

Somerville's
original
independent
newspaper

The Somerville Times

www.thesomervilletimes.com



VOL. 10 NO. 15

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Boynton Yards team presents latest plans for Thoroughfare 1



A new street design for Thoroughfare 1, part of the Boynton Yard Master plan, was recently presented to city officials and the public.

By Ryan DiLello

On Wednesday, April 6, the Boynton Yards development team presented a new street design for Thoroughfare 1, within the 6.8-acre Boynton Yard Master plan. About three dozen city organizers, City Council members, and residents attended to see the updated plans and to ask questions and leave comments, following a presentation from the development team.

Ian Ramey, principal at Copley Wolff Design Group, led the 25-minute presentation, beginning with a project timeline.

In the fall, the development team will start on a more detailed design, he said, collaborating with city departments. In early spring of 2023, the group hopes to begin construction in two phases; first at the western edge of the thoroughfare, between Windsor Street and Earl Street, followed by the eastern *Continued on page 4*

Somerville Open Studios to be held on April 30

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

Somerville Open Studios (SOS), a local non-profit organization, has been holding art events and an annual open studio event for years. From April 30 to May 1, Somerville Open Studios will hold their annual event.

The event seeks to bring local artists and the Somerville community together, to give access to the work of artists.

Terry Dovidio, Board Member of the Somerville Open Studios, talked about the purpose that the open studios serve.

"The purpose is to bring the public into the artist's studio and not necessarily just the art, but also the process of making art. Of how the artists, where they create, what their method and process and how they paint or what kind of paints they use," Dovidio said.

Somerville Open Studios is a decentralized art exhibition where artists gather in different venues around Somerville to *Continued on page 10*



Marbled Bowl – glazed stoneware by Somerville potter Stephen Goss of Goss Craft, one of the many local artists opening their studios to the public on April 30 and May 1.

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We wish all of our readers, their friends and families, a **Happy Easter** and **Passover**. May the blessings of these occasions bring healing and strength to all of us throughout these challenging times. It is a time to embrace hope and optimism as we look together towards the future.

This is the last weekend to visit Somerville’s **Winter Farmers Market, Saturday**, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. Offering the best locally grown and produced agricultural items and more. They offer a diverse range of local and New England produce, as well as cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, pastries, chocolate, and wine. They feature rotating guest vendors each week, as well as live entertainment and activities. Check out the schedule and map at www.som-wintermarket.org. They accept SNAP/EBT & HIP, CREDIT and DEBIT cards. \$15 SNAP match for EBT customers.








Hop on over to the **Kids' Co-Op Cambridge (KCC) Spring Fling** for a basket full of seasonal fun, **Friday, April 15**, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at **Hodgkins-Curtin Park**. Enjoy chalk, bubbles, games, and an Easter egg hunt at 10:30 a.m. Free family pics will be provided by local photographer and KCC mom **Sarah Marchwiany**. Bring an idea for our sidewalk chalk mural and a basket for eggs.

East Somerville Main Streets and Connexion bring you the **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** at **Chuckie Harris Park**. Join them on Saturday, April 16, at 11:00 a.m. rain or shine for a family fun time.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: A big happy birthday to **Mayor Katjana Ballantyne**. We hope she has a great birthday for herself. Happy birthday to **Jesse Moos**, we hope he has a great day. We wish a happy birthday to all of our Facebook friends such as **Mark Hnl Kaye**, **Eileen Langille**, **K Muti Standel**, **Missy Julien-Thelemarque**, *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of April 13 – April 19 as provided by the National Weather Service

| DAY | CONDITIONS | HIGH/LOW | PRECIPITATION | HUMIDITY | WIND |
|---|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|------------|
|  Wednesday <i>April 13</i> | Partly Cloudy | 64°/49° | 21% | 17% | SW 10 mph |
|  Thursday <i>April 14</i> | Rain | 65°/49° | 54% | 33% | SE 12 mph |
|  Friday <i>April 15</i> | Partly Cloudy | 64°/46° | 15% | 10% | WNW 13 mph |
|  Saturday <i>April 16</i> | Partly Cloudy | 61°/47° | 23% | 16% | WSW 13 mph |
|  Sunday <i>April 17</i> | Rain | 56°/45° | 40% | 36% | W 10 mph |
|  Monday <i>April 18</i> | Rain | 57°/46° | 38% | 29% | NNE 12 mph |
|  Tuesday <i>April 19</i> | Cloudy | 55°/44° | 25% | 18% | W 13 mph |

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: **April 3, 1980, Somerville witnesses the worst chemical spill in the history of the state**

BMac says:

I was at the Conwell at the time, so not near the accident, but I remember my mother having her shift at Somerville Hospital extended and hearing about the number of people they saw that day.

Steve Keenan says:

Nice story by former Mayor Brune. I was assigned at the time on Ladder 2 in Group 2 out of Headquarters on Broadway. As we neared the scene we saw the cloud and knew this was going to be a challenge,

As we turned onto Joy Street our exposed skin started to burn from the fumes. The liquid was running down the street bubbling. Deputy Chief Brosnahan instructed us to divert the flowing liquid away from the storm and sewer drains. I remember a red Chevy Impala parked on Joy Street.

At the end of the day it was white because the leaking fumes eat the red pigment out of the red paint. The green shamrocks on my helmet turned silver and the copper piping on our apparatus turned green.

at the hospital I discovered that all the coins in my pocket had also turned green. This incident was handled very well due to training, preparedness, and good coordination, communication, and leadership from Mayor Brune, Fire Chief Donovan, Police Chief Pino, Deputy Chief Brosnahan, firefighters, police officers, EMS, and other agencies.

I will never forget the size of the chemical cloud in the air. The people of Somerville can be sure that any incident like this in the future will be handled properly. You have an excellent fire department, police department, EMS personnel, and other agencies.

Response to: **GLX arrives in Union Square**

BMac says:

I think you are soft selling how long this fight has been when you say mothers and mention 30 years.

I am old enough to be a grandparent and it was my grandparents, with my teenage mother, who had to move because the house they were living in was being torn down to put in 93.

Response to: **Sav-Mor Liquors opens in Assembly Row**

Pam DeGroot says:

Great owners, great selection...congrats on opening. May all drink with you for many years to come. Kenny and Michael, great smiles.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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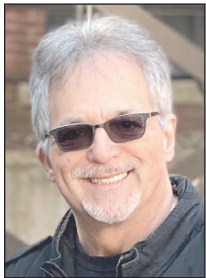


Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Easters gone by



Considering the current pandemic, Easter will not be how we are used to celebrating. Here is a story I did in 2008. I'm sure we will all do our best to make Easter as enjoyable as possible.

Easter was a special time in my family because I had an Uncle Chick and an Uncle Bunny. Really! I used to love telling people that. Easter was the kind of holiday when we got new shoes and new clothes. I remember it was a struggle because my parents never liked the suit jackets I liked. I went for a red plaid jacket one year and I ended up wearing some dumb looking thing that I hated.

The trip to Anderson-Little in Medford was a pain in the butt. The only good thing about it was that we always went to Howard Johnson's at Wellington Circle when we were done. We'd pile into my father's old Rambler American and take the drive to hell. It was an hour of trying on hideous suit jackets and gross looking trousers that made me look like an Italian version of a mini Wally Cleaver. By the way I finally convinced my parents to buy me a red suit jacket a couple of years later.

The suit jacket would never fit right because my parents would buy a size bigger than I wore, so I could get more than one season out of it. The problem was, I didn't have those normal growth spurts, so by the time I grew into it, the jacket was outdated, stained or ripped.

And the pants! When I was a pre-teen the style was pegged pants, but I wasn't allowed to wear tight pants. I had to wear these baggy wool pants that not only itched but also made me look like an idiot. We called them balloon pants because when the wind blew, they inflated from the bottom. They would have been in style today. I also had to wear goofy orthopedic shoes for a few years. It added to the misery of the uncomfortable clothes.

The only kids in my neighborhood whose parents let him dress cool was Pat O'Neil and his brother Dennis. They had the pegged pants, the pointed shoes, the in-style jackets and the cool haircuts. One year my folks actually let me get penny loafers at Thom McCann's. Of course, I put dimes in them.

We didn't mind looking silly when we were really young. When my brother and I were six and three, my parents dressed us up alike in tweed suits, complete with matching little beanie hats. Man, were we cute.

Mom always made sure that my sister was dressed to the nines. She had the pretty bonnet, the

Continued on page 14



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Sleep In Sleep Out 2022

In an effort to continue promoting awareness of homelessness, Somerville Homeless Coalition is thrilled to announce the 2nd annual Sleep In Sleep Out event. This community at-home event will take place the weekend of Friday May 13 – Sunday May 15. While you sleep in your backyard, basement, or living room, the SHC Team sleep out-side. Join in to raise much needed funds for their clients living outside year-round.

Last year, the Team braved the elements (it rained hard) as they slept outside for the night. Although we will never fully appreciate the toll it takes on their homeless clients’ physical and mental health, the night fueled passion and desire to do more for the most vulnerable in our community. While they sleep out on Friday, May 13, they are asking you to register for this event and sleep in your yard, a tent, basement, or a place of your choosing – simply a place without the comforts of your own bed.

Getting involved is simple. Sign up using the link below. Pay the registration fee of \$30. Choose your tee-shirt size (to wear on the night of your at-home sleep out!)* Go that extra mile and become a fundraiser (details will be sent to you in an email upon registration).

**To receive a t-shirt with your registration, you must register by April 29.*

Last year over 100 registered for the event and you, our wonderful community raised over \$24,000. Together, we will make a difference; together we will find everyone a home.

Register at: <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/22SLEEPOUT>.



Boynton Yards team presents latest plans for Thoroughfare 1

CONT. FROM PG 1

portion between Earl and Harding Street. They plan to finish construction by the end of 2024.

“This is a privately funded thoroughfare that will be transferred over to the city as a public street,” Ramey said. “[We] want to prioritize people, public realm activation, and green infrastructure over vehicles,” he said, noting that this was a concept which the city of Somerville brought to developers. “Traffic will be slowed, vehicular access through the corridor will be discouraged,” Ramey continued.

With the timeline set, Ramey delved into goals centered around pedestrians, vehicles, and green infrastructure.

Pedestrians and Vehicles:

A primary goal is ensuring that the thoroughfare will provide a safe and lively “civic space, optimized for everyday use.” Developers took a key step here in designing the street to deter vehicles with limited parking spaces and non-traditional road materials. They also engineered ways to attract pedestrians by making the streets adaptable to multiple purposes like festivals.

Developers have decreased the allotted parking spaces from 30 to 18, including two van-accessible parking spaces. Ramey noted that some of these spaces are apt for bike lockups.

Green Infrastructure:

Ramey mentioned that early plans for the thoroughfare “felt still more like a traditional street that happened to have a good amount of tree canopy.” Today’s plans use the trees as ways to break up the street, “taking larger clusters of trees, interjecting them into the street space,” Ramey said, which he clarified, is an effort to “blur the lie between the pedestrian sidewalk and the road.

Biodiversity has been a central concern within green infrastruc-

ture planning. Ramey said the development team is committed to at least 50% native species and plans to maximize the tree canopy. Other important factors include ease of maintenance, health and viability (especially given stormwater runoff and harsh conditions associated with a high-traffic area), as well as maximizing ecological value.

The development team also considered auxiliary infrastructure like tree guards, irrigation paths along sidewalks and through curbs, and mini basins, to ensure water reaches the trees sustainably.

With the goals established, Ramey gave a brief overview of next steps.

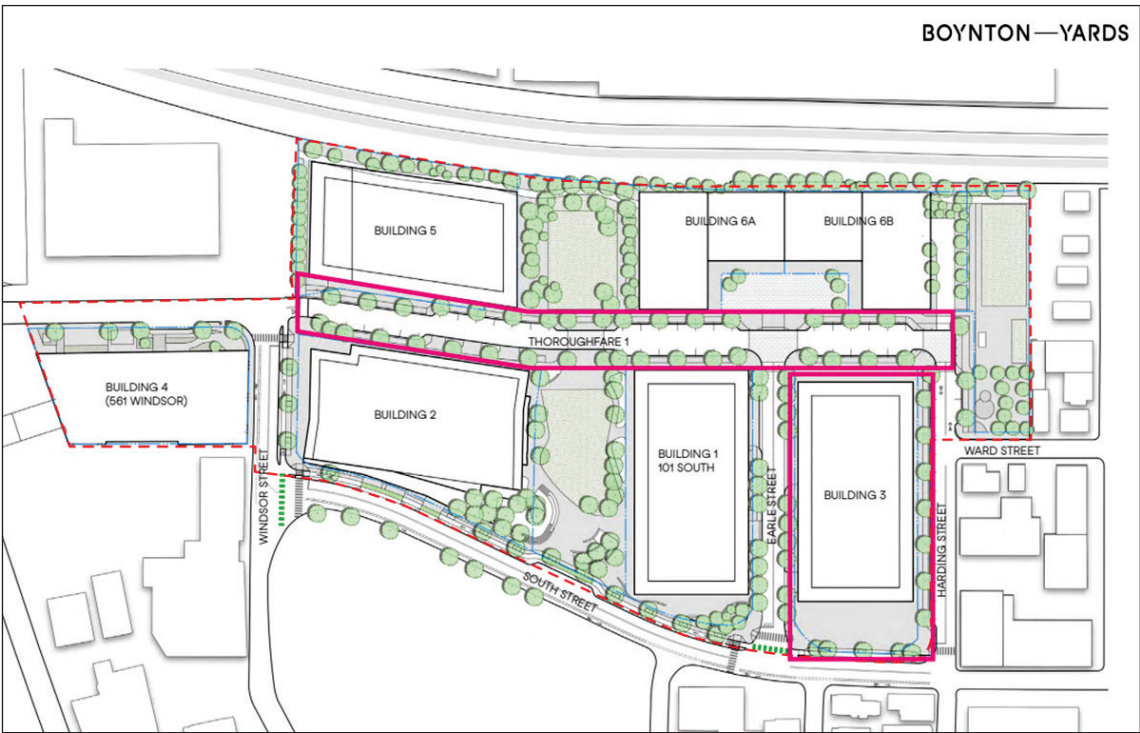
“As we move through this process, we will meet with the city department, refine design concepts, and present to the UDC,” Ramey said. Rola Idris, Project Manager from Leggatt McCall Properties clarified that a community meeting will occur after the team presents its plans to the UDC.

“As that process unfolds [with the UDC], we’ll be preparing our official SPA documents to submit to the city. And then by the spring, hopefully we’ll have planning board hearings and design development beyond that,” Ramey concluded, opening the floor for questions and comments.

Q+A Section:

Questions covered biodiversity, green infrastructure, plans for retail spaces, and traffic changes during and after construction.

The first question came from a local resident, who asked whether developers would consider sharing the abundance of trees, where they may be excess, with neighborhoods in Somerville in need of more trees. “Trees for everyone,” Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott said. “I think that’s



A representation of Thoroughfare 1’s placement within the Boynton Yard Master plan.

a fair question,” he said, but neglected to answer it.

The same resident also asked about crosswalk maintenance, noting that deteriorated crosswalks posed a danger for pedestrians, as well as vehicle speeding issues arising from construction workers leaving their worksites. “I can understand wanting to get out of work early, but also taking your time in our neighborhood.”

Kevin Roche, Deputy Director of Engineering Services, answered the question regarding crosswalks, explaining that the city has held off on repainting due to weather conditions, but now, as the weather is improving, “it is something [the city] has had its eye on.” Roche said his team will visit the intersections within the Boynton Yards neighborhood.

Next, Tori Antonino, a member of the Union Square Neighborhood Council and the Urban Forestry Committee, spoke about the importance of green infrastructure for the success of the thoroughfare. “It does do so much for our health,” Antonino said. “With all the space you

have, you can plant hundreds of species.”

“My front yard has 50 different species,” Antonino added. “It would be lovely to have our black-cap chickadees, the Massachusetts state bird, stick around. Any they will if they have safe places to be and food to eat.” Antonino also recommended that the development team meet with the Urban Forestry Committee.

A resident then asked about what types of retail spaces are planned, which John Fenton of DLJ Real Estate answered. “We have a tenant so far at 101 South Street, which will be a local brewery and they will be serving food as well as beer that’s created on site, which will be an amenity and actually a qualifier for Arts and Creative Enterprise (ACE).”

“The idea is to try to create uses that serve the community as well as the Arts and Creative Enterprise community,” Fenton said, mentioning that “makers” could include restaurants, sweets manufacturing, breweries, and retail establishments.

Another resident asked wheth-

er construction was going to block off the pedestrian passage across to Ward Street, the fastest way for residents to reach the new Green Line stop.

“I believe there will be a temporarily protected pedestrian access route,” Ramey said.

Lastly, a resident asked whether the direction of south street between Medford and Harding Streets is being reversed. City planner, Andrew Graminski, said he will have to confirm with the mobility division, but from his recollection, he said, it will be reversed from the current direction. “But again, that’s going to happen in phased stages,” Graminski clarified. “In terms of a timeline, I can’t give a definitive answer.”

Bill Cavellini, a founding member of the USNC, provided closing audience remarks. “This [plan for development] is definitely in keeping with prioritizing pedestrian and bikes and the tree canopy and native plants,” Cavellini said, noting that the neighborhood council has advocated for these goals for the past 3-4 years.

Reserve list still a topic of concern in Somerville

By Kyle Dante

Due to Somerville’s fiscal year, the Police and Fire Committees face hardship. The departments are of similar value. Police officers and firefighters face the same training and examinations. Think of it similarly to a sports athlete. Officers and firefighters get swapped too on their respective roles.

The current issues within the departments are their reserve lists. However, there is currently no formal decision on handling the lists. It is acting as a hiring puzzle. No matter the decision, the list size remains problematic. It takes a while to get a firefighter or officer on the reserve list, sometimes up to eight to ten months.

Therefore, there are several concerns among the City Council and department staff. Namely, the plan, its control, and keeping it consistent for future hires.

On April 5, a hypothetical timeline was proposed at the Somerville City Council’s Legislative Matters Committee meeting. The concern is about staffing the opening of the Assembly Square Station. As the police and firefighters share identical training and background checks, the process applies for each department. By June 2022, HR will request an eligible list and begin orientation. By October 2022, it is hoped the interviews will be complete.

Beginning January 2023, the selected candidates will start



Many feel that a new fire station is needed in the Assembly Square area in order to ensure a quicker response to fires that occur there.

exams, with February-March naming the members. It is due to an eight to ten-month time-frame receiving an appointed staff. The gradual process will conclude in February 2025 with adequate staff.

The Council rejected the proposed setup due to the length of the process. The fire department has had this discussion since 2021. Also, it remained a talking point since the January 2022 legislation meeting. Not only does it fail to consider the fiscal year but also those willing to serve.

In regard to the reserve list, it needs internal control. Say, for example, the hiree is on reserve. Time will pass, and they do not serve.

Separate from finances, what of those willing to serve? It is not simply the oldest reserve joining the fray. It is a timely process. By

then, the reserve members are unfit to work. Alternatively, they do not want to serve Somerville or a city anymore.

Unless the departments provide new information on how to address the situation, it is a dead council topic. It needs a rework. With the incoming opening of Assembly Station Square, an adjustment must happen. Not only for the taxpayers but those hired. A waste of money can occur with paying more than necessary. More importantly, it is a disservice to those who want to help the city when a tenured employee retires. A change is needed, not hypothetically, but an actual plan.

Go to http://www.thesomervilletimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/reserve_list_2.gif to view graphic charting the Assembly Square Station staffing scenarios.

Green Line Extension (GLX) Project night work look-ahead

Work Schedules are subject to change based on weather, track access, workforce availability, supply-chain issues, and other factors. With the GLX Union Branch now in service and carrying passengers between Lechmere Station and Union Square Station on a regular schedule, the project continues to target a summer 2022 opening of the Medford Branch from East Somerville Station to Medford/Tufts Station.



To this end, crews will take advantage of upcoming weekend track outages along the Lowell Commuter Rail Line in Somerville and Medford to perform work that can only be completed when trains are not running. Beginning Friday, April 8, through early Sunday morning, April 10, work crews will be on the tracks further advancing the final stages of GLX construction. Weeknight work is also expected around-the-clock on an intermittent basis during the month of April.

This work involves installing the final layer of crushed stone, completing the overhead catenary system, installing fences, final wall work, and performing final track leveling. Work areas will continuously move along the entire length of the Medford Branch. Elevated noise levels are expected at times due to the use of heavy equipment, including dump trucks, backhoes, generators, and the track leveling device.

We apologize for any disruption caused by this activity, and we appreciate your patience and support as we finalize the construction of this long-awaited transit project. For more information, please visit [Mass.gov/GLX](https://www.mass.gov/GLX).

— MassDOT

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #251

The Reunion

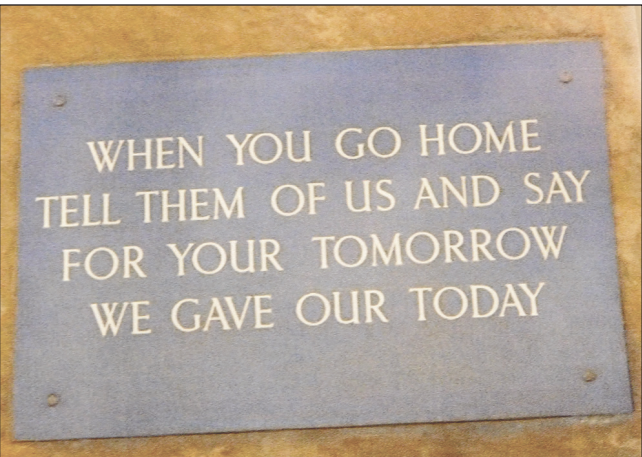
By Bob (Monty) Doherty

A reunion has been described as a gathering of friends, relatives, or associates on a special date or interval who honor the act of uniting again after a long separation. In our grand country, the historic time to remember should be the year 1775 and its following day of January 1, 1776.



The historic place to remember where the American spirit of 1776 was incubated was Charlestown/Somerville’s Prospect Hill and the seven forts surrounding it. If the first Revolutionary War leaders and soldiers wanted to reunite, Somerville might be its historic choice!

It would be an ageless reunion, of course, because it would be 247 years later. They might greet each other with, “Hey, you all look the same. It seems like yesterday we were here, or you haven’t changed a bit.”



But then, the tears would slowly flow when the foggy memories cleared. They would remember the British attack on the old Powder House, Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill, the long siege of Boston, and the bitter and bloody eight-year war which followed. During the first year of the war, Prospect Hill, meaning panoramic view, became General Washington’s essential American fortress. It was from this height that he observed the enemy and organized his early soldiers of all ranks in preparation to assault them.



Who were they? They were the patriots who had already fought and spilled their blood since April 19 at Lexington. The last American to die that day was at the base of Prospect Hill. He was sixty-five-year-old James Miller who said, “I am too old to run.” It was the first time Prospect Hill was stained with the blood of an American patriot. Younger men fled before the advance of the British Redcoats, but only James showed that the gray hairs of age outdared the red blood of youth.

These patriots all touched Prospect Hill:

• General Israel Putnam - Fought at

Continued on page 13

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators’ votes on roll calls from the week of April 4-8. There were no roll calls in the House last week.

MARIJUANA LAWS (S 2801)

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that makes changes in the cannabis industry including creating a social equity fund, to provide grants and loans, including forgivable and no-interest loans, designed to assist entrepreneurs and businesses from communities disproportionately harmed by the decades of marijuana prohibition.

Another key provision would permit cities and towns, either through a voter referendum or by an act of the City Council or Board of Selectman, to allow the sale of marijuana and marijuana products for consumption on the premises where they are sold.

Supporters explained that opening an average cannabis retail shop can require up to \$1.5 million. They noted that since federal cannabis laws prevent these businesses from accessing traditional bank loans, lack of capital can pose an insurmountable barrier.

“I’m proud that when the Senate and the Legislature legalized the commercial marijuana industry in 2017, we prioritized the creation of a first-in-the-nation equity program,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “Unfortunately, many barriers continue to prevent those historically harmed by marijuana prohibition from entering the industry. Today’s bill takes important steps to address these by providing resources to support social equity businesses and putting guardrails in place on the Host Community Agreement process.”

“When we passed recreational cannabis legislation five years ago, we sought to ensure the commonwealth’s budding cannabis industry would be equitable, diverse, and have ample avenues of entry for small-scale and Black and Brown-led entrepreneurship,” said Sen. Julian Cyr (D-Truro). “Regrettably, the Legislature’s intention to build an industry rooted in social justice has not yet been fully realized. Today we are living up to that promise by establishing guardrails on host-community agreements, allowing communities interested in pursuing social consumption sites to do so, and empowering a strong, vibrant, local cannabis industry with a robust cannabis equity fund.”

“Limiting the cost of operation is part of promoting social equity and repairing harm to communities harmed by War On Drugs, by lowering one of many barriers to entry with the host community agreement reform in this bill,” said Sen. Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville). “I hope this new bill is even clearer in stating the intent of the law and the ability of the Cannabis Control Commission to achieve the goals of promoting social equity. High costs of cannabis have helped preserve the illicit market for cannabis and this bill will take significant steps to expand business opportunities and lower costs across the commonwealth.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill).

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

REQUIRE REFERENDUM ON ONSITE CONSUMPTION (S 2801)

Senate 3-36, rejected an amendment that would require a city or town to hold a voter referendum on any proposal that would allow the sale of marijuana and marijuana products for consumption on the premises where they

are sold. The amendment would replace language in the bill that gives two options to cities and towns: hold a referendum or have the option to give the authority to the City Council or Board of Selectmen.

Amendment supporters said that the voters, not city or town officials, should have the final say on whether to allow these businesses to operate in the community.

“If you believe in democracy and full participation and allowing every voter to weigh in, and most of us do, then you would be in support of this amendment,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester).

Amendment opponents said cities and towns should have both the referendum option and the local officials’ option, which will save the costs of holding a referendum.

The main opponent of the amendment, Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz (D-Boston) did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call to comment on the amendment.

(A “Yes” vote is for allowing only a referendum. A “No” vote is for allowing a referendum or a vote by local officials).

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

CREATE A FUND TO HELP CITIES AND TOWNS DEVELOP AGREEMENTS (S 2801)

Senate 8-31, rejected an amendment that would create a state-funded Host Community Technical Assistance Fund to help cities and towns in developing and negotiating Home Community Agreements (H CAs)—which are agreements between a city or town and the business looking to open a marijuana-related business in the community.

“If we are going to put so much stock in HCAs and put stringent requirements on their accounting and execution, then we ought to be helping municipalities that may not have the ability to negotiate and develop the kind of agreements that we all hope to have,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester).

Amendment opponents said the fund is not necessary and noted that the bill includes the creation of a model agreement on which cities and towns can base their agreements without spending a lot of money. They also noted cities and towns can use the 3 percent tax that local communities are already entitled to levy on the businesses. The main opponent of the amendment, Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz (D-Boston,) did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call to comment on the amendment.

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

CREATING WOMEN’S RIGHTS HISTORY TRAIL PROGRAM (S 2802)

Senate 39-0, approved a bill that would require the state to develop and implement a Women’s Rights History Trail Program. The measure includes requiring the state to designate properties and sites that are historically and thematically associated with the struggle for women’s rights and women’s suffrage. Another provision provides that the state promote education and awareness of the struggle for women’s rights in the state. A 13-member

Women’s Rights History Trail Task Force would be formed to research, solicit public input and make recommendations for sites, properties and attractions to be included in the trail. The House has already approved its own version of the bill. The Senate version now goes to the House for consideration.

“Massachusetts has a rich history of involvement in the women’s rights movement,” said the bill’s sponsor Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem). “Women have had a pivotal role in shaping the policies of our commonwealth, and this bill will ensure that those contributions are known and celebrated ... The history of these women is our history, and we must continue to advance that history forward.”

“Women in Massachusetts have played a pivotal role at every step in the commonwealth’s history, yet their contributions are too often overlooked,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “The Women’s Rights History Trail will serve as a visible monument to the history of women—and the women’s rights movement. Understanding this history gives us all a chance to reflect on where we have come from and what it means to leave a legacy that can uplift and inspire future generations. I am glad to see that this trail will give particular attention to the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of the women who have transformed Massachusetts.”

The House approved the bill in the 2019-2020 session on September 18, 2020 and sent it to the Senate Ways and Means Committee where it died without further action and without a vote by the Senate.

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill).

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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 April 4-8, the House met for a total of 36 minutes and the Senate met for a total of five hours and 46 minutes

Mon. April 4 House 11:04 a.m. to 11:27 a.m.
Senate 11:20 a.m. to 11:31 a.m.

Tues. April 5 No House session
No Senate session

Wed. April 6 No House session
No Senate session

Thurs. April 7 House 11:03 a.m. to 11:16 a.m.
Senate 11:16 a.m. to 4:51 p.m.

Fri. April 8 No House session
No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

COMMENTARY

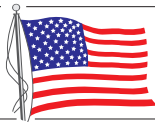
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Happy spring holidays, Somerville.

Our View Of The Times



The continuing COVID-19 pandemic put a damper on our ability to enjoy the usual holiday celebrations in normal ways in recent years. Religious-minded and secular folks alike have had to deal with their cherished special occasions in semi- or total isolation.

And in spite of vaccinations being available for some time now, it doesn't help to know that in spite of our best efforts to avoid it, the lurking danger is still out there when we venture out and mingle with others. It's the sad reality we all have to face at this time, until the danger finally goes away for good.

But we can also turn to these events for solace and inspiration, if we look at them in a certain way.

For example, for those of the Jewish faith, the tradition of Passover represents in part the protection of the home against a deadly plague. While the correlation to today's events may be tenuous, there is something of a relevant message there. That staying in and strengthening the family bonds will protect us from danger.

Then, in the Christian faith, there is the miracle of resurrection and renewal as exemplified in the Easter story. We will one day emerge from our self-imposed solitude, revived and re-energized, perhaps viewing the world before us through new eyes.

Whether one embraces and celebrates any particular religious beliefs or not, it is possible to draw a bit of inspiration from the core messages nestled within these occasions and use that to help get through a difficult time.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Olga Solomita, Janet Grigg-Uttaro, Joanne Veneziano Finnegan, Patricia Ferrelli, Carol Duffy, Carmen Dolores Ferreira, Karen Muti Standel, Jacqueline Fuccillo, and Jackie Coviello, who are all celebrating this week. To all the others we may have missed and, yes, we must admit there are a few more out there. We sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

On Monday, April 18, for the first time since 2017, the City of Somerville will be celebrating Patriots' Day outdoors and in person at Foss Park on Broadway from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. The event will feature a reenactment of Paul Revere's famous ride from Boston to Lexington, which happened to pass right through Somerville. Attendees will enjoy period-appropriate refreshments and games. They can complete their "Colonial Passports" to win a prize and shop for educational items at the Somerville Museum's table, all while enjoying music from the Somerville High School band. Colonial clothing is encouraged. Interested in helping out with serving refreshments, overseeing games, and generally immersing yourself in the Revolutionary revelry? Email the city's Executive Director of the Historical Preservation Commission Brandon Wilson at bwilson@somervillema.gov to throw your (tri-cornered) hat into the ring.

Open Studios 2022 will take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1, from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Artists across Somerville will open their studios to the public to display their latest work and meet visitors. www.somervilleopenstudios.org.

Reminder: Street sweeping began for the season on Friday, April 1. Make sure you know when your neighborhood is swept and where you can park by checking signs in your neighborhood and visiting www.somervillema.gov/sweeping. The schedules are currently being updated. Street sweeping helps keep leaves and other debris out of storm drains, which helps prevent flooding. Help keep the streets clean – and avoid getting a ticket – by moving your car on street sweeping day.

East Somerville Main Streets hosts Spring Neighborhood Cleanup, Saturday, April 30 at 10:00 a.m. Come join your neighbors, friends, and larger community to help clean up and beautify East Somerville. Meet at the East Branch Library, 115 Broadway, at 10:00 a.m. Pickers, trash bags and gloves will be available. Feel free to bring your own gloves or tools, as well.

Let's Talk About a Poem with Lloyd Schwartz, Saturday, April 16, at 11:00 a.m., at the Somerville Public Library, 79 Highland Ave. The program starts at 11:00 a.m. and registration is required. This event is made possible by the Somerville Public Library and the Academy of American Poets with funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. More info: https://somervillepubliclibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/lets-talk-about-a-poem-with-lloyd-schwartz-39/

Groundwork Somerville has announced its 2022 Earth Day Cleaning and Greening workday. Join them at South St. Farm to clean up the streets around the neighborhood, remove invasive species, and prepare the farm for the growing season. April 23, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Sign up here: https://forms.gle/Qhf32HkGMqAPpSRu9

The Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC) is looking for drawstring bags that their clients can use to carry their snacks and other personal items. College and other organized sports leagues are a great resource for drawstring bags, so if you or someone you know is affiliated, they would greatly appreciate you reaching out. SHC, 1 Davis Sq, (617) 623-6111, shcinc.org.

Calling all Somerville High School students! Apply for the Mayor's Summer Jobs Program. Applicants must be Somerville residents, at least 14 years of age, and enrolled in high school. Summer jobs require approximately 20 hours per week for six weeks starting in June, though actual schedules will vary by employer. Some jobs require an orientation before the program begins. Some positions can be done remotely or in a hybrid of remote and in-person work. Apply online at somervillema.gov/summerjobs, or pick up a printed application in the Human Resources Department at City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue. Applications are due by Friday, April 29, at 12:30 p.m. All applicants will be interviewed the week of May 9. For more information, contact

Continued on page 9

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#822

1. hat was the orginial name of the Masters Tourna-ment?

2. In golf, who was known as The Big Three?

3. Who has won the most Masters Tournaments?

4. How long do the winners of the Mas-ters keep the Green Jacket?

5. Which U.S. pres-ident had his sister as the First Lady?

6. How do you say "Passover" in He-brew?

7. What were one of the earliest Easter treats made by Eu-ropean monks and given to the poor during Lent?

8. What is the symbol of the Easter Lily?

9. What is the symbolic meaning of matzah?

10. Which country celebrates Martisor?

11. Where is the largest Easter egg collection?

12. The last Sab-bath before Passover is called what?

Answers on page 11

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. The movie Toy Story helped sell the Etch-a-Sketch.

2. Four out of five children recognize the McDonald's logo at three years old.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
BEATLEMANIA

- ACROSS
1. In the Queen of Hearts' oven?

6. Indiana Jones' quest

9. Dance with leis

13. Sheikh, alt. sp.

14. Opposite of paleo

15. Hedgehog of movies and video games

16. Toilet, to a toddler

17. Pilot's estimate acronym

18. One deserving of respect?

19. Like submarine

21. Abbey Road location

23. Lobe location

24. Per person

25. To the ____ degree

28. "Twist and Shout" endearment

30. English confection

35. Wraths

37. Swarm like bees

39. Not taken and taken

40. Skiing helmet manufacturer

41. Homework assignment

43. Kamakawiwo'ole's strings, pl.

44. Thermonuclear weapon

46. Type of list

47. Frost residue

48. "God, We Praise You" (2 words)

50. Redecorate, e.g.

52. What Carl Lewis did

53. Doctor's order

55. December 31st, e.g.

57. "Whisper words of ____"

60. "Please ____ Me," 1st album

63. Amusement

64. Rage

66. Scary movie consequence

68. ____ del Carmen, Mexico

69. Corn spot

70. Reach a goal (2 words)

71. Unit of heredity

72. Cry of alarm

73. Wipe out

- DOWN
1. Cough syrup amt.

2. Greeting at sea

3. Blood vessel network

CROSSWORD

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 71 | | | | | | 72 | | | | 73 | | | |

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4. Ownership document

5. NASA's first space station

6. All over again

7. Retired, abbr.

8. Aussie bear

9. "I want to ____ your hand"

10. Editing arrow

11. Bank holding

12. Acronym, abbr.

15. Mister in Brazil

20. Speak from a podium

22. Month X

24. Hideous sight

25. "It's been a hard day's ____"

26. Social group

27. Roman king of Judea

29. Starr's predecessor

31. Fabulous number

32. Faquir, alt.sp.

33. Swelling
34. Ruhr's industrial center

36. Not all

38. Like a full-fledged Mafia man

42. Cry of the Alps

45. The enlightened one

49. Barn sound

51. Nervous (2 words)

54. Inflict a blow

56. Truth or Dare player?

57. ____ E. Coyote

58. Persian Gulf country

59. Eye infection

60. Peephole glance

61. ____ ____ good example

62. Chows down

63. Frugal driver's acronym

65. Fish eggs

67. Unidentified Jane

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

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| | 1 | | 5 | | | 7 | | |
| | 8 | | | 2 | | | | |
| 6 | | 7 | | | | 8 | | |

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| E | T | N | A | | | A | L | T | H | O | | O | L | L |
| S | T | E | N | O | | F | O | O | L | | T | A | L | C |
| S | O | R | D | I | D | | F | U | D | S | | W | O | K |
| | | | | | L | O | A | F | | I | I | I | | |
| | S | O | C | C | E | R | | T | E | N | N | I | S | |
| A | L | O | H | A | | I | T | S | | G | U | N | N | Y |
| C | O | Z | E | N | | S | E | A | | E | R | N | I | E |
| R | E | E | F | | | E | E | R | | R | E | S | T | S |

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

OBITUARY

Federico Manganella



Federico Manganella, 90, of Tampa, FL passed away on April 8, 2022, with his family by his side.

Federico was born on March 3, 1932, in Salerno, Italy, the son of Pietro Manganella and Dorotea Tirota. He married Geraldina De Filippis in Italy. Geraldina survives. Federico is also survived by his 4 daughters: Dorothy Rodrigues and her family: Adrienne (Graham) Town and their daughter Charlotte Town; Anthony Rodrigues; Catherine (James, deceased) Doherty and her family: William Doherty, James Doherty, Jr, Kelly Doherty; Maria (Jeff) Ardolino and their family: Jeffrey Ardolino and Nicholus Ardolino; Carla (Harold, III) Cook and their family: Harold Cook, IV and Camden Cook; brother: Luciano Manganella; sister:

Anna Manganella. Federico was preceded in death by his parents and siblings: Felece Manganella, Adriana Manganella, Norma Manganella.

He migrated to Boston, Massachusetts in 1958 and lived in the North End with his wife Geraldine. He moved to Somerville, Massachusetts and lived there with his wife and 4 daughters until 1981. He moved to Tampa, Florida in 1981 and has been here ever since.

Federico was blessed with a loving family. He was a business man and owned several pizza parlors in Boston. He has a degree in engineering in Salerno, Italy. He was very good with his hands and can fix anything. He loved food, wine and the ocean.

He was blessed with 90 years of life.

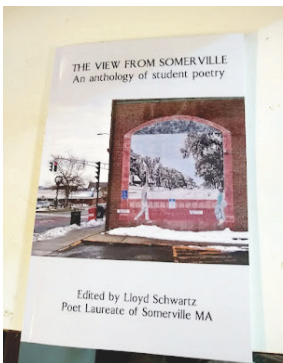
Services for Federico will be held at 1:30 pm on Thursday, April 14, 2022 at Sunset Funeral Home, with a visitation from 12:30-1:30pm on Thursday at the funeral home. Federico will be entombed at Sunset Memory Gardens immediately after the funeral services.

Please share memories and condolences at www.sunset-memory.com

‘The View From Somerville’ edited by Somerville Poet Laureate Lloyd Schwartz

By Doug Holder

The View From Somerville
Edited by Lloyd Schwartz
Cervena Barva Press, Somerville, MA
<http://www.cervenabarvapress.com>



At a recent poetry reading Somerville Poet Laureate Lloyd Schwartz handed me a poetry anthology. Not just any poetry anthology, but this collection is by Somerville High School students. Schwartz got a grant from the Academy of American Poets, funded by the Mellon Foundation. He has used some of this grant money to encourage and publish young poets. Schwartz writes in his introduction:

I asked students to write poems about their city – anything they wanted to write. Some of them asked if the poems all had to be positive, “No,” I told them, “In a poem you can say anything.” “Can I really say what I think of bike lanes?” one of them asked. I said, “Yes, and I would really like to read that poem.”

Among the many poems I enjoyed, I thought I’d include this little gem that is sure to bring you back to your school days of yore.

SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

The blue and red at night
The girls bathroom never having soap
The teachers yelling at students to get to class
The cafe sounds like you’re at a concert at lunch
The stairs crowded like a pit at a concert
The hall smelling like fart spray
And the school spirit on fridays

— Aryanna Ray

And how about Maya Roldan, whose wistful poem Wash. (A walk home, Bon Iver in my ears) brings lyricism to the sometimes mean streets of our city, “Cinematic chords in/ Weeds and smoke/ Chain link/ Overgrowth/ Reflection in water, windows...”

Do you want to know how Somerville High is like chicken nuggets? Want to hear odes to the Assembly Mall? And who would have thought that the banal Medford St. would inspire poetry? Ah yes, sweet mystery of life! Thanks to all the young poets who gave something of themselves to the city we love!

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Community Services Manager Javier Torres Trinidad at 617-625-6600 ext. 2406 or jtorrestrinidad@somervillema.gov.

The **Growing Center Chorus** is holding rehearsals, **Saturday, April 23**, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Open to all, the Growing Center Chorus is new this year. It is open to everyone - adults, children and families. Come join in for rehearsals in April and for the first performance at **Spring Garden Day** on **May 8**. The Chorus will perform two songs during the opening of Spring Garden Day and help to welcome everyone to one of our most popular annual events. During April, the Chorus will learn ***This Pretty Planet*** (a round) and ***It’s Not Easy Being Green***. The Center is hoping to make the Chorus a tradition at their annual events, so come help them get it started. Music will be provided (and available online). The Growing Center Chorus will be directed by **Liza Kitchell**, a long-time volunteer at the Center. She has been a music teacher and director for over 30 years. (www.lizakitchell.com)

Somerville’s **indoor mask mandate** ended but businesses can still set their own

mask policies, so make sure to check before heading in. More information, including where to find the latest health guidance can be found at somervillema.gov/maskmandateupdate.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne has announced that the **City of Somerville** launched **mattress and box spring recycling**. This free service is available to all residential households that have city-managed trash collection. Residents will simply need to schedule a pickup and place their items on the curb on the pickup day. For more information on recycling in Somerville, please visit www.somervillema.gov/MattressRecycling

Somerville’s **yard waste pickup** begins **Tuesday, April 19**. That week’s collection is on a one-day delay due to the **Patriots’ Day Holiday** on **Monday, April 18**, so put all trash, recycling, and yard waste out one day later than you normally would. A full yard waste calendar is available at somervillema.gov/yard-waste and will be in the **Environmental Service Guide**, which will be mailed to all households later this month. Yard waste should be put out with your trash

and recycling on your normal pickup day. Yard waste must either be in a **paper bag** or a **trash barrel** with a “Yard Waste Only” sticker. Stickers are available free of charge at the **DPW Building**, 1 Franey Road, or the entrance desk at City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue. To request a sticker be mailed to you, please call 311 or email 311updates@somervillema.gov. For more information on yard waste pickup, visit somervillema.gov/yardwaste or call 311 (617-666-3311).

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

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

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

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB 22-49 Landscaping Services at Lincoln Park

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

Landscaping Services at Lincoln Park

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, April 13, 2022**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **Thursday, April 28, 2022, 3:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email yrobles@somervillema.gov for more information.

Yolanda Robles-Casanova
Construction Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

4/13/22 The Somerville Times



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

Laydown Area for Construction Contractors - Property Lease

Property owners are invited to submit proposals to the City to lease laydown area for use by construction contractors working on the City's public construction projects. The minimum contiguous space sought is 2,500 sqft, in or close to the City. The resulting lease(s) will be between the City of Somerville and the property owner. The City would be able to assign access to City contractors designated for a City project at the City's direction.

The RFP is online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, and can be requested directly from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143. Sealed proposals are due by **4/28/2022 2:00PM**. Contact PCS at procurement@somervillema.gov or call 617-625-6600 ext. 3400.

Angela M Allen
Chief Procurement Officer
617-625-6600 x3400

4/13/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB 22-51 Citywide Plants and Flowers, Department of Public Works

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

IFB 22-51 Citywide Plants and Flowers

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, April 13, 2022**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 6:00 PM**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email yrobles@somervillema.gov for more information.

Yolanda Robles-Casanova
Construction Procurement Manager
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4/13/22 The Somerville Times

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COMMENTARY

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

Why I strongly support
the MA State House Staff
to organize a union



By State Representative
Erika Uytendaele

Solidarity and congratulations are in order to the State Senate Staffers who announced their intent to organize a union last week with IBEW 2222 as the Massachusetts State House Employee Union (MSHEU).

This is a long time coming and well overdue — we've long known that conditions for staff vary widely by office, and for too many staffers their conditions are abysmal. Due to the massive inherent power difference between legislators and staff, all State House staff need and deserve union representation to bargain for fair pay, working conditions, and the dignity and respect all workers deserve.

Let me be clear: our entire institution would come to a grinding halt if it weren't for our staff. During my first month in office, my aide Lucas became a father to a beautiful baby girl. He was away for three months of paid family leave, and the State House would not allow me to hire a temporary replacement. I was told it was up to me how much time Lucas should take for family leave. Simply put, I, nor any legislator, should hold this much power over their staff, not to mention everyone should have the right to paid family leave, period. Lucas did take three months of paid family leave and during those three months, I learned and performed all the functions of what staff do to keep our offices running.

I did it, but it was not fair to me, Lucas, or my constituents. It became so clear during those three months that staff are vastly underpaid and do not have enough workplace protections for a complex and demanding job. State House staff are often responsible for several spinning plates, from constituent services to communications to drafting legislation — all on a sub-living wage. When our staff are not treated or paid what they deserve for their labor, we are at risk of burnout, high turnover, and inequitable hiring practices, which can re-

sult in our constituents suffering the consequences.

This is why last year I worked with Senator Diana DiZogio to facilitate an anonymous, voluntary survey that was created by State House staffers in various offices, alongside Beacon BLOC, a collective of Beacon Hill staff members and residents advocating for anti-racist and justice-centered systems within the State House.

Many concerns were raised in the survey, including issues around compensation, financial security, monthly work expenses both before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, pay equity, and the cultural and social dynamics in the building.

A union will be an indispensable tool for staff to organize their collective power in the State House, and to fight for a fair, living wage, transparency in the hiring process, anti-racist infrastructure and protections for BIPOC, LGBTQ, and women staff, and much more. In addition to that though, I have a duty as a legislator to do everything in my power to support them.

In response to the survey results, Senator DiZogio and I filed a series of bills to support staff in several areas of workplace security.

The first bill in the package (HD4386) provides a floor for the lowest tier of legislative staff salaries that would ensure a living wage for House, Senate, and joint legislative employees. This would reduce the barrier to entrance into public service, particularly for members of underserved populations, for persons of color, for recent graduates for whom student debt is an insurmountable obstacle.

The legislation provides appropriate adjustments to other salary tiers

to make public service a viable career choice, in order to increase diversity and representation among those who serve on the front lines between Beacon Hill and the residents of the Commonwealth.

In addition, we filed bills to ensure that legislative staffers are provided the same cost-of-living adjustments as legislators already have, and retroactive bonuses to account for the costs of working from home during the pandemic. (HD 4388, HD 4387).

The package also would eliminate the waiting period for health insurance coverage for staff (HD4389), which currently refuses coverage for the first 60 days of employment by the State. And it would also establish a position in each chamber for an officer to anonymously represent legislative employees before those authorized to make employment-related decisions (HD4390). Because staff are technically hired by leadership, this would give them a voice as members of the workforce and as residents of the Commonwealth before those in positions of power.

While the bill package would drastically reduce several of the issues highlighted in the survey, the need for a staff union is as dire as ever. Passing bills is unfortunately an insider game on Beacon Hill, and organizing worker power is always a strong counter to the imbalance of power in the workplace.

I am so proud to have supported the efforts of Beacon BLOC and State House staffers since taking office. You can join me in showing your support for the staff union by signing the pledge and follow their work and next steps on Twitter @BeaconHillUnion.

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Augusta National Invitation Tournament | 7. Hot Cross Buns |
| 2. Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, and Jack Nicklaus | 8. the resurrection in Western Christianity |
| 3. Jack Nicklaus | 9. It represents the unleavened bread that the Hebrews had to eat when leaving Egypt |
| 4. For one year after their victory then it is stored for them in the clubhouse with other champions' jackets | 10. Which country celebrates Matisor |
| 5. Grover Cleveland | 11. The Easter Egg Museum in Poland |
| 6. Pesach | 12. Shabbat Hagadol |

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

How to Help a Loved One Who Clutters – Wednesday, April 13 and Wednesday, May 18 from 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. Do you have someone in your life that is more than a little messy? Does their clutter prevent them from having better relationships with family and friends? If you find yourself in this situation and have a hard time talking to someone about their clutter, look no further than this two part seminar. On April 13, we will discuss how to talk with someone who is hoarding. We will show you different techniques about how to engage them and their clutter in a productive manner. On May 18 we will discuss different resources available to someone who is looking for support with de-cluttering. To RSVP for the seminar, please contact Natasha at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317.

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

LGBTQ+ Social Group – Thursday, April 14 from 5:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. at the Holland Street

Center located at 167 Holland Street. LGBTQ+ and allies are welcome. Come and join us for this social gathering. Meet and mingle with new people. RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335.

Book Club – Friday, April 15 at 10:00 a.m. - Do you love books and want to discuss your love of reading with others? Consider joining book club. Group meets in person at 167 Holland St. and concurrently via Zoom. Please RSVP by calling Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov as space is limited.

Music & Movement – Thursday, April 21 at 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Join Steve as he plays guitar, sings and leads gentle movements. Just tapping your toe or singing along can help move your body in new ways. Being physically active is not just good for our bodies but it is also one of Mental Health America’s 10 tools to building resiliency; or the ability to overcome obstacles and manage through tough times. This program is in person, pre-registration is required as space is limited. Please RSVP to Debby at Dhiggins@Somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.

EXERCISE

Virtual FIT-4-LIFE SCHEDULE

Mondays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Thursdays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Thursdays 6:30 p.m. = LBT Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise

Somerville City Cable

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected via our Facebook page - often updated by Debby or Maureen. Informative, entertaining, lots of photos and updates. Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCOA/>

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What did the Easter egg have done at the hair salon?
A new dye-job.

On This Day in History
April 13

- 1598 – The Edict of Nantes grants political rights to French Huguenots.
- 1775 – Lord North extends the New England Restraining Act to South Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland
- 1861 – After 34 hours of bombardment, Union-held Fort Sumter surrenders to Confederates.
- 1902 – J.C. Penny opens his first store in Kemmerer, Wyoming.
- 1933 – The first flight over Mount Everest is completed by Lord Clydesdale.
- 1960 – The first navigational satellite is launched into Earth’s orbit.
- 1964 – Sidney Poitier becomes the first black individual to win an Oscar for best actor.
- 1970 – An oxygen tank explodes on Apollo 13, preventing a planned moon landing and jeopardizing the lives of the three-man crew.
- 1979 – The world’s longest doubles ping-pong match ends after 101 hours.

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Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 5

Bunker Hill and fortified Prospect Hill.

- Colonel Thomas Knowlton - Fought at Bunker Hill and was the father of America's Army Rangers.
- General Charles Lee - Commanded the left wing of the American Army during the siege of Boston.
- Doctor General Joseph Warren - Was a martyr at Bunker Hill. Somerville was almost named after him.
- General Nathanael Greene - Was Washington's southern commander during the eight-year war.
- Colonel William Prescott -

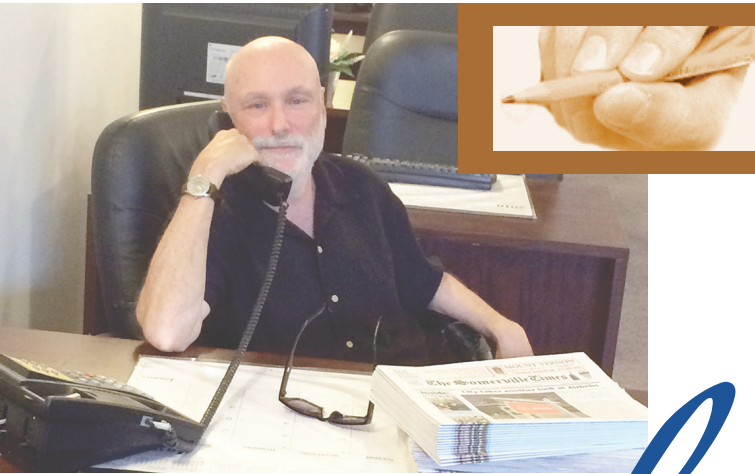
Was the American commander at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

- General Henry Knox - Was the Father of American Artillery. He built Cobble Hill's fort and was Fort Knox's namesake.
- Colonel Paul Revere - Evaded Somerville capture on the way to complete his ride to Lexington. He also commanded guards, delivering 4,200 captured British and Hessian prisoners to Wintter and Prospect Hills.
- Captain Nathan Hale - Was a school teacher, American Ranger and American spy. His famous words were, "My only regret is that I only have but one life to give for my country."

- General John Paterson - Was Commander of Fort #3 at Union Square which protected the road to Cambridge.
- General Artemas Ward I - Commanded American troops until General Washington arrived at Prospect Hill.
- General George Washington - Took official command of the new American Army at Prospect Hill under the first American Union Flag on January 1, 1776.

These were the young and old leaders and soldiers of 1775 and 1776. This reunion would have been a reunion of America's first "Band of Brothers!"





OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'The Patient'

A one-act play by Doug Holder and Lawrence Kessenich



Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Megan Donahue is a freshman at Endicott College studying English with a minor in Digital Media: Concentration in Film and Television Production. She hopes to one day be a screenwriter and director. She is passionate about film watching and film-making, and she loves storytelling as well as poetry, reading, and painting.



Body and Blood

“Be devout. Be good. Then I will smile
down from heaven in the seam of a cloud”
(Anne Sexton, Cinderella).

I do not believe in God.

But there was a time that I did.

My father taught me how to pray,

All at the age of four.

In the name of the father, son, and the holy spirit,

“Be devout. Be good. Then [He] will smile
down from heaven in the seam of a cloud.”

And so the good girl I was,

I crossed my heart and hoped to die,

Who will stick the needle in my eye?

At Summer VBS¹ they told me,

Fear hell, love Him:

He is in every man.

Never taught to be devoted to myself,

So with his cruel endeavor,

I was free for the taking,

Cut Piece²,

Body and Blood.

— Megan Donahue

¹ VBS - Vacation Bible School
² Cut Piece - Performance Art by Yoko Ono

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

The Patient
A one-act play by Doug Holder and Lawrence Kessenich
Presa Press, 2019; re-issued, 2022 24 pages \$8.00
(Reissued by the Ibbetson Street Press 2022) \$10.
To order send check to Ibbetson Street Press, 25 School St., Somerville, MA. 02143

Review by off the Shelf Correspondent Denise Provost

The newly re-issued play *The Patient* is set in an unspecified year. Yet its era can be identified. It dates from the time of the seedy, down-at-the-heels Boston of not so long ago, when “affordable housing” often meant having a room in one of the area’s then-plentiful rooming houses.
For ambiance, think of the classic film *The Friends of Eddie Coyle*. The Boston of that era felt as if it were being filmed in black and white. These seem to be the colors of the world inhabited by Leon, the play’s protagonist.
A graduate student by day, Leon works nights at a local mental hospital. Leon takes advantage of usually uncomplicated shifts to read assigned books. His work schedule’s flipping of night and day and its solitude fit in with his orderly life – at least they do until the evening which is at the heart of this play’s action.
Like Bobby, the central character in Stephen

Sondheim’s oh-so-New-York-City musical *Company* – also enjoying a revival now – Leon is 35 years old. This age is traditionally a time for having some sort of identity crisis. Leon seems mostly detached from this particular emotional powder keg – until he meets his special duty patient on the night dramatized in this play.
The Patient is never given another name, but the magnitude of his personality makes up for his anonymity. If he is a “type,” it’s that of a streetwise, smartass townie. Not someone who rises quite to Eddie Coyle’s level of (by then weary) thuggery, but a guy not above boosting merchandise from the back of a truck, or receiving stolen goods, say.
I’m not going to introduce spoilers into this review. Let’s just say that the Patient knows how to wind up Leon and spends the evening enjoying this sport. Their conflict is mediated only by the intervention of the Head Nurse, Sibyl, while no Nurse Ratched, is clearly the authority figure asserting herself between the two squabbling men.
The Patient is a good read. It would be fun to perform, or to see performed. Or even to read aloud with a couple of friends – since fictional dramas have a way of illuminating those of our lives.

Denise Provost is a retired state representative from Massachusetts, and the author of *City Stories* (Cervena Barva Press).

Patriots’ Day Colonial Fair, Monday, April 18

On Monday, April 18, for the first time since 2017, the City of Somerville will be celebrating Patriots’ Day outdoors and in person at Foss Park on Broadway from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

This event will feature a reenactment of Paul Revere’s famous ride from Boston to Lexington – which happened to pass right through Somerville.

Attendees will enjoy period-appropriate refreshments and games. They can complete their “Colonial Passports” to win a prize and shop for educational items at the Somerville Museum’s table, all while enjoying music from the Somerville High School band. Colonial clothing is encouraged.



Interested in helping out with serving refreshments, overseeing games, and generally immersing yourself in the Revolutionary revelry? Email the City’s Executive Director of the Historical Preservation Commission Brandon Wilson at bwilson@somervillema.gov to throw your (tri-cornered) hat into the ring.

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