. 12

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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their delegates page 5



A GLX opening celebration page 11

As GLX opens, Mayor Ballantyne answers the community's biggest questions



after years of hard work Union Square station opened on Monday, March 21.

— Photo by Doug Holder

By Ryan DiLello

On Monday of this week, after decades of planning and debate, the city of Somerville celebrated the opening of the Green Line stop within Union Square. Last Thursday, Mayor Ballantyne held a press conference to field questions about the historic project from the community.

"My first introduction to the Green Line and transportation issues started in 1999, as a resident. In the early 2000s, I went to a number of state meetings with Mass DOT and MPO, to advocate for this," the mayor said about the Green Line Extension. Her grade-school daughter spoke at one of those state meetings to an audience of over 700 residents.

That was nearly 20 years ago. Today's meeting drew rather few attendees, but the questions tackled large issues. First, how is the city planning to counteract the trends Continued on page 4

STV celebrates opening of **Green Line Extension service**

STV, a leader in engineering, architectural, planning and program and construction management services joined the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) to celebrate the opening of the Green Line Extension (GLX).

Revenue service has begun on the Union Square branch, the first of two segments to be completed on this \$2.3 billion design-build. STV serves as the lead designer for GLX as part of the design-build team led by Fluor Corporation/Middlesex Corporation/Herzog Contracting Corp/Balfour Beatty joint venture (GLX Constructors).

"It's gratifying to see the impact this project will have on our communities," said STV Project Manager Keith MacKenzie, P.E., S.E. "Designing a public transportation project like this increases vital access to the educational, medical and economic institutions that connect our communities. STV is thrilled to have designed a system that will provide real opportunities for people for generations to come. Continued on page 2



STV's collaboration with the MBTA in helping to bring the Green Line Extension project closer to completion has been lauded by everyone involved in the process. Photo courtesy of STV

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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.

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 Somerville Museum presents Voices from Somerville's Italian Community on Thursday, March 24, 6:30 p.m. Join virtually on Zoom, register at Eventbrite. Hear 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. This is an online zoom event. All attendees must register visit www. somervillemuseum.org.

Happy birthday this week to the following: Happy birthday to one of the famous Sullivans of Spring Hill, Continued on page 7

The Somerville Times

699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144 news@thesomervilletimes.com www.thesomervilletimes.com Phone: 857-488-5138





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Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc. Editor – Jim Clark Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Denise Keniston, Isabel Sami, Rachel Berets, Elizabeth Long

Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte, Dorothy Dimarzo, Joe Creason, Bob Doherty, Ross Blouin Photographer: Claudia Ferro

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of March 23 – March 29 as provided by the National Weather Service

	DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
	Wednesday March 23	Cloudy	46°/39°	16%	11%	NE 10 mph
•	Thursday March 24	Rain	47°/41°	90%	87%	E 13 mph
	Friday March 25	Cloudy	54°/40°	22%	17%	WSW 9 mph
S	Saturday March 26	Partly Cloudy	54°/38°	18%	13%	WNW 10 mph
	Sunday March 27	Partly Cloudy	46°/28°	22%	15%	NW 14 mph
C	Monday March 28	Partly Cloudy	39°/22°	9%	5%	WNW 13 mph
C	Tuesday March 29	Partly Cloudy	45°/35°	5%	2%	W 12 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Wrestling at the Garden

Mike Bonanno says:

I remember seeing Bruno Sammartino fighting Gorilla Monson and Bruno body slammed Gorilla and the ring caved in

Steve Keenan says:

I saw Frank Scarpa wrestle at Saint Polycarp's School when I was a Boy Scout. I was with my dad after a Blackhawks-Bruins game after which we went to the bar at the Madison Hotel. In the bar was Chief Jay Strongbow(was he really Italian)?

And on tv I remember Killer Kowalski and his use of the "Claw." And Hay Stack Calhoun was famous for the "Big Splash." Great days from many years ago.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

STV celebrates opening of Green Line **Extension service**

The GLX design-build pro- Station and Union Square in Dig" project, where STV was nance facility, an administration building, three traction power substations, a viaduct with more than 50 spans, seven stations, six bridges, and a community path with a pedestrian bridge.

STV overcame multiple design challenges to deliver a sustainable and reliable new transit system and responded to the requests of residents by providing bicycle and pedestrian amenities that will connect to other communities, all within an extremely narrow corridor that cuts through the most densely populated area in New England.

The now-open Union Square Branch consists of two stations the new elevated Lechmere

gram includes the design and Somerville - and is part of the construction of a vehicle mainte- larger 4.7-mile system that will ultimately provide the Massachusetts communities of Cambridge, Somerville and Medford with a one-seat ride to downtown Boston. The Medford Branch is scheduled to open later this year

The opening of this project marks a major milestone in STV's long history of delivering significant megaprojects in Boston, including the Greenbush Line Rail Restoration and the Silver Line Courthouse Station and Tunnel.

The firm has worked on such iconic projects as the Longfellow Bridge Rehabilitation Design-Build, serving as lead designer, and the massive Central Artery/Tunnel (CA/T) or "Big

responsible in joint venture for the civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, geotechnical and utilities engineering, as well as the management of all disciplines, for the \$450 million Section D011A design-build.

The MBTA anticipates a number of benefits for GLX, including the reduction of 26,000 regional daily vehicle miles travelled, thereby improving air quality and reducing automobile congestion in the commonwealth. Daily ridership at the seven new GLX stations is expected to hit 45,000 by 2030.

STV's responsiveness has earned it the reputation as a leader in transportation infrastructure planning, design and construction management.

Life in the Jimmy Del Ponte

Grabbing a cold one



Before all the new "designer" bars there were many local Barron's around the city.

My dad frequented Pat Connolly's and The Coronet, which

became Redbones in Davis Square. The bar counter had pickled eggs, Slim Jim's and BEER NUTS. Dad called them "gin mills" and he referred to beer as "a cold one." I remember seeing Ballentine Ale and Schlitz in our refrigerator.

I posted a request for reader's recollections and here they come. This is only a partial abbreviated list. There were so

"Don't forget Mahoney's, corner of Broadway and Medford St., Medford, and the Land of Odin right next door to Canty's. It had about 5 different names, but that is the one that stuck in my head! LOL! They had all the huge colored lights up above."

"Danny's and Canty's right across from each other in Magoun Square."

"Whitney's, Virgies, Khoury's."

"The Cadillac is now a liquor store." "Drake's."

"JoAnn Goggin-Vining."

"Jumbo, Saki's, Johnny D's, The Genoa, Markey's, Railside, Venice, Pine Tree, Gaslight, Jumbo's, Dapper Dan's, Rosebud, Surrey Room, Blarney Stone, Bullpen, The Moose Club, Jon's Place, Robins, Kevin's Koerber, The Continental, Coleman's, Frascati's, Sligo, The Holland Cafe, The Willow, and Winter Hill Cafe, on the ground floor in Marshall Hall."

"Tabs, The Glendore, The Oasis, Jumbo's, Father's, O'Malley's, The Willow, The Abbey, Kevin's Korner, Khoury's, Decos, Art and Bob's, Mystic Tavern, Gentleman Jim's, Shady Hill. These were just a small portion of barrooms listed. I know some were just over the line. Definitely plenty of places to get a drink!"

As I mentioned this is only a minuscule list of the many barrooms in the old days. This column isn't big enough for them all. Let's just say I just wet my whistle with this shortlist.

I remember the smell, the atmosphere and seeing all the regulars in their assigned stools. Oh yea, we could still smoke in those places too. A bookie was easy to find too.

For me there were two favorites, Redbones (formerly The Coronet and Barnabys), where I had a favorite spot, and my all-time best, the iconic and historic Embassy Lounge. A shout out to Jerry D and rest in peace Sandy and all our friends that have passed. Great memories. Cheers everyone!

At The Embassy lounge (where the Chinese restaurant is on Somerville



Ave.), when it was time to close, manager Johnny C used to say, "Hotel motel time! Let's go!" Today, it would be very conve-

nient to cross the street to the new hotel! How cool would it have been to have a hotel within stumbling distance?

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Voices from Somerville's Italian Community

Join in this Thursday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m. for Voices from Somerville's Italian Community, the sixth event in the Somerville Museum's "Voices from Somerville" series!

Hear local Italian community members talk about their work in Somerville 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 and on the streets for Somerfest during the '60s and '70s; 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 a Law 100 firm in the United States and one of the youngest when appointed managing partner at age 42. Before the panel discussion, listen to a Somerville historian discuss connections between Italian and U.S. history. Many thanks to Mass Humanities!

This is a free virtual event on zoom. Register via Eventbrite: https://www. eventbrite.com/e/298018700957



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By Jim Clark

Break-in suspect alleges mistaken arrest

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to a Somerville Ave. location last week on reports of an alarm. Somerville Police control received a call from the location's alarm company as a confirmed breaking and entering, and the reporting party was on scene.

Upon arrival, the officers spotted a man, later identified as James Hargrove, standing in front of the business, in the company of a dog and having a phone conversation via earphones.

Hargrove appeared to officers to be under the influence, and reportedly had an odor of alcohol from his breath.

The officers asked Hargrove if he was the owner of the establishment, and he reportedly responded, "Can you just turn this alarm off?"

The officers told Hargrove that they were there for a confirmed breaking and entering, and they needed to identify him as the owner of the establishment.

Hargrove reportedly stated that it took us hours to respond, and at that point he did not need our assistance. The officers reassured Hargrove that they responded within minutes of being dispatched.

According to reports, Hargrove refused to identify himself upon request. The officers also tried to explain to him the reason for having to identify him. Hargrove finally provided his MA driver's license, which was called in to police dispatch for verification.

While waiting for dispatch to

verify ownership of the business, Hargrove stated that he did not need police assistance and he wanted the officers out of his business. They explained to him that they still do not have a confirmation from dispatch and needed to make sure there are no signs of a break-in.

As an officer tried to enter the business to confirm if a break in occurred, Hargrove reportedly stood in the doorway and refused to allow him to enter.

During the interaction, Hargrove stuck both of his middle fingers at the officers, stating he does not like the police and he has no respect for them.

According to the officers, Hargrove was extremely belligerent during the entire interaction. He reportedly got extremely close to

one of the officers, within inches of his entire body.

Hargrove was asked to step to the side, but he pushed the officer, who then attempted to place him in handcuffs. Hargrove reportedly resisted by twisting his body and pulling away.

While trying to assist in handcuffing Hargrove, another officer was pushed by him.

Hargrove repeatedly stated that the establishment had cameras and was recording everything that was taking place, and that the officers did not have cameras. He continued telling the officers that they were making a mistake, as they did not know who he was.

While in handcuffs, Hargrove reportedly made a stern eye contact with one of the officers and asked if I was sure I wanted to arrest him, and assured him that he was making a mistake. He reportedly asked if the officer knew who he was and that he was going to regret his decision.

Hargrove was asked if he had consumed any alcoholic beverages, and he stated that he had one drink.

While waiting for transport to the police station, Hargrove reportedly attempted pulling away from the officers, screaming that they were making a mistake, and increasingly raised his voice, which caught the attention of passersby.

Hargrove was transported to the station and was booked in the usual manner on charges of resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, assault and battery on a police officer, and witness intimidation.

Arrests:

James Hargrove, March 14, 2:05 p.m., arrested at Somer-

ville Ave. on charges of resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, assault and battery on

intimidation.

Israel

a police officer, and witness March 19, 1:27 a.m., arrested at Radcliffe Rd. on charges of Alvarez-Galdamez, leaving the scene of property

damage and operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor.

As GLX opens, Mayor Ballantyne answers the community's biggest questions **CONT. FROM PG 1**

of gentrification that tend to accompany major upgrades in public transportation?

Mayor Ballantyne said that her primary objective is to prevent resident displacement and enable high-density residence near public transportation. To do so requires a healthy connection between jobs and housing, she explained. On the housing front, the city is working to increase affordable housing requirements and inclusionary zoning from 12.5% to 20%.

The mayor cited the newly created office of housing stability which assists residents facing displacement, the millions of dollars in rental assistance and legal services funding, and that Somerville ranks the highest in CPA funding for affordable housing in the state.

Additionally, the city is providing flex months for renters and homeowners. On the jobs side, the mayor noted that the city is working with developers on multiple initiatives like linkage funds to optimize plans for job creation on a local level.

Next, amidst threats of gen-

trification, how will Somerville concentrate on immiand lower-income residents in particular?

The mayor shared details of her background in advocacy work, mentioning that she primarily worked with women of color who lived in subsidized housing. "I want Somerville to be an inclusive, equitable city," The mayor said. She noted that the city recently hired an e nomic development planner for women and minority owned businesses and is in the process of hiring a director of strategic planning and equity.

Clarifying that investing in people was equally important as spaces, the mayor mentioned the offices of Immigrant Affairs and the new Department of Racial Social Justice.

Next, how would the Green Line transform Somerville?

"I hope that, whoever the next governor is, that they understand how important transportation is," Ballantyne said. "The migrations are to the urban core. Boston and Cambridge have been the job creators for the last



Mayor Ballantyne arrived at the new GLX station to take the first ride at 4:50 a.m. Monday morning.

— Photo courtesy of Mayor Katjana Ballantyne

decade and Somerville has been the dormitory. So, the hope is that there starts to be a balance for the city."

The mayor also mentioned the improvement in air quality, the local mitigation of climate change,

and the growth of housing as incentives for the Extension.

Lastly, given the expected economic pressures on low-income residents, is it time for Somerville to consider rent control?

"We have to use every tool pos-

sible to try to do this. We have a long list of tools that we've used here in Somerville." The mayor said, but did not give a definitive answer as to whether the city will consider rent control any-

Somerville Democratic caucuses vote on delegates

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

On March 5, the Somerville Democratic Ward Committees met to select delegates to the Massachusetts Democratic Convention on June 3 and 4. Committees for Wards 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 met to select these delegates.

According to an email from the Maura Healey Campaign, 54 delegates were elected for the Maura Healey camp to represent the candidate at the Convention in June. Candidates need at least 325 delegates to win the Democratic nomination.

Currently there are four candidates in contention to the Democratic Nomination, Josh Caldwell, Sonia Chang-Diaz, Orlando Silva and Maura Healey competing for the nomination.

For many political analysts, winning the nomination means an almost assured win in the gubernatorial race.

According to campaign finance reports from the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) the Healey Campaign raised more than \$400,000 in February alone.

Compared to other Democratic challengers, the Healey campaign has ten times more cash on hand than all other primary candidates combined.

According to Justin Klekota, Democratic State Committeeman for Somerville talked about the Healey Campaign's reaction to the Somerville delegate elections.

"The campaign is very happy

with the outcome, we worked really hard to identify delegate candidates as well as encourage our supporters to attend their caucuses," Klekota said.

Apart from the positive results in the elections, Healey is also seeing great support from Somerville's Major Katjana Ballantyne.

"I think Katjana deserves credit for helping us kind of build the momentum that fed directly into the caucuses," Klekota said.

According to Klekota, the Healey campaign is looking to build a grassroots campaign and is currently showing great progress in doing so.

"We expect to run a strong grassroots campaign in every city so we're in the organization building phase," Klekota said.

"It's actually showing really good progress in a very short period of time."

Looking back at the results from the caucuses, Klekota had a message to Somerville voters.

"Thank you, we grateful for their support during the caucuses. We definitely appreciated the great attendance to the town hall and all the questions," Klekota said.

Meet the City of Somerville's Racial and Social Justice Department and learn about its work at a virtual forum, March 31

The City of Somerville's Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) Department invites the community to a virtual forum to meet department staff, learn about their work, and find out how to get involved on Thursday, March 31, beginning at 6 p.m. Go to somervillema.gov/virtualtownhall at the start time of the forum to join online, or call 311 on March 31 to get call-in information. Interpretation into Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Nepali, Mandarin, and American Sign Language will be provided.

"The RSI Department wants to ensure that the community has access and opportunities in various ways to be informed and engage with the department and its initiatives," said RSJ Department Director Denise Molina Capers. "We have been working hard to strategize ways of moving forward in our work to promote racial and social justice that continue to focus on building trust, engaging the community and stakeholders, and providing information on our work and how to get involved."

The RSJ Department was formed in 2021 with the hiring of Director Capers. Since then, additional staff have been hired, and the department has begun working on a number of initiatives related to racial and social justice including reimagining policing and public safety, hosting conversations with neighborhoods affected by increased gun violence, and increasing support for City commissions. As this work continues, there will be many opportunities for the public to be involved. Updates about the RSJ Department's work and engagement opportunities will be posted at somervillema.gov/rsj.

"The RSJ Department staff have very quickly started to work on big, complex issues in our community and I encourage residents to take this chance to meet them and learn about what they have been doing," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "As we work together on issues like tackling systemic racism and other forms of oppression, reimagining policing and public safety, and creating a more equitable city, it will be important to have all voices at the table."

Dorothy's Corner

Sautéed Radishes & Greens

This is a great time of year to visit farmers markets and farm stands in the area. I like to meander through the rows and look for fresh and vibrant fruits and vegetables. The last time I went to the farm stand I came upon a large display of radishes. This time of year radishes tend to be a little more bitter than in the spring and winter. But this recipe will bring out the sweetness and have you craving more of these crisp nuggets of flavor. First off, only pick radishes that have vibrant green tops. These are not only fresh, but as an extra bonus, the greens can also be prepared and eaten.

1 bunch of radishes 1 1/2 tablespoons unsalted butter Salt, maldon or grey sea salt Black pepper, freshly ground

Radish greens Garlic clove, minced Olive oil, 1 tablespoon Salt and pepper to taste

Thoroughly rinse the radishes. Cut off the greens, soak them in cold water and reserve. Trim the ends of the radishes and cut them in half. Place the cut side down of the radishes in a 12" fry pan single layer and add the butter to the pan. On medium/low heat, leave the radishes for 15 minutes without touching them, place a lid over the pan. Keep an eye on the butter, so it doesn't burn. Lower the heat and check the radishes to see if they are browned on the cut side. Remove the lid and cook for an additional 5 minutes. Check to see if the radishes are fork tender. If so, remove from the heat, add the salt and pepper to taste.

For the greens, make sure they are drained and completely dry. In a small pan over medium heat, add the olive oil and garlic and heat for about 1 minute. Add the greens to the pan and sauté for 5 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste and remove from the heat.

Both can be served as a side at room temperature.



Visit Dorothy's website at http://ddimarzo2002.wix.

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

COMMENTARY

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of The Somerville Times do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Somerville Times, its publishers or staff.

Do not establish a Local Historic District at 125 Highland Avenue

By Jason Mackey

Dear neighbors,

As you may have heard, the former home of the First Universalist Church and current home of King Solomon's Lodge A.F. & A.M. at 125 Highland Avenue was recently sold to make way for desperately needed affordable housing. This is all well and good, but on Monday, March 28th, the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (SHPC) will vote on establishing a Local Historic District (LHD) at this address (and only this address); effectively killing the sale and any hopes of affordable housing along with it.

I write to you not only as your neighbor, but as a member of King Solomon's Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, a progressive leader in my Ward, and concerned resident of Somerville.

King Solomon's Lodge A.F. & A.M. was founded in 1783 in Charlestown, Massachusetts at what is known today as Warren Tavern. Paul Reve is a founding member, as is Josiah Bartlett, a signatory of the Declaration of Independence. In 1899, King Solomon's Lodge moved to Gilman Square in Somerville, where it remained until 1984 when it relocated to 125 Highland Avenue. In 1989, King Solomon's Lodge established the Highland Masonic Temple Association (HMTA) to purchase the building and its land from the First Universalist Church. Both King Solomon's Lodge and the Highland Masonic Temple Association are registered nonprofit organizations.

Over the years, we have done our best to keep up with repairs, but the cost of maintaining the building is beyond our means, which is why we reluctantly decided to list the property for sale in 2019.

In 2020, we entered into an agreement to sell the property to local developer, Tony Barros. We got to know Mr. Barros through the redevelopment of the American Legion's building across the street at 124 Highland Avenue. It is worth noting that Mr. Barros is one of the few minority developers in Somerville.

The new building Mr. Barros proposes to construct at 125 Highland Avenue is a \$20 million investment in exactly what this city needs:

- + 40 units of new housing, 8 of which will be affordable units.
- + An additional \$250,000 per year in estimated property taxes
- A commitment to purchase materials locally and to provide good paying jobs for residents, minorities, and women.

Establishing a Local Historic District at 125 Highland Avenue will not only prevent any of this from happening but also guarantee nothing will happen to this property for years to come.

I say this with confidence because the Draconian building restrictions placed on us by an building whatsoever. LHD will severely limit our ability to access 33-years of accrued equity, and for the developer to fully utilize the property. In this case, that means we won't be able to demolish the building to make way for a 4-story apartment complex necessary to meet the housing needs of our city.

And let's talk about the building the SHPC wants to preserve.

- + Completed in 1923, the building was designed by Ralph Adams Cram. And as noted by the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission in their initial report dated April 16, 2021, "[Ralph Adams] Cram believed in white, Anglo-Saxon supremacy and held beliefs in the superiority of some religions over others." As the Diversity Officer for my Ward in Somerville, it would be a dereliction of duty to ignore the fact that the building in question can be seen as a monument to white supremacy and may be offensive to anyone with a sense of decency.
- The building itself, known as the First Universalist Church, is historically and architecturally insignificant. Nothing of note occurred here, and the condition of the building alone does not merit its preservation. Moreover, at their March 9, 2022 meeting, the Massachusetts Historical Commission rejected the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission's proposed Local Historic District and does not recommend preserving the

- + As noted in a March 16, 2022 letter from the Universalist Unitarian Association, the successor organization to the First Universalist Church, the church building at 125 highland Avenue "does not have any historical significance, nor do we maintain any remaining ties to the parish that formerly owned the building." Even the Church is not interested in preserving it.
- + King Solomon's Lodge, arguably one of the country's most historic organizations and current owners of the building, also views the church as having no historic value.
- Furthermore, the structure is in very poor and rapidly deteriorating condition. It will cost tens of millions of dollars to restore the building. And as mentioned, the financial burden of maintaining this building is beyond our means and will financially cripple King Solomon's Lodge; effectively destroying a 239-yearold institution. An LHD would not result in saving a deteriorating church, but would effectively create a blight on our city as King Solomon's Lodge will no longer have the means to restore or maintain the building.
- + Also, it's worth noting the building is unused and unwanted by any organization in Somerville. King Solomon's Lodge no longer regularly meets in this building, none of the churches, community organizations, the Somerville Corporation, nor the

city of Somerville itself have expressed any interest in acquiring or even using – the property.

Put simply, this building at 125 Highland Avenue is not worth preserving. And, for the record, it's worth remembering that historical preservation is achieved in more ways than just the preservation of physical objects and buildings. Frequently, historical preservation is accomplished through the propagation of intangible connections to our past such as certain organizations and traditions. For example, various religious congregations, Boy Scout troops and, if we might beg your indulgence, King Solomon's Lodge. These organizations, and their ability to thrive in the Twenty First Century, connect us to the best parts of our past as vibrantly as any structure or streetscape.

In closing, the SHPC has failed to establish actual historic justification to impose such restrictive zoning at 125 Highland Avenue. And I ask the SHPC to recognize the serious shortcomings of 125 Highland Avenue, and hope they now understand why the building is not worth preserving. Rather conversely, that the same Commission - and greater community of Somerville - should see the value in investing in affordable housing and maintaining an existing relationship with a 239-year-old organization committed to building a stronger more vibrant Somerville.

GLX and gentrification

So, I was at the opening of the subway station in Union Square, Somerville. A lot of pols were there basking in the glory. At a news conference with Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, I asked if they were concerned about the gentrification that the subway will inevitably bring.

Warren took the question and replied, "I am very concerned about rising rents. This transportation will spur new housing and more housing means lower rents." Now I have been around the block - tell me, does this pan out in the real world? Not from what I have seen.

Anyway, after the question a woman bumped into me and angrily said, "I am not here for the back slapping, let me through." She looked like a veteran Somervillian, no happy horse sh*t for her.

— Doug Holder



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



There is nothing like spring time in the Ville.

Our View Of The Times

After the long chilling days of winter, it's nice to know that springtime has officially arrived. We anxiously await the final thaw and balmier days ahead.

One of the finer benefits of New England living is standing witness to the massive explosion of nature's rebirth and renewal, seemingly amplified here. Grass, trees, wildlife and flowers all seem to go forth and multiply at an astounding rate,

as if on cue to the call for "Action!"

How nice it will be to stroll through a park and feed a few squirrels. To replant a garden plot and watch as life springs forth. Or to take the family on a weekend getaway to the beach or mountains.

The seasonal cycle brings its highs and lows. Its pleasures and its challenges. We evolved as creatures in sync with that cycle, so we know how to adapt and make

the most out of each day on the calendar. Still, most of us would surely confess to a few choice dates to name as our favorites, if pushed to fess up.

How about a family picnic, or a bit of sunbathing at the beach? There'll be camping, hiking and bird watching opportunities galore. All it takes is a little gumption and a modicum of fore-planning and off you go!

As much as so many of us love our winter scenery, sports, etc., there is so much to be said for being able to step out one's front door without danger of slipping and busting a hip. Not to mention the simple pleasure of soaking up some sun and taking in fine fragrance of life anew.

We've really got it made, so let's get out there and start loving us some spring. It won't last forever, so hop to it!

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Michael Sullivan. He is celebrating this week. A nice guy, we wish him the very best. Happy birthday to Rachael Hart-Adams. We wish her the very best of birthdays, celebrating with her great family. Happy birthday to MaryLynn McWatters O'Malley. We hope she has a great day. Happy birthday to great guy and lifelong resident, Ed Bean. We wish him the best. We wish all of our Facebook friends such as Dottie Poudrier a very special day, and another special person, Karen Michelle, along with Roy Bertocchi, Joe Bossi, Linda Sirignano, Rhonda Annette, Beth Redmond, D.J. Dabenigno, Judy McCollem, and Maureen D. Kelley a very happy birthday. To all those that are also celebrating this week, we wish them a happy birthday. *********

Somerville's indoor mask mandate ended Saturday, March 5. The City of Somerville lifted its mask requirement for city buildings and events on Monday, March 21. This means all city-issued mask mandates are now lifted. 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.

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.

Congratulations to SHS 10th grader Ruthanna Kern for her first-place finish in last weekend's Greater Boston History Day Competition in the "Senior Individual Performance" category. Ruthanna researched, wrote, and performed a one-woman play illuminating the process the Quaker community went through to arrive at its powerful abolitionist stance. Ruthanna will perform her piece, entitled Much Debate Being Thereupon: Quakers, Consensus Decision-Making, and the American Antislavery Movement at the state competition on April 9.

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.

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.

Congratulations to the East Somerville Community School debate team and their teachers, Ms. Gouvea and Mr. Weaver. On Saturday, March 12, the ESCS Debate Team was declared the Boston Debate League Middle School Champions. Way to go, Phoenix debat-

ers! Learn more about the Boston Debate League at www.bostondebate.org.

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/ metronorthyaccine. 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).

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen invite you to a virtual public meeting about upcoming construction in Spring Hill. The Spring Hill Sewer Separation Project is one in a series of projects across the city that will mitigate flooding, reduce waterway pollution, and upgrade century-old infrastructure. The first phase of work will Continued on page 9

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's lio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#819

- 1. Which spring flower is regarded as the national flower of Wales?
 - Thrones, Roose Bolton's fortress goes by what intimidating name?
- 2. Which species of bird is an iconic symbol of spring in North America?
- 8. What type of clouds surround the eye of a hurricane?

7. In Game of

- 3. What was the nickname of Kobe Bryant's father, Joe Bryant?
- 9. What was the original name of the band Green Day?
- 4. Which famous drummer was nicknamed "The Beast"?
- 10. What is the sun mostly made up of?
- 5. How many oncourt officials are there in an NBA game?
- 11. What is the name of Ripley's cat in the film Alien?
- 6. What body of water touches the eastern coast of Mexico?

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12. Who was Pierce Brosnan's co-star on TV's Remington Steele?

SUDOKU

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Answers on page 13

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. A giraffe can go longer without water than a camel can.

2. On average, 100 people choke to death on ballpoint pens every year.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

GARDENING?

ACROSS

- 1. Betting probability
- 5. Once headed by J. Edgar Hoover
- 8. Formally surrender
- 12. Gravy holder
- 13. Nile dweller, for short
- 14. More certain
- 15. Tiny bit
- 16. a.k.a. Bruce Banner
- 17. One who plies one's trade
- 18. "Days to _____," on a seed packet
- 20. Big-ticket ____
- 21. Apartments, e.g.
- 22. Plumerias are often used in this Ha-
- waiian greeting
- 23. Scrooge's visitors
- 26. Digging into
- 30. What Carl Lewis did
- 31. Bestow
- 34. Month before Nisan
- 35. Dress with a flare
- 37. Choler
- 38. On a store tag
- 39. Central points
- 40. Paul Reubens' Herman
- 42. Mother lode stuff
- 43. African bloodsucking pests
- 45. Salty dogs
- 47. Current tense of #30 Across
- 48. Retches
- 50. Bovine cries
- 52. Like an aggressive weed
- 55. Frustration, in a comic book
- 56. Holds a plant stem to a support
- 57. Type of hot sandwich
- 59. One born to Japanese immigrants
- 60. Urban legends, e.g.
- 61. Check out
- 62. Shakespeare's "at another time"
- 63. "The ____ Who Loved Me"
- 64. Flower's location after a garden?

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- 1. Kimono closer
- 2. Banish to Hades
- 3. Crunched numbers

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4. Facebook's update feature

5. Seed plant's harvest

6. Goes to seed

7. Rotten and stinky

8. Plant variety

9. Famous canal

10. Hold as a conviction

11. Make a blunder

13. Church service oil

14. Salesman's speech, e.g.

19. Loosen laces

22. Tennis do-over

23. Splice, to a gardener

24. Nimbi on ikons

25. In the cooler (2 words)

26. Former Saint Brees

27. "Pulling my leg," e.g. 28. Mother-of-pearl

29. Kind of thumb

- 32. Pizzeria output, pl.
- 33."____ you kidding?" 36. N in N-P-K
- 38. Sneaked glances
- 40. Slammer

41. "The Shawshank Redemption" theme

44. Served raw

46. Isaac of science fiction 48. This Dogg can rap

49. What Elton John tickles, sing.

50. Street in Anytown, USA

51. Guesstimate phrase (two words)

52. Bodily disorders 53. Lope de ____, Spanish playwright

54. Building extensions

55. Nurses' org.

58. ____ time in golf

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

5

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

5

OBITUARY

Peter F. White



Peter F. White, Somerville – Beloved son, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, Peter F. White "Frannie", 87 passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 8th in his home in Stuart, Florida.

Peter was born on November 19, 1934, in Somerville son of William and Mary Ann (Flaherty) White. He grew up in Somerville with a large Irish Catholic family that he loved and then raised his own family there as well.

Peter was a proud Army veteran and later served as a firefighter for Somerville Fire Department, retiring as a Lieutenant after 28 years of service.

Pete was a fun-loving guy always making people smile and laugh and easy to talk to. He loved spending time with his family, enjoyed golf, and boating.

He is survived by his children John White and his wife Janine, Carrie (White) Roach and her husband Harold and Brenda (White) Baron and her husband Kevin. His 8 grand-children Kyle White, Taylor White, Sean White, Leanna O'Connell, Justina Hughes, Jessica Hughes, Kaitlyn Baron and Matthew Baron and 3 great grandchildren.

His sister Elizabeth Jaffe, Patricia Morrisey and his brother Kevin White, along with many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents he is preceded by his sister Marion Ernst, Eileen White-Finley, William White, Claire Feener, and Virginia Downey.

A private Memorial Service will follow at a later date.

There is an online webpage at www.treasurecoastseawinds.com.

Combating the Covid crisis and mending mental health

By Kyle Dante

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted several aspects of daily life. Workplaces are either understaffed or out of business. The workforce, as well as education, is hurting from the effects of the pandemic. For many, healthcare is difficult to access. Generally speaking, it is a transition for not only Somerville but the world itself.

How is Somerville working to improve community mental health issues brought on by the pandemic? How is the Public Health Committee assisting Somerville residents in their potential Covid problems? Lastly, can the momentum continue in reaching for "normalcy?"

Addressing the mental health crisis is Neighborhood Counseling and Community Services (NCCS). Founded in 2015, NCCS has 208 clients but is severely understaffed. Among the demographic, fifty-eight of the 147 Somerville residents registered are children, with several on a waiting list. Mental health assistance was lacking pre-pandemic. With the impact of Covid-19, getting help has been even more problematic.

When referring to the history of mental health, consider the following timeline. The late John F. Kennedy signed the Community Mental Health Act in 1963. In 1964, Somerville founded its Mental Health Association (SMHA) between parents, the school administration, and mental health managers. But between 2009 to 2011, Massachusetts' Department of Mental Health suffered a \$5 million budget cut. By 2012, SMHA combined with the Community Care of Riverdale.



Further cuts continued into 2015, when more than 97% of Massachusetts-funded inpatient psychiatric beds were financially cut out. Not to mention the continued cuts to mental health treatment in prisons; 12% of prisons between 2001 to 2016 saw an 8% cut of mental health funding. This resulted in an increase in depression and anxiety in that group. That was made worse, ultimately, with the Covid-19 pandemic limiting available assistance.

NCCS is one of the few mental health agencies accessible to all Somerville residents. They possess varying insurances, along with availability, for clients. The clinicians are of diverse backgrounds and will take at least one pro-bono (free or lower cost) client, minimum, with a higher budget. Ideally, it is open to all and specialized accordingly on the client's background.

As for combatting Covid-19, Somerville has had a few initiatives since December. The city's pharmacies engage in large distributions of free KN masks for customers. In total, pharmacies give up to three KN masks per visit to their customers. This, in part, is due to the previously non-surgical masks being ineffective against the now promi-

Additionally, people can order Covid-19 rapid test kits through the U.S. postal service. Up to two orders can be made for eight (previously four) tests per person. Another PCR location has opened on Washington St., the highest positive area hit by the wave. Rapid tests are continually ordered as well. Thankfully, the demand for testing is not as prominent. The options remain available, however, if necessary.

On the decision made by the City Council, NCCS has additional discussion scheduled for a later date. As far as Covid-19 waves are concerned, communication continues as the waves recede. As a result, it will keep citizens in the know on their next steps.

For more information on enrollment in NCCS, go to Neighborhood Counseling and Community Services at: https://www.neighborhoodcounselingservices.org.

Also, continue to check the City of Somerville's Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information and Resources page at https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/coronavirus-covid-19-information-and-resources.

SHA seeks Board member

The Somerville Housing Authority (SHA) Board of Commissioners seeks one new member, and all Somerville residents are invited to apply. This position does not have to be filled by an SHA resident, but SHA residents are encouraged to apply. The SHA Board of Commissioners sets and revises policies for the housing authority, establishes annual budgets, ensures the housing authority is in compliance with state and federal laws, adopts and revises bylaws, and supports SHA operations. The Board of Commissioners meets once a month and occasionally holds special meetings. Applications are due Friday, April 22. Interested candidates should submit a statement of interest and resume to SHA Executive Secretary Emily Eschmann at emilyh@sha-web.org, by mail to Emily Eschmann, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145, or phone or 617-625-1152.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

begin in earnest this spring and is expected to continue through 2023 on Summer Street (Belmont Street to Bow Street), Central Street (Highland Avenue to Summer Street), Westwood Road, Avon Street, and Carter Terrace. This meeting will outline the project goals, scope of work, and anticipated construction impacts. Join in Wednesday, April 6, at 6:00 p.m. For more information and to register to attend, go to somervillema.gov/springhill.

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

Boston Spinjam takes place on **Sundays**, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., 50 Tufts St, Somerville. It is a **weekly get-together** of Flow arts, circus, acro yoga, and more. Sometimes it varies from week to week

due to weather. It is a super friendly and welcoming environment, and a great place for every skill level. From people just starting out and looking to learn, to those just looking to train. There will be a \$5 – \$10 suggested donation. Feel free to donate more or if you can't donate, that is OK! Masks and vaccinations are required. They will have some extra masks for those who forget. There is also a waiver that you will need to fill out. Visit their Facebook page for updates.

The Somerville Times

LEGAL NOTICES

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The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Electrical Contractors for the Various Electrical and Systems Replacements project at the Brady Tower development for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Nangle Engineering Inc.

The Project consists of: Smoke alarm, loadcenter and video intercom system replacements and fire alarm control panel repair at Brady

The work is estimated to cost \$260,100.00 (including all alternates)

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 26 to 27H inclusive.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the category of Electri-

General Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, April 7, 2022 and posted online, forthwith.

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be submitted online at www.Projectdog.com. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. E-Bid tutorials and instructions are available within the specifications and online at

www.Projectdog.com. For assistance, call Projectdog, Inc at (978)499-9014, M-F 8:30AM-5PM.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority.

Bid forms and contract documents will be available on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at www.Projectdog.com or for pick-up at: Projectdog, Inc, 18 Graf Road, Suite 8 Newburyport, MA 978-499-9014 (M - F 8:30AM - 5PM).

Go to www.Projectdog.com and login with an existing account or click Sign Up to register for free. Enter Project Code 848454 in the project locator box. Select "Acquire Documents" to download documents, review a hard copy at Projectdog's physical location, or request a free project CD.

Bidders may obtain one full paper bid set from Projectdog for a refundable deposit of \$75.00 made payable to Projectdog in the form of certified check or money order. The full amount of the deposit will be refunded to all responsive bidders returning the Contract Documents in good condition within ten (10) days after date of general bid opening. Otherwise, the deposit will become the property of the Awarding Authority. Bidders requesting their refundable paper set to be mailed must supply a non-refundable shipping and handling fee of \$35.00 payable to Projectdog.

The job site and/or existing building will be available for observation starting at 10:30 am Thursday, March 31, 2022, starting at Brady Towers 252 Medford Street, Somerville, MA 02145. To limit the number of bidders present at any one time, multiple observation times may be held. Bidders must contact Nangle Engineering Inc. (gpnangle@nangleengineering.com or (978)777-7650) prior to close

of business on the Monday prior to schedule an appointment. Bidders attending may be limited to one person per firm. Attendees are advised to bring, and may be required to wear, a face mask which covers the nose and mouth, and may wear gloves. To maintain social distancing, attendees may be asked to enter the work spaces one at

The inspection is an opportunity to visit and observe the site only. Any oral interpretations offered at the site inspection are non-binding. Any questions must be submitted in writing to the Designer, at the e-mail address on the Project Manual cover, no later than 4:00 PM on the Friday prior to the date stated above for the receipt of quotes. Questions after that time may not be responded to, at the sole discretion of the designer.

The Somerville Housing Authority reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any and all bids, or to waive any informalities in the bidding. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after approval of the award by the Somerville Housing Authority without written consent of the Somerville Housing Authority.

> Joseph Macaluso, Executive Director Somerville Housing Authority October 20, 202

3/23/22 The Somerville Times

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ADVERTISEMENT

Request for Proposal

RE: Somerville Housing Authority/Alewife Brook Parkway Land **Appraisal Request Scope of Services**

The Somerville Housing Authority (SHA) is soliciting services for an appraisal of a parcel of land of the Somerville Housing Authority's, located on 268 Powder House Blvd., North Street and Alewife Brook Parkway, Somerville, Massachusetts consisting of approximately 5.36 acres of land with existing structures. The appraisals must be completed in strict compliance with Standard 1 of the Uniform Standards for Professional Appraisal Practice, with no deviations, and otherwise applying procedures customarily accepted by the appraising profession as valid.

General Approach to the Project

Each valuation will be of a ground lease interest in the real estate, with the SHA as the landlord. The selected appraiser will work with the SHA and their affiliates to confirm the details and methodology of the appraisals, including attending meetings conducted by phone conference and other communication. The selected appraiser will visit the site for the appraisal and review all applicable documentation.

Fee Structure

Fee proposals should be submitted in a document that is separate from the rest of the information submitted. The SHA prefers a fixed fee structure based a lump sum price for the appraisal. Such price must include any allowance for out-of-pocket expenses. Please include pricing for supplemental work, upon request, to provide a) updates to previously completed reports, and/or b) multiple or alternative valuation methodologies within a given report. The SHA also, prefers a payment structure in which the appraiser would receive a portion of their compensation as specified items are completed.

Submittals

Eligible respondents must be licensed appraisers who have at least five years' experience and who can demonstrate that they have performed at least three appraisals of properties with characteristics similar to the subject parcel within the past five years. Selected respondent upon agreement, must sign a non-collusive Affidavit and a tax Compliance Certification.

RFP Information can be obtained by emailing Brian Langton at BrianL@sha-web.org on or after Friday March 25th, or calling at 617 625 1152 ext.331.

Responses can be mailed or emailed to Somerville Housing Authority, ATTN: Kevin Bumpus, 30 Memorial Rd, Somerville, MA 02145 or emailed to kevinb@sha-web.org with the subject line SHA/Alewife Brook Parkway Appraisal. Responses are due no later than April 13th, 2022 at 1:00 PM

3/23//22 The Somerville Times



City of Somerville **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a virtual public hearing on Wednesday, April 06, 2022, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planning@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1294315823258925326 Webinar ID: 178-094-275

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8422 643-001-987 Access code:

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

26 Clyde St #2 Jeff Byrnes seeks relief from the required

percentage of windows on the face width of a shed dormer in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) district. which requires a Hardship Variance.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at

Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals 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.

3/23/22 The Somerville Times

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

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, 3/23/22 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 April 7, 2022 at 6:30pm. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

REGISTER ONLINE

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4868589531048078864

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

- Vivaldo Meneses Sr. requesting the adoption of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Map to change the zoning district of 86 Prospect Street from UR to MR5.
- Powderhouse Living, LLC requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to the Permitted Uses Table 7.2.7 of the Powderhouse School Special Proposing a zoning map amendment to change the zoning district
- of the contiguous parcels containing 250-256 Somerville Avenue and 5-27 Allen Street (odd side only: 5-7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 21-23, and 27) from Urban Residence (UR) to Neighborhood Residence (NR).
- Proposing a zoning map amendment to change the zoning district of the contiguous or abutting-across-a-public-way parcels of 29-31. 33-35, and 37-39 Allen Street (odd side only) and 34 Allen Street from Urban Residence (UR) to Commercial Business (CB).

Zoning amendments may be viewed online by searching the Somerville City Council's online meeting calendar for the address or item number.

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.

3/23/22 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on 4/13/2022 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Dennis Berry unit #1712. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

3/23/22 The Somerville Times

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

LEGAL NOTICES

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



CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP# 22-44

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

> Consolidated Inclusionary Housing Waitlist -**Community Engagement**

The RFP package may be obtained online at

https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at

nervillema.gov/BidExpress on or after: Wednesday, March 23rd, 2022. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: 1:00 pm, Wednesday, April 13th, 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 tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov for more information.

Thupten Chukhatsang Senior Procurement Manager 617-625-6600 x3400

3/23/22 The Somerville Times

Want to write local **Somerville stories?** Call **857-488-5138** and speak to the **Assignment Editor**

SCES participating in **COVID** booster campaign

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services is joining with other area service providers in a campaign to encourage COVID-19 booster shots.

The Metro Boston Aging and Disability Resource Consortium (ADRC) was recently awarded a grant from the Administration for Community Living to promote COVID-19 booster vaccinations to the populations they serve. The Metro Boston ADRC is comprised of community organizations that support older adults, persons with disabilities, and their caregivers: Boston Center for Independent Living, Minuteman Senior Services, Mystic Valley Elder Services, Somerville Cambridge Elder Services and Springwell.

"The Metro Boston Aging and Disability Resource Consortium agencies have been at the forefront of supporting communities through the pandemic and view the opportunity to promote vaccine participation as an extension of our ongoing work," said Hilary Viola, Metro Boston ADRC Coordinator. "Boosters are a critical tool to help mitigate the risk of COVID transmission and serious illness."



The grant-funded campaign "Get Boosted Boston" includes direct mail, print advertisements, and online resources through a comprehensive website, GetBoosted-Boston.org, all of which provide multiple options on how to make vaccine booster appointments. The information is available in multiple languages and provides links to find local appointments via Vaxfinder and pop-up mobile clinics online. If access to the internet is a problem, there is the phone alternative of calling 2-1-1, and if someone is unable to leave their home, they may call (833) 983-0485 to arrange an in-

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs has praised the Metro Boston ADRC and their partners in helping older adults gain access to vaccines and boosters, stating that their efforts "propelled Massachusetts to be amongst the highest vaccinated states in the country."

Now that almost 1.4 million adults aged 60 and above in the Commonwealth are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination booster, the Metro Boston ADRC's work in promoting and facilitating access to COVID-19 vaccination and booster doses is vital to protect those they serve, as well as the overall population.

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is 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.

Somerville, Cambridge celebrate GLX opening

On Monday, March 21, Somerville and Cambridge celebrated the opening of the Union Square station in Somerville and a new Lechmere station in Cambridge. Current and former federal, state, and city elected officials, along with MBTA officials, both former and current, local groups, residents and activists, as well as the hardworking GLX workers, took part in celebrating the long-awaited opening. Many shared their stories of the ups and downs along the way and congratulated everyone that played a part throughout the project's decades-long journey. — Photos by Bobbie Toner



















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! Call Mary Marshall at 617-625-6600, ext. 2316 or email her at headto-fitness10@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 – Second 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.

Charlie Card Registration Event – Wednesday, March 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. Have you been meaning to obtain a Senior Charlie Card but haven't found the time to apply for one in person? Skip the trip to Boston and come to the Somerville Council on Aging instead! We will be hosting a Senior Charlie Card Registration event. The event is open to participants, age 65 or older, who are applying for a new card only. Please bring an ID when attending the event; your picture will also be taken for your Charlie Card. Senior Charlie Cards should arrive by mail within 4-6 weeks.

Left, Right, Center – Friday, March 25 at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. Join us for this fun and interesting game. RSVP to Debby by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at DHiggins@Somervillema.gov.

Mix It Up Mondays – Mondays, March 28, April 11, and April 25 – 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Holiday Street Center. Led by Tufts Occupational Therapy Interns. Take a stroll down memory lane and join us for afternoons of creativity and nostalgia. Participate in an array of activities like painting, creating poems and sharing recipes while socializing with your friends at SCOA! This series will culminate in a collection of tangible memories for you to treasure. RSVP to Chris by phone at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315, or email at

ckowaleski@somervillema.gov

Tech Time with Tufts – Occupational Therapy at the SCOA. Monday, April 4th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. These workshops are intended for users of smartphones, iPads and laptops. Please bring your devices and questions with you! We hope Tech Time makes it easier for you to stay in touch with loved ones, access any information you may need and be able to use your devices with more ease. RSVP to Chris: by phone, 617- 625-6600 ext. 2315, or email at ckowaleski@somervillema.gov

Somerville's Poet Laureate, Lloyd Schwartz

- Wednesday, April 26, 1:00 p.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn.) The program will begin with a reading of "the Two Horses" a poem Schwartz wrote about his mother and the memories which she shared with him about her childhood. To join us please RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov Grab & Go Lunch will be

available after the program. This event is made possible by the Academy of American Poets.

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/

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

Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in History March 23

1775 – American revolutionary hero Patrick Henry, while addressing the House of Burgesses, declares "give me liberty, or give me death!"

1857 – Elisha Otis installs the first modern passenger elevator in a public building, at the corner of Broome Street and Broadway in New York City.

1903 - The Wright brothers obtain an airplane patent.

1909 - British Lt. Ernest Shackleton finds the magnetic South Pole.

1933 – The Reichstag gives Adolf Hitler the power to rule by decree.

1967 – Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. calls the Vietnam War the biggest obstacle to the civil rights movement.

1970 - Mafia boss Carlo Gambino is arrested for plotting to steal \$3 million.

1972 – The United States calls a halt to the peace talks on Vietnam being held in Paris.

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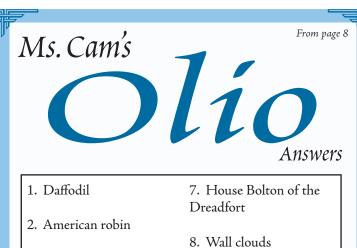
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Pedestrian Safety Education for second grade students

During the first two weeks of March, second grade students throughout the district participated in Pedestrian Safety Education sessions. The sessions were a collaboration between the PE and Health Department, Somerville's Office of Food Access and Healthy Communities, MA Safe Routes to School, Somerville High School Early Education CTE students, and parent volunteers. Students learned about sidewalk safety, how to cross the street safely, as well as driveway and parking lot safety. If you have a second grader, ask them about the Sneak & Peek. They should also be able to tell you what color the reverse lights are on a car.

Massachusetts Safe Routes to School is also promoting several other events this month. School communities are encouraged to recognize and thank their crossing guards for keeping us safe on Crossing Guard Appreciation Day, Wednesday March 23. Additionally, you can nominate your crossing guard for a 2022 Crossing Guard of the Year award. Nomination deadline is March 23, 2022 as well. For more information, visit the Crossing Guard section of the SRTS website.

Students are invited to participate in the popular SRTS School Yard Sign Design Contest this month as well. This year's contest theme is focused on creating Walking School Bus and/or Bike Train signs that help guide students on their way to and from school, and that alert drivers to walking/biking routes. Entries are due Friday, March 25.



3. Jellybean

4. John Bonham

5. Three

6. Gulf of Mexico

9. Sweet Children

10. Hydrogen

11. Jonesy

12. Stephanie Zimbalist

Sally O'Brien's St. Patrick's Day Celebration

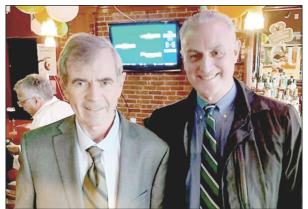
Numerous politicians from various offices and former elected officials stopped into Sally's O'Brien's to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

Among those who attended were Bill Galvin, Secretary of State; Senator Diana Dizoglio, candidate for State Auditor; Terrence Kennedy Governor's Council; Kim Driscoll, Mayor of Salem and candidate for Lieutenant Governor; Peter Koutoujian Sheriff Middlesex, Somerville City Councilor Kristen Strezo; Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne; Marian Ryan Middlesex District Attorney; former Congressman Michael Capuano, former Somerville Mayor Dorothy Kelly Gay and former Somerville Aldermen, Maryann Hueston , Kenny Joyce and Bob Mcwatters. It was a great night and a real political who's who.





(L to R) Former Congressman Mike Capuano, Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll, former Alderman Bob McWatters and former Somerville Mayor Dorothy Kelly Gay.



Secretary of State Bill Galvin and Bob McWatters.



Senator Diana Dizoglio and Bob McWatters.



Bob McWatters, City Councilor Kristen Strezo and Sally O'Brien's owner, Liam Mannion.



Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll (center) taking a photo with Firefighter Barry Hamilton, former Alderman Bob McWatters, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Avery and former Mayor Dorothy Kelly Gay.



Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll and Deputy Fire Chief Mike Avery.

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A COMERVILLE edited by Doug Holder

Jared Smith's 16th volume of poetry will be released by New York Quarterly Books this spring. His work has appeared in hundreds of journals and anthologies in this country and abroad over the past 45 years, and has been featured on NPR and New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. He is Po-

Let's say a train is rushing toward you



etry Editor of *Turtle Island Quarterly*, and has served on the editorial boards of such journals as *The New York Quarterly*, *Home Planet News*, and *The Pedestal Magazine*, as well as on the boards of directors of arts and literary non-profits in New York, Illinois, and Colorado.

Call it a Train

and the engineer is drinking a bottle of Red Ball whiskey.

You are not aware of it because the tracks curve

over the horizon where autumn leaves are golden

and the rails themselves are so hard and inscrutable.

It's a long way off and you are holding a butterfly

perched on your hand just lightly fluttering its wings.

There is no way off the track. It is over a steep gorge.

You have built you dream house on this railway track.

Monks climb up and down its wall boards each evening.

They fly their kites out your windows at daybreak.

Their feet are the sounds of heartbeats on your soul.

You are expecting some sort of life-changing surprise

and have learned to fold origami cranes from napkins.

You idly hope they can hoist the weights that you require.

— Jared Smith

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

'No Time For Death' by Harris Gardner



No Time For Death
By Harris Gardner
Cervena Barva Press
www.cervenabarvapress.com
W. Somerville, MA
ISBN: 978-1-950063-59-8
82 Pages – \$18.00

Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Dennis Daly

"Oh death, where is thy sting?" 1 Corinthians had it right. So does Harris Gardner in his affecting affirmation of life, fittingly entitled *No Time for Death*. Slicing through humanity's Gordian knot of denial, Gardner confronts mortality with memory and poetic craft, assisted by a large dose of wit. His stratagems are nothing if not down-to-earth and sensible. The collection's three subtitles convey Gardner's personified logic: *An Argument with Time*, *Contemplating Mortality Instead of My Navel*, and *Negotiating for an Afterlife*.

The third poem in this collection, the title poem *No Time for Death*, sets the tone. Gardner lays out the human condition earnestly, both what we know and what we don't know. Like most of us the poet exhibits frustration at the inexorable nature of things. His sober and practical take on time leads to spurts of anger as he plots his possibilities of escape or delay. Although the poet's impassioned will may not triumph in walking-around reality, it does assert itself in this poem. Here's a bit of Gardner's poetic discontent,

When we shatter the fragile hours,
Nothing remains in the bone-man's sack.
We cannot choose to refuse the invitation.
We can only walk the walk on the streets of the dead.
We can offer up prayers for life on some prefab plane
Where the CFO keeps the brittle book of our days.

Maybe the weights will balance in our favor.

Maybe we shall come back to clean up loose ends.

Maybe the sentence gets upended, gets suspended.

Seven, six, five, four, three, two—

Will you stop for one forsaken minute!

In his poem entitled *Inconvenient Baggage*, Gardiner delves into the essence of time, a phenomenon that won't quit. Time's didacticism stamps its emblems on even new beginnings (or, as Gardner describes them, bruised suitcases). The present only enables momentary pauses before the past lurches ahead toward a future of flawed promise or false prophesies. The poet details the problem in his opening stanzas,

The was was awhile ago.

It was not a happy was

Because no one wanted

To be taught by was. They thought

Will be, a promise, more or less.

Was was neglected, abused.
First drafts, tomes, and bridges
Fueled bonfires. Fuming was for naught.
These postcards for posterity
Were a banquet for flames.

Rather than overcoming poverty the poet's persona confronts it, stares it down and finds another way to accomplish what must be accomplished. *Until the Last Recorded Dime*, Gardner's impressive villanelle variation, guides the reader through the process of finding worth and parenting creation out of the depths of impoverishment. The lines meld together perfectly as a good villanelle should. The rhyme and repetition of

"dime" and "time" acts as the poem's insistent knell that offers hope for hard work. Consider this stoic and elevating conclusion,

You can't stop the hands, the clock tolls the chime, So you grin and concoct a mask of cheer When you have been broke a very long time.

Your efforts ease you into the sublime. You move to the beat only you can hear. You adapt when you live from dime to dime.

Each day you wash away more of the grime. Your mind is full, but your focus is clear. You manage to manage after a time. No more holding your breath from dime to dime.

Expanding the MRI medical procedure to a Hollywood movie production, and then even further to a metaphoric take on man's mortality makes absolute sense to me (since I had one of those damn things myself). Gardner's poem So You Want to Be in Films does this and does it well. Human powerlessness in the face of mortality takes center stage in this performance. The culprit, a heart murmur, cannot be separated from the protagonist, their relationship being one of utter dependency. Luckily for the poet's persona, the short-term prognosis requires no drastic action. Long term it's another story, as it is for all breathing creatures. As the street corner prophet proclaims, "the end is nigh." Here, scripted in a mechanical channel between life and death, is the heart of the poem,

The MRI- The camera covers all The angles: close-ups and long shots. My heart is a ham. It performs An unscripted dance.

A cocoon immerses me in Mozart's music. A tunnel floods with light; Still, I want to dream.

The technician keeps me alert. "Breathe, exhale, hold your breath." I am drowning in light.

Another well-wrought villanelle, entitled *Cemetery Visit*, appears late in the collection. Overcome by guilt, the narrator addresses his long dead father, a father who monopolizes his prayers. Not surprising, since many petitioners see their earthly father's face as the face of God. Procrastination, rebellion, and letting-go are the issues to be faced within the poet's art, not emotionally, but in a quasi-logical, rhythmic way. Gardner negotiates with himself and nears a conclusion,

All our lives are merely on loan. I rebel and demand to know why. I write, rather than visit, to atone.

When grindstone struggle compels a groan, I imagine his face in cloud framed sky. Years have passed since we've seen our father's stone.

It's simple to observe that we are prone To procrastinate when we should stop by. I write, instead of visit, to atone.

Gardner's dry-eyed, masterly meditations throughout this collection border on the metaphysical, that is, before stoicism intervenes. Over and over this poet's understated inventions portend a new world and a concomitant genesis of acceptance and healing. Amen. Yes, amen to that.



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