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newspaper

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SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022

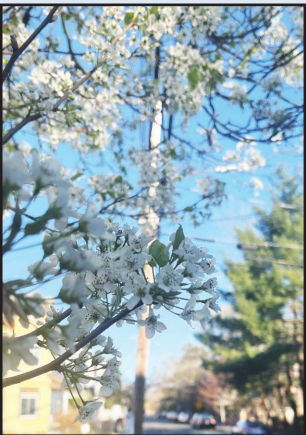
TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:



Old Sullivan
Square

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More trees on the
way for Somerville

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Annual Easter Egg
Hunt

page 14

City weighs setting standard on mandating of indoor masks



The Somerville City Council has requested that the Board of Health consider ways to evaluate the necessity for implementing indoor mask mandates in the future.

By Jim Clark

A resolution was put forward and approved at the latest regular meeting of the Somerville City Council on Thursday, April 14, asking that the Board of Health consider setting a public standard by which to evaluate when an indoor mask mandate should be enacted at their next meeting, and consider whether the community has already met the criteria for implementing a local mask mandate.

In the official text of the resolution, co-sponsors City Councilor At-Large Willie Burnley Jr., Ward 7 City Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld, City Councilor At-Large Charlotte Kelly, and City Councilor At-Large Jake Wilson asserted the following:

- That the COVID-19 pandemic and all variants therein have demonstrated a threat to the health and safety of

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Somerville celebrates Patriots' Day

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

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

Attendees enjoyed period-appropriate refreshments and games. They completed their "Colonial Passports" to win a prize and shopped for educational items at the Somerville Museum's table, all while enjoying music from the Somerville High School band. Colonial clothing was encouraged and worn by many who participated.

Patriots' Day was proclaimed in Massachusetts in 1894 by Gov. Greenhalge, replacing Fast Day as a public holiday. It was established on April 19, commemorating the date of the Battles of Lexington and Concord and the larger Battle of Menotomy in 1775, and consolidating the long-standing municipal observances of Lexington Day and Concord Day. It also marked the first bloodshed of the American Civil War in the Baltimore riot of 1861.

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The traditional Patriots' Day celebration event at Foss Park returned after a four-year hiatus on Monday. — Photos by Bobbie Toner



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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.

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








Streetwise (formerly Bike Talk Social Hour) takes place on Wednesday, April 20, 6:30 p.m., at Aeronaut Brewery, 14 Tyler St. (with Zoom option). Join the Somerville Alliance for Safe Streets and the Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee for a new monthly speaker series that aims to share wisdom on the path to complete streets. The first event will feature Amber Christofferson from Mystic River Watershed Association with a talk titled *Movement on the Mystic: New biking infrastructure in the works from Mystic Lakes to Boston Harbor*. For the Zoom Link (and poster) visit bit.ly/3NSpJYj

The City of Somerville is participating in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day this month, hosting two collection events for residents to safely dispose of prescription medications. On Saturday, April 30, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., join the Community Outreach, Help, and Recovery (COHR) Department and the Prevention Services Division at 220 Washington St. and 6 Newbury St. Staff will be onsite at both locations to collect unused or expired medications and provide overdose prevention information and resources. Free Narcan will also be distributed at each location. In addition to collection events each spring and fall, Somerville offers 24/7, year-round disposal kiosks at the Public Safety Building, 220 Washington St. for medications and sharps (needles and syringes).

To those celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy birthday to former alderman and great guy, Jack Connolly of Cleary Insurance (formerly Wedgwood-Crane & Connolly Insurance) in Davis Sq. We hope he has a great birthday. Happy birthday to Julie Phelan Brady. We wish her a great
Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of April 20 – April 26 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>April 20</i>	Sunny	59°/38°	3%	1%	W 20 mph
 Thursday <i>April 21</i>	Cloudy	60°/48°	5%	3%	S 19 mph
 Friday <i>April 22</i>	Sunny	69°/43°	4%	2%	WNW 18 mph
 Saturday <i>April 23</i>	Partly Cloudy	57°/39°	2%	3%	NNW 10 mph
 Sunday <i>April 24</i>	Cloudy	53°/41°	21%	15%	E 10 mph
 Monday <i>April 25</i>	Cloudy	54°/44°	14%	10%	ESE 12 mph
 Tuesday <i>April 26</i>	Rain	60°/47°	33%	22%	SW 13 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: GLX arrives in Union Square

Nicky says:

Winnie Lawrence who lived on Mystic Ave, was the leader of a group of citizens Calle BURY I 93. Who fought for years in the late 60's and early 70's. It was for not trying, to tunnel 93 into Boston. The state destroyed a long stretch of mystic Ave and re-routed the mystic river. There were many homes and businesses taken by eminent domain. It was scorched earth policy of the state and city. Nothing changes, no matter who is in charge, democrats, progressive democrats, republicans, all of them. Here is one of many reasons, THEY DON'T LIVE THERE.

Response to: Traffic stops for undocumented immigrants policy under review

TheoNa says:

So let me see if I understand this. If a citizen who has had their license suspended or does not have a driver's license gets stopped, they will be arrested. If an illegal alien gets stopped they are given a summons and allowed to walk away.

If the person who is stopped does not have valid identification, how can the officer be certain that the name given is valid? Does the officer just believe that person?

Doesn't this create a loophole where a driver who is a citizen and is driving with a suspended license just has to say that they are an illegal alien with no ID in order to avoid arrest by just making up a name and walking away? No wonder this country is going down the tubes.

Reply to TheoNa says:

You don't understand this.

You assume that a "citizen" will automatically be arrested. That is not the case. Most likely, it's a fine and a summons.

<https://malegislature.gov/laws/generallaws/parti/titlexiv/chapter90/section23>

This just prevents arrests explicitly and solely because of someone's immigration status if they happened to be pulled over, and it has been local policy for a few years now, as stated in the article.

Yet another poster says:

I had a drivers license back in the 80's. I went to renew it and the line was too long. I've got better things to do with my time. Haven't had a license for 30 years now and I drive every day.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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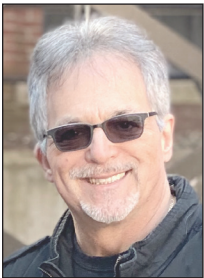
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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Old Sullivan Square



Remember the flocks of pigeons that hung around inside Sullivan Square Station? Here are some memories of the old Sullivan Square station.

“I was young and in my memories looking back it's like a black and white Vincent Price movie. The human turnstiles were murderous looking, the steel screeching wheels filled the air as pigeons took wing, enough to make you look up and dripping water if it was raining. Or is my memory real? Maybe it was a movie?”

“Remember standing on the platform waiting for a bus and the whole floor would shake as busses rolled by.”

“Oh yes. Always knew when the train was coming, even by the sound of the wheels screeching on the tracks as it came around the corner.”

“Back in the day, the old Sullivan station was known as one of the biggest stations in the world. I Remember it. I sold news-

papers at the top of the ramp and sold paper to the people getting off the bus to get on the train”

Someone remembers a sign that said, “NO LOITERING, NO SPITTING.”

“Going in town to do Christmas shopping. By the time you got back to Sullivan with all your goodies you'd still have to wait for a bus to Winter Hill. I remember how cold it was in there, but fond memories of me and my mum.”

“I remember this that the entrance coming into Sullivan Square from Boston Hood's milk with the big milk bottle was on the left. When I saw the Hoods milk bottle I knew we were almost home.”

“I remember Sullivan Station and taking the trains and the rattle and it bounced from one side of the tracks.”

“I remember the big wooden turnstiles before the platform.”

“Didn't use Sullivan Sq., but I do remember the nasty smell at Lechmere.”

“Going way back, I remember the elevated tracks going out of it into Boston, and the pigeons were all over the place.”



Lots of people remember those physical structures and conditions but it's the personal memories that link us to a particular place. I remember my father taking us into town and hearing the screeching and feeling the rumbling and of course the pigeons and the odor.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the story. It's such a contrast considering the new stations that are opening up. Let's hope we can keep the pigeons, rabbits and rats out of the new stations.

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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Breaking and entering victim was no chicken

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to a Grand Union Blvd. location last Sunday after a 9-1-1 called was received reporting that a man and woman had broken into the caller's vehicle.

The victim gave the call taker a clothing description of the woman, and also stated that she confronted the couple on Grand Union Blvd., where her vehicle was parked, and took several Chick-fil-A gift cards – valued at \$299.50 – from the woman's hand. These gift cards were reportedly stolen from the victim's vehicle.

The man and woman reportedly took off running on Grand Union Blvd. towards Artisan Way. The victim chased after them and screamed for help, then flagged down an arriving police officer and informed her of the incident.

The officer detained a woman wearing clothing that matched the victim's description. She was subsequently identified as Jessica Filipowich, of Malden.

Filipowich reportedly told police that she was alone and denied breaking into the car. The officer asked Filipowich where she came from, and she reportedly replied, "We came from the Mystic Project and we are going to the train station."

The officer then asked Filipowich what she meant by "we." The defendant stated she was with her boyfriend, who lives in Everett.

The victim told police that she was walking to her vehicle and saw the front passenger side door open, as the defendant and a male suspect were reaching inside her vehicle and grabbing items.

The officers reviewed the surveillance footage and saw the defendant and the male suspect open the front passenger door of the victim's vehicle, reach inside and close the door. They also observed the victim confront Filipowich and the male suspect in the middle of the street.

The male suspect ran down Grand Union Blvd., entered Saks Fifth Avenue, removed his hat and jacket, and walked out of the store. He then walked into the Assembly Row train station at approximately 5:58 p.m.

Based on their observations and the victim's statement, the officers placed Filipowich under arrest on a charge of felony daytime breaking and entering of a vehicle or boat.

Filipowich was subsequently transported to the Somerville Police headquarters for booking.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG			
Arrests:			
Jose Lopez Molina, April 11, 10:52 p.m., arrested at Tufts St.	on a charge of operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor.	Medford, April 16, 3:14 a.m., arrested at Broadway on a charge of operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of	liquor.
Tenzen Thoulutsang, of			Jessica Filipowich, of Malden, April 17, 5:54 p.m., arrested at Grand Union Blvd. on a charge of felony daytime breaking and entering of a vehicle or boat.

City weighs setting standard on mandating of indoor masks

CONT. FROM PG 1

Somerville residents.

- That masking indoors provides significant protection for individual and collective health, particularly for those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, such as people who are immunocompromised.
- That other cities, such as Boston and Philadelphia, have set standards by which to determine when mask mandates should be implemented or ceased.
- That the public is not aware of any standard by which the Somerville Board of Health is determining when masking indoors should be mandatory.
- That wastewater data shows that traces of the coronavirus have more than quadrupled in our area in the last month.

The resolution was unanimously approved by the full City Council, with the exception of Ward 6 City Councilor Lance Davis, who was not present for the vote.

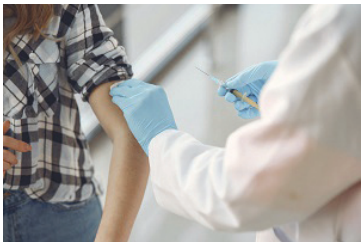
COVID-19 vaccine clinic, Monday, April 25

Are you due for a COVID-19 dose or booster? The next clinic will be Monday, April 25 at Somerville High School, 81 Highland Ave., from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

This COVID-19 Pfizer Vaccine Clinic is open to everyone age 12 and up for 1st dose, 2nd dose, or booster. Walk-ins are welcome. Students under 18 do not need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian as long as their parent has filled out the online registration and consent form.

Sponsored by the City of Somerville Department of Health & Human Services and the Somerville Public Schools.

Please use this link to register: <https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/somerville?calendar=f73e9955-4ec2-4273-bf21-024a8690b6d2>



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City foresters to plant 175 trees this spring

By Molly Rains

As the growing season approaches, Somerville’s urban foresters are gearing up for a busy spring. The Urban Forestry Division plans to plant 175 trees in the next few months, said Senior Urban Forestry and Landscape Planner Dr. Vanessa Boukili. The springtime plantings should begin in May.

Similar planting initiatives occur twice per year in Somerville, with one planting season in the spring and another in the fall. These plantings are an important part of the city’s Urban Forest Management Plan. This document, released in 2021 by the Urban Forestry Division, outlines the city’s strategy for “building and protecting

Somerville’s urban forest” via the planting, monitoring, and maintenance of trees across the city. Planting 175 new trees this spring will bring Somerville halfway to the plan’s yearly goal of 350 plantings.

This year, the spring planting season comes on the heels of the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day. This holiday, which will fall on Friday, April 29, began in 1872 as a celebration of trees and planting. Somerville has been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation for more than a quarter-century via the Tree City USA Award.

To maintain its Tree City status, Somerville must continue to meet four standards: a budget of at least \$2 per capita devoted to urban forestry; a



The streets of Somerville are home to a wide diversity of tree species, including this flowering crabapple tree (front) and white pine (back).
— Photo by Molly Rains



community tree ordinance; a yearly Arbor Day celebration; and a department of local government devoted to the city’s trees. Somerville’s tree department is the Urban Forestry Division, led by Dr. Boukili.

As plantings continue, the city will also continue to remove

diseased or dead trees and those that it determines pose a threat to public safety. “We do our best to remove stumps so that we can plant new trees in the same location,” said Dr. Boukili, but “the timing of stump removal and tree planting does not always coincide.” Somerville residents can request a

stump removal or tree planting at a specific address through 311 (via phone, the smartphone app, or at [somervillema.gov/311](https://www.somervillema.gov/311): <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/constituent-services/311-service-center>).

Dorothy’s Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Cream Cheese Two Ways

One of my favorite breakfast comfort foods is bagels with cream cheese. On occasion, I like to have a choice of either a sweet or savory cream cheese to go along with my bagel.

There are many choices in the supermarket for flavored cream cheese, but there are so many additional ingredients added that I find I’m either unable to pronounce or even know what I’m looking at unless I look it up! To stay away from artificial flavors and unnecessary ingredients, I came up with these flavor combinations that fit the bill.

The great thing is you can add your own flavor combinations to your liking. These recipes below have a really nice balance of flavors and textures. Feel free to make your own flavor combinations. It’s that easy!

8 oz. cream cheese at room temperature
1/4 cup orange marmalade

1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom
1/4 – 1/2 cup of chopped pecans or walnuts

SAVORY FRESH HERB CREAM CHEESE

8 oz. cream cheese at room temperature
1/4 cup finely chopped fresh parsley
1/4 cup finely chopped chives or green onions and extra for garnish
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/4 teaspoon granulated garlic powder

Leave the cream cheese out at room temperature until softened, about 1-1/2 hours, add cream cheese to a medium sized bowl. Whichever recipe you choose above, add all the ingredients to the cream cheese and blend thoroughly with a spatula, or a mixer. Serve along with bagels, bagel chips or even crackers.

Visit Dorothy’s website at <http://ddimarzo2002.wix>.





Beacon Hill Roll Call

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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators’ votes on roll calls from the week of April 11-15. There were no roll calls in the House last week.

CLEAN ENERGY AND REDUCED EMISSIONS (S 2819)

Senate 37-3 approved a bill that would expand the clean energy industry and reduce emissions from the transportation and building sectors across the state with the goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.

Provisions include providing creating a \$100 million Clean Energy Investment Fund, \$100 million to incentivize adoption of electric vehicles and \$50 million to increase the number of electric vehicle charging stations; requiring all new vehicles sold to produce zero emissions beginning in 2035; requiring the MBTA to purchase or lease only zero-emission buses starting in 2028 and to convert its entire fleet by 2040; increasing from \$2,500 to \$3,500 rebates for drivers who purchase electric vehicles; requiring the state to prepare a report on the estimated cost of converting school buses to zero-emission vehicles; and updating the procurement process for new offshore wind energy investments.

“We know climate change is relentless, so we think Massachusetts needs to be relentless, too,” said Sen. Mike Barrett (D-Lexington), Senate chair of the Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee. “No one’s around to give out ‘A’s’ for effort. What matters are results. [The bill] pushes back against global warming on multiple fronts, and with an emphasis on innovation and smart experimentation. It’s about thinking long-range but executing now, in the short term. It’s about problem-solving, confidence and even optimism.”

“Clean energy policy must be as realistic as it is bold,” said Sen. Patrick O’Connor (R-Weymouth). “After over 12 hours of debate, the Massachusetts State Senate voted on a bill that was bold, but not realistic. Although well-intended, the final bill neglected undeniable realities for our economy, workforce and supply chain. My colleagues that voted no and I proposed a plan that would have boldly invested in a green future without putting too much strain on taxpayers, but this was rejected. That is why I voted against the final version of the bill.”

“The [bill] will help Massachusetts reach net-zero emissions by 2050 by paving the road to clean transportation, clean buildings and clean electric and thermal energy,” said Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton), chair of the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change. “It is an impressive achievement, one that should give every resident of the commonwealth hope about our ability to mitigate climate change.”

“The bill as written significantly increases demand for electricity, without corresponding cost controls, increases in supply and transmission capacity, or support for conservation measures,” said Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester). “These factors could well combine to cause economic harm and hardship, unsustainability and failure to meet the significant carbon reduction requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act and its successors and related regulations.”

“Combatting climate change requires an honest assessment of the challenges before us, and constant work to change the course we are on,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “I’m proud to say that the Senate has never shied away from either and that we contin-

ue to lead on taking action to combat climate change.”

“Many states are trying to provide tax relief for consumers and small businesses due to the high cost of inflation and states having extra money from over taxation,” said Paul Craney, spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. The Massachusetts State Senate is taking another approach by passing a multifaceted climate bill which aims to restrict energy supplies and options for consumers while mandating costly alternatives. The Senate Democrats passed a climate bill which will eliminate popular and reliable gas- and -diesel powered vehicles, joining the likes of California. This ban will become a significant problem for Massachusetts motorists when their options are arbitrarily taken away from them due to this bill.”

The House has already approved a different version of the proposal and the Senate version now goes to the House for consideration. The bills will likely end up in a conference committee to hammer out a compromise version.

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (S 2819)

Senate 11-28, rejected an amendment that would convene a Building Justice With Jobs Task Force to establish the Building Justice With Jobs Plan – a statewide strategy to retrofit and electrify 1 million residential homes over the next ten years and to implement a comprehensive strategy that extends targeted financial resources for homes located in environmental justice communities.

Another key provision transfers \$1 billion in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) resources to the Mass Clean Energy Center, a state agency dedicated to increase and accelerate the growth of the state’s clean energy sector, create jobs, deliver statewide environmental benefits and secure long-term economic growth. Earmarked funds include including \$350 million to carry out the Building Justice With Jobs Plan; \$250 million to establish a clean energy investment institution or mechanism including a green bank; and \$150 million for clean energy infrastructure.

“I am disappointed that our chamber passed up an incredible opportunity to invest in our collective future and our statewide economy,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Marc Pacheco (D-Taunton). “According to the 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap, we need to retrofit and electrify 1 million homes over the next decade to comply with our updated emission reduction laws. By deploying \$1 billion of our one-time federal ARPA resources - which revert if unused - this powerful statewide plan would have helped ensure equity, create thousands of new clean energy jobs and ultimately achieve the progress we need to decarbonize our commonwealth. It is imperative that the Legislature invest these federal ARPA funds, which come at no cost to the state, otherwise, the cost of inaction will simply be unaffordable.”

Amendment opponents said the amendment results in the Legislature giving too much power and authority to an unelected task force in place of the Legislature. They noted the amendment sets a bad precedent and might even be unconstitutional.

Despite repeated requests from *Beacon Hill Roll Call*, several senators did not respond to a request to com-

ment on why they voted against the amendment including two key players in the drafting of the bill: Sen. Mike Barrett (D-Lexington), Senate chair of the Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee and Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), the chair of the Senate Way and Means Committee.

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

DIVEST FOSSIL FUELS (S 2819)

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would confirm the authority of local retirement boards to divest their respective pension funds from investments in fossil fuel companies including those in sectors related to coal and consumable fuels; integrated oil and gas; and oil and gas exploration and production.

“The need for a local divestment option bill arose in 2017 after a local vote to divest retirement funds from fossil fuel companies was ruled invalid, on the basis that they lacked the authority to do so,” said Sen. Marc Pacheco (D-Taunton). “Fossil fuel investments are extremely volatile and in direct conflict with our continued progress toward a clean energy future. This amendment is a common-sense solution that empowers local communities to divest from fossil fuel companies by confirming their right to cut ties with risky long-term commitments.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment).

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ELECTRIC BUS ROLLOUT (S 2819)

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would require the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to provide each of the state’s 15 regional transit authority (RTAs) with assistance to create an electric bus rollout plan that includes a goal to transition to zero-emission buses.

Amendment supporters, noting that 55 percent of Bay State residents are serviced by the state’s 15 RTAs, said these RTAs need this assistance in order to make progress and reach the goal of all zero-emission buses.

“I proposed this amendment to support RTAs in electrifying their bus fleets to ensure a sustainable and continued critical service to some of our most vulnerable groups including riders who are low-income, paratransit, older adults and essential workers,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Harriette Chandler (D-Worcester).

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment).

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

PRESERVE OPEN SPACE (S 2820)

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that would place into state law a current state policy regulation designed to ensure preservation of open space lands protected under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution by ensuring there be no net loss of conservation land when a city, town or the state acquires conservation space and uses it to build on or develop. The land must be replaced with land of comparable acreage, location, fair market value and natural resource value.

“I am pleased that the Senate has passed this legislation ensuring that all Massachusetts *Continued on page 13*

COMMENTARY

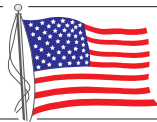
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Happy Earth Day, Earthlings.

Our View Of The Times



It began after a bad oil spill that took place in 1969 off the coast of California. A year later, the first annual Earth Day was celebrated to demonstrate universal support for environmental protection and responsible stewardship of the planet and its inhabitants.

Since then, public and official awareness of the negative impacts of human activity – such as air and water pollution – have been raised to a level where concrete action is being demanded to mitigate those effects and heal the ills that have been inflicted on our world.

On this anniversary of the annual celebration taking place this Thursday, April 22, it is strikingly ironic that mankind is still currently grappling with its own health crisis with COVID-19 and its several variants, as well as its seemingly never-ending proclivity for waging war against members of its own species.

The occasion may represent an opportunity to reflect on how fragile our biological and environmental systems truly are, and the need for proper care and implementation of procedures that will ensure the optimal health of both the large and small on the only home we have, our precious planet Earth.

Similarly, the many factors affecting our environmental health demand that immediate and meaningful measures must be taken as soon as possible.

Cooperation between nations, corporations, informed experts and the common inhabitants of this world is clearly the best hope for saving us all.

May all of us gather together in the common cause of doing just that.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

day on this her birthday. Happy birthday to **Jim Cook**, who is celebrating this week. Happy birthday to **Bob DiGuardia**, who is also celebrating this week. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Carol Duffy, Jackie Coviello, Patricia Ferrelli, Lee Erica Byron Palmer, Paul Stanford, Bob DiGuardia, Benjamin Holmes, Celia Miller-Saltman, Jim Ospenson, Susannah Buzard, Sylvia Cabrera, Tina Kneeland, Tommy Knockher, Angelmarie Dinunzio, Debbie Shansky Murray and Kate Sherlock Guiliano** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Reconstructed is a photography exhibition that explores the ideas of belonging, origins and home by bringing together the work of five photographers: **Astrid Reischwitz, Eleonora Ronconi, Hugo Teixeira, Iaritza Menjivar, and Yorgos Efthymiadis**, who is also the curator of the exhibition. **Reconstructed** will run from **April 17 to June 4** at **FPAC Gallery, 300 Summer St, Boston**, with an opening reception on **April 21** from 5.30 to 8:00 p.m. <http://www.fortpointarts.org/>. To see the work of Somerville photographer Iaritza Menjivar, visit <https://www.iaritza.com>.

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

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

In honor of **Earth Day**, **Groundwork Somerville** is hosting a **volunteer cleanup event** at its **South Street Farm** and surrounding area, 138 South St., Somerville, and you're invited. From 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. on **Saturday, April 23**, come help pick up trash, collect yard waste, spread compost, clip back invasive species, clean our tools, and prepare the farm for the growing season. Please feel free to join for any portion of this time. And don't forget to bring sunscreen, a water bottle, clothes you feel comfortable getting dirty/working in, a hat if you want it, gloves if you have them (Groundwork will also provide gloves), and enthusiasm. For more information, please see Groundwork Somerville's event webpage. (<https://groundworksomerville.org/event/earth-day-cleanup/>)

The Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC) Big Sleep Out weekend is weeks away! While you sleep in your yard, basement, porch, couch or anywhere that isn't your bed, we will be sleeping outside (rain or shine). No planning necessary, just register with the link below and share the event with your friends and family. To register: <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/22SLEEPOUT>

Calling all **Somerville High School students!** Apply for the **Mayor's Summer Jobs Program**. Applicants must be Somerville residents, at least 14 years of age, and enrolled in high school. Summer jobs require approximately 20 hours per week for six weeks starting in June, though actual schedules will vary by employer. Some jobs require an orientation before the program begins. Some positions can be done remotely or in a hybrid of remote and in-person work. Apply online at somervillema.gov/summerjobs, or pick up a printed application in the **Human Resources Department** at **City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue**. Applications are due by **Friday, April 29**, at 12:30 p.m. All applicants will be interviewed the week of **May 9**. For more information, contact **Community Services Manager Javier Torres Trinidad** at 617-625-6600 ext. 2406 or jtorrestrinidad@somervillema.gov.

Are you a member of **Somerville High School's Classes of 1970, 1971, or 1972?** The **SHS Class of 2022** is looking for participants for this year's **Class Day** festivities, which will take place on **Friday, June 3**, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at **Somerville High**

Continued on page 14

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#823

1. What is the oldest stone building in Massachusetts?

2. What type of food was stored was in Somerville's Old Powder House?

3. What is the standard diameter of a basketball hoop?

4. Who was the creator of Sherlock Holmes?

5. What sport is called the king of sports?

6. What is it called when a bowler makes three strikes in a row?

7. Which US president had a cat called Socks?

8. What percentage of peanuts does the (FDA) require in a jar of peanut butter on a store shelf?

9. Which famous soft drink was invented in 1892?

10. What two word combined are used to make the product name Spam?

11. hat famous Boston dessert was called "A Pie in Cake's Clothing?"

12. Which American writer and poet had a cat called Catarina, who was the inspiration for his story *The Black Cat*?

Answers on page 15

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Barbie and Ken broke up in 2004, but got back together in 2011.

2. One single teaspoon of honey represents the life work of 12 bees.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
INVENTIONS AND INVENTORS

- ACROSS
1. Urban haze

5. Da, oui, or si, e.g.

8. Drug-induced state

12. UK art museum

13. Molten rock

14. Hip-hop or classical, e.g.

15. Sportscaster Andrews

16. Angle between branch and offshoot

17. Bioweapon

18. Reaper inventor

20. Muslim holy man

21. Dampish

22. The invention of hand sanitizer centered on alcohol as this

23. Stitched again

26. Decipherable

30. United Nations labor agency, acr.

31. Armed robber, on an Indian sub-continent

34. Heart of the matter

35. Impertinent

37. Be in arrears

38. Belgian port city

39. European erupter

40. Popular women's magazine

42. Back then

43. Make a new sketch

45. Canine's coat

47. Digital audiotape, acr.

48. Corner joint

50. ____ crazy

52. Ground beef steak inventor

56. Nordic gl, hwein

57. Substance abuser

58. Kind of testimony

59. Soft twilled fabric of silk or rayon

60. Casanova, e.g.

61. Anger on road

62. Flock's affirmation

63. Short for ensign

64. NBA shot

- DOWN
1. Flower part

2. Painter Chagall

3. Ear-related

4. DNA sequence

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18				19					20			
			21					22				
23	24	25					26			27	28	29
30				31		32	33			34		
35			36			37			38			
39				40				41		42		
43				44				45		46		
			47				48	49				
	50	51				52				53	54	55
56						57				58		
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

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5. Vertical coordinate axis

6. Put out on a curb

7. Poliomyelitis vaccine inventor

8. Life-saving maneuver inventor

9. Machu Picchu group

10. Sinister

11. Pecking mother

13. Thin layer

14. Romantic Norwegian composer

19. Disturbing public peace

22. Acquire

23. Early one

24. Carry away, in a way

25. Edison invented things for its reproduction

26. Stead

27. Flesh of fish

28. Foot-forward squat

29. Glorify
32. First commercial revolver inventor

33. Harry Potter's mail carrier

36. Knitted sweater with open front inventor

38. #4 Down matter, pl.

40. Back of the boat

41. Withdraw from working life

44. Frustration, in print

46. Pergolas

48. Wide-mouth jar inventor

49. Intestinal obstruction

50. Undesirable location

51. Ruptured

52. Certainly

53. Russia's mountain range

54. Indian music

55. Big Bang's original matter

56. Geological Society of America

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

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

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

Somerville and the American Rescue Plan Act

By Kyle Dante

President Joe Biden and his cabinet released the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in 2021. ARPA backs federal workers with a wage increase for those making less than \$75,000. It also supports businesses in hiring more people if hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Concerning Somerville, ARPA gave a collective total of \$77.5million in 2021. Of that amount, \$61.7 million went to the city. The remaining \$16.8 million came from Middlesex County and passed to Somerville. All funding obligations under the City Council need fulfillment on December 31, 2024; funds also must get spent by December 31, 2026. For more information on funding details, visit stories.open-gov.com. More specifically, the relation to Somerville.

At the brief Financial Meeting on April 12, the City Council gave an idea of financial spending. Of the \$75.5 million, \$10,078,200 is committed. The money went to public health, youth services, basic needs, and the ARPA council administration. Most plans build off previous Covid-19 concerns. Concerns include emergency staffing, rapid tests, park hand sanitizer stations,

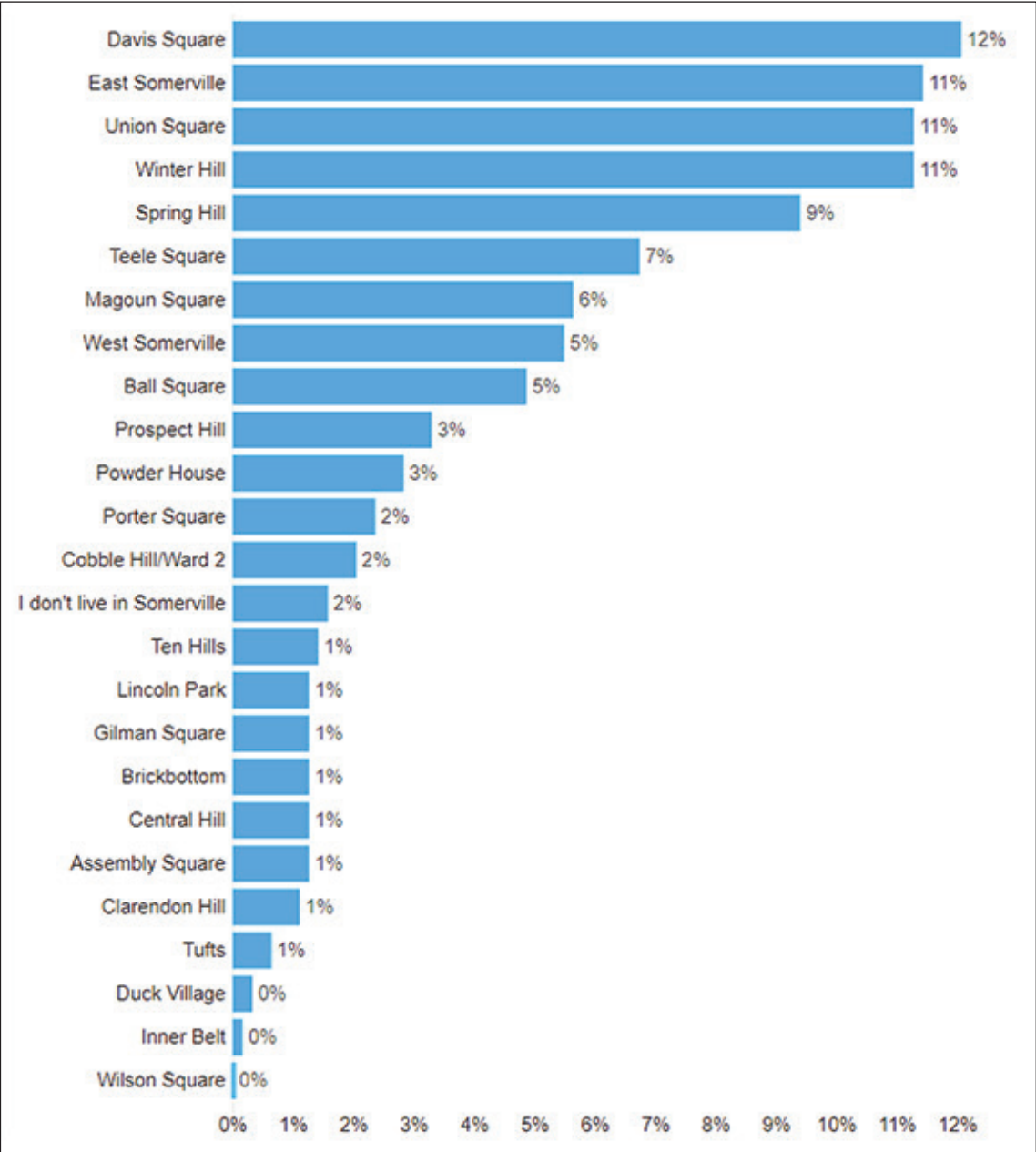
and contact tracing.

Most of the money is for youth services. Attributing \$6.1 million, ARPA assists childcare tuition. It also allows summer youth camps, which were once impossible from Covid-19 restrictions. \$2 million is universal base income, a work in progress. Housing has \$1 million provided in its rental services. In case of difficulty housing, there are also legal services and emergency hotels.

The goal for Somerville is to help the community. Covid-19 impacted the American economy. Not only with staff shortages but financial stability. People do not want to walk into a job at minimum to low wage. It is unaffordable, forcing one to take more jobs to make a living. As a result, it deemphasizes other priorities.

Education falters due to teacher salaries. With few social workers and psychologists, mental health remains an issue. The lack of staffing and representation is impacting all parties. Consumers have their needs, and the workers have nigh impossible demands for their money.

It is crucial to take part in how Covid-19 impacted the community. In a survey administered, 57% of the Somerville residents polled make under \$100,000. Of those surveyed, 12% of Somerville respondents live in



ARPA survey demographics concerning Somerville.

Davis Square, East Somerville, Union Square, and Winter Hill each represent 11% of the respondents, making up 33% of the surveyed. (See graph for percent of how each area responded to the survey.)

In essence, it is felt that there is much to do. ARPA Director Austin Faison or ARPA Specialist Erica Satin-Hernandez are reachable by email.

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.

Extend the Eviction Moratorium

From 2009 until 2019, I lived in 11 different apartments across Medford, Somerville, and Cambridge. Sometimes for more, sometimes for less, and always paying a broker's fee. My first bedroom in a 4BR/1BA apartment near Teele Square cost \$737 per month, adjusted for inflation. Today, a similar apartment costs at least \$900 on Craigslist: https://boston.craigslist.org/search/apa?query=teele&min_rooms=4&min_bathrooms=1&max_bathrooms=2&availabilityMode=0&-sale_date=all+dates.

Since 2019 I have lived in a "rent-stabilized" apartment; through the grace of generational privilege, I purchased a condo. Over the past 12 months, my "rent" has decreased 8.5% year over year due to inflation. (Guilford, Gwynn "U.S. Inflation Accelerated to 8.5% in March,

Hitting Four-Decade High." *The Wall Street Journal*, Dow Jones & Company, 13 Apr. 2022)

But my renting neighbors have seen their rent stay the same or increase up to 5% over the same 12 months, controlling for inflation (Zumper. "Average Rent in Somerville, MA and Cost Information" 19 Apr. 2022. And their average hourly earnings have decreased 2.7% due to inflation (Smialek, Jeanna. "Prices Were 8.5% Higher in March than a Year Earlier." *The New York Times*, *The New York Times*, 13 Apr. 2022).

If they are forced to seek alternative housing, will they move their kids before the school year ends in June? If hospitalized due to COVID, will they have to choose between rent and medical bills? As grocery bills go up, will they have to choose between rent and food?

I am glad Mayor Ballantyne has requested more state funds for rental relief, negotiated with large landlords, and created a new housing fund to keep our eviction rate low.

To keep protecting our neighbors, the Somerville Board of Health – Dr. Brian Green, Paula Machado, Robert Ciccio – must extend the eviction moratorium at least 60 days.

These 60 days will give

- Our neighbors time to organize and form tenant unions.
- Mayor Ballantyne time to hire 6 more Haitian Kreyòl, Mandarin, Portuguese, and Spanish speakers to the Office of Housing Stability to more quickly process rental relief requests and provide legal assistance.
- Our councilors time to align on bold ideas, including providing \$10 million

to the community land trust ("That the FY 2023 budget establish a \$10M trust for the Somerville Community Land Trust, in order to provide and expand affordable, community-owned property and homeownership and rental units in perpetuity." Agenda Item 213160, City of Somerville, March 10, 2022) and renovating historic buildings for affordable housing (Burnley, Willie Jr. "That the FY 2023 budget include additional funding for the renovation of historic buildings to create new affordable housing." Agenda Item 213282, City of Somerville, 10 Mar. 2022).

If you agree, call the Board of Health and tell them. Their phone number is (617) 625-6600 extension 4300.

Blue skies,
Daniel Wong, Ward 2

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**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court**

Docket No. MI22P1745EA

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Estate of:		
Elinor	T	McLaughlin
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name

Also Known As: _____

Date of Death: January 26, 2022

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of

Petitioner **Sean D. McLaughlin of Crystal Beach FL**
 First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

☒ a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

[x]	Sean	D.	McLaughlin	of	Crystal Beach	FL
	First Name	M.I.	Last Name		(City/Town)	(State)
1	John	A.	Doe	of	New York	NY
2	Jane	B.	Smith	of	Los Angeles	CA
3	Michael	C.	Johnson	of	Chicago	IL
4	Emily	D.	Williams	of	San Francisco	CA
5	David	E.	Brown	of	Phoenix	AZ
6	Sarah	F.	Miller	of	Philadelphia	PA
7	Robert	G.	Wilson	of	San Diego	CA
8	Lisa	H.	Moore	of	Seattle	WA
9	James	I.	Taylor	of	Portland	OR
10	Anna	J.	Anderson	of	Denver	CO

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve [] with [x] **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP# 22-55

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

On-Call Real Estate Development Consulting Services

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, April 20th, 2022**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, May 4th, 2022**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any minor informality in the RFP process, and accept the proposal(s) deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.

Please email tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov for more information.

Thupten Chukhatsang
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

4/20/22 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES
INVITATION FOR BIDS
RFP# 22-54

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

Tennis Instruction with Tennis/Academic Program

The bid package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's electronic bidding platform at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Thursday, April 21st, 2022**. Sealed bids will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, and 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Thursday, May 5th, 2022**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor informality in the RFP process, and accept the proposal(s) deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.

Please email purchasing@somervillema.gov for more information.

Jordan T. Remy
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3409

4/20/22 The Somerville Times

School Committee
wrapping up Spring
Office Hours

The Somerville School Committee has been hosting office hours over the last few weeks. If you have not yet had an opportunity to stop in for a chat, consider stopping in at the last scheduled spring office hours session on April 30 to share ideas, recommendations, questions, or concerns as the district continues its 2022-23 budget preparations. Residents can also reach out to individual School Committee members at any time. School Committee spring office hours are posted on the School Committee Office Hours page: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/somerville-school-committee/spring-2022-virtual-and-person-office-hours>.

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Board of Health to review
proposed extension and sunseting
date of June 30 for Somerville
eviction moratorium



The City of Somerville is seeking to extend its eviction moratorium by two months and ultimately sunset the moratorium on June 30, 2022. Otherwise set to expire on April 30, the proposed extension and sunset date will be considered by the Somerville Board of Health at its Thursday, April 21, meeting. The Somerville eviction moratorium is the last remaining municipal eviction moratorium in the Commonwealth. A range of alternative supports are available for qualifying households. Any Somerville residents facing eviction or housing instability are urged to contact the City's Office of Housing Stability.

The moratorium is one of a range of tools Somerville has deployed to support housing stability during the pandemic. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne also recently announced new municipal housing assistance programs including flex funds and housing vouchers launching soon, and since March 2020, the City has substantially increased housing staff and services to connect residents to federal, state, and local housing aid.

Since March 2020, Somerville tenants and homeowners have received \$3,999,873 in rental assistance through Office of Housing Stability (OHS) assistance (approximately \$8,800/household). Without this assistance, OHS reports almost all of these households would have been vulnerable to eviction. In total, OHS has provided services to 3,283 households since the start of the pandemic. These included a range of services with the bulk being rental assistance, housing search, and eviction prevention.

Staff have noted a much higher success rate for residents who get professional support in completing assistance applications versus those who attempt the process on their own. Somerville residents unable to pay their rent or housing mortgage are therefore urged to contact the City's Office of Housing Stability (OHS) or the nonprofit Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS) for help.

Landlords can reach out too on behalf of tenants rather than filing to evict. The City alongside advocates, partner organizations, and elected officials also recently brokered commitments from large Somerville landlords to cooperate with OHS to prevent evictions for nonpayment rather than moving first to evict.

How to Contact the Somerville Office of Housing Stability for Assistance

Somerville residents in need of assistance are urged to contact OHS at 617-625-6600 x2581 or fill out a referral form at somervillema.gov/ohs. The Somerville Homeless Coalition and the Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS) are also providing similar assistance. CAAS can be reached at 617-623-7370 or caasomerville.org/need-help. The Somerville Homeless Coalition can be reached at 617-623-6111, info@shcinc.org, or somervillehomelesscoalition.org/programs.

"It's important to seek help as soon as possible, even if the moratorium is extended," said Fred Berman, Deputy Director of the Office of Housing Stability. "No one should be waiting to seek help making rent or mortgage payments. Falling behind month-by-month can make it difficult to catch up."

How the Somerville Eviction Moratorium Works

The Somerville eviction moratorium prevents physical removal of tenants from their homes. While landlords may file notices to quit and seek court orders for evictions, Somerville tenants may not be removed from their homes while this pandemic protection is in place.

Low- and moderate-income homeowners who are behind on their mortgages may also be eligible for payment of their mortgage arrears. Landlords and homeowners may also be eligible for forbearance, which is a pause or reduction in mortgage payments.

While the eviction moratorium remains in effect, Somerville residents who receive a "notice of levy" (a date and time when they will be removed from their homes by a constable or deputy sheriff) 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), and the Somerville Police Department as necessary, to intervene.

Somerville celebrates Patriots' Day CONT. FROM PG 1



BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris

What do you call a zombie who cooks stir-fry?
Dead man wok-ing.

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On This Day in History

April 20

1657 – English Admiral Robert Blake fights his last battle when he destroys the Spanish fleet in Santa Cruz Bay.

1770 – Captain Cook discovers Australia.

1775 – British troops begin the siege of Boston.

1841 – Edgar Allen Poe's first detective story is published.

1861 – Robert E. Lee resigns from the U.S. Army.

1916 – The first National League game is played at Chicago's Wrigley Field

1940 – The first electron microscope is demonstrated.

1951 – General Douglas MacArthur addresses a joint session of Congress after being relieved by President Harry Truman.

1967 – U.S. planes bomb Haiphong for first time during the Vietnam War.

1999 – Two students enter Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado and open fire with multiple weapons, killing 13 students and teachers, wounding 25 and eventually shooting themselves.

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Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Ensuring children, their families and all individuals have access to healthy, local food products is critical, particularly as so many continue to be detrimentally impacted by the pandemic. Our administration is proud to work so closely with the Commonwealth’s farmers, food distributors, non-profit organization, and others as we partner to strengthen the state’s food supply chains.” — Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito on The Baker administration announcement of \$22.5 million in funding to food producers across the state continuing to address food insecurity issues exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Here is the challenge we are facing: the annual inflation rate in the United States has now accelerated to a four-decade high of 8.5 percent. That's the highest increase since December of 1981.” — Umass President Marty Meehan on the 2.5 percent tuition hike at all University of Massa-

chusetts campuses for the 2022-2023 academic years ending a 3-year freeze during the pandemic. The hike represents between \$346 and \$395 more per year, as well as increases in room and board costs ranging from 1.9 percent to 3.9 percent.

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

bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of April 11-15, the House met for a total of two hours and ten minutes and the Senate met for a total of 12 hours and 45 minutes.

Mon. April 11	House 11:01 a.m. to 12:06 p.m. Senate 11:23 a.m. to 11:44 a.m.
Tues. April 12	No House session No Senate session
Wed. April 13	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. April 14	House 11:03 a.m. to 12:08 p.m. Senate 10:19 a.m. to 10:43 p.m.
Fri. April 15	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Chuckie Harris Park

On Saturday, April 16, families enjoyed the Annual Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Connexion at Chuckie Harris Park.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

School. This year will be the first Class Day that will take place in the new school building. Because there was no Class Day in 2020 or 2021 due to COVID-19, they are inviting alumni who did not have an opportunity to participate in this great tradition on the 50th anniversary of their high school graduation. They are looking for **50 graduates** in total from the classes of 1970, 1971, and 1972 to participate. If you were an SHS 1970, 1971 or 1972 graduate and would like to participate in the 2022 Class Day festivities, please call **Barbara Favalloro** at (617) 625-6600, ext. 611018, or email her at bfavalloro@k12.somerville.ma.us. The SHS Class of 2022 looks forward to seeing you!

Somerville's **indoor mask mandate** ended but businesses can still set their own mask policies, so make sure to check before heading in. More information, including where to find the latest health guidance can be found at [somervillema.gov/maskmandateupdate](https://www.somervillema.gov/maskmandateupdate).

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne has announced that the **City of Somerville** launched **mattress and box spring recycling** starting the week of April 4. This free service is available to all residential households that have city-managed trash collection. Residents will simply need to schedule a pickup and place their items on the curb on the pickup day. For more information on recycling in Somerville, please visit www.somervillema.gov/MattressRecycling

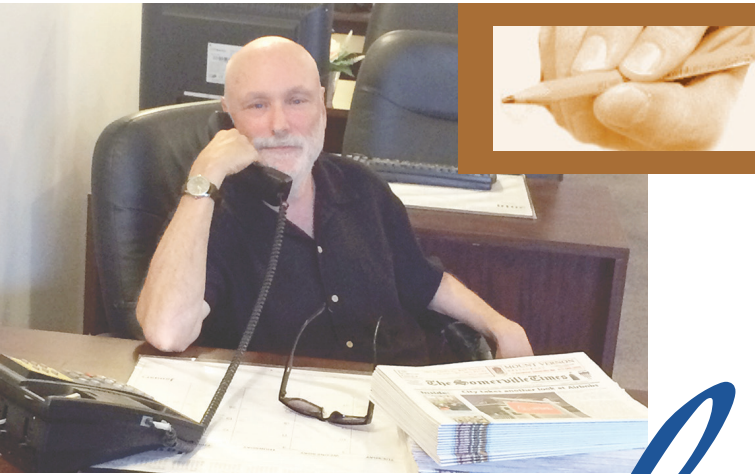
Somerville's **yard waste pickup** began on **Tuesday, April 19**. A full yard waste calendar is available at [somervillema.gov/yardwaste](https://www.somervillema.gov/yardwaste) and will be in the **Environmental Service Guide**, which will be mailed to all households later this month. Yard waste should be put out with your trash and recycling on your normal pickup day. Yard waste **must either be in a paper bag or a trash barrel** with a "Yard Waste Only" sticker. Stickers are available free of charge at the **DPW Building**, 1 Franey Road, or the entrance desk at **City Hall**, 93 Highland Avenue. To request a sticker be mailed to you, please call 311 or email 311updates@somervillema.gov. For more information on yard waste pickup, visit [somervillema.gov/yardwaste](https://www.somervillema.gov/yardwaste) or call 311 (617-666-3311).

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

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

Are you due for a **COVID-19 dose or booster**? The next clinic will be **Monday, April 25** at **Somerville High School**, 81 Highland Ave., from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. This COVID-19 Pfizer Vaccine Clinic is open to everyone age 12 and up for 1st dose, 2nd dose, or booster. Walk-ins are welcome. Students under 18 do not need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian as long as their parent has filled out the online registration and consent form. Sponsored by the **City of Somerville Department of Health & Human Services** and the **Somerville Public Schools**. Please use this link to register: <https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/somerville?calendar=f73e9955-4ec2-4273-bf21-024a8690b6d2>

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville writer Lesley Bannatyne is 'accustomed' to grace in her new collection of short stories

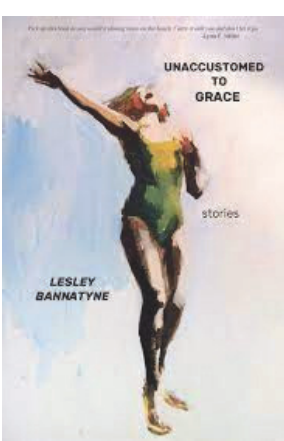
Lesley Bannatyne has a new collection of her short stories out, *Unaccustomed to Grace*. In this debut collection, everyday characters find a kind of magic, grace and redemption. Bannatyne told me she is the type of writer who can step out of her house and literally find a font of fodder for new work. My kind of writer! I caught up with her recently, and she generously agreed to answer a few questions...

Doug Holder: You have lived in Somerville for many years. Is Somerville a good match for the writer's life?

Lesley Bannatyne: I first came to Somerville as part of the initial group of artists that moved into the Brickbottom Artists building back in 1987 and have always thought this city bolstered the arts in unique ways. The fact that Somerville has a permanent Arts Council makes a huge difference, in that they continue to innovate in support of all the city's creative arts. But Somerville's also a dense and fascinating city, and that, I think, adds a lot to a writer's life. I was a *Boston Globe* correspondent for several years, and I always said I could find a story simply standing on my front steps and looking around. I wrote on the community of Nepalese who put down roots here several decades ago. I wrote about neighbors who take down their chain link to open up adjacent backyards; about the house with so many Christmas lights you could see if from space; about the artists who animated metallic shavings, played ukelele noir, or re-invented smell-o-vision. All this makes Somerville a rich place, inspiration-wise, for both journalism and fiction.

DH: You are known as an expert on Halloween and have written extensively on the subject. It seems that the stories in your book have a certain sense of horror, as well as irony. Do you believe that your years of writing about Halloween have influenced your fiction writing?

LB: I have many friends who are horror writers, but I am not. I tried once; it's not in me. My stories deal sometimes in magical realism, and they can sometimes deal with dark subjects, but I've never thought of them as horror, or even horror-filled. The story that opens *Unaccustomed to Grace*, *Corpse Walks Into a Bar*, is inspired, not by anything terribly ghoulish, but by a several-hundred-years-old comedic Irish Ballad, *The Flitting of the Corpse and Tomas McGahon*. In the ballad, Tomas lugs a corpse from graveyard to graveyard trying to find a home for him. When it was sung, the ballad likely had to do with immigration to Ireland - who are your people and where do you belong - but I used the bones of the idea to look at what we carry and how and when we can put those burdens down. In the case of *Corpse*, it's guilt that Tomas carries. The corpse is a walking and talking metaphor.



When people think of Halloween, they often think of all things spooky, and that's definitely a big part of it. But after researching the holiday for so many years it's clear to me that Halloween is as much about transformation and mag-

ic as it is about anything dark (ask anyone who's been asked to make a princess/cat/marshmallow costume for a seven-year-old at the last minute). Dark things happen all the time. Halloween is when we can open our arms to the darkness and shine a little light on it.

In this sense, the idea of transformation and magic are definitely influences on my stories. In *Waiting for Ivy* a woman grieving the loss of her infant daughter discovers a listserv of parents whose dead children have been returned, as if the tragedy were a clerical error. The construct is magical, but the story is about a young mother opening her heart to the possibility of having another child. Many of the stories in *Grace*, though, are realistic, and any magic that emerges comes through the perception of the character: a phosphorescence on the water, the thrill of driving away from your hometown for the first time; blue light in deep snow that convinces you to put down roots.

DH: You have had a long career as a freelance journalist. I noticed you had a piece on druids in Massachusetts. Can you tell us a bit about this, and are there any in Somerville?

LB: I wrote a profile of a local Somerville druid for the *Boston Globe* in 2004; he was a solitary practitioner training through an online program in Druidry (like Masons, there are stages of learning involved). I've also written about a Buddhist temple in East Boston, full-moon labyrinth walkers in Somerville's Growing Center, and the annual *Pas-sion of the Christ* that used to work its way through the streets of East Somerville. Spirituality has always interested me, and it's a critical part of several of my characters - their desire to be part of a reality bigger than them; a yearning for connection, for something that floats them, if only for a moment.

DH: I read a compelling story in your new collection that concerns an elderly grandmother who plans to extract revenge from a kid who killed her beloved grandson. As the story progresses--she slowly changes her mind. In the end she views the murderer as more of a person than a concept. Could this kind of "redemption" be applied to other characters in this book?

LB: Absolutely. The stories in *Unaccustomed to Grace* are united through those moments when a character experiences a moment of grace, when they're at their most unexpectedly bright, most fully realized self, and it changes everything. It could come at a red light, in a karaoke bar in Russia, in Watertown the night the marathon bomber was caught, or just before dawn in a Dorchester graveyard.

DH: Why should we read this book?

LB: What I especially love about short fiction is that the author can build an entire world in just a few pages. I heard one author describe the short story as a world built in a snow globe. Another said it was like being in an elevator where you can stop on every floor and take things to use, but you can't use the whole city outside—that's a novel. There are thirteen different worlds in this book - I'm hopeful readers will find something in *Grace* that resonates with them.



Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Daniel Senser writes: "I am thirty-six years old and have been writing seriously since I was around twenty. I attended the University of Cincinnati, where I received my BA in English. I have had poems published in *Jewish Currents*, *Blue Nib*, *Bitter Oleander*, and *Penwood Review*, among other journals. My second book of poems, *Another Missed Connection*, came out in 2020 and was published by Adelaide Books."



For a Fellow Poet

After a long, sleepless night, dawn is approaching,
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I offer you this cup to drink from. May it be, like
the dawn—like the dove—a harbinger for peace.
May you get drunk and recite verses of your own
to the moon and wandering clouds beside the sea.
May you travel far and find your voice and let it
echo across the distances, all the way back to me.
May you return to the place which loves you most—
the place where I reside—here in this provincial town,
where, together, we can lift our songs and let them fly.

— Daniel Senser

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

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

1. Old Powder House, Somerville

2. "Old Powder House Brand" pickles

3. 18 inches

4. Arthur Conan Doyle

5. Football (soccer)

6. Turkey

7. Bill Clinton

8. 90%

9. Coca-Cola

10. Spice and ham

11. Boston Cream Pie

12. Edgar Allen Poe


From page 8

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