



Somerville's  
original  
independent  
newspaper

# The Somerville Times

www.thesomervilletimes.com



VOL. 8 NO. 14

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

## Inside:



**Pleasure Island memories**

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**No evictions for the near term**

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**The Dragon Boat Festival**

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## City Council updated by HHS on coronavirus reduction measures



Director of Health and Human Services for the City of Somerville, Doug Kress, provided an update on current coronavirus mitigation measures for the Public Health and Safety Committee on Monday.

By Jim Clark

At the latest meeting of the Somerville City Council Public Health and Public Safety Committee of the Whole on Monday, March 30, the Director of Health and Human Services, Doug Kress, updated Committee members on measures to reduce the spread of the coronavirus and to support anyone who may become infected.

The meeting was held virtually via a webinar tool as a means to ensure member safety while social distancing advisories are in place.

Committee Chair and Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis invited Kress to report on the latest developments in the city's efforts to quell the proliferation of the virus and to serve the needs of those who may have contracted the disease.

Kress explained that he would begin by providing a short overview of what's been done over the previous week. *Continued on page 4*

## How and why to keep kids on a schedule during school closures

School closures have forced families nationwide to readjust to the current reality. However, a sense of structure is important for children's developmental growth. To create a routine for your kids that sticks, consider the following tips:

- Just because there is no formal school day doesn't mean kids should sleep in or stay up late at night. Keep the same bedtimes, wake-up routines and mealtimes you always maintained during a regular school week. Doing so will bookend the mornings and evenings with a sense of normalcy.

- Mimic a school day to the best of your ability. Use the distance-learning tools your child's teachers offer as well as other educational apps and resources to have kids focus on different school subjects. This will help break up the day into little chunks just as would happen in the classroom. Be sure to build in time for art projects, exercise and music. Most importantly, don't forget "recess." If possible, allow children to play in the backyard where they

*Continued on page 10*



Knowing how to keep kids on an established schedule during school closures is important for families at this time. — Photo © Wavebreakmedia / iStock / Getty Images Plus

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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.

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. on **Saturday, April 4 and 11**. 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.

\*\*\*\*\*








The **Rockery** will be doing a special live stream acoustic performance from the comfort of **Jack's Basement** on Facebook (Instagram live feed as well - @therockeryrocks) **this Saturday night** at 8:00 p.m. Put on some pajamas, pour yourself a cocktail and join in for a fun night. This live stream will be in support of the amazing staff at our favorite bar in Southie, **Shenannigans Bar**. These guys have been so excellent to The Rockery for about half a decade and really could use some support through these tough times. <https://www.facebook.com/shenannigansboston/>. If you can spare anything we would ask you contribute to the following: VENMO: @SouthieStaff GoFundMe: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/shenannigans-staff-relief-fund>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Happy birthday this week to the following: Happy birthday **Sue Pye**, of the famous Pye family from Somerville. A great lady, and we hope she has a wonderful birthday. Happy birthday to **Tyler Hart**, of the famous Harts. Happily married and we know he must be celebrating a great birthday. Happy birthday to **Pat Scrima**, a great guy and former resident. We hope he has a great birthday. And to all our Facebook followers that are celebrating this week, we wish the following a happy birthday: **April Yarasitis, Mardy Cummings, Charles Ryan, Douglas Kelley, Michael R. Foster,**    *Continued on page 11*

# Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of April 1 – April 7 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> <i>April 1</i>	Cloudy	45°/35°	9%	61%	NNE 12 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> <i>April 2</i>	Rain	48°/43°	91%	66%	NNW 16 mph
 <b>Friday</b> <i>April 3</i>	Rain	50°/37°	40%	67%	NNE 20 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> <i>April 4</i>	Partly Cloudy	44°/36°	10%	61%	NE 10 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> <i>April 5</i>	Partly Cloudy	55°/43°	11%	62%	SSE 9 mph
 <b>Monday</b> <i>April 6</i>	Partly Cloudy	60°/43°	21%	53%	NW 11 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> <i>April 7</i>	Partly Cloudy	57°/44°	20%	54%	NE 10 mph

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

## TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

### Response to: *Statement from Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone on Gov. Baker’s stay-at-home advisory*

My revolution says:

I equate the City of Somerville and the city councilors to the Titanic. They will save everyone but property owners. We will go down with the ship.

Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

A rent freeze is not only fair but also vital for so many people who are scrambling for their very existence during this unprecedented catastrophe we are all going through. The greedy and socially irresponsible grumblers can grumble all they want, but this is a dire emergency and bitching about having to pay your water bill or your fair share of taxes doesn’t impress anyone. It will, however, once again put a spotlight on your uselessness as a pretended member of civilized society. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Courtney O’Keefe says:

Should we all assume the “rent freeze” will also include developments such as Maxwells Green and Assembly Row?

Arthur Moore says:

Hopefully won’t fall upon the property owners. Many are just getting by with the high prices and making the mortgage each month. Both need to work together. If the house gets foreclosed on then both lose. I do not see the banks stepping up on their own yet to help. If they are I am sorry for that. This has to be an everyone effort. No other way.

Villenous says:

I assume the state would do rental assistance rather than a rent freeze and that only those collecting unemployment would be eligible.

### Response to: *Finding meaning in coronavirus crisis*

Bill Shelton says:

Thank you for this, Matt. Viktor Frankl suggested that making meaning in moments such as this, when death is random and irrespective of our status or virtues, requires three things:

- ✦ The love that we give to each other;
- ✦ The work that we do to reduce the suffering; and
- ✦ Our courage in the face of the threat.

We are blessed to live in a city in which our neighbors are amply demonstrating all of these.

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

# The Somerville Times

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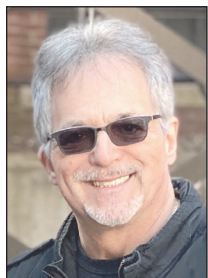
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# Life in the by Jimmy Del Ponte

## Pleasure Island



When we were kids we had a nice choice of fun places to go for family fun. We had Revere Beach, Whalom Park, and Paragon Park with a variety of rides and amusements. There was always Canobie Lake Park in Salem New Hampshire and, of course, up north a bit further, Old Orchard Beach.

But there was another fun spot that existed for a short time in the greater Bos-

ton area. It was called Pleasure Island, off Rte. 128 in Wakefield. The area today is The Edgewater Office Park located off Audubon Rd. in Wakefield.

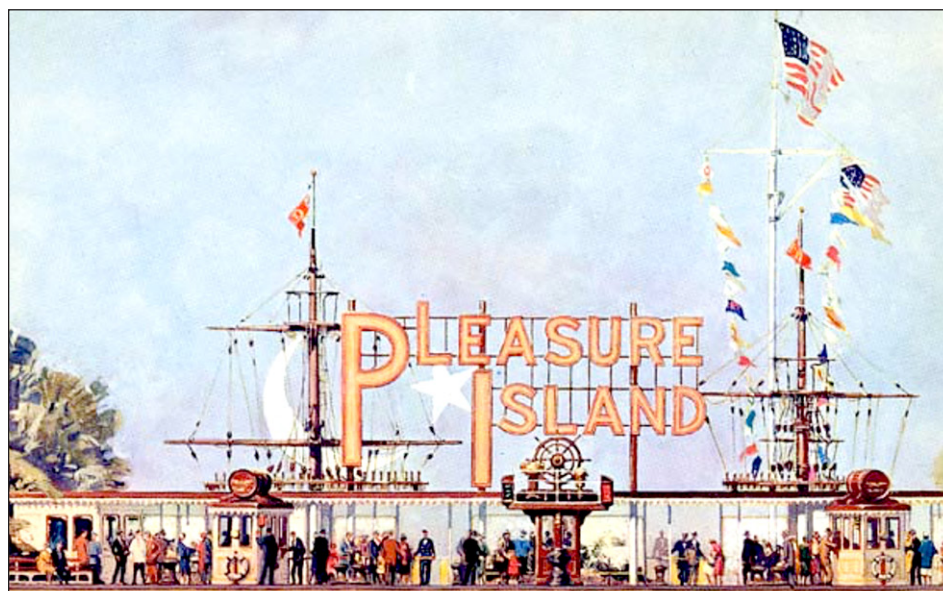
Pleasure Island was nicknamed the "Disneyland of the north," although it was only in existence for a short time. Pleasure Island existed between 1959 and 1969. If you were lucky enough to visit, you have some great memories. I know that the Stop 'N Shop company and many other businesses had picnics and outings there.

A friend notes, "When I was in the first grade, we went there for our field trip." Someone else added, "My grandparents used to take us there. We would ride the burros."

Some of the attractions at Pleasure Island were Animal Land, Old Smokey Railroad, Space Rocket, The Burro Trail, Christmas Wonderland, Friend's Baked Beanery, Covered Wagon, Indian Village, Pirate Ride and many more.

Guest celebrity appearances were made by Jerry Mathers, who played Beaver Cleaver, and his rock band appeared there. Other stars to take the spotlight at Pleasure Island were Ricky Nelson, Cesar Romero, The Lone Ranger (Clayton Moore), and Michael Landon, to name a few.

Some remember Rex Trailer arriving for an appearance in a helicopter. The Three Stooges with Curly Joe De Rita



were probably the most exciting act to appear at Pleasure Island.

The most memorable ride when I was there was the boat ride where a big white whale came out of the water, spouting water out of its fake blow hole. I remember figuring out that the whale was actually made out of a huge oil tank. The whale seems to be what visitors remember most about the park.

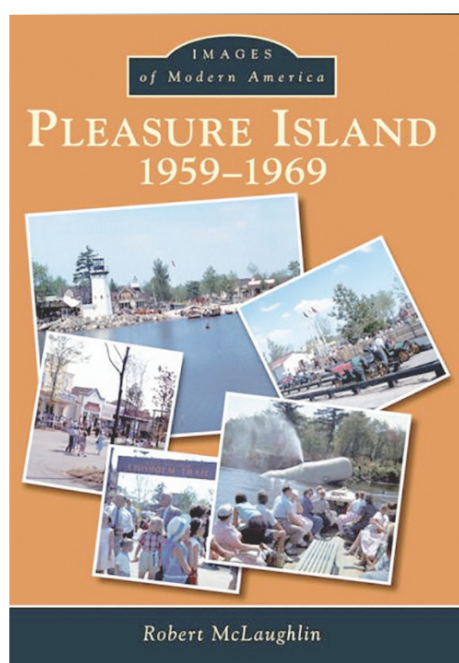
There's a group called the friends of Pleasure Island who gather for walking tours of the old amusement park site.

A reader shares this: "I worked at that office park for nine years and they say at certain points in the park you can see still

see the whale in one of ponds." I don't know if the whale is still actually in the water around the area, but it sure would be cool to see it popping out of the water.

There is still a sign on Rte. 128 South exit 42 named Pleasure Island Rd.

Most of us have fond memories of family outings at amusement parks. If you want to get a taste of what it was like years ago, take a trip up to Old Orchard beach in Maine. Palace Playland has many of the rides, attractions and games formerly found at a lot of now defunct parks. And the best part of visiting Old Orchard Beach is that you have a very good chance of bumping into another Somerville resident.



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<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**



## Somerville's Bridge Hopper shuttles to suspend service

The Somerville Bridge Hopper, the city's free shuttle service to help residents navigate Green Line Extension construction detours, will suspend operations effective April 1, until further notice.

The Bridge Hopper shuttles have served riders near both the Broadway and Washington Street bridges since April 2019. This suspension is intended to preserve the public health and safety of shuttle drivers and passengers during the COVID-19 crisis. For more information, please email [construction@somervillema.gov](mailto:construction@somervillema.gov) or call 3-1-1.



# Update from Superintendent of Schools Skipper

The following update from Superintendent Skipper went out to all Somerville Public Schools families and staff on March 25:

Dear Somerville Public Schools Families and Staff,

We are streamlining our district communication and will be sending out these district updates on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Toward the top of each update, we will list any new resources or information. The lower section will include reminders and links to information that we have already shared and which you may be accessing regularly. Each Friday we will also be highlighting some of the great work that our educators and students are doing to help students stay connected to their learning, or to support the community during this health crisis. Our hope is that these small changes will be helpful to you as you continue to adjust to new family schedules.

**New Information and Resources**

• Governor Baker Extends School Closure into Early May: This afternoon, Governor Baker announced that all schools and non-emergency daycares will remain closed for several more weeks to continue the state's intense efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. The Governor cited May 4th as the earliest possible day that schools might reopen. Governor Baker and MA Commissioner of

Education Riley indicated that there would be a letter forthcoming from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to families, as well as guidance to districts as early as tomorrow. We will await that guidance and use it to inform our work as we further develop remote teaching and learning plans, finalize grading for third quarter, roll out new technology devices and supports, create new virtual professional development opportunities, and implement new programs and systems to continue providing students and families with the supports they need. We understand that today's announcement further extending the school closure period presents many challenges for families, and we will do our best to keep you informed and provide you and your students with the support you need in this continuously evolving crisis.

• Language Support for Technology Questions: Any SPS parent/student who needs language assistance with technology, please contact 311. A bilingual educator will contact you to assist you. If you are calling from work or a number outside of Somerville, dial (617) 666-3311. You can also email 311updates@somervillema.gov.

• Just for Fun: Take a virtual tour of Mars with NASA's Curiosity Rover: <https://accessmars.withgoogle.com/>

**Continuing Programs and Resources**



- Breakfast and Lunch Grab-and-Go Meals can be picked up Mondays-Fridays, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the East Somerville Community School, Healey School, West Somerville Neighborhood School, and Winter Hill Community Innovation School. No ID is required. Bring a bag if you are picking up for multiple family members, and please remember to dress appropriately for the weather as we may ask you to stand out in the elements to ensure that we follow social distancing norms.
- Distribution of free diapers to families with babies or young children will continue this week, through Friday, March 27, at each of the four school food distribution sites listed above from 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Other food-related resources

- in the city, visit [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/food-resources](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/food-resources).
- Curriculum Resources and Tech Support Available Online**
  - High quality grade-level home learning resources: [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/home-learning](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/home-learning).
  - High school online resources: [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/shs](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/shs)
  - List of resources from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to help students stay engaged in their learning while at home: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/ed-resources.html>
  - WGBH's new online Distance Learning Center: [www.wgbh.org/distance-learning-center](http://www.wgbh.org/distance-learning-center)
  - PBS LearningMedia: <https://mass.pbslearningmedia.org>

- If you are having trouble with your device, please submit a request for support using this Somerville Public Schools Remote Tech Support Contact Form.
- Other Important Links**
  - Visit [www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus](http://www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus) for the most current information on COVID-19 in Somerville, and to find out about additional resources available in the city.
  - Talking to your kids about COVID-19: [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/TalkingAboutCoronavirus](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/TalkingAboutCoronavirus).
- Let's all stay safe and continue to be kind to one another. Thank you for your continued partnership. Sincerely, Mary Skipper Superintendent

## City Council updated by HHS on coronavirus reduction measures

CONT. FROM PG 1

"I do want to remind everybody that one of our primary tools that we're doing over at Health and Human Services is continuing to provide contact tracing for any individual who test positive for the COVID-19," Kress said. "And in that we are using both our public health nurses as well as our school nurses to do some of this contacts tracing so that we can reduce the spread of the virus itself."

"One of the things that we are continuing to try and do in this area is to continue and share the message about how to slow the spread of this virus, and staying at home is one of the key components that we continue to push over and over and over again," said Kress. "It's an important piece for us

to keep in mind that if you do stay home and follow those orders it will help us slow the spread of the virus."

Kress continued by saying, "We are hoping that this is a little bit of the evidence that it's not one hundred percent directly ties, but we have seen a little bit of a slowing of the number of cases we have seen here in Somerville, although part of that is due to the fact that we have limited tests available for people to take, but we have see a little bit of a slowing."

"One of the things that we do like to note is that close contact numbers have gone down a little bit," according to Kress. "So you are seeing that the main contacts that we're having for anybody who is test-

ing positive are the household contacts, and not necessarily community contacts. Which is a positive thing. We hope that will continue."

"One thing to keep in mind is that we know that we have not hit our peak and that we haven't even come close to our peak, but we have seen our numbers more than double each day as we continue to grow," Kress explained. "Currently, we are at 56 cases here in Somerville. Nine of those have actually moved to what we would call recovery. Three of our cases actually have moved to other cities due to the fact that they either moved, or their address was different on their insurance and that's the address they're tracing through. So we had to ship three of our cases to other

communities," said Kress.

"Work that we continue to work on besides just doing the contact tracing is some of the housing challenges that we know we're going to face," said Kress. "One of those areas are the idea that we have first responders and police, fire, and other essential workers, trying to make sure that they are safe. Whether they are in close contact or exposed to the virus or need to be in isolation."

"We have been working with Tufts University on coming up with an agreement to allow us to use one of their dormitories to do some of that housing so that we can slow the spread of the virus. We are also working in a regional capacity to look at our homeless community," Kress said. "I have been working

with the Somerville Homeless Coalition, ensuring that they have the equipment they need. One, within the shelters as well as having beds available within their shelters and, luckily, we have been able to arrange to have some extra spaces available for families or individuals who may end up being positive and need to be isolated and quarantined within the properties that they already have."

The full video conference meeting can be accessed through the city's meeting portal at [http://somervillecityma.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail\\_Meeting.aspx?ID=3127](http://somervillecityma.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=3127).

Further information about the city's activities regarding the COVID-19 epidemic can be found online at [www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus](http://www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus).



# Somerville issues eviction moratorium, orders unit showing to cease

On Saturday, March 28, Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and the Somerville Board of Health announced an Emergency Order Establishing a Moratorium on Eviction Enforcement in the City of Somerville for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.

The order, which applies to both residential and commercial evictions and goes into effect immediately, prohibits the physical act of eviction within the city limits so as to provide for the health, safety, and stability of those who live in and serve our community. It also includes orders that the in-person showing of rental units to prospective new tenants or others, as well as any other non-emergency entry, shall cease during the emergency. In a show of unity, the City Council unanimously passed measures in support of both actions.

Previous mayoral and Board of Health orders for Somerville have closed schools, limited events, closed playgrounds, suspended team sports, closed restaurants and bars except for pickup and delivery, closed non-essential personal services and retail, and shut down all non-essential construction. To date, Somerville has had a total of 49 persons test positive for COVID-19, nine of whom have recovered so far.

"Everyone is safest at home right now, but that is a meaningless message if you are facing eviction. Every level of govern-

ment must act now to ensure that each of us has the safe harbor of home as this health crisis deepens. Cities can't control eviction laws and courts, but in Somerville, we can and will stop the physical eviction of both our residents and local businesses," said the mayor.

"Mayor Curtatone took an important step to protect tenants facing eviction as well as anyone they come in contact with," said City Council President Matt McLaughlin. "People can't shelter in place if they don't have shelter. Evictions and homelessness were always issues that needed more attention. Now we have to take it even more seriously to prevent the spread of COVID-19."

Mayor Curtatone is also calling for comprehensive action by federal, state, and financial institutions on other pressing COVID-19 impacts facing community members.

"We have tenants, homeowners, small businesses, and property owners facing extraordinary financial distress, rent hikes, threats of eviction, foreclosure, and homelessness. The Legislature must quickly pass Reps. Mike Connolly and Kevin Honan's bill (HD 4935) to pause eviction and foreclosure proceedings," said Mayor Curtatone. "We also need a statewide rent freeze and more rental assistance funds to help both tenants and landlords. We need a mandatory statewide foreclosure moratorium, and a min-



imum 90-day mortgage grace period with no penalties, interest, or credit impacts. And the banks must be part of the solution. The American taxpayers bailed out the banks during the financial crisis, now it is time for lenders to step up to ensure homeowners and small businesses weather the COVID-19 crisis."

The Somerville Eviction Moratorium does not prevent owners from filing eviction cases or getting what is known as "executions for possession" from the courts. It prohibits "levying," which is the physical removal of persons and belongings. This is the one area of the process where municipalities have an opportunity to intervene in order to protect the health and safety of the tenants as well as the community overall.

Somerville residents who receive a "notice of levy" eviction order or who are experiencing a physical eviction should immediately contact 311 (617-666-3311) to be connected to Office of Housing Stability staff (for residential tenants or homeowners) or Economic Development Division staff (for commercial tenants), who will work with landlords, and the Somerville Police Department as necessary, to intervene.

The order does not protect tenants from eviction once the Board of Health determines that the public health emergency no longer exists. It is thus very important that, to the extent possible, that tenants and homeowners continue to make payments or work out payment plans with their landlords or lenders. The order does not clear any tenant or homeowner of owed rent or mortgage debt. There may be some rental and mortgage assistance available. Somerville residents should contact the Office of Housing Stability at 617-625-66000 x2581 for assistance.

The city has also received reports from distressed residents that real estate agents and property owners have continued to bring potential tenants or others into their homes during a time when social distancing is paramount to personal safety. To prevent this unnecessary risk, all in-person showings of rental units and any non-emergency work in units are ordered to cease during the emergency. Property owners showing units being

willingly vacated are advised to request images and videos from the occupants in order to show units virtually or to show similar vacant units instead if available.

Somerville Office of Housing Stability staff is all working remotely through the crisis to aid both tenants and owners. The Economic Development team is working intensively to support local businesses. Community members in need should contact these offices (see below).

Information on how to apply for unemployment, cash benefits, rental support and more for those facing financial impacts from COVID-19 are available on the city's [www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus](http://www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus) page and are regularly updated. Anyone in Somerville facing housing insecurity should contact the Office of Housing Stability at 617-625-66000 x2581. Please also visit [www.somervillema.gov/OHS](http://www.somervillema.gov/OHS) for additional housing information and updates. Local businesses seeking information on support available should visit [www.somervillema.gov/CovidBizHelp](http://www.somervillema.gov/CovidBizHelp) or call 311 (617-666-3311) to connect to Economic Development staff.

For more information and regular COVID-19 updates, visit [www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus](http://www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus) and sign up for city alerts at [www.somervillema.gov/Alerts](http://www.somervillema.gov/Alerts). We urge you to sign up for every alert method you are able to receive: phone call, text, email. Also follow FB.com/SomervilleCity and @SomervilleCity.

The order in full reads as follows:  
CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS MAYOR AND BOARD OF HEALTH

EMERGENCY ORDER ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON EVICTION ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has declared a State of Emergency on March 10, 2020 due to the virus that caused the Coronavirus 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Somerville has determined that the threat of COVID-19 poses a present, real and imminent danger to public health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Somerville and as such declared a State of Emergency in the

Continued on page 12

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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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**THE HOUSE AND SENATE.** Once again, the focus on Beacon Hill last week was the Coronavirus. Only a handful of legislators were at the House and Senate sessions in order to limit contact. There were no roll call votes in the House or Senate as both branches met in informal sessions in which there can be no roll calls and it only takes one member to stop the proceedings if he or she disagrees with anything.

“You have to realize, in informal sessions that only one person can stop the entire proceedings if they object to something, and I think that right now we’ve been doing everything in our power that we can to make sure that we take care of a lot of the healthcare needs and a lot of the other needs that we are going through in these very unprecedented times,” said House Speaker Bob DeLeo.

*Beacon Hill Roll Call* reports on the Coronavirus and also reports on local representatives’ roll call attendance records for the 2020 session through March 27.

The House has held 22 roll call votes so far in 2020. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* tabulates the number of roll calls on which each representative was present and voting and then calculates that number as a percentage of the total roll call votes held. That percentage is the number referred to as the roll call attendance record.

In the House, 139 of the 157 representatives (88.5 percent) have 100 percent roll call attendance records. Only 18 representatives have missed any roll calls.

The representatives who missed the most roll calls were Reps. Bruce Ayers (D-Quincy), Rady Mom (D-Lowell) and Tom Petrolati (D-Ludlow) who each missed 12 roll calls (45.4 percent attendance record).

Rounding out the Top Five are Reps. José Tosado (D-Springfield) who missed 11 roll calls (50.0 percent attendance record) and Lori Ehrlich (D-Marblehead) who missed eight (63.6 percent attendance record.)

*Beacon Hill Roll Call* contacted those five legislators and asked them for a comment on their attendance record. Only two responded.

Rep. Ayers: “This percentage is not an accurate description of my voting history. I was on an official business trip with city leaders to increase our investment in economic partnerships between the city of Quincy and County Cork, Ireland, during which time I missed 12 votes in two days. This is not reflective of my service in the legislature, as I’ve always maintained a 99% voting record in the House.”

Rep. Ehrlich: “My mother, Diana Litman, passed away on February 27, 2020 after a nine-year struggle with Alzheimer’s disease. Sometimes, while trying to be present and engaged on behalf of my constituents, life has other plans. But judging from the outpouring of love and wonderful stories from those who knew her well tells me that it’s also okay to pause once in a while, as I did recently at the end of my mother’s life, to be present for her and the rest of my family.”

Rady Mom: Did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* for a comment.

Tom Petrolati: Did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* for a comment.

José Tosado: Did not respond to repeated requests by

*Beacon Hill Roll Call* for a comment.

2020 REPRESENTATIVES’ ATTENDANCE RECORD THROUGH MARCH 27

The percentage listed next to the representative’s name is the percentage of roll call votes for which the representative was present and voting. The number in parentheses represents the number of roll calls that he or she missed.

Rep. Christine Barber	100 Percent (0)
Rep. Mike Connolly	100 Percent (0)
Rep. Denise Provost	100 Percent (0)

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**STAY AWAY** – Gov. Baker urged travelers who are thinking of visiting the Bay State to reconsider and stay home.

“We’re asking that folks considering travel to Massachusetts for whatever reason, do not travel to our communities, especially if you have symptoms,” Baker said at a press conference. He added that anyone arriving here via plane or train is advised to self-quarantine for 14 days. “I would call it at this point instruction and advisory,” Baker said. “There is no enforcement mechanism.”

Baker also gave a thumbs down to President Donald Trump’s statement that he would like to see the U.S. economy of the United States reopen for business by Easter Sunday on April 12. “We’re not going to be up and running by Easter. No.” the governor said as he ended the press conference.

**EXTEND TAX FILING DEADLINE TO JULY 15** – Gov. Charlie Baker filed legislation that would postpone the April 15 deadline for filing state income tax returns and setting a new deadline of July 15. House and Senate leaders have informally agreed to the extension so the bill should sail through the Legislature quickly.

“In partnership with our colleagues in the Legislature, we are committed to providing this flexibility to taxpayers in a way that protects the commonwealth’s strong fiscal footing that we have all worked hard to develop over the past several years,” Baker said in a statement announcing the agreement.

“Taxpayers already hit with declining paychecks and retirement accounts should not bear the additional interest and penalties stemming from an inability to meet the April 15 deadline, especially when their inability to make those filings in a timely way is largely due to compliance with Coronavirus containment strategies promoted by health officials and governments at all levels,” read a press release from the Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research. “Additionally, given the current economic crisis, money that would be going to the state could instead be used for life’s necessities and work to keep the local economy afloat during the extension period until payments are due in July.”

“Nothing like keeping them in suspense, but finally, following the lead of the IRS and most states, it’s good to see some consideration for taxpayers finally,” said Chip Ford, executive director of Citizens for Limited Taxation. “With all the chaos and disruption people are suffering in their daily lives this delay was a no-brainer, or should have been.”

“Anything the governor can do to help people keep more of their money at this time should be applauded,” said

Paul Craney, spokesperson for Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. “By extending the deadline to mirror the federal level, people will have more funds now to pay for essential costs in these trying times. This will end up saving the state money in the long term.”

**SCHOOLS MUST REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL MAY 4** – Gov. Baker signed executive orders that extend the temporary closure of all schools and non-emergency childcare centers through at least May 4. This supersedes the governor’s original order closing schools until April 6.

“This will allow school districts to provide the best possible opportunities for remote learning to all students and we want to be clear on this: This is not an extended school vacation,” Baker said.

“We believe the governor is following the advice of the medical experts,” said MTA President Merrie Najimy. “The safety of our students and staff must come first.”

**HELP WANTED** - “The COVID-19 public health emergency has put a tremendous demand, as you know, on our health care system, and access to health care workers,” said Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders. She noted workers in the respiratory therapy and public health nursing fields are a big problem.

The state has launched a portal to be coordinated by the Massachusetts Medical Society for volunteers with professional health backgrounds to sign up and be matched where their expertise can be used. Potential volunteers can sign up at [maresponds.org](http://maresponds.org)

**SENIORS EARLY SHOPPING AT STORES** – The Department of Public Health issued an order requiring supermarkets and pharmacies to provide at least one hour per day exclusively for people aged 60 or older to shop because they are at greater risk of dying from the coronavirus if they get it. The order mandates the closing of all self-serve food stations, making sanitizing wipes available to clean supermarket carts and baskets; and marking check-out lanes with six-foot distances to encourage social distancing.

**ALLOW NURSES TO TREAT MORE (S 2615)** – The Senate approved and sent to the House a bill that would temporarily authorize board-certified nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives and psychiatric mental health clinical nurse specialists with at least two years of supervised practice to operate independently from an overseeing physician until 90 days after the governor revokes the state of emergency. The Board of Registration in Nursing would have the authority to waive the two-year experience requirement, if necessary, to increase access to these nurses during the current state of emergency.

The bill also enables pharmacists to better coordinate with healthcare teams and engage in a broad range of patient services beyond filling prescriptions including performing health and wellness tests, managing chronic diseases, performing medication management and administering immunizations.

“As doctors come down with the virus, as they will, we need to make sure there are people who can step in and perform a number of functions,” said Sen. Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington). “That includes prescribing medicines, ordering tests and, in some cases, admitting



Beacon Hill Roll Call

continued from page 6



patients to a hospital.”

“The passage of this vitally important piece of legislation is critical to bolstering our healthcare workforce and helping our healthcare system during this public health crisis,” said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “Thank you to Sen. Friedman for her hard work and thank you to our heroic healthcare workers who are going above and beyond to keep us safe in these incredibly difficult times.”

Supporters know the bill will likely not be approved by the House where it is opposed by the leadership. “We’re not going to do it,” said House Majority Leader Ron Mariano (D-Quincy) said. “I don’t think we should be rushing legislation through in reaction to a truly unprecedented crisis.”

Opponents also noted the governor has the authority to issue an executive order mandating everything that is in the bill.

**QUOTABLE QUOTES**

“There are no clear guidelines about working remotely, delivering courses to students or what employees can expect. Some campuses and departments are doing better than others, but the uneven approach puts people at risk. The inconsistencies are spread not just across the system but also across individual campuses. — *UMASS Unions United, a coalition of 17 unions representing thousands of employees throughout the university system in response to the diagnosis that an employee at Umass Lowell has COVID-19.*

“There are people in Massachusetts and all across the country who have lost their jobs and don’t know how they are going to make their next student loan payment. We need the Department of Education to get them the relief they need now.” — *Attorney General Maura Healey joining a coalition of 27 state attorneys general urging the U.S. Department of Education to take additional emergency measures to protect student loan borrowers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.*

“The reliability of our essential service has never been more important than it is today during these uncertain times. Critical facilities like hospitals and nursing homes need uninterrupted service to care for their patients. Many people are working from home, and students are studying remotely, relying on electronic devices to accomplish their goals.” — *Eversource President of Regional Electric Operations in Massachusetts and Connecticut Craig Hallstrom.*

“Immigrant detention centers are institutions that uniquely heighten the danger of disease transmission. Public health officials continue to advise that detention centers—as well as jails, prisons, and other similar facilities—must dramatically reduce their population and density for the safety of detained people, staff who work in these facilities, and the communities they live in. ICE has the responsibility to protect the safety of all who are in immigration detention and must act now.” — *Carol Rose, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts commenting on her suit against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on behalf of two immigrants detained in the Plymouth County Correctional Facility in Massachusetts.*

**HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?**  
Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session.

During the week of March 23-27, the House met for a total of 11 hours and 25 minutes while the Senate met for a total of five hours and 30 minutes

Mon. March 23	House 11:08 a.m. to 1:22 p.m. Senate 11:15 a.m. to 1:29 p.m.
Tues. March 24	No House session No Senate session
Wed. March 25	No House session No Senate session.
Thurs. March 26	House 11:00 a.m. to 4:07 p.m. Senate 11:07 a.m. to 2:23 p.m.
Fri. March 27	House 11:00 a.m. to 3:04 p.m No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

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Recent Condominiums Sold in Somerville Over the Past Month:

MLS#	Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price
72600031	17 Norwood Avenue U:2	8 room, 4 bed, 3f bath	21	\$899,900	\$872,500
72594528	12 Glen St U:12	7 room, 2 bed, 2f bath	34	\$899,900	\$877,000
72580729	7 Tennyson U:B	7 room, 4 bed, 3f 1h bath	52	\$899,998	\$900,000
72402527	260 Beacon Street U:106	5 room, 2 bed, 2f bath	165	\$929,000	\$900,000
72578129	75 Rush St U:2	7 room, 3 bed, 4f 1h bath	54	\$975,995	\$926,100
72577338	56 Bartlett St U:2	7 room, 4 bed, 3f bath	57	\$979,000	\$955,000
72420027	260 Beacon Street U:208	6 room, 2 bed, 2f 1h bath	411	\$989,000	\$975,000
72513805	27 Murdock Street U:1	7 room, 4 bed, 2f 1h bath	154	\$995,000	\$990,000
72592071	10 Wheatland St U:10	8 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath	40	\$999,900	\$999,900
72591842	233 Willow Avenue U:1	7 room, 3 bed, 3f 1h bath	9	\$1,095,000	\$1,129,000
72584541	55 Prescott St	0 room, 2 bed, 3f 0h bath	45	\$1,134,900	\$1,135,000
72468925	88-1 Irving St U:1	7 room, 2 bed, 2f 1h bath	279	\$1,147,900	\$1,098,950

Recent Multi-Family Homes Sold in Somerville Over the Past Month:

MLS#	Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price
72552398	6-8 Endicott St	2 unit, 11 total rooms, 4 total bedrooms	115	\$930,000	\$825,000
72586548	11-11A Eliot St	2 unit, 8 total rooms, 4 total bedrooms	34	\$935,000	\$885,000
72590071	190-192 Morrison Ave	2 unit, 13 total rooms, 6 total bedrooms	21	\$1,000,000	\$900,000
72597647	122 Central St	2 unit, 9 total rooms, 5 total bedrooms	7	\$1,049,000	\$1,075,000
72594588	121 Lowell St	2 unit, 12 total rooms, 6 total bedrooms	16	\$1,059,000	\$1,111,000
72545646	23 Wisconsin Ave	2 unit, 12 total rooms, 9 total bedrooms	168	\$1,245,000	\$1,050,000
72605471	18-20 Oxford	3 unit, 16 total rooms, 7 total bedrooms	1	\$1,375,000	\$1,375,000
72594642	103 Bartlett	4 unit, 16 total rooms, 5 total bedrooms	32	\$1,471,000	\$1,277,250
72550339	21 Cutter Ave	3 unit, 12 total rooms, 6 total bedrooms	81	\$1,585,000	\$1,590,000
72560072	64 Derby St	6 unit, 24 total rooms, 12 total bedrooms	65	\$2,300,000	\$2,200,000
72574496	23 Cottage Ave	3 unit, 19 total rooms, 13 total bedrooms	49	\$2,650,000	\$2,600,000



# Dragon Boat Festival honors poet



By Shiao shen Yu

Shiao shen Yu writes to *The Somerville Times*: I am an 80 years old Chinese woman, and I like to share my Chinese culture with others. I have been in Canada and the United States since I was 26. Before I came to Cambridge MA to be close to my daughters, I wrote columns about Chinese for *Pueblo Chieftain*, a daily newspaper in Colorado (1986-1994). I wrote and self-published two books: *Chinese Mosaics* and *Two Swordmasters* in 2017. They are on Amazon.com and BN.com. There are many Chinese people in Somerville and everywhere in the States. I wish, with my writings, to give the readers some glimpse of the Chinese.

The Chinese refer to the Dragon Boat Festival or Spring Festival as the Double Fifth because it falls on the fifth day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar. That date corresponded to June 5 in 1992.

It is one of the three major annual festivals among Chinese. The other two are the Lunar New Year and the Moon Festival.

A legend associated with the Dragon Boat Festival depicted the death of a famous poet-statesman, Chu Yuan. In 299 B.C. Chu Yuan was an incorruptible minister who drowned himself in the Milo River of present-day Hunan province, south of the Yangtze River. His contemporary ordinary people respected him for his loyalty and integrity. On hearing of his suicide, they rushed out in boats to search for him. Unable to find him, they threw cooked rice into the river to feed the fish and crabs so that Chu Yuan's body would be intact. That was the beginning of the traditional "Dragon Boat Race."

Besides the exciting Dragon Boat races, the main feature of the traditional commemoration of the anniversary of Chu Yuan's death, the Chinese will eat Tsung-tze cooked rice wrapped in bamboo leaves. Last week, my sister sent me some dried bamboo leaves and a bag of sweet rice (glutinous rice) so that I could cook Tsung-tze for my mother.

In Taiwan, this festival is also observed as "Poet's Day," since Chu Yuan was a famous poet. There are many poem writing contests as well as poem-reading parties.

With the Dragon Boat Festival, the Chinese welcome the summer and look to the dragon to ensure enough rain for a good harvest. There will be more insects spreading diseases. Children will wear Hsiang-Pao, the small and colorful perfumed sachets filled with insect repellent on this holiday. Some girls will present their hand-embroidered Hsiang-Pao (small pouch) to their boy-friends to convey feelings they are too shy to express in words.

Chinese also drink Realgar wine (a Chinese alcoholic and medicated drink) to repel the insects and be immune to the diseases from the insects' bites.

Originally published in *The Chieftain*, Pueblo, CO, Sunday, May 31, 1992.



# The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #201

## Four-Hundred Years

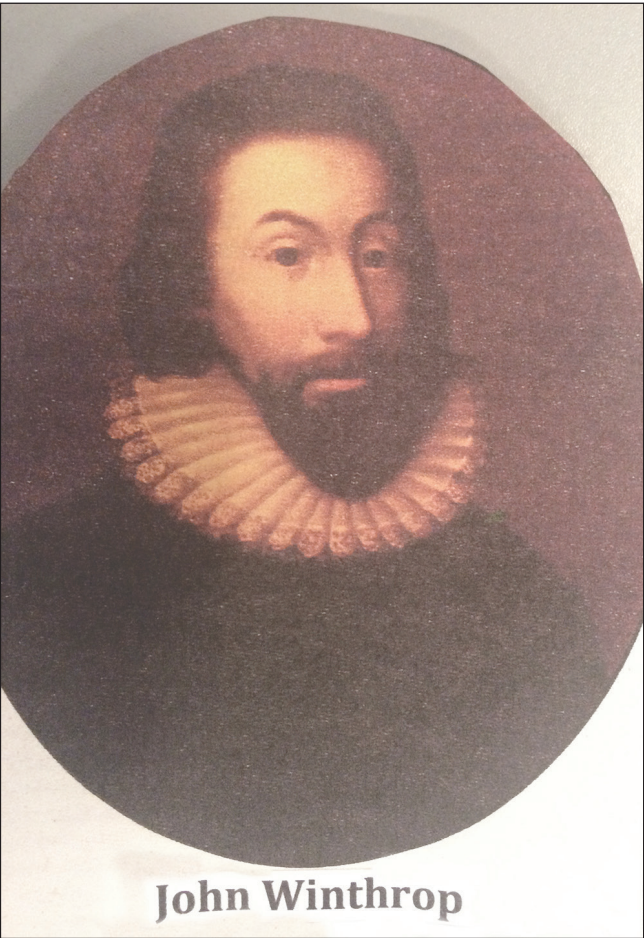
By Bob (Monty) Doherty

The first Governor of Massachusetts, John Winthrop, arrived in America from England in 1630. The Governor first settled in the Ten Hills section of Charlestown/Somerville, where he assembled the first ship built in New England. He christened this ship, *The Blessing Of The Bay*.



Winthrop had been the Admiral of a twelve-ship fleet carrying over 1,000 Puritans to the new world. It was the beginning of what was to be known as "The Great Migration" which brought over 20,000 settlers and pioneers to New England during the next ten years. His flagship's name, the "Eagle," was changed to praise Lady Arbella Johnson, an honored passenger. More importantly, Winthrop brought with him the Massachusetts Bay Colony Charter.

In 1620, the Plymouth Pilgrims barely survived a hard-fought decade with nature before the Puritans' arrival at Charlestown. The two colonies, the Plymouth and the Massachusetts Bay Colony, ultimately merged in 1691 into The Royal Province of Massachusetts Bay.



John Winthrop

Continued on page 20



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# SCES is taking these steps to reduce Coronavirus risk

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services committed to helping the people we serve throughout this emergency, and we are taking steps to safeguard the health and well-being of our clients and staff.

The agency is working with state and local stakeholders to balance delivery of essential services with precautions that reduce exposure. As a result of those discussions, SCES is taking the following measures:

**External Measures**

- Providing supports and services via telephone whenever possible
- Implementing new state and federal protocols to reduce risk of exposure for circumstances where in-person support is necessary.
- Replacing congregate meals at affordable housing sites with home delivered meals
- Reaching out to isolated older adults to reduce loneliness
- Helping ensure food security through increased meal delivery, extra frozen and shelf-stable meals, and increased grocery deliveries.
- Kate's Café and the Cambridge Connections Memory Café postponed until further notice

This list will be updated as new information becomes available. The SCES offices will remain open during regular business hours, with most staff working remotely. For that reason, we ask that people requiring assistance call or use email, instead of visiting in-person.

Many older adults are facing nutrition challenges as a result of the pandemic. If you are 60 or older and would like to receive Meals on Wheels, please call 617-628-2601 or email [info@eldercare.org](mailto:info@eldercare.org).

**Internal Measures**

- We are requiring employees and volunteers who feel sick to stay home
- We are requiring staff to work from home, if possible
- We are encouraging staff



to practice healthy spacing, by maintaining a distance of six feet from other people

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services will adopt additional measures as needed. We are committed to keeping the people we serve healthy and safe, through providing supports and services that support independence for older adults, caregivers, and people with disabilities.

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is a non-profit agency that supports the independence and well-being of older people in Somerville and Cambridge. For more information, visit [eldercare.org](http://eldercare.org), follow us on Facebook and or contact the SCES Aging Information Center at 617-628-2601 or [info@eldercare.org](mailto:info@eldercare.org) for free advice and guidance.

## Start of street sweeping delayed and updates on other city services

The start of street sweeping in Somerville has been delayed by two weeks to Wednesday, April 15. 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 information as it becomes available.



Below are updates on other City services while City buildings are closed:

- Trash and recycling collection remain on a normal schedule.
- Yard waste collection will begin on schedule during the week of April 20. Visit [www.somervillema.gov/wizard](http://www.somervillema.gov/wizard) to find out when your pickup day is. But please note, there will be no yard waste drop-off.
- Textile recycling (in the pink bags) is suspended until further notice.
- Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off days are suspended until further notice.
- E-Waste drop off is suspended until further notice.
- Rain Barrel Pick-Up Day is canceled, but the vendor will contact anyone who has placed an order.

City of Somerville ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE COVID-19 UPDATES		
EVENT	NO CHANGE	CHANGE
Start of Street Sweeping		Postponed by two weeks. Will start Wed., April 15 (not April 1)
Trash Pickup	✓	
Recycling Pickup	✓	
Yard Waste Curbside Pickup	✓	
Textiles Recycling Curbside Pickup		Suspended until further notice
Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off at DPW Yard		Suspended until further notice
E-Waste Drop-off at DPW Yard		Suspended until further notice
Rain Barrel Pickup Day		Canceled, vendor will contact you if you placed an order
Yard Waste Drop-off at DPW Yard		Suspended until further notice

## SCES adds Friendly Calls to reduce coronavirus isolation

In an effort to reduce isolation and loneliness during the Coronavirus pandemic, Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) has launched a new Friendly Phone Call system. Friendly Phone Call matches older adults who are feeling isolated with an SCES team member or volunteer. Once connected, the pair can decide how often they'd like to connect, and what they want to talk about, explained SCES Assistant Director Annie Fowler.

"With everyone being asked to stay in their homes, we understand that this can be a lonely time and we want to do what we can to alleviate some of the loneliness," said Fowler. "We want the calls to be an opportunity for local older adults to voice concerns and ask questions, but also chat about whatever is on their mind and get to know someone new."

All Friendly Phone callers have passed CORI checks and the agency's screening processes.

Friendly Call was launched in March, as part of a wider effort from the agency to continue providing supports for older adults, while also reducing the risk of Coronavirus exposure. SCES is considered an essential service and is operating throughout the statewide closure order. Most employees are working remotely, and we ask that people who need assistance call or email, instead of visiting our office.

To learn more about Friendly Phone Calls or other local efforts to reduce loneliness, contact the SCES Aging Information Center by calling 617-628-2601 ext. 3151 or via email at [info@eldercare.org](mailto:info@eldercare.org).

To learn more about how SCES is taking steps to reduce Coronavirus exposure risk, or for links to reliable information about the pandemic, visit the SCES Coronavirus resource page at [eldercare.org](http://eldercare.org).

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# Help available during 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.*

On Tuesday, March 31, Gov. Charlie Baker extended the closure of non-essential businesses and the state’s stay-at-home advisory until Monday, May 4. While these measures are important to help control the spread of COVID-19, they also come with financial impacts to many people. If you or someone you know is facing housing issues, food insecurity, or other issues, help is available.

**Housing**

On Saturday, March 28, Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and the Somerville Board of Health announced an Emergency Order Establishing a Moratorium on Eviction Enforcement in the

City of Somerville for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency. The order, which applies to both residential and commercial evictions, prohibits the physical act of eviction within the city limits so as to provide for the health, safety, and stability of those who live in and serve our community.

The Somerville Eviction Moratorium prohibits the physical removal of persons and belongings, but it does not protect residents or businesses from eviction or foreclosure once the public health emergency is over. It’s important, to the extent possible, that tenants and homeowners continue to make payments or work out payment plans with their landlords or lenders. The order does not clear any tenant or homeowner of owed rent or mortgage debt.

If you are being physically evicted, call 311 (617-666-3311) to be connected to Office of Hous-

ing Stability staff (for residential tenants or homeowners) or Economic Development Division staff (for commercial tenants). The Office of Housing and Stability may also be able to provide rental and mortgage assistance.

**Food Access**

There are several resources available to anyone experiencing food insecurity:

- The City of Somerville/Food for Free Supplemental food pantry has been established for the COVID-19 crisis. Sign up for the week at [bit.ly/SOM-FoodPantry](https://bit.ly/SOM-FoodPantry) and receive a bag of non-perishable items, plus fresh fruit and vegetables. Please note: If you anticipate needing a weekly bag, you will need to sign up again as needed.
- The Somerville Food Security Coalition is maintaining an updated list of food resources at [www.somervillefoodsecurity.org](https://www.somervillefoodsecurity.org) during COVID-19. Call an

organization before visiting in person as they may have new procedures to follow.

- Project Bread offers a Food-Source Hotline at (800) 645-8333 (TTY line: 1-800-377-1292) to help callers find food resources.
- The Somerville Public Schools are continuing to provide breakfasts and lunches to students and families in need. Meals can be picked up between 9 and 11 a.m., Monday through Friday, at the following locations:
  - East Somerville Community School, 50 Cross St.
  - Healey School, 5 Meacham St.
  - West Somerville Neighborhood School, 177 Powder House Blvd.
  - Winter Hill Community Innovation School, 115 Sycamore St.
- You can also call 311 any time if you’re concerned about food access and they will connect you

with local resources.

**Staying Informed During COVID-19**

The City’s COVID-19 website, [www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus](https://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](https://www.somervillema.gov/alerts) or by calling 311. You can choose to get phone, text, and/or email alerts.
- 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.

# House approves coronavirus aid bill

**By Bob Katzen**

The House approved and sent to the Senate a bill designed to help cities, towns, businesses and individuals solve some of the problems created by the Coronavirus. Provisions permit a moderator of a town meeting to declare a 30-day postponement due to a public health emergency after consulting with the Select Board; permit a Select Board to vote to extend the date of an annual town meeting beyond the existing statutory cut-off of June 30; allow towns that are unable to finalize a budget before the start of the new fiscal year to continue month-to-month spending on essential operations at the same levels as the current fiscal year; and modify local permitting processes, extending municipal tax deadlines and allowing municipalities to extend property tax exemptions and deferrals.

“The bill has several provisions that give towns and municipalities the flexibility they need to allow for extending time frames for town meetings and assessing some kind of temporary leniency with paying taxes and late fees,” said Rep. James O’Day (D-West Boylston), House chair of the Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. “I applaud the many adjustments that are addressed in this bill during these very trying times.”

“As the COVID-19 public health crisis continues to evolve, the House responded again today to the growing needs of our communities, our businesses and our residents by easing burdens related to local permitting ... and giving restaurants more business opportunities,” said House Speaker Bob DeLeo (D-Winthrop).

Another key section of the bill is designed to help restaurants cope with the ban on eating

inside restaurants by allowing restaurants with liquor-licenses to sell beer, wine and liquor to customers 21 and older who order takeout or delivery food in the same transaction. That section of the bill was based on three similar bills filed by three legislators who explained why they support the measure.

“Across Massachusetts, we are seeing many small, local restaurants and pubs adversely impacted by COVID-19, with mom and pop establishments fearful that in addition to layoffs and lost revenue, they will not be able to reopen their doors once this shutdown is over,” said Sen. Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen). “This important measure regarding beer, wine and liquor sales would help alleviate the burden that restaurants in our communities are feeling. It is time for Massachusetts to step it up and help our small businesses and the many neighbors they



employ to weather this storm.”  
“[I filed] the bill to support restaurants in the commonwealth during this crisis,” said Rep. Ken Gordon (D-Bedford). The bill ... would apply to pick-up and delivery orders, but deliveries must be fulfilled by either employees of the restaurants or those of a licensed and certified restaurant delivery service.”  
“Under the current circumstances, all of my colleagues and

I are trying to think of ideas we could put into place that would help restaurant owners during this difficult time,” said Rep. Angelo D’Emilia (D-Bridgewater). “This legislation is very similar to the one filed by Gov. Baker and I am proud to see this idea getting so much bi-partisan support. We will continue to do everything we can to support our restaurants and local businesses.”

# How and why to keep kids on a schedule during school closures

CONT. FROM PG 1

can socially distance from neighbors, or set up an area of your home for playtime.

- Evenings are a good time to relax and unwind together. Play board games, watch your children’s favorite movies or even use the many resources available online to enjoy a virtual walking tour of a museum, botanical garden or zoo. This is also a good

time to allow children to connect with their friends using video chat or with family members they are not currently able to see in-person.

- For many children, screens are their greatest distraction. For this reason, one of the best ways to ensure your children stay focused on the schedule you create for them is by managing their

screen time.

One easy way to do so with less direct intervention from you (since you are likely busy yourself!) is by using a screen time monitoring and scheduling tool like the OurPact app. Get started by signing up for a free account and pairing your children’s devices. From there, you will be able to manage devices remotely

to create a schedule that keeps kids offline when they need to be focused on other things. It can also be customized to allow children to visit and use only certain learning sites or apps during particular hours of the day. Because this schedule lives on the children’s devices as well, you’ll be giving them the comfort of a routine. To learn more or down-

load, visit [OurPact.com](https://OurPact.com).

During these challenging times, it can be tempting to let your family routine fly out the window. By using new tools such as distance-learning programming and schedule management apps, you can keep kids to a schedule that makes them ultimately happier and healthier. (StatePoint)



COMMENTARY

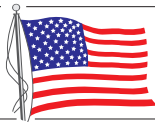
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Don't be an April Fool - keep up the social distancing.

Our View Of The Times



The people who know what they're talking about aren't fooling around. Health care professionals have advised the public and public officials how important self-isolating and social distancing is in the face of the coronavirus threat that everyone - and they do mean *everyone* - is facing. That means both now and the near future, until that imminent threat subsides.

While this may seem like a no-brainer for most of us, there are - incredibly - many who remain unconvinced of the seriousness of the threat and scoff at these vitally important advisories.

That the tragic loss of life and misery caused by this disease fails to instill any fear - or at least a sense of cautiousness - in these folks is beyond reason. And yet there always seems to be a certain percentage of the population that refuses to believe they are vulnerable.

Sadly, many of the younger among us may have gotten mixed signals and muddled information suggesting that the virus only seriously affects older people. This is factual to a certain extent, but not completely. There have been recorded instances of quite young victims succumbing to the ravages of this disease, up to and including death itself.

Others simply remain unconvinced for any number of reasons. The best rule of thumb to follow is to seek out the most current and factual information available. And beware of taking to heart the poor advice and misguided policies of those who are either misinformed or harbor a hidden agenda in their words and deeds.

Don't be fooled, be informed.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Leo Connerty, Sarah O'Brien, Rachel Lynn, Liam Seward, Joanna Costante Callinan, Mary Jo Blunt, Patricia O'Leary Shanahan and Carolyn Ryan. Finally, to Joe Cassaro Sr., we hope he has a great birthday as well. To all the others we might have missed, we wish you a happy birthday.

\*\*\*\*\*

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Comcast is offering **60 days of free Internet access** to low-income subscribers via their **Internet Essentials program**, which normally is available to low-income families for \$9.95 per month. They have also increased Internet speeds for all existing and new subscribers to the program to 25/3 Mbps. New customers receive a free self-install kit that includes a cable modem with a Wi-Fi router. There is no term contract or credit check and no shipping fee. To sign up call 1-855-846-8376 for English, or 1-855-765-6995 for Spanish. Visit [www.internetessentials.com](http://www.internetessentials.com). American Sign Language agents are available via video chat.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Construction Advisory** issued on **Monday, March 23**, remains in full force. The **City of Somerville** had previously issued **Construction**

**COVID-19 Safety Guidelines** to allow construction to move forward with site-specific safety plans ensuring social distancing and following state and federal safety guidelines for COVID-19. Upon review of those plans and through spot site checks, we discovered we could not at this time control for every factor to ensure safe social distancing and other health and safety guidelines, particularly due to Somerville's dense urban environment. Therefore, to protect the workers on these sites, their families, and everyone they come into contact with, the City of Somerville construction suspension remains in full force. Worksite managers with questions should contact their **City Project Manager or Inspector**.

\*\*\*\*\*

As you enjoy the spring weather, remember that **social distancing is important** even while outside. We know this is hard and feels strange, but it is necessary in order to save lives. Stay six feet away from anyone who is not a member of your household. Playgrounds and courts are closed. Fields and parks should only be used for passive activities like walking and running, and should not be used for team sports. And as always, stay at home if you feel sick. Learn more at [somerville-](http://somervillema.gov/coronavirus)

[soma.gov/coronavirus](http://somervillema.gov/coronavirus).

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Arts Council** understands the importance of social distancing and the impact this has caused on the arts community. They want to stay connected and continue to support artists as much as they can. They are launching the **Home Alone Art Series (HAAS)**. HAAS is a series of Art related performances live streamed by **Somerville Artists on Facebook**. The performances can represent a variety of genres, including music, visual arts, performance, writing, theater, dance and multidisciplinary art forms. HAAS will be scheduled throughout the month and they will provide a schedule to share and follow. Their goal is to hire and pay Somerville artists (both residents and those who have a studio in the city) who are experiencing financial difficulties because of Covid-19 restrictions. To apply, see the website for details: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/homealone>

\*\*\*\*\*

The **GLX** is a state project and therefore not subject to the city's suspension of non-essential construction. **MassDOT** has issued updated guidelines for its construction sites and workers.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are facing housing instability as a result of COVID-19 (e.g. from a loss of wages or an increase in medical expenses), you could be eligible for up to **\$4,000 of assistance** from emergency funds that are available through the **Massachusetts Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)** program. Learn more at [bit.ly/MARAft](http://bit.ly/MARAft).

\*\*\*\*\*

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](mailto:news@thesomervilletimes.com). We are still up and running but will be working remotely.

\*\*\*\*\*

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 without the need for going out for a copy of the print edition.



OBITUARY

John J. McKenna



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of John J. McKenna. He has been a beloved father, grandfather, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, cousin, and friend.

John J. McKenna born August 20, 1948 died March 29, 2020. John passed away at his home in Somerville after a prolonged illness. John was a lifelong resident of Somerville. He was the second of eight children born to the late James F. McKenna and Evelyn McKenna.

He is survived by his children, Alcira Benenato and husband Andrew, Rosmira Powell McKenna, Sonia Lyons and husband Keith, Mary-luz Arling and husband Craig, John and his former wife, Joan Powell (deceased) adopted the four sisters from Colombia, South America in 1981. He is also survived by his son, John Peter McKenna and his mom Jeannette Cardia.

He leaves nine grandchildren Cecilia, Shaundaia, Marques, Isaiah, Andy, Alex, Brady, Ryden, and Trennon.

John also leaves his beloved siblings, James F. McKenna, Jr., wife Andrea, Elena Powell, husband Edwin, Mary McKenna, Evelyn McKenna, Irene Thompson, husband Richard, Gael Niles, husband Paul,

and Carol Antonelli, husband Richard.

many cousins and other extended family members.

John attended St Clement High School, class 1966. John served proudly in the US Army Security Agency from January 1969 to May 1971 when he was Honorably Discharged; he remained as an Army contractor under the NSA for four years in Ethiopia. He loved serving in the army and always appreciated the discipline and motivation. He carried this through to become an attorney after studying at Suffolk University in 1980. He also served several terms as an Alderman At Large and was the Commissioner of the Licensing Board for the city of Somerville. He was loved and respected by all who knew him!

John practiced Law for 40 years. He was a Boston Red Sox and Patriots fan. He enjoyed watching sports with his son John Peter. He loved hunting with his friends. He took pride in his cooking, gardening, and carpentry. He loved sharing Christmas with his children and celebrated Holidays with siblings, nieces and nephews.

Please no flowers. If you would like, please make a donation to the Salvation Army in his name.

Funeral Services are private, with burial at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. For more information and guestbook please visit: dohertyfuneralservice.com.

# How you can help protect wild birds in your yard



You can make your garden bird-friendly by following a few simple steps. — Photo © mirceax / iStock via Getty Images Plus

You may not think about it often, but wild birds use your lawn as a rest stop and place to call home. As you spruce up your lawn and garden for the season, there are simple steps you can take to protect them and help them thrive.

According to Spencer Schock, founder of WindowAlert, makers of bird-friendly products for homes, the following changes are easy to implement in order to create a safe harbor for wild birds:

- Plant native species: Planting native species on your property is one of the most impactful ways you can improve your local environment, as well as make your lawn and garden a healthy habitat for wild birds and other fauna. Native plant species provide birds with food and places

to rest and nest. Birds in turn, spread pollen and seeds, while acting as a natural pesticide. Speaking of which, gardening organically will also go a long way to protecting the health and safety of feeding birds.

- Make windows visible: Up to 1 billion birds die annually from striking windows in US, according to the American Bird Conservancy. The good news is that it's relatively easy and affordable to prevent your home from being part of the problem. Special window decals that reflect ultraviolet sunlight, a wavelength of light noticeable to birds, have been proven to substantially reduce the likelihood of bird strikes. Giving the appearance of slightly frosted translucent glass but glowing like

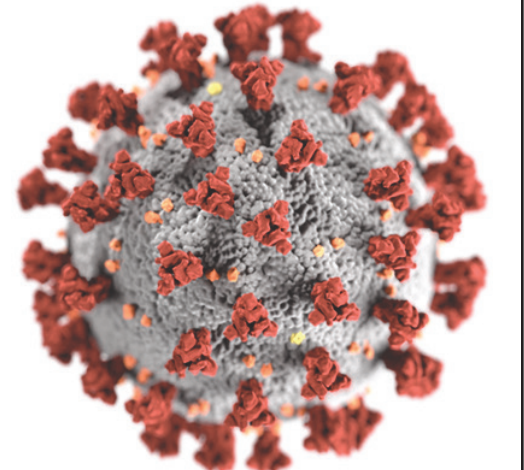
a spotlight for birds, those from WindowAlert feature a range of decorative patterns. To boost protection for birds, you can also apply a high-tech liquid called WindowAlert UV Liquid in between decals. More information, as well as useful application tips, can be found by visiting windowalert.com.

- Monitor cats: Monitor your cat's time outdoors to ensure they are not terrorizing or hunting birds. An enclosed play area for your cat is the most effective way to keep birds in your yard safe from your furry companion's natural instincts.

Good deeds start at home. This season, do your part to help migrating bird populations reach their destinations safely. (StatePoint)

# COVID-19 update and information on the CARES Act

Here is a COVID-19 update for March 31, 2020. We know many community members are experiencing financial hardships due to the crisis. Below you'll find a list of support that the new \$2 trillion CARES Act may be able to offer you, your business, or your employer. Please also be sure to check [www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus](http://www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus) for additional information on the city's COVID-19 response and resources available to residents and businesses during this public health crisis. The website is updated frequently as more information becomes available.



Latest news:

- As of 9:00 a.m. today, March 31, a total of 57 Somerville residents have tested positive for COVID-19 and 11 of them have since recovered.
- As a reminder, city buildings are closed until May 4. Check the "City Services Status" tab on [www.somervillema.gov/](http://www.somervillema.gov/) for coronavirus to find out which City services are available and how to access them.

Today's Assistance Tip:

The CARES Act is a federal law that directs \$2 trillion in funding to COVID-19 relief efforts. The CARES Act is wide reaching and includes help for individuals and small businesses. For more information on what is included in the CARES Act, visit [www.somervillema.gov/coronavirushelp](http://www.somervillema.gov/coronavirushelp). Local business owners can also find information at [www.somervillema.gov/covidbizhelp](http://www.somervillema.gov/covidbizhelp).

Assistance for individuals includes:

Direct cash payments

- Most individuals earning less than \$75,000 will receive \$1,200. For married couples earning less than \$150,000, each partner will receive a \$1,200 check.
- An additional \$500 will be given for each child.
- Direct cash payments will arrive within approximately three weeks via direct deposit if you have set up a direct deposit account with the IRS. The IRS will be communicating about payments via mail, so keep an eye on your mailbox.
- Payments will decrease for those earning more than \$75,000 and will phase out completely for individuals making more than \$99,000 and for married couples making more than \$198,000.
- Individuals whose previous income makes them ineligible but who have recently lost their job are not currently eligible to receive the payment. These individuals should be eligible for the expanded unemployment benefits.
- Any adult who is claimed as a dependent is ineligible to receive a payment. This is often the case for college students.
- A valid Social Security number (SSN) is required to be eligible. If a spouse or a child uses an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) instead of a SSN, the entire family is ineligible for the payment. There is an exception for members of the military.
- Payments are based on either your 2018 or 2019 tax filings. People who receive Social Security benefits but don't file a tax return are still eligible.

Expansion of unemployment benefits

- \$260 billion is directed to expand unemployment insurance programs.
- New job seekers and workers who are able to continue working from home are not covered.
- It also expands unemployment insurance to cover those who are self-employed, freelancers, and "gig economy" workers.
- The CARES Act extends unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks, allowing individuals to receive benefits for up to 39 weeks in Massachusetts.
- Federal benefits will increase \$600 per week through July 2020. This is in addition to the Massachusetts weekly benefit maximum of \$823. Massachusetts is waiting on guidelines for distributing these funds. More information will be available on the State's COVID-19 unemployment page.

Health Coverage

- Private insurance plans are required to cover COVID-19 treatments and vaccination when it becomes available.
- All COVID-19 tests are free.

Student Loan Relief & Work Study Expansion

- All federal loan and interest payments are deferred through September 30, 2020, without penalty.
- The package allows schools to convert work-study funds to grants and to continue to pay work-study wages while school is suspended. Check with your school to see if you are still eligible for work-study.

Assistance for small businesses includes:

Paycheck Protection Program Loan

- This loan helps businesses maintain cash-flow and keep workers on payroll. If payroll is maintained, loans can be forgiven.
- This program offers up to eight weeks of payroll forgiveness, no Small Business Administration (SBA) fees, and least six months of deferral with maximum deferrals of up to a year.
- Businesses impacted by COVID-19 can apply for loans through June 30, 2020, and loans are retroactive to February 15, 2020, in order to help bring back workers that may have already been laid off.
- Eligible businesses include for-profit businesses and 501(c)(3) organizations with 500 or fewer employees, as well as sole proprietorships.

Small Business Debt Relief Program

- This program will provide immediate relief to small businesses with non-disaster SBA loans, in particular 7(a), 504, and microloans.
- Under it, SBA will cover all loan payments on these SBA loans, including principal, interest, and fees, for six months.
- This relief will also be available to new borrowers who take out loans within six months of the President signing the bill into law.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans & Emergency Economic Injury Grants

- These grants provide an emergency advance of up to \$10,000 to small businesses and private non-profits harmed by COVID-19 within three days of applying for an SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL).
- To access the advance, you first apply for an EIDL and then request the advance.
- The advance does not need to be repaid under any circumstance and may be used to keep employees on payroll, to pay for sick leave, meet increased production costs due to supply chain disruptions, or pay business obligations, including debts, rent and mortgage payments.

Small Business Tax Provisions

- The Employee Retention Credit for Employers Subject to Closure or Experiencing Economic Hardship provides a refundable payroll tax credit for 50 percent of wages paid by eligible employers to certain employees during the COVID-19 crisis. The credit is available to employers, including non-profits, whose operations have been fully or partially suspended as a result of a government order limiting commerce, travel or group meetings. The credit is also provided to employers who have experienced a greater than 50 percent reduction in quarterly receipts, measured on a year-over-year basis. The credit is not available to employers receiving assistance through the Paycheck Protection Program. The credit is provided through December 31, 2020.
- The Delay of Payment of Employer Payroll Taxes allows taxpayers to defer paying the employer portion of certain payroll taxes through the end of 2020, with all 2020 deferred amounts due in two equal installments, one at the end of 2021, the other at the end of 2022. Payroll taxes that can be deferred include the employer portion of FICA taxes, the employer and employee representative portion of Railroad Retirement taxes (that are attributable to the employer

Continued on page 19

# Somerville issues eviction moratorium, orders unit showing to cease

CONT. FROM PG 5

City of Somerville on March 15, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Somerville City Council has expressed support for a moratorium on evictions and the limiting of entry into tenant dwellings through Council Resolutions 209936 and 209943;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety;

WHEREAS, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Mayor of Somerville have requested that residents stay home to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and the Governor has requested that the Department

of Public Health issue a stay at home advisory;

WHEREAS, evictions would make it impossible for Somerville residents to stay at home by rendering them homeless and would therefore further increase the risk to public health and safety posed by COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the eviction of commercial residents could decrease essential services necessary to meet the demands of this pandemic and would further reduce the ability of businesses to generate revenue, further destabilizing the community;

The Mayor and the Board of Health, pursuant to 310 CMR 11.05, 105 CMR 300.200 and all other authorizing statutes and regulations, acting by and through its agent authorized under MGL c. 111, §30,

hereby order:

1. Notwithstanding MGL c. 186, MGL c. 239 or any general or special law to the contrary, no landlord and/or owner shall enforce an eviction upon a resident of Somerville, residential or commercial, during this public health crisis.

2. No landlord and/or owner shall access or seek to access a tenant's dwelling space for purposes such as general inspections, displaying units to potential future tenants and other non-critical activities. A landlord may only access a tenant's dwelling space to make repairs requested by the tenant, repairs required as a matter of law, or to respond to a life-threatening emergency. A tenant may refuse access or entry for non-critical purposes or when adequate social distancing arrangements (at a minimum

of six feet) have not been made.

3. This Emergency Order shall remain in effect until notice is given, pursuant to the Board of Health's judgment that the public health emergency no longer exists.

4. If any provision of this Order or the application thereof to any person or entity or circumstance is determined to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall not affect or impair the validity of the other provisions of this Order or the application thereof to other persons, entities and circumstances.

Douglas Kress, Director of Health and Human Services  
Acting Agent of the Board of Health

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone  
Date: March 27, 2020



FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#724

1. Former Red Sox player Wade Boggs had superstitions - what did eat before every game?

2. What is it called when you flick your finger?

3. What MLB player holds the record for most grand slams?

4. What President awarded Fred Rogers (Mister Rogers) the Presidential Medal of Freedom?

5. Where is the "Ice Cream Capital of the World"?

6. Who founded The American Institute of Public Opinion

7. In TV's *Bewitched*, who was the witch doctor in Samantha's family?

8. What is Irlen syndrome?

9. Who was the the first African American to win the Nobel Peace Prize?

10. What is a group of owls called?

11. On TV's *The Munsters*, who was the only family member to not appear in the original pilot episode?

12. In bowling lingo, what does the term "Turkey" mean?

Answers on page 23

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Giant flying foxes that live in Indonesia have wingspans of nearly six feet.

2. Corduroy comes from the French, cord du roi or cloth of the king.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD  
THEME: COFFEE AND TEA

- ACROSS
1. Bookie's number

5. Parents org.

8. Slang for microwave

11. Time distortion

12. One with biggest share?

13. Like a case of appendicitis, possibly

15. Decanter

16. Knowing about

17. Mister in Madrid

18. Usually served on ice, 2 words

20. Barber's sound

21. Accepted truth

22. Took a load off

23. Artist's office

26. Excites passions, 2 words

30. Comic book cry of horror

31. Rude or sarcastic

34. Chips, perhaps

35. Roleplay

37. Chinese "way"

38. Ice floaters

39. 100 centavos

40. Merry

42. Table scrap

43. Breastbone

45. Double shot of espresso

47. Feather's partner

48. Not here

50. Nickname for Putin?

52. Revolutionary event

55. "Tea is the only simple pleasure left to us," he wrote

56. Research facil.

57. Typically used in the fairway

59. Goodbye to amiga

60. Plenty

61. Why not

62. Black tea, in China

63. Bard's "before"

64. Pay close attention

- DOWN
1. Be in the red

2. Crows' cousins

3. Actress Barrymore

4. More like rumors

5. '70s Ford model

6. Native American emblem

7. Dwarf buffalo

8. Pueblo tribesman

9. On top

10. For each

12. Cosmetic cabinet staple

13. Allegro \_\_\_\_ in music, Italian

14. \_\_\_\_ Perk from "Friends"

19. Exit plus s

22. Eye infection

23. Oozes

24. Article of faith

25. Romanov's edict

26. A \_\_\_\_ of tea, in U.K.

27. Prowl around

28. Embryo cradles

29. Green pasta sauce

32. One on the list

33. Faux one

36. Equal parts espresso and warm milk

38. Fauna's partner

40. Hudson's Bay Company original ware

41. Experts

44. Nose channels

46. Kick the bucket

48. Between countertenor and baritone

49. Make this, not waste

50. Affected by the moon

51. Went down a slippery slope

52. Kitchen flooring choice

53. Tried follower

54. Bygone era

55. The Revolutionary one followed

58. The Simpsons' neighbor

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

B	A	R	B	S		A	R	C			T	O	B	Y	
I	C	I	L	Y		N	E	O			P	O	L	I	O
N	E	G	U	S		O	V	A			I	D	L	E	R
G	R	A	F	T	O	N		T	H	E	D	A	R	K	
			F	E	B			F	I	A	T				
D	O	S		M	I	S	O		M	A	R	P	L	E	
O	C	A	S		T	H	R	U		S	H	E	A	R	
Y	E	L	L		S	O	C	L	E		E	R	G	O	
L	A	P	U	P		T	E	N	D		A	D	O	S	
E	N	A	M	O	R		P	A	I	L		U	S	E	
			K	I	S	S		F	I	E					
V	E	R	T	I	G	O		M	Y	S	T	E	R	Y	
A	W	A	R	E		U	F	O		P	U	P	A	E	
L	E	M	U	R		G	U	M		E	D	E	M	A	
E	R	S	E			H	R	S		D	E	E	P	S	



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- ADVERTISEMENT -

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Housing Type: Elderly #667-2 Developments (Corbett Apartments – 125 Jaques Street, Somerville, MA) for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by CBA Landscape Architects LLC.

The Project consists of: Replacement of bituminous concrete paths; replacement of plantings; installation of root barriers at new pavement near existing trees; removal of fencing; installation of planting beds; installation of a concrete ramp with handrails; installation of tubular steel fence; the relocation of existing benches; installation of new benches, installation of concrete steps with metal handrails; and replacement of existing chain link fence with metal handrails.

The work is estimated to cost \$105,012 for the Base Bid scope of work, and \$152,557 including all add. Alternates.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30 §39M and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

General Bids will be received until **2PM on April 9th, 2020**, and publicly opened online, forthwith.

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be submitted online at [www.Projectdog.com](http://www.Projectdog.com). Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. E-Bid tutorials and instructions are available within the specifications and online at [www.Projectdog.com](http://www.Projectdog.com). For assistance, call Projectdog, Inc at (978)499-9014, M-F 8:30AM-5PM.

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

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

Go to [www.Projectdog.com](http://www.Projectdog.com) and login with an existing account or click **Sign Up** to register for free. Enter Project Code **837680** in the project locator box. Select “Acquire Documents” to download documents, review a hard copy at Projectdog’s physical location, or request a free project CD.

Bidders may obtain one full paper bid set from Projectdog for a refundable deposit of \$50.00 made payable to Projectdog in the form of certified check or money order. The full amount of the deposit will be refunded to all responsive bidders returning the Contract Documents in good condition within ten (10) days after date of general bid opening. Otherwise, the deposit will become the property of Projectdog, Inc. Bidders requesting their refundable paper set to be mailed must supply a non-refundable shipping and handling fee of \$35.00 payable to Projectdog.

A prebid meeting will be held at **10 AM on Thursday April 2nd, 2020**. Attending the prebid meeting is not a requirement for bidding.

3/25/20, 4/1/20 The Somerville Times



**Common Area Flooring Replacement Project at Brady Towers (AMP-2)**  
**SHA Job # 2012**

**ADVERTISEMENT**  
**REQUEST FOR DESIGN SERVICES (RFS)**

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority invites sealed proposals from registered Architecture firms to provide professional design and construction administration services for the common area flooring replacement at the Brady Towers (AMP-2) elderly building in Somerville, Massachusetts.

The Estimated Construction cost is \$120,000.00

The Award is subject to HUD requirements and guidelines. A briefing and site inspection is scheduled for 11:00 AM on Wednesday, April 8th, 2020 at Brady Towers, 252 Medford Street, in Somerville, Massachusetts.

**Response to this RFS must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m., Thursday, April 16th, 2020.**


**\*Responses will be received by email only at [mannys@sha-web.org](mailto:mannys@sha-web.org)**

The RFS may be downloaded from the SHA website [www.sha-web.org](http://www.sha-web.org) under the bid opportunities tab or by contacting [mannys@sha-web.org](mailto:mannys@sha-web.org). **If downloaded you must email [mannys@sha-web.org](mailto:mannys@sha-web.org) to receive changes, or updates.**

Questions must be sent in writing to [mannys@sha-web.org](mailto:mannys@sha-web.org) no later than Friday, April 10th, 2020.

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE**  
**PURCHASING DEPARTMENT**  
**RFP 20-69**

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

**Adult Education and Industry Specific Training**

**The City of Somerville is soliciting proposals for the development and implementation of two separate but related programs: Contextualized Education for English and Adult Education Learners programs and Industry Specific Training programs for direct employment in in-demand and/or high growth industries and occupations. Applicants may apply for one or both programs.**

A request for proposals (RFP) may be obtained online at <http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing> or from the Purchasing Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **April 1st, 2020**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **May 27th, 2020 at 2:00 pm ET**. 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.

Please contact Thupten Chukhatsang at [tchukhatsang@somerville-ma.gov](mailto:tchukhatsang@somerville-ma.gov) for more information.

**Thupten Chukhatsang, MCPPO**  
**Procurement Analyst**  
**617-625-6600 x. 3400**

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**Notice of Self Storage Sale**

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenant at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) on 4/13/2020 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Emily Paron unit #0261. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

3/25/20, 4/1/20 The Somerville Times

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# What does a recession mean for you?

## 6 ways to protect your future

Financial experts agree that no one is completely immune from risk when a recession occurs, and that an economic downturn can have a significant impact on your personal and financial situation. However, they also agree that it is important to avoid panicking and to remain focused on your long-term financial plans and strategies.

When thinking about what a recession means for you and your future, here are six things to consider:

- Think about how a recession could affect your retirement plan and whether your savings and investments need to be adjusted. Does your financial strategy appropriately take into account your age, risk tolerance, target retirement timeline and desired lifestyle post-retirement? If you are close to retiring, you may want to make more con-

servative investments ahead of a recession. Younger investors may be better positioned to maintain a higher-risk portfolio through a downturn and may even have opportunities to buy up more securities while prices are low.

- Take time to evaluate your entire investment portfolio, rebalancing it as necessary to minimize risk in your asset allocation while keeping your long-term goals in mind. You might also consider loss harvesting in taxable accounts to take advantage of potential tax savings or boost your tax refund.
- Closely review your budget and cash flow, with an eye toward identifying any expenses or other spending that can be proactively trimmed to free up money now, or that can be cut in the future if you feel a financial pinch. Consider holding off on major purchases or delaying

travel until the market improves. You may even want to redirect some of your savings – perhaps your monthly contribution to a child’s college fund – to boost your cash reserves.

- Think about upcoming changes in your personal life, planned or otherwise. Are you having a baby? Sending a child off to college? Do you or a family member have any health concerns that may require additional care? Consider how these developments could impact your finances and the risks they might introduce.
- Similarly, take stock of your professional situation. Your job likely provides your biggest source of income. If you are not sure that your job would be secure in the event of a recession, update your resume and think about where and how you might begin to search for a new one if you are laid off.



You can minimize the negative effects of a recession by heeding a few fundamental personal finances principles. — Photo © fizkes / iStock via Getty Images Plus

- A Certified Financial Planner professional can help you evaluate the current state of your finances, understand the potential impact of a recession and devise a course of action that keeps you on track to achieve your goals. To find a CFP professional near you, visit [www.letsmakeaplan.org](http://www.letsmakeaplan.org). Talking to a financial advisor now is a smart investment in protecting your future.
- Don’t wait to make a recession plan. By taking proactive steps now, you can better safeguard you and your family’s financial future. (StatePoint)



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.

Caregiving in the age of coronavirus

By Mike Festa  
AARP Massachusetts State Director

Even in ordinary times, the 840,000 of unpaid family caregivers in Massachusetts face a daunting set of daily tasks. Oftentimes with little or no training, they may be responsible for wound care, tube feedings, dressing, managing the finances and medical bills of their loved ones, transportation and more.

Of course, these are not ordinary times.

The coronavirus pandemic has complicated the lives of family caregivers, especially those with older loved ones who are most susceptible to COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus. It has added fear, anxiety and isolation to an already-stressful situation. Here in Massachusetts, routines have been upended as communities cope with this disease.

Since the outbreak of the virus, AARP has been urging family caregivers to develop a plan in case they get sick or their loved one does. Our recommendations include:

**PULL TOGETHER A TEAM.** Develop a list of family and friends who can perform daily caregiving tasks. If available, identify local caregiving services who may offer a respite for family and friends.

**IDENTIFY LOCAL SERVICES.** In response to the vi-

rus, many restaurants and pharmacies are adding or increasing their delivery services. The federal government's Eldercare Locator at [www.eldercare.acl.gov](http://www.eldercare.acl.gov) can help you find support services in your area. The new online "AARP Community Connections" at [www.aarpcommunity-connections.org](http://www.aarpcommunity-connections.org) enables people to enter their zip codes and find informal groups of neighbors and friends offering help right in their own communities.

**INVENTORY ESSENTIAL ITEMS.** Determine how much food, medication, and basic supplies your care recipient has on hand. We recommend a two-week supply of food, water, household cleaning supplies and medical materials and equipment.

**GET PRESCRIPTIONS IN ORDER.** Make sure you have a list of medications, medical contacts and important information about your loved one, such as drug allergies. If there are upcoming routine medical appointments, reschedule those or, if possible, switch to a virtual visit. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) recommends having an extra 30-day supply of essential medications on hand. Don't forget over-the-counter medications such as cough suppressants and fever reducing drugs like acetaminophen. **STAY CONNECTED.** Isolation is a big issue as we all follow



the social distancing guidance from the CDC. However, social distancing doesn't have to lead to social disconnection. Develop a communication plan and identify times when members of the care team will check in on your loved one. Skype, Zoom and Facetime are useful digital apps that can help, but so are lower-tech options like email and telephone calling. To help fight the isolation, encourage people to send cards, letters, magazines, puzzles or other items a loved one would be happy to receive. **PROTECT YOURSELF.** Like they tell you on an airplane, "Put your own mask on first." Now

more than ever, it is important for family caregivers to take care of themselves. Follow the CDC guidelines of washing hands frequently, avoiding crowds, practice social distancing and, by all means, if you feel sick stay home. If you develop the virus, you will be of little use to those who are counting on you.

To help caregivers, AARP has a dedicated, toll-free family caregiving line for people looking after a loved one. Agents are available to take calls Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. (ET) at 877-333-5885.

AARP also has a Facebook group where caregivers get tips

from experts, share their own stories and sometimes just get a little encouragement from others in a similar situation. You can also find answers to many of your questions online at the AARP Caregiver Resource Center [aarp.org/caregiving](http://aarp.org/caregiving).

Though we would welcome your membership, our caregiving information and services are available to everyone. Our founder, Ethel Percy Andrus, said, "What we do, we do for all." That has never been more important than in the face of this coronavirus as we all pull together to find our way through it.

Information on filing for unemployment and transitional assistance

If you've recently lost your job or part of your household income due to COVID-19 impacts (or other reasons), you may be eligible for unemployment benefits as well as other cash assistance. We've compiled some information below to help you get started. If you don't personally need this information, please share it with those who do and encourage them to sign up for city alerts at [www.somervillema.gov/alerts](http://www.somervillema.gov/alerts).

How to File for Unemployment:

The MA Department of Unemployment Assistance has resources for employees.

To file for unemployment benefits online, click here.

For assistance by phone, call (617) 626-6338, daily 6:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. Voice relay 711 via their website.

The Boston Globe published this helpful article on applying for unemployment in MA due to the health crisis: [https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/03/18/business/how-apply-unemployment-benefits-era-coronavirus/?s\\_campaign=breakingnews:newsletter](https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/03/18/business/how-apply-unemployment-benefits-era-coronavirus/?s_campaign=breakingnews:newsletter)

The MA Department of Unemployment Assistance gives daily presentations online and by phone detailing the process of filing for unemployment step by step.

How to Apply for Cash Assistance:

The MA Department of Transitional Assistance is now allowing phone applications for cash benefits. Their website also has easy-to-use tabs to determine eligibility and apply. The TAFDC (Transitional Aid for Families with Dependent Children) program is for families with minor children, and the EAEDC (Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children) program is for seniors over 65 (who do not receive SSI Supplemental Security Income), disabled individuals, and certain guardians and caretakers who are not yet on SSI. Call 617-348-5354 to apply by phone.

Where to find additional supports:

The City Website: Check [www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus](http://www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus) for additional information such as relief for student loans, information for renters and homeowners who may not be able to make full payments, and more. As federal and state aid packages are passed or local measures are instituted, we will keep the website updated.

The Findhelp website: <https://findhelp.org/>. On Findhelp you can enter your zip code and find additional programs and services in your area. Findhelp includes food access, monetary, housing, and other resources. Somerville Office of Housing Stability, and Health and Human Services: The city's social service and housing staff are all working remotely while city buildings are closed. If you need assistance, please call 311 (617-666-3311) to be connected to them or to schedule a phone appointment.





## Expression of gratitude



This sign thanking the many workers who continue to risk exposure to the coronavirus on the front lines was posted at a Dane St. location. We all join in the expression of gratitude for their sacrifices and dedication.  
— Photo by Doug Holder

## Green Line Extension (GLX) update: School St. Bridge to reopen



The School St. bridge closure currently in effect will be extended by one week to advance Green Line Extension (GLX) construction. The bridge is now expected to reopen to vehicular traffic Sunday, April 5. The next closure is planned for April 17 – 26. The School St. pedestrian bridge between Medford St. and Highland Ave. will remain open for pedestrians and cyclists during these short-term closures.

The GLX is a State project and therefore not subject to Somerville’s suspension of non-essential construction during the COVID-19 public health emergency. MassDOT has issued updated guidelines for its construction sites and workers.

Detour maps and directions are available at [SomervilleMA.gov/GLX](http://SomervilleMA.gov/GLX) in the Bridge Closures & Detours section. These detours will be modified slightly prior to the full-time School St. bridge closure in May. Further information will be provided closer to that date.

For additional information about the Green Line Extension, visit [mass.gov/GLX](http://mass.gov/GLX).

# Teachers and students find purpose through leadership programs

Many teachers are drawn to education for the opportunity to make a difference in their students’ lives. However, when faced with guiding students through trying times in order to meet their big goals, teachers need resources that strengthen social and emotional skills.

At Port Chester Middle School in Port Chester, NY, teacher Allison Silverman faced this very challenge and used the lessons in the Lead4Change program to be successful. Lead4Change is a free student leadership curriculum offering the chance to submit a student-led service learning project for a grant of up to \$10,000. Its series of leadership lessons provides opportunities for strong student engagement through collaboration, critical thinking, problem-solving and reflection.

Such programs offer students numerous benefits. An independent research study found that participating in Lead4Change caused significant growth in areas such as leadership skills (60 percent of students improved), respect for others (54 percent) and ambition and innovation (53 percent). However, teachers can have equally transformative experiences.

When Silverman and her students formed the “PC Hunger

Fighters” team, her students studied the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals and together, came to consensus on creating a vertical garden using up-cycled materials, aiming to help the 200,000 food insecure individuals in their county. Then, Silverman heard from a student participating in the program.

“I received a very desperate call from one of our students,” she recalls. “There had been a shooting the night before and a 26-year-old Port Chester resident was killed. The student knew this man. I remember sitting on the bench next to my school garden and crying. I cried so hard. I had no idea what to do, or what to tell the kids.”

“I thought about how insignificant our ‘little gardens’ would be alongside challenges like poverty and violence,” Silverman says.

The students coped with the tragedy by using the Lead4Change’s lessons in communication, overcoming barriers and working as a team. They knew more could be done because of what they’d practiced.

“I cancelled our celebration scheduled for the following day and instead met in the boardroom with the kids. For three hours, we talked about injustices and inequalities, pledging to con-



tinue to work together to fight these things and make a real difference. We realized our project was important,” says Silverman.

Their efforts were awarded as one of the grand prize-winning teams, earning a \$10,000 grant, though their participation was a reward in and of itself because of the leadership skills they mastered. This is just one of the hundreds of stories unfolding nationwide.

“The Lead4Change experience was as valuable to me as it was

for the students,” shares Thomas Loner, a teacher from South Carolina-located Bates Middle school, whose “Bates’ Bodacious Bantams” student team helped a local homeless shelter by collecting supplies. “This program forced me to give up ‘control’ of my classroom and let students become leaders.”

Teacher Holly Hartman in Lebanon, PA continues to experience the program’s benefits after years of participation. “This journey not only helps my stu-

dents grow, but somehow also manages to help me become a bit wiser with each experience,” she says.

For more information about the Lead4Change Student Leadership Program, visit [lead4change.org](http://lead4change.org).

Leadership curriculum will not only prepare students for a future of increasingly complex social issues, but also serve as a catalyst for helping teachers and students alike find purpose and meaning. (StatePoint)



# Tips to weather seasonal joint pain

Do April showers bring May flowers or just a lot of aches and pains? While research on how weather affects a person’s pain levels is inconclusive, many people swear that the pain in their joints or ache “in their bones” can predict rainy or chilly weather ahead. The general theory is that this is caused by changes in temperature and barometric pressure.

“Sometimes joint pain can occur in flares that your body can predict: a change of weather in a usually dry climate, a change of temperature or staying in contact with water for too long,” says Dr. Ken Redcross, author of “Bond: The 4 Cornerstones of a Lasting and Caring Relationship with Your Doctor” and founder of Redcross Concierge. “Particularly as we age, pain tends to sneak in, so managing it is a useful skill to acquire. However, it’s not just about taking a pill to numb the pain and hoping for a few side effects as possible.”

If a chill in the air or damp, humid temps bring you discom-

fort, Dr. Redcross recommends the following simple measures, which may help you find relief:

- **Keep Moving:** Inclement weather can keep us sedentary. When you reduce your movement or don’t get out as much, pain can increase. Don’t let potential aches and pains stop you from regular activity. The sooner you start moving, the better you will feel.
- **Know Your Limits:** Don’t increase the intensity of physical activity too quickly, especially if you have existing cardiovascular, joint or muscle problems that could be aggravated as a result. Work with a licensed trainer at first, who can assess your strength, flexibility, balance and endurance, and create a custom workout program accordingly.
- **Relieve Pain Naturally:** The next time you experience pain, avoid popping a conventional pain reliever. Arnica montana, a type of mountain daisy, has been used for centuries for natural pain relief and is one of the most popular homeopathic medicines worldwide. As a first-line thera-



Seasonal joint discomfort is a problem for many, but these tips can help ease the pain.  
— Photo © nensuria / iStock via Getty Images Plus

py, consider using an unscented, non-greasy topical treatment like Boiron Arnicare Gel for muscle pain, stiffness and swelling from injuries and bruises. More information can be found at Arnicare.com. Claims for Arnicare are based on traditional homeopathic practice, not accepted medical evidence. They are not FDA evaluated.

- **Spice it Up:** Turmeric, ginger and cayenne pepper all have anti-inflammatory properties, as well as many other health benefits. Stick to an energy-boost-

ing diet by giving your foods a low-calorie kick with spices, roots and herbs.

Don’t let the weather get the best of you this spring. With a few key strategies, you can better manage weather-related joint pain, rain or shine. (StatePoint)

## All Council on Aging events suspended until further notice to minimize the spread of COVID-19

Older people (age 50 and up) and people of all ages with severe underlying health conditions seem to be at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness. The CDC advises that it is “extra important” that persons with higher risk take action to help prevent exposure to the virus, and that all of us take actions to limit the spread in order to protect ourselves and those most vulnerable to complications.

**The underlying conditions identified as increasing risk include but are not limited to:** Heart, kidney, or liver disease; Lung disease; Diabetes; Chronic bronchitis; Emphysema; Immune deficiency, or persons taking medications that suppress immune function; High blood pressure

Risk for more severe symptoms increases starting at approximately age 50 and continues to climb with age. According to the Robert Koch Institute, age combined with a risk factor creates higher risk as well. In particular, older persons may have a weaker immune response leading to more serious infection and a delay in some obvious symptoms such as fever.

Thus older persons may not go to the doctor as early as a younger person with a stronger early response. Scientists are still learning about COVID-19, but the current known fatality rate in China for persons with COVID-19 below the age of 50 is below 1%, for ages 50-59 it is approximately 1.3%, for ages 60-69 it is approximately 3.5%, and for persons over 80 it is approximately 14.8%.

**The CDC offers guidance for higher risk populations including:**

Stock up on supplies; Take everyday precautions to keep space between yourself and others; When you go out in public, keep away from others who are sick, limit close contact and wash your hands often.; Avoid crowds as much as possible; During a COVID-19 outbreak in your community, stay home as much as possible.

For more specific guidance, visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html).



## COVID-19 Update and Information on the CARES Act CONT. FROM PG 13

FICA rate), and half of SECA tax liability. Deferral is not provided to employers receiving assistance through the Paycheck Protection Program.

**Counseling & Training**

- Resource partners including Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), Women’s Business Centers (WBC), or SCORE mentorship chapters will receive additional funds to expand their reach and better support small business owners with counseling and up-to-date information regarding COVID-19.
- There will soon be a joint platform that consolidates information and resources related to COVID-19 in order to provide consistent, timely information to small businesses.

Please help us get the word out by sharing this information with anyone you know who may need it.

Again, thank you everyone. We know this is a difficult and stressful time. We thank you for supporting this effort as we work to get us all safely to the other side of this.



Historical Fact     CONT. FROM PG 8



The two colonies had many interesting comparisons:

The Pilgrims

One Ship  
Ship Name: Mayflower  
Mayflower Compact  
November 11, 1620  
Settled in Plymouth  
Arrived at Plymouth Bay  
Length of voyage was 66 Days  
Governor Carter  
102+ member crew  
Captain Myles Standish  
King James I  
Friendly contact was Squanto  
Indian Chief was Massasoit  
Liberal plantation  
Trading boat: Mayflower’s shallop  
Longfellow’s poem “Myles Standish”  
Smallpox  
Fought for Freedom of Religion

The Puritans

Twelve Ships  
Ship Name: Flagship Eagle/Arbella  
Massachusetts Bay Colony Charter  
June 12, 1630  
Settled in Charlestown  
Arrived at Mystic Shores  
Length of voyage was 63 Days  
Governor Winthrop  
1,000+ member crew  
Captain Myles Standish  
King Charles I  
Friendly contact was Squaw Sachem  
Indian Chief was Web-Cowet  
Conservative plantation  
Trading Ship: Blessing of the Bay  
Longfellow’s poem “Paul Revere”  
Smallpox  
Fought for Freedom of Religion

This year, 2020, is a milestone. It marks the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims’ ship, The Mayflower, at Plymouth. It also marks the 390th anniversary of the landing of the Puritans’ flagship, Eagle, at Charlestown. There is no eagle in the name of England, but there is one in New England, and its SOMERVILLE.  
These two groups ... looking for freedom ... founded New England and seeded America.

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Whatever happened to the man that stole the calendar? He got 12 months.

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Magoun Sq. Dunkin's  
closed for now



The Magoun Sq. Dunkin’ Donuts is temporarily closed. The decision to close is up to the individual owners People are reportedly using the Dunkin' Donuts app to see which stores are open in their area.

Want to write local Somerville stories?  
Call 617-666-4010  
and speak to the Assignment Editor

On This Day in History  
April 1

- 1578 - English physician William Harvey, who discovered the true nature of the circulation of the blood, was born in Folkestone, Kent.
- 1815 - Otto von Bismarck, who was the founder and first chancellor (1871–90) of the German Empire, was born.
- 1917 - American composer and pianist Scott Joplin died in a mental institution in New York City.
- 1945 - U.S. troops landed on the Japanese island of Okinawa during World War II.
- 1976 - Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, and Ronald Wayne formed Apple Computer Inc., and it became one of the world's leading tech companies.
- 1984 - American entertainer Marvin Gaye was shot and killed by his father in Los Angeles.



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SCATV Channel 3 Schedule

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Wednesday, April 1

12:00amFree Speech TV

6:00amNASA TV

7:00amCommunity Bulletin Board

7:30amDW In Good Shape

8:00amDemocracy Now! (Free Speech TV)

9:00amDW Global 3000

9:30amBoth Sides of the Bars

10:00amPoet to Poet, Writer to Writer

10:30amSomerville Neighborhood News

11:00amSNN Neighborhood Update

11:30amFrom My Heart to Yours

12:00pmThe Thom Hartman Show

1:00pmSomerville Neighborhood News

1:30pmSomerville Neighborhood News

2:00pmColores Latinos

3:00pmDemocracy Now! (Free Speech TV)

4:00pmDW Conflict Zone

4:30pmAutumn Reads with Somerville Public Library

5:00pmHello Neighbor

5:30pmFrom My Heart to Yours

6:00pmSomerville Neighborhood News

6:30pmVOX POP: Somerville Connects

7:00pm"The Cask of Amontillado" at VOX POP

7:30pmSidewalks Entertainment

8:00pmLIVE - Somerville Pundits

8:30pmDW Euromaxx

9:00pmRevolution Awakening at VOX POP

10:00pmLIVE - Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party

11:00pmFlotilla

Thursday, April 2

12:30amSCATV Secret Stash

1:00amFree Speech TV

1:30amFree Speech TV

2:00amFree Speech TV

3:00amFree Speech TV

6:00amBate Papo com Shirley

7:00amDW Conflict Zone

7:30amDW Euromaxx

8:00amDemocracy Now! (Free Speech TV)

9:00amDW Tomorrow Today

9:30amHello Neighbor

10:00amThe Chef's Table Series

10:30amThe Chef's Table Series

11:00amJoanna Bremis HMS Clinicals

11:30amJoanna Bremis HMS Clinicals

12:00pmThe Thom Hartman Show

1:00pmThe Somerville Line

1:30pmThe Somerville Line

Friday, April 3

12:00amHeavy Leather Topless Dance Party

1:00amSCATV Secret Stash

1:30amSCATV Secret Stash

2:00amFree Speech TV

6:00amNASA TV

7:00amThe Bill Press Show (Free Speech TV)

8:00amDemocracy Now! (Free Speech TV)

9:00amDW Euromaxx

9:30amStrata

10:00amNASA TV

11:00amSOM ARTS

11:30amCambridge Calendar

12:00pmThe Thom Hartman Show

1:00pmCommunity Benefits Agreement

2:00pmSomerville Pundits

2:30pmAutumn Reads with Somerville Public Library

3:00pmDemocracy Now! (Free Speech TV)

4:00pmGay USA

5:00pmDW Global 3000

5:30pmWhat's New Massachusetts?

6:00pmGrandstanders

7:00pmEmergency Preparedness

7:30pmThe Somerville Labor Show

8:00pmLIVE - Greater Somerville

8:30pmGreater Somerville

9:00pmFur, Fins and Feathers

10:00pmHeavy Leather Topless Dance Party

11:00pmHeavy Leather Music Video Show

Saturday, April 4

12:00amVOX POP Comedy Night

1:00amFree Speech TV

2:00amFree Speech TV

3:00amFree Speech TV

5:00amFree Speech TV

6:00amDW Focus on Europe

7:00amEffort Pour Christ

Sunday, April 5

12:00amFlotilla

1:00amNASA TV

1:30amNASA TV

2:00amNASA TV

3:00amFree Speech TV

6:00amBate Papo com Shirley

7:00amNossa Gentes e Costumes

8:00amEffort Pour Christ

9:00amNASA TV

10:00amTele Kreyol

11:00amMA House of Representatives Formal Session

12:00pmSidewalks Entertainment

1:00pmSOM ARTS

1:30pmSNN Neighborhood Update

2:00pmChico and B-Man

3:00pmAfrican Television Network

4:00pmDedilhando a Saudade

5:00pmGay USA

6:00pmVOX POP: Somerville Connects

6:30pmDW Tomorrow Today

7:00pmEmergency Preparedness

8:00pmDead Air Live

9:00pmTele Magazine

10:00pmCommunity Lens: Somerville 5K Detour

11:00pmTUTV

11:30pmSCATV Secret Stash

Monday, April 6

8:00amDemocracy Now! (Free Speech TV)

9:00amSMC Youth Media

9:30amScience 360

10:00amDead Air Live

11:00amTeleGalaxie

12:00pmSomerville Storytellers

1:00pmTele Magazine

2:00pmReeling Review

3:00pmMA House of Representatives Formal Session

4:00pmTele Kreyol

5:00pmHenry Parker Presents

5:30pmHenry Parker Presents

6:00pmSomerville Pundits

6:30pmThe Somerville Labor Show

7:00pmBLOWW Show a Go Go

7:30pmSomerville Neighborhood News

8:00pm#AFAD

9:00pmNossa Gente e Costumes

10:00pmHeavy Leather Music Video Show

11:00pmSCATV Secret Stash

11:30pmQueer Cats

Tuesday, April 7

12:00amPublic Safety/Homeland Security Hearing

6:00amNASA TV

7:00amNASA TV

8:00amDemocracy Now!

9:00amThe Chef's Table Series

10:00amStrata

11:00amJoanna Bremis HMS Clinicals

12:00pmThe Thom Hartman Show

1:00pmRevolution Awakening at VOX POP

2:00pmSomerville Overcoming Addiction

3:00pmDemocracy Now!

4:00pmSMC Youth Media

4:30pmGoing Postal

5:00pmLIVE - Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer

5:30pmWhat's New Massachusetts?

6:00pmSomerville Neighborhood News

6:30pmFrom My Heart to Yours

7:00pmThe Somerville Labor Show

7:30pmLIVE - Greater Somerville

8:00pmLIVE - Dead Air Live

9:00pmThe World Fusion Show

10:00pmTotally Working Out

11:00pmBox House Productions Presents

11:30pmSCATV Secret Stash

CITY TV 22 (Comcast) | 13 (RCN) Schedule

Wednesday, April 1

7:30amHousing/City Update 3.27.20

7:33amTalking Business

8:00amCouncil on Aging Update 3.30.20

8:01amSenior Circuit - "Shape Up Somerville"

8:30amFit-4-Life #5

8:50amCouncil on Aging Update 3.30.20

9:00amStorytime with Anne

9:30amHousing/City Update 3.27.20

9:33amUnemployment Info Update - 3.26.20

10:00amCity Council Meeting 3.26.20

11:30amSomerViva em Português - March 2020

12:00pmSchool Committee Meeting - 3.9.20

12:26pmHealth & Hygiene PSA 2020

2:27pmHousing/City Update 3.27.20

2:30pmLetters of World War II at Council on Aging

4:00pmFit-4-Life #2

4:21pmUnemployment Info Update - 3.26.20

5:00pmRaising Families "Youth Vaping & Smoking"

5:30pmCity Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang

6:00pmCity Council Meeting 3.26.20

7:32pmCouncil on Aging Update 3.30.20

7:45pmSomerViva an Kreyòl Ayisyen - Miral Atis

8:01pmSomerViva em Português - March 2020

8:30pmCity Council Meeting 3.26.20

9:55pmHealth & Hygiene PSA 2020

10:00pmLetters of World War II at Council on Aging

11:30pmCity Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang

Thursday, April 2

12:00amTuskegee Airmen

1:00amCity Council Meeting 3.26.20

7:30amMiddlesex Update w/Marian Ryan

8:00amHousing/City Update 3.27.20

8:30amStorytime with Anne

9:00amSenior Circuit - "Shape Up Somerville"

9:30amFit-4-Life #5

10:00amSenator Ed Markey's Town Hall at SHS

11:45amSPD Ride Along

12:00pmSenior Circuit - "Shape Up Somerville"

12:25pmCouncil on Aging Update 3.30.20

12:27pmCDC Handwashing PSA

12:30pmSomerViva em Português - March 2020

Friday, April 3

1:00pmStorytime with Anne

1:30pmSenator Ed Markey's Town Hall at SHS

3:06pmUnemployment Info Update - 3.26.20

3:09pmMayor Curtatone: COVID19 Respones

3:30pmSchool Committee Meeting - 3.9.20

6:00pmCity Council Meeting 3.26.20

7:30pmStorytime with Anne

8:00pmLetters of World War II at Council on Aging

9:15pmSPD Ride Along

9:30pmSomerViva en Español - Public Charge

10:00pmPublic Charge Presentation 3.5.20

11:00pmSomerViva em Português - March 2020

Saturday, April 4

12:00amVOX POP Comedy Night

1:00amFree Speech TV

2:00amFree Speech TV

3:00amFree Speech TV

5:00amFree Speech TV

6:00amDW Focus on Europe

7:00amEffort Pour Christ

Sunday, April 5

8:30amStorytime with Anne

9:00amFit-4-Life #6

9:30amStorytime with Anne

11:00amFit-4-Life #3

11:19amCouncil on Aging Update 3.30.20

11:30amCity Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang

12:00pmLicensing Commission Meeting - 2.10.20

4:00pmFit-4-Life #2

5:30pmCity Council Meeting 3.26.20

7:00pmStorytime with Anne

7:30pmSenator Ed Markey's Town Hall at SHS

9:06pmMayor Curtatone: COVID19 UPDATE

9:30pmSomerViva en Español - Public Charge

10:00pmHall St. Infrastructure Community Meeting

10:30pmCity Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang

11:01pmCOVID19 Olderamericans Prevention PSA

11:04pmTalking Business

11:30pmSPD Ride Along

Monday, April 6

8:30amStorytime with Anne

9:00amFit-4-Life #6

9:30amStorytime with Anne

11:00amFit-4-Life #3

11:19amCouncil on Aging Update 3.30.20

11:30amCity Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang

12:00pmLicensing Commission Meeting - 2.10.20

4:00pmFit-4-Life #2

5:30pmCity Council Meeting 3.26.20

7:00pmStorytime with Anne

7:30pmSenator Ed Markey's Town Hall at SHS

9:06pmMayor Curtatone: COVID19 UPDATE

9:30pmSomerViva en Español - Public Charge

10:00pmHall St. Infrastructure Community Meeting

10:30pmCity Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang

11:01pmCOVID19 Olderamericans Prevention PSA

11:04pmTalking Business

11:30pmSPD Ride Along

Tuesday, April 7

12:05amSomerViva en Español - Public Charge

1:00amFaith In a City: Faith & Community

2:00amPublic Charge Presentation 3.5.20

7:30amStorytime with Anne

8:00amThe Spiritual Music of Henry Hadley

9:03amHealth & Hygiene PSA 2020

9:04amCouncil on Aging Update 3.30.20

10:00amCity Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang

11:00amFit-4-Life #5

12:01pmSenior Circuit - "Shape Up Somerville"

12:30pmStorytime with Anne

1:00pmLetters of World War II at Council on Aging

2:15pmSPD Ride Along

4:00pmFit-4-Life #5

5:00pmFaith In a City: Fire & Roses

6:30pmStorytime with Anne

7:00pmPublic Charge Presentation 3.5.20

8:00pmSchool Committee Meeting 4.6.20

10:30pmCity Council Meeting 3.26.20

Wednesday, April 8

12:00amTuskegee Airmen

1:00amSchool Committee Meeting 4.6.20

Educational TV 15 Schedule

Wednesday, April 1

8:00amSHS Boys Basketball vs Revere

9:30amSHS Hockey vs Revere

11:00amSHS Girls Soccer vs Revere

12:30pmSHS GIRLS BASKETBALL 2017-18

1:00pmMIAA Playoff: SHS Boys Soccer vs Revere

3:00pmSHS Hockey v Revere

4:30pmSHS Girls Basketball vs Revere

6:00pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Revere

7:30pmSHS Hockey vs Revere

9:00pmSHS Girls Soccer vs Revere

10:30pmSHS Girls Basketball 2017-18

11:00pmMIAA Playoff: SHS Boys Soccer vs Revere

Thursday, April 2

1:00amSHS Hockey vs Revere

2:30amSHS Girls Basketball vs Revere

8:00amSHS Boys Soccer vs Medford

9:32amSHS Boys Basketball Highlights 2016-17

10:00amSHS Hockey vs Medford

11:30amSHS Boys Tufts Classic '17

1:00pmSHS Girls Tufts Classic '18

3:00pmSHS Football vs Medford

5:05pmSHS Girls' Soccer vs Medford

6:31pmSHS Boys Basketbal Highlights 2016-17

7:00pmSHS Boys Soccer vs Medford

8:32pmSHS Girls Basketball Highlights 2016-17

9:00pmSHS Hockey vs Medford

Friday, April 3

12:00amSHS Girls Tufts Classic '18

2:00amSHS Football vs Medford

4:05amSHS Girls' Soccer vs Medford

8:00amSHS Hockey vs Everett

9:30amSHS Boys Basketball vs Everett

11:00amSHS Girls Soccer vs Everett

12:30pmSHS Boys Soccer vs Everett

2:00pmSHS Girls Basketball vs Everett

3:30pmSHS Girls Soccer vs Everett

5:00pmSHS Girls Volleyball vs Everett

6:00pmSHS Hockey vs Everett

7:30pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Everett

9:00pmSHS Girls Soccer vs Everett

10:30pmSHS Boys Soccer vs Everett

Saturday, April 4

12:00amSHS Girls Basketball vs Everett

1:30amSHS Hockey vs Everett

3:00amSHS Girls Volleyball vs Everett

8:00amSHS Boys Basketball vs Malden

9:30amSHS Boys Basketball 2017-18

10:00pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Malden - 1st Rd

12:00pmSHS Boys Volleyball vs Malden

2:00pmSHS Girls' Basketball vs Malden

4:00pmSHS Football vs Malden

6:30pmSHS Boys Basketball 2017-18

Sunday, April 5

7:00pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Malden

8:30pmSHS Highlander Boys' Basketball 2018-19

Monday, April 6

1:00amSHS Girls Basketball vs Beverly

2:30amSHS Girls Basketball vs Swampscott

4:00amSHS Boys Basketball vs Salem

8:00amSHS Boys Basketball Highlights 2016-17

8:30amSHS Girls Basketball Highlights 2016-17

9:00amSHS Girls Basketball 2017-18

9:30amSHS Boys Basketball 2017-18

10:00amSHS Highlander Boys Basketball 2018-19

10:30amSHS Highlander Girls Basketball 2018-19

11:00amSHS Football 2016

11:30amSHS Football 2017

Tuesday, April 7

1:00amSHS Girls' Basketball @ Wilmington

2:30amSHS Boys' Basketball vs Reading

8:00amSHS Girls Soccer vs Saugus

9:30amSHS Girls Soccer vs Medford

11:00amSHS Boys Soccer vs Swampscott

1:00pmSHS Boys Soccer vs Revere

3:00pmSHS Football vs CRLS 2019

5:05pmSHS Football vs CRLS 2018

7:30pmSHS Boys Basketball vs Algonquin

9:05pmSHS Boys Soccer vs Swampscott

12:00amEl Sistema Spring Concert

12:35amSHS Hockey vs Lowell

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'A Walker in the City'

I wrote this 11 years ago before walking became a life threatening activity...

Recently I made my yearly winter pilgrimage to the Chelsea Hotel in New York City. I was invited to read at the Cornelia Street Café in Greenwich Village, on the weekend of a major snowstorm. But like any toughened Somervillian it takes a lot of snow to dissuade me from my God-given path. Things for me were a lot different from when I last visited. “The Recession” had settled in like an old piece of furniture, I was laid off from my job of 27 years at McLean Hospital, and I had started to teach at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass. I was decidedly on a new road, and as a friend of mine said: (the novelist Paul Stone) “You are on a spiritual journey.” Well I hope I can use the journey as a tax write off.

The Chelsea Hotel has always been a great comfort to me. I always get a small, inexpensive room, a bathroom down the hall affair. It is like the Spartan furnished room I lived in the Back Bay of Boston in the 70’s. There is a lot of character to this hotel, but few amenities in comparison to other hotels in the Big Apple.

At the check in desk I noticed a great whimsical painted portrait of Leonard Cohen, the poet, singer and one-time resident of this hotel. When I got off the elevator to go to my room I encountered a bearded man dressed like a monk, talking animatedly on his cell phone like he was cutting a real estate deal or something.

My friend, who I was visiting with, ran into an Englishman whose paintings grace the lobby of the hotel. He said he is from London, and decided to check in it for a year – 15 years ago! I think if I checked in 15 years ago I might have had the same fate.

I was reading in *The New York Times* about a new documentary film about Patti Smith, *Patti Smith: Dream of Life*. Smith was a denizen of the Chelsea in the 60s and 70s. According to *The Times*, Smith has a new book out as well:

“Ms. Smith will visit bookstores around the country in support of *Just Kids*, an autobiographical account of her relationship with Robert Mapplethorpe, her close friend and fellow inhabitant of the Chelsea Hotel in the late 1960s and 70s.”

Smith, a poet and a singer, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2007 for her achievements, most notably for her classic debut album *Horses*.

Getting back to the title, *A Walker in the City*, walking through the streets of Somerville, Mass, as well as New York, is a great way to clear your head. And since I was walking in the aftermath of the storm – the winds gave me a cold slap in the face, a freezing sucker punch – as if to say, “Wake up, pal!



— Photo by Bonnie Matthews Brock

... and take it all in.” After checking out of the Chelsea and checking into my brother’s place down the block, I walked down to Cornelia Street in the Village for the reading. I passed a hair salon where a young guy was gesturing and swearing in Italian at a hairdresser who had her hands on her ample hips, and was staring him down with an “I dare you” kind of expression.

I went into a gourmet shop on Bleeker St. and a girl with a moose hat, requisite horns, and six rings planted in her collagen-infused lips, tried to sell me an overpriced container of nuts for a ten-spot. She must have thought I was nuts.

I had a drink at a bar on in the village near the cafe and listened to a gaggle of NYU student’s chatter, while observing the shapely contours of the barmaid in her tight jeans. I saw a long-in-the-tooth rock band being photographed in front of Chelsea Guitars; their ruined, handsome faces spoke loudly in the late afternoon winter light of countless gigs, the road, the booze, and all-you-can-eat buffets of drugs.

A few hardy souls made it to the reading. The reading was for Larissa Shmailo’s new collection of poetry, *In Paran*. Unfortunately, she was ill and so we carried on. I ran into a poet friend of mine and City University professor Linda Lerner. The prolific Bronx poet Angelo Verga hosted the event, and the writer Iris Schwartz, Bob Viscusi, and others read from their work. There were a number of academic types from Brooklyn College and Hofstra University. They were amazed that I came down from Boston, in spite of the storm. I said their storm was a mere spritz in Somerville, and besides, I needed the walk.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Phillip Temples resides in Watertown, Massachusetts and works as a systems administrator at a local university. He’s had over 140 short stories and a novella published in various print and online publications, along with two mystery-thriller novels and a short story anthology. Phil’s third novel is slated for publication in April, 2019. In addition to his writing, Phil is an amateur radio operator and sings in a garage band.



Lamed Vavnik

The concept of the Lamed Vavnik is rooted in the kabbalah. It is the belief that there are thirty-six righteous people in existence without whom the world would come to an end. The lamed-vavniks do not know other lamed-vavniks, nor do they even know they are one of the thirty-six. The number 36 is twice 18, which in Jewish numerology stands for “life.” It is said, YHVH, or God, “preserves the world for their sake even if the rest of humanity has degenerated to the level of barbarism.”

Yesterday, the Archangel of death, Azrael, עזראל ‘azar’el, appeared to me on a busy sidewalk. He held in his hand a golden scroll. It is said the fate of all living mortals is inscribed upon the scroll. But the scroll did not terrify me. Rather, it was what the angel whispered directly in my ear: “there are now only 35.”

— Phillip Temples

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

Ms. Cam’s

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Olio

Answers

1. Chicken

2. Phillip

3. Alex Rodriguez

4. George W. Bush, 2002

5. Le Mars, Iowa

6. Dr. George Gallup in 1935

7. Dr. Bombay

8. Scotopic sensitivity syndrome, a proposed disorder of vision

9. Dr. Ralph J. Bunche

10. A parliament

11. Lily Munster

12. Three strikes in a row

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we can help you achieve your marketing goals**

**The Somerville Times**

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