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Somerville's original independent newspaper

The Somerville Times on

VOL. 8 NO. 16

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:



Alone together seemingly forever page 3



Mask sterilization in the spotlight page 5



drop-ins page 12

City to examine mailing absentee ballots for upcoming elections



The Somerville City Council wants to make sure that all eligible voters be allowed to apply for absentee ballots for the upcoming primary and presidential election.

By Jim Clark

An order was put forward at the latest regular meeting of the Somerville City Council on April 7 asking that the Election Commissioner discuss mailing absentee applications to registered voters for the upcoming primary and general elections.

Speaking in favor of the order that she submitted to the Council, Ward 7 Councilor Katjana Ballantyne said, "The reason that I submitted this order was with the goal in mind to have the most number of registered voters, giving them the ability to vote in Somerville. And the Massachusetts Secretary of State has deemed that he will not allow municipalities to directly mail ballots to voters. And so, with the upcoming primary and general election, I would like the Elections Department to discuss with us the ability to mail out absentee

Continued on page 4

Somerville Arts Council launches virtual performance series

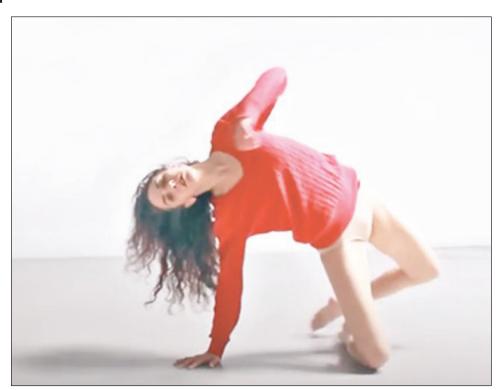
By Anna Schaeffer

The Somerville Arts Council (SAC) is launching the Home Alone Art Series (HAAS) in response to COVID-19 social distancing measures. The debut performance of HAAS will be held Thursday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m. via Facebook's live stream function and scheduled continually as long as physical distancing measures are implemented.

The performances will span a variety of genres including but not limited to music, visual arts, theater, dance, writing, and multidisciplinary artwork. Somerville artists are invited to apply on the website for The Somerville Arts Council.

SAC's Home Alone Art Series seeks to up-

SAC's Home Alone Art Series seeks to uphold a sense of connection in Somerville's art community in a way that is free and accessible to all interested in participating. Iaritza Menjivar, Events Manager of the Somerville Arts Council stated that there was a need for "a sense of immediacy between the public Continued on page 4



Callie Chapman of the Zoe Dance Company will be featured on SAC's kickoff live-streaming event on Thursday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m.

ATTN: LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS

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The views and opinions expressed in Newstalk do not necessarily reflect those of The Somerville Times, its publisher or staff. The column has many contributors.

Street-sweeping is delayed again, and will now begin on Monday, May 4. To prevent residents from having to move their cars during the statewide stay at home order, street sweeping will now start one-month later. For more info on this and other services visit the city's website at www.somervillema.gov

Readers of our print edition will will notice that we are running fewer pages this week. This is due to the fact that so many of our regular features such as Villens on the Town, the Council On Aging listing, Somerville Police arrest reports, etc., are not being produced because of the lack of activity in the city during the coronavirus stay at home advisory. Be assured that we will continue to publish and include the latest and most vi-

tal news you need to get, both here in print and on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com, and will return to our usual usual page count as conditions warrant. And remember, we invite everyone to submit their Somerville Sheltering Stories, photos, anecdotes, etc., to news@thesomervilletimes.com. We want to know how everyone is doing while we are all going through this uniquely challenging time.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: A big happy birthday to Ward 7 Councilor Katjana Ballantyne. We hope she has a great birthday for herself with her family. Happy birthday to former alderman and great guy, Jack Connolly of Wedgwood-Crane & Connolly Insurance in Davis Sq. We hope he has a great birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Mark Hnl Kaye, Eileen Langille, Lia Sophia, Karen Muti Standel, Missy Julien-Thelemarque, Janet Grigg-Uttaro, Olga Solomita, and Joanne Veneziano Finnegan a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

****** On April 18, the Somerville Public Library will be hosting Let's Talk About a Poem with Lloyd Schwartz Continued on page 7

The Somerville Times

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The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of April 15 – April 21 as provided by the National Weather Service

	DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
••	Wednesday April 15	Partly Cloudy	51°/34°	20%	46%	WNW 13 mph
•••	Thursday April 16	Partly Cloudy	49°/34°	20%	37%	WNW 14 mph
	Friday April 17	Cloudy	51°/33°	11%	36%	W 16 mph
	Saturday April 18	Partly Cloudy	57°/37°	20%	46%	NE 9 mph
*	Sunday April 19	Rain	53°/44°	41%	52%	SSW 15 mph
•	Monday April 20	Rain	53°/374°	40%	53%	WNW 15 mph
A	Tuesday April 21	Partly Cloudy	51°/38°	9%	42%	WNW 16 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: Limits put on in-store shoppers

yet another poster says:

It's good Somerville had the presence of mind to set the limit for all stores at 107 people. Many lesser informed people would have chosen 108, which as we know would be a nightmare. 107 people in 7/11 is ok, but 108 scares me.

LindaS says:

It's fine for some to make sarcastic jokes about this kind of thing, but understand that although this is an inconvenience, it's temporary. If everyone does at least what they're asked to do while all this is going on, it will actually help everyone to stay safe.

I don't like it any more than anyone else, but I know there's a sensible reason behind it. The line does move fairly quickly, so you're not going to wait too long.

It's the attitude of some that it's just a hassle, and they're not going to do it. Maybe if those people wind up sick, or infecting a loved one, they will wish they had listened.

Response to: Mayor Curtatone calls for face coverings in all places of business and public areas

"Please leave monitoring and enforcement to public officials." It's an advisory, not a mandate. So not sure what this means.

Response to: Lyrical Somerville – April 8

Karen Klein says:

This poem is perfect for this time of everything in the immediate present with more news constantly than we can absorb. The face mask has become one of the icons of COVID-19. The poet's use of the napkin from her great-grandmother is so creative and reassuring; it's as if the wearer is protected from harm by an ancestor's spirit. We have a history and will have a future.

Response to: Renew or apply for a new resident parking permit online

Somerville resident says:

Do they still take 5-6 weeks to renew, as they have the past few years?

Response to: A few ways to make math fun for kids

Emma Smith says:

Few but New ways to engage my kids in math. They will surely love it. I couldn't have imagined there actually exist fun ways to do maths. I hope this makes my life easier. Thanks for sharing.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

Life in the VILLE by Jimmy Del Ponte

Alone together



All I ever wanted to do was sit home, not work, eat snacks and watch TV. Well I got my wish but this is getting ridiculous. Who would have thought a situ-

ation like this could ever happen in this day and age?

I've been hunkered down in my house with my oldest son and his girlfriend. Even though I've been retired for two years, I used to have a routine. My commute has been shortened. I now go from my bedroom, to the living room, to the kitchen, and the bathroom. Oh, I almost forgot ... every now and then I take some rubbish out to the barrels in the yard. Too much excitement. But it's what we have to do.

The last three times I was actually out shopping were very stressful. There's a feeling of doom out there. Being in my late sixties puts me in that dangerous group. I'm not only worried about myself, but all my many friends that are around my age and older. I haven't been in public since March 23. When the smoke clears I hope we all can get back to our lives and that everyone stays healthy.

Back to the snacks. I've been hoarding and rationing a box of Cheez-Its, a bag

of jellybeans, some Reese's peanut butter eggs, some Hostess powdered donettes, and some potato chips. I bought all these things during my last Target run. At this point I'm staying put. So I had to go into super rationing mode.

My son is pretty strict about me going to the store. I won't go out again. He's taking good care of me as he is my right hand man. He and my youngest son have been also tending to their grandma's needs. I'm very proud of them.

Lots of people have been using this idle time to clean their houses. Aside from sanitizing the bathroom, kitchen, doorknobs and light switches several times a day, I've done no extra cleaning. I have a jam packed closet and a very messy bedroom that are begging to be straightened out. Doesn't look like it's gonna happen.

But back to the problem at hand. It's very scary. It's hard to imagine life getting back to normal. I personally have to make some serious decisions. My part time job is playing piano and performing at nursing homes and assisted living centers. I also do DJ work. Do I go back? Maybe the facilities will not allow entertainers to come in any more.

I know one thing, I won't be going to any sporting events, or concerts anymore. Luckily I've seen tons of sporting events and lots of live music acts (most recently



Billy Joel at Fenway this past summer).

I'd sworn off live sporting events already. Luckily I was at a lot of Patriots games including two or three AFL championship games. The drunk fans already had me convinced that I was done with Pats games at Gillette.

I think we are all going to be very leery about close human contact from now on. Things are definitely going to be different. Handshaking will have to stop.

During this time of confinement, I've only COVID-19

realized that I truly love my home. I enjoy my stuff, and have been going through things I've saved, especially photos from the past and of loved ones.

I'm writing this on Sunday, April 10. It's already been an exciting day even though it's only 9:17 a.m. I started up and sat in my car for the first time in over a week. I got some fresh air. My electric piano is three feet away from where I am sitting in the living room. I'm trying not to watch only COVID-19

Continued on page 11

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Our menus and specials are posted on our Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/Mount-Vernon-Restaurants-103209019028/

We ask you to bear with us while we implement these guidelines.

The safety of our patrons and employees remain our number one priority as we continue to operate and maintain our small business during this difficult time.

Our hours of operation moving forward will be

12:00 to 8:00 p.m. until further notice.

Be safe and stay healthy - The Mount Vernon Restaurant

Fatal stabbing under investigation in Somerville

Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan and Somerville Chief of Police David Fallon have confirmed an investigation into a fatal stabbing that occurred yesterday at Clarendon Hill Apartments in Somerville.

At approximately 3:51 p.m. last Saturday, Somerville Police responded to a report of a stab-

bing at the apartments located on Alewife Brook Parkway in Somerville. Upon arrival police located the victim, Kesner Junior Lubin, 27, of Somerville, suffering from stab wounds.

The preliminary investigation suggests that the victim and another resident of the complex, known to the victim, had a verbal altercation that escalated into

a physical altercation. During the altercation, Washington Assis-Rodrigues, 26, allegedly stabbed the victim. Lubin was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital where was pronounced dead. Assis-Rodrigues remained on scene and was placed under arrest and charged with assault and battery causing serious bodily injury. He

will be arraigned by teleconference tomorrow at Somerville District Court.

This is an open and ongoing investigation being conducted by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Massachusetts State Police Detectives assigned to the District Attorney's Office and Somerville Police. Additional charges are possible.



Mortgage relief and COVID-19 scams: What you need to know

Unfortunately, during times of hardship, families are often targeted by fraud artists attempting to take advantage of those needing assistance. The COVID-19 crisis is no exception, with many scammers pretending to extend a critical lifeline to struggling homeowners through so-called "foreclosure rescue fraud." According to Freddie Mac, this scheme involves bad actors offering false promises of being able to save your home from foreclosure. Common elements of this fraud include the following:

- Requiring you to sign over the title to your home.
- + Asking you to sign unfamiliar documents and/or share your personal information.
- Charging you rent to stay in your home and/or potentially promising that you can purchase your home back when your financial situation improves.

 Another common fraud involves a third party guaranteeing you a loan modification with a reduced mortgage payment. Such scams may operate similarly as foreclosure rescue fraud, as fraudsters collect an upfront fee and promise to work with your loan servicer on your behalf.

 So what can you do to protect yourself?
- Don't disclose. Never provide your information via phone or internet until after you have verified the caller or company's identity.
- Be suspicious. If someone has contacted you asking for personal or sensitive information, do your homework to verify the validity of the request before providing any information. Contact your servicer (the company listed on your mortgage statement) and confirm that they called you asking for information.
- + Spot imposters. Scammers across the globe can make any name or number appear on your caller ID or email. Protect yourself from spoofing by letting calls go to voice-mail first. If a call is important, the caller will leave a message. If you do answer and it is a robocall, don't press any numbers. Just hang up.
- Report fraud. Freddie Mac will never reach out to offer a refinancing opportunity or new loan over the phone. If you have been contacted by someone claiming to represent Freddie Mac, you can report it by visiting sf.freddiemac.com/working-with-us/fraud-prevention/feedback.

While there are fraudsters out there offering false promises, know that there is real assistance on offer during this crisis, too. Contact your loan servicer to discuss your options. If Freddie Mac owns your mortgage and you are a homeowner unable to make you mortgage payments due to a decline in income resulting from COVID-19, you can learn more about available mortgage relief options by visiting MyHome.FreddieMac.com.

Your family's health is no doubt top-of-mind these days. However, it's also important to remember that fraudsters are out in full-force, making your financial vigilance a crucial priority as well.

City to examine mailing absentee ballots for upcoming elections

CONT. FROM PG 1

ballot applications to the registered voters here in Somerville."

Ward 2 Councilor Jefferson Thomas ("J.T.") Scott expressed his support of the order saying, "I have actually engaged in some conversation over a week ago with our Elections Commissioner, Commissioner Salerno, about this. The guidance is miserable. Towns are able to delay their spring elections and allow them to use their absentee ballots, but the cities have not been

given permission by the Secretary of State. And the state has not made any decisions on changing laws or procedures yet for September first to November third."

Scott emphasized that "this is really on the Secretary of State, and I encourage my colleagues to reach out both to our State Delegation and to the Secretary of State. But in addition, I love this as a potential workaround to the failure to act by our state

government. I love exploring this, and I look forward to the conversation with the commissioner about the possibility of mailing absentee applications to all of our constituents."

Ward 5 Councilor Mark Niedergang added his support to the order saying, "This is incredibly important. We're facing a primary here that's contested to a U.S. Senate seat and the presidential election. We should be setting

setts to the rest of the country, whereas we see in Wisconsin today, where voting rights are being suppressed. We should be making it as easy as possible for people to vote. And so I welcome this discussion, I look forward to it. I hope that we can talk further. I think that others are better informed than I am about the status quo, but I hope that we can all talk further together in public about how we might weigh in with the Secretary of

State, with the legislature, with the governor, to get Massachusetts to be in the leadership role that it should be in allowing everybody to vote as easily and safely as possible."

The entire Council signed on to the order, which was laid on the table for further discussion at the next Council meeting, thus giving the Elections Commissioner an opportunity to investigate the matter and prepare a report for the Council.

Somerville Arts Council launches virtual performance series CONT. FROM PG 1

and the artist. The option of commenting during live streams gives the public a chance to connect like you would in a live event."

The Somerville Arts Council's mission is to encourage and celebrate the creative expressions of Somerville's vibrant community, respecting the city's changes while honoring its past. SAC has also hosted programs such as Arts in the garden and the Mystical Mural Program. This program, however, is different from any program that SAC has endeavored.

Usual interactions between SAC and organizers, coordina-

tors and vendors are considerably restricted. However, SAC's goal to build community and offer support in challenging times remains unchanged. The Home Alone Art Series was conceptualized as a response to both the urgency to stay home, preventing the spread of COVID-19 and SAC's aim to support local artists who have been hard hit in recent times.

Thursday's event will feature a mixed dance performance by Callie Chapman, Artistic Director of the Zoe Dance Company, along with live-streaming visuals and audio by Catherine Murcek and Christopher Konopka.

The next scheduled event will take place on April 21, with performer Greg Jukes sharing personal connections and educational narratives of his instruments and music.

Local independent press publisher and author, Janaka Sturky will be doing two-segment performances based on his new book, *Ascend, Ascend* on Thursday, April 23. Puppeteer Charlotte Dore will present an instructional show while in character, teaching parents how to

create their puppets with homemade materials. Chris Freedman will give a musical performance and discuss the making of his new album.

On Tuesday, April 28, Charlotte Dore will be performing, as one of her characters, and will teach parents on how to create their own puppetry show with homemade materials.

Chris Freedman will present a performance of his own music and will talk about the making of his new album and the use of different instruments on Thursday, April 30.

The goal of the series is to hire and pay Somerville artists who are experiencing financial difficulty as a result of COVID-19 social distancing regulations as well as foster creative expression during this uncertain time.

Interested applicants should send an email to imenjivar@ somervillema.gov with a description of the performance. Artists selected by the council will be paid \$300. Each live stream performance will be recorded and posted to the Somerville Arts Council You-Tube page for future viewing.

Mayor, governor spotlight Assembly Sq. mask sterilization facility

Mayor Curtatone and Governor Baker held a press conference last Saturday to demonstrate the new mask sterilization facility in Assembly Square. The site will be able to clean up to 80,000 N95 masks per day for hospitals from all over New England.









— Photos by Joshua Qualls/Governor's Press Office

The Somerville Times **Historical Fact of the Week**



Eagle feathers #202

Near Disasters

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

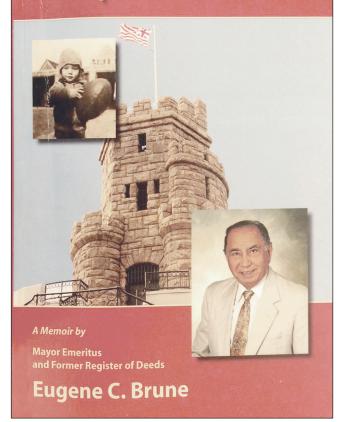
On the morning of April 1, 1980, a Boston news station aired an April fool's joke. It was reminiscent of Orson Wells' War of the Worlds, and it totally backfired. The station told their listeners that the Blue Hills were volcanically erupting, spewing lava in all directions This caused hundreds of viewers in the Dorchester and Milton areas to be panic-stricken. Later that night, the news station apologized.



Two days later, on April 3, 1980, the day began as a normal spring morning. Jimmy Carter was President. Theatres were featuring Sissy Spacek in Coal Miners Daughter, John Travolta and Olivia Newton John in Grease, and Jamie Lee Curtis in The Fog.

That day, there was another news report that was no joke. It aired forty years ago this past week. The City of Somerville went through an unexpected emergency and came through miraculously with flying colors.

The Spirit of Somerville



It began early in the morning on Holy Thursday with a freight train collision in the Boston and Maine Railroad Yard near Joy and Washington Streets. It resulted in the worst chemical accident and spill in Massachusetts' history. A ruptured tank-car leaked over 6,000 gallons of its 13,000-gallon container of the chemical Phosphorus-Trichloride.

When it came in contact with moisture, the chemical turned into a vaporous, toxic grey Continued on page 12

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.

Updates on Somerville's response to the COVID-19 crisis

Normally there is an editorial from Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone in this space, but this week the City is instead sharing important information and updates about COVID-19.

Residents Advised to Wear Face Coverings in All Businesses and Public Areas

Last week Mayor Joe Curtatone and the Somerville Board of Health issued a public advisory in line with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that everyone over the age of two wear a clean face covering while in any public establishment or common area. This applies when entering any sort of essential business currently in operation such as grocery stores, pharmacies, laundromats, home improvement stores, and restaurant pickup sites. Face coverings also should be worn when entering and exiting multi-unit residences or commercial buildings and when passing through hallways or other common areas.

Please remember that face coverings are not a substitute for social distancing. It's important to remain at least six feet away from people who are not part of your household, even when wearing a mask.

Infants and children under the age of 2 should not wear face coverings, as it can be a hazard for them. The CDC also warns that face masks should not be used by "anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious or otherwise incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance."

Key elements to remember when wearing a face covering include:

- It should fit snugly against the side of your face;
- It should be secured with ties or ear loops;
- It should have multiple layers of fabric;
- It should allow for breathing without restriction;

 Fabric face coverings should be cleaned after each use and should be machine washable and dryer safe;

- Always remove the mask directly into the laundry or trash and then immediately wash your hands;
- + Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth when removing your mask.

Instructions for how to fashion a homemade face coverings (with both a sew and no sewing option) can be found at https://bit.ly/CDCFaceMasksDIY.

COVID-19 Community Support Team

This week 311 expanded its service with the addition of the COVID-19 Community Support Team – a group of trained, expert volunteers who can provide support for COVID-19 related questions. They won't be giving direct medical advice, but Community Support Team members can help with things like how to isolate or quarantine safely, nav-

igating financial assistance, food access, submitting online requests for assistance, and finding additional resources or support. The Community Support Team is available Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. by calling 3-1-1 (TTY 866-808-4851) or 617-666-3311 from outside the City. Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Spanish-speaking operators are also available during regular business hours, and if someone calls 311 who speaks a language that 311 staff cannot speak, a third-party translation service will join the call.

Street Sweeping Delayed to May 4

The start of street sweeping in Somerville has been delayed until Monday, May 4. Normally, street sweeping takes place from April 1 until December 31. As we continue to monitor the COVID-19 emergency, we will decide if the delay will be extended and share that informa-

tion as it becomes available.

Staying Informed During COVID-19

The City's COVID-19 website, www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus, is updated frequently with public health information as well as resources and supports. On the website you can find information about applying for unemployment; the CARE Act, a new federal law that directs \$2 trillion in funding to COVID-19 relief efforts; low-cost internet access; and more.

Here are some additional ways you can stay informed:

- Sign up for City alerts at www. somervillema.gov/alerts or by calling 311. You can choose to get phone, text, and/or email
- Tune in to City Cable (RCN channel 13, Comcast channel 22) for information and updates.
- 311 is available 24/7 to answer questions and provide information.

What we should do about tomorrow's crisis



By Imari Paris Jeffries

As a father of three and the leader of a non-profit that works directly with parents, I know this pandemic has intensified the challenges families face in their daily lives.

COVID-19 is being described as "the great equalizer," but this is not true. New data released by the Boston Public Health Commission shows that communities of color are facing

disproportionate impacts of the virus, and we know this is due to inequities that already existed long before COVID-19.

Unfortunately, poor health outcomes for low-income communities of color are directly tied to our broken economic system. Low-income workers are more susceptible to chronic health conditions, and more likely to have to report to work as frontline staff right now.

Last week, I ordered groceries online only to see a mother and her 11-year-old daughter deliver them to me.

My heart broke. And, then I got angry.

I don't want to live in a world where my choices to keep my family safe are putting others, who are already impacted by systemic inequities, at risk.

The City of Somerville has taken measures to protect its residents by providing an average of 950 meals per day at school locations to families in need; the local food pantries are distributing bags of food to households and organizations. The Council on Aging is working with Meals on Wheels to provide meal deliveries and transportation to grocery stores. And, here at Parenting Journey, we are doing our best to fill the gaps by providing emergency financial support to families - we've distributed nearly \$20,000 directly to families in our community.

Additionally, we commend Mayor Curtatone for extending the deadline for property tax, excise tax and water bill payments to June 29. This will certainly ease some of the financial burden families are feeling.

But, we need to ask ourselves: what are we going to do as a community to create a better world for everyone in the long term? How we respond to this crisis will define us as a community and as leaders in the future.

Our schools shouldn't have to be in the business of feeding people. Families should be able to afford their rent. Grocery stores and food delivery companies should always put worker safety ahead of profits. And, during a pandemic we shouldn't have to protect our family at the risk of harming others.

Community leaders and government officials should work together to ensure the protections that have been put in place in this time of crisis are always available to those who need them. This crisis has shown us that we have the capacity to guarantee health care, food and shelter to everyone, and that is the reality we can all work together to create.

I hope that as the COVID-19 crisis subsides, community leaders and non-profits don't return to business-as-usual. Because if this pandemic has taught us anything, it's that business-as-usual doesn't work for our clients, and it doesn't work for most of us.

Imari Paris Jeffries is the Executive Director of Parenting Journey in Somerville, MA. and a member of the Governor's Black Advisory Commission. He lives in Hyde Park, MA.

COVID-19 Business Check In

Business owners are invited to participate in a virtual meeting Thursday, April 16, 3:00 p.m. to ask city staff questions and share concerns about the public health and economic emergencies our community is facing. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/covid-19-business-check-in-tickets-100547751030

Join the Zoom meeting at https://zoom.us/j/245326887 - Meeting ID: 245 326 887

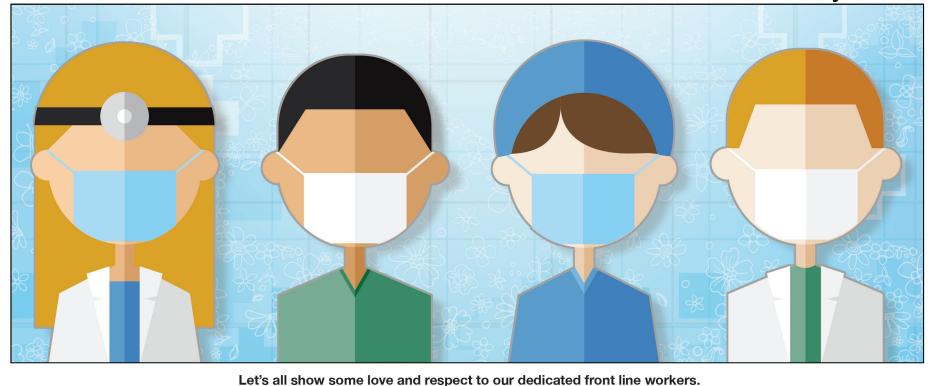
For more information about resources for businesses disrupted by the novel coronavirus outbreak, please visit this page: https://somervoice.somervillema.gov/nov-el-coronavirus-resources-for-businesses

During the coronavirus outbreak, business owners and freelancers should sign up for our business email alerts and bookmark our web page for business resources relating to novel coronavirus. You may also follow us on Instagram @SomervilleBusinesses or contact us directly at economicdevelopment@somervillema.gov.

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Our View Of The Times



We hear a lot about front line workers these days, and rightfully so. These are the people who are fighting to save lives and lessen the misery inflicted by the COVID-19 epidemic. They are the world's heroes.

But it goes beyond the medical profession. When we think of all those who are putting themselves on the line to aid and protect us we need to also consider

our dedicated first responders. Police, fire, EMTs, and members of the military. They come to our aid when we are in need and help to keep order in the midst of this strange and trying time.

Others still are worthy of our respect and gratitude. From the stockers and cashiers who expose themselves daily to the danger of infection as they provide us with food and other essentials in the stores, pharmacies, and other vital suppliers of our most basic needs. Remember the postal workers and delivery drivers.

Let's think about the thoughtful citizen who checks in with an elderly neighbor to make sure they are doing well and have everything they need. The school teacher who reaches out to provide virtual home schooling to for the children of families who are sheltering in place. And so many

others from everyday walks of life who rise to the acceassion to show what the best of humanity can offer.

In a certain sense, we are all on the front line. By simply following the stay at home advisories and wearing our masks in public, we are contributing to the inevitable victory over this deadly disease.

We thank and honor every one of these heroes among us, whoever they may be.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

- Online! 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Join in for another lovely morning with Somerville's Poet Laureate Lloyd Schwartz, this time online. This month Lloyd will be putting together a collection of poems to celebrate National Poetry Month. Reach out to Martia at mcoombs@minlib.net for your meeting invitation. Please note that you must receive a meeting invitation in order to participate in this event.

Project SOUP is looking for donations. They are looking to stock up with plastic bags, pasta and rice (normal sized bags) this week. Hours of operation and times to drop off deliveries are provided on their website https://www.somervillehomelesscoalition.org/food-security/. Please arrange to drop off or have deliveries sent to our food pantry during their hours of operation. Their address is 165 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02145. The telephone number during hours of operation is 617 776 7687

Did you know the City of Somerville used to have a game show? You can blast to the past while you are staying at home and watch old episodes of *Wicked Smaht* here: tinyurl.com/WickedS-

It's also a great time to take a careful walk outdoors. The City of Somerville put together a map of walks on side streets to support social distancing: https://www.somervillema.gov/walkingroutes.

If you're struggling with food security during this difficult time, sign up for the Somerville Emergency Food resource at tinyurl.com/SOMCovid-Food and visit the somervillema.gov/coronavirushelp "Food Access" tab for more information about where to get food support.

We need nature more than ever. Explore together environmental news, fun and science activities to connect with nature while protecting it. With most of us social distancing and worrying, it is reassuring to be in nature marveling at swelling buds and observing wild-life waking up. Meanwhile, Earthwise Aware invites you to join EwA virtual nature meetups for sharing together stories, news, EwA community science program updates, and ideas to explore in nature alone and with our loved ones.

Upon registration on EwA's Eventbrite event you'll gain access to the webinar. Register at https://ewa-april-nature-virtual-hour.eventbrite.com.

In response to COVID-19, the Somerville Winter Farmers Market will be a pre-order only market held in the Armory parking lot from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and have extended their season through April 25. You can order from several of their vendors this week, and then pick up your goods on Saturday. This is a great way to support vendors, especially smaller vendors who do not have the capacity to set up their own delivery systems at this time. Please consider purchasing some of their delicious products. To preorder or for more information, go to https://www.somwintermarket.org/vendors SNAP/EBT are accepted. Market pickup is outdoors and all social distancing guidelines will be followed, including line management and no touch transactions.

To discourage organized games and contact sports that could hasten the spread of COVID-19, Tufts University's athletic fields, including the Ellis Oval, are now closed. In accordance with the

City of Somerville guidelines, the playground on Powder House Boulevard has been closed as well. The vast majority of the Medford/Somerville campus, including the academic quad, the President's Lawn, the Triangle Park (corner of Powder House Boulevard and College Avenue) and Fletcher Field (corner of Professor's Row and Curtis Street), will remain open for walks and passive use. These decisions are being made on an ongoing basis with great care and consideration for public health. The university has never taken such extraordinary actions in its history. They ask for your patience and sincerely thank you for your cooperation, understanding, and flexibility as we move forward together. ******

The Somerville Library has been hosting virtual story hours live on their Facebook page. Besides Cathy reading to her pup Rocky, the Children's Librarian staff are going to try to keep their regular story time schedule on FB Live.

Support local business and enjoy the best of Somerville's culinary scene by ordering takeout or delivery during this difficult time. Check out https://www.somervilledelivers.com Continued on page 11

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's 1 Tio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#726

- 1. Who has been named the "richest man in modern history"?
- 7. In the game of Scrabble, what is the point value of X?
- 2. What fruit was featured in the book Mutiny on the Bounty?
- 8. How did Steve Irwin, The Crocodile Hunter, die?
- 3. In the *Harry* Potter books, what are the four houses of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry?
- 9. What is the largest aquarium in the U.S.?
- 10. Which finger's nail is the fastest growing?
- 4. What artist's work included the silkscreen paintings Campbell's Soup cans?
- 11. What female pitcher once struck out Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig?
- 5. What is the largest dam in the world?
- 12. What is the longest-running scripted prime time TV series in the U.S.?
- 6. Kulfi is a type of which Indian food

Answers on page 10

American Standard WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE! SAVE \$1,500 ✓ Backed by American Standard's 140 years of experience ✓ Ultra low entry for easy entering & exiting ✓ Patented Quick Drain® Technology ✓ Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND installation, INCLUDING labor backed by American Standard 44 Hydrotherapy jets for an invigorating massage Limited Time Offer! Call Today 866-612-7490 3 6 8 8 3 2 4 8 5 9 1 6 4 5 4 2

SUDOKU

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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.

7

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- 1. During it's lifetime an oyster changes its sex from male to female and back several times.
- 2. Morihei Ueshiba, founder of Aikido, once pinned an opponent using only a single finger.

STATEPOINT CROSSWOD

FAIRY TALE CREATURES

ACROSS

- 1. Like many mythical creatures
- 6. Second mo.
- 9. Spill the beans
- 13. Convex molding
- 14. "___ the President's Men"
- 15. Ankle support, e.g.
- 16. Make a logical connection
- 17. E.T.'s craft?
- 18. Des Moines native
- 19. Fire-breather
- 21. Household spirit
- 23. Tucker of "Modern Family"
- 24. Antonym of is
- 25. Grimm's Queen ____
- 28. Tailor-made
- 30. Showing on TV 35. "All's well that _
- 37. Golly!
- 39. Punctuation mark
- 40. Seaport in Yemen
- 41. Hitching post?
- 43. Additionally
- 44. Poison ivy or Poison oak
- 46. One more than The Beatles
- 47. Hold as a conviction
- 48. Mrs. Potts or her son Chip
- 50. Andrew Sean Greer's 2017 Pulitzer-winner novel
- 52. Toast choice
- 53. Jack and Jill's water jug
- 55. "____ Now or Never"
- 57. Horse's cousin
- 61. One of the seven dwarfs
- 64. Ascetic holy Hindu
- 65. HHS agency
- 67. Relating to #25 Across
- 69. Banana treat
- 70. Go bad
- 71. Australian canid
- 72. Lou of "Walk on the Wild Side"

fame

- 73. Card in the hole?
- 74. "The Forsyte _____," pl.

DOWN

- 1. Wisecrack
- 2. Like a zealous fan

40 65 American Standard WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE! SAVE \$1,500 ✓ Backed by American Standard's 140 years of experience
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CROSSWORD

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- 3. Regular attendee 4. Hipbone-related
- 5. Cuban music genre, pl.
- 6. Half-man, half-goat
- 7. Santa's helper
- 8. Splotches
- 9. Arch on a face
- 10. Croquet turf
- 11. Popular smoothie berry
- 12. Well, to Sofia Loren
- 15. Relating to living organisms
- 20. Opposite of alpha
- 22. Genetic initials
- 24. Parents hope to do this
- with values
- 25. Beauty's beau
- 26. Empower
- 27. Dropsy
- 29. Big Bad One 31. Yellow brick one
- 32. Feeling worse than before

- 33. Like Curious George
- 34. Garden dweller
- 36. Finger move
- 38. Moneyed one
- 42. Pine product
- 45. Choose not to do something, 2 words
- 49. Toni Morrison's "____ Baby"
- 51. 1862 plots, for short
- 54. Prefix for below
- 56. Old photo color
- 57. Stalin's domain
- 58. Back of the neck
- 59. Not active
- 60. Past tense of chide 61. Fill beyond full
- 62. Sound of passing bullet
- 66. Who Bugs Bunny talks to?
- 68. Numbers, abbr.
- Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:



Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

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Denise Cosby 14 years in business denise_cosby@yahoo.com



Ida **Fasano** 32 years in business idafasano11@gmail.com

To find out what the value of your home is call today for a free market analysis: 617-623-6600 • 699 Broadway, Somerville

COVID-19 update for 4/14/20 and information about the Economic Impact Payment

Please also be sure to check somervillema.gov/coronavirus for information and resources that are updated frequently.

Latest news:

Case Counts: As of 11 a.m. today, April 11, a total of 274 Somerville residents have tested positive for COVID-19, 75 of them have since recovered, and sadly there have now been three deaths.

Internet Essential Deadline Extended: Income-eligible new customers now have until May 13 to sign up for Comcast's Internet Essentials plan and get the first 60 days for free. After the first 60 days, the plan currently costs \$9.95 per month. You can find out more and apply at internetessentials.com or by calling 1-855-846-8376. The Somerville Public Schools are working to sign up student families for six months free via a school/City-subsidized version of the program. Multi-lingual teams from the schools are reaching out to families to help them access this service.

Grants for Businesses Making PPE: The State's Manufacturing Emergency Response Team launched this week with \$10.6 million in funding to help businesses shift their operations to produce personal protective equipment and other critical items. Business owners can find out more about eligibility, applying for funding, and the types of items being prioritized at https://masstech.org/ manufacturing-emergency-response-team-funding-program.

Weekly Business Town Halls: Each week Economic Development staff host a virtual town hall meeting where business owners can talk about and get more information on business impacts, available city and state resources, and plans for future action. The next one is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, and you can get more information and RSVP at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ covid-19-business-check-intickets-100547751030. ness Town Halls are also being held in Spanish (date to come) and Portuguese (Wednesday, April, 15, 5 p.m.). See the full calendar at somervillema.gov/ CovidBizHelp.

Today's Assistance Tip: New way to apply for the \$1,200 Economic Impact Payment if you don't normally file a tax

All U.S. citizens and resident aliens who have a Social Securi-

ty number, who are not claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer, and who had an adjusted gross income under certain limits are eligible to receive the Economic Impact Payment (for most individuals \$1,200). Payments are being dispersed through information provided by taxpayers on their most recent return, but if you did not file a return because of your income or because you were otherwise not required to you can now enter your information on www.irs.gov/eip to receive your payment. Later this week you will also be able to check the status of your Economic Impact Payment on that website.

Today's Public Health Tip: Face mask safety tips

The CDC now recommends that we wear masks or face coverings when we leave our homes,

and last week Mayor Joe Curtatone issued an advisory that all Somerville residents do so. It's important to follow safety guidelines around face coverings to protect yourself and others:

Wearing a face covering is not a substitute for social distancing. Even with a mask on, staying 6 feet away from anyone who doesn't live with you is still the best way to avoid getting and spreading COVID-19.

Wash your hands with warm soap and water for 20 seconds before putting on a face covering and after taking it off.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth when putting on and removing face coverings.

You should wash your mask (in a normal washing machine is fine) based on the frequency that you use it. The more often you wear your mask the more frequently you should be washing it.

How to mail and ship without leaving the safety of your home

You don't have to go to the Post Office to use many postal products and services. In fact, most simple tasks can be done from the convenience and safety of your home with or without a computer.

Like purchasing stamps. Using your computer, you can go to the Postal Store on usps.com and select different stamp denominations. USPS will deliver them right to your home.

No computer? No problem. Ask your local Post Office or carrier to bring you a Stamps by Mail order form, complete it and put it in your mailbox with a check. Again, USPS will bring you your stamps.

What if you need to send a package? You can order free Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express boxes, or other package supplies at usps.com. Again, USPS will deliver items to your address. And at usps.com, using Click-N-Ship, you can print a mailing label with the appropriate postage right from your computer.

Need that package picked-up? Go to usps.com and schedule a free carrier pick-up. In your request, let your local Post Office know where they can find the package or packages and the carrier will retrieve them when he or she delivers your mail.

USPS postal employees are working around the clock to ensure you get your important letters and packages. Skip the trip to the Post Office by ordering stamps, package supplies, and printing package postage from your home. We'll pick up your packages too.

It's the most effective type of social distancing around!

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee Meeting

There will be a virtual public meeting of the Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee on Wednesday, April 15, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually in compliance with Governor Baker's emergency orders regarding the Open Meeting Law. Copy & paste the following link into your internet browser to view this meeting live: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2300992369907089419

Public meeting of the Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee. View agenda, video stream, and minutes at http://SomervilleCityMA.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=3122.





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CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT JOSEPH A. CURTATONE MAYOR

GEORGE J. PROAKIS, AICP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PLANNING DIVISION

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on Thursday April 23, 2020 at 6:00pm. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A, s. 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Virtual meeting link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/regis-

ter/2993313060456563980

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (213) 929-4212 Access code:

This hearing may be relocated to the City Council Chambers on the Second Floor of Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA if the State of Emergency is terminated and Somerville City Hall is reopened to the public by Thursday, April 23, 2020.

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comments concerning the following proposed amendments to the Somerville Zoning

Amendment of §1.2 Applicability to extend the validity time frame of previously issued permits.

Clarification of §2.4.2.c concerning lot coverage.

Correction of the primary and secondary façade fenestration requirements for the general building, commercial building, lab building, mid-rise podium tower, block building, and commercial block building types in the mid-rise, high-rise, and commercial core districts.

Correction of the threshold for the employment linage requirement in Article 4. Mid-Rise Districts Article 5. High-Rise Districts, Article 6. Commercial Districts, and Article 7. Special Districts

Correction of the minimum building height in stories for the commercial building and lab building types in the commercial core district.

Revision of §10.3.6.b & c and §10.3.7 to streamline the provisions for landscape buffers.

Correction of the tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3 Rental ADU price multiplier for studio ADUs in Table

12.1.5(b) and the tier 2 and tier 3 Ownership ADU price multiplier for

studio ADUs in Table 12.1.5(c). Correction of the language in §12.1.8 and §12.1.9 of Article 12 Devel-

Correction of the language in subsection b. Membership for Section 15.7.2 Zoning Board of Appeals, 15.7.3 Planning Board, and 15.7.4 Urban Design Commission of Article 15 Administration.

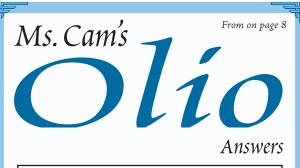
Revision of the use limitations for ground story commercial spaces fronting a pedestrian street in the mid-rise, high-rise, commercial core, and fabrication districts.

The proposed amendments identified above may be viewed online at www.somervillezoning.com/amendments.

Interested persons may provide comments at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

4/8/20, 4/15/20 The Somerville Times

opment Benefits.



1. Amazon founder Jeff 6. Ice cream Bezos

2. Breadfruit

flepuff, Ravenclaw, and Slytherin

Gryffindor, Huf-

4. Andy Warhol

5. Tarbela Dam, Paki-

11. Jackie Mitchell

7. Eight

by a stingray

8. Pierced in the chest

9. Georgia Aquarium

10. Middle finger

12. The Simpsons

City of Somerville **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS** City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143 **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 6:00pm. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Virtual meeting link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5560386838378844941

TO CALL IN

Phone number: Access code:

1 (415) 655-0060 550-248-895

This hearing may be relocated to the City Council Chambers on the Second Floor of Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA if the State of Emergency is terminated and Somerville City Hall is reopened to the public by Wednesday, April 22, 2020.

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

50-54 Murdock St. -

Applicant, Roberto Grieco, and Owner, Alida Elena Grieco, Trustee of the fifty Murdock Investment Trust, seek an extension to previously-granted special permits. RB zone. Ward 5.

1154 Broadway

Applicant and Owner, Anuj Pradhan, Trustee of the 1154 Broadway Realty Trust, seeks a one-year time extension to a previous ly-granted Special Permit with Site Plan Review. NB Zone. Ward 7.

391-395 Somerville Ave - Applicant and Owner, Somerville Avenue

Trust, LLC, seeks a one-year time extension to previously-granted Special Permit with Site Review and Special Permits. BA Zone. Ward 2.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at https://www.somervillema.gov/ departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions or in-person in the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

4/8/20, 4/15/20 The Somerville Times



City of Somerville PLANNING BOARD

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 6:00pm Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Virtual meeting link: ter/6975441810825850894 https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/regis-

> TO CALL IN +1 (415) 655-0060

Phone number: Access code: 726-509-130

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

74 Middlesex Ave. -74 Middlesex Ave Owner LLC proposes a Master Plan in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use district which requires a Master Plan Special Permit for an approximately 525,000 square foot 275 foot tall commercial building which requires three special permits to exceed the maximum permitted floor area ratio, building height, and leasable floor area for a single commercial

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at https://www.somervillema.gov/ departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions or in-person in the Planning & Zoning Division, City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

4/15/20 The Somerville Times



ADVERTISEMENT

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Painting Contractors for exterior painting at One Cape Court Elderly Apartment Building located at One Capen Court, Somerville, Ma. 02145. SHA Job # 2013

The Project consists of painting the exterior of One Capen Court, one

The estimated cost for Painting is \$30,000.00

Bids are subject to M.G.L c.149, § 44A-J & minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L c.149, § 26 to 27H inclusive, and the Davis/Bacon Wage Rate, whichever hourly rate pays more. The project is subject to Title VI of the Civil rights Act of 1964, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 and the Somerville Housing Authority is an equal Opportunity Employer.

General Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, April 23th, 2020 electronically by emailing Manny St. Louis at mannys@shaweb.org due to the COVID-19 Emergency crisis. We will also accept mail in bid submissions. To avoid large crowds in person submission will not be accepted.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the bid amount and made payable to the SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available electronically by contacting Manny St. Louis at mannys@sha-web.org 617-625-1152 Ext. 330.

A pre-bid meeting will be held at One Capen Court, Somerville, MA 02145, Wednesday, April 15th, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Attendance is strong-

Questions should be directed to Manny St. Louis at 617-625-1152 ext.330 or by email at mannys@sha-web.org.

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

4/8/20, 4/15/20 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Legal Notice of Public Hearing

The Community Preservation Committee will hold a public hearing for all interested parties on Wednesday, April 22 at 7:00pm. The hearing will be held virtually on the GoToMeeting platform in compliance with Governor Baker's emergency orders regarding the Open Meeting Law during the COVID-19 crisis. The Committee seeks public input on how the City should prioritize spending \$2 million in Community Preservation Act funding. The draft FY21 Community Preservation Plan and other information about the Community Preservation Act in Somerville are available at <u>www.somervillema.gov/cpa</u>. A presentation for individuals and organizations interested in proposing a CPA funded project on City land or proposing a project for a feasibility study will be offered before the hearing from 6:30-7:00pm. Please join the presentation and hearing from your computer, tablet or smartphone. https:// global.gotomeeting.com/join/792438397. You can also dial in using your phone. United States: <u>+1 (646) 749-3122</u>. Access Code: 792-438-397. The hearing will also be recorded and made available on the CPA

Interested persons may provide comments to the Community Preserby Friday, May 15th by email to itumusiime@somervillema.gov. You can also share your ideas by taking the Community Preservation Committee survey at www.somervillema.gov/cpa.

Attest: Jane Carbone, Chair

4/8/20, 4/15/20 The Somerville Times

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE **PURCHASING DEPARTMENT** REBID IFB#20-65 Management of Catchbasin and Sewer Grit Material

The City of Somerville, through the Purchasing Department invites sealed bids for:

Management of Catchbasin and Sewer Grit Material

An Invitation for bids (IFB) and specifications may be obtained online http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing/ bids or from the Purchasing Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after 04/20/2020.

Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: 05/04/2020 at $\underline{\textbf{1.00PM}}$. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Contract will be awarded for the period of one year with 2 options

Prevailing wages apply to these services.

Please contact Prajkta Waditwar, pwaditwar@somervillema.gov for further information.

> Prajkta Waditwar **Construction Procurement Manager** 617-625-6600 x. 3407

4/15/20 The Somerville Times

5 great ways to celebrate Earth Month

Want to go green while practicing social distancing? Here are a few ideas to consider:

- · Maximize your time at home by planting a garden. Not only will the plants you grow help to reduce carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere, but you'll also be creating a healthy habitat for birds, insects and other small critters. Plus, if you plant vegetables, you can reduce your carbon footprint by reducing the amount of food you need to purchase that was shipped long distances.
- · Your home theater is likely more important to you these days then ever before, making it a good place to start when making eco-friendly home upgrades. Consider a mercury-free projector with a hybrid laser and LED light source, which removes the need for hazardous bulbs. With a long bulb life of 20,000 hours, selecting a Casio's LampFree projector is one upgrade with a lasting impact.
- + You don't need to spend a lot of time or money to substantially improve your home's energy efficiency. Take an afternoon to swap out the incandescent bulbs in all your light fixtures and replace them with LEDs or another energy-efficient alternative.
- Get outdoors and enjoy nature using wearable tech like the PRT-B50 Pro Trek Watch, which can help steer you through a solitary hike. With Quad Sensor technology, you will know the direction, weather, temperature and altitude at the touch of a button. In addition, an accelerometer keeps track of your steps and calories burned. The Bluetooth-enabled watch connects to an app that will also record your location into memory so you can find your way back.
- Learn more about environmental causes and get involved remotely. Many organizations host online petitions, which are shared directly with policymakers. This is a great way to have your voice heard on issues that are important to you.

With a bit of creativity, you can show the planet some love in a socially-responsible way. (StatePoint)

Alone together **CONT. FROM PG 3**

updates. Just my luck, The Three Stooges just started and it's a Curly! Score!

Fast forward, and today is Monday, the day after Easter Sunday. It was quite different from any Easter I can remember, but it's certainly going to be one that I'll never forgot. Valiant efforts were made all around the country to try to spread some special Easter joy by parading the Easter Bunny himself around on fire trucks with a brigade of dedicated police officers and firefighters and EMTs. My grandkids enjoyed it in the Seekonk area. Thank you!

So during this surreal period in the history of the world, I'm facing the question of the hour. What shall I watch on TV? Thank God for DVDs, Netflix, Face-

book, and of course, snacks. But the real heartfelt thanks, along with prayers goes out to the first responders and frontline people. Thank you and God Bless.

We also must applaud our mayor and police and fire departments along with the gang doing the important work in the communications department of City Hall for keeping us connected on a community level (Joe and Steve!). Thanks for doing a great job keeping us safe and informed.

A special prayer and thanks to all our brave and dedicated first responders. May God bless, protect and keep you safe. And God bless all of us, our loved ones and our friends.

And speaking of first responders,





Somerville Fire Department's Tower 1 took advantage of their aerial training to say hello to some very special residents at the Jeanne Jugan Little Sisters of the Poor Residence on Highland Ave. today while maintaining their social distancing (see photo on page 3)!

Jim Piwinski was able to see and wave the 4th floor.

The residents in the Pavillion were clapping and cheering and a woman was crying in the window saying "thank you." That's beautiful in Portuguese. Mother Maureen, who I love dearly, kept saying "God bless, Jimbo." That's what she calls Jim Piwinski. A true good-hearted loving story. Jim and his dad, also named Jim, are both Somerville firefighters. So great! Two generations of Somerville firefighters.

On another positive note, I'm getting great gas mileage. I now get two months to a gallon! Again, when this pandemic is over I hope all of you are healthy, happy and safe. Oh, by the way, thanks to at his grandmother, Doris Landry, on $\,$ my friend Lori P for dropping off four bags of jelly beans! I don't have to ration them anymore and I can now share ... maybe. But sadly, the Cheez-Its, and donuts are gone. Stay safe, my friends, and God bless us all.

> (A special heartfelt thank you to my dear friends Chief Charlie Breen and Peggy Piwinski for their help with this story!)

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 11

for a list of restaurants accepting orders now. Don't see your restaurant listed? Add it here: Somervillema.gov/ covidbizhelp.

Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) is accepting masks. The link provided here offers a pattern and provides more details. Thanks to many local sewers who have already been hard at work on this. The link for CHA's Call for Masks is: https://www.challiance.org/about/ newsroom/personal_protective_equipment_ppe_homemade_donatio_1180.

Everyone should also remember to please support our local businesses in any way they can. Even though restaurants closed and most are only available for takeout, you are encouraged to order out and buy gift cards at the restaurants and small businesses for future use. *******

To contact us at The Somerville Times during these closures, please go to news@thesomervilletimes.com. We are still up and running but will be working remotely.

Family ties on Easter Sunday



Easter Sunday is a day a lot of families and friends spend together, but due to the coronavirus pandemic, people are listening to officials and not holding family gatherings. Some still found creative ways to see their family and friends last Sunday. On Easter morning, Sal Ferro put a ladder to his parents' house to get to second floor window and say "Hi" to Claudia and Sal Ferro. Their daughter



and some of her grandchildren also stopped by with a blanket and wrapped her and her husband in a blanket so they could give them a hug.

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 5

cloud. It was carried with the wind over an area from Lechmere Station in Cambridge, north to the Mystic River, and from Union Square, east to Charlestown. Until firefighters, railroad, and construction crews ultimately contained it, this area was in grave jeopardy of a huge disaster.

Eugene Brune, with only three months under his belt as mayor and in his own words, received his "baptism by fire" at this incident. He first ordered the evacuation of the area near the incident and later expanded it to 1.5 square miles. Sixteen thousand citizens were sheltered inside or moved to safer locations that day. He addressed the television, radio,

and press, and by the end of the crisis, the mayor had worked with state, federal, and local agencies.

Somerville and other police departments closed local roads in the affected area that included Route 93 and the Mystic/Tobin Bridge. Massive traffic jams occurred while drivers tried to avoid the area. All local highways were closed intermittently until the next day. The Boston and Lowell trains and Green Line trains to Lechmere were shut down.

From the epicenter in Union Square to Winter Hill, scarfs, bandanas, and rags, were worn over faces. Eerily, the uniform of that day was much like that of today's masks and sheltering in place.

Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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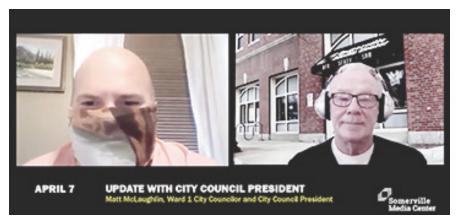
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SMC State Delegation Virtual Town Hall

On Thursday, April 9, Somerville Media Center hosted a virtual town hall with Senator Pat Jehlen (2nd Middlesex District), Representative Christine Barber (34th Middlesex District), Representative Mike Connolly (26th Middlesex District) and Representative Denise Provost - (27th Middlesex District). SMC Board President Joe Lynch hosted. A video of the town hall is available for viewing on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQm50jON-GA.



On April 9, Joe Lynch also hosted a SMC News Update with State Representative Christine P. Barber. A video of the interview is available for viewing on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALdODbxVCy4.



On April 7, Ward 1 City Councilor and City Council President Matt McLaughlin demonstrated what all residents should be wearing if they have to go out in this City Council Update available for viewing on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oO_VBvWoWJc.

Want to write local Somerville stories? Call 617-666-4010

and speak to the Assignment Editor

On This Day in Kistory April 15

1784 – The first balloon is flown in Ireland.

1813 – U.S. troops under James Wilkinson lay siege to the Spanish-held city of Mobile in future state of Alabama.

1861 - President Lincoln mobilizes Federal army.

1865 – Abraham Lincoln dies from John Wilkes Booth's assassination bullet.

1912 – With her band playing on the deck, the ocean liner Titanic sinks at 2:27 a.m. in the North Atlantic.

1923 – The first sound films shown to a paying audience are exhibited at the Rialto Theater in New York City.

1952 - President Harry Truman signs the official Japanese peace treaty.

1955 – Ray Kroc starts the McDonald's chain of fast food restaurants.

1959 – Cuban leader Fidel Castro begins a U.S. goodwill tour.

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SCATV Channel 3 Schedule

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(Free Speech TV) Community Lens: SHC 5K Race 7:00pm 1:00pm Tele Magazine 9:00am DW Global 3000 Reeling Review 8:00pm LIVE - Our View 2:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News Both Sides of the Bars 10:00am 9:30am 3:00pm MA House of Representatives Formal Session 9:00pm PABFONE Closing Day Ceremony Our View Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer 11:00am 10:00am 10:00pm Community Bulletin Board 4:00pm Tele Krevol 12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show Somerville Neighborhood News SNN Neighborhood Update 10:30am 10:30pm The World Fusion Show Henry Parker Presents 5:00pm 1:00pm 11:00am SOM ARTS 11:00pm VOX POP Comedy Night Henry Parker Presents 5:30pm From My Heart to Yours Somerville Storytellers 11:30am 1:30pm Somerville Pundits Friday, April 17 6:00pm 2:00pm NASA TV 12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show The Somerville Labor Show 6:30pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 1:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News 12:00am Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party 3:00pm BLOWW Show a Go Go 7:00pm SCATV Secret Stash 4:00pm African Television Network 1:30pm Somerville Neighborhood News 1:00am 7:30pm 8:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News Community Lens: SHC 5K Race 2:00pm Colores Latinos 1:30am SCATV Secret Stash 5:00pm #AFAD 2:00am 3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) Free Speech TV 6:00pm LIVE from VOX POP 9:00pm Nossa Gente e Costumes 4:00pm DW Conflict Zone 6:00am NASA TV 6:30pm Fur, Fins and Feathers 10:00pm 4:30pm Autumn Reads with Somerville Public Library Heavy Leather Music Video Show The Bill Press Show (Free Speech TV) 7:00am 7:00pm Tele Galaxie 11:00pm SCATV Secret Stash 5:00pm Hello Neighbor Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) LIVE -Somerville Overcoming Addiction 8:00am 8:00pm 11:30pm From My Heart to Yours 5:30pm 9:00am DW Euromaxx 9:00pm Dedilhando au Saudade Sunday, April 19 Somerville Neighborhood News VOX POP: Somerville Connects 6:00pm 9:30am Strata 10:00pm Colores Latinos NASA TV 6:30pm 10:00am 12:00am Flotilla 11:00pm Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party "The Cask of Amontillado" at VOX POP SOM ARTS NASA TV 7:00pm 11:00am 1:00am Tuesday, April 21 Cambridge Calendar The Thom Hartman Show 7:30pm 8:00pm Sidewalks Entertainment 11:30am 1:30am NASA TV 12:00am Public Safety/Homeland Security Hearing LIVE - Somerville Pundits 12:00pm 2:00am NASA TV 6:00am 8:30pm DW Euromaxx Community Benefits Agreement 1:00pm 3:00am Free Speech TV 7:00am NASA TV 9:00pm 10:00pm Revolution Awakening at VOX_POP 2:00pm Somerville Pundits 2:30pm Autumn Reads with Somerville Public Library Bate Papo com Shirley Nossa Gentes e Costumes Somerville Pundits 6:00am 8:00am Democracy Now! LIVE - Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party 7:00am 9:00am The Chef's Table Series 11:00pm 3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 8:00am Effort Pour Christ 10:00am 4:00pm 5:00pm Gay USÁ DW Global 3000 NASA TV 9:00am Thursday, April 16 Ioanna Bremis HMS Clinicals 11:00am 10:00am Tele Kreyol SCATV Secret Stash 12:30am The Thom Hartman Show What's New Massachusetts? 12:00pm 5:30pm 11:00amMA House of Representatives Formal Session 1:00am Free Speech TV 1:00pm Revolution Awakening at VOX POP 6:00pm 7:00pm Grandstanders 12:00pm Sidewalks Entertainment 1:30am Free Speech TV **Emergency Preparedness** 1:00pm SOM ARTS 2:00pm Somerville Overcoming Addiction 2:00am Free Speech TV 3:00pm The Somerville Labor Show SNN Neighborhood Update Democracy Now! 7:30pm 1:30pm 3:00am Free Speech TV SMC Youth Media 8:00pm 8:30pm LIVE - Greater Somerville Greater Somerville Chico and B-Man African Television Network 4:00pm 2:00pm 6:00am Bate Papo com Shirley Going Postal 3:00pm DW Conflict Zone 7:00am Dedilhando a Saudade Fur, Fins and Feathers 4:00pm 5:00pm LIVE - Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer 9:00pm DW Euromaxx 7:30am Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party Heavy Leather Music Video Show 5:00pm 6:00pm 10:00pm Gay USA 5:30pm What's New Massachusetts? 8:00am Democracy Now! 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CITY TV 22 (Comcast) (RCN) Schedule

Free Speech TV

Effort Pour Christ

DW Focus on Europe

11:00pm

11:30am

12:00pm

2:30pm

3:00pm

4:00pm

5:00pm

6:00pm 6:30pm

7:15pm

8:00pm

8:00am

9:00am

Monday, April 20

Wednesday, April 15

12:00pm

1:00pm

1:30pm

7:00am Somerville Heroes' Salute 2019 SomerViva en Espanõl - Public Charge 8:30am 9:38am Talking Business The Spiritual Music of Henry Hadley 10:00am 11:00am Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 12:00pm School Committee Meeting 4.6.20 3:03pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 4:00pm City Council Meeting 3.26.20 How Does COVID-19 Spread? 5:30pm 7:00pm 7:00pm Council on Aging Update 3.30.20 7:02pm 7:35pm Senior Circuit - "Shape Up Somerville" Talking Business City Council Meeting 4.7.20 8:00pm

The Thom Hartman Show

The Somerville Line

5:00am

Thursday, April 16 12:00am

11:00pm

Public Charge Presentation 3.5.20 CDC Handwashing en Espanol PSA City Council Meeting 4.7.20 12:48am 1:00am 4:00am Fit-4-Life #3 Storytime with Anne 4:30am SomerViva em Português - March 2020 Raising Families "Youth Vaping & Smoking" 5:00am 6:00am 6:30am City Alert Talking Business 6:35am 7:00am Storytime with Anne School Committee Meeting 4.6.20 7:30am 10:00am The Spiritual Music of Henry Hadley Fit-4-Life #2 City Alert 11:00am 11:30am City Council Meeting 4.7.20 Fit-4-Life #6 12:00pm 4:00pm 4:30pm City Alert: The CARES Act 5:30pm Middlesex Update w/Marian Ryan 6:00pm Storytime with Anne 6:30pm 8:30pm School Committee Meeting 4.6.20 SomerViva em Português - March 2020 Senator Ed Markey's Town Hall at SHS0 9:00pm

11:08pm Student Health Survey, Trivia, & Discussion

Friday, April 17 Faith In a City: Fire & Roses 12:00am 1:30am City Alert: The CARES Act City Alert School Committee Meeting 4.6.20 Somerville Heroes' Salute 2019 2:00am 7:30am 9:00am Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 City Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang 9:30am 11:00am The Spiritual Music of Henry Hadley 12:00pm Public Charge Presentation 3.5.20 SomerViva en Español - Public Charge 1:00pm 1:30pm 2:30pm Public Charge Presentation 3.5.20 Letters of World War II at Council on Aging 4:00pm Fit-4-Life #6 Council on Aging Update 3.30.20 4:20pm Storytime with Anne Raising Families "Youth Vaping & Smoking" 4:30pm 5:30pm 5:56pm CDC Handwashing en Espanol PSA City Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang Senator Ed Markey's Town Hall at SHS 6:00pm 6:30pm 8:07pm **Talking Business** 8:30pm Return to Italy Public Charge Presentation 3.5.20 SomerViva en Espanõl - Public Charge 9:30pm 10:30pm The Spiritual Music of Henry Hadley 11:00pm Saturday, April 18 Fit 4 Life 2020 #1

12:00am 12:30am 1:30am 7:30am 8:30am 11:00am 11:30am 12:00pm 12:45pm 1:00pm 2:30pm SomerViva em Português - March 2020

City Alert

Tuskegee Airmen City Council Meeting 4.7.20 Tuskegee Airmen City Council Spotlight - Mary Jo Rossetti The Bilingual Brain: Benefits of Bilingualism Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 City Council Spotlight - Mary Jo Rossetti Storytime with Anne SPD Ride Along The Bilingual Brain: Benefits of Bilingualism

4:00pm 5:30pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 Raising Families "Special Needs Education" School Committee Meeting 4.6.20 Student Health Survey, Trivia, & Discussion 8:30pm SPD Ride Along 9:15pm 9:31pm Haitian Cultural Celebration 2020 10:30pm Faith In a City Sunday, April 19

12:00am Letters of World War II at Council on Aging Student Health Survey, Trivia, & Discussion 1:30am 2:30am SomerViva en Espanol - Public Charge Fit 4 Life 2020 # Raising Families "Youth Vaping & Smoking" Talking Business 8:00am 8:30am City Alert: 4.9.20 Storytime with Anne 8:47am 9:00am 9:30am 11:00am Housing/City Update 3.27.20 Fit 4 Life 2020 #1

SomerViva en Español - Public Charge School Committee Meeting 4.6.20 City Alert: 4.7.20 SomerViva em Português´- March 2020 Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 Public Charge Presentation 3.5.20 Storytime with Anne Faith In a City: Faith & Community SPD Ride Along City Council Meeting 4.7.20

Monday, April 20 12:00am School Committee Meeting 4.6.20 2:34am

City Alert: 4.7.20 Talking Business Middlesex Update w/Marian Ryan Storytime with Anne 8:30am Hall St. Infrastructure Community Meeting Spring Hill Sewer Separation Meeting Fit-4-Life #2 11:00am 11:30am Hall St. Infrastructure Community Meeting City Council Meeting 4.7.20 12:00pm

Fit-4-Life #2 Derechos de Inquilinos Letters of World War II at Council on Aging SPD Ride Along Storytime with Anne School Committee Meeting 4.6.20 Faith In a City: Faith & Community 11:30pm SPD Ride Along

Totally Working Out

SCATV Secret Stash

Box House Productions Presents

Tuesday, April 21 12:00am

10:00pm

11:00pm

4:30pm

6:00pm

7:15pm

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SCATV Secret Stash

Greek Independence Day 2019 Spring Hill Sewer Separation Meeting Student Health Survey, Trivia, & Discussion Spring Hill Sewer Separation Meeting City Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang Senator Ed Markey's Town Hall at SHS Fit-4-Life #3 City Alert: 4.9.20 12:00pm Public Charge Presentation 3.5.20 The Bilingual Brain: Benefits of Bilingualism Storytime with Anne Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 Return to Italy Hall St. Infrastructure Community Meeting Storytime with Anne Letters of World War II at Council on Aging Council on Aging Update 3.30.20 City Alert: 4.7.20 SomerViva en Español - Public Charge Derechos de Inquilinos SPD Ride Along

10:30pm 11:00pm Faith In a City: Faith & Community Wednesday, April 22

Senior Circuit - "Shape Up Somerville"

SomerViva en Espanol - Public Charge

Haitian Cultural Celebration 2020

Hall St. Infrastructure Community Meeting

Educational TV 15 Schedule

Wednesday, April 15 SHS Football vs Peabody 8:00am SHS Boys Soccer v Marblehead 10:00am 11:30am Northeastern Conference Cheer Invitational 12:30pm SHS Hockey v Lynn C. 2:00pm SHS Girls Basketball vs Beverly SHS Girls Basketball vs Swampscott 3:30pm SHS Boys Basketball vs Salem 5:00pm 7:00pm SHS Football vs Peabody 9:00pm SHS Boys Soccer v Marblehead 10:30pm Northeastern Conference Cheer Invitational SHS Hockey v Lynn C. 11:30pm

Thursday, April 16 SHS Girls Lacrosse vs Matignon 8:00am SHS Girls Soccer vs Matignon 11:00am SHS Girls Soccer vs Matignon 1:00pm SHS Hockey vs Matignon El Sistema Spring Concert Cam/Som Girls Hockey vs CC 2:05pm 3:00pm 4:30pm 6:00pm SHS Hockey vs Medford SHS Girls Lacrosse vs Matignon 7:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs Matignon 9:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs Matignon 11:00pm SHS Hockey vs Matignon

Friday, April 17

El Sistema Spring Concert 12:05am 1:00am Cam/Som Girls' Hockey vs CC

8:00am SHS Spring Concert 10:00am El Sistema Spring Concert '18 11:00am All City Middle School Spring Concert 18 Brown School Spring Concert 5/18 Argenziano School Spring Concert 1:00pm 3:00pm All-City Middle School Spring Concert 5/19 SHS Spring Concert 4:00pm 5:00pm El Sistema Spring Concert '18 All City Middle School Spring Concert 18 7:00pm 8:00pm 10:00pm Brown School Spring Concert 5/18

Saturday, April 18

12:00am Argenziano School Spring Concert All-City Middle School Spring Concert 5/19 SHS Winter Concert 2/19 1:00am 8:00am SHS Chamber Concert 5/19 10:00am SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn E. 11:00am 1:00pm 2:00pm SHS Boys Lacrosse vs Lynn C. SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical 4:00pm SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical 6:00pm SHS Winter Concert 2019 8:00pm SHS Chamber Concert 5/19 SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn F. 9:00pm 11:00pm SHS Boys Lacrosse vs Lýnn C.

Sunday, April 19 12:00am

SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical 1:35am SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical Public Domain Theater 3:00am

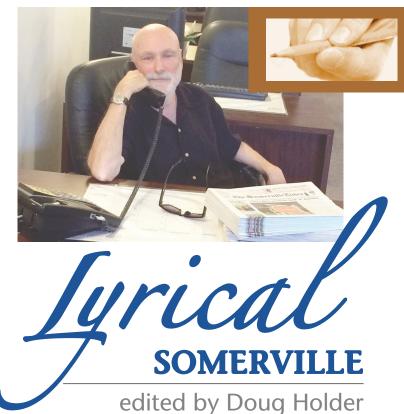
Boys Middle School Basketball Finals 2018 9:00am 10:00am Girls' Middle School Intramural Soccer 11:00am Boys' Middle School Intramural Soccer Boys Intramural Basketball Championship 12:00pm 1:00pm Girls Intramural Basketball Championship 2:00pm Girls Indoor Soccer Finals 3:00pm Boys Indoor Soccer Finals 2018 4:00pm 6:00pm Boys Middle School Basketball Finals 2018 Girls Middle School Intramural Soccer 7:00pm 8:00pm 9:00pm 10:00pm

11:00pm Monday, April 20 12:00am

1:00am 2:00am 8:00am 10:00am 12:05pm 2:30pm 3:00pm 6:02pm SHS Football v Lynn Classical 8:00pm 10:05pm SHS Football v Triton Reg'l Tuesday, April 21

SHS Boys Basketball vs Algonquin Girls Middle School Basketball Finals '18 Boys Middle School Intramural Soccer Boys Intramural Basketball Championship Girls Intramural Basketball Championship Girls Indoor Soccer Finals Boys' Indoor Soccer Finals 2018 SHS Boys Basketball vs Algonquin SHS Football vs Peabody SHS Football v Lynn Classical SHS Football v Triton Reg'l SHS Football 2017 SHS Football vs Medford SHS Football vs Peabody

SHS Football 2006 SHS Football 2017 SHS Football vs Medford SHS Football 2006 SHS Girls Basketball 2017-18 SHS Boys Basketball 2017-18 SHS Football 2017 Highlander Football 2018 SHS Highlander Boys Basketball 2018-19 SHS Highlander Girls Basketball 2018-19 SHS Football 2019 Highlights SHS Boys Basketball Highlights 2016-17 SHS Girls Basketball Highlights 2016-17 SHS Football 2016 SHS Football 2006 SHS Football 2006 SHS Girls Basketball 2017-18 SHS Boys Basketball 2017-18 SHS Football 2017 Highlander Football 2018 SHS Highlander Boys Basketball 2018-19 SHS Highlander Girls Basketball 2018-19 SHS Football 2019 Highlights SHS Bovs Basketball Highlights 2016-17 SHS Girls Basketball Highlights 2016-17 SHS Football 2016 SHS Football 2006



Lynne Viti is a lecturer emerita in the Writing Program at Wellesley College. She is the author of two previous poetry collections, Baltimore Girls and The Glamorganshire Bible, and the recently published Going Too Fast: Stories. Her website is at lynneviti.wordpress.com.



At Hale Reservation

The road rises before us, a winding asphalt path through woods, trailheads behind stone walls, traces of colonial farmhouses and work-roads where ox-carts dragged granite from to Boston and beyond.

Did the ghosts of those who worked this land suffer smallpox, think of themselves as sinners in the hands of an angry God, believe they were not among the Elect

or were they stoic, philosophical? Families with their dogs, pairs of adults, runners walk ahead, or pass us going the opposite way. In strong sunlight we shed our gloves, tie our puffy jackets

around our waists, look for messages of spring trees budding, a spot of new green emerging from leaf-beds. These signs are scant, the season holds back, but we crave any hint

to reassure us something better's on the way. After that first week of shutting ourselves up in the house, we already miss what we used to complain about, jobs grudgingly performed, or obligations we had to meet.

We turn the last corner, arrive at the parking lot, climb into the car, sanitize our hands a secular ritual that's as close to sacred as we have in these strange days.

— Lynne Viti

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

OFF THE SHEL

by Doug Holder

'Child Ward of the Commonwealth'

by Eileen Cleary

Child Ward of the Commonwealth By Eileen Cleary Main Street Rag Publishing www.MainStreetRag.com Charlotte, NC ISBN: 978-1-59948-746-5 56 Pages \$14.00

Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Dennis Daly

Poignant to the point of defining poignancy, Eileen Cleary's first book of poems, Child Ward of the Commonwealth, shakes the soul with her truth-telling narratives of childhood trauma and dysfunction. Cleary somehow melds a mature poetic sensibility with a child's wide-eyed ability to see the world's wreckage with wonder and awe. Her persona relates adventures of fairy-tale-like brutality, not unlike fables from the Brothers Grimm. However, Cleary's anecdotes are not mythologized; they are direct and very personal.

One of the collection's most compelling poems, entitled On What to Forget, stakes out the mnemonic territory utilized by Cleary and delivers illuminating slivers of juvenile reasoning and adult pathos to boot. The piece begins with a four-year old cowering under a table as the skin of her sister's arm, aflame from a kitchen fire, literally melts. Through negative constructions the narrator tries, through time, to assuage the little girl's guilt and place it where it belongs. The poet says,

Not your mother. She wasn't cooking,

didn't leave that pan to boil, didn't leave her children

under the porch, hide-and-go seeking

through its lattice. Ready or not here I come!

into the kitchen, She wasn't even there.

Grow older, grow smaller because you did nothing, you

did nothing but hide

Left to their own devices, human youngsters turn feral like other mammalian offspring in synonymous circumstances. In her poem When the Social Worker Took Me, Cleary's persona explains with perfect juxtapositions and impressive, if hair-raising, choice of specifics. Consider these lines,

...I watch over myself—teach myself to speak. I say lipshick or pisgetti, poke holes in my tights, pull snarls from my hair, toss and catch a puppy on the stairs—I hide in an attic, clamor through the halls, map my slap-dash kingdom in crayon on the walls. The neighbors dial phones, shut behind their doors.

Childcare in the best of circumstances can on a bad day lead to neglect or dubious disciplinary behaviors. Without the presence of permanent kinship, the possibilities of cruelty multiply exponentially. In her piece Toaster, the poet describes in straightforward language one such unseemly incident, an assault on her little brother,

The baby sitter shouts.

John, when will you get serious?

She jams Johnny's hand into the toaster while I freeze, bury my own unbuttered fingers into the pockets of my jumper.

He screeches like a barn owl, hissing, and flapping his arms

against the brute walls of the too-small room.



Children on the outside of family life hunger for inclusion. They dream dreams of especial treatment, stability, and comforting acceptance. A full belly and an unchangeable name are part of the deal. Denial of these perks breed resentment and pugnaciousness. Cleary's poem Foster Care Definition ends via a fantasy culminating in a very real demand,

I learn the zebra knows its herd because patterns dazzle their family names across the green. I want my name to dazzle too.

I begin to wish myself an elephant. At St. Boniface's, St. Mary's, St. Joseph's, St. Francis', back to my third grade report on pachyderms, how I pray: make me an elephant, God.

Let my skin wrinkle over my hide, Not for the size, Not for the skin. I want to be family. Let me in.

Throughout the bulk of these poems the narrator's mother takes center stage, even when she is not there. Sometimes it's not pretty. Family bonds, even in dire circumstances, resist tampering. Children love unconditionally. The poet's piece How the Goldfish deals with strategies of remembrance and forgetting. Here is the heart of the poem,

My foster mother tells me forget, but not to forget my birth mom passed out across the front threshold, how we kids only use the back.

So I forget: How-dee-dow-dee-diddle o Through our days and how she Hums herself into a blanket.

How after again the ambulance takes her, we play Wizard of Oz, follow bricks through Flaxen Park to a blackbird tower.

How when she's back home we think we wished her there. How even on bad days, her scoring paragoric—

Acceptance and reconciliation with old ghosts can be part of a healing process after years of hard knocks and open wounds. Cleary's poem I'm Thinking of Re-entering My Body delineates such a curative progression. A damaged soul needs to be well grounded in flesh and blood. The poet's persona seeks out her earthly shell in these lines,

We'll have this reunion before it thinks I've died and follows. While it's open to my custody, keeping its musts of eat and drink. When I re-enter, I like to think we'll scribble its history, its journey erasable without the ink of me.

Confessional poetry such as Cleary's that dwells on brittle emotion and memory is difficult enough to write. But, when told through the eyes of a child or a maturing adult, that same poetry becomes both magical and medicinal. An amazing debut of an astonishing poet.

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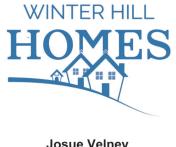
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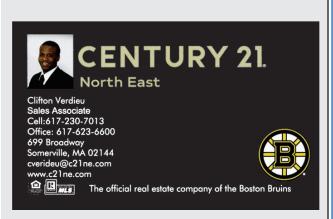


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