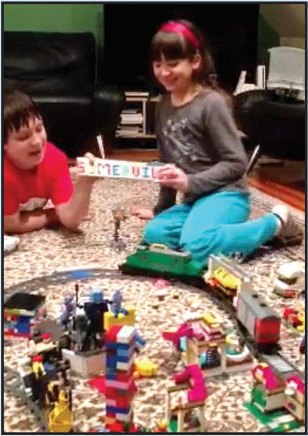




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## Getting a fair shot at a great vocation



Somerville students and their parents got an up-close look at programs and facilities offered by The Center for Career and Technical Education at Somerville High School at their annual Vocational Fair last Saturday. Turn to pages 12—13 for more information and pictures of the event.

## Next on the list

City ends negotiations with Tufts over Powder House School

By David R. Smith

While what will eventually replace the vacant Powder House School on Broadway may not be known, one thing's for certain: It won't have anything to do with Tufts.

In a surprise announcement last week, city officials said negotiations with Tufts over the university's plans for the site had ended after Tufts was unable to commit to a timeline for the project and said it would not likely develop the site for 15 years.

The Powder House School Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended three of six submissions last August in response to a request for proposals (RFP), with the Tufts plan receiving the highest score among the three.

Because the timeframe did not meet the terms set forth in the RFP, Mayor Joseph Curtatone ended the exclusive negotiating agreement with Tufts, which had offered around \$2.7 million for the property. The city will retain the university's \$10,000 deposit, which will be marked for improvements in the neighborhood around the school. Committing to a the timeline for breaking ground on the

Continued on page 5

## Subpar Co-star: Artistic force of nature

By Blake Maddux

James Force is a tall, curly-haired redhead and self-described "lo-fi bohemian." He records and performs under the alias Subpar Co-star. His influences run the gamut from writers such as Aesop and Shel Silverstein to musicians as diverse as Tom Petty, Weezer, and Nine Inch Nails.

Force moved to the Boston area in 2007, the year after he graduated with a degree in economics from the University of Southern Maine. In 2009, he co-founded the band Death and the Dance Machine, which stayed together until 2011. During that time, Force recorded *Gidgets and Gadgets*, his first Subpar Co-star album.

His latest offering is *The Idiot*, from which he will be performing songs at Bull McCabe's April 4. Force answered some questions via email about his newfound inspirations, his musical collaborators and the transformation of the Union Square neighborhood that he calls home.

**Blake Maddux:** Who inspired the title of your new album, Fyodor Dostoyevsky or Iggy Pop?

**James Force:** I took the title of the new album from Fyodor. I am a big

Continued on page 21



James Force et al — a.k.a. Subpar Co-star — will be presenting his music and green vest at Bull McCabe's on April 4.

Photo by Kelly Davidson Studio.com

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Enjoy an afternoon with Irish storyteller Joe Keane. He will be weaving a collection of his own work with tales for the past as he offers deeper insight into the magic of Irish traditions and landscape. The event will be held Sunday, April 6, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave.

\*\*\*\*\*

Agassiz Preschool is an arts-based, parent cooperative, where all children can learn to fully be themselves. Join the kids of Agassiz, their parents, teachers and neighbors from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 12, on the corner of Spring and Summer streets for a dynamic and creative event that showcases local and “repurposed” art in a fundraiser to help fund enrollment of local, preschool-aged children at the school. Enjoy live music, sample delicious fare from a variety of Somerville’s culinary masters, sip tasty local brews and exchange your monetary donation to the Agassiz Scholarship Fund for fabulous artworks and arts-related services provided by the artists, artisans, and “amateur collectors” in the community in a fun and relaxed silent auction. Afternoon events include crafts for kids, a photo booth (appropriate for all ages!), and a drawing to win a grand prize food and drink package from local vendors and restaurants. Come nourish the development of creative, independent minds and a sense of community while supporting local businesses and buying great art!

\*\*\*\*\*

Tonight (Wednesday) is the public hearing on the Powder House School. Now that Tufts is out of the picture, let’s hope the city now does the right thing in finding a real developer that will build something that the city can benefit from both in looks and taxes. The meeting is in the Tufts Administration Building on Holland Street (Old Western Junior High for those Villens out there) at 6:30 p.m. Make your voices heard on the proposals - or lack of them. Don’t let hired outside planning department employees dictate what they want.

\*\*\*\*\*

“The Duhamel Education Initiative” will be having its 18th annual Pancake Breakfast this SATURDAY, MARCH 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the First Congregational Church, 89 College Ave. (enter through the side

Continued on page 11

### TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

#### Response to *City ends negotiations with Tufts on Powder House School redevelopment*

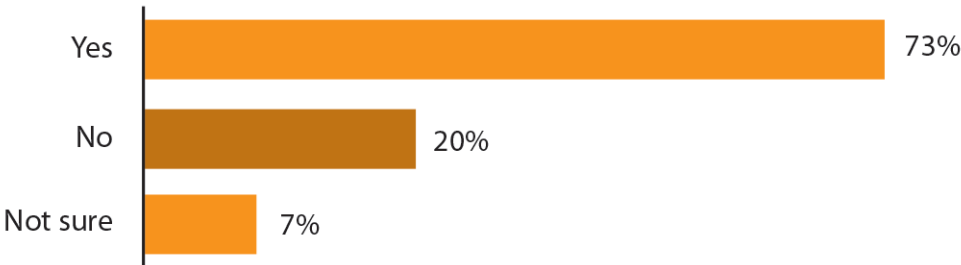
- Jim says:
- This is terribly unfortunate. If Tufts had any sense, they’d consolidate offices at the Powder House School property which would free up on-campus space for more dorms.
- Franklin says:
- Best news I have seen in some time. Tufts has been exploiting Somerville for generations. The idea of giving Tufts a gem location was a sickening one. Particularly when its clear the city needs a new high school. Joey C is typically in their pocket. Glad he had the sense to walk away this time. Kudos
- question says:
- If a timetable was included in the RFP, why would Tufts wait until now to announce they cannot commit to anything less than 15 years? Or did person or persons on the committee know this and keep it to themselves? Or has Tufts become so arrogant and entitled that they assumed the city would be happy to just sit back and wait?
- whofightsforus says:
- I continue to be saddened by the fact that the city never stands up for the residents. When Tufts’ proposal would create too much traffic/parking problems, or the neighbors wanted better, why does the city never take a stand and say that’s not what we are looking for. And it isn’t just Tufts, it’s all development across the city.
- Sleezy Robbie says:
- Tufts doesn’t have the money... Righto, because all the money goes to pay the fat cats in administration.

Log onto *TheSomervilleTimes.com* to leave your own comments

### TheSomervilleTimes.com poll of the week

In addition to breaking news, sports and opinion, TheSomervilleTimes.com also features a daily poll in which you, the reader, tell us where you come down on local issues. Last week’s poll concerned your views on whether or not you agree with the city’s decision to end negotiations with Tufts University on their proposed project for redeveloping the former Powder House School. If you don’t agree with the results, simply log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com.

#### Do you agree with the city’s decision to end negotiations with Tufts University on their proposed project for redeveloping the former Powder House School?



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## City jumps 2 bond ratings by Standard & Poor's

By David R. Smith

Standard & Poor's has raised Somerville's bond rating from the city's previous high of "AA-" to its new high of "AA+," which represents a two-ratings jump. The new rating is just one step away from S&P's highest designation of "AAA." Higher bond ratings typically result in lower interest rates for municipalities when it comes to borrowing and financing for projects.

In its report, the bond-rating agency cited the city's strong financial practices and budget management, low overall debt, strong capacity to meet its financial commitments -including aggressively paying off debt- and a robust, growing economy.

"Standard & Poor's upgrade of our bond rating affirms that our approach is the right approach, balancing conservative budgeting with ongoing strategic investment in our community and a

long-term development vision laid out in SomerVision," Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone said, referring to the city's 20-year comprehensive plan designed to codify the community's goals on issues such as housing and development.

The report was issued March 13 and specifically cites the city's strong management conditions and prudent budget performance, with the city realizing a surplus equal to 1.9 percent of spending across all funds in fiscal 2013. A decade ago, the city's fund equity, a strong indicator of a community's fiscal health, stood at \$11.5 million. While other communities suffered losses in fund equity over the past decade due to the economy, the city's fund equity today is \$47 million, with fiscal '13's increase of \$5.4 million the highest one-year increase in the city's history.

Standard & Poor's noted the city's budget flexibility achieved by conservative budgeting and saving

*Continued on page 19*

## Proposed legislation would increase residential tax exemption

Somerville homeowners would receive the highest property tax exemption in the state under a proposal recently submitted by Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone to the Board of Aldermen, and the city continues to explore increasing exemptions, which are already double the state's limits, for seniors, veterans, widows and those with disabilities.

The proposed home rule petition, which requires approval by the state, would boost Somerville's residential property tax exemption from 30 to 35 percent. Homes with a residential exemption this year account for 58 percent of the homes in the city.

This year, two-thirds of the properties in the city saw tax-bill increases between 1 and 9 percent. The state's required triennial revaluation, however, resulted in more substantial increases in assessed values for the first time since before the "Great Recession" began in 2007, which led to some homeowners seeing larger increases.

"This is no different than investing in any of the programs we have to help people in our community who are vulnerable," Curtatone said. "The property tax is perhaps the most regressive tax, levied without taking into account a taxpayer's income or ability to pay the tax and disproportionately affecting the middle class, retirees and small businesses. Residential property tax bills in Somerville are still lower than in most neighboring towns, but our families and seniors could face greater burdens in the future without action."

*Continued on page 14*



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## 3 Somerville kids chosen to serve on Legoland's Junior Construction Panel



The Chiu siblings of Somerville, Owen, 11, and Nora, 8, were among the 12 children chosen from more than 600 entries to serve as the new Legoland Discovery Center Boston's Junior Construction Panel. The photo here is a still from the video they submitted for the contest.

Legoland Discovery Center Boston has selected 12 young Lego fans to serve on the inaugural Junior Construction Panel. Three Somerville residents, Owen Chiu, 11, Nora Chiu, 8, and Henry Wallis, 8, were among the dozen kids who were selected out of more than 600 applicants to help resident Master Model Builder Ian Coffey with tasks and events at the new attraction, which opens May 23 at Assembly Row.

The Chiu siblings and Wallis submitted an application with a video and photo and written response respectively that answered the questions: "What makes you the biggest LEGO fan?" And "Why should you be on the Junior Construction Panel?"

The three were selected by Coffey and were judged on the creativity and enthusiasm exhibited in their submissions, and the imagination conveyed in their Lego models. The first item on the Junior Con-

struction Panel's agenda will be helping Coffey at the grand opening celebration May 23. Tickets for the new Legoland Discovery Center Boston, the only attraction of its kind in New England, can be pre-purchased online.

"I was floored by the number of entries for our Junior Construction Panel contest and so impressed with the creativity of New England's young Lego fans," Coffey said. "I've been building with Lego bricks since I was a child and can't wait to meet the junior ambassadors and see their imagination and building skills first hand."

LEGOLAND Discovery Center Boston will host a search for the Junior Construction Panel each year. Parents with kids aged 5-12 who are interested should sign up for the LEGOLAND Discovery Center Boston newsletter and become a fan on Facebook to receive updates.

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# THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

## ‘God’ gets a DUI

Police were dispatched to Fasi-ka Ethiopian Restaurant on Broadway at approximately 3:00 a.m. Sunday on reports of a fight in progress.

Arriving officers spotted a man sitting in an idling vehicle in front of the restaurant engaged in a verbal argument with two other males on the sidewalk.

When officers attempted to get the driver’s attention by flashing their lights the vehicle sped away, making a wrong turn onto Minnesota Ave. without signaling.

The officers on the scene fol-

lowed in pursuit, while other units in the area were alerted to the situation and asked to be on the lookout for the vehicle.

The suspect, later identified as Atakilti Tasew, 29, was soon found as he returned to Broadway and pulled his vehicle the side of the street.

Tasew reportedly got out of his vehicle as officers approached him for questioning.

The officers reported that Tasew appeared to be intoxicated and that he smelled of alcohol. They reportedly said that

his eyes were glassy and blood-shot and that his speech was slurred. His belt was reportedly unbuckled and his pants had sagged below his waist. Tasew leaned against his vehicle as he was questioned and seemed to have trouble standing unassisted, police said.

Officers informed Tasew that they had been called to the area because of a report of a fight involving a gun. Tasew reportedly replied that he had been hit in the face. The officers noted that there appeared

to be a lump between his eyebrows that was bleeding slightly, according to reports.

Tasew was asked if he needed medical attention but reportedly refused.

Police asked Tasew why he had fled when they approached and he reportedly answered, “Do what you gotta do then.”

When he was asked to provide his driver’s license he reportedly responded, “I don’t have a gun dog.”

According to police, Tasew was uncooperative during their questioning of him and shouted

continuously, generally off-topic from their inquiries.

When asked once again why he fled the scene he reportedly told the officers, “Because I’m a god.”

The officers determined that Tasew was intoxicated while driving and placed him under arrest. He was charged with threat to commit a crime, failure to stop for police, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license, and operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor.

## Suspected heroin user/dealer found

Police were dispatched to a Cedar St. location last week as a heroin overdose had been reported there on the evening of the 17th.

The victim was found to be at the corner of Cedar Ave. and Cedar St. Upon questioning, the victim reportedly told police that he had bought the heroin from someone named “Sean.”

Hearing what they believed to be the crunching of leaves in the backyard of a nearby residence, officers searched the area with their flashlights and discovered a man crouched, hiding behind a tree.

The man, Sean Curtis, 28, reportedly called out to the officers, “You found me, I give up.”

Police asked Curtis if he had any drugs or paraphernalia on him and he reportedly told them that he did not and that they could search him.

Officers conducted a pat search and reportedly felt what seemed to be a small packet of powder in the watch pocket of his jeans.

Curtis denied knowing what was in the pocket, but when police removed the contents it was reportedly found to be a small plastic bag containing a powdery substance that they believed to be heroin.

Further searches of Curtis’ person reportedly yielded a substantial amount of cash as well as a hypodermic needle.

Curtis reportedly admitted to using heroin that day and was placed under arrest on a charge of possession of a class A drug.

### SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

**David Kakles**, 45, of 74 Wheatland St., March 17, 5:26 a.m., arrested at home on a charge of assault and battery.

**Robert Gibson**, 64, of 56 Fremont St., March 17, 1:52 p.m., arrested at 25 Highland Ave. on a charge of failure to register as a sex offender.

**Sean Curtis**, 28, of 8 Cedar Ave., March 17, 11:42 p.m., arrested at 12 Cedar Ave. on a charge of possession of a class A drug.

**Charles Higgins**, 32, March 18, 7:27 p.m., arrested at 75 Mystic Ave. on a charge of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and on warrant charges of possession of a class B drug and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

**Oliver Dunbar**, 45, of 21 Sewall St., March 19, 12:44 a.m., arrested at home on a charge of assault and battery.

**Edelmiro Flores**, 45, of 1370 Broadway, March 20, 12:56 a.m., arrested at 1366 Broadway on a charge of assault and battery.

**Jason Morrissey**, 28, of 198 Grove St., Manchester, NH, March 20, 3:01 p.m., arrested at 175 Fellsway on a warrant

charge of receiving stolen property over \$250.

**Fernando Pena-Seuro**, 35, of 175 Moody, Lowell, March 20, 3:07 p.m., arrested at 12 Dana St. on charges of trafficking in cocaine and conspiracy to violate drug law.

**Joao Desouza**, 54, of 248 Broadway, March 20, 3:07 p.m., arrested at 12 Dana St. on a charge of conspiracy to violate drug law.

**Michael Morash**, 39, of 19 St. Marks Rd., Dorchester, March 20, 5:01 p.m., arrested at 75 Mystic Ave. on a charge of shoplifting by asportation.

**Fredys Rodriguez**, 35, of 21 Beacon Hill Ave., Lynn, March 21, 4:51 p.m., arrested at 709 McGrath Hwy. on a warrant charge of speeding.

**Austin Hurley**, 20, of 11 Cedar St., March 21, 11:17 p.m., arrested at home on charges of disorderly conduct and threat to commit a crime.

**Laura Alvarez**, 22, of 26 Kensington Ave., March 22, 9:07 p.m., arrested at 181 Broadway on a warrant charge of larceny under \$250.

**Atakilti Tasew**, 29, March 23, 3:03 a.m., arrested at 147 Broadway on charges of threat

to commit a crime, failure to stop for police, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license, and operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor.

**Incidents:**

**Theft:**

March 17, 12:29 p.m., police reported a theft at Broadway.

March 17, 11:48 p.m., police reported a theft at Hanson St.

March 17, 11:58 p.m., police reported a theft at 519 Somerville Ave.

March 18, 10:08 p.m., police reported a theft at Great River Rd.

March 18, 2:51 p.m., police reported a theft at Memorial Rd.

March 19, 10:53 a.m., police reported a theft at Tyler St.

March 20, 1:34 a.m., police reported a theft at Flint Ave.

March 20, 8:27 a.m., police reported a theft at Foley St.

March 20, 11:28 a.m., police reported a theft at Highland Ave.

March 20, 5:01 p.m., police reported a theft at 75 Mystic Ave.

March 21, 10:26 a.m., police

reported a theft at Josephine Ave.

March 21, 4:18 p.m., police reported a theft at Franey Rd.

**Breaking & Entering:**

March 21, 12:03 p.m., police reported a breaking & entering at Reed Ct.

**Theft From Vehicle:**

March 18, 9:28 a.m., police reported a theft from a vehicle at Waterhouse St.

March 18, 6:29 p.m., police reported a theft from a vehicle at Hooker Ave.

March 19, 8:59 a.m., police reported a theft from a vehicle at Gov. Winthrop Rd.

March 20, 7:18 a.m., police reported a theft from a vehicle at Temple Rd.

March 23, 2:54 p.m., police reported a theft from a vehicle at Pinckney St.

**Assault:**

March 17, 5:26 a.m., police reported an assault at Wheatland St.

March 18, 7:57 a.m., police reported an assault at Alewife Brook Pkwy.

March 19, 12:44 a.m., police reported an assault at Sewall St.

March 19, 11:43 a.m., police

reported an assault at 91 Highland Ave.

March 20, 12:56 a.m., police reported an assault at Broadway.

March 23, 6:38 p.m., police reported an assault at Liberty Rd.

**Vandalism:**

March 17, 11:51 a.m., police reported a vandalism at Fitchburg St.

March 18, 3:27 p.m., police reported a vandalism at Madison St.

March 21, 2:53 p.m., police reported a vandalism at Bristol Rd.

March 23, 12:19 a.m., police reported a vandalism at Marshall St.

March 23, 11:51 p.m., police reported a vandalism at Gilman St.

**Drug Violation:**

March 17, 11:42 p.m., police reported a drug violation at Cedar Ave.

March 20, 3:07 p.m., police reported a drug violation at Dana St.

**DUI:**

March 23, 3:03 a.m., police reported a driving under the influence at 147 Broadway.



# Police chief survey now available

By David R. Smith

Filling in a few circles could go a long way towards helping the city in its search for a new police chief well suited to Somerville.

A survey is now available for residents to take as the city begins formulating its goals to replace former Police Chief Tom Pasquarello, who was hired in 2010 but resigned this past November to care for an ill family member. Charles Femino has served as acting police chief since Pasquarello's resignation took effect Dec. 1.

The confidential 18-question survey asks residents to respond to a variety of issues using a scale that ranges from "not important" to "extremely important." It also includes an optional section for respondents to include demographic information.

The questions ask, for example, such things as the importance of the chief's visibility within the

department, his or her participation in community events and commitment to training and career development.

A handful of the questions appear to be in direct response to a community meeting held March 5 at the East Somerville Community School to solicit input from the public on the qualities they would like to see in a new chief. The questions on the survey reflecting responses from residents at that meeting include rating the importance of a potential chief's commitment to civil and individual liberties, experience in dealing with the youth community and relationship building.

The city has hired the Waters Consulting Group, an executive recruitment firm, to assist with developing the criteria, placing the advertising and attracting a pool of candidates to present to the nine-member Police Chief Selection Committee. The sur-

vey responses will be used by Waters to create a brochure containing the required qualities and qualifications as part of its search for applicants.

The Police Chief Search Committee will reduce the pool of applicants to somewhere between three and five candidates who will take part in a public interview, with residents and community members invited to attend and submit written questions ahead of time. The mayor will make the final selection, likely by this coming fall, which will then be presented to the Board of Aldermen for approval.

In addition to the online survey on the city's website ([www.somerville.ma.gov](http://www.somerville.ma.gov)), hard copies are available at the schools, police department, library and City Hall. The surveys, which are available in English, Haitian Creole, Spanish and Portuguese, are due back by April 7.

# Somerville PD joins Middlesex County interagency agreement

The Middlesex County Chiefs of Police Association announced the signing last week of the Massachusetts Interagency Mutual Aid Agreement, authorized by state law, which will empowers on-duty police officers in one jurisdiction to respond to public safety emergencies in other participating jurisdictions in certain circumstances.

The historic agreement, to date signed by 51 of the 54 communities in Middlesex County, as well as Wellesley, Lynnfield and Saugus, establishes a strategic working partnership among the police departments that will provide community benefits in both day-to-day life and during a major incident.

The crux of the agreement is twofold: First, police chiefs now have a formal method of requesting immediate mutual-aid assistance from neighboring communities during a critical incident or crime in progress;

second, an on-duty police officer, who may be traveling to court for the day or transporting a prisoner, can act if they observe a drunk driver or other unlawful behavior while traveling through another community.

"Police officers are expected to always be police officers, and they should never have to put themselves or others in danger by hastily rushing to stop a reckless driver or wanted felon before the town line," Weston Police Chief Steven Shaw, president of the Middlesex County Chiefs of Police Association, said. "Crime doesn't stop at the border, and this agreement will help ensure that criminals can't escape the law by escaping one community."

The agreement is the product of more than a year of research and work by a special subcommittee of the Middlesex County Chiefs of Police Association, led by Arlington Police Chief

Frederick Ryan. The work stemmed from two Supreme Judicial Court Decisions: *Commonwealth v. LeBlanc* (1990) and *Commonwealth v. Bartlett* (2013).

In the LeBlanc case, a drunk driver's case was thrown out because a Natick police officer followed the driver, who had been speeding and ran a red light, over the border into Framingham. The case left police with little recourse under the law at the time.

The Bartlett case, however, held that police departments could establish interagency mutual aid agreements, extending policing powers to neighboring communities. Middlesex is the first county in Massachusetts to sign such an agreement.

The agreement also covers nearly every community that the 2014 Boston Marathon will pass through. Major events like the marathon attacks last year and the security efforts for the marathon this year underscore the need for cooperation among different law-enforcement organizations.

"Major events in Massachusetts and elsewhere have highlighted the need for police departments to work together more effectively, and these events have shown that we are

*Continued on page 19*

# Tractor-trailer gets caught in power lines



A tractor-trailer got snagged on low hanging power lines on Packard Avenue early Monday afternoon. The driver was not injured, although the accident did knock out power in the area and led to the road being closed for several hours.

## Next on the list CONT. FROM PG 1

development, set at three years in the RFP, is just one of many details that needs to be settled before the city can draft the required land disposition agreement for whoever ends up developing the 87,599-square-foot parcel.

Additional criteria in the RFP included the experience of the development team in developing the project and leading a community design process, the long-term economic impact of the proposal, as well as the price offered for the property. According to RFP criteria, the pedestrian route from Broadway to Holland Street must be preserved, enhanced and maintained by the community partner. The vote of the Board of Aldermen to surplus the land also requires that a minimum of 40 percent of the site must remain public open space.

Tufts' initial plan options included two office buildings, or an office building and housing with a cap of 35 units. Neighbors who took part in the first design session in January quickly opted for a scaled-back plan of just one office building and no residential units. Two such design sessions were held, as was a community follow-up meeting. The final community meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, to discuss the plans will still be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Tufts Administration Building on Holland Street. The focus, though, will be on the recent change in course.

While the meetings focused on design elements of both the building and recreational features that could be included in

the open-space design, there was no indication from Tufts officials regarding what purpose the building would serve.

"Unfortunately, while Tufts was successful at engaging the community in designing a building and a park, they could not commit to a timetable that meets the terms of the agreement as well as the community's desires, hopes and expectations for the site," Curtatone said in a statement. "I look forward to continuing to partner with this tremendous resource in our community, while finding the right partner to help us achieve the community's vision for the Powder House School."

The mayor will reconvene the TAC to revisit the alternate bidders to see if either proposal is still viable.

The proposal from the first alternate bidder, Davis Square Partners, is all residential and includes 30 to 40 units of family-sized housing with publicly accessible open space. The company, which offered \$3.5 million in its bid, developed the Maxwell's Green apartment complex.

"We truly appreciate the professionalism and collaboration shown by Mayor Curtatone, his team, the Technical Advisory Committee, members of the Board of Aldermen and Somerville residents who devoted extensive time and attention to reviewing our proposal," Mary Jeka, Tufts senior vice president for university relations, said in the statement released by the city. "Tufts remains committed to working closely with the city of Somerville in the future."

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# Film festival brings Ireland to Davis Square

**By Jack Adams**

The Somerville Theater hosted the annual Boston Irish Film Festival (BIFF) from March 20 to 23. The event is the largest Irish film festival outside of Ireland and was established in 1999.

The first screening Friday was Ian Fitzgibbon's short *Breakfast Wine*, starring Dylan Moran (*Sean of the Dead*, *Notting Hill*). Both Fitzgibbon and Moran were present for the screening and answered questions afterward. The film's description goes: "They say it takes just three alcoholics to keep a small bar running in a country town, but what if you've only got two?"

*Breakfast Wine* starts with three men drinking alone in a bar, until a woman unexpectedly enters. She had left her husband that very morning. The three men fumble for words, as obvi-

ously not very many attractive women come into the bar. She asks for wine, of which the bar only has three small bottles. Although the running time is only 11 minutes, the film manages to be both funny and intense.

*Life's a Breeze* was up next, an Irish feature-length film about a family during the recession. The tagline for the film is, "Unemployed slacker Colm (Pat Shortt), his aging mother Nan (Fionnula Flanagan) and his niece Emma (Kelly Thornton) must overcome their many differences to lead their family in a race against time to find a lost fortune. Who said life's a breeze?" Actress Kelly Thornton was there for a Q&A after the film.

The festival gives awards for Best Film, Best Documentary, Best Short Fiction/Animation and Director's Choice. Both *Life's a Breeze* and *Break-*



**Ian Fitzgibbon, Director of *Breakfast Wine*.**

*fast Wine* won Director's Choice, for feature and short respectively. The best feature went to *Run & Jump*, which

screened Thursday.

The festival was sold out for Friday night. The BIFF also included family-friendly films

screened regularly, such as *Lost and Found*, the story of a boy who finds a penguin and decides to return it to the South Pole.

## Kawaii-me boutique to host special Union Sq. event

By Jeremy F. van der Heiden

Union Square has served as a central hub for Main Street stores in the past several years, with countless fashion shops, niche eateries and stylish retailers making the Somerville neighborhood even more colorful. It will also be the location for “Kawaii-Me: A Behind-the-Scenes Beauty Experience,” which is scheduled to take place Saturday, April 12.

Funded by the increasingly popular Kickstarter portal in just two-days, the event will celebrate the fashion and beauty-related businesses that call Union Square home through a centralized runway of sorts. Organizers have issued an open invitation to fashionistas of all types to participate and get a behind-the-scenes look at what a fashion show is all about.

Those who attend will be provided with an opportunity to experience professional hair, makeup and clothing stations, as well as the chance to walk

down the runway and pose for a photo op.

Sophia X. Chang designed the one-of-a-kind installation that will serve as the setting for the event. Participants who have signed on thus far include photographer Cila Miculic, the Kawaii-me Boutique, Kaya Beauty and Spa, fashion designer Nillton Rodrigues, Salon 22 and Secret Ships. More Union Square-based salons are expected to join by the time of the event.

Kawaii-me boutique was launched by entrepreneurs Gabriela and Priscila Miculic, who wanted to provide women with affordable, stylish clothing. Their shop will serve as the venue for the event after its transformation through the runway installation.

Shu Lai Talun, one of the organizers, explained that this project began as an idea to give Kawaii-me a bit more visibility but quickly transformed into a more communal event that aims to unite the various niche retail

shops in the area.

“At the end of last year, the Somerville Arts Council sent out a call for ‘creative individuals to create, produce and manage cultural events that would reinvigorate the artistic and business landscape in Union Square,’” Talun explained. “Most people know Union Square as a food destination, with its unique markets and ethnic grocery stores. This project aims to suggest another layer in the destination of Union Square: a place where unique wearables are imported, fabricated, curated and sold.”

Talun also noted that this project serves as an opportunity to highlight the unique stories each participant has to tell, offering them a platform to make their mark on Union Square.

"As a resident and an architect, it is my belief that designers have the tools to affect our cultural and economic landscape and should play an active role in energizing our neighborhoods," she said. "This grant from the



Saturday, April 12 is fashion day in Union Square as *Kawaii-Me: A Behind-the-Scenes Beauty Experience* takes center stage.

SAC was the perfect opportunity for me to put that belief into practice. I look forward to participating in future dialogues about retaining and amplifying Union Square's unique creative economy."

The project comes with the further aim of enabling local businesses to strengthen their

roots in the economic landscape as Union Square continues to be the target of redevelopment plans and investments.

More information regarding the event can be found at the SAC's website, as well as the Kickstarter page and the Kawaii-me boutique's Facebook page.

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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators’ votes on three roll calls from the week of March 17-21. There were no roll calls in the House last week.

Our Legislators in the House and Senate for Somerville:



**Rep. Denise Provost**  
**DISTRICT REPRESENTED:** Twenty-seventh Middlesex. - Consisting of precinct 3 of ward 2, all precincts of ward 3, precinct 3 of ward 4, and all precincts of wards 5 and 6, of the city of Somerville, in the county of Middlesex.



**Rep. Carl Sciortino**  
**DISTRICT REPRESENTED:** Thirty-fourth Middlesex. - Consisting of all precincts in wards 4 and 5, precinct 1 of ward 7, and precinct 2 of ward 8, of the city of Medford, precincts 1 and 2 of ward 4, and all precincts of ward 7, of the city of Somerville, both in the county of Middlesex.



**Rep. Timothy Toomey**  
**DISTRICT REPRESENTED:** Twenty-sixth Middlesex. - Consisting of all precincts of ward 1, precinct 1 of ward 2, precincts 1 and 2 of ward 3, and precinct 1 of ward 6, of the city of Cambridge, and all precincts of ward 1 and precincts 1 and 2 of ward 2, of the city of Somerville, both in the county of Middlesex.



**Sen. Patricia Jehlen**  
**DISTRICT REPRESENTED:** Second Middlesex. - Consisting of the cities of Cambridge, wards 9 to 11, inclusive, Medford and Somerville, and the town of Winchester, precincts 4 to 7, inclusive, in the county of Middlesex.

**HELP MILITARY FAMILIES (S 2052)**  
Senate 39-0, approved a conference committee version of the VALOR II Act, a bill that would expand financial and education benefits and many other services for veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families. Provisions include increasing penalties for disturbances of military funerals; allowing college students who are called to active duty the option to complete their courses at a later date or withdraw and receive a refund of all tuition and fees; and allowing private-sector employers to give preference to veterans and spouses of 100 percent disabled veterans.

Supporters noted that one in three homeless people in the nation are veterans, and that one in five Massachusetts veterans suffer post-traumatic stress and 11 percent suffer traumatic brain injuries. They said the state should provide these additional benefits and opportunities to the thousands of Bay State veterans who have served and are still serving our nation.

The proposal now goes to the House for action.

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Sal DiDomenico	Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

**FEMALE INMATES (S 2063)**  
Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that would prohibit the shackling of a female prisoner during pregnancy, labor and delivery except to prevent her from escaping or seriously injuring herself or others. It would also establish minimum standards for the treatment and medical care of pregnant prisoners to promote safe and healthy pregnancy outcomes, including adequate nutrition and prenatal care.

Supporters said it is outrageous that shackling a female prisoner during birth is still legal in the year 2014. They argued it is long past time to approve this prohibition.

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Sal DiDomenico	Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

**ANTI-BULLYING (S 2055)**  
Senate 37-1, approved a bill adding some provisions to the state’s 2010 anti-bullying law that requires all public and private schools to develop and implement a plan to prevent bullying and to discipline bullies. The bill requires that each plan recognize that some students may be more vulnerable to become targets of bullying based on “race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, socioeconomic status, homelessness, academic status, gender identity or expression, physical appearance, pregnant or parenting status, sexual orientation, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability.” The measure also requires schools to annually report bullying data to the state. The House and Senate have approved different versions of the proposal. The Senate version now goes to the House for consideration.

Supporters said these changes will enhance the law and save countless children from a lifetime of physical and emotional scars and worse.

The lone opponent said he agrees that bullying must be stopped but said the bill is another unfunded state mandate that stretches administrative staff with additional

unnecessary paperwork.

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

Sen. Sal DiDomenico	Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**\$177 MILLION FOR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS (H 3930)** - Gov. Deval Patrick signed into law a bill that would provide \$177 million to make improvements at and expand the state’s six military installations.

Supporters say these military installations account for a total economic impact of \$14.2 billion and support more than 46,500 Massachusetts jobs. They argue defense and homeland security federal contracts collectively generate more than 130,000 jobs.

Opponents question whether state dollars should be used for a national purpose. They argue the money would be better spent on state problems like unemployment, education, health care and clean energy, some of which will help create jobs.

**POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION (H 3897)** - The Public Health Committee gave a favorable report to legislation that would make all MassHealth subscribers eligible for benefits that cover screening for post-partum depression for up to one year after the birth. Postpartum depression is a serious condition that can affect women following childbirth. MassHealth is the state’s Medicaid program that provides health care for qualified low-income and disabled persons.

**WAIVER FOR LANDLORDS (S 1954)** - The Committee on Public Health heard testimony on legislation that would grant local boards of health or the state Department of Public Health the power to grant a waiver relieving landlords of their obligation to provide heat during unseasonably warm outdoor temperatures. Under current law, landlords are required to provide heat between September 15 and June 15.

Supporters noted this common sense measure would allow landlords to turn off the heat and provide air-conditioning during those frequent hot May and June days. They noted that under current law, landlords’ hands are tied and they are prohibited from providing air-conditioning until June 15.

**TRANSGENDER PROTECTION (H 3625)** - The House approved and sent to the Senate a bill that would add gender identity as a group protected from discrimination in the Boston housing market. Current law prohibits discrimination in several areas including race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, handicap, source of income and military status.

Supporters said it is long past the time to give transgenders equal housing protections and ensure sellers and landlords so not discriminate against them.

**PET EVACUATION (S 1172)** - The Senate approved and sent to the governor legislation that would require cities’ and towns’ emergency evacuation plans during a disaster to include household pets and service animals.

Supporters say that owners are often faced with the



# Beacon Hill Roll Call

continued



choice of evacuating and abandoning their pets or remaining in the home and putting themselves and first responders in danger. They note that pets left behind often meet a tragic death.

Although there was no real debate on the bill, some animal advocates question why there is no provision for the evacuation of animals that are being bred for sale and technically are not household pets.

**TWO TEACHERS ON BOARD OF EDUCATION (S 226)** - The Education Committee has recommended passage of a bill that would put two current teachers on the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The two members would be chosen by the governor from a list of three candidates recommended by the Massachusetts Teachers Association and three by the American Federation of Teachers.

Supporters said the two teachers would be able to provide firsthand experience and information on the challenges facing teachers today.

**ALLOW LOTTERY GAMES ONLINE (S 101)** - The Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure recommended that a bill allowing the Lottery Commission to begin the institution of online games be shipped off to a study committee. Most measures that are shipped off to a study committee are never actually studied and are essentially defeated.

Supporters of the bill say the Lottery Commission would like to begin to experiment with online games and needs a change in the law to do so. Some supporters argue that online games will generate more revenue that the state could use.

Opponents of the bill include convenience store owners who depend on lottery sales for revenue and to bring in customers for other purchases.

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

“All women deserve a safe, healthy pregnancy and birth experience. It is shocking and outrageous that shackling is something that still happens, and with this vote today we are making a clear, strong statement that we do not allow the shackling of pregnant women in Massachusetts.” — *Sen. Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) on her bill that would prohibit the shackling of a female prisoner during pregnancy, labor and delivery.*

“If enough large funds divest from fossil fuel companies, we’ll send a powerful message to governments and the industry: It’s time for action on climate change.” — *Israel Pierre, Treasurer of SEIU Local 509, in support of a bill that would require the Massachusetts pension fund to divest fossil fuel companies.*

“This winter has been harsh and slow to depart. People are having to pay more to heat their houses and apartments than they expected ... Extending the moratorium ... will give customers some breathing room to cope with those higher prices.” — *Secretary of State William Galvin on urging state utilities regulators to extend for one month a moratorium that prevents utilities from turning off gas and electric home heating service for non-payment of bills.*

“We need to hold local and state officials accountable for playing accomplice to a misguided and cruel federal deportation policy.” — *Patricia Montes, Executive Director of Centro Presente, a Latino immigrant organization, on a bill that would curtail the use of local and state resources on federal deportation quota programs.*

**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 17-21, the House met for a total of nine hours and 50 minutes and the Senate met for a total of seven hours and 49 minutes.

Mon. March 17	House 11:03 a.m. to 4:39 p.m. Senate 11:02 a.m. to 4:51 p.m.
Tues. March 18	No House session No Senate session
Wed. March 19	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. March 20	House 11:02 a.m. to 3:16 p.m. Senate 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Fri. March 21	No House session No Senate session

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

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## COMMENTARY

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

## Investing in people pays off



By Joseph A. Curtatone

Somerville and its taxpayers received good news this week. We already had the highest bond ratings in our history. Now, Standard & Poor's has raised our rating from AA- to a new high of AA+. That's the second highest rating on the agency's scale, only one spot from the rare AAA rating. This upgrade follows Moody's Investors Service reaffirming the city's Aa2 rating last year, only two spots

from that agency's similarly rare Aaa rating. These high bond ratings mean that anytime the city borrows money for a project, like rebuilding the East Somerville Community School or Argenziano School, building the roads and utilities that support our neighborhoods, or rebuilding parks and open space, we get phenomenally low interest rates, which means that taxpayers pay less for the projects that improve our community.

How did we get here, even despite the challenges we have faced along the way? We did it by believing in ourselves by investing in ourselves. It started a decade ago, when we faced a limping economy, slashed state aid and soaring fixed costs. In Washington and on Beacon

Hill, the same, tired, short-sighted battle—that bewilderingly still rages today—waged on the floors of Congress and the State House. It even waged in a city as progressive as Somerville. Lured by the temptation of an uncomplicated path, pessimists with a fundamental disdain for government said: Cut blindly. Slash services. Invest less. They said to every one of you, to every person in this community: Go it alone. We can't do anything for you.

Ten years of growing prosperity later, today we know one undeniable fact: They were wrong. In Somerville, we rejected the over-simplified more-government-versus-less-government argument. We rejected the defeatist idea that the only option was to merely endure. We knew

that we could do more than scrape by and take our licks. We knew that with smart strategies we could budget carefully and still thrive. We knew that government is where people come together, define our core values and believe in the common good. We knew another path existed—the path of effective, cost-efficient government.

Walking that path demanded that we stop managing each year in a vacuum, simply managing budget to budget. It demanded that every investment, decision and policy we made thought not only of today, but of tomorrow as well. It demanded that we evolve to meet the needs of our community. Doing so would mean understanding the values of our community, and then basing ev-

ery decision and policy on those values. It demanded: Stop looking at our budget as investments in "things"—buildings, vehicles, textbooks. Instead, realize what we are investing in. We invest in people. We invest in you.

We invested in creating 311, making us more efficient while delivering the accurate, courteous and easy service you deserve. We invested in the creation of our SomerStat office, which ensures that we do not manage budget to budget, but that data and the facts lead us to the most effective and cost-efficient policies. We invested in putting more Somerville Police officers on the streets, giving them better equipment and more mandated training, and our crime rate is down

*Continued on page 20*

## Barbarians at Union Square's gates



By Mona Tousian

During my college years I bartended at Connolly's, a working-class saloon on Oakland's Telegraph Avenue. We didn't spoil customers with overpriced drinks and brownnosing service. We spoiled them with \$2.50 bottles of Bud and an empathetic ear.

When DQ, the Korean Vet,

mourned his late wife, he got caring attention. As did Charlie, the contemplative Ethiopian electrician when he contemplated. Or Brady, the grime-spattered Boston bricklayer, exhausted by his day's work. Along with beer and sympathy, we delivered live music to the people who built our community.

There was something special about Boston-area bands. Playing pool with them after shows, I resonated with their unpretentious call-it-what-it-is attitudes, savored their music, and trusted their friendship. In my imagination, Boston assumed mythic proportions as a Mecca of authentic music and DIY culture.

Time passed and I went a roaming. When I was ready to return to the U.S., Boston beckoned.

Finding a place that I could afford was tough. I eventually moved into a Back Bay apartment after paying extortion, euphemistically called a "finders fee." In 2008, the Common, downtown, and South End didn't much resemble the Boston that I had pictured while tending bar in Oakland. I couldn't imagine where the bands that I had met would play. Nor could I visualize Brady, with his thick brogue, bantering with Back Bay Brahmin.

Working 60 hours a week a

MGH, I was still having trouble making ends meet. Getting out and having fun seemed too costly, in both time and money. Places that Brady and the bands had fondly described, like the Rat, were history. But from what they'd told me, I knew there *must* be good shows somewhere.

After a year I began to discover them well outside Boston, or in basement DIY venues. Finally I could hear great music again without getting frisked by a bouncer, bag checked, and charged over \$20 for the privilege of paying \$5-6 for a single PBR or Bud. These gigs were not only part of a lifestyle I was familiar with, but the only way

I could afford to hear live music.

From late 2009 through 2012, the DIY scene in Boston was vibrant. I remember a snowy evening standing outside Unit 11, a former DIY venue in Allston. I couldn't help smiling as I watched band members unpacking and music lovers braving bitter weather and the repercussions of going out on a Monday night. No one was making money. They were there for the music.

Over those three and a half years I heard bands from Philly, California, New York, Portland, the UK, Japan, and Australia. I saw them all at someone's house or another DIY venue.

*Continued on page 20*

Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

## Let's go bowling!



I remember the bowling alley (behind Wedgewood Crane and Connolly) where the T station is now on College Avenue (it was in the back and to the left of the train in the picture). There was a pretty bad fire there that basically destroyed it. The day after the fire, my friends and I actually went inside exploring.

Bowling a few strings on a Saturday afternoon back in the day used to make for a fun day. We used to go to Sacco's Bowl Haven on Day Street in Davis Square. It's still there, minus a few of the alleys, and now The Flatbread Company is there also. The pool tables are gone, where my friend, the legendary Boston Shorty, used

to rack 'em up. I remember many hours of fun bowling on Day Street. They used to let kids bowl in their stocking feet. I can't remember exactly what the cost was, but I know it was really cheap. I think a buck covered a few strings plus a snack.

There was a bowling alley in the basement of Anthony's Function Hall on Highland Avenue, but I was never there (someone said it was called Ralph's). I was on the Embassy Lounge bowling team in the '70s. I still remember my friend Denny screaming for the ball to "get over...get over!" We had team shirts and everything. We bowled at The Ball Square Alleys back when Herbie ran it.

"There was one on Winter Hill, down the alley in back of Leone's Sub Shop. Can't remember the name," my friend

Darlene tells me. "There used to be one on Prospect Street on the Cambridge side." Even though it was in Cambridge, a lot of Somerville bowlers hit the bowling alley that used to be next to the Stephen James House on Davenport Street behind the Porter Square shopping center. Mary C. remembers an alley on lower Broadway that had four lanes. We've heard that there were lanes in the basement of The Knights of Columbus hall on Highland Avenue, too.

Fact of fiction? "There used to be a bowling alley on a side street off of Mass. Avenue in Central Square that allowed you to bring in beer. I bowled there for the old Studley's team, and we won first place. We all got large trophies," Cheryl said. I remember there were lanes in



the College Avenue United Methodist Church." George chimes in with, "You might add the Turnpike Bowladrome on the Concord Turnpike (Route 2). Expanded in 1959, it was very popular with the Somerville crowd as it was near the drive-in theater (Fresh Pond) and fast food outlets and swimming at Jerry's Pit on Rindge Avenue." I think he is referring to what is now Lanes

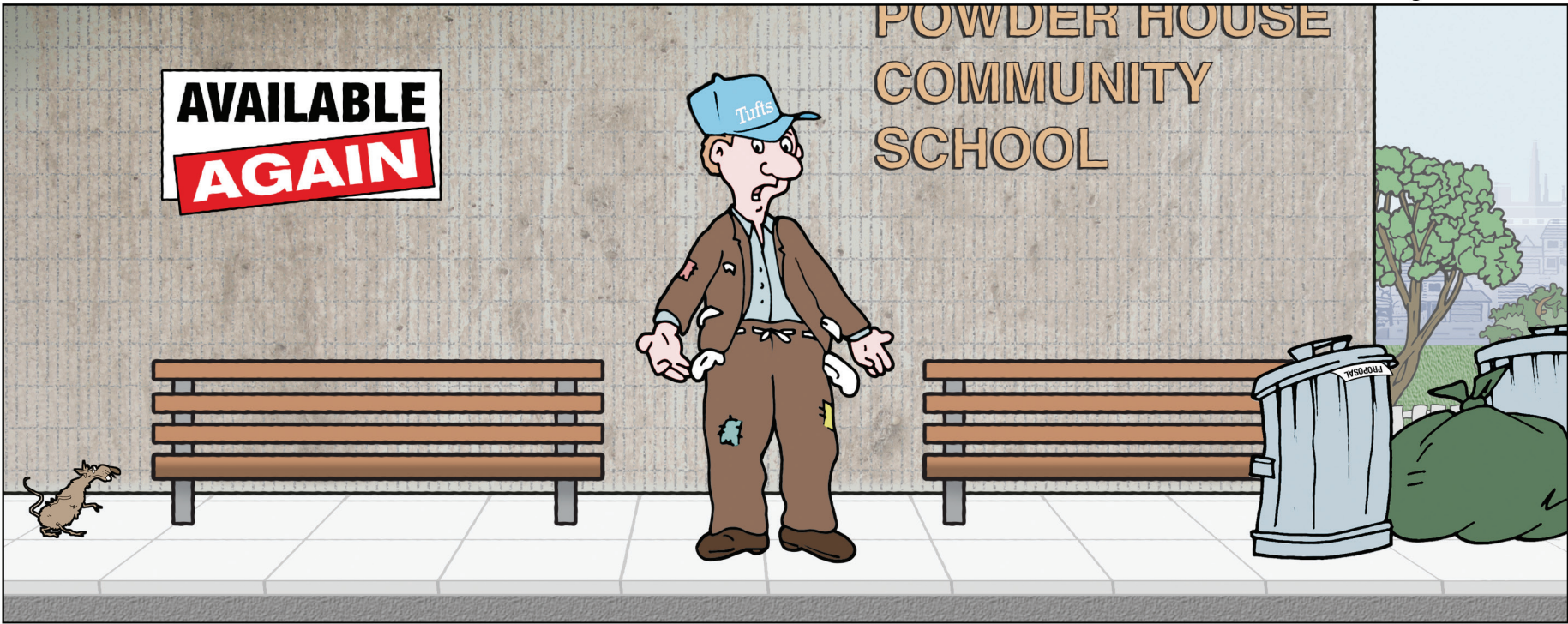
*Continued on page 20*



# COMMENTARY

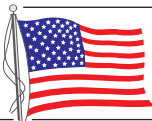
## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



It looks like Tufts will not be buying the Powder House Community School site after all.

## The View Of The Times



Negotiations broke down last week between the city and Tufts over the university's plans – or apparent lack thereof – for the Powder House School and the land surrounding it. The main reason given was that Tufts could not commit to a timeline of when it would break ground. Tufts also apparently said it would not likely develop the site for somewhere around 15 years, which is something that was never even hinted at during the design meetings and community forums held with the site's neighbors. What was discussed at those meetings was whether there would be a basketball court and how many places there could be for picnics in the open-space portion of the site. While not exactly a divide-and-conquer approach, the design meetings did separate residents into groups to discuss different aspects

of the development, which included the above-mentioned open space, the building that would have replaced the school and traffic and parking issues. It now seems obvious Tufts really did not know what it wanted to do with the site. More likely, the school saw a chance to acquire a piece of property near both the university and the Tufts Administration Building behind the school on Holland Street. Taking the approach of "acquire first, develop later" clearly did not work in this situation, and the city was right to say enough is enough after it became apparent Tufts was not moving forward in the spirit of the request for proposals developed for the site. Being only in "exclusive negotiations" with Tufts, and not having rushed into a land disposition agreement, frees up the city to do as it did and move on to the next

proposal on the list. While Tufts may have been hazy on what it intended to use the building proposed to replace the vacant school for, it was at least willing to scale back the project from its original two-building design, which, in one version, included a 35-unit housing development. Residents quickly made it clear they did not want to see more housing in the area, so that part was dropped after the first design meeting in January. But residential is what they are likely to get. The next two top bidders behind Tufts are both proposing apartments at the site. Davis Square Partners, whose proposal came in second to Tufts, wants to build 30 to 40 "family-style" apartments. The idea is the multi-bedroom units would attract families. It could, however, just result in individual apartments occupied

by multiple adult roommates who may or may not also have multiple cars. Hopefully, whoever is picked to develop the site will reach out to neighbors in the same way Tufts did (or at least in the way the architectural firm the university hired did. Maybe city officials could take more of a lead in future meetings.). After neighbors invested so much now-wasted time with Tufts, though, will they come out again to put time into a project that, as they have now learned, could be scrapped without warning. The meeting scheduled for this Wednesday (March 26) to discuss the recent change will offer an indication of whether residents will roll with it or just walk away convinced their participation is just a way to distract them while the real planning and conversations take place elsewhere without them.

### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

door). The suggested donation is \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$5 for children 10 and under (or \$25 per family). This is an effort to raise funds benefit to students at Somerville's public schools. Paul Duhamel was a School Committee member who was active in the community and devoted to the welfare and wellbeing of students. Please, come one, come all. No reservations are needed. If the weather is bad, contact Doris McDaniels at 857-205-8374 for any changes of date.

\*\*\*\*\*

Next Wednesday evening (April 2) at Giggles Comedy Club (Prince of Pizza) on Route 1 in Saugus, the local Masonic organization is sponsoring another fun-filled evening open to the public. Doors open at 630 p.m., and the price of \$25 per person includes all

the pizza and salad you can eat and a couple of hours of laughter with professional comedians. The event will be hosted by our own Jimmy DelPonte, who needs no introduction to us here in the Ville. He has a reputation of being a comedian himself. Tickets will be sold at the door. The money raised goes to the HMTA building association, which hosts Somerville's only Masonic Lodge King Solomon's Lodge.

\*\*\*\*\*

Also coming up in April on the 12th is the annual open house for the Masonic Lodge at 125 Highland Ave. from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come and view the historic building and get answers to any questions you might have about Masonry in general.

\*\*\*\*\*

Starting next week the city begins

its street sweeping program. Sweeping begins Tuesday, April 1, and runs through Dec. 31. Check the posted signs on your street for dates so you don't get that ticket. Who knows? Maybe the city can cut here, so instead of twice a month, maybe just once a month street sweeping? Might save money and definitely save on tickets. Who knows...maybe cut back on payroll in the T&P department?

\*\*\*\*\*

Happy birthday to some of our fans here in the Ville and some whose hearts are still here in the Ville. Big-time happy birthday to Rachel Hart-Adams, who is celebrating this week. Our good friend Brendan Ruiz celebrates this week, as well. And how can we pass up saying birthday greetings to Ed Bean, who is well known throughout the city for his

math skills. We wish him the very best and many more. Happy birthday to Jimmy Halloran, who works at UMass and is also a good guy. His family is well known throughout the city. And to our good friend and great tax preparer and accounting lady Diane O'Brien, who has her offices on the second floor in Davis Square over Mike's, We wish her the very best of birthdays. She's a great lady, fantastic at the numbers and a great advisor. And to our former writer and Editor Andrea Gregory, who is celebrating this week (as is her son, who just turned 17 last week as well), we wish them both a happy birthday and many more to come. Andrea is a fine person and a great writer.

\*\*\*\*\*

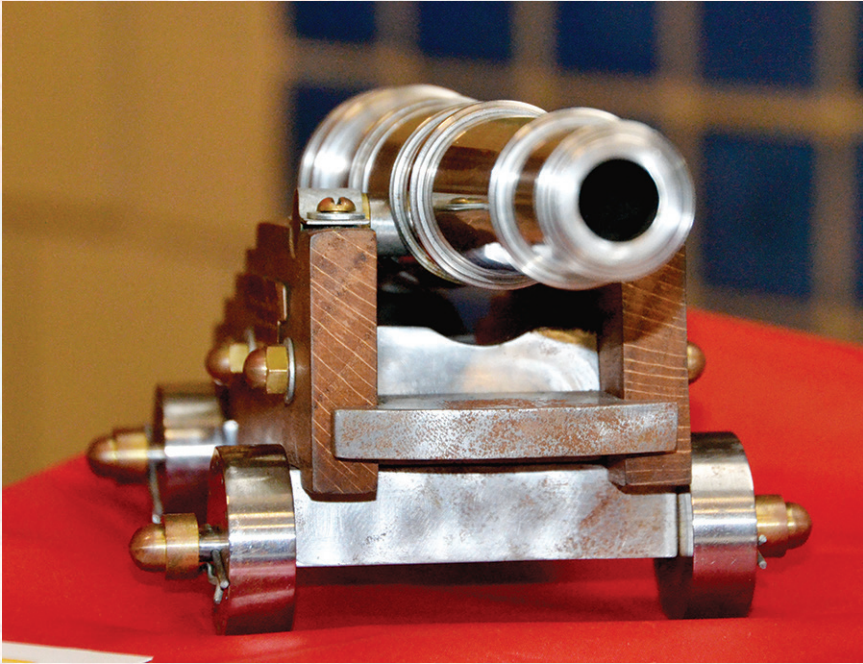
The annual Somerville High Scholarship Raffle is being

Continued on page 17



# SHS Vocational Fair

The Center for Career and Technical Education at Somerville High School hosted its annual Vocational Fair from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 22. The event offered students and parents a chance to learn about the many programs offered and a chance to tour the facilities.







Photos by Claudia Ferro





SPORTS

5th annual Mayor's Fitness Challenge kicks off Saturday

The fifth annual Somerville Mayor's Fitness Challenge kicks off March 29. The Fitness Challenge is a 10-week event that offers both a team fitness challenge as well as a non-competitive "lifestyle pledge" in co-operation with Wellcoin Positive Health Currency. Both offer rewards for participants ranging from better health to discounts at local businesses.

Individuals who join the team challenge will earn points for weight loss and changes in body mass index (BMI), while those who take the pledge will earn Wellcoin points to use in participating events and programs. Wellcoin offers incentives through local businesses and restaurants in its Reward Center (for more information and to sign up, visit [www.wellcoin.com](http://www.wellcoin.com)). Throughout the program, teams and individuals will earn discounts to local restaurants and businesses, and par-

ticipants will receive a Fitness Challenge bag at one of four kickoff events during Kickoff Week from Saturday, March 29, through Thursday, April 3. All participants will receive extra points for attending validated events and programs, including fitness classes and demonstrations, workshops and city-sponsored events.

All kickoff events will include distribution of fitness bags, giveaways from Brooklyn Boulders, massages by Lincoln Technical Institute, Reiki demonstrations, health and wellness information and displays, arts and crafts and other recreational programming for children and adults.

More information about the program can be found at [www.somervillema.gov](http://www.somervillema.gov) or by calling Director of Community Relations Carlene Campbell-Hearty at 617-625-6600, ext. 2615, or [CCampbell@somervillema.gov](mailto:CCampbell@somervillema.gov).



Mayor Curtatone and friends invite one and all to take the Fitness Challenge, beginning this weekend.

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YOUR PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE  
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No cash value. No cash back. No rain checks. Coupon not valid on prior, online or S.A. Elite by Sports Authority purchases, gift cards, licenses, event tickets, store services or items intended for resale. Offer good on in-stock merchandise only. Must present coupon at time of purchase to redeem. Cannot be combined with any other offer, Cash Card, coupon or Employee or Friends & Family discount. Coupon may not be reproduced. One coupon per customer, per purchase. Exclusions include clearance items marked with \$.97 price endings; BOGO offers; Deal of the Week; firearms and ammunition; UGG; Under Armour; The North Face; Nike Pro; Brooks; select adidas, ASICS, Mizuno & Nike footwear; Babolat; Titleist; Burton; Volk; GoPro; Fitbit; Penn Reels.

1757 2253 1202 1306 3014 8

**SPORTS AUTHORITY**

The Norton Group  
Buying or Selling?  
[www.thenortongroupe.com](http://www.thenortongroupe.com)

Residential tax exemption CONT. FROM PG 3

The city also examined increasing the residential exemption to 40 percent. However, because exemptions do not drive down the tax burden but only shift it from one group of taxpayers to another, increasing the exemption to 40 percent would lead to larger tax bill increases for ineligible residences, and those higher costs would be passed on to renters living in those buildings.

"I am pleased that the city has undertaken the analysis of increasing the residential exemption, as I requested at the board's recent public hearing on taxes, and that the mayor is putting forth a propos-

al for discussion among the aldermen," Board of Alderman President Bill White said. "When I authored the legislation that increased the exemption from 17 to 30 percent, I sought to protect the families and residents who, without this exemption, might have been forced to sell their home years ago. The great progress that Somerville has made over the past decade has made our city ripe for real estate speculation. An increase in the residential exemption is one tool that should help us in our efforts to keep Somerville affordable for our residents who wish to stay here."

Breaking down the tax bills

The approximate breakdown of Somerville residential properties and the change in their property tax bill from fiscal 2013 to 2014 are as follows:

- + 180 properties had a decrease of 5 percent or more
- + 270 properties had a decrease between 1 and 5 percent
- + 10,500 properties had an increase between 1 and 9 percent
- + 4,000 properties had an increase between 10 and 24 percent
- + 530 properties had an increase between 25 and 49 percent
- + 110 properties had an increase of 50 percent or more

Ms. Cam's

**Olio**

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#415

1. What was the first novel ever written on a typewriter?	created as a spinoff of what TV show?
2. What state has the highest percentage of people who walk to work?	8. In art, what was the most perfect hand ever painted?
3. What is rice paper made from?	9. Who painted that perfect hand?
4. How many muscles do we use when we smile?	10. How many books must an author sell in order for it to be called a "best seller"?
5. How many muscles do we use when we frown?	11. Who was George Mifflin Dallas?
6. What is the official national game of Canada?	12. What did the seven dwarfs do for a job?
7. Mork and Mindy was	

Answers on page 17

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# The Van Burens record new EP in Somerville

By Nick Moorhead

The Van Burens are some of the most gifted musicians who play around Boston regularly. With multiple members of the group possessing degrees in music from Ivy League schools, you would expect a pretension similar to all the dime-a-dozen bands ripping off Vampire Weekend's vibe these days. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Van Burens are too smart to put on airs. Not pretentious, yet bearing an overpowering intellect, fun loving without verging into goofball territory, the Van Burens are the party band for people who like to party but don't like waking up with Sharpie-drawn genitalia marring their faces.

After subjecting their fans to a five-year wait for a new record



following their excellent *Eager* EP, the VB's released the new EP out of nowhere last month, which is apparently the only way to release an anticipated album right now (see Beyonce's latest effort). Though the abrupt release was a surprise, the Van Burens had spent months recording at studios across New England, spending a chunk of time at Q Division Studios in Somerville. They also worked with visionary producer Matthew Vitti in Connecticut.

Is it possible to be totally zoned in and completely zoned out? If it is, the Van Burens have mastered this technique. Boisterous, wild, yet utterly zoned, the new Van Burens EP is buried treasure. Their performance at the Wonderbar left me stunned, an exhilarating, bravura set with the best visuals this side of Laser Floyd - professional and slick. *Washington* (a Brad Neely cover) re-imagines a founding father as a rap god. An uplifting, resilient jammer, highlight *This Town* is a heartfelt, flawless ode to Boston. Live, they're sort of like Widespread Panic.

The EP is a different story altogether. While the Wonder



The Van Burens are not your run-of-the-mill, garden variety sort of party band.

Bar release party was a wild time, the studio-recorded music is dark, edgy and paranoid. Evoking 1984-esque NSA workers leering from the shadows while perpetuating conspiracy theories of JFK, there are some heady ideas percolating throughout the work. Humor is infused throughout,

such as the VB's positing that JFK had 30 penises. The Van Burens also expand beyond the frat rock of *Eager*, injecting some electronic, ambient psychedelia to serve as interludes between their beautiful, horns-heavy party jams. The artwork for the CD is quite striking; Caleb Williamson's illustra-

tions capture the group's mysterious mojo well. Imagine a Wes Anderson directed *South Park*, or John Stewart hosting *Mystery Science Theater 3000*, and you're getting close. You eventually start getting the feeling, were Trey Anastasio at Wonderbar, he would have been taking notes.

## Interactive art exhibit at farmers' market

The Somerville Winter Farmers' Market at the Armory will throw the spotlight on local artist Cheryl Hirshman March 29.

"Field Hands: A Celebration of 'Hand' Work and the Family Farmer" will feature a recent installation piece by Hirshman focusing on the "artistry" involved with work performed by farmers. Hirshman invites the public to participate in the project by writing about farmers, farms, food and nutrition on prepared work gloves, which will then be added to the installation and exhibited across the country.

In the exhibition, Hirshman presents thousands of work gloves as goods to be sold. She is trying to engage the public about the importance of work done by hand, a concept often overlooked, degraded or invisible in our culture.

Hirshman is locally known for her work in media literacy, having founded the Center for



The back of Cheryl Hirshman's 'Field Hands.'

Children's Media and The New England Children's Film and Video Festival, an event presenting the best in children's films produced worldwide. For the past several years, Hirshman taught in the School of Design at Mount Ida College and is now taking a break from teaching to pursue her artwork. Hirshman has exhibited paintings, installations, videos and sound pieces in

museums and galleries, nationally and internationally, and is presently developing a book, *The Voice of the Yarn*, which looks at handcraft and the growth of feminist thought.

"Field Hands" can be seen and participated in for one day only at the Somerville Winter Farmers' Market at the Armory from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 29.

## What's on Somerville Neighborhood News episode 11?



There will be news stories on Somerville's celebration of Pi Day, an interview with Congressman Mike Capuano who shares his views on the Union Square post office, updates on the hunt for a Union Square Master Developer, and an investigative piece looking into homeless youth, with dozens right here in Somerville. SNN reports on these stories and more. Watch SNN on SCATV SCATV Ch. 3 or online at [www.scatsomerville.org/snn](http://www.scatsomerville.org/snn). SNN shows air every Tuesday at 7 p.m., with a new episode every other week.



Be sure to visit us online at [www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/thesomervilletimes](http://www.facebook.com/thesomervilletimes) and follow us on Twitter at @somervilletimes

Want to write local Somerville stories? Do you have a story to tell? Call 617-666-4010 and speak to the Assignment Editor







SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

**Welcome to our centers.** Everyone 55+ is encouraged to join us for fitness, culture, films, lunch and Bingo. Our centers are open to everyone from Somerville and surrounding communities. Check out our calendar and give a call with any questions or to make a reservation. 617-625-6600 ext. 2300. Stay for lunch and receive free transportation.

All clubs and groups welcome new members.

**Holland Street Center** - 167 Holland Street

**Ralph & Jenny Center** - 9 New Washington Street

**Cross Street Center** - 165 Broadway

**CROSS STREET CENTER:**

Our Cross Street Center is officially reopening Tuesday, March 25.

Center open every Tuesday and Wednesday.

English Conversation group meets every Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. All welcome. Enjoy conversation, and stay for lunch with new friends from all over the world.

**Some exciting events in the coming weeks:**

**Afternoon at the Movies:** Monday, March 31. Holland Street Atrium. 12:30 p.m. The first movie in our Afternoon at the Movies is ‘Last Vegas’ starring Michael Douglas, Robert DeNiro, Morgan Freeman and Kevin Kline. Three sixty-something friends take a break from their day-to-day lives to throw a bachelor party in Las Vegas for their last remaining single pal. Rated PG-13. Please contact Flo at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300 to RSVP or for additional information.

**Book Club:** Friday, April 4. The book club meets the first Friday of each month, except for holiday weeks. April’s book is ‘The Buddha in the Attic’ by Julie Otsuka. It is the story of a group of young women brought from Japan to San Francisco as “picture brides” nearly a century ago. In most cases, copies of the book are available in the COA office. Contact Janine for details at 617-615-6600 Ext. 2321 or email her at jlotti@Somervillema.gov.

**Culinary Arts Luncheon:** Tuesday, April 8. Doors will open at 10:45 a.m. The Highlander Café is located at the atrium of Somerville High School, which is located near the library. There is limited seating and a cost of \$9 with a choice of Scallops or Chicken Parmesan. Contact Connie for more information and to RSVP at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300.

**Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon:** Wednesday, April 9. The Somerville Council on Aging will be showing our appreciation to all our volunteers. Stay tuned for more details.

**Holiday Inn Dance:** Monday, April 14. 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 30 Washington Street. \$20. Come and enjoy a terrific lunch, with good music and wonderful friends. To RSVP and for more information please contact Connie at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300.

**Taj Mahal Resort & Casino:** Monday, October 13. Wednesday, October 15. This resort which is located on the boardwalk in Atlantic City has world class restaurants, non-stop entertainment and a dazzling array of shops. Trip includes: Motorcoach transportation, two nights lodging, and \$45 in Slot Dollars. \$222 per person double occupancy or \$344 single. A \$50 deposit per person on or before May 5 is required. For more information or if you should have any questions, please contact Connie or Flo at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300.

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

**The Dance** scheduled for Monday, March 24 at the Holiday Inn has been **CANCELLED**.

**The Twin Rivers trip** scheduled for April 15 is **SOLD OUT**.

**The Charleston, SC & Savannah, GA trip** scheduled for May 4th to May 10 is **SOLD OUT**.

**DON’T FORGET:**

**Afternoon at the Movies:** Beginning this month, we will show feature movies on the last Monday of each month. Mark your calendars: March 31 for ‘Last Vegas’, April 28 for ‘Lee Daniels’ The Butler’, May 19 for ‘Enough Said’ and June 30 for ‘Captain Phillips’.

**IMPORTANT INFO:**

**Mayor’s 5th Annual Fitness Challenge:** Spring has officially arrived though it may not feel that way, just yet. Now is a great time to start the Mayor’s 5th Annual Fitness Challenge. This year the city will be holding four kick off events which will be held between March 29–April 3. The SCOA will be at hosting a table at the Saturday, March 29 and Thursday, April 3 events, encouraging our seniors to participate and informing people on the Health & Wellness programs we have to offer. For more information on the Mayor’s Fitness Challenge please contact Director of Community Relations, Carlene Campbell-Hegarty, at 617-625-6600 x2615, or CCampbell@somervillema.gov. If you have any questions for the Somerville Council on Aging please contact us at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300.

**Somerville Fire Department:** An ongoing collaboration with the Somerville Fire Department has resulted in a program to distribute and install free, new smoke alarms in eligible households. For more information and an application, call us at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

**LGBT EVENTS:**

**LBT Women Fit-4-Life - Fitness and Nutrition Classes:** Classes are Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting at 6:00 p.m. \$10 a month with scholarships available. Please contact Chris at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300 for more information. We have available slots and would love to have you.

**LGBT Advisory Group:** We meet the 4th Monday of each month. Our next meeting is Monday, March 24 at 4:30 p.m. If you are interested in serving on the Advisory Board please contact Maureen at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300 or email MBastardi@Somervillema.gov.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for Friday, June 6: The Somerville Council on Aging LGBT Advisory Group celebrates their one year anniversary in conjunction with Gay Pride Week with a special Dinner Dance at the Holiday Inn, 30 Washington Street, here in Somerville. The Dinner Dance will be from 7:00–11:00 p.m. and our LGBT Dinner/Dance Committee is working on the details.

**March 26**

**Bowling at Flatbreads** Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

**Holland Street Center**

Fit 4 Life A|8:45 a.m.  
Fit 4 Life B|9 a.m.  
Lunch|11:30 a.m.  
Fit 4 Life C|1 p.m.  
Zumba for All|5:15 p.m.  
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

**Ralph & Jenny Center**

Cards & Cribbage|10 a.m.  
Bingo|12:45 p.m.  
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

**March 27**

**Holland Street Center**

Current Events|10 a.m.

Lunch|11:30 a.m.  
BINGO|12:45 p.m.  
LBT Fit-4-Life|6 p.m.  
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

**Ralph & Jenny Center**

Cards & Cribbage|10 a.m.  
Strengthening Exercise|10 a.m.  
Bingo|12:45 p.m.  
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

**March 28**

**Holland Street Center**

Lunch|11:30 a.m.  
Bingo|12:45 p.m.  
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

**March 31**

**Holland Street Center**

Moonlighters|10:30 a.m.  
Lunch|11:30 a.m.  
Wii Bowling League|12 p.m.  
Lunch|11:30 a.m.  
Fit-4-Life C|1 p.m.  
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

**Ralph & Jenny Center**

Cards & Cribbage|10 a.m.  
Bingo|12:45 p.m.  
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

**April 1**

**Holland Street Center**

Strengthening Exercise with Geoff |9:15 a.m.  
SHINE by appt.|10 a.m.  
Lunch|11:30 a.m.  
Fit 4 Life LBT|6 p.m.  
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

**Ralph & Jenny Center**

Cards & Cribbage|10 a.m.  
Bingo|12:45 p.m.  
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

**April 2**

**Bowling at Flatbreads** Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

**Holland Street Center**

Fit 4 Life A|8:45 a.m.  
Fit 4 Life B|9 a.m.  
Lunch|11:30 a.m.  
Fit 4 Life C|1 p.m.  
Zumba for All|5:15 p.m.  
167 Holland Street|617-625-6600 x 2300

**Ralph & Jenny Center**

Cards & Cribbage|10 a.m.  
Bingo|12:45 p.m.  
9 New Washington Street|617-666-5223

**DID YOU KNOW?**

We have a Facebook page. Check us out at [www.facebook.com/somervilleCOA](http://www.facebook.com/somervilleCOA).

**You can receive our monthly newsletter** that is always filled with useful and important information. For a \$5 yearly fee you can receive it via the U.S. Postal service or a free version can be sent electronically. Please contact Connie at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300 to sign up.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 11

planned by the committee for May 16 at the Highlander Café. Like every year since 1990, the raffle is limited to 250 tickets at \$100 each. The grand prize will be \$10,000. Get your tickets early and support this fine organization that helps to give students at the high school scholarships. Make check payable to the SHS Scholarship Foundation and mail to the following: S.H.S. Raffle c/o Joseph Favaloro, P.O. Box 440275, Somerville MA 02144. Upon receipt of your check, your ticket will be mailed to you. Or you can call Gene Brune at 617-628-5835.

\*\*\*\*\*

A reunion of sorts for all those that grew up in East Somerville. If you spent your teenage years growing up in East Somerville in

the ‘60s, ‘70s and ‘80s, there is a call out to attend an event at the City Club (across from Holiday Inn) Saturday, July 12, from 7 to 11p.m. Food, entertainment and the best part -come and meet all your friends you grew up with and had a great time. East Somerville was a special place: Everyone knew everyone else; we all had our special place we hung out at but we also were proud of the fact we were from the best section of the city. Check out the Facebook page created for all who are interested called “East Somerville Reunion.” This has been started by Dan Rogovich, who is also on Facebook and has worked hard to get this going. Growing up at Glen Park, Florence Park, Down back, Bucket of Blood, Prescott School, Tin

Roof, Tar Pits, Cross Street, Lower Broadway, Franz Diner, Tin Roof, Benedicts, The Avenue, State Spa, and plenty of other places we all know. It was an exciting place, and we all have some great memories and stories. Go on Facebook and let them know you are coming. They are also looking for donations to cover expenses, and all donations go directly to cover the event for the night. For now, If you don’t have Facebook, contact Donald Norton at 617 623-6600, ext. 11.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The PTA 40th Anniversary Scholarship Dinner Dance is coming up May 2 at Anthony’s in Malden. Set aside the date and contact PTA Council Chairperson Donna Romeo. Tickets can be purchased at the schools.**

Ms. Cam’s

Olio

Answers

From on page 14

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Tom Sawyer   | 7. Happy Days                             |
| 2. Alaska   | 8. The right hand of <i>The Mona Lisa</i> |
| 3. It is made from a pitch from a small tree grown in Formosa | 9. It was painted by Da Vinci             |
| 4. 13   | 10. 25,000                                |
| 5. 50   | 11. He was vice president of U.S. in 1845 |
| 6. LaCrosse   | 12. They were miners                      |



• • • • VILLENS ON THE TOWN • • • •

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**Wednesday| March 26**  
**East Branch Library**  
Preschool: Storytime  
11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|115 Broad-  
way

**Thursday| March 27**  
**Central Library**  
Preschool: Storytime for 3 to 5  
year olds  
10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.|79 High-  
land Avenue

**Central Library**  
Youth Knitting 101: 1st Class  
Cathy or Cynthia 617-623-5000-  
2969  
3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.| 79 High-  
land Avenue

**Friday| March 28**  
**Central Library**  
Preschool: Storytime for 2 year  
olds  
10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m|79 High-  
land Ave

**Central Library**  
Teen Cookie Stamp Workshop:  
PART ONE  
Cynthia 617-623-5000-2969  
3 p.m.-5 p.m.|79 Highland  
Avenue

**Veteran’s Memorial Rink**  
Free public skating  
12 p.m.-1:50 p.m.|570 Somer-  
ville Ave

**Saturday| March 29**  
**Central Library**  
Drop-In StoryCorps Interviews  
Maria Carpenter|617-623-5000  
x2910  
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.|79 High-  
land Avenue

**Sunday|March 30**  
**Veteran’s Memorial Rink**  
Free public skating  
3:30 p.m.-4:50 p.m.|570 Somer-  
ville Ave

**Monday|March 31**  
**Central Library**  
Sing-Along with Fred Griffeth  
Cathy x2954  
11 a.m.-12 p.m.|79 Highland  
Avenue

**Arts at the Armory**  
Knucklebones  
9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.|Performance  
Hall|191 Highland Ave

**Tuesday|April 1**  
**Central Library**  
Homeschool Reading Group for  
Ages 9-11  
Tammy McKanan|617-591-0216  
9:30 a.m.- 12 p.m.|79 Highland  
Avenue

**West Branch Library**  
Preschool Storytime  
11 a.m.-11:45 a.m.|40 College  
Avenue

**Central Library**  
StoryCorps Interviews  
Maria Carpenter|617-623-5000  
x2910  
2:30 p.m.-5 p.m.|79 Highland  
Avenue

**Wednesday|April 2**  
**East Branch Library**  
Preschool: Storytime  
11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|115 Broad-  
way

MUSIC

**Wednesday|March 26**  
**Johnny D’s**  
Naia Kete, Acoustic, Soulful with  
Will Evans|9:15 p.m.

17 Holland St|617-776-2004  
**Sally O’Brien’s Bar**  
Free Poker, lots of prizes!  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-  
3589

**The Burren**  
Front Room  
Exile on Elm  
Back Room  
Comedy@10  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

**PA’S Lounge**  
Full Scene Ahead “CD Swap”  
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-  
1557

**On The Hill Tavern**  
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

**Orleans Restaurant and Bar**  
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

**Precinct Bar**  
Closed for renovations  
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

**Bull McCabe’s Pub**  
The Nephrok All Stars  
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-  
6045

**Highland Kitchen**  
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

**Samba Bar & Grille**  
608 Somerville Ave|617-718-  
9177

**Radio Bar**  
379 Summer St

**Joshua Tree Bar & Grill**  
Pub Trivia  
8:30 p.m.|256 Elm Street|(617)  
623-9910

**Arts at the Armory**  
visVis Yoga Spring Clean for the  
One Fund  
7:30 p.m.-8 p.m.|Performance  
Hall  
SWYM Acoustic Show  
7p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

**Thursday|March 27**  
**Johnny D’s**  
Good Company vs. Emperor Nor-  
ton’s Stationary Marching Band,  
Jive / Rock On Concerts Presents:  
A Battle Royale \$10  
Good Company  
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

**Sally O’Brien’s**  
Tom Hagerty Acoustic Band  
grassy Thursdays  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-  
3589

**The Burren**  
Front Room  
Acoustic/Bluegrass|9:30 p.m.  
Back Room  
Scattershot |10 p.m.  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

**PA’S Lounge**  
“Campfire” hosted by Ben  
Bullock  
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-  
1557

**On The Hill Tavern**  
Live DJ Music  
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

**Orleans Restaurant and Bar**  
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

**Precinct Bar**  
Closed for renovations  
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

**Bull McCabe’s**  
Dub Down Featuring The Scotch  
Bonnet Band  
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-  
6045

**Joshua Tree**  
256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

**Samba Bar & Grille**  
608 Somerville Ave|617-718-  
9177  
Somerville Theatre

Awkward Compliment’s Thursday  
Night Comedy Night  
8 p.m.|55 Davis Square

**Radio Bar**  
379 Summer St

**Arts at the Armory**  
Singer-Songwriter Event: The  
Loop  
7 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

**Friday|March 28**  
**Johnny D’s**  
Pressure Cooker|7:30 p.m.  
Free Friday featuring Brother’s  
Rye|10 p.m.  
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

**Sally O’Brien’s**  
Dogs in a Pile |6 p.m.  
Hear Now Live presents \$10  
cover|9 p.m.  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-  
3589

**The Burren**  
Front Room  
Irish Session|9:30 p.m.  
Back Room  
Jimmy’s Down  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

**Orleans Restaurant and Bar**  
DJ  
10 p.m.|65 Holland St

**Precinct Bar**  
Closed for renovations  
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

**PA’S Lounge**  
Scarlett Drive|Matthew Con-  
nor|Ariel Strasser|Nick Young  
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-  
1557

**On The Hill Tavern**  
499 Broadway |617-629-5302

**Orleans Restaurant and Bar**  
DJ starting at 10 p.m.  
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

**Bull McCabe’s**  
Dave Wells & Andrea Gillis  
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-  
6045

**Joshua Tree**  
DJ McRiddleton  
256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

**Samba Bar & Grille**  
Live music  
9 p.m.|608 Somerville Ave|617-  
718-9177

**Casey’s**  
Entertainment every Friday  
173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

**Radio Bar**  
379 Summer St.

**Arts at the Armory**  
Bluegrass Fridays at the Armory  
7:30 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

**Saturday|March 29**  
**Johnny D’s**  
The King of Boston Come-  
dy:Steve Sweeney|7 p.m.  
“Six Dollar Saturday ” with Cone-  
head Buddha|10 p.m.  
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

**Sally O’Brien’s**  
Johnnie Mac & The Local Fore-  
cast |6 p.m.  
Three Day Threshold & friends  
\$5 cover |9 p.m.  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-  
3589

**The Burren**  
Front Room  
Irish Session|9:30 p.m.  
Back Room  
Scattershot  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

**Precinct Bar**  
Closed for renovations  
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

**Orleans Restaurant and Bar**  
Karaoke

65 Holland St  
**PA’S Lounge**  
Here We Just Dream|Everything  
Forever|Left Hand Does|Ben  
Kogan Band  
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-  
1557

**On the Hill Tavern**  
Live DJ Music  
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

**Bull McCabe’s**  
Skunkmello  
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-  
6045

**Joshua Tree**  
DJ El Sid!  
256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

**Samba Bar & Grille**  
Live Band & DJ  
608 Somerville Ave|617-718-  
9177

**Casey’s**  
Entertainment every Saturday  
173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

**Radio Bar**  
379 Summer St

**Arts at the Armory**  
Rick Schilling  
10 a.m.|Café  
David Johnston  
4 p.m.|Cafe  
Ginger Ibex and Caith Threefires  
8 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

**Sunday|March 30**  
**Johnny D’s**  
Open Blues Jam! featuring Mat-  
thew Smart Band|4 p.m.  
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

**Sally O’Brien’s Bar**  
Frank Drake Sunday Showcase  
|5 p.m  
Natalie Flanagan and friends |8  
p.m.  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-  
3589

**The Burren**  
Front Room  
Sunday Americana with Sean  
Staples, Eric Royer, Tim Gearan,  
Dave Westner and Dan Keller|7  
p.m.  
Back Room  
Burren Acoustic Music Series  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

**PA’S Lounge**  
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-  
1557

**Precinct Bar**  
Closed for renovations  
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

**Bull McCabe’s Pub**  
Dub Apocalypse  
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-  
6045

**Highland Kitchen**  
Sunday Brunch Live Country &  
Bluegrass  
Sunday Night Live Music  
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

**Orleans Restaurant and Bar**  
Game Night  
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

**Radio Bar**  
379 Summer St

**Samba Bar & Grille**  
Live Band & DJ  
608 Somerville Ave|617-718-  
9177

**Arts at the Armory**  
Jazz Jam with Dan Fox  
2:30 p.m.|Café  
ROCCO PRESTIA “Spare Parts”  
Benefit Concert and Dance Party  
3 p.m.|Performance Hall  
Celia Slattery Voice and Perfor-  
mance Studio--Winter Session  
Showcase  
7 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

**Monday|March 31**  
**Johnny D’s**  
Johnny D’s Comedy Showcase  
Presents:, Storyteller Café  
Stump! Pub Trivia|8:30 p.m.  
17 Holland St | 617-776-2004

**Sally O’Brien’s Bar**  
Shawn Cater’s Cheapshots Com-  
edy Jam |7 p.m.  
Marley Mondays with The Duppy  
Conquerors|10 p.m.  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-  
3589

**The Burren**  
Front Room  
Bur-Run  
Helena Delaney, Johnny O’Leary  
& Friends Irish Session|9 p.m.  
Back Room  
TBA  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

**On The Hill Tavern**  
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

**PA’S Lounge**  
Americana Night  
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-  
1557

**Precinct Bar**  
Closed for renovations  
70 Union Sq|617-623-921

**Bull McCabe’s Pub**  
Stump! Team Trivia  
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-  
6045

**Radio Bar**  
379 Summer St

**Arts at the Armory**  
Cambridge Symphony Orchestra  
Rehearsal  
6:30 p.m.|Performance Hall|191  
Highland Ave

**Tuesday|April 1**  
**Johnny D’s**  
Hot Club Of Cowtown, Hot  
Jazz, Folk, Americana, Western  
Swing|8 p.m.  
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

**Sally O’Brien’s Bar**  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-  
3589

**The Burren**  
Front Room  
Jason Anick and the Swing-  
ers|8:30 p.m.  
Back Room  
Open Mic w/ Hugh McGowan  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

**On The Hill Tavern**  
Stump Trivia (with prizes)  
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

**PA’S Lounge**  
Open Mic - Rock, Folk, R&B,  
Alt, Jazz & Originals etc. Hosted  
by Tony Amaral 345 Somerville  
Ave|617-776-1557

**Precinct Bar**  
Closed for renovations  
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211

**Bull McCabe’s Pub**  
The Ghetto People Band  
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-  
6045

**Highland Kitchen**  
First Tuesday of the Month|Spell-  
ing Bee Night  
hosted by Victor and Nicole of  
Egoart.  
The fun starts at 10:00p.m.  
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

**Samba Bar & Grille**  
608 Somerville Ave|617-718-  
9177

**PJ Ryan’s**  
Pub Quiz  
10 p.m.|239 Holland St.|617-  
625-8200



• • • • **VILLENS ON THE TOWN** • • • •

**Radio Bar**  
379 Summer St  
**Arts at the Armory**  
Teen Open Mic Night  
6 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave  
**Wednesday|April 2**  
**Johnny D's**  
Shawn Mullins plus Max Gomez  
17 Holland St|617-776-2004  
**Sally O'Brien's Bar**  
Free Poker, lots of prizes!  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589  
**The Burren**  
Front Room  
Exile on Elm  
Back Room  
Comedy@10  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896  
**PA'S Lounge**  
Full Scene Ahead "CD Swap"  
345 Somerville Ave|617-776-1557  
**On The Hill Tavern**  
499 Broadway|617-629-5302  
**Orleans Restaurant and Bar**  
65 Holland St|617-591-2100  
**Precinct Bar**  
Closed for renovations  
70 Union Sq|617-623-9211  
**Bull McCabe's Pub**

The Nephrok All Stars  
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045  
**Highland Kitchen**  
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131  
**Samba Bar & Grille**  
608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177  
**Radio Bar**  
379 Summer St  
**Joshua Tree Bar & Grill**  
Pub Trivia  
8:30 p.m.|256 Elm Street|(617) 623-9910  
**Arts at the Armory**  
Wiretap Wednesday Open Stage  
7 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave  
**CLASSES AND GROUPS**  
**Wednesday|March 26**  
**Third Life Studio**  
Beyond beginning Belly Dance with Nadira Jamal  
7:30 p.m.|Level 2|33 Union Sq|www.nadirajamal.com  
**Thursday| March 27**  
**West Branch Library**  
Learn English at the Library!  
(Session 1) 6:00 PM - 7:00 p.m.  
(Session 2)7:15 PM - 8:15 p.m.  
40 College Avenue

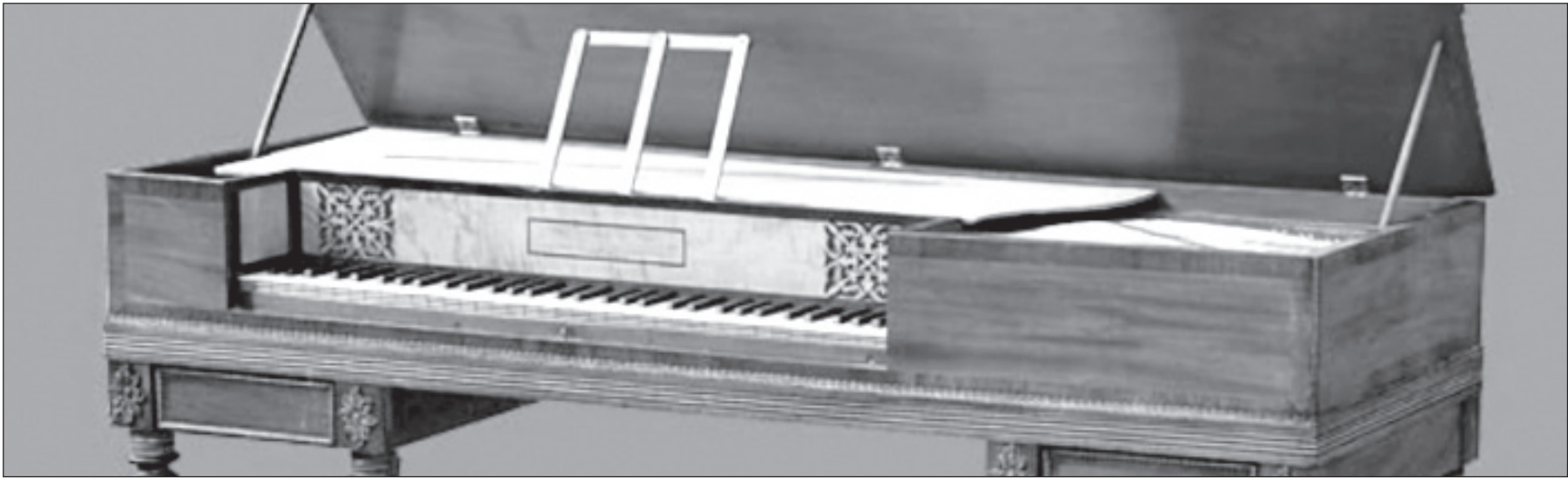
**Central Library**  
Drop-In Meditation  
Maria Carpenter| 617-623-5000 x2910  
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue  
**Central Library**  
Central Library  
Seed Celebration  
Lisa Brukilacchio/781-953-4826  
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue  
**First Church Somerville**  
Debtors Anonymous- a 12 Step program for people with problems with money and debt. 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.|89 College Ave (Upstairs Parlor).  
For more info call: 781-762-6629  
**Third Life Studio**  
Roots and Rhythm  
33 Unions Sq.| www.libana.com  
**Friday|March 28**  
**Arts at the Armory**  
Prenatal Yoga  
2 p.m.|Mezzanine|191 Highland Ave  
**Saturday|March 29**  
**Central Library**  
Film: Where the Rivers Flow  
North and Bean Supper  
James Fox

12 p.m.- 5 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue  
**Arts at the Armory**  
Winter Farmers' Market  
9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
**Bagel Bards**  
Somerville Writers and Poets meet weekly to discuss their work  
9 a.m.-12 p.m.|Au Bon Pain| 18-48 Holland St  
**Third Life Studio**  
Jazz Dance Brunch!  
A Six Week Jazz Dance Class Series with Jen Farrell  
January 25 through March 1  
10:30am-12:00pm|33 Union Sq  
**Sunday|March 30**  
**Unity Church of God**  
Fourth Step to Freedom Al-Anon Family Groups  
7:00 P.M. | 6 William Street  
Enter upstairs, meeting is in basement.  
**Third Life Studio**  
Discover Belly Dance with Nadira Jamal  
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.|33 Union Sq|www.nadirajamal.com  
**Monday|March 31**  
**East Branch Library**  
Learn English at the Library!  
(Session 1)6 p.m.-7 p.m.

(Session 2)7:15 p.m.- 8:15 p.m.  
115 Broadway  
**Third Life Studio**  
Discover Belly Dance with Nadira Jamal  
6 p.m.|33 Union Sq|www.nadirajamal.com  
**Tuesday|April 1**  
**Central Library**  
Learn English at the Library!  
6 p.m.-7 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue  
**Arts at the Armory**  
Prenatal Yoga  
7 p.m.|Mezzanine|191 Highland Ave  
**Third Life Studio**  
The Art of Group Singing For Women with Susan Robbins, www.libana.com  
7 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.|33 Union Sq  
**Wednesday| April 2**  
**Central Library**  
Mystery Book Club  
7p.m.-9 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue  
**Third Life Studio**  
Beyond beginning Belly Dance with Nadira Jamal  
7:30 p.m.|Level 2|33 Union Sq|www.nadirajamal.com

**PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO!**

**Somerville Arts Council Historic Keyboard Concert**



Come hear and play three centuries of keyboards at the Green Room, Saturday, March 29 1:00-4:00 p.m., 62 Bow Street in Somerville. The Green Room, Union Square's newest art space, is in the unique position of housing three beautiful keyboard instruments: a double-manual harpsichord based on the popular 18th century Flemish style; a square piano by Broadwood and Sons, built in the early 19th century and painstakingly restored; and a modern grand piano from the height of Baldwin's manufacturing from the middle of the 20th century. Visit the space to not only see three centuries of keyboard but get the opportunity to hear the instruments professionally played and even get to try them out yourself.

**City jumps 2 bond ratings by Standard & Poor's**

CONT. FROM PG 3

practices, which in fiscal '13 yielded reserves at 17 percent of city spending. S&P also looked favorably upon the city's debt levels, citing total government available cash at 30 percent of total expenditures and roughly seven times the city's debt service.  
"Moreover, based on past debt issuance, we believe the city has strong access to capital markets to provide for liquidity needs," the report stated, noting the city's overall debt service amounts to 4 percent of spending. "Further bolstering our view of the city's debt profile is that overall net debt is a low 1.2 percent of market value."  
The city's rate of development

has resulted in increasing revenues. Last year, the city realized \$3.5 million in new growth - \$1 million more than the previous year- including new growth from new commercial and residential construction at Assembly Row, along with the completion of Maxwell's Green, new construction of the public storage facility on Middlesex Avenue, renovation of the Stop & Shop on Route 16 and new personal property growth on Inner Belt Road. Development in Somerville is guided by SomerVision, the city's 20-year comprehensive plan developed over two years by the community to codify the community's values and apply

them to each and every development in the city.  
"As the city continues investing in projects that improve our community, our higher bond ratings will ensure that it costs taxpayers less," City Finance Director Edward Bean said. "We are maximizing every tax dollar through our conservative budgeting approach, continuing to offer more services than most cities and strategically investing in projects that improve our quality of life, while our per capita spending remains lower than most cities and towns in the state. Standard & Poor's upgrade of our bond rating is a testament to the city's strategy."

**Interagency agreement**

CONT. FROM PG 5

indeed more effective when we work together," Bedford Police Chief Robert Bongiorno, secretary of the Middlesex County Chiefs of Police Association, said.  
"Working together, across invisible boundaries, is a real step in the right direction," Belmont Police Chief Richard McLaughlin, treasurer of the Association, said. "I'm proud to sign this agreement. It will make the community safer, and it will keep police officers safe."  
The agreement allows municipal police chiefs to retain command and control of incidents in their communities. It also requires police officers to notify the commanding officer of the

community when they enter to conduct policing activities. The officers will either be requested as mutual aid from the neighboring community or they may "self activate" when they observe or become aware of a violation of the law across the border. The on-duty police officer may exercise his or her police powers within any community covered under the agreement.  
Of the three remaining departments in Middlesex County, the chiefs of the Waltham and Winchester police departments have submitted the agreement to their municipal government for approval. Cambridge has not signed the agreement at this time.



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## Investing in people pays off

CONT. FROM PG 10

by one-third over the past five years. We invested in Assembly Square, and now new jobs, a new neighborhood and new commercial taxes are being generated for our community. We invested in data-driven hands-on learning in our schools, and we did not slash programs like music and world languages or layoff teachers while other communities did during the past decade, putting more

in those programs instead. Today, Somerville Public Schools’ improvement in student growth puts the district on par with some of the highest-performing districts in Massachusetts, and our schools are showing improvement by every measure.

As we’ve become more successful though, we face new challenges today. We must invest in affordability to protect our

greatest resource—our people. We have to modernize our water and sewer system to protect our homes and support our city’s growth. We’ve made great academic strides, but we must continue to invest in education to make sure every child has the opportunity to reach his or her greatest potential. We must invest in the ability of all of our residents to fully take part in

community life by investing in accessibility for our sidewalks, squares, parks and buildings. We must invest in the goals of our residents via neighborhood planning to ensure that the Somerville of the future is the one we envision based on our shared values today.

We know the value of investing in people, and others see it too. Others now look to Somerville

with admiration, laud our approach and policies, and clamor to invest in our ever-rising “stock.” That’s what happens when you demonstrate what smart, efficient, strategic government can achieve in the worst of times. I look forward to working with each of you to continue to set that bar high and show what that powerful mix of Somerville pride and determination can do.

## Barbarians at Union Square’s gates

CONT. FROM PG 10

Sometime in late 2012 or early 2013, things began to change. A rash of binge drinking, gang violence, and alcohol poisoning was pressuring Boston pols to “do something.” In response, the Boston Police Department began closing down parties and DIY venues, even though they were unrelated to the problem.

One ham-fisted tactic stands out in my memory. The morning after the Marathon bombing lockdown I went on my Facebook page. Someone had stolen my friend’s picture, created a fake profile, and was attempting to friend me. This was one of many fake profiles that showed the BPD’s hand by asking where the “concerts” were, a term that DIYers would not use.

I sincerely sympathized with the Boston Police Department’s intention to improve community life. But their tactics were making matters worse, while sowing mistrust. Finding safe and affordable places for touring bands to play and music lovers to gather was becoming a grim enterprise. Music was at the mercy of promoters, club managers and corporate polices.

Regardless of weather, economic exploitation, urban overdevelopment, and brushes with the law, the music continued. But we had to drive over an hour to see acts 50-to-60 miles away.

Last summer, I started tending bar again. I had been walking through Union Square when, on impulse, I went into Sal-

ly O’Brien’s to see if they were hiring. I was astonished to learn that they offered live music six nights a week, and that there were four other live venues in the Square.

Working at Sally’s vividly brought back my days at Connolly’s. I was hearing great music while serving the people who build our community.

Sally’s treats the musicians well. They get paid, regardless of the evening’s sales. Our booking agent is a musician himself. During one of our conversations I asked him if I could start a Doo-wop night.

Doo-wop’s rhythm-and-blues vocal harmonies are part of Rock and Roll’s roots. Emerging in African American commu-

nities in the 1940s, they spread to White working class neighborhoods in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Newark, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Cincinnati, L.A., D.C., Compton, and El Monte in the 50s and early 60s.

Rock and Roll spans generations, and at our first Doo-wop night, I saw 20-year-olds and 60-year-olds dancing together. There aren’t many places where a regular person like me has the opportunity to put together an event, in a proper venue, without tons of schmoozing and cash.

Having found Mecca, I now discover that barbarians are at the gates. The Green Line’s advent promises to make Union Square an attractive location for much needed office devel-

opment. But it’s also pricing residents and independent businesses out of their community. La Cantina Mexicana’s property taxes, for example, doubled in one quarter.

Union Square’s unique business and cultural ecology is endangered. If city officials, property owners, merchants, developers, and residents don’t work together to protect what is special about the Square, we will lose what makes it an attractive destination and a beloved community.

*Editor’s note: Doo-wop night is the first Thursday of the month. Union Square venues offer a variety of musical genres throughout the week.*

## Let’s go bowling!

CONT. FROM PG 10

and Games. Here’s a cool story: “My father always took us to Day Street to bowl and then to the Coronet barroom (now Redbones) for chips and a coke with cherries in it. Shhhh, don’t tell Mom!”

Jeff shares this: “My grandfather owned

a bowling alley in Teele Square. It burned down in the early ‘50s. My mom and aunts were pinsetters then. I believe it’s where Jumbo Lounge ended up. I have no idea what’s there now. It’s been over 17 years since I’ve seen the area.” Ian Judge

tells us that there was a six-lane bowling alley in the basement of the Somerville Theatre. Let’s wrap it up with a memory from my pal Warren.

“In the forties, I set pins in the cellar of the Hobbs Bowling, Billiards and Pool

Hall (the same building that housed and still does house the Somerville Theatre),” he said.

So try to keep your ball (and your mind) out of the gutter, and I may see you in the alley. Don’t forget to return the rental shoes!



## Subpar Co-star: Artistic force of nature

CONT. FROM PG 1

fan of his writing, and [his novel] *The Idiot* really struck a chord with me when I read it years ago. I loved that the main character's name, Lev Myshkin, translated to Lion Mouse. I think it is an interesting way to look at a person — the strong and the weak within one's self. Which wins, the meek or the muscle? The first song I wrote for the album was the last song on the record, *The Lion and The Mouse*.

That being said, I like to think Iggy Pop would approve.

**BM:** Who were some of the people with whom you worked on *The Idiot*?

**JF:** *The Idiot* has some fantastic musicians who make up the live band for Subpar Co-star these days. It was a very communal music process and the complete opposite of how I recorded *Gidgets and Gadgets*. We all contributed in multiple ways, from backing vocals to percussion to glockenspiel to spoken word.

We recorded the album at Adam Sherman's place just over the tracks in Cambridge, and Adam did all of the electric/melodic guitar. Erik Spooner (a fellow Union Square-er) did all of the noise/ambient guitar that provided a lot of atmosphere and texture to the songs. And the most talented and beautiful violin player I have ever known, Jenée Morgan Force [his wife], did some wonderful playing on *Weird* and *Any*, then got goofy with us and did some of *The Lion and Mouse* voiceovers.

It was very nice because when I was mixing the album, I had a 30-minute walk from my place in Union Square to Adam's place, and in that time, I would imagine all sorts of absurdity. Once there, I had three great musicians who were able to give me honest critiques on why we shouldn't all make pigeon noises for the first half of a song. But when the idea was crazy enough to work, they were a great source of wisdom in making it come out as best as possible. The noise track *The Vigil* is a good example, as is the rain we recorded for *Rogue Sin*. I initially wanted it to be a monsoon.

**BM:** For how much of the finished product were you completely responsible?

**JF:** I wrote all of the initial

song structures - chord progressions and such - as well as all the lyrics. The book of short stories that accompanies the album was written, edited and published by me. I also did all of the mixing on the record. The art was a group effort, with Adam bringing the visual world to life.

**BM:** You recently got married. How did entering the world of wedded bliss affect your creative process?

**JF:** Entering the world of wedded bliss was joyful and rejuvenating. Jenée and I got married in late May of 2013. It was very exciting and gave me a whole bunch of positive energy to attack the project with. In practical time commitments, it definitely slowed down the overall timeline of the album, as there was a good month that I was only doing wedding-related activities, and the record had to sit on the back burner. It actually worked out well that way, because we had recorded all of the backbone tracks by that point, and it gave me a month to listen to the rough concept of the songs and just get a feel for what they were trying to emote. When we got back into recording and overdubbing, I felt much more comfortable in just letting the songs be what they wanted to be, rather than demand every song has a solid drum part and multiple harmonies and such.

**BM:** Why are there several references to sharp objects in the news songs?

**JF:** It ties into the stories. I think of bleeding as a poetic way of giving it your all, and not necessarily in a positive way. Sometimes it's just mania; sometimes it is taken from you. Sharp objects draw blood (science lesson), and they can be wielded by yourself or someone else or they are just sitting around, and you don't notice them until it is too late. In the original book *The Idiot*, a knife plays a pivotal role, and when I was working on the album the image just kept floating back to the surface of my mind. A knife is a very powerful symbol, I think.

**BM:** What are some of the changes that you have witnessed on your home turf of Union Square? What are some that you anticipate?



Subpar Co-star's latest musical creation, *The Idiot*.

**JF:** We have definitely been seeing the beginning of some major changes in the area. The Green Line is coming at some point, so I am told, and as such the whole square seems to be preparing to have a facelift. It is neat to see how the area develops, but I fear I am going to be priced out sooner than later. Already many restaurants have been bought and converted into newer, hipper establishments. Unfortunately, it has also been driving out some of the music establishments, as it is getting too pricey to be a dive bar. For the most part, though, the tried-and-true businesses have stayed, and they are some of my favorite: Bull McCabe's, El Potro (freaking amazing), Bloc 11, Hub Comics and Sherman Cafe.

The one big change that made me scream "NOOOOOOO!" into the sky was Precinct closing. That was my favorite place to catch live music in Union, and I had played some of my most memorable shows there. My first show as Subpar Co-star was at Precinct. It was just me playing solo for three hours for this really nice Somerville couple who

was raising money for a charity in India. Also, my last show with my former band, Death and the Dance Machine, was at Precinct.

**BM:** You say that you are "in it for the art, not the money." However, wouldn't it be nice to be able to make a living by writing and performing?

**JF:** It definitely would. I just find that in the modern times, there is a big push to be creative for monetary means. I feel there is a current view to judge the quality of things by how much money it has made or how much it costs to purchase it. A consumer Calvinism, if you will: It made money, so it must be good. And if it isn't making money, it isn't as respectable. Even our activism has a dollar sign attached these days. I just think it is better to focus not on whether something would be popular, but more on if it is creatively fulfilling as the creator. I think if you are working on projects that you find artistically/philosophically/creatively stimulating, you are more inclined to let your own personality shine, and I, personally, love the art that has the most personality. It is rewarding. If enough

people really enjoyed my creative output that I could work exclusively on it for a living, I would be ecstatic, but I try not to keep that as a driving force in why I do what I do creatively.

**BM:** Fill in the blank: "I will that I were half the songwriter that \_\_\_\_\_ is."

**JF:** Tom Petty/Isaac Brock [Modest Mouse]/Doug Martsch [Built To Spill]/Trent Reznor [Nine Inch Nails]/Rodriguez (sorry, couldn't decide).

**BM:** What can newcomers expect from your April 4 show at Bull McCabe's?

**JF:** A hell of a fun night that will twist your perception of what a local show is. As a band, we have a lot of creative outputs. At the shows, we don't just play songs. We have a tendency to add poetic flair in unexpected places. At one show, there was an epic fight with puppets. It was pretty darn rad. You will definitely see an acoustic guitar make noises you never thought an acoustic guitar could make. You will also see a green vest. All in all, you will see lots of stuff, and other than the vest, you won't be sure what it is.

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# Somerville Community Access TV Ch.3 Programming Guide

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<b>Wednesday, March 26</b>		6:00pm	France 24 World News (Free Speech TV)	12:30pm	Youth Violence in Society
7:30am	Life Matters	6:30pm	Somerville Neighborhood News (re-run)	1:00pm	Play by Play
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	7:00pm	Taking Back your Health	2:00pm	Henry Parker Presents
9:00am	Somerville Journal & Somerville Times Reading	7:30pm	Basic Buddha	2:30pm	Culture Club
10:00am	Somerville Neighborhood News	8:00pm	Fouye Zo Nan Kalalou	3:00pm	Telemagazine
10:30am	Art at SCATV	10:00pm	Penny's Dreadful and Shilling Secrets	4:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News
11:00am	Abugida TV	<b>Friday, March 28</b>		4:30pm	Somerville Housing Authority
12:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	7:30am	Shrink Rap	5:00pm	Tele Kreyol
1:00pm	Hello Neighbor	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	6:00pm	Press Conference on Gentrification
1:30pm	Henry Parker Presents	9:00am	Somerville Journal & Somerville Times Reading	6:30pm	Don Berwick, Candidate for MA
2:00pm	Physician Focus	10:00am	High School Peer Pressure	7:00pm	Tufts University's Films for Social Change
2:30pm	Medical Tutor	11:00am	Sound Off	7:30pm	Everybody has an accent why is mine a problem?
3:30pm	Healthy Hypnosis	11:30am	Peace by Piece	8:00pm	David Pakman (Free Speech TV)
4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	12:00pm	Somerville Housing Authority	9:00pm	Nossa Gente e Costumes
5:00pm	Health is Wealth	1:00pm	Press Conference on Gentrification	10:00pm	Somerville Porchfest 2013
5:30pm	Peace by Piece	1:30pm	A View of Taiwan, a song of the forest	11:00pm	Gay USA
6:00pm	France 24 World News (Free Speech TV)	2:30pm	Art at SCATV	<b>Sunday, March 30</b>	
6:30pm	Health and Wellness	3:00pm	Brunch with Sen. Bernie Sanders	6:00am	Program Celebrai
7:00pm	Tufts University's Films for Social Change Series	4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	7:00am	Rompendo em Fe
8:00pm	Somerville Pundits	5:00pm	Greater Somerville	8:00am	Effort Pour Christ
8:30pm	Perils for Pedestrians	5:30pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	9:00am	Heritage Baptist Church
9:00pm	Bay State Biking News	6:00pm	France 24 World News (Free Speech TV)	10:00am	International Church of God
10:00pm	Creepy Castle	6:30pm	Reeling the Movie Review Show	10:30am	Somerville Back in the Day
<b>Thursday, March 27</b>		7:00pm	Real Estate Answers Show	11:00am	The Folklorist
6:00am	Atheist Viewpoint	7:30pm	Couch's Corner	11:30am	Basic Buddha
7:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	8:00pm	Visual Radio	12:00pm	Play by Play
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	9:00pm	Climate Change and Somerville	1:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News
9:00am	Somerville Journal & Somerville Times Reading	10:00pm	Hello Neighbor	1:30pm	Somerville Journal & Somerville Times Reading
10:00am	Somerville Neighborhood News (re-run)	10:30pm	Somerville in Shorts (film series)	2:30pm	Life Matters
11:00am	Tufts University's Films for Social Change	<b>Saturday, March 29</b>		3:00pm	Rompendo em Fe
12:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	6:00am	Arabic Hour	4:00pm	Dedilhando a Saudade
1:00pm	African Television	7:00am	High School Peer Pressure	5:00pm	Ethiopian Satellite TV
2:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking w/ Candy	8:00am	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	6:00pm	Abugida TV
2:30pm	Cooking with Georgia & Dez	8:30am	Art at SCATV	7:00pm	African Television Network
3:00pm	Chef's Table Series	9:00am	Festival Kreyol	8:00pm	Tele Magazine
4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	10:00am	Tele Galaxie	9:00pm	Effort Pour Christ
5:00pm	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	11:00am	Dead Air Live	10:00pm	Farrakhan Speaks
5:30pm	The Folklorist	12:00pm	Reeling the Movie Review Show		
<b>Monday, March 31</b>					
7:30am	Eckankar				
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)				
9:00am	Somerville Journal & Somerville Times Reading				
10:00am	Bay State Biking News				
11:00am	Nossa gente e Costumes				
12:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)				
2:00pm	Tufts Films for Social Change Series				
2:30pm	Copy Cat Festival (at the Arts at the Armory)				
3:00pm	Exercise with Robyn and Max				
3:30pm	Esoteric Science				
4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)				
5:00pm	Culture Club				
5:30pm	Press Pass TV				
6:00pm	France 24 World News (Free Speech TV)				
7:00pm	Nepali Producers Group				
8:00pm	Outside the Lines				
9:00pm	Dedilhando au Saudade				
10:00pm	Bate Papo com Shirley				
<b>Tuesday, April 1</b>					
7:00am	The Struggle				
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)				
9:00am	Somerville Journal & Somerville Times Reading				
10:00am	Contemporary Issues in Science				
12:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)				
2:00pm	The Folklorist				
2:30pm	SCATV's 2014 Annual Meeting Special				
4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)				
5:00pm	Poet to Poet/Writer to Writer				
5:30pm	The Literati Scene				
6:00pm	France 24 World News (Free Speech TV)				
7:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News				
7:30pm	Greater Somerville				
8:00pm	Dead Air Live				
9:00pm	MEH Kyown's Television				
10:00pm	Penny's Dreadful Shilling Shockers				

## City Cable TV Schedule for the Week

<b>CITY TV 13/22</b>					
<b>Wednesday, March 26</b>		9:00am:	Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte	9:30pm:	Girls' Indoor Soccer Final: ESCS vs. WHCS
9:00am:	Union Sq. Redevelopment Meeting VI	12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	10:30pm:	4th Annual Choral Festival
12:00pm:	The Mystic River: A Natural & Human Story	12:30pm:	Sit & Be Fit: Diabetes Workout	<b>Thursday, March 27</b>	
1:00pm:	Greek Independence Day Celebration	1:00pm:	The Mayor's Report	12:00am:	Boys' Indoor Soccer Final: ARGZ vs. WHCS
2:00pm:	Women's Commission 25th Anniversary	1:30pm:	MAPS Free Citizenship & Health Days	1:00am:	Girls' Indoor Soccer Final: ESCS vs. WHCS
3:00pm:	Shape Up Somerville: Historic Overview	2:30pm:	Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte	2:00am:	Improbable Scholars Talk - David L. Kirp
6:30pm:	The Mayor's Report	7:00pm:	Senior Circuit	9:00am:	Improbable Scholars Talk - David L. Kirp
7:00pm:	Women's Commission 25th Anniversary	7:30pm:	Aldermen at Work	10:30am:	kid stuff - Shape Up
8:00pm:	Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte	8:00pm:	Somerville Police Chief Search Public Meeting	11:00am:	Our Schools, Our City - CTE
8:30pm:	MAPS Free Citizenship & Health Days	8:40pm:	Board of Aldermen Meeting – REPLAY OF 3.27.14	12:00pm:	4th Annual Choral Festival
9:30pm:	Agenda for BOA Meeting – 3.27.14	<b>Monday, March 31</b>		2:00pm:	MIAA 1st Rd: SHS Girls Basketball vs. Woburn
<b>Thursday, March 27</b>		12:00am:	Senior Circuit	3:30pm:	Legoland Visits WHCIS
12:00am:	The Mayor's Report	12:30am:	Board of Aldermen Meeting – REPLAY OF 3.27.14	4:30pm:	Improbable Scholars Talk - David L. Kirp
12:30am:	Women's Commission 25th Anniversary			6:00pm:	kid stuff - Shape Up
1:30am:	Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte	3:30am:	Aldermen at Work	6:30pm:	Our Schools, Our City - CTE
2:00am:	MAPS Free Citizenship & Health Days	9:00am:	Greek Independence Day Celebration	7:00pm:	Girls' Indoor Soccer Final: ESCS vs. WHCS
3:00am:	SomerViva: Portugues	12:00pm:	Board of Aldermen Meeting – REPLAY OF 3.27.14	8:00pm:	Boys' Indoor Soccer Final: ARGZ vs. WHCS
9:00am:	Women's Commission 25th Anniversary			9:00pm:	4th Annual Choral Festival
9:00am:	Voices of Somerville	3:30pm:	Union Sq. Redevelopment Meeting III	10:30pm:	Improbable Scholars Talk - David L. Kirp
9:30am:	Somerville Police Chief Search Public Meeting	7:00pm:	SHS Asian Night	<b>Friday, March 28</b>	
12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	8:00pm:	The Mayor's Report	12:00am:	4th Annual Choral Festival
12:30pm:	Sit & Be Fit: Diabetes Workout	8:30pm:	SomerViva: Espanol	2:00am:	MIAA 1st Rd: SHS Girls Basketball vs. Woburn
1:00pm:	The Mayor's Report	9:00pm:	Greek Independence Day Celebration	3:30am:	Legoland Visits WHCIS
2:00pm:	SomerViva: Portugues	10:00pm:	Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte	4:30am:	Improbable Scholars Talk - David L. Kirp
2:30pm:	A Discussion on Somerville Housing			9:00am:	SHS CTE Open House
7:00pm:	Board of Aldermen Meeting – LIVE	<b>Tuesday, April 1</b>		10:00am:	Capuano Center Kindergarten Concert
<b>Friday, March 28</b>		12:00am:	SHS Asian Night	11:00am:	WHCIS Winter Concert
12:00am:	Union Sq. Redevelopment Meeting IV	1:00am:	The Mayor's Report	12:00pm:	Highlander Forum - CTE
2:00am:	Aldermen at Work	2:00am:	SomerViva: Espanol	12:30pm:	kid stuff - Shape Up
2:30pm:	Greek Independence Day Celebration	2:30am:	Greek Independence Day Celebration	1:00pm:	SFLC Workshop: Brain Development of Teens
9:00am:	Aldermen at Work	3:00am:	Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte	2:30pm:	Improbable Scholars Talk - David L. Kirp
9:30am:	SomerViva: Espanol	9:00am:	Women's Commission 25th Anniversary	4:00pm:	4th Annual Choral Festival
12:00pm:	Greek Independence Day Celebration	12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	5:30pm:	Student of the Quarter Awards - Kennedy
1:00pm:	The Mayor's Report	12:30pm:	Sit & Be Fit: Diabetes Workout	6:00pm:	SHS CTE Open House
1:30pm:	Union Sq. Redevelopment Meeting V	1:00pm:	SomerViva: Portugues	7:00pm:	Capuano Center Kindergarten Concert
6:30pm:	Aldermen at Work	1:30pm:	Somerville Police Chief Search Public Meeting	8:00pm:	WHCIS Winter Concert
7:00pm:	Greek Independence Day Celebration	6:30pm:	The Mayor's Report	9:00pm:	Highlander Forum - CTE
8:00pm:	The Mayor's Report	7:00pm:	Senior Circuit	9:30pm:	kid stuff - Shape Up
8:30pm:	Union Sq. Redevelopment Meeting V	7:30pm:	Women's Commission 25th Anniversary	10:00pm:	SFLC Workshop: Brain Development of Teens
<b>Saturday, March 29</b>		8:30pm:	Aldermen at Work	11:30pm:	Our Schools, Our City - CTE
12:00am:	Greek Independence Day Celebration	9:00pm:	The Mystic River: A Natural & Human Story	<b>Saturday, March 29</b>	
1:00am:	The Mayor's Report	10:00pm:	Shape Up Somerville: Historic Overview	12:00am:	4th Annual Choral Festival
1:30am:	Union Sq. Redevelopment Meeting V	12:00am:	Senior Circuit	1:30am:	Boys' Indoor Soccer Final: ARGZ vs. WHCS
9:00am:	The Mayor's Report	12:30am:	Women's Commission 25th Anniversary	2:30am:	Girls' Indoor Soccer Final: ESCS vs. WHCS
12:00pm:	SomerViva: Espanol	1:30am:	Aldermen at Work	9:00am:	SFLC Workshop: Ages & Stages
12:30pm:	Women's Commission 25th Anniversary	2:00am:	The Mystic River: A Natural & Human Story	10:00am:	Student of the Quarter Awards - Healey
1:30pm:	The Mystic River: A Natural & Human Story	3:00am:	Shape Up Somerville: Historic Overview	10:30am:	Argenziano School's MLK Concert
9:30pm:	Voices of Somerville	<b>EDUCATIONAL CHANNEL 15</b>		11:30am:	SFLC Workshop
<b>Sunday, March 30</b>		<b>Wednesday, March 26</b>		1:00pm:	4th Annual Choral Festival
12:00am:	SomerViva: Espanol	9:00am:	Our Schools, Our City - CTE	2:30pm:	Our Schools, Our City - CTE
12:30am:	Women's Commission 25th Anniversary	10:00am:	Boys' Indoor Soccer Final: ARGZ vs. WHCS	3:00pm:	Girls' Indoor Soccer Final: ESCS vs. WHCS
1:30am:	The Mystic River: A Natural & Human Story	11:00am:	Improbable Scholars Talk - David L. Kirp	4:00pm:	Boys' Indoor Soccer Final: ARGZ vs. WHCS
2:30am:	Voice of Somerville	12:30pm:	kid stuff - Shape Up	5:00pm:	SHS CTE Open House
		1:00pm:	SHS Girls Basketball vs. Medford	6:00pm:	Student of the Quarter Awards - Healey
		2:30pm:	Girls' Indoor Soccer Final: ESCS vs. WHCS	6:30pm:	Argenziano School's MLK Concert
		3:30pm:	4th Annual Choral Festival	7:30pm:	SFLC Workshop
		5:00pm:	Boys' Indoor Soccer Final: ARGZ vs. WHCS	9:00pm:	4th Annual Choral Festival
		6:00pm:	Improbable Scholars Talk - David L. Kirp	10:30pm:	SHS CTE Open House
		7:30pm:	kid stuff - Shape Up		
		8:00pm:	SHS Hockey vs. Latin Academy	<b>Sunday, March 30</b>	
				12:00am:	4th Annual Choral Festival





## OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

### ‘Partner, Orchard, Day Moon’ by Michael Todd Steffen:

A New poetry Collection from Somerville’s Cervena Barva Press

Somerville Poet Michael Todd Steffen will be reading from his new book at the Arts Armory in Somerville at 7PM, Wednesday / March 26. Here is a review by guest columnist Denis Daly.

*Partner, Orchard, Day Moon*  
By Michael Todd Steffen  
Cervena Barva Press  
www.cervenabarvapress.com  
Somerville, MA  
ISBN: 978-0-9883713-2-3  
Cover Art: Irene Koronas  
61 Pages

Poetry needs concentration. Reading Michael Todd Steffen’s first collection of poems, *Partner, Orchard, Day Moon*, demands both presence of mind and a steady emotional containment. I kept putting the book down and looking behind me. Footfalls I thought. Perhaps murmurings. Or a pulse in the back of my neck.

Many of Steffen’s pieces conjure up small town and rural Americana: holidays, hunting, board games, table talk, hand-me-downs, views through kitchen windows, summer adventures, and, of course, baseball. Strangely, the atmospherics that saturate this collection suggest Igmarr Bergman rather than Norman Rockwell. In the midst of measured well-wrought lines and enticing music, something wicked this way comes.

Right from the book’s first poem Steffen has a way of disorientating. In *Christmas in August* the poet sets up a juxtaposition of seasonal discomfort. The piece’s second person protagonist ascends a department store’s escalator in summer garb into a thinner, much colder mannequin world. To drive his image home the poet places a mirror beyond the escalator’s railing. The contrast tests reality. The poem opens this way:

Wandering lost through the department stores  
You catch a glimpse of yourself in an odd  
Mirror gliding over the escalator’s  
Handrest—when the metal step slips forward  
And you stumble, up walking around the mannequins  
Clad for autumn in pullovers and cords.  
Summer hasn’t ended.

The understated rhyme and metrics seem to effectively push a chilling definition of the ambiguous, later-mentioned “bag people” front and center.

Moody silence pervades the intelligible, but demonic, chess game of life in one of the title poems (there are three) called *The Partner*. Curiously, Steffen drops the names of two iconic chess grandmasters into this context: Tigran Petrosian, noted for his remarkable, if interminable draws, and Gedeon Barcza, who played offense using a defensive strategy. The poem ends in Bergman-like fashion:

Thickening in the waking winter dark  
And the checker’d go watery beneath the pieces—  
Your knight in stirrups at the toe of his pawn.  
You’d catch yourself up from a nod and swear  
He had left the room. But he kept murmuring at you.  
All the while he sat right there  
Across the table, not saying a word.

Steffen’s sonnet *Thanksgiving* becomes a secular or possibly a quasi-religious rite of guilt and sacrifice in a hushed ceremony of food and family. Words such as “accused,” “wince,” “pain,” and “hushed” shadow the meal and, perhaps, foreshadow other troubles. The poem ends ambiguously. The poet says:

One creature went silent. He went on to live  
And join the toast at the table with its ornaments  
For the holiday, the straw weft cornucopia  
Basket with squash and gourds and native corn,  
Auburn of oat sheaf in the candle’s aura  
Hushed for the dishes my aunt told us to pass  
With sneaky dribs of red wine for my glass.

Another title poem, *The Orchard*, Steffen molds into a beautifully compressed piece that mulls over the phe-

nomena of appearance and promise. His braille metaphor really hits the mark. Here are the first eight lines:

Trees stood all winter like cattle in  
the field  
Naked of their leaves in wind and  
snow,  
Their extremities advanced like  
blind men reading  
Braille from the lines of wind that made them tremble.

To look at them for long you would remember  
How superficial winter’s hardest freeze  
Compared to their roots deep as the cemetery’s  
Shelter where uncles seasoned herring stew.

My favorite Steffen poem, *The Miracle Worker in Work Clothes*, pushes through the fertile clods of page prophesizing the brutish theology of a barnyard universe. The piece is mythic and absolutely unforgettable. The nitty-gritty of creation accusingly grabs civilized man by his white-collared throat, and demands that he collect his illusions and step aside. The poet says:

With the creases of leather boots clumped in clay  
The miracle worker  
Has raised the dead at Saint Galen’s  
While the family wept and praised the lord their god.  
Like earth stunning  
Winter back into spring, the miracle worker  
Tensed, a body of sweat and breath, breast borne open  
To the holy spirit  
With great concentration pushing, pushing  
The dead back into this life while men  
Looking on stood dumb...

*Hand Me Downs*, a sonnet, begins as a meditation of family closeness and work ethic, evolves into the nature of memory, and ends lightly, yet troublingly, considering mankind’s shared condition. Steffen explains,

I was straw for style. Others were remembered.  
Beyond their season things withstood a year  
Stretched to casual, wear tear, raggedy,  
Nearly familiar, for me or anybody.

The longest poem in this collection Steffen entitles *Ghost Man*. Reminiscent of Stephen Crane’s *The Red Badge of Courage*, Steffen’s persona gathers about him a ghost companion, a dead man pursuing him in his imagination. One of a bunch of summertime kids, the poet’s protagonist had come face to face with the dead man, formerly a hanged man. Sickened by what he saw he ran away with his friends in search of adults. Later, the unresolved death of this ghost (suicide or homicide?) gives him power over the poet’s imagination. This indefatigable and hostile spirit blocks pathways and bridges and pursues the poet, threatening violence. He becomes the sum of all fears. The paranoia builds in these lines,

Some days later, he’s be there again  
Barring my passage to the pathway bridge.  
For hours after I’d given up and turned  
Away from that crossing with its graceful camber  
Over the river, he followed me  
In silence, appearing behind a large stone  
Or from a hedge or through a row of trees—  
The knotted hunch over to one shoulder  
For his abandoned judgment, the missing teeth  
Sure sign that he had no fear and would eat anything

Steffen’s collection of poetry does not have the feel of a first book with its expected missteps and questionable choices. On the contrary its unmistakable artistry and mysterious combination of maturity and controlled paranoia belies that trite canard. There is real power, both mythic and otherwise, in Steffen’s word images delivered here. The bright future of this ghost-haunted, highly talented poet seems beyond question.

— Review by Dennis Daly

# Lyrical

## SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Tufts University graduate Carla Schwartz is a poet, poetry filmmaker, photographer, and lyricist. Her new, full-length book, *Mother, One More Thing*, is available through Turning Point Books and on amazon.com. She has performed and read her work in the U.S., Canada, and Australia. Carla is also a professional writer with a doctoral degree. Learn more at carlapoet.com. Come celebrate the launch of *Mother, One More Thing* at the Arts at the Armory Cafe, 191 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA on Thursday, April 10, at 7 PM. Bassist Marty Ballou will accompany her reading for the launch. Hors d’oeuvres will be served. Cash bar.

Here is what Pushcart prize-winning poet Peter Campion has said of the collection: “In Carla Schwartz’s *Mother, One More Thing*, the details of the natural world, as well as the lives we make together as families, friends, and even individual daydreamers, come into radiant focus. Schwartz attends to her subjects with great sympathy, but she refuses to sentimentalize those subjects. Poems such as *Green Dress*, *Last Glass of Orange Juice*, and *Mother, One More Thing* only strengthen their emotional force by exploring the subtle and often contradictory aspects of their occasions. Schwartz is an excellent poet, and her book is built to last.”

About *Daily Call*, the author writes, “This is a poem of address from the narrator to her diseased mother. It provides the reader with a humorous and insightful view a mother-daughter relationship, one that is ongoing, even when the mother dies.”

#### Daily Call

You would be calling me out of the cold water today,  
telling me to buy a new car, as you did fifteen years ago,  
before I bought the Honda.

I would be telling you It only has 235 thousand,  
and if I just replace the leaking fuel lines, it will last to 300, at least.

You would parry with side airbags and antilock brakes.  
I still regret not having changed the timing gear in the Chevelle.

Just then you would lament,  
upset that my face is cut, my eye, bruised, my legs, my palm,  
and introduce me, “This is my daughter, she fell off her bike.”

The subtext reads, She doesn’t usually look like this,  
I’m embarrassed, forgive her.  
Not buying into the healing powers of a cold pond,  
you would insist I will get sick.

I can’t call to say I won’t let go of the Honda  
because you helped me buy it  
and you’re not here anymore,  
you, star of the showroom,  
who knew how to say “no,”  
to walk away from what you didn’t want.

From *Mother, One More Thing*, by Carla Schwartz,  
Turning Point Books, 2014.

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:  
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